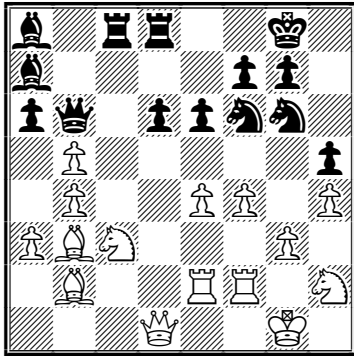


Quiz Today

Mrdja (2368) – Palac (2568)

 45th It Reggio Emilia ITA (9),
 06.01.2003


Black to play

Kasparov.com

Two preliminary games between Kasparov and *DeepJunior* in Jerusalem have been cancelled because of Kasparov's ongoing problems as a result of the folding of his website *kasparov.com* and action taken by the First International Bank of Israel which is trying to recover \$1.6m loaned to the site.

On TWIC (or alternatively on the website <http://www.worldchessrating.ru> if you prefer to read it in Russian ☺) you may read the [Press Release](#) by Kasparov on Legal Action over KC On-Line prepared by his manager Owen Williams.

Kasparov himself said on the subject: "I joined in this venture and put my name and my own money in it with great hopes of using the Internet to spread the game of chess throughout the world and especially to help children learn about and appreciate the game. Unfortunately, the economics of chess, the collapse of the high tech market, and some

unwise spending decisions on the part of those controlling the business side of the venture combined to preclude us from realizing the potential of this super chess site and eventually taking the company public through an IPO, which we had all hoped to do. A number of people and institutions lost time and money in the venture, and that is regrettable."

The main match called the "The FIDE Man Vs Machine World Chess Championship" goes ahead on Sunday Jan 26th.

Jean-Luc Chabanon took first place at the [45th Reggio Emilia International](#)

on tie-break. He scored 7 points as did Mladen Palac. The cbv-file contains Chabanon's impressive win over Oleg Romanishin from the final round mentioned in the annotations to the Chabanon – Castaldo game in CT-792. Take a look at this symphony of the White pawns– you won't regret it!

Final Standings:

- 1–2. **Chabanon**, Palac – 7.0
3. Tomescu – 6.5
4. Cebalo – 6.0
5. Romanishin – 5.5
- 6–7. Mrdja, Vezzosi – 3.5
8. Castaldo – 3.0
- 9–10. Scalcione, Iotti – 1.5

Below are excerpts from the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Newsletter 121 By **John Donaldson, MI Chess Director**

The University of Maryland at Baltimore County B, led by GM Alex Sherzer and IM Eugene Perelshteyn, won the 2002 Pan Am Intercollegiate held in Miami immediately after Christmas. UMBC B's other team members were: FM William Morrison, NM John Rouleau, and Battsetseg

Tsagaan. The winners, who were seeded number three, scored 5½ from 6, drawing only with second seed University of Texas at Dallas. UTD, led by GMs Yury Shulman and Marcin Kaminski, tied for second with pre tournament favorite UMBC A (GMs Alex Onischuk, Alex Wojtkiewicz and Pavel Blehm) at 5:1. Because of the rules of the competition, the two University of Maryland schools did not compete against each other. Stanford did not send as strong a team as in years past and finished in the middle of the 30 team field which came from as far away as Peru and Puerto Rico.

Letter from CT Reader ...

Dear CT-Team,

With greatest interest I followed the game "Smagin – Vlassov", which IM Vlassov annotated in CT-782. Nikolai offered a line (5.d4 Bg4 6.Bb5 O-O-O 7.Bc6: bc 8.h3 Qh5 9.Qd3...etc, with an "excellent position for Black"). I remember a game Pieper – Vlassov, in which Pieper played 9.Qe2. This is why I would like to know what IM Vlassov will do against the plan "c4 & d5". The line is 9.Qe2 Bf3 10.gf e6 11.Be3 (IM Vlassov lost against 11.Bd2...too) Bb4 12.0-0-0 Bc3 13.Qa6 Kd7 14.bc Ne7N (14...Qf3 Sulypa-Zajarny, Alushta 2000) 15.c4! Qf3 16.Rhg1 Rhg8 17.d5! e5 18.Rg3 Qh5 19.Rg5 Qh3 20.Re5 f6 Great to have IM Vlassov with us! I would wish to read an article written by him with the theme 1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5... Best wishes for the New Year!!!

Marcel Juegel

Thank you, Marcel. Here is **IM Nikolai Vlassov** with his comments

I would like to give a short comment to the game Marcel mentioned in his letter. The appropriate 14th move had to be as follows: 14...Qb5! After the decisive mistake on the 16th move,

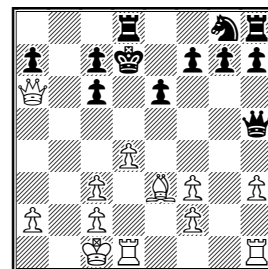
Black's position became undefendable.

Pieper – Vlassov B01 (5), 2001

1.e4 ♘c6 2.♗f3 d5 3.exd5 ♜xd5 4.♗c3 ♜a5 5.d4 ♗g4 6.♗b5 0-0-0 7.♗xc6 bxc6 8.h3 ♜h5 9.♜e2 ♗xf3 10.gxf3 e6 11.♗e3 ♗b4 12.0-0-0N

One more lyrical digression: playing sharp openings you get used to both victories over GMs and defeats against untitled chess players. Here is one of my most memorable losses (it deprived me of the first place in a tournament). 12.♗g1 g6 13.♗g5 ♜xh3 14.0-0-0 h6 15.♜a6+ ♜d7 16.d5 exd5? (16...hxc5 17.dxe6+ ♜e7) 17.♗xd5 ♗d6 18.♗g3 ♜e6 19.♗b4 ♗e7 20.♗g4 ♜f5 21.♗e4 ♜f6 22.♗f4 ♜c8 23.♜b1 ♗hd8 24.♗xe7+ ♜xe7 25.♗xc6+ ♜f8 26.♗xh6+ ♜g8 27.♗xd8 ♗xd8 28.♗e3 ♜xf3 29.♜f1 ♗e8 30.♜g1 ♗e5 31.♜h1 ♜f6 32.♜e4 ♗e6?? 33.♜a8+ ♜g7 34.♗h1 1-0 Smagacz,D-Vlassov,N/Zabrze 1991 (34)

12...♗xc3 13.♜a6+ ♜d7 14.bxc3



14...♗e7N

RR 14...♜xf3 15.♗hg1 g6 16.c4 ♗e7 17.d5 exd5 18.cxd5 cxd5 19.♜a4+ ♜c8 20.♗g5 ♗he8 21.♗de1 f6 22.♜a6+ ♜b8 23.♗e3 ♗d6 24.♜b5+ 1-0 Sulypa,A-Zajarnyi,A/Alushta 2000/CBM 75 ext (24); Strategically appropriate is 14...♜b5!? . I was scared of making this move because of 15.♜xb5 cxb5 16.♗hg1 g6 17.d5! but it looks like Black resists 17...♗f6! 18.dxe6+ ♜xe6 19.♗de1 ♗he8! 20.♗g5 ♗d5!=

15.c4 ♜xf3?!

