

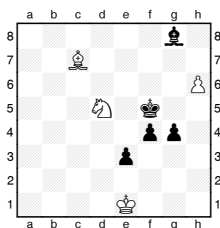
Michael Adams



Kings winner Ivanchuk is top drawer

The third edition of the Kings tournament in Bazna, Romania was the strongest yet and Vassily Ivanchuk continued his resurgence with an unbeaten 7/10 score.

There was a high draw percentage in the event, so I have selected a couple of tricky opposite-coloured bishop endgames to show you. In the first one, White has an additional piece, but with a couple of pawns in compensation and very reduced material Alexei has to make a couple of slips to allow Vasily to bring home the bacon with his minimal army.



Ivanchuk, V - Shirov, A
Bazna 2009

67... Bg8-h7
This was the chance to make an instant draw with 67...g4-g3 68.Bc7xf4 (Both 68.Nd5xf4 Kf5-g5 and 68.Ke1-f1 g3-g2+ 69.Kf1-g1 f4-f3 70.Nd5xe3+ Kf5-g5 eliminate White's pawn) 68...Kf5-e4 69.Bf4xg3 (69.Nd5-f6+ Ke4xf4 70.Nf6xg8 g3-g2 even wins for Black) 69...Ke4xd5.

68.Ke1-e2 g4-g3
After this, White should be winning so it was definitely better

to play 68...f4-f3+ 69.Ke2xe3 Kf5-g6 70.Bc7-f4 Bh7-g8 when I don't see how White can make progress. 71.Nd5-e7+ Kg6-h7 72.Ke3-f2 (72.Ne7xg8 Kh7xg8 73.Ke3-f2 Kg8-h7 74.Kf2-g3 Kh7-g6 is a clear draw) 72...Bg8-e6 73.Kf2-g3 Be6-d7 74.Ne7-d5 Bd7-e6 doesn't seem to lead anywhere.

69.Ke2-f3 e3-e2
Or 69...g3-g2 70.Kf3xg2 e3-e2 71.Kg2-f2 f4-f3 72.Bc7-a5 Kf5-g6 73.Ba5-d2 when the pawns start dropping as 73...Bh7-g8 74.Nd5-e7+ Kg6-h7 75.Ne7xg8 Kh7xg8 76.Kf2xf3 is a simple win.

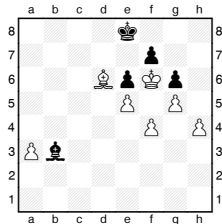
70.Kf3xe2 g3-g2
71.Ke2-f2 f4-f3
72.Bc7-b6 Kf5-e6
It doesn't help if the king heads over towards White's pawn 72...Kf5-g5 73.Bb6-e3+ Kg5-g6 74.Nd5-e7+ Kg6-f6 75.Ne7-c6 Bh7-e4 76.Nc6-d4 Kf6-g6 77.Nd4-e6 Be4-f5 78.Ne6-f8+ Kg6-f7 79.h6-h7 is a sample line.

73.Nd5-c3 Ke6-f7
74.Bb6-e3 Kf7-g6
75.Nc3-d5 Kg6-f7
After 75...Kg6-h5 76.Nd5-f6+ Kh5-g6 77.Nf6-d7 the knight gets to the key square and will have a decisive impact from either f8 or e5.

76.Kf2xf3 Bh7-b1
77.Nd5-c3 Bb1-c2
78.Kf3xg2
Now all the Black pawns are eliminated, White's king is free to move up the board.

78... Kf7-g6
79.Kg2-g3 Kg6-h5
80.Nc3-d5 Kh5-g6
81.Kg3-h4 Bc2-b1
If 81...Bc2-e4 82.h6-h7 Kg6xh7 83.Nd5-f6+ wins the bishop and the White bishop and knight combine to give mate.

82.Be3-g5 Bb1-c2
83.Nd5-f6 Bc2-f5
84.h6-h7
Black resigned as 84...Kg6-g7 85.h7-h8Q+ Kg7xh8 86.Bg5-h6 corners the Black monarch leaving Shirov powerless to prevent a very pretty mate on the dark squares, for instance 86...Bf5-b1 87.Bh6-f8 Bb1-c2 88.Kh4-g5 Bc2-d3 89.Kg5-h6 Bd3-c2 90.Bf8-g7 mate.



