



CHESS MATE

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Mitrabha Guha of Kolkata won the National Sub-Junior at Delhi recently. Harshita Guddanti won the Girls section.

Chess Mate greets readers a very Happy New Year 2017

Harshita Guddanti



Harshita Guddanti of Eluru, Andhra Pradesh won the National Sub-Junior (Girls) at New Delhi recently. The report by R.V. Gokhale is on page 4 of this issue.

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Magnus Carlsen of Norway who won the World Chess Championship for the third time in four years at New York is seen with the trophy. ↓



Mitrabha, Harshita Win

By Dronacharya Raghunandan V Gokhale

The 42nd National Sub-Junior and 33rd National Sub-Junior Girls Championships won by FM Mitrabha Guha and Harshita Guddanti in New Delhi proved just one thing – Chess is spreading its grip and influence all over the country and its playing standard has risen rapidly. Otherwise how could you explain rank outsiders making merry at the medals and top rated players struggling to gather precious points!

The Open Section:

We are now calling the 'Boys' as an Open section after WFM Tarini Goel's decision to play among the boys. Mitrabha Guha (WB) kept his nerves during the final rounds of the Championship after he suffered a heart breaking loss to his State-mate Rajdeep Sarkar who missed the crown after going down to Telangana's Arjun Erigaisi in the final round.

Mitrabha drew his second round against Aaryan Vaarshney of Delhi and then played nine decisive games. He was well prepared for this championship and took calculated risks. He did not lose heart after his loss to Rajdeep in the ninth round but went on unperturbed – winning the rest. It is a lesson to others who fumble in similar positions.

Arjun Erigaisi was higher seeded and was motivated to win against Rajdeep. He used his opponent's nervousness to score a well timed win. Arjun played efficiently losing only to the Champion and beating fancied Iniyam on the way to the Silver.

Rajdeep would have been the well deserved Champion had he obtained just a draw in the final round. He had started with 4 wins and after conceding two draws, had scored 4 more wins on the trot. But his only loss came at the most crucial moment and he was pushed to the third spot.

These were all the fancied players who must have expected a lot after gaining higher FIDE ratings and norms from International tournaments. May be they did not expect such a fierce challenge from little known and lowly rated players and could not recover from their initial shocks. For example, the only IM in the field and the top seed K.S.Raghunandan never recovered from his second round loss to Utsab Chatterjee (WB) and finished 12th.

The Girls' Section:

Harshita Guddanti –seeded fifth pipped local favourite Vantika Agrawal on tiebreak (more number of victories) and became the National Under 15

Girls Champion. Harshita had lost to the top seed Arpita Mukherjee in the seventh round. However the Andhra lass did not lose heart and scored four wins in row to reach 9 points. This fighting spirit was the hallmark of most of the top finishers in this Championship.

After missing the Gold in the World Youth two months ago ever-smiling Vantika Agrawal again had a heart breaking experience. Though her Buchholz Tie-break score was higher than Harshita's, the new rule (number of wins) pushed her to Silver much to the disappointment of local fans. Vantika is likely to follow in the footsteps of her idol, Tania Sachdev, and win laurels for the national capital in Women's Chess.

Like Mitrabha and Rajdeep grabbing Gold and Bronze for West Bengal in the 'Open', the Andhra girls Harshita and V.Toshali did the same in the 'Girls' for their State. Toshali lost only two games, against top seeds Arpita and Vantika. Though rated lower than the other medallists, she may prove to be a winner in the forthcoming Asian/World Youth Championships.

It is difficult to write about this Championship without mentioning Arpita Mukherjee, the top seed. She scored $2\frac{1}{2}/3$ against the top three in the Championship. She was sitting pretty at the top with $6\frac{1}{2}/7$ when her loss to N.Priyanka

broke her momentum and she finished fifth with a hat trick of draws in the remaining rounds.

The event was conducted admirably by the Delhi Chess Association in the beautiful environment of the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex.

IA Rajendra Shidore conducted the Championship efficiently without any hiccups. His team of arbiters worked hard to run this important event smoothly. AICF CEO Bharat Singh Chouhan, his deputies MS Gopakumar, A.K.Verma left no stone unturned to provide the children with a brilliantly illuminated playing venue and make the numerous accompanying persons comfortable.

The top three of the Championship will represent India at the 2017 Asian and World Youth Championships in Tashkent Uzbekistan (March 31 to April 9) and Montivideo, Uruguay (Sep 6 to 16) respectively.

The top four in the Open and the Girls' Champion Harshita may represent the India 'A' Team at the 2017 World Youth Chess Olympiad scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad where we are sure to field many strong teams.

Final placings:

Open: 1 FM Mitrabha Guha (WB) 9.5/11; 2-3. Erigaisi Arjun (Tel), FM Rajdeep Sarkar (WB) 9 each; 4-7. S Jayakumar (TN), P Rahul Srivastav (Tel), FM

Rakesh Kr Jena (Odi), Aronyak Ghosh (WB) 8.5 each; 8 P Iniyani (TN), Kushagra Mohan (Tel), Aditya B Kalyani (Kar), IM K.S. Raghunandan (Kar), FM Nitish Belurkar (Goa) 8 each....220 players.

Girls: 1-2. Harshita Guddanti (AP), Vantika Agrawal (Del) 9/11 each; 3-6. V

Toshali (AP), WFM C Lakshmi (TN), WFM Arpita Mukherjee (WB), Tanya Pandey 8 each; 7-13 Rutvi Shah (Guj), Abhirami Madabushi (AP), Samriddhaa Ghosh (WB), WFM B.M. Akshaya (AP), K Priyanka (TN), Rajashree Rajeev (Ker), Sanskriti Goyal (UP) 7.5 each...110 players.

World Championship, New York

Carlsen Scores Hat-trick Retains Title 3-1 In Rapid Tie-break

Magnus Carlsen of Norway retained his title when he beat the Russian challenger Sergey Karjakin 6-6, 3-1 to win the FIDE World Chess Title for the third time at New York on November 30, 2016.

Carlsen celebrated his 26th birthday in style, winning the Rapid four-game Tie-Break contest that lasted 209 moves in all on the final day. This was the best the spectators got in the lower Manhattan venue of New York.

After Game 1 and the exciting Game 2 were drawn, Carlsen won Games 3 and 4 to wrap up the tie-break at 3-1.

Carlsen first became champion in 2013 unseating Viswanathan Anand at Chennai. He then retained his title in Sochi, Russia against Anand yet again. Carlsen had worked previously in Anand's team when Anand was playing Topalov and Kramnik. So facing the Indian was a bit easier for him.

The New York match was thought to be the closest and indeed it was. Both players born in 1990 contested the 12-match series that ended in a 6-6 tie. Tie-breaks are unfortunate for world title events but matches can't be allowed to go endlessly like it happened in 1984-1985 when FIDE terminated the Karpov versus Kasparov match after 48 games due to the perceived hazard to the health of the players and the financial drain on the organisers!

The second rapid game saw Karjakin, on the verge of defeat, sacrifice material to get a sensational draw by stalemate. Thereafter, in the third game he could not be recognised. Carlsen sliced his way through with a brilliant pawn sacrifice on move 30

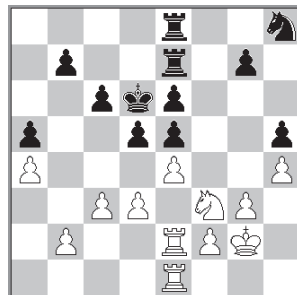
to plant a knight and win the game. Karjakin lost the fourth game playing the Sicilian defence. The very last move of the entire match ended with Carlsen's brilliant queen sacrifice which is sure to be remembered for years to come.

Thirty years ago, Karpov (against Kasparov) after winning three world championship games in a row, Games 17-18-19, at Leningrad 1986, adopted a rare professional strategy and took a time out to cool his excitement. After the long 84-move stalemate in Tie-Break 2, Karjakin required that break. FIDE does not allow time-outs since 1997.

The eighth game defeat in New York rocked Carlsen. Playing like a real champion, he sprang to life in Game 10 and won it with controlled positional play of a high order. Game 11 was drawn after some play. Then, Carlsen inexplicably banked his chances on the Rapid tie-break games and closed the door on classical chess by drawing Game 12 playing the white pieces. Game 12 was an insipid draw in exactly 30 moves to satisfy the Rules but surely that would not endear him to the paying public. Legends are not created by such draws and champions come down in the estimation of chess lovers.

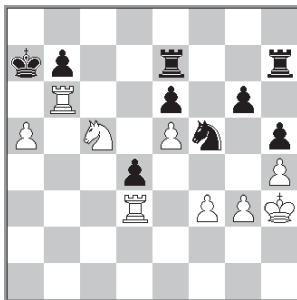
Editor **IM Manuel Aaron** annotates the games:

Magnus Carlsen 2853
Sergey Karjakin 2772
 Ruy Lopez C65, G/10
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Be7 8.0-0 d6 9.Nbd2 Nh5 [K.Miton 2638 vs O.Korneev 2638, Montreal 2006 was drawn without a fight after: 9...Bd7 10.Nc4 Re8 11.Re1 a6 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.Ne3 Drawn!] **10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Nc4 Nf4** [11...Nd8=] **12.Ne3 Qf6 13.g3 Nh3+ 14.Kh1 Ne7 15.Bc4 c6 16.Bb3 Ng6 17.Qe2 a5 18.a4 Be6 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Nd2** [If 20.Ng1 Nxf2+ 21.Kg2 Nh4+! 22.gxh4 Qg6+ 23.Ng4 Nxg4-+] **20...d5** [If 20...Nxf2+ 21.Kg2 Nh4+ 22.Kg1 Nh3+ 23.Kh1 Nf2+=] **21.Qh5 Ng5** [21...Nxf2+ 22.Kg2 Qf7 (Threat 23...Nf4+ and ...Qxh5)] **22.h4 Nf3 23.Nxf3 Qxf3+ 24.Qxf3 Rxf3 25.Kg2 Rf7** [If 25...Raf8 26.h5! Ne7 27.Rae1±] **26.Rfe1 h5 27.Nf1 Kf8 28.Nd2 Ke7 29.Re2 Kd6 30.Nf3 Raf8 31.Ng5 Re7 32.Rae1 Rfe8 33.Nf3 Nh8**