15...♗b8! 16.d5 exd5 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.♜a4+! ♜d8 19.♜xa7±

16.♗hg1

16.d5! e5 17.♗c5 cxd5 18.cxd5 ♜f4+ 19.♗d2 ♜e8

16...♖hg8?!

16...♖e8 17.♖g3; 16...♗f5! 17.d5 exd5
18.cxd5 ♖xe3=

**17.d5! e5 18.♖g3 ♖h5 19.♖g5
♖xh3 20.♖xe5 f6 21.d6! fxe5
22.dxe7+**

22.dxc7++-

**22...♖xe7 23.♗g5+- ♖f7
24.♗xd8 ♖e8 25.♗xc7 e4 26.c5
♖c3 27.♗d6 ♖a1+ 28.♖d2 ♖f6
29.♖c4+ ♖e6 30.♖e1 ♖h6 31.♗g3
e3 32.♖f4+ ♖xf4 33.♗xf4 exf2+
34.♖xf2 ♖e4 35.♗b8 a6 36.♖d7+
♖f6 37.♖d6+ ♖f5 38.♖xc6 ♖a4
39.♖e3 ♖xa2 40.♖d3 ♖a5 41.♖d4
h5 42.♗e5 ♖a2 43.♗xg7 h4
44.♖f6+ ♖g4 45.♖d3 ♖a5 46.♖g6+
♖h5 47.♖h6+ ♖g5 48.c6 ♖f5 49.c7
♖c5 50.♖xa6 ♖xc7 51.♗f6+ ♖h5
52.♖a5+ ♖g6 53.♗xh4 ♖d7+
54.♖c4 ♖c7+ 55.♖c5 ♖h7 56.♗g3
1-0**

Annotated Game

Today's Annotated Game features the encounter between the Russian and British young stars from the recent Premier Hastings.

□ **A Kosteniuk (2455)**

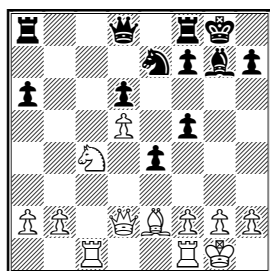
■ **L McShane (2546)**

Event: Premier Hastings ENG (9),
05.01.2003 B33

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5**

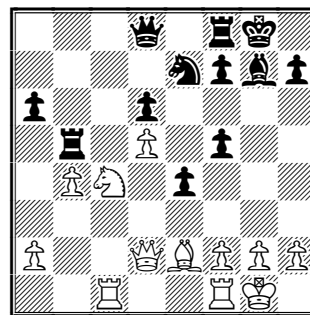
The Sveshnikov Variation of the Sicilian Defence has arisen. This is one of the most fighting lines.

**6.♗db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♗a3 b5
9.♗xf6 gxf6 10.♗d5 f5 11.♗d3
♗e6 12.0-0 ♗xd5 13.exd5 ♗e7
14.c4 e4 15.♗e2 ♗g7 16.♖d2 bxc4
17.♗xc4 0-0 18.♖ac1N**



This simple move has not occurred before but it looks like it can

strengthen this line, which Black used to be unsuccessful in: 18.♖ad1 ♖b8 19.♖f4 ♖b5 (19...♗d7 20.b3 ♖fd8 21.g4 ♗g6 22.♖xf5 ♖xf5 23.gxf5 ♗f4 24.♖d2 ♗h6 25.♗e3 ♖h8 26.h4 ♖g8+ 27.♖h2 ♗g2 28.♖d4 ♗xe3 29.fxe3 ♗xe3 30.♖g1 ♖xg1 31.♖xg1 ♗xf5 32.♖a4 ♖c8 33.♗c4 ♖g7 34.♖xa6 ♖f6 35.♖a7 ♗e3 36.♖d7 ♗xc4 37.bxc4 ♖xc4 38.♖f2 ♖e5 39.♖xf7 ♖xd5 0-1 Vukovic,Z-Rogozenko,D/Bucharest 2000/CBM 77/Rogozenko (39)) 20.♗e3 ♖xb2 21.♗c4 ♗e5 22.♖g5+ ♖h8 23.♗b3 ♖g8 24.♖h5 ♗g6 25.♖h1 ♗f4 26.♖xf5 ♖h4 27.♖xe4 ♖h5 28.♖f3 ♖xf3 29.gxf3 ♗h3 30.f4 ♗xf4 31.♗c2 ♗e5 32.f4 ♗xf4 Novik,M-Kramnik,V/Sochi 1990/TD/0-1 (42) **18...♖b8 19.b4 ♖b5!?**



Luke takes one of the principled lines. I prefer another one: 19...♗g6 20.♗a5 ♖h4 with threats on the king's side. But, of course, it is much easier for me because I know the final result of the game.

20.♗e3! f4 21.♗c2

21.♗xb5 fxe3 22.♖xe3 axb5 23.♖xe4 at first sight, this position is also in favour of White, but she has no passed pawns and Black's knight and bishop can outplay the White rook.

21...♖xd5

The following blow 21...e3!? is denied with 22.fxe3 ♖xd5 23.♗d3! fxe3 24.♖xe3± and Black's separate pawns provide White with obvious superiority.

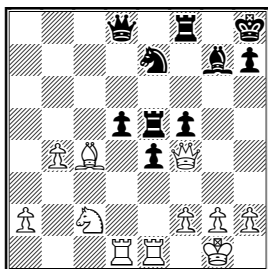
22.♖xf4 ♖e5 23.♗xa6 d5 24.♖cd1 f5?!

24...♗g6 25.♖e3 ♖d6 gave Black good compensation for the pawn in the form of a strong group in the centre and chances to attack the White king.

25.♗c4! ♖h8

Now the move 25...♖g6 faces 26.♖xd5! ♖xd5 27.♖d2 and White gets her rook back with two extra pawns remaining

26.♖fe1



26...♞c8?!

One more error! Black stands well after 26...♖g6 27.♞c1 f4

27.♙b3 ♖g6 28.♞c1

Now the d5-pawn needs protection.

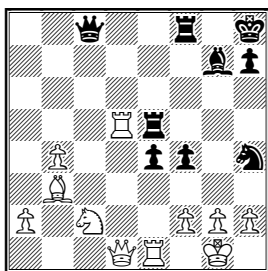
28...f4?!

Black should have acknowledged his mistake and protected the pawn, for instance, with 28...♞d7 White has better chances here but the opponents have got all the struggle ahead. However, Black rushes into a fast and "unjustified" attack instead.

29.♖xd5 ♖h4

After 29...e3 White resists 30.fxe3 f3 31.♖f1 f2+ 32.♞h1 (32.♖xf2 ♖xf2 33.♞xf2 ♞f5+ 34.♞g1 ♖xd5 35.♖xd5 ♞xd5) 32...♖xd5 33.♖xd5± with two extra pawns.

