

Volume 81 No. 8 November 2016 £4.50 UK \$9.95 Canada

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Chess



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The American 'Dream Team' strike gold at the Chess Olympiad

ISSN 0964-6221



Chess Olympiad - in-depth annotations from Michael Adams & Gawain Jones



Eljanov wins Isle of Man, Nepomniachtchi takes 10th Tal Memorial in style



Steve Giddins pays tribute to the legendary Mark Dvoretsky (1947 - 2016)

Chess

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Website: www.chess.co.uk

Subscription Rates:

United Kingdom

1 year (12 issues)	£49.95
2 year (24 issues)	£89.95
3 year (36 issues)	£125

Europe

1 year (12 issues)	£60
2 year (24 issues)	£112.50
3 year (36 issues)	£165

USA & Canada

1 year (12 issues)	\$90
2 year (24 issues)	\$170
3 year (36 issues)	\$250

Rest of World (Airmail)

1 year (12 issues)	£72
2 year (24 issues)	£130
3 year (36 issues)	£180

Distributed by:

Post Scriptum (UK only),
Unit G, OYO Business Park, Hindmans Way,
Dagenham, RM9 6LN - Tel: 020 8526 7779

LMPI (North America)

8155 Larrey Street, Montreal (Quebec),
H1J 2L5, Canada - Tel: 514 355-5610

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors. Contributions to the magazine will be published at the Editors' discretion and may be shortened if space is limited.

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Chess Magazine (ISSN 0964-6221) is published by:
Chess & Bridge Ltd, 44 Baker St, London, W1U 7RT
Tel: 020 7288 1305 Fax: 020 7486 7015
Email: info@chess.co.uk, Website: www.chess.co.uk

FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read

Cover Photography: ??????????

US & Canadian Readers – You can contact us via our American branch – Chess4Less based in West Palm Beach, FL. Call toll-free on 1-877 89CHESS (24377). You can even order Subscriber Special Offers online via www.chess4less.com

Printed in the UK by The Magazine Printing Company using only paper from FSC/PEFC suppliers www.magprint.co.uk

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In the Land of Fire

An in-depth look at the recent Olympiad from Kanwal Bhatia

The 42nd Chess Olympiad took place from 1st-14th September in Baku, Azerbaijan. The format, as is normal, comprised Open and Women's sections, with matches contested over four boards, chosen from squads of five players. The final standings after 11 rounds were determined by team match points. A total of over 300 teams competed in what was one of the largest of such events in recent years.

In the Open section, sixth seeds England, sponsored by Jupiter Asset Management, were represented in board order by Michael Adams, David Howell, Luke McShane, Gawain Jones and Nigel Short, accompanied by Peter Wells (coach) and Malcolm Pein (captain). Russia, led by Karjakin and Kramnik, were seeded first, followed by the USA, including for the first time Caruana and So, and reigning champions China.

In the Women's event, the participation of Hou Yifan made China favourites, with Ukraine, including both Muzychuks, and Russia the next seeds. The England team consisted of Jovanka Houska, Dagne Ciuksyte, Akshaya Kalaiyalahan, Sarah Longson and myself, with Jon Speelman as captain/coach. Armenian teams were notably absent from both sections.

Unsurprisingly, given its location, Baku has the feel of a cross between Soviet and Gulf state. Fuelled by the oil and gas industry, a lot of investment had clearly been made in the Olympiad and there was an added chess flavour to the city with billboards, specially painted taxis and coaches, and several giant chess sets on the streets.

Providing for so many players and accompanying persons inevitably puts a strain on the hosts, but the event was brilliantly organised. Teams were accommodated in top hotels with good food and coaches commissioned to efficiently ferry players to and from the venue. The tournament was held in the Baku Crystal Hall, which has previously hosted the Eurovision Song Contest and had ample space and facilities to allow all games to be played in the same hall. In addition, an army of helpful and friendly volunteers ensured a smooth running and small favours like extending dinner for late-finishing games made players feel relaxed.

However, not everything was positive. In line with the latest fashion, this Olympiad came with a new raft of anti-cheating measures; some understandable, some laughable, many probably futile. Initiated at last year's European Team Championships, pens, watches and mobile phones were again



Baku's Crystal Hall was certainly an impressive sight, both internally and externally. However, trips to the toilet and certain searches by the arbiters were to prove somewhat more problematic.

banned from the playing hall (sensibly, the zero-tolerance default rule was waived), and players and their belongings had to pass through airport-style security on entry. To their credit, the organisers managed to process the large number of players without too much delay.

More controversially, continued despite a petition launched at the Europeans, a number of players would be chosen at random to be searched during their game. While I didn't hear of anyone who really objected to the checks on entry, disrupting players without cause while their game is still in progress is another matter. In addition, there were the occasional odd diktats, such as banning captains from bringing in paperback books and smelling the contents of drinks containers that had already passed through a scanner, which only seemed to embarrass the diligent helpers tasked with this role.

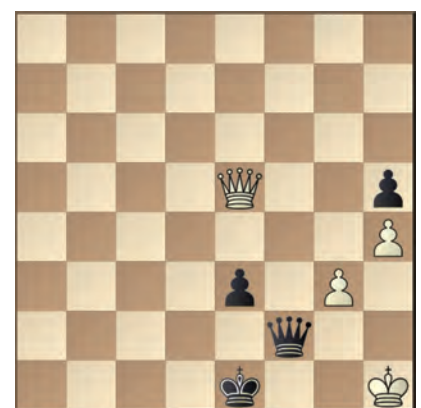
The most troubling new measure introduced, however, was that players had to notify the arbiter each time they wanted to go to the toilet. Although some arbiters chose to ignore this rule, not all did, and inevitably this led to at least one incident where a player was asked to explain their perceived excessive calls of nature. A petition has been launched...

Dutch Disappointment

But on to the chess! The early rounds went according to plan for England in the Open section with wins against the lower-rated

IBCA and Indonesia. Mickey Adams has been a solid spearhead of the England team for several years now, accumulating results in a calm, effortless style. No-one could doubt his intent in Round 2 as he pushed for 166 moves before conceding the draw. At one point there was a chance for a cute finish.

M.Ali-M.Adams
Indonesia vs England



Black has been pressing for 133 moves and now replied with **134...♖f3+** with the game ending in a draw 33 moves later. Mickey probably dismissed 134...♕f1 as 135 ♖b5+ e2 136 ♖b1+ e1♖ 137 ♖b5+ ♖fe2 138 ♖f5+ ends in perpetual, with the white queen skipping between f5, b5 and b1. However, instead, there is 136...e1♔! 137

♖b5+ ♖e2 138 ♖f5+ and now the prettiest and most precise is 138...♖f3+! 139 ♖xf3+ ♜xf3 140 g4 hxg4 141 h5 g3 142 h6 g2#.

In Round 3, England were paired against a strong Canadian team, who would later even challenge for a medal. A 2½-1½ win saw Adams winning a critical game against the newly-adopted Evgeny Bareev.

M.Adams-E.Bareev England vs Canada French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘d2 c5 4 ♜gf3 ♜f6 5 e5 ♜fd7 6 c3 ♜c6 7 ♙d3 f6 8 exf6 ♜xf6 9 0-0 ♙d6 Taking on d4 first is more normal.

10 dxc5 ♙xc5 11 b4 ♙d6 12 b5 ♜e7?! 12...♜e5 13 ♜xe5 ♙xe5 was more active and probably better. Now White has a pleasant edge.

13 c4 e5 Striking quickly as after 13...0-0 14 ♙b2 White's pieces are nicely co-ordinated, while Black will struggle for a central break.

However, this plan is a little too ambitious. 14 cxd5 ♜exd5 15 ♜e4 ♜xe4 16 ♙xe4 ♜f6 17 ♙g5 0-0 18 ♜c1



Simple, sensible development. 18...♖e7 19 ♙xf6! White's remaining bishop will sit gloriously undisturbed in the centre of the board.

19...♙xf6 20 ♜h4 Taking control of the f5-square. 20...♙b4

What can Black really do? 20...f5 is not possible due to 21 ♜xc8 ♜axc8 22 ♜xf5. 21 ♜c4 ♙a5 22 ♜f5 ♙xf5 23 ♙xf5 ♜ad8 24 ♖h5



With opposite-coloured bishops and an exposed black king, it is time to attack! 24...♗h8 25 ♖h3 ♜d4 26 ♜fc1 ♜fd8 27 g3 ♖f7 28 ♜xd4 exd4 29 ♜d1 b6 30 ♜d3 ♙b4 31 ♜f3 ♜f8?

It was necessary to prevent White's next move with 31...♙d6, but after this 32 ♙d3 retains control for White.

32 ♜f4 1-0 Black is unable to stop 33 ♙xh7 followed by 34 ♜h4.

So far so good... Round 4 brought things crashing back down to earth. Eleventh seeds the Netherlands were always likely to be tricky opponents, but a 3½-½ loss was particularly disappointing.

The women's team had a difficult start to the tournament. The expected 4-0 win against the UAE in Round 1 was followed by a close loss to the higher-seeded Netherlands. That match was not without its highlights though as Jovanka Houska outplayed her GM opponent.

