

# EN PASSANT

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# Editorial

As I write this editorial, the results of the eighth round of the 2002 Chess Olympiad in Bled have come in, and with this report also the news that Dina Kagramanov of Richmond Hill has posted yet another win to raise her board two score to an outstanding 5/7. Another six rounds remain to be played of course, and with that the possibility of a strong or weak finish by our women's team which, just like the men, have enjoyed mixed success in Slovenia so far...

The outcome will be known by the time this issue reaches our readers, including the possibility that Dina might earn a FIDE title norm or board medal at the event. Good luck!

We will cover the Olympiad in a special February issue, with an event report by team Co-Captain & Analyst Marc Ghannoum, as well as photos and game analysis by the players. Meanwhile, interested readers can view our daily online reports and

downloadable games by our national teams at the Chess Federation of Canada website at [www.chess.ca](http://www.chess.ca).

FIDE, apparently still determined to get their way in spite of the many complaints and criticism leveled at the organization in the last few years, has implemented the gruesome time control of G/90+30 at the Olympiad. To what end I honestly do not understand: the schedule asks for one game to be played each day, so what possible difference can it make to the organizers if the playing hall is busy for four hours each day, or the usual six or seven hours if a classical time control is used instead?

The world media certainly doesn't care about the leaner playing sessions, but players and fans alike will notice just how many games end in sad time scrambles by the late middlegame or endgame. The only thing that FIDE is sure to accomplish by pressing this issue is to lower the quality of the games, and that cannot possibly be good for chess in the long run.

Meanwhile World Champion Vladimir Kramnik has contested a match in Bahrain against a commercially available version of the *Fritz 7* program, which has amazingly ended in a tie after Kramnik easily scored 2.5/3 at the start of the event. What exactly happened to poor Vladimir in the last few rounds isn't entirely clear, nor what will happen when Gary Kasparov takes on another top program in a similar match in the near future. Gary lost the most important match ever played between man & machine when he took on IBM's Deep Blue several years ago, so my money is on him to exact some revenge from the silicon beast.

Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, well known among computer chess aficionados for his 1986 World Champion program *Sun Phoenix*, will offer his expert insight in an article on both matches early in the new year!

*Knut Neven*

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# Letters

## Vancouver, BC

Lyle Craver, Secretary/Treasurer of the British Columbia Chess Federation, reports that the BCCF now publishes a bi-weekly chess newsletter edited by Stephen Wright. Players both inside and outside the province are welcome to subscribe via our website at [www.chess.bc.ca](http://www.chess.bc.ca). Stephen is off to a good start and currently working on our third issue. The publication deals primarily with tournament advertisements, club news, and the occasional article. Recently, for example, Bruce Harper sent an interesting submission concerning a mate in three problem which requires a bit of retrograde analysis to solve...

*Lyle Craver*

## Calgary, AB

I am an avid reader of *En Passant*, and also the parent of three young chess players. The reason for my letter is a small suggestion about the format of the Top Rating Lists at the back of each issue: in each category

only the names of players in the actual age range should be published; i.e. U18 should only give names of youths aged 17–18 years, etc.

This small change in the presentation would give many other juniors an opportunity to shine rather than remain hidden behind the names of the big guns. This, in turn, would encourage them to work harder in order to further improve their standing. Players, parents and fans can always compare the ratings of the top players from different age groups, or perhaps a separate table similar to that for the Top Women could be added for the Top Boys and Top Girls, respectively.

*Richard Kaminski*

## Toronto, ON

I am still a big fan of yours thanks to your superb coverage of the recent Kramnik–Kasparov match, but this last issue of *En Passant* really tests my patience: your cover is a near duplicate of the last issue, and I

wonder if you were even trying to put out a good magazine? I'm not one to complain, but as I am made to pay for this publication as part of my membership I feel I have the right to make some demands. Looking forward to a better next issue.

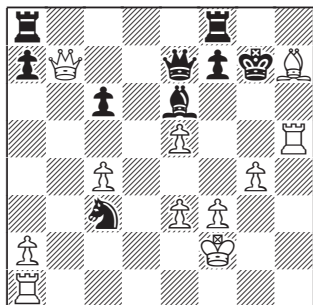
[France's GM Jean-Marc Degraeve spent an exceptionally successful summer playing chess here in Canada, and so it is that his face appears twice in a row on the cover of *En Passant* magazine, albeit with different players surrounding the winner of the Canadian Open and Montreal International tournaments. The cover design template itself is meant to look consistent from issue to issue, which helps establish a visual identity for our national publication on bookseller shelves across the country. **Ed.]**

*Sebastian Palozzi*

## Lyndhurst, ON

First let me say that I enjoyed the latest edition of Masters' Forum a great deal, and that I am hesitant to

send you the following comments which are at odds with your opinion, that of your computer, and those of the three panelists!? Probably I have missed something, but please consider the position after White's stunning 25. ♖xb7 one more time.



The consensus is that Black must now decline the offering, but I think the recapture of the queen deserves an exclamation mark.

25... ♖xb7! 26. ♖g5+ ♖h8 27. ♖h1

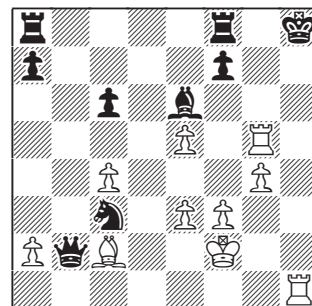
♖b2+ 28. ♖g3

Any move by White's king to the first rank loses, such as 28. ♖g1 ♖c1+ 29. ♖g2 ♖xh1+ 30. ♖xh1 ♖xh7 with a decisive material advantage for Black.

28... ♖e2+

Now 29. ♖g2/f2 ♖f4+ wins the ♖/h1 while 29. ♖h4 blocks the important h/ file and Black wins comfortably with 29...f6 or even 29...♖c1! There are several interesting alternatives, but none of them make a sufficient case for White's capture of ♖/b7.

[You are absolutely right: one should never take the prognostications of others at face value in chess! Indeed, if White were forced to move his king on the 28th move as per your analysis, then Black quickly puts an end to my ambitious attacking plans. Fortunately, however, there is the pretty discovered check 28. ♖c2# which is also mate!



The sacrificial idea 25. ♖xb7 only came to me when none of the other 'more sensible' options would work for White. Fortunately I noticed that 28. ♖c2# was available as the critical resource. Starting an attack on the king in games vs. the computer isn't so hard, but for every game like this one there are a dozen more where the computer just bags the material and goes on to win without a fight! **Ed.]**

Peter Sibbald

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	17	50	22	10	32	10	3	13	16.50	8.50	25
New Brunswick	33	5	38	22	3	25	10	2	12	16.50	2.50	19
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	0	33	22	0	22	10	0	10	16.50	0	16.50
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.

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**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.

## Quebec

### Pan-American Qualifier

- Date:** January 2-3  
**Place:** Auberge des Gouverneurs, 1100 Promenade de St-Maurice, Shawinigan  
**Rds:** 4  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 10, 3, 7 / 10  
**TC:** 35/75, SD/15  
**EF:** \$85  
**Prizes:** Trip to Pan-American  
**Org:** Ligue mauricienne d'echecs; Roger Greiss (819)538-4720  
**Misc:** Auberge des Gouverneurs (888)922-1100; eligibility info from CFC at (613)733-2844

### Canadian Junior Championship

- Date:** January 3-6  
**Place:** Auberge des Gouverneurs, 1100 Promenade de St-Maurice, Shawinigan  
**Rds:** 7  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 7 / 10, 4 / 10, 4 / 9:30, 3:30  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$125  
**Prizes:** Trip to World Junior  
**Reg:** Until 18:30 at site  
**Org:** Ligue mauricienne d'echecs; Roger Greiss (819)538-4720  
**Misc:** Auberge des Gouverneurs (888)922-1100; eligibility info from CFC at (613)733-2844

## Ontario

### London Fall Harvest

- Date:** November 16-17  
**Place:** Huron Heights Early Learning Center Daycare, 1305 Webster St 5  
**Rds:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 10, 2:30, 7 / 10, 2:30  
**TC:** TBA  
**EF:** \$30; less \$5 Jr/Sr  
**Sec:** Open, U1600  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** Cheques to Steve Demmery, 1148 Viscount Road, London, ON, N6K 1J1  
**Org:** Steve Demmery, (519)472-4094 steves\_starwars@hotmail.com  
**Misc:** Bye 1-4; bring clocks; SWOCL Grand Prix event

### Callander Fall Open

- Date:** November 16-17  
**Place:** 167 High Street  
**Rds:** 5

- Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 2:15, 7:15 / 10, 3:30  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$25; \$5 new CFC and renewals; Jr/Sr \$15; women, titled free  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 08:00-08:45 at site  
**Org:** Mathew Cooke (705)752-3039 m\_a\_t\_h\_e\_w@hotmail.com  
**Misc:** Bring sets and clocks

### Toronto Senior Active

- Date:** November 17  
**Place:** Bradgate Arms, 54 Foxbar Road 5  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Active Swiss  
**Times:** 10:45, 12, 2, 3:15, 4:30  
**TC:** G/30  
**EF:** \$15; DOB before Nov. 17, 1952  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN 80%  
**Reg:** 09:30-10:30 at site; or cheques to Wilf Ferner, 121 Trudelle Street #711, Scarborough, ON, M1J 3K4  
**Org:** Wilf Ferner (416)439-8912, weferner@pathcom.com  
**Misc:** Bring sets, boards, clocks

### Niagara Falls November Active

- Date:** November 17  
**Place:** Niagara Falls Shriner Halls, 5621 North Street  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Active Swiss  
**Times:** 10, TBA  
**EF:** \$25; less \$5 Jr/Sr  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**TC:** SD/30  
**Reg:** Cheques to John Erickson, #4 - 6453 Colborne Street, Niagara Falls, ON, L2J 1E7, by Nov. 13  
**Misc:** Brings sets, clocks

### Seaway Valley Open

- Date:** November 23-24  
**Place:** McIntosh Country Inn and Conference Centre, 12495 County Road 2, Morrisburg 5  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 2, 7 / 9:30, 2:30  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$30; less \$5 Jr/Sr; \$10 late fee  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 08:00-08:30 at site, or cheques to Au Diapason Inc, c/o Raymond Lacroix, 41 Kingslea Crescent, Cornwall, ON, K6H 2J2  
**Org:** Raymond Lacroix  
**Misc:** Bye 1-3; bring sets, clocks; EOCA Grand Prix event

### Sudbury Winter Open

- Date:** November 30 to December 1  
**Place:** Laurentian University Arts

Building A-304 & A-305  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9:15, 2:15, 7:15 / 9:30, 2:30  
**TC:** 30/90; SD/60  
**EF:** \$25; \$15 Sr/women; \$2 new CFC  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 08:15-08:45 at site  
**Org:** Douglas Thistle (705)682-0983  
douglasthistle@hotmail.com  
**Misc:** Bye 1-4

Millennium Garden Donation Junior Active

**Date:** December 1  
**Place:** Dalhousie Community Center,  
755 Somerset Street W, Ottawa  
**Rds:** 4 or 5  
**Type:** Active RR  
**Times:** 1:10, ASAP  
**TC:** G/25  
**EF:** \$10; less \$2 Ottawa Youth CC  
**Prizes:** Certificates  
**Reg:** 12:00-13:00 at site; U18 only  
**Org:** William Yuan (613)226-1049  
cccei@rogers.com  
**Misc:** Bring clocks

Ottawa Christmas Junior Active

**Date:** December 22  
**Place:** Dalhousie Community Center,  
755 Somerset Street W, Ottawa  
**Rds:** 4 or 5  
**Type:** Active RR  
**Times:** 1:10, ASAP  
**TC:** G/25  
**EF:** \$10; less \$2 Ottawa Youth CC  
**Prizes:** Certificates  
**Reg:** 12:00-13:00 at site; U18 only  
**Org:** William Yuan (613)226-1049  
cccei@rogers.com  
**Misc:** Bring clocks

Ottawa RA Winter Open

**Date:** January 11-12  
**Place:** RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 2, 7 / 9, 2  
**TC:** 30/80, SD/60  
**EF:** \$35, less \$5 RACC; \$20 amateur  
option for U1850/U1600  
**Sec:** Open/U2150, U1850/U1600  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** Until 08:40 at site; or cheques to  
Michael Holmes, 762 Smyth  
Road, Ottawa, ON, K1G 1P1 by  
December 30; \$10 late fee  
**Org:** Michael Holmes (613)733-4247  
michael.holmes@sympatico.ca  
**Misc:** Bye 1-3; bring clocks; EOCA  
Grand Prix; www.eoca.org

Hamilton Winter Active

**Date:** January 26  
**Place:** Germania Club of Hamilton,  
863 King Street E  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Active Swiss  
**Times:** 11, 12:15, 1:15, 1:45, 3, 4:15

**TC:** G/30  
**EF:** \$25; \$5 late fee after January 17  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 10:00-10:45 at site; or cheques  
to Hamilton Chess Club, c/o  
Marco Greco, 116 Empress Ave,  
Hamilton, ON, L9A 1M7  
**Org:** Hamilton City CC, Marco Greco  
(905)387-5178  
chesshamilton@canada.com  
**Misc:** Bring sets, clocks

Kingston Open

**Date:** February 1-2  
**Place:** Robert Sutherland Room, John  
Deutsch University Centre,  
Queen's University  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9:30, 2:30, 7:30 / 9:30, 2:30  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** Open \$34; U1800 \$30; less \$5  
Jr/Sr; titled free  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 08:30-09:30 at site; or cheques  
to Rob Hutchison, 109 York  
Street, Kingston, ON  
frzephyr@hotmail.com  
**Org:** frzephyr@hotmail.com  
**Misc:** Bye max 2; EOCA Grand Prix

Kitchener K-W Winter Open

**Date:** February 21-23  
**Place:** Kitchener City Hall, 200 King  
Street West  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Reg:** 17:30-18:30 at site; or cheques  
to Albert Den-Otter, 11 Hermie  
Place, Kitchener, ON, N2H 4X9  
**Times:** 7 / 9:30, 3 / 9:30, 3  
**TC:** Rd1 30/90 SD/30; Rds2-5 30/90  
SD/60  
**EF:** \$40; U1400 \$30; less \$10 Jr/Sr;  
\$10 late fee after February 14  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Org:** Albert Den-Otter,  
(519)744-5213,  
ardenotter@hotmail.com  
**Misc:** Bye 1-4; SWOCL event;  
www.kwchessclub.com

**British Columbia**

Esquires Coffee House

**Date:** Sundays  
**Place:** Esquires Coffee House, 4300  
Kingsway, Burnaby  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Active Swiss  
**Times:** 1, ASAP  
**TC:** G/30  
**EF:** \$7  
**Misc:** Bring sets, clocks

Vancouver Saturday Chess Fever

**Date:** November 16, 23, 30;  
December 7, 14  
**Place:** 2776 East Broadway

**Scarborough  
Chess Club  
Tournament  
Schedule**

All events have the following  
information in common unless  
noted otherwise.

**Place:** Scarborough Chess Club,  
Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse,  
373 Cedarvale Road (1 block  
east of Woodbine, 2 blocks  
south of O'Connor Drive)

**Info:** scarboro@idirect.ca  
http://webhome.idirect.com/  
~blamb

**Org:** Bryan Lamb  
(416)391-4777 or  
(416)877-7328  
blamb@idirect.com  
bry\_lamb@hotmail.com

**Misc:** SCC membership  
required (\$100 Adult, \$75 Sr,  
\$50 Jr). Events are CFC rated  
(CFC membership required).  
Entry fees to events covered by  
club membership. Half price for  
additional family members and  
players from the same school.

**Special Events**

*Thursday Evening Events*

TC: 30/75, SD/30  
Times: 19:30, weekly

*SCC Championship*

November 7, 14, 28; December  
5, 12; January 9, 16, 23, 30  
Type: Regular Swiss  
Rds: 9

*Sunday Afternoon Events*

TC: 30/90, SD/30  
Times: 13:30, weekly

*Sunday Winter Swiss*

December 1, 8;  
January 12, 19, 26  
Type: Regular Swiss  
Rds: 5

**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 5 / 5 / 5 / 5 / 5  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$25; \$20 Jr, Masters  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 16:20-16:50 at site  
**Org:** James Kerry (604)438-7666; Luc  
Poitras (604)438-0496

Victoria Jack Taylor Memorial

**Date:** November 23-24

**Place:** UVic H&S Development Bldg,  
Room A260  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 40/120, SD/60  
**EF:** \$35; \$25 Jr  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 08:30 at site  
**Org:** Lynn Stringer (250)658-5207  
lynnstringer@shaw.ca

New Westminster Northshorerechess.com  
Invitational

**Date:** November 30 to December 1  
**Place:** New Westminster  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Round Robins for Experts  
**Times:** 9, 2, 7 / 9, ASAP  
**TC:** G/120  
**EF:** \$35  
**Prizes:** \$\$G100 plus Fritz7  
**Reg:** 2000-2199 only  
**Org:** Vas Sladek chessfm@shaw.ca  
**Misc:** Free CBM Extra for everyone

Victoria Dan MacAdam Memorial

**Date:** January 19-20  
**Place:** UVic H&S Development Bldg,  
Room A260  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 40/120, SD/60  
**EF:** \$35; \$25 Jr  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 08:30 at site  
**Org:** Lynn Stringer (250)658-5207  
lynnstringer@shaw.ca

Kelowna Winterfest

**Date:** February 8-9  
**Place:** Sandman Inn, 2130 Harvey Ave  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 2, 7 / 9, asap  
**EF:** \$25, \$20 Seniors, \$15 Juniors  
Non CFC pay entry + \$12  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Org:** Wally Steinke

wsteinke@sd22.bc.ca  
(250)545-6677 or Ian Higgs  
ianofski@cablelan.net

Kelowna Summerfest

**Date:** July 5-6  
**Place:** Sandman Inn, 2130 Harvey Ave  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 2, 7 / 9, asap  
**EF:** \$25, \$20 Seniors, \$15 Juniors  
Non CFC pay entry + \$12  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Org:** Wally Steinke  
wsteinke@sd22.bc.ca  
(250)545-6677 or Ian Higgs  
ianofski@cablelan.net

**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

Southern Alberta Open

**Date:** November 16-17  
**Place:** Ramada Hotel, 708 8th Avenue  
SW, Calgary  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** TBA  
**TC:** 35/90, SD/45  
**EF:** \$20  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 09:00-09:45 at site  
**Misc:** Roy Yearwood (403)265-6609

**New Brunswick**

Pumpkin Match V

**Date:** November 22-24  
**Place:** Room D-203, Centre  
Communautaire Sainte-Anne,  
715 Priestman St, Fredericton  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**TC:** Rd1 SD/120; Rds2-5 40/120,  
SD/60  
**Times:** 6:30 / 10, 4:30 / 9, 3:30  
**Reg:** 17:30-18:15 at site  
**EF:** \$25; less \$5 Jr, U1600; less \$10  
Cd; less \$2 Ste. Anne CC  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN 70%  
**Org:** Chris Maund  
chris.maund@gnb.ca  
**Misc:** Bye 1-4; bring sets, clocks

**Nova Scotia**

Dartmouth Open

**Date:** November 29 to December 1  
**Place:** Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forrest  
Hills Parkway  
**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



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# Apprentice's Workshop

with IM Yan Teplitsky

## Introduction

The most prevalent process that goes on during a game is that of choosing the correct move from a multitude of possibilities. Move selection can be approached in vastly different ways, although most strong players tend to choose the best move based upon three main criteria: we have already examined concrete knowledge and typical ideas in my first article, and there is also intuition and the calculation of specific variations.

In this article we will examine various problems of calculation and the overall tactical proficiency of chess players. We will try to identify the most common problems players face in this area, and methods to correct weaknesses. Several disadvantages of traditional methodologies will be discussed and alternate ways proposed.

## Common Problems

Let us first consider the most typical problems players face when dealing with the calculating process.

Even in games played by very strong players we can often identify little mishaps, such as the following examples: a player wants to give mate with a bishop that has been sacrificed several moves earlier, or he overlooks that a critical pin against an enemy piece has been lifted when the rook moves to a different file.

All of us can recall similar blunders from our own games, and we usually dismiss them as accidental errors. Indeed, people are not computers and we do make mistakes for a variety of reasons. However, if such mishaps become habitual, then they may be a sign of a deeper problem. A player may, for example, be unable to calculate long variations or keep an

accurate picture of the position in memory after each move. Several exercises may be used to target this particular weakness:

(1) a coach or training partner dictates a very short miniature game where the player has to keep the entire game in memory as well as attempt to find the concluding variation.

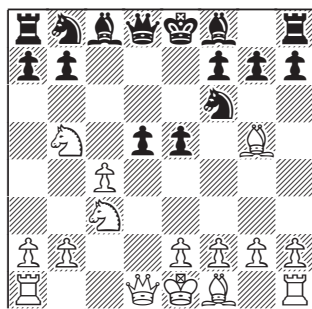
Sometimes it is necessary to stop the dictation and request that the student set up the current position on the board. By doing this we can ascertain that he is able to keep the location of all pieces in memory in every detail.

Notes by

## Yan Teplitsky

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♟c3 ♟f6 4.♟f3 c5 5.♟g5 cxd4 6.♟xd4 e5 7.♟db5

Now the student is requested to evaluate the consequences of 7...a6.



7...a6

At first it seems that White can simply take the pawn with...

8.♟xd5 axb5 9.♟xf6+

...since he wins material after 9...gxf6 10.♟xd8+ ♟xd8 11.♟xf6+ followed by 12.♟xh8. However, upon further examination we see that Black comes out a piece ahead after...

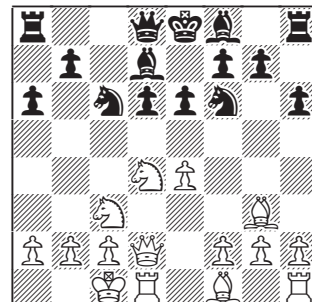
9...♟xf6! 10.♟xf6 ♟b4+ 11.♟d2 ♟xd2+ 12.♟xd2 gxf6 0-1.

Notes by

## Yan Teplitsky

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 ♟c6 6.♟g5 e6 7.♟d2 a6 8.0-0 h6 9.♟f4 ♟d7 10.♟g3

Can Black safely play 10...b5?



10...b5

Black should prefer the careful 10...♟e7. In the original game Black thought that the following little combination was bad for White...

11.♟xd6 ♟xd6 12.♟xc6 ♟xc6 13.♟xd6 ♟xd6 14.♟xd6 ♟xe4 15.♟xe4 ♟xe4

...because both ♟/d6 and ♟/f2 are en prise. However, he missed that White's passed queenside pawns should prove decisive after...

16.♟xa6! ♟e7

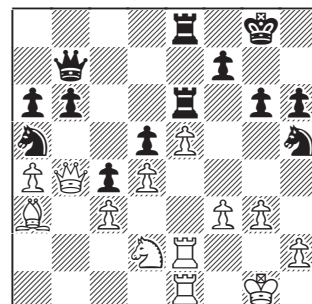
White also wins after 16...♟xa6 17.♟xb5+ ♟e7 18.♟xa6 ♟a8 19.♟c4.

17.♟xb5 ♟xf2 18.♟e1! 1-0.

(2) the same training purpose can also be achieved by setting up a specific starting position on the board, dictating a long forcing variation in the same way we have already done, and then asking the student to find the correct sequence of final moves.

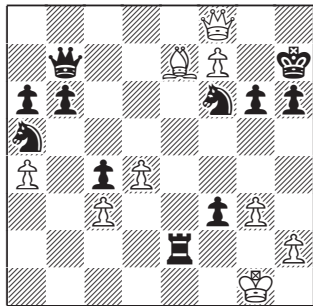
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The student is asked to consider and evaluate the position after...

- 1...f5 2.exf6 ♖xe2 3.♖xe2 ♖xe2  
4.♖f8+ ♖h7 5.f7 ♖f6 6.♖e4 dxe4  
7.♖e7 exf3



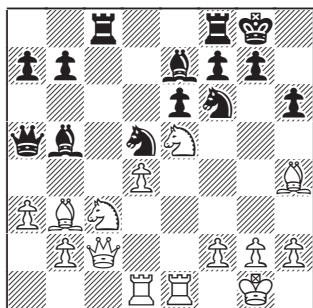
Black's last move is quite unpleasant for his opponent since 8.♖xf6? f2+ 9.♖f1 ♖h1+ 10.♖xe2 f1♖+ leads to mate, and 8.♖xh6+ 8...♖xh6 9.f8♖+ ♖h7 10.♖f7+ ♖h6 is a draw. But White does have a pretty alternative available that leads to the win:

- 8.♖g7+! ♖xg7 9.f8♖ ♖h7  
10.♖f7+ ♖h8 11.♖xf6+ 1-0.

Another common problem is that of underestimating or missing altogether active original moves for oneself. The most famous example of a player with long standing symptoms of this disease was the late former World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik. Some possible ways to target this problem would be:

(1) Trying to find the strongest move in positions where one of the players has an initiative, but must play very aggressively to maintain it.

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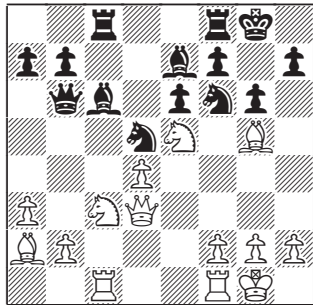


What is the best move for White in the diagrammed position?

- 1.♖xf6! ♖xf6

- Black is mated after 1...♖xf6 2.♖xd5 exd5 3.♖g4 ♖g5 4.f4 ♖xf4 5.♖f5 ♖c7 (or 5...♖g5 6.♖xd5 a6 7.a4 when Black loses material) 6.♖xd5 ♖h8 7.♖xh6 gxh6 8.♖f6 ♖g7 9.♖h5+.  
2.♖g6! fxg6 3.♖xe6 1-0.

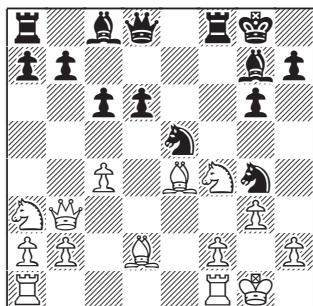
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Once more the student is asked to find the strongest move for White.

- 1.♖xd5! exd5 2.♖f3 ♖d8 3.♖fe1 ♖g7 4.♖g4 ♖xg4 5.♖xc7 ♖d7 6.♖xf8+ 1-0.

Notes by  
**Yan Teplitsky**



Find the strongest move for Black.

- 1...♖d7!! 2.♖e6

White's alternatives all leave Black with the advantage. For example 2.c5+ d5 3.♖e6 ♖e7 4.♖xf8 ♖xc5 5.♖b4 ♖xb3 6.♖xe7 ♖xa1; or 2.♖g2 ♖c5 3.♖c2 ♖f5 4.♖c1 g5 5.♖h5 ♖d3; or 2.♖b4 ♖c5 3.♖xc5 dxc5 4.♖ad1 ♖f6; and finally 2.♖d3 ♖ge5 3.♖c2 ♖xd3 4.♖xd3 ♖c5.

- 2...♖e7 3.♖xf8

Also good for Black is 3.♖ae1 ♖xe6 4.♖d5 cxd5 5.♖xe6 ♖c5.

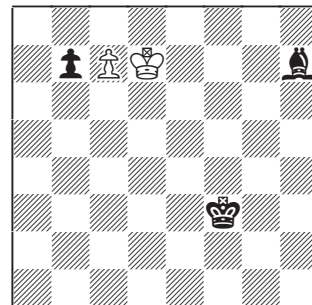
- 3...♖c5 4.♖d1 ♖xe4 5.f3 ♖d4+ 6.♖g2 ♖c5

Black has the advantage.

(2) Another possible idea is to attempt to solve specific types of

compositions where the main difficulty lies not in the length of the calculation, but rather in finding original, often paradoxical first moves.

Notes by  
**Yan Teplitsky**



White to move and draw. The beauty of this composition is based upon paradoxical logic. First of all, it is clear that the promotion of White's ♖/c7 with 1.c8♖ loses after 1...♖f5+ while the attempt 1.♖e6 is insufficient due to the simple 1...♖e4/f4/g4.

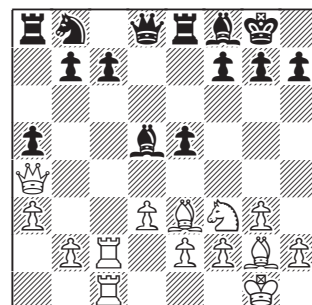
Similarly the march of White's king to a7 loses after 1.♖d6 ♖f5 2.♖c5 ♖c8 3.♖b6 since on 4.♖a7 Black wins with 4...b5. Therefore remains only the very paradoxical drawing sequence...

- 1.♖c8!! b5 2.♖d7 b4 3.♖d6 ♖f5 4.♖e5 ♖c8 5.♖d4 ♖a6 6.c8♖ ♖xc8 7.♖c4 ½-½.

Finally, it is very helpful to simply analyze, alone, or preferably with a coach or training partner, some carefully selected games that involve uncommon and imaginative ideas.

Notes by  
**Yan Teplitsky**

- 1.c4 e5 2.♖c3 ♖f6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 ♖xd5 5.♖g2 ♖e6 6.♖f3 ♖c6 7.0-0 ♖b6 8.d3 ♖e7 9.a3 a5 10.♖e3 0-0 11.♖a4 ♖xa4 12.♖xa4 ♖d5 13.♖fc1 ♖e8 14.♖c2 ♖f8 15.♖ac1 ♖b8





How should White continue?

**16. ♖xc7! ♙c6 17. ♖1xc6!! bxc6**

The advantage is with White after 17... ♗xc6 18. ♖xb7.

**18. ♖xf7!!**

The point of the combination.

**18... h6**

Obviously Black cannot take the rook.

**19. ♖b7 ♖c8 20. ♖c4+ ♖h8**

**21. ♗h4**

The light squares belong to White!

