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THE END OF FIDE**

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IS THE CONTINUATION
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OLD WAYS**

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INTERVIEW: NIGEL SHORT

LONDON
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
MATCH IN DANGER
ILYUMZHINOV
REPRESENTS THE END OF FIDE.
MAKROPOULOS
IS THE CONTINUATION OF THE
TERRIBLE OLD WAYS

By Milan Dinic

BCM caught up with Nigel Short via skype as he arrived in Africa for his FIDE campaign tour. The famous British GM's campaign for FIDE president is building up momentum as he plans to tour the world in search of support for his bid to replace Kirsan Ilyumzhinov as the president of the chess world's top body, FIDE.

As we start talking about FIDE, Ilyumzhinov and the scandals which have recently hit world chess, Nigel Short observes that he has 'already spent enough on defamation this year' and that he has received legal threats from Ilyumzhinov's lawyers in London.

- I am a polemicist, my writing is polemical in style. But here I'm simply not exaggerating. I think FIDE will not reach its centenary 2024. In fact, if Ilyumzhinov is re-elected, I very much doubt it will survive another term. I don't see how you can operate an international organisation without a bank account, says Short.

As we write uncertainty is growing over London hosting the World Championship match later this year as there are questions whether the event might be blocked by Britain's greater scrutiny of the sources of Russian money coming to the UK.

Short believes that the election of the next FIDE president, which will take place in October, is the last chance to save the world chess body. In Short's view, had the Ilyumzhinov-Makropoulos axis at the top of FIDE not broken apart, neither he nor anyone else would stand a chance.

British Chess Magazine: How is your campaign going so far?

Nigel Short: I am pleased with it. There are interesting things in the background. I am currently touring Africa where I will visit eight countries altogether. Afterwards I am going to Leuven. I have an overall idea of my campaign but not a detailed plan. There are certain developments which may influence where I will be campaigning. However, I don't want to reveal too much. Past experiences from being a part of campaigns for FIDE president showed that giving too much information is normally not a good idea. It enables people to go around and spread misinformation or even use diplomatic leverage to influence votes.

BCM: When do you plan to announce your team?

N.S: I don't want to mention any names now as I don't wish to set people up as targets. My team will be announced by the end of the deadline - 3rd July this year. Otherwise, I'm not running.

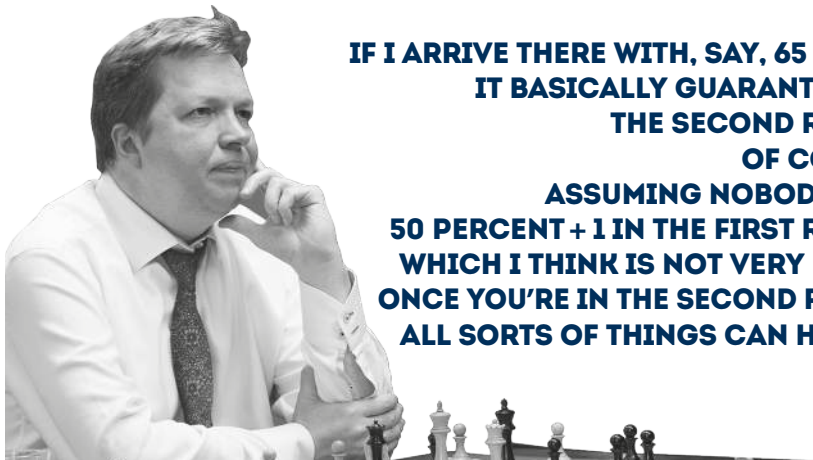
BCM: But, is it clear that you will be running? There is no chance that come 3rd July you won't have a team?

N.S: Never say 'never', but I strongly expect to be running unless there are some big developments.

MAKROPOULOS HAS KEPT ILYUMZHINOV IN POWER FOR THE BEST PART OF THE QUARTER OF A CENTURY. HE BOASTS ABOUT THIS. THAT'S PART OF HIS BRAG NOW. MAKROPOULOS CLAIMS HE IS GOING TO WIN BECAUSE THE ONLY REASON ILYUMZHINOV WAS SUCCESSFUL WAS HIM

BCM: How do you estimate your chances of winning?

N.S: I'm not the front runner. In fact, I don't think I would have considered running had there not been the split between Makropoulos and Ilyumzhinov. That completely changed the arrhythmic of the situation. If I arrive there with, say, 65 votes, it basically guarantees my going forward to the second round. Of course, assuming nobody gets 50 percent + 1 in the first round, which I think it not very likely. Once you're in the second round, all sorts of things can happen. You can find people who have strongly opposed you are now trying to win you over. All sorts of things can happen in those circumstances.



IF I ARRIVE THERE WITH, SAY, 65 VOTES, IT BASICALLY GUARANTEES ME THE SECOND ROUND. OF COURSE, ASSUMING NOBODY GETS 50 PERCENT + 1 IN THE FIRST ROUND, WHICH I THINK IS NOT VERY LIKELY. ONCE YOU'RE IN THE SECOND ROUND, ALL SORTS OF THINGS CAN HAPPEN

BCM: You are not the first GM to run for FIDE president. Other have tried and haven't succeeded.

N.S: I have heard many times people saying how Karpov has failed, Kasparov failed, and now I am another chess player - so, what's the difference? Well, the arithmetic is different. The split between Makropoulos and Ilyumzhinov provides a clear opening for a change.

BCM: Do you think that their split will be their own undoing? If they stayed together would they have continued to dominate FIDE virtually unchallenged?

N.S: There were millions of dollars spent in the last election... Many millions, on each side. Even when you start putting forward very convincing arguments there are so many things which went on in the underhand way... Delegates were particularly venal, delegations were disenfranchised. I think it's much harder when there is a split to get away with things that have happened. I certainly expect skulduggery. It would not be a FIDE election without that, but I don't expect it to be at the level which it has been in the past.

BCM: Some have argued that this split between Ilyumzhinov and Makropoulos are two sides of the same coin and that Makro may pull out in the last moment. What do you think about that?

N.S: That thought has crossed my mind, but I consider it unlikely. Makropoulos has kept Ilyumzhinov in power for the best part of the quarter of a century. He boasts about this. That's part of his brag now. Makropoulos claims he is going to win because the only reason Ilyumzhinov was successful was him. However, I think the breach between them is so great that it would take something of a miracle for them to come back together. And, quite frankly, FIDE is facing extinction.

If Ilyumzhinov is elected I don't see how the body can function. It can't work without a bank account! If you're voting for Ilyumzhinov you're voting for the end of FIDE.

BCM: How do you view the plans and tactics of the other two candidates?

N.S: Right now, the team around Makropoulos are hoping they'll survive with this elaborate arrangement which they have. They hope to survive until the Olympiad in Batumi [23rd September - 9th October 2018] and kick Ilyumzhinov out. But I find it extremely hypocritical that these people who owe their positions to Ilyumzhinov's grovelling frailty are now saying we all should unite in kicking out the number one threat.

When it comes to Ilyumzhinov, he has not fundamentally changed over the last quarter of a century. He's been consulting with dictators all along. He uses FIDE for his dodgy deals. So, that has been obvious to anyone. It's only if you're willingly blind to his numerous faults that you can support him. That's been it - greed, power-grab and finally, now, even for these guys who profited from this chaos, they realised that FIDE is coming to the end.

BCM: Ljubomir Ljubojevic argued that GMs are good at organising themselves but not great at organising others. In his view, personal grudges and issues from the past can come and haunt a relationship between GMs and the people on the organisational side of chess. What is your view of this?

N.S: I tend to look at things completely differently. In an ideal world there would be beyond doubt better candidates than myself. In the election so far, I have absolutely no doubt which of the three of us would be by far the best among them for the game of chess. If I become president I will become a president with

I EXPECT THE BACKING OF ECF, BUT I DON'T WANT MALCOLM PEIN TO CAST THE VOTE

BCM: *How do you comment on the fact that the ECF hasn't come clear about backing you?*

N.S: The fight is still to be fought. Of course, the problem is that the FIDE delegate - Malcolm Pein - is on the other side [Makropoulos - note by BCM]. But, the question on who the ECF will vote for - it is to be decided and probably fairly soon. I think there are reasons as to why they haven't done anything yet.

The English chess forum is a sounding off board for various malcontents, but I've noticed they have a little poll asking who should be backed and I'm way ahead of the other two candidates so far.

BCM: *Do you expect to get the backing?*

N.S: It's a question of procedure. If the council decide on this then I think I will have the backing. Then there are some legal procedures to be followed. If I do get the backing I will, however, ask that Malcolm does not cast the vote.

BCM: *Why?*

N.S: Because he clearly backs a different candidate and I wouldn't like to put him in a position where some people may unfairly accuse him of having voted for his own benefit.

BCM: *If he was to cast the vote, do you think he would do it as the ECF have instructed him?*

N.S: I'm not speaking about Malcolm, but it routinely happens that people vote in their own interest. I've come across it in federation after federation. I know of many cases where people have explicitly gone against the instructions of their federations. This is human nature and I don't think that Malcolm should be put in a position where people may question his judgement.

BCM: *If he was put in that position, would you have doubts on how he voted?*

N.S: I don't want to answer that question. Malcolm is a good friend. We have known each other for a huge amount of time. We have many of the same goals, but we have a different approach.



Touring Africa: Nigel Short in Zimbabwe, Source: Twitter



I FIND IT EXTREMELY HYPOCRITICAL THAT PEOPLE WHO OWE THEIR POSITIONS TO ILYUMZHINOV'S GROVELLING FRAILTY ARE NOW SAYING WE ALL SHOULD UNITE IN KICKING OUT THE NUMBER ONE THREAT

certain weaknesses which Ljuba may have recognised, and I certainly have flaws of my own... Democracy is about voting for the least bad candidate and I'm certainly the least bad candidate out of these three so far. Ilyumzhinov represents the end of FIDE. Makropoulos is the continuation of the terrible old ways of fixing things in an underhand manner.

BCM: And what do you see as your weakness?

N.S: I've spent my entire life playing chess. That has its advantages, but it also comes with disadvantages. Sometimes having some skills from a different field would be handy. I have noticed not too many people are talking about the lack of financial skill of the FIDE treasurer who is a surgeon and he is completely out of his depth in financial matters, from the experts I've spoken to. There are skills I lack but I hope and intend to bring in others to compensate.

BCM: The others you are hoping to bring – are they purely from the chess world or people from other field?

N.S: To be frank - my priority now is to get elected. Everything else comes after. This is like starting a tough game of chess and deciding in advance what nice strategy you will employ in the endgame. But, if you don't get that far it's irrelevant...

BCM: What are you hoping to change?

N.S: There are things I'd like to change. The basic structure of FIDE is inverted. Instead of doing things like other successful sports organisations which bring money in from commercial sponsorship and then they hand out some of that money towards federations for promoting the sport, the current approach of FIDE is based on taxing federations for everything. You want to be a trainer - you have to have a special FIDE licence; want a title - it's a tax; want to organise rated tournaments - pay a tax. This is the exact opposite of how the things should be. These are the things I would like to change. Once integrity is restored to FIDE, there will be a flood of new sponsorship coming into the game.

I know for example that there was a bid of 10 million dollars for the three world championship cycles. That has been turned

down by Makropoulos. That is money which FIDE could do with. That is actually a minimum. There are other sponsors lining up. CEOs in general are smart people and a lot of them play chess or have played chess. Zuckerberg, Bill Gates - they like the game, they play it. Have they put sponsorship in? Not really. There are resources which can be tapped and there are hundreds of others which could be brought into the game...

BCM: *Will you be looking towards St Louis for sponsorship or Rex Sinquefeld?*

N.S: However you look at it, the World Chess Championship scheduled for London in November has a prize fund of one million euros. That is a minimum. That is much less money than I played for with Kasparov in 1993! In real terms it's dramatically different. The current

THE FACT THAT I AM NOT GARRY KASPAROV HAS ADVANTAGES



Short: I'm not like Kasparov, Photo: BCM archive

Speaking about his chances of winning the race for FIDE president, Nigel Short pointed out the following:

“The fact that I am not Garry Kasparov has its advantages. That is a fact. He managed to mobilise the ‘Russian patriotic funding’, so to speak, because he is an outspoken critic of Putin’s. I have a different style.”

BCM: *What is your style?*

N.S: I hope that this may come as a surprise to some people... People find me very argumentative, but when I go around the world I normally get on very well with people. On a personal level I tend to get on better with people than Garry does.

What I tend to find with Garry is that there would be delegates who literally wouldn't vote for him because he refused them an autograph in 1986. One can laugh about that, but there are cases like these. His visit to Ireland for example didn't go down really well, including his not showing up at one very important event.

I have a lot of respect for Garry, but sometimes he has a slightly brisk nature. That has cost him votes in the past. I have a sharp pen in particular, but we are very different characters.

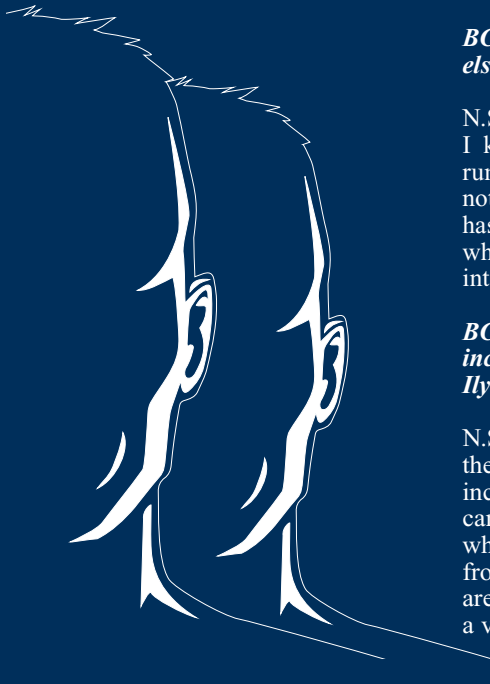
To conclude - I am an underdog but I stand better chances than Kasparov if he was to stand.

administration is losing out on millions of sponsorship money. I sincerely hope we will have many other sponsors, not only Rex Sinquefeld. The doors have to be open. You can't just give everything to an OPEC-like organisation such as Agon. Regarding Agon - both the spectators and the players are complaining. In Berlin there were numerous complaints from different players about the unsuitability of the venue or the hotel. I've written about Agon and FIDE more than once in the past. There are strong reasons to be highly sceptical about this particular relationship and it's not in FIDE's best interests. I'd like to see a lot of new sponsors. We've got to move away from having rich benefactors like we had in the past. Ilyumzhinov in the early days put some millions into the game but that was a long time ago. We can't be dependent on individuals. We have to have a whole batch of different sponsors. FIDE in recent years has more

or less only been able to attract state or regional governmental sponsors because they are less interested in getting a return on the money.

INSTEAD OF DOING THINGS LIKE OTHER SUCCESSFUL SPORTS ORGANISATIONS WHICH BRING MONEY IN FROM COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP AND THEN THEY HAND OUT SOME OF THAT MONEY TOWARDS FEDERATIONS FOR PROMOTING SPORT, THE CURRENT APPROACH OF FIDE IS BASED ON TAXING FEDERATIONS FOR EVERYTHING

TWO MORE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR FIDE PRESIDENT



BCM: Do you see a chance of anyone else entering the race?

N.S: There are two potential candidates I know of. For one of them it's just a rumour. I have spoken to the other. It's not certain that the person will run but he has been asked to by his government. In which case it will become more and more interesting.

BCM: Would more candidates increase or decrease chances to defeat Ilyumzhinov?

N.S: Ilyumzhinov is history. But, if there are more candidates, that maybe increases his chances. It depends on the candidate. There are some candidates who are more likely to take away votes from a particular person. The dynamics are quite complicated but it's going to be a very interesting election.

BCM: There's been speculation that the Championship may be moved from London to St Louis. What do you think about that?

N.S: I don't think any match should be run by Agon, regardless where it would take place. That is my view. There have been recent discussions about moving the match to St Louis. Rex Sinquefield is not going to do that under any circumstances dictated by the Makropoulos group. If that is to happen, other things have to happen as well, also behind the scenes. I'd personally like to see many other sponsors come forward. When Agon is controlling everything, that isn't going to happen.



HAVE THEY PUT SPONSORSHIP IN? NOT REALLY. THERE ARE RESOURCES WHICH CAN BE TAPPED AND THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF OTHERS WHICH COULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE GAME...

BCM: But doesn't having the match in London contribute to promoting chess in the UK?

N.S: I don't agree. Our Parliament has recently been debating the presence of Russian dirty money in Britain. And there is quite a lot of it. In view of the great deterioration of British-Russian relations this year there is increasing scrutiny of the origin of Russian money. Questions will be asked about the chess event planned for November. I think there is no doubt about that. If the British government is taking a dim view of such things then that may have an influence on where the match is held.

I'D LIKE TO SEE A LOT OF NEW SPONSORS. WE'VE GOT TO MOVE AWAY FROM HAVING RICH BENEFACTORS LIKE WE HAD IN THE PAST... CEOs IN GENERAL ARE SMART PEOPLE AND A LOT OF THEM PLAY CHESS OR HAVE PLAYED CHESS. MARK ZUCKERBERG, BILL GATES – THEY LIKE THE GAME, THEY PLAY IT.



I think the match in London is in great difficulty and that is one of the biggest weaknesses in the Makropoulos campaign. They are pretending that everything is fine when in fact it isn't. They are very, very keen to get the match put somewhere else.

BCM: Is it because of this whole funding thing or is it also because of who will actually be giving the money?

N.S: The question is who is giving the money. The money currently comes from Kaspersky which is, as far as I am aware, banned by the British government. It's the same in the US. So, there are questions already. Pretty obvious questions. This is not my field, I'm not an expert but one other sponsor - PhosAgro - has links to the Kremlin. In view of what has been happening

SHORT: I THINK THE LONDON MATCH IS IN GREAT DIFFICULTY AND THAT IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST WEAKNESSES IN THE MAKROPOULOS CAMPAIGN. THEY ARE PRETENDING THAT EVERYTHING IS FINE WHEN IN FACT IT ISN'T. THEY ARE VERY, VERY KEEN TO GET THE MATCH PUT SOMEWHERE ELSE

in the UK when it comes to Russia in recent months, then I think there is much less of a willingness to just let things go. People are getting a bit annoyed with Russian influence in the UK and in London in particular.

IN VIEW OF THE GREAT DETERIORATION OF BRITISH RUSSIAN RELATIONS THIS YEAR THERE IS INCREASING SCRUTINY BEING PUT ON THE ORIGIN OF RUSSIAN MONEY. QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED ABOUT THE CHESS EVENT PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER



Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and Vladimir Putin in July 2017, Photo: Kremlin

**"THE CHESS WORLD
DESERVES A BETTER CHOICE...
THE OTHER TWO CANDIDATES
HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE FOR TOO LONG."**



TIME FOR CHANGE

THE 25TH RUSSIAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, SOCHI, 1-10 MAY



Maxim Matlakov, Nikita Vityugov, Kirill Alekseenko, Vladimir Bykov, Alexey Goganov, Peter Svidler, Maxim Rodshtein and Vladimir Fedoseev

THE BRONZE HORSEMAN DOMINATES IN RUSSIA

By GM Aleksandar Colovic
Photos: Russian Chess Federation

The competition at the Russian team championship this year was less stellar. Last year's superstars and European Champions Sibir - who fielded Kramnik, Giri, Mamedyarov, Grischuk and Karjakin - were devoid of their elite players and could only finish 4th. This paved the way for the very strong and compact team of Mednyi Vsadnik (The Bronze Horseman, the monument dedicated to Peter the Great in St. Petersburg) to win this year's title.

