

**Michael Adams**



## Chess queens checkmated

**You can wait quite a while for a top-class women's chess tournament, but rather like London buses, two have come along at once.**

Participants who have had to make a choice between the FIDE Grand Prix in Istanbul and the European Women's Championship in St Petersburg probably find that unamusing. Possible further scheduling chaos lies ahead as the next stage of the women's Grand Prix collides with another important event, the European Club Cup. Let us hope that FIDE and the ECU will have got their act together by then.

Humpy Koneru triumphed in Istanbul; here are a couple of fluctuating struggles she was involved in.

aiming to keep the queens on the board instead of 41.Qc3xa3 Ra8xa3 42.b6-b7 Nc5xb7 43.Rb1xb7 Bd7xf5 when White is a little better in the ending.

**41... Qa3xa2**  
**42.b7-b8Q+**

This allows the rook to join the attack 42.b7xa8Q+ Qa2xa8 43.f5xg6 also looks tempting.

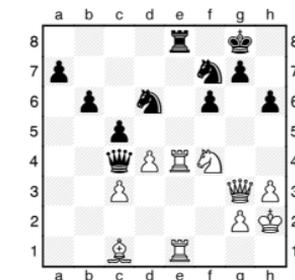
**42... Ra8xb8**  
**43.Rb1xb8+** **Kg8-g7**  
**44.f5xg6** **h7xg6**  
**45.Bc2xg6** **Qa2-a7**

Humpy blunders, she could have defused White's initiative with 45...Be7-h4 46.Qc3-f3 Qa2xf2+ 47.Qf3xf2 Bh4xf2+ 48.Kg1xf2 Kg7xg6 leading to a balanced ending.

**46.Qc3-f3**

Typically, Hou Yifan doesn't miss the opportunity and drives her opponent's king up the board to its demise.

**46... Qa7xb8**  
**47.Qf3-f7+** **Kg7-h6**  
**48.Qf7-h7+** **Kh6-g5**  
**49.h3-h4+** **Kg5-f4**  
**50.Qh7-h6+**  
**1-0**



**Koneru, H - Chiburdanidze, M**  
**Istanbul 2009**

**38... Re8xe4**

Black should have gained tempo on White's queen by playing 38... Nd6xe4 39.Qg3-g4 Nf7-d6 40.Nf4-h5 Qc4-f7 When Black's defences are well organised and the extra pawns should decide.

**39.Nf4-h5** **Nf7-g5**  
**40.Bc1xg5** **h6xg5**

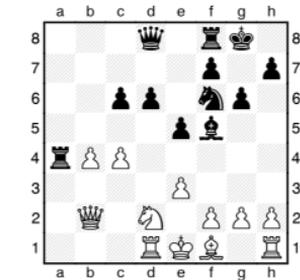
Another mistake probably caused by time trouble 40...Re4xe1

41.Bg5-f4 Re1-e7 42.Bf4xd6 Re7-f7 is not very clear.

**41.Re1xe4** **Nd6xe4**  
**42.Qg3-b8+**

Black resigned as 42...Kg8-h7 43.Qb8-b7 wins the knight.

We will finish with a snappy victory from the winner in St Petersburg.



**Khurtsidze, N - Kosintseva, T**  
**St Petersburg 2009**

**19.c4-c5**

White should have completed development with 19.Bf1-e2 aiming to get castled as soon as possible. Now the central position explodes and White's king is left high and dry.

**19... Nf6-d5**  
**20.e3-e4**

White had relied on this resource forking two minor pieces, but a series of forced moves show the virtues of development.

**20... Ra4xb4**  
**21.Qb2-c2** **Bf5xe4**  
**22.Nd2xe4** **Rb4xe4+**  
**23.Qc2xe4** **Qd8-a5+**  
**24.Rd1-d2** **Qa5-a1+**  
**25.Rd2-d1** **Qa1xd1+**

Not difficult, but a nice way to set up the knight fork next go.

**26.Ke1xd1** **Nd5-c3+**  
**27.Kd1-c2** **Nc3xe4**  
**28.c5xd6** **Ne4xf2**

Black has plenty of time so she collects another pawn before coming back for the one on d6.

**29.Rh1-g1** **Rf8-d8**  
**30.Bf1-c4** **Nf2-e4**  
**31.Rg1-e1** **Ne4xd6**  
**32.Bc4-a2** **e5-e4**  
**0-1**

**Hou Yifan - Koneru, H**  
**Istanbul 2009**

**40.b5-b6**

If 40.f5xg6 Qa7xa3 41.g6xh7+ Kg8-h8 White ends up with four pawns for the piece, but the exchange of queens solves Black problems.

**40... Qa7xa3**  
**41.b6-b7**

Hou Yifan shows a keen tactical eye, typical of Chinese players

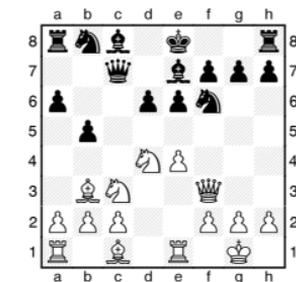
**Michael Adams**



## After this you can call me Quick Draw

Baden-Oos were again the winners of the prestigious German Bundesliga for the fourth consecutive time. They have assembled an amiable international crew of top class players reflecting the global nature of the sponsors Grenke Leasing.

The team was joined at the final weekend by Vishy Anand, who won a couple of interesting games having hot-footed it over from the Amber tournament in Nice. My own contribution was not very incisive as I made a series of draws towards the end of the competition, so I thought I would show you some of my teammates' victories from throughout the season below.



### Nisipeanu, L - Flumbort, A Bundesliga 2008

**10...** Qc7-b7  
It was safer to castle immediately here.

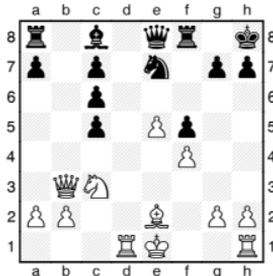
**11.Qf3-g3** b5-b4  
Now it was essential to try 11...0-0 or 11...Nb8-d7.

**12.Nc3-d5**  
This thematic breakthrough is especially strong here.

**12...** e6xd5  
**13.Bb3xd5** Nf6xd5  
**14.Qg3xg7** Rh8-f8  
The point is that after 14... Be7-f6 15.e4xd5+ is check.

**15.e4xd5** Qb7xd5  
If 15...Ke8-d8 16.Bc1-g5 f7-f6 17.Nd4-c6+ Nb8xc6 18.d5xc6 Qb7-c7 19.Bg5-h4 Bc8-f5 20.Re1-e3 the doubling of rooks breaks Black's resistance. Now things are even simpler as Nisipeanu develops his remaining forces to massacre Black's pieces before they are out of bed.

**16.Bc1-g5** Ra8-a7  
**17.Bg5xe7** Ra7xe7  
**18.Re1xe7+** Ke8xe7  
**19.Ra1-e1+** Ke7-d7  
**20.Qg7xf8** Qd5xd4  
**21.Re1-e7+** 1-0



### Naiditsch, A - Roiz, M Bundesliga 2009

**16...** g7-g5  
Roiz has structural problems so he tries to exploit his development advantage, but this move proves too optimistic, 16...Ne7-d5 17.Nc3xd5 Bc8-e6 was the best try.