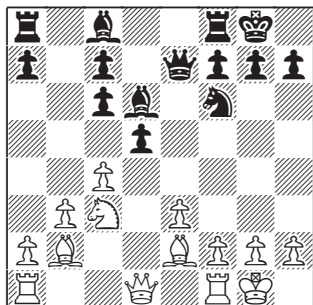
**21... ♖xb7 22. ♗g6+ ♖h7 23. ♙e4 ♙d6 24. ♗xe5+ g6 25. ♙xg6+ ♖g7 26. ♙xh6+**

Now 26... ♖xh6 27. ♖h4+ ♖g7

28. ♖h7+ is completely hopeless.

1-0.

Notes by  
**Yan Teplitzky**



**1... dxc4!**

Although positionally dubious, this move is perfectly justified tactically.

The alternative 1... ♖d8 2. cxd5 ♖e5 3. g3 ♗h3 4. ♖e1 ♗b4 5. ♖c2 ♙f5 6. ♖c1 cxd5 7. ♙f3 ♖e7 8. a3 ♙a5 9. b4 ♙b6 10. ♗xd5 leads to a clear advantage for White.

**2. bxc4 ♖b8!**

White has to be extremely careful now as there are several double attacking possibilities in the air.

**3. ♖c1**

One illustrative mistake is 3. ♖b1? ♖xb2 4. ♖xb2 ♖e5 when Black wins two pieces for the rook.

**3... ♗g4 4. g3**

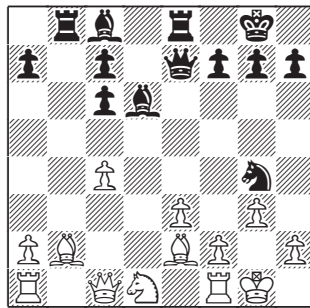
Very unpleasant also for White is 4. ♙xg4 ♙xg4 5. ♖e1 ♖b4!

**4... ♖e8**

Black can take the draw with 4... ♗xh2 5. ♖xh2 ♖h4+ but he is already playing for more.

**5. ♗d1**

Black has a strong attack after 5. ♙f3 ♖f6 6. ♙xg4 (simply bad is 6. ♙g2 ♖h6 7. h3 ♗e5) 6... ♙xg4 7. f3 ♗h3 8. ♖f2 ♖g6.



Here comes the question: Does 5... ♗xh2 win for Black?

**5... ♗xh2 6. c5!**

Obviously bad for White is 6. ♖xh2 ♖h4+ 7. ♖g2 ♖h3+ 8. ♖g1 ♙xg3 9. fxc3 ♖xg3+ 10. ♖h1 ♖e4 (but not 10... ♖e6? 11. ♙f6!) 11. ♖f4 ♗h3.

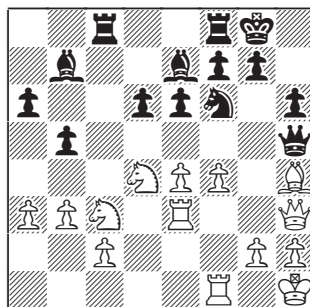
**6... ♗xf1 7. cxd6 ♗xg3!**

The point of the combination!

**8. fxc3 ♖xd6 9. ♖f2 ♖h6 0-1.**

Yet another common problem is one that often affects younger players, who seem particularly vulnerable to missing an opponent's counterplay. This insufficient perception of your opponent's ideas often stems from underestimating your adversary or getting carried away with the excitement of your own ideas.

Notes by  
**Yan Teplitzky**



Is it good for Black to play 1... ♖xc3?

**1... ♖xc3**

For almost every Sicilian player this exchange sacrifice begs to be played.

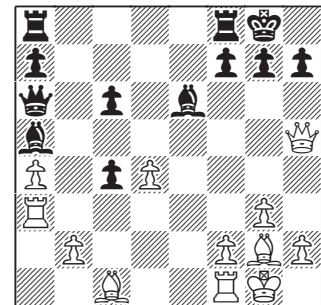
**2. ♖xc3 ♗xe4**

Black appears to have a multitude of threats in exchange for a tiny material disadvantage. However, after...

**3. ♖c7! ♗f2+ 4. ♙xf2 ♖xh3 5. ♖xb7**

...Black cannot defend ♙/e7 and thus White obtains more than sufficient compensation for the queen. The correct move in the original position, therefore, is 1... ♙d8 when Black retains all threats.

Notes by  
**Yan Teplitzky**



Should Black play 1... ♖ad8?

**1... ♖ad8?**

This natural move is in fact a blunder. Instead 1... ♖ab8! with the idea to eventually block the third rank with ... ♖b3 keeps the position about equal.

**2. g4!**

White's pieces suddenly coordinate beautifully.

**2... g6**

White wins after 2... ♖xd4 3. ♖h3 h6 4. ♙xh6 ♖xg4 (or 4... ♙xg4 5. ♖g5) 5. ♙xg7! ♖xg2+ 6. ♖h1!

**3. ♖e5! ♙b6**

No better is 3... ♙d5 4. ♖f6!

**4. d5!**

This pawn sacrifice deprives Black of any control over d5 and gains an important tempo for the attack.

**4... ♙xd5**

Black is also lost after 4... cxd5 5. ♙h6 f6 6. ♖xe6+ while 4... ♖xd5 5. ♙xd5 ♙xd5 6. ♙h6 f6 7. ♖e7 ♖f7 8. ♖e8+ ♖f8 9. ♖xf8# is mate.

**5. a5!**

Another important detail, since 5. ♙h6 f6 6. ♙xd5+ cxd5 7. ♖e6+ ♖f7 8. a5 ♙xf2+ is terrible for White.

**5... ♙c5**

No less important is 5... ♙xa5 6. ♙h6 f6 7. ♙xd5+ cxd5 8. ♖e7 ♖f7 9. ♖xd8+.

**6. ♙h6 f6 7. ♖c7 ♙f7 8. ♙xf8 ♖xf8 9. ♖h3 ♖c8**

Black's queen is too far from the decisive battle on the other wing.

### 10. ♖f4

Of course White is not interested in trading queens.

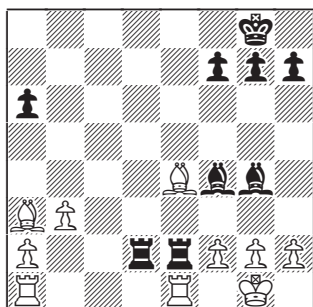
### 10... ♗e6 11. ♖e1! ♖f7

Or 11... ♗xg4 12. ♖xc4+.

### 12. ♗f1 1-0.

The best way to target this problem is by solving carefully selected positions that involve provocative questions, or require the accurate prediction and prevention of an opponent's counterplay.

### Notes by Yan Teplitsky



Consider the following sequence, and evaluate if White can win after...

### 1. ♗b4 ♖xa2 2. ♖xa2 ♖xa2 3. ♗f5

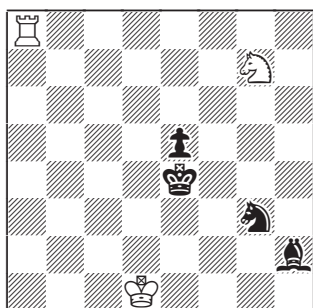
Now Black has only one defense.

### 3... ♗e2! 4. ♗b1!

On 4... ♗d3 a5! 5. ♗c3 (not 5. ♗c5? ♗d2) Black equalizes the game with the brilliant 5... ♗e5!

### 4... ♖b2 5. ♗d3 1-0.

### Notes by Yan Teplitsky



A trap somewhere along the way makes it difficult to assess if White can win this position?

### 1. ♖a2 ♗g1 2. ♖g2 ♖f3! 3. ♖xg1 ♖f2 4. ♖e1 e4

How can White untangle his pieces?

### 5. ♗e6

Black still has counterplay after 5. ♗d2? e3.

### 5... e3 6. ♗c5!!

White cannot avoid the perpetual after 6. ♗f4? e2+!! 7. ♗xe2 ♗f1!

### 6... e2+ 7. ♗d2 ♗f1+ 8. ♗c1 ♖xe1 9. ♗d3# 1-0.

## Improving Calculating Technique

In the previous section we have identified some of the more common problems players experience with their calculating technique. Now we will dig a little deeper and develop a structured system to assist players in developing their skills in this area.

As stated at the beginning of this article, the ability to accurately calculate long variations within the constraints of a tournament game is one of the most important skills that strong players possess. One of the greatest experts in this field was GM Alexander Kotov, who explained his ideas in two absolutely wonderful books called *The Secrets of Grandmaster Play* and *How to become a Grandmaster*.

The most important concept in Kotov's theory deals with the idea of 'calculating roots'. Basically, all of the possible variations in a given position can be presented in the form of a tree where the main lines are represented by thick main branches of the tree, while smaller branches and individual leaves represent successively less important subvariations and individual moves. Kotov distinguishes among several classes of trees.

- a) a pole contains one variation;
- b) a bush contains many short lines;
- c) a debris contains an abundance of long and often interlocking variations.

The main rule formulated by Kotov suggests that a player must only visit a given tree branch once in his calculations, there must only be few critical lines, and only in exceptionally difficult and complicated positions is he allowed to traverse a given branch more than once. In practice Kotov's approach isn't always strictly applied, as it is not always clear what the most efficient way is to traverse a specific tree of moves.

What matters in Kotov's theory is the desire to eliminate the expenditure of energy and time that is introduced by undisciplined and unnecessary 'branch jumping'. Also worth noting is that variation trees are not absolute and predefined objects, but are rather created and modified in the process of calculating and exploring possible move alternatives. The rule may be summarized as follows: "Choose a line you consider the most critical, finish it, and only then switch to another line. Adjust the number of required lines if necessary".

For many years Kotov's theory was the de facto standard for players who want to improve their tactical abilities. In time, however, certain deficiencies in Kotov's approach were noticed by the late World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik and Russian GM and psychologist Nikolai Krogius. Their conclusions after observing the calculating patterns of hundreds of players in different types of positions were seemingly simple, but carried with them great consequences:

- 1) In complicated positions it is extremely difficult to select all relevant candidate moves before the actual calculation starts. More often than not, the list of candidate moves grows as the player goes deeper into the position;

## Research Database 2002

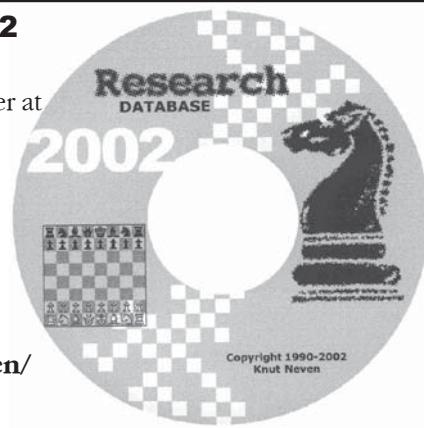
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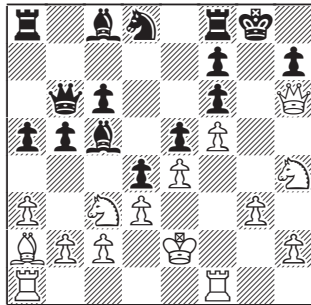
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2) Frequently a correct move appears on the horizon of a player only after he has calculated a similar idea or nuance in an unrelated line.

These critical points are very well illustrated by the following example.

Notes by  
**Yan Teplitzky**



White to play and win.

**1. ♖a4!!**

But not 1. ♖f4?? exf4 2. gxf4 dxc3.

**1... bxa4 2. ♖f4 exf4 3. gxf4**

The point of this simple example is that the idea 1. ♖a4!! is not likely to be discovered until at least the most rudimentary calculation of 1. ♖f4 has preceded it!

**1-0.**

Let me summarize the main problems with this theory in its original form: Kotov's approach assumes that a player identifies his list of candidate moves based not only on the specifics of the position, but also his individual preferences and tendencies, including character traits, playing style, and even a sense of being in or out of form on a given day.

What this approach ignores is the fact that certain moves are much more likely than others to be short-listed based on subjective criteria like superficial attractiveness etc. In fact, very often the process of calculating long variations can be omitted altogether if the player decides that a given move or idea does not have enough significance in the current position. Frequently such lines can be easily identified without indulging in lengthy calculations, and therefore I will suggest an alternative method to optimize the selection of candidate moves for move calculation.

(1) Our first step is to formulate a purpose for the coming calculations,

i.e. establish the criteria to be used when deciding if a given line is acceptable or not. Examples could include achieving a decisive material advantage, equalizing the game, or identifying the best practical chance in a lost position etc;

(2) Now we try to identify the main ideas in the position that can be used to achieve our desired purpose;

(3) Next we establish our priorities. Most strong players, for example, prefer a somewhat longer but sure way to achieve the desired result over a shorter way that involves an unnecessary risk;

(4) At this point we can begin to calculate variations as deeply as possible within the practical constraints of time limits, and in the order of their previously identified priorities;

(5) Once a line is found that achieves the desired result we have the following two choices:

a) we can stop our calculations immediately and move on to part (9). This is an especially practical solution when time trouble may be a factor;

b) we can go on to examine other candidate moves in the order of their priorities, to try and find an even more direct approach;

(6) If no line that achieves the desired result can be found in a reasonable amount of time then we continue down the list of candidate moves established in (1)-(3) or we can revise our priorities. In the latter case, very often a previously examined variation meets our revised priority criteria;

(7) Trusting our intuition is easier said than done, but is absolutely necessary since sometimes no amount of calculation will suffice to justify a decision with absolute and objective evidence. We will devote much more time to factors like intuition in upcoming feature articles;

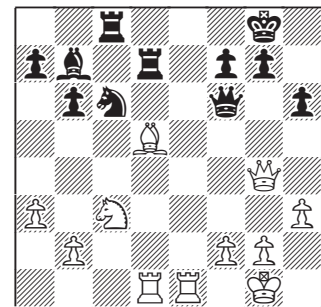
(8) It is very probable that new ideas come to light while calculating unrelated lines, and occasionally these new ideas have the potential to change our list of priorities or the direction we established in (1)-(3). Important at this moment is to note the new idea mentally, but not to switch immediately to focus on the new idea until we have finished the preceding calculation. Switching constantly between different ideas is a

sure way to get lost in a complicated position;

(9) Important also is the prevention of one of the most common complaints: so-called chess blindness. Here the problem usually manifests itself when we embark on the calculation of long and complicated lines after a very basic mistake has been committed in the first move or two. This sort of thing happens to just about everyone, including extremely strong players.

Notes by  
**Yan Teplitzky**

**Kasparov, Garry  
Karpov, Anatoly**



Having accurately defended the position for most of the game, Black now played inexplicably...

**1... ♖cd8?? 2. ♖xd7! ♖xd7 3. ♖e8+ ♖h7 4. ♖e4+ g6 5. ♖xd7 1-0.**

The easiest way to overcome chess blindness is to observe the following advice, formulated by Russian Master Blumenfeld: "Once your calculations have produced a decision and you are ready to play a move, take a deep breath and pause briefly. Now take a fresh look at the position, and imagine yourself as an absolute beginner. Ask yourself if there is an obvious problem with the move you are about to make? Does it hang a piece? Does it weaken your king? Is there anything else visibly wrong with your choice?" This approach might look overly simplistic to be an effective antidote, but is in fact quite effective.

I am very far from considering the proposed algorithm an exhaustive or magical approach, but I do believe that mastering the basic ideas presented here will greatly help many readers improve their tactical mastery of the game.

# Chicago Open

by IM Mark Bluvshstein

The 2002 edition of the Chicago Open proved to be a very strong event and included no less than 19 GMs and 11 IMs. At the end of the event it was Gregory Kaidanov, Jaan Ehlevest, Alexander Shabalov, Leonid Yudasin, Ildar Ibragimov, Giorgi Kacheishvili and Alexander Yermolinsky who tied for first place in the Open Section with 5.5/7, followed in a tie for 8th place at 5/7 by Alexander Onischuk, Igor Novikov, Aleksander Wojtkiewicz, Yuri Shulman, Gregory Serper, Alexander Fishbein, Hikaru Nakamura and Mark Bluvshstein.

This time fellow Canadians David Filipovich (3/7) and Michael Dougherty (3.5/7) made the trip by plane, while my father Ilia and I drove the ten hours from Toronto. We stayed at an uncle's place, which allowed us to be very comfortable and get a good amount of rest and very necessary sleep each night.

The tournament itself was held at the huge Hyatt Hotel. GM Onischuk was the top seed, but really didn't live up to his reputation and only finished in a tie for 8th place, half a point behind the winners at 5.5/7.

After easy wins against somewhat weaker opposition in the first two rounds my next opponent was GM Igor Novikov, rated over 2600 FIDE! An unbalanced struggle eventually led to a completely drawn endgame. Then, unfortunately, I hurried my play and was duly punished!

This disappointing loss was followed by another win, this time on the Black side of a tactical affair where my opponent should have sacrificed an exchange instead of accepting fatally weak tripled pawns. Next came the following important games from rounds five and six.

## Notes by Mark Bluvshstein

Shulman, Yury  
Bluvshstein, Mark  
Chicago op (5), 2002  
Tarrasch D34

### 1.d4 e6

This flexible move retains opening choices like the Dutch, Benoni, Old Indian, Queen's Gambit, and the Nimzo-Indian. White can now transpose to the French with 2.d4 but that is something I am not afraid of.

### 2.c4 d5 3.♘f3 c5

I usually play the Nimzo-Indian, but today I wanted to give the Tarrasch Defense a good test. Against a strong Grandmaster a dull opening would eventually get on my nerves, and he is more likely to show me his best in a very sharp system!

### 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3

Usually White precedes the fianchetto of his bishop with ♘c3 in order to keep options like ♗g5 open, but here we just end up in a transposition to the main line.

### 5...♗c6 6.♗g2 ♘f6 7.0-0 ♗e7 8.♗c3 0-0 9.♗g5 c4

Black can also play 9...cxd4 followed by ...h6. The text keeps more tension in the position.

### 10.♗e5 ♗e6

This is an important tabyia position in the Tarasch, with a choice between several continuations for White. My opponent had played 11.e3 in round one, but failed to survive for long. The most popular line is 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.b3 ♖a5 13.♗a4 with many interesting possibilities. IM Halkias, who is one of the world's biggest Tarasch experts and rated just under 2600, showed me that this system is vastly underrated by theory.

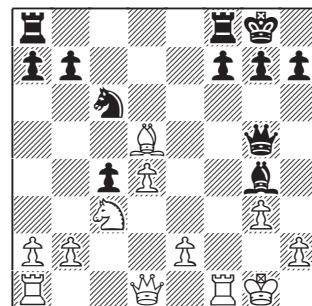
### 11.f4

Although popular, this particular move is quite unclear and leads to a forcing continuation.

### 11...♗g4 12.♗xg4

The alternative is 12.♗xe7 ♗xe7 13.♗xg4 ♗xg4 14.♖d2 f5 with equal play. I have seen IM Lawrence Day play this in Toronto.

### 12...♗xg4 13.♗xd5 ♗xg5 14.fxg5 ♖xg5



At this point my theoretical preparation came to an end, although I realized that this position has been played many times. White has more space and active pieces, plus the open f/file and several pawn weaknesses to attack. Black, on the other hand, enjoys some attacking possibilities and good chances to break White's center. White's king can be somewhat unsafe, and I eventually found a novel continuation that looks quite promising for the second player. It all comes down to pure calculation.

### 15.♖f4

From here the rook defends ♗/d4 and controls much of the fourth rank. In the future, White will probably double rooks on the f/file.

### 15... ♖ad8

Most often seen here is 15... ♗e6 when the bishop returns home with 16. ♗g2 followed by ♖h1 and ♗g1 and many interesting plans for both sides. White probably has a slight advantage.

### 16. ♗d2

The position after 16. ♗xc6 bxc6 17. ♗e4 ♖h5 really isn't better for White. Black's pawn structure isn't so bad, while the light squares around White's king have been weakened and his ♗/d4 and ♗/b2 can easily get in trouble. The knight lacks a decent outpost, since landing on c5 for example only lets Black build up pressure on ♗/e2 along the e/file.

### 16... ♗h3

The problem with the usual alternatives 16...h6 and 16...h5 is that they frequently lead to endgames in which White's king is of course perfectly safe.

### 17.e4 ♗e6

At this point pure calculation takes over, and both players calculated until move 26. Going further at this point is too difficult.

### 18. ♖af1

A bit safer and certainly less forcing is 18. ♖d1 (but not 18. ♗e6 ♗xd4) when 18... ♗xd5 19. ♗xd5 ♖fe8 20. ♗c3 ♗g6 21. ♖f3 leads to a small edge for White. However, Black has the much stronger 19...f5!! with a dead draw after 20. ♗c1 b5 21. a4 a6 22. b3 ♖fe8 23. bxc4 ♖xe4 24. ♖xe4 ♗xc1 25. ♖xc1 fxe4 26. cxb5 ♗xd4 27. ♗e7+ ♖f8 28. ♗c6 ♗xc6 29. bxc6 ♖e7 30. ♖f2 ♖c8 31. ♖e3 ♗d6 32. ♖xe4 ♖xc6 33. ♖xc6+ ♖xc6. There are other possibilities along the way, but these also look drawish. White, in any case, is always trying to win and is never worse.

Rather pointless instead is 18. ♗xc6? since it weakens ♗/d4 too much. The doubled pawns shouldn't cause Black any headaches in this position, and their proximity to the center actually helps limit White's mobility.

### 18... ♗xd5 19. ♗xd5 ♖fe8

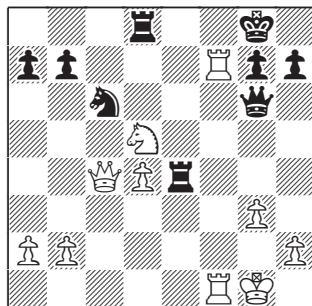
In exchange for Black's pressure along the e/file, White gets to attack my king.

### 20. ♗c3

The position after 20. ♖f2 f6 is difficult to assess and requires a lot of

calculation. White's choice is less complicated and more practical considering the approaching time trouble.

### 20... ♗g6 21. ♗xc4 ♖xe4 22. ♖xf7



### 22... ♗e6 23. ♗b3

Shulman likely missed my last move, as he now wasted quite a bit of time on his reply. The endgame after 23. ♖f5 (White goes nowhere after 23. ♗b5 b6 as Black begins to apply pressure) 23...g6 24. ♗f6+ ♖g7 25. ♗h5+ (also level is 25. ♗xe6 ♖xe6) 25...gxh5 26. ♗xe6 ♖xe6 27. d5 ♖e2 28. ♖f7+ ♖g8 29. dxc6 bxc6 30. ♖f2 ♖dd2 is equal.

### 23... ♖e2!!

Black lacks counterplay and lands in big trouble after the defensive 23...b6 24. ♖f3! h6 25. ♗c7. The text is an excellent resource, since now 24. ♗xb7 leads to a draw by perpetual check. Alas, White's queen has to return after all.

### 24. ♖f3 h6 25. ♖f8+

The position has become dangerous for White because his pieces do not coordinate very well. Therefore Shulman exchanges a pair of rooks to ease the pressure. Not easy to calculate with little time remaining on the clock is 25. ♗c7 and now

A) 25... ♗e3+ (not 25... ♗xd4 26. ♖f8+ ♖h7 27. ♗d3+ and White wins) 26. ♗xe3 ♖xe3 27. d5 ♗e5 (27... ♖e7 28. ♖xe7 ♗xe7 29. ♗e6 ♖d6 30. ♖f8+ ♖h7 31. ♖f7 ♗xd5 32. ♗xg7 ♖b6 leaves White with an extra pawn) 28. ♖xg7+ wins for White; but  
B) 25... ♗c4!! 26. d5 ♗e5 27. ♖f8+ ♖xf8 (but not 27... ♖h7 28. ♖f5+ g6 29. ♖f7+ ♗xf7 30. ♖1xf7\*) 28. ♖xf8+ ♖h7 29. ♗e6 ♗g4 30. ♗e7 ♖e3 31. ♗f8+ does not look difficult for Black.

### 25... ♖xf8 26. ♗xf8+ ♖h7 27. ♖f3 ♖xb2

Also drawn is 27... ♗xd4 followed by ... ♗e4 to exchange queens.

### 27... ♖xb2 28. ♗d3+ ♗g6

Less accurate is 28... ♖g8 29. ♗f4 when White's passed d/♗ is very important.

### 29. ♗xg6+ ♖xg6 30. ♗f4+ ♖h7 31. d5?

More accurate but still a draw is 31. ♖d1.

### 31... ♗e5 32. ♖f2 ♖b1+ 33. ♖g2 g5 34. ♖e2 ½-½.

Notes by

**Mark Bluvstein**

Bluvstein, Mark  
Fishbein, Alexander

Chicago op (6), 2002

King's Indian: Classical E94

### 1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♗c3 ♗g7 4. e4 d6

My favorite reply to the King's Indian is the Averbakh System with ♗e2 and ♗g5. Today it's a main line...

### 5. ♗f3 0-0 6. ♗e2 e5 7. 0-0 c6

White should be happy to see this slightly unusual move, as this setup does not give the second player a lot of breathing room.

### 8. d5

Normally I play ♗e3 in this type of position, but I really needed to win this particular game and have my reasons for feeling very comfortable after the text.

### 8... ♗a6 9. ♗e3 ♗g4 10. ♗g5 f6 11. ♗h4

Fishbein has opted for a sharp treatment, but the opening edge must go to White after all. For now my ♗/h4 looks silly, but it performs the very useful function of preventing the break ...f5 and can be extricated later in any case after White plays f3. I really don't think that GMs are very dangerous, especially when you have a familiar position on the board.

### 11... ♗h6 12. ♗d2?!

I have to admit that I like the move ♗e1 a lot better since then the knight often reaches the useful central post d3, but that's just my opinion. After the text the knight eventually ends up on b3 where it blocks the b/file.

### 12... c5

Alexander wants to blockade the queenside before expanding on the kingside, but this is not so easy to

accomplish in view of White's many active possibilities.

### 13.a3

White prepares the b4 advance.

### 13... ♖e8?!

This is not such a good move, even though it was once tried by a very good player. A better way to unpin his f/♗ is 13... ♖d7 because in that case ♗/d6 remains protected. The text allows a small tactic.

### 14.b4!

Why waste a tempo when 14... cxb4 15. axb4 ♖xb4 16. ♖b5 is hardly attractive for Black? With the desired queenside advance accomplished after the text, White can look forward to a reliable advantage after ♖b3.

### 14... f5

This is the only way for Black to gain any sort of counterplay. Conceding the light squares with 14... g5 is not a good idea.

### 15. ♖b3

White simply threatens to exchange everything he can on c5 to leave Black in a difficult defense against my passed d/♗. Black can hardly allow this to happen, but exchanging on e4 promotes White's ♖/c3 to the excellent blockading square e4.

### 15... b6

White has a huge advantage after 15... cxb4 16. axb4 ♖xb4 17. ♖b5 ♖d7 18. c5 ♖a6 19. c6!! bxc6 20. dxc6 ♖xc6 which looks completely winning after 21. ♖a5 ♖xe4 22. ♗e7.

### 16. bxc5 ♖xc5

After 16... bxc5 17. ♖a5 both White knights invade on the queenside and leave Black with a hopelessly defensive game.

### 17. ♖xc5 bxc5 18. f3

More to the point is the immediate 18. ♖b1!

### 18... ♗f6

An attractive idea! Since Black's dark squared bishop has no future anyway, he might as well exchange it while he still can. Black can also challenge his opponent on the b/file with 18... ♖b8 but the draw is not so easy to collect in this way. For the time being White controls the queenside and concedes the kingside to Black.

### 19. ♗xf6

The retreat 19. ♗f2 leaves White with a passively placed bishop. After the bishop exchange White concentrates on establishing control of the b/file.

### 19... ♖xf6 20. ♖b1 ♗d7

Black intends to follow up with ... ♖c8 to support an advance of his g/♗ all the way to g4 while also helping defend on the queenside.

### 21. ♖d2 f4

The race is on now that Black has blocked the kingside. White will triple majors on the b/file.

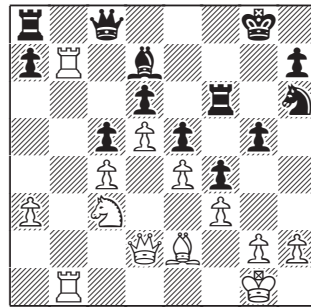
### 21... f4 22. ♖b7

The rook looks impressive, but it doesn't yet accomplish anything here. After I have tripled on the b/file the next item on White's agenda is to trade off his only weakness by playing ♗d1-a4.

### 22... ♖c8

By attacking White's ♖/b7 Alexander prevents the scary invasion ♖b5.

### 23. ♖fb1 g5



### 24. ♖d1?

White is clearly better, and instead of the text he should take a risk with 24. ♖d1! to immediately exchange light squared bishops. After 24... ♖f7 (White's queen transfers to the kingside after 24... g4 25. ♖f2! with great effect; while 24... ♖f8 25. ♗a4 ♗xa4 26. ♖xa4 g4 27. ♖e2 also leaves White in complete control) 25. ♖b2 ♖f8 (also bad is 25... ♖f8 26. ♗a4) 26. ♖b8 ♖xb8 27. ♖xb8 ♗c8 28. ♖a8 with a winning advantage for White.

Superficially attractive but not so good is 24. ♖b2 when the queen finds itself misplaced after 24... ♖f8 25. ♗d1 g4 26. fxg4.

### 24... ♖d8 25. ♖f2

White is unnecessarily scared of the break ...g4. There is no reason not to return to the plan of exchanging light squared bishops beginning with 25. ♖c3 and then again ♗d1-a4.

### 25... ♖f8 26. g4?

After a terrific opening White outplays himself in the middlegame. Instead 26. ♗d3 ♗c8 27. ♖7b5 ♗a6 28. ♖5b3 leads to full equality.

### 26... ♖f7 27. ♖d1 ♗c8 28. ♖b8

I don't believe that White can do better here with a retreat of his rook. Where would his play come from? The initiative has begun to shift in Black's favor.

### 28... ♖xb8 29. ♖xb8 ♖c7 30. ♖b2 ♗a6

At this point, and after a very long think, I realized that White cannot hope for more than a draw. The best way to reach this objective is with an exchange of material, leaving a blocked position with no chances for either side.

### 31. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 32. ♖c3 ♖d8

After the knight completes his tour via ... ♖b7-a5 Black lays siege to his opponent's ♗/c4.

