

Chess Canada

The
King is
Dead



Bobby Fischer's
Chess Legacy

Plus much more...

Kamsky Wins World Cup

New Kid on the Block

The Zugic vs Adams Match

World Youth Chess Championships



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*Chess legend, Bobby Fischer, passed away in Iceland on January 23rd.
Fischer was 64 years old.
photo: AP*

FEATURE ARTICLE:
THE KING IS DEAD...
BOBBY FISCHER'S LEGACY

PAGE 14

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CONTENTS

- 4 In the News
- 6 Editorial
- 7 New Kid on the Block
- 10 Bobby Fischer
- 20 In the Arena
- 26 Canada at the World Cup
- 32 Suttles Meets Fritz
- 36 Kings of Chess: Vasily Smyslov
- 39 Canadian Events
- 40 Scholastic Scene
- 45 Coming Events
- 46 Ratings

ADVERTISEMENTS

- 2 Canadian Youth Championships
- 24 CFC Membership
- 43 CFC Online
- 44 Support the CFC
- 47 Strategy Games
- 48 Canadian Open

In the News

By Robert Hamilton

Comeback Kid !

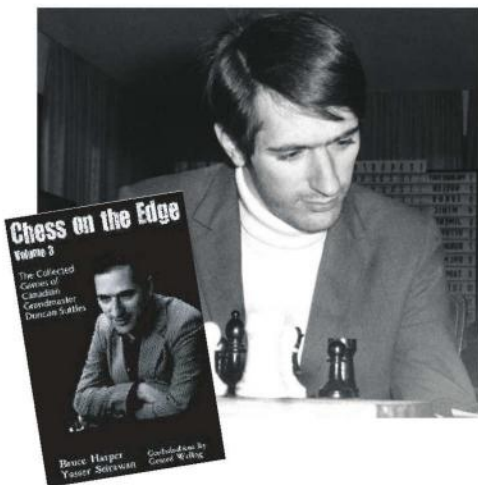
In the 1990s, Gata Kamsky came tantalizingly close to winning the World Championship. In the '96 PCA cycle, he defeated Kramnik and Short before losing to Anand and narrowly missing his crack at Kasparov. In the '96 FIDE cycle, he defeated Salov and Anand, only to lose the title match against Anatoly Karpov. After losing to Karpov, he announced his retirement.

But in 2004 he was back, and his results have gotten progressively better. At only 33 years of age, he scored another major triumph by recently winning the FIDE World Cup Tournament in Siberia. With the victory, he's earned the right to a match against ex-champ, Veselin Topalov. The winner of that match earns a crack at the World Champion.



Will Gata Kamsky finally become World Champion?

photo: www.chessbase.com



The Suttles Series

In the decade between 1965 and 1975, Duncan Suttlés established himself as one of Canada's greatest players of all time. Representing Canada in Olympiad play, championship cycles and other prestigious events, Suttlés turned in sterling performances that rank high on the list of all-time top Canadian results.

Suttlés was a pioneer whose style was characterized by a profound understanding of closed positions and

great creativity. His play was praised by legendary World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik.

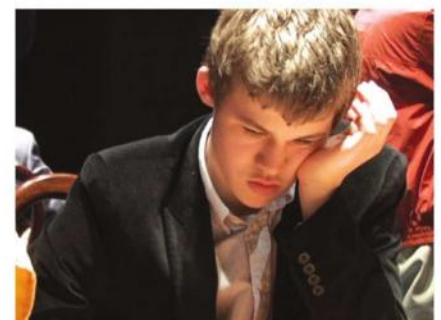
Canada's Chess'n Math Association has just published a three book series on Suttlés' play entitled Chess on the Edge. Coauthor Bruce Harper has kindly contributed an article to Chess Canada in which he shares new discoveries made by running Suttlés' games through Fritz.

Back to the Future

Magnus the magnificent turned in an outstanding performance to tie first with Levon Aronian in this year's edition of the Corus Tournament played in Holland in January. All of the world's top players took part, including Anand, Kramnik, Topalov, Leko and Ivanchuk.

Over the past year, Carlsen has strongly answered critics who questioned how he would fare in closed events with other members of the world's elite.

Heading into the event, Carlsen was rated 2733. His whopping 2824 performance will propel him into the world's top ten rated players. The seventeen year old Norwegian prodigy is widely recognized as being among the strongest players his age, ever, and he has a great shot at becoming the youngest undisputed World Champion in chess history.



Carlsen quickly establishing himself as among the very best

Canadians at World Youth Championships

A large Canadian contingent took part in the annual World Youth Chess Championships played this fall in Antalya, Turkey. In recent years, the World Youth Chess Championships have grown in participation levels and prestige, and this year was no exception. With more than 1400 participants and a few thousand other coaches, parents and contingent members, the WYCC have become a major tourism/media event for host cities.

The Canadian team wound up in the top half of 66% of the sections it competed in, and performed particularly well at the youngest age levels, which bodes very well for Canada's future. Young Janak Awatramani, competing in the boys under eight years of age category, scored an impressive 7.5/10, which was good enough to tie for 7th. Hal Bond has full details in this issue's edition of Scholastic Scene.



Nikita Gusev, Liza Orlova and Arthur Calugar having fun at the World Youth in Turkey.



Zonal champion Igor Zugic put up a good fight against superstar Michael Adams.

Adams Narrowly Defeats Zugic

British superstar Michael Adams narrowly defeated Canada's representative in the World Chess Championship cycle, Igor Zugic, by a 1.5-0.5 score. Playing Black in Game 1, Zugic defended an isolated pawn Tarrasch variation of the French Defence. After some fine opening play, Zugic arrived at a middlegame where only he held winning chances. The game wound up drawn.

In Game 2, Adams was Black in a Nimzo-Indian. After the opening, Zugic held good chances, but subsequent play led to a balanced position. Zugic then made an error allowing winning chances to Adams, who managed to get the full point.

Igor Zugic reports on his experience and provides full analysis of his match games inside this issue of Chess Canada.

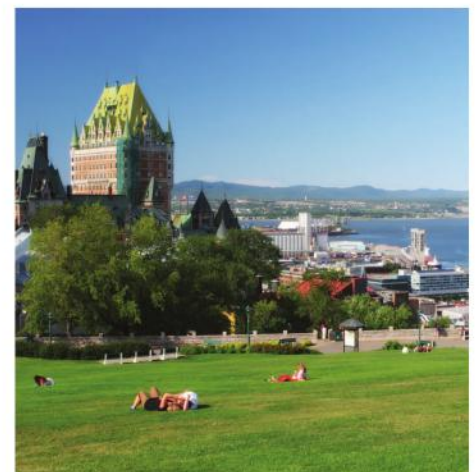
Quebec to Host Canadian Open and Youth

The upcoming summer promises to be busy for chess in Quebec, as the province plays host to both the Canadian Youth Chess Championships and the Canadian Open Chess Championship.

The Canadian Youth Chess Championships will be staged in historic Quebec City from July 14th to 17th. The CYCC will be among many showcase

events in the city this year, as Quebec City celebrates its 400th anniversary!

Not to be outdone, Montreal will host the 2008 Canadian Open Chess Championship from July 19th to 27th. For information on the events, check the ads in this issue and watch for more details in the next Chess Canada.



EDITORIAL



Robert Hamilton

By far the biggest news in the chess world is the recent death of Bobby Fischer. His impact on chess was so profound in terms of popularizing the game, and in spite of not being that active he left behind a remarkable games collection.

Fischer is the centrepiece of this issue of Chess Canada, and I want to thank Kevin Spraggett, Lawrence Day and Jean Hébert for contributing to our coverage of Fischer on short notice.

On the domestic front, Quebec is gearing up for another big summer of chess as they play host to the Canadian Open and the Canadian Youth Chess Championships. The Youth Championships will coincide with Quebec City's 400th anniversary celebrations, which should make a great vacation for those planning to attend.

Our Canadian Youth Team participated in the World Youth Championships in Turkey this fall. A nice trend on the Canadian team is that the very youngest players are turning in excellent results, which are a credit to Canada's strong youth programs and our roster of great youth trainers.

The Chess'n Math Association has just published a new book series on the career of a Canadian legend: Grandmaster Duncan Suttles. They also recently co-published an excellent book on talented International Master Bryon Nickoloff. The books are available at both the Chess Federation and Strategy Games, and are highly recommended to students of Canadian Chess. A special thanks to Larry Bevand and the Chess'n Math Association for continuing to do great things for chess in Canada.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

Yours truly,
Robert Hamilton
hamilton@chess.ca

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New Kid on the Block

by Robert Hamilton

Born in Timmins, Ontario, Raja Panjwani moved to Newfoundland at an early age where he learned to play chess at a very early age from his father, Dilip.

Raja relocated to Ontario and began establishing himself as being among the top players his age in Canada. He became the North American Grade 5 champion and represented Canada in five World Youth Chess Championships. His best result in the World Youth was an impressive 5th place finish in the boys under 16 division.

2006 was a great year for Raja. He finished clear second in the Canadian Junior Championship, scoring 5/6 and a 2452 performance. In Chicago, he proved he could battle with great players by defeating GM Akobian and scoring draws against GMs Smirin and Fishbein. He also picked up his first IM norm.

Raja is a creative and dangerous attacking player who much prefers violent attacks to grinding players down. Like so many talented young players today, he's also a very formidable speed chess maven.

Raja has been kind enough to annotate a couple of his games for us. Have a look, and you'll see why he's been chosen as our New Kid on the Block.



Name: Raja Panjwani

Date of birth: 10 April 1990

Home: Kitchener

Favourite as White: Trompowsky

Favourite as Black: King's Indian

Favourite player: Bobby Fischer, RIP.

Self-description: confused, fluky, yet Artistic

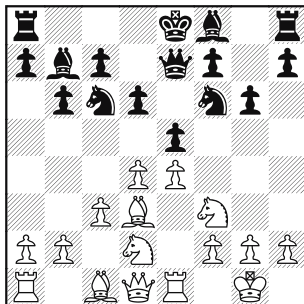
Other activities: basketball, tennis

Uribe Arteaga-Panjwani [B00]

Pan American U14 (3), 2004

This game has special significance to me because of its similarity to the famous Byrne-Fischer (New York, 1963) game, which ends in a similar winning pattern.

1. e4 b6 2. d4 ♖b7 3. ♘d3 ♜f6 4. ♜d2 ♜c6 5. c3 e5 6. ♜gf3 ♚e7 7. O-O g6 8. ♚e1 d6



White to play

All of this was my preparation from when I played this offbeat opening. However, it turns out White is much better after my opponent's continuation

9. ♚a4! ♜d7

Here 9... ♚d7 might be necessary

10. ♘a6 ♘a6

The alternative 10... ♜d8 11. ♘b7 ♜b7 12. ♚c6 O-O-O is ugly, but equal material

11. ♖c6 ♜c8 12. ♖a4 ♟b7 13. ♖a7

I was pretty frustrated that I had such pathetic preparation which led me to a losing position after 13 moves. Having drawn a weaker opponent in the first round, I needed a win in this game, which motivated me to get all the play I could.

13... ♟c6!

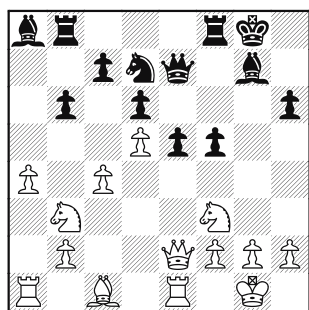
Just to tempt White into playing 14.d5, when I thought I had a chance to attack on the kingside, where White's queen-side majority would not be felt.

14. d5 ♟a8 15. ♖a6 ♜b8 16. ♖e2 ♟g7 17. ♟b3?!

Better is 17. b4.

17... O-O 18. a4 h6 19. c4 f5?!

I figured I could attack normally on the kingside; however, I missed a good move for White.

20. ef5 gf5**21. ♟fd2?**

Missing the chance for 21. ♟fd4 ♟c5 22. ♜a3 ±.

21... ♖h4!

Although I wanted to win this game, I knew my opponent would not want a draw after 21... ♖h4 22. ♟f3 ♖e7 so I used that to my advantage (22... ♖h5 23. ♟fd4 ± forces the exchange of queens).

22. ♖f3? e4 23. ♖e2

I think White wanted to exchange queens with 23. ♖g3 but realized that Black is so active that a trade is actually favourable: 23... ♖g3 24. hg3 ♟e5 =+.

23... ♟e5 24. ♟f1 ♜be8 ±

Black has more than enough compensation for a pawn. Almost all the pieces

have a role in the attack.

25. ♜d1 ♟b7! 26. ♟g3 ♟a6!

The once useless bishop on a8 now has a role. The alternative 26... f4 27. ♖h5 (27. ♟e4 f3 28. ♖f1 fg2 29. ♖g2 ♟f3) 27... ♖h5 28. ♟h5 ♟c4 29. ♟f4 did not seem crushing enough for my taste.

27. ♟d2 ♟g4 28. ♟df1

These kinds of positions frequently arise when one side is on the attack. Black is as active as he is going to get, with all of his pieces positioned on their best squares. The only thing left to do is make the decisive punch. I had three main candidates: ...f4, ...e3, or just maintain the pressure. White will play h3 and possibly ♖h5 if Black does not act quickly, so...

28... e3

Even better was 28... f4. I overestimated 29. h3, which is well met by 29... f3! —+.

29. fe3 f4 30. h3 ♟e3 31. ♟e3

Or 31. ♟e3 ♖g3 —+.

31... fg3 32. ♜ac1 ♜e4 33. b3

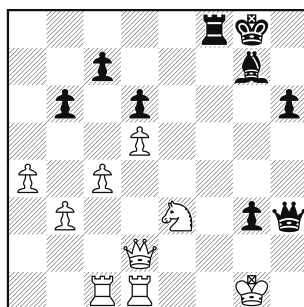
Another one of 'those positions' has occurred, where Black just needs to find a way to convert his activity.

33... ♟c8!!

The bishop has served me well on a6, tying White's pieces to the defence of c4. Now it needs to be transferred to the kingside. I think there is some aesthetic value to the following sequence of moves.

34. ♖d3 ♟h3! 35. gh3 ♖h3 36. ♖d2

Not 36. ♖e4 ♖f1 37. ♖f1 ♖h2.

36... ♜e3! 37. ♟e3

Or 37. ♖e3 ♖f1.

37... ♟d4!!

All of Black's pieces act harmoniously to conduct a mating net.

38. ♜e1 ♖f1

The pattern and coordination of Black's pieces in this position would be similar to the aforementioned Byrne–Fischer game if, instead of resigning, Byrne would have played 22. ♖f2 ♖h3 23. Kg1 ♜e1+! (just like my ♖f1) 24. ♜e1 ♟d4 (corresponds nicely to 37... ♟d4 in this game) —+.

0–1

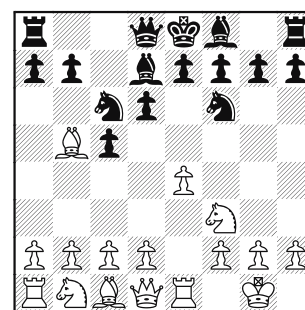
Panjwani-Noritsyn [B51] Canadian Junior (5), 2007

1. e4 c5 2. ♟f3 ♟c6 3. ♟b5

I have played the Rossolimo variation against Noritsyn four times, with two draws and a win each.

3... d6 4. O-O

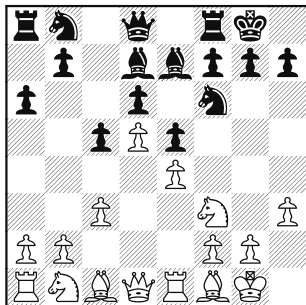
Or 4. ♟c6 bc6 5. O-O. I've had some problems playing this as Black, because Black's pawns can get weak quickly: Stevens–Panjwani continued... 5... e5 (5... ♟g4 is supposed to be fine for Black) 6. c3 ♟g4 7. d4! ± White is too much ahead in development.

4... ♟d7 5. ♜e1 ♟f6**6. h3**

I play this with Black as well, so I knew that Black's plan is: 6. c3 a6 7. ♟f1 (Or 7. ♟c6 ♟c6 8. d4. I tried this interesting pawn sacrifice against Noritsyn in the 2006 Toronto Labour Day Open. The game continued 8... ♟e4 9. ♟g5 ♟c6 10. ♟f6 gf6 11. d5 ♟d7 12. ♟bd2 ♟g7 13. ♖e2 e5 14. e6 fe6 15. ♟e4 O-O [15... ♖c7 16. ♜ad1 d5 17. ♜d5! (Black probably missed this on move 13.) 17... ed5 18. ♟d6 ♟f8 19. ♖e7 ♟g8 20. ♖f7] 16.

♖d6 ♗c7 17. ♜ad1 b5 18. ♗e4 ♖h8, when I missed 19. ♖f7! and 20. ♖3g5, winning.) 7... ♔g4 8. h3 ♔f3 9. ♗f3 g6 10. d3 ♔g7 11. ♔g5 b5 12. a3 ♖d7 and Black was comfortable in Ehlvest–Pan–jwani, Berkeley, 2005.

6... a6 7. ♔f1 e5 8. c3 ♔e7 9. d4 O–O 10. d5 ♖b8



11. ♖e5!?

Most players prefer 11. a4 to try and cramp Black's position instead of exchanging pieces with ♖e5, but I liked the simplicity of the plan I executed.

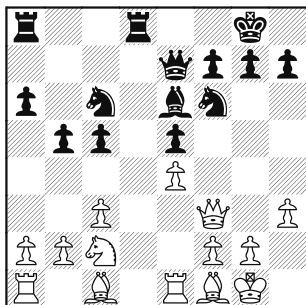
11... de5 12. d6 ♖c6 13. de7 ♗e7

It seems Black has gotten rid of his bad bishop; however, the power of White's bishops will soon become apparent. There are some weak squares in Black's position such as d5, and any pawn advances on the queenside will only serve as targets for White's bishops.

14. ♖a3

Headed for c4.

14... ♔e6 15. ♗f3 ♜fd8 16. ♖c2 b5

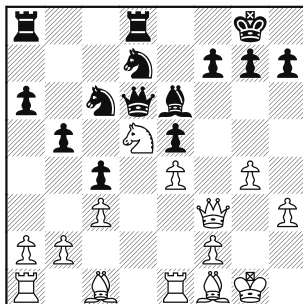


I think White is slightly better in this position because Black has no constructive plan. Expanding on the queenside only seems to weaken more squares.

17. ♖e3 c4

All of a sudden, Black has a theoretically bad bishop.

18. g4 ♖d7 19. ♖d5 ♗d6



This is a critical position. I knew White was slightly better but it took me some time to find a way to make progress from here. I considered 19... ♗d6 20. ♔g5 f6 21. ♔e3 but after 21... ♔d5 22. ed5 ♖e7 23. ♜ad1 ♜ac8 ± White's d5 pawn is weak and the bishops are inferior to the knights.

20. b3!

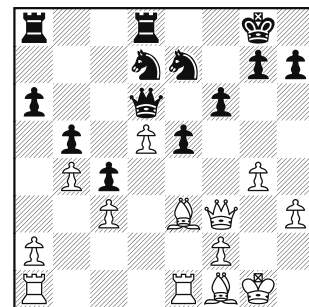
I realized that I had to activate my bishops, and opening the position was the way to do this.

20... ♖a5

Unappealing for Black is 20... cb3 21. ab3 ♖c5 (Or 21... ♔d5 22. ed5 ♖e7 23. c4 ± I saw that after this continuation all my pieces would be active so it had to be good.) 22. ♜d1 ♗b8 23. ♔g5 f6 24. ♔e3 ♖b3 25. ♜a3 ♖ba5 26. ♔b6 +.

I thought Black would have played 20... ♔d5, but after 21. ed5 ♖e7 22. bc4 bc4 23. a4 ♖d5 (23... ♗d5 24. ♗d5 ♖d5 25. ♔g2! and an awkward situation arises for Black, where 25... ♖7b6 runs into 26. a5 and 25... ♖7f6 runs into 26. g5, so Black is forced to play 25... e4 or 25... ♖c5, giving White back the pawn and an advantage) 24. ♔a3 ♗e6 25. ♔c4 ♖7b6 26. ♔b3 White is better because of the active bishops: 26... ♜ac8 27. ♜ad1 a5 28. g5 ±.

21. b4 ♖c6 22. ♔g5 f6 23. ♔e3 ♔d5 24. ed5 ♖e7



25. a4!

The power of the bishops becomes felt. The idea is 25. a4 ♗d5 (25... ♖d5 26. ♜ed1 +) 26. ♔g2! ♗f3 27. ♔f3. Even though White is temporarily down a pawn, the bishops dominate. Black's queenside pawns will fall: 27... ♜ab8 28. ab5 ab5 29. ♜a5 and ♔a7 +.

25... ♖g6 26. ♗f5 ♖h4?

Noritsyn falls for a little trap. Black's position is far from desperate, and after 26... ♜e8 27. ab5 ♖h4 28. ♗e4 ab5 29. g5 fg5 30. ♔g5 ♖g6 White's slight advantage may not be enough against accurate defence by Black.

27. ♗e6 ♗e6 28. de6 ♖f3 29. ♖h1!

I think Black only analyzed 29. ♖g2, but this finesse gives the light bishop an important square.

29... ♖e1 30. ♜e1 + ♜ac8

Or 30... ♖b8 31. ♔g2 +, which would not have been possible if White played 29. ♖g2?. Or 30... ♖f8 31. e7.