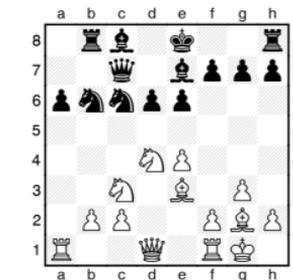
**17.0-0** Ne7-g6  
**18.Be2-h5** g5xf4  
**19.Nc3-e2**  
White's forces coordinate well, the knight slots into the square vacated by the bishop a move earlier.

**19...** Bc8-a6  
Black was relying on this move pinning the knight, but Naiditsch has seen further. However, taking the pawn is as hazardous as it looks 19... Qe8xe5 20.Bh5xg6 Qe5xe2 (20...Bc8-e6 21.Qb3-h3) 21.Qb3-c3+ 21...Kh8-g8 22.Rd1-e1 Qe2-g4 23.Bg6xh7+

Kg8xh7 24.Re1-e7+ Kh7-h6 25.Rf1-f3 enables the major pieces to put the boot in.

**20.Bh5xg6** h7xg6  
**21.Ne2xf4** Ba6xf1

**22.e5-e6**  
This deeply calculated sequence caused Black to resign as 22... Ra8-d8 is met by the devious 23.e6-e7 Rd8xd1 24.e7xf8Q+ Qe8xf8 25.Nf4xg6+ Kh8-g7 26.Ng6xf8 when there is no good discovered check for Black. Or 22...Bf1xg2 23.Kg1xg2 g6-g5 24.Rd1-d7 Qe8xd7 25.e6xd7 g5xf4 26.Qb3-e6 and the rooks are helpless against the queen and advanced passed pawn.



### Movsesian, S - Brandenburg, D Bundesliga 2009

Sergei starts action to exploit his lead in development.

**15.Nd4xc6** Qc7xc6  
**16.e4-e5** Qc6-c7

It was a better idea to close lines by playing 16...d6-d5 17.Qd1-g4 g7-g6.

**17.Qd1-g4** g7-g6  
**18.e5xd6** Be7xd6  
**19.Be3-h6**

There were a few tempting possibilities, but this simple move, trapping the black monarch in the middle, gives Black little chance of survival.

**19...** Bd6-e5  
**20.Rf1-e1** Nb6-c4

20...f7-f6 was a better attempt to hold things together, now Movsesian finishes off prettily.

**21.Re1xe5** Nc4xe5  
**22.Qg4-f4** Rh8-g8  
**23.Ra1-e1** Rb8xb2

**24.Nc3-d5**  
Black resigned as 24... e6xd5 25.Re1xe5+ Bc8-e6 26.Re5xe6+ wins Black's queen.

**Michael Adams**

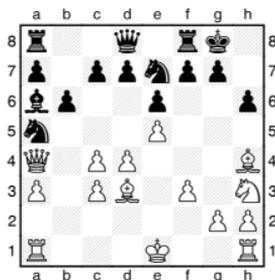


## Book where the middle is an end in itself

The Dutch magazine *New In Chess* is my favourite of the English language publications that land on my doorstep. NIC is also a publisher of high-quality chess books, for example, the excellent *Winning Chess Middlegames* by my good friend Ivan Sokolov, who was kind enough (or brave enough) to be the first person to ask me to write a foreword to his book.

The book analyses typical pawn structures aiming to improve players' understanding of common middle game positions, although, there is also plenty of interesting opening stuff as Ivan reveals some of his preparation (sadly not used in its entirety) stretching past move 40.

Here is a very attractive game from the first chapter on doubled pawns, in the Samich variation of the Nimzo-Indian. As Ivan points out, White has to play with energy in these lines, something he certainly achieves in the game below. The adventures of White's knight are worth keeping an eye on.



**Kotov, A – Keres, P  
Budapest 1950**

**13... d7-d5**

It was better to undermine White's centre with 13...d7-d6.

**14.Bd3-b1**

Kotov abandons the pawn to its fate and lines up the bishop and queen in the direction of the kingside.

**14... g7-g5**

14...Ba6xc4 15.Qa4-c2 g7-g6 16.Bh4-f6 is rather dire so Keres tries to break the pin on his knight.

**15.Qa4-c2 Ne7-g6**

I assumed at this point that things had already gone wrong for Black, but Ivan shows that the accurate 15...f7-f5 16.e5xf6 Ne7-f5 17.g2-g4 (or 17.Bh4-f2 Ba6xc4 18.g2-g4 Qd8xf6) 17...Qd8xf6 18.g4xf5 e6xf5 19.Nh3xg5 Ra8-e8+ 20.Ke1-f2 Ba6xc4 21.Rh1-g1 Kg8-h8 leads to a position where White's monarch is feeling rather unhappy, but Black's king is relatively safe, in the game the roles are reversed.

**16.Nh3-f4**

A beautiful blow, this self fork makes sense of White's position.

**16... g5xh4**

16...Qd8-e8 17.Nf4-h5 f7-f5 18.e5xf6 is very good for White.

**17.Nf4xg6 Rf8-e8  
18.Ng6-h8**

Another brilliant unexpected leap, 18.Ng6-f4 Qd8-g5 is not so clear.

**18... Re8-e7  
19.Qc2-h7+ Kg8-f8  
20.f3-f4**

It's important to hasten to open more lines 20.Qh7xh6+ Kf8-e8 chases the king where it wants to go in the direction of the queenside.

**20...Na5xc4**

It seems logical to play 20...

Ba6xc4 preventing white from castling, but after 21.f4-f5 e6xf5 22.Bb1xf5, the Black king is a sitting duck.

**21.f4-f5 e6xf5  
22.0-0 Ba6-c8**

A sad retreat, from now on it's one way traffic.

**23.Bb1xf5 Bc8xf5  
24.Rf1xf5 Kf8-e8  
25.Rf5xf7 Ke8-d7  
26.Qh7-f5+ Kd7-c6  
27.Qf5-f6+**

Driving the king back into the centre.

**27... Kc6-d7  
28.e5-e6+ Kd7-c6**

28...Kd7-d6 29.Rf7xe7 Qd8xe7 30.Nh8-f7+ wins the queen.

**29.Rf7xe7 Qd8xh8  
30.Re7xc7+**

White finishes the game in style.

**30... Kc6-b5**

30...Kc6xc7 31.Qf6-e7+ Kc7-c8 (31...Kc7-c6 32.Qe7-d7mate) 32.Ra1-f1 leaves Black in disarray.

**31.Qf6-e7 a7-a5  
32.Qe7-d7+ Kb5-a6  
33.Ra1-b1 1-0**

Volume 10 of the *Secrets of Opening Surprises* series, edited by Jeroen Bosch, is another interesting publication containing some enterprising offbeat opening ideas in a variety of systems.

The concept is quite similar to the *Dangerous Weapons* series by Everyman, although with more ideas and less theoretical detail. A nice feature of this book is the update on previous features, similar to the *NIC Year Books*. A welcome novelty is that on the last page readers are invited to submit their games in the designated lines with the chance to win cash prizes for the best submissions, I do hope this starts a trend amongst opening books!

**Michael Adams**



## The Russians aren't coming

The Russian Team Championship experienced a shrinking feeling this year with only eight teams in the top division as opposed to 12 last time. Even the very prestigious standing of chess in Russia, where it still enjoys considerable political patronage, is not immune to the credit crunch.

Although there were fewer teams, those remaining still seem to be pretty solvent and the battle for the title and qualification for the Euro Cup was still fierce.



**Deviatkin, A - Ni Hua**  
Dagomys 2009

19... d7-d5

Exchanging pieces with 19... Qc6xe4 20.Qe2xe4 Bb7xe4 21.Re1xe4 Ng4-f6 is ok for Black, but he over-optimistically opens the centre, retribution arrives swiftly.