J.Houska-Z.Peng England vs Netherlands Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 ♜f3 d5 2 d4 ♜f6 3 c4 dxc4 4 e3 ♙g4 5 ♙xc4 e6 6 h3 ♙h5 7 ♜c3 ♜bd7 8 0-0 ♙b4 9 ♙d2

A surprisingly unusual move. 9 ♙e2 is more common.

9...a6 10 a3 ♙d6 11 e4 e5 12 ♙e3 0-0 13 ♙e2 ♙xf3 14 ♙xf3 exd4 15 ♙xd4 ♜e5 16 ♙e2 ♜c6 17 ♙e3 ♙e5 18 ♜c1! ♙xc3 19 ♜xc3 ♜xe4 20 ♜c1



White has judged that the two bishops and pressure on the c-file are enough for the e-pawn. 20...♜e8

20...♜d6 would have protected b7, allowing c6-knight to move after ♙f3. Now Black's knights come under fire on the h1-a8 diagonal. 21 ♖xd8 ♜exd8



Michael Adams again shone on top board, despite missing a tricky endgame possibility.



England take on the Netherlands in the women's section. Jovanka Houska (right) will soon sacrifice a pawn for two very strong bishops and once again she led the England team well.

21...♖xd8 allows 22 ♜xa6 and with material equality, the two bishops will rule.
22 ♜fe1 ♜d2 23 ♜c2 ♜e4

Sacrificing a tempo to push White's rook to a more vulnerable square.

24 ♜f3 f5 25 ♜f4 ♜d4 26 ♜xe4 fxe4 27 ♜c3

Not 27 ♜xc7?, of course, as 27...♜e6 picks up the bishop.

27...♜b5 28 ♜cc1 c6 29 ♜xe4



Material is now equal and Black seems to have weathered the storm, by trading White's light-squared bishop and placing her queenside pawns safe from attack. However, on closer inspection, Black's knight is rather immobile.

29...♜d4 30 ♜ce1 ♜f8 31 g3 ♜xe4 32 ♜xe4 ♜f7 33 a4! ♜a7 34 ♜d6 ♜e8 35 ♜f4+ ♜e6 36 ♜c5 ♜c8 37 ♜e4+ ♜f7 38 ♜xe8 ♜xe8 39 a5 ♜d7 40 f4 ♜d6

With the bishop totally dominating the knight, Black offers the trade on the last move before the time control.

41 ♜xd6!

White's kingside pawn majority is sufficiently far advanced.

41...♜xd6 42 ♜f2 b5 43 axb6 c5 44 ♜e3 ♜c6 45 ♜e4 ♜xb6 46 ♜d5 ♜b5 47 f5 c4 48 g4 h6 49 h4 a5 50 g5 c3 51 bxc3 a4 52 f6 1-0

Unfortunately, the next two rounds resulted in more disappointment with a loss to Iceland and only a draw with Portugal – blows from which we never quite recovered.

Land of Fire

The name Azerbaijan – meaning 'Land of Fire' – plausibly has origins in the abundant natural gas fields and the burning surface oil, and the sense of awe that they evoke. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Zoroastrian Fire Temples were constructed for worshippers to pay their respects. Later on, the industrialisation of oil and gas extraction diverted these reserves away from religion and the money earned was used to construct bigger and bolder shrines. In particular, the iconic Flame Towers (three 190m skyscrapers built in the shape of flames and covered with LED displays) are illuminated every night with blazing fire, or, for the duration of the Olympiad at least, giant chess pieces. Of course, the Crystal Hall also held its



Gawain Jones, pictured deep in thought, played a lovely, thematic King's Indian queen sacrifice.

share of fire within its walls. After the setback against the Netherlands, the next few rounds were crucial for England's medal ambitions. Fifth round opponents Vietnam have posed problems for England in the past and one could have been forgiven for thinking a repeat was looming when, early on in the match, Gawain Jones allowed his young opponent to grab a hot pawn on d6 in the King's Indian. However, there was a dangerous point to his play.

A.Nguyen-G.Jones

Vietnam vs England
King's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♜f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♜c3 ♜g7 4 e4 0-0 5 ♜f3 d6 6 h3 e5 7 d5 ♜a6 8 ♜e3 ♜c5 9 ♜d2 ♜h5 10 b4 ♜a6 11 a3 ♜e8 12 c5 f5 13 cxd6 cxd6 14 ♜b5

The d-pawn cannot be easily defended: removing the queen from the h5–e8 diagonal allows exf5 followed by g4 if Black recaptures with a piece.

14...f4 15 ♜xd6 fxe3!

The only move that justifies Black's play and one which could have been expected by anyone familiar with Gawain's style – but it seemed to surprise his young opponent.

16 ♜xe8 exf2+ 17 ♜e2 ♜g3+ 18 ♜d3 ♜xe8!



Regaining material by taking on h1 is not part of the plan. The position of the knight on g3 and pawn on f2 is much more important.

19 ♜c2

The white king is looking for safety on the queenside, but perhaps holding on tightly to the extra material was the best defence. Indeed, 19 ♜h2 followed by trying for ♜f3 to displace the knight was an alternative worth considering.

19...♜d7 20 ♜c4 ♜a4+ 21 ♜b3 ♜b5 22 ♜b2 ♜e2

Now Black's compensation is very clear.

23 ♜b1 ♜h6 24 ♜f3 ♜h8 25 ♜a2 ♜ac8

While Black still only has two pieces for his queen, all his pieces are aggressively placed, in contrast to which White is struggling for any sort of co-ordination.

26 ♜b2?!

Logical, allowing the queen's rook some freedom and keeping an eye on the bishop on e2, but it fails concretely. 26 d6, trying to create some complications, was better.



26...♜xe4!

Now ...♜c3+ is threatened and neither the queen nor the a1-rook has a single safe square to move to!

27 ♜af1 ♜xf1

Black finally takes back some material



Before the big match - Mickey Adams prepares to take on Wang Yue's ever-solid Petroff.

while setting up the conclusion.

28 ♖xf1 ♜c3+ 29 ♚a1 e4 30 ♜xf2 exf3 31 ♜xf3 ♟g7! 32 d6 ♜e2 0-1

White is already material down, and allowing the discovered check will lead to mate (...♜c3-b5xa3 or ...♜c3-e4-e2).

A 3-1 win resulted in a favourable pairing against 47th seeds Chile, who had enjoyed a comparatively easy run to the top boards. After an incident-free match, Round 7 set up a more difficult challenge against reigning champions China. And here the fireworks continued both on and off the board.

The critical games were Adams outplaying Wang Yue, while Nigel Short energetically overcame both Li Chao in an exciting game (see last month's Editorial), as well as FIDE's mid-game security check. Holding firm to the belief that players should not be interrupted while playing, Nigel was issued a warning for not complying when chosen to be searched, but the powers that be decided that overturning the result would indeed be a step too far.

Notes by Michael Adams

Playing on board 1 has few advantages, but does mean you are less likely to be surprised by which opponent you face, although Indonesia decided to pull a rabbit out of the hat by deploying their bottom four boards against us this time. However, before this game I was not so sure who I would play until the teams were published. Wang Yue had lost a disappointing game the day before and bringing in China's board 5 Wei Yi would hardly weaken their team.

M.Adams-Wang Yue
England vs China
Petroff Defence

1 e4 e5 2 ♜f3 ♜f6 3 ♜xe5 d6 4 ♜f3

5 ♜xe4 6 d4 d5 7 ♟d3 ♜c6 8 0-0 ♟e7 8 ♜bd2

This modest line has become rather popular recently, although White's edge is not too large, as is fairly inevitable against the Petroff anyway, he does get a more comfortable position with very little risk. I first noticed it when my Baden-Baden team mate Rustam Kasimdzhanov scored an easy win against Li Chao (who was Nigel's opponent in this particular match) in the Bundesliga earlier this year.

8...♟f5 9 ♜e1 ♜xd2 10 ♜xd2 ♟xd3 11 ♜xd3 0-0



Black has exchanged some pieces, but his knight on c6 is not especially well placed and my slight lead in development means I will gain control of the only open file.

12 ♟f4 ♟d6

I'm not sure why, but this very logical move, swapping more material, didn't really feature in my prep. As soon as the position arrived on the board it looked the most logical continuation. Instead, 12...♜d7 has been the most common choice of late.

13 ♟g3

This looks natural as the exchange of bishops will resolve any back-rank issues for me, and I gain a little time by letting my opponent

make the exchange. I didn't like 13 ♟xd6 ♜xd6 14 ♜e3 ♜ae8 15 ♜ae1 ♜xe3 16 ♜xe3 ♜b4 when Black gets counterplay; 14 ♜e2, however, prevents this idea.

13...♟xg3 14 hxg3 ♜d7 14...♜d6, as in the last line, also has some merits.