31. ed7 ♜d7 32. ♜a1 g6 33. ab5 ab5 34. ♜a5 ♜d1 35. ♖g2 f5 36. gf5 gf5 37. ♜b5 f4 38. ♔e2 ♜e1 39. ♔g4 ♜a8 40. ♔d2 ♜b1 41. ♜e5 ♜aa1 42. ♔f4 ♖f7 43. ♜c5 ♜g1 44. ♖f3 ♜a3 45. ♜c4 ♜a2 46. ♜c7 ♖f6 47. ♜c6 ♖e7 48. ♔g5 ♖e8 49. ♜c7 h5 50. ♔h5 ♖f8 51. ♔h6 ♖g8 52. ♔f7 ♖h8 53. ♜c8 1–0



Bobby Fischer—The Chess World's Enigmatic Genius Dies at Sixty Four

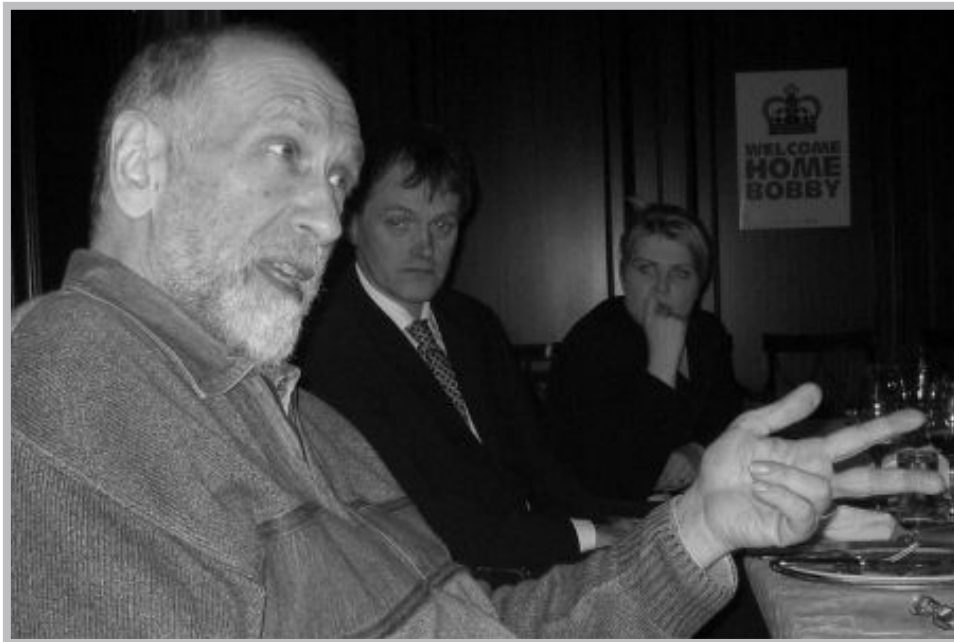
by Robert Hamilton

For those old enough to have vivid memories of Bobby Fischer's career, his passing in Reykjavik, on January 17 is the end of an era. In speaking with several older players after the news, many confessed to being overtaken by an almost inexplicable feeling of emptiness—a feeling they didn't anticipate. Unlike any other champion in recent history, Fischer was the great source of inspiration for chess players around the world and he carried the game to new heights.

Bobby Fischer was born in Chicago in 1943. Dispute exists as to who his real father was, but his mother was Regina Wendar Fischer, a roaming eclectic intellect who was married to Hans-Gerhardt Fischer at the time of Bobby's birth. Regina and Hans Gerhardt divorced in 1945; and Regina and Bobby's older sister Joan were the main influences in his early life.



Eclectic intellect, Regina Fischer



Chess Legend Bobby Fischer passed away in Iceland on January 17th of kidney failure.

photo: www.chessbase.com

Throughout her life, Regina worked as a grade school teacher, nurse and Physician. She had a PhD in hematology, did pro-bono medical work in Central and South America and could speak six languages fluently.

In 1949 Regina moved to Brooklyn. That same year, at six years of age, Bobby Fischer and his eleven year old sister Joan learned to play chess. Bobby's attraction to the game was immediate and for the next year he played chess by himself.

At age seven, Fischer attended a simultaneous given by US Senior Master, Max Pavey. There, he was invited to attend the Brooklyn Chess Club, where he rarely missed a Friday evening meeting. He played in his first official tournament at the Brooklyn Chess Club in 1953 where he tied for 3rd. Later, in describing the early years at the Brooklyn Chess Club, Fischer said that he "just got good". In 1955 he moved on to more fertile terrain, joining the prestigious Manhattan Chess Club. Already showing signs of great talent, Fischer's ascent in the next few years was among the fastest growth

curves in chess history and by July, 1956, at 13 years of age he won the US Junior Championship with a decisive 8.5/10 and became the youngest master in US history.

In the remainder of 1956 and throughout 1957 Fischer continued improving at a torrid pace and by January of



In 1956, Fischer was on a torrid growth curve.

1958, at 14 years of age, he was undefeated in the US Senior Championship, scoring 10.5/13 and achieving an astronomical USCF rating of 2722. From that point forward, with the sole exception of Santa Monica 1966, Bobby Fischer won every US tournament that he participated in. He would go on to easily win the US Championships in '59, '60, '61, '63, '64, '65, and '66. He won the 1964 event with the unimaginable score of 11-0.

Winning the 1958 US Championship meant qualifying for the Interzonal. In August of 1958 he tied 5th in the Portoroz Interzonal and became both the youngest Grandmaster and youngest World Championship Candidate in history. In the eight player Yugoslavia Candidates Tournament, won by Mikhail Tal, Fischer finished tied 5th.

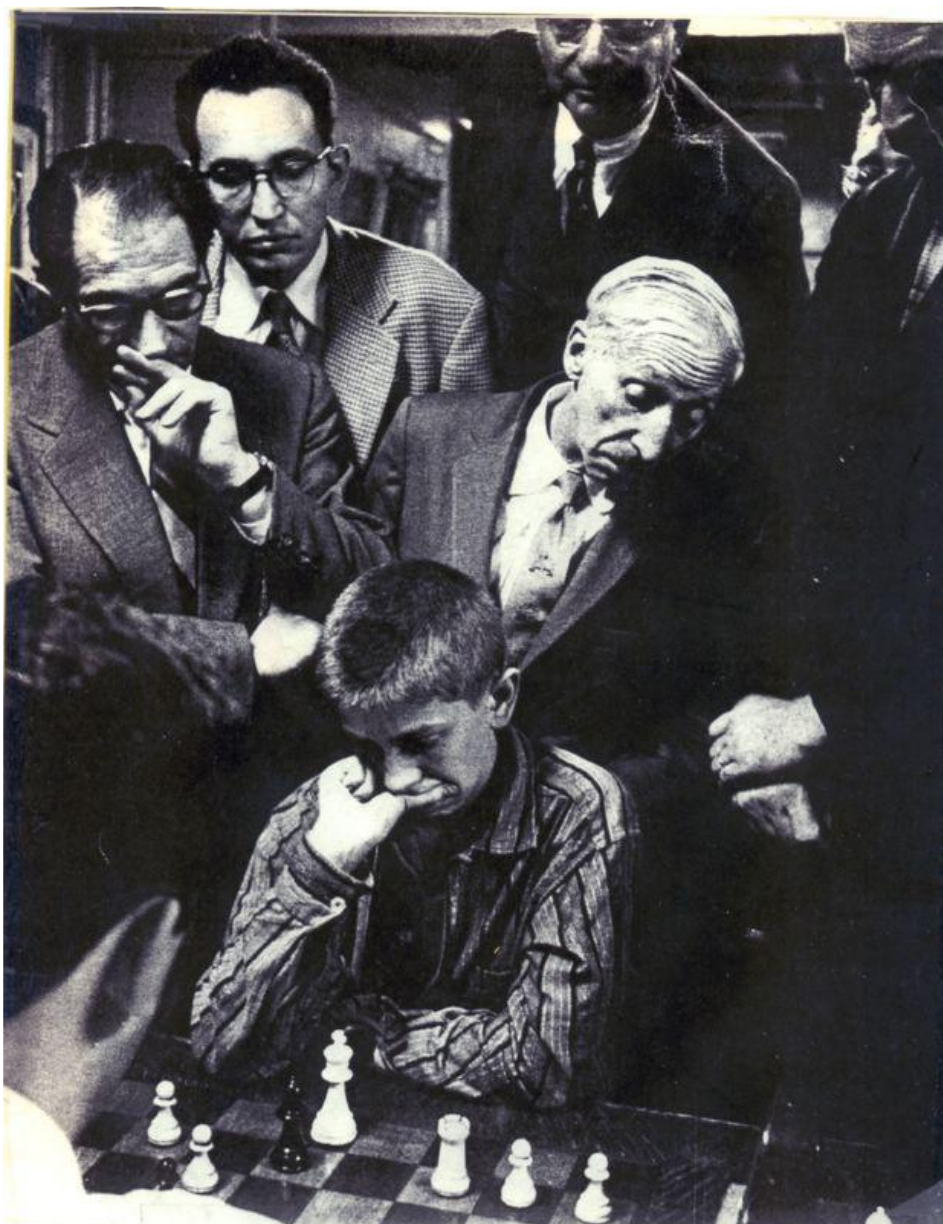
In 1960, at seventeen years of age, Fischer started scoring his first major international results. He tied first with Boris Spassky in Mar del Plata and took first place in Reykjavik. At the end of the year he played Board 1 for US in the Olympiad and scoring an impressive ten wins, six draws and two losses.

In 1961, after racking up another US Championship victory, he agreed to a match with legendary Grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky. The match was tied when it was cancelled over a dispute about round times. Later that year, he finished second in the Alekhine Memorial in Bled, behind Tal.

In May of 1962 he tied fourth in the Candidates Tournament in Curacao, Dutch West Indies. The event was won by Tigran Petrosian. Fischer claimed that the field, dominated by Soviets, conspired to work hard in their games against him and take it easy on their chosen player. In an interview years later, Tal confirmed Fischer's view. Later that year, Fischer had another impressive Olympiad, scoring eight wins, six draws and three losses.

Fischer started 1963 by winning the US Championship and then announcing that he would no longer participate in FIDE events until the Russians no longer were allowed to cheat. Eventually, Fischer's position would result in FIDE establishing Candidates Matches in which collusion was no longer possible.

Fischer was perfect in the US Championship in 1964, but boycotted the World Championship Cycle. That same



A genius in our midst. Fischer attracted huge attention early on at New York City chess clubs.

year FIDE began to publish international ratings. On the first rating list the top two players were Fischer and Petrosian, tied at 2690.

In mid-1965, Fischer returned to international play, tying second in the Capablanca Memorial. Later that year he again won the US Championship, earning a spot in the Interzonal in Sousse, Tunisia.

In 1966, he finished second to Spassky in the Piatigorsky Cup in Santa Monica. He then played Board 1 for US at the Olympiad, and scored fourteen wins, two draws and only one loss.

From 1967 on, Fischer became virtually unbeatable. In April '67, he

took first in Monaco; in August, he won Skopje' and in October he returned to the World Championship Cycle by entering the Sousse Interzonal. In that event he pulled into the lead with seven wins and three draws before withdrawing over a dispute about scheduling.

In 1968, he took first in Nathanya, Israel, and another first in Vinkovci, Yugoslavia. For the next two years he was inactive internationally, but returned in 1970 to beat Petrosian by a score of 3-1 in the USSR vs World match.

He then went to Yugoslavia and won the world five-minute championship, scoring seventeen wins, four draws and

only loss. In that event, he didn't use more than two minutes for any game; and afterwards he called out all of his moves from memory.

In August, he won Buenos Aires before again turning in a fine performance on Board 1 at the Olympiad. In November, Pal Benko surrendered his spot in the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal to Fischer. In that event Fischer scored a whopping 18.5/23 score, losing only once.

In 1971, in Vancouver, Fischer dismantled Soviet Grandmaster Mark Taimanov 6-0 in the first of three Candidates Matches en route to the World Championship match. Next up, Danish Grandmaster Bent Larsen also got crushed 6-0. Fischer earned his crack at champion Boris Spassky by defeating ex-champion Tigran Petrosian, by a decisive 6.5-2.5 score.

It was in 1971 that Fischer's steamroller ride to the summit captured world headlines. The media exploded with stories about the brash young American set to rip the World Championship crown from the Soviets.

There were protracted negotiations between Fischer and FIDE surrounding the terms of his match with champion Spassky, and nobody knew for certain if the match would ever take place. Eventually, Fischer agreed to terms and arrived in Iceland in July of 1972. Fischer and Spassky weren't the only ones that travelled to Iceland that summer. Forty-five hundred journalists also did so. To give a sense of the international exposure, that's about double the number that covered the Calgary Olympics.



Fischer in 1972



Bobby Fischer speaking with Fidel Castro at the Havana Chess Olympiad, 1966.



Vancouver, 1971, at the start of the Fischer-Taimanov Candidates Match. Fischer is confident. So too is Mark Taimanov, who perhaps did not expect to be scalped six times in a row.

After a forfeit in game two and plenty of uncertainty about whether the match would be completed, Fischer agreed to play on and won convincingly by a score of 12.5-8.5.

Beyond the World Championship Match, the chess world was eager for Fischer to continue playing and carry the chess torch further. But he became more reclusive and difficult in negotiations, and in 1975 he forfeited the crown to Anatoly Karpov.

In the years that followed, there were many attempts to pull Fischer out of retirement, but each time a positive development seemed to be in the works it fell apart. Increasingly, Fischer became an invisible legend.

Finally, in 1992, it was announced the Fischer would play again. In spite of the earlier failed attempts, this time it appeared more real. The offer from Yugoslavia for Fischer to play was made without knowing who his opponent

would be. Speculation was rampant as to who Fischer would face and whether or not this return match would serve as the prelude to an avidly anticipated Fischer vs Kasparov battle.

Eventually it was decided that a rematch with Spassky was somehow appropriate. After all, 1992 marked the twentieth anniversary of their first match, and Spassky would be a comfortable opponent for Fischer in his comeback, both as an opponent and as a friend who had maintained congenial relations over the years.

The chess world was elated as the return match appeared more and more likely. Perhaps more than any other player, Garry Kasparov had a keen interest in how well his childhood hero would play. I was travelling by train with Kasparov from Toronto to Ottawa about two weeks prior to that match, when we started to speculate as to how strong Fischer might still be. Kasparov was extremely curious as to whether the returning Fischer would be a formidable opponent, or merely a relic of the past.

When the match finally began, Fischer turned in a brilliant performance in Game 1 that had chess fans everywhere thinking he may just be back. My personal opinion of that match is that when Fischer was good, he was extremely good, but his play suffered from rust and lacked the consistency to compete at the very top. In the end, Fischer emerged victorious, scoring a 17.5/12.5 victory.

Fischer's last game with



Bobby Fischer at his victory parade in New York City after defeating Spassky in '72.

Spassky was his last high profile game of chess. When asked to compare his own strength to that of Bobby Fischer, Garry Kasparov said that as measured by his dominance of his peers, Fischer had to be considered greater, although Kasparov's career results provide plenty of fuel for the pro-Kasparov camp. Spassky had great admiration for Fischer and told me that the one characteristic he admired most in Fischer's play was that he "played in a straight line." But Spassky didn't consider Fischer the best ever. He reserved that praise for Capablanca.

The '92 match was Fischer's

first extended exposure to media since his 1972 match, and Fischer used the platform to condemn America and to promote his unpopular world views. I'll never forget watching the videos of the press conferences with Spassky at his home in Paris and thinking how deft Boris had to be each time Fischer would say "right, Boris" after making one charged remark after another. The balancing act between satisfying Bobby and avoiding self incrimination was indeed precipitous.

In playing against Spassky in '92 Fischer was violating a US Executive Order prohibiting transactions with Yugoslavia. France had no sanctions, so Spassky was free to play. An order for Fischer to be arrested for violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act would turn Fischer into an international refugee. It's well known that his life entered a period of great unhappiness as a result.

Fischer was arrested in Japan in July of 2004 and told that he was going to be deported to the United States to face the music. Fischer fought the deportation for months and sent a letter to the Icelandic government asking for help. The Icelanders said that they "never forget who their friends are" and issued him a passport. He was released in March, 2005 and re-located to Iceland. On January 17 he died of kidney failure, and the world lost one of its greatest players of all time.



A Pensive Bobby Fischer in Sveti-Stefan During his 1992 Rematch with Boris Spassky

It's hard for young players to imagine the impact Fischer had on chess. But for older players, he has a very special meaning. Three Canadian legends, Lawrence Day, Kevin Spraggett and Jean Hébert have been kind enough to share their feelings about Bobby Fischer and the impact he had on them as young chess players with readers of Chess Canada. Here's what they had to say.

IM Lawrence Day:

I almost met Bobby Fischer in 1963. I was intending to play in the New York State Open at Poughkeepsie, but after budgeting my money the day before I realized I could play two Opens in Toronto for the same costs since I had relatives to stay with. Fischer was a surprise entry at that NY Open. Licking his wounds from placing 4th in the Curacao Candidates, Fischer had rejuvenated his understanding by going back to the classical era and studying the old masters. Boris Spassky had used this same curative after his traumatic failure in the 1957 Soviet Zonal.

So in 1963 Fischer was playing King's Gambits (3. ♔c4!? vs Evans) and at Poughkeepsie innovating on an old Steinitz idea (♔h3!?) against Chigorin's Two Knights counter-gambit. This was his decisive victory against Art Bisguier. So the first thing I learned from Fischer was not to neglect developing an understanding of what Richard Reti had dismissively termed 'romantic chess.' I was a 14-year old Ottawa A-player. As an expert in 1966, I found Fischer's games with 1. e4 e6 2. d3 d5 3. ♔d2 and 1. e4 c5 2. ♔f3 e6 3. d3 were very educational. Using the line let me win against other Experts like Montreal's Jack Ger-sho or Toronto's Alvis Zuntacks. Fischer's excellent innovation (a3) against Miagmarsuren at Sousse, 1967 broke the willingness of Black players to try the variation. The logic of d2-d3 against e7-e6 was that Black would be better off with ...e5, as in an ordinary KID; White was effectively two tempi up and so must be doing fine.

Another 'common sense' idea of Fischer's was that Black should aim for a complex, unclear struggle where er-

rors were likely to occur, while White should be happy with a slight initiative in a simple, straightforward position. Thus the Poison Pawn makes sense for Black and the Exchange Ruy makes sense for White. I certainly absorbed that.

As a master, of course I benefited from Fischer's disputes over conditions with organizers. At Lugano, 1968, where I had my only conversation with him on the day before the tournament, Fischer's demands were somewhat extravagant. The organizers met some of them, e.g. lighting, which was made good for all the players. Fischer helped us, but he himself dropped out before it started and was replaced by team captain Donald Byrne.

Another Fischer lesson was how he handled the clock. As I recall, the longest he spent on one move was 17 minutes. Generally he liked to get 15 minutes ahead on the clock and then match his opponent's thinking time. This subtle stuff about managing the clock I did not understand until the late 1970s; grasping it, I then started to be successful in the big Swisses.

The high point of Fischer's life was winning the championship in 1972. The low point came in May of 1981 when, despite complete innocence, he was tortured by the Pasadena police. His report is available online at <http://www.anusha.com/pasadena.htm>. Perhaps that was Fischer's biggest lesson for America: the state torturing innocent people would lead them into an intense and obsessive anti-Americanism.

GM Kevin Spraggett:

I had never heard of Bobby Fischer until around the time I had already joined my high school chess club in the late 60's. At that time, Fischer was unofficially 'retired' from active chess. I remember that one of the weekly chess columns in Montreal's leading English language newspaper was entirely dedicated to pointing out similarities between the tragically short, but brilliant career of Paul Morphy and that of Fischer. I recall feeling a bit sad at the time, even though I did not know anything about

him nor even seen a photo of him! But I could sense from the column that Fischer must have already reached myth-like status among chess players. A living legend, and still only in his 20s.

When I started playing in regular Montreal chess tournaments a year or so later, I was deeply impressed by all of the 'Fischer-talk' that the adult chess players engaged in between rounds. I mean, everyone was talking about 'Bobby' (as he was affectionately called), to the exclusion, it seemed, of everything else. To this day I have never seen any type of hero worship that comes even close!

Everyone wanted to see Fischer come out of retirement and beat the Soviets at their national game. Then just like a Hollywood film in slow motion, Fischer came out of retirement in the spring of 1970 and started to win everything he played in. He was unstoppable! He crushed everyone. Fischer scaled the Mount Olympus of chess in record time and won the world title in 1972. It was remarkable to witness how the entire world stood in awe of his achievements. It seemed to me that this is what was meant by 'destiny'...then, just as quickly, Fischer disappeared for the next 20 years!

There never was a player like Bobby Fischer before he came along, there has been no one like him since, and I bet that there never will be anyone like him in the future. My favourite Fischer game? All of them from his comeback in 1970!

IM Jean Hébert:

I will always have the events of July 1972 among my fondest chess memories. I already had been a "chess player" for some years before Fischer finally sat to play Spassky in Reykjavik. Then 14 years old, I was spending that summer at the "Club d'échecs Serge Lacroix" playing blitz and discussing chess with friends. The club happened to be near the offices of "Le Soleil," the largest daily newspaper in Quebec City. Just about every game day during that match, someone would drop into the "Le

Soleil" office and come back with a copy of the latest news dispatch with the moves of the game. What a treat this was! But few of us realized that this would be just about the last time we could enjoy the chess genius of this most remarkable man.

A few months later, the effects of Fischer's brilliant victory and all the media attention fully appeared in all its almost frightful splendour. Surely the Quebec Open held in Montreal expected well over 100 players, which was a figure reached and slightly surpassed in the preceding year, but more than 700 "players" actually showed up! How the organization managed to find sufficient tables, sets and boards, I don't know. But I know that many games had to be played without clocks. That hardly mattered: most participants were totally new to chess tournaments!

At that time I did replay Fischer's games and enjoyed them along with those of Botvinnik, Spassky and others; but I was not a good student of the game, and did it only in a very casual, lazy way. I did not pick up his openings nor his unequalled end-game mastery; and, unlike many Soviet GMs, I did not try to memorize his games. But I sure wish now that I had had a teacher who would have pushed me to such serious studies! How much better I may have been capable of becoming I will never know. It was only much later, when I gradually became more of a chess teacher and coach, that I started to fully appreciate Fischer's creations of genius.

Favourite game: Byrne-Fischer, US Championship 1963. How can you not love a 21-move game where GM commentators pronounce Fischer dead in the final position only to learn that his opponent just resigned!

Robert Byrne-Robert Fischer [D70]

US Championship (3), 1963

[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

Neo-Gruenfeld Defence. Jean Hebert selected this dazzling brilliancy.

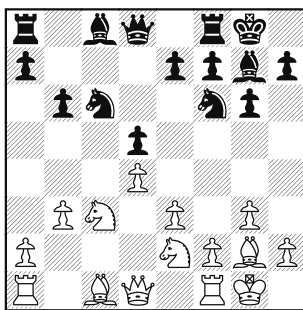
1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 c6

Fischer chooses a modest, but solid continuation.

4. ♙g2 d5 5. cd5 cd5 6. ♘c3 ♙g7 7. e3

More common today is 7. ♘f3, played with the idea of keeping alive the possibility of developing the c1-bishop along the c1-h6 diagonal.

7... O-O 8. ♘ge2 ♘c6 9. O-O b6 10. b3



"It's hard for either side to introduce an imbalance into this essentially symmetrical variation. Deadeye equality also ensues after 10. ♘f4 e6 11. b3 ♙a6 12. ♙e1 ♙c8 13. ♙a3 ♙e8 14. ♙c1, Stahlberg-Flohr, Kemer 1937." (Fischer)

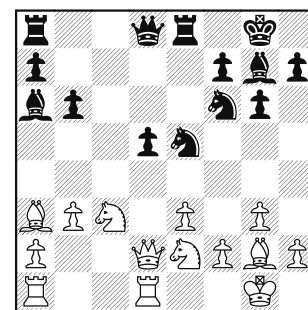
10... ♙a6 11. ♙a3

According to K. F. Kirby, "To turn this into a mating position in eleven more moves is more witchcraft than chess!"