Gelfand, B - Shirov, A
Bazna 2009

Having lost a drawn position above, Shirov evens things up in this game by salvaging half a point from a lost one.

58.a3-a4
Missing the decisive breakthrough 58.f4-f5 e6xf5 59.e5-e6 Bb3xe6 60.h4-h5 g6xh5 61.g5-g6 f7xg6 62.Kf6xe6 when White is winning as it is not possible for Shirov's king to make it to the vicinity of a8 with a technical draw. If he pushes his pawns, Black is always a tempo short as White queens with check in lines like 62...Ke8-d8 63.Ke6-d5 f5-f4 (63...Kd8-c8 64.Kd5-c6 f5-f4 65.Bd6xf4 g6-g5 66.Bf4-d6 g5-g4 67.a3-a4 h5-h4 68.a4-a5 g4-g3 69.a5-a6 g3-g2 70.a6-a7 and mate next go) 64.Bd6xf4 g6-g5 65.Bf4-d6 h5-h4 66.a3-a4 g5-g4 67.a4-a5 g4-g3 68.a5-a6 g3-g2 69.a6-a7 g2-g1Q 70.a7-a8Q+ Kd8-d7 71.Qa8-b7+ Kd7-d8 72.Qb7-e7+ Kd8-c8 73.Qe7-c7 mate.

58... Bb3xa4
59.f4-f5 Ba4-c2
Not 59...e6xf5 60.e5-e6 Ba4-b3 61.e6xf7+ Bb3xf7 62.Kf6-g7 and White will win the crucial g6 pawn.

60.f5xe6 f7xe6
61.Kf6xe6 Bc2-b3+
62.Ke6-f6 Bb3-c2
63.e5-e6 Bc2-d3
64.Bd6-g3 Bd3-c2
65.h4-h5 g6xh5
66.g5-g6 Bc2-d3
67.Bg3-h4 Ke8-f8
68.e6-e7+ Kf8-e8
69.Kf6-g7 Bd3-c2
70.Kg7-h6 Bc2-b3
71.Kh6xh5
Draw agreed as 71...Bb3-c4 72.Kh5-h6 Bc4-b3 73.Kh6-h7 Bb3-c2 or 73.g6-g7 Bb3-g8 leave White unable to progress.

Michael Adams

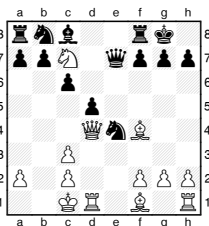


Man in a hurry blitzes World Open

In tune with the new flexi working conditions companies are proffering to their employees, the World Open in Philadelphia, USA, featured a variety of different schedules with re-entries allowed. Even allowing for this, Hikaru Nakamura's tournament was slightly unusual...

It was no surprise to see the blitz specialist start with 4.5/5, playing all these five games in one day, he then followed this up with two normal games netting him 1.5/2, having already elected to receive two half-point byes to conclude his tournament.

This gave him time to jump on the plane to San Sebastian, Spain to start another event. Normally, having to take two half-point byes at the end of the event would hurt your chances of winning, but he had scored so heavily in the first seven rounds that his club house score could only be matched by Evgeniy Najer whose decisive last-round game we see below:



Stopa, J - Benjamin, J
World Open Philadelphia 2009

13.c2-c4

In a previous game in this sharp

line of the Philidor's defence, White had played 13.Rd1-d3 here, but moving the king to cover the a3 square seems logical.

13... g7-g5
14.Bf4-g3

A surprising idea 14.Nc7xa8 g5xf4 is rather unclear, but White has spotted some interesting attacking opportunities due to the opening of the 'h' file after the bishop is exchanged.

14... Ne4xg3
15.h2xg3
16.Qd4-f6
Qe7xc7
Qc7-d8

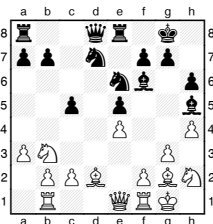
The correct defensive idea exploiting White's earlier king move was 16...Qc7-b6+ 17.Kb2-a1 c6-c5 when his queen can sweep across the third rank to cover his exposed king. After 18.Qf6xg5+ Qb6-g6 19.Rd1xd5 Qg6xg5 20.Rd5xg5+ Kg8-h8 21.Rg5-h5 Kh8-g7 Black's king runs for his life, but eludes the pursuing rooks.