30.♞d1



30...f3?

Only this move is a decisive mistake. Perhaps, I hurried to judge the attack as an "unjustified" one. (As often happens, the commentator is influenced by the final result of the game!). After the appropriate 30...♞f5! Black has excellent chances for draw. But the position is too complicated to give an exact appraisal. For example, 31.♞h1! (Bad is 31.♖d8? ♖f3+! 32.gxf3 ♞g5+) 31...e3! (31...♖xg2 32.♞xg2

♖xd5 33.♖xd5 ♖d8 34.♖xe4! ♞g6+ 35.♞f1 ♞xe4 36.♖xe4 ♖xd1+ 37.♞e2 a- and b-file pawns must promote) 32.♖xe5 (32.f3 ♞g5! 33.♖e2 ♖xd5 34.♞xd5 ♞xd5 35.♖xd5 ♖d8 36.♖b3 ♖d2 37.♖c4 ♖d1+ 38.♖e1 ♖d2=; 32.fxe3 f3! 33.g4 ♞xg4 34.♖g1 ♞f5 with double-edged fight.) 32...♖xe5 33.♖g1! (33.♞d5 ♖c3! 34.♞xf5 ♖xf5 35.♖e2 ♖d8! 36.fxe3 ♖d1+ 37.♖e1 ♖a1 38.exf4 ♖xe1=) 33...exf2 34.♖f1 ♖xg2 35.♞xg2 f3+ 36.♞h1 ♖xh2!= with perpetual check.

31.♖xe5

It is not clear what Black has missed but now all his threats are easily resisted. However, Alexandra makes some more accurate moves.

31...♖xe5 32.♖xe4 ♖d8 33.♖d4! ♖f6 34.g3 ♖f5 35.♞xf3 ♖xd4 36.♖e6! ♖d2 37.♖xf6 ♖d4 38.♖f8+ 1-0

Solution to Quiz Today: 42...♖xc3! 42...♖xc3 43.♖xc3 ♖xe4 0-1

Correction: Yesterdays news item about the ICCF *Champions League* qualifying round email chess event should have read as follows:

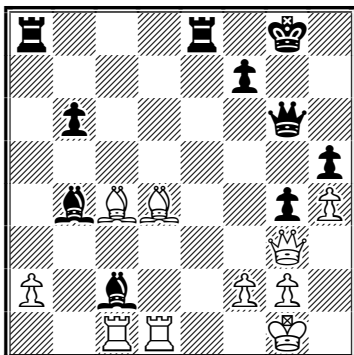
Each Player plays 10 games. Maximum point total for each **team** is 40 pts.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback! **Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today.** Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up! **Chess Today is published by:** Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com **Website:** <http://www.chesstoday.net/> **Editors:** GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi. **Chess Today is copyright 2002 by Alexander Baburin** and protected intellectual property under the International Copyright convention. Any unauthorised reproduction, via print, electronic format, or in any form whatsoever is strictly prohibited without express written permission.

Quiz Today

Hebden (2515) – Laubsch (2295)

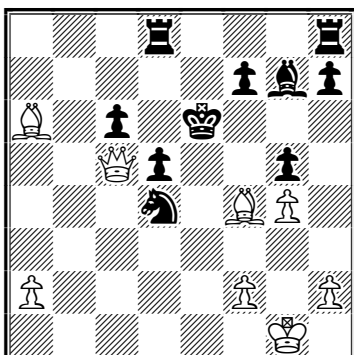
Challengers, Hastings ENG (1), 2002



White to play

Richards (2260) – Williams (2390)

Challengers, Hastings ENG (5), 2003



White to play

65th Corus starts 11th

At the moment we are waiting for some big chess events. The first super-tournament of the year [the 65th Corus Chess event](#) will start on the 11th of January.

Group A: Vladimir Kramnik (2809, RUS), Viswanathan Anand (2755, IND), Vesselin Topalov (2743, BUL), Ruslan Ponomarev (2743, UKR), Evgeny Bareev (2737, RUS), Vassily Ivanchuk (2709, UKR), Alexander Grischuk (2702, RUS), Alexei Shirov (2699, ESP), Anatoly Karpov (2688, RUS), Judit Polgar (2685, HUN), Loek

Van Wely (2681, NED), Michal Krasenkov (2651, POL), Teimour Radjabov (2628, AZE) and Jan Timman (2594, NED).

Group B (they will start on the 14th of January): Zhang Zhong (CHN, 2620), Peter Acs (HUN, 2591), Johnny Hector (SWE, 2590), Arkady Naiditsch (GER, 2586), Ian Rogers (AUS, 2557), Friso Nijboer (NED, 2556), Sergey Karjakin (UKR, 2527), John van der Wiel (NED, 2509), Dennis de Vreugt (NED, 2501), Koneru Humpy (IND, 2484), Viktorija Cmilyte (LITH, 2460), Alexandra Kosteniuk (RUS, 2455), Harmen Jonkman (NED, 2456) and Daniel Stellwagen (NED, 2426).

Just recall that last year's winner of main event was Russian GM Evgeny Bareev.

The second big event – the U.S.A Championships starts today. There is great coverage on www.chess.fm.

Information from [TWIC](#):

The final schedule of the Kasparov vs. Deep Junior has been announced. The schedule is Game 1 Sun Jan 26th, Game 2 Tue Jan 28th, Game 3 Thu Jan 30th, Game 4 Sun Feb 2nd, Game 5 Wed Feb 5th and Game 6 Fri Feb 7th all games start at 3:30pm EST. In the New York Athletic Club (NYAC)–180 Central Park South – New York. The event is International Chess Federation (FIDE) and International Computer Games Association (ICGA President David Levy) and the US Chess Federation (USCF).

The event is called the "The FIDE Man Vs Machine World Chess Championship" and is sponsored by FIDE and presented by X3D Technologies Corporation which covered the recent Kasparov – Karpov match.

The time control is 40 moves in 2 hours followed by 20 moves in one hour then 30 minutes for the rest of the game.

[The XIII Rapid Chess Tournament Paul Keres Memorial](#) takes place January 10th–12th 2003 in Tallinn.

There are two stages, a preliminary event 25 + 25 mins, 7 round Swiss system.

The Men's Main tournament (25 + 25 min) played by the 4 best players from group A, 3 players invited directly to the Main Tournament and the best Estonian player. The Women's event will be played by the 5 best players of group A of Preliminary Tournament and 3 players invited directly to the Main Tournament.

[The Australian Open](#) is in progress in Penrith, Australia.

Pairings for Round 11:

Humphrey (8) – Wallace (9)
Smerdon (8) – Froehlich (7)
Xie (7½) – Solomon (7)
Rej (7) – Schultz-Pedersen (7)
Hamilton (7) – Partsi (7)
Hoffmann (7) – Fischer-Nielsen (7)

[The 11th Donau Open](#) took place in Aschach an der Donau in Austria (Swiss system, 7 rounds).