11... ♙e8 12. ♙d2 e5

"I was a bit worried about weakening my queen pawn, but felt that the tremendous activity obtained by my minor pieces would permit White no time to exploit it; 12... e6 would probably lead to a draw." (Fischer)

13. de5 ♘e5 14. ♙fd1?



"Add another to those melancholy case histories entitled: The Wrong Rook." (Fischer). Even after the correct 14. ♙ad1, Black has fine compensation for the isolated pawn.

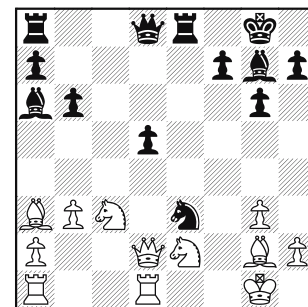
14... ♘d3! 15. ♙c2

"There is hardly any other defence to the threat of 15... ♘e4." (Fischer)

15... ♘f2!

"The key to Black's previous play. The complete justification for this sac does not become apparent until White resigns." (Fischer)

16. ♘f2 ♘g4 17. ♘g1 ♘e3 18. ♙d2



"I sat pondering why Fischer would choose such a line, because it was so obviously lost for Black." (Byrne)

18... ♘g2!

"This dazzling move came as the shocker. The culminating combination is of such depth that at the very moment at which I resigned, both Grandmasters who were commenting on the play for the spectators believed I had a won game."

19. ♘g2 d4 20. ♘d4 ♙b7

"The King is at Black's mercy." (Fischer)

21. ♘f1 ♙d7 0-1

Fischer-Myagmarsuren [A08]**Sousse Interzonal, 1967***[Notes by Robert Hamilton]*

King's Indian Attack. IM Lawrence Day chose the following attacking brilliancy as his favourite Fischer game. It was an opening that Lawrence used to play with some frequency.

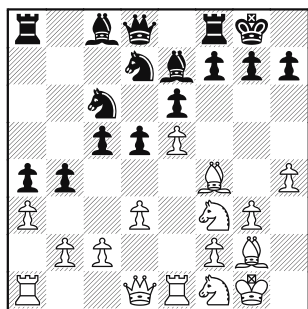
1. e4 e6 2. d3

Considered modest by theory, but Fischer always sought fighting games, and the main branches of theory at that time were fairly complex after 2. d3.

2... d5 3. ♖d2 ♖f6 4. g3 c5 5. ♗g2 ♖c6 6. ♖gf3 ♗e7 7. O-O O-O 8. e5 ♖d7 9. ♗e1 b5

White intends to attack the black king-side, so Black seeks rapid counterplay on the queenside. The game follows known theory of the time until move 13.

10. ♖f1 b4 11. h4 a5 12. ♗f4 a4 13. a3!



A novelty at the time. White prevents Black from securing strong counterplay on the dark squares with 13... a3

13... ba3 14. ba3 ♖a5?!

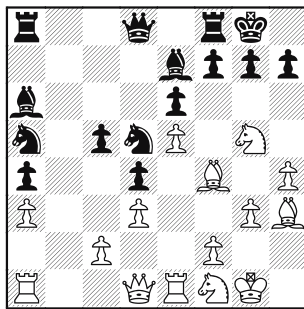
This is time consuming. A logical alternative is 14... ♗a6, which speeds up development.

15. ♖e3 ♗a6 16. ♗h3

Fischer was notorious for always finding ways to play for wins and put pressure on his opponents. This position is extremely complicated; 16. ♗h3 rules out ...f6 as a defensive resource in some lines and makes Black have to calculate various sacrifices on e6 or f7 in other lines after ♖g5. Clearly Fischer didn't fear ...d4, and felt that, on balance, having the e4 square as an outpost would help his cause.

16... d4

Accepting the challenge.

17. ♖f1 ♖b6 18. ♖g5 ♖d5

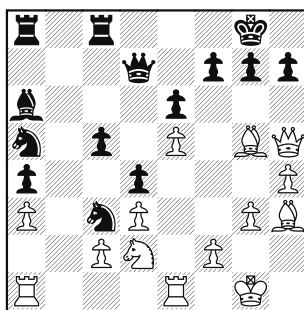
A hidden point of 16. ♗h3 becomes evident after 18... c4 19. ♗h5, when Black must either make the concession of parting with his dark bishop or else wade through the ramifications of 19... h6 20. ♖f7!? ♗f7 21. ♗e6 ♗f8 22. ♗g6.

19. ♗d2

Safety first.

19... ♗g5 20. ♗g5 ♗d7

Slightly imprecise, but the position remains far from clear. Keeping the e-pawn under attack assists defence in some lines...particularly ones in which returning the knight from a5-c6 forms part of the defensive plan.

21. ♗h5 ♗fc8 22. ♖d2 ♖c3

Played to keep the white knight from going to e4, but Fischer has a surprise in store.

23. ♗f6!

Now Black's on the run.

23... ♗e8

Not 23... gxf6 24. ef6 ♖h8 25. ♖f3! ♖d5 26. ♗h6! ♗g8 27. ♖e5!, when Black has no adequate defence against the idea of ♗g2-e4. ; The voluntary 23... ♖h8 is simply met by 24. ♖f3!, which forces a transposition to the above line.

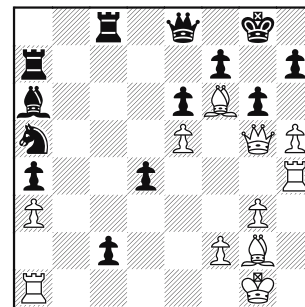
24. ♖e4!

Black can't capture this knight or it's lights out after the rook enters.

24... g6

It's hard to be critical of such a move in a difficult position. Black was probably hoping to survive the worse ending after 25. ♗h6 ♗f8 26. ♗f8.

25. ♗g5! ♖e4 26. ♗e4 c4 27. h5 cd3 28. ♗h4 ♗a7 29. ♗g2 dc2

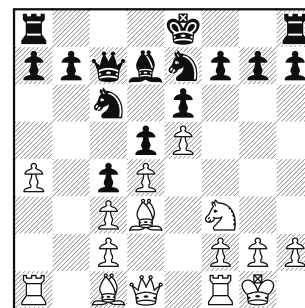


Just when the passed pawns are looking dangerous, Fischer uncorks his final surprise.

30. ♗h6 ♗f8 31. ♗h7 1-0**Fischer-Larsen [C19]****Denver Candidates Match (1), 1971***[Notes by Robert Hamilton]*

French Defence. In the 1971 Candidates Matches, Bobby Fischer racked up some unbelievable scores. He first beat Mark Taimanov by a 6-0 score, and then did the same to Bent Larsen.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♗b4 4. e5 ♖e7 5. a3 ♗c3 6. bc3 c5 7. a4 ♖bc6 8. ♖f3 ♗d7 9. ♗d3 ♗c7 10. O-O c4



Although Black's position appears relatively solid at the moment, White has the two bishops, and Black will be forced to open the lines with ...f6 on account of

the threatened ♔a3–d6.

11. ♖e2 f6 12. ♖e1

The alternative 12. ♖f4 is fine for Black after 12... O–O 13. e6 ♖f4 14. fe7 ♖f7.

12... ♖g6 13. ♖a3

This is by far White's most active plan.

13... fe5 14. de5 ♖ce5 15. ♖e5 ♖e5 16. ♖d4 ♖g6

Optically, Black's position already looks difficult...but Larsen always enjoyed imbalanced positions.

17. ♖h5

White refrains from capturing on g7 immediately, which would allow Black to castle queenside.

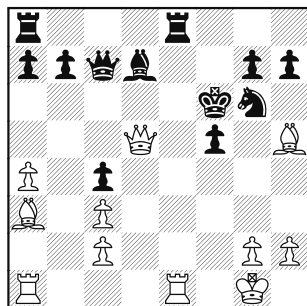
17... ♖f7!?

A strange looking move. Black would find himself in trouble after 17... O–O–O 18. ♖a7 b6 19. ♖a8 ♖b8 20. ♖b8 ♖b8 21. a5, opening the lines against the black king.

18. f4 ♖he8 19. f5

The most direct attempt to seize the advantage.

19... ef5 20. ♖d5 ♖f6



Black's position is provocative and ridiculous looking.

21. ♖f3

Indeed, White appears to have a forced win with 21. ♖d6!, but the variations are very tricky to work out over the board. Here are a couple of lines:

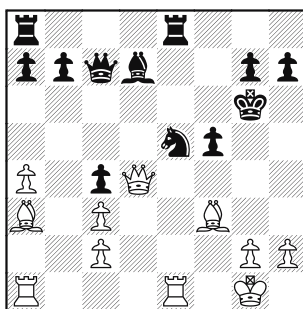
(a) 21... ♖b6 22. ♖c5 ♖c6 (or 22... ♖c7 23. h4!, winning on the spot, since the king is now deprived of the flight square on g5, and the threat of Bd4 cannot be met) 23. ♖d4 ♖g5 24. ♖f3 ♖c7 25. ♖e7;

(b) 21... ♖c6 22. ♖d4 ♖g5 23. ♖f3 ♖c7 24. ♖e7 again.

Clearly, Fischer knew that in this game

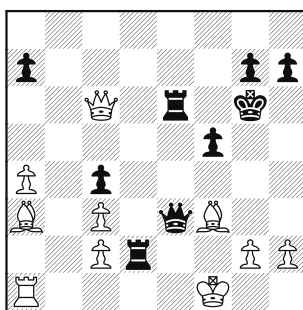
he missed something faster than what was played in the game. Often, knowing this type of thing can deter a player from playing their best...but Fischer never seemed affected by such in-game occurrences. Also, sometimes in very complicated positions you see one sequence that you believe is both forced and good for you and you play it as a pragmatic decision to avoid falling behind on the clock.

21... ♖e5 22. ♖d4 ♖g6



Larsen is daring Fischer to accept the two pieces for the rook, which Fischer does. The only way that Fischer could do so was to make an accurate assessment of the position many moves ahead.

23. ♖e5! ♖e5 24. ♖d7 ♖ad8 25. ♖b7 ♖e3 26. ♖f1 ♖d2 27. ♖c6 ♖e6

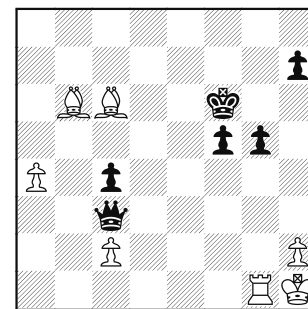


This is the position Fischer had to consider fine for White in order to accept the two pieces. His judgement was, as usual, correct.

28. ♖c5 ♖f2 29. ♖g1 ♖g2 30. ♖g2 ♖d2 31. ♖h1 ♖c6 32. ♖c6 ♖c3

Fischer also had to not mind this position when he took the two pieces, since all moves were forced since. With the rook, two bishops and passed a-pawn. Black's position may well be lost.

33. ♖g1 ♖f6 34. ♖a7 g5 35. ♖b6



Preparing to march home.

35... ♖c2 36. a5 ♖b2 37. ♖d8 ♖e6 38. a6 ♖a3

Here 38... ♖d4 would have offered more resistance...but it's still lost after 39. ♖g5.

39. ♖b7 ♖c5 40. ♖b1 c3 41. ♖b6 1–0

Because Bobby Fischer produced so many miniatures, he is considered by some chess fans to have been primarily a brilliant tactician. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you had to pick an opponent against whom Fischer proved he was a brilliant positional player, Tigran Petrosian would be a great choice. Having a look at the following game they played, you'll see that it was Fischer who was the master of small advantages and endgames.

Petrosian-Fischer [D40] Buenos Aires Candidates Match (8), 1971

[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

Queen's Gambit Semi-Tarrasch

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♖f3 d5 4. ♖c3 c5 5. e3

Petrosian dodges the more common and sharper alternative 5. cd5.

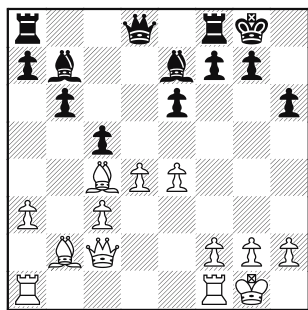
5... ♖c6 6. a3 ♖e4

A less trodden path than 6... a6 or 6... cd4.

7. ♖c2 ♖c3 8. bc3 ♖e7 9. ♖b2 O–O 10. ♖d3 h6 11. O–O ♖a5

The position has the characteristics of a Nimzo-Indian, though Black has retained the dark squared bishop.

12. ♖d2 dc4 13. ♖c4 ♖c4 14. ♖c4 b6 15. e4 ♖b7



Although White has a space advantage, Black has achieved comfortable equality.

16. ♖e2 ♜c8 17. ♙b3

White has to stay aware of Black capturing on d4 and then e4. A slightly more energetic way for White to play would be 17. ♖ac1 preventing Black's next move.

17... b5!

Gaining valuable space on the queenside.

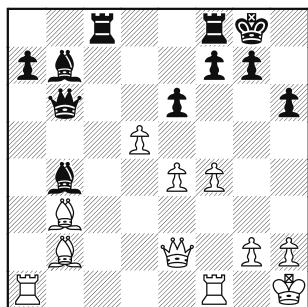
18. f4

A risky move that allows Black plenty of counterplay against White's central pawns.

18... ♖b6 19. ♗h1 cd4 20. cd4 b4 21. ab4 ♙b4

White has a space advantage but Black has counterplay against weak squares and White's extended pawns. In such positions White has an obligation for come up with something to justify having advanced the pawns so far before material is reduced and the pawns become targets. Black has the strong threat of ...♙c3 to take the wind out of White's attacking chances.

22. d5



No better was 22. ♖f3, when 22... ♙c3! is played anyway.

22... ♙c3 23. ♙c3 ♜c3 24. ♙c2

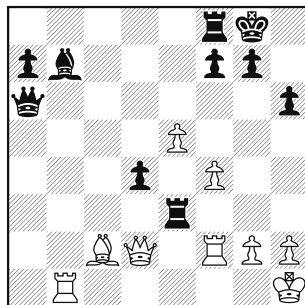
Stronger may have been 24. ♙a2. Undoubtedly Petrosian didn't like to have to consider the ramifications of both ...♙a6

and ...♙e3, however.

24... ed5

It's a rare day indeed that Petrosian has his centre destroyed so easily.

25. e5 ♜e3 26. ♖d2 d4 27. ♜ab1 ♖a6 28. ♜f2

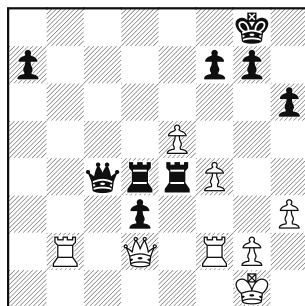


Capturing the pawn on d4 was very risky on account of either 28... ♙g2 or 28... ♖e2, both of which are strong.

28... ♜d8

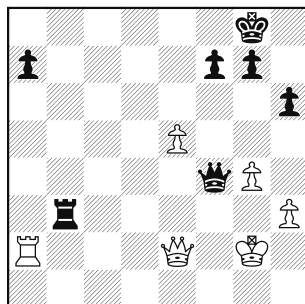
Now Black is simply up a pawn with a better position, and Fischer makes short work of him.

29. ♗g1 ♙e4 30. ♙e4 ♜e4 31. h3 d3 32. ♜b3 ♖c4 33. ♜b2 ♜dd4



Not a pretty picture.

34. g3 ♜d5 35. ♗h2 ♜b5 36. ♜a2 ♜b1 37. g4 ♜e2 38. ♜e2 de2 39. ♖e2 ♖f4 40. ♗g2 ♜b3



In 1992, Fischer came out of retirement to play his old rival Boris Spassky. Before play began, there was a great deal of anticipation in terms of whether Fischer could actually play well anymore. He took no time at all proving that he could still produce brilliant games. Here is Game 1 of the match.

Fischer-Spassky [C95] 20th anniversary match, Sveti- Stefan (1), 1992

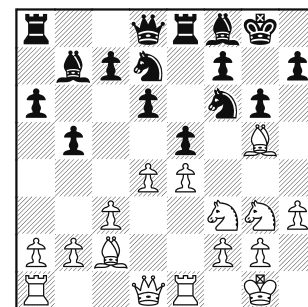
[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

Ruy Lopez, Breyer

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♙b5 a6 4. ♙a4 ♘f6 5. O-O ♙e7 6. ♜e1 b5 7. ♙b3 O-O 8. c3 d6 9. h3 ♘b8

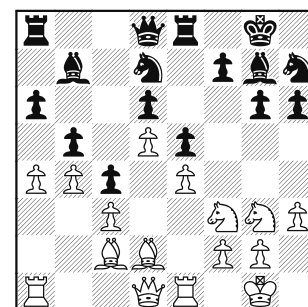
Spassky chooses the Breyer Variation, a lifelong favourite of his.

10. d4 ♘bd7 11. ♘bd2 ♙b7 12. ♙c2 ♜e8 13. ♘f1 ♙f8 14. ♘g3 g6 15. ♙g5



The most popular move is 15. a4. Fischer chooses a much less popular continuation.

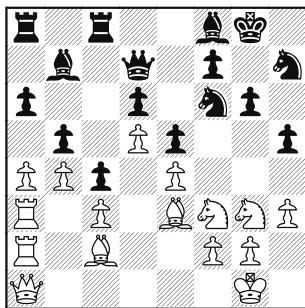
15... h6 16. ♙d2 ♙g7 17. a4 c5 18. d5 c4 19. b4 ♘h7



The alternative, 19... cb3, has the drawback of leaving Black with a weak pawn on the queenside. Now...Fischer embarks on a wonderful strategy based on dominating the a-file while keeping the re-

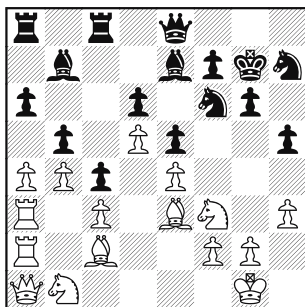
mainder of the position under control.

20. ♖e3 h5 21. ♔d2 ♜f8 22. ♝a3
 ♜df6 23. ♝ea1 ♔d7 24. ♝1a2
 ♜fc8 25. ♔c1 ♙f8 26. ♔a1



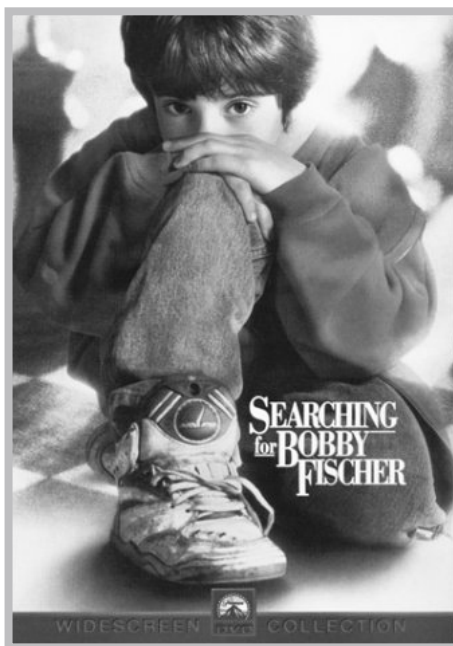
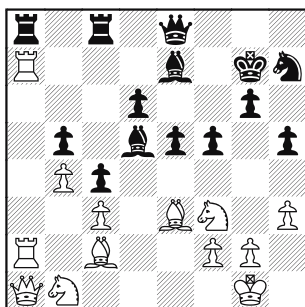
Fischer has completed his build up of the heavy pieces along the a-file. The entry point will eventually be a7. Before swapping pawns and stepping in, Fischer decides to move his knight to b1 so that it is ready to go to a3 and attack the weak b-pawn...a remarkable plan. Meanwhile, Black has no good breaks on the king-side.

26... ♔e8 27. ♜f1 ♙e7 28. ♜1d2
 ♜g7 29. ♜b1



White now threatens to exchange material on a8 followed by ♜a3, when Black's queenside is critically weak. Spassky embarks on desperate measures.

29... ♜e4 30. ♙e4 f5 31. ♙c2 ♙d5
 32. ab5 ab5 33. ♝a7



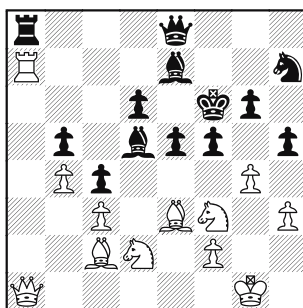
The 1993 movie *Searching For Bobby Fischer* was a commercial success but didn't really have much to do with Bobby Fischer. The movie was based on the book by Fred Waitzken, father of talented US Junior Josh Waitzken. Variety has just reported that producer Kevin MacDonald is planning a new Fischer movie entitled *Bobby Fischer Goes to War*, which is to focus on his championship match with Spassky.

In the ending, Black's two pawns may be just enough to hold, so Fischer keeps the middlegame pressure alive.

33... ♜f6

Very adventurous. It's hard to suggest a constructive plan for Black.

34. ♜bd2 ♝a7 35. ♝a7 ♝a8 36. g4!

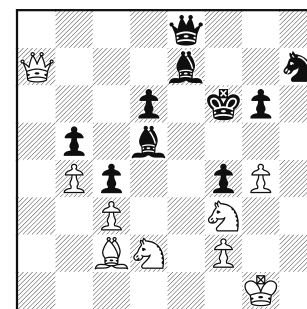


A very Fischer-like move, aimed at weakening Black's pawn structure and exposing his king.

36... hg4 37. hg4 ♝a7 38. ♔a7 f4

Had Spassky tried 38... ♔a8 to head for the ending, undoubtedly Fischer would have hit him with 39. ♜g5!, winning.

39. ♙f4 ef4



Here, the natural 40. ♔d4 also does the trick, but Fischer gets flashy.

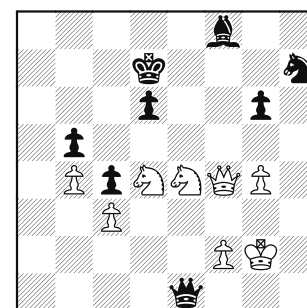
40. ♜h4 ♙f7

Black could have suffered longer with 40... ♜f8 41. ♔d4 ♜e6 42. ♜g6 ♜g6 43. ♙f5, when it remains unpleasant.

41. ♔d4 ♜e6 42. ♜f5!

