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THE HIDDEN EMOTIONS OF CHESS: HOW GRANDMASTERS HANDLE WINNING AND LOSING

THE EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS A SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE BY ENGLAND

NORTHUMBRIA MASTERS: KJARTANSSON AND GORMALLY SHARE FIRST PLACE

BCM EXCLUSIVE

HENRIK CARLSEN FOR BCM ON HIS SON'S IMPACT AND FUTURE

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England scoops medals at World Senior Team Championship

By GM Aleksandar Colovic; www.alexcolovic.com; Photo: FIDE Official

With a large English contingent that dominated the scene, the championship showcased exceptional chess prowess

The World Senior Team Championship was held from 19-28 September in Hotel Izgrev (meaning sunrise in Macedonian) on Lake Ohrid, a few kilometres from the town of Struga.

The English contingent was the most numerous one. It had four teams in the S50 (Over-50) section, one of which was a women's team. In the S65 (Over 65) section it had two teams.

The tournament in S50 was very exciting until the last moments. In the S65 section, after the decisive match in round four between Germany Lasker Schachstiftung GK and England 1, the favourites kept winning the matches and the first two places were basically decided.

The first round in the S50 section saw the duel of the English teams, England 1 faced England 3.

The surprise of the match was that on board one Michael Adams (2662) couldn't overcome Granat (2171) with the white pieces.

There was big resistance on boards two and three, where Emms (2448) won a long rook endgame against Crocker (2161) with Black and Arkell wove his magic in his favourite Carlsbad structure to suffocate Frostick (2112).

On board four Davies (2354) won easily against Hewson (2023), partly because of a successful opening surprise. Playing the Benoni he obtained an advantageous position early in the game, which he converted in convincing fashion.

Italy beat England W50 (Women's over 50 team), which was perhaps expected, but one game really stood out.

Lexy Ortega (2410) obtained an advantage after the opening against Sheila Jackson (2034), but then interesting things started to happen.



White (Ortega) obtained a winning position and here 27.e5! (freeing the e4-square for the knight) would have been decisive. Instead, after 27.b3? ♘e5 Black was suddenly not worse at all!

Several moves later, which included imprecisions by both sides, saw White winning again.





Here 33.♕f5 was decisive, as the king can hide on f4 in case of checks. Instead, Ortega went for the insane queen sacrifice 33.♕xg4? ♖g1 34.♔xf3 ♖xg4 35.♔xg4 ♗xc3, which landed him in a lost position!



White has only rook for queen, but perhaps White was counting on 36.♖xb7, with the idea ♖b8, which creates threats against the black king and also plans for b7. In order to prevent ♖b8 Black now had to play 36…♕e8!, but instead he erred with 36…♕b5? when 37.♔f5 would have been best.

However, following his plan, White played 37.♖b8? and now after 37…♕e2 Black was winning again!

Ortega went boldly ahead with 38.♔g5, when 38…♗d2 would have led to a forced mate, though the move played 38…♗f6 was also sufficient to win. White sent his king all the way to h7, creating a mating threat of ♖f8 and Jackson correctly sacrificed the bishop with …♗g7.





However, instead of winning with 41…♕xc2 or 41…♕e1, Black took the fatal pawn on f2 and suddenly after 41…♕xf2?? 42.♘f5 White was winning!



White hides from the checks with ♘h6 and the b-pawn will promote.

An amazing game, but an unfortunate result for the English women!

In the S65 section England 1, led by the reigning S65 World Champion John Nunn (2569), beat Austria 1 3-1.

In round two England 1 beat Poland 3-1 and in this round we saw the start of Adams's winning streak of three in a row. After Gdanski in this round, he went on to beat David of Italy and Olafsson of Iceland before drawing with Shabalov of the USA. In round three the direct matches between the favourites began.

USA, who were the first rating favourites, met North Macedonia Alkaloid. After Nedev (2465) destroyed Ehlvest (2530) with the black pieces on board two, it appeared that the match would be drawn as USA was winning on board four as Yermolinsky (2419) had a decisive advantage against Stanojoski (2351), while the other two boards were headed for a draw.

It was still early on in the tournament, but my impression was that it was exactly in this match that USA got their lucky break.



White (Yermolinsky) was winning, but his last move. 29.h4?? was a big blunder. It

gave Black a chance to turn things around with the not-that-difficult tactic 29…♖xf3! as the rook is taboo in view of 30.♗xf3 ♘h3, winning the queen. This would have given Black a winning position and a win in the match 3-1.

In spite of spending more than two minutes on his reply, Black missed this tactic and took the pawn on a3, after which White assumed control and won the game, thus drawing the match 2-2.

In this round England 1 beat one of the favourites, Italy, thanks to Adams's win over David (2523) on board one.

Adams prepared a recent, but still rare, line against the Taimanov and the surprised David decided to sacrifice a pawn in search of compensation. He obtained it, but in the critical moment he wasn't precise. When he missed this chance, Adams was merciless.

The Italians missed their chance on board four, where Borgo (2333) obtained a winning advantage against Arkell (2352), but allowed his opponent to slip.

In the S65 section both Germany Lasker and England 1 won their matches.

It appeared that Slovakia would hold England 1 to a 2-2 draw, but on board four Chapman (2254) took full advantage of Lanc's (2236) miscalculation in a relatively simple position.



Here best was 29…♗f2, blocking the f-file and attacking the bishop on f8. Also good was 29…♕c5 or 29…♕b5, intending …♕c6. But Lanc went for 29…♖d4? which allowed 30.♕xd4! ♗xd4 31.♖xf5 gxf5 32.♗xd6. White won a pawn and the bishop endgame was easily winning with the outside passed pawn on the a-file.

In round four in the S50 section England 1 drew their match with Iceland. Adams beat Olafsson with the black pieces. In the post-game interview Adams showed one line that he calculated that is too beautiful not to show.



This position arose in Adams's calculations. White's last move 29.♕d6 is bad (he realised this and in fact calculated 29.♘d6) and he saw why: Black has the spectacular 29…♕xf3!! 30.♔xf3 ♘d4 31. ♔f4 ♘d2 mate! The final position deserves a diagram.





You don't get this types of mate too often, even in lines that are not likely to appear on the board.

Iceland levelled the score thanks to Petursson's (2396) win over Flear (2405) on board three.

In the S65 section the derby on table one between Germany Lasker Schachstiftung GK and England 1 was decided by the only decisive result on board three.

On board one a tense King's Indian between Knaak (2438) and Nunn (2569) ended in a draw on move 24 in a position where there was still some play left, but objectively Black was past his troubles.

On board four Povah (2229) was lucky to escape with a draw against Koehler (2189) after blundering badly in the opening.

On board three Baker (2222) successfully improved his dubious position after the opening to obtain a satisfactory middlegame against Kalintschew (2377). However, then he became too ambitious.



Any normal move by Black would have kept the equilibrium, but Baker lashed out with 21…f5? 22.exf5 ♘xd3 23.♕xd3 e4, but this only landed him in a lost position a few moves later.



Black lost a pawn and weakened his position for nothing. White didn't have problems converting.

England should have drawn the match as on board two Kosten (2352) obtained a winning advantage against Meister (2439). Unfortunately, in the critical moment he chose an impractical way to convert his advantage.



The most technical solution would have been to bring the king to the queenside first, to guard against possible queen incursions on the a-file. Kosten's choice of 38.♕d8 was objectively winning, but it required calculation as after 38…♕a7 the black queen penetrated along the a-file.

This put too much pressure on Kosten's calculations and when he had to find the only move to win he failed, thus missing the chance to save the match for his team.

This win for Germany turned out to be decisive for the gold medal. Both Germany and England 1 continued to win their matches until the last round, which meant that Germany kept the two-point advantage over their closest competitors. In the last round they drew with the other German team, thus securing gold, while England beat Switzerland 4-0 to end on a high note and win silver.

Bronze in the S65 section was won by Slovakia, who had to rely on miracles to do so.



JOHN NUNN IN PLAY



France was winning by one point and this was the last game to finish. Ftacnik (2450) tried unsuccessfully to win this position for some time, with Legky (2357) showing the correct drawing method with side checks. However, in this position something unbelievable happened. Instead of sticking to the tested defence, Legky played the horrible 95…♖f1?? and after White's 96.♔e6 he could just resign as without side checks White reaches the Lucena

position, builds a bridge and brings bronze to Slovakia.

In the next round England 1 suffered their only loss.

Playing the number one favourites USA the match was rather even. The only board where USA could exert pressure was board three where Kaidanov (2549) played Emms. White won a pawn in the opening, but Black had good compensation for it. The game soon transposed to a theoretically drawn rook endgame.

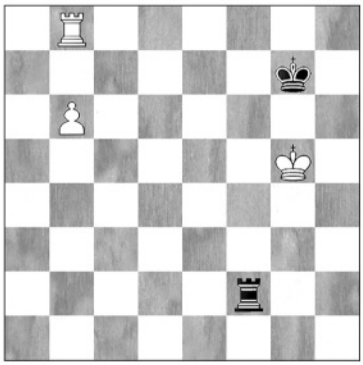


Emms defended well for a very long time and after many moves the following position was reached.



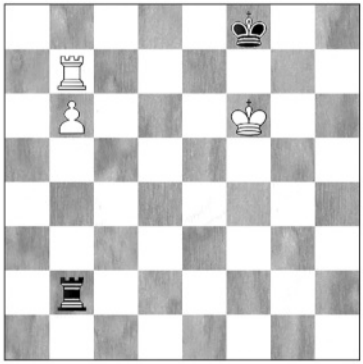
The position is a fortress, but Black needs one last precise move too keep it unbreakable. The correct move was 52…♖b4! defending the pawn on g4 and only in case of 53.b7 playing53…♔g7. Then the game and the match would have been drawn.

Emms started with 52…♔g7? but this allowed White to take the pawn on g4 and this was winning for White after 53.♔xg4 ♖xf2 54.♔g5.



White wants to walk with his king to b7, but there is another threat and that is ♖b7-c7 and b7, followed by ♖c8 and b8♕.

Black tried to prevent the second threat and played 54…♖b2, but after 55.♖b7 ♔f8 56.♔f6



The threat of mate meant that the black king needs to move. Going to g8 allows the white king to come to the queenside, but he can only postpone that as, after 56…♔e8 57.♔e6, the black king cannot continue to d8 in view of ♖b8 mate.

This allowed White to get his king to the queenside and win by reaching the Lucena position.



The last round for Engalnd in S65

In retrospect, this win proved pivotal for both teams, as they eventually finished first and second, with only a point difference between them. There was still a lot of drama ahead before that, though.

In round six England faced the host team of North Macedonia Alkaloid.

On board one Adams surprised Georgiev (2542) in the opening and quickly took the initiative with the black pieces. The initiative was transformed into an extra pawn that Adams carefully nurtured to a win in 60 moves, without allowing a single chance.

There were two relatively calm draws on boards two and four, where neither could Emms pose bigger problems to Bogdanovski (2385) nor Davies create much against Kutirov (2274).

All the drama happened on board three in the game between Stanojoski and Arkell.

Thanks to a neat trap Arkell trapped his opponent's bishop on b8!



Black won a piece and should have been easily winning as White has nothing for the lost material.
Somehow, Arkell seemed to relax and failed to press on with his advantage, allowing Stanojoski to consolidate and put up some resistance. Black was still winning, but it was becoming increasingly difficult.

When the momentum swings in this way it's difficult to stop it, let alone reverse it. So the position drifted to one that was already drawn. Unfortunately for England, the momentum didn't stop there…



Wales vs Scotland



Black's last move 45…♖e7? was a mistake that allowed White to win by the beautiful sacrifice 46.♕xe7! when the a-pawn cannot be stopped after 46…♗xe7 47.a7 ♕d5 48.♖b8 followed by a8♕ (this was played in the game) or after 46…♕xe7 47.♖b8 ♔g7 48.♖b7.

With an extra exchange White won the game, completing a most improbable turnaround for a final result of 2-2.

England 1 returned to their winning ways by beating their compatriots England 2 by 3-1.

On board one Adams outplayed Dishman (2304). On board two, something very strange happened.



Lewis (2238) prepared against Flear's (2405) Triangle Slav by choosing the sharp Marshall Gambit with 4.e4. Theory ended a move earlier and here White played the difficult to explain 14.♘g5?? Black took on g2 with the queen, attacking the rook on h1 and the knight on g5, winning a piece. White resigned six moves later.

The other two games were drawn without much action.

By round eight the favourites had all played each other, so they were playing lower rated teams. England faced Montenegro and beat them 3-1.

Adams beat Nikcevic (2358) on the black side of a Queen's Gambit Declined after obtaining an advantage in the endgame. Nikcevic missed his only chance to keep afloat, after which there was no coming back.

Emms outplayed Pajkovic (2412) and was winning, though nobody expected the game to end as abruptly as it did.



Instead of defending the pawn on e5 by 43…♕c7, Black just abandoned it with 43…♖f8 and after 44.♖xe5 just resigned!

Flear didn't have problems drawing against Miljanic (2331) while Arkell misplayed his compensation against Nikac (2275) and made the best move in the position by offering a draw.

This small "gift" to Nikac was heartily repaid in the next round when the Montenegro player brought the crucial victory over Italy, which brought England silver. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

In round nine all the favourites, USA, Italy, England 1 and Iceland, were expected to win their matches and then the medals would have been decided on tie-break, which was board points.

Italy and USA were leading with 13 match points ahead of England and Iceland on 12.

USA faced Poland and beat them 4-0.

Italy faced Montenegro.

As co-leaders, a win for Italy meant a shared first and a guaranteed medal.

Things started well for Italy. David displayed exemplary technique to win a favourable double-rook endgame against Pajkovic (2412).

His win was followed by a win by Godena (2429) who pounced on a big blunder by Podlesnik (2289).

On board three Ortega was winning quickly after the opening. In a King's Indian, he prepared well and obtained a decisive advantage by move 20 against Miljanic.



White had to switch the attack to the f-file with 26.♖f1 ♘f7 27.♕f2, winning a piece in view of the tactic 27…♕d8 28.♕xf6! ♕xf6 29.♘e8.

Instead of that, he played a move out of character for the dynamic nature of the position: 26.a3?? when after the simple 26…♘f7 Black regrouped and was unexpectedly already winning as White no longer had a breakthrough



China ShenZhen W50 vs England in the last round

while Black was up in material. Black went on to pick up the pawns on e4 and d6 and won the game.

From this moment, after missing an opportunity that was there to be taken, momentum started to swing in favour of Montenegro.

On board four Borgo was winning against Nikac, but first he misplayed it and then unnecessarily transposed to a rook endgame, where he missed a chance to draw.

This dramatic turnaround meant that Italy could only manage 2-2 and could only hope England 1 and Iceland would fail to win their matches.

However, both these teams won and this left Italy fourth.

England beat the Chinese women's team China ShenZhen W50 4-0. It was a dominating performance as on all four boards the English grandmasters didn't leave a single chance to the Chinese ladies.

In the Exchange Ruy Lopez Adams (2662) as Black outplayed Liu Shilan (2083). Emms (2448) beat Chunhong Ning (2266) by breaking down the Fort Knox in the French Defence. Flear (2405) won a brilliant miniature against Yun Guo (2244) and Davies (2354) suffocated Yanfeng An (2259) on the white side of a Fianchetto King's Indian Defence.

Iceland also won, beating England 2, but only by 2.5-1.5. The resilience of the second English team meant that they only allowed their opponents 2.5 board points, something which turned out to be vital in view of England 1's win of 4-0 - by outscoring Iceland by a 1.5 points England 1 overtook them on the table and, by a mere half point, won silver!

England's 4-0 win directly affected the winners of the Women's teams. England's W50 team beat Finland 2.5-1.5 and overtook China ShenZhen W50 also by a mere half point, just like the men's team, to win gold and retain the title of World Champions!

Apart from the team medals, silver in both S50 and S65 and gold for the S50 ladies, the English players also won individual medals.

Adams won gold on board one, Flear won bronze on board three as did Davies on board five.

In the S65 section Nunn won bronze on board one, Kosten won gold on board two, Chapman won silver on board three and Povah won silver on board five.

All in all, a very successful raid by England in the World Senior Teams. They seemed to be having a very good time together and this strong team spirit certainly helped them achieve wonderful results. With this experience, I expect the haul of medals to continue next year as well.