Final Standings:

1. Stanec, Nikolaus – 6 points
2–5. C. Horvath, Krivoshey, Mahdi, Mazi – 5½
6–9. Jurek, Lau, Orel, Wegener – 5 etc.

A Tale of 2 Sicilians

□ **J Shaw (2480)**

■ **I Gourlay (2255)**

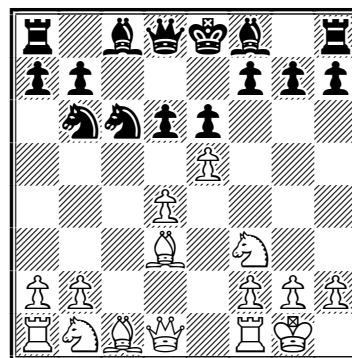
Event: Challengers, Hastings ENG (7), 2003 – B22

Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c3

A clever move order. After playing 2...e6 Black hasn't got the most unpleasant lines for White against c3 – 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 and 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4!?

3...♘f6 4.e5 ♘d5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.♙c4 ♘b6 8.♙d3 ♘c6 9.0-0

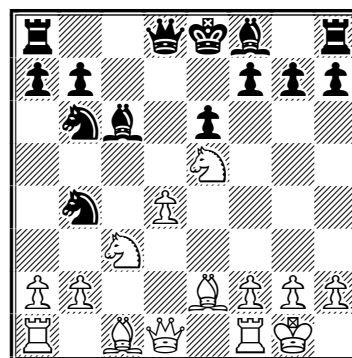


A rather popular set up of the 2.c3 Sicilian.

9...♘b4

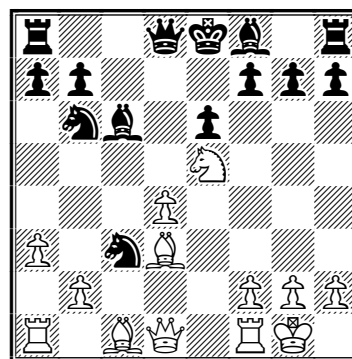
An alternative is 9...♙e7

10.♙e2 dxe5 11.♘xe5 ♙d7 12.♘c3 ♙c6



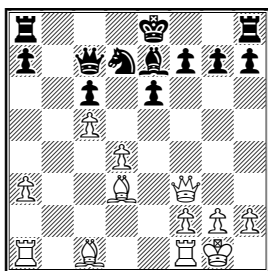
A typical bishop manoeuvre. Black would like to exchange it for the e5 Knight, and very often Black takes on c6 with the pawn in these cases – so that White cannot exchange his isolated d pawn with d4–d5.

13.a3 ♘d5 14.♙d3 ♘xc3



Both black knights would like to occupy the d5-square, so Black exchanges one of them.

15.bxc3 ♖d7 16.♗xc6 bxc6 17.♖f3
♜c7 18.c4 ♕e7 19.c5?!



A rather strange idea. Now Black gets the d5-square for his Knight once more; also he has a possible counter-play with e6-e5...

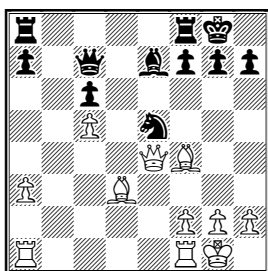
19...0-0 20.♕f4 e5?

However ... not now!

21.dxe5 ♗xe5?

I don't know how we can explain this blunder.

22.♖e4



And it is all over now, Black resigned. 1-0

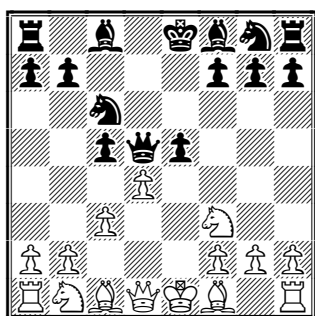
□ J Shaw (2480) -

■ E Lawson (2235)

Event: Challengers, Hastings ENG (3), 2002 B22

Annotations: IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5
♜xd5 5.d4 e5



An interesting line, but to my mind it

is far from the strongest choice in this system. In the symmetrical position White has to have better chances thanks to his better development and the Black Queen being in the middle of the board.

6.♗xe5

More precise than 6.dxe5?! ♜xd1+

6...♗xe5 7.dxe5 ♜xe5+

Now after the exchange on d1 White could defend the e5 pawn with the f pawn.

8.♕e3 ♕d7 9.♖b3

9.♗a3!?

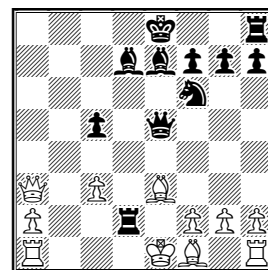
9...♗f6!?

An interesting idea: Black is ready to sacrifice a pawn.

10.♗d2 ♕e7 11.♜xb7

Principled, but risky. After the modest 11.♗f3 White has nothing.

11...♜b8 12.♜xa7 ♜xb2 13.♜a3
♜xd2!



Additionally Black sacrifices an exchange, but the White king has to stay in the center.

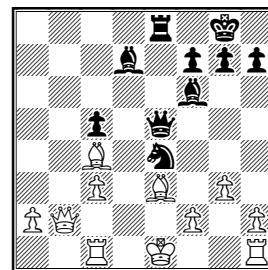
14.♜xd2 ♗e4+ 15.♜e1 0-0 16.♕c4

16.♕d3? c4

16...♕h4

Attacking the weak f pawn.

17.g3 ♕f6 18.♜c1 ♜e8 19.♜b2



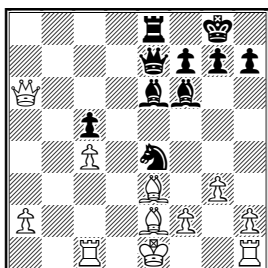
It's very difficult for White to develop his h1 Rook. 19.h4? ♗xg3; 19.♜f1 ♕h3+

19...♗g5

Black begins to occupy the weak light squares in the Black camp.

20.♜b7 ♕g4 21.♜d5 ♜e7 22.♕e2

♙e6 23.♙c6 ♖c8 24.♙a6 ♜e4
25.c4 ♖e8



White has defended rather stubbornly, but what to do with the h1 Rook? The question is still open...

26.♙f3 ♜g5 27.♙e2

27...♙g2 ♙d4!?

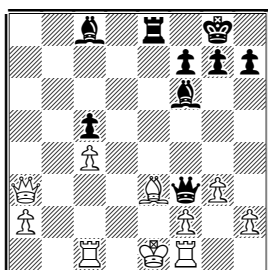
27...♙c8!

Now Black gains a diagonal a8-h1.

28.♙a3

28...♙c6? ♙b7

28...♙e4 29.♖f1 ♜f3+ 30.♙xf3
♙xf3



The e2 bishop has left the board, and I think that White's position has become hopeless.

31.♙d3 ♙g4

With a cruel threat 32...Rd8 33.Qc2 Bc3+ 34.Qxc3 Rd1+.