Fischer had to be feeling pretty good about his comeback right about now.

42... ♙f8 43. ♔f4 ♜d7 44. ♜d4
 ♔e1 45. ♜g2 ♙d5 46. ♙e4 ♙e4
 47. ♜e4



It's over.

47... ♙e7 48. ♜b5 ♜f8 49. ♜bd6
 ♜e6 50. ♔e5 1-0



In the Arena

by IM Jean Hébert

Kamsky is King in Khanty-Mansiysk

An important step in the World Championship cycle, the World Cup took place from November 24 to December 18 in the Russian city of Khanty-Mansiysk, located about 1400 miles (2250 km) east of Moscow, just north of Kazakhstan. This knock-out event of 126 participants (two more players could not make it) originally had the purpose to determine the next challenger to the world championship crown, but along the way FIDE felt obliged to find a spot for its former champion Topalov. As a result the winner of this World Cup will meet Topalov in a match for the right to challenge the winner of the forthcoming Anand-Kramnik match. A somewhat artificial setup that however promises lots of interesting chess in 2008!

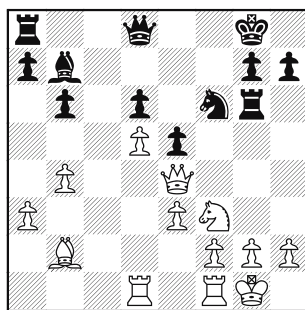
Compared to the old system of zonals and interzonals followed by candidate matches, this World Cup more or less replaces the interzonals. It is the crucial stage where just about every high-rated player along with zonal winners (like our own Igor Zugic) gets their (theoretical) chance to move further up the ladder to become World Champion.

The sheer size of the competition makes it better suited for Internet coverage than paper coverage like this magazine. But even so, the amount of top level chess is hard to cope with. The first day of the first round pairings produced 63 games, almost as much as the total output of a twelve player round robin! Overall, 370 games were played at various time controls. Except for the final, which was a four-game match, each round consisted of two regular games, followed by rapid and blitz tie-breaking games when necessary. With almost all the top players in the

world (40 of them rated above 2650) there was of course lots of excellent chess. Despite the shortness of the matches, there were relatively few big upsets. One of them was Ivanchuk's early departure in round three at the hands of Romanian GM L.D. Nisipeanu, rated at 2663, over 120 points less than Ivanchuk. The Ukrainian GM's fate was brutally decided in this blitz game:

Ivanchuk-Nisipeanu [E14] World Cup (3.5), 2007

1. d4 ♖f6 2. ♖f3 e6 3. c4 ♘b4 4. ♖bd2 b6 5. a3 ♘d2 6. ♗d2 ♘b7 7. e3 O-O 8. ♘e2 d6 9. O-O ♖bd7 10. b4 ♖e4 11. ♗c2 f5 12. ♘b2 ♗f6 13. d5 ♗g6 14. ♗ad1 e5 15. ♘d3 c6! 16. ♘e4 fe4 17. ♗e4 cd5 18. cd5 ♖f6



19. ♗c4?!

Tactically correct was 19. ♗b1! since either 19... ♗d7 (or 19... ♘d5? 20. ♗d5!) 20. ♘e5! is well met.

19... ♗c8 20. ♗b3 ♗d7!

With the threat ...♗g2!

21. ♖e1?

A blunder in a difficult situation. Nonetheless, there was still an adequate resource in 21. ♘e5! de5 22. ♖e5 ♘d5 23. ♖g6 hg6 ~ and White's chances are no worse.

21... ♘a6 22. f3 ♘c4! 0-1



After a great year, no luck for Ivanchuk in Siberia
photo: www.chessbase.com

Vassily Ivanchuk

Pedro Aderito (ANG)	2352	2/2
Alexander Galkin (RUS)	2608	2.5/4
Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu (ROU)	2688	2.5/6

Experience vs Youth

It is in the nature of a knockout event to see some "favourites" eliminated. However we can safely say that no "outsiders" made it to the final four, which offered classical pairings of youth vs experience. Former world championship Gata Kamsky (33) met Magnus Carlsen (17), widely considered the planet's brightest hope; while Alexei Shirov (35), the man who inflicted a severe match defeat to no less than Vladimir Kramnik and should have played a world championship match vs Kasparov, had to deal with another wunderkind, Sergey Karjakin (17), who was at age 12 the world's youngest player to become a GM (he is 10 months older than Carlsen). In both cases experienced prevailed. Let's look at some of the key moments.

Magnus Carlsen

Zong-Yuan Zhao (AUS)	2491	2/2
Arkadij Naiditsch (GER)	2639	3/4
Lenier Dominguez Perez (CUB)	2683	1.5/2
Michael Adams (ENG)	2729	1.5/2
Ivan Cheparinov (BUL)	2670	1.5/2
Gata Kamsky (USA)	2714	0.5/2

Kamsky-Carlsen [C43]

World Cup (6.2), 2007

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♗f6 3. d4 ♗e4 4. ♗d3 d5 5. de5!?

Less common than 5. ♗e5 but highly refreshing. White creates an imbalance in the pawn structure, hoping that his e5 pawn will serve as basis for a king side initiative. This plan works almost to perfection in this game.

5... ♗e7 6. O-O ♗g4?!

This seems somewhat premature. The normal 6... ♗c6 keeps options open as to where the queen bishop belongs: g4 or f5.

7. h3 ♗h5 8. ♖e1 ♗c6 9. ♗c3 ♗g6

Liquidating with 9... ♗f3 10. ♖f3 ♗e5 11. ♖e2 ♗d3 12. cd3 ♗c3 13. bc3 ♗f8 seems playable at first sight, but activating the ♖/h8 takes too many moves (...h5, ...g6, ...♗f6, ...♗g7) to believe that White cannot do something worthwhile in the meantime to get some advantage.

10. ♗d2

After 10. ♖e2 ♗c3 11. bc3 ♖d7 12. ♖b1 ♗d3 Fritz 11 likes White, and he likes 13. ♖d3 better than the positionally more attractive 13. cd3 This would be worth some investigation. In any case, Kamsky's move is simple and sound. There will be no doubled c-pawns, and the dark squared bishop is not particularly important here: the main thing is to get rid of the ♗/e4.

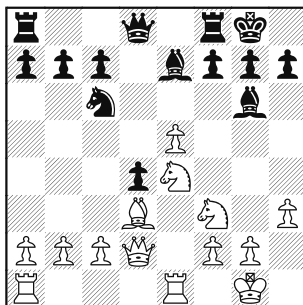
10... ♗d2

Or 10... ♗c3 11. ♗c3 O-O (11... ♗d3 12. ♖d3 ♖d7 13. e6!? fe6 14. ♗g7 ♖g8 15. ♖h7 O-O-O and whether Black obtains enough compensation for the pawn remains questionable.) 12. ♗g6 hg6 and e5-e6 immediately or after 13.Qd3! is certainly unpleasant.

11. ♗d2 d4

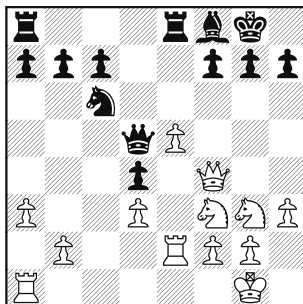
The only way to secure the d-pawn.

12. ♗e4 O-O



A rather pleasant position for White. He can build pressure on the king side using the space advantage provided by the e5 pawn. Black on the other hand is apparently short of a clear plan.

13. a3 ♖d5 14. ♖f4 ♖fe8 15. ♖e2 ♗f8 16. ♗g3! ♗d3 17. cd3



17... ♖e6?

A poor square for the rook and it will be no better on g6. The following knight manoeuvre had to be prevented, even at the cost of weakening the black squares: 17... g6! For example: 18. ♗e4 ♗g7 19. ♗f6 ♗f6 20. ef6 ♖d6 21. ♖d6 cd6 and Black's game appears playable.

18. ♗h5!

At first sight this knight aims at g7 and f6, but the most troublesome threat is actually backward! After a queen move, going back to f4 is devastating.

18... ♖ae8 19. ♖ae1 a5?!

There is no time for this; Black must start to rearrange his pieces to meet ♗h5-f4. However, this is no easy task. E. g., 19... ♖d8 20. ♖g4 ♖g6 21. ♗f4 ♖g4 22. ♗d5 ♖g6 23. ♗f4! (23. ♗c7 ♖d7 24. ♗b5 ♖d5 25. a4 a6 26. ♗a3 ♖a5 27. ♗c2

♖a4 28. b3 ♖a5 29. ♗cd4 ♗d4 30. ♗d4 ♗d5 31. ♖e4 ♖b6 and Black has enough compensation for the piece) 23... ♖h6 24. e6 fe6 and White stands clearly better.

20. ♖g4 ♖g6 21. ♗f4! ♖g4 22. ♗d5 ♖g6 23. g4

Simpler was 23. ♗c7.

23... ♖d8

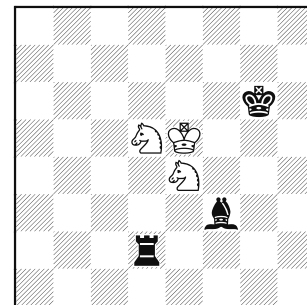
Black could now have created some complications with 23... f6.

24. ♗f4

Winning the exchange. The saying "the rest is a matter of technique" applies very well to the rest of the game.

24... ♖h6 25. g5 ♖e6 26. ♗e6 fe6 27. ♖c1 ♖d5 28. ♖c4 ♗c5 29. h4 ♗b6 30. ♗g2 ♗e7 31. h5 ♖d8 32. ♖e4 ♗f5 33. ♗h4 ♗e7 34. ♗g3 g6 35. ♗g4 ♖d5 36. hg6 hg6 37. a4 ♗f7 38. ♖c1 ♖d8 39. ♖h1 ♗g7 40. ♗g2 ♗f5 41. ♗f4 ♖e8 42. ♖e1 c5 43. ♖h3 1-0

Shirov had to show more patience vs Karjakin and it was only in the fourth game that he managed to score the needed point to reach the final. However a curious position arose in game 3.



Black to play and mate in 208

This happened after White's (Karjakin's) 49th move. As expected, the game was drawn after another 54 moves. However, this six-man position is covered by the tablebases, which show that Black has a forced win in 208 moves! Probably the longest "forced" win ever found in a game! Of course this has no practical value under the current FIDE 50 move rule (the game is drawn if no pawn moves or captures are made within 50 moves). For a while, FIDE had extended

this rule for special positions, but for obvious practical reasons it returned to the old 50 move rule. Nevertheless, torturing the kid with this boring stuff may have had an effect, for in the next game Shirov managed to score the decisive win.

Shirov-Karjakin [C89] World Cup (6.4), 2007

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♘c6 3. ♙b5 a6 4. ♙a4 ♘f6 5. O-O ♙e7 6. ♖e1 b5 7. ♙b3 O-O 8. c3 d5 9. ed5 ♘d5 10. ♘e5 ♘e5 11. ♖e5 c6 12. d3 ♙d6 13. ♖e1 ♙f5

The alternative is 13... ♗h4 14. g3 ♗h3 15. ♖e4 intending to dislodge the black queen. Of course the text move prevents ♖e4.

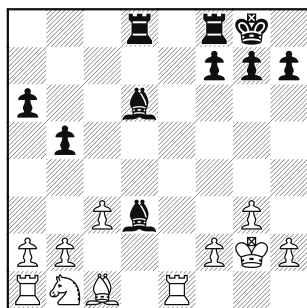
14. ♗f3 ♗h4 15. g3

Here 15. ♗f5 is asking for trouble: 15... ♖ae8 (15... ♗h2 16. ♖f1 ♗h1 17. ♖e2 ♖ae8 18. ♙e3 ♘e3 19. ♖h1 [19. fe3? ♖e3! 20. ♖e3 ♗e1.] 19... ♘f5 20. ♖f3 =.) 16. ♖e8 ♗h2 17. ♖f1 ♖e8 18. ♙e3 ♗h1 19. ♖e2 g6 20. ♗f3 ♗c1 21. ♙d5 cd5 22. ♗d5 ♙f4 23. ♗d7 ♖e3 24. fe3 ♗e3 25. ♖f1 ♗c1 and Black regains the material with advantage

15... ♗h3 16. ♙d5 cd5 17. ♗d5 ♖ad8 18. ♗g2 ♗g2

Previously in this tournament Jakovenko tried 18... ♗h5 but after 19. ♙e3 ♙d3 20. ♘d2 ♙f5?! 21. ♗c6 ♙e6 22. ♗a6 he could not generate enough play for the pawns, 1-0 (43), Shirov-Jakovenko, 5th round.

19. ♖g2 ♙d3



Shirov is an excellent endgame player so it is not surprising that he would go into this one being a pawn up. Of course Black's compensation lies in his bishop

Sergey Karjakin

Everaldo Matsuura (BRA)	2511	2/2
Pengxiang Zhang (CHN)	2644	1.5/2
Etienne Bacrot (FRA)	2695	3/4
Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu (ROU)	2668	1.5/2
Evgeny Alekseev (RUS)	2716	2.5/4
Alexei Shirov (ESP)	2739	1.5/4

pair, but one feels that it is a one way street: only White has winning chances, not a nice place to be for Karjakin in a sudden death situation...

20. ♙e3 ♖fe8

Instead, 20... b4!? trying to trade pawns and increase the bishop's scope may be a way to ease Black's task.

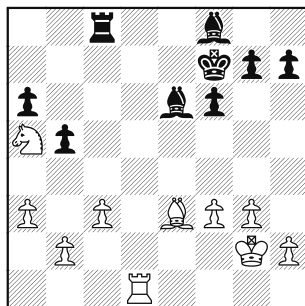
21. ♘d2 f6 22. ♙b6 ♖b8 23. ♖e8 ♖e8 24. ♘b3 ♙c4

Not 24... ♖e2? 25. ♙d1 ♙e4 26. ♖f1 and White wins.

25. ♙d1 ♙f8 26. ♙e3 ♖f7 27. ♘a5 ♙e6

Here 27... ♙a2 28. b3 ♖c8 29. ♖a1 ♙b3 30. ♘b3 ♖c3 31. ♘d4 ♙a3 may afford some practical chances, but this kind of desperate measure should only be a last resort. There is as yet no reason for Black to panic.

28. a3 ♖c8 29. f3

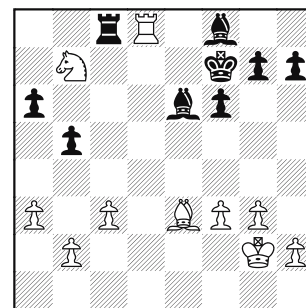


White can hardly use his extra pawn with the current material on the board. Some of it must be traded off to make progress, especially one of Black's bishop. To achieve this, ♘b7-d6 comes to mind.

29... ♖c7

It was not necessary to leave the 8th rank. After let's say 29... h5 30. ♘b7 Black can keep his bishops with 30... ♖g6.

30. ♙d8 ♖c8 31. ♘b7?!

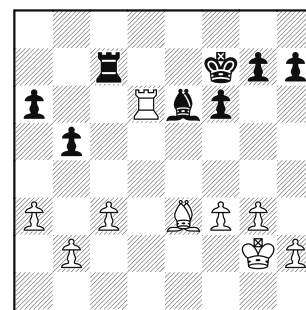


Objectively this does not really work, but for Black it is psychologically difficult to see that the easier path to safety lies in a same colour bishop ending a pawn down, which is exactly the kind that he is trying to avoid on principle!

31... ♖c7?

Better is 31... ♙d8! 32. ♘d8 ♖e7 33. ♘e6 (or 33. ♘c6, but without the rooks the bishop pair is even stronger) 33... ♖e6 and, with Black's superior king position and White's queen side pawns stuck on the wrong colour, this is an easy draw: 34. ♖f2 ♘d5 35. ♖e2 ♖c4 36. ♖d2 ♖b3 37. ♖c1 ♙d6.

32. ♘d6 ♙d6 33. ♙d6



This is an instructive position. The presence of opposite-colour bishops, far from increasing Black's drawing chances, actually reduces them when major pieces are added. The attacker's pieces combine together to make use of the coloured squares on which the opponent lacks a defender.

33... ♙c8 34. ♖f2

A little bit of centralization before undertaking a more important plan: creating a second weakness in the opponent's position, the first one being the pawn at a6.

34... ♖e7 35. ♜b6 ♘d7 36. g4 ♜c6
37. ♜b8 g6

Weakening the dark squares. However, I doubt that best defence can save this position.

38. ♜a8 ♘e6 39. ♙d4

White is seeking to create a weak pawn or some weak squares to infiltrate with his king. For example if Black goes f6–f5 then White's king is likely to penetrate via the black squares.

39... h5

This seems obliging but in the long run Black cannot defend h7 and the second rank. For example: 39... ♜c7 40. ♘g3 ♘f7 41. ♙b6 ♙b7 42. ♜d8 ♜e7 43. ♙c5 ♜c7 44. ♙d6 followed by ♜d7 and domination of the 7th rank.

40. h4 ♘e7 41. ♜a7 ♙d7 42. ♘g3 ♜e6 43. ♘f4 ♘e8 44. gh5 gh5

White's goal has been reached: not only has he created a second weakness, but also a third one! (Look at h5 and f6.) Shirov loses no time in taking advantage of it.

45. ♘f5!

The discovered check is harmless. The game is over.

45... ♜d6 46. ♘g6 ♙c6 47. f4 ♙e4 48. ♘h5 ♜d5 49. ♘h6 ♜f5 50. ♙e3 ♙f3 51. ♘g6 ♙e4 52. ♘g7 ♜h5 53. ♘f6 ♙d3 54. ♜a8 ♘d7 55. ♜a7 ♘c6 56. ♜a6 ♘d5 57. ♜a8 ♜h4 58. ♜d8 ♘e4 59. ♘g5 ♜h2 60. ♙c5 ♜g2 61. ♘f6 ♙c4 62. ♜d4 ♘f3 63. a4 ♜b2 64. a5 ♜a2 65. ♙b4 ♜e2 66. f5 ♜e8 67. ♜c4! bc4 68. ♘g7 ♜e4 69. f6 ♜g4 70. ♘f8 1–0

The final

An excellent match up for this final, as both players have a tremendous match record. Of course in such a short match the first win is almost bound to be decisive. Kamsky used his first White to brilliantly score despite Shirov's imaginative and resourceful play.

Kamsky-Shirov [B30] World Cup (7.2), 2007

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♘c3 e5

This move has become respectable and is often played these days. Black's slight weakness on d5 is compensated by the closed nature of the position, very un-Sicilian-like.

4. ♙c4 ♙e7 5. d3 d6 6. ♘d2

Starting a manoeuvre (♘f1–e3) to make the most out of Black's small light square problem. Another typical line is 6. O–O ♘f6 7. ♘g5 O–O 8. f4 ♙g4 9. ♜e1 ef4 10. ♙f4 ♘d4 11. ♜d2 ♜d7 or 11... h6 with balanced play.

6... ♙g5

In response, Black aims at exchanging his bad bishop. Also quite satisfactory is 6... ♘f6 7. ♘f1 ♙g4 8. f3 ♙e6 9. ♘e3 O–O.

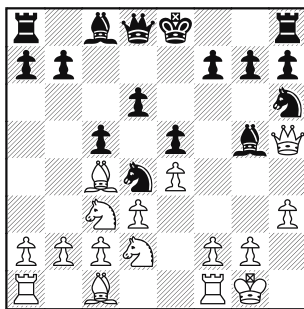
7. ♜h5

Here 7. h4 ♙d2 8. ♙d2 ♙e6 (8... ♘f6 9. ♙g5) 9. ♙g5 ♘ge7 seems very close to equal.

7... ♘h6?!

With the threat of ...♙g4. However, the knight cannot take part in the battle for d5. The tempo gaining 7... g6 looks preferable.

8. h3 ♘d4 9. O–O!



A nice tactical finesse.

9... O–O

If 9... ♘c2 10. ♘f3 ♙c1 11. ♜ac1 ♘d4 12. ♘d4 ed4 13. ♙b5 ♙d7 (13... ♘f8 14. ♘d5 and Black certainly has serious problems with his king side deployment) 14. ♙d7 ♜d7 15. ♘d5 and the knights' respective positions tell it all.

10. ♘b3 ♙c1 11. ♜ac1 ♘e6

Also, 11... ♙e6 12. ♘d4 cd4 13. ♘d5 leaves White with a small edge.

12. ♘e2 ♜f6 13. ♘d2 ♘h8 14. c3 g5?!

Certainly an optimistic Shirov-type move. Safer would have been to start improving Black's worst piece by 14... ♘g8.

15. d4

The classical reaction to Black's play on the wing.

15... ♜g8

Here 15... cd4 16. cd4 ♘d4 17. ♘d4 ed4 seems quite playable: 18. ♜f3!? ♜e5 19. ♜a3 g4 20. hg4 ♙g4 21. f4 ♜g7 and Black has decent counterplay on the g–file.

16. de5 de5 17. ♘f3 ♜g6

Straightforward play is no better: 17... g4 18. hg4 ♘g4 19. ♘g3 ♜g7 20. ♜h4! ♜h4 21. ♘h4 ♘f4 22. ♘hf5 ♙f5 23. ♘f5 ♜g6 24. g3 and White has the better pawn structure and more active pieces.

18. h4! ♜g7!

Not 18... gh4? 19. ♘e5 ♜g7 20. ♜cd1 ± and White dominates the board.

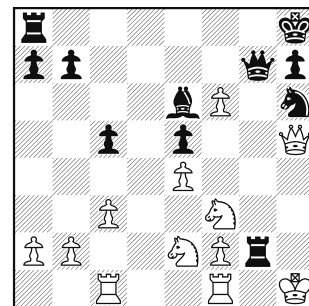
19. ♙e6 ♙e6 20. hg5 f6!

The magnificent point behind Black's 18th move.

21. gf6

Of course not 21. gh6?? ♜h6.

21... ♜g2 22. ♘h1



22... ♜f6?

This natural recapture is probably fatal as it gives White a pair of central passers. There was a way to sidestep it: 22... ♜g4! 23. ♜g4 ♜g4 24. ♘g3 ♘f7 25. ♜cd1 ♜f4 26. ♘g2 ♜f6 = equalizes comfortably.

23. ♜e5!

The tempting 23. ♘g3 is nicely refuted by 23... ♜g8! 24. ♜e5 ♜e5 25. ♘e5 ♘h3

and White is tied up having to worry about moves like ... f8 or. if the d/e5 moves, ... d4 .

23... e5 24. d5 g5 25. f4 h5
26. g1 g8 27. f2 h2 28.
 e3 gg2

Black reestablishes material balance and then even goes up a pawn, but in the end the central passed pawns must tell.