Keith Arkell won the Blitz event

WORLD SENIOR TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023 S50

Rk	SNo	Team	Games	+	=	-	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	1	**USA**	9	7	1	1	15	26	0
2	2	**England 1**	9	6	2	1	14	24.5	0
3	5	**Iceland**	9	6	2	1	14	24	0
4	3	**Italy**	9	6	2	1	14	23.5	0
5	4	**North Mecedonia Alkaloid**	9	5	2	2	12	22	0
6	12	**Canada**	9	4	2	3	10	21	0
7	6	**Montenegro**	9	4	2	3	10	19	0
8	8	**England 2**	9	4	1	4	9	19.5	0
9	7	**Poland**	9	4	1	4	9	19.5	0
10	9	**Slovakia**	9	4	1	4	9	19	0
11	18	**Uruguay**	9	4	1	4	9	18.5	0
12	17	**Wales Silures**	9	4	1	4	9	18	0
13	14	**England W50**	9	3	3	3	9	17.5	0
14	10	**China ShenZhen W50**	9	4	1	4	9	17	0
15	16	**Sweden**	9	2	4	3	8	17	0
16	11	**Austria**	9	2	3	4	7	16.5	2
17	15	**USA 5 Brothers**	9	2	3	4	7	16.5	0
18	13	**England 3**	9	3	1	5	7	13.5	0



THE WINNERS: USA S50 TEAM

WORLD SENIOR TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023 S65									
Rk	SNo	Team	Games	+	=	-	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	1	**Germany Lasker Schachstiftung GK**	9	8	1	0	17	25.5	0
2	2	**England 1**	9	8	0	1	16	26	0
3	3	**Slovakia**	9	6	1	2	13	21	0
4	5	**Italy**	9	5	1	3	11	21.5	0
5	7	**Germany**	9	4	3	2	11	20.5	0
6	6	**France**	9	5	1	3	11	20	0
7	4	**Israel**	9	5	1	3	11	19.5	0
8	10	**Belgium**	9	5	0	4	10	19	0
9	11	**Netherlands Orange**	9	3	4	2	10	19	0
10	12	**Switzerland SG RIEHEN**	9	4	2	3	10	16	0
11	8	**Finland 1**	9	4	1	4	9	20	0
12	18	**N.Macedonia**	9	4	1	4	9	18.5	0
13	20	**England 2**	9	4	1	4	9	15.5	0
14	15	**Austria 1**	9	3	2	4	8	19	0
15	9	**Kosovo***	9	4	0	5	8	17.5	2
16	14	**Switzerland**	9	3	2	4	8	17.5	0
17	13	**Austria Steiermark**	9	4	0	5	8	17	0
18	22	**Latvia W65**	9	3	2	4	8	16	0

THE HIDDEN EMOTIONS OF CHESS: HOW GRANDMASTERS HANDLE WINNING AND LOSING

By GM Aleksandar Colovic; www.alexcolovic.com

In the chess world, where intellect and strategy reign supreme, emotions run deep beneath the surface. It's a realm where victory and defeat are not merely outcomes but profound experiences that shape the psyche of Grandmasters

In a recent interview, former World Champion Viswanathan Anand was asked if he hated losing as much as Kasparov did.

He said: "To me, it seems he isn't even close to me, but I admit I can't see him from the inside, and he probably can't see me from the inside. When I lose, I can't imagine anyone in the world who loses as badly as I do inside."

You wouldn't think this of Anand, who usually appears calm and composed. But: "I'm not a good loser. I'm a good actor. I know how to stay composed in public. I can even pretend for five minutes, but I can only do it for five minutes because I know that once the press conference is over, once I can finish talking to you, I can go back to my room and hit my head against the wall because that's what I'm longing to do now.

In fact, it's got even worse because, as you get on, you think, "I should have known that. I should have known that. I should have known not to do that. What is the point of doing this a thousand times and not learning anything?' You get angry with yourself much more. I hate losing much more, even than before."

I am certain that all the best players in the world are similar. The more you invest in chess, the more you cannot stand losing. And the best have invested all their lives, so, when a loss happens, they feel as if their whole life has been wasted, the effort gone in vain: "I should have known that" being the idea that won't leave them at peace.

When John McEnroe was losing his first match against Brad Gilbert, he was furious, as only McEnroe can be. "Gilbert, you don't deserve to be on the same court with me!" he told his opponent while changing sides on the court. After the match, which Gilbert won in three sets, McEnroe announced he would take a sabbatical because "when I start losing to players like him [meaning Gilbert] I've got to reconsider what I'm doing even playing this game." (From the book *Winning Ugly* by Brad Gilbert and Steve Jamison.)

This is the type of emotion chess players suffer when losing, especially to someone they consider inferior. To the best players in the world, that is pretty much everybody else, since the whole world is inferior to them. They cannot stand it.

"Don't even mention losing to me. I can't stand to think of it," is what Bobby Fischer said on the topic. It's the end of the world, at least until they win the next game.

Winning in chess is different, but not in a way you would imagine. The problem lies in the fact that chess players feel that winning is something that is natural, something that is how things should normally be. They don't consider winning as something out of the ordinary. They expect to win and winning is in a way preserving the status quo.

Compare that to the agony of the loss described above and you come to realise that in chess the agony of defeat is incomparably more intense to the joy of a victory. It is asymmetrical and this is a major psychological problem for the vast majority of players. Losing is like death, winning is status quo.

When it comes to winning, I always remember watching Michael Schumacher in Formula 1 when he was winning races. He won a lot of them and I could never understand how he was so happy after each win. He was radiant, smiling all the time, hugging everybody on his team, jumping and spraying around the winning champagne. I could never understand how winning never be taken for granted for him, how he was able to celebrate and enjoy every victory as something special, something that is the result of tremendous effort, something that indeed deserves to be celebrated.

Ever since then I have thought that chess players should be more like Michael Schumacher. Every win deserves to be celebrated and enjoyed. It should not be a status quo. Chess players work so hard to win a game of chess and they definitely deserve to enjoy the fruit of their efforts.

Winning should be the best feeling in chess. Chess players shouldn't forget that.



THE EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (POLAND, JULY 2023)



A SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE BY ENGLAND

By IM Shaun Taulbut

England had a very successful tournament, winning two team Gold Medals, one Silver and one Bronze

The England 50+ 1st team of Mark Hebden, John Emms, Keith Arkell, Glenn Flear and Chris Ward won the 50+, defending their title from last time.

Mark Hebden scored a brilliant 7.5/8 on top board. The England 50+ Women's team of Susan Lalic, Sheila Jackson, Ingrid Lauterbach, Petra Nunn and Natasha Regan also took the Gold Medal.

The England 50+ second team of Graeme Buckley, Steve Dishman, Richard Holmes, Phil Crocker and Bob Noyce took the team bronze.

England's third team of Jonathan Hill, Haran Rasalingam, Paul Dupre and Mark Hogarth finished 8th.

In the 65+ the 1st team of John Nunn, Tony Kosten, Peter Large, Chris Baker and Tony Stebbings took the Silver medal, with John Nunn and Chris Baker winning individual Gold medals for the best score on their Boards.

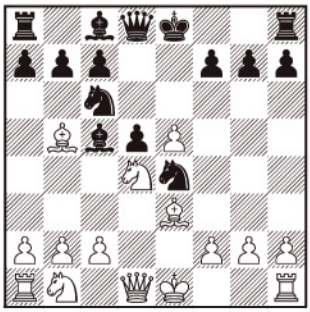
Financial support for the England teams came from the ECF, Chess Trust, Friends of Chess, Nigel Povah, Ian Reynolds and Natasha Regan.

We will look at two very interesting games from the event, starting with a Mark Hebden win based on opening theory.

Wojciech Kowalczuk – Mark Hebden

TCh-EUR Senior +50 2023 Swidnica POL (3.4)

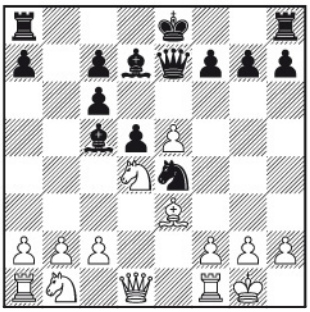
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 exd4 4.♗c4 ♘f6 5.e5 d5 6.♗b5 ♘e4 7.♘xd4 ♗c5 8.♗e3



If White captures with 8.♘xc6 ♗xf2+ 9.♔f1 bxc6 10.♗xc6+ ♔f8 is satisfactory for Black as 11.♗xa8 loses to 11...♗a6+.

8...♗d7 9.♗xc6 bxc6 10.0-0 ♕e7

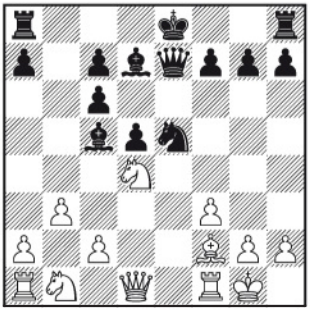
Mark Hebden is very well versed in opening theory and this move, indirectly attacking the white bishop on e3, allows Black retreat squares for his knight on e4 in certain variations.



11.f3 ♘d6 The knight is most effective here.

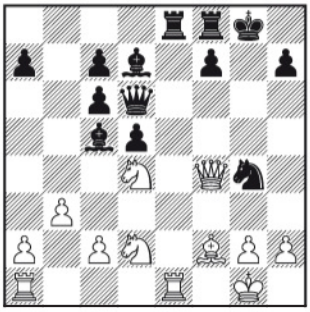
12.♗f2 ♘c4 Also playable is 12...♘f5 13.♘c3 ♗b6.

13.b3 ♘xe5 Capturing the pawn looks dangerous for Black as the e-file is open.



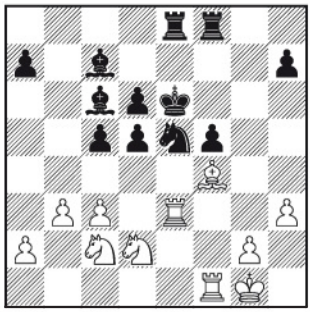
14.♖e1 g5 Also good is the piece sacrifice 14...f6 15.f4 0-0 16.fxe5 fxe5.

15.♘d2 0-0 16.f4 gxf4 17.♕h5 ♖ae8 18.♕h6 ♕d6 19.♕xf4 ♘g4



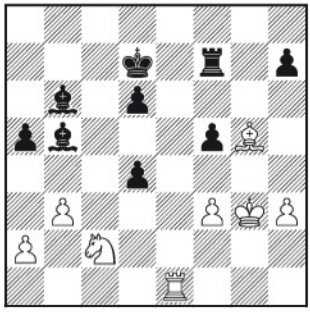
Black forces the exchange of queens and has a winning endgame with his extra pawn; Mark uses his king actively to protect his pawns.

20.♕xd6 cxd6 21.c3 ♗b6 22.♗g3 ♘e5 23.h3 f5 24.♗f4 ♗c7 25.♖e3 c5 26.♘c2 ♔f7 27.♖d1 ♗c6 28.♖f1 ♔e6



29.♘f3 ♔d7 30.♖fe1 ♘xf3+ 31.gxf3 ♖xe3 32.♖xe3 ♗b6 33.♔h2 a5 34.♗g5 ♖f7 35.♔g3 ♗b5 36.♖e1 d4 37.cxd4 cxd4

The pawn starts to roll forward and White has no defence against the activity of the bishops.



38.♖d1 ♗e2 39.♖d2 d3 40.♘e1 [40.♘e3 ♖g7 41.♔f4 ♖xg5]

40...♖g7

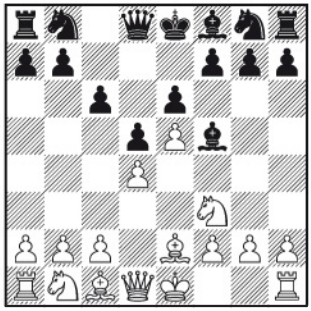
0-1

John Nunn was also in good form, using the Advance variation against the Caro-Kann as before:

John Nunn - Peter Jorgen Dam Mikkelsen

TCh-EUR Senior +65 2023 Swidnica POL (5.2)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.♘f3 e6 5.♗e2

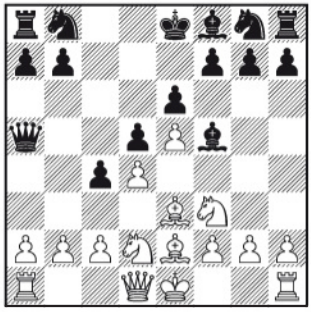


White develops quickly and Black often lags behind in development in this variation.

5...c5 Attacking the centre at the cost of a tempo is logical but Black has to be careful.

6.♗e3 ♕a5+ 7.♘bd2 7.♘c3 is also good for White. From d2 the knight can go to b3 at some point.

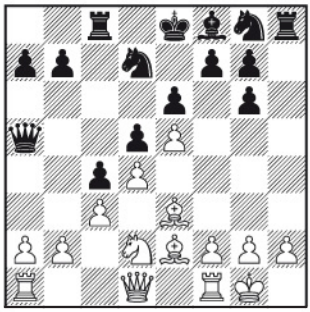
7...c4



Black blocks the position, aiming to use his space on the queenside, but White has a good plan against this.

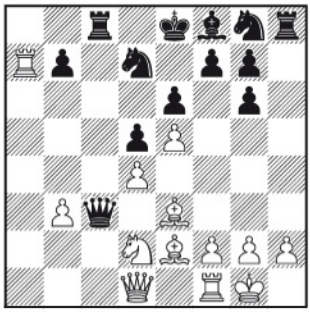
8.0-0 ♘d7 9.♘h4 ♗g6 10.c3 A key move, aiming to open the queenside with b3 to take advantage of the superior development of the white pieces.

10...♖c8 11.♘xg6 hxg6



12.b3 cxb3 Black has little choice here as if 12...b5 13.a4 b4 *(13...♕xc3 14.axb5 is good for White; 13...cxb3 14.♘xb3 ♕xc3 15.♖c1 is winning)* 14.cxb4 ♗xb4 15.bxc4 with advantage to White; or 12...♕xc3 13.♖c1 ♕b2 14.♖c2 ♕a3 15.bxc4 ♘e7 16.cxd5 ♖xc2 17.♕xc2 exd5 18.♖b1 b6 19.♗b5, when White is winning.

13.axb3 ♕xc3 14.♖xa7

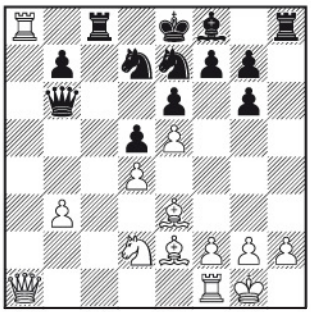


White is much better with his lead in development and the Black pawn on b7 is open to attack.

14...♕b4 If 14...♕c7 15.♕a1 ♘e7 16.♗b5 is strong for White.

15.♕a1 ♘e7 16.♖a4 16.♖a8 ♖b8 17.♖c1 is also good.

16...♕b6 17.♖a8

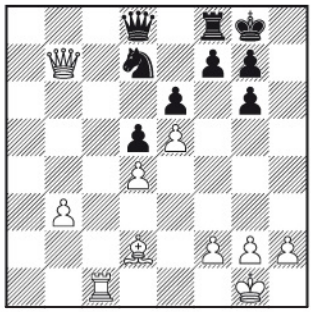


17...♕d8 After 17...♖b8 18.♖xb8+ ♘xb8 19.b4 ♕xb4, 20.♖b1 is strong.

18.♖xc8 ♘xc8 18...♕xc8 19.♖c1 ♘c6 20.♗b5 ♗e7 may be better here.

19.♕a8 ♘cb6 After 19...♕c7 20.♘f3 ♕b8 21.♖a1 ♕xa8 22.♖xa8 ♘db6 23.♖b8 wins a pawn and the game.

20.♕xb7 ♗b4 21.♗b5 0-0 22.♗xd7 ♗xd2 23.♗xd2 ♘xd7 24.♖c1



Black resigned; he has no good defence to the threat of ♖c7 and ♗b4 when f7 will fall

1-0

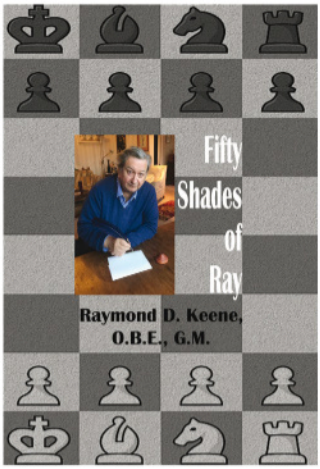
THE EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS - THE 50+ STANDINGS:

M-sce	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TB2	TB3
1	**ENG England 50+ 1**		2½	2½	2½	4	3	3	4	4	4	18	29.5
2	**SVK Slovakia 50+**	1½		2½	3½	3½	2½	2½	3	3½	4	16	26.5
3	**ENG England 50+ 2**	1½	1½		3	2½	2½	3½	4	4	3½	14	26
4	**DEN WriteUpp 50+**	1½	1½	1		1	3	3	2½	2½	3½	10	18.5
5	**ENG England 50+ Women**	0	1½	1½	3		1½	2½	3½	2½	2½	10	17.5
6	**SCO Scotland**	1	1½	1½	1	2½		2	1½	2½	3	7	16.5
7	**ENG Polish Amateurs**	1	1½	1½	1	1½	2		2	3½	3½	6	16.5
8	**ENG England 50+ 3**	0	1	0	1½	½	2½	2		1	3	5	11.5
9	**LTU Lithuanian Women**	0	½	0	1½	1½	1½	½	3		2	3	10.5
10	**POL Swidnica Team**	0	0	½	½	1½	1	½	1	2		1	7

THE EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS - THE 65+ STANDINGS:

M-sce	SNo	Name	Batches	+	=	-	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	2	SVK Slovakia 65+	9	9	0	0	18	248.5	26.5
2	1	ENG England 65+ 1	9	8	0	1	16	229.5	25
3	10	POL Lower Silesia 1	9	5	1	3	11	165.5	18.5
4	6	FRA Cercle d'Echecs de Strasbourg	9	5	0	4	10	172	22.5
5	4	HUN Hungary	9	3	4	2	10	169.5	19
6	3	GER Germany I 65+	9	4	2	3	10	168.5	18.5
7	8	SWE Sweden 1	9	4	2	3	10	134.5	23
8	12	ENG England 65+ 2	9	4	2	3	10	112	18.5
9	5	ISR Israel 65+	9	3	3	3	9	177	20
10	7	GER SC Kreuzberg e.V.	9	3	3	3	9	158.5	17.5
11	9	DEN SK2023	9	4	1	4	9	147.5	19.5
12	11	GER Germany Women 65+	9	3	3	3	9	105.5	18.5
13	14	POL Warsaw	9	3	2	4	8	112.5	18
14	16	ENG England 65+ 3	9	3	2	4	8	78	15
15	15	WLS Wales Cymru	9	2	3	4	7	88.5	17
16	13	DEN SK 2012, Danmark	9	1	3	5	5	73.5	13.5
17	17	POL Lower Silesia 2	9	1	1	7	3	54	11
18	18	CRO MURSKO SREDISCE	9	0	0	9	0	19.5	2

Hardinge Simpole



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the publication of

Fifty Shades of Ray

Chess in the year of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Raymond D. Keene

With an Introduction by CJ de Mooi

THE RISE OF CHINA AS A CHESS POWER



By Milan Dinic

China's ascent as a global chess powerhouse has been nothing short of extraordinary. From its humble beginnings, China has now emerged as a dominant force in the chess world. The unfolding of China's path to chess dominance is something which should be looked at carefully and studied

If the youth represent the future, then the world has a lot to expect from the country of the Red Dragon when it comes to chess.