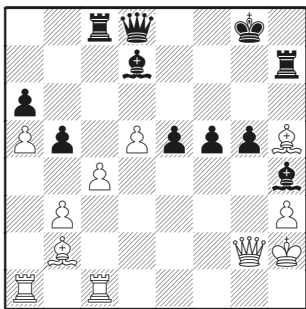
The Horsemen were led by Peter Svidler on Board 1, followed by Vitiugov, Fedoseev, Matlakov, Rodshtein, Alekseenko and Goganov. They won all their matches and the only team to keep up with them was the Moscow team of ShSM, consisting

of Dubov, Inarkiev, Naer, Motylev, Grachev, Zvjagintsev, Popov and Oparin. As it turned out, their duel in the second round, won by The Bronze Horseman by 3.5-2.5, was decisive as both teams won their remaining matches.

Team championships have their inner stories that are unknown to the general public. There are decisive moments that define the tournament for the team in the same manner as these turning moments define the tournament for a player. Such moments can only be known (or felt) by the insiders, the players themselves and their captains. Looking from the outside, perhaps the decisive moment of the victory of the Horseman was the following game...

Vladimir3 Fedoseev - Evgeniy Najer

TCh-RUS Premier 2018 Sochi RUS (2.3)



32.♔e2 Black is winning here as he has a decisive attack, but the position is complex and the players are short of time.

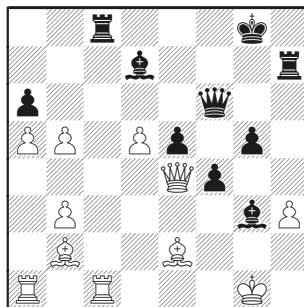
32...f4 This should still win, but Black had a better option.

32...g4! was the strongest, with the logical idea of liberating the g5-square for the bishop or the queen. Even if it is logical, this idea is difficult to find as in such positions the players look for forcing lines rather than moves that 'just' improve their position. Continuing with 33.♔xe5 ♕f6 ends with attacking both the bishop and the pawn on h3. 34.♕f4 ♖xh3+ 35.♖g1 ♕d4+ 36.♖f1 ♗h4 with the unstoppable threat of ...♖h1. 37.♕f3.

THE HORSEMEN WERE LED BY PETER SVIDLER ON BOARD 1, FOLLOWED BY VITIUGOV, FEDOSEEV, MATLAKOV, RODSHTEIN, ALEKSEENKO AND GOGANOV. THEY WON ALL THEIR MATCHES AND THE ONLY TEAM TO KEEP UP WITH THEM WAS THE MOSCOW TEAM OF SHSM

33.♗e4 ♗f6 Again 33...g4 was strongest, threatening to give check on g3 and then either take on h3 or move the queen to h4. 34.♗xe5 ♕g3+ 35.♖g1 ♗h4.

34.cxb5 ♕g3+ 35.♖g1



35...♕xh3?? This turns the tables completely - from a winning position now Black is lost after White's next. It's curious to note how safe White's king is behind Black's bishops.

35...♖xh3! still wins: 36.♕xe5 ♕h2+ 37.♖f1 ♖e8 38.♕xf6 ♖xe4 is winning for Black, who will need to make only two more moves until move 40 and then calmly calculate the winning lines.

36.♕d3! All of a sudden White's bishops are the more dangerous ones!

36...♕h2+ 37.♖h1 ♖h4 38.♕xe5 ♗h6 39.♕d4 Even 39.♗g6+ ♗xg6 40.♕xg6 wins as Black's pieces on the h-file lack coordination while White's pawns will decide matters.

39...f3? This allows for a quick mate.

39...♖f7 was more resilient, but even here after 40.♖xc8 ♕xc8 41.d6! ♗xd6 42.♕c4+ ♖f8 43.♖d1! White should win.

40.♖xc8+ ♕xc8 41.♗e8+ 41.♗e8+ ♗f8 42.♗g6+ ♗g7 43.♗xg7#

1-0

SHIROW AND ShSM

Instead of a win in the game and the match the ShSM suffered a minimal defeat and eventually that cost them the title.

As in any tournament there were also a few disappointments, the biggest one perhaps being Alexey Shirov's start with three consecutive losses. Two of these were quite spectacular.

Andrey Esipenko - Alexei Shirov

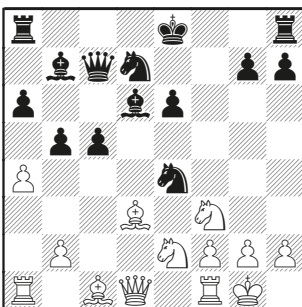
TCh-RUS Premier 2018 Sochi RUS (3,2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♗c3 e6 5.e3 ♗bd7 6.♗d3 A major change in Esipenko's repertoire. Born in 2002, he is perhaps Russia's brightest prospect. Until recently his choice was the Semi-Slav after 6 ♗c2, but in December's match between the young stars and the veterans he suffered two sensitive losses, one of them against his present opponent.

6.♗c2 ♗d6 7.♗d3 0-0 8.0-0 dxc4 9.♗xc4 b5 (9...a6 10.♖d1 b5 11.♗f1 ♗c7 12.e4 e5 13.g3 ♖e8 0-1 (38) Esipenko,A (2564)-Mamedyarov,S (2799) Moscow RUS 2017) 10.♗e2 ♗b7 11.a3 a5 12.e4 e5 0-1 (34) Esipenko,A (2564)-Shirov,A (2631) Moscow RUS 2017.

6...dxc4 7.♗xc4 b5 8.♗d3 ♗b7 9.0-0 a6 10.e4 c5 11.d5 ♗c7 12.dxe6 fxe6 13.♗e2 The latest fashion in the Meran. 13 ♗c2 is still considered the main move.

13...♗d6 14.a4 ♗xe4?



Now we can understand Esipenko's idea in entering the Meran and wonder at Shirov's naivety. While Shirov could have been surprised by Esipenko's change of line, I find it difficult to understand how he could go down such a sharp line knowing that his opponent had undoubtedly prepared an improvement over his game with Oparin from 2014!

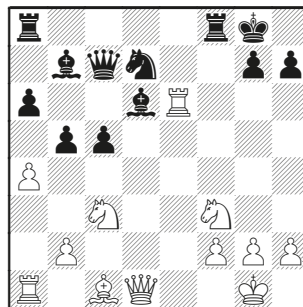
14...0-0 is definitely an improvement: 15.axb5 c4!? 16.♗c2 axb5 with good position for Black; 14...b4 is also a better option. 15.♗c4 0-0-0 with unclear position.

15.♗xe4! The refutation of Black's last move. Now Shirov is playing against an engine and unfortunately he is no match.

Back in 2014 Oparin chose the inferior 15.axb5 axb5 16.♖xa8+ ♗xa8 17.♗xb5 and Shirov managed to survive after 17...0-0 18.♗c4 ♗e5 ½-½ (29) Oparin,G (2543)-Shirov,A (2675) Moscow 2014.

15...♗xe4 16.♗c3 ♗b7 16...♗f5 seems to be more resilient. 17.axb5 0-0 18.♖xa6 ♖xa6 19.bxa6 and White is a pawn up, but Black may claim some compensation in view of the pair of bishops.

17.♖e1 0-0 18.♖xe6



18...♗e5 Shirov is true to his style, but this is easily refuted.

18...♗f4 19.♗d5; 18...♖xf3 19.♗xd6 ♗xd6 20.♖xd6 ♖f7 21.axb5 axb5 22.♖xa8+

♙xa8 23.♘xb5 is a clear pawn up for White in a technical position, but perhaps Black could pin his hopes on the opposite-coloured bishops.

19.♖xd6 ♘xf3+ 20.gxf3 ♗f7 21.♞e3
Black has no compensation for the piece.

21...b4 22.♘e4 ♞ad8 23.♖g3 ♞d1+
24.♔g2 b3 25.♞c3 c4 26.♘d6 ♗e7
27.♘xb7 ♗e2 27...♗xb7 28.♞xc4

28.♔h3 ♞f5 29.♞e3 ♗f1+ 30.♔h4 ♞xc1
31.♞e8+ Now Black gets mated.

1-0

An unexpectedly easy win for Esipenko!
The next day wasn't much better for Shirov.
He stayed true to the Slav but this time he
was crushed in his own style.

Pavel Maletin - Alexei Shirov

TCh-RUS Premier 2018 Sochi RUS (4.3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.g3
The Fianchetto is a very popular option
against pretty much anything Black can
play against 1 d4.

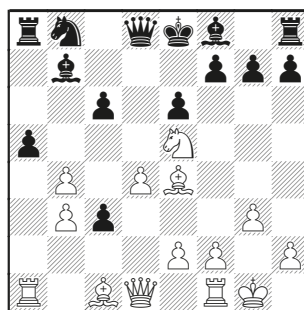
5...dxc4 5...♘bd7 is a major alternative.

6.♙g2 b5 7.♘e5 a6 8.0-0 ♙b7 9.b3 b4
Shirov has played like this twice before.

9...cxb3 is an alternative, but White has
compensation after 10.axb3 ♙e7 11.♙b2
1-0 (37) Kramnik,V (2760)-Giri,A (2776)
Doha 2014.

10.♘e4 10.♘a4 c3 11.♘c4 a5 12.a3 ♙a6
0-1 (41) Gupta,A (2613)-Shirov,A (2676)
Al Ain 2015.

10...♘xe4 11.♙xe4 c3 12.a3 a5 13.axb4



13...axb4 Shirov keeps following his own
footsteps. Alas, the result is the same as in
the game with Esipenko, even though here
the novelty isn't a winning one as it was in
that game.



13...♙xb4 is a viable alternative. 14.♚d3 ♜e7 15.♙xh7 ♘d7 0-1 (34) Mamedyarov,S (2761)-Harikrishna,P (2752) Baku 2016.

14.♞xa8 Maletin deviates first.

14.♙f4 ♘d7 In view of the game Ding Liren-So, Black should look for improvements at this moment. (14...f6!?!; 14...g5!?) 15.♙xc6 ♙xc6 16.♘xc6 ♜c8 17.♘a5?! (17.♞xa8! is a good improvement 17...♞xa8 18.d5 and White has a very strong initiative: 1-0 (38) Ding,L (2778)-So,W (2775) Shanghai) 17...♙e7 0-1 (28) Baron,T (2524)-Shirov,A (2702) Riga 2015.

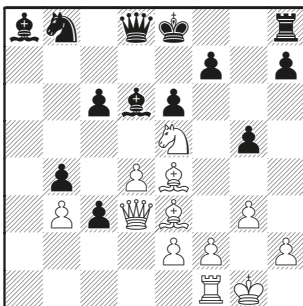
14...♙xa8 15.♚d3 ♙d6?! Black's problems start with this move. The alternatives were better.

15...♙e7; 15...♙b7

16.♙f4 Defending the knight and again threatening to take on h7. An additional threat is the ♞a1-a7 manoeuvre.

16...g5 16...h6 doesn't help 17.♞a1 ♙b7 18.♞a7 with a big advantage to White; 16...g6.

17.♙e3



17...f5? 17...♙xe5 was more resilient, but after 18.♞a1! White is on top. 18...♙c7 (18...f5 is just too crazy after 19.♚c4 fxe4 20.dxe5 ♙b7 21.♞a7 and White has excellent compensation for the

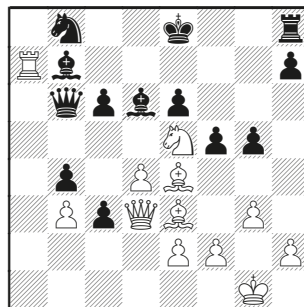
piece.) 19.♞xa8 0-0 20.♙xc6 and White is better thanks to the bishop pair and Black's weakened king. The protected passed pawn on c3 isn't going anywhere for the time being.

18.♞a1?! 18.♙xf5! was stronger: 18...♙xe5 19.♙xe6 ♙d6 20.♞a1 with a tremendous attack.

18...♙b7? This gives White an attack for free.

18...♙xe5 19.♚c4! transposes to the comment to Black's 17th move where White has excellent compensation for the piece after 19...fxe4 20.dxe5 ♙b7 21.♞a7.

19.♞a7 ♚b6



20.♚c4! Attacking e6. Black's position falls apart now.

20...♙c8 21.♙xc6+ ♘xc6 22.d5! ♙c5 23.♙xc5 ♘xe5 24.♚d4

1-0

THE 'OPTIMISATION' OF THE PETROFF

One of the most exciting games in the tournament was played in an opening you wouldn't expect to provide such entertainment, though after Caruana's latest successes perhaps its image is due for an 'optimisation'. Yes, it is the Petroff.

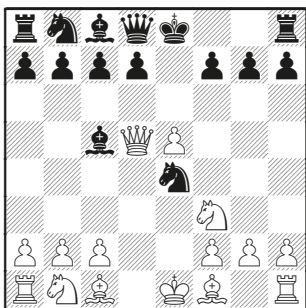
Grigory Palchun - Ivan Bocharov

TCh-RUS Premier 2018 Sochi RUS (1.5)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.d4 ♗xe4 4.dxe5 ♙c5!? A very sharp choice and not for the faint-hearted.

4...d5 is the main line as in recent games by Caruana 5.♗bd2 ♚d7! (5...♗xd2 6.♙xd2 ♙e7 0-1 (69) *Grischuk,A (2767)-Caruana,F (2784) Berlin GER 2018*) 6.♙d3 ♗c5 7.♙e2 g6 0-1 (40) *Vitiugov,N (2735)-Caruana,F (2784) Karlsruhe/Baden Baden GER 2018*.

5.♚d5?



This is probably already better for Black!

5.♙c4 has been the move played the most, but Giri found a way to play for Black here: 5...♗xf2 6.♙xf7+ ♚xf7 7.♚d5+ ♚g6.

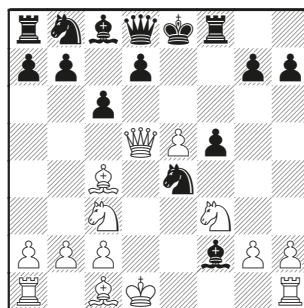
A) 8.♙g5? can be refuted after 8...♚e8 9.♗h4+ ♚xg5 10.♗d2 d6! (10...♗h6? only led to a perpetual after 11.♗f5+ ♚g6 12.♗h4+ ♚h6 13.♗f5+ ♚g6 14.♗h4+ ½-½ (14) *Short,N (2696)-Smeets,J (2657) Wijk aan Zee 2010*) 11.♗df3+ ♚g4 and White's attack runs out of steam. Not quite your typical Petroff position!;

B) 8.♚xc5 ♗xh1 9.♗c3 d6 10.♚c4 h6 11.♗d5 and now this being a blitz game, he probably forgot that here Black should play 11...c6 (11...♗f8? 12.♚e4+ and Black is lost now after 12...♚f7 13.♙xh6! gxh6 14.♚h7+ ♚e8 15.♗xc7+ 1-0 (22)

Almasi,Z (2707)-Giri,A (2714) Beijing 2011) 12.♗f4+ ♚h7 13.♚d3+ ♚g8 14.exd6 ♗a6 with a possible perpetual after 15.♚c4+ ♚h7 16.♚d3+ ♚g8.

5...♙xf2+ 6.♚d1 f5 7.♙c4 ♗f8?! 7...♚e7 is preferred by the engine. 8.♗c3 c6 9.♚d3 b5 10.♙b3 a5 11.a4 b4 12.♗xe4 fxe4 13.♚e2 d5 and Black is winning. 0-1 (28) *Bruzon Batista,L (2607)-Ivanchuk,V (2787) Merida 2007*.

8.♗c3 c6



9.♗xe4!! A fantastic resource. Now the fun begins.

9...cxd5 10.♗d6+ ♚e7 11.♙g5+ ♗f6 12.♙xd5 White has only a knight for a queen, but he can take a full rook on f6 and his light-piece central domination gives him excellent chances. The engine confidently gives zeroes here.

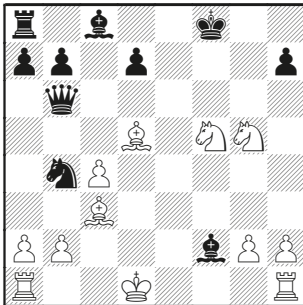
12...♚a5? But not after this!

12...♗c6! 13.♗xf5+ ♚f8 14.exf6 gxf6 15.♙h6+ ♚e8 16.♗d6+ ♚e7 17.♗f5+ is a perpetual.

13.c4 ♗c6 14.♗xf5+ ♚f8 15.exf6 gxf6 16.♙xf6 ♗b4 17.♙c3 17...♙g7+! ♚e8 18.♗f1 ♙c5 (18...♗xd5 19.♗xf2 is winning for White as the king on e8 is defenceless.) 19.♙c3 and White can take on b4, put the king on c2 and centralise the rooks. It will be extremely difficult for Black to defend here.

17...♖b6 17...d6 trying to finish development as soon as possible, but even here after 18.♘5d4, with the idea of ♜f1 18...♖b6 19.♔d2, the rooks are joining the attack and Black won't be able to defend.

18.♘g5??



Suddenly the tables are turned. There is no mate after this and White's attacking forces are diminished after the following exchanges.

18.♙xb4+! ♖xb4 19.♔c2 is again the winning idea, consolidating his own king and starting the decisive attack by introducing the rooks.

18...♘xd5 19.cxd5 d6 20.♘e6+ ♙xe6 21.dxe6 ♖c5?. 21...♙g1! with the idea ...♖f2 is even stronger.

22.e7+? The second mistake and now there is no turning back for White.

22.g4! solidifying the ♘f5 would still have saved White. The difference is that the king on f8 is more vulnerable than on e8. If we compare this to the game then there is the line 22...♖d5+ 23.♙e2 ♖g2 24.♞hf1 ♖xg4+? 25.♙xf2 and Black cannot take on f5 in view of the pin along the f-file.

22...♙e8 23.g4 ♖d5+ 24.♔c2 24.♙e2 this doesn't save White in view of 24...♖g2 25.♞hf1 ♖xg4+ 26.♙xf2 ♖xf5+ and wins easily for Black.

24...♖e4+ 25.♙b3 ♖xg4 26.♘d6+ ♙xe7 27.♞ad1 ♞d8 The rest is easy: the queen is too strong in an open position like this one.

28.♙b4 ♙e6 29.♞hf1 a5 30.♙a3 b5 31.♞d3 ♖a4+ 32.♔c3 b4+ 33.♔d2 bxa3

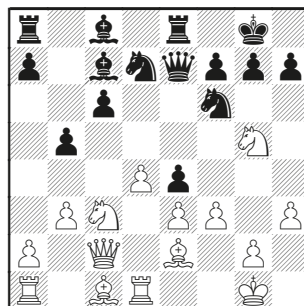
0-1

(For a further look at this particular line in the Petroff, it might be interesting to look at BCM's September 2015 issue that has commentary on the Piorun-Socko game on page 501.)

We already saw Pavel Maletin's demolition of Shirov. Now have a look what he did the day before that game.

Valery Skatchkov - Pavel Maletin

TCh-RUS Premier 2018 Sochi RUS (3.3)

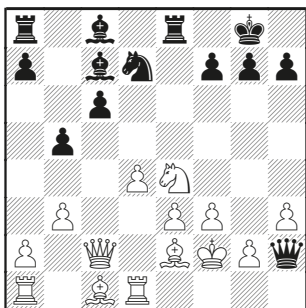


15...♖d6 16.♘cx4? This allows Maletin to show the full array of Black's attacking potential in the Semi-Slav.

**TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
HAVE THEIR INNER STORIES
THAT ARE UNKNOWN TO THE
GENERAL PUBLIC. THERE ARE
DECISIVE MOMENTS THAT
DEFINE THE TOURNAMENT
FOR THE TEAM IN THE SAME
MANNER AS THESE TURNING
MOMENTS DEFINE THE
TOURNAMENT FOR A PLAYER**

16.f4 is the only move. After 16...♖e7 the ♘g5 is in trouble, but White has tactical ideas to keep it alive 17.d5! (17.♗xb5 is inferior 17...cxb5 18.♖xc7 ♗d5! 19.♖c6 ♗7b6 with ...h6 to follow.) 17...cxd5 18.♙xb5 ♙b7 (18...h6? 19.♗xd5! ♗xd5 20.♖xd5 ♙b6 21.♖f2! hxg5 22.♖xg5 with excellent compensation) 19.♗xc4 ♖ec8 20.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 21.♖e2 ♙b6 with unclear play.

16...♖h2+ 17.♗f2 ♗xe4+ 18.♗xe4



18...♖xe4! 18...f5 was a more prosaic way.

19.fxg4 ♙g3+ 20.♗f3 ♗e5+! 20...♙h4 was again a simpler alternative.

21.dxe5 ♙xh3! 22.♙c4 22...♙f1 h5.

22...h5 23.♙e2 ♖xg2+ White has had enough.

23...♖xg2+ 24.♗d3 bxc4+ 25.♗c3 ♙xe5+ 26.♖d4 ♖f3 27.♙b2 c5 and the attack will continue with Black being up a pawn or two.

0-1

THEORETICAL NOVELTIES

Modern opening theory advances with every tournament that is played around the globe. In Sochi I noticed three very interesting opening ideas. Let's start with Fedoseev's odd 6 a3 in the Semi-Tarrasch.

Vladimir3 Fedoseev - Nikolai Looshnikov

TCh-RUS Premier 2018 Sochi RUS (1.2)

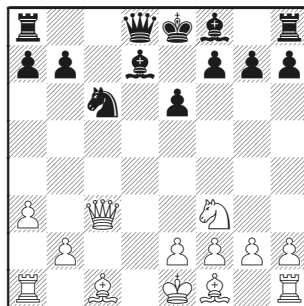
1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 d5 4.♗c3 c5 5.cxd5 ♗xd5 The Semi-Tarrasch is all the rage nowadays and here Fedoseev comes up with a very rare move.

6.a3!? A semi-waiting move that prevents a possible check on b4 in the future.

6...cxd4 The most straightforward play.

6...♗xc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♙e7 9.e3!? and we can see how White can take advantage of the fact that he hadn't played e4.

7.♖xd4 ♗c6 8.♖d3 ♗xc3 9.♖xc3 ♙d7



Black's play is natural and soon he obtains a good position.



10. ♖g5!? 10.e4 ♜c8 11. ♙e3 ♘a5 12. ♚d3 ♙e7 looks OK for Black.

10...f6 11. ♙d2 ♜c8 12. ♚d3 e5 13. ♜c1 ♙e6 and Black doesn't have any problems. However, the game ended with a victory for white.

1-0

Vladimir Potkin is known as the European Champion from 2011 and also as a coach of the Russian national team. He has in addition coached Karjakin and Nepomniachtchi and probably other top Russian players. Against Boris Gelfand he introduced a cunning novelty in a popular line of the English Opening.

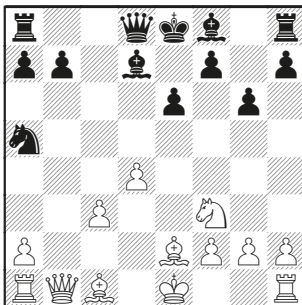
Vladimir Potkin - Boris Gelfand

TCh-RUS Premier 2018 Sochi RUS (2.1)

1. ♘f3 c5 2.c4 ♘c6 3. ♗c3 g6 4.e3 ♘f6 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 d5 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8. ♚b3 ♘xc3 9. ♙c4 e6 10.bxc3 ♙d7!? This move was brought to attention by Dubov in last year's World Cup against Fridman. Black didn't have problems in those games.

11. ♙e2 11... ♙d3 was another attempt by Fridman. 11... ♘a5 12. ♚c2 ♙g7 13. 0-0 0-0 14. ♙f4 ♜c8 15. ♘e5 ♘c6 16. ♘xd7 ♚xd7 with comfortable play for Black. ½-½ (39) Fridman, D (2640)-Dubov, D (2666) Tbilisi GEO 2017.

11... ♘a5 12. ♚b1!?



Here comes Potkin's innovation.

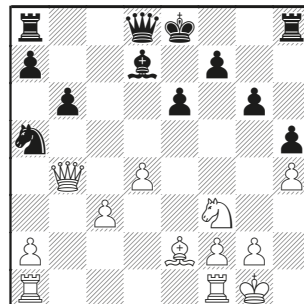
12. ♚c2 was Fridman's choice, but after 12... ♙g7 13. ♙a3 ♙f8 he decided to take the draw by repetition. 14. ♙c1 ♙g7 15. ♙a3 ♙f8 16. ♙c1 ½-½ (16) Fridman, D (2640)-Dubov, D (2666) Tbilisi GEO 2017. This is also how the game Aronian-So from the last round of the Berlin Candidates ended.

12... ♙g7 13. ♙a3 ♙f8 14. ♙b4! This is the idea - White can now take on b4 with the queen.

14... ♙xb4 14...b6 15.h4!; 14... ♙c6!?

15. ♚xb4 b6 16.h4 Further weakening the dark squares.

16...h5 17.0-0

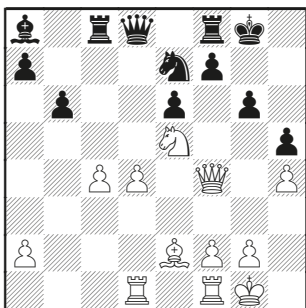


17...♗c6! Gelfand finds a good plan.

17...♖e7 18.d5! (18.♖fe1 is also very good 18...♗xb4 19.cxb4 ♗c6 20.♖ac1 White has strong initiative thanks to his lead in development.) 18...exd5 19.♖ae1! ♗xb4 20.cxb4 ♗c6 21.♗c4+ ♕f8 22.♗xd5 with strong initiative in the endgame.

18.♗d6 ♗e7 19.♗f4 19.♗e5 ♗c6!

19...0-0 20.c4 ♗c6 21.♖ad1 ♖c8 22.♗e5 ♗a8



Even though the engine gives zeroes here, this position is easier to play with White in view of the weak dark squares around Black's king and the possibility to open up the game by d5. Later in the game Gelfand couldn't cope with the pressure and lost.

1-0

Castling long in the Spanish with d3 has been seen before, though more often in the lines where White takes on c6 first. Upon seeing the following game I was immediately reminded of a game by Paul Morphy (strange as that may sound)!

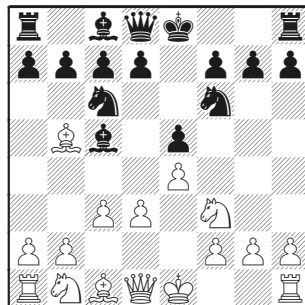
Peter Svidler - Vladimir Potkin

TCh-RUS Premier 2018 Sochi RUS (4.1)

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗b5 This is the game by Morphy I remembered 3...♗c4 4.♗c5 4.b4 ♗b6 5.a4 a6 6.c3 d6 7.d3 ♗f6 8.♗b3 ♖e7 9.♗g5 h6 10.♗h4 ♗d8

11.♗bd2 g5 12.♗g3 ♗h5 13.h3 ♖f6 14.0-0-0! 1-0 (53) Morphy,P-Boden,S London 1858. Perhaps Morphy was much more ahead of his times than we give him credit for.

3...♗f6 4.d3 ♗c5 5.c3



In the line 5.♗xc6 dxc6 White has the plan of queenside castling after 6.♗bd2 0-0 7.♖e2 ♖e8 8.♗c4 ♗d7 9.♗d2 ♗d6 10.0-0-0 1-0 (33) Caruana,F (2794)-Nakamura,H (2790) Moscow 2016.

5...0-0 6.♗g5 h6 7.♗h4 g5 7...♗e7 is a good alternative.

8.♗g3 d6 9.♗bd2 ♗h5 10.♖e2 ♖f6 After 10...g4 11.♗h4 ♖g5 0-1 (33) Bacrot,E (2714)-Maze,S (2577) San Sebastian 2012 12.♗f5! is a strong improvement 12...♗xf5 13.exf5 ♖xf5 14.h3! and the black king will come under attack.

11.0-0-0!? Here comes the long castle again. It has been played before but without too much success.

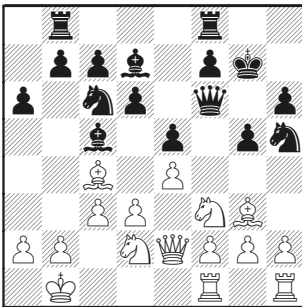
11...♕g7 11...♗e6 12.♕b1 a6 13.♗c4 0-1 (51) Svetushkin,D (2568)-Vasilev,M (2469) Plovdiv 2008; 11...♗xg3 12.fxg3 ♗e7 13.♗c4 a5 ½-½ (47) Jasinski,M (2394)-Zlotkowski,A (2368) ICCF 2013.

12.♕b1 a6 13.♗c4 ♖b8 14.♖df1 White prepares for the opening of the f-file, but his play is too slow. Perhaps the idea is just not that good. How about the Evans Gambit next time?



The Horsemen were led by Peter Svidler who honorably defended the title of team captain

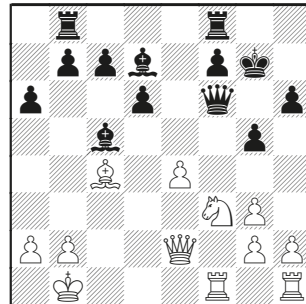
14...♔d7



14...b5! gives Black the advantage 15.♔d5 (15.♔b3 a5) 15...♗e7 16.♗e1 ♗xd5 17.♗xh5 ♗f4.

15.d4 Sacrificing a pawn in order to avoid a direct attack against his own king. White has certain compensation after Black takes the pawn.

15...exd4 16.♗xd4 ♗xg3 17.fxg3 ♗xd4 18.cxd4 ♗xd4 19.♗f3 ♗f6



Black decides to take the draw.

19...♗e3 is the critical move. 20.♗c2 ♔a7 21.e5 ♔g4 Black has the bishop pair and is a pawn up for now. White can only hope to fish in muddy waters here.

20.♗h4 ♗d4 21.♗f3 ♗f6 22.♗h4 ♗d4 23.♗f3

½-½

The Bronze Horseman won in Russia. Now we will wait to see whether they will continue marching in Europe at the European Club Cup this autumn in Greece.


TCH-RUS PREMIER 2018 SOCHI RUS TUE 1ST MAY 2018 - THU 10TH MAY 2018
Leading Final Round 9 Standings:

Rk	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TB1	TB2
1	Mednyy vsadnik (Sankt-Peterburg)	*	3½	3	4½	3½	3½	4½	4	4	5½	17	36.0
2	ShSM Legacy Square Capital (Moskva)	2½	*	4	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	4	5½	16	33.5
3	Molodezhka (Tyumenskaya oblast)	3	2	*	3½	4	4	4½	4	3	5½	14	33.5
4	Sibir (Novosibirskaya oblast)	1½	2½	2½	*	3	4½	3½	3	4	4½	10	29.0
5	SShOR po shakhmatam i shashkam (Sankt-Peterburg)	2½	2½	2	3	*	3½	2	4	3½	5	9	28.0
6	Moskovskaya oblast	2½	2½	2	1½	2½	*	3	3½	4½	5	7	27.0
7	Ladya (Respublika Tatarstan)	1½	2½	1½	2½	4	3	*	1½	4	4½	7	25.0
8	Shakhmatnyy klub SIMA-LEND (Sverdlovskaya oblast)	2	2½	2	3	2	2½	4½	*	3	6	6	27.5
9	Yuzhnyy Ural (Chelyabinskaya oblast)	2	2	3	2	2½	1½	2	3	*	4	4	22.0
10	Zhiguli (Samarskaya oblast)	½	½	½	1½	1	1	1½	0	2	*	0	8.5

THE EVENT FIDE WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY TACIT ABOUT



JU WENJUN IS THE NEW WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION

By GM Aleksandar Colovic
Photos: Chinese Chess Federation

By beating Tan Zhongyi 5.5:4.5 Ju Wenjun (27) won the title of the Women's World Chess Champion!

The Women's World Championship match took place in China from 3-18 May in two cities - Shanghai and Chongqing, the birthplaces of the participants - the challenger Ju Wenjun and the Champion Tan Zhongyi respectively.

The present state in the chess world is far from ideal, but to completely ignore a World Championship match is behaviour that FIDE must be shamed for.

With everybody in FIDE completely preoccupied with the upcoming Presidential elections the match went completely unnoticed - there was no media campaign, no interviews with the players, no commentary, no press conferences, absolutely nothing in English that the world can follow.

Such appalling neglect by FIDE is a clear admission of what the officials of 'our' World Federation think of chess players in general - if they can ignore a World Championship match, what is left for lesser mortals?

The course of the match showed that the rating favourite Ju Wenjun (women's no2) was indeed the stronger player. Tan Zhongyi's strongest trait, her steely nervous system that won her the title last year in the knock-out World Championship (where she beat Ju

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Wenjun in the quarter-finals) wasn't a match for Ju Wenjun's superiority over the board.

The match started disastrously for the World Champion. After 3 games she was trailing by two full points. The third game was particularly crushing.

Ju Wenjun - Tan Zhongyi (Game 3)

WCh Women 2018
Chongqing/Shanghai CHN (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.g3 The Catalan is Ju Wenjun's usual choice. But it was in this opening that she lost to Tan in last year's knock-out World Championship.

4...dxc4 5.♙g2 ♘c6 The World Champion varies first. The last time she played the move was in 2015.

5...c5 was her choice last year. That game continued 6.0-0 ♘c6 7.♙a4 ♙d7 8.♙xc4 b5 9.♙d3 c4 10.♙d1 ♖c8 11.♖e1 (11.♘e5 and; 11.b3 have been tried out lately.) 11...♙e7 12.e4 0-0 (12...♙b6 is an interesting alternative.) 13.d5 exd5 14.exd5 ♘b4

A) 15.d6 ♙xd6 16.♙xd6 ♘c2 leads to unclear play. The line suggested by the engine is full of surprising moves: 17.♘a3 ♘xa1 18.♙e3 b4! - the first pawn sacrifice in order to eliminate the bishop on e3. 19.♙xb4 ♘d5 20.♙d2 ♘xe3 21.fx3 c3!; the second pawn

sacrifice in order to render the knight on a3 defenceless and to have an object of attack for the rook on c8. 22.bxc3 ♙c6 23.♘d4 (23.♙xd8 ♖fxd8 24.♖xa1 ♙xf3 25.♙xf3 ♖xc3 26.♘b5 ♖xe3 with the draw the most likely result.) 23...♙xg2 24.♙xg2 ♙g5 with a dynamically balanced position.

B) 15.♘e5?? A big blunder that decided the game and the match. 15...♙f5 now there is no d6 and the weakness of White's queenside decides. 16.g4 ♙c2 17.♙f3 ♙e4 18.♖xe4 ♘xe4 19.♙xe4 ♙d6 20.♙d2 ♖e8 21.f4 f6 and Black is winning already: 0-1 (37) Ju Wenjun (2583)-Tan Zhongyi (2502) Tehran IRI 2017.

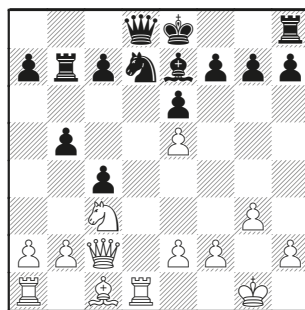
6.0-0 ♖b8 7.♘c3 7.a4 b6 0-1 (27) Lei,T (2455)-Tan,Z (2487) Wuxi 2015; 7.e3 is the other major alternative, played by Mamedyarov against Caruana in the Berlin Candidates.

7...b5 8.♘e5 Ju chooses the most popular and strongest continuation.

8.e4 b4 9.♘e2 ♙e7 0-1 (48) Xiao,Y (2218)-Tan,Z (2487) China 2015.

8...♘xe5 9.dxe5 ♘d7 10.♙c2 One of the many options White has here.

10...♙b7 11.♙xb7 ♖xb7 12.♖d1 ♙e7



A novelty. Surprisingly enough, until here the players followed their own game from 2013, but I cannot really say that the move Tan played is an improvement. This

Ju Wenjun



leads me to think that Tan didn't expect this variation and didn't remember her preparation.

12...♖c8 0-1 (36) Ju,W (2544)-Tan,Z (2483) Wuxi 2013 13.♗e4 leads to unclear play.

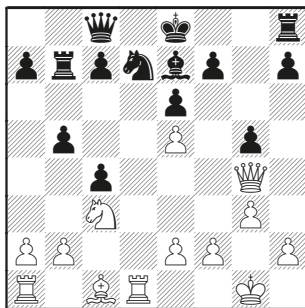
13.♖e4 13.a4!? b4 14.♖e4 c6 15.♗b5 gives White an unpleasant initiative.

13...♖c8 13...c6 is an improvement, aiming to win a tempo when White takes the pawn. 14.♖xc6 ♖b6 15.♖f3 b4 16.♗e4 0-0 17.♗f4 ♖c8 and Black is fine.

14.♖g4 White's play after Black's novelty is straightforward, aiming to take advantage of Black's weakened pawn on g7.

Still, 14.a4! was stronger, but White had to foresee 14...b4 15.♗b5 a6 16.♖c6! when Black is hopelessly tied down after 16...axb5 17.axb5 and has no choice but to return the material 17...0-0 18.♖xd7 ♖b6 19.♖xc7 with an almost winning position for White.

14...g5??



Suicidal. Now the king will find no safe haven. Almost any other sensible move was better.

14...♗f8 is not a move Black would like to play, but it's not easy (if at all possible) to take advantage of the lost time. 15.♗f4 h6 16.♗e4 ♖b8 with the idea of ...♖b7.; 14...g6 is more risky than the bishop retreat, but still possible. 15.♗h6 ♗xe5 16.♖f4



Tan Zhongyi

f6 17.♗e4 ♗d7 18.a4 and White has compensation, but there is nothing concrete for her.; Even 14...♖g8?! is better than the game move. 15.♖e4 b4 16.♗a4 threatening ♖c6. (16.♖xh7?! ♗f8) 16...c5 17.♗e3 ♖c7 18.♖xh7 ♗f8 19.♖e4 and White is much better, but still less so than in the game.

15.♖h5 With the simple threats to take on g5 or play ♗e4.

15...♗c5 16.♗xg5 The material is equal while the king on e8 has nowhere to hide. It's difficult to say what exactly Tan missed when she played her 14th move.

16...c6 17.♖d4 ♖d7 18.♗xe7 ♖xe7 19.♖h4+ ♗e8 20.♖ad1 The rest is simple as White just piles up the pressure since Black plays without the rook on h8 and has horrible dark-square weaknesses.