15 ♜e3 ♜fe8 16 ♜ae1 ♜xe3 17 ♜xe3 h6

Not 17...♜e8? 18 ♜f5! ♜d8 (or 18...♜e6 19 ♜g5 g6 20 ♜h3!) 19 ♜g5 ♜xe3 20 ♜xf7+ ♜h8 21 ♜h5 with a winning attack.

18 ♜b3

If 18 ♜b5 ♜b8 and the queen will be expelled with ...a6 next go, but not 18...b6? 19 ♜c3.

18...♜b8 19 ♜e5

I felt I needed to keep up the momentum, instead of playing the useful 19 c3 when Black could try 19...b5 or 19...g6.

19...♜d6 20 ♜xc6 ♜xc6 21 c3



Of course White's advantage is hardly huge here, but I was somewhat surprised by how many people considered this a cast-iron draw. When almost everything else is identical, one advantageous feature in a position can quickly magnify in importance, and here occupation of the e-line and the ability for my rook to also operate laterally are irritations which should not be underestimated over the board.

21...a5

The most logical plan for Black is to reposition his queen, move his pawns to safer squares and swap rooks, but the lines 21...♜d7 22 ♜a3 a6 23 ♜e7 ♜xe7 24 ♜xe7 ♜c8 25 ♜d7 and 21...♜d6 22 ♜a4 show this is not so simple to effect.

22 ♜a3 b6

22...♜b5 23 b3 b6 24 ♜e7 was another option. Practically it is not so easy to choose as there is no clear-cut way to make a draw, but only a number of roughly equivalent slightly unpleasant continuations. However, my opponent, who is a particularly doughty defender, normally excels at extinguishing the danger in such situations.

23 ♜e7 b5

23...♜f8 works well after 24 g4 ♜g6, but 24 f3 ♜c4 25 b3 ♜c6 26 g4 keeps the pressure on.

24 a3 b4

I saw 24...♜c4 recommended for Black here, but at the board it looked very dangerous for the queen to abandon the kingside due to 25 g4 b4 26 axb4 axb4 27 ♜f3 f6 28 g5, which wins instantly, as if 28...hxg5 (28...fxg5

29 ♖f7) 29 ♗e6+ ♘f8 (or 29...♙h7 30 ♗f7!) 30 ♖h3. Better here is 27...♗f8 28 g5, although Black still has both actual and practical difficulties: 28...hxg5 29 ♗xg5 bxc3 30 ♖g3 g6 (or 30...♗xd4 31 bxc3 ♗d1+ 32 ♙h2 g6 33 ♖h3) 31 ♗f6! wins, so does 28...h5 29 g6 and, as such, 28...♗c6 is necessary, allowing 29 gxh6 ♗xh6 30 ♗xc7.

25 axb4 axb4 26 cxb4



26...♗c1+

The queen check looks pretty logical as Black regains the pawn immediately and his queen then attacks three of my pawns. However, Wang Yue should have continued more solid play.

26...♗b6! looks rather slow, but actually holds: 27 ♖f3 (or 27 ♗e5 ♗xb4 28 ♗xd5 ♗xb2 29 ♖e7 ♗b3 30 ♗xb3 – 30 ♖e8+ ♙h7 could look scary at the board – 30...♖xb3 31 ♖xc7 ♖b1+ 32 ♙h2 ♖d1 33 ♖d7 ♙f8 and the extra pawn is not that significant here) 27...f6 28 ♖c3 ♗xd4 29 ♖xc7 ♗d1+ 30 ♙h2 ♗h5+ is perpetual. Likewise, 26...♗c4! with similar ideas is also good enough.

27 ♙h2 ♗xb2 28 ♖f3

I played this quickly, happy that I now had some real advantage, but there was another good option in 28 ♗xc7 ♗xb4 29 ♖e5. After winning the pawn my major pieces will remain well placed as attempts to simplify with 29...♗b6 (29...♗b6 30 ♖e8+) 30 ♖e8+ are catastrophic.

28...♖f8

The ugly 28...f6 was also an option: 29 ♗xc7 (29 ♖e3!? ♗xf2 30 ♗xc7 ♗xe3 31 ♗xb8+ is promising, but 29...♗c2! 30 ♗d7 c6 31 ♖e7 ♗g6 should hold) 29...♗xb4 30 ♖f5 ♗b6 31 ♗xb6 ♖xb6 32 ♖xd5 is not a simple draw.

29 ♗c5 c6

After 29...g6 30 b5 one of the black pawns will disappear next go.

30 ♗xc6 ♗xd4

I thought my opponent would accept he can't comfortably maintain equal material and try 30...♗xb4 31 ♗xd5 ♗e7 32 ♗c5 (32 ♖e3?! ♗f6 solves most of Black's problems, but 32 ♗a5!? is possible). Black has to allow the pawn forward or play 32...♗xc5 33 dxc5 ♖c8 34 ♖c3 f6 35 g4 ♙f7 36 ♙g3 ♙e6 37 ♙f4 which looks pretty tough.

31 b5



The disparity in activity between the major pieces means that my passer is seriously fleet of foot.

31...♗e5

31...♗c4 is met by 32 ♗d7.

32 b6 ♖e8

This move looks good threatening mate in two, but I suspect Wang Yue underestimated my response which secures my king position whilst his problems remain.

33 ♖f4

Necessary to meet the threat of 33 b7?? ♗h5+ 34 ♙g1 ♖e1 mate.

33...♗e6

33...g5 34 ♖a4 or 33...♗h5+ 34 ♖h4 don't endanger my king, so Black tries to slow the advance of the b-pawn.

34 ♗b7

I rejected 34 ♗c7 due to 34...♖e7? (the correct 34...♗e7! is not so easy to break down) 35 ♖b4 ♖xc7 36 bxc7 ♙h7 37 ♖b8 ♗e5 38 c8 ♗h5+ 39 ♙g1 ♗d1+ 40 ♙h2 ♗h5+ with perpetual check, but 41 ♗h3 here or two moves earlier rather changes my assessment of this line.

34...g5 35 ♖a4

The computer thinks that 35 ♖b4! was stronger (35 ♖f3 d4 is not impressive), but the variations are rather hard to understand, and I think would be very hard to play in a game:

a) 35...♙g7 36 ♗c7 ♗c8 37 ♗d6 and Black has been forced to go passive.

b) 35...♗d6 concerned me and 36 ♖b5 again moves the rook to an undefended square, but after 36...♗g6 36 ♗c7 (or 36...d4 37 ♗c7) 37 ♗d7 ♗h5+ 38 ♗h3 ♗xh3+ 39 ♙xh3 ♖b8 40 ♙g4 White's active king should decide.

c) 35...♗g6 can be met by 36 ♗d7 ♗h5+ 37 ♖h4 or 36 ♗xd5 ♗h5+ 37 ♖h4.

35...♗e2

35...♗g6 36 ♖a1 was my idea and with the back rank covered Black is out of options: 36...♙g7 (36...♗d6 37 ♖a8) 37 ♗a7.

I realised 35...♙g7 was the only move when my intended 36 ♗a7 is met by 36...♗e2 37 f3 ♗f1 (37...♗f2 38 b7 transposes), creating counterplay. Now there is a long forcing sequence: 38 ♖a1 ♗f2 39 b7 ♗xa7 40 ♖xa7 ♖b8 41 ♙g1 ♙f6 42 ♙f2 ♙e5 43 ♙e3 and it's not clear if Black can survive, but this had to be tried.



36 f3

I saw the flashy 36 ♗xd5 ♗h5+ 37 ♖h4 ♗g6 38 ♗d7 was also good, but as my opponent's last move was rather desperate, the simple pawn advance secures the kingside.

36...d4

Other moves are equally hopeless, as shown by 36...♙g7 37 ♗xd5 or 37 ♖a8 ♖e7 38 ♗b8, and 36...♗f1 37 ♖a8.

37 ♗d7

37 ♖a8 d3 38 ♗c6 ♖xa8 39 ♗xa8+ ♙g7 40 b7 also wins as my second queen will deliver a mating attack.

37...♗e7 38 ♗xe7

38 ♗xd4 is OK, but I saw an immediate win.

38...♖xe7 39 ♖a7 1-0

Black resigned as 39...♖e8 40 b7 d3 41 ♖a8 or 39...♖e6 40 ♖a8+ ♙g7 41 b7 promote the pawn. After the game finished we were leading 2-1 and a quick look at Nigel's game suggested that although things were rather complicated, he was doing very well. Not long afterwards some accurate moves on his part confirmed that assessment for a memorable match win. Although our individual victories got most of the attention, David Howell's comfortable draw as Black against their highest-rated player Ding Liren, in his fourth consecutive game with that colour, was also a significant factor in the match.



More aggression was in evidence as Wales upset Ireland 3-1 in the local derby. Richard Jones won in dynamic style against Stephen Jessel, while Carl Strugnell's attack persuaded Mark Heidenfeld to castle twice (!) before he closed out in the endgame.

R.Jones-S.Jessel

Wales vs Ireland

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 ♙f6 4 e5 ♙fd7 5 f4 c5 6 ♙f3 ♙c6 7 ♖e3 cxd4 8 ♙xd4 ♙c5 9 ♗d2 0-0 10 0-0-0

The shape of the game is clear: both sides will go for the jugular.