China's chess success continues to captivate attention as they clinched a resounding victory at the FIDE World Youth U16 Olympiad hosted in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. Turkey was second, Armenia third while the English team finished in 32nd place. The Chinese team demonstrated unwavering dominance throughout the competition, amassing 17 out of 18 match points. Only the team of Armenia was capable of holding them to a draw.

Out of 36 games played, China scored 31 board points. Noteworthy was WIM Miaoyi Lu's exceptional performance, emerging as the leading scorer for the Chinese team with an unblemished record on the fourth board. Her assertive and aggressive playing style garnered admiration from both chess enthusiasts and experts alike. Tong(Qd) Xiao, positioned on the second board, and Xiangrui Kong, on the third board, both achieved 7.5 out of 9. Meanwhile, Haowen Xue, playing on the top board, scored seven points. The triumphant performance underscores China's growing influence on the global chess stage, cementing its status as a formidable force to be reckoned with.

According to the June 2023 FIDE rating list, of the top 20 chess players in the world in the open section China has two. However, in the women's section, China has five players (three of which occupy the top five positions). China currently comes in third place in the countries' rank of average ratings for the top ten players. This is even though it has notably fewer Grandmasters than India, Ukraine or Germany, all of which are behind China. How did this happen?

In a culture where tradition, resourcefulness and taking a long view of life make up important elements of identity, chess would seem like a natural choice for a national sport. Still, it is their own version of board games - Chinese chess and go - that are most prominent in China. In fact, not until the start of the second part of the 20th century did chess begin to gain a foothold in the country of the Red Dragon.

FROM XIANGQI TO FIDE AND DATO

Chess was initially not well received in China. Because of this, it was first recognised as a small part of the huge Chinese Xiangqi Association, when it was founded in November 1962. With small chess projects in schools and national tournaments, as well as four friendly matches with the Soviets (who did not send their top players), chess was making small steps. However, the game was pushed to the margins during the Cultural Revolution when it was included in the list of activities considered "decadent". Still, it survived.

Fortune smiled on chess in China in the 1970s - with restrictions easing. A 1974 meeting in Kuala Lumpur, where the question of raising the profile of chess in Asia was discussed, made China the focal point of the push. This effort involved not only providing more outside support for the game, but also getting the Chinese authorities on board and getting more State support.

By 1975, the Chess Association of China had officially joined FIDE, and the following year Chinese players started taking part in international events.

A crucial role in the development of chess in the Country of the Red Dragon was played by Dato - Tan Chin Nam - a chess philanthropist from Malaysia, who lit the torch that spread the chess flame across China and set it on a path to become a major world power on the 64-squared checkerboard.



Dato – Tan Chin Nam – a chess philanthropist from Malaysia, who lit the torch that spread the chess flame across China; Source: chinahorseclub.com



Hou Yifan
Photo: David Llada

FROM SMALL STEPS TO GIANT LEAPS

Having won second place in the 1977 Asian Championship, China announced its entrance to the chess world with confidence at the 1978 Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires - the first chess Olympiad it took part in. With an average ELO of 2273, the Chinese team first stunned Iceland (which had the later FIDE President Frederic Olafsson on board one) in the first round and also managed to hold to a draw the team of Netherlands, then featuring the now legendary players Jan Timman, Gena Sosonko and Johannes Donner (who lost to a Chinese player in 20 moves!).

Then, gradually, successes came about: second place at the Asian Team Chess Championship in 1979, 1981, its first gold in 1983, then again n 1987, 1989, and 1991. From 8th place at the 1984 Olympiad China progressed to sixth place in 1990. In addition, Chinese players started winning numerous events across Asia and were beginning to be better noticed globally. As chess progressed in China so the State warmed up and provided more support.
As of 2010, China started becoming more dominant in chess team events - the women's team won silver medals at the Olympiad in 2010, 2012 and 2014, while the men's team won gold at the 2014 Olympiad and repeated that success in 2018 and at the 2021 Olympiad (the last one being held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic at the time).

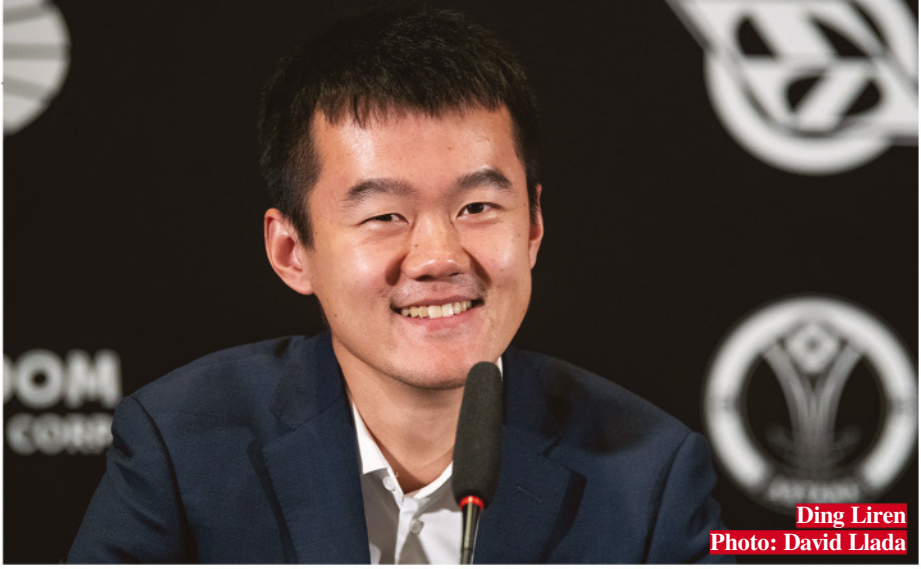
During all this time, State support for chess was increasing, on the national and regional/local level.

CHINESE WOMEN PUSH FORWARD

Somewhat surprisingly, the Chinese started making giant leaps in women's chess.

In the 1980 Chess Olympiad, when the Chinese women's team made its first appearance, they captivated the chess world by drawing with the Olympic title holders from the USSR and finishing in sixth place ahead of the traditionally strong women's teams from Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. The ascent of the women's team in the chess realm continued, culminating in a remarkable tie for 3rd place at the 27th Chess Olympiad held in Dubai, UAE.

The Chinese women players officially asserted their chess dominance after the break-up of the USSR in 1991, when Xie Jun won the title, which she held until 1996 and again between 1999 to 2001. She was



Ding Liren
Photo: David Llada

then succeeded by another Chinese, Zhu Chen who held the title till 2004. After a short break, Xu Yuhua returned the crown to China for the period of 2006-2008.

In 2010 another Chinese woman, Hou Yifan, won the crown, becoming the youngest Women's World Champion. She defended the title three times (in 2011, 2013, 2016) and even today is ranked as the world's number one woman player, despite not being very active as a player since 2019. Her crown was taken over by another Chinese - Tan Zhongyi (2017-2018) and another, Ju Wenjun (as of 2018) who has just won her fourth world championship match.

The parallel between Soviet and Chinese dominance in women's chess is striking. Both share a foundation built on robust government support and a well-established system where seasoned players mentor emerging talents.

THE NEW FLAIR OF THE RED DRAGON

With players in the 2700+ club, featuring world champion Ding Liren, Yu Yangyi, Wang Hao (the winner of the inaugural Grand Swiss in 2019, the world's strongest Swiss-system tournament) and Wei Yi, and several super strong GMs all in their 20s and 30s, China is a dominant chess power today.

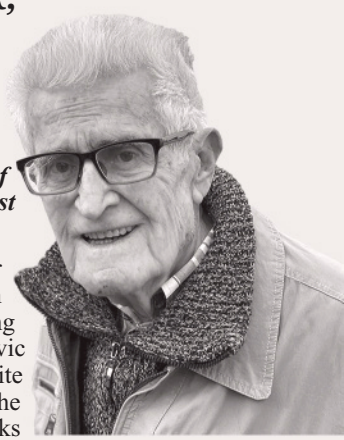
The crown and the highest point (so far) in this Chinese chess march was the 2023 victory of Ding Liren in the Match to determine the new World Champion in chess. Currently, China holds b the crowns in both open and women's chess - a unique success only achieved before by the Soviet Union.

As chess is becoming dominated by ever younger players, the resources of young talent which China has at its disposal are almost impossible to match by anyone, except maybe India. Given the vast number of students that China can rely on, it comes as no surprise that these schools produce a multitude of exceptional talents.

Ding Liren's recent success has not only made him a hero in his own country but has also given impetus to chess in a nation where tens of millions already play the game.

The women's match in China, played by two Chinese players, attracted a lot of interest both in China and abroad. The hope is that there will be more chess events taking place in the Far East and that there will be more investment in the game.

THE WORLD'S OLDEST GRANDMASTER, ALEKSANDAR MATANOVIC, DIES AT 93



The renowned Yugoslav/Serbian Grandmaster Aleksandar Matanovic passed away in Belgrade on 9th August, two months after celebrating his 93rd birthday. Following the passing of Yuri Averbakh in May of 2022, Matanovic was the world's oldest living Grandmaster

A journalist by training and a highly successful player, Matanovic has left an indelible mark on the chess world, both with his games and with his writing. Alongside Svetozar Gligoric, Borislav Ivkov and Milan Matulovic - he formed the backbone of the second superpower in the chess world, marking the golden era of Yugoslav chess from 1950 to 1980. Matanovic was also the vice president of FIDE from 1990 to 1994 and the director and editor of the esteemed Chess Informant (Šahovski Informator) publishing house which he co-founded in 1966.

Aleksandar Matanović was born on the 23rd of May 1930 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. He learnt chess at the age of six from his sister. He became the Youth Champion of Serbia in 1947 and then the Youth Champion of Yugoslavia in 1948. He won the title of National Master in 1949, became IM in 1951 and a Grandmaster in 1955. He won the Yugoslav chess championship thrice - in 1962, 1969 and 1978.

His first appearance in the Yugoslav team was in 1950 when he defeated Albert Pinkus 2:0 in a radio match between Yugoslavia and the US (which ended with an 11,5:8,5 victory for Yugoslavia). From 1954 to 1978 he was a permanent member of the Yugoslav Olympic team winning five silver and four bronze medals, as well as five individual medals (one gold, three silvers and one bronze). Altogether, Matanovic played in 11 chess Olympiads and was undefeated in four of them. In five European championships, between 1957 and 1977, he won four silver and one bronze team medal.

In 1980 he was the coach of the national team that won the final Olympic medal for Yugoslavia. After retreating from actively playing chess, Matanovic continued to write and promote the game - with books (aimed at children and chess enthusiasts), articles and public appearances.

In May this year, to commemorate his 93rd birthday, the oldest newspaper in the Balkans - Serbian daily Politika - asked Matanovic to write a biographical article. He finished it with the following lines:

"Chess is a game. Games [are a way to] determine the values of the various factors in sport. Not just human versus human. The chess player is the one side and chess is the other. When a chess player discovers all the secrets of chess, and that is in progress, chess will lose. When a violinist completely masters his instrument, or when a doctor discovers what causes a disease - they will win. The game is a conflict. Conflict, in anything, leads to progress. In chess, for example, the events on the board today are different from those of the previous era - they are on a higher level.

"When you set out on a journey of no return, who and what you are depends on what you leave behind. When my time comes, I will leave behind my wife, son, three grandchildren, three daughters-in-law, four great-grandchildren, the chess language, and countless games played...

And the hope that everything that directed our lives will be better than it was".

Milan Dinic

NORTHUMBRIA MASTERS 2023:

KJARTANSSON AND GORMALLY SHARE FIRST PLACE

By IM Shaun Taulbut

The successful Congress featured the Northumbria Masters, a GM tournament and an IM tournament with several title norms being achieved. The Congress Director was Tim Wall and there was sponsorship for title norms from Mark Jordan. In the Masters Gudmundur Kjartansson and David Gormally shared first place.

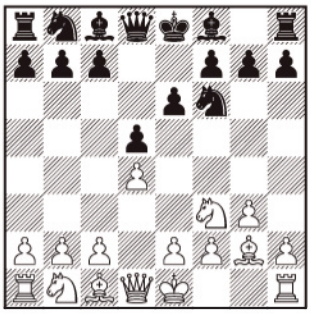
In the GM tournament Rajat Makkar won with 7.5/9 and made a grandmaster norm and in the IM tournament Krzysztof Raczek of Poland won with 7.5/9.

We look at two games from the GM Pool starting with a sparkling win by Daniel Fernandez

Dan SIN Fernandez - Jonah B Willow

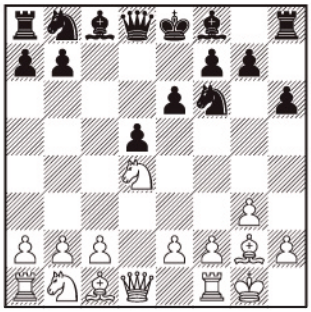
Northumbria GM Pool 2023
Newcastle upon Tyne ENG (1.1)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.g3 e6 3.♗g2 d5 4.♘f3



The Catalan; a solid choice for White and difficult for Black to meet.

4...c5 5.0-0 cxd4 6.♘xd4 h6



This is slow and White has a good lead in development better is 6...♘c6 7.c4 ♗c5 8.♘b3 ♗e7 9.cxd5 ♘xd5 with a slight advantage for White.

7.c4 e5 7...♗e7 is safer as the Black pawns become vulnerable.

8.♘f3 e4 9.♘fd2 Now the Black pawn chain in the centre will be removed so Black decides to sacrifice the pawn to disrupt.

9...e3 After 9...dxc4 10.♕a4+ ♗d7 11.♕xc4 ♗e6 12.♕b5+ ♕d7 13.♕xd7+ ♘bxd7 14.♘xe4 White has a sound extra pawn.

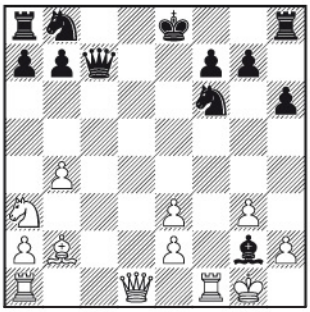
10.fxe3 dxc4 11.♘xc4 ♕c7 After 11...♕xd1 12.♖xd1 ♘c6 13.♘c3 with a big advantage to White.

12.♘ba3 ♗xa3 13.♘xa3 ♗d7 13...0-0 14.b3 ♖d8 15.♕c2 ♕xc2 16.♘xc2 ♘c6 17.♘d4 ♘xd4 18.exd4 ♖xd4 19.♗xh6 gxh6 20.♖xf6 ♔g7 21.♖f4 ♖d2 22.♔f2 ♖b8 23.♔e1 ♖c2 24.♔d1 ♖c7 25.♖c1 ♖xc1+ 26.♔xc1 White has a good extra pawn.

14.b4 White is opening up the position for his dark squared bishop.

14...♗c6 14...♕c3 15.♖b1 ♗c6 16.♖b3 ♕e5 17.♗b2 with a big advantage.

15.♗b2 ♗xg2

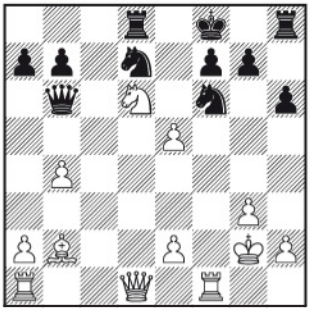


Now White has an intermezzo.

16.♘b5 ♕b6 If 16...♕c6 17.♘d6+ ♔f8 *(After 17...♔e7 18.♘f5+ ♔f8 19.b5 ♕d5 20.♗a3+ ♔e8 21.♘xg7+ ♔d7 22.♖xf6 White is winning)* 18.♖c1 ♕d5 19.♖c8+ ♔e7 20.♗xf6+ gxf6 21.♖xh8 ♕xd6 22.♔xg2 White is the exchange ahead.

17.♘d6+ ♔f8 18.♔xg2 ♘bd7 After 18...♕xb4 19.♗xf6 gxf6 20.♕d5 ♖h7 21.♖xf6 the attack on f7 is decisive, but now White continues with the attack with the e-pawn.

19.e4 ♖d8 20.e5

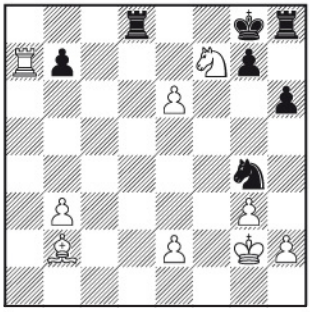


20...♕xb4 21.♕b3 Very good is 21.♖b1 ♘xe5 22.♗xe5 ♕c5 23.♖xb7 ♕xe5 24.♖xf7+ ♔g8 25.♖7xf6 gxf6 26.♕b3+ The white queen comes to f7 with mate.

21...♕xb3 22.axb3 ♘g4 23.♖xf7+ ♔g8 24.e6 ♘de5 25.♖xa7 ♘xf7

If Black plays 25...♖xd6 26.♖fxb7 ♖xe6 *(26...♘e3+ 27.♔h3 ♘f5 28.e4 ♘c6 29.exf5 ♘xa7 30.♖xg7+ ♔f8 31.♖xa7 ♖g8 32.♗a3* wins*)* 27.♖xg7+ ♔f8 28.♗a3+ ♔e8 *(28...♖e7 29.♖gxe7)* 29.♖a8#.