### 33. ♖b5!

A good move at the right time. White establishes his knight on an outpost, and the queenside becomes securely blocked.

### 33... ♖b6 34. a4!

I need to be able to capture on b5 without giving Black a passed c/♗.

### 34... ♖b7 35. ♖d2

White now threatens 36. a5 followed if necessary by ♖xd6. Also in the air is the possible lever h4 on the kingside, where the pawn can always be recovered by the queen or even the king if Black should take with ...gxf4.

### 35... ♗xb5 36. axb5 ♖e7

Ideally, Black's king wants to reach b4 after the queens are exchanged. Similarly drawn are the endings after 36... ♖e8 37. h4 gxf4 38. ♖e1 ♖d8 39. ♖h2 ♖a5 40. ♖h3 or immediately 36... ♖a5 37. ♖xa5 ♖xa5 38. ♖f2 ♖e7 39. ♖e1 ♖d8 40. ♖d2 ♖c7 41. ♖c3.

### 37. h4!! ♖a5

Very drawish also is 37... h6 (but not 37... gxf4? 38. ♖e1 and White invades the kingside) 38. hxf5 hxf5 39. ♗f1.

### 38. ♖xa5 ♖xa5 39. hxf5

Now a question for our readers: who do you think is better and why? Try to formulate an answer and then prove it to your computer software!

### 39... ♖f7 40. ♖g2 ♖g6 41. ♖h2

42. ♖h3 ♜b3 43. ♖h2 ♖h4  
 44. ♖g2 ♜c1 45. ♙f1 ♜a2 46. ♙d3  
 ♜c3 47. ♙c2 ♜h6 48. ♙b3 ♜b1  
 49. ♙c2 ♜d2 50. ♙d3 ♜b3 51. ♙e2  
 ♜a5 52. ♙d3 ♜b7 53. ♙f1 ♜d8  
 54. ♖f2 ♜f7 55. ♙g2 ♜g5 56. ♙f1  
 ♜5 57. ♖xh5 ♖xh5 58. ♙g2 ♖g6  
 59. ♖e2 ♖f6 60. ♖d2 ♖e7 61. ♖c2  
 ♖d8 62. ♖b3 ♖c7 63. ♖a3 ♖b6  
 64. ♖a4 a6 65. ♖xa6 ♖xa6 66. ♖b3  
 ♖a5 67. ♖a3 ♜h7 68. ♙h3 ♜f6  
 69. ♙g2 ♜h5 70. ♙f1 ♜g3 71. ♙d3  
 ♜h1 72. ♙e2 ♜f2 73. ♖b3 ♜h3  
 74. ♖a3 ♜g5 75. ♖b3 ♜h7 76. ♙f1  
 ♜f8 77. ♙h3 ♜g6 78. ♙g2 ♜h8  
 79. ♙h3

White's defense was accurate, if very boring! In the end I felt good about drawing the GM, knowing that I deserved it.

½-½.

In the final round a win was required to earn any prize money, and this was duly accomplished in an interesting game against IM Eugene Perelshtyn whose FIDE rating is 2434. Eugene sabotaged his efforts by perpetually flirting with the clock, which led to a number of mistakes and missed opportunities.

The tight playing schedule made for fairly poor quality chess overall, and many competitors found themselves unable to give 100% in every game. The best game of the tournament was played between GMs Kaidanov and Onischuk.

Very interesting is that Gregory's father and my father were friends some thirty years ago, and my father even found photos of Gregory and himself when they both played in the Russian youth championship finals in 1972. Overall I am satisfied with my performance and the opportunity of playing three strong GMs, one strong IM, and another player who put up fierce resistance. Next year I might make the trip again.

Notes by

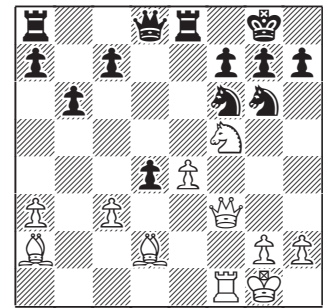
**Mark Bluvshstein**

Kaidanov, Gregory  
 Onischuk, Alexander  
 Chicago op, 2002

Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein E28

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♜c3 ♙b4 4.e3  
 0-0 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.bxc3 d6 7. ♜e2

e5 8. ♜g3 ♙e8 9. ♙d3 e4 10. ♙b1  
 b6 11. ♜3 ♙a6 12. ♖xe4 ♙xc4  
 13. ♖f3 ♜bd7 14. ♙a2 ♙xa2  
 15. ♙xa2 ♜f8 16. 0-0 ♜g6 17. ♙d2  
 ♖d7 18. ♜f5 ♖d8 19. e5 dxc5 20. e4  
 exd4



21. ♜xg7 ♜e5 22. ♖h3 dxc3  
 23. ♙xc3 ♖xg7 24. ♖g3+ ♜g6  
 25. ♙xf6+ ♖xf6 26. ♙xf6 ♖xf6  
 27. h4 ♙e5 28. ♖f3+ ♖g7 29. h5 f6  
 30. ♖xg6 ♖xg6 31. ♖d3 ♙ae8  
 32. ♖c4 ♙5e7 33. ♖c6 ♙xe4  
 34. ♖xc7+ ♙8e7 35. ♖b8 ♖h6  
 36. ♖f8+ ♖g5 37. ♙f7 ♖c7 38. ♖g7  
 ♙c1+ 39. ♖f2 ♙c2+ 40. ♖f3 ♙f4+  
 41. ♖e3 1-0.



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# Opening Preparation

by Roman Jiganchine



## Middlegame Ideas in the Slav Exchange

### Opening Ideas

The Slav Defense received its name because it was mainly popularized by Russian and Czech players, and was even called the Czech Defense at some stage. In opening classification there soon appeared a distinction between the Slav and the Semi-Slav Defenses, with the former developing the queen's bishop outside of the pawn chain, while the latter shuts in the bishop with an early ...e6.

An important common denominator is the fact that by playing ...c6 Black indicates he doesn't mind grabbing a pawn with ...dxc4 at just the right moment, maybe as early as move three. In the Geller Gambit after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.e4!? he may never return it at all!

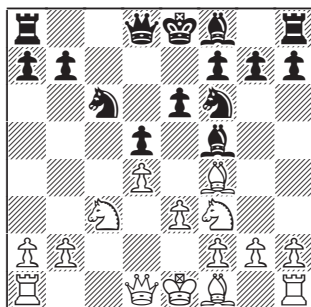
If White prefers to steer clear of such complicated lines he can play the natural 3.e3 to protect ♗/c4 at once, but this blocks his own ♗/c1 whereas Black's ♗/c8 can look forward to an easy life on f5 or g4. Naturally, this is no way to get an advantage as White!

Other ways of hanging on to ♗/c4 while developing are possible of course, but often lead to other concessions such as weakening the queenside with a4 in order to prevent ...b5. The weakness of square/b4 is obvious, for example, in the main line after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗f5 6.e3 e6 7.♗xc4 ♗b4. In addition, White's ♗/c1 still has no easy way join the battle.

So how can White avoid these problems and keep some initiative? For some players the Exchange Variation is the solution: after resolving the central tension with 3.cxd5 White remains a tempo up, which he can use to instigate many interesting adventures unless he is satisfied with a stale draw.

All this being said, the question remains why we should study the Exchange Variation of the Slav Defense at all? In my opinion the structure that arises is a great field demonstration of basic positional principles, while the common transformations that take place in the main lines require a considerable degree of subtle judgment, and often involve tactical considerations as well.

The most obvious comparison of the system would be with the Exchange Variation of the French Defense, but the Slav version is really more closely related to problems that occur in the nowadays popular Petroff Defense. In fact, it is not uncommon for White to achieve some advantage spite of the symmetrical pawn structure. The following diagram illustrates several characteristic and aggressive ideas that White might employ on the queenside.



### Play on the c/file

Many attempts to gain an advantage for White involve using the extra tempo to gain control of the c/file by doubling rooks while preventing Black from doing the same. However, even if this plan is successful, there remains a serious obstacle in White's way towards further progress, namely Black's ♗/c6. The following examples illustrate how significant this factor is for evaluating the chances for both players in the ensuing middlegame.

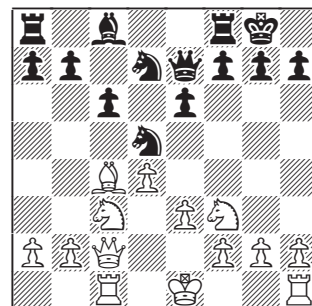
Notes by

**Roman Jiganchine**

Capablanca, Jose Raoul  
Vidmar, Milan  
London, 1922

Orthodox Queen's Gambit D64

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 e6 4.♘c3  
♗e7 5.♗g5 ♗bd7 6.e3 0-0 7.♞c1  
c6 8.♞c2 dxc4 9.♗xc4 ♘d5  
10.♗xe7 ♞xe7



### 11.0-0

This position, while arising from a QGD, is a great illustration of how important it is for Black to have a ♗/c6 present to block the c/file. With a ♗/d7 and ♗/c8 the same structure leads to a depressing defeat for Black.

### 11...b6?!

This careless move allows White to transform the structure in his favor.

### 12.♗xd5! cxd5

After 12...exd5 13.♗d3 the loose ♗/c6 adds to Black's troubles.

### 13.♗d3 h6 14.♞c7 ♞b4 15.a3 ♞a4

Black cannot afford to feast on a pawn with 15...♞xb2 because of 16.♞b1 ♞xa3 17.♗b5 ♞e7 18.♗e5 ♞d8 19.♗c6.

16.h3 ♘f6 17.♗e5 ♗d7 18.♗c2  
♞b5 19.a4 ♞xb2 20.♗xd7 ♞ac8  
21.♞b7 ♗xd7 22.♗h7+ ♞xh7  
23.♞xc8 ♞xc8 24.♞xc8 ♗f6

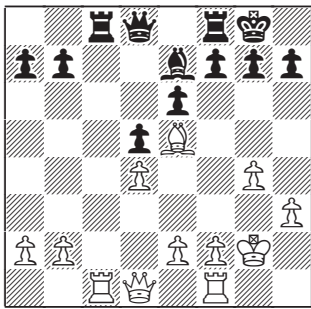


25.♖c1 ♗b4 26.♗c2+ ♕g8 27.♗c6  
 ♗a3 28.♗a8+ ♕h7 29.♖c7 ♗xa4  
 30.♖xf7 ♗d1+ 31.♕h2 ♗h5  
 32.♗xa7 ♗g6 33.♖f8 ♗f5 34.♖f7  
 ♗g6 35.♖b7 ♖e4 36.♗a2 e5  
 37.♗xd5 exd4 38.♖b8 ♖f6  
 39.♗xd4 ♗f5 40.♖xb6 ♗xf2  
 41.♗d3+ ♕g8 42.♖b8+ 1-0.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Tarnowski, A  
 Botvinnik, Mikhail  
*Leipzig ol, 1960*  
 Catalan A45

1.d4 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.c4 c6  
 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Nf3 e6  
 8.0-0 Be7 9.Bf4 0-0 10.h3 Ne4  
 11.Rc1 Rc8 12.g4 Bg6 13.Nxe4  
 Bxe4 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Bxg2  
 16.Kxg2



Despite the simplifications Mikhail Botvinnik manages to outplay his far less experienced opponent anyway.

16...♗a5 17.♗b3

Black's advantage consists of the more active position of his queen and the fact that White has a bad bishop.

17...b5

Botvinnik intends 18...♖c4.

18.♖xc8 ♖xc8 19.a3 ♖c4 20.♖d1  
 ♗b6 21.♖d2 ♗c6 22.e3 a5 23.♖g3  
 ♖c1

Total domination!

24.f3 f6 25.♖f2 ♗c4 26.♗d3 a4  
 27.e4 ♗xd3 28.♖xd3 b4 29.axb4  
 ♖xb4

Now White's ♗/b2 is doomed.

30.exd5 exd5 31.♖e3 ♖c2 0-1.

It is often difficult for either player to dominate the c/file so completely, and in these cases success depends on the ability to translate exchanges

on the open file into an initiative that takes on other forms.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Hübner, Robert  
 Georgiev, K  
*DE BL, 1997*

Slav: Exchange D13

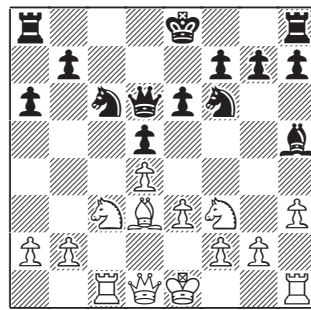
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♖c3 ♖f6 4.♖f3  
 a6 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.♖f4 ♖c6 7.e3  
 ♖g4

The bishop occupies a good position, and in some situations Black might willingly exchange with ...♖xf3.

8.♖d3

Perhaps too optimistic, as the bishop later returns to e2 anyway.

8...e6 9.h3 ♖h5 10.♖c1 ♖d6  
 11.♖xd6 ♗xd6



Black's queen has found an excellent post from which she easily keeps an eye on the important square/b4.

12.0-0 0-0 13.♖e2 ♖ac8

Clearly worse is 13...♖fc8? 14.♖a4.

14.♖e1

Black increases the pressure on White's position after 14.♖d2 ♖xe2 15.♗xe2 ♗b4 while 14.a3 ♖a5 exposes a weakness on square/c4.

14...♖xe2 15.♗xe2 ♖d7

Black's knights are in fact more active than White's, and the inclusion of the move ...a6 in this position proves useful by restricting White's knight.

16.♖d3 ♖b4 17.♖xb4

Black is first to control the c/file after 17.a3 ♖xd3 18.♗xd3 b5 19.♖c2 ♖c4 (or 19...♖b6) 20.♖fc1 ♖fc8.

17...♗xb4 18.♖b1 ♗a5 19.b3

Again the move 19.a3 affords Black the opportunity to probe a potential weakness on square/c4 with 19...♖b6.

19...♖c7 20.♖c2 ♖fc8 21.♖fc1

Hübner tries to resist on the c/file, but instead allows Black's queen to invade his position.

21...♖xc2 22.♖xc2 ♖xc2 23.♗xc2  
 ♗e1+ 24.♕h2 g6 25.♖c3 ♖f6  
 26.g3 ♗f1 27.♗e2 ♗c1

Black naturally wants to keep the queens on, since his far more active lady constitutes a serious advantage.

28.♖a4 ♖e4 29.♕g2 b5 30.♗b2?  
 ♗e1 0-1.

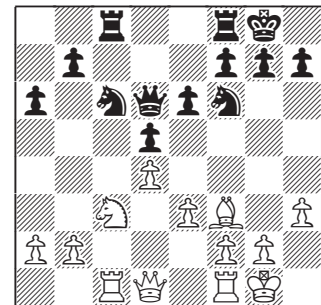
Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Hauchard, A  
 Shirov, Alexey

*Oakham (7), 1992*

Slav: Exchange D13

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♖f3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5  
 cxd5 5.♖c3 ♖c6 6.♖f4 a6 7.e3  
 ♖g4 8.♖e2 e6 9.h3 ♖xf3 10.♖xf3  
 ♖d6 11.♖xd6 ♗xd6 12.0-0 0-0  
 13.♖c1 ♖ac8



14.♖a4

White's knight begins the thematic march to the outpost on c5, while Black doubles his rooks on the c/file. In this particular case Black's plan proves to be more effective, but only because his opponent fails to play forcefully enough.

14...♖c7 15.♖c5 ♖fc8 16.♖d3?!

This immediate retreat from the outpost looks strange, but it is a reaction to Black's perceived threat of 16...e5 to undermine the knight. However, a far less timid approach is 16.♗a4? when 16...e5? (better is 16...♖d7!?) 17.♖xb7! ♖xb7 18.dxe5 ♗xe5 19.♖xc6 ♖xc6 20.♗xc6 ♖xb2 21.♖xd5! ♖d2 22.♖b3 leaves White up a healthy pawn.

16...♖b4

This position should be compared to Hübner–Georgiev, DE BL 1997.

17. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 18. a3 ♗xd3  
19. ♗xd3 ♗c6 20. ♖b1 ♗c2

Black has transformed his advantage by classical rules: control of the c/file leads to an invasion on the 7th rank.

21. ♗xc2 ♖xc2 22. ♗d1 ♖d2  
23. ♖c1

White has no time to go after Black's rook, because his position unravels rather quickly after 23. ♗f1 ♗e4 24. f3 ♗g3+ 25. ♗g1 ♗f5.

23...g5 24. b4

More resilient is 24. ♗c2 ♗e4 (perhaps 24...♗g7!? 25. ♗f1 ♗e4 26. ♗xe4 dxe4 25. ♗xe4 dxe4 26. b4 ♖a2 27. ♖c3 ♗g7 with some drawing chances for White.

24...♖a2 25. ♗f3 ♖xa3 26. b5 axb5  
27. ♖c7 ♖a1+ 28. ♗h2 ♖f1 29. ♖xb7 ♖xf2

Holding on to his queenside passer with 29...♖b1!? is worth considering.

30. ♖xb5

Black has won a pawn and his pieces remain more active. This turns out to be sufficient to win.

30...♖d2 31. ♗g1 h5 32. g4 hxg4  
33. hxg4 ♗g7 34. ♖b1 ♗g6 35. ♖e1 ♗e4 36. ♖e2 ♖d3 37. ♗xe4+ dxe4  
38. ♗f2 f5 39. ♖a2 f4 40. ♖e2 fxe3+  
41. ♖xe3 ♖xd4 42. ♖a3 ♗f6 0-1.

### Pressure on c6

White often trades the blockading ♗/c6 to give Black a backward ♗/c6 on the half open c/file, which he then tries to turn into a permanent weakness by preventing the freeing pawn advance ...c5. Black can easily get himself in trouble here, and the next two games illustrate successful examples of this strategy. Readers should keep in mind, however, that in both cases Black's troubles were caused by imprecise opening play.

Notes by

**Roman Jiganchine**

Botvinnik, Mikhail  
Tal, Mikhail

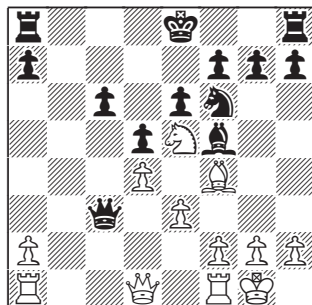
Moscow Wch (11), 1961

Slav: Exchange D14

Mikhail Botvinnik was perhaps the only World Champion to use the Exchange Variation of the Slav

repeatedly throughout his career. His superior positional understanding brought victories against Mikhail Tal and Vasily Smyslov, and he scored an impressive 6/8 without a single loss between 1945 and 1967.

1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 c6 3. ♗c3 d5 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. ♗f3 ♗c6 6. ♗f4 ♗f5 7. e3 e6 8. ♗b5 ♗b4 9. ♗e5 ♗a5  
10. ♗xc6+ bxc6 11. O-O ♗xc3  
12. bxc3 ♗xc3



Black has picked up a pawn, but now Botvinnik shows how White can make his opponent suffer for his lagging development. White soon regains ♗/c6 and continues to pressure Black by aiming for Tal's weak ♗/a7.

13. ♗c1! ♗xc1 14. ♖fxc1 O-O 15. f3

It is far more important to deprive Black's knight of the outpost on e4 than to capture the loose pawn.

15...h6 16. ♗xc6 ♖fe8 17. a4 ♗d7  
18. ♗d6 ♗b6 19. ♗c5 ♗d3  
20. ♗xa7 ♖xa7 21. ♗xb6 ♖a6 22. a5

Tal might have thought that the opposite colored bishops suffice for a draw, but Botvinnik converts his extra pawn convincingly.

22... ♗c4 23. ♖a3 f6 24. e4 ♗f7  
25. ♗f2 ♖aa8 26. ♗e3 ♖eb8  
27. ♖ac3 ♖c8 28. g4 ♖ab8 29. h4 ♖c6 30. h5 ♖bc8 31. e5 g6 32. hxg6 ♗xg6 33. ♖3c2 fxe5 34. dxe5 ♖h8  
35. ♖h2 ♖cc8 36. ♗d2 ♗b3 37. a6 ♗c4 38. a7 ♖h7 39. ♖a1 ♖a8  
40. ♗e3 ♖b7 41. ♖xh6 ♗g7  
42. ♖ah1 ♖b2+ 1-0.

Notes by

**Roman Jiganchine**

Kasparov, Gary  
Dolmatov, Sergey

SU ch, 1979

Slav: Exchange D14

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. cxd5 cxd5

Early in his career the future World Champion mainly played 1. d4 and, as we can see here, sometimes was content looking for an advantage in less forcing systems!

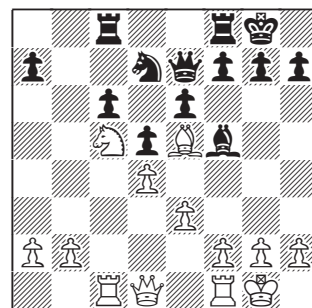
4. ♗c3 ♗f6 5. ♗f3 ♗c6 6. ♗f4 ♗f5  
7. e3 e6 8. ♗b5 ♗d6?!

Modern tournament practice shows that 8...♗d7 is best.

9. ♗e5 ♖c8 10. ♗xc6+ bxc6 11. O-O O-O 12. ♖c1 ♗e7 13. ♗a4 ♗xe5

Black cannot liquidate the backward ♗/c6 with the immediate 13...c5? because 14. dxc5 ♗xc5 15. ♗xc5 ♖xc5 16. ♗c6! wins material for White.

14. ♗xe5 ♗d7 15. ♗c5



White has a clear advantage because he has succeeded in fixing Black's ♗/c6 on the half open c/file.

15...f6 16. ♗g3 e5 17. ♗d2 ♗b6

No relief is offered by the exchange 17...♗xc5 18. ♖xc5 exd4 19. ♗xd4.

18. b3 e4

Dolmatov hopes that closing the center will allow him to conjure up some kingside play.

19. ♗a6 h5 20. ♗b4 ♗b7 21. ♗c5 ♗e7 22. a4 g5 23. a5 ♗a8 24. ♗a6 ♗e8 25. ♖c2 h4 26. ♗d6 ♖f7  
27. ♖fc1 ♖g7 28. ♗b8

Kasparov's pieces dominate the queenside and the dark squares. Bronstein once pointed out that such a weakness on the dark squares eventually also becomes a weakness on the light squares, since Black's light squared army comes under heavy attack once White has occupied the abandoned dark squares.

28... ♗d7 29. ♗b7

Bronstein would be pleased. Although ♗/c6 and ♗/a8 are on light squares, they are nevertheless doomed.

29... ♗h7

Black might try 29...h3 as a kingside demonstration.

### 30. ♖xa8?!

Kasparov later preferred 30.b4! ♖e6 31. ♗xd7 ♗d8 32. ♗xf6+ ♖xf6 33. ♗e5 ♖xe5 34. ♖xa8.

### 30... ♖e6 31. ♖xa7 ♖xd6 32. ♗xd7 ♗xd7

White is up a pawn, and although Dolmatov manages to complicate matters, his ♗/c6 remains a decisive weakness.

33. ♖b6 ♗dc7 34. a6 ♖d7 35. ♗a1 h3 36. gxh3 ♖g6 37. f3 exf3 38. ♗f2 ♗a7 39. ♗xf3 ♗ca8 40. b4 ♖c7 41. ♖c5 ♗xa6 42. ♖af1 ♗a2 43. ♗xf6+ ♖h5 44. ♗1f2 ♗xf2 45. ♗xf2 ♖h7 46. ♖c2 ♗a1+ 47. ♖g2 ♖e4+ 48. ♖xe4 dxe4 49. d5 cxd5 50. ♗b2 ♗a6 51. b5 ♗b6 52. ♖g3 ♖g6 53. ♖g4 ♖f6 54. ♗b4 ♖g6 55. h4 gxh4 56. ♖xh4 ♖f5 57. ♖g3 ♗g6+ 58. ♖f2 ♗h6 59. b6 ♗xh2+ 60. ♖e1 ♗h8 61. b7 ♗b8 62. ♖d2 ♖e5 63. ♖c3 d4+ 64. exd4+ ♖d5 65. ♖d2 1-0.

### Structural Transformations

If Black can manage to escape from his opponent's bind with the advance ...c5 after all, then he often has good chances to take over the initiative.

### Notes by Roman Jiganchine

Andersson, Ulf  
Gligoric, Svetozar  
Niksic, 1983

Slav: Exchange D14

1. ♗f3 d5 2. d4 ♗f6 3. c4 c6 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. ♗c3 ♗c6 6. ♗f4 ♗f5 7. e3 e6 8. ♗e5

White deploys another way of putting pressure on ♗/c6.

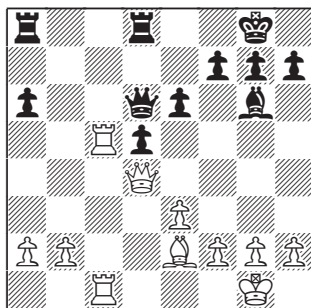
8... ♗d7 9. ♗xc6 bxc6 10. ♗c1 ♗e7 11. ♗e2 O-O 12. O-O c5 13. ♗b5 a6

The queen excursion 13... ♖b6 does not work out particularly well for Black after 14. ♗c7 ♖c6 15. dxc5 ♗xc5 16. ♗a5 ♗ab8 17. ♗d4 ♖a8 18. b4 ♗e4 19. ♗c6 ♗be8 20. f3.

14. ♗d6 ♗g6 15. dxc5 ♗xc5 16. ♗xc5 ♗xd6 17. ♗xd6 ♖xd6

White hopes to offset Black's central pawn majority with an initiative based on his control of the c/file.

18. ♖d4 ♗fd8 19. ♗fc1



With 19. ♗d1! White prevents Black's coming central expansion.

19... e5 20. ♖d2 d4!?

Gligoric correctly believes that a central passed pawn, supported by all his pieces, should provide sufficient compensation for the useless ♗/a6.

21. ♗c6 ♖e7 22. ♗xa6 ♗ab8 23. exd4 exd4 24. ♗a3

An interesting alternative is 24. ♗f3 ♖b4 25. ♖xb4 ♗xb4 26. ♗d6 ♗e8 27. a3 ♗c4 28. ♗a1 d3 29. b4 probably with a White edge. All of the tactical dancing of the rooks is based on the mutual back rank weaknesses on both sides of the board.

24... ♖b4 25. ♗d1

Here the exchange 25. ♖xb4 ♗xb4 26. b3 is better.

25... d3 26. ♖xb4 ♗xb4 27. f3 ♖f8 28. ♗dxd3

Naturally Andersson avoids the pin 28. ♗xd3 ♗bd4.

28... ♗xd3 29. ♗xd3 ♗xb2 30. h4 h5 31. ♖h2 g6 32. ♖h3 ♗d4 33. ♗e4 ♗dd2 34. g4 ♖g7 35. ♖g3 ♗h2 36. ♗a7 ♗bg2+ 37. ♖f4 ♗xh4 38. ♗d5 hxg4 39. ♗xf7+ ♖h6 40. fxg4 ♗gxf4+ 41. ♖e5 ♗h5+ 42. ♖e6 ♗d4 43. ♗b3 ♗b4 44. ♖d6 ♗a5 45. ♗c7 ♗b6+ 46. ♗c6 ♗xc6+ 47. ♖xc6 g5 48. ♖b6 ♗a3 0-1.

### Notes by Roman Jiganchine

Wojtkiewicz, Alexander  
Shirov, Alexey

Manila 01 (8), 1992

Slav: Exchange D13

1. ♗f3 d5 2. d4 c6 3. c4 ♗f6 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. ♗c3 ♗c6 6. ♗f4 a6 7. ♗e5 ♖b6 8. ♗xc6 bxc6

In exchange for the backward ♗/c6 Black has play along the c/file and a strengthened central structure.

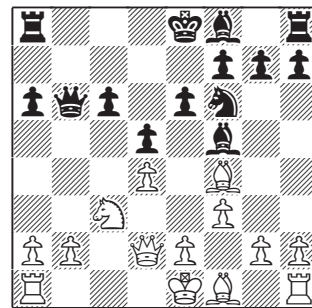
### 9. ♖d2

White's queen is not placed very well here, since threats of ...♗b4 and ...♗e4 from the opponent can be annoying.

9... ♗f5 10. f3

White can hardly do without this move to keep Black's knight out of square/e4.

10... e6



### 11. e3!?

Wojtkiewicz plays rather slowly. More direct is 11. ♗c1! (threatens ♗a4-c5) 11... ♗d7 12. e4 ♗g6.

11... ♗d7 12. ♗c1 ♗e7 13. ♗e2 O-O 14. O-O ♗fc8 15. a3 ♖b7

Shirov has prepared well, and now plans to take over the initiative with the advance 16...c5.

16. ♗a4 c5 17. dxc5 ♗xc5 18. ♗xc5 ♗xc5 19. ♖b4

White meets the threat 19... ♗b3.

19... ♖xb4 20. axb4 ♗d3 21. ♗xc8+ ♗xc8 22. ♗xd3 ♗xd3 23. ♗d1

Without control of the c/file White really has no compensation for his ruined queenside pawn structure. Shirov proceeds to create new weaknesses in his opponent's camp, and even the opposite colored bishops never give Wojtkiewicz any drawing chances.

23... ♗b5 24. ♗e5 ♗c2 25. ♗c3 f6 26. ♗d2 ♗c1+ 27. ♖f2 ♖f7 28. g4 ♗c4 29. f4 ♖g6 30. ♖g2 h5 31. h3 h4 32. ♖f3 ♗b3 33. e4 ♗f1+ 34. ♖e3 dxe4 35. ♗f2 ♗h1 36. ♖xe4 ♗xh3 37. ♗d2 ♗g3 38. g5 ♗d5+ 39. ♖d4 ♖f5 40. gxf6 gxf6 0-1.

### Central Breakthrough

While the central pawn structure in these variations appears to be very stable, this is in many cases an illusion. The side with the initiative, usually White, can frequently open the center at a convenient moment to take

advantage of a lead in development or the more active placement of his pieces. Here we should primarily look at the games of Vadim Milov, who has created several masterpieces against strong opposition to illustrate this important idea.