32.♙d2

32...♖d1 ♙c3+ 33.♙xc3 ♙e2#

32...♖d8 33.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 34.♖fe1
♙a5+ 0-1

Solution to Quiz Today:

28.♙xf7+! ♙xf7 28...♙xf7 29.♖xc2

29.♙c7+ ♙e7 30.♖xc2 ♖ac8

31.♙f4+ ♙g8 32.♖xc8 ♖xc8

33.♙e5 ♖d8? 34.♙xe7 1-0

23.♙c8+! ♙f6 23...♖xc8 24.♙d6#

24.♙xd4+ ♙g6 25.♙f5+ ♙h6

26.♙xg5+! ♙xg5 27.♙xg7+ ♙f4

28.♙d4+ ♙g5 29.h4+ 29.h4+ ♙xh4

(29...♙h6 30.♙f6#) 30.♙f6+ ♙h3

31.♙h6# 1-0



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Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net/>

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin.

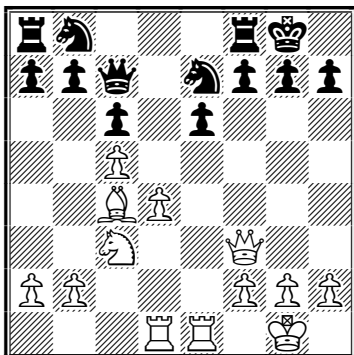
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Quiz Today

R. Bauer – Bryan

New England Open 1997

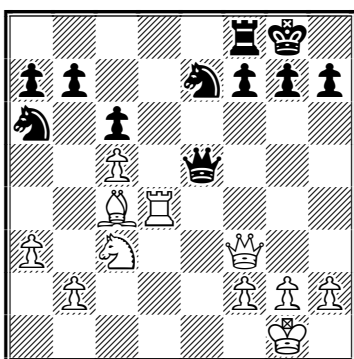


White to play

Later in that game White was able to find yet another tactical blow:

R. Bauer – Bryan

New England Open 1997



White to play

Chess News

Perhaps the main news yesterday was the FIDE ultimatum to its Champion Ruslan Ponomarev. This is what Chess Today received from our contributor GM Mikhail Golubev, who is also actively involved in Ukrainian Web sites:

"Dear colleagues, apologies for the inconvenience, it may be of interest for you: some urgent news appeared at

<http://www.chesspage.kiev.ua/?z=interview.35> – there is official information from the Ukrainian Chess Federation (and express-interview with Ponomarev).



GM Ponomarev

The story is as follows: FIDE requested Ruslan Ponomarev to sign a contract or an agreement (the quality of which is strongly questioned by the Ukrainian side), by the end of 10th January. If he will not sign, then a Kasparov-Ivanchuk match will be announced by FIDE.

I do not have any information about Ivanchuk's opinion on this situation. This may be an ultimate end of the Prague agreements' spirit – even if Ponomarev does sign everything under this incredibly strong pressure.

Some hope remains that it was not Ilymzhinov himself who prepared the ultimatum. Unofficial information has it that Mr. Omuku was responsible for contacts with the Ukrainian Federation.

I wrote my own brief comments at chess-sector.odessa.ua/matsum.htm the message from the [Chesspage](http://www.chesspage.kiev.ua) is quite official – the site's editor is a press-attaché of the Ukrainian Chess Federation. There was another, very recent [express-interview](http://www.chesspage.kiev.ua/?z=interview.35) with Ponomarev, published in the Ukrainian newspaper *Fakty* on the 9th of January.

All materials are in Russian, which is still one of the official FIDE languages.

I hope that Ruslan Ponomarev will be able to play normally in Wijk aan Zee now, despite the current crisis.

With best regards, Mikhail Golubev;
<http://chess-sector.odessa.ua>"

I should add that the main points, which Ponomarev makes, are:

1. He should defend his FIDE title using the same time control, as the one he used to gain it.

2. As the Champion, he should have draw odds as does Kramnik have in his match vs. Leko.

Chess Today will keep you posted on the developments there! And, of course, we will be covering the Corus tournament – IM Yochanan Afek will be sending special reports from the Netherlands for Chess Today.

♦ The [USA Championship](#) started in Seattle this Thursday. The event is also covered by [Chess FM](#) and the [Internet Chess Club](#).

We received the following information from John Henderson:

"Since taking over the rights to one of the most historic national titles in 2000, the America's Foundation for Chess (www.af4c.org) has dramatically increased the prize fund. With a further hike this year of \$50,000, the event offers a record prize fund of \$255,000, with \$25,000 slotted for the winner.

Twenty top players (12 men, 8 women) – including defending champions Larry Christiansen and Jennifer Shahade, and the 2001 and 2002 US Junior Champions Aaron Pixton and Hikaru Nakamura – were automatically seeded into the new open-format event. Also competing will be 36 players (32 men, 4 women)

who battled for a cherished spot in some of the many qualifying events held throughout the U.S. The field is completed with two top junior wild card entries determined by the AF4C, which this year went to Laura Ross, 14, and 2002 recipient of the prestigious Samford Fellowship. 18-year-old Varuzhan Akobian."

Round 1 did not see any major upsets, but in a number of games Elo-favourites were held to a draw. For example, IM John Donaldson drew against his former boss (in Inside Chess) GM Yasser Seirawan. You can find all games from round 1 in our database today, while we also look at the game of the defending US champion in some detail in this issue.

Most games of round 2 are still in progress at the time of writing, but here some results: Lein-Seirawan – draw, Gulko-Brown – draw; J. Donaldson lost to GM Stripunsky, Nick De Firmian drew against I. Foygel. More tomorrow!

♦ In Astana, Kazakhstan, the match Korchnoi-Sadvakasov is taking place (9-19 January). Game 1 was drawn. The match is broadcast online on the site [Chess in Kazakhstan](#).

However, the coverage could have been better – from information on the site it is not even clear who was playing White in game 1.

♦ We received the following message from our reader Adolivio Capece:

"Paoli is 95 years old!"

On Monday January 13, GM Enrico Paoli will be 95 years old! He is the oldest player still in activity in the world. If you want to send him your greetings, feel free to e-mail him at paoli@italiascacchistica.com

Please, do not use attachments! All messages will be printed and sent to him."

This message was promptly followed by an e-mail from our editor Ralph Marconi:

"This is quite an achievement for Mr. Paoli. But he's not the oldest active chess player in the world. :-)

To my best knowledge, ICCF IM Zoltan Sarosy, who lives in Canada, is the oldest active chess player, albeit he has been playing correspondence chess for a many years now. He will be 97 this year!"

It is great to see many veterans still playing chess – Smyslov, Taimanov, Averbakh and many others. It looks that chess helps not only the mind, but the body as well! Maybe Chess Today should be regarded as a health newspaper then! :-)

Chess Today December Lottery

Last month the lucky winner in our lottery was John Cline from USA, who will receive the latest New in Chess yearbook – No. 65.