26.♘xf7



26...♖e8 26...♖d2 27.♖a8+.

27.♘xh8 ♔xh8 28.♖xb7 ♖xe6 29.♗xg7+ ♔g8 30.♗d4 Black resigned as he cannot take on e2 because of 31.♔f3.

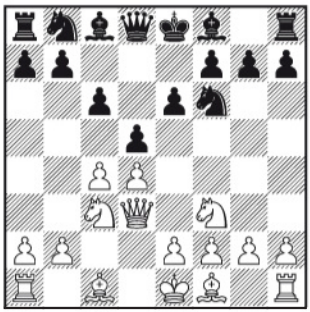
1-0

Now a very good win by the winner of the GM Pool Rajat Makkar.

Matthew J **Wadsworth** - Rajat **Makkar**

Northumbria GM Pool 2023
Newcastle upon Tyne ENG (2.1)

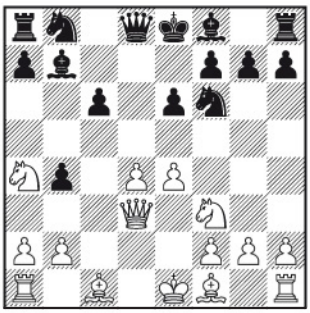
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♕d3



White aims for a quick e4.

5...dxc4 6.♕xc4 b5 Black gains a tempo by this pawn thrust allowing the bishop to go to b7.

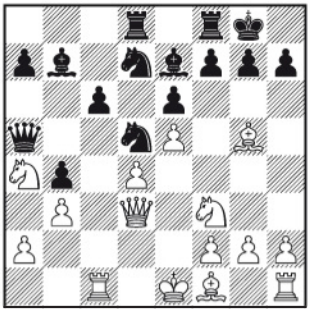
7.♕d3 ♗b7 8.e4 b4 9.♘a4



After 9.e5 bxc3 10.exf6 cxb2 11.♗xb2 gxf6 is slightly better for Black with his extra pawn but now the White knight is rather awkwardly placed.

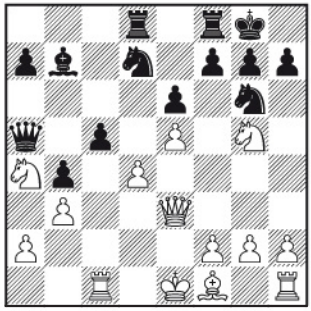
9...♘bd7 10.♗e3 ♕a5 11.b3 ♖d8 A strong move aiming at the White queen and also the White pawn on d4.

12.♖c1 ♗e7 13.e5 ♘d5 14.♗g5 0-0



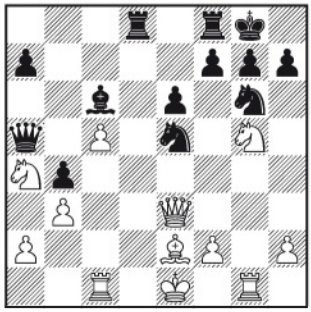
15.♗xe7 ♘xe7 16.♘g5 ♘g6 17.♕e3 If 17.♕h3 h6 18.♘xe6 *(18.♘e4 ♕d5 19.♘d6 ♗a8 20.♕e3 f6 21.♗c4 ♕xg2 22.♗xe6+ ♔h7)* 18...fxe6 19.♕xe6+ ♔h7 20.♗d3 ♘dxe5 is winning for Black.

17...c5



18.dxc5 After 18.♘xc5 ♘xc5 19.♖xc5 ♕xa2 20.f3 h6 and Black has a decisive advantage.

18...♘dxe5 19.♗e2 ♗xg2 20.♖g1 ♗c6



21.f4 ♘d7 22.♘xe6 fxe6 23.♕xe6+ ♔h8 24.♖xg6 If 24.♕xc6 ♘xf4 25.♕a6 ♕c7 26.♕d6 ♕xd6 27.cxd6 ♖fe8 28.♖c2 ♘f6 29.♔f1 ♖xd6 Black has a sound extra pawn.

24...♗xa4 25.♖g5 Not 25.bxa4 b3+ with a winning advantage but now Black attacks down the e-file.

25...♖de8 26.♕d6 ♗b5 27.♖c2 ♗xe2 28.c6 ♕xg5 29.♕xf8+

If 29.fxg5 ♖f1+ 30.♔d2 ♖d1#.

29...♘xf8

0-1

Results for the Masters Tournament:

NORTHUMBRIA MASTERS 2023 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE ENG 24TH - 28TH AUG 2023 LEADING FINAL ROUND 9 STANDINGS:						
Rk	SNr	Namr	Ti	FED	Rtg	TB1
1	1	**Kjartansson, Gudmundur**	GM	ISL	2458	7
	2	**Gormally, Daniel W**	GM	ENG	2447	7
3	8	**Jones, Steven A**		ENG	2197	6.5
4	3	**Arkell, Keith C**	GM	ENG	2373	6
5	13	**Storey, Charles H**	FM	ENG	2138	5.5
	28	**Chopra, Manmay**		IND	1899	5.5
7	5	**Walker, David J**	FM	ENG	2253	5
	6	**Boswell, Jacob Connor**		ENG	2226	5
	9	**Hobson, Kenneth**	CM	ENG	2166	5
	23	**Chan, Sheng Liang Bernard**		MAS	2051	5
11	10	**Villiers, Thomas**	CM	ENG	2163	4.5
	11	**Sowray, Peter J**	FM	ENG	2151	4.5
	18	**Steadman, Michael V R**	FM	NZL	2100	4.5
	24	**Yoon, Jacob D**		ENG	2050	4.5
	25	**Forster, Matthew**		ENG	2045	4.5
16	12	**Brewer, Callum D**		ENG	2144	4
	17	**Saunders, Aron**		ENG	2113	4
	20	**Kett, Timothy J**	FM	WLS	2072	4
	22	**Shearsby, Jude**		ENG	2053	4
	26	**Banerjee, Supratit**		SCO	2016	4
21	15	**Henderson, David**		ENG	2113	3.5
	19	**Archibong, Ubong Samuel**		SCO	2085	3.5
	21	**Khoury, Theo**		ENG	2066	3.5
	27	**Ethelontis, Alexandros N**		ENG	2015	3.5
25	16	**Modi, Shyam Jagdish**		ENG	2113	3
26	4	**Montilli, Vincenzo**		ITA	2282	2.5
	14	**Willmoth, Robert F**	CM	ENG	2125	2.5
28	7	**Eggleston, Thomas A**		ENG	2215	0

NORTHUMBRIA GM POOL 2023 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE ENG 24TH - 28TH AUG 2023
LEADING FINAL ROUND 9 STANDINGS:

Rk	Team	Namr	Ti	RTG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Pts	Prize
1	GM	**Maksimenko Andrei**	GM	2428	-	-	-	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	4.5	
2	GM	**Zhang Pengxiang**	GM	2554	-	-	-	1	1	1	=	=	0	=	1	1	6.5	
3	GM	**Fernandez Daniel**	GM	2529	-	-	-	=	0	1	=	=	0	1	1	1	5.5	
4	ENG IMs	**Wadsworth Matthew J**	IM	2445	=	0	=	-	-	-	=	1	0	0	1	=	4	
5	ENG IMs	**Jackson James P**	IM	2390	=	0	1	-	-	-	0	=	0	0	0	1	3	
6	ENG IMs	**Willow Jonah B**	IM	2414	=	0	0	-	-	-	=	=	=	=		1	3.5	
7	FMs	**Chopra Tanmay**	FM	2377	=	=	=	=	1	=	-	-	-	1	=	=	5.5	IM Norm
8	FMs	**Trost Edvin**		2442	=	=	=	0	=	=	-	-	-	1	1	=	5	IM Norm
9	FMs	**Makkar Rajat**	FM	2417	=	1	1	1	1	=	-	-	-	1	=	1	7.5	GM Norm
10	IMs	**Panjwani Raja**	IM	2469	=	=	0	1	1	=	0	0	0	-	-	-	3.5	
11	IMs	**Wachinger Nikolas**	IM	2446	=	0	0	0	1	1	=	0	=	-	-	-	3.5	
12	IMs	**Kanyamarala Tarun**	IM	2344	=	0	0	=	0	0	=	=	0	-	-	-	2	

BCM exclusive interview (Part three):

HENRIK CARLSEN FOR BCM ON HIS SON'S IMPACT AND FUTURE

By Milan Dinic; Photo: Henrik Carlen, BCM

This is the third and final part of the interview with Henrik Carlsen in which he talks about his son's chess path – from early days to what the future holds for the great Norwegian

In the previous two issues of BCM we have published parts of the interview with Henrik Carlsen, the father of Magnus Carlsen. While the first two parts focus on Magnus' early days and his path to stardom, the third - and final - part of the interview looks at the future. What Henrik Carlsen thinks about his son's future after giving up the World Crown and how will history remember the great champion from Norway?

Of parents and children

And what about Henrik? Even before his son became a chess superstar, Henrik was a successful, established person - he had a career, a family, a good income and stability, which are not easy to achieve in life despite this all seeming 'normal'.

'Life is full of coincidences. You can be lucky, you can be unlucky. Personally, I feel I have been lucky in general.'

Magnus was 22 when he became world champion. Henrik has for years acted as his manager and is also employed at Magnus' company.

I asked Henrik how he dealt with being overshadowed by his son. While surely every parent's dream is for their children to achieve more than they have, it's not quite the same when a child achieves stellar success while the parents are still in the prime of life.

'I find it interesting that people ask that'. A say of relief came from my end, as I wasn't sure how he would take this question.

'I have a lot of ego, probably like most people, but I don't have that issue. The fact that my son is/was the world champion is just fantastic. That's so positive for me as a father and the fact that I am an average club player without any significance is just a fun fact'.

'You have to grow up as a person', he says. At this point Henrik Carlsen reflects on his own childhood and upbringing: 'In retrospect, I think my mother was a bit of a modern parent in the way that she cushioned the children a bit too much. But when I spent a year in the military as an engineer, that was very useful. Because, in the military, you grow up. I was 22 and I was stationed in Norway, on regular service. It was kind of like this: you have to get up in the morning, do certain stuff, be disciplined and understood that everything is more important than yourself.'

I wondered - did Henrik ever think he could become world chess champion?

'No, not at all. In fact, it's such an interesting story in the background'.



Henrik learnt chess thanks to his father. 'I played some chess with my father when I was a kid. I think I was quite talented as an eight-year-old but it really didn't lead anywhere because my father spent so much time thinking about his moves that it was a bit boring as well'.

Henrik and his brother then decided to join the chess club.

'I think I was 15 and a half. I thought I was good. However, we played with some of the kids in the club a few of them beat me! They were 11, 13, and 14 - younger than me - and I was surprised. It seemed they understood chess theory more intuitively than I did. So, the thoughts of my having some quality went out the door in that period. It turned out that among these kids there was Simen Agdestein'.

As it transpired, the history of the Carlsen and Agdestein families was quite intertwined: 'It turned out that my father had studied with Agdestein's father. And later Simen offered coaching to my son at his school and became his coach later. It's interesting when I think back at it that these kids discouraged me from chess years ago, I find that a bit amusing'.

When there are no more mountains to climb

For Magnus and his entire family every match was a difficult decision, his father notes.

'Because it took too much space in life and it was not about achieving something but about avoiding losses, which is a different mentality'.

'During his young years he always wanted to climb up and reach something: he was reaching upward, it was intellectually and mentally challenging and fun, and the opposite wasn't', Henrik says.

Carlsen has won almost everything in chess there is to win, more than once. If we just look at his world crowns, he has 15(!) altogether: five in classical chess, four in Rapid and six in Blitz. At the official interview following his victory in both the World Blitz and the Rapid in

Almaty (Kazakhstan) in December 2022, I asked him which of his world crowns is his favourite. Somebody later pointed out - 'imagine just having to answer such a question!'. Until recently, Magnus Carlsen was missing just one trophy - that of the Winner of the World Cup. In Baku, where the most recent World Cup was held, he ticked that one off as well, after a great performance!

So, how do you stay at the top and why, if you have already reached it?

This 'Top of the Mountain problem' has been a subject of many debates and analyses, particularly in business but also in sports. A quick Google search of this topic doesn't seem to give a clear-cut answer, but the most common suggestions seem to be about finding ways to balance and to look for inner strength, through personal growth and development. Ultimately, how to deal with this is a question only the likes of Magnus Carlsen can answer.

No parent can stand and watch idly as their child struggles, without thinking or trying to help them. While everyone has to carry their own cross, and Magnus 'always makes a decision on his own' as his father says, I wondered if Henrik ever regretted his son deciding to play in one of the matches, given how much pressure and challenges it brought. Did he ever think that for Magnus and his peace, it was better not to do that?

'That wasn't up to me. Sometimes he has asked questions or discussed things with Peter Heine Nielsen [the Danish Grandmaster and his Second - note, BCM] and me. I do not doubt that he has reached mature decisions throughout his career on what he wants and doesn't want to do. And I don't think he's had a moment of regret since July last year when he decided not to defend his title. Again, I'm happy if he is happy and that's it.'

Henrik Carlsen sums it up in the following way: 'A world championship match is something that you both miss and hate. Whenever it ends, it's perfect.'

On Magnus' place in history

If you are like most 'normal' people, it's an interesting experience to meet someone who is a celebrity, even locally, let alone globally. What has always fascinated me about some of the people I have met in this category is the fact that they will be remembered in history, a long time after we're all gone. I always wondered what was it like for someone to realise that about themselves. I asked Magnus about this in Almaty - he brushed the whole issue aside, telling me that he plans 'to stick around for a bit longer'. It fits well with his father's earlier point in this interview, about all the glitter being nothing more than 'noise'.

When I asked Henrik about his son's place in history, his first response is to laugh about that and go down a less serious route.

'I have a bit of a playful approach to life. Some people talk about how maybe we live in a simulation. Elon Musk is propagating that sometimes. Many things point in that direction. I think that it's the same as with religion: you interpret it your way. I don't believe we live in a simulation but it's a fascinating thought and it's a fascinating process. If you think that way sometimes, it takes away some of the seriousness and creates a logic between things that otherwise are illogical, serious and difficult', Henrik says.

He then sums up his response: 'I think we have a very objective understanding about what Magnus has achieved as a chess player. That's something fairly robust and relevant. The consequences of that are not significant. Magnus gets a lot of trophies and awards. We have them in the cellar. But that's just glitter. It relates to the core but the core is what he has achieved as a chess player and what he has done for chess, and that we take seriously. The other stuff is curious, fun noise'.

'What's the biggest thing Magnus has done for chess?, I asked.

'It's very difficult to say. That depends on whether you consider chess a sport, art or science. But he has definitely brought an element of sport that was not there to the same extent when he started.'

The diversity in openings is the second thing has Magnus contributed to, according to his father.

And the third - 'although I don't have the data to support it' - is that he has contributed significantly to chess becoming more mainstream and better known in the world.

'I don't know if it's true. I think it's important because chess as an educational tool for kids is brilliant. Chess tricks children into using and training their faculties in a very useful way. Discipline, memory, visualisation, decision, respect for the opponent. Playing some chess is good training for a kid. In that sense, by popularising it, Magnus has helped chess become even more an important part of culture and history'

What now for Magnus?

When he announced his abdication from the world chess crown in July 2022, Magnus Carlsen said that his new goal would be to pass the 2900 ELO threshold, which has never been done before. He is still to succeed in that, but since then it has become noticeable that he is more relaxed and enjoys chess more.

However, at 32, Magnus has a whole life ahead of him. His father is cautiously optimistic about his son's plans and mentioned some possible career routes.

'We'll see what Magnus wants to do, whether he wants to spend more of his time in chess or whether he wants to do other things. People have noted he's played a



bit of poker recently. He's done that in the past, so we'll see. He has interests in areas where you have large amounts of data such as Fantasy football or poker. I think finance would be a choice if he was interested in this.

He has to decide for himself. I think he still wants to be a top chess player. He clearly enjoys winning and dislikes losing and chess comes before all.

He's just 32. Chess is a lifetime passion for most people. To what extent he will just play chess remains to be seen.'

To start something new from scratch at 32 is difficult in life. Then again, we're talking about Magnus Carlsen.

'That's difficult', Henrik says. 'But he's a curious person and I'm sure he will find his way in life, as he has done so far. Magnus wants to be the best despite not playing the world championship match. He's played five of those!'

END.

JEWISH CHESS GRANDMASTERS AND THE CULTURE OF CANCELLATION

By Grandmaster Raymond Keene OBE

Aron Nimzowitsch (1886-1935), author of the chess players' strategic bible *My System*, emerged from a 19th-century tradition of great Jewish players of the game. Much like Marx for economics and Freud for psychology, they tried to explain chess in a formulaic fashion that enabled them to plan ahead.

Wilhelm Steinitz, world chess champion from 1866 to 1894, sought to extract rules of positional play from the chaotic tactical struggles of most of his forebears. Dr Siegbert Tarrasch, who was at least Steinitz's equal as a player, though never himself world champion, went further. Tarrasch codified, or sought to codify, the lessons which Steinitz had distilled, while purging some of his great predecessor's more opaque beliefs. He became known as the Praeceptor Germaniae, the "chess teacher of Germany".

Where Tarrasch erred, the fault lay in his dogmatism. Thus, having successfully employed the line 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 against the French Defence on numerous occasions, Tarrasch suddenly encountered the riposte 3… c5. He promptly declared the whole variation "refuted" from White's point of view, because Black can now obtain an isolated queen's pawn by force. Tarrasch actually used the German verb, *widerlegen*, which literally means to refute.