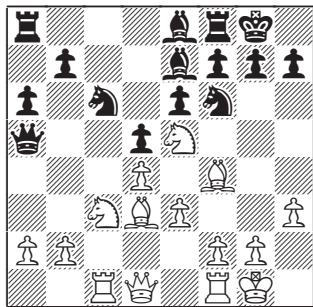
Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Milov, Vadim  
Porper, E

Ramat Gan IL ch, 1992

Slav: Exchange D10

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.♗f4 a6 6.e3 ♘c6 7.♗f3 e6 8.♗d3 ♗e7 9.h3 0-0 10.0-0 ♗d7 11.♖c1 ♖a5 12.♗e5 ♗e8



The awkward position of Black's ♗/e8 disrupts the coordination of his major pieces and gives the opponent some advantage.

13.♗g5 ♖h8 14.♗b1

Black sees that 15.♖d3 with a battery on the b1-h7 diagonal is coming, and so avoids a weakening of his kingside pawn formation by playing...

14... ♗g8 15.♗xe7 ♗xe7 16.♗d3

After the exchange of dark squared bishops White immediately turns his attention to the weakened dark squares on Black's queenside, where the ♗/a6/b7 formation makes the invasion of a knight on square/c5 particularly annoying.

16... ♗g6 17.a3 ♖d8 18.♖e2 ♗a5 19.♗c5 ♖e7 20.♗a2 b5 21.e4

Milov very astutely transforms his positional advantage by opening the center. In many other cases such a break serves to attack a king that is stuck in the middle, but here White wants to exploit the weakness of Black's queenside and his opponent's passively placed pieces.

21... dxe4 22.b4 ♗c6 23.d5 exd5 24.♗xd5 ♖e5 25.♖xe4 ♖xe4 26.♗xe4 ♗d4 27.♖h2 ♗d8 28.♖fd1 ♗e2 29.♖c2 ♗ef4 30.♖cd2 ♗e6 31.♗b6 ♖xd2 32.♖xd2 ♗c6 33.♗xe6 ♗xe4 34.♗c8

The final attack on Black's ♗/a6 reveals the positional idea behind the tactical complications. Both pawns drop like leaves in fall.

34... ♗c6 35.♖d6 ♗e7 36.♗xa6 g6 37.♗c8 ♗xc8 38.♖xc6 ♗e7 39.♖c7 ♗d5 40.♖c5 1-0.

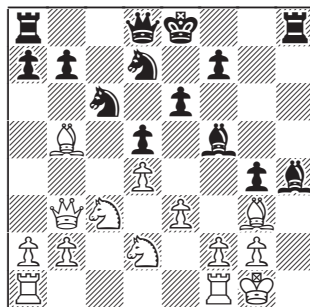
Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Milov, Vadim  
Sadler, Mathew

Isle of Man, 1994

Slav: Exchange D14

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.♗f4 ♗c6 5.e3 ♗f6 6.♗c3 ♗f5 7.♗b5 e6 8.♗f3 ♗d7 9.0-0 ♗e7 10.♖b3 g5 11.♗g3 h5 12.h3 g4 13.hxg4 hxg4 14.♗d2 ♗h4



15.♗e2

White needs to transfer some pieces to the defense of the kingside

15... ♖a5?! 16.e4! ♖xd2

Black walks straight into a terrific White initiative on the dark squares after 16...dxe4 17.♗c4! ♗xg3 (or 17...♖d8 18.d5!) 18.♖xg3.

17.exf5 ♗xg3 18.♗xg3 ♖xd4 19.♖fe1

The point of White's combination is revealed: Black's king is still in the center, and the extra pawn does not come close to compensating Black for his sadly scattered forces.

19... ♖d8 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.♖xe6 ♖c7 22.♖d1 ♗c5 23.♖xd4 ♗xb3 24.♖xd5 ♗bd4 25.♖e4 ♗xb5 26.♖xb5 ♖ad8 27.♖e1 ♗d2

28.♗e4 ♖e8 29.♖e3 ♖c2 30.a4 ♖e7 31.♗f6 ♖xe3 32.♗d5+ ♖c8 33.♗xe3

Milov went on to win the ending.

33... ♖d2 34.♗xg4 ♖d4 35.♗e5 ♖xa4 36.♗xc6 bxc6 37.♖b3 ♖c7 38.f3 c5 39.♖f2 ♖c6 40.g4 c4 41.♖b8 a5 42.♖e3 ♖c7 43.♖b5 ♖c6 44.♖b8 ♖c7 45.♖a8 ♖a2 46.g5 ♖b7 47.g6 c3 48.g7 c2 49.♖d2 1-0.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Milov, Vadim  
Piket, Jeroen

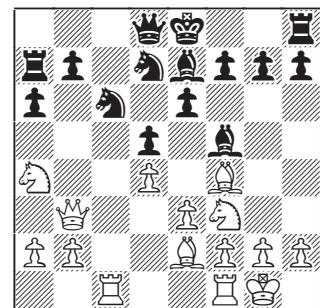
Groningen Festival (4), 1998

Slav: Exchange D13

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.♗c3 ♗f6 5.♗f4 ♗c6 6.♗f3 a6 7.♖c1 ♗f5 8.e3 e6 9.♖b3 ♖a7

This idea is known from several other openings, and has recently become popular in several ...a6 variations of the Slav Defense.

10.♗e2 ♗d7 11.0-0 ♗e7 12.♗a4



12...g5

Piket decides to complicate the game.

13.♗e5 ♖g8 14.♗g3 h5 15.♗c5! ♗xc5

Unfortunately Black has no time for 15...h4 16.♗xb7 ♖a8 17.♗d6+ ♖f8 18.♗xf5 exf5 19.♖xd5.

16.dxc5 h4 17.♗d6 ♗g4

Black's position implodes with the invasion of White's queen on the dark squares after 17...♗xd6 18.cxd6 ♖xd6 19.♖b6.

18.h3 ♗xf3 19.♗xf3?! f5

This aggressive move appears to be the Dutchman's only way to continue his kingside offense, but Milov finds an elegant refutation to punish Piket

for the lack of coordination among his pieces.

20.  $\text{Qh5+}$   $\text{Qf8}$  21.  $\text{e4!}$   $\text{Qxd6}$

The f/file opens after 21... $\text{fxe4}$  22.  $\text{f3}$ .

22.  $\text{cxd6}$   $\text{Qxd6}$  23.  $\text{exf5}$   $\text{exf5}$

24.  $\text{Bfd1}$   $\text{Qe7}$  25.  $\text{Qf3}$   $\text{Bg6}$  26.  $\text{Qxd5}$   $\text{Qb6}$  27.  $\text{Qc3}$   $\text{Qf6}$  28.  $\text{Qc7}$

And Milov exploits the unfortunate position of Black's  $\text{B/a7}$  once more.

28...  $\text{Ba8}$  29.  $\text{Qxb7}$   $\text{Be8}$  30.  $\text{b4}$   $\text{Qb6}$

Black's only constructive strategic idea 30... $\text{g4}$  31.  $\text{hxg4}$   $\text{fxg4}$  fails to the punishing rook lift 32.  $\text{Bc4}$ . After the text White has no trouble converting his material advantage.

31.  $\text{a3}$   $\text{Be6}$  32.  $\text{Qxb6}$   $\text{Bxb6}$  33.  $\text{Bc7}$   $\text{Qf7}$  34.  $\text{Qf3}$   $\text{Qf6}$  35.  $\text{Ba7}$   $\text{Qg6}$

36.  $\text{Qf1}$   $\text{Qf4}$  37.  $\text{Bc7}$   $\text{Bee6}$  38.  $\text{Bc5}$   $\text{Be5}$  39.  $\text{Bdc1}$   $\text{Qe6}$  40.  $\text{Bxe5}$   $\text{Qxe5}$

41.  $\text{Bc6}$   $\text{Bxc6}$  42.  $\text{Qxc6}$   $\text{Qf4}$

43.  $\text{Qb7}$   $\text{Qc7}$  44.  $\text{Qe2}$   $\text{g4}$  45.  $\text{a4}$   $\text{g3}$

46.  $\text{Qf1}$  1-0.

### Kingside Pawn Storm

An important classical positional principle requires that one must have firm control of the center, preferably by closing it, before attacking on the flank. Furthermore, it is well known that a space advantage can be very helpful in conducting an attack against the king or other targets in a given sector of the board.

The Exchange Variation of the Slav serves as a good illustration of these ideas, since the usually closed and therefore relatively stable center provides the necessary prerequisites for a possible pawn storm against the enemy king. Also significant is the fact that all of the major pieces are usually still present after the opening stage of the game.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Allen, Kevin  
Volkov, Sergey

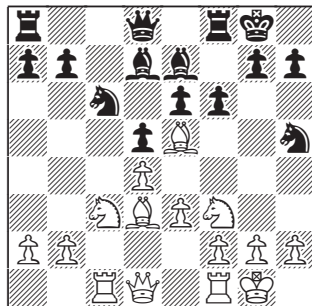
Monarch Assurance, 2000

Slav: Exchange D13

1.  $\text{d4}$   $\text{d5}$  2.  $\text{c4}$   $\text{c6}$  3.  $\text{cxd5}$   $\text{cxd5}$  4.  $\text{Qc3}$   $\text{Qf6}$  5.  $\text{Qf3}$   $\text{Qc6}$  6.  $\text{Qf4}$   $\text{Qh5}$  7.  $\text{Qe5}$

Botvinnik points out that this move is White's best reaction.

7...  $\text{e6}$  8.  $\text{e3}$   $\text{Qe7}$  9.  $\text{Qd3}$   $\text{O-O}$  10.  $\text{Bc1}$   $\text{Qd7}$  11.  $\text{O-O}$   $\text{f6}$



### 12. $\text{Qg3}$

Critical for the evaluation of this position is 12.  $\text{Qg5}$   $\text{Qe8!}$ ? (possible is 12... $\text{g6}$  13.  $\text{Qxh7}$   $\text{fxe5}$  14.  $\text{Qxg6}$   $\text{Qf6}$  15.  $\text{Qxf8}$ ; but not 12... $\text{fxe5}$  13.  $\text{Qxh7+!}$   $\text{Qh8}$  14.  $\text{Qf7+!}$   $\text{Bxf7}$  15.  $\text{Qxh5}$  and White wins) 13.  $\text{Qxh7}$   $\text{fxe5}$  14.  $\text{Qxf8}$   $\text{Qxf8}$  15.  $\text{dxe5}$   $\text{Qxe5}$  16.  $\text{Qe2}$   $\text{Qf6}$  with a good position for Black, while the sacrifice 12.  $\text{Qxh7+?}$   $\text{Qxh7}$  13.  $\text{Qg5+}$   $\text{fxg5}$  14.  $\text{Qxh5+}$   $\text{Qg8}$  is unsound.

12...  $\text{Qe8}$  13.  $\text{a3}$   $\text{g5}$  14.  $\text{Qc2}$

White loses control over square/d4. Strategically correct seems 14.  $\text{e4!}$ ? although after 14... $\text{dxe4}$  (14... $\text{Qf7}$  is also possible) 15.  $\text{Qxe4}$   $\text{Qxg3}$  16.  $\text{hxg3}$   $\text{f5}$  17.  $\text{Qxc6}$   $\text{Qxc6}$  18.  $\text{Be1}$  there can be no doubt that Volkov's position is rock solid, which is mainly due to the presence of Black's  $\text{Q/e8}$ .

14...  $\text{Qg7}$  15.  $\text{Qa4}$

Ill advised is 15.  $\text{Qxh7?}$   $\text{f5}$ .

15...  $\text{g4}$  16.  $\text{Qd2}$   $\text{Qxg3}$  17.  $\text{hxg3}$   $\text{Qd6}$

Black has a kingside space advantage and attacking chances based on ... $\text{h5-h4}$  together with ... $\text{Bh8}$  etc. White's counterplay on the c/file is too slow, and opening the center only works into the hands of Black's bishop pair.

18.  $\text{Qc5}$   $\text{Qe7}$  19.  $\text{Qe2}$   $\text{h5}$  20.  $\text{b4}$   $\text{f5}$  21.  $\text{Qd3}$   $\text{h4}$  22.  $\text{Qf4}$   $\text{Bh8}$  23.  $\text{Bfd1}$   $\text{Qf6}$  24.  $\text{Qb3}$   $\text{b6}$  25.  $\text{Qd2}$   $\text{Qe7}$  26.  $\text{Bc3}$   $\text{Qa4}$  27.  $\text{Qa6}$   $\text{Qf7}$  28.  $\text{Bdc1}$

Volkov has taken the time to cover all invasion squares on the c/file, and White is left with nothing to do but wait until the attack against his king arrives with full force. Counterplay in the center is now out of the question.

28...  $\text{Qh6}$  29.  $\text{Qd3}$

Equally hopeless is 29.  $\text{gxh4}$   $\text{Qxh4}$  30.  $\text{Qf1}$   $\text{Qxf4}$  31.  $\text{exf4}$   $\text{Qh1+}$  32.  $\text{Qe2}$   $\text{Qxg2}$ .

29...  $\text{hxg3}$  30.  $\text{fxg3}$   $\text{Qh2+}$  31.  $\text{Qf2}$   $\text{Bh3!}$  32.  $\text{Qxh3}$   $\text{Qxg3+}$  33.  $\text{Qe2}$   $\text{gxh3}$  34.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{hxg2}$  0-1.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Votava, J  
Morozevich, Alexander

DE BL (12), 1999

Slav: Exchange D13

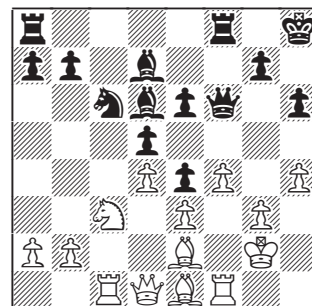
1.  $\text{Qf3}$   $\text{Qf6}$  2.  $\text{c4}$   $\text{c6}$  3.  $\text{d4}$   $\text{d5}$  4.  $\text{cxd5}$   $\text{cxd5}$  5.  $\text{Qc3}$   $\text{Qc6}$  6.  $\text{Qf4}$   $\text{Qh5}$  7.  $\text{Qd2}$   $\text{e6}$  8.  $\text{e3}$   $\text{Qd6}$  9.  $\text{Bc1}$   $\text{O-O}$  10.  $\text{Qe2}$   $\text{Qf6}$  11.  $\text{O-O}$   $\text{Qe4}$  12.  $\text{Qe1}$   $\text{f5}$

Both players have a bishop behind the pawn chain, but here Black firmly controls square/e4.

13.  $\text{Qd2}$   $\text{Qf6!}$ ?

Black plans 14... $\text{Qh6}$ .

14.  $\text{Qdx4}$   $\text{fxe4}$  15.  $\text{f4}$   $\text{Qd7}$  16.  $\text{g3}$   $\text{Qh8}$  17.  $\text{h4?!}$   $\text{h6}$  18.  $\text{Qg2}$



18...  $\text{g5!}$ ?

Morozevich comes up with an interesting sacrifice to begin his attack on the opponent's king.

19.  $\text{fxg5}$   $\text{Qg7}$  20.  $\text{Qb5}$   $\text{Qe7}$

Black cannot preserve the bishop with 20... $\text{Qb8?}$  because 21.  $\text{Bxf8+}$  immediately stalls his attack.

21.  $\text{gxh6}$   $\text{Qxh6}$  22.  $\text{Qf2}$

Possible also is 22.  $\text{Bxf8+}$   $\text{Bxf8}$  23.  $\text{Qd2}$   $\text{Bg8}$  24.  $\text{Qf2}$   $\text{a6}$  25.  $\text{Qc3}$ .

22...  $\text{a6}$  23.  $\text{Qc3}$   $\text{Qd6}$  24.  $\text{Qa4?}$

Votava ignores his opponent's principal threat. After the correct 24.  $\text{Qe1}$   $\text{Bg8}$  Black still has certain compensation.

24...  $\text{Bxf2+}$  25.  $\text{Bxf2}$

Black also wins after 25.  $\text{Qxf2}$   $\text{Qxg3+}$  26.  $\text{Qg2}$   $\text{Qxh4}$  27.  $\text{Qg4}$   $\text{Bg8}$  28.  $\text{Qb6}$   $\text{Qe8!}$  29.  $\text{Bh1}$   $\text{Qg5}$ .

25...  $\text{Qxg3}$  26.  $\text{Bf7}$

Or 26.  $\text{Qxg3}$   $\text{Bg8+}$  27.  $\text{Qg4}$   $\text{Qxe3+}$ .

26...  $\text{Bg8}$  27.  $\text{Bxd7}$   $\text{Qxh4}$  0-1.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Vaisser, Anatoly  
Collin, D

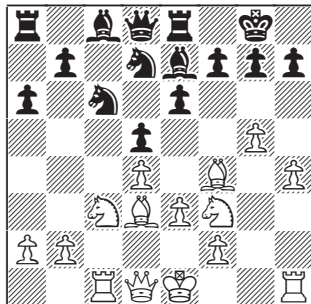
FR ch tt, 1994

Slav: Exchange D10

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♖c3 ♘f6 4.cxd5  
cxd5 5.♗f4 a6 6.e3 e6 7.♗d3 ♗e7  
8.♖c1 O-O 9.g4

The fact that Black has expended a tempo on 5...a6 and his ♗/c8 remains behind the pawn chain allows Vaisser to opt for his favorite Exchange Slav plan, a kingside pawn storm!

9...♗c6 10.g5 ♗d7 11.♗f3 ♖e8  
12.h4



12...♗f8

Much more logical for Black is to continue with his plan to counter in the center with the ...e5 push, for example 12...♗b4 13.O-O e5 14.dxe5 ♗xc3 15.♖xc3 ♗dxe5 16.♗xe5 ♗xe5 17.♗c2 ♗h3 18.♗xe5 ♖xe5 when 19.♖e1? ♖xg5 wins for Black.

13.♗e5 ♗xe5 14.♗xe5 ♗d7  
15.♖g1 ♖c8 16.♖h5 ♗g6 17.♖g4  
♗f8 18.f4 b5 19.h5 ♗xe5 20.fxe5  
g6 21.♖h1 ♖e7 22.♖c2 ♗e8 23.a3  
a5 24.e4

White easily takes advantage of the passive placement of his opponent's pieces by threatening to pick up a pawn with 25.exd5 exd5 26.♗xd5.

24...♖b6

Black cannot play 24...dxe4 25.♗xe4 ♖xc2 since the arrival of White's knight on the kingside is devastating after 26.♗f6+ ♖g7 (or 26...♖h8 27.♗xc2 ♖a8 28.♖h2 a4 29.hxg6 fxg6 30.♖xe6) 27.hxg6 ♖c1+ 28.♖d1!

25.exd5 exd5 26.♗xd5 ♖xc2  
27.♗xc2 ♖c6 28.♗xe7+ ♗xe7  
29.♖h2 b4 30.hxg6 b3 31.♖h3  
♗xg5 32.♖xh7+ ♗f8 33.g7+ ♖e7  
34.g8♖ 1-0.

**The Endgame**

The Exchange Variation of the Slav provides one more very interesting positional lesson: sometimes doubled pawns can be stronger than their more flexible counterparts! The following game by Capablanca made an entire generation of players look at the issue of doubled pawns from a new perspective. In some cases the ugly pair can be very useful by covering important squares, providing outposts for our pieces, and giving open files to our rooks.

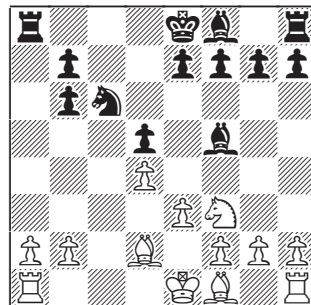
Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Janowski, David  
Capablanca, Jose Raoul

New York, 1916

Slav: Exchange D15

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.♗c3  
♗f5 5.♖b3 ♖b6 6.♖xb6 axb6  
7.cxd5 ♗xd5 8.♗xd5 cxd5 9.e3  
♗c6 10.♗d2



10...♗d7

This bishop retreat drew a lot of attention at the time.

11.♗e2 e6 12.O-O ♗d6 13.♖fc1  
♖e7 14.♗c3 ♖hc8 15.a3? ♗a5  
16.♗d2 f5 17.g3 b5 18.f3 ♗c4

The unfortunate advance 15.a3 has made the arrival of Black's knight on c4 especially annoying.

19.♗xc4 bxc4 20.e4 ♖f7 21.e5?

Closing the center in this way is a serious positional mistake, as Black now has a free hand to advance on both flanks without any interference from his opponent. Commentators later found that 21.exd5 exd5 22.f4 equalizes the position by virtue of creating an outpost for White's knight on square/e5.

21...♗e7 22.f4 b5 23.♖f2 ♖a4

24.♖e3 ♖ca8 25.♖ab1 h6 26.♗f3  
g5

Capablanca plays very energetically and creates threats on both flanks by utilizing the influence of his bishops acting in unison from the center of the board.

27.♗e1 ♖g8 28.♖f3 gxf4 29.gxf4  
♖aa8 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.

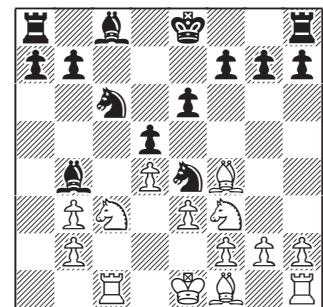
Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Ratner, B  
Romanovsky, P

Moscow SU ch (1), 1945

Slav: Exchange D13

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5  
cxd5 5.♗c3 e6 6.♗f4 ♖b6 7.♖b3  
♖xb3 8.axb3 ♗b4 9.e3 ♗e4  
10.♖c1 ♗c6



11.♗b5 ♗d7

Black sets out to prove that the characteristic doubled b/pawns are a burden without active play to compensate for their weakness.

12.O-O!

Removing the king from the center is a mistake. Much better is 12.♖e2!?

12...♖e7! 13.♗xe4 dxe4 14.♗xc6  
♗xc6 15.♗e5 ♖hc8 16.♖c4

The tempting double exchange on c6 does not solve all of White's problems since 16.♗xc6+ ♖xc6 17.♖xc6 bxc6 18.♖c1 ♗d7 19.♖f1 ♗d6 20.♗xd6 ♖xd6 21.♖e2 ♖b8 22.♖c3 ♖b5 23.♖d2 c5 leads to a won king and pawn ending for Black after 24.dxc5+ ♖xc5 25.♖xc5 ♖xc5 26.♖c3 a5 27.h3

g5. Not only does White suffer from his queenside pawn weaknesses, but Black's king is more active than his own.

16... ♖d6 17. ♖fc1 ♗xe5 18. ♗xe5 f6 19. ♗f4 ♖d8 20. ♖c5 ♖d7 21. b4 a6 22. h4 h6 23. ♖f1 g5

Black has a qualitative pawn superiority on the kingside: he can advance his pawns while White cannot.

24. ♗g3 ♖g8 25. ♖g1 ♖gd8 26. ♖f1 ♖d5 27. ♖g1 ♖f8 28. ♖f1 ♖d7 29. ♖g1 ♖f7 30. ♖f1 f5 31. hxg5 hxg5 32. ♗e5 ♗b5+ 33. ♖g1 ♖xc5 34. dxc5 ♖c6 35. ♖d1 ♗d3

Black's king threatens to invade via the weakened light squares.

36. f3 ♖d5 37. ♗c3 e5 38. fxe4+ ♖xe4 39. ♗xe5 ♖xe3 40. ♖e1+ ♗e2! 41. ♖c1 f4 42. c6 bxc6 43. ♖xc6 ♖e4 44. ♖f6 ♖e7 45. ♗d6 ♖d7 46. ♖f2 ♗b5 47. ♖g1 ♖d5 48. ♗b8 ♖d8 49. ♗c7 ♖d7 50. ♗b8 ♖b7 51. ♗d6 ♗d3 52. g3 ♖d7 53. ♗b8 ♖d8 54. ♗c7 ♖c8 55. ♗d6 ♖c1+ 56. ♖h2 f3 57. ♗c5

Here White is mated after 57. ♖xf3 ♗e4 58. ♖f6 ♖h1 ♯.

57... ♖e5 58. ♖f8 g4

Romanovsky's advantage has taken a clear shape after a long period of maneuvering: White's queenside pawns are useless, whereas Black's kingside pawns represent a force.

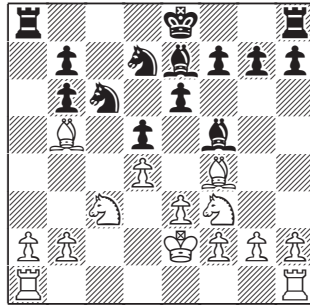
59. ♖e8+ ♖f5 60. ♖f8+ ♖e6 61. ♗f2 ♖f1 62. ♗d4 ♗e4 63. ♗g1 ♖b1 64. ♖e8+ ♖f5 65. ♖f8+ ♖g6 66. ♗f2 ♖xb2 67. ♖g1 ♖b1+ 68. ♖h2 ♖f1 69. ♗g1 ♗f5 70. ♗d4 f2 71. ♖g2 ♖d1 72. ♖f6+ ♖g5 73. ♖xf5+ ♖xf5 74. ♗xf2 ♖e4 75. ♗c5 ♖d2+ 76. ♖f1 ♖f3 77. ♖e1 ♖d7 78. ♗f2 ♖d5 79. ♖f1 ♖d1+ 0-1.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Gligoric, Svetozar  
Sajtar, J  
Warsaw, 1947

Slav: Exchange D14

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. cxd5 cxd5 4. ♖c3 ♖f6 5. ♖f3 ♖c6 6. ♗f4 ♗f5 7. e3 e6 8. ♖b3 ♖b6 9. ♖xb6 axb6 10. ♗b5 ♖d7 11. ♖e2 ♗e7



12. ♖e5 ♖dx5 13. ♗xe5 f6 14. ♗c7 ♗d8 15. ♗g3 ♖d7

Possible also is 15... ♖f7 16. ♖hc1 ♖c8.

16. ♖hc1 ♗c7 17. ♗xc7 ♖xc7 18. b4 ♗g6 19. ♖d2 ♖a7?

Here 19... ♖ac8 20. a3 is only slightly better for White.

20. ♗xc6 ♖xc6

Black drops the exchange after 20... bxc6 21. ♖b5+ and so he has to allow a rather trivial simplification into a hopeless ending.

21. a4 ♖aa8 22. ♖b5+ ♖d7 23. ♖c7+ ♖d8 24. ♖xb7 1-0.

**Good and Bad Bishops**

In the Exchange Variation of the Slav it is possible for the queen bishops to develop either outside of the pawn chain, or sometimes behind it. This factor can have a significant impact on the course of the game.

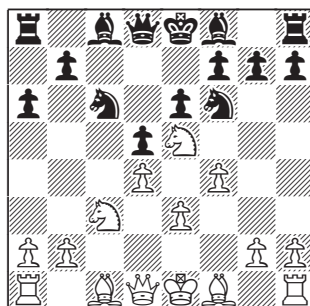
Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

Matlak, M  
Dreev, Alexey

CS ch tt (2), 1995

Slav: Exchange D13

1. d4 d5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. c4 c6 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. ♖c3 ♖c6 6. e3 a6 7. ♖e5 e6 8. f4?!



White cements the outpost on e5 at the cost of suffocating the poor ♗/c1.

8... ♗d6 9. ♗d3 ♖e7 10. O-O b5 11. ♗d2 ♗b7 12. ♖c1 O-O 13. ♗b1

The alternative 13. ♖e2 followed by ♗e1-h4 yields roughly equal chances.

13... ♖c8 14. ♖e2 ♖c7 15. ♖d1 ♖xc1 16. ♗xc1 ♖e4 17. ♖f2 ♖a5 18. ♖f3 f6 19. ♖d3 b4!

Played with the excellent idea of activating his light squared bishop.

20. ♗d2 ♖b6 21. ♖c1 a5 22. ♖f2 ♗a6 23. ♗d3 ♗xd3 24. ♖xd3

White is left with an inferior bishop.

24... ♖a6 25. ♖f1 ♖f5

Total domination!

26. ♖e1 ♖b6

With White's king in the center, Black no longer wants to trade queens.

27. ♖f2 ♗b8 28. ♖xe4 dxe4 29. ♖g1

The knight exchange did not relieve White of his space problems.

29... ♖e7! 30. ♖c4 ♖c8 31. ♖b3 ♖xc1+ 32. ♗xc1 ♖c6 33. ♖e2 ♖d5

Here the knight is ideally placed, putting pressure on ♗/e3 and blocking the a2-g8 diagonal.

34. ♖d1 ♖f7 35. ♖c2 ♖xc2+ 36. ♖xc2 a4 37. ♖g3 f5 38. ♖f1 ♖g6 39. ♖d1 ♖h5 40. ♖e2 g5 41. g3 gxf4 42. gxf4 ♖g4 43. ♖f2 ♖h3 44. ♖g1 ♗d6 45. ♗d2 b3 46. axb3 axb3 47. ♗a5 ♖f6

Or 47... ♗a3 48. bxa3 b2 49. ♖d2.

48. ♖f2 ♖d5 49. ♖e2 h5 50. ♖f2 ♖f6 51. ♖d2 ♖xh2 52. ♗d8 ♖g4+ 53. ♖e2 ♖g3 54. ♖xb3 h4 55. ♗xh4+ ♖xh4 56. ♖c5 ♖f6 57. ♖xe6 ♖d5 58. ♖d8 ♖h5 59. ♖f7 ♗c7

Black won because of his superior positional skill; evident by the fact that White spent almost the entire game in passive defense.

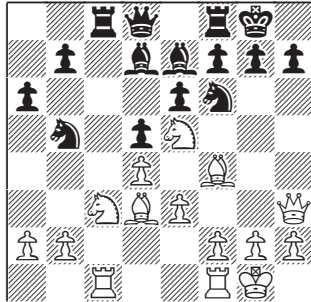
0-1.

**Thematic Tactical Ideas**

Just like any other system, the Exchange Variation of the Slav also has its fair share of thematic tactical ideas. The following short selection of positions should give you a taste, and I suggest to my readers to make a note of similar examples they might come across in their own studies...