29. d1 b2

More resilient was 29... d4 30. d4 g4 31. f5 b2 32. d3 (32. e5 g7 ~) 32... f3 33. f3 a2 34. g1 ae2 35. d3 d2 36. c4 h4 37. e3 , but White's active king and passed pawns make life miserable for Black.

30. f5 a2 31. cd1

Emphasizing the fact that the black king is far from being safe with his rooks busy grabbing pawns.

31... b2

No better would be 31... d7 32. d3 gf3 he2 33. f4 g2 34. c4 d5 35. d5 h6 36. f6 and this pawn is unstoppable.

32. d8 g8 33. d3 c3 34. f4 h6 35. g1 f6 36. d5 h6
37. d7

A tremendous game by Kamsky, who made the most out of Shirov's small lapse on the 22nd move.

1-0

In the next two games Shirov made valiant attempts to even the score, but each time Kamsky was able to mix the right amount of aggression and caution.

Shirov-Kamsky [C91]

World Cup (7.3), 2007

1. e4 e5 2. d3 c6 3. b5 a6 4. a4 f6 5. O-O e7 6. e1 b5
7. b3 d6 8. c3 O-O 9. d4

Though 9. h3 is the main line, the text makes just as much sense.

9... g4 10. e3

Or 10. d5 a5 11. e2 , and here Black has to choose between two important lines: 11... c6 and 11... c8 .

10... ed4

Most common. As compensation for surrendering the centre, Black gets ... c7-c5 and some imbalances to generate



Alexei Shirov

Robert Gwaze (ZIM)	2429	2/2
Yuri Shulman (USA)	2616	1.5/2
Alexander Osischuk (USA)	2674	1.5/2
Vladimir Akopian (ARM)	2713	1.5/2
Dmitry Jakovenko (RUS)	2710	2/2
Sergey Karjakin (UKR)	2694	2.5/4
Gata Kamsky (USA)	2714	1.5/4

counterplay. There are lots of little explored side lines that appear quite playable like 10... h5 11. h3 g6 12. bd2 ed4 13. d4 (13. cd4 d5) 13... d4 14. d4 (14. cd4 c5) 14... c5 .

11. cd4 a5

Also 11... d5 ? is thematic.

12. e2 c5 13. d3

Less common than 13. h3 or 13. dc5 but hardly new: it was played in Verlinsky-Rabinovich, Moscow 1924 (USSR Championship)!

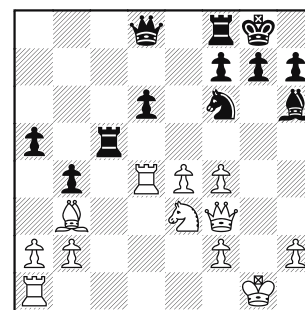
13... cd4 14. d4 c6 15. b3 e8

Instead, 15... d4 16. d4 f3 17. gf3 \pm would clearly be the kind of position White is hoping for: more space, half-opened g-file, white square domination.

16. e3 d7 17. d5 g5 18. e3 b4 19. e4 f3 20. gf3 d4
21. d4 a5 22. f4 h6 23. g4 e5

Certainly not 23... d6 ? 24. c8 .

24. d3 f6 25. f3

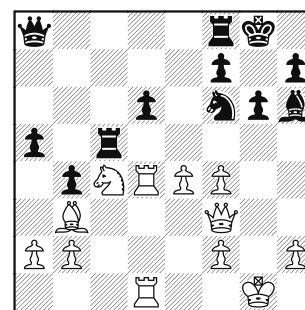


White dominates the centre and can count on a juicy target at d6. Kamsky's way to face these problems and fight for the initiative is impressive.

25... a8 26. ad1 g6 !

Here 26... e8 would leave f7 too weak: 27. d6 e4 (27... d4 ? 28. d7 threatening both f7 and Bd5 .) 28. e4 d4 29. d7 .

27. d4



27... a4 !

A magnificent pawn sac to use the c-file; whereas 27... h5 ? 28. d6 f4 29. d7 ! wins

28. b6 c6 29. a4

This knight will remain idle for the rest of the game!

29... e1

Fritz suggests 29... f5 30. e4 b7 31. b4 b4 32. ef5 gf5 and here too Black may have enough counterplay.

30. b4

Or 30. f5 d1 31. d1 c1 32. d6 ?! f4 ! 33. f6 e5 34. fg6 (34. a6 ? d8 and Black wins!) 34... hg6 and Black is bound to make up for most of his material disadvantage while keeping the initiative.

30... d1 31. d1 c1

White's two passed pawns have only a far away effect. In the meantime, Shirov has his hands full trying to coordinate his forces and keep his king safe.

32. e5

Or 32. f5 ♖d2 33. ♜d4 ♜f4 34. ♜c3 (34. ♜g2 ♜e5 35. ♜b4 ♜g5 36. ♜f1 d5! 37. ed5 ♜h2 with good compensation for the material) 34... ♜b1 35. a3 ♜e5 36. ♜d3 ♜c1, when White has solved none of his problems, and his practical chances may even be worse.

32... de5 33. fe5 ♜g5 34. ♜f1 ♜e5

White gets no time to bring back his knight, much less to push his passed pawns.

35. h3 ♜d2 36. ♜c4 ♜d8 37. ♜b3 ♜g7 38. ♜g2

After 38. ♜c3 ♜d7, making more progress for White is a risky and mind-boggling business.

38... ♜g5 39. ♜g3 ♜d5 40. ♜f3

Instead, 40. ♜g1 ♜e8 41. ♜c1 ♜f5 would clearly hand the initiative to Black.

40... ♜g5 41. ♜g3 ♜d5 1/2-1/2

Kamsky-Shirov [B31]

World Cup (7.4), 2007

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♜b5 g6 4. O-O ♜g7 5. c3 ♖f6 6. ♜e1 O-O 7. d4 d5 8. e5 ♖e4 9. ♜c6 bc6 10. ♖bd2 ♜f5

Or 10... cd4 11. cd4 c5 (11... ♜f5 12. ♖h4 ♜e6 13. ♖e4 de4 14. ♜e4 c5 15. ♖f3 ♜d5.) 12. dc5 ♖c5 13. ♖b3 ♖b3 14. ♜b3 d4 15. ♜d1 ♜e6 16. ♜a3 ♜b6 17. ♜e7 ♜g4 and Black is doing fine.

11. ♖h4 e6

According to my databases, first played in Ferrer Serrano-Komljenovic, Cordoba Open 1995. An alternative is 11... ♜e6 12. ♖e4 de4 13. ♜e4 cd4 14. cd4 c5, transposing to the above variation

12. ♖f5 ef5 13. f3 cd4!

The immediate 13... ♖g5 allows White a better recapture on d4 after 14. ♖b3 cd4 15. ♖d4!

14. cd4

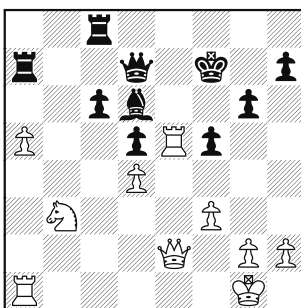
If 14. fe4 dc3 15. bc3 fe4, and Black will get three pawns and a fine position for the piece.

14... ♖g5 15. b4 a5 16. ba5 ♜a5

17. ♖b3 ♜a7 18. ♜g5 ♜g5 19. ♜c2 ♜c8 20. a4 ♜f8 21. a5 ♜b4 22. ♜e2 ♜d8 23. e6 fe6 24. ♜e6 ♜d7 25. ♜e2

Dubious is 25. ♖c5?! ♜g7 26. ♖b3 c5 27. dc5 ♜c5 28. ♜f1 ♜d7 29. ♜e2 ♜d6 with play for Black on the c-file and the dark squares.

25... ♜f7 26. ♜e5 ♜d6



27. f4?!

This works nicely (for a draw) if Black takes the exchange. But objectively 27. ♜e3, avoiding putting another pawn on a dark square, was better and about equal.

27... ♜e5?

Instead, 27... ♜b7! would have forced White to work a lot more to get a draw. He has weaknesses on d4 and a5, and as yet no safe square for the knight. Moreover, if the rook stays on e5, Black may find a more favourable moment to take the exchange.

28. fe5 ♜b7

Black is going after the a-pawn; otherwise, White would have time to get his two passed pawns protected by his knight.

29. ♖c5 ♜b4 30. e6 ♜g8

Not 30... ♜e7? 31. ♜e5.

31. ♜d1 ♜a5

The World Cup 2007 is sealed: White gets a draw by perpetual check and wins the final!

32. e7 ♜e8 33. ♜e6 ♜g7 34. ♜e5 ♜f7 35. ♜e6 1/2-1/2

So American GM Gata Kamsky thus became the winner of the FIDE World Cup. His victory owes little to chance: he did not lose a single game out of 18, won six regular games and only needed one



Kamsky - Rock Solid in Siberia
photo: www.chessbase.com

Gata Kamsky

Ahmed Adly (EGY)	2494	1.5/2
Boris Avrukh (ISR)	2641	1.5/2
Kiril Georgiev (BUL)	2649	1.5/2
Peter Svidler (RUS)	2732	2.5/4
Ruslan Ponomarev (UKR)	2705	1.5/2
Magnus Carlsen (NOR)	2714	1.5/2
Alexei Shirov (ESP)	2739	2.5/4

tie-break extension (vs Svidler) to reach the final. His strong nerves and extensive match experience showed; he was never in serious trouble and skillfully escaped from the little moments of uncertainty that he faced.

We can expect a close and uncompromising match against the flashy Bulgarian Topalov, that may be just as or even more interesting than the Anand-Kramnik clash scheduled for October 2008. The match Kamsky vs Topalov is expected to take place afterwards.



Representing Canada at the World Cup

by IM Igor Zugic

The Chess World Cup 2007 took place in a remote Russian town, Khanty-Mansiysk, from November 24 to December 18. From all over the world, 128 players took part in a knock-out tournament to determine the challenger for Veselin Topalov. Most players qualify through Continental Championships. I earned a spot by virtue of winning the Canadian Zonal Championship in 2006. Canada itself is a FIDE zone, and the Canadian Champion gets one spot.

I did not know who my opponent would be at the World Cup until about a month before the tournament began. What I could deduce was that it would be someone very strong, a super-GM, ranked at the very top in the world. I estimated it would be someone with a rating well over 2700.

Since it is very difficult to get invitations to strong closed tournaments, I decided that part of my preparation for the World Cup would be to try to find good form by playing in two open tournaments: the Miami Open took place in late September, and then less than two weeks later I played in the Calvia Open (in Mallorca, Spain). Despite these being very strong open tournaments, neither contained players with FIDE ratings over 2700. The very top GMs in the world very seldom play in open tournaments.

In Miami, my goal was to fully get back into chess-playing mode by playing very complicated positions and well enough to be paired with some strong players. I had a chance to play two very tough opponents, GMs Nakamura (2647) and GM Mikhalevski (2584).

Two weeks after Miami, I was off to Mallorca for an even better open tournament. The Calvia Open attracted 136 players, with over 30 GMs. I had a very rare opportunity to work with GM Kevin Spraggett. I am very grateful for his invaluable advice during and after the tournament. At the open, at one stage, I played four consecutive games against players rated around 2600 and I was black in three of those games. All four



Britain's mighty Mikey facing elimination as Black against our own Igor Zugic

games ended in hard-fought draws. I finished the tournament with 6 points, tying for the 12th place. By the end of the Calvia tournament, I felt I got into a good form. (GM Victor Mikhalevski, whom I played two weeks earlier in Miami, dominated the tournament with 7 straight wins, followed by two draws to secure the first place. Kevin captured a clear second after catching fire at the end and winning his last three games.)

About a month before the World Cup started, the pairings came out. I was matched up against English GM Michael Adams. It promised to be a completely new experience for me, and I did not know what to expect. I never before had the privilege to play against one of the currently top ranked players in the world, with a FIDE rating of well over 2700!

Mickey has been at the very top of the chess world for over 15 years. He has beaten almost all of the greatest players of recent time. Looking at his games, I realized he is a very strong positional player with a good tactical eye. He has enormous experience and is able to turn very small advantages into full points. Naturally, I had a very difficult time decid-

ing what openings would give me the best practical chances.

Khanty-Mansiysk is located in Siberia! The town has been in existence for less than 100 years. However, it has been turned into a cultural centre for the area. The nearby regions have a lot of oil and the majority of the sponsorship for the World Cup came from the gas companies. It is one of the richest cities in Russia. To put some perspective into just how far it is, just the distance between Moscow and Khanty-Mansiysk is over 2000 km and the time difference is 4 hours. The time difference between Toronto and Khanty-Mansiysk is 10 hours!

To get to Khanty-Mansiysk I had to fly to Moscow and then take another flight to the final destination. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that our new CFC president, Hal Bond, was on the same flights on the way there. Since neither of us speaks Russian, it was reassuring to both of us to have someone to travel with! The hardest part of the trip was changing airports in Moscow. The shuttle service between them was discontinued, leaving the long taxi ride as the

only option. Due to high congestion times, some players were not able to get to the airport on time and had to take another flight the next day. Hal and I had no problems as we arrived in Moscow in the morning of Nov 22nd and the flight to Khanty-Mansiysk was much later in the evening. We arrived to Khanty-Mansiysk around two a.m. Even though it was very late, we were greeted warmly by the locals and the organizing committee.

The next day, when I woke up, it was almost dark outside! For the duration of the tournament the sunset typically occurred around three or four p.m. The hotel I stayed at was great. The room was very comfortable. All of the hotels where players stayed had nice amenities, like gyms, swimming pools, and great lounge bars.

The opening ceremony took place in the evening and consisted of a players' reception, speeches by President Kirsan Iljumshanov and other dignitaries, and a fantastic dance show. During the show, there was a special ceremony for drawing of colours and Vassily Ivanchuk, as the first ranked player at the tournament, randomly picked between two dancers. He got White in the first game, which for me, meant I would be Black. It usually does not make a big difference, but I was glad to have black pieces first, especially since Mickey mentioned in his book that he prefers being black first in these mini-matches. The reason is that a draw or a win is a great result, but even in the case of a loss it is possible to fight back into the match with white in the next game.

The first three rounds and the opening ceremony were held in the Concert Theatre Centre "Ugra-Classic", which is a big complex, recently built for the purpose of holding special events. The final four rounds, after the majority of the players had been eliminated, were moved to the Centre of Arts. Both sites, along with most of the city including the hotels, were recently built and very modern.

The organizers put in a lot of effort and it paid off as everything ran very smoothly and the playing conditions were great! Strong measures were taken to protect the integrity of the game by electronically scanning all of the players, arbiters, and spectators before entering the playing area. The only downside of

these strict measures was that I was not allowed to bring in my camera to take pictures of famous players!

Before the match, I realized it is very hard to meet Mickey's 1.e4. Mickey, besides being super-strong, also has a very uncomfortable style to play against; and, after looking over his games, it became very apparent that it is very difficult to prepare against him. Naturally, most of my preparation concentrated on playing with Black. The point was, I had to prepare two openings with the black pieces: one solid, and one dynamic in case I had to play for a win with Black. Since I got Black in the first game, my choice was easy.

Michael Adams-Igor Zugic [C09] FIDE World Cup, (1.1) 2007

[Notes by Igor Zugic]

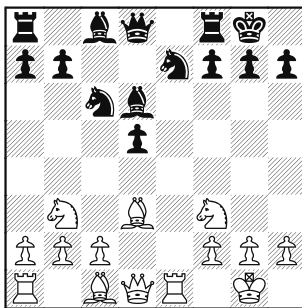
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♘d2

Mickey sticks to his main guns. I also had to prepare for the King's Indian attack (2. d3) and the Advance variation (3.e5).

3... c5 4. ♘gf3 ♘c6

A good alternative is 4... ♘f6. However, for this match I was prepared to play with the isolated d-pawn, following in the footsteps of Korchnoi. He successfully proved in his matches against Karpov from the 1970s that Black has enough dynamic play to compensate for the pawn weakness. Before the match, I went over the Karpov-Korchnoi games a number of times.

5. ed5 ed5 6. ♖b5 ♖d6 7. O-O ♘e7 8. dc5 ♖c5 9. ♘b3 ♖d6 10. ♖e1 O-O 11. ♖d3

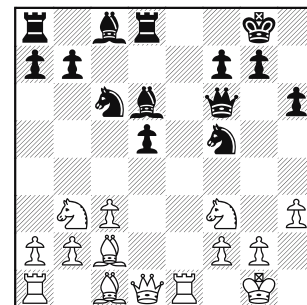


Adams has played this variation before a few times with good success. I found some improvements and felt very comfortable with Black's position.

11... h6

The best move. It rules out any ♗g5 or ♘g5 ideas. A big mistake is 11... ♗g4? 12. ♗h7 +.

12. h3 ♘f5 13. c3 ♖f6 14. ♖c2 ♖d8



This was the position we were both aiming for. White has structural superiority, but Black has very good piece development. The position is dynamically equal. The d5 pawn is immune due to ...♗h2.

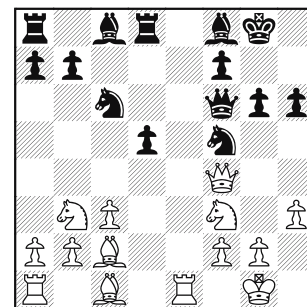
15. ♖d3 g6!

White's threat was g4!

16. ♖d2

If 16. ♖d2 then Black has a good position after 16... a5 17. a4 b6 =. Also fine for Black is 16. g4 ♘h4 =.

16... ♖f8 17. ♖f4



All of this occurred before in Adam's practice against strong GMs Lputian and Yussupow. Another try for White in this position is 17. ♘h2. However, after 17... d4! (17... ♖g7) 18. ♘g4 ♖g7 19. ♖e2 (19. ♖f5? g5 20. ♘h6 ♘h7 21. ♖g5 ♖g5 22. ♖g5 ♖d5 + and the knight is trapped: 23. c4 [23. ♘f7 ♘g6.] 23... ♖d7) 19... dc3! 20. bc3 ♖h8!? ~ Black has a good position.

17... ♖d6!

An important improvement over 17...

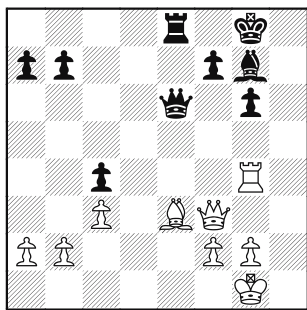
Here we were both getting into time pressure. I decided to give the pawn back to relieve the pressure. All of White's pieces are positioned and aimed at the kingside. Computers like 35... ♖a2!? but, to be honest, I disregarded it immediately. Further analysis shows it was the right decision. In the position

after 36. ♖d4! and with ♖e6 and ♖h6 threats, White has a very strong initiative. (On the other hand, 36. ♖h6? is bad due to 36... ♖h6 37. ♖h6 ♖b2 38. ♖g5 [the only reasonable try] ♖b1 39. ♖h2 ♖f5 40. ♖e3 ♖d8! 41. ♖e6 ♖e6 42. ♖e6 fe6 43. ♖g6 ♖f7 ♢ but this line is impossible to calculate with not much time remaining on the clock.) After 36. ♖d4 ♖b2 37. ♖e6 ♖b1 38. ♖h2 fe6 39. ♖h6 ♖d3 40. f3! ~ Despite a two pawn advantage the position is very unclear due to the weak position of the black king. Taking the pawn on a2 is just too risky.

36. ♖g5 ♖f5

Not 36... ♖g4? 37. ♖g4 hg4 38. ♖h4 ♖g7 39. ♖d4 with a crushing attack.

37. ♖e6 ♖e6 38. ♖h5 ♖g7 39. ♖h4 ♖f6 40. ♖g4 ♖g7 41. ♖f3 ♖e8!



The time trouble has passed and we reached a balanced position. After move 40 both of us got additional time.

42. a4?!

Unnecessarily creating a weak pawn. A more natural continuation is 42. ♖a7 ♖a8 (42... b6!?) 43. ♖e4 ♖c6 44. ♖d4 ♖a2 =.

42... b6 43. ♖h4 ♖f6 44. ♖h1 ♖d8 45. g3 ♖d5

It looks like Black has made some progress. White has to avoid queen exchanges because then the a4 pawn could be attacked (by ...♖a5 and ...b5 if White defends it with ♖a1). However, with a few careful moves White maintains the balance.

46. ♖g2 ♖f5 47. ♖f4! ♖d3 48. ♖a8 ♖d8 49. ♖f3

White has a plan of activating the rook with Re1-e4. I could not see a way to make progress, so the game ended in a draw after

49... ♖d3 50. ♖a8 ♖d8 51. ♖f3 1/2-1/2

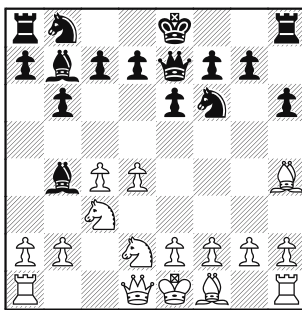
Igor Zugic-Michael Adams [E13] FIDE World Cup (1.2), 2007

[Notes by Igor Zugic]

1. d4 ♖f6 2. ♖f3 e6 3. c4 b6 4. ♖c3 ♖b4 5. ♖g5 ♖b7 6. ♖d2

I had a few ideas of what to play with White. I prepared this topical variation for the match. Now looking back, in retrospect, it is easy to say I should have tried something else! Mickey played fast out of the opening, so I am sure he had analyzed the position thoroughly at home before.

6... h6 7. ♖h4 ♖e7



Played immediately and deviating from some of his earlier games where ...c5 was played. It is very hard to gain advantage with White.

8. a3

The most natural move. I considered other moves:

(a) 8. ♖c2 c5! and I could not find a way to play for an advantage: 9. a3 (9. d5? is not good here, Black just takes the pawn 9... ♖c3 10. ♖c3 ed5 11. ♖f6 ♖f6 12. ♖f6 gf6 13. cd5 ♖d5 14. e4 ♖e6 ♢) and now Black should not go in for 9... cd4?! 10. ab4 dc3 11. ♖c3 O-O 12. e4! ±, but has two good choices. The simplest way to equality is 9... ♖c3 cd4 11. ♖d4 ♖c6 12. ♖c3 e5! with the plan of a quick ...g5, followed by ...d5. White starts to fall behind in development, 13. e3 g5 14. ♖g3 d5 ~. An interesting alternative for Black is 9... ♖a5 with the idea of answering 10. ♖b5?! (10. dc5 bc5 ~) with 10... O-O! (10... g5?! 11. ♖g3 ♖e4 12. O-O-O! ±) 11. ♖c7 (or 11. O-O-O d5) 11... ♖c6; so White should probably prefer 10. ♖c3

(or perhaps 10. bc3!?).