This is dogmatism run riot. Tarrasch naturally attracted excoriation from a third Jewish grandmaster, the ambitious and iconoclastic young Nimzowitsch, who offered his own *smorgasbord* of chess theories, while energetically undermining those of the hallowed Praeceptor. Nimzowitsch's lexicon of strategic discoveries and theories included the blockade, overprotection, and "the mysterious rook move". His most telling dictum? "The beauty of a chess move lies not in its appearance, but in the thought behind it."

This pronouncement struck a peculiar resonance with me on a recent trip to Venice, where I took the opportunity to visit a dual exhibition by the distinguished Jewish potter and author of *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, Edmund de Waal. In two venues, the Hebraic Museum in the old Venetian Ghetto, and the Ateneo, adjacent to La Fenice, the Venetian opera house, De Waal sets out a series of broken white shards. They are suffused with gold leaf, and all encased in vitrines, wherein are concealed writings and sacred texts in the languages of the Ghetto: Hebrew, of course, Italian, Turkish, German, Spanish and others. The shards and texts evoke the common currency of trade, literature, worship and daily discourse in a long-vanished community.

I was more profoundly struck by the smaller of the exhibits, that in the Ateneo, dedicated to lost libraries and forbidden books. It includes not only De Waal's hermetic, pale and ghostly shards, but shelves of books, selected by virtue of their having been suppressed, banned or even burned at some point in their literary existence. Guests are invited to write their own message inside any book they choose.

I selected a volume by Stefan Zweig, the Austrian-Jewish émigré author of

Schachnovelle (variously translated as The Royal Game or Chess: A Novel) and *Sternstunden der Menschheit* (Decisive Moments in History), which I had first read at the age of 17. It felt particularly poignant to inscribe on the flyleaf of a Zweig masterpiece a message about the suppression of writers. He was one of many whose opinions and style have unexpectedly fallen foul of those controlling the levers of publication, and, potentially fatally, those of government and power.

Readers may observe from continuing derogatory remarks which still continue about Nimzowitsch from well-known Grandmasters (no names, no pack drill) that much prejudice still haunts this great Jewish chess writer and player.

For example, Nimzowitsch is accused of being unable to beat strong opposition. And this of a man who did, in fact, inflict defeat on the world champions Lasker, Alekhine and Euwe, as well as title challengers such as Tarrasch himself, Frank Marshall, Karl Schlechter and Efim Bogolyubov. Perhaps one detects, even here, the lingering influence of those forces which destroyed much of Nimzowitsch's culture (and that of De Waal) and which burned the books.

Although five of the great early masters of the art and science of chess (Philidor, Labourdonnais, Staunton, Anderssen and Morphy) might claim to have been world chess champion, the first official World Championship match was contested in 1886. It took place in the cities of New York, St Louis and New Orleans, between Johannes Zukertort and Wilhelm Steinitz. There had been no official title until that time, but now there was no ambiguity. The match was announced as being "*for the chess championship of the world*" and the stakes of $2,000 were the highest hitherto offered.

What brought about this new globalist perception — apart, perhaps from the modesty of the five proto-champions, or the unabashed ambition and self-confidence of Steinitz? I suggest that the new dispensation, concerning the formal existence of a World Title, was, at least in part, bound up with the increasing ease, safety and frequency of transatlantic travel. Under sail, the voyage could take over sixty days. With the advent of steam in the mid-19th century, this trip was reduced to eight. The New World no longer seemed so far away.

Steinitz and Zukertort also represented a new era in chess leadership, in that both men were representatives of the rich Central European, specifically Jewish, cultural heritage. They were not alone. As we shall see, the next Titan to claim the world chess crown was Emanuel Lasker, who hailed from the same cultural milieu as Zukertort and Steinitz. Meanwhile, waiting in the wings, was Dr Siegbert Tarrasch, the talented but erratic Jacques Mieses, and then the next generation of Jewish maestros, including Rubinstein, Nimzowitsch and Spielmann.

Back to 1886, when both Zukertort and Steinitz had claimed the title before the match even started. Steinitz argued his own case as early as 1874, when he wrote about himself, in glowingly flattering terms, in his chess column in *The Field* magazine: "Steinitz, who has not yet lost any set match on even terms, and who has come out victorious in the last two international tournaments, London 1872 and Vienna 1873, could claim the title of champion." For those further interested in following Steinitz's career, in 2020, Dr Tim Harding PhD, an expert on 19th-century chess, published his latest monumental piece of research: Steinitz in London: A Chess Biography with 623 Games.

While Steinitz was the complete chess professional, Zukertort cut a more flamboyant figure, claiming to be an accomplished soldier, pianist and linguist. His reputation had been made in 1883 at the great London tournament, where he had finished no fewer than three points ahead of his arch-rival Steinitz. In spite of

this devastating victory, there were already disturbing signs of Zukertort's future mental and physical deterioration. Towards the end of the gruelling London tournament he admitted that he was taking opium to calm his nerves. It was widely believed that, as a result, the Prussian lost his final three games to inferior opponents.

Zukertort started brilliantly in the 1886 showdown for the inaugural World Chess Championship with Steinitz, but was the less resilient of the two and ultimately suffered a humiliating loss, winning five, drawing five, but losing ten games. *The Oxford Companion to Chess* describes the terrible effect this defeat had on the loser: "His spirit crushed, his health failing, Zukertort was advised to give up chess, but there was nothing else he could do. 'I am prepared' he said, 'to be taken away at any moment'. Seized by a stroke, while playing at London's famous coffee house, Simpson's Divan, he died next day, aged 46."

Thus the first man to become official World Chess Champion was Wilhelm Steinitz, who held the title from 1886 to 1894. Born in Prague, he moved to Vienna, where he tried to make a living as a journalist. The lure of chess, however, proved too strong and he eventually became a chess professional. In his first international tournament, played in London in 1862, he represented Austria. He subsequently decided to make his home in London, which had become the capital of world chess.

Great tournaments were frequently held there after Staunton's pioneering efforts in staging the first ever international tournament held in London, 1851. Moreover, London's chess centres were renowned as meeting places for the world's leading players. Simpson's, the most famous of these centres, was a natural extension of the chess playing coffee houses of the 18th century. It was known as a "Chess and cigar divan", and there amateurs could challenge the great masters for a stake, matches and tournaments were held and the enthusiast could catch up on the latest games and publications. Indeed, the Immortal Game, between Anderssen and Kieseritsky, published last month in this column, was played in Simpson's as a casual game in 1851. Simpson's very much resembled a chess version of the London gentlemen's clubs of the day.

In terms of social history this was not the sort of milieu which would attract female players; moreover, despite the Victorian example of a queen regnant, women were heavily discouraged from entering male professions throughout that era. We should look to the historical development of a professional body of male chess players in the mid- to late-19th century for a partial explanation, at the very least, of why women have seemingly been held back as exponents of the chess playing art.

Steinitz, although a foreigner, suffered no comparable disadvantages in the London chess scene of his time, and he rapidly became a denizen of Simpson's, where challenges from amateurs helped to augment his income. Once in London, Steinitz dominated British chess. In 1866 he won a match against Anderssen, the victor of the tournament in London in 1851, and he went on to crush both Bird and Blackburne, two of the leading English masters, in set contests. In 1872 Amos Burn recognised Steinitz as "now probably the strongest living player". *The Field* invited Steinitz to contribute regular columns from 1873 to 1882 and he also wrote for the French newspaper *Le Figaro* during the same period. His main journalistic effort was as proprietor and editor of the *International Chess Magazine* from 1885-91, a controversial and distinguished publication that is now a collector's item.

In 1886, as we have seen, the issue between Steinitz and Zukertort was settled in the first World Championship Match, held in America, and won overwhelmingly by Steinitz. The demoralised Zukertort was now broken in health and died two years later. Steinitz succeeded in sweeping aside

challenges from powerful rivals, such as Tchigorin and Gunsberg, but in 1894 Steinitz suffered a painful defeat at the hands of the youthful Emanuel Lasker, who at the age of 25 wrested the World Championship from his veteran opponent. A return match was held in Moscow two years later, but it would have been better for Steinitz if he had never played. He lost 10 games, drew five and won only two.

This stinging humiliation caused a mental breakdown, with Steinitz insisting he could make telephone calls without the need for any apparatus. He was briefly interned in the Moscow *Morossov* asylum. The full account of his brutal maltreatment can be read in Ludwig Bachmann's book *Schachmeister Steinitz*. Mercifully he recovered and was detained at *Morossov* for just a month before his release. For some years Steinitz continued to play, quite successfully, in tournaments, but in 1900 he died in utter poverty in New York aged just 64, and was given a pauper's burial at the Evergreen Cemetery, Brooklyn. The memory of his final destitution has haunted masters of the game ever since and had bitter echoes in the death of Alexander Alekhine, the fourth man to hold the World Title.

Steinitz, however, left a legacy of profound influence on the strategic development of the game. Indeed, he displayed a deep understanding of defensive play, which included the accumulation of small advantages, and the creation of weaknesses for the opponent, such as isolated and doubled pawns. His ideas are published in his book *Modern Chess Theory* in 1889.

Steinitz's successor, Emanuel Lasker, held the World Championship title for a record 27 years from 1894 to 1921. No one since has ever equalled this achievement. Not only did he defend the title regularly against powerful opposition, he also won nearly every tournament that he entered during his long reign. Even after he lost the title, he continued to notch up first class tournament victories and he was still competing successfully at the age of 67.

Lasker's play always fascinated the public, as he overcame outstanding Grandmasters in droves. Some even accused him of hypnotising or bewitching his hapless opponents. In reality he was one of the first players to apply psychology to the chessboard, deploying moves which may not have been the strongest, but which he felt were unpleasant for an individual opponent. He was the perfect fighter, rejoicing in the struggle for its own sake, never afraid of risks and possessed of an amazingly intricate understanding of the game. His special skills centred on the middle game, where he created incredible complications. If his adversaries survived these, then they were remorselessly ground down in the endgame. If chess is, as I maintain, a mirror of intellectual developments in other spheres, it is fascinating to observe that Lasker's reliance on psychological warfare, probing the weaknesses of his opponents' chessboard psyche, was developed at approximately the same time that Sigmund Freud was analysing the subconscious mind in Vienna.

Lasker was born, also in Prussia, in 1868 and established his reputation in tournaments and matchplay, in Germany, England and the United States in a burst of activity from 1889 to 1893. His astounding breakthrough came in the world championship match of 1894 against the old warhorse Steinitz. At the outset Lasker, aged 25, was regarded as an inexperienced contender, but his mastery developed as the match progressed.

The following year, Lasker played in the inaugural Hastings tournament, the strongest chess competition ever held up to that time. With three rounds to go the young World Champion led the field, which included Steinitz and Tchigorin. Lasker was, however, recuperating from a severe case of typhoid fever and was overtaken by Harry Pillsbury, a young American who was making his first appearance on the international circuit. No one had ever won such an event at

their first attempt. The fact that Lasker could only come in third place at Hastings encouraged his successful rivals, Pillsbury and Tchigorin, to believe that they could demonstrate their superiority even more clearly over a man who was beginning to look like a stop-gap champion.

Accordingly, Tchigorin invited the winners from Hastings to participate in a multi-round tournament in St Petersburg, the cultural capital of Czarist Russia. Pillsbury and Tchigorin were regarded as the likely victors, because Steinitz was nearing 60 and Lasker was erroneously believed to be too frail. Indeed, at the halfway stage, Pillsbury was a point clear of the field, but around this time it is believed that he had contracted syphilis and his morale collapsed. Lasker played in brilliant form to take the victory in this event, clearly confirming his right to the World Championship. This was the true test for Lasker. He faced the victor of Hastings 1895, and had to prove that he, and not Pillsbury, was the real World Champion.

His opponent, Pillsbury, was capable of astonishing feats of mental exertion. One of his specialities was to play 12 games of chess, six games of draughts and a hand of duplicate Whist simultaneously. He would also memorise a series of 30 incredibly obscure words, then write them out and repeat them verbally in sequence, first forwards and then backwards. The list included words such as "*antiphlogistine*", "*staphylococcus*" and "*salmagundi*". Many congratulations to any readers of *The BCM* who know what these words mean without needing to google them!

After St Petersburg, Lasker continued to record a sensational series of firsts: in Nuremberg that same year, in London 1899 and Paris 1900. Perhaps he now found chess too simple and withdrew temporarily from active play to the study of mathematics and philosophy, but in 1908 he returned to the fray, defending his World Title against in turn Marshall, Tarrasch, Janowski and Schlechter, a string of formidable opponents. His last great tournament win as champion came when he returned to St Petersburg in 1914. World War I served to undermine Lasker's financial resources and his health, and in 1921 he lost the title to the young Cuban star Capablanca in a match held in Havana. Sadly, Lasker failed to win a single game in this, his last championship appearance.

Nevertheless, he continued to best his younger rivals in tournament play, including taking first prize at New York in 1924 ahead of both Capablanca and the Russian, Alekhine. It was here he demonstrated that in certain circumstances a lone knight can draw against the opponent's rook and pawn, an amazingly complex discovery.

The advent of the Nazis in Germany forced Lasker, a Jew by birth, into exile, and he travelled the tournament circuit once again in order to make a living. His results were still outstanding. He died in New York in 1941.

So, the scene is set. A corpus of Jewish masters had established a significant presence in the global halls of chess fame. Meanwhile, the greater ease and safety of transatlantic travel, combined with the peripatetic, cosmopolitan inclinations of the Central European Jewish giants of the game, led naturally to the perception of the entire world as their natural arena, thus reinforcing the novel concept of a championship in chess, which embraced the entire planet. There was, however, to be a backlash: Armageddon.

Chess Grandmaster and author, Jacques Mieses, on arriving in England during the 1930s, as a refugee from Nazi Germany, was greeted with the sentence, are you Mister Mises? To which he shot back: 'Nein, ich bin Meister Meeses!' Mieses had sensibly fled from a regime which had just cancelled his name as an author, and was on the point of cancelling him, period.

Cancel Culture is nothing new. The Pharaoh Rameses II famously erased the ceremonial cartouches of less favoured predecessors, in order to replace them with his own. The Roman Senate obliterated the traces of bad emperors, such as Caligula and Nero, with the merciless phrase *Damnatio Memoriae*; the Spanish Conquistadors destroyed the literature of pre-Hispanic Aztec and Incan indigenous tribes, while the Inquisition was proceeding with much the same work, at much the same time, with its Index of banned European writing.

Bova is a small village situated on a high peak in Italy. Amazingly, the local language is not Italian, but Greek, in fact ancient Classical Greek, not even the Greek now spoken in Athens. This can be explained by the surprising survival of Greek culture via the establishment in Italy of Greek colonies, from the days of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. An inhabitant of Bova, when quizzed about this rare linguistic longevity, replied: when you lose a language, it's like somebody dying. To paraphrase Roger Scruton, and with a nod to George Orwell's 1984, as the Communists and Nazis realised, to control language is to control not just thought, but also the possibilities of thought. The common stream to emerge from these truths about the suppression of truth, is that words, and the obliteration of words, evolve into actions, even though the initial verbal transactions might at first seem harmless enough.

I have dwelt at length on the efflorescence of Jewish chess masters from the second half of the 19th century and well into the 20th. Famous names abound, imbued with the rich cultural heritage of the Central European Jewish environment, names such as: Johannes Zukertort, Wilhelm Steinitz, Emanuel Lasker, Siegbert Tarrasch, Jacques Mieses, Akiba Rubinstein, Aron Nimzowitsch and Rudolf Spielmann. The last six of these continued to play chess actively well into the 1930s, a time when the German language, not to mention German politics, were entering an intense period of flux. For example, foreign words, so called *Fremdwörter*, were phased out. Thus Telefon was replaced by *Fernsprecher*, and the easily comprehensible *Kandidatenturnier*, or qualification tournament, gave way to the clumsy, if purely Teutonic, *Anwärtertreffen*.

As words began to translate into actions, German chess writer and official, Max Blümich, was entrusted with revising the celebrated chess primer, *Kleines Lehrbuch des Schachs*. This concise chess manual had been authored by none other than the aforementioned Jacques Mieses, a brilliant, ingenious, but erratic player, but also a most lucid and reliable author, whose writings had nurtured generations of pre-Nazi era German chess enthusiasts.

Irritatingly for the Gauleiters of grammar, spelling and the written word in general, Mieses was Jewish. Blümich's solution was brutal. He simply eliminated the original author's name from the book, and for good measure, in the editions of 1941 and 1943, Blümich went on to cancel the names of such Jewish chess Titans as Dr Siegbert Tarrasch, the famed Praeceptor Germaniae, and even eliminated that of Dr Emanuel Lasker himself, the world record holding world chess champion from 1894-1921.

Mieses himself was fortunate. For many years a resident of Leipzig, Mieses escaped to England, where he continued to create the ingenious tactical masterpieces which had made his name on the battlefields of European chess.

And what of his colleagues? Lasker too spotted the danger and also fled, first to Moscow, then to New York, where he survived for a while in genteel poverty, before passing at the age of seventy-two. Nimzowitsch, having had the courage to forcibly eject a uniformed SS officer from the press room of the 1934 world championship, died in the Hareskov Sanatorium, Copenhagen, 1935, most probably of cancer.

Then there is the wretched story of the mighty Akiba Rubinstein. Rubinstein had once trained to become a Rabbi in the Orthodox Jewish faith, but succumbed instead to the lure of chess, emerging as victor of numerous elite tournaments and vanquisher also of Capablanca, Alekhine and Lasker himself, all in classic masterpieces of the art of chess. As the 1930s dawned, Rubinstein's once magisterial mind began to cloud. He withdrew from chess to a care home, where he silently and patiently awaited the arrival of the Gestapo.