20.c4xd5 e6xd5  
21.Nf3xe5 Ng4xe5  
22.Qe2-h5+ Ke8-d7

There is no choice but to return material as 22...Ne5-g6 23.Ne4-d6+ Ke8-d7 24.Qh5xg6 Qc6xd6 25.Qg6-f7+ Kd7-c6

26.Bh4-g3 wins the queen.

23.Qh5xe5 d5-d4

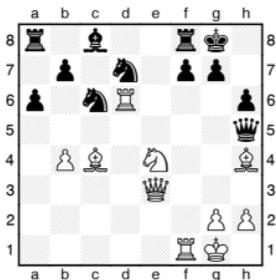
Neither 23...d5xe4 24.Ra1-d1+, nor 23...Ra8-e8 24.Ne4-f6+ offer any hope. Ni Hua cannot get his king to safety so he tries to hold everything together in the centre, but another sacrifice breaks his resistance.

24.Ne4xc5+ Bf8xc5

24...Qc6xc5 25.Qe5-e6+ Kd7-c7 26.Bh4-g3+ Bf8-d6 27.Ra1-c1 is catastrophic but this isn't much better.

25.Qe5xg7+ Kd7-c8  
26.Qg7xh8+ Kc8-c7  
27.Qh8-g7+ Kc7-b6  
1-0

The Chinese players did not have an especially happy event. Defending the razor-sharp poisoned pawn variation of the Najdorf against Shirov wouldn't be many players' first choice, particularly after this game.



**Shirov, A - Wang Hao**  
Dagomys 2009

22.Qe3-f4

Black would have been ready for the previously played 22.Bh4-f6 which also looks very dangerous, but Shirov produces the first original move of the game.

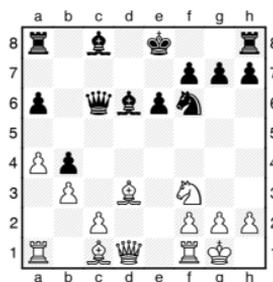
22... Nd7-e5

The machine suggests that White would find it more difficult to finish Black off after 22...a6-a5.

23.Rd6xh6

and his next move concludes matters as this caused Black to resign in disgust, however not really prematurely as 23...

Qh5xh6 24.Ne4-f6+ Kg8-h8 25.Bh4-g5 Ne5-g6 26.Qf4-e3 trapping Black's queen is convincing enough.



**Efimenko, Z - Ivanov, S**  
Dagomys 2009

13.Bd3-b5 a6xb5  
14.a4xb5 Bd6xh2+

White's neat tactic has overloaded the black queen so Ivanov grabs a pawn for the bishop.

15.Nf3xh2 Qc6-b7  
16.Ra1xa8 Qb7xa8  
17.Qd1-d6

Now the Black queen has been distracted, this key move strands the king in the centre.

17... Nf6-d5  
18.Qd6-g3 g7-g6

Creating further weaknesses on the dark squares, but 18...0-0 19.Bc1-h6 was not an option.

19.Nh2-g4

The knight hops back into play.

19... h7-h5

At least 19...f7-f6 would have plugged some holes.

20.Bc1-b2 O-O  
21.Ng4-f6+ Nd5xf6  
22.Qg3-e5

This intermezzo setting up the queen and bishop battery puts Black out of his misery, 22.Bb2xf6 Qa8-e4 is much less convincing.

22... Rf8-e8  
23.Qe5xf6 e6-e5  
24.Bb2xe5 Re8xe5  
25.Qf6xe5 Bc8-b7  
26.Rf1-e1 Kg8-h7  
27.Qe5-e8 1-0

**Michael Adams**



## No rest for determined Ivanchuk

**Vassily Ivanchuk is never happier than when he is seated at the chess board, so he has enjoyed the recent increase in events enabling him to clock up an astonishing 295 rated games since January 2007, with many more at faster time limits.**

A grueling schedule for the 40-year-old, which may explain why his rating, which was nudging 2800 at one point, has subsided to just above 2700. This is much too low, and I am sure it will not be long before it is on an upward curve again.

Rather than heading off home for a bit of rest and preparation, Chucky has hot-footed it to Prague to take on local hero David Navarra in a rapid event. Both players are very ambitious and imaginative in their play and the games have contained lots of sharp theoretical tussles and tricky tactics.



**Ivanchuk, V - Navara, D  
Prague Rapid 2009**

17... **Qc8-a6**

White is a little better after 17... Rf8-d8 but Navara's inventive plan rebounds on him.

18.a2-a4

The nifty but flawed idea, he should have settled for 18... Bb5xc4 19.Be2xc4.

19.e4xd5  
20.Nc4-b6

This knight leap must have been miscalculated by Navarra.

20... **Bb5xe2**

After 20...a7xb6 21.Be2xb5 Qa6xb5 22.a4xb5 Ra8xa1+ 23.Be3-c1 keeps the material.

21.Nb6xa8 **Be2-c4**

Unfortunately, 21...Be2-d3 22.Na8-c7 wins a whole rook.

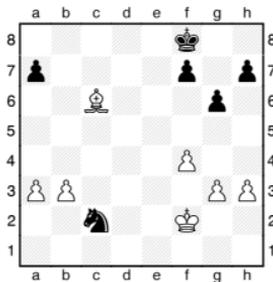
22.Na8-c7 **Qa6-a5**  
23.Nc7xd5 **b4-b3+**

Recapturing the knight enables White to castle kingside, but now the queens get swapped as well.

24.Qc2-d2 **Qa5xd2+**  
25.Be3xd2 **Bc4xd5**  
26.0-0-0 **Rf8-c8**  
27.Bd2-e3 **e7-e6**  
28.Kc1-b1

and Ivanchuk converted his material advantage into victory.

Endgames can prove to be problematic at faster time limits, as you often do not have a lot of time left for that stage of the game. In this game, Navara produces a smooth conversion of his extra pawn.



**Navara, D - Ivanchuk, V  
Prague Rapid 2009**

36.Bc6-e4

A neat way to exploit White's edge, if 36.a3-a4 a7-a5 the dark-square blockade creates some technical problems.

Nf6-d5

c6xd5

Bb5xe2

Qa5xd2+  
Bc4xd5  
Rf8-c8  
e7-e6

36...

37.Be4-d3

The horse is hobbled and although it cannot be trapped, securing its release will cost Ivanchuk the game.

37...

38.Kf2-e3  
39.Ke3-d4

Perhaps the best practical chance was 39...a7-a6 40.Bd3xa6 Na3-c2+, although, the extra pawn should be enough.

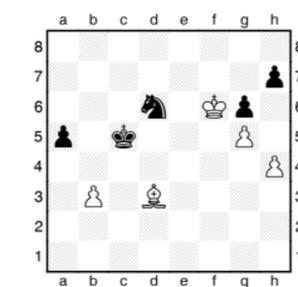
40.g3-g4  
41.g4-g5  
42.f4xg5

If 42...Kc6-d6 43.b3-b4 leaves Black without a decent move, or 42...Na3-b5+ 43.Kd4-e5 Nb5-c7 44.h3-h4 when White dominates the board and will eventually get to munch on the kingside pawns.

43.Kd4-e5  
44.h3-h4

The knight has to withdraw as 44...Kc5-b4 45.h4-h5 g6xh5 46.Bd3xh7 leaves the 'g' pawn heading for a touchdown.

45.Ke5-f6



46.Bd3xg6

A well-calculated decision, the knight proves helpless to stop the White pawns, the blunder 46.Kf6-g7 Nd6-f5+ allows Black to escape.