34.d4! This move eventually plants a pawn on e5 which makes black's game very difficult. **34...exd4 35.Nxd4 g6 36.Re3 Nf7 37.e5+ Kd7**

38.Rf3 Nh6 39.Rf6 Rg7 40.b4 axb4 41.cxb4 Ng8 42.Rf3 Nh6 43.a5 Nf5 44.Nb3 Kc7 45.Nc5 White has manoeuvred his pieces well to achieve a big space advantage with enough room to shift his attack from one object to the other (g6, e6 and the queen-side) and keep black on his toes. Black is purely on the defensive. 45...Kb8 [Better was to anticipate white's break on the queen-side with 45...Rge7 46.Ra1 Ra8±] 46.Rb1 Ka7 47.Rd3 Rc7 48.Ra3 Nd4 49.Rd1 Nf5 50.Kh3 Nh6 51.f3 Rf7 52.Rd4 Nf5 53.Rd2 Rh7 54.Rb3 Ree7 55.Rdd3 Rh8 56.Rb1 After long manoeuvring, white is poised to advance b4-b5 and achieve a winning advantage. 56...Rhh7 57. b5!+- cxb5 58.Rxb5 d4 [Black desperately seeks a counter to white's increasing advantage. If 58...Rh8 59.Rb6! Rc8 60.Nxe6+-] 59.Rb6

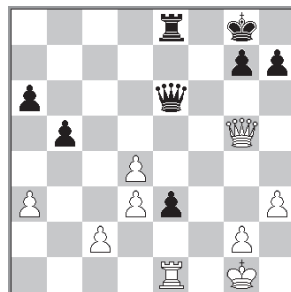


59...Rc7!? This is the counter-attack that black has relied on to rescue his game, but it fails. 60.Nxe6 Rc3 61.Nf4 Rhc7 62.Nd5 Rxd3 63.Nxc7 Kb8 [If 63...Rxf3 64.Nb5+ Kb8 (64...Ka8 65.Rf6 mates.) 65.a6

Rxg3+ 66.Kh2 Rf3 67.Rxb7+ Kc8 68.Rc7+ Kd8 69.a7 Rf2+ 70.Kg1 Ra2 71.Rb7 wins.] 64.Nb5 Kc8 65.Rxg6 Rxf3 66.Kg2! Now the king joins the attack and it decides the game. 66...Rb3 67.Nd6+ Nxd6 68.Rxd6 Re3 69.e6 Kc7 70.Rxd4 Rxe6 71.Rd5! Rh6 72.Kf3! Kb8 73.Kf4! Ka7 74.Kg5 Rh8 75.Kf6! [Precisely played. After 75.Kg6 Rg8+ 76.Kxh5 Rxg3 white will win but after some more struggle.] 1-0.

Sergey Karjakin 2772
Magnus Carlsen 2853
Ruy Lopez C84, G/11

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.Nc3 Be6 10.Nd5 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.f4 c5 15.Qg4 Qd7 16. f5 Rae8 17.Bd2 c4 18.h3 c3 19.bxc3 d5 20.Bg5 Bxg5 21. Qxg5 dxe4 22.fxe6 Rxf1+ 23. Rxf1 Qxe6 24.cxd4 e3 25.Re1



The game is already heading for a draw with the play revolving around black's passed pawn on e2. 25...h6 26.Qh5 e2 27.Qf3 a5 28.c3 Qa2 29.Qc6 Re6 30.Qc8+ Kh7 31.c4 Qd2 32.Qxe6 Qxe1+ 33.Kh2 Qf2

34.Qe4+ White has perpetual check which black can avoid only at the cost of his e2 pawn. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$.

Magnus Carlsen 2853

Sergey Karjakin 2772

Ruy Lopez C67, G/12

According to the rules a player cannot offer a draw within 30 moves of play. Even though Carlsen had the white pieces, he does not make any attempt to win this game and once they complete 30 moves, the players agreed to a draw. It is at such times that we miss the legendary Bobby Fischer who played to win each and every game to the best of his ability, no matter who the opponent was. This is a carefully played European grand-master draw! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0 9.d4 Bf6 10.Re1 Re8 11.Bf4 Rxe1 12.Qxe1 Ne8 13.c3 d5 14.Bd3 g6 15.Na3 c6 16.Nc2 Ng7 17.Qd2 Bf5 18.Bxf5 Nxf5 19.Ne3 Nxe3 20.Qxe3 Qe7 21.Qxe7 Bxe7 22.Re1 Bf8 23.Kf1 f6 24.g4 Kf7 25.h3 Re8 26.Rxe8 Kxe8 27.Ke2 Kd7 28.Kd3 Ke6 29.a4 a6 30.f3 Be7 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$**

With the match tied at 6-6 the tie-break was upon us. We present all the four tie-break games for academic interest:

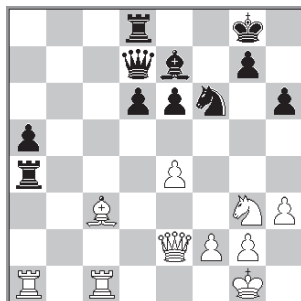
Sergey Karjakin 2772

Magnus Carlsen 2853

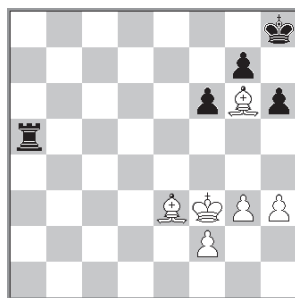
Ruy Lopez C84, T/B 1

This was perhaps the dull-est game of the championship. It must have made Carlsen

happy as he got an easy draw with the black pieces. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.Nc3 Nb8 10.Ne2 c5 11.Ng3 Nc6 12.c3 Rb8 13.h3 a5 14.a4 b4 15.Re1 Be6 16.Bc4 h6 17.Be3 Qc8 18.Qe2 Rd8 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.d4 bxc3 21.bxc3 cxd4 22.cxd4 exd4 23.Nxd4 Nxd4 24.Bxd4 Rb4 25.Rec1 Qd7 26.Bc3 Rxa4**



27.Bxa5! = Rxa1 28.Rxa1 Ra8 29.Bc3 Rxa1+ 30.Bxa1 Qc6 31.Kh2 Kf7 32.Bb2 Qc5 33.f4 Bd8 34.e5 dxe5 35.Bxe5 Bb6 36.Qd1 Qd5 37.Qxd5 Nxd5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$.



Magnus Carlsen 2853

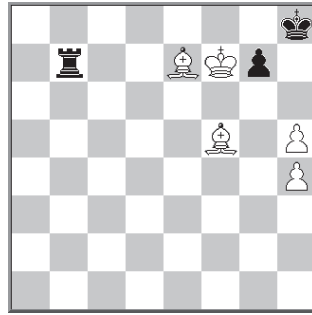
Sergey Karjakin 2772

Tie-Break Game 2

44.Ke4 With all the pawns on the king-side on the same files, this position should be

drawn. But Carlsen tries his best to get his king close to the black king and capture the g7 pawn or find some winning break-through. 44...Rb5 45.h4 Re5+ 46.Kd4 Ra5 47.Kc4 Re5 48.Bd4 Ra5 49.Bc5 Black cannot prevent the white king from crossing over to the fifth rank. 49...Kg8 50.Kd5 Rb5 51.Kd6 Ra5 52.Be3 Re5 53.Bf4 Ra5 54.Bd3 Ra7 Now black prevents the white king from getting closer - to e7 and f7 only after which he could smell some winning chances. 55.Ke6 Rb7 56.Kf5 Rd7 57.Bc2 Rb7 58.Kg6 Rb2 59.Bf5 White sacrifices his f-pawn to get both bishops and his king very, very close to the cornered king on h8. 59...Rxf2 60.Be6+ Kh8 61.Bd6 Re2 62.Bg4 [My wife and I were watching this game live at 2:15 am. We were disappointed that Karjakin was about to lose. But there are many tricky variations, the most important being Carlsen having a white square bishop and an h-pawn against the bare black king, and it is a theoretical draw. If 62.Kf7 Rc2 63.g4 Rb2 64.Bf8 (64.Bd5 Rd2) 64...Rb7+ 65.Kg6 Ra7 66.g5 hxg5 67.h5! Rb7 68.Bc5 Rb5 69.h6 Rb7 (69...gxh6?? 70.Be7+) 70.Bd4 Rc7 71.hxg7+ Rxc7+ 72.Kxf6 g4 73.Bd5 g3 74.Bg2 Kh7 and white cannot win.] 62...Re8 63.Bf5 Kg8 64.Bc2 Re3 65.Bb1 Kh8 66.Kf7 Rb3 67.Be4 Re3 68.Bf5 Rc3 69.g4 Rc6 70.Bf8 Rc7+ 71.Kg6 Kg8 72.Bb4 Rb7 73.Bd6 Kh8 74.Bf8 Kg8

75.Ba3 Kh8 76.Be6 Rb6 77.Kf7 Rb7+ 78.Be7 h5! 79.gxh5 [If 79.g5 fxg5 80.hxg5 Rb2 81.Bf5 Rb7 82.Bg6 h4 83.Be4 Ra7=] 79...f5! 80.Bxf5

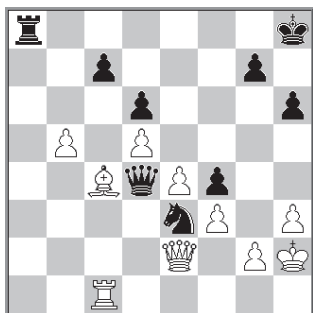


80...Rxe7+! 81.Kxe7 Without his dark square bishop to attack g7, white's attack has no sting. 81...Kg8 82.Bd3 Kh8 83.Kf8 [83.Bg6 Kg8 84.Ke8 Kh8 85.Bf7 Kh7 86.Kf8 Kh8 87.Bg8 g5 88.Bd5 gxh4=] 83...g5! 84.hxg6 Stalemate! ½-½.