When the Myrmidons of the Third Reich did finally appear, they found a once genius chess master descended into a vacant victim of a syndrome first described by Alexander Pope, a man lost in the eternal sunshine of the spotless mind. Whether impelled by compassion, or confronted with the utter pointlessness of dragging off a prisoner, whose mind was no longer capable of comprehending his fate, the Geheime Staatspolizei retreated, leaving their intended sacrifice in peace, a peace which endured until 1961, when Rubinstein passed tranquilly at the aged of eighty.

The moral of the story is clear. Cancel culture may start with single words, but then it spreads to literature, culture, opinions and finally living targets. If tolerance cannot be maintained for opposing or simply inconvenient points of view, then the life of the intellect becomes untenable. In the 1930s chess literature became the weathervane, the canary in the mine, indicating the stirrings of one such lethal intolerance to come, an intolerance, which, from a frightening multiplicity of instances, we are now in grave peril of repeating. Black and White are not yet controversial terms in chess, but the direction of discourse on climate change, gender, whose lives matter, museums, memorials, statues, and even the mentions of tea, cotton and sugar in the oeuvre of Jane Austen threaten to become ever more toxically authoritarian. Grandmaster Jacques Mieses, the cancelled author of his own book, would have recognised the warning signs.

Most poignant of all, perhaps, that chessboard *chevalier*, *sans peur et sans reproche*, Rudolf Spielmann, fled to Sweden to avoid the concentration camps. There in 1942 he perished, friendless and depressed, in a Stockholm garret. A tragic end for a valiant warrior of the mind who had numbered Capablanca, Alekhine and Euwe amongst his victims — between them, the three World Champions who held the World Title from 1921 to 1946. In fact, Spielmann was one of very few grandmasters to have an even score against Capablanca, almost unbeatable in his prime.

A new book details Spielmann's magnificent career and proves a worthy companion volume to his own masterpiece, *The Art of Sacrifice in Chess*. *A Chess Biography of Rudolf Spielmann* by Russian International Master Grigory Bogdanovich, also author of biographies of Bogoljubow and Winawer in the outstanding Elk and Ruby series, is a must for any chess aficionado. Amazing games, all deeply annotated.

If I have any criticism it is that the book lacks match and tournament tables of Spielmann's greatest triumphs, such as his 1932 match victory against two times world title challenger Bogoljubow and his shattering first prize at Semmering 1926, ahead of every star in the prevailing chess firmament, apart from the somewhat elusive champions, Lasker and Capablanca. Also, beware an index failure (game 191) which accidentally reverses the colours of Spielmann's classic defeat of Capablanca at Carlsbad 1929.

As I point out above, Cancel culture may start with single words, but then it spreads virally to encompass literature, opinions, society in general and finally living targets. If tolerance cannot be maintained for opposing or simply inconvenient points of view, then reasoned debate and the life of the intellect become untenable. "*Reason requires that*

a diverse range of ideas be expressed and debated openly, including ones that some people find unfamiliar or uncomfortable. To demonize a writer rather than address the writer's arguments is a confession that one has no rational response to them." This sentiment was from the incisive minds of Steven Pinker and Rebecca Goldstein, who were protesting against the American Humanist Association's recent cancellation of Richard Dawkins' Humanist of the Year Award from 1996.

JK Rowling, the world-famous author of the *Harry Potter* books and films, has recently been written out of the Potter exhibit at the Seattle Museum of Pop Culture, which ostensibly celebrates her works. The museum's project manager Chris Moore, a self-identifying trans person, expressed their disapproval of Rowling's views in an extended blog 'explaining' the Museum's decision.

Rowling has become well-known for her views that non-biological females should be excluded from female physical sport. The 18th century French genius Voltaire, once said that he might disagree with an opinion, but would fight to the death for the right for it to be expressed! A wonderful sentiment. As the 1930s progressed, chess, both tournaments and literature, together became an early weathervane, a speluncular caged bird in the mineshafts, indicating the presence of an invisible poisonous gas, stirrings of a lethal intolerance to come —an intolerance which, from a frightening multiplicity of instances, we are now in serious danger of repeating. Grandmaster Rudolf Spielmann, the chess genius cancelled and starved through Nazi prejudice, whose best game I celebrate this month, would doubtless, like Mieses, have recognised the warning signs.

I close with a heart-rending letter he wrote to a supportive friend, while seeking refuge in Sweden. The friend reacted positively, but on his friend's passing, Spielmann ran out of road.

"*What's sad is that I was not only expelled from Austria, my homeland, but also lost the opportunity to move freely. Almost all countries that have a chess life in them have closed their borders to emigrants and refugees. I can't enter any of them now with my worthless Austrian passport.*

For six months now, I have been sharing suffering with people who have lost their home through no fault of their own and are wandering without receiving absolutely any financial assistance. The only thing that keeps me in this world is the hope that I will eventually find some kind of chess-related job. Would you be able to find something like this for me in Stockholm of somewhere else in Sweden? Not necessarily a permanent job. I could spend some time in Sweden to restore my spirit and my chess abilities and to gain strength for future activities. Perhaps later I will be able to emigrate to England or America. I beg you not to leave me in trouble. I will agree to any conditions, just to be busy with something. The main thing for me is to get out of Hell in the centre of Europe. Anti-Semitism is becoming increasingly noticeable in Prague, which deprives me of any means of livelihood. Our 30-year acquaintance gives me the opportunity to hope that I will get an answer from you, so that I can learn what fate awaits me…"

Spielmann did indeed manage to flee to Sweden with the help of his friend. He hoped to reach England or the USA and eked out money for the overseas passage, by playing exhibition matches, writing chess columns and an autobiography.

However, pro-Nazi members of the Swedish Chess Federation disliked Spielmann because he was Jewish. *Memories of a Chess Master* was repeatedly delayed. Despairing of its publication, the impoverished Spielmann became withdrawn and depressed.

In August 1942, he locked himself in his Stockholm garret and did not emerge

for a week. On August 20, neighbours summoned police to check on him. They entered and found Spielmann dead. The official cause of death was ischemic heart disease, but it is generally accepted that he had followed established chessboard practice in a hopeless position and resigned, by intentionally starving himself to death.

The Swedish epitaph on his tombstone reads: "*Rastlösflykting, hårt slagen av ödet"* ("A fugitive without rest, struck hard by fate")

The following masterpiece is not only testament to the genius brought to bear on the 64 squares by our protagonists, Akiba Rubinstein and Rudolph Spielmann, but is further enhanced by the extraordinary annotations by the tournament director and another hero of our expedition, Jacques Mieses, with Savielly Tartakower.

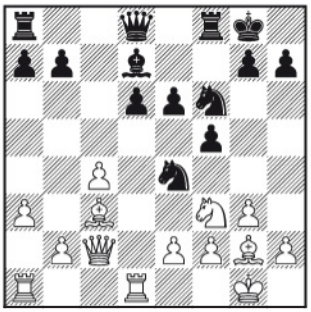
Akiba **Rubinstein** - Rudolf **Spielmann**

San Sebastian, ESP (10), 02.03.1912

Dutch Defence: Rubinstein Variation

1.d4 Notes by Jacques Mieses and Dr. Savielly Tartakower.

1...e6 2.c4 f5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♗d2 ♘f6 5.g3 0-0 6.♗g2 d6 7.a3 ♗xc3 8.♗xc3 ♘bd7 9.♕c2 c5 10.dxc5 ♘xc5 11.♘f3 ♘ce4 12.0-0 ♗d7 13.♖fd1?

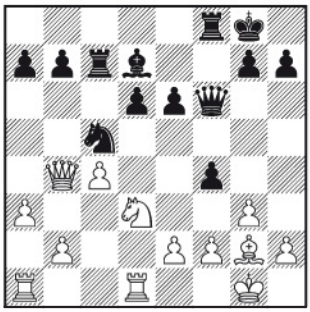


Mieses: White should play 14.Rad1. As the game shows, the f2-pawn must be protected.

13...♖c8 14.♗xf6 ♕xf6 15.♕b3 ♖c7 16.♘e1?! Mieses: Better was 16.♘d4. *** Tartakower: If 16.♘d4, then, as in the text, 16...♘c5 17.♕b4 f4, etc. If 16.e3 e5.

16...♘c5 17.♕b4 f4!

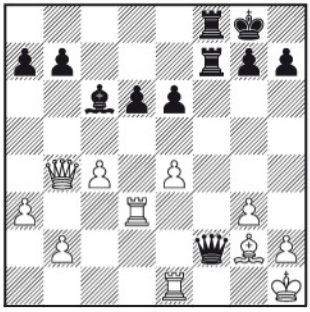
18.♘d3



Tartakower: If 18.♖xd6 fxg3 19.fxg3 ♕f2+ 20.♔h1 ♕xe2 21.h3 (21.♖d2 ♖f1+ followed by mate) 21...♘e4 and wins.

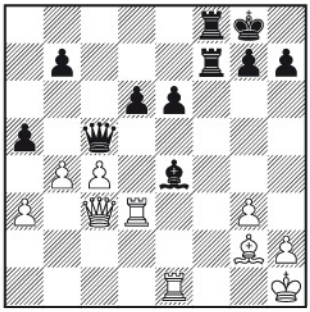
18...fxg3 19.fxg3 ♘xd3 20.♖xd3 ♕f2+ 21.♔h1 ♗c6 !

22.e4 ♖cf7 23.♖e1



Tartakower: If 23.♖xd6 ♕e2 24.♕e1 (still parrying the triple threat ...♖f1+ or ...♗xe4 or ...♖f2) 24...♕xb2 25.♖xe6 ♖f2, etc.

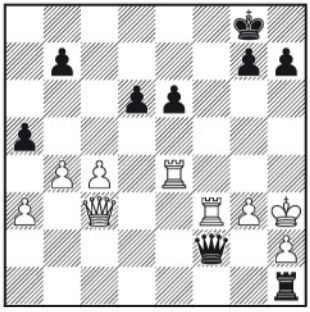
23...a5! **24.♕c3 ♕c5 25.b4 ♗xe4!**



Mieses: Brilliant and correct!

26.♖xe4 Mieses: The queen cannot be captured because of mate in two moves. After 26.♗xe4 the following winning continuation for Black is shown: 26...♖f1+ 27.♖xf1 ♖xf1+ 28.♔g2 ♖g1+! 29.♔f3 ♕h5+ 30.♔e3 ♕xh2, etc. But, as pointed out in "Deutsche Schachblaetter", playing 26.♖f3! White has the opportunity for strong resistance with big drawing chances; for example: 26...♖xf3 27.♕xf3! ♖xf3 28.bxc5, or 26....♕c6 27.b5! ♖xf3 28.♕xf3 ♗xf3 29.bxc6 ♗xc6 30.♗xc6 bxc6 31.♖xe6, etc.

26...♖f1+ 27.♗xf1 ♖xf1+ 28.♔g2 ♕f2+ 29.♔h3 ♖h1 30.♖f3!

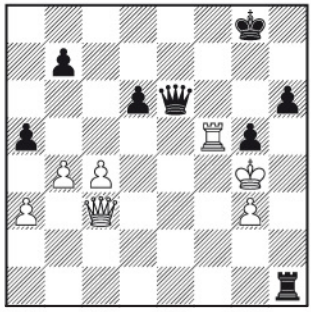


Tartakower: If 30.♖f4 ♕xh2+ 31.♔g4 ♕h5+ mate, and if 30.♖xe6 ♕xh2+ 31.♔g4 ♕h3+, followed by 32...♕xe6.

30...♕xh2+ 31.♔g4 ♕h5+ 32.♔f4 ♕h6+ 33.♔g4 g5! Tartakower: A splendid point, establishing a mating net at one stroke.

34.♖xe6 Tartakower: If 34.♖f8+ ♔xf8 35.♔f3 axb4 36.axb4 ♔f7 with 37...♕f6 to follow.

34...♕xe6+ 35.♖f5 h6



Mieses: Enough to win, but here was also a quicker solution: 35...♕e4+ 36.♔xg5 h6+ 37.♔f6 (37.♔g6 ♕e8+) 37...♖e1! 38.♔g6 ♕g4+.

36.♕d3 ♔g7 37.♔f3 ♖f1+ !

38.♕xf1 ♕xf5+ 39.♔g2 ♕xf1+ 40.♔xf1 axb4 41.axb4 ♔f6 42.♔f2 h5

0-1

BCM columnist Pete Tamburro named Chess Journalist of the Year

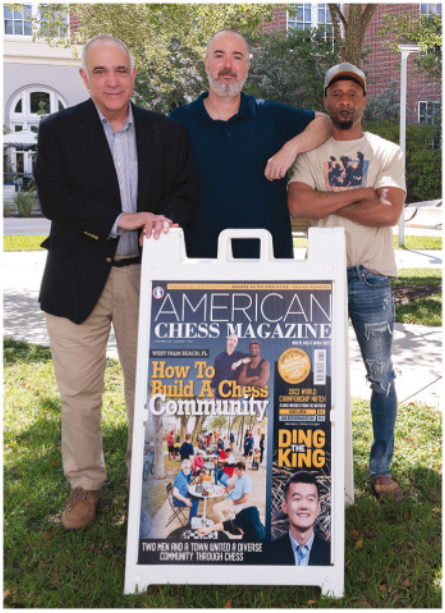
Our monthly Openings for Amateurs columnist, Pete Tamburro, was named Chess Journalist of the Year at the annual meeting of the Chess Journalists Association at the U.S. Open Championship in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

His nominator, Josip Asik, Editor-in-Chief of American Chess Magazine, noted in the nomination: "He has not lost his love nor his devotion to chess journalism even after 50 years of doing it. What is unique this year is that his record in this past year shows not only achievement but a diversity in all aspects of chess journalism: openings columnist, puzzle columnist, book producer, award winner, Facebook page editor, chess research helper to fellow journalists and even taping to be interviewed for a documentary, interviewer for our magazine, historical writer, editorialist, humorist, game annotator, public relations person to promote local community chess culture and continually finding young stars of chess to bring them into the field of chess journalism. Finally, his contributions to the production of our magazine are critically important. You would be hard-pressed to find someone with this variety of accomplishments in a single year and his youthful energy."

We wholeheartedly agree with Josip's tribute to Pete who for many years has been one of BCM's stalwart writers.

Pete's talents are by no means limited to chess. Alongside his three chess books he has written a book on history, written speeches for political candidates, and has been listed in Who's Who in America for over 20 years.

We were also delighted to hear that American Chess Magazine, our US partner, won the awards for the Best Chess Magazine Cover and for the Best Overall Magazine in Print, ahead of the excellent Chess Life.



Pete Tamburro, Josh Koehler and Franklin Rivers; Photo: Gail V. Haines

Since its launch in 2016 ACM has stood shoulder to shoulder with the very best chess publications in the world, with outstanding content and striking design and presentation.

The awards for Pete and ACM lift the spirits, and demonstrate that quality and talent will always shine through. In a world where print is struggling under pressure from escalating costs and the technology enabled supply boom, and where standards of journalism in many fields seem to be in decline, it's simply great that talented writers and creators like Pete Tamburro and the American Chess Magazine team achieve high recognition from their peers.

From BCM we offer Pete and ACM our warmest congratulations, and we feel sure that the whole chess community is grateful for their significant contributions to our chess heritage. Hats off and high to them both, and may they continue to write, publish and prosper!

Editor

HOW INTUITION WORKS IN CHESS



By GM Aleksandar Colovic; www.alexcolovic.com

It is widely believed that strong chess players have good intuition. This is mostly true, but not always

I know of strong players who don't trust their intuition at all, so all they do is calculate as much as they can, trying to arrive at the decision in a mathematical way. Since this is not possible, they are more or less successful, depending on the quality of their calculation.

Nevertheless, the majority of strong players trust their intuitions. It makes sense to do so: after all, this intuition is a result of decades of work, thus accumulating patterns and methods.

While the above is logical and understandable, I have been surprised to discover that even weaker players, for example with a rating around 1800, also mostly have good intuition. In their case, however, the tendency not to trust it is more pronounced, simply because of lack of confidence.

How intuition helps in a game of chess is not a secret. The description that follows is not just what I do during a game, but it is also the same for players like Michael Adams and Magnus Carlsen, who have described the process in more or less the same way.

When the player sees the position in front of them, a move or idea would instantly flash before their eyes. The intuition would immediately suggest something, based on prior knowledge or experience. The player usually *feels* the position well; this is also part of intuition, so the main task is to follow this feeling.

When a move comes forward not as result of sheer calculation, but rather as result of a feeling, this move should be considered and calculated. This is the process -intuition shows the way; calculation makes sure that it is the correct one.

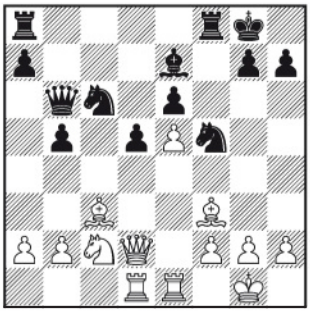
This is the reason why intuitive players often play fast - they don't waste time considering many candidate moves: they trust their intuition, calculate the consequences of the intuitive move and, if everything is *OK*, they play it. A very simple game plan!

Sometimes the intuition works in relation to the opponent. During a game there is an invisible connection between the players, so attuning to the opponent's thoughts and feelings is a very important skill to have.

To give you an example of this I will use one of my games.