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

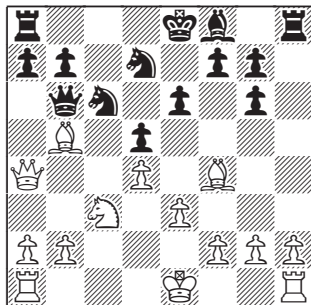
**Maksimenko, A  
Schneider, S**  
*Copenhagen op (10), 1995*



14. ♖xd5! exd5 15. ♖xd7 g6  
Or the even more devastating  
15... ♗xd7 16. ♖xh7+ ♕h8 17. ♖f5+.  
16. ♖xf8 ♖xc1 17. ♖xc1 ♖xf8  
18. ♖c8 1-0.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

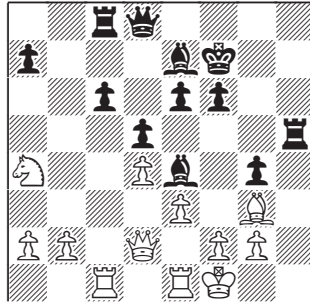
**Andrianov, N  
Imanaliev, T**  
*Sochi jr, 1980*



12. e4 dxe4  
White is also much better after  
12... ♖b4 13. exd5 exd5 14. O-O ♖xc3  
15. bxc3 O-O 16. ♖ab1.  
13. d5 ♖c5  
Here 13... exd5 14. ♖xd5 is not a  
serious option.  
14. dxc6! bxc6 15. ♖xc6+ ♕e7  
16. O-O-O ♖xa4 17. ♖d7+ ♕e8  
18. ♖xa4 ♖e7 19. ♖xa7+ 1-0.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

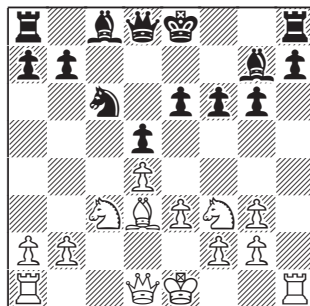
**Seirawan, Yasser  
Beliavsky, Alexander**  
*Brussels WC, 1988*



21... ♖f3!! 0-1.

Notes by  
**Roman Jiganchine**

**Ubilava, Elzibar  
Sarmiento, A**  
*Las Palmas, 1994*



12. ♖xh7! ♖xh7 13. ♖xg6+ ♕f8  
14. ♖xh7 f5 15. ♖h4 ♕g5 16. ♖g6+  
♕f7 17. ♖f4 ♖e7 18. ♖b5 ♕h6  
19. ♖d6+ ♕f8 20. ♖a4 1-0.

**Conclusion**

While the collection of sample games in this article illustrates many specific ideas that are typical for this particular pawn structure, it would be very useful to look for similar themes in other openings. Such an approach helps improve your understanding of the opening in general, and also establishes meaningful connections with the middlegame. Positional factors to examine are:

1) Which open file, if any, plays the most important role in this type of

position? In our present discussion it was definitely the c/file.

2) Which side of the board should each player become active on, considering other positional factors? For example, is it logical to attack on the flank if your center isn't stable?

3) Try to find examples by very strong players with the opening you are examining. In this case, games by GMs Mikhail Botvinnik and Vadim Milov are a great place to start.

4) What are the typical endings that can arise, and how do we evaluate them? Because an exchange of queens on the b3 or b6 squares is a likely scenario, you should make a special effort to study the resulting positions with doubled b/♖s.

5) You should be familiar with the most common tactical ideas. The central pawn break e4 often leads to very sharp situations, and together with other ideas – such as those provided in our section on thematic tactical ideas – deserve your attention.

For the successful application of your opening play it is important to be familiar with the sub variations that exist in every opening. In the Slav Exchange Variation this classification is mainly based on whether or not Black leaves his queen bishop behind the ♖/e6, or develops it more actively on f5 or g4. In the latter case c6 is more difficult to protect, while in the former Black tries to exchange his ♖/f6 for White's ♖/f4 to gain the bishop pair.

Very helpful, critical in fact, is to be familiar with a certain number of theoretically important games that best illustrate the main themes and ideas in our given system. This does not mean we should blindly copy everything we see, but it helps point our thoughts in the right direction instead of reinventing the wheel every time we're confronted with an important decision!

I hope that the practical overview of the Slav Exchange Variation given here will also assist you in your exploration of other opening systems by following the general approach I have taken here. And who knows, the Exchange Variation is certainly a very practical choice for White players in search of a system against the Slav Defense. Botvinnik pointed out many years ago that White deprives his opponent of any counterplay with 3.cxd5 while retaining some initiative!



# Twenty Years Later

by Bruce Harper

Nearly twenty years ago I made two promises to myself: the first was that I wouldn't just stand around and watch if my children ever played in an adult tournament, and the second that I would share my experiences if I ever played in another event myself!

Back in March of this year some of my worries about returning from exile were laid to rest when I finished ahead of my children Jamie and Laura at the Vancouver Open. We were joined by another returnee, Tyler Johnson, former Canadian Junior Champion, who had been away for fifteen years...

The entire experience was very interesting, and is best related through the games. For me round one took place after a very long week, and that meant I didn't have to wait to find out how I would play once I got tired, because I felt that way right from the start. My young and rather delightful opponent on this occasion was 13-year-old Valentina Goutor, whose one discernable fault is that she has a tendency to beat stronger opponents.

Notes by  
**Bruce Harper**

Goutor, Valentina  
Harper, Bruce

Vancouver op (1), 2002

Modern B06

## 1.e4 g6

After spending a great deal of time recently on a book of Duncan Suttles' games, I found it difficult to play anything else. Tradition is important!

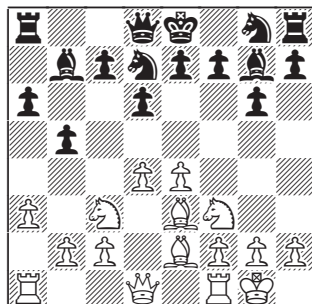
## 2.d4 d6 3.♘c3 a6

If nothing else, I intend to find out if this particular line has been refuted during my long absence.

## 4.♙e2

Black briefly wonders if White's move order signifies anything unusual, but concludes correctly that it doesn't.

4...♙g7 5.♘f3 b5 6.a3 ♘b7 7.0-0  
♘d7 8.♙e3



## 8...e6

Later at home ChessBase divulged only one more game with the text, namely Gardner-Lesiege, CA ch 1994. Judging by the way he handled the opening, Alexandre is clearly an exceptionally strong player with a deep understanding of chess, who probably played 8...e6 a lot more confidently than I did here after reflecting for nearly half an hour...

The most interesting alternative is 8...♙g6 9.e5! ♘d5 10.e6 fxe6 11.♘g5 ♘xc3 12.bxc3 ♙d5 13.♙g4 ♘f8. During the post-mortem my opponent now suggested 14.♙f3! Black's light squared bishop is so important that 14...♙c4!? 15.♙xa8 ♜xa8 16.♞e1 h6 with a perplexing position is probably Black's best reaction. In the end, however, sanity with 8...e6 prevailed.

## 9.♜d2 ♘g6 10.♙d3

Gardner's position collapsed quickly after 10.d5?! exd5 11.exd5 0-0 12.♘g5 ♘b6 13.♙xb6 cxb6 14.f4 ♞c8 15.♞f2 ♞xc3 16.♜xc3 h6 and the weakness of White's ♙/d5 in this line is clearly evident.

## 10...0-0 11.♙h6?!

The bishop exchange gives Black a small advantage. White likely has to play ♙g5 at some point instead.

## 11...e5 12.♙xg7 ♜xg7 13.d5 c6!

We have somehow arrived in a weird Ruy Lopez structure where Black has managed to rid himself of the usually poor ♙/g7 and there are faint stirrings of dark square problems in White's position.

## 14.dxc6 ♙xc6 15.♞ad1 ♘c5 16.♞fe1 ♜c7

My constant advice to Jamie and Laura about not lining up your queen with the opponent's rooks and bishops precludes the alternative 16...♜e7.

17.♜e2 ♞fe8 18.♘d2 ♞ad8  
19.♘b3

White clearly has to find something else here, since now all endings favor the second player.

19...♘xb3 20.cxb3 d5 21.exd5  
♘xd5 22.♘xd5 ♙xd5 23.♙c2  
♜c6!

The punctuation may be undeserved, but Black's extra central pawn makes the provocation of my opponent's reply and subsequent weakening of her kingside an attractive proposition.

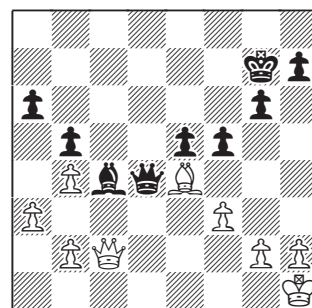
24.f3 f6 25.♞d2 ♙f7 26.♞ed1  
♞xd2! 27.♞xd2 ♞d8!

Black's first and only tactic!

28.♞xd8 ♜b6+ 29.♜h1 ♜xd8  
30.b4 ♜d4!

Centralization, straight out of *My System*. I know Spraggett isn't a Nimzovich fan and Watson dismisses overprotection in his *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy*, but some of us got warped early!?

31.♙e4 ♙c4 32.♜c2 f5



Black has taken control of the board, but since I was down to about five minutes for the remaining eight moves I was happy to see my opponent crack with...

## 33.b3?

White has to play 33.♙b7 since the immediate attempt to trap the bishop with 33...♜b6 34.♙a8 ♜a7 35.♙c6 ♜c7? meets 36.♙d5! So Black instead runs his king to the queenside, followed by a pawn advance on the kingside. White's position would be difficult to defend.

## 33...fxe4 34.bxc4 ♜a1+ 0-1.

Valentina will clearly become a Master within another year or two, and I was quite happy to avoid making a contribution to her rating fund. My second game was played against a very pleasant gentleman whom I had never met.

Notes by  
**Bruce Harper**

**Harper, Bruce**  
**Yousefzadeh, Mehrdad**  
**Vancouver op (2) 2002**  
**Irregular A00**

1.g3 d5 2.♖g2 ♗f6 3.d3 ♕f5  
4.♗d2 e6 5.e4 ♖g6 6.♗h3

White is already happy because the opponent's ♗/g6 is poorly placed. But the scary thing about this odd development of the knight is that I was trying to play solid classical chess. On the bright side, I was clever enough to realize that 6...♗e2?! can be met with 6...♗c6!

6...h6

Black can transpose to Suttles–Hund, Vancouver 1981, with 6...c6 7.♗e2 ♗c5 but it is clear that he has a soft spot for his light squared bishop.

7.0-0 ♗c5 8.♖h1 c6 9.♗e2 0-0  
10.f4

The text retains e4 as a strong point, but I played this only after investing a fair amount of time on variations like 10.♗f4 ♗h7 11.e5 ♗fd7 12.♗f3. Black is a long way from advancing his c/♗ to break open the b1-h7 diagonal, so my concerns that his ♗/h7 might come back to life are unwarranted. Mind you, White has no obvious pawn breaks either, but he might try an attack down the g/file.

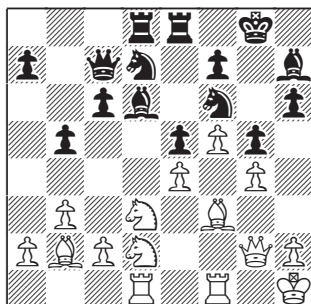
10...♞e8 11.♗f3 dxe4 12.dxe4  
♗bd7 13.♗f2

Better might be 13.♗g2.

13...♗c7 14.♗d3 ♖f8 15.b3 e5  
16.♗g2?

This reaction to Black's surprising 15th move isn't particularly bad, but there was no reason to be afraid of 16.f5 since 16...♗xf5? just doesn't work.

16...♞ad8 17.♗b2 b5 18.♞ad1?!  
♗d6 19.f5 ♗h7 20.g4 g5!



Mehrdad finds the only reasonable move to squash my hopes for a pleasant day at the office, since now my plan for a winning kingside attack by 21.h4 and 22.g5 are stopped permanently.

White's remaining advantage, if he has one, consists of Black's poorly placed ♗/h7 which can only be extricated via the a2-g8 diagonal after shuffling his kingside for several costly tempi.

With this in mind, White should probably leave his opponent to unravel on the kingside while trying to accomplish something meaningful on the queenside. Therefore 18.♞ad1?! in retrospect seems like the wrong rook: White can always open the h-file with h4 if this is to his advantage, but until then it would have been nice to make f1 available for my ♗/d2 en route to redeployment on e3 or g3.

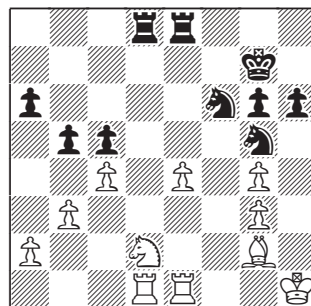
21.fxg6?!

Played out of frustration, although Fritz claims it's the best move and gives White the advantage! People, however, are not computers and I was no longer comfortable with my position and began to drift.

21...♗xg6 22.♗h3 ♖g7 23.♖g2 c5  
24.c4 a6 25.♞fe1 ♗f8 26.♗g3 ♗e6  
27.♗xe5

Here 27.cxb5 axb5 28.a4 is better, but I was down to four minutes and getting worried.

27...♗xe5 28.♗xe5 ♗g5 29.♗xg6  
♗xg3 30.hxg3 fxg6



With ten moves to make time control, I had only a few moments to reflect on how thoroughly White's position has been wrecked. Fortunately, I had been reading Colin Crouch's excellent book *How to Defend in Chess*, and recalled how Lasker managed to win over Pillsbury from a wretched position by creating counterplay with a passed a/♗.

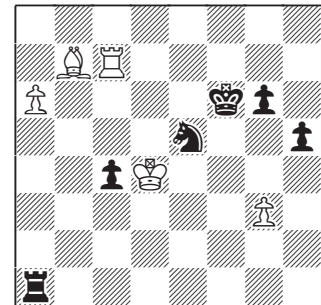
31.cxb5! axb5 32.a4! bxa4 33.bxa4  
♗xe4?!

White's ♗/e4 should not be taken. In the resulting ending White's passed pawn becomes a real threat just a few moves later.

34.♗xe4 ♞xd1 35.♞xd1 ♗xe4  
36.♞d7+ ♖f6 37.a5 ♗e6 38.♞g7  
♖f6?! 39.♞c7 ♗f2+ 40.♖g1 ♗xg4  
41.♗b7

The first move after the time control, and probably not the best. But White has his counterplay.

41...♞e1+ 42.♖g2 c4 43.a6 ♞a1  
44.♖f3 h5 45.♖e4 ♗e5 46.♖d4



Here I felt like Fischer – down a pawn, but with an active king and rook, and a bishop against a knight. The difference, of course, is that Fischer got positions like this intentionally.

46...g5?

Played as a result of a hallucination.

47.♞h7! h4 48.gxh4 gxh4 49.♞xh4

Oops! Black has in mind that 49...♞xa6 50.♗xa6 ♗f3+ and 51.♗xh4 forces the draw, missing that 50.♞h6+! wins Black's rook at once. Now Black has to suffer.

49...♗d7 50.♞h8 ♖e6 51.♗d5+?

Pure greed. White can probably get ♞+♗ vs ♞, which offers plenty of practical winning chances in a theoretically drawn ending. If White wants to try for more he should go for the fairly obvious and strong 51.♗c8! instead. After the bishop leaves the a8-h1 diagonal the draw is probably a just result.

51...♖d6 52.♞h6+ ♖c7 53.♗xc4  
♞d1+ 54.♖e3 ♞a1 55.♞h7 ♖c6  
56.♗e2 ♞a3+ 57.♖f2 ♖d6  
58.♞h6+ ♖c7 59.♗b5 ♞a5  
60.♞c6+ ♖b8 61.♗e2 ♗c5 62.♖e3  
♖a7 63.♖d4 ♗xa6 64.♞xa6+  
♞xa6 65.♗xa6 ♖xa6 ½-½.

White might have been stronger, could probably have won twice although that is almost always true, but perhaps in the end I can be happy with the way I played in this game after all. A few refreshing minutes later round three was to start!

Notes by  
**Bruce Harper**

McLaren, Sean  
Harper, Bruce

*Vancouver op (3), 2002*

Pirc B06

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.♘d3 ♘c6 4.c3 e5 5.♗e2 ♗g7 6.♙e3 ♗f6 7.f3**

Played quickly and confidently, even though this line is considered dubious for White.

**7...0-0**

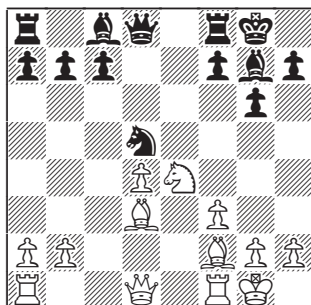
The immediate 7...d5 is also possible, but I thought he would probably castle.

**8.0-0 d5! 9.♗d2 dxe4!?**

Played now because after 9...♙e8 10.♗g5 White might slip away. Speaking only for myself, I often find it difficult to react appropriately to an opponent who seems to be playing badly. Do you do nothing, and give him more rope with which to hang himself, or do you force matters, following Steinitz's teachings that the player with the advantage is obliged to do something or else risk losing his advantage?

I think both approaches can work, but what doesn't work at all is pushing things just enough to force your opponent into finding the right moves. This sort of indecision can then easily become dangerous ground.

**10.♗xe4 ♗d5! 11.♗f2 exd4 12.♗xd4 ♗xd4 13.cxd4**



**13...b6!?**

Black is better, but during the game it wasn't entirely clear to me how I should proceed. The correct approach is 13...♗f4! 14.♗c4 ♗e6 15.♙c1 ♗xc4 16.♙xc4 to trade light squared bishops, followed by 16...f5! to drive back White's ♗/e4 and the pressure it exerts on g5 and f6. Black continues with ...c6 and a comfortable siege of White's ♗/d4.

The text aims to restrict the influence of White's ♗/e4 by controlling c5, but it weakens the c/file and in any case doesn't do anything to hamper my opponent's activities on the kingside. I even had in mind some delusional and overly optimistic variations involving play along the h1-a8 diagonal, but while imagination and fantasy have a role to play in chess, it is equally important to effectively deal with the realities of the position on the board.

**14.♗d2 ♗b7 15.♙fd1 ♙e8 16.♙ac1 ♗d7 17.♗c4 ♙ac8**

Black just cannot bring himself to play 17...c6.

**18.♗h4 ♗f5!? 19.♗g5 ♗xg5 20.♗xg5 ♗f8**

After 20...h6 21.♗xd5 ♗xd5 22.♗f6+ (but not 22.♗xh6? ♗xh6 23.♗f6+ ♗f8 24.♗xd5 ♗xc1 and Black wins) 22...♗xf6 23.♗xf6 Black has a slight edge, but in spite of nearly an hour deficit on the clock I wanted more. The day was getting long, and I felt like I was doing all the work and getting absolutely nowhere.

**21.♗xd5 ♗xd5 22.♗c3 c6 23.♗f4 ♙ed8 24.♗e5 f6 25.♗f4 ♙e8**

More sense makes 25...♗f7.

**26.♗f2 ♗f7 27.♙c2 ♗f8 28.♙dc1 ♗e6 29.♗e4 ♗f5!?**

This works, but Black is obviously trying too hard.

**30.♙xc6 ♙xc6 31.♙xc6 ♗xe4 32.fxe4 ♙xe4 33.♗f3 ♙e7?**

Black blunders with about two minutes left. My optimism would have been rewarded after 33...♗xd4 34.♙c7+ ♗e6 with a slightly better endgame no matter which rook pawn White takes.

**34.♗d6 ♙d7 35.♗xf8 ♗xf8 36.♙xf6+ ♗e7 37.♙f4**

An old chess wisdom says that all rook endings are drawn, but someone else also pointed out that most players don't know how to play endings.

What happens next confirms the truth of both aphorisms.

**37...♙c7 38.♙e4+ ♗d6 39.♙e2 ♗d5 40.♙d2 ♙f7+ 41.♗g4? ♙f5 42.g3 b5 43.h3 a5 44.b3 h6 45.a3**

White, after maneuvering his rook into a passive position and misplacing his king while awkwardly moving his remaining pawns onto the third rank, is now the one fighting for the draw in spite of the extra pawn.

**45...♗e4 46.h4!**

Naturally White avoids 46.d5 ♗g5+ 47.♗h4 ♗f3 48.g4? ♙h5+! 49.gxh5 g5#. I clearly have to stop believing that a series of bad moves from my opponent will go on forever.

**46...h5+ 47.♗h3 ♙d5 48.♙c2 ♗xd4**

I don't know if 48...♙xd4 offers better winning chances, but after eight straight hours of play and two near-death experiences I didn't feel like taking any more chances.

**49.♙c6 g5 50.hxg5 ♗xg5 51.a4 b4 52.♙b6 ♗c3 53.♙b5 ♙xb5 54.axb5 a4 55.b6 axb3 56.b7 b2 57.b8♗ b1♗ 58.♗e5+ ½-½.**

So once again I found myself on the 'sunny side of a draw', as GM Yasser Seirawan likes to say. I had mixed feelings about my effort, and can't help thinking that my opponent would do even better if he slowed down his pace and stopped listening to a Walkman during the game. But he is a very nice guy, and from his other games in the event I could see that he has a bright future.

Around this time I began to wonder how I ever enjoyed chess, but then Jack Yoos offered his support by suggesting that I might base my comeback on the strength of my endgame play. And after thanking him for his kind words, I told Jack that I might do even better if I could actually reach endings that weren't losing from the start!?

Jack, who is without question one of the nicest strong players I have ever met – playing strength and a good nature are not frequent companions in the chess world – also suggested that I consider playing the Caro-Kann and the Center Counter rather than the Rat. That at least made it easy for me to decide what I would play in the final round (the Rat), but I thought for some time how to begin my next game.

Notes by  
**Bruce Harper**

Harper, Bruce  
Fekete, Charles

Vancouver op (4), 2002

Sicilian B45

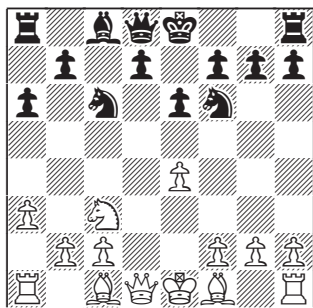
1.e4! c5 2.d3 e6 3.f3

I don't know if my opponent was confused by my indecisive move order, but I sure was. At least it shows how carefully I had worked out my openings before the tournament.

3... dxc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.dxd4 d6  
6.dxb5

White is quite prepared to enter the labyrinth of the Sveshnikov variation, in the hope that I could remember something about it. But Black has something different in mind.

6... a6 7.a3 axc3+ 8.dxc3 a6?!



The *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings* does not mention this move, and in my database collection Black now managed to draw only once against 9.ae3, 9.ad3 and 9.f4. Normal and logical is 8...d5 although I was unaware that this variation has recently become quite fashionable.

9. a6!N

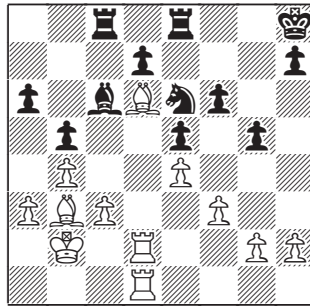
Since I'm writing this article I get to put the punctuation marks wherever I like, which is a privilege that should be exercised with great restraint. But given that this is my only theoretical novelty of the tournament, I am feeling quite generous!?

Whether 9.a6 really is the best move or not is hard to say, but it certainly looks like the right move to me. Afterwards Jack Yoos commented that White should just play a normal Sicilian with the bishop pair and checkmate Black around move thirty...

My choice might reveal something about the way I now play chess, although things might well have

turned out the same twenty years ago. What follows is very thematic and, for once, I am able to anticipate some of my opponent's moves.

9... e7 10.a4 0-0 11.xe7 xe7  
12.d6 e8 13.f3 dxc6 14.0-0 b5  
15.ae2 e5 16.d5 dxd5 17.xd5  
d4 18.ad1 f6 19.c3 de6 20.b4  
ab7 21.d2 ac8 22.b2 ac6  
23.ab3 h8?! 24.hd1 g5?!

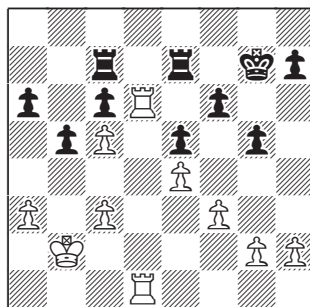


In a difficult position, Black starts to weaken. White has reason to be optimistic, but it is still necessary to find a way to make everything work together. My rooks happily pressure Black's a/d7 along the d/file, but for now his a/c6 sturdily defends the weakness while my own bishop is merely in the way. The logical solution is to trade both sets of minor pieces, despite the fact that White's pawns are doubled in the process.

25. ac5! dxc5

Otherwise the bishop escapes to e3.

26.bxc5 e7 27.d6 g7 28.ad5!  
c7 29.axc6 dxc6



White's more active rooks give him a big advantage now that no minor pieces remain to cloud the issue. The winning plan, by the way, involves the creation of three passed pawns on the queenside.

During the game I had the vague feeling of playing like Peter Biyiasas, who had the ability to ruthlessly get to the heart of a position. Probably

neither of us will be happy with this comparison, although I intend it in the most complimentary manner!

30.d8 f7 31.d1d6 g7 32.a8  
f7 33.xa6 e6 34.b3 e7  
35.d2 f7 36.b4 ee7 37.a5  
ed7 38.xd7+ xd7 39.xc6  
d2 40.d6 xg2 41.c6 e7  
42.d3 1-0.

My last round opponent and I were both looking forward to the post-event Siamese games more than another hard fought tournament game, but first we had to do our duty.

Notes by  
**Bruce Harper**

Daswani, Ben  
Harper, Bruce

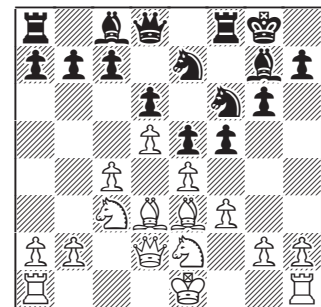
Vancouver op (5), 2002

Modern A42

1.d4 g6

Jack Yoos used to play this opening too, but he has had a crisis of faith...

2.c4 d6 3.d3 g7 4.e4 d7  
5.ae3 e5 6.d5 de7 7.ad3 0-0  
8.dge2 f5 9.f3 d6 10.g2



We have reached a familiar position in the Rat, albeit by a rather circuitous route. No less a player than Botvinnik himself provided the pedigree for White's setup, which he introduced in Botvinnik-Ostojic, Belgrade 1969.

10... c5!? 11.0-0-0 a6 12.h4?!

The first suspect move, although there exist many variations where the advance of the h/a is useful.

12... ad7 13.b1 a5

GM Duncan Suttles, present in spirit throughout the event, was actually on hand for the last two rounds. In the post-mortem he suggested 13...b5 as more incisive, and the variations we looked at seemed convincing.

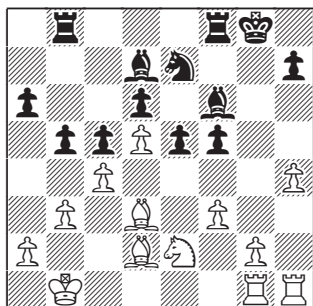
14.exf5?!

From a positional point of view Black is happy to see this exchange. White has a simplifying combination in mind, but it turns out to create more problems than it solves.

**14...gxf5 15. h4e4! 16. xxd2 17. hxf6+ 18. Qxf6 19. Qxd2 b5 20. Bdg1?**

Either too optimistic or fatalistic, depending on how you look at it. Black's queenside attack is much faster than any White play based on the advance g4, and now White's h1 is out of play.

**18... Bxb8 19. b3**



**19...e4! 20. fxe4 fxe4 21. Qxe4 bxc4 22. Qc2 cxb3+**

Suttles preferred 22...a5! and 23...a4 and no one could prove him wrong, but the text still seems better.

**23. axb3 Qe5!?**

I spent five minutes trying to make 23...c4 24. bxc4 Bfc8 25. Qd3 Bxc4? 26. Qxc4 Bb5+ work, but apart from a discovered check Black gets little for his sacrifice. The move played consolidates Black's position in the center and forces White to defend against a variety of positional threats.

**24. Bf1 Qb5!**

This is Black's idea. White is more or less forced to exchange rooks, followed by a choice of unpalatable endings to defend.

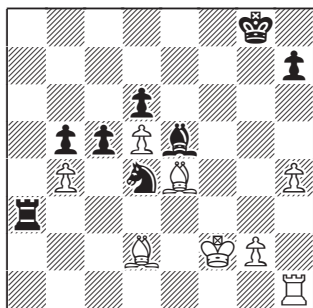
**25. Bxf8+ Bxf8 26. h3c3 h4f5 27. hxb5 axb5 28. Qd3?!**

A better endgame choice is 28. Qxf5 when Black keeps an advantage, but not as great an advantage as he gets in the game, nor as great as the advantage he ought to have achieved after 19...e4!

**28... h4d4! 29. b4 Ba8!**

A very unpleasant move to meet in bad time trouble.

**30. Qe3? Ba3+ 31. Qf2**



**31... Ba2?**

Blitzing an opponent in time trouble, here accomplished by making sound moves with vague threats along the second rank, is a time honored technique to haul in the point, but here it is an instructive error since 31... Qg3+! 32. Qf1 Ba1+ leads to mate.

Fortunately though I have long ago dropped the silly idea that a missed opportunity ruins a game, especially my own, since I have yet to actually play one of these mythical 'perfect' games! Usually it's not a missed mate, but it has happened before.

**32. Qe3 h3 33. Bb1?**

After 33. Qe1 Black does not have a clear win, and might eventually look back on the missed mate with regret. But now everything turns out fine, at least from Black's point of view.

**33... Qd4+ 34. Qe2 Qc3 35. bxc5 Qxd2 36. Qe3 Qxe4 37. Qxe4 dxc5 38. d6 Bb2 39. Bc1 b4 0-1.**

I had forgotten how much energy it takes to play real chess. No one should disparage a tournament chess player, no matter how badly he plays. It takes effort. Part of my problem in this area has to do with lack of opening preparation – it helps to have a 'rest game' or two where you win because of superior preparation.