Sergey Karjakin 2772
Magnus Carlsen 2853
Ruy Lopez C84, T/B 3

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.Nc3 Na5 10.Ba2 Be6 11.b4 Nc6 12.Nd5 Nd4 13.Ng5 Bxd5 14.exd5 Nd7 15.Ne4 f5 16.Nd2 f4 17.c3 Nf5 18.Ne4 Qe8 19.Bb3 [⊔19.Qg4 h5 20.Qh3 g5 21.g4±] 19...Qg6 20.f3 Bh4 21.a4 Nf6 22.Qe2 [⊔22.Bd2=] 22...a5 23.axb5 axb4 24.Bd2 bxc3 25.Bxc3 Ne3 26.Rfc1 Rxa1 27.Rxa1 Qe8 28.Bc4 Kh8 29.Nxf6 Bxf6 30.Ra3 [30.Ra4=] 30...e4 31.dxe4 Bxc3 32.Rxc3 Qe5

33.Rc1 Ra8 34.h3 [34.Qd2 Preventing a future ...Qd4 was level.] 34...h6 35.Kh2 Qd4!



Now black has the initiative and white's task is more difficult. **36.Qe1! Qb2 [36...Nxc4? 37.Qb4!±] 37.Bf1 Ra2 38.Rxc7? [38.Rb1 Qf6 39.Be2 Qg6±] 38...Ra1 0-1.**

Carlsen 2853 - Karjakin 2772
Sicilian B54, Tie-break 4

1.e4 c5 For the first time in the Match, Karjakin plays the Sicilian Defence in the last of the 4-game Rapid Tie-break Match. Trailing the champion by one game, he had to win this game or bow out. A draw is of no use to him any more. **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 Be7 7.c4 a5 8.Be3 a4 9.Nc1 0-0 10.Nc3 Qa5 11.Qd2 Na6N** [The match situation called for Karjakin to play a violent game as did black in Yandemirov 2481 vs Damljanovic 2554, EU Cup, 1999 which went: 11...Be6 12.Rb1 Rc8 13.b3 axb3 14.axb3 Nc6 15.Nb5 Nb4 16.Bd3 d5 17.exd5 Nfxd5 18.Ke2 Nf6 19.Kf2 Nxd3+ 20.Qxd3 e4 21.Qd2 Bb4 22.Qb2 Bd7 23.Ne2 Bxb5 24.cxb5 Qxb5 and 41.0-1] **12.Be2 Nc5**

13.0-0 Bd7 14.Rb1 Rfc8 15.b4 axb3 16.axb3 Qd8 17.Nd3 Ne6 18.Nb4 Bc6 19.Rfd1 h5?± [19...Nf4 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Kh1± (21.Qxf4?? Qb6+-+) 21...Qb6 22.Nd3 Nh5 23.b4 Bf6 24.b5 Bxc3 25.Qxc3 Bd7±] 20.Bf1 h4 21.Qf2 Nd7 22.g3 Ra3 23.Bh3 Rca8 24.Nc2 R3a6 25.Nb4 Ra5 26.Nc2 [If 26.Ncd5 Bxd5 27.Nxd5 Nc7 28.Nb6 Nxb6 29.Bxb6 hxg3 30.hxg3 Ra2 31.Rd2 Rxd2 32.Qxd2 Qe8 33.Bxc7 Qc6²] 26...b6 27.Rd2 Qc7 28.Rbd1 With a firm grip over the d-file, white enjoys a great positional advantage. **28...Bf8 29.gxh4!** White's advantage is snowballing. **29...Nf4 30.Bxf4 exf4 31.Bxd7! Qxd7 32.Nb4 Ra3 33.Nxc6 Qxc6 34.Nb5! Rxb3 35.Nd4 Qxc4 36.Nxb3 Qxb3** Black has lost the exchange for a pawn and his position is without prospects. **37.Qe2 Be7 38.Kg2 Qe6 39.h5 Ra3 40.Rd3 Ra2 41.R3d2 Ra3 42.Rd3 Ra7** As a draw would give up the Match, black is obliged to get back with his rook and look for some other way to get back into the game. **43.Rd5 Rc7 44.Qd2 Qf6** [After 44...Qh6 45.Qb2 Bf6 46.Qxb6 Rc2+ 47.Kh1 Be5 48.Qd8+ Kh7 49.Qh4 Qe6 50.R1d2 and white continues to hold his big advantage.] **45.Rf5 Qh4 46.Rc1 Ra7 47.Qxf4 Ra2+ 48.Kh1+- Qf2 49.Rc8+ Kh7** [The alternative also leads to a quick mate: 49...Bf8 50.Rxf8+! Kxf8 51.Rxf7+ Ke8 52.Rf8+ Kd7 53.Qf7+ Kc6 54.Rc8+ Kb5 55.Qc4+ Ka5 56.Ra8#] **50.Qh6+** It is mate next move whatever black does. A spectacular finish to the match. **1-0**

So Wins London Chess Classic

Anand Gains Six Elo Points



Philippine born Wesley So played at a career best 2904 Elo to win the 2016 London Chess

Classic with 6/9. Fabiano Caruana's chase for the No.1 position in the FIDE Rating list perked up as he gained five Elo from the London Classic and climbs from 2823. Carlsen, the highest rated player in the world who retained his world title on 30 November, actually lost rating points and the difference between the World No 1 and No. 2 players is no longer the wide chasm it once was!

Wins against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Veselin Topalov and a defeat to Hikaru Nakamura, gave Viswanathan Anand, a '+1' score. He tied for third place and gained six Elo points.

This category 22 event had an average rating of 2785. Four players remained undefeated in the 10-player all-play-all. All players with the exception of Anish won at least one game.

Final placings: 1 Wesley So (USA) 6/9, 2 Fabiano Caruana (USA) 5½; 3-5. Viswanathan Anand, Vladimir Kramnik (Rus), Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 5 each; 6 Anish Giri (Ned) 4½; 7-9. Levon Aronian (Arm), Maxime

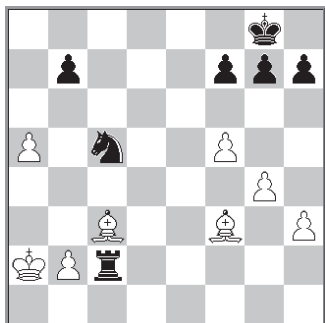
Vachier-Lagrave (Fra), Michael Adams (Eng) 4 each; 10 Veselin Topalov (Bul) 2.

Viswanathan Anand 2779

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave 2804
Sicilian Najdorf B90

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f4 Nbd7 [Lu Shanglei 2533 vs K.Grigroryan 2591, World Junior, Pune, 2014 went: 8...exf4 9.Bxf4 Nc6 10.Qe2 Ne5 11.0-0-0 Qc7 12.g4 g6 13.Nd4 Nfd7 14.Qe3 h6 1-0] **9.g4 Rc8 10.f5 Bxb3 11.axb3 d5** [This was sort of forced as g4-g5 was threatened. Exciting would be: 11...Rxc3 12.bxc3 Nxe4 13.h4 Be7 14.g5 Qb6 15.Qf3 d5=] **12.exd5 Bb4** Now the struggle revolves around black trying to regain his pawn with advantage and white's intent to retain it. **13.Bg2 Qb6 14.Bd2 e4 15.Qe2 0-0 16.0-0-0 Nc5 17.Kb1 Rfd8 18.Rhe1 a5** [He cannot equalise with: 18...Bxc3 19.Bxc3 Nxd5 20.Bd4 Nf4 21.Bxc5 Qxc5 22.Qxe4 Nxc3 23.Qxc3 24.Qxc3] **19.Qf2 Qc7 20.Bf4 Qb6 21.Be5 a4 22.bxa4 Bxc3 23.Bxc3 Nxd5 24.Rxd5 Rxd5 25.Bxe4 Rd6** [25...Rd7=] **26.a5 Qb5 27.Qe2 Qxe2 28.Rxe2 Rd1+ 29.Ka2 Re8** [This leads to a surprising finish in a few moves. After 29...Nxe4 30.Rxe4 Rd7 White has the equivalent of bishop and two pawns for a rook which

constitutes a slight advantage.] **30.Bf3 Rxe2 31.Bxe2 Rc1 32.Bf3** Black can no longer stop white's winning procedure. **32...Rxc2**



33.Bxb7! [After **33.Bxb7 Nxb7 (33...Re2 34.Bc6+)** **34.a6 Re2 35.axb7 Re8 36.Be5+-**] **1-0**

Fabiano Caruana 2823

Hikaru Nakamura 2779

Sicilian Najdorf B96, 15.12.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Qb6 9.a3 Be7 10.Bf2 Qc7 11.Qf3 Nbd7 12.0-0-0 b5 13.g4 g5 14.h4 gxf4 15.Be2 b4N [Giri 2790 vs Vachier-Lagrave, Norway Chess, 2016 was another violent game from this variation: **15...Rg8 16.Rdg1 d5 17.exd5 Ne5 18.Qh3 exd5 19.Re1 Kf8 20.Nf5 Bxf5 21.gxf5 Bc5 22.Qf1 d4 23.Nb1 Ne4 24.Bf3 Nxf2 25.Bxa8 Ned3+ 26.Kd2 Nxe1 27.Qxf2 d3 28.Qxe1 Be3+!** **0-1**] **16.axb4 Ne5! 17.Qxf4 Nexg4 18.Bxg4 e5!?**

See diagram

19.Qxf6!? **Bxf6 20.Nd5 Qd8 21.Nf5** [21.Nc6 wins back the queen but achieves only equality. **21...Bxg4 22.Nxd8**

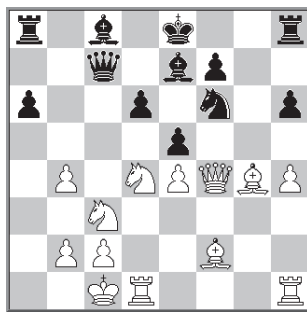


Diagram before **19.Qxf6!?**

Bxd8 23.Rd2 Rb8 24.c3=] **21...Rb8?!** [**21...Bxf5 22.Bxf5 Be7+**] **22.Nxf6+** Now starts the harrassment of the black forces which ends in victory. **22...Qxf6 23.Rxd6?** [The natural attack is good: **23.Nxd6+ Ke7 24.Bc5 Qf4+-]** **23...Be6 24.Rhd1 0-0 25.h5 Qg5+?** [**25...Rb7**] **26.Be3! Qf6** [26...Qxg4?? **27.Nxh6+**] **27.Nxh6+ Kh8 28.Bf5** [Still stronger was: **28.Nxf7+ Rxf7 29.Rxe6 Qh4 30.Bf5+-]** **28...Qe7 29.b5?!** [Again, winning was: **29.Nxf7+ Rxf7 30.Rxe6 Qxb4 31.Rh6+ Kg8 32.Rg1+ Rg7 33.Be6+ Kf8 34.Bc5+! Qxc5 35.Rh8+ Ke7 36.Rxg7+ Kd6 (36...Kxe6 37.Rh6#!)** **37.Rxb8+-]** **29...Qe8 30.Nxf7+! Rxf7 31.Rxe6 Qxb5 32.Rh6+** [After **32.Rh6+ Kg7 33.Rg1+ Kf8 34.Rh8+ Ke7 35.Rxb8 Qxb8 36.Bc5+ Kd8 37.Rg8+-]** **1-0.**

Analysis of the two above games are by IM Manuel Aaron. Analysis otherwise not credited are by Manuel Aaron.