Colovic - Wurzel

Bundesliga, 2023



Black has obtained very good play after I played in a lazy way after the opening. White's bishop pair is not doing much and all Black's pieces are well placed. Here I spent a lot of time trying to find something constructive, but this wasn't easy as all my pieces are centralised, and yet to improve them doesn't seem possible. Eventually I played the move:

18.b4 The move stops ...♗c5 ideas, but perhaps more importantly, I saw the trick that happened in the game and had a strong feeling that he would fall for it. Additionally, he was seriously running low on time, with around 5 minutes left to reach move 40. The alternatives I looked at weren't very appealing; for example:

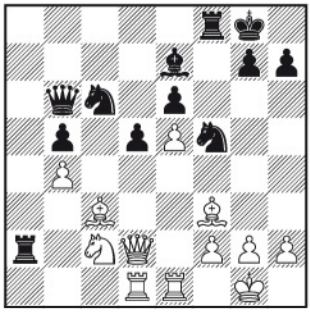
18.♘b4 ♘xb4 19.♗xb4 ♗xb4 20.♕xb4 ♖ac8 looked comfortable for Black;

18.b3 b4 19.♗b2 ♖ad8 with ideas like ...♗c5, ...d4 and ...♘h4 didn't look great for me;

18.a3 a5 threatens ...b4.

18...a5 Being low on time, he played the following moves quickly, something I was hoping for.

19.a3 axb4 20.axb4 ♖a2??



And he falls into the trap, just as I had hoped and felt!

20...♖a4 was better. White is under pressure here.

A) 21.♖e2?! ♖d8 threatens ...d4;

B) I intended 21.♖b1?! d4! 22.♗xc6 *(22.♗a1 ♘xb4! 23.♘xb4 ♕a5 is better for Black.)* 22...dxc3 23.♕d7 and we looked at this in the post-mortem, but it's bad for White after 23...♖a6! when the queen is trapped after 24.♗e4 ♖d8;

C) 21.♗g4! is White's best. 21...♔h8 *(21...d4?! now doesn't work in view of 22.♘xd4 ♘cxd4 23.♗xd4 ♕xd4 24.♕xd4 ♘xd4 25.♖xd4 ♗xb4 26.♗xe6+ when White emerges a pawn up.)* 22.g3 is unclear, when neither side can make much progress.

21.♗xd5! This is the trick I saw when thinking over my 18th move.

21...♖xc2 And here, upon seeing that I can take on e6 with check, he resigned. He must have been shocked, as the game is not over in spite of Black's blunder.

Things aren't entirely clear, as he could have continued after 21...♖xc2 22.♗xe6+ ♔h8 23.♕xc2 ♘cd4! 24.♗xd4 ♘xd4 when Black gets most of the material back. 25.♖xd4 ♕xd4 26.g3 ♗xb4 and though White should win, the game would go on after 27.♖e4 ♕c5 28.♖e2 and so on.

1-0

It is important to note that this type of "feeling for one's opponent" shouldn't be abused. It is not advisable to play bad moves that set up traps just because you have "felt" the opponent would fall in them. Sometimes they won't. Sometimes the intuition is wrong. In the game above I managed to win because I played a move that was in accordance with the demands of the position, with the trap being the welcome bonus. The demands of the position always come first.

Intuition is an inseparable part of the player's thinking and it manifests itself both on the board, suggesting moves and ideas, and as a psychological tool, allowing the player to tune in to the opponent's thoughts and feelings. It should be used whenever possible, but don't forget that the more chess work you do, the better intuition you will have.

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Chess in the Year of the King, by Ray Keene

(Harding Simpole, 2023)

As my review of Raymond Keene's admirable 'Fifty Shades of Ray' (quoted at the back of this new book) stated in its conclusion:

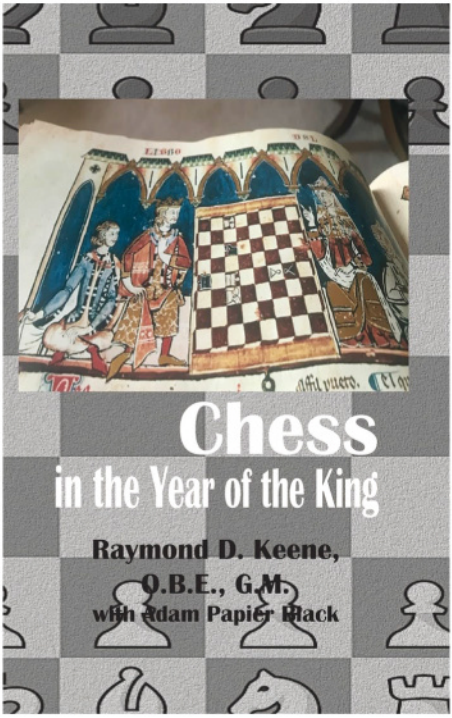
'Provocative, challenging, colourful, spicy, here is a menu of delights: a meze table or tapas board where piquant flavours jostle for attention. It even looks as good as it tastes, with elegant chess diagrams a most pleasing feature. You will not necessarily like or agree with anything, but you will leave the board with your mind buzzing with the sheer verve and ebullience of this vivid evocation of the game of life.'

If this was a fair summary of that book, it is certainly true – *a fortiori* – of its successor, which will have been eagerly awaited by the many who enjoy Ray's inimitable and [grand]masterly – not to say apparently effortless – capacity to move between so many cultural and intellectual worlds. Not only that, but to incorporate so many absorbing chess games, annotated skilfully and illustrated beautifully, means that those whose principal love is the 'royal' game will share the feast.

The visual presentation of the book is, indeed, one of its greatest joys. Readers can enjoy delightful portraits of characters as diverse as Judit Polgar (among a galaxy of great players) and the late Tony Buzan (co-founder of the Mind Sports Olympiad and author of many books exploring mental creativity and intelligence), as well as sumptuous illustrations including such delights as historic maps, panels from *The Garden of Earthly Delights* and Dürer woodcuts. There is also an unmissable picture of Moorish women playing chess, from the extraordinarily wonderful *Libro de Los Juegos* (Toledo, 1283). Chess playing should surely always be accompanied by a skilled lute-player!

It is hard to pick favourite articles from such a cornucopia – the contents of which are richly varied and fascinating, although not all, naturally, will appeal equally to all readers. As one who shares strongly, in particular, Ray's love of poetry, the classical world and food and wine, I found my eye irresistibly drawn to '2. Feasting with Grandmasters', with its mouth- and eye-watering menus and delicious anecdotes, and to '23. Norse Code', which included the bonus of a highly-digestible miniature game by 'the Master Birdman'. But selecting just two examples would be invidious, if it were taken to imply that the others (41 in all) are of any less interest and quality: there is, for example, great generosity of spirit in the pieces (nos.12 and 18) on the – equally *sui generis* – Michael Basman and the wonderfully iconic Howard Staunton. I could go on. Is there an occasional tendency to narcissism?

Well, some might feel it to be so, and surely a writer and player of such radiant accomplishments has less need than we mere mortals of self-aggrandisement.



An unusual feature of the book is the contribution of a 'co-writer', Adam Papier Black, who at various points writes tailpieces, called 'postscript: reviews', at the end of the Keene articles. This, to my mind, works unevenly, especially in book format, although there are some deft touches, especially on Bobby Fischer. I do, however, wonder whether on occasion it might have been preferable to let each article speak for itself eloquently (as they all do). But that is a very minor quibble, as is my predictable wish that proof-reading had been more consistently reliable – a quibble which will not surprise those who know that your reviewer is BCM's own sub-editor and something of a proof-reading fanatic. Many book reviews record instances of typos and other errors: to do so is, to my mind, somewhat self-seeking and distracting. But some mistakes there certainly are, alas. Perhaps we should reflect with humility that lovers of the big picture are at times notoriously indifferent to minutiae, and that lovers of minutiae often miss the big picture.

This review, however, should emphatically not end with minor carping and cavilling. This book is a real treasure-house, in so many ways. To return to Shakespeare and Roman history, two of Keene's pet themes, it was said of Julius Caesar that 'he doth bestride this narrow world like a Colossus'. Raymond Keene bestrides not one but many interlinked worlds. For his verve, eclecticism, polymathy, stylistic effervescence and sheer *joie de vivre,* this collection is a dazzling kaleidoscope calling to mind Damien Hirst's mind-blowing images in the visual cosmos.

And had the book been compiled by his many admirers it would surely merit the term *festschrift* – as a scholar of German literature and language I know Ray would enjoy that term.

I would say in conclusion that, as a richly-stacked treasure trove, this is a work to be sampled repeatedly, offering endless joy and enlightening jewels.

David Taylor

Openings
for Amateurs

THE CAPABLANCA APPROACH

By Pete Tamburro; ptamburro@aol.com



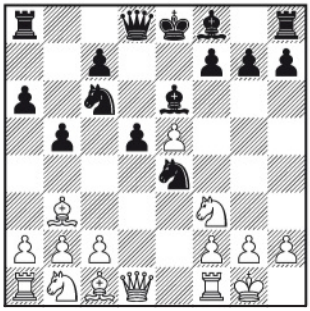
In 1921, Jose Capablanca wrote a classic work, Chess Fundamentals. It was not a thick work. Even Capa couldn't explain everything in one book. He did, however, explain some key concepts an average reader could take away from the examples given and apply in their play. One of the lessons he spent several pages on was his explanation of how to take advantage of a backward pawn and how to convert it to a win. He used the Open Defence to the Ruy Lopez and quoted an 'anonymous' non-tournament game he played. I went digging for it and found it.

We'll look at the game and the related example he provided. It's an excellent example of his approach to evaluating a position and mapping out a plan.

J. Raul Capablanca - Salwe plus Allies

Lodz Lodz, 1913

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♗b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♗e6



Here we are, at White's decision point. We covered 9.♕e2. Capa is playing what is still the most popular move. It makes sense in that it follows the closed variation idea of providing a spot for the bishop at c2. It also prepares support for White to play a knight to d4 for a hopeful exchange and a resulting pawn pressure on c5 to deter c5. A pawn exchange would then make the d5 pawn isolated.

9.c3 ♗e7 The Dilworth Attack, popularized by the English player Vernon Dilworth, is a very aggressive and dangerous line. Both sides have to memorise a great deal of theory and probably had better get some engine help. 9...♗c5 10.♘bd2 0-0 11.♗c2 ♘xf2 12.♖xf2 f6 13.exf6 ♗xf2+ 14.♔xf2

♕xf6 15.♔g1 ♖ae8 16.♘f1 ♘e5 and, along with possible earlier departures is likely to go in all sorts of directions from this point.

10.♘bd2 In Chess Fundamentals, Capa gives this game through move 13 and then adds two of his own and starts talking about how it was similar to a game he had played. 10.♖e1 ♘c5 11.♗c2 ♗g4 12.♘bd2 0-0 13.♘b3 ♘e6 (Janowski-Lasker, Paris, 1912) 14.♕d3 g6#.

At this point, he visualises how the game in general should proceed from here. He sees that he has to exchange the knights, most likely using the d4 square to bring that about, and then exchanging the bishops to bring about a heavy piece ending with concentrated pressure along the c-file on that poor c7 pawn. Our game shows how he carries that idea out.

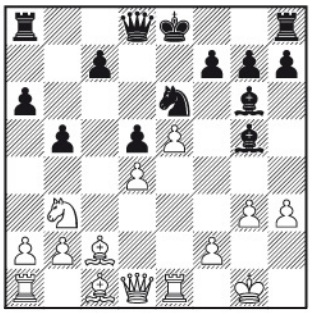
10...♘c5 Black doesn't want to exchange because after 10...♘xd2 White can cleverly play 11.♕xd2! and after 11...0-0 White triples on d5 with 12.♖d1 ♘a5 13.♗xd5.

11.♗c2 ♗g4 Carlsen and Mamedyarov favour 11...d4 12.♘b3 d3 13.♗b1 ♘xb3 14.axb3 ♗f5 but Caruana has beaten Mamedyarov twice by surrounding the pawn with 15.♗e3.

12.h3 A multi-purpose move: encourage the exchange, drive the bishop back for a possible g4 at some point and provide a *luft* for the king without really losing a tempo.

12...♗h5 13.♖e1 ♗g6 14.♘d4 ♘xd4 15.cxd4 ♘e6 16.♘b3 ♗g5 A general rule is that if Black gets c5 in, he's got a good chance to free his game. Does that work here since White can't prevent it? 16...c5 17.dxc5 d4 18.♗d3 0-0 19.f4 ♗xd3 20.♕xd3 ♘xc5 21.♘xc5 ♗xc5 22.f5 ♗b6 23.♗f4± and White has some prospects against the d4 pawn and even an advance of his two pawn front.

17.g3!



Sure! He virtually forces the exchange of the bishops because of the f4-f5 threat. That will accomplish 3/4 of his minor piece exchange plan.

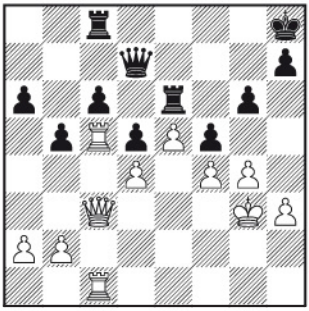
17...♗xc1 18.♖xc1 0-0 19.f4 ♗xc2 20.♖xc2 g6 21.♘c5 Not only about to get that last minor piece exchange, but the rook will become the first step in the doubling and even tripling on the file.

21...♖e8 22.♕d3 ♘xc5 Why take now? Black can see g4 and f5 coming, so he might as well exchange now rather than deal with the knight on e6 when f5 is played.

23.♖xc5 ♕d7 24.g4 c6 25.♖ec1 ♖ac8 26.♕c3 ♖e6 This is the position Capa envisioned. He writes that any first-class master would win this. Why? Here are the factors in White's favour: 1.The space advantage. 2.The kingside pawn threat 3.The threat on the c6 pawn 4.The easy White mobility behind the lines. Remember the Cayford game and Alexander the Great? Interior lines. This allows White to move back and forth to create awkward threats while Black's pieces, restricted in their movement, will find it difficult to respond to threats on both sides.

27.♔h2 ♔h8 28.♕a3 ♕b7 29.♕g3 It is curious why Capa didn't play the decisive 29.f5 gxf5 30.gxf5 ♖ee8 *(30...♖h6 31.♖5c2)* 31.f6.

29...f5 30.♕f3 ♕d7 31.♔g3 ♖f8 32.♕a3 ♖a8 33.♕c3 ♖c8



I got the feeling Capa realizes he missed an opportunity on move 29 and is now fishing for a new plan. He comes up with one based on his ability to reposition his queen, rook - and king! Black has to just sit there and wait.

34.♕c2 ♔g8 35.♔f3 Naturally not 35.gxf5 gxf5 36.♕xf5 ♖g6+.

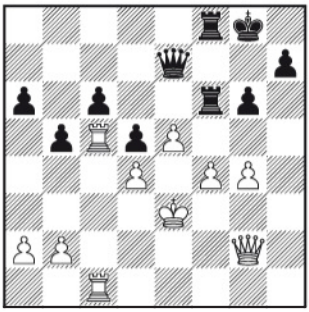
35...fxg4+ 36.hxg4 ♕f7 37.♔e3 ♖f8 Black makes a desperate display easily met.

38.♖f1 ♕d7 Whereas the Black queen has to move back, the White queen on c2 is operating on both wings with real threats at the same time.

39.♕g2 A nasty indirect threat on the king.

39...♕e7 40.♖fc1 White keeps going back to remind Black about the c6 pawn.

40...♖ef6



41.♖f1 Since it was an informal game, it's possible Capa wasn't working read hard. Better was 41.♖xc6 ♖xf4 42.♕xd5+ ♔h8 43.e6 ♕f6 44.♕e5 ♕xe5+ 45.dxe5 ♖c4 *(45...♖f3+ 46.♔d4 ♖8f4+ 47.♔c5+-)* 46.♖1xc4 bxc4 47.g5 ♔g8 48.♖xc4 ♖e8 49.♔e4 ♖xe6 50.♔d5+-.

41...♔h8 42.♕c2 ♕e8 43.♕h2 ♕e7 44.♖f3 ♖e6 45.♔f2 a5 46.f5 Finally! Black should resign here and maybe even before move 40.

46...gxf5 47.gxf5 ♕g5 This is disrespectful and useless. Get an autograph and a camera shot and go home.

48.♕f4 ♖xf5 49.♕xf5 ♕d2+ 50.♔f1 ♖g6 51.♕f8+ ♖g8 52.♕f6+ ♖g7 53.♖g3 The final blow. Black resigns.

1-0

Ignore the wasted time in the game. Remember the plan of restraining c5, exchanging minor pieces, working on the backward pawn and using your advantage in mobility to make threats on both sides of the board.

Remember the early caution in all these Ruy Lopez games presented these last few months. They were games to whet your appetite and to familiarise yourself with some key concepts. If the games did that, then go buy one or two of the books mentioned and start some serious study!

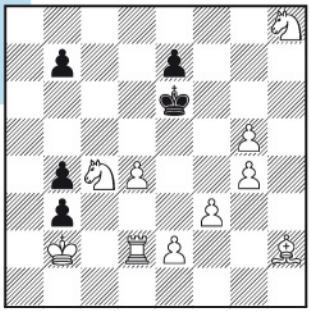


PROBLEM WORLD

by Christopher Jones
cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk
Grandmaster of Chess Composition

Solutions are given on page 638

1

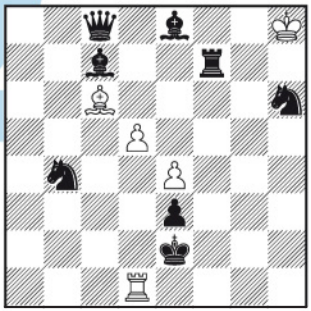


Steven B. Dowd and Luis Echemendia (USA / Cuba)

Mate in 4

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2

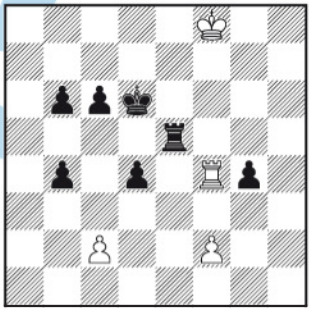


Christopher Jones (Bristol)

Helpmate in 3 - 2 solutions

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3

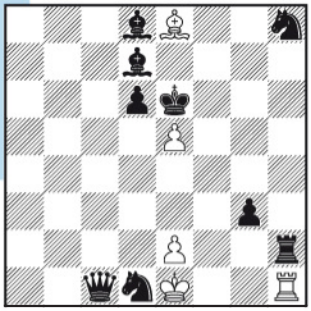


Stanislav Hudak (Slovakia)

Helpmate in 3 - 3 solutions

ORIGINAL

4



Ljubomir Ugren (Slovenia))

Helpmate in 3 - 5 solutions

ORIGINAL

QUOTES AND QUERIES

REZSO CHAROUSEK

By Alan Smith

6238 Eagle-eyed readers will spot that in past columns I have referred to Rudolf Charousek. I now prefer Rezso Charousek, which was his byline when conducting the chess column of *Pesti Hirlap*. Those columns for 1899 are available at www.chessarch.com

6239 There have been several collections of Charousek's games. Vlastimil Fiala's collection in *Quarterly for Chess History* volume 1 contains games and positions as well as cross tables. He gives eight games and a position played against Jakab Wollner. Here are four more. Wollner was not in Charousek's class, but the games are still instructive.