10...a6 11 ♙b3 ♙b4 12 ♙d3 b5 13 g4 ♙a5 14 ♙d4 ♙c4 15 ♗f2 a5 16 a3 ♙e7

17 g5!

17 ♖xb5 ♘a6 18 ♗c3 ♜c7 19 ♙xc4 ♙xc4 20 ♗d2 ♖ab8 21 ♗xc4 ♜xc4 22 ♜e2 ♜c6 ended in a draw in Gharamian-Ni Hua, Biel 2011, as Black retained some initiative for his pawn. The text shows a more aggressive intent.

17...b4



18 ♙xh7+!

After 18 axb4 axb4 19 ♗b1 ♗a5 20 ♗xa5 ♖xa5 21 ♜h4 g6 Black's attack is looking the more dangerous.

18...♗xh7 19 ♜h4+ ♗g8 20 ♗d3 ♗dxe5

Taking the knight would be dangerous: 20...bxc3 21 ♖h3 f5 22 ♜h7+ ♗f7 23 ♜h5+ g6 (if 23...♗g8 24 g6) 24 ♜h7+ ♗e8 25 ♜xg6+ ♖f7 26 ♖h7 ♗cxe5 27 fxe5 ♙xg5+ 28 ♗b1 ♜e7 29 ♖h8+ ♗f8 30 ♙c5. 21 ♖h3

And naturally not 21 fxe5?? ♙xg5+. 21...f5 22 gxf6 ♙xf6 23 ♜h7+ ♗f7 24 fxe5 ♗xe5 25 ♖g1 bxc3

Finally Black accepts the knight.

26 ♙xe5 ♙xe5 27 ♜h5+



27...♗g8

The strange-looking 27...♗f6 might have been the best defence: for instance, 28 ♜g5+ ♗f7 29 ♜xe5 cxb2+ 30 ♗b1 ♜f6 31 ♜h5+ ♗e7 32 ♖g6 ♜f4 33 ♖xg7+ ♗d6. 28 ♜h8+ ♗f7 29 ♖f3+ ♗e7

29...♙f6 30 ♖xg7+ ♗e8 31 ♜h5+ is no defence either.

30 ♖xg7+ ♙xg7 31 ♜xg7+ ♗d6 32 ♖xf8

White has regained the material and is now winning.

32...♜h4 33 ♜xc3 ♙b7 34 ♜c5+ ♗e5

35 ♜c7+ ♗e4 36 ♗d2+ 1-0

In view of 36...♗d4 37 ♜c3# or 36...♗e3 37 ♜c3+ ♗e2 38 ♜f3+ ♗e1 39 ♜f1#.

By the end of Round 7, the top teams were beginning to be clarified. The USA led with 13 match points, followed by Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, India, England and Latvia on 12. Reigning champions China were already far behind in 17th.

Generation Z

One of my main observations of my own tournament was how young my opponents seemed to be – noticeably more children were present than when I started playing in Dresden 2008. In Round 8, I faced the youngest participant in the tournament, Monaco's Fiorina Berezovsky. At just 9 years old and with an arm-span not quite extending to my back rank, the game attracted plenty of attention and I was relieved when she charitably gave away her pieces. My next round opponent put up more resistance, but at age 12, she did not manage to draw the same press. However, the game provided an enjoyable king hunt!

K.Bhatia-A.Miladi

England vs Tunisia

c3 Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 c3 ♗f6 3 e5 ♗d5 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♗f3 ♗c6 6 cxd4 d6 7 ♙c4 e6 8 0-0 ♗b6 9 ♙b3 ♙e7 10 ♜e2 0-0

Black has been developing ostensibly, but has not really done much to counter White's plans in this set-up.

11 ♗c3 a6 12 a3 dxe5 13 dxe5 ♜c7

14 ♙c2 ♗d7 15 ♖e1 ♗h8? This only helps White's attack. 17...♗d8 was better.

16 ♜e4 f5 17 exf6 ♗xf6 18 ♜h4 h6



Otherwise ♗g5 attacks both h7 and e6, but this invites White's next.

19 ♙xh6! gxh6 20 ♜xh6+ ♗g8 21 ♜g5+

♗h8 22 ♗h4 ♗h7 23 ♗g6+ ♗g7 24 ♜h5

♗f6 25 ♜h4 ♗d8 26 ♖e3 e5 27 ♖g3 ♗f7

28 ♗h8+ 28 ♖f3 keeps the king caged and is more efficient.

28...♗e8

Black's best bet is to give back some material with 28...♖xh8, but with the king still exposed, White's attack will continue. Now the king is forced to take a walk.

29 ♙g6+ ♗d7 30 ♙f5+ ♗d6

Side-stepping 30...♗e8 31 ♖g8+ ♗xg8

32 ♜h5+ ♗f8 33 ♜f7#.

31 ♗f7+ ♗c5 32 ♗a4+ ♗b5 33 ♖b3+ ♗a5



I had seen up to this point when entering this sequence, but now could not find the mate, although I was sure it had to be there somewhere..

34 ♗b6?

34 ♜c4! ♗d4 (otherwise comes 35 ♗c3 with mate on a4 or b5 to follow) 35 ♜c3+ ♗xa4 36 ♙c2 and mate cannot be stopped.

34...♗d4

34...♜xb6 35 ♖xb6 ♗xb6 36 ♗xd8 ♙xf5 37 ♗xc6 bxc6 would have given Black three pieces for a queen and two pawns, although with the weak king and my better structure, I would still take White.

35 ♜h3

35 ♜g3 is more exact as 35...♗e4 can be met by 36 ♙xe4 ♖xe4 37 ♜c3+.

35...♙xf5 36 ♗xa8??

In my panic I had missed that after 36 ♜c3+! ♙b4 37 axb4+ ♗xb6 White mates on c5.

36...♗d7??

The final mistake. 36...♙xh3 37 ♗xc7 ♙c8 and White's knights are short of squares.

37 ♜c3+ ♗b4 38 axb4+ 1-0



Kanwal Bhatia's favourite c3 Sicilian led to a memorable king hunt against Tunisia.

The increase in juniors playing was also in evidence at the business end of the tournament where England took on 46th seeds Iran on board 3 of the Open. Unfortunately for us, their 16 and 17 year olds combined to hold the draw in the match. However, the 12-year-old national champion was posed one too many problems by Gawain Jones.

G.Jones-A.Firouzja England vs Iran



White had won two pieces for a rook earlier in the game, but allowing the queenside pawns to be traded off has made the winning plan unclear. A win was needed, however, as at this point the match situation was 2-1 to Iran.

51...Rb8?!

This move seems logical, but allows White a study-like finish. Black's best hope was probably to keep both rooks protecting each other on the a-file.

52 Rd1+ Qe4

52...Qe2 53 Rd4! forces Black to give up the exchange: for instance, 53...g5 54 Qd5 and Black is unable to stop mate on c3 without material loss.

53 Qc3

Threatening 54 Rd4+.

53...Ra4

So Black prevents 54 Rd4+, but at a cost...

54 Rd7 Rg8

The pawn has to be protected; after 54...Rc8 55 Rxc7 the threat of Rg4+, picking up the loose rook on a4, gives White's bishop immunity.

55 g4!



55...Rc8

Taking advantage of the g4-square no longer being available for White's rook to give check, but there was another threat – Black's king, in the very centre of the board, is running out of squares! If Black leaves the defence of the fourth rank, for instance, with 55...Ra8 there is 56 Qc4 Rxd8 57 f3+ Qf4 58 Qd2#. His a4-rook is therefore paralysed and he has few options available.

56 Qd5! 1-0

There is no way to prevent 57 f3+ Qd3 and since Black cannot save both rooks in one move, 58 Qb6 discovered check will then pick up the exchange. Note too that leaving the rook on g8 would not have saved Black, due to the dual threats then of 58 Qb6+ and 58 Qxf6+. A critical win which tied the match.

Round 10 saw England withstand the pressure of playing the host nation to win 2½-1½. Gawain Jones once again won and thanks to the kind permission of *ChessBase Magazine*, we can enjoy his own thoughts on that victory here too.

Notes by Gawain Jones

G.Jones-A.Naiditsch England vs Azerbaijan Scotch Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 Qf3 Qc6 3 Qc4 Qf6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5

The Scotch Gambit is rather rare at top levels, but I've played it a few times recently. Play often become very strategically complex.

5...d5 6 Qb5 Qe4 7 Qxd4 Qd7

7...Qc5 8 Qe3 Qd7 or 8...0-0 9 Qxc6 bxc6 10 Qxc5 Qxc5 11 Qxc6 are the other main lines.

8 Qxc6 bxc6 9 0-0 Qe7

A rare line which I always thought was rather passive, but is probably fully playable. 9...Qc5 is by far the main move, while 9...c5 was played earlier this year in N.Pert-D.Howell, Bournemouth 2016.

10 f3 Qc5

10...Qg5 11 f4 Qe4 would just transpose.

11 f4



I started spending time around here trying

to remember my analysis.