Annotated Game

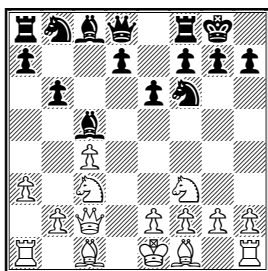
□ **Larry Kaufman (2415)**

■ **Larry Christiansen (2566)**

Event: USA Ch, Seattle (1), 09.01.2003
Nimzo-Indian Defence, Classical
Variation [E39]

Annotations: **GM Alexander Baburin**

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♖b4 4.♜c2 c5 5.dxc5 0-0 6.a3 ♗xc5 7.♗f3 b6 (D)



This system has become quite popular again lately – Black wants to

build up the Hedgehog structure. Some of our readers may remember a recent game Korchnoi–Macieja, Kurasao 2002. There Korchnoi played 8.♗g5.

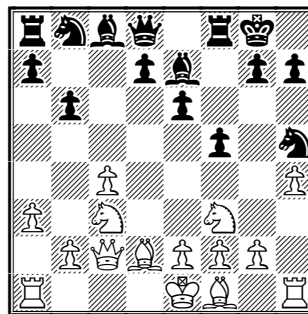
8.♗f4 ♘h5

It is logical to attack the bishop at once, before White develops the a1-rook, as otherwise the bishop would just retreat to c1. For example: 8...♗b7 9.♗d1 ♗xf3 10.exf3 ♘c6 11.b4 ♘h5 12.♗c1 ♗e7 13.♗e2 f5 14.f4 ♗f6 15.0-0 ♖c8 16.♗e3 ♖f7 17.♗d2 ♗f8 18.♖fd1 g6 19.♗f3 and White got unpleasant pressure in the game Ivanchuk–Zvjaginsev, Elista 1998.

9.♗g5 ♗e7 10.h4N

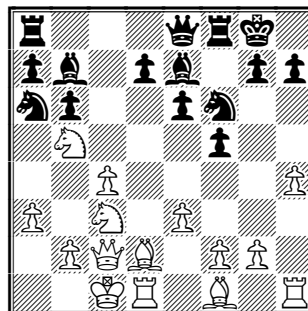
New move, but not necessarily a good one. To me the most logical option seems to be 10.♗xe7 ♜xe7 11.g4 ♗f6 12.g5, as in the game I.Sokolov–Zvjaginsev, Panormo 2001. That game then went: 12...♗e8 13.♖g1 ♗b7 14.♗d4 ♗d6 15.e3 ♖c8 16.♗d3 g6 17.♜e2 e5 18.♗db5 ♗xb5 19.♗xb5 e4 20.♗c2 d5 21.0-0-0 ♖xc4 22.♜b1 ♗d7 23.♗b3 ♖c5 24.♗c3 ♖xc3 25.bxc3 ♗c5 26.♗xd5 ♗xd5 27.♖xd5 ♗a4 28.♜d2 ♜xa3 29.♗d8+ 1/2-1/2.

10...f6 11.♗d2 f5 (D)



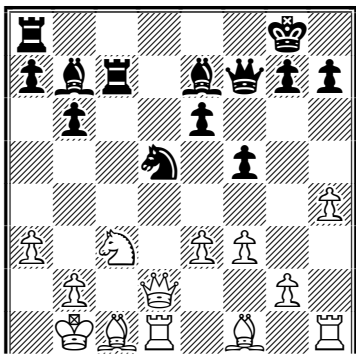
12.e3

I would have preferred 12.e4. here **12...♗b7 13.0-0-0 ♗a6! 14.♗d4 ♜e8 15.♗db5 ♗f6! (D)**



Black's chances are slightly better for his chances to organise attack look higher than his opponent's.

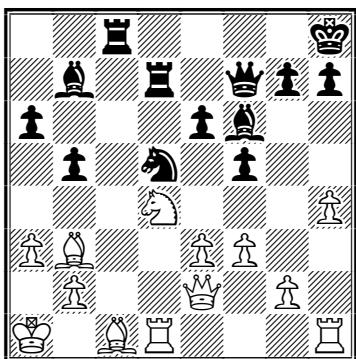
16.f3 ♖f7 17.♗b1 ♜fc8 18.♙c1 d5 19.cxd5 ♘xd5 20.♖d2 ♘ac7 21.♙xc7 ♜xc7 (D)



22.♙b5

Leaving the d5-knight alive surely was not an easy decision for White. However, after 22.♙xd5 ♙xd5 Black would also have better chances: his d5-bishop is very active. For example, 23.♙a6? ♙b3!.

22...♜d7 23.♙c4 ♜c8 24.♖e2 a6 25.♙d4 b5 26.♙b3 ♙f6 27.♗a1 ♗h8! (D)



Prophylactics – if Black ever plays ...e5, it would be nice not to have his queen and the king on the same diagonal.

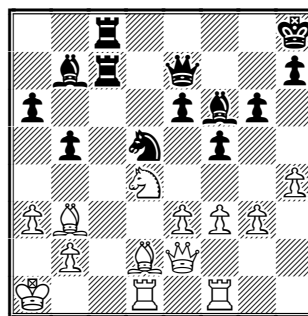
28.♜hf1 ♜dc7 29.♙d2 ♖e7

Perhaps, there is nothing wrong with 29...♙xh4 but most chess pros won't snatch such a pawn, while having better position anyway.

30.g3?!

Perhaps White was concerned about ...f5–f4. The problem with this move is that it's too slow. Now Black finalises his preparations for an attack:

30...g6! (D)

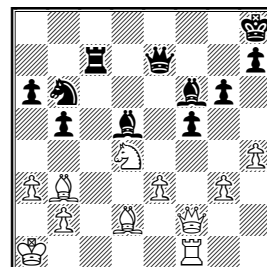


A very good move – now Black is ready to dislodge the d4-knights.

31.♜c1 e5 32.♜xc7 ♜xc7 33.♙c2 e4 34.♙d4 exf3 35.♖xf3 ♙b6!

This solid retreat is better than 35...♙c3 36.♖f4 ♙e5 37.♖h6 ♙e4 38.♙a5 ♜c8 39.g4, where White gets counter-chances.

36.♖f2 ♙d5! (D)

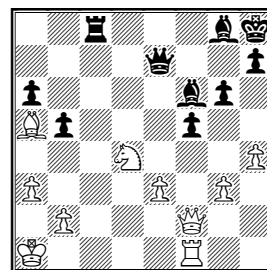


37.♙a5?

Better was 37.♙xd5 ♙xd5 38.h5, though after 38...♖e4 Black is still better – he can always get rid of White's knight, while White cannot do the same to the d5-knight.

37...♙xb3 38.♙xb6

38.♙xb3?? ♖xa3+ wins for Black.
38...♜c8 39.♙a5 ♙g8! (D)



This is when the move 27... ♗h8! comes in handy! Black wants to play ... ♖f7.

40.h5?