(b) 8. f3 and I vaguely remembered 8... d5!? was played between strong players, and Black had a good position. It occurred in Moiseenko-Ponomarev, Sochi 2006, 1-0 (56), although White did not achieve anything out of the opening): 9. e3 O-O 10. ♖e2 e5 with counterplay.

(c) 8. e3 looked too quiet. Black has many good possibilities at his disposal: 8... c5 (the most principled), 8... e5, or even 8... O-O.

8... ♖c3 9. bc3 g5

Trying to gain a tempo. I was planning to play f3, in which case the bishop could retreat to f2 right away.

10. ♖g3 d6 11. f3

Or 11. e3 ♖bd7 12. h4 O-O-O 13. a4 a5 =.

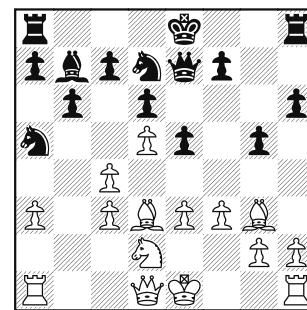
11... ♖c6!

Or 11... ♖bd7 12. e3 e5 13. ♖f2.

12. e3 e5 13. d5

The only move.

13... ♖a5 14. ♖d3 ♖d7



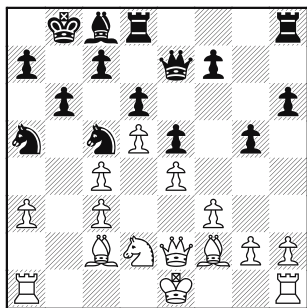
Up to this point the game has developed logically. Both sides have trumps and weaknesses. White's main weakness is the doubled c pawns, while Black's king-side pawn expansion looks a little over-extended and susceptible to attack by f4 or h4.

15. e4?!

I played this too fast, although even after it, Black has only equality and nothing more. Better is 15. ♖f5 as I had originally intended. Play might continue 15... ♖c5!? (15... O-O-O! is probably best. After 16. O-O ♖b8 and it is hard for either side to come up with an active plan) 16. O-O h5 (16... ♖c8?! 17. ♖c8 ♖c8 18. f4! The position is opening up,

but Black does not have a good place for the king: 18... O-O 19. fe5 de5 20. e4 ±; 16... ♖a6 17. ♖e2; or 16... ♖a6 17. ♖e2) 17. f4 h4 18. ♖f2 and White has a good initiative. Black's kingside looks very loose. Also, 15. O-O is possible: 15... O-O-O (15... ♖c5 16. ♖f5 transposes to line above) 16. ♖f5 ♖b8 =.

15... ♖c5 16. ♖c2 O-O-O 17. ♖f2 ♖b8 18. ♖e2 ♖c8

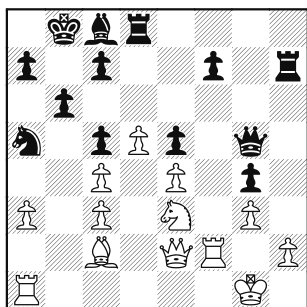


Here I felt the position was completely equal. I could not see a way for either one of us to create any threats.

19. ♖c5?!

This is a little premature. Black's knights look pretty on c5 and a5, but that is all. They are not really threatening anything. I should not have made this exchange so fast. It could be an important resource for later on, if for example Black plays c6. Also, the dark-squared bishop covers all of the dark squares on the kingside. After the exchange the position remains equal, but Black gets a small initiative. The position is equal after, for example, 19. ♖e3 ♖d7 (19... h5 20. ♖f2) 20. O-O h5 21. ♖ab1 g4 22. ♖f2 ♖h7 23. f4 ~.

19... dc5 20. ♖f1 h5 21. ♖e3 g4 22. fg4 hg4 23. g3 = ♖g5 24. O-O ♖h7 25. ♖f2



The position is equal. Black has pres-



International Arbiter Hal Bond with International Master Igor Zugic

sure along the h-file, but his g4 and f pawns are weak. White has some pressure along the f-file. White's light-squared bishop could potentially be activated through a4 to c6 or d7, or to d1 to attack the pawn on g4.

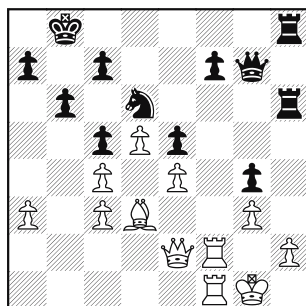
25... ♖b7 26. ♖f5!

It is important to remove one minor piece. The knight is a little better than the bishop, but Black's targets also become easier to attack.

26... ♖f5 27. ♖f5 ♖g7 28. ♖af1 ♖d6 29. ♖5f2 ♖h6 30. ♖d3?!

This move in itself is okay, but the follow-up to it is horrible.

30... ♖dh8



31. ♖g2??

A truly horrible move. The one scenario I was really trying to avoid occurred. At this point I was lulled into thinking there should be no way to lose the game at this point, and I managed to do just that. I

had about 20 minutes remaining to reach move 40, so I made a move anticipating the idea for Black of ...f6, ...♖f7, ...♖g5. However, this does not bring anything. I walked into a neat tactical shot which ultimately decides the game.

Here are key defensive ideas:

1) If Black plays ...♖h3 and piles up on the h-file (threatening ...♖g3), then answer ♖g2. Black's main problem is having to keep an eye out for the g4-pawn. 2) If Black tries to play ...f6 followed by moving the knight to g5, then answer with the counter-attack on the g-pawn; ♖a4-d7 or ♖d1 are the main ideas for achieving this. 3) Do not walk into ...f5, followed by an ...e4 breakthrough!

Simplest is 31. ♖c2. For example, 31... ♖h3 (31... f6 32. ♖a4! ♖h3 [32... ♖h7 33. ♖e1 ♖c4 is not so good here. White has 34. h4! with a promising position.] 33. ♖g2 ♖h7 34. ♖e1 The optimal set-up. The bishop can move along the a4-c6 diagonal. Neither side can make any progress. Or 31... a5 32. ♖a4 f6 33. ♖e1 ♖h3 34. ♖c6 ♖h6 35. ♖g2.) 32. ♖e1 ♖h7 33. ♖g2 f6 34. ♖a4! ♖g7 35. ♖d1 ♖h6 36. ♖a4 etc. After the game I analyzed the game with Mickey, but we could not find a way for Black to improve his position. Had I not played a horrible 31. ♖g2??, the game would have most likely ended in a draw.

31... f5! ±

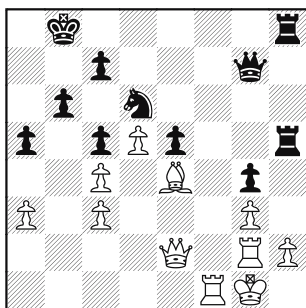
White has the worst possible set-up to

meet this breakthrough. All the tactics work in Black's favour.

32. ♖c2

Perhaps 32. e4 offered some practical chances especially in mutual time pressure. White gets 3(!) connected passed pawns but is still worse. The continuation might be 32... e4 33. ♖c2 (33. ♖e4? ♜e8 →) 33... ♜c3 34. ♜g4 ♜d4! (34... ♜c4 35. ♜e4 ♜e3 36. ♜d3 ♜d3 37. ♖d3 ♜g2 38. ♜g2 ♜h2 39. ♜f3 ♜a2 40. ♜f4 ♜a3 41. ♖e4 ♜a4 42. g4 and with connected passed pawns White has good chances to save the game despite being an exchange down) 35. ♜h1 ♜c4 36. ♜e4 ♜e3 37. ♜d4 cd4 38. ♜ff2 ♜g2 39. ♜g2 ♣.

32... fe4 33. ♖e4 ♜h5 34. ♜gf2 a5 35. ♜g2?



This is the final nail in the coffin, but the position was hard to defend. The problem, compared to the one after Black's 31st move, is now White has to worry about protecting the bishop as well, and Black has a very strong passed e-pawn. Though the position is extremely difficult to defend in time pressure and against a world-class opponent, it was possible to put up stiffer resistance: 35. a4 ♜a7 (35... ♜a7 36. ♜d3 ♜h6 37. ♜f6; 35... ♜h6) 36. ♜d3! ♜h3 37. ♜e1! ♜h6 38. ♜ee2 ♣.

35... ♜h6 36. ♖c2 ♜c4 →

The rest is easy.

37. ♜e1 ♜d6 38. ♖a4 ♜h7 39. ♜f2 ♜a7 40. ♖c6 c4 41. ♜ef1 ♜g7 42. a4 e4 43. ♜c1 ♜f7 44. ♜c2 ♜g5 45. ♜f1 ♜f3 46. ♜c4 e3 47. ♜g2 ♜d2 48. ♜cd2 ed2 49. ♜d2 ♜h2 50. ♜h2 ♜h2 51. ♜g1 ♜c2 0-1

Adams was going strong until Round 4, when he was defeated by the wunderkind from Norway, Magnus Carlsen. It is interesting to note that two out of the four semi-finalists were only 17 years old. However, both Magnus Carlsen and Sergey Karjakin lost to more experienced Gata Kamsky and Alexei Shirov, respectively.

When the final dust settled, it was GM Gata Kamsky who emerged as the winner after defeating popular super-GM Alexei Shirov 2.5-1.5. Gata was the only player who did not lose a single game during the entire tournament! It was a fantastic achievement in such a strong and tense tournament where composure and nerves play a huge role. The tournament marked a completed comeback to chess for Gata. It was twelve years ago when he lost in a FIDE final match against one of the greatest players of all time, Anatoly Karpov, and decided to leave chess to focus on school. The fact that he only returned to chess a few years ago makes this achievement even more impressive. Before my match against Adams, Kamsky was the highest rated player I played (2700 at a time)!

As for me, overall it was a wonderful experience. By working full-time as an engineer, I do not have the luxury of playing in as many tournaments as I would like, but on the other hand, having financial security makes playing and tournaments more enjoyable.

My only problem during the World Cup was not being able to adjust to the time difference. Before both games I was not able to fall asleep until about five or six a.m. I felt my concentration was not as strong in the second game, especially after a few hours of play.

Generally I am pleased with my play in the match, but still a bit disappointed in how it ended. In the first game I missed a golden opportunity to gain a huge advantage, perhaps a decisive one (after 34...Qf5!). In the second game, I just had to be a little more careful and the game would have likely ended in a draw. Mickey Adams is a world class player and the highest rated opponent I ever faced. The match was a lot closer than many people would have predicted. I hope the experience I gained in this match will carry over and reap great benefits over the long run.



Venue for the World Cup: Hotel Yugorskaya Dolina in Khanty-Mansiysk

photo: www.chessbase.com

Suttles Meets Fritz

by Bruce Harper

It can't be bargained with. It can't be reasoned with. It doesn't feel pity, or remorse, or fear. And it absolutely will not stop, ever, until you are dead. —*The Terminator*

When work on what became *Chess on the Edge* began in 1975, there were no computerized chess data bases and chess engines were embryonic and pathetically weak. Data bases came along in the late 1980s and this greatly facilitated the collection and organization of the games. Serious writing began in 1995, and a short seven years later, the book seemed ready for release.

Fate, in the form of the late Mike Frannett, the former editor of *Inside Chess* magazine, intervened. We were discussing the book and he asked if I had "Fritzed" it. I knew chess computers had hugely increased in strength and had heard of Fritz, the chess engine that comes with ChessBase, but I hadn't been formally introduced. I told Mike I hadn't, and he was emphatic that these days no book could be released until the games had been checked by a computer.

Mike was right.

What made the exercise particularly interesting, and humbling, for me was that almost all the games in the book had been fully annotated before they were checked by Fritz. I had puzzled over Duncan's games for uncounted hours, analyzed many of them with Yasser Seirawan and Duncan himself (and sometimes others), and incorporated many of the insights found both in previously published notes from others and the annotations Duncan and I had made when we first started. How much could Fritz contribute after all that?

Fritz confirmed the play of both players as essentially correct in many games. The mistakes were indeed where everyone thought they were, and their exploitation by the victor was precise, although sometimes the carping computer would find a faster way to win. Fritz might suggest promising alternatives, and these were unusually incorporated into the existing notes. So far so good.

But in other games, Fritz's analysis was a cold silicon shower, requiring re-

visions of the previous notes and occasionally a reassessment of the game as a whole. If nothing else, I came to realize that the absolute truths that many chess annotators purport to reveal serve more to mislead, rather than inform, the reader. There are many examples of errors in previously published analysis of Duncan's games in all three volumes of the book. I have tried to deal with these errors kindly, as they were no different from my own, which I was able to correct. But the lesson was clear—be careful what you write, because you might be wrong...

There were two other insights Fritz gave me into Duncan's chess.

The first was that Duncan's personal philosophy of chess, that the number of reasonable moves in most positions is greater than conventional wisdom would have us believe, was vindicated. The computer confirmed that there were often hidden defensive resources and counter-chances that had been previously missed.

The second was that, at least when these games were played, the psychological component of chess was very important. In short, the answer to the criticism "But you were lost!" is simply "So what—I won!" Duncan Suttles is a positional Tal. Tal's combinations have been criticized as being unsound (Tal gets a disappointingly brief treatment in Kasparov's "Predecessor" series, likely for this very reason). But if chess is thought of as a game played between two human beings, rather than a problem to be solved by computers, then an unsound combination which succeeds is, in some ways, more impressive and admirable than a sound one (which could be considered merely a technical exercise). Similarly, a confusing Suttles strategy that succeeds is by no means diminished if Fritz later refutes it, because *he wasn't playing Fritz*.

I concluded that, because Suttles' games are deeply psychological in nature, Fritz's discoveries, while important and useful, do not affect the value of the games themselves.

My general view is that absolute truth is bad for chess, and that while computers have increased our understanding of the game and revealed many surprising possibilities, they have done even more harm to the game. Hence the development of "Seirawan-chess", which incorporates Capablanca's Chancellor and Archbishop (as Elephants and Hawks) into the conventional 32-piece set and 8x8 board. No computers can yet play s-chess, and hopefully they never will. But that is a topic for another article.

Fritz's insights caused thousands of revisions to the 2002 version of the book and led to a further five years of work, but the book was better for it. Let me share with you some of the more dramatic finds from our soulless, yet blameless, machine mind.

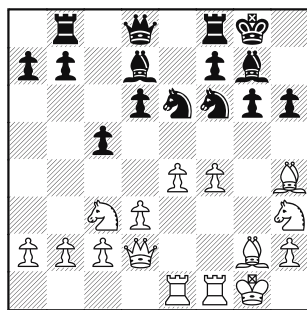
I have divided these into four general categories, and we can expand our horizons by being aware of them. They all, in some manner, relate to the very human tendency to see what we expect or want to see, and fail to see what we don't expect to see.

Going Against the Flow

To the human player, a chess game consists of more than just a series of unrelated moves. The moves are linked by strategic ideas and each game normally has a flow, with both players more or less understanding what is going on. In what are described as "chaotic" positions, this may not apply, but in most positions the players are, so to speak, on the same wavelength.

This may mean the players have a tacit understanding as to who is winning, or both think a particular tactic must unfold as it normally does. In part, one player may trust his or her opponent. This trust is not always justified, and, needless to say, Fritz does not have any such "trust issues".

**Suttles-Gligoric
Belgrade, 1969
(Volume 3, pg. 850)**

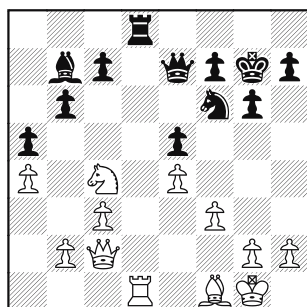


Black to play

In this position, Gligoric played a stock combination with a twist at the end: 15... ♖e4 16. de4 ♜h4 17. ♜d6 ♖b5! 18. ♖b5 ♜bd8, trapping White's queen. White didn't get enough for his queen and lost.

While it was clear that 16. ♖d8 was bad for White, both players missed the continuation 16. ♜e4! ♜h4 17. f5! ♜h5 18. fe6 fe6 19. ♖f4 ♜g5 20. h4! ♜h4 21. ♖e6, after which White has a piece for two pawns and would be winning. The lateral attack on Black's h4-queen with 17. f5! is hard to see, primarily because it has nothing to do with the positions which normally arise out of this tactic.

**Zuk-Suttles
BC Open, Vancouver, 1973
(Volume 1, Game 15)**

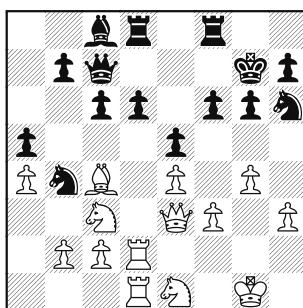


Black to play

This game contains what was probably the most surprising find of all. In this quiet position, White has played to exchange all the rooks. The game can be expected to flow quietly along a positional path, and, after 19... ♜d1 20. ♜d1 ♖c6 21. b3 ♖d7 and a later exchange of queens, Black won in classic fashion by exploiting White's slight weaknesses on the dark squares.

Black could have saved himself a lot of trouble with 19... ♖e4! (or 19... ♜c5 20. ♖h1 ♖e4), winning a clean pawn, as 20. fe4 ♜c5 21. ♖h1 ♜d1 22. ♜d1 ♖e4 costs White his queen. This tactic seems to come out of nowhere, and neither side was looking for it. When I told Duncan he had missed a quick win in this game he expressed disbelief, then laughed when I showed it to him.

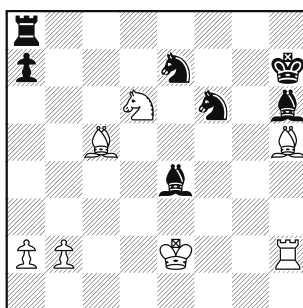
**Feller-Suttles
Nice Olympiad, 1974
(Volume 3, page 712)**



Black to play

White blundered an important pawn on his eighth move, and things had been going smoothly for Black ever since. After 23... f5? 24. ♖b3 f4 25. ♜f2 ♖f7, Black won with the "standard roll-up" on the kingside that both players expected. They missed 24. ef5!, when 24... gf5? 25. ♜g5+ costs Black a piece; 24... d5?! 35. f6! gives White an advantage; and 24... ♖g8?! 25. fg6 hg6 26. ♜d6! destroys Black's centre. That leaves 24... ♖f5!?, with an unclear position.

**Gunawan-Suttles
Indonesia, 1982
(Volume 1, Game 38)**



Black to play

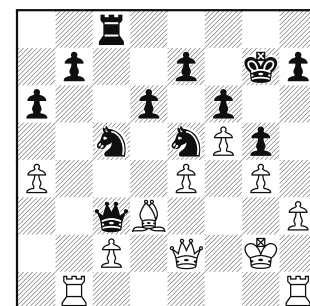
After a ridiculously complicated game, this position arose. Black is a piece up and is winning after normal moves such as 36... ♖f5 or 36... ♜d8, but instead he

played the kind of move that often works in time trouble: 36... ♖f4(?). White trusted his opponent and lost after 37. ♜h4 ♖d6 38. ♖f3 ♖g7 39. ♖d6 ♖f3 40. ♖f3 ♖f5, but he could have captured a lot of pieces in just a few moves with 37. ♖e4! ♖h2 (37... ♖h5 38. ♜h5 gives better chances, but Black will still have problems) ♖f6 ♖g7 39. ♖e7.

Strategic Tunnel Vision

A slightly different version of this phenomenon is blindness due to strategic tunnel vision. Players must always balance strategic consistency with tactical opportunism. It is both tiring and potentially dangerous to focus too much energy on the latter, but excessive concentration on the former can result in overlooking threats or missing opportunities.

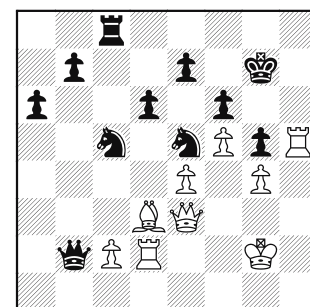
**Manetta-Suttles
US Open, Chicago, 1973
(Volume 1, Game 27)**



Black to play

A positional exchange sacrifice has given Black two dominating knights. He could now win immediately with 25... ♖cd3 (or 25... ♖ed3) 26. cd3 ♖d3 27. ♜hf1 ♖f4 28. ♜f4 gf4, and White has no time for 29. ♜b7, because of 29... ♜g3 and 30... ♜c1. After 29. ♜f2 ♜d3, White can resign.

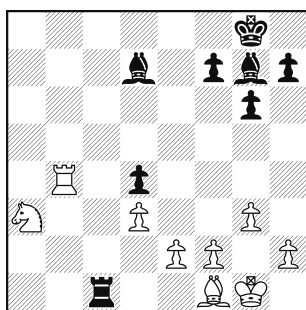
Play continued 25... ♜a5 26. h4 h6 27. hg5 hg5 28. ♜a1 ♜c3 29. ♜ad1 ♜b2 30. ♜d2 ♖a4 31. ♜h5 ♖c5 32. ♜e3



And now Black again could win by exchanging one of his knights for White's d3-bishop: 32... ♖cd3 33. cd3 ♖c2! 34. ♖c2 ♖c2 35. ♖g3 ♖d1!, attacking White's g4-pawn. Instead Black embarked on a king walk with 32... ♖f7 and won some fifteen moves later.

I speculated in the book that Suttles was so focused on his strategic domination of the dark squares that he missed these opportunities, but now I wonder if he just wanted to keep his knights...

Suttles-Ghizdavu
Lone Pine, 1975
(Volume 2, page 527)



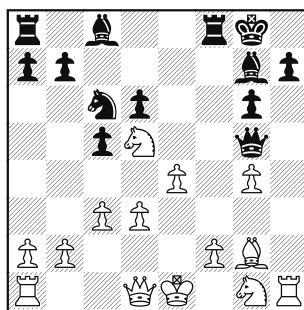
Black to play

White has overreached by playing to win a very dangerous pawn, and Black can now take advantage of the lack of coordination among White's pieces. In his haste to exploit the *pin* on White's f1-bishop, Black played 27... ♗h3? and was startled by White's (forced) reply 28. ♖b1. White won a textbook ending after 28... ♖b1 29. ♖b1 ♗e6.

You don't need Fritz (although it helps) to find the *skewer* 27... ♗f8!, when 28. ♖b1 loses to 28... ♗a3, defending Black's c1-rook. The third elementary tactic, by the way, is the *fork*.

Sometimes tunnel vision afflicts a commentator, rather than the players. There were a number of instances where Fritz showed that seemingly convincing conclusions by annotators were, in fact, wrong. Here is one example.