11...Qe4

11...0-0 12 f5 looks very dangerous, despite the engines not being convinced. In the game Naiditsch elects to keep things more flexible. After 12...Qe4 (12...Qg5 13 Qc3 Qe8 14 Qe1 Qxc1 15 Qxc1 Qh4 16 Qe3 Qe4 was A.Horvath-Bitton, Melaka 2012, and here the engine offers 17 Rxd1! as 17...Qxe5? loses to 18 Qf3) 13 Qc3 we have:

a) 13...Qxc3 has been played the most often, but with a bad score: 14 bxc3 Qg5 (for 14...c5 15 Qde2 see variation 'c2') 15 Qh5 Qxc1 16 Raxc1 f6 17 e6 and White is clearly better.

b) 13...Qc5 is very rare, but I think is necessary. Black's counterplay down the a7-g1 diagonal lessens White's initiative. 14 Qxe4 dxe4 15 Qh1 Qe8? (15...Qe8 has to be played) 16 Qb3 Qb6 17 c4 a5 18 c5 a4 19 cxb6 axb3 was Westphal-Sabel, Wiesbaden 1997, and now 20 b7! Qxa2 21 Qb1 wins.

c) 13...c5 and again White has a choice where to place the knight:



c1) A fairly recent game continued 14 Qxe4 dxe4 15 Qb3 Qb5 16 Qe1 c4 17 Qd4 Qc5 18 Qe3 Qd7 19 Qh1 Qe8, Radionov-Gajek, Vienna 2016. Here White missed the thematic 20 e6! fxe6 21 fxe6 as 21...Qxe6? loses to 22 Qxe6 Qxd1 23 Qxd1! Qxe3 24 Qxc7.

c2) 14 Qde2 would be quite similar to Jones-Naiditsch: 14...Qxc3 15 bxc3 Qb5 (this can be energetically countered, but after 15...Qe8 16 a4!? – 16 Qg3 also looks promising – 16...Qc8 17 Qg3 Qf8 18 Qf4 Qd7 19 Qg4 Qb8 20 Qae1 White had already developed a very strong attack and the strong GM didn't last long: 20...Qb6 21 h3!? Qxa4 22 e6! fxe6 23 f6 e5 24 f7+ Qxf7 25 Qxe5+ 1-0, Pirrot-Graf, Bad Wiessee 2010) 16 f6! gxf6 17 Qh6 fxe5 18 Qd4! cxd4 19 Qg4+ Qg5 20 Qxg5 Qe2 21 Qg3 Qd7 22 h3! f5 23 Qf6+ Qf7 24 Qxf5! and White won in Wang Yiye-Mi.Brown, Al Ain 2013.

12 f5

Not the only option. 12 Qd2 Qxd2 13 Qxd2!? keeps an eye on the d5-pawn (after 13 Qxd2 c5 14 Qe2 f5 White's attacking chances on the kingside have been snuffed out). This has only been played once, but White won extremely quickly: 13...c5 14 Qe2 Qc6 15 f5 0-0? 16 f6 gxf6 17 Qh6 fxe5 1-0, Massana-Bowyer, New York 1985. Evidently Black resigned while White was deciding between

18 ♖f3 and simply picking up the bishop on c6. Instead, 12 ♘c3 has good chances of reaching positions similar to the game.

12...c5

This is the main point of developing the bishop to e7 rather than c5, but I think White now has good chances.

12...♗c5 isn't so common, but reaches yet more crazy positions, whereas 12...0-0 again looks to be asking for trouble and would transpose to 11...0-0.



13 ♘e2

It's always difficult to decide where to put the knight.

13 ♘e6!? looked interesting and I spent a while looking at it: 13...♗xe6 (13...fxe6?! 14 ♗h5+ g6 15 fxg6 ♗b5 16 g7+ ♘d7 17 gxh8 ♗ ♗xh8 18 ♖f7 seemed to keep control) 14 fxe6 fxe6 15 ♘d2. I thought I must have enough compensation for the pawn, but Black's position doesn't look that dangerous either.

13 ♘b3 is the main alternative, and looks quite promising: 13...♗b5 (13...c4 14 ♗xd5 cxb3 15 ♗xe4 bxc2 16 ♗xc2 favoured White somewhat in T.L.Petrosian-Kobalia, Internet (blitz) 2004, while generally the point of going to b3 is to meet 13...♗c6 with 14 ♘a5) 14 ♖f3 ♗d7 15 ♘c3 0-0-0 16 ♗e3 (16 a4!?) 16...♗c6 17 a4 ♗a6 18 ♘a5 ♗d7 19 ♘xe4 (19 ♘b5!? ♗xb5 20 axb5 ♗xb5 21 c4 looks like a very dangerous attack) 19...dxe4 20 ♗xd7+ ♖xd7 21 ♖g3 left White again clearly for choice in Vlassow-Jumabayev, St Petersburg 2010.

13...♗b5

13...♗c6 has also been tried, but with no pin or pressure on f5, White looks to be doing very well with 14 ♘f4.

14 a4

I thought it useful to push the bishop back to a6 so it wouldn't have the c6-square.

14 ♘a3!? was chosen by the legendary Sveshnikov here: 14...♗c6 (14...♗a6?! 15 c4!) 15 c4 d4 16 ♘f4 ♗g5 17 ♘d3, with an edge in Sveshnikov-Ferrec, Nova Gorica 1996.

14...♗a6 15 ♘bc3

This appears to be the first new move of the game. On the one hand, I'm allowing my queenside structure to be wrecked, but now I have more control of the centre, in particular the d4-square, and play down the b-file.

15 ♘d2 was played by a future GM: 15...c6?! (15...0-0!? is possible here as White

has no pressure on d5, while I was expecting something like 15...♘xd2 16 ♗xd2 ♗d7 17 ♖f2 0-0-0 as here I thought Black's king was fairly safe) 16 ♗e1?! ♗c7?! 17 ♘xe4! (White could have played this a move earlier) 17...dxe4 18 ♗f4 0-0-0 19 ♖f2 e3 20 ♗xe3 ♖d5 21 ♗f4 1-0, Vocaturu-Lafuente, Sautron 2008. Black's opening was a complete disaster.

15...♘xc3 16 bxc3 ♗d7 17 ♖f2 0-0-0



An extremely complicated position, and with the four c-pawns, very hard to judge. Black has the bishop-pair and if the position opens up that will be the main factor. However, his king is the more vulnerable and White can try to utilise his e5- and f5-pawns as a battering ram to break through in the centre or the queenside. The pawns also give White a useful space advantage.

18 ♘f4!?

Here Naiditsch had a long think and was obviously not particularly happy with his position.

18...g5?!

I hadn't really considered this, but was now pretty happy with my position.

18...♗c6 would be sensible to react to e5-e6 with ...f7-f6, but now Black's queenside pawns are vulnerable. After 19 ♖b1 ♗b7 20 ♗g4 ♘b8 21 ♗xg7 Black doesn't get sufficient counterplay for his collapsing kingside.

18...♗xf5! must be critical, of course, and was Black's only good option. 19 ♘xd5?! looks tempting but it turns out White has the looser king after 19...♗xe5 20 ♗g4+ ♘b8 21 ♖b1+ ♘a8!. Visually this looks very risky and I don't think I really considered it during the game, but Black is now doing very well as he has the big threat of 22...♗e1+. Here White should bail with 20 ♘xe7+ ♗xe7 21 ♗g4+ ♗d7 22 ♗xd7+ ♖xd7 into a worse ending, but it should be holdable.

Better after 18...♗xf5! is 19 ♘d3! ♗e6 20 ♗a3 ♗xd3 (or 20...♖he8 21 ♘xc5 ♗xc5 22 ♗xc5 ♖d7 23 ♗d4 which is just very unclear) 21 cxd3. White's structure has been repaired and so Black's additional pawn isn't so relevant, while he might have some long-term problems with his king, and if 21...♗xe5 22 d4!

19 ♘h5

A good outpost and a move preventing Black from obtaining counterplay on the kingside.

19 e6 is how the engine wants to continue, but I wasn't sure how to evaluate the position after 19...♗c6 20 ♘d3 f6. I have

a huge bulkhead on e6, but I thought Black might be able to play around it with a break in the centre or by pushing his h-pawn.

19...♖hg8 20 ♗g4 ♘b8



A difficult position. Obviously I want to break with my e- and f-pawns, but I need to be very careful not to allow Black's bishops to activate.

21 ♗d2

I wasn't sure where to put the bishop. Hitting the c5-pawn looked sensible, but I didn't want to block the a or e-files.

21...♗a8 22 ♖e1 ♗c4 23 a5

With time getting rather low for both of us I thought just cutting out counterplay to be the most sensible approach.