White had to defend with 40.♖e1! – in order to meet 40...♖f7 with 41.♖b1.
40...♖f7 41.b4 ♖b3 42.♖b2 ♖xe3 43.♙b6 ♜c3 0-1

Solutions:

R. Bauer – Bryan

New England Open 1997

Position 1: 15.♖xe6! ♔a6 16.♖e5
♖ad8 17.a3 ♖xd4 18.♖xd4 ♜xe5

Position 2: 19.♜xf7+! 1-0

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283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net/>

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM
Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir
Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM
Maxim Notkin.

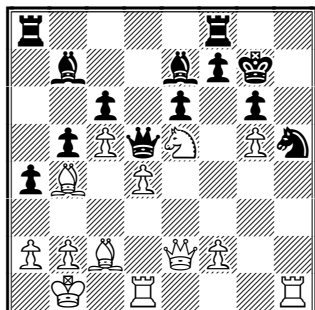
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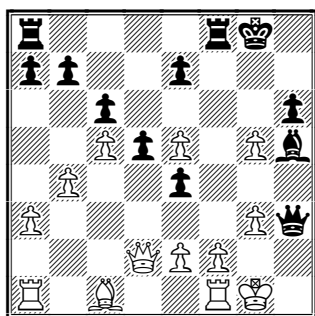
Quiz Today

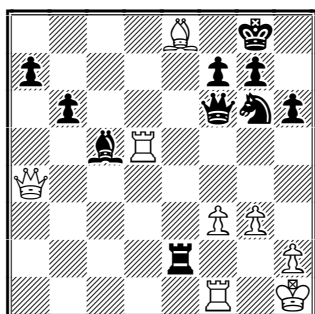
Krush (2433) – Levina (2095) D31

ch-USA Seattle USA (2), 10.01.2003


White to play
Hahn (2219) – Pixton (2449)

ch-USA Seattle USA (2), 10.01.2003


Black to play
Krasenkow (2633) – Karpov (2688)

 GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (1),
 11.01.2003


And from our Annotated Game – Karsenkow has just played 29.♖h1 and now Karpov came up with a nice final blow

White to play

Karpov and Bareev start with victories

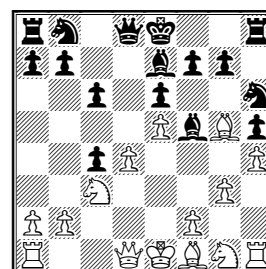
The 12th World Champion **Anatoly Karpov** and last years winner of Wijk aan Zee **Evgeny Bareev** started with victories in the first super-tournament of the year [the 65th Corus Chess event](#). Interestingly, both Russian GMs won their games with Black: Karpov beat Michal Krasenkow (*see our annotated game section*) while Bareev outplayed FIDE World Champion Ruslan Ponomariov ...

 □ **R Ponomariov (2734)**

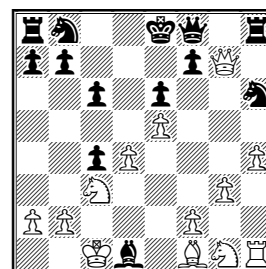
 ■ **E Bareev (2729)**

 Event: – GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (1),
 11.01.2003 B12

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♕f5 4.h4 h5
 5.c4 e6 6.♘c3 ♕e7 7.g3 ♘h6
 8.♕g5 dxc4!?



9.♕xe7 ♖xe7 10.♖xh5?! 10.♕xc4!/?
 10...♖b4 11.0-0-0? ♕g4 12.♖g5
 ♕xd1 13.♖xg7 ♖f8



It looks like Ruslan Ponomariov had missed this move. Now White got rather a bad ending. Maybe Evgeny Bareev could have realised his advantage more precisely, but he won in the end.

All other games in main event were drawn.

Results of the 1st Round:

Ponomarev – Bareev **0:1**
Kramnik – Ivanchuk **½:½**
Krasenkow – Karpov **0:1**
Shirov – Timman **½:½**
Grischuk – van Wely **½:½**
Polgar – Topalov **½:½**
Anand – Radjabov **½:½**

Pairing for the 2nd Round:

Bareev – Radjabov
Topalov – Anand
van Wely – Polgar
Timman – Grischuk
Karpov – Shirov
Ivanchuk – Krasenkow
Ponomarev – Kramnik

The GM 'B' event also started on Saturday (sorry for the mistake in CT-794).

Results of the 1st Round:

de Vreugt – Hector **0:1**
Nijboer – Acs **1:0**
Cmilyte – Naiditsch **0:1**
Rogers – Jonkman **½:½**
van der Wiel – Koneru **½:½**
Karjakin – Zhong **½:½**
Stellwagen – Kosteniuk **1:0**

Pairing for the 2nd Round:

Hector – Kosteniuk
Zhong – Stellwagen
Koneru – Karjakin
Jonkman – van der Wiel
Naiditsch – Rogers
Acs – Cmilyte
de Vreugt – Nijboer

Also you can find a short annotations from the games by GM Konstantin Aseev on www.rusches.com

John Henderson has sent us a report about the second round of [the USA Championships](#):

GOOD 'OL WALTER BROWNE! At the end of day two of the AF4C US Chess Championships taking place in Seattle, there's a five-way tie at the top as the elite 58 chess player's from

around the US do battle once again for the crown made famous by Bobby Fischer, which this year has a record prize fund of \$255,000 – the biggest annual prize for a chess tournament anywhere in the world.

When Fischer won his record-breaking eighth title in 1966, he only took home \$2,500. This year there's \$25,000 allotted for the winner of the nine round event taking place at the Northwest Rooms at the Seattle Centre, which runs daily until 18 January.

Early leaders on full points with two wins from two games are top seed **Gregory Kaidanov** (Kentucky), **Yury Lapshun** (Brooklyn), **Gennadi Zaitshik** (Philadelphia), **Varuzhan Akobian** (California) and **Jesse Kraai** (New Mexico) – four of whom will have to play each other in round three. On their tail however is an ominous chasing pack of 16 just a half point behind the pace setters, including defending champion Larry Christiansen (Massachusetts) and six-time former champion Walter Browne (California), who celebrated his 54th birthday during round two. We organised a present of a bottle of vintage wine for Walter and it was placed by his board. We even went as far as wishing this living-legend a Happy Birthday before the start of play. We were even prepared to give him a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. Typically Walter arrived 5 minutes late and missed everything!

Big shock of the day was the defeat of second seed Alexander Goldin, formerly of Israel. Though he's been in the United States for quite a few years now, this is his first Championship and he is one of the pre-tournament favourites. He has won numerous tournaments in the USA, and managed to maintain a very high FIDE rating (he is 2621 in January 2003) while playing in these opens. His defeat to IM Yury Lapshun therefore comes as a big surprise – and also makes Goldin's task of becoming one of the few to win on their debut even harder.

Also falling behind at an early stage is three-time winner and local hero Yasser Seirawan. A second successive draw to tournament 'old hand' Anatoly Lein (a sprightly 71) likewise leaves Seirawan one point of the lead and leaves him now playing catch-up with the leaders. Someone who is however pleased with her two draws is last year's woman's champion Jennifer Shahade, who looks to be continuing where she left off last year. After an opening round draw with Hikaru Nakamura, the defending champion followed this up with a solid draw against GM Gregory Serper.