Chess Mate greets the Indian chess community a Very Happy New Year 2017.

Inter-University, Chennai

Titles For Calcutta, Madras

Third seed University of Calcutta and second seed University of Madras (Girls) won the 52nd edition of the All India Inter-University (Inter-Zone) Championships that concluded at Avadi in Chennai this November 2016.

The winners had a most unusual Board order: 1. Vishal Didwana (Elo 1928) 1½/3; 2. Debarshi Mukherjee (2194) 4½/6; 3. IM Sayantan Das (2371) 5/6; 4. GM Diptayan Ghosh (2570) 5/6, 5. Sayan Bose (1969) 0/2; 6. Sumit Kumar (1866) 1/1. They beat five teams and drew Anna University for the title by a clear margin of 11/12.

Top seed SRM Chennai finished fifth and 2nd seed University of Delhi finished sixth. The event had three GMs, four IMs and in all 87 players. National champion GM Karthikeyan Murali (SRM, Chennai) scored 3/5 and suffered one defeat. He played on Board 2!

IM George Antony Stany (SRM) did better at 5½/6 on Board 1. He was the only titled player to play on Board 1 for any team!

Delhi had GM Vaibhav Suri, the highest rated player in this championship (2552), who scored 5/5, but on Board 5! After prevailing over foreign grandmasters in thrilling games what fun could there be

for him to swat the poor chaps on Board 5, as thrilling as swatting a fly with a sledgehammer!

Shubham Lakudkar (Elo 1870, Board 2 for RTM Nagpur) scored +1, =3, -1 in his five games. His lone victory was against National Champion GM Karthikeyan Murali (Rating 2530, Board 2 for top seed SRM) ! Karthikeyan's final score was a poor 3/5 which included a win by forfeit. He is lucky that this event is not FIDE-Rated! As far as Karthikeyan's poor show is concerned we cannot read much into this debacle because within a few days after it ended, he played in the National Premier in Lucknow and retained his title.

We stated that the champions, University of Calcutta, had a most unusual Board Order. They were not the only ones to hide their Grandmasters and IMs on lower boards as almost every team, both in the Boys and Girls sections resorted to the same, strange 'winning strategy'. Probably they are following the same 'strategy' practiced by the Indian National team in recent Chess Olympiads. Gone are the days when a player would deem it an honour to play for his/her team on the top board.

When the 1970 USSR versus Rest of the World (ROW) 10-board, 4-round Match was organised in Belgrade the row over the ROW Board Order almost scuttled the match. The dispute arose when Bent Larsen of Denmark, who at that time was enjoying a big run of successes, demanded that he play on Board 1 for ROW. The organisers of ROW had already offered it to Bobby Fischer who had not been very active over a few months but had the greater reputation. The FIDE Rating system had just come into existence in 1970. When Larsen's demand threatened to be the end of the projected historic match, Bobby Fischer surprisingly saved the match by condescending to play on the second Board and let Larsen play Board One. Larsen played well, scoring 1½:1½ against World Champion Spassky and beating Stein who substituted for Spassky in the 4th game. Fischer outplayed Petrosian 3-1 on Board 2. One year later, Fischer beat Larsen 6-0 in the Candidates Match. On Board 3, Portisch (Hun) beat Korchnoy 2½:1½. When Portisch drew the fourth game it incurred the wrath of Fischer as Portisch had had the advantage and should have won and helped the ROW team draw with USSR. ROW lost to USSR by the narrowest margin 19½:20½.

In the women's edition, second seed University of Madras piped top seed Anna Univer-

sity, Chennai, to win the title with five wins and a draw (two points per match win and one point for a team 2-2). The Madras Board Order: 1. G Rohini (1623) 4/6; 2. WIM G.K. Monisha (2140) 5/6; 3. Y Saranya (1906) 5/6 and 4. R Divya Lakshmi (1968) 5½/6. In the all crucial match, Madras beat Anna by a surprisingly wide 3½-½ margin. J Saranya and Michelle Catherina lost for the top seeds in the middle boards against Monnisha and Y Saranya.

In the other important match, Madras' Monnisha and Saranya drew Arunima Goyal and Srija Seshadri of Delhi on the central boards while lower rated Delhi players lost in the top and bottom boards for a 3-1 result favouring Madras. A total of 84 girls played and it included three WIMs, three WFM's none of whom played top board.

The Chief Arbiter, IA S Paul Arokiaraj, states that for the first time in the history of the this Championship for the Karan Singh Trophy, live games were available through Monroi.

Final placings:

Open: 1. Univ of Calcutta 11/12; 2. Anna Univ 9; 3. Univ of Madras 8, 4-6. MD Univ Rohtak, SRM Chennai, Univ of Delhi 7 each; 7-10. B.R.A. Bihar Univ, Muzzaffarpur, Punjabi Patiala, Jadavpur Univ, Savitribai Phule Pune Univ 6 each; 11-12. VTU Belgaum, RTM Nagpur 4 each;

13-15 Shivaji Kolhapur, North Maharashtra Univ Jalgaon, Punjab Univ Chandigarh 3 each.

Women: 1. Univ of Madras 11/12, 2-4. Anna Univ Chennai, Univ of Delhi, VTU Belagavi 9 each; 5-6. RTM Nagpur, DAVV Indore 7; 7-8. Univ of Kerala 6, BHU Varanasi 6; 9-11. Univ of Allahabad, Panjab Univ Chandigarh, Rajasthan Univ 5 each; 12. Patna Univ 4; 13-14. Punjabi Patiala, North Maharashtra Univ, Jalgaon 3; 15. GGD Vishwa Vidyalaya, Bilaspur 1.

Earlier the four Zones had organised their own preliminaries. The Zone toppers:

North: 1 Univ of Delhi; 2 Punjab Univ Chandigarh; 3 MDU Rohtak; 4 Punjab Univ, Patiala.

East: 1 Univ of Calcutta; 2 B.R.A. Bihar Univ, Muzaffarpur; 3 KIIT Univ; 4 Jadavpur Univ.

West: 1 Savitribai Phule Univ, Pune; 2. RTM Nagpur Univ; 3. North Maharashtra Univ. Jalgaon, 4 Shivaji Univ.

South: 1. Univ of Madras; 2. SRM Chennai, 3 Anna Univ, Chennai; 4 VTU Belagavi.

Zone (women) toppers:

North: 1 Univ of Delhi, 2 Punjab Univ. Patiala, 3 Punjab Univ. Chandigarh, 4 University of Allahabad.

East: 1 KIIT Univ; 2 B.H.U. Varanasi; 3 Patna Univ; 4 Guru Gashi Das Vishwa Vidyalaya, Bilaspur.

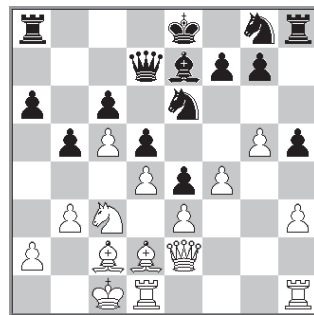
West: 1 RTM Nagpur Univ, 2 DAVV Indore, 3 North Maharashtra Univ, Jalgaon, 4 Rajasthan University.

South: 1 Anna University, 2 Madras University, 3 VTU Belagavi, 4 University of Kerala ... 45 teams.

Now for some games:

**Vaibhav Suri 2552
R Ganesh 2085**

Slav Defence D15 14.11.2016
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c6 3.d4 d5
4.e3 a6 5.Nf3 b5 6.b3 Bg4 7.h3
Bxf3 8.Qxf3 e6 9.Bd2 Be7
10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.c5 e5 12.Bc2
e4 13.Qe2 Nf8 14.0-0-0 Ne6
15.g4 h5 16.f4 Qd7 17.g5 Ng8

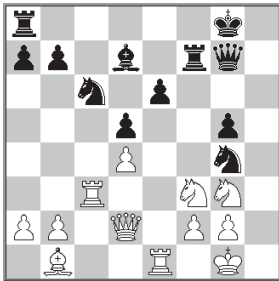


18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Bxe4 Bd8
20.h4 Ne7 21.f5 Nc7 22.Rhf1
a5 23.f6 gxf6 24.Rxf6 Ncd5 25.
Rh6 Rf8 26.Qxh5 Bc7 27.Bf3
Qh3 28.Rh1 Qc8 29.Bg4 Qb7
30.Rf1 Ng6 31.Rxg6 1-0.

**George A Stany 2485
Raunak Mondal 1811**

French Defence C06 10-11-2016
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5
Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2
cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.0-0
Bd6 11.Nf3 Qc7 12.Bg5 0-0

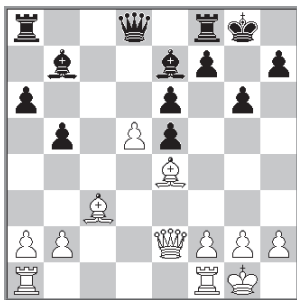
13.Rc1 Qf7 14.Bf4 Bxf4 15.Nxf4
Ne4 16.Ne2 Nf6 17.Re1 Bd7 18.
Ng3 h6 19.Bb1 g5 20.h4 Ng4 21.
hxg5 hxg5 22.Qd2 Qg7 23.Rc3 Rf7



24.Nh5 Qh6 25.Qxg5+ Qxg5
26.Nxg5 Nxd4 27.Rg3! 1-0.