Stockfish tells me it was now to time to break with 23 e6 fxe6 24 fxe6 ♗xa4. I thought this could easily be good for me, but on the other hand I've gone 'all-in'. The following is one of the engine's top lines and shows how random the position has become: 25 ♖f7 ♗xc2 26 ♖xe7 ♗xd2 27 ♗g3! d4 28 ♖d7 dxc3 29 ♖xd2 cxd2 30 ♖d1 ♗e2 31 e7! ♗xd1 32 exd8 ♗+ ♖xd8 33 ♗xc7 ♖b8 34 ♗d7 ♗xh5 35 ♗xd2 when White has some winning chances in the resulting unbalanced endgame.

23...♖b8 24 h3!

Giving my king some luft and ideas of f5-f6 now queen is defended. I couldn't see a killer breakthrough so decided first to wait.

24...h6 25 ♗f3

25 f6 ♗xg4 26 hxg4 ♗f8 was how I wanted to play initially. The problem is I can't get any further without allowing the bishops some squares, as after 27 e6 fxe6, but here the engine comes up with the strong idea of rerouting the knight: 28 f7! ♖h8 (or 28...♖g6 29 ♘f6) 29 ♘f6! ♗d6 30 ♘d7 ♖bd8 31 ♘e5.

25...♗c8

25...♗c6 was what I expected. Now White should take the plunge with 26 f6 ♗f8 27 e6! fxe6 28 f7 ♖g6 29 ♘f6.

26 ♘g3!?

Too lazy to set-up a board?

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Opting for a different and, what looked to me, safer plan. Now my queen has access to h5 and I can also contemplate ♖e4 ideas.

26 ♖e4?! is what I'd probably have played in a blitz game, but looked unnecessary here, while 26 f6 ♖f8 27 e6 fxe6 28 f7 is similar to the previous note and still very good for White.

26...♖e8 27 ♖h5

Now a pawn drops.

27...f6 28 ♖xh6 ♖h8

The best practical try. After 28...fxe5 29 ♖c6+ ♖b7 30 ♖xb7+ ♖xb7 (or 30...♖xb7 31 ♖xe5 ♖bb8 32 f6) 31 f6 ♖d6 32 ♖f5 White's kingside pawn masse should be decisive.

29 ♖g7

29 ♖g6 was also possible and perhaps simpler. After 29...fxe5 30 ♖c6+ play is similar to the previous note.

29...♖d8 30 ♖f7

30 exf6 ♖xf6 31 ♖f7 g4 didn't seem so clear to me.

30...fxe5 31 f6 ♖d6 32 ♖xg5 ♖g8



33 ♖xg8

Originally I thought 33 ♖d7!? might be clever, but I decided to keep things straightforward. In fact, retaining the queens has the engine's approval: 33...♖xg5 34 ♖c6+ ♖b7 35 ♖b1 ♖a6 (after 35...♖hb8 36 ♖f5 Black is completely paralysed and 36...♖xf6 37 ♖e3 ♖h4 38 ♖xc4 ♖xc4 39 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 40 a6 winning for White) 36 f7 ♖d8 37 ♖f5 ♖f8 38 ♖xd6 cxd6 (or 38...♖xd6 39 ♖e8+ ♖d8 40 ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 41 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 42 f8♖) 39 ♖b3 and wins.

33...♖bxg8 34 h4 e4

So I'm a pawn up with three connected

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passed pawns, but I still have to be very careful, particularly as I was rather low on time.

35 ♖f5 ♖e5 36 g4

36 ♖h6 was another idea, but thought my pieces were a bit misplaced and that 36...♖f8 37 ♖e3 ♖xf6 38 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 39 ♖xf6 ♖xh6 should be holdable for Black.

36 ♖e7 ♖xg5 is Black's whole point. However, I missed that here I have the intermezzo 37 f7! and White is winning (37 hxg5? ♖h2+ is just a draw), whereas 36 ♖e3? would again allow 36...♖xg5 37 hxg5 ♖h2+ 38 ♖h1 ♖g3+ 39 ♖g1.

36...♖xc3 37 ♖e3



37...♖e5

37...d4!? was, I thought, a good practical try. I was intending 38 ♖xc3 (after 38 ♖xe4 ♖d5 White has to give back the exchange, with a winning position, as 39 ♖e7? runs into 39...♖xg5) 38...dxc3 39 ♖g2 when Black's structure is so horrible that White should just be winning.

38 ♖e7

38 f7! ♖f8 39 ♖e7 ♖h7 40 ♖g6 was a more accurate move order, but the text doesn't spoil anything.

38...♖b8

Or if 38...♖xg5 39 hxg5 ♖d4 40 ♖f5 and wins.

39 ♖g6 d4

39...♖d4 40 ♖xh8 ♖xh8 41 c3 ♖xe3 42 ♖xe3 d4 would extend the game, but White should be winning fairly easily.

40 ♖xe5 dxe3 41 ♖xe3

41 ♖xc4!? also looked tempting, but there's no need to give the second exchange.

41...♖xh4 42 ♖xc4

42 f7 was safer, but I calculated that I wasn't getting mated. In principle I thought it mattered to keep my more advanced f-pawn rather than the g-pawn.

42...♖b1+ 43 ♖g2 ♖xg4+ 44 ♖h3 ♖g8

44...♖g6 was a better try, but White is winning with a modicum of care: 45 f7 (45 ♖h2? ♖b8! draws) 45...♖h1+ 46 ♖h2 ♖f1 47 ♖e5 ♖gf6 (or 47...♖e6 48 ♖f2) 48 a6! ♖xa6 49 ♖f2 ♖xf2 50 ♖xf2 ♖f6 51 ♖xc5 and wins.

45 ♖h2 ♖b7 46 f7 ♖f8 47 ♖xc5 ♖h8+ 48 ♖g2 ♖bh1 49 f8♖ 1-0



Elsewhere in the tenth and penultimate round, tournament leaders USA and Ukraine took their chance to pull away from Russia who were held by India. Going into the final round, this left Russia two match points behind the leaders, with seven teams, including England, following another point behind.

While the final round pairing against Peru may have been viewed as favourable, 21-year-old Jorge Cori added to the youth conspiracy by preventing one of the best England placings in recent years, while netting a individual bronze medal on board 2 for himself in the process. The resulting 2-2 draw nevertheless meant England finished fourth equal and ninth on tie-break, and there was a feeling that genuine progress had been made this year. Individually, Mickey Adams was again undefeated on board 1, scoring 6/9 with a 2794 performance, while the big hitters assigned to the lower boards, Gawain

Jones and Nigel Short, came through with 7/9 and 6½/9, respectively.

The top three teams all won their final matches. However, the USA did not have it all their own way in their encounter with the surprising Canada, with one of the players of the event, Eric Hansen, inflicting a rare defeat on Sam Shankland. It was left to new recruits Caruana and So to save the day, the latter taking quick advantage of a blunder by his opponent.

W.So-A.Lesiege USA vs Canada



Black has to switch behind the pawns: 34...♙d3!, and if 35 ♖xg5 hxg5 36 d6 ♜c2 37 ♘a6 ♜dd2 holds the balance. Instead, Lesiege, possibly going for glory, suffered a rush of blood to the head.

34...♖e5?? 35 fxe3! ♖g3 36 ♗a1+ 1-0

There's nowhere for the black king to go as 36...♙g8 37 ♗a8+ ♙g7 38 ♘e8+ ♙f8 39 ♘d6+ forces mate.

With the Ukraine convincingly beating Slovenia 3½-½, it was unclear at first who had actually triumphed between them and the USA. While equal on match points, the first tie-break was a type of Sonneborn-Berger with the worst result eliminated. This dependency on the results of other teams in the competition therefore caused some delay, and not until the final game on board 28 concluded, was the young USA team of Caruana, Nakamura (the veteran at 29 years old), So, Shankland and Robson finally confirmed winners.

In the women's event, China, boosted by world champion Hou Yifan, came first, three match points ahead of an impressive Poland and the Ukraine. The England team, Jovanka Houska (7/9), Dagne Ciuksyte (6½/9), Akshaya Kalaiyalahan (7½/10), Sarah Longson (2/7) and myself (6/9), posted generally decent scores individually, but finished only 59th.

Highlights from the other home nations included Wales outperforming their seeding in both sections, with their young female players all qualifying for the WCM title. For Scotland, Andrew Greet had a solid performance on board 1 in his first Olympiad as a player, scoring 6/10.



Magnus Carlsen turned out for Norway and drew with the Scandinavian against Caruana.



Karjakin (right) against Caruana also finished in a draw, as Fabiano finished with a decent 7/10.



In the women's section top seeds and favourites China simply proved too strong.



Champions USA (left-right): Hikaru Nakamura, captain John Donaldson, Sam Shankland, Ray Robson, Wesley So and Fabiano Caruana.