Round 2 Standings:

6-19. Gulko, Shabalov, De Firmian, Stripunsky, Christiansen, Yermolinsky, Kudrin, Nakamura, Fedorowicz, Browne, Gurevich, Foygel, Ashley, Perelshteyn – 1½

20-42. Goldin, Seirawan, Benjamin, Finegold, Ivanov, Serper, Kreiman, Fishbein, Mulyar, G. Shahade, Enkhbat, Paschall, Pixton, Kriventsov, Ippolito, Burnett, Lein, E. Donaldson, Krush, Muhammad, Sarkar, J. Shahade, Shiber – 1

43-52. J. Donaldson, Kaufman, Baginskaite, Watson, Pruess, Bennett, Ross, Groberman, Markzon, Esserman – ½

53-58. Battsetseg, Hahn, Epstein, Tsai, Sagalchik, Levina – 0

[The XIII Rapid Chess Tournament Paul Keres Memorial](#) is in progress in Tallinn, Estonia. On Saturday the main event, a round-robin for 8 players started. There are 3 invited GMs playing, Alexander Morozevich, Alexei Dreev and Jaan Ehlevest and 5 winners of the preliminary event.

Standings after the 3rd Round:

1-3. Dreev, Miroshnichenko, Morozevich – 2½ points

4. Ehlevest – 1½

5-6. Zontah, Kanep – 1

7-8. Veingold, Gavrikov – ½

In the women's event of the same format **Cramling** and **Ciuksyte** are leading with 2½ points out of 3.

The second game of [the Korchnoi – Sadvakasov match](#) in Astana, Kazakhstan was also drawn. Sadvakasov had White. The score is equal 1:1.

IM John-Paul Wallace won [the 2003 Pratt Foundation Australian Open Chess Championships](#) with 9 ½ points out of 11, a full point ahead of second place.

Final Standings:

2-3. Smerdon, Humphrey – 8½

4-7. Solomon, Rej, Hamilton, Hoffmann – 8

8-12. Xie, Lane, Froehlich, Wilkins, Ilic – 7½ etc.

Annotated Game

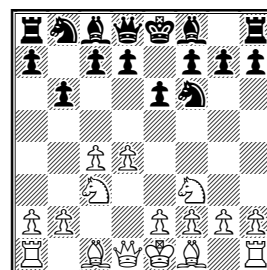
□ **M Krasenkow (2633)**

■ **A Karpov (2688)**

Event: GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (1), 11.01.2003 E12

Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

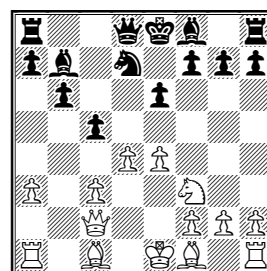
1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.d4 e6 3.c4 b6 4.♘c3



4...♕b7

4...♕b4 leads to a much sharper position from the Nimtzovich Defence. After the text move and White's reply, the Petrosian system of the Queen's Indian has arisen.

5.a3 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♖c2 ♘xc3 8.bxc3 ♘d7 9.e4 c5



White gets a pawn center but Black, who leads in development, begins to attack it immediately.

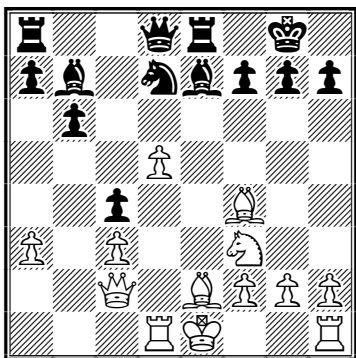
10. Qf4

To my mind this is a rather illogical move. White has to concentrate on development and getting his King away from the center, not on gaining space and so on.

10... Qe7 11. d5 exd5 12. exd5 0-0

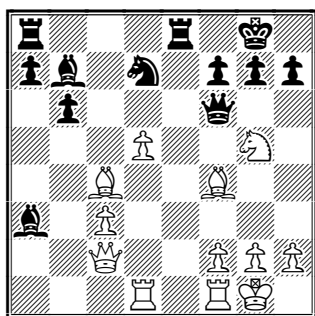
Of course it's very risky to win a pawn after 12... Qxd5?! 13. 0-0-0 with two unpleasant pins along the d-file.

13. Bb1 Bc8 14. Qe2 c4!



A correct idea: Black would like to begin complications as early as possible while the White king is still in the center.

15. 0-0 Qxa3 16. Qxc4 Bf6 17. Bg5!?



White doesn't want to defend passively and finds some active counter-play.

17... Bf8 18. g3 h6 19. Be4 Bf5 20. f3 Bg6!

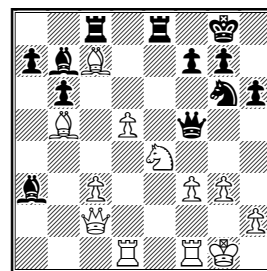
Karpov plays very simple and strong! It's become clear that none of White's minor pieces are very good, they "hang" in the center.

21. Qc7!?

With an interesting idea - to catch the Queen almost in the center, but

Black has a strong reply.

21... Bxc7 22. Qb5



22... Bxc7!

After 22... Bf8? 23. g4! the Queen has no squares to go to!

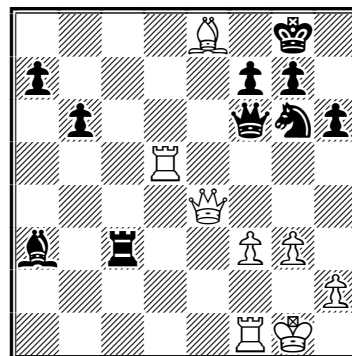
23. Qxe8 Qxd5

I think Black has at least enough compensation for the exchange: two strong Bishops, the King is rather open, the c3 and f3 pawns weak, the e8 Bishop is almost off side...

24. Bf6+?!

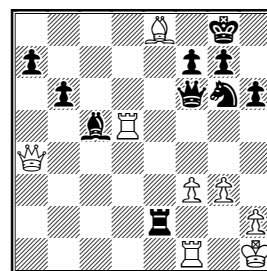
A dubious decision: now Black will have two pawns for the exchange and an active Rook.

24... Bxf6 25. Bxd5 Bxc3 26. Bc4?!



It looks like this move loses by force.

26... Qc5+ 27. Bg2 Bc3 28. Ba4 Bc2+ 29. Bh1



29... Bc1!

A nice final blow. White resigned. 29... Bc1 30. Bxe1 (30. Bb1 Bxf3#) 30... Bxf3# 0-1

Solutions:

25.♖xh5! **gxh5** **26.**♗xh5 **f5** **26...**♖h8
27.♗xf7 # **27.gxf6+ 1-0**

26...♗f3! **26...**♗f3 **27.exf3 exf3 0-1**

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel:
(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net/>

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM
Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir
Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM
Maxim Notkin.

Technical editors: Graham Brown
and Ralph P. Marconi.

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