46...  
47.Kf6xg6  
48.h4-h5  
49.h5-h6  
50.h6-h7  
51.Kg6-g7

And seeing that a new queen would be appearing shortly, Ivanchuk resigned.

Nc2xa3

Kf8-e7  
Ke7-d6  
f7-f6

Kd6-c6  
f6xg5  
a7-a5

Kc6-c5  
Na3-b5

Nb5-d6

h7xg6  
Kc5-d5  
Kd5-e6  
Nd6-f7  
Ke6-e7

**Michael Adams**



## Are you one of our winners?

Let's talk about winners. Later, we reveal the victors in our competition to win a Rybka 3 chess program. But first, news of a city where chess is on a winning streak.

The year 2009 promises to be a vintage one for London. The Staunton Memorial Tournament being held as usual at Simpson's In The Strand from August 8 to 17 is the strongest yet with a fascinating struggle in prospect between the two evenly matched Dutch and UK teams in the main event.

The accompanying All Play All tournament will also be a big attraction for spectators with legends like Jan Timman and the evergreen Viktor Korchnoi who we see in action below.

e5-e4 when Black gets some activity for his pieces, now his king leads from the front with predictable results.

**16.h5xg6+ Kd7xg6**  
If 16...Qe8xg6 17.e4xf5 Rf8xf5 18.Bf1-d3 the pin is too powerful.

**17.e4xf5+ Rf8xf5**  
**18.Nc3-e4**  
Neatly targeting the d6 pawn.

**18... Rf5xf3**  
**19.Qc1-c2 Qe8-f8**  
**20.Ne4xd6+ Kg6-f6**  
**21.Nf2-e4+ Kf6-e7**  
**22.Bf1-e2 Rf3-f6**

The rook doesn't have any squares, so perhaps 22...Ke7-d8 was worth trying.

**23.Ne4xf6 Nd7xf6**  
**24.Nd6xc8+ Ra8xc8**  
**25.Qc2-f5 Rc8-e8**  
**26.Qf5-e6+ Ke7-d8**  
**27.Qe6-b6+ Kd8-c8**  
**28.Bd2-e3 Nf6-d7**

28...Nf6-e4 would have hung on a bit longer, now another pin on a light-square diagonal on the other side of the board concludes matters.

**29.Be2-g4 Ng8-f6**  
**30.d5-d6**  
Black resigned as 30...Kc8-b8 31.Bg4xd7 Nf6xd7 32.Qb6-c7+ wins more material.

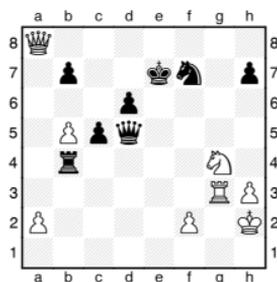
Later, in December, there is an even more vertiginous Super GM event taking place that includes three top English players, the US Champion Hikaru Nakamura, Magnus Carlsen and Vladimir Kramnik - taking part in his first tournament in the UK since he played against Garry Kasparov.

This high-flier tournament is organised by Malcolm Pein of the London Chess Centre, who also donated the prizes for the Daily Telegraph competition. Before we move onto the solution and winners, here is a little bit of background...

## Adams, M - Mamedyarov, S Corus 2008

Mamedyarov played:

**42.. Nf7-g5**  
and the game later ended in a draw, although White still has some advantage here.  
We both calculated the line 42...Qg6-e4 43.Qa3-a8+ Kg8-g7 44.Rg1xg2+ Kg7-f6 45.Ne3-g4+ Kf6-e7 46.Rg2-g3 Qe4-d5 (46...Nf7-e5 is a bit tougher) bringing us to the prize puzzle position below:

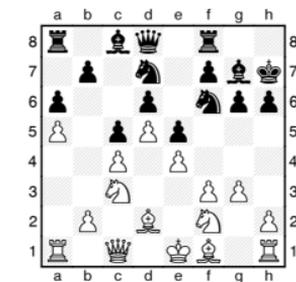


The spectacular winning move is: 47.Qa8-e8+ after 47...Ke7xe8 48.Ng4-f6+ Black can't avoid losing not only the extra queen, but also the exchange as well 48...Ke8-f8 49.Rg3-g8+ Kf8-e7 50.Nf6xd5+ or 48...Ke8-d8 49.Rg3-g8+ Kd8-c7 50.Nf6xd5+, 48...Ke8-e7 49.Nf6xd5+ with an easy win for White. An impressive piece of calculation by my opponent from the original position.

Many thanks for all your entries. The standard was extremely high with almost 60 correct answers received. Congratulations to all the winners. Prizes supplied by The London Chess Centre, 369 Euston Road, NW1 3AR and 44 Baker Street, W1U 7RT [www.chess.co.uk](http://www.chess.co.uk)

### Winners:

- RF Tindall, Cambridgeshire - Rybka 3;
  - LJ Wheatley, Birmingham - My 60 Memorable Games (Fischer);
  - M Whiting, Norfolk - Modern Chess Openings (de Firmian).
- An additional five runners-up each win three months' subscription to Chess Magazine plus online vouchers to the value of £10:
- AG Summers, Lincolnshire;
  - J Preston, Essex;
  - J Lumsden, E. Sussex;
  - AJ Brown, Derbyshire;
  - DS James, Durham.



## Korchnoi, V - Westerinen, H EU Seniors Velden 2009

**13... Nf6-g8**  
Korchnoi has already clamped down on the Black queenside, so Westerinen tries his luck on the kingside, but without much success.

**14.h2-h4 f7-f5**  
**15.h4-h5**  
Taking a tin opener to the White squares.

**15... Qd8-e8**  
A more spirited way to part with material was 15...g6-g5 16.e4xf5



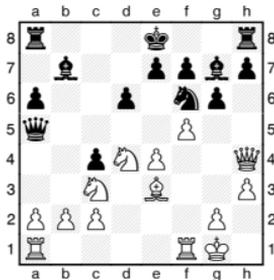
**Michael Adams**



## Short sharp and destructive

**There has been a lot of chess going on during the last few weeks, but the most interesting result from an English point of view was Nigel Short's destruction of the field at the Sigeman & Co Tournament in Malmo.**

Short scored a fabulous 4.5/5 without any good fortune; in fact if things had gone a bit differently in the one that got away against Tiger Hillarp Persson, he could have ended up with a perfect score. His most attractive victory was against the talented young Swedish player Grandelius who finished 2nd in the tournament despite the loss below.



**Short, N - Grandelius, N  
Sigeman & Co Malmo 2009**

15... 0-0

Given the lack of pawn cover on the queenside, Black's king will have to head in this direction, but it was much better to play 15...Ra8-b8 preparing Bb7-a8 creating some queenside counterplay first.

16.Ra1-d1 Ra8-e8

16...Ra8-b8 still looks more logical, but I think the sacrifice Short employs in the game would still be very strong.

17.f5xg6 h7xg6

A great long-term investment, once the 'g' pawn is stripped away, Black's king is as happy as an MP discussing his expenses.

18... g6xf5  
19.Rf1xf5 d6-d5

So the queen can cover along the third rank 19...Qa5-b4 20.Be3-h6 is curtains immediately.

20.e4xd5 Qa5-b4

I wouldn't fancy Black's position much after 20...Bb7-c8 21.Rf5-g5 Nf6-h7, but it is vastly better than the game, 22.Rg5xg7+ Kg8xg7 23.d5-d6 is one interesting possibility for White.