Final Standings

(Selected countries; the number in brackets after the score is game points)

Open (150 teams competed)

1	USA	20/22	(31.5/44)
2	Ukraine	20	(31)
3	Russia	18	(32)
4	India	16	(27.5)
5	Norway	16	(26.5)
6	Turkey	16	(30)
7	Poland	16	(29.5)
8	France	16	(30)
9	England	16	(26.5)
10	Peru	16	(26.5)...
...69	Scotland	12	(24)
81	Ireland	11	(23)
85	Wales	11	(19.5)

Women's (140 teams competed)

1	China	20	(31)
2	Poland	17	(33)
3	Ukraine	17	(30.5)
4	Russia	16	(29)
5	India	16	(28)
6	USA	16	(27)
7	Vietnam	16	(27.5)
8	Azerbaijan	16	(25.5)
9	Israel	16	(26.5)...
...59	England	11	(29)
70	Wales	11	(21.5)
76	Scotland	10	(22.5)
95	Ireland	9	(20.5)

Board Prizes in the Open Competition

Medal	Player	Rating	Country	TPR	Played	Points	%	Opp.Elo
Board 1								
GOLD	GM Baadur Jobava	2665	Georgia	2926	10	8.0	80.0	2686
SILVER	GM Lenier Dominguez	2720	Cuba	2839	10	7.5	75.0	2646
BRONZE	GM Fabiano Caruana	2808	USA	2838	10	7.0	70.0	2689
...6th	GM Magnus Carlsen	2857	Norway	2805	10	7.5	75.0	2610
...7th	GM Michael Adams	2738	England	2794	9	6.0	66.7	2669
...8th	GM Sergey Karjakin	2769	Russia	2782	9	6.0	66.7	2654
Board 2								
GOLD	GM Vladimir Kramnik	2808	Russia	2903	8	6.5	81.3	2652
SILVER	GM Anton Kovalyov	2617	Canada	2852	10	8.0	80.0	2612
BRONZE	GM Jorge Cori	2609	Peru	2810	10	8.0	80.0	2570
Board 3								
GOLD	GM Wesley So	2782	USA	2896	10	8.5	85.0	2600
SILVER	GM Zoltan Almasi	2684	Hungary	2845	9	7.5	83.3	2572
BRONZE	GM Eugenio Torre	2447	Philippines	2836	11	10.0	90.9	2453
Board 4								
GOLD	GM Laurent Fressinet	2664	France	2809	8	7.0	87.5	2425
SILVER	GM Ian Nepomniachtchi	2740	Russia	2804	10	8.0	80.0	2564
BRONZE	GM Aleksandar Indjic	2548	Serbia	2786	10	8.5	85.0	2490
...6th	GM Gawain Jones	2635	England	2738	9	7.0	77.8	2518
Board 5								
GOLD	GM Andrei Volokitin	2647	Ukraine	2992	9	8.5	94.4	2548
SILVER	IM Sami Khader	2373	Jordan	2932	8	8.0	100.0	1978
BRONZE	GM Aleksej Aleksandrov	2547	Belarus	2760	8	6.5	81.3	2509
...6th	GM Nigel Short	2666	England	2681	9	6.5	72.2	2462

Grandmaster Insides



Maxim Dlugy

Grandmaster Insides

Maxim Dlugy

258 pages € 27.95 - £ 24.00 - \$ 31.50

Grandmaster Maxim Dlugy presents an overview of his Life in Chess and explains how he reached the World elite of Chess. He guides the reader into his kitchen of Chess and explains his way of thinking. We are convinced that his training methods will help many players to improve their level in Chess.

12.16

New Weapons in the King's Indian

Milos Pavlovic



New Weapons in the King's Indian

Milos Pavlovic

255 pages € 27.95 - £ 24.00 - \$ 31.50.

Grandmaster Milos Pavlovic investigated one of the most popular openings: the King's Indian. He focused on little explored and dynamic ways to counter the basic White systems. This is his second book for Thinkers Publishing and we are convinced that his new creative ideas will suit the Black player, avoiding all well-trodden paths.

11.16

The Correct Exchange in the Endgame



Eduardas Rozentalis

The Correct Exchange in the Endgame

Eduardas Rozentalis

156 pages € 19.00 - £ 15.00 - \$ 21.00.

In his book GM Rozentalis looks at some of the most important questions: the connection between the opening and the endgame, when to exchange, bishops against knights, be patient or just simplify. He presents many examples from his own experiences where the reader is well guided and eventually is provided with a clear solution. This book is highly recommended to all players as well as anyone who is coaching.

Just out

The Taimanov Bible

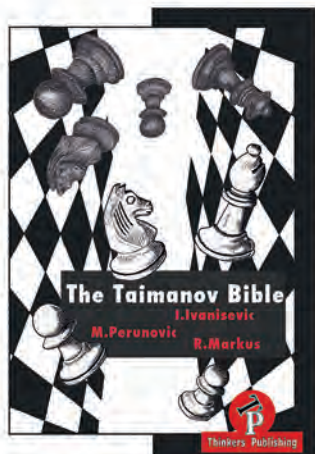
A complete manual for the Sicilian Player

Ivan Ivanisevic, Milos Perunovic & Robert Markus

358 pages € 29.95 - £ 22.00 - \$ 31.95.

The Taimanov has become one of the most popular and complicated Sicilian variations. Nearly all top players have made good use of this flexible and positional way of handling this Sicilian. Our Serbian authors have provided a complete manual with their extensive 'over the board' experience. Their many interesting combative new ideas tackle the most dangerous but also boring lines you may encounter.

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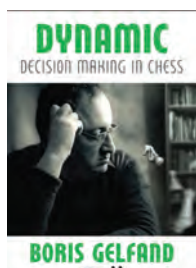
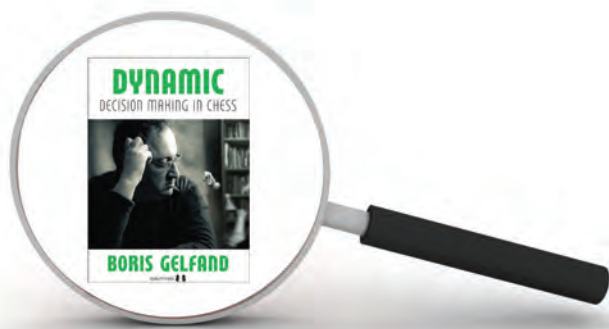


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GRAND CHESS TOUR



New Books & Software



Dynamic Decision Making in Chess

Boris Gelfand, 284 pages, Quality Chess
RRP £23.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £21.59**

Boris Gelfand's first book for Quality Chess – *Positional Decision Making in Chess* – attracted rave reviews and won the ECF Book of the Year award for 2015. The follow-up volume turns attention to dynamic aspects of the game, and the art of “dealing with something concrete, right now.” Such a concrete approach is unlike the generally abstract themes presented in the first book.

Nevertheless, the titles of some of the eight chapters do retain an abstract flavour. The first two are ‘Minsk 1979’ and ‘Petrosian’. Gelfand attended Tigran Petrosian's school of chess three times and was deeply influenced by the great champion.

Minsk 1979 was the location and date of the Soviet Championship that made a big impression on the young Gelfand. “I was incredibly lucky to have the chance to be present [...] I would go the playing hall and watch the games; every day, every minute.” The highlight of the chapter – and, indeed, one of the best games in the whole book – is Geller-Anikaev, in which the former produced a dynamic masterpiece, leaving a big impression on Gelfand: “When I arrived home that evening, I was in a state of shock. I had seen something special, a miracle at the chessboard. It is not impossible that it determined the course of my life.”

A recurring theme is introduced at the same time as the spectacular game. Geller was already 54 years of age in 1979 and nevertheless he won the Soviet Championship in Minsk. Gelfand is keen to refute the trendy notion of chess being a young person's game, citing the ages of both himself (“the oldest challenger since Korchnoi”) and Anand (“the oldest World Champion since Botvinnik”) in their title match as evidence.

Another recurring theme is the human versus computer debate. He confesses, “Kasparov played a few matches with computers, which I did not enjoy” before detailing a couple of offers he had to play

similar matches.

“Would you allow the computer to play without an opening book?”

“No.”

“Why not?”

“Because we want to beat you and increase our sales. And in the end we will meet someone who will play on our terms.”

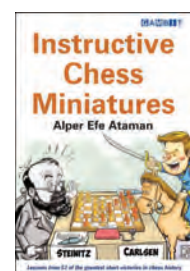
Indeed so; it is not so difficult to trade on the human weaknesses of pride and dollar signs. There is advice on when to use chess engines. “I suggest that those who start out young should study chess *without* computer assistance for years, in order to understand the game before you use this powerful tool.” Furthermore, he advises online spectators to turn off analysis engines when watching live games, but this requires more discipline than most will be able to muster.

Two chapters discuss ‘Tactics at the Top Level’ of chess, with one looking at mistakes and why they are made. Then there are chapters about Compensation, Time, Dynamic Masterpieces and Dynamic Defence, for which the titles are self-explanatory. Gelfand's own games are used as illustrative examples, but not exclusively so.

The annotations are deep, but long lines of analysis are not as prevalent as one may suspect from the work of a Super Grandmaster. It is the prose of co-author/chief editor Jacob Aagaard that elevates this book, and its award-winning predecessor, beyond the reach of others. Gelfand shares his thoughts and opinions very honestly, freely presenting some of his worst moves alongside his best.

Here is a missed opportunity which should prove instructive.