Another thing that struck me was the pleasant disposition of my opponents. Things have really changed in British Columbia since the early 1970s, when many top players despised one another. Competition over the board is as fierce as ever, but away from the board everyone gets along fine. In short, things have changed for the better. Whether truly strong players can develop without the edge that characterized our best players years ago remains to be seen, but the once so common aberrant behavior no longer seems to be a key to success.

I should also thank Stephen Wright and Katherine Davies, who deserve our praise for running an enjoyable and faultless event. I don't know if I have the time, energy, or inclination to take chess as seriously as I did before, but a chess tournament is an enjoyable way to spend a weekend!

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# Tournament Preparation

by IM Andrei Sokolov

My recent participation in the GM tournament at Nykobing Morso in Denmark has prompted me to take a closer look at the different methods of home preparation for chess players. While my final score of 5.5/9 for clear third place was satisfactory from an objective point of view, missing the desired final GM norm by half a point was a very big disappointment. In retrospect, several opportunities to collect the extra draw or win definitely existed, and this includes my time spent on home preparation.

But before I talk about the details, let's first take a look at how the event unfolded for me. The casting of lots assigned 'Number 1' to my name on the crosstable, and even if superstitious considerations do not figure prominently in your belief system, the fact that one extra game with the White pieces is given to the first player is definitely a nice bonus! My first win came in round two where, quite amusingly, my own lack of theoretical knowledge helped collect the full point.

Notes by  
**Andrei Sokolov**

Sokolov, Andrei  
Berg, Klaus

*Nykobing Morso Invitational  
(2), 2002*

Slav D17

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♟f3 ♟f6 4.♟c3  
dxc4 5.a4 ♟f5 6.♟e5!?

This move is of course a very popular continuation for White in this line, but I had never played it myself before!

6...e6 7.f3 ♟b4 8.♟xc4!?

While the text is certainly well known, the main line here goes 8.e4 ♟xe4 9.fxe4 ♟xe4 10.♟d2 ♟xd4 11.♟xe4 ♟xe4+ 12.♟e2 ♟xd2+ 13.♟xd2. Many GMs play this line, with Vladimir Kramnik for example scoring a very impressive 7.5/9!

Hampered by my own theoretical ignorance I decided to go for a less

forcing continuation, which is all the more comical given that my sole point of reference is an old book by Botvinnik. Mikhail recommended the text as a good opportunity for White, and I spent a good amount of time at this moment in the game trying to recall his specific analysis.

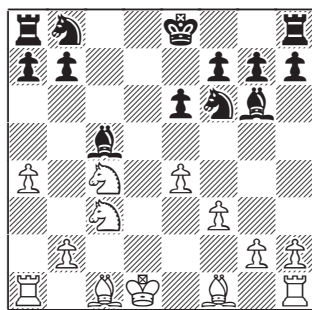
8...c5?!

Black's most natural response seems to be a mistake. My assessment during the game that the line 8...♟d5 9.♟d2 ♟h4+ 10.g3 ♟xd4 11.e3 ♟f6 gives White more than enough compensation for the pawn is certainly correct, and I also knew that the main line goes 8...0-0 9.♟g5 (here 9.e4?! ♟xe4 10.fxe4 ♟h4+ 11.♟d2 ♟xe4 12.♟f3 ♟xd4+ 13.♟e1 looks very unpleasant for White) 9...h6 10.♟h4 c5 11.dxc5 ♟xd1+ 12.♟xd1 with a drawish position.

9.dxc5 ♟xd1+ 10.♟xd1 ♟xc5?!

Again not the best decision. Black has to try the more careful 10...0-0.

11.e4 ♟g6



Siegbert Tarrasch's notion that one bad piece renders your entire game bad also applies in this case. Black's poor light squared bishop is a huge handicap.

12.♟b5 ♟a6

Black has lost all of the known games in this line, although I wonder exactly what happens now after 12...♟d7.

13.♟bd6+ ♟xd6 14.♟xd6+ ♟e7  
15.♟xb7 ♟b4 16.♟f4! ♟e8  
17.♟c1 a5 18.♟d2!

White wins a second pawn, and his opponent's ♟/a5 is still in trouble. 1-0.

Psychologically such a game really helps motivate a player by generating plenty of positive energy and confidence. I believe that every experienced Master plays his games on two different levels, which can be roughly divided as 'playing by head' and 'playing by hands'. Really this just means that it is often profitable to play certain simple or technical positions strictly by feel 'with your hands', while other more complex cases require much more work and calculation to play 'with your head'.

Sometimes special circumstances exist, such as during time trouble, when playing by hand becomes the only viable approach, but all players should be keenly aware of the differences between the two types of playing, and how they affect your practical results.

For example, I now only play around 10-20 serious games per year, and this relative lack of practice forces me to play many more positions 'by head' since I cannot trust my intuition in the same way I used to some years ago. As a result, much more energy is required from such a player during his games, and he is more likely to fall victim to time trouble. My solution to this problem in Denmark was to accept the occasional and inevitable short draw in an effort to reduce the amount of energy I would need to expend, and concentrate my focus on those moments when an opponent makes a mistake and gives me a real chance to fight for more. In retrospect this kind of practical approach is fundamentally flawed, but during the tournament I felt comfortable. By round six another opportunity presented itself.

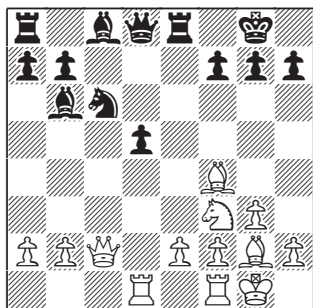
Notes by  
**Andrei Sokolov**

Sokolov, Andrei  
Pedersen, Steffen

*Nykobing Morso Invitational  
(6), 2002*

Tarrasch D41

1.c4 ♟f6 2.♟c3 c5 3.♟f3 e6 4.g3  
♟c6 5.♟g2 d5 6.cxd5 ♟xd5 7.0-0  
♟e7 8.♟xd5 exd5 9.d4 0-0  
10.dxc5 ♟xc5 11.♟f4 ♟e8 12.♟c2  
♟b6 13.♟ad1



My favorite bishop development with  $\text{Bf4}$  is derived from several similar positions, and with the simple  $13...h6$  Black can now level the game easily. My opponent, however, already felt that Black's position is better, and unwisely avoids wasting time on defensive moves.

**13...  $\text{Bf6}$ ?**

After the game Steffen explained this mistake as a simple tactical blunder.

**14.  $\text{Bxd5}$   $\text{Bb4}$  15.  $\text{Ba4}$ ! 14.  $\text{Bxd5}$ !  $\text{Bc6}$**

Black's main problem isn't the loss of a pawn, but the weakness of his kingside and the exposed position of his queen. The tactics after  $14...b4$   $15. \text{Ba4}$   $\text{Bc6}$   $16. \text{Bg5}$  all work in White's favor, and Black can resign after  $16... \text{Bg6}$  (or  $16... \text{Bxb2}$   $17. \text{Bb5}$ )  $17. \text{Qh4}$   $\text{Qh5}$  ( $17... \text{Qc2}$   $18. \text{Bxb4}$   $\text{Bxd5}$   $19. \text{Bxd5}$   $\text{Bxe2}$   $20. \text{Bc3}$ ! is no better)  $18. \text{Bf3}$   $\text{Qxf3}$   $19. \text{Qxf3}$   $\text{Qxd5}$   $20. \text{Bd1}$ .

**15.  $\text{Qg5}$ !  $g6$**

Absolutely hopeless for Black is  $15... \text{Bxd5}$   $16. \text{Bxd5}$ .

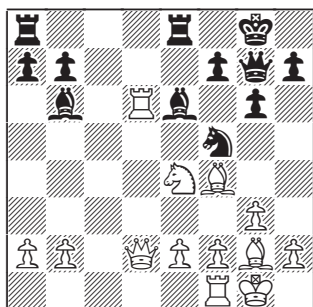
**16.  $\text{Bd6}$**

Less convincing is  $16. \text{Qxe6}$   $\text{Bb4}$ .

**16...  $\text{Qd4}$**

Here  $16... \text{Qc7}$   $17. \text{Bxc6}$   $\text{Bxf4}$   $18. \text{Bxe6}$  gives White no problems.

**17.  $\text{Bd2}$   $\text{Qf5}$  18.  $\text{Qe4}$   $\text{Bg7}$**



**19.  $\text{Bxb6}$ !**

There is no need to save the exchange, since the weakened dark squares on Black's kingside give White a huge attack to convert his advantage.

**19...  $\text{axb6}$  20.  $\text{Bg5}$   $\text{Bd4}$  21.  $\text{Qf6}$ +  $\text{Qg7}$  22.  $\text{Bh6}$ +  $\text{Qh8}$**

Also quite deadly is  $22... \text{Qxf6}$   $23. \text{Qg5}$ +  $\text{Qe5}$   $24. \text{Bg7}$ +.

**23.  $\text{Qxe8}$   $\text{Bxe8}$  24.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{Bxd2}$  25.  $\text{Bxd2}$**

White has a winning advantage, and it was time to start 'playing by hand'.

**25...  $\text{Qd6}$  26.  $\text{Bb4}$ !?**

The simple  $26. a3$  wins without any difficulties, but White continues to 'play by head'.

**26...  $\text{Bb5}$  27.  $a4$ !?**

Again the simple  $27. a3$  is better.

**27...  $\text{Qa7}$  28.  $\text{Bc3}$ +  $\text{Qg8}$  29.  $\text{Bd4}$**

The reward for all this unnecessary calculation is another pawn capture on  $b6$ . On the downside, however, Black now gets some chances in his opponent's time trouble!

**29...  $\text{Qc6}$  30.  $\text{Bxb6}$   $\text{Bb3}$  31.  $a5$   $\text{Bc5}$  32.  $\text{Ba1}$**

Maybe better the immediate  $32. \text{Bc1}$ !

**32...  $\text{Bc4}$  33.  $\text{Bc1}$   $\text{Qd3}$  34.  $\text{Bc3}$ !**

Given White's huge advantage, it is unusual that he wins the game by tactical means.

**34...  $\text{Bc2}$**

The desired  $34... \text{Bxe4}$  fails to  $35. a6$ !

**35.  $\text{Bc3}$   $\text{Bc4}$  36.  $b3$   $\text{Ba6}$**

Black's rook runs out of squares on the fifth rank after  $36... \text{Bc6}$   $37. \text{Bf1}$   $\text{Qxa5}$   $38. f4$   $\text{Bh5}$   $39. \text{Bc2}$ .

**37.  $\text{Bc3}$   $f6$  38.  $f4$   $\text{Bc7}$  39.  $\text{Bf1}$**

Black has had enough, since  $39... \text{Bxf1}$   $40. \text{Qxf1}$  (or  $40... b4$   $41. \text{Bc4}$ )  $40... \text{Bxe4}$   $41. a6$  is absolutely hopeless, and White's time trouble is almost over.

**1-0.**

Now at +2 in the tournament, two of my remaining three games were with the Black pieces. Color, to be quite honest, does not have much meaning in my games, and so my practical decision was to draw with the White pieces against the top rated GM Rustemov, aiming instead to win one of my remaining games with Black against weaker opposition.

Indeed, Eric Pedersen finished the tournament in last place by scoring

only four draws from nine games, and seemed like a suitable target to earn my third win in the last round of the event. In my notes to the game I will try to offer some insight into the match psychology – my aim was just to get a playable position from the opening and then overplay my opponent...

Notes by

**Andrei Sokolov**

**Pedersen, Eric  
Sokolov, Andrei**

*Nykobing Morso Invitational  
(9), 2002*

**Queen Pawn A41**

**1.  $d4$   $g6$  2.  $\text{Qf3}$   $\text{Bg7}$  3.  $\text{Qf4}$   $d6$  4.  $e3$   $\text{Qd7}$  5.  $h3$   $e5$  6.  $\text{Bh2}$   $\text{Qe7}$  7.  $\text{Qe2}$  0-0 8. 0-0  $b6$  9.  $c3$ N**

White's system does not pose any problems to King's Indian players, and Black has already more or less equalized the game. My first aim to achieve a playable position has, therefore, been achieved already.

**9...  $\text{Bb7}$  10.  $a4$   $a6$**

I played this natural move almost without thinking, but since Black



**Nunn's Chess Openings - NCO**

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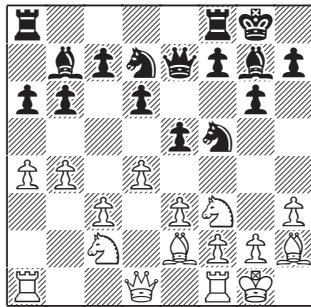
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subsequently experiences some discomfort with this pawn he might prefer 10...a5 next time instead.

**11. ♖a3 ♜f5**

Black inexplicably defers the standard central advance 11...e4!? and begin his normal play on the kingside. Perhaps I just wasn't ready to make such a committal move at this early stage in the game.

**12. b4 ♖e7 13. ♖c2**



Black already has a slight advantage, and at this moment has to decide in what direction to take the game next. Best is perhaps 13...c5!? with a small advantage, or maybe 13...a5. In the

end Black waits, and after half an hour's reflection decides on the placement of one of his rooks.

**13... ♜fe8 14. ♜e1 ♜f6?!**

Still the wrong idea. Black's knight is en route to square/e4, but this turns out to be an unsafe destination. Instead of the text, both 14...a5 and 14...c5 are once again much stronger. Interesting as well is that I now wasted a lot of time calculating the crazy reply 15.g4 which, naturally, my opponent never even considered!

**15. a5 ♜e4 16. ♜a3 bxa5**

White gains a measure of counterplay after 16...b5 17.c4.

**17. bxa5 c5 18. d5 c4?**

Much better is 18...♜xc3 19. ♜xc3 e4 20. ♜b3 exf3 21. ♜xf3 with an unclear position.

**19. ♜b4!**

Naturally! The knight returns from the dead and White is already better. My own centralized knights can be easily challenged, whereas Black's obvious queenside weaknesses are permanent.

**19... ♜h4**

The only move.

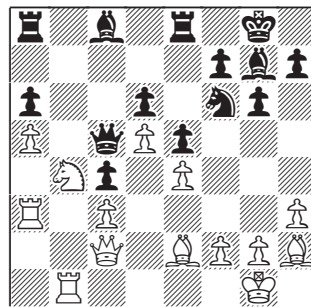
**20. ♖c2 ♜xf3+ 21. ♜xf3 ♜f6**

No better is the retreat 21...♜c5 which leaves ♜/c4 very vulnerable.

**22. e4 ♖c7 23. ♜b1**

Even stronger looks 23. ♜a4!? with an indirect attack on ♜/c4.

**23... ♖c5 24. ♜e2 ♜c8**



I did not think that White's last two moves were very good. Black now threatens 25...♜e4 26. ♖xe4 ♜f5 as well as the consolidation ...♜d7-b5 with a good position. But...

**25. ♜a4!? ♜xe4?!**

It turns out that the exchange is far less important than the monster passed pawn that White now creates

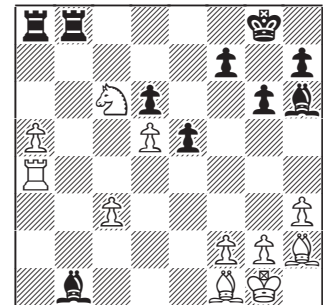
on the a/file, but at this point Black no longer has a viable alternative to his ill conceived original plan, hoping instead for a gift during the coming time trouble period.

Only later at home did I find a suitable defense against White's main threat of ♜c6 with 25...♜d7 and only after 26. ♜c6 ♜xe4! 27. ♜xc4 (White does not have enough compensation for the exchange after 27. ♖xe4 ♜f5 28. ♖xc4 ♜xb1 29. ♜b4 ♖xc4 30. ♜xc4 ♜f5 31. ♜b6 ♜c8) 27...♜f6 28. ♖b3 ♜f5 (28...♜xc6 29. dxc6 d5 30. ♖b6!) 29. ♜e1 ♜e4 30. ♖b6 ♜xd5 31. ♖xc5 dxc5 32. ♜xe5 with equality.

**26. ♖xe4 ♜f5 27. ♖xc4 ♖xc4?!**

Funny, this position looks a lot like my notes from the last paragraph! Instead of the dubious text Black has 27...♜xb1!? 28. ♖xc5 (28. ♜a1!? ♖xc4 29. ♜xc4 ♜f5 30. ♜xa6 ♜eb8 31. ♜c4 looks unclear) 28...dxc5 29. ♜xa6 when I missed that Black can now play 29...♜ed8!? 30. ♜g3 (Black is also better after 30. ♜a1 30...♜e4 31. ♜xc5 ♜xd5 32. a6 ♜c6 33. ♜g3) 30...♜c2 31. ♜a1 ♜a7 (White is on top after 31...♜d6 32. ♜c7! ♜c8 33. a6 ♜xc7 34. a7 ♜xa7 35. ♜xa7 ♜xd5 36. ♜c4) 32. ♜c1 ♜f5 33. ♜xc5 ♜xd5 34. ♜b3 with a small edge.

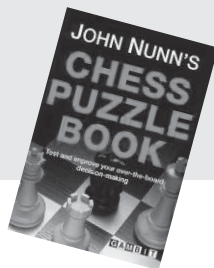
**28. ♜xc4 ♜xb1 29. ♜xa6 ♜eb8 30. ♜f1 ♜h6 31. ♜c6**



**31... ♜b2?**

Played on automatic pilot – shouldn't the rook be much better on the seventh rank?! Much better, however, is 31...♜b3 when 32. ♜b4 (32. c4 f6 33. a6 ♜d2 34. a7 looks unclear) 32...♜a2 (Black loses after 32...♜c2 33. a6 ♜xc3 34. a7 ♜xc6 35. dxc6 ♜xa7 36. ♜b7) 33. ♜a4 (or 33. a6 ♜g7 34. ♜a4 ♜b2) 33...♜b2 34. a6 ♜d2 35. c4 ♜b3 36. ♜a1 ♜c2 37. a7 ♜xc4 38. ♜b1 ♜g7 39. ♜xc4 ♜xc4 40. ♜f1 ♜c1+ (40...♜a4 41. ♜b7 is unclear) 41. ♜xc1 ♜xc1 42. f3 finally solves Black's problems.

**32. ♜b4 ♜xb4**



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Most chess puzzle books put you in an artificial situation: you are told a combination exists, what the theme is and what you are required to achieve. This one is different. In a real game situation, a player may sometimes need to find a combination. On the other hand he may need to reject a tactical idea and simply find a good positional move. The puzzles in this book put you precisely in that situation...

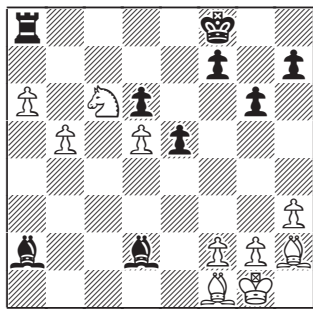


Black can also fight for a draw with 32...♙c1 33.a6 ♖a2 34.♗b7 (only not 34.a7 ♗xb4 35.cxb4 ♙g5 36.b5 ♙xd5 when Black should win) 34...♞f8 35.♗d7 ♙xd5 36.♗xe5 dxe5 37.♗xd5 ♙f4 38.♙xf4 exf4 39.♙c4.

### 33.cxb4 ♙d2

White's queenside pawn mass weighs in heavy after 33...♙a2 34.b5 ♞g7 (Black's ♙/g5 is embarrassed after 34...♙g5 35.a6 ♙xd5 36.f4!) 35.a6 (35.b6 ♙xd5 36.b7 fizzles out to a draw) 35...♙xd5 36.♗e7 (Black has turned the tables after 36.♗b4 ♙e4 37.f3 ♙e3+ 38.♞h1 ♗c8 39.♙g1 ♙xg1 40.♞xg1 ♙a8; but 36.♗a5 ♙d2 37.♗c4 ♙xc4 38.♙xc4 ♙a5 39.♙d5 ♗a7 40.f4 ♙b6+ 41.♞f1 ♞f6 42.♙g1 also looks very strong) 36...♙e4 37.f3 ♙e3+ 38.♞h1 and White wins.

### 34.a6 ♙a2 35.b5 ♞f8



### 36.♗xe5?!

Instead the move order 36.b6! ♙xd5 37.♗xe5! is more accurate and wins for White.

### 36...dxe5 37.b6 ♙c3 38.b7 ♙xd5 39.bxa8 ♞+ ♙xa8 40.♙c4 ½-½.

Now that readers have seen what actually happened in the tournament, let's examine in some detail our theme of tournament preparation. What did I work on in my home preparation, and what exactly went wrong?

The first player to really identify the importance of home preparation was former World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik, whose detailed articles on work methods are widely known and available. Unfortunately his methods require such an extraordinary investment of time and work to apply correctly that they are essentially useless for hobby players. Therefore I would like to present here a different and more personal approach that is more suitable for non-professional players, regardless of their skill level.

Any serious kind of home preparation for chess tournaments consists of two complimentary parts, which are chess skills on the one hand and chess psychology on the other. Some players might also consider physical conditioning in their preparations, but results in this area cannot be achieved in a short period of time and I have therefore left them out of this article.

Chess preparation is usually somewhat easier for round robin events, since your opponents are known ahead of time, and their games available for evaluation. General conclusions can be drawn about effective opening choices and playing styles, keeping in mind both your own preferences and those of your opponents, as well as your strengths and weaknesses. It is just as important to steer the game towards positions that are uncomfortable for your opponent, as it is to keep the play in channels that suit your own preferences. A very important aspect of your preparation in this area is a realistic appraisal of your own skills: only a universally skilled player is capable of handling a large variety of different positions with equal proficiency. There is little point in trying to surprise your opponent with a novelty in a variation that is not normally part of your own opening repertoire and therefore unfamiliar?!

If your opponents are known beforehand – or if you regularly play the same opponents in different tournaments – try to identify their strengths and weaknesses. It was clear to me, for example, not to challenge GM Aronian in a Sicilian Defense, where he amassed a perfect 9/9 score in his games last year! GM Rustemov prefers positional systems and plays the endgame very well, but he does have some opening problems in the main lines of his French Defense. IM Berg feels uncomfortable in unfamiliar positions and has very specific endgame weaknesses, while IM David Navara knows a lot of theory and plays almost as well with the Black pieces than on the White side.

A serious analysis of your opponents' games isn't actually required, but rather a general familiarization with their styles and preferences. After about eight hours my initial set of notes on my upcoming opposition was finished and ready for the next step. I have to admit at this stage that

the openings have always been an area of 'inescapable disaster' for me, contenting myself far too often with equality on the White side and slightly worse positions with Black. The main target, quite frankly, was to survive the opening without incurring too many losses, and then outplay the opponent in the middlegame and endgame. At the highest level such an approach is insufficient of course, but I suspect that for most amateur players a similar situation is actually quite common. In practice this means that it is more important to reach a familiar type of middlegame position rather than memorize the intricacies of some complicated forcing line in the opening.

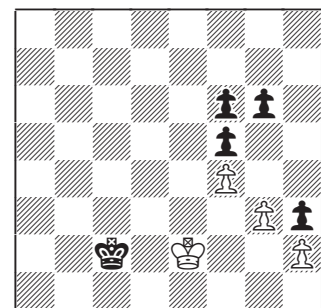
Because of my own unique style I prefer to take the opponent as far as possible away from the kind of position that he likes. In the case of IM Berg this meant exchanging queens at an early stage, and readers are already familiar with the correctness of this assessment from my earlier notes to the game. My insights into his endgame weaknesses also proved accurate, as Klaus failed to convert several endgame positions in his other games that initially looked quite promising. Everyone has such weaknesses of course, and my remarks about IM Berg certainly aren't intended to diminish his excellent skills in other areas of the game!?

Notes by

**Andrei Sokolov**

**Aronian, L  
Berg, Klaus**

*Nykobing Morso Invitational  
(5), 2002*



### 48...g5??

Either 48...♞c1! or 48...♞c3! wins easily. After the text White draws the game by tactical means.

49.g4! f7g4 50.f7g5 g3 51.gxf6  
gxh2 52.f7 h1 ♖ 53.f8 ♖ ½-½.

After my experiences in Denmark I made the strategic decision to leave my notebook computer at home for my next tournament, reasoning quite simply that opening preparation is vastly overrated by most players. Particularly chess players below the 2550-2600 level are well advised to concentrate their efforts on other parts of the game. Mark Dvoretzky once asked a student how many points he lost because of weak opening preparation, and how many points because of holes in his middlegame and endgame education? For most players the honest answer is that openings do not win or lose many points, and therefore focusing too much time on them is actually counterproductive. Far more important than keeping up with current opening theory is a solid foundation in other aspects of chess theory, i.e. middlegame strategy, positional play, combinations and tactics, and endgame fundamentals.

But let me return to my account of home preparation for this tournament, where a total of about 16–20 hours was sufficient to determine my opening choices for the entire event. Other things are far more important, and I managed to gain some much needed practical experience by playing a short series of rapid games against friends to get in shape. I would have preferred one or two serious games at a slow time control, yet several important problems came into focus even at this accelerated time limit: I missed a number of tactical opportunities for both sides, played far too slowly and felt generally uncomfortable ‘playing by hand’. These are all indicators of being in poor form, or just simply out of practice. I tried to address the problem with a short training session against a PC program prior to my departure, but failed to test my form once more against human opposition before I left. As a result I arrived in Denmark without any idea about my actual state of mind, and that is a dangerous way to start an important tournament!

And while my chess preparation was spotty at best, my psychological preparation was even worse. I did not, in fact, answer the very simple question “What do I want from this

tournament?” Several estimates, depending on my mood, ranged from maintaining a level score all the way to fighting for first place and a GM norm. Many players simply accept the default, which usually means being satisfied with scoring points based on their predicted Elo performance.

This kind of attitude has a lot of negative emotional context, and I found myself struggling through most of the tournament. Scoring early in the event, as I did against IM Berg in round two, can also precipitate a negative reaction in subsequent rounds by playing too defensively in an effort to protect your early gains.

With these thoughts in mind I now have a much better understanding why I failed to properly react to the situation of being on +2 with three rounds to go: I never anticipated the possibility in my work at home?! Failure was just as much a possibility as success in my psychological preparation, and so the very real possibility of success late in the event was squandered because I did not know what to do next to give myself the best chance of success.

Even if you are not able or interested in playing serious games on a regular basis, there are a number of things you can do between tournaments to maintain your playing level. It is very important to regularly look at the games of strong players, keep solving tactical puzzles as a regular part of your ongoing training, and visit your local chess club at least once or twice a month. By maintaining such a minimal level of chess practice it becomes much easier to prepare effectively for a special tournament when the opportunity arises. Not doing so inevitably leaves you with diminished tactical vision, time trouble problems, and many mistakes based on faulty intuition.

Most players live a regular diet of Open events, and their opening preparation can therefore be a lot less concrete than that required of players at a higher level and in Closed events. Generally speaking the most topical opening variations are too demanding for the hobby player who doesn’t have enough time to keep up with the latest theoretical verdicts, so instead I recommend a selection of two less complicated systems against your opponent’s main opening choices. Relying on only one system

leaves you too vulnerable to special preparation by your opponents. Keep them guessing if you can! Critical, however, is that your opening study should always focus on ideas rather than moves. It is also possible to play different systems in the same opening rather than two different openings altogether. One could, for example, play both the ...♖bd7 and ...♗g6 lines of the Caro-Kann. The ideas and pawn structures are similar, but your opponents cannot predict your choice in a specific game.

Against the closed openings I would recommend playing the same systems against both 1.c4 and 1.d4. One can easily devise a classical repertoire based on Queen’s Gambit structures, or a modern repertoire based on King’s Indian systems. In no case should you worry too much about the results of a given system at the highest level. The fact that Kramnik scores almost 100% against the King’s Indian has no relevance whatsoever at the club level.

Sometimes a slightly off-beat system can be very effective, and I managed to get my IM title while playing only the Philidor with Black against 1.e4. There is a certain charm to reviving long forgotten systems, and even Gary Kasparov earned a number of important points with the Evans’ Gambit! GM Bent Larsen is known for his eccentric style, and many of the games in his book *50 Selected Games* are played with really old openings. An observer wrote “During the preparation for the Interzonal, all players were studying Boleslavsky’s latest novelties, but Larsen was examining games of Greco and Philidor!” Larsen ended up in a share for first while completely avoiding main line theory with White and venturing, for example 1.f4 d5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.e3 g6 4.b4! against Spassky!

Notes by  
**Andrei Sokolov**

**Larsen, Bent  
Berger, Bela**

**Amsterdam izt (7), 1964**

**King Pawn C24**

**1.e4 e5 2.♗c4**

This move is much better than its reputation. White, for now, prefers not to show his hand.

**2... ♖f6 3.d3 d5?!**

Black's reaction is too optimistic, and only invites difficulties with his e/♗.

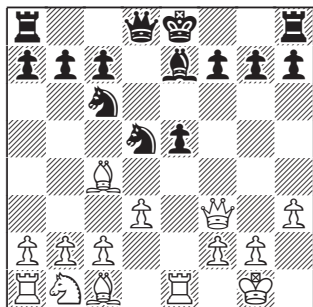
**4.exd5 ♗xd5 5. ♗f3 ♗c6 6.0-0 ♗g4?!**

Larsen recommends 6... ♗e7 7. ♗e1 f6 but then what to do after 8.d4!? with lots of pressure.

**7. ♗e1 ♗e7**

But not 7...f6? because of 8. ♗xe5.

**8.h3 ♗xf3 9. ♗xf3**



**9... ♗d4?!**

Black is already in big trouble. Since 9... ♗f6 10. ♗b5 isn't attractive, Berger looks to muddy the waters through tactical complications.

**10. ♗g4! 0-0**

Really the only defense. White's queen breaks in on the kingside decisively after 10... ♗xc2 11. ♗xe5 ♗xa1 (also hopeless is 11... ♗f6 12. ♗xg7 ♗d7 13. ♗xf7; or 11...c6

12. ♗xg7 ♗f8 13. ♗xd5) 12. ♗xg7 ♗f8 13. ♗xd5 ♗c8 14. ♗xh7 c6 15. ♗f5.

**11. ♗xe5 ♗f6 12. ♗d1**

The extra pawn plus the better position is too much. Black might as well resign.