Suttles-Reshevsky
US Championship, New York, 1965
(Volume 3, page 830)



White to play

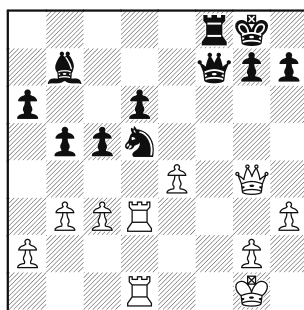
White courageously played the "Portland Attack" (1. e4 c5 2. ♖c3 ♖c6 3. d3 d6 4. g4!?) against the mighty Reshevsky, thereby subjecting himself to criticism from Hans Kmoch in *Chess Review*. Having praised Black's play, consistency required Kmoch to claim that it would be "foolish" for White to try to hold the extra pawn with 14. f3, as after 14... h5 15. ♖h3 ♖h4 16. ♖f2 ♖g3 17. ♖f1 ♗g4! (not 17... hg4 19. f4!) "Black wins."

In reality, 14. f3 gives White the advantage, and 14... h5?! is a mistake which opens lines to Black's king, as after 15. ♖e2! hg4 16. ♖b3! ♖f7 17. f4!, White is much better. White actually played 14. f4 ♖g4 15. ♖g4 ♗g4 16. ♗h3 ♗h3 17. ♖h3, and the worst was over for Black, who later won.

Hidden defensive resources

Some positions contain hidden defensive resources, which may be overlooked because the players both think one side is winning and the defender has no real hope. None of this applies to Fritz.

Potter-Suttles
Vancouver, 1962
(Volume 3, page 965)

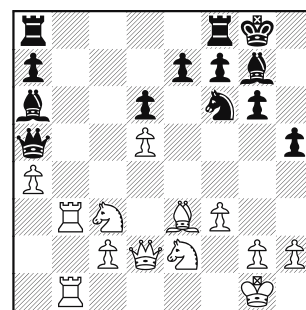


Black to play

Black played the seemingly powerful 27... ♖e3 and White resigned, in view of 28. ♖e3 ♖f2+ 29. ♖h1 ♖e3, when Black is a piece ahead. Fritz is no so easily discouraged, and continues with 30. ♖e6! ♖h8 31. ♖e7!, forking Black's f8-rook and b7-bishop. Then 31... ♖b8 32. ♖c7! doesn't solve Black's problem, so Black loses his b7-bishop and with it his advantage.

The flashy 27... ♖e3? was unnecessary, as 27... ♖f6 and 28... ♖e4 gave Black a winning position.

Macles-Suttles
World Junior, Barcelona, 1965
(Volume 3, page 702)

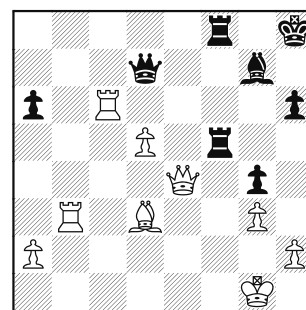


White to play

With two bishops and a better pawn structure, it's easy to conclude that Black is starting to pull ahead. White's d5-pawn is especially sensitive, and after defending it with 18. ♖f4, White drifted in to an inferior position and ultimately lost.

In fact, after 18. ♖d4!, heading for the c6-square, White is better, as 18... ♖d5? allows 19. ♖c6 ♗c3 20. ♖d5! ♖d5 21. ♖e7! ♗g7 22. ♖d5, when White regains his pawn with the advantage.

Suttles-Ortega
Polanica Zdroj, 1967
(Volume 1, Game 56)



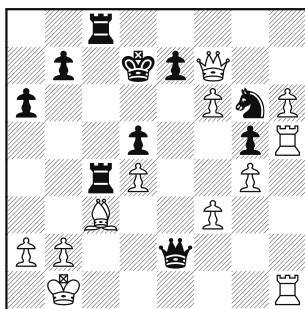
White to play

White has played well and with 39. ♖b8! he could eliminate the threats to his king.

He got greedy with 39. ♖a6?, giving Black a momentary chance to turn things around with 39... ♖e7!, after which White is in deep trouble. 40. ♖e7 ♙d4 41. ♙g2 ♖f2 42. ♙h1 ♖f1 43. ♙f1 ♖f1 44. ♙g2 ♖g1 is mate, and 40. ♖h6!?, to divert Black's g7-bishop to h6, fails to 40... ♙g8! 41. ♖e6 ♖c5!, and White is forced to give up his queen with 42. ♖e3 ♙d4 in order to avoid mate.

Instead, Black played 39... h5? and lost after 40. ♖a8.

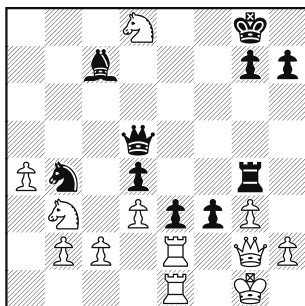
Biyasas-Suttles
BC Championship,
New Westminster, 1970
(Volume 1, Game 46)



Black to play

After a rather dismal opening, Black had been fighting for his life, but a few inexact moves by his opponent have given him chances. Black played 28... ♖d3? 29. ♙a1 ♖c3 30. ♖d5!, and lost after another dozen moves. He missed his one, golden opportunity: 28... ♖d4! Then 29. ♙d4? ♖c2+ mates, Black threatens 29... ♖d1, and 29. a3 ♖d3 30. ♙a1 ♖c3 destroys White's defences. White doesn't have 29. ♖d5, because Black's d4-rook defends his d5-pawn.

Suttles-Ardiansyah
Siegen Olympiad, 1970
(Volume 3, page 933)



White to play

White has been thoroughly outplayed. Black has capped off his fine positional play with a sacrifice, and while White is a rook ahead, doom is in the air.

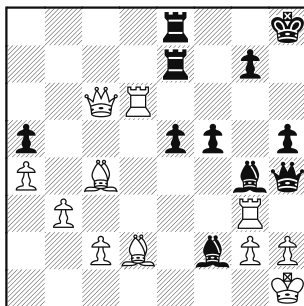
White continued 35. ♖h3 h5 36. ♙e6 ♖e6 37. ♖h5 g6, and soon lost. The computer revealed the miraculous resource 35. c4!, when White escapes:

- a. 35... fg2 36. cd5;
- b. 35... dc3 36. ♖e3! (threatening 37. ♖e8 mate) 36... Bd8 37. ♖f3 ♖f3 38. ♖f3, and by again threatening 39. ♖e8 mate, White has time for 39. bc3;
- c. 35... ♖a8 36. ♖e3! de3 37. ♖e3, and the familiar threat of 38. ♖e8 mate means Black can't play 38... fg2, and instead has to play 38... ♖d8 39. ♖f3, when White has four pawns for a piece;
- d. 35... f2 36. ♖f2 ef2 37. ♖f2 ♖d8 38. ♙c5, when White has three pawns for the piece and a slight advantage.

Tactics

The computer's greatest strength, of course, is tactics. When calculation is called for, Fritz is unbeatable. In some instances, tactics were missed because they were just too unusual.

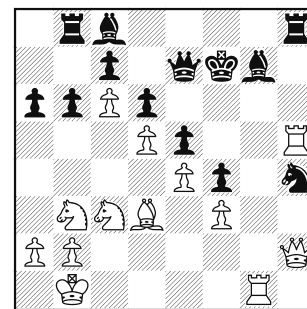
Suttles-Patrick
Canadian Championship
Winnipeg, 1963
(Volume 3, page 892)



White to play

In this complicated position, White struck with 29. ♙h6!, winning beautifully after additional complications. So taken was everyone with 29. ♙h6! that only Fritz noticed 29. ♙f7!!, threatening 30. Rh6+ with mate, because Black's e7-rook can no longer defend along the second rank. After 29... ♖f7 30. ♖e8 ♙h7 31. ♖h6! gh6 32. ♖f7 ♙h8 33. ♙h6 also mates.

Saidy-Suttles
Tel Aviv Olympiad, 1964
(Volume 2, page 597)



White to play

Chess Chat called Black's last move (28... ♙g6-h4) "beautiful," and after the game continuation 29. ♖h8 ♙h8 30. ♙d2 ♙f6 Black was still kicking (although he ultimately lost). But it didn't take Fritz long to find 29. ♖g7! ♙g7 30. ♖g1! ♙g6 (30... ♙f7 31. ♖h8) 31. ♖h8 ♙h8 (31... ♙h8 is illegal) 32. ♖g6, when White ends up with a material advantage (two knights for a rook) and Black's c8-bishop is tied to the defence of his a6-pawn.

The "attacking retreat" 30. ♖g1! is difficult to see, but Black's h4-knight (which seems to attack White's f3-pawn) is also distracting. We know White overlooked 29. ♖g7+!, but whether Black did as well or just cold bloodedly thought 28... ♙h4?! was his best chance is harder to determine.



About the author...

Bruce Harper is a many-time British Columbia chess champion and has competed in several Canadian Championships. He wrote a weekly chess column for the Vancouver Province and has authored numerous chess articles for various publications. He has known Grandmaster Suttles for some forty years. This is his first (and longest) book.

The Kings of Chess

by Larry Parr

Vasily Vasiliyevich Smyslov

b. 1921 -

World champion: 1957 to 1958

No one has mentioned this strange fact before, but Vasily Smyslov, Caissa's gentle giant and would-be opera singer, whose 1979 autobiography was titled *In Search of Harmony*, owes his distinguished chess career not only to hard work and natural talent, but also to American chess angel and investment banker Maurice Wertheim. For Wertheim made possible the first USA-USSR Radio Match of 1945, a double-round battle on 10 boards. Few people recall that the United States, radiant victor of four successive Olympiads during the 1930s, was an odds-on favourite to win a match in which it was crucified, $4\frac{1}{2} - 15\frac{1}{2}$! In about 72 hours, from September 1 to 4, 1945, the Soviet Union established itself as the world's leading chess power. On the

first three boards, the Soviets scored $5\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$, including Smyslov's two-zip win over Samuel Reshevsky. The Radio Match blowout legitimized Soviet chess, which included Smyslov's impressive results in the Soviet Union during World War II.

Such legitimacy was crucial for Smyslov, as his scanty international record before the 1948 World Championship Tournament (12th-13th at Leningrad-Moscow 1939, including a loss to Reshevsky; a distant third at Groningen 1946 behind Mikhail Botvinnik and Max Euwe; and a tie for 2nd-5th at Warsaw 1947, two points behind Svetozar Gligoric) would surely never have gotten him invited to play in the elite Hague-Moscow tournament for the world title.



Vasily Smyslov

Smyslov came from a chess-playing family. His father once won a tournament game from Alexander Alekhine, and the son began playing at age six. Inspired by chess visits to the Soviet Union in the mid-1930s by Emanuel Lasker and José Capablanca, Smyslov took up the game in earnest, winning at age 16 the All-Union boys' championship of 1938. He followed up this success in the same year by tying for first in the Moscow City Championship and found himself invited to play in the 1939 Leningrad-Moscow international where he finished tied near the bottom with an off-form Paul Keres. No matter, because in the 1940 USSR Championship, he joined the chess elite of his country by finishing third, $1\frac{1}{2}$ points ahead of Mikhail Botvinnik, who found himself in a tie for 5th-6th.

After finishing third in the 1941 Soviet "absolute championship," behind Botvinnik and Keres, but ahead of three other top Soviet players, Smyslov became the youngest Soviet grandmaster up until that time. During the war years he won the 1942 Moscow Championship and finished second behind Botvinnik in the 1944 USSR Championship.

The above results, combined with Smyslov's mediocre international record and two-zip win over Reshevsky in the 1945 Radio Match, were his credentials for playing in the 1948 title tournament. By finishing a clear second, he justified his inclusion.

From 1950 to 1958, Smyslov produced the best chess results in the world while also elaborating a serene positional



Smyslov vs Keres
World Championship Tournament, The Hague/Moscow, 1948

style in which he often played for better or simply even endings, trusting in his endgame technique to provide victory. His style has often been compared to Capablanca's, though reaching an ending per se may have played a larger part in the Russian's thinking than in the Cuban's.

Although Smyslov won the 1951 Tchigorin Memorial as well as Zagreb 1955 and Moscow 1956 (1st= with Botvinnik), Smyslov's greatest achievements were winning two consecutive candidates' tournaments, Neuhausen-Zurich 1953 and Amsterdam 1956, by two points and 1½ points, respectively. He climbed the Everest of qualification twice, which led to three matches with Botvinnik. He drew the first (1954), won the second (1957) and lost the third (1958), scoring +18 -17 =34 in these three mini-wars as well as achieving a plus score in tournament play against Botvinnik during the 1950s. Yet these titanic efforts yielded Smyslov the world title for only a year, given the regulations of that period.

Smyslov's competitive ambition was satisfied by winning the world title. He stated publicly that he did not believe he could win the 1959 candidates tournament, and he proved his view to be a self-fulfilling prophecy, finishing a gentleman's fourth. He was twice more a title candidate, qualifying from interzonals at Amsterdam 1964 (1st-4th) and Las Palmas 1982 (2nd). At age 61 he became the oldest ever championship candidate. If in 1965, he was brutally eliminated from the cycle by Efim Geller (losing wearily, -3 =5), in 1983 he won his quarter- and semi-final matches against Robert Huebner (+1 -1 =12, decided by the spin of a roulette wheel) and Zoltan Ribli (+3 -1 =7) to meet rising young Garry Kasparov in the finals in 1984, where he lost -4 =9.

In the more than 40 years since Smyslov lost the championship rematch, he has become best known not for his writings and not for a single-minded pursuit of the world title. He became a tournament specialist (winning eight successive tournaments in the mid-1960s; taking one first and three shared firsts in strong Moscow Central Chess Club tournaments in 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1963; and winning Havana 1965 ahead of Bobby Fischer and Monte Carlo 1969, plus numerous tournament victories in Cuba and Latin America), travelling the planet and creating a

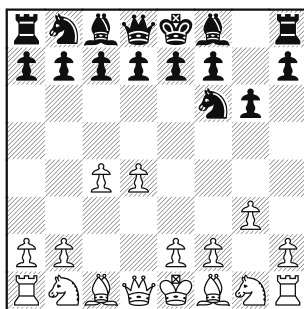
body of chess games noted for its subtle artistry.

Botvinnik once claimed that in chess Smyslov did everything well, though endings were the latter's special territory. Botvinnik ought to know. For his great rival won games from him in every conceivable style, producing several miniatures or near miniatures as well as numerous accurate endgames. Here is one example of Smyslov drastically abusing Botvinnik:

Botvinnik-Smyslov [E68] World Championship (14), 1954

[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 g6 3. g3



Botvinnik avoids 3. ♖c3 d5, the Gruenfeld Defence, in which Smyslov was an expert. The next few moves lead into the King's Indian Defence, which Botvinnik fought throughout his career. It seems that Botvinnik consistently respected the soundness of the Gruenfeld, but felt the King's Indian to be somewhat dubious, on the grounds that White's space advantage is more important than Black's dynamic counterplay. With this scholarly approach, Botvinnik had already taken some practical lessons from Bronstein, and would later enrol in a postgraduate course from Tal. Even so, perhaps Smyslov, who was quite happy to seriously threaten the Gruenfeld in order to restrict White's choices against the King's Indian, was the most difficult opponent of all.

3... ♗g7 4. ♗g2 O-O 5. ♖c3 d6 6. ♖f3 ♖bd7

The popular move at that time. Today, other responses such as ...c6, ...c5 or ...♖c6 are more popular.

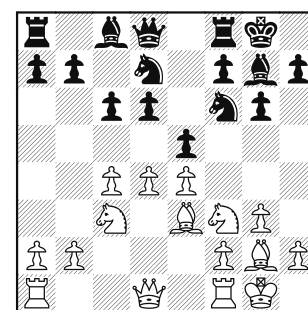
7. O-O e5!



Smyslov - writer, world title holder and tournament specialist

The fight for the control of the centre begins.

8. e4 c6 9. ♗e3?!



White wants to develop his pieces without wasting time for prophylactic moves like h3. We will see what comes out of this. Nowadays 9. h3 is a must play move, and we're about to see why.

9... ♖g4!

By chasing the bishop, Black immediately starts forcing the play. Already here Smyslov saw the exchange sacrifice and evaluated it in his favour.

10. ♗g5

Not 10. ♗d2?! ♖e3 11. ♗e3, as White needs his dark-squared bishop to defend the weak dark squares in the centre and queen-side.

10... ♗b6

A double attack on d4 and b2. White has a saving tactic.

11. h3

Botvinnik does not back down. Quieter play, such as 11. ♖a4 ♗a6 12. b3, would

concede that Black already has a slight edge.

11... ed4!

Smyslov attempts to exploit the consequent separation of the white pieces from one another. Of course not the passive 11... ♖gf6 12. ♖d2 with advantage for White.

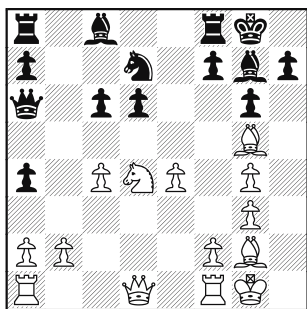
12. ♖a4 ♖a6 13. hg4

Unappealing for White is 13. ♖d4 ♖c4 14. hg4 ♖d4.

13... b5

Winning back the knight.

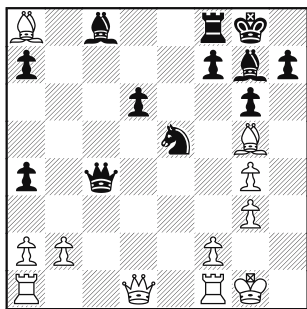
14. ♖d4 ba4



15. ♖c6

White doesn't stop half way. Probably 15. ♖e7 is better: 15... ♖e8 16. ♖d6 ♖e5 17. c5 ♖g4 18. f3 ♖d3!? with unclear play (18... ♖d7 =).

15... ♖c6 16. e5 ♖c4 17. ♖a8 ♖e5



Black is much better here since White's pieces are split up, Black's pieces control the centre, and White's king-side is weak. It seems inevitable that White will soon be forced to swap his light-squared bishop, leaving the white king in danger.

18. ♖c1

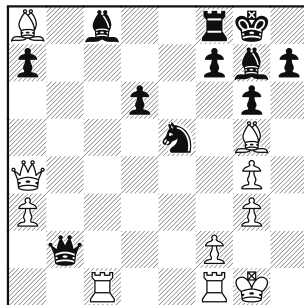
Risky though it looks, White might be better off trying 18. ♖d6 with the sneaky idea of 18... ♖g4 19. ♖d5 ♖b5 20. ♖h6

to swap his dark-squared bishop, not much help in defending the white king, for one of Black's menacing minor pieces.

18... ♖b4 19. a3

White has to get rid of a potential passed pawn on a4.

19... ♖b2 20. ♖a4



20... ♖b7!

Black seizes the long diagonal, quite willing to make the queen sacrifice that in fact happens.

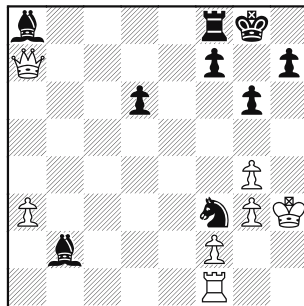
21. ♖b1?

This manner of "winning" a queen does not leave White with much hope. Better was 21. ♖b7 ♖b7 22. ♖c3 offering to sacrifice back the exchange: 22... h6 23. ♖f4 ♖f3 24. ♖f3 ♖f3 25. ♖d6 ♖d8 =.

21... ♖f3 22. ♖h1 ♖a8!

Black gets three minor pieces for the queen, which is more than enough as Black's king is very safe, while White's king is in very bad condition.

23. ♖b2 ♖g5 24. ♖h2 ♖f3 25. ♖h3 ♖b2 26. ♖a7



White's passed a-pawn will obviously go nowhere.

26... ♖e4 27. a4 ♖g7

Now White needs to worry about possible opening of the h-file.

28. ♖d1 ♖e5!

Again it is very visible that Black's pieces cooperate well, while White's two remaining pieces are unable to see each other.

29. ♖e7 ♖c8! 30. a5

A point of Black's last move is seen by 30. ♖d6 ♖c1! with lethal threats.

30... ♖c2

The last piece is in the attack!

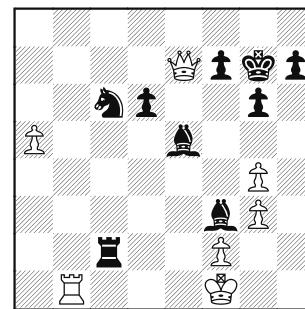
31. ♖g2 ♖d4

Black is weaving a mating net around White's king.

32. ♖f1 ♖f3

White is completely paralyzed, with only a vague hope of using the a-pawn as a distraction. With his next moves Smyslov eliminates that hope.

33. ♖b1 ♖c6



Clearing, with tempo, a path for the King's Indian bishop to arrive at d4 and oversee the final slaughter. A brilliant, perfect game by Smyslov. Even today's computers are having trouble spotting any mistakes by Black. Because there were none!

0-1

Recommended Reading

Vasily Smyslov, *My Best Games of Chess, 1935 – 1957* (Dover, 1972);

Vasily Smyslov, *125 Selected Games* (Cadogan, 1994);

Vasily Smyslov, *B poiskakh garmonii (In Search of Harmony)*, published in Moscow in 1979, an autobiography.

Garry Kasparov, *My Great Predecessors*, Volume 2.





Canadian Events

British Columbia

BC Junior Championship

As expected by the ratings, Bindi Cheng dominated this five-round swiss with a perfect 5/5, a point and a half ahead of the rest.

Jack Taylor Memorial

This five-round swiss, with four master-rated entrants, wound up in a tie for first between Roger Patterson and Valeria Gansvind with 4.5/5, a point ahead of the field.

Vancouver January Open

In this five-round swiss, the top score of 4/5 was achieved by masters Bindi Cheng and Lucas Davies together with dark horse Pavel Trochtchanovitch, who performed more than a class above his rating of 1965.

Alberta

ECC Halloween Open

A four-round swiss. Top rated Torstein Bae gave up only a half-point bye, scoring 3.5/4. Call it a trick or a treat, but he was joined in first place by Randy LaBoucane, who came in with a B-class rating and turned in a master performance.

Alberta Junior

In this six-player round robin, top-rated Daniel Kazmaier triumphed with 4.5/5.

ECC Kristiana Open

In this five-round swiss, already by the end three the sole leader was Torstein Bae, having defeated Micah Hughey, Nicolas Haynes and Robert J. Gardner. At the end, Bae had 5/5, a full point ahead of the surprise second-place finisher, Randy LaBoucane.