Rishi Sardana (Delhi) 2385
Sourav Sahoo 1845
Sicilian O'Kelly B28

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c3 Nf6
4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6
7.Bc4 e6 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Qe2 Be7
10.Bd2 0-0 11.Nc3 Nxc3
12.Bxc3 b5 13.Bd3 Bb7
14.Be4 g6 15.d5 Nxe5
[⊔15...exd5! 16.Bxd5 Nd4!
17.Nxd4 Bxd5 18.Rfd1±]
16.Nxe5 dxe5?

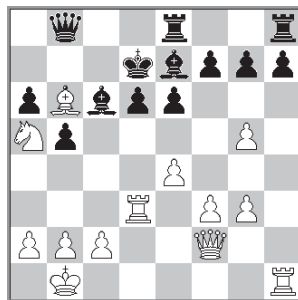


[This second mistake in a row
loses the game. Better was: 16...f5
17.Bf3 dxe5 18.Qxe5 Bf6
19.Qxe6+ Kg7 20.Rfe1±] **17.d6!**
Bxd6 [If 17...Bxe4 18. dxe7+-]

18. Bxb7 Ra7 19.Bf3 f6 20.
Rfd1 Qe7 21. Rac1 b4 22.Bd2
f5 23.Be3 Rd7 24.Bc6 Rdd8
25.Bh6 Rf7 26.Rc2 Rc8 27.
Qxa6 Rb8 28.Ba4 Bc5 29.Rd7
Qh4 30.Qxe6! Qf6 31.Qxf6
Bxf2+ 32.Kxf2 Rxf6 33. Bb3+
1-0.

Divya R Lakshmi 1968
Gangamma,B,N 1662
Sicilian Scheveningen B80

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6
7.f3 Be7 8.Qd2 Qc7 9.0-0-0
Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.g5 Nh5
12.Nce2 Bb7 13.Ng3 [⊔13.
Bh3 Ne5 14.Bg4 Nxg4 15.fxg4
Bxe4 16.gxh5 Bxh1 17.Rxh1±]
13...Nxg3 14.hxg3 Ne5
15.Bd3 Nc4? [⊔15...d5!
16.exd5 Bxd5 17.Bf4 Bd6
18.Be2 Rc8=] 16.Bxc4 Qxc4
17.Kb1± 0-0-0± [If 17...b4
18.Rh5 g6 19.Rh3 e5±] 18.Nb3
Qc7 19.Qf2! Rde8 [The rook
has to make way for his king's
run to safety. At e8, it still
blocks the king's exit. It was
best to move it further away:
19...Rdg8] 20.Rd3 White's at-
tack is gaining momentum.
20...Bc6? [⊔20...Kb8 21.Bb6
Qd7 22.Bd4 Bf8 23.Rhd1±]
21.Bb6 Qb8 22.Na5! Kd7



**Kxc7 27.Qa7+ Kc6 28.Qxa6+ 33.a3 Bc7 34.Qa6 Rb8
Kc7 29.Qa7+ Kc6 30.Rd1 35.axb4+ Rxb4 36.Rc3+ Kd4
Bd8 31.Rd3 b4 32.Qa4+ Kc5 37.Qd3+ Ke5 38.f4# 1-0.**

National Women Premier, New Delhi

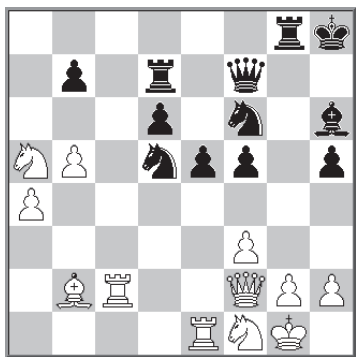
Padmini Rout's Hat-Trick

Padmini Rout of Odisha scored a rare hat-trick by winning the National Women Championship three times in a row. She is the third player after Rohini Khadilkar (Bombay) and S Vijayalakshmi (Chennai) to achieve this feat.

Padmini, Vijayalakshmi, Eesha and Soumya raced for the title and they finished in that order. Padmini won with eight points and Vijayalakshmi was 7.5. The Pune girls were seven points. Mary Ann Gomes was a distant fifth with 5.5.

Bala Kannamma scored 5/11 and obtained a WIM norm. She started as the last seed but regularly troubled the favourites. She was the biggest rating gainer in this 12-player all-play-all.

Final standings: 1 Padmini Rout (PSPB) 8, 2 S Vijayalakshmi (AI) 7.5, 3 Eesha Karavade (PSPB) 7, 4 Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB) 7, 5 Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) 5.5, 6 Mahalakshmi M (TN) 5, 7 Nisha Mohota (PSPB) 5, 8 Bala Kannamma P (TN) 5; 9 Swati Ghate (LIC) 5, 10 Kiran Manisha Mohanty (LIC) 4, 11 Vaishali R (TN) 3.5, 12 Pratyusha Bodda (AP) 3.5.



In the next game, former world junior girls champion Soumya Swaminathan prevails in attack in one of the National Women's Premier games:

R Vaishali 2300

Soumya Swaminathan 2386

32...Nf4! 33.Qb6 [If

33.Qa7 N6d5 34.Nc4 Nb4

35.Nxd6 Rxd6 36.Bxe5+

Bg7 37.Bxd6 Nxc2 38.Rd1

(38.Re7 Qxe7 39.Bxe7

Bd4+--+) 38...Qe6 39.Bxf4 Qe2! 40.Rd2 Bd4+!!

41.Qxd4+ Nxd4 42.Rxe2 Nxe2+--; Or 33.Qh4 Bg5

34.Qf2 Nh3+ 35.gxh3 Be3+--+] **33...N6d5 34.Bxe5+**

Kh7! 35.Qd4 dxe5 [35...dxe5 36.Qxe5 Bg7 the queen

is trapped in the middle of an open board!] **0-1**

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Hosur, Krishnagiri**

The Jamshedpur Coaching Camp

(Based on a report from IA Jayant Kumar Bhuyan,
Coach, Tata Chess Centre)

The East Singhbhum District Chess Association (ESDCA) organised a one week Advance Chess Coaching Camp during October at the J.R.D.Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur, for local children. The Sports Department of Tata Steel Jamshedpur supported the ESDCA in this venture. They had got the services of FIDE Master Arvind Kumar Sinha from Bihar as the Trainer.

Sinha, one of India's top players in the 1970s and 1980s, and currently the Secretary of the Bihar Chess Association, had played in the prestigious National 'A' Championships in 1978, 1979 and 1986. In the 1986 National "A" Championship he had defeated V.Anand in a memorable game (given →)

The coaching which focussed mainly on Middle-game strategies was of immense value to the 15 boys and 8 girls who attended the camp. It was mainly in the evenings, except on weekends when they were held in the mornings too.

The inauguration of this camp was in the presence of the Archery Coaches, Dronacharyas Purnima Mahato and Dharmendra Tiwari, as well as officials of the Jharkhand State Chess Association and ESDCA officials.

At the closing ceremony, the Administrator of Tata Football Academy, Mr Mukul Vinayak Choudhari, was present along with chess officials.

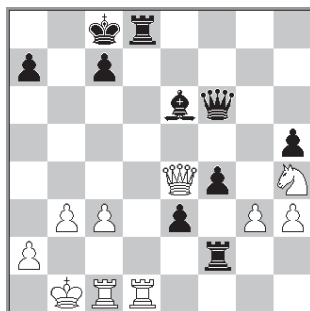
V Anand - A.K. Sinha

Ruy Lopez C63

23rd National 'A' Bombay 1986

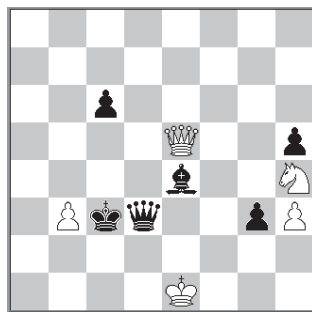
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5

(The once popular but now forgotten Schliemann Defence!)
4.Nc3 fxe4 5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nxf6+ gxf6 8.Nh4 Be6 9.Qf3 Qe7 10.Bd2 0-0-0! 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.0-0-0 Qf7 13.b3 h5 14.h3 f5 15.g3 e4 16.Qe2 Qf6! 17.c3 f4 18.dxe4 dxe4 19.Qa6+ Kb8 20.Qxc6 Ba3+ 21.Kb1 Rd6 22.Qa4 [If 22.Qxe4 fvg3 23.fvg3 Bd5 24.Qf4 Bxh1 25.Rxh1 Qe6] 22...Rhd8 23.Qxa3 Rxd2 24.Qb4+ Kc8 25.Rc1 Rxf2 26.Rhd1 e3 27.Qe4



27...Rdd2! 28.Qa8+ Kd7
29.Qxa7 Bd5 30.Rxd2
[30.Qa5 Be4+ 31.Ka1 Kc8!
with the winning threat of
...Qxc3+!!] 30...exd2-+

[\square 30...Rxd2 31.Qa4+ Bc6
 32.Qa5 e2-+] 31.Qxf2 Be4+
 32.Kb2 dxc1Q+ 33.Kxc1
 Qxc3+ 34.Kd1 Qa1+ 35.Kd2
 Qxa2+ 36.Ke1 Qb1+ 37.Ke2
 Qd3+ 38.Ke1 fxc3 The white
 knight is spectacularly crippled
 and pinned by the bishop
 to the wall on h4. 39.Qf7+ Kc6
 40.Qe6+ Kb5 41.Qe5+ Kb6
 42.Qe6+ c6! 43.Qf6 Kb5
 44.Qe5+ Kb4 45.Qb8+ Kc3
 46.Qe5+ See diagram



47.Qc5+ Kxb3 48.Qb6+ Kc2
 49.Qc5+ Qc3+ 50.Qxc3+ Kxc3-+]
 0-1.

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World Senior Championship

Titles For Bagatuov, Vaisser

The 26th World Senior Chess Championship was held at Marianske Lazne, Czech Republic, during November-December in four sections: Open 50+, Open 65+, separately for Men and Women. Many well-known players who no longer play in traditional Opens, participated as you can find from the final standings. Famous players who have won the Seniors 65+ Championship include Smyslov, Korchnoy, Taimanov, Vasyukov, Suetin, et al. This Championship has never been held outside Europe.