**12... ♗d6 13. ♗e1 ♗e8 14. ♗e3 c5 15. ♗d2 ♗c7 16. ♗f3 ♗d6 17. ♗xd4 cxd4 18. ♗xe8+ ♗xe8 19. c3 dxc3 20. bxc3 ♗h5 21. ♗a4 ♗e7 22. ♗xa7 ♗f4 23. ♗xb7 h5 24. ♗c8+ ♗h7 25. h4 1-0.**

Already after move twelve everything was clear! And this is in sharp contrast to the main lines in modern opening theory where Larsen would have to play 20–25 moves of known theory, and another dozen moves or so of well-researched middlegame ideas before a decision might become clear. This is not to say that your opponents are all likely to make a fatal mistake by move three, but at least you won't have to remember an encyclopedia worth of opening lines to get a playable position. Certainly reasonable arguments can be made in favor of playing main lines, but here I am trying to save you some time on opening preparation since that can easily get out of hand!?

Next on your agenda should be getting some practice just before you enter your next event, preferably two or three games at a slow time control or a couple of evenings at rapid chess. Your training opponent should be roughly at your own level,

otherwise not enough information can be gleaned from your sessions. Pay particular attention to the way you handle tactical complications, time management, and your general sense of how the events are unfolding on the board in front of you. Sometimes you see a lot, and sometimes things don't come so easy. In any case, you'll get some points for thinking! If some problems emerge – as was the case for me just before travelling to Denmark – then exercises such as solving tactical puzzles or a few games against your PC might be what the doctor ordered. The important thing is to identify problems before you start the tournament, and know if you are in form or not!

Advice on psychological preparation is much more difficult. For some players this is easy – they are usually the confident ones to begin with – but for others setting a reasonable goal ahead of time can be more problematic. As for me, understanding what I want from this tournament is an important first step: is maintaining your rating important, or fighting for one of the top spots, or are you merely a chess tourist? I will definitely spend more time defining a specific target for my next tournament, and that alone should make it easier at certain moments during the event to make the right decisions!

# 21st Annual



*Grand Prix*

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. For more info visit our website at [www.eoca.org](http://www.eoca.org)

## Grand Prix Schedule

1. Renfrew Open P.Naish August 24–25
2. R.A. Fall Open J.Chyurlia September 21–22
3. National Capitol Open N.Frarey October 25–27
4. Seaway Valley Open S.DeKerpel November 23–24
5. R.A. Winter Open M.Holmes January 11–12
6. Kingston Open R.Hutchinson February 1–2
7. R.A. Spring Open J.Chyurlia March 22–23
8. MacIntosh Open S.DeKerpel April 12–13
9. Arnprior Open M.Wasmund May 3–4
10. Eastern Ontario Open M.Holmes June 7–8

## Grand Prix Prizes

First Prize:	\$421
Second Prize:	\$221
Third Prize:	\$121
1950–2199	\$201
1700–1949	\$201
Under 1700	\$201
Unestablished Rating:	\$121
Total Prizes:	\$1487

# The Other Endings Test

by IM Danny Kopec & Hal Terrie

## Discussion

This final test in our series explores diverse material situations, mostly consisting of various minor piece endings as well as minor piece vs rook endings and a queen ending or two, where generally one side has an advantage, or whereby the defending side is must find the correct drawing move. In most instances we have selected positions that illustrate important concepts for determining the correct continuations or plans in each characteristic ending. This approach should prove instructive even for quite experienced players. Noteworthy also, just like it was in our previous Rook and Pawn Endings Test, is that players often have to be familiar with the outcome of a possible derivative ♖+♙ ending before a decision about the correct play in one of these endings can be made. This fact illustrates the often hierarchical nature of knowledge in chess, and how the game may be studied, learned, and played according to well-known principles.

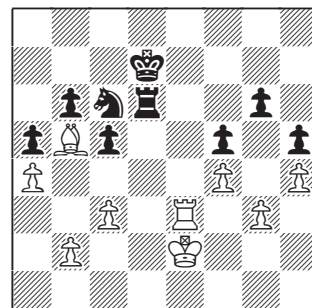
## Instructions

Students are allowed two minutes for each position, and up to four choices in each case. For a correct 1st choice you get one full point, half a point for a correct 2nd guess, 1/3 point for a 3rd guess, and finally 1/4 point for a correct 4th choice. Full credit is given for the level of difficulty number if any of your four choices is correct.

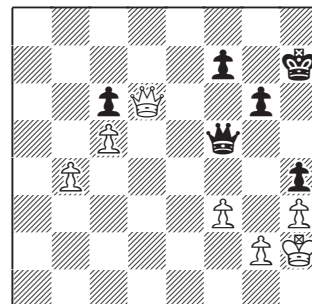
## Answer Sheet

#	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Side to Move
1.					White
2.					White
3.					Black
4.					White

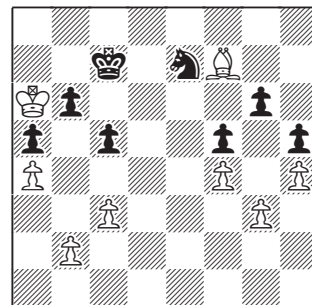
5.	White
6.	White
7.	Black
8.	Black
9.	Black
10.	White
11.	Black
12.	White
13.	Black
14.	White
15.	Black
16.	White
17.	White
18.	White
19.	White
20.	White
21.	White
22.	White
23.	Black
24.	Black
25.	Black
26.	White
27.	White



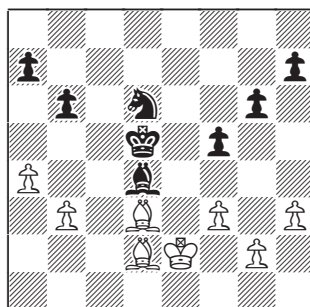
3. Black to Move



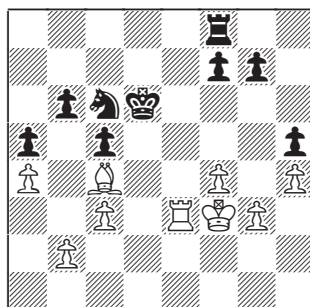
4. White to Move



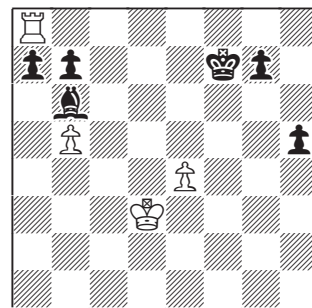
5. White to Move



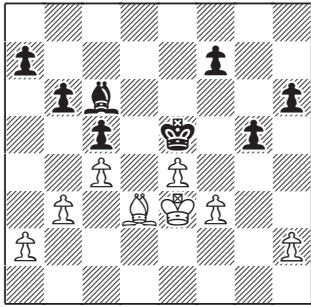
1. White to Move



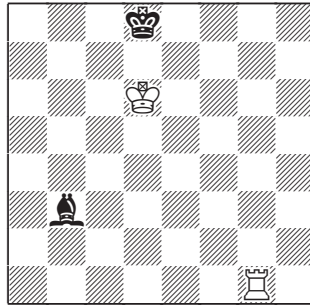
2. White to Move



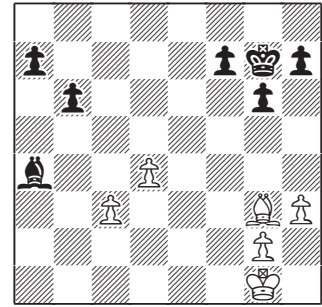
6. White to Move



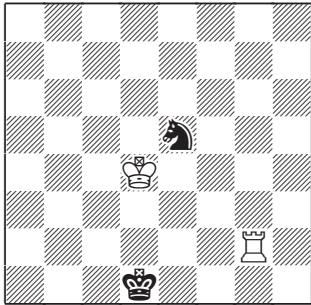
7. Black to Move



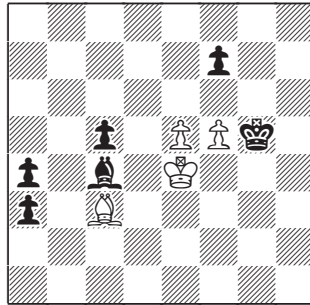
11. Black to Move



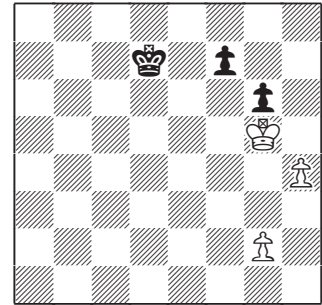
15. Black to Move



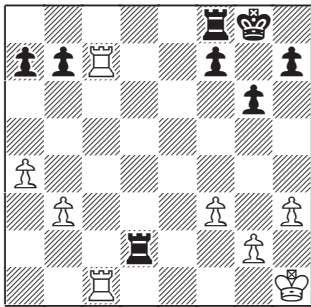
8. Black to Move



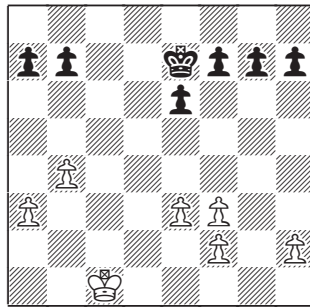
12. White to Move



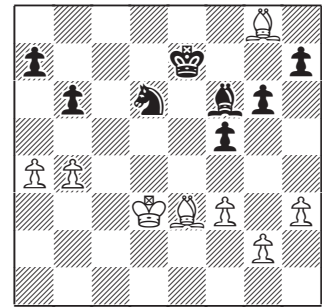
16. White to Move



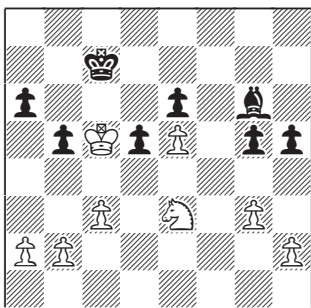
9. Black to Move



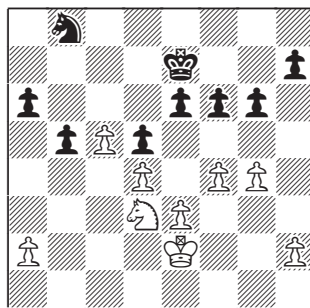
13. Black to Move



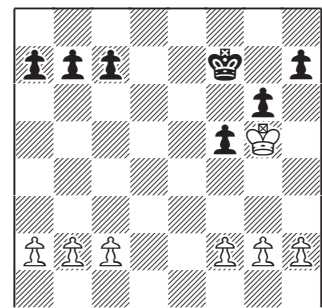
17. White to Move



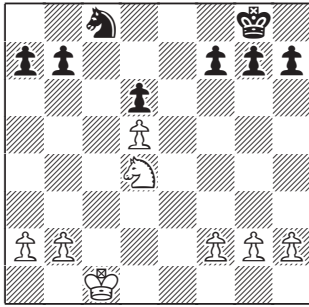
10. White to Move



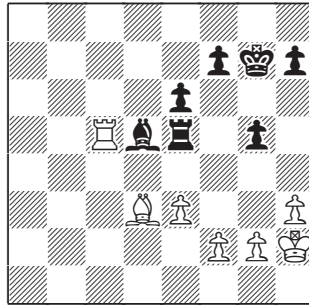
14. White to Move



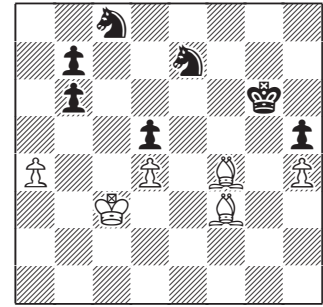
18. White to Move



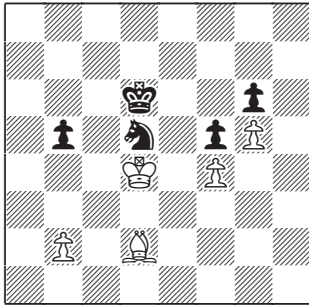
19. White to Move



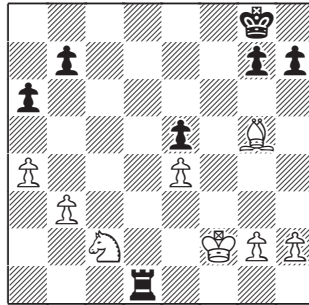
23. Black to Move



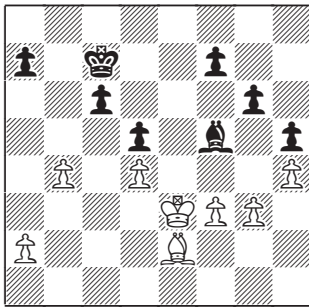
27. White to Move



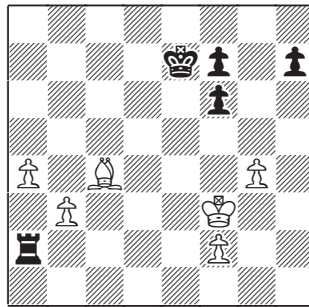
20. White to Move



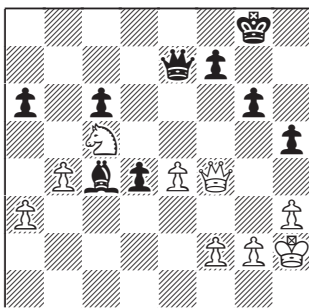
24. Black to Move



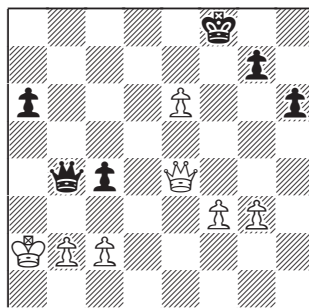
21. White to Move



25. Black to Move



22. White to Move



26. White to Move

### Solution Key

#	Side to Move	Level of Difficulty	Solution
1.	White	3	1. ♖b1
2.	White	2	1. ♜d3+
3.	Black	2	1... ♝c7
4.	White	2	1.b5
5.	White	2	1. ♗e8
6.	White	3	1.e5
7.	Black	2	1... ♗d7
8.	Black	4	1... ♘c6+
9.	Black	1	1... ♞e8
10.	White	2	1.h4
11.	Black	2	1... ♝e8
12.	White	2	1.e6
13.	Black	2	1... ♝f6
14.	White	2	1.f5
15.	Black	2	1... ♗b3
16.	White	3	1. ♜f6
17.	White	2	1.a5
18.	White	2	1. ♜h6
19.	White	2	1. ♗b3
20.	White	2	1.b3
21.	White	3	1.g4
22.	White	2	1.e5
23.	Black	3	1... h6
24.	Black	2	1... ♞b1
25.	Black	2	1... f5
26.	White	2	1. ♜f5+
27.	White	2	1. ♗g5

### Complete Solutions

1. (♗♗ vs ♗♗) Kopec–Shapiro, Continental op 1976 *White to move*

In *Basic Chess Endings* Reuben Fine explains the process whereby the side with the two bishops makes steady progress by driving the opposing king out of the center with **48. ♗b1!** White probes weaknesses using the long range potential of the two bishops, and eventually wins material after **48... ♗e5 49. ♜d3 ♗f6 50.b4 ♝e6 51. ♗a2+ ♝e7.**

2. (♞♗ vs ♞♗) Fischer–Taimanov, Vancouver 1971 *White to move*

Here **1.♖d3+** is part of the process by which Fischer demonstrates the superiority of his rook and bishop over Taimanov's rook and knight. Fischer intends to follow up with 37.♖d5 and an attack on Black's unprotected ♗/h5. Taimanov now gave Fischer a number of targets to focus on with his reply **37...f5** whereas 37...g6 gives White's bishop opportunities on the light squares.

**3. (♖♗ vs ♖♘)** Fischer–Taimanov, Vancouver 1971 *Black to move*

Correct is 42...♖c7 43.♖d3 ♖e6+ 44.♖d2 ♖e8 when Black avoids an exchange of rooks on the d/file. Instead Taimanov played **42...♗d8?** and lost the minor piece ending.

**4. (♖+♗s)** Maroczy–Bogoljubow, Dresden 1936 *White to move*

With **1.b5** White creates a passed pawn that can be escorted by the queen. Black draws after 1.♖xc6? ♖f4+ with perpetual check. Many players overestimate the difficulty of queen endings because of the checks involved, although in practice they are often not so hard to calculate. The game now continued **1...cxb5 2.c6 ♖c2 3.♖d5 ♖h6 4.♖d6 ♖c4 5.c7 ♖h7 6.♖d7 ♖f4+ 7.♖g1 ♖c1+ 8.♖f2 ♖c5+ 9.♖e2 ♖c2+ 10.♖e3 ♖c5+ 11.♖e4 ♖c4+ 12.♖e5 ♖c3+ 13.♖d5 ♖c4+ 14.♖d6 ♖b4+ 15.♖c6 ♖c3+ 16.♖b7+-.**

**5. (♗ vs ♘)** Fischer–Taimanov, Vancouver 1971 *White to move*

The winning idea is **1.♗e8** which places Black in Zugzwang and allows Fischer to sacrifice his bishop for three pawns. The game concludes with the decisive entry of White's king into the opponent's position after **1...♗d8 2.♗xg6! ♗xg6 3.♖xb6 ♗d7 4.♖xc5 ♗e7 5.b4 axb4 6.cxb4 ♗c8 7.a5 ♗d6 8.b5 ♗e4+ 9.♖b6 ♖c8 10.♖c6 ♖b8 1-0.**

**6. (♖ vs ♗ | ♘)** Voronkov–Ignatiev, Moscow 1958 *White to move*

Black has full material compensation for the exchange, but White's passed pawn can be used immediately to win after **1.e5 g5 2.♖h8 h4 3.♖h7+ ♖e6 4.♖e4 ♗c5 5.♖h6+ ♗d7 6.e6+ ♗d8 7.♖h8+ ♖c7 8.♖h7+ ♗d8 9.♖xb7 g4 10.♖d7+ ♖e8 11.♖h7 ♗f2 12.♖f4 g3 13.♖f3 h3 14.♖xh3 ♖e7 15.♖h6 ♗d6 16.♖g6 ♗e1 17.♖f4! ♗f2 18.♖f5 ♖e7 19.♖g7+ ♖e8 20.♖e5 ♗e1 21.♖d5 ♗f2 22.♖d6 ♖f8 23.♖g4 1-0.** Note how

carefully White advanced his passed pawn while restricting the opponent's passers on the kingside.

**7. (Same Color ♗s)** Donner–Kopec, Richardson Cup 1981 *Black to move*

White has the inferior pawn structure, a passive king, and a bishop with no pawns to attack. Black's winning plan is to put his bishop on e6 or g6 followed by the lever ...f5. After the exchange on f5 Black threatens ...♗b1 to win material, while exchanging bishops leads to a lost king and pawn ending since Black has more spare tempi available. An important move for Black to insert in the process is ...a5 to immobilize White's queenside.

After **1...♗d7** a sample line is **2.♗f1 f5 3.♗d3 fxe4 4.♗xe4** (4.fxe4 allows Black to use his g/♗ as a decoy while his king eats White's e/♗ and then wins the race to the queenside) **4...♗f5 5.♗xf5 ♖xf5 6.♖e2 a5 7.♖e3 h5 8.♖e2 ♖f4 9.♖f2 a4 10.♖e2 g4 11.fxg4 ♖xg4 12.♖f2 h4 13.♖g2 h3+ 14.♖f2 ♖f4 15.♖e2 ♖e4 16.♖f2** (or 16.♖d2 ♖f3 17.♖d3 ♖g2 18.♖e3 ♖xh2 19.♖f2 a3!) **16...♗d3 17.♖g3 a3 18.♖xh3 ♖c2 19.♖g4 ♖b2 20.h4 ♖xa2 21.h5 ♖xb3** etc.

**8. (♖ vs ♘ without ♗s)** Danny Kopec, 1978 *Black to move*

The only drawing move is **1...♗c6+** since Black's knight is hopelessly stranded after **1...♗f3+? 2.♖e3 ♗e5** (2...♗e1? 3.♖g1) 3.♖g5! ♗c4+ 4.♖d3 ♗b2+ 5.♖c3 ♗a4+ 6.♖b3 ♗b6. In the game Black's king and knight are safely joined together after **2.♗d5 ♗b4+ 3.♖c4 ♗c2.** Black's method is notable, because it illustrates the rare case where the knight first moves away from the king before moving closer as theory recommends.

**9. (♖♖ vs ♖♖)** Danny Kopec, 1995 *Black to move*

The rule in rook and pawn endings, and especially endings with four rooks, is that the rooks must be active and preferably connected. Therefore **1...♖e8!** (1...♖b8? loses to 2.♖e7 followed by ♖cc7) with the idea of joining his colleague on the second rank after **2.♖xb7 ♖ee2 3.♖g1 ♖b2 4.b4 a5 5.b5 ♖b4** makes the most sense. If White now tries to activate his king's rook, Black always responds by doubling on the seventh rank.

**10. (♘ vs bad ♗)** Reuben Fine, *Basic Chess Endings* *White to move*

This position is an example of a good knight against the bad bishop. Black's bishop has little scope, and his pawns are fixed on the wrong color. With **1.h4!** White forces access to f4 for his knight, which in turn allows him to attack ♗/h5 and ♗/e6 simultaneously. Black soon runs out of moves and has to allow White's king into his position after **1...gxf4 2.gxf4 ♗e4 ♗g2 3.a3 ♗f3 4.♗c2!** followed by 5.♗b4.

**11. (♖ vs ♗ without ♗s)** Danny Kopec, 1995 *Black to move*

The only important thing to know in this ending is that the defending king should head for the corner opposite that of his bishop's color with **1...♖e8** whereas Black loses after 1...♖c8? 2.♖c1+! ♖d8 (2...♖b8 3.♖b1) 3.♖b1.

**12. (Opposite Color ♗s)** Maroczy–Pillsbury, Munich 1900 *White to move*

There are two ideas embedded in this position: 1) White should liquidate the kingside even if it costs him his last pawn; and 2) Black cannot win on the queenside because he has the wrong color bishop after **1.e6 fxe6 2.fxe6 ♗xe6 3.♖e5 ♗b3 4.♗d6 c4 5.♖c5 ♖f5 6.♖b4 a2 7.♗a3 ♖e4 8.♖b2 ♗d3** when White has the neat stalemate trick **9.♖a1!**

**13. (♖ + ♗s)** Cohn–Rubinstein, St.Petersburg 1909 *Black to move*

Black wins the ending after **1...♖f6!** because White's fractured pawns are weak in three ways: 1) he has three pawn islands; 2) he has doubled f/♗s; and 3) he has fewer pawn tempi available on the queenside. White's problems are evident after **2.♗d2 ♖g5 3.♖e2 ♖h4 4.♖f1 ♖h3 5.♖g1 e5! 6.♖h1 b5 7.♖g1 f5 8.♖h1 g5 9.♖g1 h5 10.♖h1 g4 11.e4 fxe4 12.fxe4 h4 13.♖g1 g3 14.hxg3 hxg3 0-1.**

**14. (♘ + ♗s)** Reuben Fine, *Basic Chess Endings* *White to move*

This position is noteworthy because basic pawn structure elements prevail, notwithstanding the presence of a pair of knights. **1.f5** is a fundamental lever that strikes at the heart of Black's position after **1...g5 2.♗b4!! a5 3.c6!! ♗d6 4.fxe6!! ♗xc6** (4...axb4 5.e7 ♖xe7 6.c7) **5.♗xc6 ♖xc6 6.e4** and White wins easily.

**15. (Opposite Color ♗s)** Berger–Mackenzie, Frankfurt 1887 *Black to move*

This position illustrates the main aspect of bishops of opposite color: the opponent's pawns should be blocked on the color of his bishop, while your own pawns should be advanced through the color of the opposing bishop whenever feasible. In this case, Black's widely separated passed pawns win after **1... ♖b3**

**2. ♖b8 a5! 3. ♖c7 a4 4. ♖xb6 a3 5.d5 ♖xd5** (5... ♖c4? 6.d6 a2 7.d7 a1 ♖+ 8. ♖h2 only draws) **6. ♖d4+ f6 7.c4 ♖xc4 8. ♖f2 ♖f7 9. ♖e3 ♖e6 10.g3 g5 11.h4 gxf4 12.gxf4 f5.**

**16. (♖ + ♖)** Bogoljubow–Selezniev, Moravska Ostravo 1923 *White to move*

A poignant position considering the reduced material. White wins with **1. ♖f6 ♖e8 2. ♖g7 ♖e7 3.g3! ♖e6 4. ♖f8 ♖f6 5.g4 ♖e6 6.g5 f5** (6...f6 7.h5!!) **7.h5 f4 8.hxf6.**

**17. (♖ vs ♖)** Kopec–Shapiro, Continental op 1976 *White to move*

Here we have the continuation from the earlier Kopec–Shapiro game. White has achieved activity for his bishop pair and king, and he can now probe Black's position further with **54.a5!** to open new avenues for attack. But not **54. ♖xh7? ♖f7** when the bishop is trapped. Instead, White holds that threat in reserve.

**18. (♖ + ♖)** *Mastering Chess* *White to move*

After **1. ♖h6 ♖g8** it is clear that the lever **2.h4!** wins for White.

**19. (♖ + ♖)** Alekhine–Anderson, Folkstone 1933 *White to move*

Alekhine's winning plan is to convert his spatial advantage and superior knight into the advantage of an outside passed pawn by trading his d/♖ for one of Black's queenside pawns. This can be done by **1. ♖b3! ♖f8** (1... ♖e7 2. ♖a5 ♖xd5 3. ♖xb7 ♖b4 4. ♖xd6 ♖d3+ [4... ♖xa2+ 5. ♖c2 ♖b4+ 6. ♖c3] 5. ♖c2 ♖xf2 6. b4! ♖f8 7. b5 wins) **2. ♖a5 b6 3. ♖c6 ♖e8 4. ♖d2 ♖e7 5. ♖xa7 ♖xd5 6. ♖b5 ♖d7 7. ♖d4 g6 8. a4 ♖c7 9. ♖c3 g5 10. ♖b4 d5 11. ♖f3 f6 12. ♖d4 ♖d6?** (somewhat better is 12... ♖e7 13. a5 bxa5+ 14. ♖xa5 ♖d7 15. b4 ♖c8 16. ♖b6+-) **13. ♖b5+ ♖xb5 14. ♖xb5 ♖e5 15. b4 d4 16. ♖c4.**

**20. (♖ vs ♖)** Flohr–Levenfish, Leningrad–Moscow 1939 *White to move*

After **1.b3** Black is in Zugzwang, and he can resign after **1... ♖c6** (on any

knight move follows **2. ♖b4+**) **2. ♖e5 ♖c5 3. ♖c1!** (but **3. ♖e6** does not win because of **3... ♖d4 4. ♖f7 ♖d3 5. ♖xg6 ♖xd2 6. ♖xf5 ♖c2**).

**21. (Same Color ♖s)**

Portisch–Reshevsky, Palma de Mallorca 1970 *White to move*

Portisch demonstrates the significance of the fact that Black's pawns are fixed on light squares. White forces an outside passed h/♖ after **1.g4 ♖b1** (or **1... hxf4 2. fxf4 ♖b1**) **2.gxf5 gxf5 3.f4 ♖d6** (or **3... ♖xa2 4. ♖xh5 f6 5. ♖g6 ♖d6 6.h5 ♖e7 7.h6 ♖f8 8. ♖f3**) **4. ♖xh5 ♖e7 5.a3 ♖f5 6. ♖f3 ♖d7 7. ♖g3 ♖f8 8. ♖g4 f5 9. ♖e2 ♖g7 10.h5 ♖h6 11. ♖h4 ♖e8 12. ♖d3 ♖d7 13. ♖a6 ♖e6 14. ♖b7 ♖d7 15.a4 ♖e8 16. ♖c8 ♖xh5 17. ♖d7 ♖d1 18. ♖xc6 ♖g6 19.a5 ♖f6 20.b5.**

**22. (♖ vs ♖)** Jansa–Hennings, Karlovi Vary 1973 *White to move*

It is generally accepted that the knight and queen coordinate better than the bishop and queen. Here the dark squares around Black's king are weakened and give White an ideal opportunity to blockade and infiltrate such a compromised formation. In addition, Black's queenside pawns and passed d/♖ are somewhat disjointed. White wins after **1.e5 ♖d8 2. ♖e4!** (threatening **3. ♖h6**) **2... ♖h7** (or **2... ♖g7 3. ♖d6 ♖d5 4. ♖xd4 ♖g5 5.f3 h4 6.e6+ ♖h7** [if **6... ♖f8 7. ♖h8+ ♖e7 8. ♖d8+!**; or **6...f6 7. ♖a7+ ♖g8 8. ♖b8+ ♖h7 9. ♖e8!**] **7. ♖h8+!**) **3. ♖d6 ♖d5 4. ♖xf7 ♖f8 5. ♖g5+ ♖g7 6. ♖xd4.**

**23. (♖ vs ♖ of same color)**

Forintos–Jansa, Vrnjacka Banja 1973 *Black to move*

The position looks deceptively simple, but Black must choose the careful **1... h6** (instead **1...f5? 2.g4!** undermines the protection of Black's bishop. White threatens **3.gxf5 exf5 4. ♖c4** while **2... fxf4? 3.e4** also wins. Black only has **2... ♖f6 3.gxf5 h6 4.fxe6 ♖xe6 5. ♖g3 ♖d6 6. ♖a5** with a won ending for White, since **3... exf5 4.f4!** wins a piece. And finally, the try **1... ♖f6** just loses a pawn to **2. ♖xh7**) when **2.e4 ♖xe4 3. ♖xe5 ♖xd3** is drawn according to Hort and Jansa, because there is no way for White to make his material advantage count with all pawns on the same flank.