20...♖d8 20...♖d5 21.♗xd5 cxd5 22.♖f6 ♖g8 23.♖h4

21.♖f4 ♖xd4 22.♖xd4 ♖b6 23.♖d6 ♖f8 24.♗e4 Simplest, now the pawn on c6 will fall.

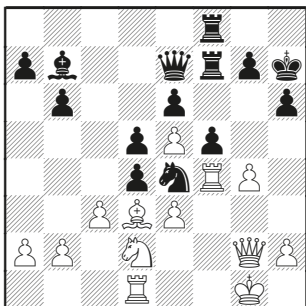
24...♗xe4 25.♖xe4 ♖b7 26.♖xc6 ♗d7 27.♖d4+ 27.♖d4+ ♗xc6 28.♖d6♯ would have been a cute epaulette mate.

1-0

Then Tan's resilience kicked in and she won the next game. This time Ju's nerves were to blame.

Tan Zhongyi - Ju Wenjun A45 (Game 4)

WCh Women 2018
Chongqing/Shanghai CHN (4)



23.cxd4 Black is absolutely fine here, the strong ♖e4 ensures White has nothing on the kingside. And then suddenly...

23...♗xd2?? Why open the ♔d3 voluntarily? Now practically Black plays a piece down since the ♖b7 cannot join the defence.

24.♖xd2 g6 25.♖h3 White simply piles up on the kingside and the decisive breakthrough will appear.

25...♔c8 26.♖g2 g5? As in the previous game, this move - g5 - is the losing mistake.

26...♖g8 would have allowed Black to resist.

TAN FOUGHT BRAVELY, BUT SHE JUST WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO CREATE CHANCES WHEN JU WAS PLAYING NORMALLY. SHE WAS UNABLE TO OUTPLAY JU AND HER ONLY WINS WERE AFTER HORRENDOUS BLUNDERS BY JU

27.♖f3 ♖g7 28.♖h5 ♔d7 29.h4 There is simply too much pressure on Black's kingside.

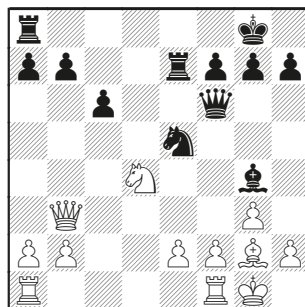
29...fxg4 30.♖g6+ ♖h8 31.♖xh6+ ♖g8 32.♖xg4 ♖g7 33.♖f6 ♖b4 34.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 35.♖xg5+

1-0

However, this victory didn't signal a comeback. In fact Ju won the next game with Black and again established a 2-point lead. Yet again she cracked psychologically. How else to explain the following:

Ju Wenjun - Tan Zhongyi E01

WCh Women 2018
Chongqing/Shanghai CHN (6)



18.f3 The position arose from another Catalan where Black managed to equalise. But now something strange happens.

18...♔d7? If the translation from Chinese was correct, Tan said that she thought she'd have compensation if White took on b7, while Ju said that she didn't even see the move ♖b7!

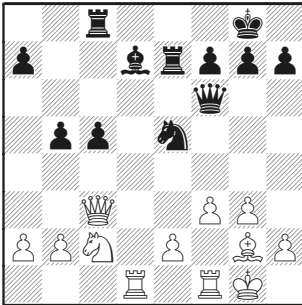
18...♔h5 19.♖ad1 ♖d7 20.f4 ♖d8 21.♗e6 ♖e7! is around equal.; 18...♔e6 19.♗xe6 ♖xe6 20.♖xe6 ♖xe6 21.♖fd1 is very pleasant for White.

19.♖c3? 19.♖xb7 is of course the move to play. I wonder what Tan hoped for here.

19...♖d8 20.♗b4 ♘c8 21.♗b3 and there is no 21...♘a6? in view of 22.♗a5

19...♖c8 Now it's equal again.

20.♖ad1 c5 21.♗c2 b5



Black logically advances her queenside majority. Why doesn't White do the same?

22.b3? A strange decision by Ju.

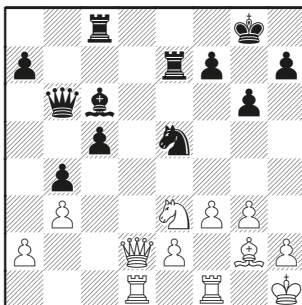
22.f4 ♗g4 23.♗xf6 ♗xf6 24.e4 would have been easy and straightforward, especially bearing in mind that she was leading by 2 points.

22...♗b6 23.♙h1 b4 Now it's clear that Black has taken over the initiative.

24.♗d2 ♘c6?! This leaves the c4-square without sufficient control.

24...♘e6!

25.♗e3 g6



26.♗c2? Again missing the chance.

26.f4 was logical, chasing away the only defender of the c4-square. Once the knight arrives there White will be without a worry.

26...c4! Now Black takes over again.

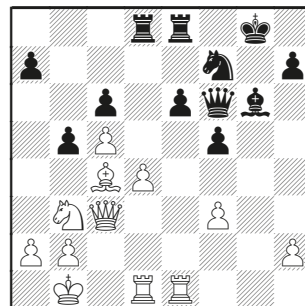
27.♗xc4 ♗xc4 28.♗xc4 ♘b7 29.♗f4 ♗xe2 White is clearly under pressure here although it's far from lost. Ju missed several more chances and eventually lost on move 125.

0-1

The excerpt above shows that Ju wasn't able to control her nerves during this period of the match when she was leading comfortably. But in spite of that she never allowed Tan to come close to equalising. Even though the remaining games ended in a draw, it was Ju who missed several chances to win another game - she had a relatively easy win in Game 8:

Ju Wenjun - Tan Zhongyi D30 (Game 8)

WCh Women 2018
Chongqing/Shanghai CHN (8)



25.♘d3 The position is unclear, though Black should be more careful in view of her weaker king. With her next move she tries to get rid of the weak pawn on e6, but this turns out to be a blunder.



**JU WENJUN:
CHINA'S 6TH
WORLD CHAMPION,
17TH IN THE HISTORY**

25...e5? 25...f4! was better, when Black is fine after 26.♟xg6 hxg6 27.♞e4 ♞d5 and Black can push ...e5 eventually.

26.dxe5 ♞xe5?? But this should have lost.

26...♞xe5 is better, but still close to losing for Black after 27.f4 ♞g4 28.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 29.♞xf6 ♞xf6 30.♞d4 when both c6 and f5 are hopelessly weak.

27.♟c2??

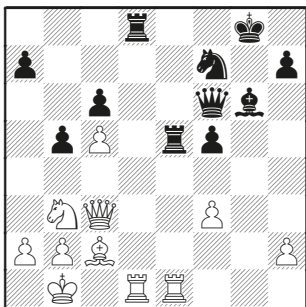
Missing the relatively simple winning line.

27.♞xe5 ♞xe5 (27...♞xe5 28.♞xe5 ♞xe5 29.♟c4+ wins the exchange.) 28.f4 ♞g4 29.♞xf6 ♞xf6 30.♟c4+ ♞d5 31.♟xd5+ cxd5 32.♞d4 with a technically winning position.

27...f4 Now it's a draw.

28.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 29.♟xg6 ♞xe1+ 30.♞xe1 hxg6 31.♞e4 ♞f6 32.♞d4 ♞e5

½-½



WOMEN'S WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2018										
MATCH TABLE										
GM Ju Wenjun	1	1	0	1	0	½	½	½	½	5 ½
GM Tan Zhongyi	0	0	1	0	1	½	½	½	½	4 ½

Ju was also pressing in Game 9, which was Tan's last white game in the match. Tan's desperate attempt to win with Black in the last game only brought her a lost position which Ju made sure never got out of control and instead of winning she steered it towards a draw.

The second half of the match showed that, when Ju stopped blundering badly, she stopped losing. Tan fought bravely, but she just wasn't good enough to create chances when Ju was playing normally. She was unable to outplay Ju and her only wins were after horrendous blunders by Ju.

Eventually the match was won by the better player. Perhaps Ju didn't believe in psychology and believed in good moves?

Ju Wenjun became China's 6th World Champion, 17th in the history. With the next knock-out World Championship scheduled for November (clashing with the Carlsen-Caruaena match, another atrocity by FIDE!) she won't have much time to rest on her laurels. Still, one of the strongest women players in the world fulfilled her dream and we can only congratulate her wholeheartedly.

WOMEN'S WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONS		
Name	Year	Country
Vera Menchik	1927-1944	Russia/Czechoslovakia/England
none	1944-1950	World War II
Lyudmila Rudenko	1950-1953	Soviet Union (Ukrainian SSR)
Elisaveta Bykova	1953-1956	Soviet Union (Russian SSR)
Olga Rubtsova	1956-1958	Soviet Union (Russian SSR)
Elisaveta Bykova	1958-1962	Soviet Union (Russian SSR)
Nona Chiburdanidze	1962-1978	Soviet Union (Georgian SSR)
Maia Chiburdanidze	1978-1991	Soviet Union (Georgian SSR)
Xie Jun	1991-1996	China
Susan Polgar	1996-1999	Hungary
Xie Jun	1999-2001	China
Zhu Chen	2001-2004	China
Antoaneta Stefanova	2004-2006	Bulgaria
Xu Yuhua	2006-2008	China
Alexandra Kosteniuk	2008-2010	Russia
Hou Yifan	2010-2012	China
Anna Ushenina	2012-2013	Ukraine
Hou Yifan	2013-2015	China
Mariya Muzychuk	2015-2016	Ukraine
Hou Yifan	2016-2017	China
Tan Zhongyi	2017-2018	China
Ju Wenjun	2018-	China



By Theo Slade

Photo: Grand Chess Tour (Lennart Ootes / Spectrum Studios)

GM Fabiano Caruana has recently shown superb form. He won the Candidates' Tournament in Berlin with a score of 9/14, portraying himself as a strong contender to take Carlsen's title of World Champion at the end of this year. His preparations are excellent and - as the analysis of his Berlin games has shown - his precision is almost the same as the engine's. Apart from that, he has shown very good self-control and stamina.

Next, he won the GRENKE Classic again by a full point, ahead of World Champion Magnus Carlsen. And whilst he did not win the US Championship because of a spectacular performance by GM Sam Shankland, he still posted yet another positive result at the highest level, finishing above GMs Wesley So and Hikaru Nakamura.

Although this game could be considered a 'blowout', to use American terminology, it is still of course impressive to sweep aside such a strong player as GM Alex Lenderman in just twenty-three moves.

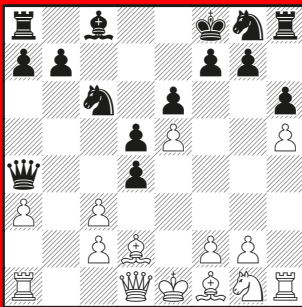
Fabiano Caruana - Alex Lenderman

USA-ch Saint Louis (2), 19-04-2018

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.e5 c5
5.a3 ♘xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♚a5 7.♙d2 ♚a4
8.♚g4 ♘f8 Caruana had an interesting
story to tell about his next move in his
post-game interview with GM Maurice
Ashley: 'A few days ago I looked
through the New In Chess Yearbook.
I was literally just in bed browsing
through it, and I saw that this variation
was analysed and...

9.h4!? was given around the end of the
article as an option. I did not check it;
I did not know anything about it except
that 9.h4 is the move, but I figured it
was played in correspondence games,
which means it is definitely not a bad
move, and probably he had not analysed
it, I figured - I hoped, at least! If he
had analysed it, it would have been
unpleasant, because I was totally on my
own, but thankfully he had not and we
were both on our own and I guess he
felt the position was very unpleasant.
He immediately played some big
mistakes, I think.'

9...♗c6 10.h5 h6 11.♚d1 cxd4



Lenderman thought he 'was playing
logical moves', but this is a bad novelty.

11...b6 is better, with the idea of trading
Black's bad bishop for White's good

light-squared bishop. 12.♗f3 ♘a6
13.♙xa6 ♚xa6 14.♚e2 ♚xe2+ 15.♗xe2
cxd4 16.cxd4 ♗ge7±.

12.♗f3 dxc3 This just helps White by
improving his pawn structure and piece activity.

Instead, development was the order of
the day. 12...♗ge7 13.♚h4 This resource
was facilitated by h4-h5. 13...b6
14.♗xd4 ♗xd4 15.cxd4. White retains
a slight edge due to the bishop pair and
superior piece activity, but this was still
better than the game...

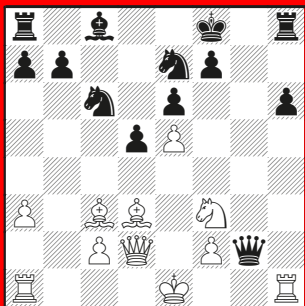
13.♙xc3 Another problem with 12...
dxc3 is that now ♚h4 is a threat!

13...g5 This is very ugly and
unsurprisingly bad.

The fact that 13...♗d8 is Black's
best try shows that his position has
become very bad very quickly. 14.♗d4,
threatening ♙b5. 14...♚d7 15.♙b5 ♗c6
16.♙b4+ ♗ge7 17.♗xc6 bxc6 18.♙d3
a5 19.♙d6 f5. It is pretty obvious that
White is dominating here: he has the
two bishops, better king safety, and
more active pieces.

14.hxg6 ♚e4+ 15.♙e2 ♚xg6 16.♚d2
♗ge7 17.♙d3 ♚xg2??

**ALTHOUGH THIS GAME
COULD BE CONSIDERED
A 'BLOWOUT', TO USE
AMERICAN TERMINOLOGY,
IT IS STILL OF COURSE
IMPRESSIVE TO SWEEP
ASIDE SUCH A STRONG
PLAYER AS GM ALEX
LENDERMAN IN JUST
TWENTY-THREE MOVES**



Opening the g-file is suicidal.

The engine gives 17...♖g7 18.0-0 ♔e8, but Black's position looks dire to me; he only has two developed pieces, he has lost the right to castle, and White has the bishop pair.

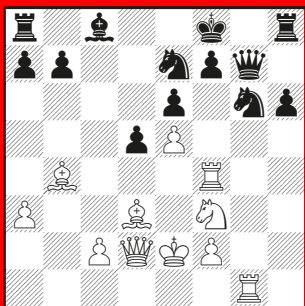
18.♔e2! Connecting the rooks!

18...♖g4 19.♖h4 Black's queen is not allowed to escape to the queenside.

19...♖g7 20.♖g1 ♘g6 21.♖f4! Pinning the f7-pawn.

21...♗ce7 21...♗xf4+ runs into 22.♖xf4 when the black queen is trapped!; If 21...♔e7, then 22.♖f6 and on 22...♖g8 White has 23.♗h4, further increasing the pressure on the g6-knight.

22.♗b4



HIS PREPARATIONS ARE EXCELLENT AND – AS THE ANALYSIS OF HIS BERLIN GAMES HAS SHOWN – HIS PRECISION IS ALMOST THE SAME AS THE ENGINE'S. APART FROM THAT, HE HAS SHOWN VERY GOOD SELF-CONTROL AND STAMINA

There are pins on the a3-f8 diagonal, the f-file, and g-file, which are too many for Black to handle.

22...a5 Upon 22...♔e8 there is a long forcing line... 23.♗xe7 ♔xe7 24.♖b4+ ♔e8 25.♗b5+ ♗d7 26.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 27.♖xb7+ White is clearly winning in this position, but the computer already gives an amusing mate in eight! 27...♗d8 28.♖xa8+ ♔e7 29.♖xa7+ ♔f8 30.♖b8+ ♔e7 31.♖d6+ ♔e8 32.♖b4 f5 33.♖xe6+ ♗d8 34.♖b8+ ♔c7 35.♖d6♯.

23.♖xg6! 23.♖xg6! Black resigned as after 23...♖h7 24.♗xe7+ ♔xe7 25.♖g1 Black's queen is trapped again! 25...f5 is of course no help because White can take *en passant* with check. 26.exf6+ ♗d6 Once again, this is a clear, decisive advantage for White, but here there is a funny mate in nine! 27.♖c4 dxc4 28.♗xh7+ ♔c7 29.♖g7+ ♔c6 30.♗e5+ ♔c5 31.♖c7+ ♔b6 32.♖d6+ ♔b5 33.♖c5+ ♔a6 34.♗xc4 h5 35.♖b6♯

1-0

A virtuoso performance by a player who is sure to give the World Champion a run for his money in London.

4NCL – THE FINAL WEEKEND By IM Shaun Taulbut

IT'S GUILDFORD (AGAIN!)

THEY WON ALL THEIR MATCHES BEATING THEIR CLOSEST RIVALS CHEDDLETON ON THE FINAL WEEKEND

The final weekend of the 4NCL (Four Nations Chess League) took place over the first May Bank Holiday break. The event was especially great for - who else? - Guildford, who retained the 4NCL title for a record 6th year! The Surrey team managed to win all 11 matches this season. Altogether, they had 64 wins and two draws since they took over the throne from Wood Green's back in 2012/13.

In the traditional format Division 1 had two pools - a Championship pool and a Demotion pool. The top places in the Championship pool were as follows: Champions: Guildford 1, Runners-up: Cheddleton 1, Third: White Rose 1, Fourth: Guildford 2. Relegated from the demotion pool were Barbican 2, Spirit of Atticus, The ADs and Cambridge University 1.

Guildford were again successful with their higher-rated team including Bulgarian GM Ivan Cheparinov for the last weekend and GM Matthew Sadler scoring heavily throughout the season, as well as Gawain Jones. They won all their matches, beating their closest rivals Cheddleton on the final weekend.

In Division 2 Champions were Manx Liberty, Runners-up: Celtic Tigers, Third: Wood Green Monarchs and Fourth: North East England.

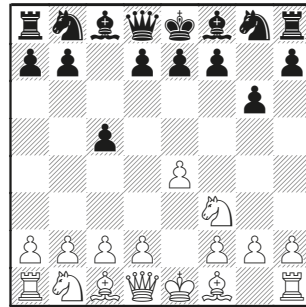
Relegated from Division 2 were Poisoned Pawns 1, Kings Head, White Rose 2 and Barbican Youth. Manx Liberty could provide more competition in the top league.

Here is a selection of some of the most interesting games from the final weekend.

David Howell -
William Claridge-Hansen

4NCL 2017–18 England ENG (9.31)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 g6



An unusual variation which has merit, especially if White simply continues with 3.d4, leading to an Accelerated Dragon variation.

3.c3 White plays for a pawn centre with d4, which forces Black to consider his next move carefully.

3...d5 The logical counter-thrust in the centre; after 3...♗g7, 4.d4 - with a slightly better position for White because of the pawn centre.

4.e5 A challenging move, sticking to the plan of creating a pawn centre. The alternative was 4.exd5 ♖xd5 5.d4, with an edge for White because of the pawn on d4.

4...d4 Trying to cut across White's establishing a pawn centre with d4; 4...♗c6 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 ♕g4 7.♕b5 with an edge for White is also playable.

5.cxd4 cxd4 6.♙b5+ ♕d7 After 6...♗c6 7.♙xc6+ bxc6 White has 8.♖a4 ♙g7 9.0-0 ♗d7 10.d3 c5 11.♗a5 ♗c6 12.♙f4 with an advantage.

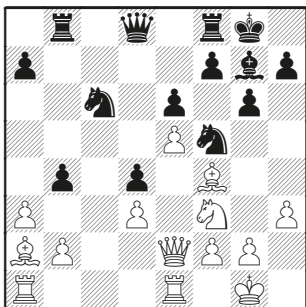
7.♙c4 Also playable is the pawn capture, 7.♗xd4 ♙xb5 8.♗xb5 ♗c6 9.♗1c3 a6 10.♗a3 when, if 10...♗xe5 (10...♙g7 11.f4 ♗h6 when Black has compensation for the pawn), 11.d4 ♗d7 is better for White.