The venue, this year, is one of the most beautiful ever! Edward VII, King of England (1841-1910) who had visited Marianske Lazne nine times (!) gushed over it:

"I have seen the whole of India, Ceylon and all the spas of Europe, but have nowhere been so smitten with the poetry of beautiful nature like here in Marianske Lazne!"

Lowly rated Indians!

Shashidhar B Rai (62) and Muniraju Narayanappa (59), both from Bengaluru, were the only Indians in this Senior Championship. Rated modestly at 1306 and 1264 they were 156th and 157th seeds in the 50+ section which had 162 players. Yet, they finished 98th and 132nd, gaining 82.4 and 72.4 Elo respectively! All of Shashidhar's opponents were rated at least 600 points above him! And in the case of Muniraju, they were 450 Elo above him!

Therefore, we get the surprising insight that experienced, but lowly rated, Indian chess players are stronger by about 500 Elo than their published FIDE Ratings!

So, if you are a retired person struggling to improve your Elo rating, the World Senior Championship in Europe is the place to go! Besides chess and relaxation, you get to see nature's beauty and meet chess players of your era who are no longer thirsting for your blood!

And if you are a 65+ Senior, you may get to play a famous Grandmaster in the regular championship instead of sitting across him in a Simultaneous Display paying a big fee!

Top final standings:

Open - 50+: Total participants – 162, 11-round Swiss.

1. GM Bagatuov Giorgi (Geo, 2410) 9½; 2-3. IM Alexander Reprinstev (Ukr, 2321), GM Zurab Sturua (Geo, 2556) 8½;

Indians: 98. AFM Shashidhar B Rai (1306) 5; 132. Muniraju Narayanappa (1264) 4½.

Open - 65+: Total participants – 265, 11 round Swiss.

There was a 5-way tie for first on 8½ points! 1-5 GM Anatoly Vaisser (Fra, 2505), GM Vlastimil Jansa (Cz, 2418), GM Evgey Sveshnikov (Rus, 2489), IM Vladimir Zhelnin (Rus, 2453) and FM Clemens Werner (Ger, 2325).

Just outside this winners' circle were five other Grandmasters including Evgeny Vasiukov (Rus) and Davorin Komljenovic (Cro) who have visited India a few times.

This is Vaissier's 4th title, he had won earlier in 2010, 2013 and 2014.

Women – 50+: Total participants – 25, 11-round Swiss.

1-2. WFM Tatiana Bogumil (Rus, 2124) and WGM Elvira Berend (Lux 2349) 8 each. 3. WGM Galina Strutinskaia (Rus, 2266) 7.

Women – 65+: Total participants – 18, 9-round Swiss.

1. GM Nona Gaprindashvili (Geo, 2311) 8; 2. WGM Elena Fatalibekova (Rus, 2269) 7½; 3. WGM Tamara Khmiadashvili (Geo, 1971) 6½.

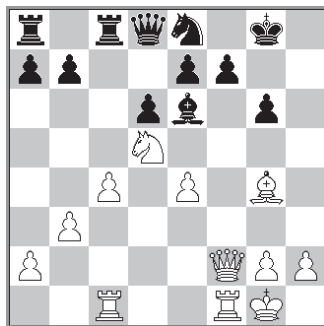
Amazingly, this is the 5th title of 1941-born Gaprindashvili; she had won earlier in 1995 (!) 2009, 2014 and 2015. It would have been a major shock had she not won this title as she was the most celebrated woman player of her generation and World Women's Champion from 1962 to 1978!

We are indebted to Shashidhar B Rai, a subscriber to Chess Mate, for a report on this World Championship. We present a few of his games from Marianske Lazne:

Shashidar B Rai (1306)
Ian C Robertson (Sco) (2127)
 Sicilian Maroczy Bind B38

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 c5
 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3
 d6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.Nc3 Nxd4
 9.Bxd4 0-0 10.0-0 Be6 11.

Rc1 Qa5 12.f4 Rfc8 13.b3
 Ne8 14.f5 Bxd4+ 15.Qxd4
 Bd7 16.fxg6 hxg6 17.Nd5
 Qd8 18.Qf2 Be6 19.Bg4!!

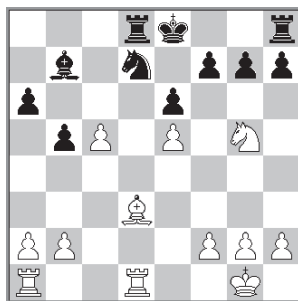


19...Qd7 What else!
 20.Qxf7+ Bxf7 21.Bxd7 Rd8
 22.Nxe7+ Kg7 23.Bg4 Nf6
 24.Bf3 Re8 25.Nd5 Bxd5
 26.exd5 b6 27.Rce1 Nd7
 28.Re6 The d-pawn falls. 1-0.

IM Alexander Syrchikov
 (Rus, 2416)

Shashidhar B.Rai (1306)
 Queen's Gambit D53

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 d5 3.c4 e6
 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 c6 6.Nc3 dxc4
 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.0-0
 Bb7 10.e4 a6 11.e5 Nd5 12.Bxe7
 Nxc3! 13.Bxd8 Nxd1 14.Rfxd1
 Rxd8 15.Ng5 c5 16.dxc5



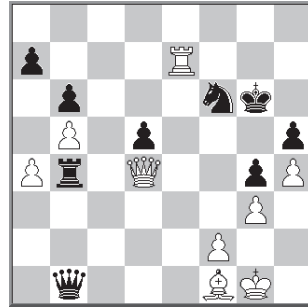
16...h6! 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.
 Bxe4 Nxc5 19.Rxd8+ Kxd8
 20.Bc2 Ke7 21.Kf1 Rd8 22.Ke2

a5 23.Rc1 Rd5 24.f4 f6 25.exf6+ Kxf6 26.Ke3 e5 27.g3 exf4+ 28.gxf4 g5 29.fxg5+ hxg5 30.Rf1+ Kg7 31.Rf5 Rxf5 32.Bxf5 Kf6 ½-½.

Josef Kainz (Aut, 1907)
Shashidhar B.Rai 1306
Queen's Gambit D34

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 c5 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.0-0 Be7 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Na4 Be7 11.Bf4 Bd6 12.Bg5 Be7 13.Rc1 h6 14.Bf4 Be6 15.Nd4 Rc8 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Bh3 Qd7 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.Rxc5 g5 20.Bc1 g4 21.Bg2 h5 22.e4 Ne5 23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.exd5 exd5 25.Bf4 Nf7 26.Qd4! A winning double attack. 26...Qf5 27.h4? [The Austrian Senior misses winning the pawn. 27.Qxa7+ -] 27...b6 28.a4 Rc4 29.Qd1 Rc2 30.b4 Rb2 31.b5 Kh7 32.Bb8 Ne5 33.Bxe5? [The a7 pawn was not poisoned: 33.Bxa7 Nc4

34.Qe1 Kg6 35.a5 Rxb5 36.axb6±] 33...Qxe5 34.Re1 Qf5 35.Re7+ Kg6 36.Qd4 Qb1+ 37.Bf1 Rb4



38.Qf4?? [⊖38.Qe5 Qc1 (38...Qf5 39.Bd3!) 39.Re6+-] 38...Rxf4 39.gxf4 d4 40.Kg2 d3 41.Re3 d2 42.Bd3+ Kf7! 43.Bxb1 d1Q 44.Ba2+ Kg6 45.Bb3 Qd4 46.f5+ Kg7 47.Re7+ Kf8 48.Re3 Nd5 49.Bxd5 Qxd5+ 50.Kg3 Qxf5 51.f3 Qc5 52.Re2 Qd6+ 53.Kg2 gxf3+ 54.Kxf3 Qd3+ 55.Re3 Qd1+ 56.Kf2 Qxa4 0-1.

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- Magazine: Chess news, analysis, games, tactics, tournament information for the chess lover
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- Chess Lessons: Manuel Aaron and Arvind Aaron teach chess privately
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Character is Life

KUMARAGURU COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY is a premier Educational Institution in South India, offering high quality Engineering and Management Education for the past three decades. KCT was founded with the vision to create transformation in India through Technical Education. Spread over a campus area of 150 Acres, the college has over 5,600 exemplary students. Excellent Academic & Research ambience, state of the art infrastructure & amenities, collaborations with 8 foreign universities, experienced and committed faculties are the other unique features of this Institution. KCT STPI-IT PARK – is functioning under the STPI umbrella with 2,00,000 sq.ft. of space. A record placement history in reputed Multinational and National Companies is a live testimony to the quality of education that is imparted at KCT.

CEAD – Center of Excellence in Advanced Design was established to bring “SCIENCE TO ENGINEERING” culture using “HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING” and address the technological needs for the country through quality education and training.

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Obituary: Mark Taimanov (1926-2016)

Fischer, Incredibly Tough Defender: Taimanov

By Manuel Aaron

Mark Evgenievich Taimanov was one of the topmost Soviet chess stars, and ranked among the world's top 20 from 1946 to 1971. He was also an internationally acclaimed concert pianist.

Taimanov was born on 7 February 1926 in Kharkiv, Ukraine, to Jewish parents. He died on November 28 2016 in Saint Petersburg (old Leningrad), at the age of 90.

His mother, a piano teacher, introduced him to music. His family moved to Saint Petersburg when he was six months old.

Like all Soviet children, Taimanov joined the Leningrad Pioneers Palace in 1937 and opted for the Leningrad Chess School whose director was Mikhail Botvinnik, who later became world champion. Simultaneously, he studied music in the Leningrad Conservatory. Taimanov's rapid rise among young chess players came to a temporary halt in 1941 when World War II brought Hitler's hordes to the gates of Leningrad and the long, historic siege of the city began. All young folk were evacuated to safer areas.

In 1945, at the end of the War, Taimanov resumed his music studies at the Leningrad Conservatory. There he formed a piano duo with Lyubov Bruk,



Taimanov Courtesy www.e3e5.com

a fellow student. They fell in love and married. They were so good together in their music that by the 1950s they travelled abroad to give concerts.