**24. (♖ vs two minor pieces)**

Reti–Bogoljubow, Bad Kissingen 1928 *Black to move*

In endings involving rooks the most important factor is almost always the activity of the rooks. Here Black needs to win a pawn or two as further compensation for his material deficit, and therefore the correct way is **1... ♖b1** (threatens **2... ♖xb3** as well as **2... ♖b2**) **2. ♖e3 ♖xb3 3.a5 b5 4.axb6 ♖xb6** when the game should have continued **5. ♖c4** (Reti played **5. ♖e2? ♖b4!** **6. ♖f3 ♖f7 7. ♖h4 ♖b1 8. ♖c4 ♖e6 9. ♖g3 ♖c1 10. ♖a5 ♖a1 11. ♖c4 ♖a4 12. ♖e3 a5 13. ♖e1 ♖a3 14. ♖e2 a4 15. ♖c2 ♖b3 16. ♖b4** and Black won) **5... ♖b4 6. ♖xe5 ♖xe4 7. ♖c6 ♖f7 8. ♖e3 ♖e6 9. ♖e2 ♖d5 10. ♖a5 ♖a4 11. ♖d2 ♖c5 12. ♖d3 ♖b5 13. ♖b7** with a draw according to Fine since Black cannot advance his extra queenside pawn.

**25. (♖ vs ♖ | ♖)** Spassky–Fischer, Reykjavic Wch 1972 *Black to move*

Fischer has been up an exchange for many moves and is looking for a way to convert his material advantage. Spassky has just made the advance **30.g4?** which, however, turns out to be bad because it allows Black to undouble his f/♖s and force an outside passed h/♖. Also noteworthy is that White's ever dangerous connected queenside passers have been fully contained by Black's rook. Fischer went on to win after **30...f5 31.gxf5** (**31.g5 f6+-**) **31...f6 32. ♖g8 h6 33. ♖g3 ♖d6 34. ♖f3 ♖a1 35. ♖g2 ♖e5 36. ♖e6 ♖f4 37. ♖d7 ♖b1 38. ♖e6 ♖b2 39. ♖c4 ♖a2 40. ♖e6 h5 41. ♖d7 0-1.**

**26. (♖ + ♖s)** Kopec–Fang, Monadnock 1991 *White to move*

Best is **1. ♖f5+** (White still has to work for the point after **1. ♖d5?! ♖a4+ 2. ♖b1 ♖e7**) **1... ♖g8** (both **1... ♖e8** and **1... ♖e7** lose to **2. ♖f7+**) **2. ♖d5 ♖b5?** (tougher is **2... ♖h7 3. ♖e4+ ♖g8 4.e7 ♖a4+ 5. ♖b1 ♖e8 6. ♖xc4+** although Black still loses) when White easily wins the pawn ending.

**27. (♖ vs ♖)**

Botvinnik–Bronstein, Wch 1951 *White to move*

Here **1. ♖g5** demonstrates the power of the bishop pair against two knights when the latter are passively posted and required to defend each other. Black resigned, but White's victory isn't in doubt after **1... ♖c6 2. ♖xd5 ♖d6 3. ♖f3** when the passed d/♖ and Black's weak queenside pawns quickly decide the outcome.



# Across Canada



## BC

British Columbia

### Kelowna Harvest Swiss

**Dave Moore** drew with Ian Higgs in the penultimate round to secure first place with 4.5/5 in the Kelowna Harvest Swiss. Section winners were Ian Higgs at 4/5, Parish Barabana at 3/5, and Marshall Rasmussen at 2.5/5.

Rep: *Wally Steinke*

### Vancouver Thanksgiving Open

Thirty-six players participated in this year's Thanksgiving Open at the newly renovated Vancouver Bridge Centre. **Robert North** and **Fanhao Meng** tied for first with 5/6, half a point ahead of Alfred Pechisker. The U2000 first prize was split between **Yamei Wang** and **Justin Hardy** at 4/6, while Leo Erazo, Ben Daswani, Juni Caluza, Charles Fekete and Jason Lee all obtained 3.5/6 to divide the third place money amongst themselves.

The story of the tournament in the U1600 category was 12-year-old **Tiffany Tang**, who took the Top U1600 prize and earned 188 rating points for her efforts! Just behind Tiffany in a tie for second place were Louis McCusky, Richard Gaulin and Jamie Harper.

Org: *Katherine Davies*;  
TD/Rep: *Stephen Wright*

### New Westminster Northshorechess.com Invitational

BC's hottest junior player **Fanhao Meng** tied for first with **Eduardo Moura** at 4/5 and earned a copy of Fritz 7 from event sponsor Chess First Enterprises. Robert North and Vaclav Sladek scored 2.5/5 and 2/5 to finish third and fourth, respectively. Brazilian Eduardo Moura has a 2235 FIDE rating and is ready to shake up the local BC scene.

Notes by

**Knut Neven**

Yousefzadeh, Mehrdad  
Meng, Fanhao

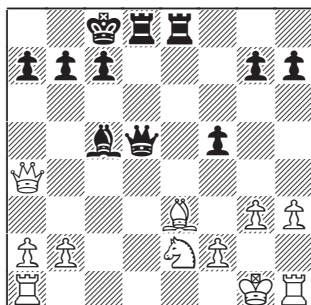
New Westminster  
Northshorechess.com  
Invitational (5), 2002

Alekhine B02

1.e4 d6 2.d3 d5 3.exd5 dxd5  
4.dxd5 dxd5 5.d4 d6 6.f3  
d6 7.d2 0-0-0 8.d3 e5 9.c3  
exd4 10.cxd4 d6+ 11.f1 h8  
12.h3 d5 13.g1 f5 14.g3 d4

Other ways to build on Black's initiative are 14...h6 threatening to expand further with ...g5 on the kingside, or 14...d6 planning the annoying 15...f4. Or else White can immediately try 14...f4 15.gxf4 d6 with strong pressure.

15.dxd4 dxe2 16.d4 a4 d5  
17.dxe2



17...dxe2?

Immediately decisive is the tactical shot 17...dxe2! when White is without a defense on the two diagonals leading to his king if he wants to recapture the rook.

18.fxe3 f3 19.h2 dxe3+ 20.f2  
d2 21.d1 e1 xb2 22.d1 b5  
23.a6+ b8 24.f1 f4 25.gxf4  
d3+ 26.g1 g4+ 27.f1 h5  
28.f5 h1+ 29.d1 g1 xf2+  
30.f2 h4+ 31.f1 c4+  
32.g2 c2+ 33.h1 e4+  
34.h2 f4+ 35.g2 xf5  
36.c6 e4+ 37.dxe4 dxe4  
38.d5 a6 39.f3 d4 40.d2  
b7 41.d2 b6 42.c1 a3+  
43.f2 a5 44.d3 a4 45.d4 c5  
46.d6 h3 47.g2 h6 48.d4  
b4 49.f3 b5 50.e4 b3 51.d5

h4+ 52.e3 c4 53.a3 h3+  
54.d4 d3+ 55.d3 cxd3  
56.c3+ a5 57.d3 h5 58.d1  
g5 59.e4 h4 60.f3 b6 61.d2  
b5 62.g4 a5 1/2-1/2.

TD/Org/Rep: *Vas Sladek*



## AB

Alberta

### 8th Annual Medicine Hat Open

This year a contingent of five players from Edmonton and two from Calgary met five local competitors at the 8th annual Medicine Hat Open. To everyone's surprise, none of the former champions in attendance could match newcomer **Zhichao Li** en route to his 4.5/5 final score. Just behind the winner **Rob Gardner** posted 4/5 for second place, followed by Chris Kuczaj and Micah Hughey in a tie for third at 3/5. In the second section **Adam Szulski** of Medicine Hat scored 3/5 for top spot.

During the tournament a special presentation was made to John Quiring, who received a special mug inscribed with the words 'Mr. Big' in recognition of his amazing perfect attendance record at this event.

Congratulations and a big thank you once again to John!

TD/Rep: *Bill Taylor*



## MB

Manitoba

### Winnipeg Albert Boxer Classic

The Albert Boxer Classic was held on Labor Day weekend with 40 entries

that included a contingent of 7 from Minnesota. First overall at 5.5/6 was **Joshua Henson**, who was closely followed by American **Don Aldrich** at 5/6. **Samuel Lipnowski** scored 4.5/6 to take top spot in the U2200 Section. Waldemar Schulz, Dan Federkevic and American Mark Miller finished in a tie for second at 4/6.

In the U2000 Section **Jay Khedkar** finished with 4/6 just ahead of Michael Lipnowski's 3.5/6. American junior **Nathan Gilbert** scored 3/6 to take the U1800 Section together with **Eric Cowdrey**, and just ahead of John Katona and Michael Strub at 2.5/6. The U1600 Class ended in a tie among **Francis Trueman**, **Paul Klassen** and **Devarshi Shome** at 2.5/6.

Also part of the event was the revival of our traditional Manitoba vs Minnesota match, this time in the form of total points scored between the opposing sides over the course of the main event during rounds 3-6. The final tally was 10.5-7.5 in favor of Minnesota, who thus retain the match trophy!

*TD/Rep: Lorne Gibbons*



Ontario

Kitchener Octoberfest Open

Notes by

**David Cummings**

**Cummings, David  
Ochkoos, Yura**

*Kitchener Octoberfest op,  
2002*

**Tarrasch D30**

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.♘g2 c5 4.♘f3  
♘f6 5.d4 ♘c6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.0-0  
♘e7 8.♘e3 c4 9.♘e5 0-0 10.b3  
cxb3 11.♙xb3 ♘a5 12.♙a4 a6  
13.♘d2 ♘c4 14.♘xc4 b5 15.♙c2  
bxc4 16.♘c3 ♘e6 17.♘g5 ♖b8  
18.e3 ♙a5 19.♖ab1 ♘b4?!

Black wants to reduce the pressure on his ♗/d5, but in doing so gives his opponent additional influence in the center. Instead 19...♗fe8 is about equal.

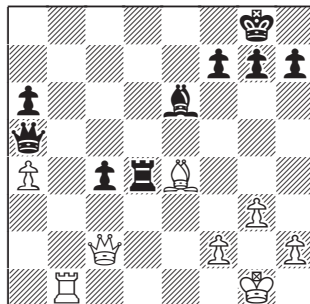
20.♘xf6 ♘xc3 21.♘e5 ♖b5 22.e4  
♗d8 23.a4! ♖xb1 24.♖xb1 dxe4

White retains an initiative after 24...f6 25.exd5 since now 25...♗f7 26.♘c7 ♙xc7 27.♙xc3 ♘xd5 28.♘xd5+ ♖xd5 29.♖b4 wins a pawn for White, and the alternative 25...fxe5 26.dxe6 exd4 27.e7 ♖e8 28.♙e2 wins outright.

25.♘xe4 ♘xd4?

Yura doesn't see White's dramatic tactic two moves later. Instead Black can maintain material equality with 25...h6 26.d5 ♗f5! though White keeps a slight edge after 27.♘xc3 ♘xe4 28.♙xe4 ♙xc3 29.♙e7 when play can continue with something like 29...♖c8 30.d6 ♙d3 31.♖c1 ♖c5 32.d7 ♖d5 33.♙e8+ ♖h7 34.♙xf7 ♖xd7 35.♙xc4.

26.♘xd4 ♖xd4



27.♙c3!! 1-0.

Kitchener K-W Game in One Championship

A very strong field of top players assembled on October 19 to mark the first ever Game in One Championship at the new Chess for Kids Centre in Kitchener. In the Open Section sturdy FM **Frank Pushkedra** outlasted the competition for a winning 4.5/5 final score, followed by **Doug Bailey** at 4/5 and Columbian NM Alvaro Garcia at 3.5/5. Yura Ochkoos, Bill Evans and IM Stephen Glinert also came close, but finished out of the money.

In the Reserve U1700 Section several talented juniors met with enthusiastic veterans. **Ron LeBlanc** and **Karl Dangberg** shared top spot with 4/5, while Mark Tripp captured third with 3.5/5. More events like this are planned in the near future, so keep

an eye on the Coming Events section of *En Passant* magazine!

*Org: Chris Heringer; TD: Ed Thompson*

SCC Sunday Fall Round Robin

**Bryan Lamb** won the first Sunday event at the SCC with 3/4, losing only to Chris Takov, and finishing half a point ahead of **Jim Paterson's** second place score of 2.5/4.

*TD/Org/Rep: Bryan Lamb*

Toronto Macedonian Labour Day Open

119 players attended the tournament, which made it the highest turnout at a weekend event in Toronto since last year's Labour Day Open. Among the top players competing for the \$1000 guaranteed prize fund were Ian Findlay, Yura Ochkoos, Frank Pushkedra, Robert Hamilton and Andrew Peredun.

In the end, however, young IM **Mark Bluvshstein** dominated the field together with **Goran Milicevic**, each scoring 5/6 to split the first place money. Third went to **Andrei Moffat** at 4.5/6, after a strong performance that included a victory over Robert Hamilton. Fourth place went to Ian Findlay at 4/6, while the same score was also enough for a share of the U2350 prize for Andrew Peredun, Yura Ochkoos and Charlie Tang.

In the U2200 Section, **Rupert Frilles** took top spot with 5/6, followed by Martin Veltmann in a tie for second with Joseph Lentini and Ron Brice at 4.5/6. Meanwhile **Milan Zagar** won the U2000 Section with 5/6, narrowly escaping a last round defeat against Omar Shah, who shared second place at 4.5/6 with Hugh Siddeley, Pavel Fulmyk and Fred Henderson.

**Ted Cushing** rolled to a 5/6 first place victory in the U1800 Section, with Nimalan Thavandiran just behind in second place at 4.5/6. Johann Rutnam had the top score among the amateur entries, while third place was split among Dilip Panjwani, Maurice Smith, Nick Zimminski and Nick Lancia at 4/6. In the U1600 Section **Wojtek Fulmyk** scored 5/6 for first place, ahead of Harris Kaufman, Sadiq Juma and Michael Kop in a tie for second. Meanwhile Radovan Mitreski posted an identical finish for the Top Unrated prize. **Michal Fulmyk**, in turn, played well to score 4/6 in the U1400

Section, half a point in front of Matthew Lai.

Org: Macedonian CC, Randy Moysoski;  
TD/Rep: Bryan Lamb



**NB**

**New Brunswick**

Charlottetown Maritime Open

**Anthony Howarth**, currently the top rated player in the Maritimes,

posted a dominant 5.5/6 performance to win his first Maritime Open. The only blemish on his record was a 5th round bye after handily defeating the second through fourth finishers earlier in the event.

Second went to **Alvah Mayo** with 4.5/6, while Fred McKim and Justin Gulati shared third. Class prizes went to Kyle Johnson in the U2000, Brian McKay in the U1800, Ken Cashin in the U1600, and jointly to Andrew Burton and Aman Hambleton in the U1400. Next year the event moves to Nova Scotia, pending an interested organizer coming forward.

TD/Org/Rep: *Fred McKim*

## CFC Offer

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**Mark Your Calendar!**

# Guelph Pro-Am International

August 5–10, 2003

Peter Clark Hall, Guelph University Centre  
**9 Rounds. A SWOCL Grand Prix Event**

**Pro Section: FIDE rated, minimum FIDE rating 2100**  
**\$4000 guaranteed 1st Prize GMs TBA**

### Projected Prize Fund

1st \$4,000 2nd \$2,000 3rd \$1,000 4th \$800 5th \$600 6th \$500

### U2300 Futurity Section: FIDE rated

FIDE rated players half price

Trophies, \$200 expense bursaries to top two finishers, and free entry to 2004 event

### 4 Amateur Class Championships

U2000 U1800 U1600 U1400

Trophies, \$200 expense bursaries to section winners, and free entry to 2004 event

### Entry Fees:

Pro Section \$120 by April 30; \$140 by July 31; \$160 on site

Futurity & Amateur Sections: \$60 by April 30, \$80 by July 31; \$100 on site

**Registration:** August 5: 16:00–18:00 **Opening Ceremonies:** 18:00–19:00 followed by Blitz event

**Times:** August 6–10: 10, 4 / 10, 4 / 10, 4 / 10, 4 / 10 **Bond Voyage Party:** 15:00

**TC:** G/100 + 30 second Bronstein increment

Free refreshments and snacks available throughout the event. Coupons and package deals TBA

**All equipment provided by organizer**

**Family Prizes:** Immediate family only (spousal, sibling, parent, grandparent, child)

Top 2, any section \$800 Top gross, any section \$800

Family prize contestants must play according to their peak rating

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

# Top Rating Lists

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

## Top Canadians

1. Spraggett, Kevin	ON	2629
2. Lesiege, Alexandre	PQ	2592
3. Tyomkin, Dimitri	ON	2530
4. Teplitsky, Yan	ON	2523
5. Linskiy, Oleg	PQ	2487
6. Hergott, Deen	ON	2479
7. Zugic, Igor	ON	2476
8. Cummings, David	ON	2475
9. Charbonneau, Pascal	PQ	2466
10. Bluvshstein, Mark	ON	2465
11. Nickoloff, Bryon	ON	2462
12. Hebert, Jean	PQ	2462
13. Barbeau, Sylvain	PQ	2458
14. O'Donnell, Tom	ON	2453
15. Khassanov, Marat	PQ	2432
16. Ivanov, Igor	PQ	2429
17. Hartman, Brian	ON	2419
18. Yoos, John C.	BC	2419
19. Milicevic, Goran	ON	2418
20. Livshits, Ron	ON	2417
21. Glinert, Stephen	ON	2412
22. Basanta, Gary	BC	2410
23. Schleifer, Michael	PQ	2387
24. Ross, David	PQ	2385
25. Allan, Denis	ON	2381
26. Day, Lawrence	ON	2380
27. Hamilton, Robert	ON	2374
28. Reeve, Jeff	AB	2372
29. Findlay, Ian	ON	2365
30. Olszewski, Piotr	ON	2364
31. Duong, Thanh Nha	PQ	2361
32. Taylor, Gordon	ON	2357
33. Dougherty, Michael	ON	2355
34. Hua, Lefong	PQ	2352
35. Ochkoos, Jura	ON	2350
36. Fuentesbella, Mayo	BC	2348
37. Pushkedra, Frank	ON	2346
38. Gurevich, Artem	ON	2340
39. Gentes, Kevin	MB	2337
40. Mikanovic, Goran	PQ	2334
41. Mitrovic, Milan	ON	2334
42. Harper, Bruce	BC	2333
43. Berry, Jonathan	BC	2331
44. Vaingorten, Yaaqov	ON	2330
45. Ristic, Nenad	AB	2329
46. Peredun, Andrew	ON	2328
47. Saleh, Maher	ON	2322
48. Goldenberg, Danny	PQ	2318
49. Vlaovic, George	MB	2313
50. Pacey, Kevin	ON	2310
51. Huber, Gregory	AB	2308
52. Scoones, Dan	BC	2308
53. Philips, Ray	PQ	2308
54. Herder, David	BC	2307
55. Bailey, Doug	ON	2306
56. Neven, Knut	AB	2305
57. Vujic, Branimir	ON	2304

## Top FIDE

1. Spraggett, Kevin	ON	2533
2. Lesiege, Alexandre	PQ	2531
3. Tyomkin, Dimitri	ON	2492
4. Ivanov, Igor	PQ	2489
5. Teplitsky, Yan	ON	2455

6. Zugic, Igor	ON	2450
7. Bluvshstein, Mark	ON	2449
8. Charbonneau, Pascal	PQ	2427
9. Hebert, Jean	PQ	2425
10. Linskiy, Oleg	PQ	2424
11. Suttles, Duncan	BC	2420
12. Marantz, Michael	ON	2420
13. Pelts, Roman	ON	2417
14. Nickoloff, Bryon	ON	2417
15. Hartman, Brian	ON	2405
16. Barbeau, Sylvain	PQ	2404
17. Schulte, Oliver	BC	2397
18. Hergott, Deen	ON	2388
19. Teodoro IV, Eduardo D.	ON	2387
20. Alipayo, Rodulfo	ON	2380
21. Cummings, David	ON	2377
22. O'Donnell, Tom	ON	2367
23. Khassanov, Marat	PQ	2366
24. MacPhail, John	ON	2365
25. Yoos, John C.	BC	2358
26. Schleifer, Michael	PQ	2356
27. Kleinplatz, Sam	PQ	2355
28. Amos, Bruce	ON	2355
29. Glinert, Stephen	ON	2351
30. Milicevic, Goran	ON	2345

## Top Women

1. Starr, Nava	ON	2275
2. Belc, Daniela	ON	2103
3. Chu, Stefanie	ON	2095
4. Kagramanov, Dina	ON	2090
5. Benggawan, Amanda	ON	2067
6. Mitrovic, Bojana	ON	2046
7. Khaziyeva, Dinara	PQ	2043
8. Bryskine, Marina	ON	2013
9. Wang, Yamei	BC	1971
10. Charbonneau, Anne-Marie	PQ	1941

## Top U20

1. Charbonneau, Pascal	19	PQ	2466
2. Bluvshstein, Mark	14	ON	2465
3. Glinert, Stephen	18	ON	2412
4. Hua, Lefong	20	PQ	2352
5. Gurevich, Artem	19	ON	2340
6. Wang, HaoYuan	16	ON	2275
7. Golts, Roman	20	ON	2274
8. Hecat, Kevork	19	ON	2264
9. Divljan, Igor	16	ON	2261
10. Lawson, Eric	18	PQ	2249

## Top U18

1. Bluvshstein, Mark	14	ON	2465
2. Glinert, Stephen	18	ON	2412
3. Wang, HaoYuan	16	ON	2275
4. Divljan, Igor	16	ON	2261
5. Lawson, Eric	18	PQ	2249
6. Roussel-Roozmon, T	14	PQ	2246
7. Krnan, Tomas	14	ON	2235
8. Rolfe, Warrick	18	ON	2227
9. Miller, Evgeni	17	ON	2207
10. Stevens, Christian	15	ON	2206

## Top U16

1. Bluvshstein, Mark	14	ON	2465
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2. Wang, HaoYuan	16	ON	2275
3. Divljan, Igor	16	ON	2261
4. Roussel-Roozmon, T	14	PQ	2246
5. Krnan, Tomas	14	ON	2235
6. Stevens, Christian	15	ON	2206
7. Meng, Fanhao (Bobby)	14	BC	2204
8. Predescu, Sebastian	14	ON	2203
9. Feoktistov, Dmitri	15	PQ	2202
10. Panjwani, Raja	12	ON	2154

## Top U14

1. Bluvshstein, Mark	14	ON	2465
2. Roussel-Roozmon, T	14	PQ	2246
3. Krnan, Tomas	14	ON	2235
4. Meng, Fanhao (Bobby)	14	BC	2204
5. Predescu, Sebastian	14	ON	2203
6. Panjwani, Raja	12	ON	2154
7. Noritsyn, Nikolay	11	ON	2124
8. Leung, Victor	14	ON	1989
9. Ramaswamy, Kishor	14	PQ	1947
10. Thavandiran, Shiyam	10	ON	1942

## Top U12

1. Panjwani, Raja	12	ON	2154
2. Noritsyn, Nikolay	11	ON	2124
3. Thavandiran, Shiyam	10	ON	1942
4. Vincent, Trevor	12	MB	1937
5. Smith, Hazel	11	ON	1926
6. Eshleman, Brandon	11	AB	1923
7. Vadachkoriya, Irakli	12	ON	1897
8. Sviridovitch, Alina	10	ON	1890
9. McDonald, Justin	11	ON	1874
10. Jacobs, Chaim-Akiva	12	ON	1819

## Top U10

1. Thavandiran, Shiyam	10	ON	1942
2. Sviridovitch, Alina	10	ON	1890
3. Kaufman, Harris	10	ON	1591
4. Mai, Lloyd	9	ON	1476
5. Douglas, Richard	10	ON	1474
6. Fan, Brendan	9	ON	1448
7. Yam, Richard	9	ON	1439
8. Kaminski, Thomas	7	AB	1436
9. Lu, David	10	ON	1429
10. Lai, Matthew	10	ON	1392

## 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	2416
7. Teodoro IV, Eduardo D.	ON	2398
8. Milicevic, Goran	ON	2385
9. Livshits, Ron	ON	2371
10. McTavish, David	ON	2360
11. Dougherty, Michael	ON	2342
12. Mitrovic, Milan	ON	2338
13. Vujic, Branimir	ON	2335
14. Findlay, Ian	ON	2334
15. Ochkoos, Jura	ON	2318
16. Tipu, Vincentiu	ON	2314
17. Reeve, Jeff	AB	2304











# 2003 Canadian Junior Chess Championship

January 3–6, 2003

Auberge Gouverneur, Shawinigan, Quebec

**Rds:** 5    **Type:** Regular Swiss

**Times:** 7 / 10, 4 / 9:30, 3:30    **TC:** 30/90, SD/60

**EF:** \$115; \$125 after December 15

Cheques to Chess Federation of Canada, E1 - 2212 Gladwin Crescent, Ottawa, ON, K1B 5N1

**Prizes:** Winner gets airfare and entry fee for 2003 World Junior Championship

**Misc:** Bye 1–3; opening ceremony 18:30; tiebreaks and closing ceremony 19:00

**Eligibility:** dob 1983 or later

**Org:** Gerry Litchfield (613)733–2844    info@chess.ca    www.chess.ca

**Accommodation:** Auberge Gouverneur, Shawinigan, PQ; 1-888-922-1100  
single or double occupancy \$55/night, breakfast buffet \$6.95

# 2003 Canadian Pan-American Youth Qualifier

January 2–3, 2003

Auberge Gouverneur, Shawinigan, Quebec

**Rds:** 4 or 5    **Type:** Regular Swiss or RR

**Times:** 10, 3 / 10, 3 (TBA)    **TC:** 35/90, SD/15

**EF:** \$75; \$85 after December 15

Cheques to Chess Federation of Canada, E1 – 2212 Gladwin Crescent, Ottawa, ON, K1B 5N1

**Prizes:** Funding TBA towards Pan-American Championship in May 2003

**Misc:** Bye 1; tiebreaks 19:00

**Eligibility:** U10 dob 1993, U12 dob 1991, U14 dob 1989, U16 dob 1987, U18 dob 1985

**Org:** Gerry Litchfield (613)733–2844    info@chess.ca    www.chess.ca

**Accommodation:** Auberge Gouverneur, Shawinigan, PQ; 1-888-922-1100  
single or double occupancy \$55/night, breakfast buffet \$6.95

Welcome Bienvenue

# Canadian Open Chess Championship Championnat ouvert du Canada

July 12th to 20th, 2003

**Kapuskasing, Ontario**

**Projected prize fund of \$50,000  
Guaranteed \$20,000 plus 90% of registration fees**

**First Prize \$6,000    Second Prize \$4,000    Third Prize \$2,000    Female Prize Fund \$4,000**

Registration fee: \$95 before July 1st, 2003; \$140 after July 1st, 2003

All Registrations to Chess Federation of Canada, 2212 Gladwin Crescent E-1, Ottawa, ON, K1B 5N1



KAPUSKASING



Where the past meets the present  
Là où le passé et le présent se croisent



For additional information:

Denis Nadeau, Chess Tournament Organizer  
townkap@ntl.sympatico.ca  
Phone (705)337-4254    Fax (705)337-1741  
www.kapchess.com    www.echecskap.com



Welcome Bienvenue

# Canadian Youth Chess Championships Championnats jeunesse du Canada

July 7th to 10th, 2003

**Kapuskasing, Ontario**



Ten Categories (five male & five female)  
U10 U12 U14 U16 U18



Registration fee: \$150 per participant

All Registrations to Chess Federation of Canada, 2212 Gladwin Crescent E-1, Ottawa, ON, K1B 5N1

For additional information:

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townkap@ntl.sympatico.ca  
Phone (705)337-4254    Fax (705)337-1741  
www.kapchess.com    www.echecskap.com  
Please visit our website for information on travel subsidies

# Olympic Fund Update

## Recent Donations

Geof Bridge	\$100.00
Fred Loeschmann	\$55.00
Earle Bruce	\$65.33
In memory of Todd Southam	\$100.00
Dale Gustafson	\$100.00
David Herder	\$200.00
Lyle Craver	\$180.00
Desmond Maley	\$100.00
Russell Remedios	\$206.00
N.J. Varmazis	\$130.00
Connaught School	\$24.00
Jerome Bibuld	\$37.50
J.A.E. Allum	\$100.00
Fred Loeschmann	\$55.00
N.J. Varmazis	\$60.00
Brian Clarke	\$134.00
David Filipovich	\$35.00
Martin Jaeger	\$60.00
James Cairns	\$150.00
Ken Corfield	\$50.00
A.B. Boxer	\$20.00
Echecs et Maths	\$500.00
Irv Orloff	\$50.00
In memory of Todd Southam	\$300.00
Earle Bruce	\$100.00
James Cairns	\$150.00
FQE	\$500.00
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>\$3,865.96</b>

Please make cheques out to "The Chess Federation of Canada" and mail to 2212 Gladwin Cres E-1, Ottawa, ON, K1B 5N1, Canada.

At the 1999 Canadian Open in Vancouver, the organizers decided to collect \$1.50 from every entry as a contribution to the Olympic Fund, thus presenting the CFC with a much appreciated donation of nearly \$300.

It was their hope to set an example for other organizers and other events to follow suit in helping raise much needed revenues for our Olympic program, and we plan to publish the names of the organizers and events that do so in future editions of the magazine.

## Thank You!

Every two years the Chess Federation of Canada sends our very best players to represent Canada at the Chess Olympiad. Among all of the national and international events funded by the CFC each and every year, this is the most prestigious and by far the most expensive. The Olympiad is frequently hosted in distant locales, and thus funding travel expenses for our teams represents a considerable burden for such a small organization.

We can all be proud of our successes at the Olympiads, and we should also be grateful to those individuals who have lent their support by making a donation to our Olympic Fund. It is with your help that we are able to continue to fund our international participation and programs!

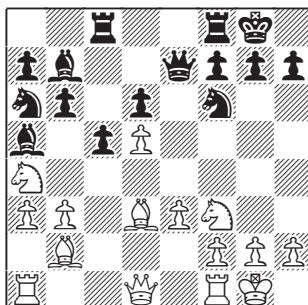


**Lesiege, Alexandre  
Sokolov, Ivan**

*Elista ol (8), 1998*

**Queen's Indian E43**

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♖b4 4.e3  
b6 5.♗d3 ♗b7 6.♗f3 0-0 7.0-0 c5  
8.♗a4 ♗a6 9.a3 ♗a5 10.b3 ♗e7  
11.♗b2 ♗ac8 12.d5 exd5 13.cxd5  
d6



14.♗h4 ♗xd5 15.♗f5 ♗g5 16.h4  
♗xg2+ 17.♗xg2 ♗xc3+ 18.♗h2  
♗xd1 19.♗axd1 1-0.