7...♗c6 8.0-0 ♙g7 9.♗e1 ♗h6 10.d3 0-0 11.♙f4 ♙g4

However, 11...♗a5 12.♙xh6 ♙xh6 13.♗xd4 leads to a slight advantage for White, the two black bishops offering compensation for White's extra pawn.

12.♗bd2 ♗f5 13.h3 ♙xf3 14.♗xf3 e6 White has a slight advantage due to the strong pawn on e5.

15.a3 ♖b8 16.♗e2 b5 17.♙a2 b4



Black attempts to liquidate the queenside but now White has a strong line playing against the Black queen knight.

18.♖ec1 ♗a5 19.♙c4

Very strong here was: 19.axb4 and if 19...♖xb4 20.♙g5 ♗b6 (20...♗d7 21.♙xe6 ♗xe6 22.♖xa5 f6 23.♗e1 ♖xb2 24.exf6 ♗xe1+ 25.♖xe1 ♙xf6 26.♙xf6 ♖xf6 27.♖xa7; or 20...♗e8 21.♗d2 ♖b5 22.♙xe6 ♗xe6 23.♖xa5) 21.g4 ♖xb2 22.♖c2 ♖xc2 23.♗xc2 ♗h6 24.♗d2 ♗c6

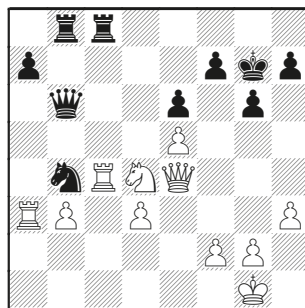
25.♙g2 ♗c3 26.♖c1 ♗xd2 27.♙xd2 ♗b7 28.♗xd4 with a winning advantage. Now White is only slightly better.

19...bxa3 20.♖xa3 ♗b6 21.b3 ♗e7 22.♗e4 ♗ec6 23.♙g5 It was also worth considering: 23.♙d2.

23...♖fc8 24.♙f6 24.♖a4 was a good alternative here but White wishes to exchange bishops and then play against the black king.

24...♗xc4 25.♖xc4 ♗b4 After 25...♙f8 26.♖a1 ♗a5 27.♖xc8 ♖xc8 28.♗xd4 gives White a slight edge but this is better than the game.

26.♙xg7 ♙xg7 27.♗xd4



White has a material advantage and play against the black king on the dark squares.

27...♖d8 28.♖a4 a5 29.♖axb4 A simplifying combination which ties down the black pieces.

29...axb4 30.♗c6 ♖dc8 31.♗xb8 ♖xb8 32.g3 ♗a5 33.d4 ♖d8 34.♙g2 ♗a3 35.♗f3 White penetrates on the kingside, aiming at f7.

35...♙g8 36.♖c7 ♖f8 37.♖b7 ♗a5 38.h4 h5 39.♙h2 ♗a3 40.♙g2 ♗a5 41.♖d7 ♗b5 42.♖d6 White aims to break open the position with d5, which cannot be stopped.

42...♖c8 43.d5 exd5 44.e6 ♗e8 After 44...

fxe6 45.♖xe6 ♖c7 46.♗xg6+ ♖g7 47.♗f6 ♜c5 48.♞xh5 wins.

45.♞xd5 ♔f8 46.♞e5 ♖c7 If 46...♔g8 47.e7 ♔h7 48.♞f6 ♖c5 49.♗d8 ♗f5 50.♞d4 ♞c6+ 51.♔h2 wins

47.e7+

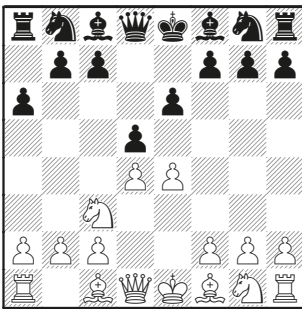
1-0

Black cannot capture because of mate on h8, so he resigned.

Ivan Cheparinov – Jonathan Speelman

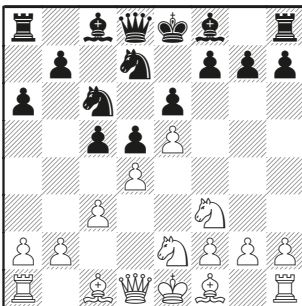
4NCL 2017–18 England ENG (10.11)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 a6



A novelty which can become useful later in lines where Black wishes to play ...c5 without allowing ♗b5.

4.♗f3 ♖f6 5.e5 ♗fd7 6.♗e2 c5 7.c3 ♗c6



GUILDFORD WERE SUCCESSFUL THANKS TO THEIR HIGHER-RATED TEAM INCLUDING BULGARIAN GM IVAN CHEPARINOV FOR THE LAST WEEKEND AND GM MATTHEW SADLER SCORING HEAVILY THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

8.a3 Also: 8.g3 ♗e7 9.♗g2 0-0 10.0-0 with a slight edge for White.

8...c4 Black decides to close the position and play on the queenside light squares: a heavyweight positional struggle.

9.♗f4 ♗a5 10.♗e3 ♗b6 11.h4 White aims to gain space on the kingside and this is a natural move to cramp Black there.

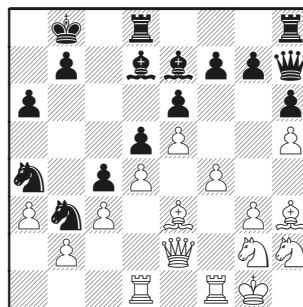
11...♗d7 12.♖b1 h6 After 12...♗a4 13.♞e2 ♗e7 14.g3 White will play as in the game.

13.g3 ♞e7 14.♗h3 0-0-0 15.h5 ♞e8 15...♗a4 16.♞e2 ♔b8 is an alternative; this is a clever plan!

16.0-0 ♗e7 17.♗h2 ♞g8 Black has play with his queen via h7 and now White has to watch for a black queen invasion on d3.

18.♞e2 ♞h7 19.♖bc1 ♗b3 20.♖cd1 ♗a4 21.♗g2 ♔b8 21...g5 22.hxg6 fxg6 23.♗f4 ♞f7 with a better game for Black.

22.f4



22...♙xa3 22...g6 is an alternative but Black decides to play a small combination and destroy the white queenside.

23.bxa3 ♜xc3 24.♚b2 ♜xd1 25.♞xd1 White has two pieces for Black's rook and two pawns; perhaps a slightly better position for Black.

25...♞c8 26.♚c3 An important blockading move, stopping the c-pawn and defending d4.

26...♞c6 27.♙f2 ♞hc8 28.f5 A strong move; White aims to break open the position for his knights.

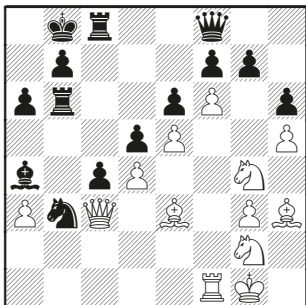
28...♚g8 If 28...exf5 29.♜f4 ♙e6 30.♜f1 ♞6c7 31.♜e3 ♞d7 32.♙g2 and White has good play against d5 eg. 32...♞cd8 33.♜exd5 ♙xd5 34.♜xd5 ♞xd5 35.♙xd5 ♞xd5 36.♚xc4 ♞b5 37.a4 ♜a5 38.♚xf7 ♞b2 39.♚f8+ ♜a7 40.d5+ ♞xf2 41.♚c5+ ♜b8 42.♚xf2 winning.

29.♜g4 29.♜f4 ♞b6 30.fxe6 fxe6 31.♜xd5 exd5 32.♙xd7 ♞d8 33.♙g4 g6 is good for White but not as good as the game.

29...♚f8 29...exf5 30.♜4e3 ♙e6 31.♜f4 ♞d8 32.♙g2 f6 33.♚c2 with good play for White against e6 and f5.

30.f6 White changes tack to play and win the pawn on h6.

30...♞b6 31.♙e3 ♙a4 32.♞f1



32...♞b5 33.♜h2 ♜a5 34.fxg7 ♚xg7 35.♜xh6 ♞c7 36.♜g4 ♜c6 37.h6 ♚h8 38.♜f6 ♞b3 39.♚c1 ♜a7 40.♙g4 40.h7 is more logical.

40...♜e7 41.♙d1 ♞xe3 42.♚xe3 ♙xd1 If 42...♜f5 43.♞xf5 ♙xd1 44.♞f1 ♙c2 45.♞c1 ♙g6 46.♚g5.

43.♞xd1 ♜f5 44.♚f4 ♜xh6 After 44...♚xh6+ 45.♚xh6 ♜xh6 46.♜e3 b5 47.g4 c3 48.♜g3 c2 49.♞c1 ♞c3 50.♜f4 ♞xa3 51.g5 ♜f5 52.♜xf5 exf5 53.♞xc2 is winning.

45.♜g1 ♜f5 46.♜xd5 ♜xg3 46...exd5 47.♚xf5 c3 48.♜e3 ♚h6 49.♚f4 ♚c6 50.♞c1 is winning.

47.♜c3 ♜f5 47...♚h1+ 48.♜f2 wins.

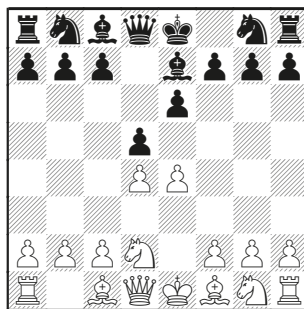
48.d5 ♚h3 49.d6 ♞d7 50.♜e4 ♚xa3 51.♚f2+ ♜b8 52.♜f6 ♞d8 53.♚b6 After the rook moves 54.d7 is decisive.

1-0

Neil McDonald - Matthew Sadler

4NCL 2017-18 England ENG (10.12)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♜d2 ♙e7



A favourite of Mathew Sadler!

4.♜gf3 ♜f6 5.e5 ♜fd7 6.♙d3 c5 7.c3 ♜c6 8.0-0 g5



Gawain Jones @GMGawain · May 7

A very successful weekend as **Guildford** retain the #4ncl title for a record 6th year. 4nclresults.co.uk/2017-18/media/... 6.5/7 for me this season and finally a chess break after a hectic 32 games since March 17th. Off to New Zealand tomorrow to see friends and family, can't wait!



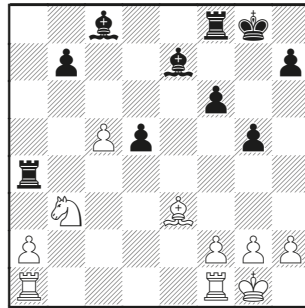
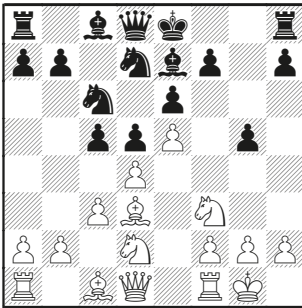
1



2



14



This line fights for the initiative by threatening g4 and White has to capture on c5 to avoid losing the fight.

9.dxc5 ♗dxe5 **10.♗xe5** ♗xe5 **11.♗b3** ♗xd3 **12.♖xd3 f6**

Black plays this to protect e5 and g5.

13.c4 White tries to break up the black central pawn mass; **13.♖e1** is an alternative.

13...a5 With the threat of ...a4 followed by capturing on c5.

14.♙e3 a4 15.♗c1 15.♗d2 0-0 16.cxd5 ♖xd5 **17.♖xd5** exd5 **18.f4 ♖a5 19.♖ac1** ♖b5 **20.b3** with a slight advantage for Black.

15...0-0 16.b4 16.♗e2 is best: if then **16...♖a5, 17.♗c3 ♙xc5 18.♙xc5 ♖xc5** **19.cxd5** exd5 **20.♗xa4**.

16...axb3 17.♗xb3 ♖a4 Forcing White to exchange on d5.

18.cxd5 ♖xd5 19.♖xd5 exd5

Black is better with the two bishops and has a target in the pawn on a2.

20.♖fd1 ♖d8 21.♖d4 ♖a3 22.♖b4 ♖d7 **22...♗f7 23.h4** h6 is another way to play.

23.h4 ♖c7 23...h6 24.hxg5 hxg5 **25.f4** is also better for Black.

24.hxg5 fxg5 25.♙d4 ♗f7 26.♖b6 White is trying to gain counterplay with ♖h6 but this proves to be a dead end

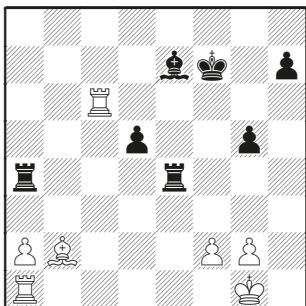
26...♖a4 Also **26...♖c6** was a solid choice.

27.♙b2 If **27.♖h6 ♙f5** is good enough.

27...♖c6 28.♖b5 28.♖xc6 bxc6 **29.a3** is probably best.

28...♖e6 29.♗d4 ♖e4 30.c6 After **30.♗f3 ♖e2 31.♙c3 ♖c2 32.♙d4 g4 33.♗e5+ ♗f8 34.♖d1 g3 35.fxg3 ♖axa2 36.♖f1+ ♗e8 37.♖f2 ♖xf2 38.♙xf2 ♙f6** with a better position for Black.

30...bxc6 31.♗xc6 ♙d7 32.♖b6 ♙xc6 33.♖xc6



Material is still level but now Black wins a pawn by a double attack.

33...♖e2 34.♞b6 On 34.♙h8 ♜axa2 35.♞xa2 ♞xa2 36.g3 h5 37.♙g2 h4 with a big advantage to Black.

34...♙c5 35.♞b7+ ♙e6 36.♞c1 ♞c4 37.♞xc4 dxc4 Now f2 cannot be defended.

38.♞b5 ♙d6 38...♙a7 39.♙h8 g4 40.♞b2 ♞xb2 41.♙xb2 g3 wins.

39.♙g7 ♙c6 40.♞b2 ♙xf2+ 41.♙f1 ♞xb2 42.♙xb2 ♙g3 43.a4 g4 44.♙e2 h5

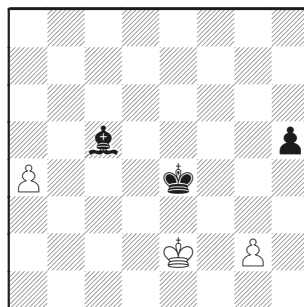
Black advances his h-pawn, tying White down.

45.♙e3 ♙d5 46.♙c3 ♙e5 47.♙e1 c3 48.♙d3 g3 49.♙xg3 49.a5 h4 50.a6 ♙c6 51.a7 ♙b7 52.♙c2 ♙xa7 53.♙d3 ♙b6

RELEGATED FROM DIVISION 2 WERE POISONED PAWNS 1, KINGS HEAD, WHITE ROSE 2 AND BARBICAN YOUTH. MANX LIBERTY COULD PROVIDE MORE COMPETITION IN THE TOP LEAGUE

54.♙c2 ♙c5 55.♙d3 ♙d5 56.♙xc3 h3 57.gxh3 g2 wins.

49...♙xg3 50.♙xc3 ♙e4 51.♙d2 ♙f2 52.♙e2 ♙c5



Black will win the g-pawn by moving his king to g3 and also the game as the White king cannot reach h1.

0-1

THE FINAL STANDINGS IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	GP	Pts
1 Guildford 1		5 ½-2 ½	7-1	5 ½-2 ½	6 ½-1 ½	6 ½-1 ½	7 ½-1 ½	7-1	45 ½	14
2 Cheddleton 1	2 ½-5 ½		4-4	5-3	4-4	5 ½-2 ½	7-1	8-0	36	10
3 White Rose 1	1-7	4-4		4 ½-3 ½	4-4	5 ½-2 ½	5 ½-2 ½	5-3	29 ½	10
4 Guildford 2	2 ½-5 ½	3-5	3 ½-4 ½		6-2	5-3	6 ½-1 ½	5-3	31 ½	8
5 Wood Green HK	1 ½-6 ½	4-4	4-4	2-6		4 ½-3 ½	6-2	6 ½-1 ½	28 ½	8
6 Barbican 4NCL 1	1 ½-6 ½	2 ½-5 ½	2 ½-5 ½	3-5	3 ½-4 ½		5-3	7-1	25	4
7 Grantham Sharks 1	½-7 ½	1-7	2 ½-5 ½	1 ½-6 ½	2-6	3-5		4 ½-3 ½	15	2
8 Oxford 1	1-7	0-8	3-5	3-5	1 ½-6 ½	1-7	3 ½-4 ½		13	0

FIRST 4NCL SPRING BANK HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT 2018

GREAT PLAY BY

NICK PERT

By IM Shaun Taulbut

The 4NCL held a tournament from 25th May to 28th May at the Basingstoke Country Hotel with four sections. The Open Section attracted a strong entry and was won by local GM Nick Pert.

With an ELO of 2543, Nick Pert is one of Britain's strongest players. Pert was the World Under-18 Chess Champion in 1998 and British Rapidplay Chess Champion in 2004. He became a GM at the age of 22. In 2015 he was the last-minute substitute for Nigel Short at the British Knockout where he staged a surprise by outplaying the favourite Luke McShane to reach the finals where he lost to David Howell. He is active in chess but focuses mostly on coaching. His win in the 4NCL tournament in Basingstoke was a great reminder of his talent and strength.

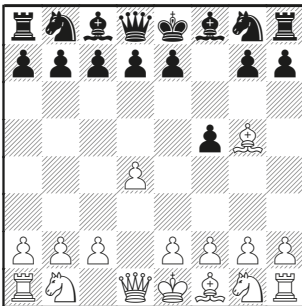
BCM's Aleksandar Colovic also took part and had a good tournament, finishing sixth with 4.5 points.

Here is one of Pert's most interesting wins from the recent 4NCL tournament.

Nick Pert - Jacob D Yoon

1st 4NCL Spring Bank 2018 Basingstoke ENG (1,2)

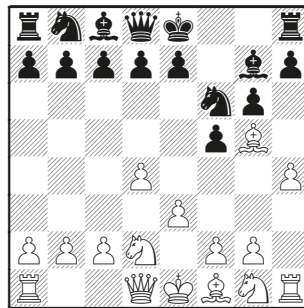
1.d4 f5 2.♙g5



White aims to disturb the Black development by pinning the e-pawn and tempting Black to weaken his position by driving away the bishop with ..h6.

2...g6 3.♘d2 3...♘c3 ♙g7 4.e3 is also playable but White wishes to play c3.

3...♙g7 4.e3 ♘f6 5.h4



A strong disruptive move; White has the potential threat of h5 potentially sacrificing the king rook to break into the Black kingside.

5...♘c6 5...♘g4 is worth consideration and if 6.f3 h6 7.fxg4 hxg5 8.gxf5 gxf5 9.h5 with an edge for White If 5...h6 6.♙xf6 ♙xf6 7.♘h3 bringing the knight to a strong square on f4 is awkward for Black eg 7...♙xh4 8.♘f4 ♙g5 9.♘xg6 ♖h7 10.♗h5 winning.

6.c3 White protects his centre also eyeing the b3-g8 diagonal.

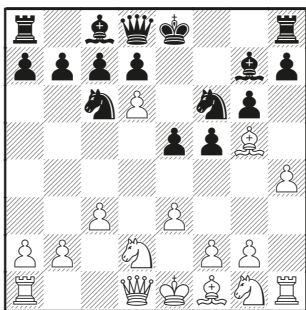
6...e5 Alternatives were 6...0-0 when 7.♘h3 is better for White or; 6...d5 7.♖b3 puts pressure on the Black position.