21.Be3-h6 Qb4-b6+  
22.Kg1-h1 Nf6-h7  
23.Bh6xg7 Kg8xg7  
24.Rd1-d4

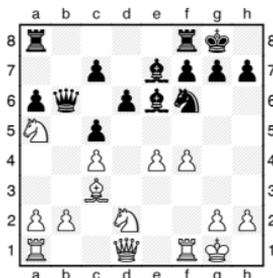
Short envisaged the concept of swinging the rook along the 4th-rank in this way when he made his crafty 16th move. White has too much heavy artillery aimed at the Black king for it to survive.

24... Rf8-h8  
25.Rd4-g4+ Kg7-f8  
26.Qh4-h5

Nudging the queen forward causes a complete collapse as none of Black's forces can adequately defend f7.

26... Bb7xd5  
27.Nc3xd5 Qb6-e6  
28.Nd5-c7 1-0

We finish with snapshots from the recently concluded Poikovsky tournament in Siberia:



**Naiditsch, A - Onischuk, A  
Poikovsky 2009**

16... Nf6-g4

This rather unwise knight leap is harshly punished.

17.f4-f5 Ng4-e3  
18.Qd1-h5 Ne3xf1  
19.Ra1xf1

Now it becomes clear, Naiditsch will regain the material with interest.

19... Be6-d7  
20.f5-f6 Be7xf6  
21.Rf1xf6 Ra8-e8  
22.Qh5-g5 Re8-e7  
23.Rf6-e6

This great move finishes the game. Black resigned, as after 23...fxe6 24.Qg5xe7, White picks up the bishop, or 23...f7-f6 24.Re6xe7 f6xg5 25.Re7xg7+ Kg8-h8 26.Rg7xg5+ leads to mate. The White knight on a5 and the Black queen had little influence on the play, given the material disparity between these pieces it was no surprise that this trade-off worked in White's favour.



**Sutovsky, E - Inarkiev, E  
Poikovsky 2009**

19... Qd8-d5

Black should be doing all right after 19...Ra8-c8, but instead he allowed his queen to become trapped mid-board in an unusual manner.

20.f3-f4 Be7-d8

The big blunder, 20...a7-a6 was still not that clear.

21.Qd3-a3+ Kf8-g8  
22.Re1-e5

A picturesque end to proceedings, on realising his lady had no flight squares, Black resigned.

**Michael Adams**



## Sparks fly in Spanish sun

The Ruy Lopez tournament held in Zafrá, where the Spanish monk was born in 1540 and where he is immortalised in the small square Plazuela de San Lopez, featured an unusually high number of fighting games despite there not being any draw restrictions in effect.

The winner, Ivan Cheparinov, has not been too active of late, keeping his main man Veselin Topalov well-supplied with novelties instead, but he still plays a mean game himself as in this destruction of Fabiano Caruana.

30.Rc3xc7  
31.Rc7xa7

b4-b3

The mundane 31.Qc2-c6 Ra7xc7 32.Qc6xc7 is also good, but Ivan decides to give up his queen to allow his very active pieces to infiltrate Black's position.

31...  
32.Ra7xd7  
33.Rc1xc2  
34.Rc2-c7  
35.Ke1xd2

b3xc2  
Qd8-b8  
Nd6xe4  
Ne4xd2  
Qb8-a8

A painful death along the seventh rank is inevitable, but 35... e5-e4 might have been a better attempt at creating confusion.

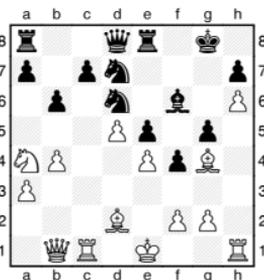
36.Bg4-e6  
37.d5xe6  
38.Kd2-c1

Re8xe6  
Kh8-g8

Bringing his knight into play with 38.Nb2-c4 was a neat alternative way to prevent any spite checks.

38...  
39.e6-e7  
40.Rd7xe7  
1-0

e5-e4  
Bf6xe7



### Cheparinov, I - Caruana, F Zafrá 2009

25.Rh1-h3

A neat way to develop the rook, which will swing across the third rank to ramp up the pressure on c7. The white monarch is perfectly safe in the closed centre.

25... a7-a6  
26.Na4-b2 Kg8-h8  
27.Qb1-c2 Ra8-a7  
28.a3-a4 a6-a5  
29.Rh3-c3

There were tempting alternatives, but Cheparinov decides it is time to put the boot in.

29... a5xb4

### Koneru, H - Perez Candelario, M Zafrá 2009

27.Bg5-d2

Koneru correctly aims to exchange the well placed bishop which is the strong point of black's position, there is no hurry to grab the rook on a8. The lengthy sequence of moves we see in the game provides the tactical justification.

27...  
28.Bd2xc3  
29.Bg2xa8  
30.Qc2xb2

Qb8xd6  
Qd6-c5  
Re8xa8  
b4xc3

It looks as though Black has everything under control as he threatens to take the white

knight and fork the white rooks with c3-c2, but he encounters a serious problem on the back rank.

31.Qb2-b8+

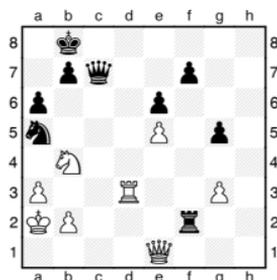
Nf6-g8

The queen sacrifice is decisive as 31...Ra8xb8 32.Rb1xb8+ Nd7xb8 33.Rd1-d8+ leads to mate.

32.Qb8xa8  
33.Rd1xd7

Qc5xe7

After this move emphasizing the lack of luft for Black's monarch, he resigned as 33... Qe7xd7 34.Qa8xg8+ Kh8xg8 35.Rb1-b8+ is a clinical finish.



### Larino Nieto, D - Granda Zuniga, J Zafrá 2009

37...

Rf2-f5

Black has a safe extra pawn after 37...Qc7-c5, but starts to neglect his king on the queenside after this move.

38.Rd3-c3

Qc7xe5

Not wise, 38...Qc7-b6 keeps things together.

39.Qe1-d2

Kb8-a7

Things have gone horribly wrong and the only chance was 39... Qe5-h8 40.Qd2-d6+ Kb8-a8, although, Granda Zuniga is skirting the precipice.

40.Rc3-c8

Suddenly White is completely winning as there is no good way to prevent Qd2-d8.

40...

Rf5-f3

If 40...Qe5-f6 41.Qd2-e3+ wraps up.

41.Qd2-d8  
1-0

**Michael Adams**



## Grand Prix highlights

One of the aims of the FIDE Grand Prix series was to develop the game internationally. They seem to have been particularly successful in one geographical area as the fourth tournament in Nalchik is the third to be held in Russia, the first event in Baku, Azerbaijan being the only hold out. The next is scheduled for Armenia, but with the final event yet to find a home, the participants might be advised to keep their Russian visas up to date.

The line-up of players has also been a moveable feast, but most of the changes have added to the overall strength of the event and we take a look at some ELO laden encounters below.

### 15.Nd4xe6

Now he decides to cut and run allowing Black to improve his structure to give him the time to castle, 15.Ra1-d1 was the alternative.

- 15... 16.Bf1-e2
- 17.0-0
- 18.Ra1-c1
- 19.Rf1-d1

The rook was doing a good job on the 'f' line keeping an eye on the vulnerable f2 pawn, 19.Qa2-b1 bringing the queen back into action was better.

- 19... 20.Rd1-d2
- 21.Qa2-b3

The queen proves tactically suspect here, 21.Qa2-b1 was wiser.