Taimanov became a Grandmaster in 1952, and won the USSR Championship in 1956. He was a World Championship Candidate twice, in 1953 and 1971. In the 1950s and 1960s his careers in chess and music spiralled upwards in parallel.

In the celebrated 15-player 1953 Candidates Tournament in Zurich he tied for the eighth place. From 1950 to 1956, he was among the world's top 10 players, and was regularly in the top 20 for over 25 years.

Soviet Champion

He played in 23 (!) USSR Chess Championships, a record he holds with Geller (1925-1998), tying for first place twice. In 1952 he lost the play-off match to Botvinnik,

who had become World Champion in 1948. In 1956, he tied with Averbakh and Spassky in the tournament, but beat them in a play-off for the title.

Remarkably, very few players could boast of having beaten six world champions as Taimanov had: Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky and Karpov.

Loss to Fischer

However, Taimanov is remembered for his shattering 0-6 loss to Bobby Fischer in the 1971 World Championship Candidates Quarter Final Match in Vancouver, Canada. About this match, Taimanov described Fischer as "an incredibly tough defender" and likened him to a chess machine that will not make any mistakes. After this humiliating loss to Fischer, the embarrassed Soviet government hit Taimanov hard, very hard, but more of this later.

The officials later "forgave" Taimanov in 1973, and lifted the sanctions against him thanks to Fischer's manner of subsequent victories in 1971, a 6-0 against Larsen in the Semi-final, then a 6½-2½ win against Petrosian (World Champion 1963-69!) in the Final. Moreover, as a 1971 Candidate, Taimanov was automatically qualified for the 1973 Interzonal in Leningrad, his home town, and it would have been difficult for the officials to explain why he was excluded from it!

Taimanov considered this match "the culminating point" of his chess career and wrote a book on it, titled *How I Became Fischer's Victim*. He sent a copy of it to Fischer who appreciated it!

Team Chess

Taimanov represented the USSR in international team play with great success. He was first reserve at the 1956 Moscow Olympiad (+6, =5, -0), winning team gold and board bronze medals. He represented the USSR four times in the European Team Championships: Vienna 1957, Oberhausen 1961, Hamburg 1965 and Kapfenberg 1970 and won several gold medals for both team and Board. At the inaugural USSR vs Rest of the World team match in Belgrade 1970, he played Board 7, and scored (+2, =1, -1) against Wolfgang Uhlmann. He represented Leningrad in Soviet team tournaments.

Taimanov Variations

Opening variations are named after Taimanov in the Sicilian Defence, Modern Benoni and Nimzo-Indian Defence. He wrote books on two of these, as well as an autobiographical best games collection.

After 1973, when his tournament career dimmed, Taimanov spent his time creatively writing several technically valuable books on chess in Russian, German and English.

Music Career

Taimanov was a top concert pianist in the Soviet Union. With his first wife, Lyubov Bruk, he formed a piano duo, some of whose recordings were included in Great Pianists of the 20th Century in the Philips and Steinway series.

Personal Life

Taimanov married four times. Taimanov had a son with his first wife Bruk. In the 1970s he was briefly married to Jane Averbakh, daughter of his friend GM Yuri Averbakh. It ended in divorce. His last marriage was very late in life. He was 78 when he and his fourth wife, Nadezhda Bakhtina, had twins, Misha and Dima. His oldest son and these twins are 57 years apart!

After his 1973 rehabilitation, with Bruk divorced and gone, Taimanov became a solo pianist and played in chess tournaments. But he was not the same. The splendour and magic of his pre-1971 era had gone. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, in his 60s, he played more tournaments than in his best years but with less success. However, he won the World Senior Championship for Over-60s in both 1993 and 1994. At the age of 87, he started his St Petersburg Chess Academy, and in December 2015, at age 89, played a four-game match in Zurich against Viktor Korchnoi, then 84.

He gave impromptu piano recitals at closing ceremonies,

sometimes accompanied by his friend Smyslov as a singer.

Taimanov In Madras

In February 1964, Averbakh and Taimanov toured India under the Indo-Soviet Cultural Exchange Programme giving lectures and simultaneous displays in different cities. In Madras, the programme was at the Memorial Hall where both GMs gave Simuls and played exhibition games against two Madras players. Taimanov outplayed me in a nice game given below. The then Madras State Chess Champion, T.R.Rajaram played Averbakh and lost.

Years later Taimanov spoke of his 1971 ordeal:

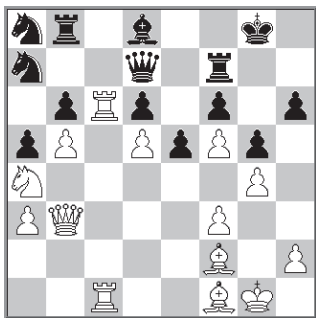
"The sanctions from the Soviet government were severe. They took away my 'Honoured Master of Sport of the USSR' title, and forbid me from being printed. The formal pretext for the punishment was supposed to be that (on his return from Vancouver) the customs officers found a book by the then still Soviet writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn—In the First Circle. I was deprived of my civil rights, my salary was taken away from me, I was prohibited from travelling abroad and censored in the press. It was unthinkable for the authorities that a Soviet grandmaster could lose in such a way to an American, without a political explanation. I therefore became the object of slander and was accused, among other things, of secretly reading

books of Solzhenitsyn. I was banned from society for two years, it was also the time when I separated from my first wife, Lyubov Bruk."

One of Kasparov's jokes that circulated in Moscow went: "Have you heard that Solzhenitsyn is in trouble? He has been found in possession of Taimanov's book on the Nimzo-Indian Defence!"

Mark Taimanov-M Aaron
King's Indian E95

Exhibition Game Madras, 22.-2-1964
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.Re1 c6 9.Bf1 Re8 10.d5 cxd5 11.cxd5 a5 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Bg3 Nh5 15.Nd2 Nf4 16.Nc4 Nc5 17.f3 b6 18.Nb5 Bf8 19.Ne3 f6!? [19...Bd7±] **20.Bf2 Re7 21.g3 Ng6 22.b3 Rf7 23.a3 Bd7 24.Nf5 Bxf5 25.exf5 Ne7 26.g4± Nc8 27.b4 Na6 28.Qb3 Nc7 29.Nc3 Qd7 30.Recl Be7 31.b5+- Bd8 32.Na4 Rb8 33.Rc6 Na8 34.Rac1 Na7**

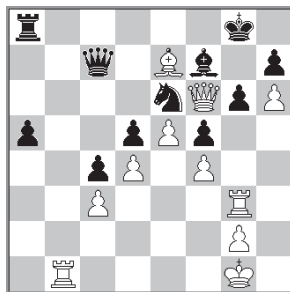


35.Nc3! Kg7 [If 35...Nxc6 36.dxc6 Qe7 37.Bc4 Kg7 38.Bxf7 Qxf7 39.Qxf7+ Kxf7 40.Rd1+-] **36.Rc4 Rc8 37.Ne4 Rxc4** [I could also try the stunt

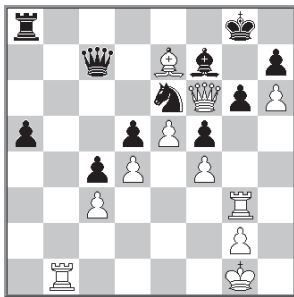
that white tried on move 35 sacrificing the exchange with: 37...Rc5 38.Bxc5 bxc5 39.a4 Nb6 40.R4c2 Nac8 41.Be2 Qa7+- Black's position looks like an impenetrable fortress but white can open up the king-side with h2-h4 and a timely sacrifice on any front.] **38.Rxc4 Bc7 39.a4 Rf8 40.h4 Rc8 41.hxg5 hxg5± 42.f4! gxf4 43.g5 Bd8 44.Qh3! Rxc4 45.Bxc4 Nc8** [45...fxg5?? 46.f6+? Bxf6 47.Qxd7+ wins.] **46.gxf6+ Kg8 47.Bh4 Nc7 48.Qg4+ Kf8 49.Qg7+!** [49.Qg7+! Qxg7+ 50.fxg7+ Kxg7 51.Bxd8 wins.] 1-0.

Taimanov - Tigran Petrosian
Nimzo-Indian Rubinstein E58
Zurich Candidates 1953

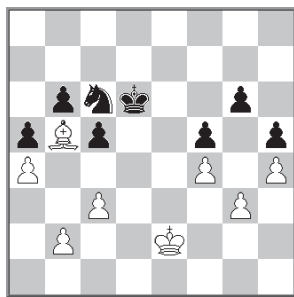
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Bd3 0-0 6.Nf3 d5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 b6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Ne5 Qc7 [11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.e4! Nxe5 14.exd5=] **12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.f3 Be6 14.Qe1 Nd7?** [14...Rfe8!= would make white's planned e3-e4 hazardous.] **15.e4± c4?** [15...Rac8 keeping the centre fluid was to be considered.] **16.Bc2 f5 17.e5 Rf7 18.a4 a5?! 19.f4± b5 20.axb5 Qxb5 21.Ba3 Nb6 22.Qh4 Qe8 23.Rf3 Nc8?**



[Δ 23...Rb7] **24.Ba4! Rd7** [If 24...Bd7 25.e6! Qxe6 26.Qd8+ Qe8 27.Qxe8+ Bxe8 28.Bxe8 Rc7 29.Re3+; or 24...Qxa4?? 25.Qd8+ Rf8 26.Qxf8#] **25.Rb1** [!25.Rh3 h6 26.Bc5 Rb8 27.Bc6 Rb2 28.Qe1+-] **25...Qd8** **26.Bxd7! Qxd7** [If 26...Qxh4? 27.Bxe6+ Kh8 28.Bxd5 Ra7 29.Rb8+-] **27.Rg3 Na7** **28.Be7!** This blocks the black queens defence of g7. **28...Bf7** [28...Nc6 29.Bf6 g6 30.Qh6 White plans the winning assault h2-h4-h5.] **29.Qg5 Bg6** **30.h4! Nc6** **31.Ba3 Nd8** **32.h5 Ne6** **33.Qh4 Bf7** **34.h6 g6** **35.Qf6 Qd8** **36.Be7 Qc7**



37.Rxg6+!! hxg6 [37... Bxg6 38.Qxe6+! Bf7 39.Qf6! mates on g7.] **38.h7+! Kxh7** **39.Qxf7+ Ng7** **40.Kf2!** 41 Rh1# cannot be stopped. 1-0.