7.d5 White sees the possibility of attacking the d6 square; 7.dxe5 ♘xe5 8.♗gf3 ♘f7 9.♗c2 with an edge for White is less good.

7...♗e7 After 7...♗b8 8.h5 h6 9.♗xf6 ♗xf6 10.hxg6 ♗xg6 11.♗c2 0-0 12.♗gf3 d6 13.0-0-0 with a big advantage to White who can attack on the kingside.

8.d6 White pushes on attacking d6 and c7.

8...♗c6



After 8...cxd6 9.h5 ♘hx5 (9...h6 10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.hxg6 d5 12.♗h5 ♗g7 13.♗gf3 d6 14.0-0-0 with strong play for White) 10.♗hx5 gxh5 11.♗c4 0-0 12.♗xd6 ♗f7 13.♗f3 ♗f8 14.♗cxe5 wins.

9.h5 Using the pin on the knight on f6 to break down the Black kingside.

9...cxd6 After 9...gxh5 10.♗hx5 h6 11.♗h4 cxd6 12.♗c4 0-0 13.♗xd6 ♗b6 14.♗xf6 ♗xf6 15.♗d5+ ♗h7 16.0-0-0 with a winning attack for White.

10.♗c4 d5 10...0-0 11.hxg6 hxg6 12.♗xd6 ♗e8 13.♗c4+ ♗e6 14.g4 with a winning attack.

11.♗d6+ ♗e7 If 11...♗f8 12.h6 traps the bishop.

12.♗xd5 ♗g8 13.♗c5 The threat of a discovered check wins material and the game.

13...♗d8 If 13...h6 14.♗xc8+ ♗d8 15.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 16.♗d6 is winning; or 13...gxh5 14.♗xc8+; or 13...b6 14.♗xc8+ ♗d8 15.♗d6 ♗xc8 16.h6.

14.h6 Winning material and the game which ended as follows:

14...b6 15.♗a3 a6 16.♗c4 ♗f8 17.hxg7 ♗xg7 18.♗f7+ ♗c7 19.♗d6+ ♗b7 20.♗xf6 ♗f8 21.♗xh8 ♗xd6 22.♗xd6+ ♗a7 23.♗xh7 ♗a5 24.♗d5 ♗c6 25.♗xc6 ♗b8 26.♗xc8+ ♗xc8 27.♗xd7+ ♗b8 28.♗xe5+ ♗c7 29.♗d8+ ♗a7 30.♗a8#

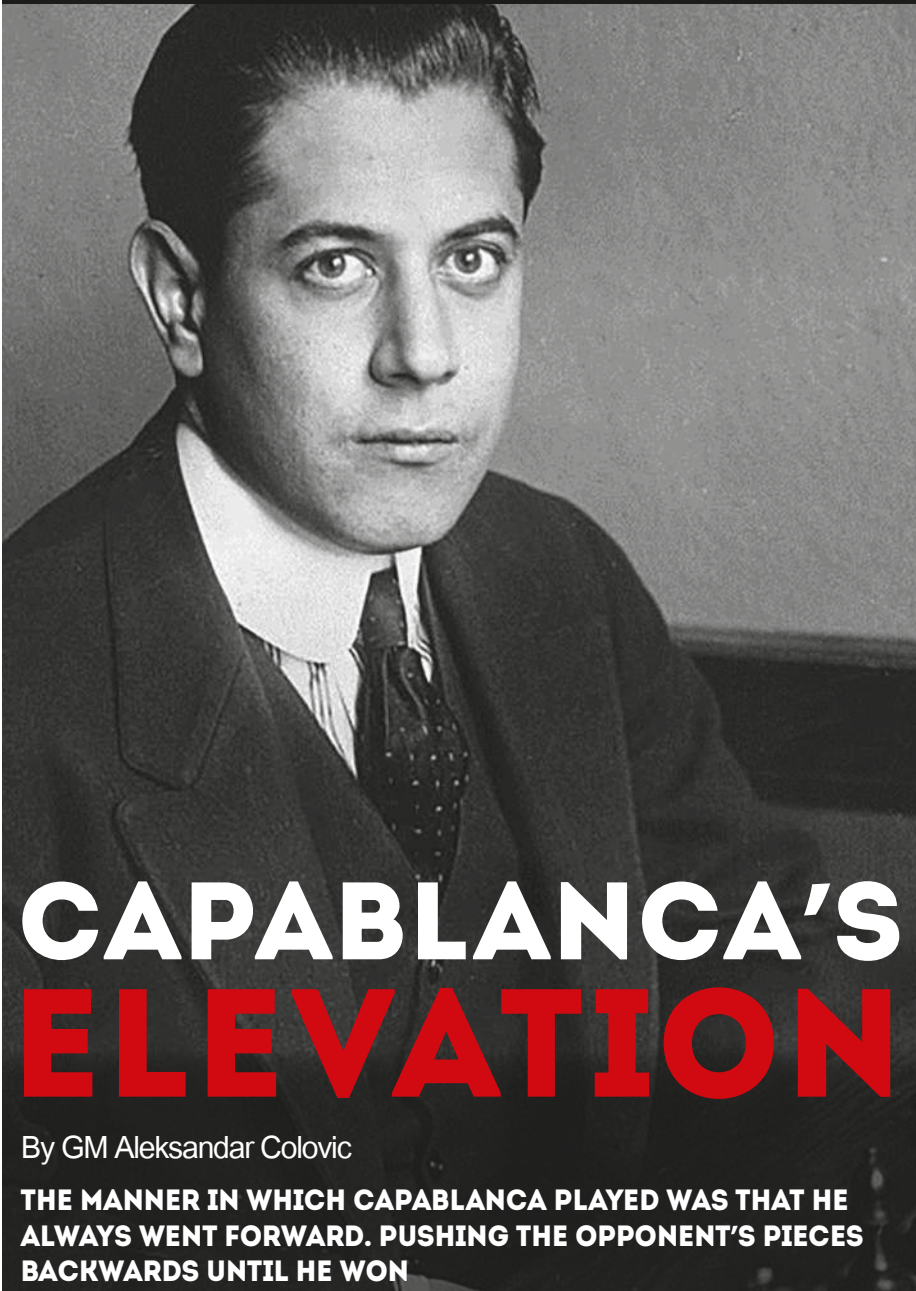
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A great game and a good tournament by Nick Pert.

TOP PLAYERS AT THE EVENT:

1	GM Pert Nicholas	2453	Fleet	6,5
2	IM Merry Alan B	2439	Bury St. Edmunds	5,5
3	GM Nunn John Dm	2579	Chertsey	5,0
	Bukojemski Adam	2194	Battersea	5,0
	Graham David B	215	Worthing	5,0
6	GM Colovic Aleksandar	2440	Macedonia	4,5
	IM Bates Richard A	2371	Hackney	4,5
	FM Jackson James P	2364	Banbury	4,5
	Burrows Martin P	2110	Wigston	4,5

THE WAY THE GREAT MASTER PLAYED



CAPABLANCA'S ELEVATION

By GM Aleksandar Colovic

THE MANNER IN WHICH CAPABLANCA PLAYED WAS THAT HE ALWAYS WENT FORWARD. PUSHING THE OPPONENT'S PIECES BACKWARDS UNTIL HE WON

I quite like reading Matthew Sadler's writings. I enjoy his book reviews in *New In Chess* and I was quite impressed by his book *Chess for Life* (written together with Natasha Regan).

In this column I would like to share a concept I picked up from that book. In fact, Sadler himself admits that he learned of the concept from the Russian master Shashin and his book 'Best Play: A New Method of Discovering the Strongest Move.' The concept in question is that of elevation.

My first major breakthrough in terms of level of play came after I studied Capablanca's games every single day for three months straight. I came to understand his manner of play, but I never really tried to verbalise what I understood. Sadler (and Shashin) found the correct word to perfectly describe what I learned. The manner in which Capablanca played was that he always went forward. Pushing the opponent's pieces backwards until he won. (Keres's description of Botvinnik as 'a tank' also comes to mind here. Not really surprising when you know that Capablanca was Botvinnik's idol.)

In Sadler's own words '... he has simply taken his position and shoved it up the board three or four ranks until the opponent's pieces just don't fit onto the board any more! All this happens in the most natural-looking manner without the opponent making a serious blunder or being able to offer any resistance.'

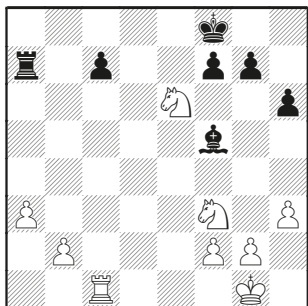
I would like to explain the concept of elevation with the following well-known example.

'...HE [CAPABLANCA] HAS SIMPLY TAKEN HIS POSITION AND SHOVED IT UP THE BOARD THREE OR FOUR RANKS UNTIL THE OPPONENT'S PIECES JUST DON'T FIT ONTO THE BOARD ANY MORE! ALL THIS HAPPENS IN THE MOST NATURAL-LOOKING MANNER WITHOUT THE OPPONENT MAKING A SERIOUS BLUNDER OR BEING ABLE TO OFFER ANY RESISTANCE.'

CAPABLANCA-RAGOZIN

Jose Raul Capablanca -
Viacheslav Ragozin

Moscow International-03 Moscow (4),
17.05.1936

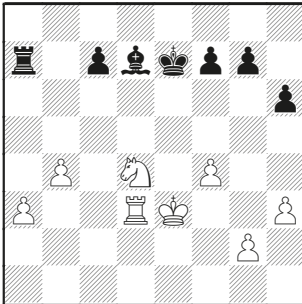


32...♙xe6 Take a good look at this position and then compare it with the one after White's 39th move. This visual comparison will help you immediately grasp the concept of elevation.

33.♘d4 Capablanca's own description of White's plan is quite characteristic of his understanding of chess. He writes that White should prevent the advance of the c-pawn (so that the white b-pawn wouldn't become weak) and he should aim to control the board along the 5th rank, for which ♕e3, ♖c3, ♘d4, with the pawns on b4 and f4 are needed. As you can see, he is pushing upwards.

33...♖b7 34.b4 ♙d7 35.f4 ♔e7 36.♕f2 ♖a7 37.♖c3 ♘d6 38.♗d3 A characteristic moment. White uses the opportunity to slightly worsen the position of the black king.

38...♙e7 39.♙e3

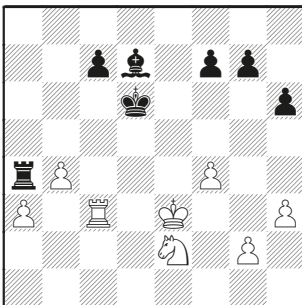


In case you forgot, compare this position with the starting one.

39...♞a4 40.♞c3! Another characteristic moment. Like all great players, Capablanca was very careful and always paid maximum attention to his opponent's threats and ideas. After accomplishing the set-up described above, now White would like to bring his king over to the queenside in order to advance with his pawns.

But the straightforward 40.♙e4?! with the idea of ♔d5-c5 doesn't work in view of 40...c5! 41.bxc5 ♕c6+ 42.♙e5 (42.♙e3 ♕xg2) 42...f6+ 43.♙f5 ♕xg2 44.♞g3 ♕d5= as shown by Capablanca. Hence, he plays the game move in order to prevent the advance of the c-pawn.

40...♙d6 41.♞d3 ♙e7 42.♞c3 ♙d6 43.♗e2



Botvinnik and his idol Capablanca, Moscow 1935, Source: Wikipedia

After repeating moves, most probably to make sure he made the time-control and could adjourn the game, White starts to regroup. Ideally, he needs a knight on c3, which would control both squares the pawns must go to, in order to advance on the queenside.

43.♙d3 still allowed an unexpected 43...c5! 44.bxc5+ ♙d5 and this kind of complication is something that should be avoided when realising an advantage. Control is the key in this phase of the game.

43...g6 44.♞d3+! An innocuous check at first sight, but in fact this is based on some precise short calculation. Depending on where the black king goes, White manages either to put the knight on c3 or to advance with the king.

44...♙e6 44...♙e7 45.♗c3!; 44...♙c6 45.b5+.

45.♙d4 ♞a6 46.♞e3+! Another important check, forcing the king to come to d6, thus allowing the knight to come to c3.

46...♙d6 47.♗c3 Mission accomplished. Black cannot take on a3 in view of the discovered check, made possible by the move 46 ♞e3.

47...f5 Preventing possible ♗e4 threats.

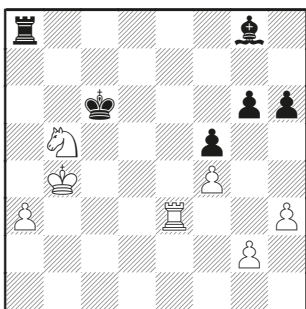
48.b5 The pawns start rolling now and the elevation continues.

48...♖a8 Here is a line given by Capablanca: 48...♖xa3 49.♗e4+ fxe4 50.♖xa3 ♕xb5 51.♖g3 c5+ 52.♗xe4 ♕c6+ 53.♗d3 ♕e8+- and he evaluates it as winning for White.

49.♗c4 The king goes to support the pawns. All pieces advance together.

49...♕e6+ 50.♗b4 c5+ Very often the relentless elevation makes the opponent desperate. Here Black prefers to avoid suffocation and sacrifices another pawn.

51.bxc6 ♕g8 52.♗b5+ ♗xc6



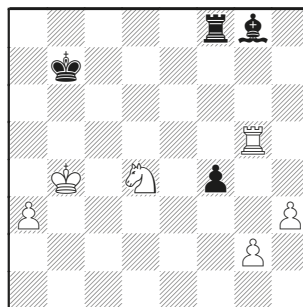
53.♖d3! Changing the direction of the attack. 'I manoeuvre until I win another

pawn' was an advice Capablanca gave to the young Botvinnik and here we see him practise what he preached. He is now switching to the second weakness on the kingside and wins the g6-pawn.

53...g5 54.♖d6+ ♗b7 55.fxg5 Even in completely winning positions Capablanca pays attention to counterplay, even if that counterplay doesn't bring much.

55.♖xh6 gxf4 and Black threatens ♕d5.

55...hxg5 56.♖g6 ♖f8 57.♖xg5 f4 58.♗d4



The last characteristic moment. I think Capablanca played this immediately, automatically preventing ...f3 even if that wasn't even a threat! In his comments he suggested 58 a4 as the better move, but it is his instinctive reaction that shows us the manner in which he thought about chess!

58.a4! Capablanca.

58...♖c8 59.♖g7+ ♗b6 60.♖g6+ ♗b7 61.♗b5 ♖f8 62.♗d6+ ♗b8 63.h4 It is perhaps fitting that in the final position all Black's pieces are on the last rank.

1-0

Against Lasker in Moscow, 1925
Source: Wikipedia



Quite simple, isn't it?
For Capablanca, of course.



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THE BRITISH CHESS PROBLEM SOCIETY

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WINTON BRITISH CHESS SOLVING CHAMPIONSHIP 2018-2019

(Organised by the British Chess Problem Society)

To All Chess Editors

The starter problem is below. I would be obliged if you would announce this competition sponsored by Winton at the next available opportunity, and invite your readers to enter by solving the starter problem. White, playing up the board, is to play and force mate in two moves against any Black defence. There is no entry fee, and the competition is open to British residents only. Competitors need only send White's first move, known as the key move. Entries can be made in one of two ways:

1. By post to Nigel Dennis, Boundary House, 230 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1QY
2. By email to winton@theproblemist.org

All entries must be postmarked or emailed no later than 31st July 2018 and must give the entrant's name and home address. Juniors under the age of 18 on 31st July 2018 must give their date of birth.

Please ask your readers to mention in their entries that they saw the starter problem in your publication, as this will give you a chance of winning the traditional editors competition with prize fund £100, £80, £60, £40 and £20 for encouraging most entries. After the closing date, all competitors will receive the answer to the starter problem, and those who get it right will also receive the postal round, which will contain 8 more difficult and varied problems. In due course the best competitors and the five best juniors from the postal round will be invited to the final at Eton College on Saturday 23rd February 2019. The British Championship final prize fund in February 2018 was £1,225, and it will not be less for the 2019 final plus a grading prize and a junior prize. The ultimate winner of the final will win the right to represent Great Britain at the World Chess Solving Championships 2019.

This is the centenary year of the BCPS. Members £25 for paper magazines subscription, £5 for pdf only. To find out more and follow the course of the competition see:

<http://www.theproblemist.org/newsite/wbcsc/wbcsc.pl?type=current§=init>

Nigel Dennis 7th May 2018
Controller
Winton British Chess Solving Championship

WBCSC Starter 2018-2019 Black (8 Men)



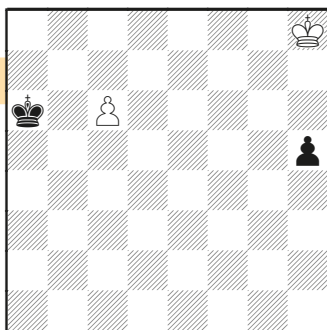
White (7 Men)

White to play and mate in two moves

Endgame Studies

by Ian Watson

1

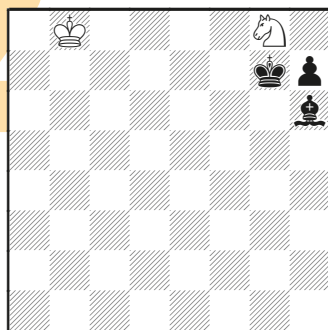


R. Reti

Deutschoesterreichische T.-Z. 1921

DRAW

2

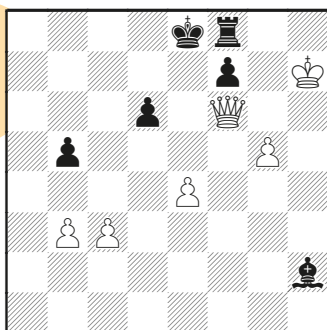


N. Rezvov & B. Chernous

Bron MT 1991

DRAW

3

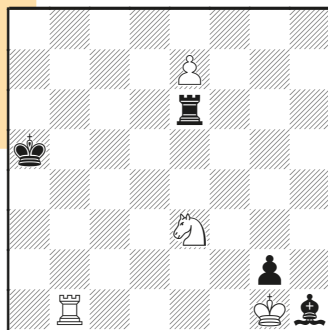


R. Reti

Shakmaty 1928

WIN

4



R. Reti

Tijdschrift v.d.NSB (version) 1924

WIN

THE MOST FAMOUS STUDY

Yes, *that* one - that Reti one. It's the most famous endgame study, but not, I think, the greatest one. It's not even the greatest pawn ending; I would perhaps give that prize to Grigoriev's from 1932 or the version by Czech composers of Joseph's 1922 work. What has made the Reti study so well-known is its simplicity - its solution is surprising but immediately understandable to all levels of player.

Why not the greatest? It's *too* simple: too short, only one idea, and once you're told that White can draw, you can hardly fail to solve it. It's more didactic than artistic. Reti himself may have thought this - at least, he composed various more complex versions of it. It's at the border territory between practical endgames and composed studies. That's carping, but... when I'm asked to show a study to young OTB players, it's first on my list. Just in case you have somehow managed never to see it, and don't feel like solving today, the solution is given with the solutions to the other three. (Incidentally, the source I quote is the original publication - it's often given as a 1922 publication in a different magazine, but it was first

published the previous year without showing the composer's name.)