- 21... 22.Be2-f1

An ugly move like 22.f2-f3 was essential.



- 22... d5-d4

This unexpected breakthrough leaves the White forces in disarray as Kasim's hyperactive knights run rings around them.

### 23.Nc3-a2

The pawn cannot be captured as 23.e3xd4 Nc6xd4 24.Qb3-d1 Ne5-f3+ 25.g2xf3 Nd4xf3+ 26.Kg1-h1 Qf7-f4 forces White to part with his lady, so the knight retreats covering White's rook.

- 23... Ne5-g4

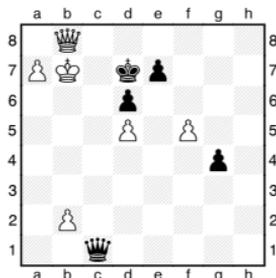
Things are already extremely difficult, the text loses directly, but a sensible defensive move such as 24.Rc1-e1 also succumbs to a tactical flurry:

- 24...d4xe3 25.f2xe3 Nc6-d4
- 26.Qb3-d1 (26.e3xd4 Qf7-f4)
- 26...Ng4-f2 27.Qd1-b1 Nf2-h3+
- 28.Kg1-h1 Nd4-b3 29.Rd2-d6

Rc8-c1 and this lengthy sequence has left White's back rank fatally weak

- 24... d4xe3
- 25.f2xe3 Nc6-a5

White resigned as 26.Qb3-d3 Rc8xc2 27.Qd3xc2 Qf7xf1+ 28.Rc1xf1 Rf8xf1+ 29.Kg1xf1 Ng4xe3+ wins a piece.

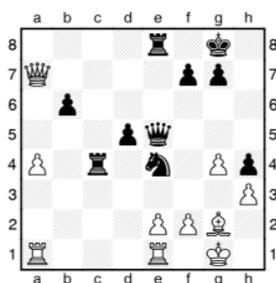


### Akopian, V - Karjakin, S Nalchik 2009

White has a few ways to win, but promoting to a queen would be a big mistake allowing perpetual check. Akopian moved his pawn forward, but then selected another piece

### 71.a7-a8N

Which caused Karjakin to resign as the knight intercedes with check killing Black's counter play stone dead.



### Gelfand, B - Eljanov, P Nalchik 2009

- 31... Ne4xf2
- 32.Kg1xf2 Qe5-g3+
- 33.Kf2-f1

The point is that 33.Kf2-g1 Rc4xg4 34.h3xg4 h4-h3 leaves White's monarch helpless, but now Eljanov picks up the 'h' pawn with check and swiftly creates unanswerable threats.

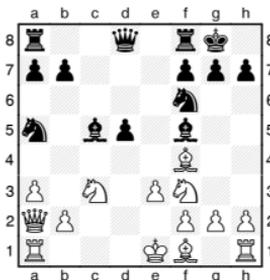
- 33... Rc4-f4+
- 34.Bg2-f3 Qg3xh3+
- 35.Kf1-g1 Qh3-g3+
- 36.Kg1-h1 Rf4xf3
- 0-1

### Ivanchuk, V - Kasimdzhanov, R Nalchik 2009

### 12.Bf4-e5

Ivanchuk did not like the complications that result from 12.b2-b4 d5-d4 with his king still in the middle, so he tries to keep things under control.

- 12... Bf5-e6
- 13.Be5-d4 Bc5xd4
- 14.Nf3xd4 Na5-c6



**Michael Adams**



## Anand mixes an exotic cocktail

**There is no better win bonus than getting to play a tournament in an exotic location. Some years ago I was fortunate to have the opportunity to play a match in Santiago de Chile against Chile's top player, the affable Ivan Morovic. Our sponsor was Daniel Yarur Elsaca, a great lover of chess and a warm and friendly host.**

This time, Elsaca, President of the Chilean Chess Foundation, has pulled off a major coup by enticing World Champion Vishy Anand to indulge in a spot of chess tourism; playing a two-game rapid match during his visit. To get in the mood, pour yourself a pisco sour, then take a look at the first rapid game...



**Morovic Fernandez, I - Anand, V**  
**Rapid Match Santiago 2009**

**15... g7-g5**

Vishy sees that White's knights are hanging out on the queenside and takes the double-edged decision to gain space on the kingside which is well justified in the game.

**16.Be2-d3**

I think this move proves to be a

big mistake, Morovic is happy to lose time to lure the central pawn forward, but 16.Qd1-c2 with the same idea or 16.Nc3-b5 were much better options.

**16... e5-e4**  
**17.Bd3-e2 Nd7-e5**  
**18.Nb3-d4**

Morovic has secured an attractive post for his knight, but Anand has used the extra time to coordinate his forces as well. Having improved his knight, now he regroups his bishop to a better diagonal.

**18... Bb7-c8**  
**19.Qd1-c2 Bc8-d7**  
**20.Rf1-e1 g5-g4**

Anand has judged that the extra space on the kingside will create tactical threats that outweigh the ceding of dark-square control, which is in any case difficult for White to exploit.

**21.Be2-f1 Rf8-g8**  
**22.g2-g3**

This seems a bit too compliant, 22.Kg1-h1 getting the king out of the firing line was better.

**22... Ne5-f3+**  
**23.Nd4xf3 g4xf3**

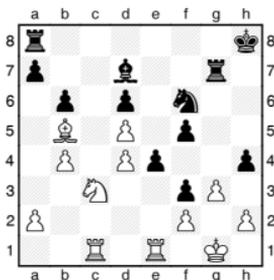
The advanced pawn phalanx is very uncomfortable for Morovic.

**24.Qc2-d2 h7-h5**  
**25.c4-c5 Qe7-e5**

There were many tempting options, but Anand calmly centralizes his queen.

**26.Qd2-d4 Qe5xd4**  
**27.e3xd4 Rg8-g7**  
**28.c5xd6 c7xd6**  
**29.Bf1-b5 h5-h4**

Black's infantry is outnumbering White's on the kingside.



**30.Bb5xd7**

It would have been better to try to play 30.Bb5-c6, housing the bishop on a half-decent square.

**30... Rg7xd7**  
**31.Nc3-d1**

Surrendering a pawn does not really help, but it is very hard to suggest a good alternative.

**31... Nf6xd5**  
**32.a2-a3 h4xg3**  
**33.f2xg3**

It would appear far more instinctive to capture towards the centre, but then we are faced with a tactical problem in the shape of 33.h2xg3 Nd5-f4 when the knight can not be captured as 34.g3xf4 Rd7-g7+ 35.Kg1-f1 Ra8-g8 leads to mate.

**33... Kh8-g7**  
**34.Nd1-e3**

Morovic could have copied his opponent by bringing his king into the game 34.Kg1-f2, but the result is no longer really in any doubt.

**34... Nd5xe3**  
**35.Re1xe3 Kg7-f6**  
**36.Kg1-f2 Kf6-e6**  
**37.Re3-c3 Ra8-h8**  
**38.h2-h4 Rd7-g7**  
**39.Rc3-c7 Rh8-g8**  
**40.Rc7xg7 Rg8xg7**  
**41.Rc1-c8**

If White puts his rook behind his pawn, 41.Rc1-h1 f5-f4 is a strong response.

**41... Ke6-d5**  
**42.Rc8-f8 Kd5xd4**  
**43.Rf8xf5 Rg7-c7**

Now Anand's pawns are much faster and he also has an extra one in hand.