B.Gelfand-P.Leko Wijk aan Zee 2008



Instructive Chess Miniatures

Alper Efe Ataman, 128 pages,
Gambit Publications
RRP £9.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.99**

“Warning: this book is not just entertainment. The author wants to teach you a lot about chess and improve the quality of your play!” So states the back cover blurb of this new collection of short games. Furthermore, the author states: “It's a known fact that instructive games are basic resources for improving young chess-players, or in other words masters of the future”, and,

Sean Marsh

given the nature of miniatures, they are “really amazing and memorable.”

With all of this in mind, I put the book to the test both for lessons with students and for my own use. Having spent some time examining the games and annotations, I am happy to report the author has hit his target.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is useful to remember: “A miniature is a decisive game won in 25 moves or fewer.” In this fine collection we are presented with 53 miniatures, starting with Anderssen-Dufresne from 1852 and finishing with So-Kasparov, played just a few short months ago.

Alper Efe Ataman, a FIDE Master from Turkey, knows his target audience well and his experience as a trainer informs the material in this book. The annotations are light, but in a good way. He will, for example, name the openings of each game, but will not try and force-feed readers any theoretical lines. The different types of tactics are named too, but at no point does the author fall into the trap of talking down to his audience. Thus he provides inspiration for further research.

Inevitably, some of the games will be familiar to most readers, but some will be able to surprise as well as entertain, especially as miniatures tend to feature sparkling sacrifices. I don't recall seeing this game before and I was pleased to make its acquaintance.

Gaisert-I.Zaitsev
USSR Team Ch., Moscow 1960



13...♗d2!! is an alarming shot. White must accept the gift, but he didn't last much longer (0-1, 20). This should serve as an indication of the sort of material to expect.

Instructive Chess Miniatures is suitable for club players and chess tutors looking for an informative set of ready-made, entertaining lessons.

Sean Marsh

King's Indian Warfare

Ilya Smirin, 352 pages, paperback
RRP £20.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £18.89**

The strong Israeli Grandmaster has spent his career playing the King's Indian and not without some little success, including a 2½-1½ score against legendary KID killer

Vladimir Kramnik. Smirin does not present a repertoire for Black à la Kornev's new work (see below), but rather explains all about the opening and its main themes. Studying Smirin's favourite and clearly annotated games can but improve the understanding of even those with plenty of existing King's Indian experience, with almost every reader likely to pick up several new ideas.

Please note both that it's possible to purchase a hardback version of this work for an extra £4 and that we'll have a full review in a future issue.

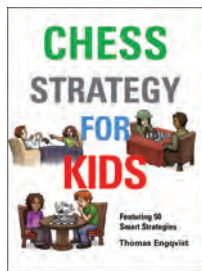


Chess Informant 129 – Big Cat

Josip Asik (ed.), 348 pages, paperback
RRP £29.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £26.99**

As well as all the latest novelties, languageless grandmaster games and the best recent endgames, the modern reader of *Informator* can enjoy plenty of fine articles. Highlights this time around include Michael Adams on his fine run in Bournemouth, Karsten Müller's tribute to Viktor Korchnoi, and Brazilian GM Rafael Leitao's coverage of the recently topical London System.

If you would also like *Chess Informant 129 – Big Cat* in CD format, that option is available coming together with the book version for £37.50 (Subscribers – £33.75).



Chess Strategy for Kids

Thomas Engqvist, 128 pages, paperback
RRP £9.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £8.99**

Gambit continue their successful series for children based around 50 small lessons. Here the focus isn't the different types of checkmate or miniatures, but rather how to plan. Engqvist has already produced a couple of fine books for Everyman and here the Swedish IM rightly begins by focussing on the pawn structure, showing what the pawns can achieve and which types of configurations suit each of the pieces. The upshot is that the strategic ability of the reader – who could easily too be a weaker club player – should improve, especially if they have also solved all the accompanying exercises.



A Practical Black Repertoire with ♫f6, g6, d6 Volume 2: King's Indian

Alexei Kornev, 380 pages, paperback
RRP £19.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.99**

As will quickly become apparent if it hasn't already in this issue, defences for Black based around an early ...g6 are certainly in vogue. Here the Russian Grandmaster is determined to strive for a fighting, uncompromising game as Black, plumping in the process for the King's Indian Defence on which he maps out quite a decent, theoretical repertoire. Somewhat strangely *Volume 1* of this repertoire, covering the Pirc and lines against the English, is due to follow later in the year.



Grandmaster Repertoire: Beating Minor Openings

Victor Mikhalevski, 584 pages, paperback
RRP £22.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.25**

It's now some ten years since your editor's *Beating Unusual Chess Openings* appeared and so Quality Chess have tackled the same project. Mikhalevski examines all White's alternatives to 1 e4 and 1 d4, recommending against the English, 1...e5. One of the best features of this typically thorough new *Grandmaster Repertoire* work is its coverage of the flexible 1 ♫f3, with all of 1...d5, 1...♫f6 followed by 2...g6 and 1...♫f6 and then 2...b6 being examined from Black's perspective, while a hardback version is available for an extra £4.



How to Exchange Pieces

Elisabeth Pähtz; ChessBase PC-DVD,
running time: 4 hours, 35 minutes
RRP £24.95 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.45**
Knowing which pieces to exchange and

when is a tough call for almost all chess players. The likes of Capablanca and Karpov had an innate feeling for knowing when and what to exchange, and by looking at their games, as well as some of her own, Pähtz aims to develop that feeling within the viewer. Handy tips are given to consider whenever one is weighing up an exchange in this DVD aimed squarely at the club player.



New in Chess Yearbook 120

Peter Boel & René Olthof (eds.),
256 pages, paperback

RRP £25.45 **SUBSCRIBERS £22.90**

The latest theoretical journal from Holland presents, as ever, a large number of top quality opening surveys, including two on the Winawer variation. The Forum section continues to grow and features a contribution from Ian Nepomniachtchi, while elsewhere Joel Benjamin examines the IQP in connection to building an opening repertoire and Alexey Kuzmin takes a look at how Vladimir Kramnik approaches the opening.

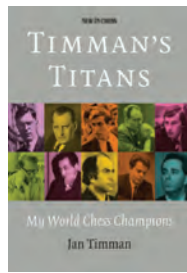


The Fianchetto Solution

Emmanuel Neiman & Samy Shoker,
272 pages, paperback

RRP £19.50 **SUBSCRIBERS £17.55**

Scared of being annihilated in the opening and keen to have a system you can play against everything, even with both colours? Yes, there is a solution: fianchettoing the king's bishop at the start of the game. Here the French FM and Egyptian GM, two experts on the Modern Defence and King's Indian Attack, team up to present a reliable-looking repertoire based around an early g3 for White and ...g6 for Black.



Timman's Titans

Jan Timman, 320 pages, paperback
RRP £22.85 **SUBSCRIBERS £20.55**

Jan Timman was not only one of the west's leading players for several decades, but is known too, of course, for being an engaging writer. Here he covers 'My World Chess Champions', the 10 champions who had a major impact on his career. As one would expect, the result is a very entertaining read, packed full of entertaining anecdotes, as well as a fine selection of well-annotated games for each of the world champions.



Your Opponent is Overrated

James Schuyler, 224 pages, paperback
RRP £17.99 **SUBSCRIBERS £16.19**

Positive psychology and the goal of unsettling the opponent dominate this latest work of the American author's, subtitled 'A Practical Guide to Inducing Errors'. Schuyler shows that dubious, sometimes even near-refuted gambits actually score pretty well at many levels of the game, while looking too at such topics as time management, provocative play and handling a bad position.



Also new in stock, two exciting chess computers... Millennium ChessGenius PRO Chess Computer retailing at £99.95 (£89.95 for subscribers), and the Millennium ChessGenius PRO Chess Computer retailing at £159.99 (£143.95 for subscribers). For further details see the advert on page 49.

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From "A" for analysis to "Z" for zugzwang: there are in the new ChessBase 14 program a whole heap of improvements which make the entry and analysis of games all the more easy, as they do the production of training or practice material. The new function "Assisted Analysis" is an outstanding example: as you enter a game, whenever you click on a piece an evaluation is produced for all its possible target squares and this is highlighted on the board in colour. Thus even before you play it you can see whether there is a better move than the one you planned. This not only makes entering moves easy, but it also invites you to participate in subtle and continuous calculation training.

Also new in ChessBase 14 is the access to annotated games in the Live Database. In conjunction with a Premium Account you can even find complete analysis of many topical games from the elite tournaments. And because the Live Database has become more and more important in the search for comparable games, now as you play through a game ChessBase 14 updates the search results automatically on every move.

Other improvements: new game notation with diagrams and coloured highlighting in encapsulated variations, one login for all ChessBase servers (playchess, ChessBase Cloud, Let's Check, ChessBase Accounts), analysis of a whole game with rapid error search, saving of the search mask, export of the diagram list as a Word document produces training material in a jiffy, automatic analysis jobs from correspondence games, simplified production of training questions, the search for similar structures now made interactive, replacing games in big databases considerably speeded up, improved search for doubles, easy use of tool to activate Fritz-Trainer and Engines, and much more.

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