Rezso **Charousek** - Jakab Wollner

Kaschau, 1892

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♗c4 ♗e7 4.♘f3 ♗h4+ 4...♘f6 is the modern approach.

5.g3 Steinitz preferred 5.♔f1.

5...fxg3 6.0–0 ♘h6 6...gxh2+ 7.♔h1 d5 8.♗xd5 ♘f6 9.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 10.♘xh4 Hoffer.

7.d4 d5 8.♗xd5 c6 8...♗h3 puts up more of a fight, 9.♗xh6 gxh6 10.♗xb7 ♖g8.

9.♗xh6 cxd5 10.♘e5 ♗e6 10...0-0.

11.♕h5 dxe4 11...0-0 was necessary.

12.♘xf7 ♕xd4+ 13.♔g2 g6 14.♕xh4 ♗xf7 15.♗g7! ♕xg7 16.♕xe4+ ♔f8 17.♕xb7

Black is losing a rook without compensation.

1–0

Westminster Budget, 15th January 1904

Wollner – Charousek

Kaschau, 1893

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d3 d6 6.♗e3 ♗b6 7.h3 Hoffer castigated this as 'useless'. In another game between the two Wollner tried 7.♘bd2 but after 7...d5 8.♗b5 0-0 9.♗xc6 bxc6 10.♘xe5 ♕e8 11.d4 ♗a6 Charousek won in 19 moves.

7...d5 8.exd5 ♘xd5 9.♕d2 9.♕e2 intending 10.♘bd2 was Hoffer's preference.

9...0–0 10.0–0 ♔h8 11.♖e1 ♘xe3 12.fxe3 f5 13.♔h1 Hoffer advocated 13.d4, but black is better after 13...f4!

13...♕f6 14.d4 e4 15.♘g1 ♗d7 16.♘a3 ♖ae8 17.♘e2? Hoffer recommended 17.g3 followed by doubling rooks on the f file.

17...g5 18.♖f1 ♕h6 19.♘g1 f4 20.exf4 gxf4 21.♗d5 ♖f5 22.♗xc6 ♗xc6 23.♘c4 e3 24.♕e2 ♖g8 25.♘f3 ♖h5 26.♘ce5 ♗d5 27.c4 ♖xg2?

28.♔xg2? 28.♕xg2! ♖xh3+ 29.♔g1 ♖g3 30.cxd5 ♖xg2+ 31.♔xg2 and white is winning. 29...♗g8 is no better as white has 30.♘g5!

28...♖xh3 29.♖g1 ♖g3+ 30.♔f1 ♕h3+ 31.♔e1 ♗xf3 32.♘xf3 ♖xf3 33.♕g2 ♗a5+ 34.♔d1 ♕xg2 35.♖xg2 ♖f1+.

0–1

Westminster Gazette, 12th October 1901

Wollner – Charousek

Kaschau, 1894

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 exd4 4.♘xd4 ♗c5 5.♗e3 ♕f6 6.c3 ♘ge7 7.♗e2 An insipid move which achieves little.

7...d5 8.f3 White might hang on with 8.♗f3.

8...0–0 9.0–0 ♖d8 10.exd5 ♘xd5 11.♗f2 ♘f4 12.♗c4 ♗h3! 13.gxh3 ♕g6+ 14.♗g3 ♘xd4 15.cxd4 ♖xd4 16.♕b3 ♖d3+ 17.♔h1 ♖xb3 18.♗xb3 ♘e2 19.♗xc7 ♖c8 20.♗e5 ♖e8 21.♗c7 ♕c6 22.♗g3 ♘xg3+ 23.hxg3 ♕c7 24.f4 ♕c6+ 25.♔h2 ♖e2+.

0–1

Evening Standard, 8th April 1902

Charousek – Wollner

Budapest, 1897

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.♘f3 d6 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♗e7 6.♗e2 0–0 7.0–0 ♘c6 7...c5 is better and dates back to Lowenthal - Morphy mg1 London 1858.

8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.f4 9.b3 Leonhardt - Nimzowitsch San Sebastian 1912**.**

9...d5 10.e5 ♗c5+ 11.♔h1 ♘e8 11...♘d7 Hoffer, has the merit of restraining white's pawn charge.

12.f5 f6 13.e6 ♘d6 14.♗d3 ♕e7 14...♕e8 15.g4.

15.♕h5 g6 fxg6 hxg6 17.♕xg6+ ♕g7 18.♗h6 ♕xg6 19.♗xg6 ♗xe6 19...♖d8 20.e7.

20.♗xf8 ♖xf8 21.♗d3 ♔f7 Wollner makes a fight of it, but he does not have enough compensation for the exchange.

22.♖ae1 ♖g8 23.♘e2 ♗e3 24.♘f4 d4 25.♘xe6 ♔xe6 26.g3 c5 27.b3 f5 28.♔g2 ♔e5 29.♖e2 a5 30.a4 ♘e4 31.♗xe4 fxe4 32.h4 ♗h6 33.♔h3 e3 34.g4 ♗f4 35.g5 ♔e4 36.♔g4 ♗e5 37.♖f3 ♗d6 38.♖f6 ♖e8 39.g6 d3 40.cxd3+ ♔xd3 41.♔f3 ♗g3 42.g7 42...♖g8 43.♖xe3+ ♔d4? 44.♖f7 ♗xh4?? 45.♖d7#

1–0

Evening Standard, 4th October 1904

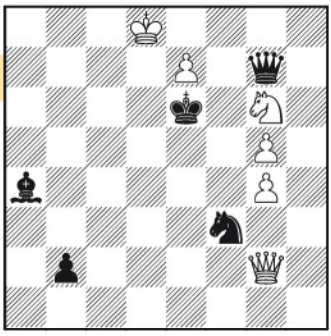
6240 A poser for readers. Emanuel Lasker was the second world chess champion, who won the majority of tournaments he contested. Three players won events, outright, ahead of him and defeated Lasker in the process. Who were they? (Answers below)

Answer to poser Alekhine at Zurich 1934, Capablanca at Moscow 1936, Gyula Makovetz at Graz 1890.

Endgame Studies

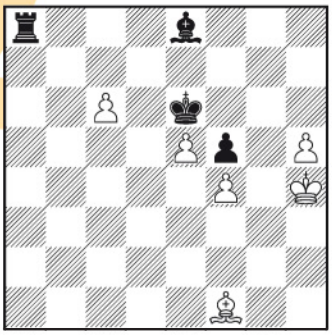
by Ian Watson
ian@irwatson.uk

1



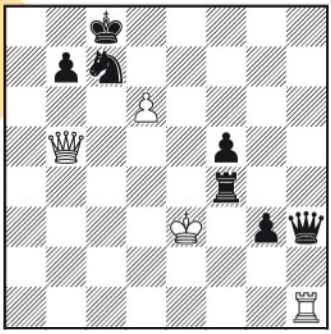
A. Sarychev
USSR Championship 1978
DRAW

2



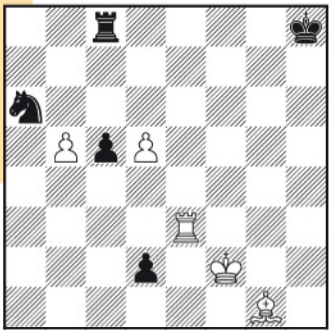
V. Hergert
WCSC 2023
DRAW

3



D. Gurgenidze
The Problemist 1986 (version)
DRAW

4



M. Minski
64 2023
WIN

TEST-SOLVING

Your task this month is to pit your solving skills against the world's best solvers. Our four studies were used in the congress at Batumi, in Georgia, where many of the finest solvers gathered in September for the annual World Chess Solving Championship. The first two studies were used in the WCSC itself and the third and fourth were used in the Open, which serves as a warm-up competition for the WCSC.

The new World Champion is in fact also the old World Champion. Well, maybe not "old" - Danila Pavlov is only twenty years old - but he has already proved himself the greatest-ever chess solver. This was his third consecutive World Champion title. Juniors are rapidly taking over the top rankings in solving: six out of the top ten in the Championship were juniors. Most of those six were Russians solving under the FIDE flag; they are allowed to take part as individuals, but not as a team. The team event is for national teams of three solvers, and it works by using the scores from the individual solving to compile a team score. Russian solvers' scores were not eligible for this, and so the winners were Poland, followed by Lithuania and the United Kingdom. Jonathan Mestel and David Hodge came 14th and 17th in the individual, and Kamila Hryshchenko, our newest solver, came 48th, all three of them gaining Elo points for their performances and moving higher up the international rankings. Their combined scores enabled the team to take the bronze medal, just ahead of Georgia and Germany. Go to wfcc.ch for the full results.

All these studies are difficult, but the most difficult of all was the Hergert. Pavlov scored zero for it, and those five missed points were the only points he dropped in the whole Championship - he scored 85 out of 90 overall. Kacper Piorun of Poland did solve it, did get the full five points, but no-one else got 5/5 and indeed almost everyone else got zero on it. If you get any points on it at all, consider entering some major solving tournies.

As these are such toughies, you might like a few hints. If, however, you want to solve them unaided, then "Look away now."

(Sarychev) You need to get the Black king boxed in by his own pieces, and you can invest your queen to achieve that.

(Hergert) You need to get the h-pawn going, and it needs to be supported by the king, but before either, you need to distract Black's rook.

(Gurgenidze) Keep Black's queen under threat.

(Minski) The clever moves are all about pinning and unpinning on the d-file.

The usual solving procedures apply: You'll need to set up these positions on a board. In solving events, you can use a chess set and you can move the pieces to try and help you solve. You solve against the clock; for these four studies give yourself an average of 30 minutes for each one, so 120 minutes in total. Points are awarded according to how much of the composer's solution you find, with five points available for each study if you find it all. In the answers, I'll show you where the points were awarded. You need to find the composer's main line; you can also write down sidelines if you're not sure what the main line is, but only the main line moves earn points. So, look for the most artistic, elegant line.

The solutions are on page 639.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS (See page 633)

This month's problems

The emphasis this month is on helpmates in three. In three of our problems you are looking for collaborative bwbwbw# sequences of moves. In each of these problems there are a number of such sequences from the diagrammed position. When I started off trying to solve original problems in BCM some forty years ago my eye was taken by originals by the late American composing GM Toma Garai, who believed that three moves was the best length for helpmates - long enough for plenty of interesting play to be packed in, but not so long that the risk of 'cooks' (unintended extra 'solutions') reduced the amount of material that could be put on the board and hence diminished the richness of the play. See what you think after looking at this month's three contrasting examples! But first of all you are asked to solve a good old-fashioned mate in four problem in which one of your main concerns is to avoid stalemating Black.

An old time problem...

…is how Steven describes his joint composition with Luis Echemendia, whom we are very pleased to welcome to the pages of BCM! We'd like to play 1.♘b6, guarding d5 and d7, but that move alas gives stalemate. So we have to resort to the sort of attractive key move of which composers are fond, the sacrificial 1.♖c2. Now after 1…bxc2 we can play 2.♘b6, whereupon Black promotes at c1 with check, leading to 3.♔xc1 b3 4.d5#. Or if 1…♔d5 then again 2.♘b6, this time with check, leading to 2…♔xd4 3.♘g6, and now, whether Black makes a delayed acceptance of the sacrifice, 3…bxc2, or plays 3…♔e3, 4.♗g1 is mate.

Three helpmates in three

Usually in such helpmates featuring a white rook and a white bishop you find that in one solution one of those white officers mates, supported by the other, and in the other solution *vice versa*. Not so, though, in the first of these helpmates, where it is the bishop that is the star turn in both solutions, in each case illustrating the same motif of having to move down a diagonal initially to the square beyond the one from which it will administer mate - 1.♗a5 ♗a4 2.♘c6 ♖f1 3.♗d2 ♗b5 and 1.♗g3 ♗d7 2.♗f2 ♗h3 3.♘f5 ♗g4. (We follow the convention - at first sight potentially confusing - of giving moves in their BWBWBW order.)

In Stanislav's problem, the emphasis is on constructing three pretty mating positions, each of them a model mate (all potential flight squares either occupied by Black or guarded by just one white piece). The solutions unfold as follows - 1.♖c5 f3 2.♔d5 ♔e7 3.♖c4 ♖f5;

1.♔c5 ♖f7 2.♔b5 c4+ 3.♔a5 ♖a7 and 1.♔e6 ♖xd4 2.♔f6 f4 3.♖f5 ♖d6. A neat problem, in which no moves are repeated in other solutions: eighteen different 'half-moves'.

Neatness and complete avoidance of repeated moves aren't the primary goal of the composer of our final problem, who has an amazing ability to mine the possibilities of a matrix of pieces in order to explore the potential for a wide variety of mating sequences. Here we have two mates by the white rook, two by the white bishop, and even one by the humble white pawn. Even the possibility of castling (in problems always assumed to be possible unless retro-analysis shows that it isn't) is invoked - 1.♗f6 ♖xh2 2.♔e7 exf6+ 3.♔f8 ♖xh8;

1.♖xe2+ ♔xe2 2.♔f5 ♔f3 3.♔g5 ♖h5;

1.♖f2 ♖h6+ 2.♔e7 ♗h5 3.♖f8 exd6;

1.♖h5 e4 2.♖xe5 ♖h7 3.♗f6 ♗xd7;

And 1.♔f5 0-0+ 2.♔g4 ♖f4+ 3.♔h3 ♗xd7. Well done if you found at least some of these solutions!

SOLUTIONS TO ENDGAMES

(See page 636)

Sarychev

1.♕e2+ ♘e5 2.♕xb2 (2 points) **♘f7+ 3.♔c7** (+1 point = 3) **♕xb2 4.e8♕+** (+1 = 4) **♗xe8 5.♘f4+** (+1 = 5) and ♔e5 6.♘d3+ or 5...♔e7 6.♘g6+ draws.

1...♔f7 2.e8♕+ ♗xe8 3.♕xe8 mate. In the main line, 2.♘f4+? ♔f7 3.g6+ ♔g8; and (2.♕xb2) ♘c6+ 3.♔c7 ♕xb2 4.e8♕+.

1.♘f4+? ♔d6 2.♘g6 ♕xg6 3.♕g3+ ♔e6. 1.♘f8+? ♔d6 2.♕g3+ ♕e5.

Hergert

1.c7 ♖c8 2.♔g5 (1 point) **♖xc7 3.h6** (+1 point = 2) **♔f7 4.e6+** (+1 = 3) **♔xe6 5.♗c4+** (+1 = 4) **♖xc4 6.h7 ♖c1 7.h8Q ♖g1+ 8.♔h6/♔h4 ♖h1+ 9.♔g5** (+1 = 5) Rxh8 stalemate.

If instead you gave 3...♖c1 4.h7 ♖xf1 5.h8♕ ♖g1+ 6.♔h6/♔h4 ♖h1+ 7.♔g5 you got a total of three points. Not the main line, but the tournament organisers were being untypically generous! (As they also were in the following two studies.)

1.♗g2? ♗xh5 2.♔xh5 ♖h8+ 3.♔g5 ♖g8+ 4.♔h4 ♖xg2, or 1.♗c4+? ♔e7 2.♔g5 ♗xc6 3.h6 ♖a1.

Gurgenidze

1.d7+ ♔d8 2.♕xb7 (1 point) **♘d5+ 3.♕xd5** (+1 point = 2) **♖e4+ 4.♕xe4** (+1 = 3) **g2+ 5.♔f2 gxh1♘+ 6.♔g1 ♕f1+ 7.♔h2** (+1 = 4) **♕h3+ 8.♔g1** (+1 = 5).

If instead you gave 6...♕g3+ 7.♕g2 ♕e1+ 8.♔h2 ♕h4+ 9.♔g1 ♘g3 10.♕a8+ you got a total of four points. That line continues 10...♔xd7 11.♕b7+ ♔e6 12.♕c8+ ♔f7 13.♔g2 f4 14.♔f3 drawing, and has the sideline 10.♕c6? ♕d4+ 11.♔h2 ♘f1+ 12.♔g2 ♕d5+.

Minski

1.♔e2 d1Q+ 2.♔xd1 ♘c7 3.d6 (1 point) **♖d8 4.♖h3+** (+1 point = 2) **♔g8 5.♖h8+** (+1 = 3) **♔xh8 6.♗d4+** (+1 = 4) **cxd4 7.dxc7** (+1 = 5) **♖c8 8.b6** wins.

The transpositional line 1...♘c7 2.d6 ♖d8 ..... 6.dxc7 was also accepted for the full five points.

The main line sidelines are 3.b6? ♘xd5; 3...♘xb5 4.d7; and 5.♖g3+? ♔f8 6.♗xc5 ♘xb5.


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