Winter Open

Section A, a six-player round robin, was dominated by GM Alex Shabalov with 4.5/5, a point ahead of the field.

Schleinich Memorial

Section A was a six-player round robin, with five masters. Victor Kaminiski scored 3.5/5, with a solid 2431 performance...but that was only good enough for clear second, as Greg Huber swept through with 4.5/5 and a 2582 performance. In Section B, with five experts, Keith MacKinnon triumphed with 3.5/5.

Manitoba

2007 Grand Prix Finals

In Group A, the surprise winner was Anthony Boron, edging out Samuel Lipnowski.

2008 Kent Oliver Memorial

In this five-round swiss, top-rated Samuel Lipnowski sailed through to clear first with 4.5/5.

Ontario

Ron Rogers 2007 Memorial

In this six-round swiss, Alex Davies started with a couple of half-point byes, then won his remaining games to take clear first with 5/6, a half point ahead of Saeid Sadeghi, Wayne Barclay and Zi Yi (Joey) Qin.

2007 Seaway Valley Open

In this five-round swiss, Armando Valdizon took clear first with 4.5/5, a half point ahead of Karoly Szalay.

2007 Toronto Junior

This four-player double round robin was a notable result for Yuanling Yuan, who performed over 2300 to take clear first with 4.5/6.

2007 Toronto Holidays Open

A six-round swiss with a very exciting finish. It seemed over when GM Bator Sambuev, by defeating IM Artem Samsonkin in Round 4, emerged as the sole leader with 4/4, a point ahead of the rest; but then Michael Barron took Sambuev for the full point in Round 5. Going into the last round, the leaders with 4/5 included Sambuev, Samsonkin, Barron, and Ilia Bluvshstein. In the final round, Sambuev defeated Bluvshstein, and Samsonkin defeated Barron, resulting in first and second being split between Sambuev and Samsonkin at 5/6. Meanwhile, Alexander Martchenko, who after an early swiss gambit had been sneaking up the crosstable, scored a last-round victory over Canadian Champ Nikolay Noritsyn to take clear third with 4.5/6.

RA Winter Open

In this five-round swiss, GM Bator Sambuev took first with a perfect 5/5. Lloyd Mai took clear second with a nice 4/5.

New Brunswick

2007 NB Closed

In this six-player round robin, the surprise winner was Elias Oussedik, with 4.5/5.

PEI

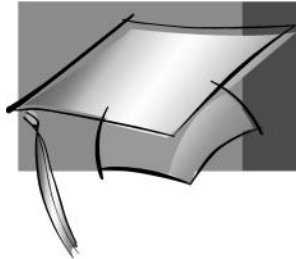
2007 PEI Open

This five-round swiss was a triumph for Aaron Cooper, who took a last-round draw to claim clear first with 4.5/5, a half point ahead of Anthony Howarth.

Newfoundland

Christmas Knights

This five-round swiss ended in a three-way tie for first between Alick Tsui, Jim Duffett and Steve Martin, all at 4/5.



The Scholastic Scene

by Hal Bond

World Youth Chess Championships

"Find Heaven on Earth ..."

It was 150 BC, and these instructions were daunting. King Attalos II of Pergamon wanted the perfect port for his powerful navy. This search finally came to an end when his men discovered Antalya.

Located on the Mediterranean in southwestern Turkey, the city of Antalya is the capital of its namesake province. The picturesque tourist haven of over 600,000 residents boasts both a literacy rate above 95% and the craziest nightlife in the country! A couple of millennia after its inception, the Turkish Chess Federation showcased their piece of heaven in front of the world—attracting over 1400 participants to the 2007 World Youth Chess Championships.

It is impossible to do justice to the largest event on the FIDE calendar in just a few pages. The chart at right provides some highlights. Canadians appeared on the top half of the crosstable in 8 of the 12 divisions, and our best performances were generally scored by our younger competitors. Our top scorer was 8 year old Janak Awatramani of Vancouver. He joined 9 other players in a log jam for 7th-16th place with a score of 7.5. Most of these kids have no FIDE rating, but 8 of Janak's 11 opponents scored better than 50% in the tournament. As a talented first grader, Janak first caught this writer's eye in the April 2006 issue of *Chess Canada* when he already sported an Active rating over 1300.

As with most young players, Awatramani's style might be described as tactically eager. His openings were based on the h1-a8 diagonal whether he played White or Black. His game in Round 6 was a watershed encounter for both Janak and his opponent. Sitting at 3/5 he faced Teo Tomulic of Croatia. After this victory Janak scored another 3.5 points in

the last 5 games. Tomulic struggled to finish with 5/11.

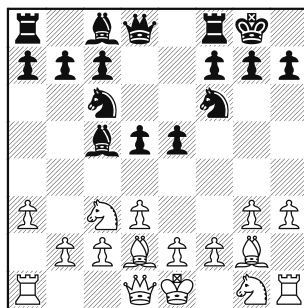
Awatramani-Tomulic [A00] WYCC U8 Boys (6), 2007

[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

1. g3 e5 2. ♖g2 d5 3. d3 ♟f6 4. ♟c3

On c3 the knight is slightly awkward, since Black can sometimes play ...d4.

4... ♟b4 5. ♟d2 O-O 6. a3 ♟c5 7. h3 ♟c6 8. e4



Black has a lead in development and should try to capitalize on it with ...d4. After that the position is roughly equal.

8... d4 9. ♟ce2 ♟e6

On e6 the Bishop is vulnerable to White's fast approaching f-pawn; 9... ♟e8 would have been better, to meet 10. f4 with 10... f5!

10. f4 a6 11. f5 ♟d7 12. g4 ♟d6

Too slow. Black should play a move such as 12... ♟e8 to take some of the steam out of White's kingside advance.

13. ♟f3

The immediate 13. g5 was also strong.

13... b5

Black is desperately trying to create counter-play, but is too slow.

14. ♟g3 a5 15. b3

An unnecessary move aimed at locking the queenside pawn structure based on any advance by Black. However, the move loses time and softens White's pawn structure. Stronger was the immediate 15. g5.

15... ♟b8

Black could have used the tempo White surrendered with b3 to get ready for the kingside attack by playing 15... ♟e8.

16. g5 ♟e8 17. h4

Now Black must play extremely carefully to avoid disaster.

17... a4 18. b4 f6 19. h5

A strong move which poses Black several problems.

19... ♟e7

A losing move. Black had to try 19... fg5 to keep lines open for counter-play.

20. g6 h6

Now, White can prepare to sacrifice on h6.

21. ♟h2 ♟a7 22. ♟g4 c5 23. bc5 ♟c5 24. ♟h6

A strong sacrifice that wins in every line.

24... gh6 25. ♟h6 ♟g7 26. ♟f7 ♟f7 27. h6 ♟h8 28. gf7 ♟b6 29. ♟g4

A powerful attack by Awatramani.

1-0

Perhaps the most public story of the tournament was the tenth round game between Canada's Lloyd Mai and Nils Nijs of Belgium. A dispute arose around the claim of threefold repetition, which is probably the most poorly understood procedure in all of chess. Players, coaches and arbiters alike should understand it. For the record:

Category	Players	Winner	Country	Score	Top Canadian	Score
U8 Girls	73	Furtado	India	9.0	Kelly Wang	6.5
U10 Girls	101	Styazhkina	Russia	9.5	Rebecca Giblon	5.0
U12 Girls	121	Efroimski	Israel	9.5	Miriam Roy	6.0
U14 Girls	113	WFM Paikidze	Georgia	9.5	Lisa Orlova	6.0
U16 Girls	103	Tsatsalashvili	Georgia	8.5	Sonja Xiong	5.0
U18 Girls	76	WFM Gunina	Russia	9.0	Gabrielle Nadeau	3.5
U8 Boys	120	Savenkov	Russia	10.0	Janak Awatramani	7.5
U10 Boys	155	Wang	China	10.0	Christopher Knox	7.0
U12 Boys	159	Naroditsky	USA	9.5	Nikita Gusev	7.0
U14 Boys	151	IM Sjugiurov	Russia	9.0	Lloyd Mai	7.0
U16 Boys	124	FM Chirila	Romania	8.5	Victor Kaminski	6.0
U18 Boys	111	GM Popov	Russia	9.0	Ying Feng Li	5.0

1. You can only make a claim if it is your turn to move. Be as sure as you can be. If you are wrong there is a time penalty involved. Don't touch the pieces!

2. If your opponent creates the threefold with his last move, you may claim the draw on your move before you touch a piece. If you choose to claim, inform your opponent and stop the clock immediately. If your opponent does not accept your claim, summon the arbiter. The arbiter should accompany you to a different board where your score sheet will be reviewed and the claim judged. If this doesn't happen, summon the Chief Arbiter. Then appeal if necessary.

3. If you are creating the threefold with your next move and want to claim a draw, DON'T MOVE THE PIECE! Write the move, claim the draw and stop the clock. If your opponent does not accept your claim, summon the arbiter. The arbiter should accompany you to a different board where your score sheet will be reviewed and the claim judged. If this doesn't happen, summon the Chief Arbiter. Then appeal if necessary.

Nothing like this happened in the controversial game, as Team Canada Captain Yan Teplitsky recalls:

Lloyd had an advantage for most of the game but drifted a bit in the middle game and at some point approaching time trouble allowed a three-fold repetition still in a much better position. His opponent made his move on the board, after which Lloyd made another (good) move away from the repetition and pressed the clock.

At this moment Lloyd's opponent stops the clock, calls the arbiter and demands the draw retroactively. The arbiter from Spain comes, appears not to speak any English or French, calls another arbiter and declares the game a draw. [Now Heaven on Earth has a hell of a mess!] Lloyd protests but no one listens to him. He refuses to sign the score sheet and demands to see his captain (me).

Ideally Lloyd should have demanded a ruling from the Chief Arbiter, but in an unequal relationship with adults and youth, his decision was quite understandable. What happens next is shocking:

Lloyd finds me in the lobby and we go back together. We have to fight the security and five minutes later when we come to the playing hall, the game had been cleared, the clock disappeared, Lloyd's opponent had left and the arbiters do not want to talk to us. Eventually with the help of Ellen Nadeau and Gerry Walsh from England, we find the Chief Arbiter, who speaks English. We explain our story and ask him to question the arbiter. He calls the game arbiter and the floor arbiter and tries to understand what happened. The game arbiter speaks only Spanish so the interpreter—an arbiter from Venezuela—is introduced. The Chief Arbiter asks the interpreter to ask the game arbiter whether the Belgian player's and Lloyd's next move were played or not, since both Lloyd and his opponent have the extra two moves written down on their score sheets. The Spanish arbiter replies that the two moves had indeed been played and then, on the advice of his interpreter, changes his story. I can speak Spanish! I explain this conspiracy to the chief arbiter but he said I was an interested party and he has to trust his arbiters so he declares the game a draw.

*So I burst into verse for better or worse
It's a tale that is simply unreal
In absence of choice Yan channelled his voice
To committee and launched an appeal.*

Natalia Khoudgarian joined Yan during the appeal. The conflicting versions of events created an awkward meeting. Ultimately, Appeals Committee member GM Azmaiparashvili believed that the score sheets could not be ignored, and at 11pm they decided to wake up the Belgian player.

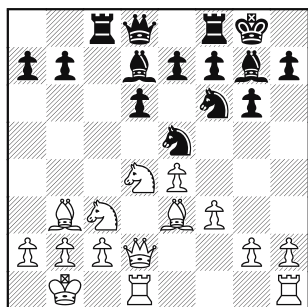
*A dearth of mirth befell Heaven on Earth
As the arbiters stuck to their story
Lloyd was annoyed by the antics employed
It was sad but he needn't be sorry.*

Lloyd's opponent Nils Nijs is an honest young man and he told the truth. His reward was to resume the game right away, which he lost. Justice can be cruel. Nils was recognized for his integrity and superior sportsmanship at the Closing Ceremony. Disciplinary action is being contemplated against the arbiters.

Here is the game:

Mai-Nijs [B78]
WYCC U14 Boys (10), 2007
[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

1. e4 c5 2. d3 d6 3. d4 cd4 4. d4 d6 5. d3 g6 6. e3 e7 7. f3 O-O 8. d2 d6 9. e4 e7 10. O-O-O e8 11. b3 d5 12. b1



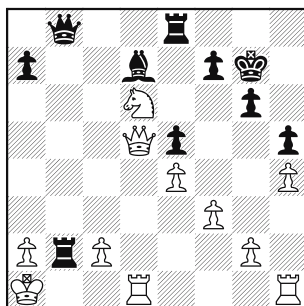
A main alternative to the common 12. h4 move. The main purpose of the move is to discourage an early ...a5 by Black on account of d5. Both players seem familiar with theory, as they play at least 23 moves of book.

12... e8 13. h4 h5 14. e6 d4



Modern-day Antalya is still beautiful.
photo: wikimedia

15. e4 e4 16. g7 g7 17. d5 e5 18. b3 d5 19. d5 e6 20. a5 b6 21. b7 b8 22. d6 b2 23. a1



This position is both known to theory and relatively balanced.

23... e6 24. d2 b4 25. hd1

An interesting alternative is 25. d3.

25... e4 26. c4 a3 27. d3 b3

Winning White's queen, but it is very difficult for Black to realize his material advantage with White's pieces so well placed.

28. b3 b3 29. cb3 e7 30. d5

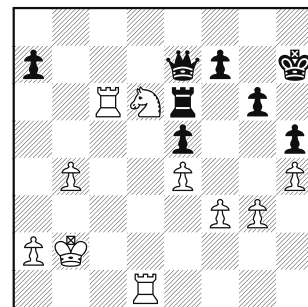
Slowing Black down on account of the weak e-pawn. Both players have played remarkably well. In the next sequence of moves, White goes from an equal

position to obtaining strong pressure without Black making any glaring error.

30... b4 31. b2 b8

A strange looking move, but Black wants to cover e8 to threaten to get his rook active.

32. b5 f8 33. e5 e6 34. e6 e7 35. g3 h7 36. b4



A gusty move that plays for the win. Black would have no way of making progress had White kept tight.

36... f5

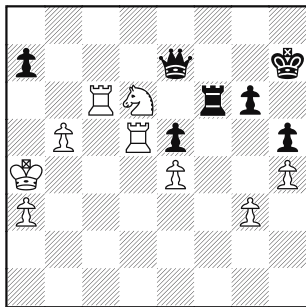
Black takes a risky gamble by playing for a win. A solid alternative was 36... f6.

37. a3 fe4 38. fe4 f6 39. d3 f2 40. b3 e6 41. a4 d7 42. b5

Suddenly the open seventh rank and advancing queen-side pawns give White

winning chances.

42... ♖f6 43. ♜d5 ♖e7



This is the first of three repetitions. Black is now in serious trouble.

44. ♜c8 ♖f7 45. ♜d6

Offering to repeat moves. Here 45. ♖f6 ♖f6 46. ♜a7, snagging a pawn, looks a little risky on account of moves like 46... ♖f3 attacking e4, but Black has no tricks and the b-pawn would become a monster.

45... ♖e7

This is the second repetition of moves.

46. ♜a5

Best was 46. ♜c8, winning the a-pawn again.

46... ♖f3 47. ♜a4 ♖f6

A third repetition, but the draw had to be claimed before playing 47... ♖f6.

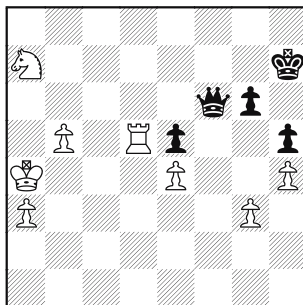
48. ♜c8

The draw was now claimed but, as mentioned in the article above, play resumed...

48... ♖f7 49. ♖f6

Finally, after all the drama, White plays the correct plan.

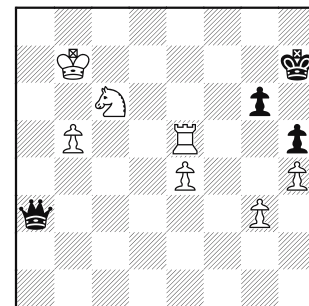
49... ♖f6 50. ♜a7



Black has no adequate defence and the

rest is easy.

50... ♖f3 51. ♖e5 ♖d1 52. ♜a5 ♖d2 53. ♜a6 ♖d6 54. ♜c6 ♖a3 55. ♜b7



There's no stopping the b- and e-pawns now.

55... ♖d6 56. ♖e7 ♜g8 57. e5 ♖d5 58. b6 ♜f8 59. ♖c7 ♖b3 60. ♖d7 ♜e8 61. e6 ♜f8 62. e7 ♜f7 63. ♖d8

In spite of the drama and Lloyd's slight hesitation in executing the winning plan, an excellently played game by Lloyd.

1-0



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second Saturday monthly, Rooty Hill Cup, **Calgary**

**NB**

Club d'Échecs Régional Chaleur Regional Chess Club,

see www.madisco.ca/CRCC/calendrier.htm

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every Sunday, Junior tournaments, Chess Academy of Canada, **Toronto**

also see www.chessacademycanada.com

**PQ**

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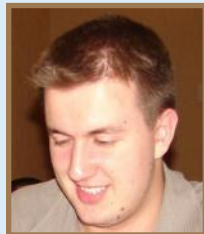
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Top since 1980



1. Kevin Spraggett	2665	1999
2. Alexandre Le Siège	2660	2002
3. Deen Hergott	2580	1995
4. Igor Ivanov	2576	1988
5. Mark Bluvshtein	2557	2007
6. Dimitry Tyomkin	2570	2006
7. Peter Biyiasis	2555	1980
8. Igor Zugic	2553	2007
9. Duncan Suttles	2550	1982
10. Yan Teplitsky	2549	1997
11. Bryon Nickoloff	2536	1988
12. Ron Livshits	2536	1999
13. Jean Hébert	2534	1998
14. Tomas Krnan	2534	2007
15. Pascal Charbonneau	2534	2007
16. Tom O'Donnell	2514	1989
17. Lawrence Day	2514	1997
18. Oleg Linskiy	2509	2002
19. Marat Khassanov	2496	1998
20. Michael Schleifer	2494	1999

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1. Mark Bluvshtein	2557
2. Igor Zugic	2553
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4. Tomas Krnan	2534
5. Deen Hergott	2474
6. Tom O'Donnell	2471
7. Thomas Roussel-Roozmon	2469
8. Zhe Quan	2460
9. Leonid Gerzhoy	2459
10. Nikolay Noritsyn	2458
11. Jean Hébert	2428
12. Ron Livshits	2427
13. John C (Jack) Yoos	2414
14. Eric Lawson	2401
15. Grant Spraggett	2385
16. Robert Hamilton	2378
17. Shiyam Thavandiran	2377
18. Blagoj Gicev	2367
19. Christian Stevens	2363
20. Goran Milicevic	2362

Top Women



1. Natalia Khoudgarian	2255
2. Hazel Smith	2223
3. Yuanling Yuan	2191
4. Anastasia Kazakevich	2152
5. Dina Kagramanov	2137
6. Nava Starr	2135
7. Amanda Benggawan	2064
8. Daniela Belc	2052
9. Iulia Lacau-Rodean	1966
10. Myriam Roy	1935
11. Yelizaveta Orlova	1892
12. Jasmine Du	1858
13. Natasa Serbanescu	1850
14. Alexandra Botez	1841
15. Sonja Xiong	1816
16. Dalia Kagramanov	1816
17. Anca Datcu-Romano	1815
18. Claire Woodworth	1778
19. Glenda Baylon	1772
20. Catherine Frenette	1725

Top Under 18



1. Zhe Quan	2460
2. Nikolay Noritsyn	2458
3. Shiyam Thavandiran	2377
4. Bindi Cheng	2352
5. David (Yu) Peng	2342
6. Raja Panjwani	2350
7. Lloyd Mai	2293
8. Victor Kaminski	2291
9. Eric Hansen	2286
10. Louie Jiang	2251
11. Kevin Chung	2228
12. Hazel Smith	2223
13. Roman Sapozhnikov	2217
14. Noam Davies	2209
15. Yuanling Yuan	2191
16. Zi Yi (Joey) Qin	2191
17. Karoly Szalay	2190
18. Alexander Martchenko	2190
19. Trevor Vincent	2176
20. Avinaash Sundar	2173

Top Under 16



1. Shiyam Thavandiran	2377
2. Lloyd Mai	2293
3. Eric Hansen	2286
4. Louie Jiang	2251
5. Kevin Chung	2228
6. Roman Sapozhnikov	2217
7. Yuanling Yuan	2191
8. Zi Yi (Joey) Qin	2191
9. Karoly Szalay	2190
10. Alexander Martchenko	2190
11. Avinaash Sundar	2173
12. Nikita Kraiouchkine	2122
13. Thomas Kaminski	2120
14. Jerry Xiong	2116
15. Daniil Yuffa	2114
16. Nikita Gusev	2109
17. Keith MacKinnon	2081
18. Christopher Knox	2050
19. Aquino Inigo	2041
20. Alan Ang	2021

Top under 14



1. Roman Sapozhnikov	2217
2. Zi Yi (Joey) Qin	2191
3. Yuanling Yuan	2191
4. Nikita Kraiouchkine	2122
5. Thomas Kaminski	2120
6. Jerry Xiong	2116
7. Daniil Yuffa	2114
8. Nikita Gusev	2109
9. Christopher Knox	2050
10. Aquino Inigo	2041
11. Michael Kleinman	1998
12. Liam Keith-Jacques	1957
13. Richard Leu	1916
14. Yiming Han	1916
15. Yelizaveta Orlova	1892
16. Chang He Li	1887
17. Jack (Kun) Cheng	1863
18. Brent Zhang	1863
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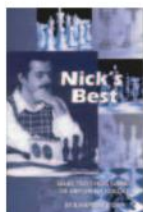
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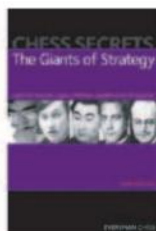
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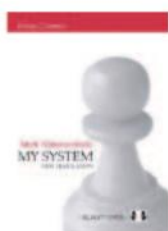
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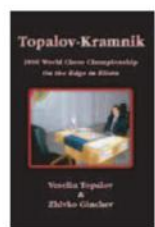
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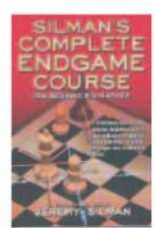
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TA53



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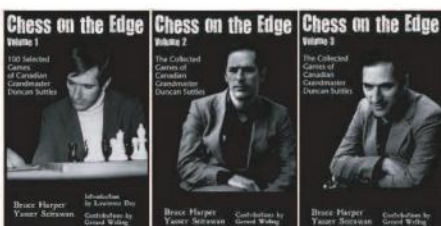


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