**44.g3-g4 Rc7-c2+**  
**45.Kf2-g3 Rc2-g2+**  
**46.Kg3-h3 Kd4-e3**  
**47.h4-h5 Rg2-g1**  
**48.g4-g5 f3-f2**  
**49.g5-g6 d6-d5**

**0-1**

**Michael Adams**



## Rare chance to see McShane back in the UK

Although Luke McShane has played a few games in the Bundesliga since starting work at Goldman Sachs, the final 4NCL weekend provided a rare opportunity to see him in action in the UK.

McShane has still retained his attractive playing style as we see in the game below, but his 3/3 score was not enough to allow Guildford A&DC to retain their title. Ironically, Guildford's biggest set back was a defeat by their own 2nd team, allowing Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher to take the title when the final tense match between these two finished in a 4-4 draw.

Luke has great compensation as D'Costa's king ends up wandering the board nomadically and he finds it very difficult to bring his kingside pieces into the game. McShane continues in aggressive fashion picking off Black's only piece to have emerged from the first three ranks whilst spurning the rook on offer.

- 17.Nc6xb4
- 18.Bb2-d4
- 19.Nb4-c6
- 20.Qd3-e2
- 21.Nc6xd8

The other recapture 21...Kc8xd8 trying to use the monarch to cover squares on the 'e' line is well met by 22.Rh1-e1 Qc7-d7 23.Bd4xc5 d6xc5 24.d5-d6.

- 22.Rh1-e1
- 23.Bd4-a7

A neat idea preventing Black's king edging away from trouble.

- 23...
- 24.Rd1-d4
- 24...Kc8-d7 had to be tried.

- 25.Rd4-a4
- 26.Ra4-c4+
- 27.a2-a4

27.Ba7-d4 threatening h2-h3 was immediately decisive, but McShane continues his policy of constructive containment.

- 27...
- 28.b3-b4
- 29.Qe2-d3

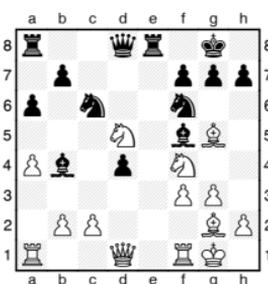
The bishop finally emerges if 29...g7-g6 30.a4-a5 Bf8-h6 31.Qd3-b3 Ng4-e5 32.Re1xe5 d6xe5 33.Qb3-a4+ is rather embarrassing.

- 30.a4-a5
- 31.Ba7-b6
- 32.Rc4-c7
- 33.Qd3-e4
- 34.f4xe5
- 35.Kc1-b1
- 36.Qe4-f5
- 37.Bg2-h3

McShane keeps improving his position, but perhaps it was time to abandon this admirable strategy as 37.Qf5-d7+ Ke8-f8 38.Re1xe5 forces mate shortly.

- 37...
- 38.c2-c4
- Black resigned as 38...Bf6-d8 39.Rc7-d7 Ne5xd7 40.Qf5xd7

Bd8xb6 41.Re1-e7 mops up.



**Ruston, M - Rogers, J**  
4NCL 2009

- 15..
- 16.Bg5xd8
- 17.Qd1-c1
- 18.Rf1-f2

The computer suggests the surprising 18.Nf4-d3 is best, since White will part with material anyway he shouldn't fear giving up the rook for the powerful knight.

- 18...
- Nc6-a5

This poisonous, quiet move is the real point of the inspired queen sacrifice, it's unusual for two pieces to outweigh a queen in a position without immediate threats, but the stark contrast in coordination between the armies makes the difference.

- 19.Nf4-h5

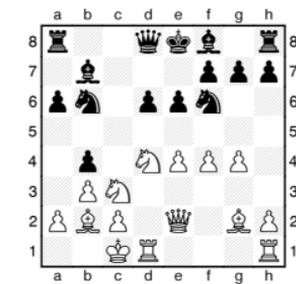
This does nothing to solve White's problems, but it's hard to say what he should have played, retreating the knight seems logical, but after 19.Nf4-d3 Bf5xd3 20.c2xd3 Na5-b3 21.Qc1-b1 Rd8-c8 22.Bg2-h3 Rc8-c5 the White forces are completely dominated. Trying to exchange bishops with 19.Bg2-h3 meets with the powerful response 19...d4-d3 20.Nf4xd3 (20.Bh3xf5 d3-d2) 20...Bf5xd3 21.c2xd3 Na5-b3 22.Qc1-b1 Nb3xa1 23.Qb1xa1 Rd8xd3 24.Rf2-e2 Re8-d8 with a decisive attack. So probably the best move was the hard to find 19.Ra1-a3.

- 19...
- d4-d3

Now this move quickly breaks White's resistance.

- 20.c2xd3
- 21.Qc1-b1
- 22.Qb1xa1

White resigned as 23.Rf2-e2 Re8-d8 offers no hope.



**McShane, L - D'Costa, L**  
4NCL 2009

- 13.Nc3-d5

White is in decent shape after the calm 13.Nc3-b1, but this thematic knight sacrifice is much more dynamic.

- 13...
- 14.e4xd5+
- 14...Bf8-e7
- 15.Nd4-f5
- 15...Qd8-e7

After 14...Bf8-e7 15.Nd4-f5, Black's king can't find sanctuary on the kingside.

- 15.Qe2-d3
- 16.Nd4-c6
- 0-0-0
- Qe7-c7

# CHESS

May 23rd 2009

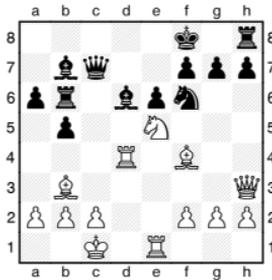
Michael Adams



## Win a Rybka 3 chess program plus books

This week I have set you a problem with a selection of prizes available to win, so to warm you up for the challenge let's look at some tactical finishes from recent games.

We start with a snappy combination from Gata Kamsky in the US championship.



**Kamsky, G - Akobian, V**  
*Saint Louis 2009*

19... a6-a5

Black is in a world of pain, but 19...Qc7-e7 would have avoided immediate disaster.

20.Rd4xd6 Rb6xd6

The alternative 20...Qc7xd6 21.Ne5-g6+ isn't too good either.

21.Ne5xf7 Kf8xf7

If 21...Rd6-d1+ the calm 22.Kc1xd1 is very effective.

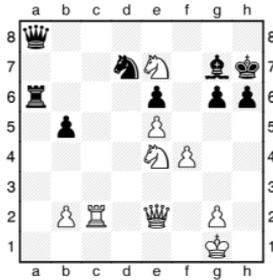
22.Qh3xe6+

Kamsky is satisfied with simplifying to an easily winning ending, but 22.Re1xe6 continuing the attack was even stronger.

22... Rd6xe6  
23.Bb3xe6+ Kf7-g6

24.Bf4xc7 Rh8-e8  
25.Bc7xa5 Bb7xg2  
26.f2-f4

and White swiftly converted the two extra pawns to victory.



**Carlsen, M - Topalov, V**  
*MTel Masters Sofia 2009*

Topalov's position looks a bit shaky, but it takes a very accurate piece of calculation to detonate the foundations.

31.Rc2-c7 Ra6-a1+

If 31...Ra6-a7 32.Qe2-d3 is similar to the game.

32.Kg1-f2 Qa8-d8  
33.Qe2-d3

Only this very strong move, which had to be foreseen in advance, ignoring the double attack on rook and knight does the job.