Our second study is, as you'll be expecting, based on the manoeuvre in *that* study, now known as 'The Reti Manoeuvre'.

Was Reti one of the greatest study composers? Several of his studies are justifiably famous. The one with the amazing second move 2.♘h1 putting Black in zugzwang on an open board, for example. He's high up in the Pantheon of composers, but his output wasn't large, perhaps because he died at age 40 and much of his adult life was taken up with OTB play. The third study is one of my favourite Retis; you may have seen it before, but even if you have, it is still not trivial to solve as you need to see why the move order is forced. The fourth study is said to have been the one Reti himself regarded as his best.

You can find a complete presentation of Reti's studies on John Beasley's website: www.jsbeasley.co.uk in the 'Orthodox Chess' pages.

The solutions are given on page 383.

Openings for Amateurs

UNDERSTANDING THE IQP OPENINGS (PART V)

CREATING A DIFFERENT WEAKNESS

by Pete Tamburro,
ptamburro@aol.com



Richard Reti - Rudolf Spielmann

Vienna, 1923

In this - our last - instalment of a brief introduction to isolated queen pawn opening strategies, there is one other important idea to cover: creating a different weakness. One marvelous instructional game by Reti and a 'bookend' game by Averbakh, which is also from the Barden article mentioned in the first of this series, demonstrate how giving your opponent a backward pawn can result in a game that is often harder for your opponent to draw than if he just had an isolated queen pawn.

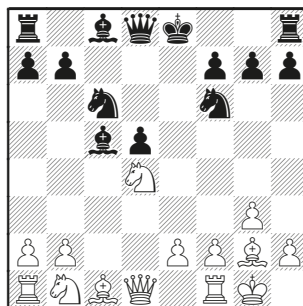
As many club players can be found playing routine developing moves - get the knights and bishops out right away - this the following game by Reti should give them pause. Reti's delaying his development of his queen's knight in order to create and keep a backward pawn on c6 is worth remembering.

1. Nf3 d5 2. c4 e6 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 c5 5. cxd5 exd5 6. d4 Nc6 7. 0-0 Playing the knight out first with the intent of the idea played out in the game would not work as well: 7. Nc3 cxd4 8. Nxd4 Bc5 9. Nxc6 (A bit better was, as played by

Takacs the next year against Spielmann, 9. Nc3 9... bxc6 10. Bc2 and the queen is not moving to c2 with a direct attack on the Bc5.

7... cxd4 Black apparently doesn't want to give White a tempo after 7... Ne7 8. dxc5 Bxc5 9. Nc3 Ne6 10. Bg5 0-0 11. Bc1 Ne7 12. Nxd4 Nxd4 13. Bxd4 ±

8. Nxd4 Bc5



A playable possibility was 8... Ne7 9. Nc3 0-0 10. Bf4 Bg4 11. Bc1 Bd7 12. Bxa4 .

A) 12...♔h3 13.♖fd1 ♕xc6 14.♙xc2 ♖ad8 (14...♗fe8 15.♗db5) 15.♗xc6 (15.♗cb5 ♗xd4 16.♖xd4 a6 17.♗c7 ♗xa4 18.♖xa4 ♖d7 19.♖d4 h6 20.h4±) 15...bxc6 16.e4! ♗b7 (16...d4 17.♕e5) 17.exd5 cxd5 18.♗b5±;

B) 12...♖ac8 13.♖fd1 (13.♗xc6 bxc6) 13...♖fd8 14.♗xd5 ♗xd5 15.♕xd5 ♗xd4 (15...♗xd5 16.♗xc6) 16.♗xd4 ♕f6 17.♗d3 and White is somewhat more aggressively placed.

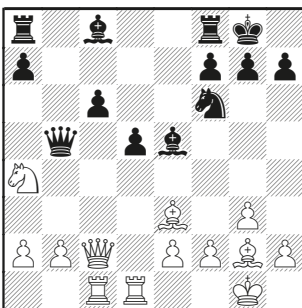
Now, White reaps the benefit of his delay in developing the knight.

9.♗xc6! bxc6 10.♗c2 ♗b6 Alternatives are dismal: 10...♗d7 11.b4! ♕d4 (11...♕xb4 12.♗xc6 ♖b8 13.♕f4 ♖b6 14.♗xd5) 12.♗c3 0-0 13.♕b2 ♕b7 14.♖ad1 ♕f6 15.e4!±; 10...♗a5?? 11.b4! ♗xb4 (11...♕xb4 12.♗xc6+) 12.♕a3.

11.♗c3 ♕d4 A retreat to e7 doesn't work: 11...♕e7 12.e4! ♕e6 13.♕g5 d4 14.e5 ♗d7 15.♗a4 ♗b5 16.♕xe7 ♙xe7 17.♖ad1 ♗c4 (17...♗xe5 18.f4 ♗e3+ 19.♙h1 ♖hd8 20.♖d3) 18.♗xc4 ♕xc4 19.♖fe1 ♕xa2 20.♕xc6 ♖ad8 21.♖xd4±.

12.♗a4 A worthwhile decentralisation.

12...♗b5 13.♖d1 ♕e5 14.♕e3 0-0 15.♖ac1



A plan well-conceived and well-implemented. White now owns the c5 square, and Black has the labour of holding up c6. What's nice about this plan is that it's



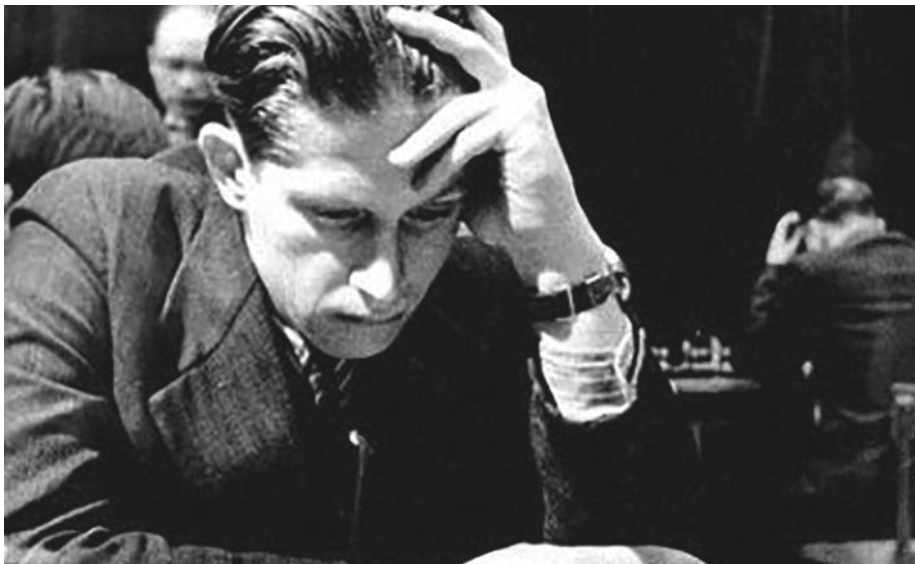
Richard Reti, Source: Wikipedia

easy to understand. It's not deep strategy. It's common sense.

15...♕a6 At this point, just out of the opening and because of the opening, Black has a wretched position. Spielmann, typically, picks a more aggressive response as a more conservative response leads to trouble as well. 15...♕d7 16.♗c5 ♕e8 17.♕d4 ♕xd4 18.♖xd4 a5 19.e4 ♗xe4 20.♕xe4 dxe4 21.♗xe4 ♖b8 22.b3 ♗e5 23.♗c3 f5 24.♗d6±.

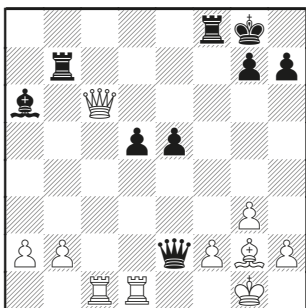
16.♗c5 ♖ab8 Amelie, a student of mine, straightaway asked why Black couldn't take the e2 pawn. It's a cute trap: 16...♗xe2? 17.♖d2 ♗b5 18.♕f1+; Also falling to White's strategy would be 16...♖fc8 17.b3 ♗g4 18.♕d4 ♖e8 19.♗xa6 ♗xa6 20.♗xc6 ♗xa2 21.♕xd5 ♕xd4 22.♖xd4 ♗xe2 23.♖f4 ♗e5 24.♗c7 ♗d3 25.♖xf7 ♙h8 26.♕xa8 ♖xa8 27.♗c8+ ♗e8 28.♗xe8+ ♖xe8 29.♖c3+-.

17.♗d3 ♗d7 18.♕xa7 Everything works: 18.♗xc6; 18.♕h3.



Yuri Averbakh, Source: Wikipedia

18...♖b7 19.♗xe5 ♗xe5 20.♙d4 f6
21.♙xe5 fxe5 22.♚xc6 ♚xe2



Black's first threat! Reti handles it in a clever way.

23.♙xd5+ ♗h8 24.♙f3! ♚b5 25.♚xb5
♖xb5 Now, we have the proverbial "matter of technique". It's still instructive for young players to demonstrate how they would win it, so take the black pieces and challenge them to win it!

26.♙e2 ♖a5 27.♙xa6 ♖xa6 28.a3 h6
29.♖c7 ♖af6 30.♖d2 ♖f3 31.♖e7 ♖8f5

32.♖e2 ♖b3 33.♖7xe5 ♖xe5 34.♖xe5
♖xb2 35.a4 ♖a2 36.a5 ♗h7 37.h4
♗g6 38.h5+ ♗f6 39.♖b5 ♖a4 40.♗g2
♗e6 41.♖b6+ ♗f7 42.a6 ♖a5 43.♖b7+
♗f6 44.a7 ♖a4 45.f4 ♖a3 46.♗f2 g6
47.♖b6+ ♗f5 48.♖xg6 ♖xa7 49.♖xh6
♖a2+ 50.♗f3 ♖a3+ 51.♗g2 ♗g4
52.♖g6+ ♗xh5 53.♖g5+ ♗h6 54.♗h3
♖b3 55.♖a5 ♗g6 56.♗g4 ♖c3 57.♖a6+
♗g7 58.♗h4

1-0

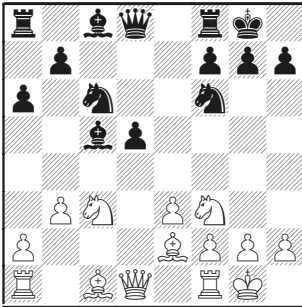
This game went right from opening to middle game without counter chances for Black because Reti came up with a plan that Spielmann did not seem to appreciate. The structural weakness on c6 was fatal.

We see the same thing in the next game by Averbakh, and c6 becomes the same fatal square in a different way.

Yuri Averbakh - Semien Furman

USSR CH Semi-Final, 1960

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.e3 e6 4.♘c3 ♘f6
5.d4 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.♙e2 ♙d6 8.dxc5
♙xc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.b3 a6



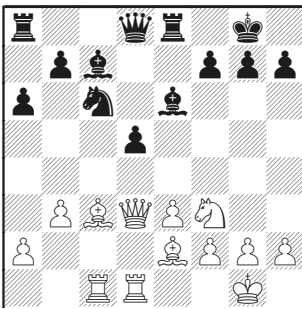
White seems to be following a typical plan of blocking the isolated pawn.

11.♘a4 Another useful decentralisation. It puts the question to the bishop.

11...♙d6 12.♙b2 ♘e4 Black is playing actively. There will be no distinct opening advantage as in the Reti game.

13.♖c1 ♖e8 14.♘c3 ♘xc3 Black gets rid of a useful knight. Better was 14...♘f6 because the old trap of taking the d-pawn does White in. 15.♘xd5 ♘xd5 16.♙xd5 ♙xh2+.

15.♙xc5 ♙c7 16.♙d3 ♙e6 17.♖fd1

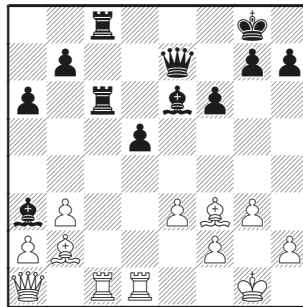


White has distinctly improved his position with pressure on the d5 pawn and a firm grip on d4. Compare the two light-squared bishops. Black's is a tall pawn with nowhere to go while White's may at some point end up on f3, further increasing the pressure on d5.

17...♖c8 18.♙b1 ♙e7 19.♙a1 This queen move has been a personal favourite of mine ever since the 1970s when I watched Bent Larsen play it (actually it was a ♙a8 move). The queen-bishop tandem creates a weakness in the black camp.

19...f6 20.♘d4 ♘xd4 21.♙xd4 The chess engines tell us the position is equal, which is no doubt correct; however, Black is still the one with the weakness to defend. That is one of the points I have tried to make in this series. You do get a lot of equal positions, but the player who really understands these positions has a much better chance of winning, and, at worst, drawing - or drawing rather than losing.

21...♙d6 22.♙f3 ♖c6 23.♙b2 ♖ec8 24.g3 ♙a3



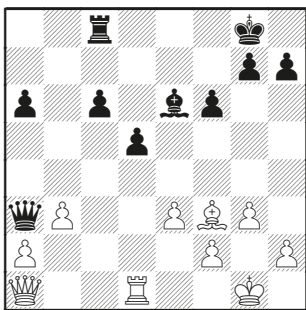
AS MANY CLUB PLAYERS CAN BE FOUND PLAYING ROUTINE DEVELOPING MOVES-GET THE KNIGHTS AND BISHOPS OUT RIGHT AWAY-THIS THE FOLLOWING GAME BY RETI SHOULD GIVE THEM PAUSE

ONE OF THE POINTS I TRIED TO MAKE IN THIS SERIES. YOU DO GET A LOT OF EQUAL POSITIONS, BUT THE PLAYER WHO REALLY UNDERSTANDS THESE POSITIONS HAS A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING, AND, AT WORST, DRAWING - OR DRAWING RATHER THAN LOSING

Here we are again, and, almost emphasising my last point: Black allows White the exchange on c6. And, again, it may not be a lost position, but defence is very difficult. At amateur levels, with someone who has studied these games, I would venture a 99% winning chance for White here.

25. ♖xc6 bxc6 25... ♖xc6 26. ♗xa3 ♜xa3 27. e4 dxe4 28. ♗xe4 ♖c7 29. ♞b1 ♕f8 30. ♗xh7±.

26. ♗xa3 ♜xa3



27. ♖d4!? As in the last game, it's useful to be aware of the e4 thrust: 27. e4! ♜c5 28. ♜c1 ♜d6 29. ♜e3 ♜e5 30. ♜d3 dxe4 31. ♗xe4 h6 32. ♜f3 ♞b2 (32... c5 33. ♗b7) 33. ♗d3 ♜xa2 34. ♜e4 ♜xb3 35. ♜h7+ ♕f8 36. ♖b1+.

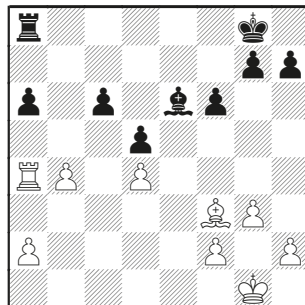
27... ♞a5?! White's rook move seems to have created a slight panic in the black camp. He had one horrible alternative and one playable one. The one he played is in between the other two. 27... c5?? 28. ♖a4; 27... ♜d6! 28. ♖d1 a5 (28... c5 29. ♗xd5 ♗xd5 30. e4) 29. ♜c3 ♞a3 30. ♜c2 ♜d6 31. ♜d3 ♜c5 32. ♜d2 ♞b4 33. ♜c1 ♜d6 34. ♞b2 h6 35. e4±.

28. ♖a4 ♞b6 29. ♜f1 29. ♗e2.

29... ♖a8 30. ♜d3 What's interesting about the d5/c6 complex is that the a-pawn is also weak. Thus, White traded one black weakness away to get two! Another item worth mentioning is that White prevented Black from playing c5 by keeping pressure on d5, a different approach from Reti's.

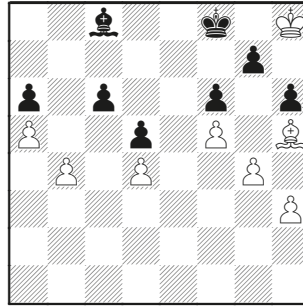
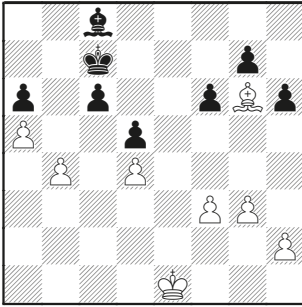
30... ♗f7 31. b4 ♗e6 32. ♜d4? This gives Black a chance to get back into the game, but Furman doesn't grasp it. Maintaining the advantage was 32. a3 ♞b5 33. ♜c2 ♞b7 34. ♖a5.

32... ♜xd4 33. exd4



33... ♕f8 And now 33... ♗h3 would have made White work harder. Then, White couldn't play 34. ♗e2 because it would lose immediately to 34... ♖e8.

34. ♗e2 ♗c8 35. f3 ♕e7 36. ♕f2 ♕d6 37. ♖a5 ♗b7 38. ♕e3 ♕c7 39. ♕d2 ♕b6 40. a3 ♖e8 41. ♖c5 ♗c8 42. a4 ♗d7 43. ♗d3 h6 44. a5+ ♕b7 45. ♖c1 ♗c8 46. ♗g6 ♖e7 47. ♖e1 ♖xe1 48. ♕xe1 ♕c7



This starts one of the most unusual and instructive endgames you can find. There comes a great battle over the square f7. Because of space, we'll leave it to you to enjoy. Where White's king ends up is worth the study.

49.g4 ♖d6 50.♗f2 ♜e7 51.♖g3 ♗f8
 52.♙h4 ♙e6 53.♙h5 ♙c8 53...♙f7 54.f4
 ♙xg6+ 55.♙xg6 ♙g8 56.h4 ♗f8 57.g5
 fxg5 58.hxg5! (58.fxg5 hxg5 59.♙xg5
 ♙f7 60.♙f5 ♙e7 61.♙e5 g6=) 58...hxg5
 59.♙xg5 ♙f7 60.f5 ♙e7 61.♙g6 ♙f8
 62.f6 gx f6 63.♙xf6+.

54.♙d3 ♙f7 55.h3 55.♙f5 ♙xf5
 56.gxf5 ♙e7 57.♙g6 ♙f8 58.♙h7 ♙f7
 59.♙h8 ♙f8.

55...♙f8 56.♙g6 ♙g8 57.♙f1 ♙f8 58.♙e2
 ♙g8 59.♙d3 ♙f8 60.♙h7 ♙f7 61.♙g6+
 ♙f8 62.♙h8 ♙d7 63.f4 ♙e8 63...♙c8
 64.♙h7 ♙e6 65.♙d3 ♙c8 66.♙e2 ♙f7
 67.h4 ♙f8 68.♙g6 ♙b7 69.g5.

64.f5 ♙d7 65.♙h5 ♙c8

66.♙e8! ♙xe8 66...♙b7 67.h4 ♙a8
 68.♙h7 ♙b7 69.♙g6 ♙c8 70.h5 ♙d7
 71.♙h8 ♙c8 72.♙h7 ♙f7 73.♙g8+ ♙f8
 74.♙e6.

67.♙xg7 h5 68.♙xf6 hxg4 69.hxg4 ♙f8
 70.g5 ♙g8 71.g6 ♙f8 72.♙g5 ♙d7 73.f6
 ♙e8 74.♙f5 ♙g8 75.g7 ♙f7 76.♙e5 ♙g6
 77.♙d6 ♙d3 78.♙xc6 ♙f7 78...♙c4
 79.♙d6 ♙f7 80.g8♖+.