Fischer - Taimanov
Candidates QF, Vancouver 1971

This is from an Aaron Chess Academy training material

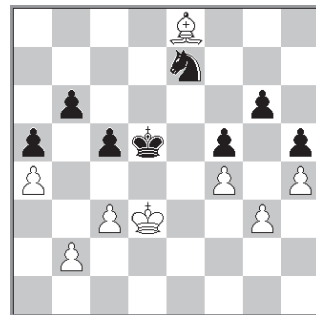
When the bishop is stronger than a knight.

1.Kd3

White sees that the weak spots in black's position are the pawns on g6 and b6. His plan is to take his king to a6 to threaten b6 and then move his bishop to e8, without check, so that black is in zugzwang and is forced to allow a decisive sacrifice of the bishop.

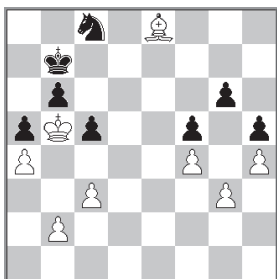
1...Ne7 Black also has to contend with white exchanging off pieces at the right time and transposing to a winning king and pawn ending.

2.Be8 Kd5 this prevents the white king from getting to c4.

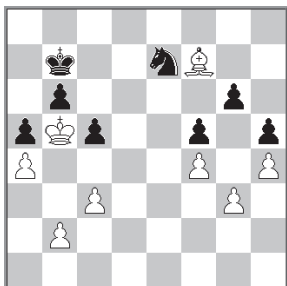


3.Bf7+ Kd6 **4.Kc4 Kc6** **5.Be8+! Kb7** **6.Kb5 Nc8!** threatens an amazing mate with **7...Nd6!**

Mastering Endgame Strategy by Johan Hellsten
Rs.800. Such books can make you understand a few things at extra length and save or win an extra half point!

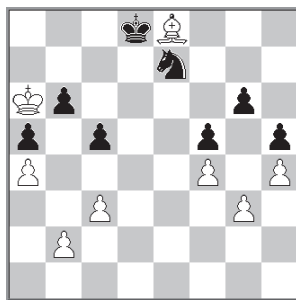


7.Bc6+! Kc7 8.Bd5 Ne7 [If 8...Nd6+ 9.Ka6 Ne4 10.Bf7 Nxf4 11.Bxg6 Ne2 12.Bxh5 Nxf4 13.Bf7! Ng2 14.h5 and white wins.] **9.Bf7 Kb7** Black plans to play his king from b7 to a7 and back, without allowing any entry for the white king.



10.Bb3! white manoeuvres his bishop to gain entry for his king into a6. Unlike the knight, the bishop can gain or lose moves to force zugzwang. **10...Ka7 11.Bd1 Kb7 12.Bf3+ Kc7** [If 12...Ka7 13.Bg2! and the knight must move, allowing the white king into c6.] **13.Ka6!** Now the black king cannot move as his b6 pawn would be captured. He can only move his knight. **13...Ng8 14.Bd5 Ne7 15.Bc4! Nc6** [If 15...Kc6 16.Bb5+ Kc7 17.Be8 Kd8 18.Bxg6 as in the game.]

16.Bf7 Ne7 17.Be8! Black is in zugzwang which means that whatever he moves he would lose and if he did not have to move, he was safe. **17...Kd8** forced.



18.Bxg6!

White reaps the fruits of his patient labour with a decisive and well-calculated sacrifice.

18...Nxb6 19.Kxb6 white already has two pawns for his bishop, with one more coming up. **19...Kd7 20.Kxc5 Ne7 21.b4!** [Also winning was: 21.Kb5 Nc6 22.b4 axb4 23.cxb4 Nd4+ 24.Kb6 Kc8 25.a5 Kb8 26.b5+- But Fischer prefers the direct, fastest route to victory.] **21...axb4 22.cxb4 Nc8 23.a5 Nd6 24.b5 Ne4+ 25.Kb6 Kc8 26.Kc6! Kb8** [26...Nxb6 27.a6 Kb8 28.b6 Ne2 29.a7+ Ka8 30.Kc7 wins] **27.b6** [27.b6 Nxb6 28.a6 Ne4 29.a7+ Ka8 30.b7+ Kxa7 31.Kc7 and white queens with check.] 1-0.

Pocket Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings by Eduard Gufeld and Nikolai Kalinichenko. Price: **Rs.215.**

Covers all openings in a pocket version. First book before tournament.

Obituary: Selvi J.Jayalalithaa (1948-2016)

She Caused A Chess Fever

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Ms.J Jayalalithaa passed away in Chennai on December 5, 2016. The 68-year old Chief Minister was an Honorary Member of FIDE.

Her Government sponsored the 2013 World Chess Championship match between the then World champion Viswanathan Anand and Challenger Magnus Carlsen of Norway at Chennai in November 2013 at a record budget of Rs.29 Crores.

The then President of the AICF, J.C.D. Prabhakar who was a ruling party M.L.A. from the Villivakkam constituency of Chennai played a very important role in chess gaining this huge sponsorship. A chess event of this magnitude has not taken place in India previously.

During this event, chess was made very popular and played in schools, parks and taken to the masses with Government led support. The organisational initiative came from the Tamil Nadu State Chess Association which did the mega event on behalf of the All India Chess Federation.

This sponsorship allowed our chess officials like D.V. Sundar, Bharat Singh Chauhan, V Hariharan and

Chairman of the organising committee P.R. Venketrama Raja and others to plan and run this event successfully. The pressures of running a world championship is equated to running one hundred Weddings!

In the 2013 World Championship Match, the Chief Minister personally participated in both, the opening ceremony which had the draw of lots for colour and the closing ceremony with the awarding of medals and trophies. We are told that she was even personally involved in the design of the Championship logo!

That FIDE entrusted the organisation of this high-tech World Chess Championship Match to Tamil Nadu is proof of their trust in the capabilities of the State of Tamil Nadu and its visionary Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.

In the run-up to this Championship, many State-wide chess events were held. For example, on 23 August 2013, every school in Tamil Nadu organised chess tournaments in four different categories, separately for Boys and Girls: Standards 1 to 5, 6 to 8, 9 to 10 and 11 to 12. The total number of school students in Tamil Nadu who played tournament



In this SDAT/TN Govt picture, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa greets challenger Magnus Carlsen of Norway at the opening ceremony of the World Chess Championship match at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai. FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and then AICF President J.C.D. Prabhakar are also seen.

chess on 23rd August 2013 was a staggering 1.1 million!

Apart from schools, there were also general, district-wise tournaments in each of the 32 districts of Tamil Nadu from 27 September to 29 September 2013, fully funded by the Government of Tamil Nadu. From these district

tournaments the top ten from each District, including two female players, assembled in Chennai during the World Championship Match in November for a grand finale with a prize fund of Rs five lakhs. She had the best interests of Tamil Nadu's children in her mind.

So much publicity was generated for chess during this match that many people, both men and women, who knew nothing of chess started talking about the championship.

All these efforts by the Government whipped up enormous publicity and led to the discovery of new talented players and gave them opportunities to become stars of the future.

May her soul rest in peace and may her dreams for Tamil Nadu blossom even after her.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

FIDE/World/Asian Events www.fide.com

Feb 10-28 Feb World Women Championship, Tehran
Dec 25-31 Dec World Rapid/Blitz Open/Women, Doha, Qatar
Apr 01-09 Apr World Amateur Chp., Spoleto, Italy
Apr 21-30 Apr World Schools Chp., Iasi, Romania

AICF/National/Regional Championships www.aicf.in

Jan 05-07 Jan National Schools, Surya Nagar, Nagpur
Jan 25-27 Jan North-East Championship, Agartala
Feb 02-08 Feb National Team (Open/Women), Bhopal 9425016455

Open/Rating Tournaments

Dec 26-30 Dec Bahadurgarh Chess Foundation Rating,
Haryana PF:3L. 8295893525 / 8901082923.
Dec 27-30 Dec 2nd Mastermind Open Rating, Pammal,
Chennai PF:4L. C Natarajan Tel: 044-22632666.
Jan 09-16 Jan Delhi International Open, Ludlow Castle Sports
Complex, Near Kashmere Gate, Delhi www.delhichess.com
Jan 18-25 Jan Chennai International Open For The Dr N
Mahalingam Trophy, Nehru Stadium, Chennai
Jan 27-01 Feb AADI Open, Mandla, MP; PF: 5L; 9425484696
Jan 31-05 Feb Kuslara & Longal Valley Open, Karimganj, Assam
PF: 1.48L. 9954170334

Apr 14-18 Apr Candor FIDE Rating, Near Bangalore 560105 PF:
5L. 9880297796

ONE LINE HEADLINES

New York: Carlsen Beats Karjakin 6-6, 3-1 Via Tie-break
London: Anand Tied For Third, Gains Six Elo In London Classic
Lucknow: Karthikeyan Murali Retains National Premier Title
New Delhi: Mitrabha Guha (WB), Harshita Guddanti (AP) Win Na-
tional Sub-Junior; Harshita Wins On Tie-break
Chennai: Calcutta (Men) Madras (Women) Win Inter-University
Chennai: Jayalalithaa, Chief Minister of TN Passed Away On Dec 5
She Was A Honorary Member Of FIDE. Her TN Govt Was The
Biggest Sponsor (Rs.29 Crores, For The Anand v Carlsen Match,
Chennai 2013) Of Any Chess Event In India
Moscow: Mark Taimanov (1926-2016) Has Passed Away Recently

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India's new GM Aryan Chopra (third from left) is being received at the Delhi airport by Bharat Singh, R.S. Tiwari and M.S. Gopakumar. Aryan's parents are at the left. He completed his 2500 rating requirement at a tournament in Malaysia this September.



Second seed University of Madras won All-India Inter-University Inter-Zone women's tournament held at Chennai in November 2016. In the picture, Woman International Master G.K. Monnisha (extreme left) and her team are seen at the closing ceremony. Madras scorers (in board order): G Rohini (1623) 4/6; WIM G.K. Monisha (2140) 5/6; Y Saranya 5/6, and R Divya Lakshmi 5/6.