33... Qd8xe7

The rook cannot be captured as 33...Qd8xc7 34.Ne4-g5+ h6xg5 (or 34...Kh7-h8 35.Ng5-f7+ Kh8-h7 36.Qd3xg6 mate) 35.Qd3xg6+ Kh7-h8 36.Qg6-h5+ is mate next go.

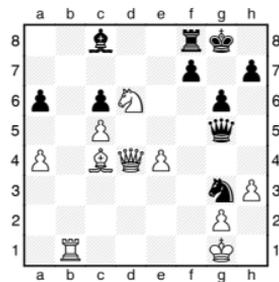
34.Rc7xd7 Qe7-h4+  
35.Kf2-f3

Despite the precarious placement of Carlsen's king, there are no significant checks and then it's White's turn to go on the offensive.

35...Qh4-h5+

After 35...Kh7-h8 36.Rd7xg7 Kh8xg7 37.Ne4-f6 Black has to give up serious material to avoid mate, 35...h6-h5 36.Ne4-f6+ Kh7-h6 37.Rd7xg7 is no better.

36.Kf3-g3  
1-0



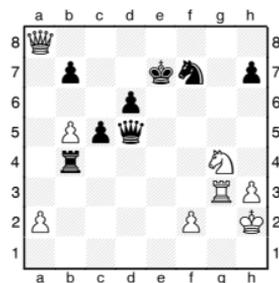
**Anand, V - Leko, P**  
*Amber-blindfold Nice 2009*

Anand brought proceedings to an end with the neat combination:

35.Bc4xf7+ Rf8xf7  
36.Qd4-h8+

and Leko resigned as 36...Kg8xh8 37.Nd6xf7+ picks up the queen next go.

**Competition:** Many thanks to the London Chess Centre, 369 Euston Road, London. NW1 3AR and 44 Baker Street, London W1U 7RT [www.chess.co.uk](http://www.chess.co.uk) for donating a copy of the powerful Rybka 3 chess program and two excellent books: *My 60 Memorable Games* by Bobby Fischer and *Modern Chess Openings* by Nick de Firmian which will go to the first three correct entries out of the hat. A further five runners-up will each receive three months of Chess magazine and online vouchers to the value of £10.



The diagram above is a position that could have been reached in my game with Mamedyarov from Corus 2008, but my opponent correctly chose another line. What bone-crushing move had he spotted for White here?

Please send your entries in algebraic notation, including your name and address, to arrive by May 30 to: **Weekend Chess Competition, Telegraph Media Group, PO Box 604, London SW1W 0XE.** I will announce the winners in my column on June 13.

**Michael Adams**



## Thrills and spills of the 'limited overs' World Cup

The ACP Rapid World Cup, primarily rewarding players who have performed well in their ACP tour, has become a welcome tradition held for the third time in Odessa in the Ukraine, sponsored again by Pivdenny Bank.

A 16-player knockout event with a fast time limit produced the traditional mixture of blunders and thrills, we see a bit of both in the games below.

- 14.c3-c4
- 15.h2-h4
- 16.Bc1-f4
- d7-d6
- Nb8-d7
- Nd7-b6

The placing of minor pieces on the 'b' line proves problematic, so 16...Qd8-c7 looks better.

- 17.c4xb5
- 18.Rb1xb5
- 19.Nf3-g5
- a6xb5
- Ra8xa2
- Ra2-a1

The counterattacking 19... Bf6-d4 is well met by 20.Bf4-e3, exchanging Black's active pieces before planting White's knight on e6.

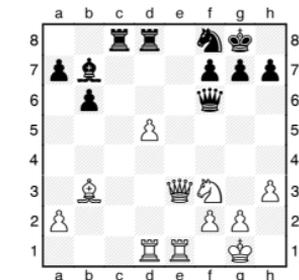
- 20.Rb5-b1
- The spectacular 20.Qd1xa1 Bf6xa1 21.Ng5-e6 Qd8-a8
- 22.Rb5xb6 would be very difficult to defend against in a rapid game, but simple measures are good enough to keep an edge.

- 20...
- 21.Qd1xb1
- Ra1xb1
- Bb7xd5

Moiseenko cracks under the pressure. He had to play 21... Bb7-c8 22.Ng5-e6 Bc8xe6 23.d5xe6 Nb6-c8 24.Qb1xf5 Bf6-e5 25.Bf4-g5 although White is still doing well.

- 22.Bg2xd5+
- 23.Qb1xf5
- Nb6xd5

Probably Black calculated the variation 23.Qb1-b3 Qd8-a8 24.Re1-d1 Bf6-d4 when he gets away unscathed, now he loses a piece after 23...Bf6xg5 24.Qf5xd5+ so he resigned.



### Grischuk, A - Moiseenko, A ACP Rapid Odessa 2009

- 7.e2-e4
- 8.Bf1-g2
- Nf6xe4

Typical of Grischuk's aggressive style, he is happy to give up a pawn simply to get a lead in development.

- 8...
- 9.0-0
- 10.Rf1-e1
- 11.Nb1-c3
- 12.b2xc3
- 13.Ra1-b1
- Bf8-e7
- 0-0
- f7-f5
- Ne4xc3
- Be7-f6
- a7-a6

Both sides develop logically, but Black's position remains a little uncomfortable.

### Jakovenko, D - Naiditsch, A ACP Rapid Odessa 2009

- 19....
- 19...h7-h6 20.Qe3-e7 is strong, 19...Rc8-c5 challenging the influential passed pawn was better.

- 20.Nf3-g5
- h7-h6

The alternative 20...Ng6-f4 looks precarious, however, it was a better chance than the game

continuation as now Jakovenko makes a killer sacrifice.

- 21.Ng5xf7
- Qf6xf7

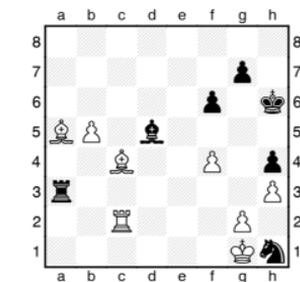
The other recapture is no better: 21...Kg8xf7 22.d5-d6+ Kf7-f8 23.d6-d7 Rc8-b8 24.Rd1-d4 when the Black king is stranded and White will shortly deliver the coup de grace. Even swapping queens doesn't help after 24... Qf6-g5 25.Qe3-g3 Qg5xg3 26.f2xg3 Bb7-a6 27.Re1-e3 Ba6-b7 28.Re3-e2 a killer check is not far off.

- 22.d5-d6
- 23.d6-d7
- Rc8-c4
- Kg8-h7

The pin is so awkward Naiditsch cannot put up serious resistance if 23...Bb7-c6 24.Qe3-e6 Qf7xe6 25.Re1xe6 Rd8xd7 26.Rd1xd7 Bc6xd7 27.Re6-d6 all Black's remaining forces are under attack.

- 24.Qe3-e8
- 1-0

A disappointing end to the event, it looked as though Svidler would win this game and tie up the final at 2-2, but a tragic blunder gifts Gelfand the tournament victory.



### Svidler, P - Gelfand, B ACP Rapid Odessa 2009

- 56.Bc4xd5

Liquidating to the ending with 56.Kg1xh1 Bd5xc4 57.Rc2xc4 Ra3xa5 58.Rc4-b4 is an easy win as Black's rook is forced to go passive when White's king ambles forward to decide the game. Svidler thought he was simply winning a piece, forgetting that the rook was not only attacking White's bishop, but had also created a threat on the back rank.

- 56...
- Ra3-a1+

White resigned as after 57.Kg1-h2 Nh1-g3 White can only delay mate for a few moves.