79.♙d6 ♙f5 80.b5

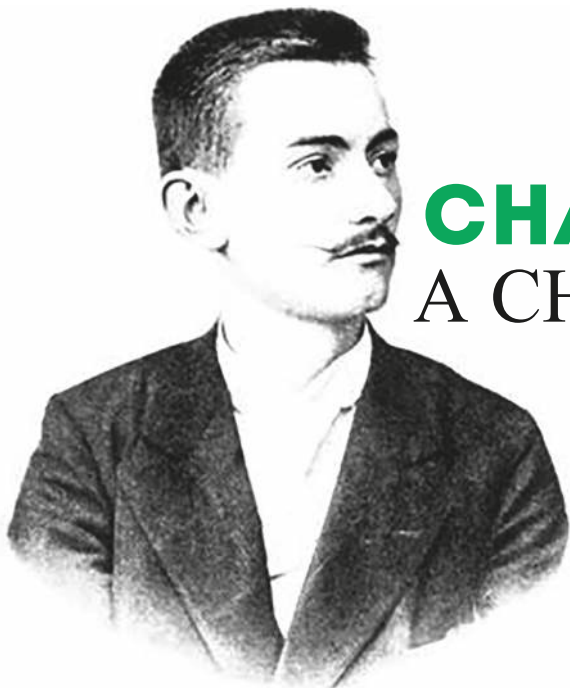
1-0

It is my sincere wish that you have enjoyed this little series on some ideas that emerge in IQP games for both sides. You can be that more knowledgeable player who's willing to play either side and have success. I can't emphasise enough the value of finding GM Alex Baburin's book, Winning Pawn Structures.

Good luck and good chess!



QUOTES AND QUERIES



RUDOLF CHAROUSEK - A CHESS COMET

By Alan Smith

IN THE HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT GAME, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE KNOWN AS THE CHESS COMETS. THEY MAKE A BRIEF FLY-BY, OUTSHINE SOME OF THE BRIGHTEST CHESS STARS, AND THEN DISAPPEAR BUT, LUCKILY, LEAVING THEIR MAGIC DUST BEHIND EMBODIED IN THEIR WONDERFUL IDEAS AND THE GAMES THEY PLAYED. RUDOLF CHAROUSEK WAS ONE OF THEM.

Charousek learned to play chess at 16 and grew to become one of the strongest players of the 19th century. He was studying law in Kosice (in today's Slovakia) and during that time is said to have copied out the voluminous *Handbuch des Schachspiels* by hand, unable to afford his own copy.

A short but glittering career was cut short by illness. He only played in four international tournaments, but distinguished himself on each occasion. He made his debut at Nuremburg 1896,

where he was a substitute for Amos Burn. He finished twelfth, which may not seem like a stellar result, until you consider the strength of the opposition: Marco, Winawer, Showalter and Teichmann all finished below him. He struggled at the start but fought his way to 50% after 15 games. Losses to Maroczy and Tarrasch cost him the chance of a prize, but in the last round he defeated the tournament winner, World Champion Emanuel Lasker. He played the Bishop's Gambit and won in convincing style.

Later in the year he played at Budapest 1896 and shared first place with Chigorin, though he did lose the play-off match. He finished a point ahead of Pillsbury, with Janowski, Tarrasch and Maroczy further back.

The following year he won first prize at Berlin. Charousek started slowly, but then won nine games in a row to secure top honours, half a point ahead of Walbrodt who had beaten him in the opening round.

His last event was Cologne 1898 where he overcame illness to share second place with Chigorin and Wilhelm Cohn, a point behind Amos Burn, but ahead of Steinitz, Schlechter and Janowski.

He died of tuberculosis in April 1900.

He left a manuscript of his games which was passed to Leopold Hoffer, who published many of them in his chess columns in *The Field*, *London Standard* and *The Westminster Gazette*.

The following games all feature his contributions to opening theory. First watch how he turns an 'obsolete' defence into a vigorous counter-attack.

D. HERMANN - Rudolf CHAROUSEK

Kaschau, 1897

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♙c5 4.c3 ♙b6 This is the Charousek Variation, now largely forgotten, but still a viable defence.

5.0-0 The immediate 5.d4 can be met by either the traditional 5...♘f6 or Charousek's recipe 5...exd4 6.cxd4 ♘c7!?

CHAROUSEK LEARNED TO PLAY CHESS AT 16. AND GREW UP TO BECOME ONE OF THE STRONGEST PLAYERS OF THE 19TH CENTURY

5...d6 6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 ♙d7 8.♘c3 ♘ge7 9.h3 9.♙e3 was played in Kalniczky - Charousek Pelosz 1897.

9...0-0 10.a3? This is a wasted move.

10...f5! 11.♙c4+ Kh8 12.e5 ♙e8! 13.♙a2 ♙h5 14.g4 Trying to nullify the pressure on d4, he stumbles into an even worse position.

14...fxg4 15.♘g5 ♘xd4 16.hxg4 ♘f3+ 17.♙xf3 17.♘xf3 ♙xg4 is hopeless for White: giving up the queen enables him to hold on for a few moves.

17...♙xf3 18.♘xf3 ♙c8 19.e6 ♙xg4 20.♘g5 h6 21.♘f7+ ♙g8 22.♙e1 ♙h5 23.♘d5 ♘xd5 24.♙xd5 ♙e8 25.b4 c6 26.♙b3 d5

Black resigns.

0-1

Perth Sunday Times 24th December 1905

Prof Gyozo EXNER - Rudolf CHAROUSEK

Match game, Budapest, 1896

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♙c4 ♘f6 4.♘c3 c6 Suggested by Jaenisch, Pachman attributes this to Bogoljubow!

5.d4 ♙b4 6.♙d3 6.♘ge2 seems fine until Black spots 6...d5! 7.exd5 f3!

6...0-0 7.♘ge2 ♘xe4 8.♙xe4 d5 9.♙xd5 cxd5 10.♙f3? Hoffer recommended 10.♙xf4 ♙xc3+ 11.♘c3 ♙e8+ 12.♙e3 after which White is fine.

10...♙f5 11.0-0 ♙xc2 12.♙xf4 ♙xc3 13.bxc3 ♘c6 14.♙g3 f5 15.♙g5 ♙d7 White has little for his pawn.

16.♘f4 ♙e4 17.h4 ♘b8! 18.h5 ♙d6 19.h6 g6 20.♙h4 ♙c6 21.♙ae1 ♘d7 22.♙e3 ♘f6 23.♙e1 ♘g4 24.♙g3 b5 25.♘d3 ♙xd3 26.♙xd3 ♙ae8 27.♙g3

♙e2 28.♙df3 ♗fe8 29.♙f4 ♗xa2 30.♙e5
 ♘xh6 31.♙h4 ♘g4 32.♙g5 h6 33.♙xg4!?

An ingenious try.

33... ffg4 34.♙f7 ♙e6 Avoiding the trap
 34...♙xe5?? 35.♙f8+!, mating.

35.♙g7+ ♘h8 36.♙d7+ ♙xe5 37.dxe5 g3
 38.♙xd5 h5 39.♙xb5 ♙e2 40.♙d1 ♙8xe5
 41.♙xe5 ♙xe5 42.♙f1 a5 43.

0-1

Standard, 12th January 1904

Dr Samuel JAKOBY - Rudolf CHAROUSEK

Budapest, 1896

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.c3 d6 'Rarely
 adopted' - Hoffer.

4.d4 f5 Transposing into a Philidor Counter-
 Gambit with an added move: ...♘c6 is way
 more useful than c3.

5.dxe5 5.♙d3? fxe4 6.♙xe4 d5 7.♙c2 e4
 and Black is already better Captain Kennedy
 - Szen London 1851. White has better tries,
 but probably neither 5.exf5 ♙xf5 nor 5.d5
 ♘ce7 is sufficient for an advantage.

5...fxe4 6.♘g5 ♘xe5 7.♘xe4 d5 8.♘g3
 ♘f6 9.♙e2 In a later game between
 the two, White preferred 9.♙e3 ♙d6
 10.♘a3 c6 11.♘c2 0-0 12.♙e2 but still
 lost in 26 moves.

9...♙c5 10. 0-0 0-0 11.b4 ♙d6 12.♙e3
 c6 13.h3 This creates a weakness for

**A SHORT BUT
 GLITTERING CAREER
 WAS CUT SHORT BY
 ILLNESS. HE ONLY PLAYED
 IN FOUR INTERNATIONAL
 TOURNAMENTS, BUT
 DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF
 ON EACH OCCASION**

**HE LEFT A MANUSCRIPT
 OF HIS GAMES WHICH
 WAS PASSED TO LEOPOLD
 HOFFER, WHO PUBLISHED
 MANY OF THEM IN HIS
 CHESS COLUMNS IN THE
 FIELD, LONDON STANDARD
 AND THE WESTMINSTER
 GAZETTE**

Charousek to attack. 13.♘d2 followed by
 14.♘b3 is better.

13...♙e6 14.♘d2 ♙d7 15.♘b3 Allowing
 the following sacrifice.

15...♙xh3! 16.♘c5 His only hope,
 16.gxh3 ♙xh3 and White has no answer
 to ...♘fg4.

16.♘c5 ♙c8 17.♘xb7 ♙xg2! 18.♘xd6
 18.♙xg2 ♙xb7.

18...♙h3 19.♙d4 ♘fg4 20.♙xg4 ♘xg4
 21.♙xg4 ♙xg4 22.♙xg2 h5! White has
 three pieces for his queen, but Black's
 attack still blows strong.

23.♙fe1 h4 24.♙e3 ♙ad8 25.♘b7 ♙d7
 26.♘c5 ♙df7 27.♙f1 ♙f3 28.♙e7 fails to
 28...♙xg3+!

0-1

New Zealand Herald 7th September 1901

This line would probably be more popular,
 but White has 4.♙c4, transposing to a
 tricky line of the Giuoco Piano, or 4.♙b5
 reaching a Ruy Lopez.

There is no definitive collection of
 Charousek games. Vlastimil Fiala's
*Quarterly for Chess History, Volume 1
 Spring 1999* contains 266 games and 5
 part games, as well as cross tables and a
 short biography.

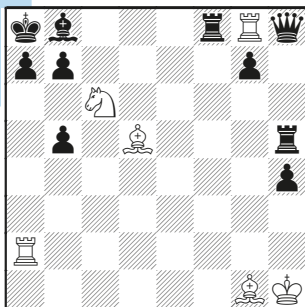
PROBLEM WORLD

by Christopher Jones

cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk

Grandmaster of Chess Composition

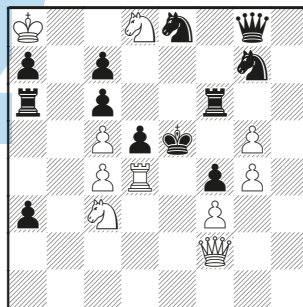
Solutions are given on page 382



Kabe Moen (USA)

Mate in 2

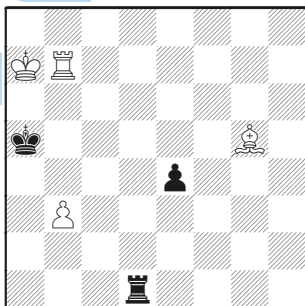
ORIGINAL



Leonid Makaronez (Israel)

Mate in 3

ORIGINAL

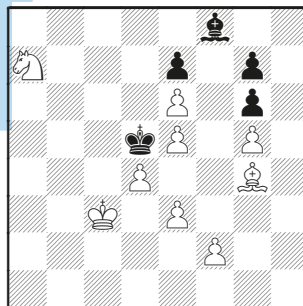


Paul Michelet (London)

Mate in 6 (b)Pe4>f4

ORIGINAL (AFTER DAVISON)

dedicated to John Beasley



Paul Michelet (London)

Mate in 9

ORIGINAL

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS

This month's problems

No helpmates, no selfmates: just a feast of traditional problems for you to solve - or just enjoy! If you solve the 2-mover, you'll enjoy a striking geometrical feature in the refutation of Black's defences. In the 3-mover you'll have to be tactically sharp as you choose between the sacrificial possibilities in Leonid's position. The two longer problems may be in the 'sit back and enjoy' category, but if you do succeed in solving them you will have all the greater an appreciation of the striking strategic themes intensively shown therein. The 6-mover has two parts - there is a different solution if the black pawn is moved from e4 to f4.

Mate in 2 - what to do at a7?

In Kabe's diagram, if the ♕b8 were to move or the f8 rook were to move down the f-file we would have 2.♞xa7 mate. However the key - 1.♙xa7! - forgoes this possibility. The threat is 2.♙xb8, and the refutations of defences show all the other legal moves of this bishop: 1...♙c7 2.♙b6; 1...♙d6 2.♙c5; 1...♞f4 2.♙d4; 1...♞f3 ♙e3; 1...♞f2 2.♙xf2; 1.♞f1+ 2.♙g1 [all these mates changed from the set 2.♞xa7]; and there's 1...♙xa7 2.♞xa7 (we do get to play that move after all), 1...bxc6 2.♙xc6 and 1...b6 2.♙e5 (another mating move that has to intercept a line of guard, this time from the a5 rook).

Mate in 3 - plenty of tactics!

First we have to set up the tactics; the key is 1.♙e2!. This threatens 2.♞e4+ dxe4 3.♞d4. If 1...♞d6 2.♞e3+! fxe3 3.f4. If 1...♙e6 2.♙xc6+ ♞xc6 (2...Ke6 is no longer possible) 3.♙xd5. If 1...♙f5 2.♙xf4 threatens 3.♙d3 (2...♞xf4 is no longer possible) and we have 2...dxc4/♙e3 3.♞e4/♞xe3. Finally, if 1...♞h7, the queen could now capture at e4 but couldn't capture at d5 so we switch sacrificial tack: 2.♙xd5+ cxd5 3.♞d4.

Mate in 6

(what is a 'diamond Rundlauf'?!)

In this striking problem Paul doubles a theme shown in an old problem by Davison by adding a second part. In both parts the aim must be to place intolerable pressure upon the efforts of the black rook to defend against threats of mate on both the diagonals leading to the black king. The positioning of the black pawn means that what works in one solution fails in the other, and vice versa. In the diagram, 1.♙h4 would fail against 1...e3. So the key is 1.♙e7!, and we have 1...♙d4 2.♙c5 ♞a4/♞c4 3.♙e3 ♞a2/♞c2 4.♙g5, with the irresistible threat of 5.♙d8+. The round trip of the white bishop (g5>e7>c5>e3>g5) is known by the German term 'Rundlauf', and another Rundlauf, also describing a diamond pattern, is seen in the second part, when the e4 pawn is shifted to f4. Now if we played 1.♙e7 1...♞d4 would successfully defend in view of the scope for the black rook to move along that rank, but now 1.♙h4! *does* work - the main line is 1...f3 2.♙g3 ♞c1 3.♙f4 ♞c2 4.♙g5 [Rundlauf completed] and 5.♙d8+. You may well (like me) need some time to digest why these sequences of moves (and only these sequences of moves) work. You can rest assured that both parts of this problem have been tested on the tablebase for 7-man positions and confirmed as entirely sound!

(See page 381)

Mate in 9 – slowly but surely...

In Paul's 9-mover, we'd like to manoeuvre the white knight to d8 so that as well as guarding c6 it added a second guard to e6. If it were Black to play there'd be no problem: 1...♗e4 2.♖c6. But it is White to play, and he has no neutral waiting move (1.♗h3?, for instance, would allow the black king to get to f3), so a nice triangulation is required: 1.♗b3! ♗e4 2.♗c2! ♗d5 3.♗c3, returning to the diagram position but with Black to

play. Play proceeds 3...♗e4 4.♖c6 ♗d5 5.♖d8 ♗e4. Now White again would like to play a neutral move awaiting 6...♗d5 7.♗f3. But, again, there is no neutral move. So again we must triangulate (this time the *Rundlauf* by the white king goes in the opposite direction) - 6.♗c2! ♗d5 7.♗b3! ♗e4 8.♗c3 ♗d5 9.♗f3. These triangulation manoeuvres are by no means unknown in problemdom, but to show two in this way, and with the two different directions for the white king's circuit, is a distinguished achievement.

ENDGAME STUDIES

(See page 370)

Reti 1921

1.♗g7 ♗b6 2.♗f6 h4 3.♗e5 h3 4.♗d6 h2 5.c7 draws. 3...♗xc6 4.♗f4. Also 1...h4 2.♗f6 h3 3.♗e7 h2 4.c7 ♗b7 5.♗d7.

Arestov

1.♗c7 ♗g5 2.♗d6 ♗g6 3.♗e6 ♗h5 4.♗f7 ♗g4 5.♖h6+ ♗xh6 6.♗g8 draws. 1.♖e7? ♗f4+ 2.♗b7 ♗f6 3.♗c6 ♗e5 4.♗c5 ♗g5 5.♖d5 h5. In the main line: 1...♗f4+ 2.♗c6 ♗g6 3.♗d5 ♗f5 4.♖f6 h6 5.♗d4 ♗e5+ 6.♗e3; and 3.♗e5? ♗h5 4.♗f5 ♗h4 5.♗e4 ♗g4; and also 3...h5 4.♗e5. This is The Reti Manoeuvre because White detours from heading off the h-pawn and goes towards his trapped piece.

Reti 1928

1.♗h6 ♗e5 2.♗g7 ♗h2/g3 3.c4 bxc4 4.e5 ♗xe5 5.bxc4 ♗xf6+ 6.gxf6 ♖h8 7.♗xh8 ♗d7 8.♗g8 wins.

1.♗g7? Be5 puts White in zugzwang (2.c4 ♗xf6+ 3.gxf6 b4). 1.♖f1? ♗e5 2.♖xb5+ ♗e7 and White has to give perpetual because of the mate threat. 1.♗h6 threatens

to extract the king and win on material. 3...b4 4.c5 undermines the support of e5. 4.bxc4? ♗e5 5.c5 ♗xf6+ 6.gxf6 dxc5. The final pitfall is 8.♗g7? ♗e6.

Reti 1924

1.♖f5 ♗a4 2.♖d4 ♖e4 3.♖a1+ ♗b4 4.♖c1 ♗a5 5.♖c5+ ♗b4 6.♖e5 wins. Not 1.♖d5? ♗a4 2.♖c1 ♖e5 3.♖d1 ♖e6 4.♖d4+ ♗a5. In the main line: 4...♗a3 5.♖c3+ ♗b4 6.Re3 or 5...♗a2/b2 6.♖c2+ Kany 7.♖e2, and 4...♗a4 5.♖c4+, and also 5...♗a6/b6 6.♖c6+ & 7.♖e6 and 5...♗a4 6.♖c4+ Kany 7.♖+. A most impressive set of echoes of the rook manoeuvre. The agility of the knight is extraordinary: 1...♖e5, 1...♖e4, and 1...♖e2 are all met by 2.♖d4 with similar play to the main line, and with the idea of 3.♖c2 and 4.♖e1 as in the line 1...♖e5 2.♖d4 ♗a6 3.♖c2 ♖xe7 4.♖b4+ with yet more forks, and the idea 1...♖e2 2.♖d4 ♖e3 3.♖a1+ ♗b6 4.♖f5 & 5.♖d6 with (yet) another fork. The knight does it even once more in 1...♗a6 2.♖d6 ♖xe7 3.♖a1+ ♗b6 4.♖c8+.

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