17.Qf6-h6
18.Bf1-d3
Bc8-f5
Qd8-d7

The only chance was to use the same idea as in the previous variation: 18...Qd8-b6+ 19.Kb2-c1 c6-c5, after 20.Bd3xf5 Qb6xh6 21.Rh1xh6 White has a big edge, but at least it's not mate. Now White strips the pawn cover from the Black king with his next two moves before a deadly quiet move closes the mating net.

19.Qh6xg5+
20.Rh1xh7
21.Qg5-f6
Bf5-g6
Kg8xh7

Black resigned as he has to part with his queen to prevent mate.



Ehlvest, J - Najer, E
World Open Philadelphia 2009

19.c2-c4

A horrible positional decision, the Black knight will become a

monster once it lands on d4, so it was better to seek relief though exchanges with 19.Bg2-f3.

19... Qd8-b6
20.Nb3-a1

The corner is the worst possible place for the knight so 20.Nb3-a5 was worth trying.

20... Ne6-d4
21.f2-f3
22.Rf1-f2
Qb6-e6
Ra8-d8

It's not really clear why the pawn on c4 was ignored, 22...Qe6xc4 looks very reasonable, but Black's strategy of opening the position quickly proves very effective in the game.

23.Rb1-c1
24.Nh2-f1
25.e4xf5
26.g3-g4
Bf5-e7
f7-f5
Qe6xf5

The co-ordination of the respective armies means that there is only one winner after this, 26.Qe1-e3 holds White's game together for now.

26... Qf5-f7
27.g4xh5
28.Qe1-e4
29.Qe4-g4
30.Kg1xf2
Be7xh4
Qf7xh5
Bh4xf2+
Qh5-f7

Materially White is doing well, but his dodgy king position and scattered pieces soon come under an irresistible assault.

31.Na1-c2
32.Qg4-h4
33.Rc1-d1
34.Nc2-e3
Nd7-f6
Nd4-b3
e5-e4

There is no escape, 34.f3-f4 trying to keep things closed is refuted by, amongst others, 34...e4-e3+ 35.Nc2xe3 Nb3xd2 36.Rd1xd2 Rd8xd2+ 37.Nf1xd2 Qf7-e7 38.Qh4-g3 Qe7xe3+ 39.Qg3xe3 Nf6-g4+.

34... e4xf3
35.Bg2xf3
36.Kf2-g2
36...Ne4xd2
37.Nf1xd2
38.Rd1xd2
38.Rd1xd2
Qf7-g6+ was simpler.

37.Nf1xd2
37.Bf3xe4 would have forced Black to find 37...g7-g5 38.Qh4xh6 Nd2xe4.

37... Qf7-g6+
White resigned as Black picks up the knight next go and is plenty of material ahead.

Michael Adams



How I beat Karpov, by Kasparov

It is rare to get a behind the scenes look at a World Championship match, but Garry Kasparov has chosen to reveal all about his first two WC matches in *Kasparov Vs Karpov 1975-1985* (www.everymanchess.com).

I believe these are the two strongest players of all time and their competitive rivalry produced a feast of chess which is unlikely to be matched. Although this is not primarily an openings book, it was interesting to see that the quality of the opening preparation of the players and their teams around a quarter of a century ago, without the aid of modern databases or engines, is at times still relevant today.

Here is the dramatic game which clinched the title for Kasparov in their second match; the first having been abandoned in controversial circumstances detailed in the book. In this final game of the match and the book, Anatoly Karpov needed to win to retain his title; the variations below, much abridged, are Kasparov's own.

23...

Re8-e7

36.Rd1xd6

A very deep prophylactic move which was a new concept at the time, the rook defends along the second rank taking the sting out of any kingside assault.

The last chance for Karpov to hang onto his title lay in 36.Qb6xb8 Re8xb8 37.Bg2-h3 when the position is roughly balanced, but in a time scramble, anything could happen.

24.Kh1-g1

Rc8-e8

Perhaps this move takes a good thing too far. Kasparov recommends the immediate 24...f7-f5 25.g5xf6 Bg7xf6.

36...

37.Qb6xa6

Rf7-b7

Rb7xb3

37...Nc2-b4 winning a rook was simpler.

25.Rf1-d1

Karpov changes plans probing the weak 'd' pawn.

38.Rd6xe6

Rb3xb2

This looks very natural, but 38...Nc2-e3 was stronger.

25...

26.g5xf6

f7-f5

Nd7xf6

A typically brave decision, Kasparov gives up a pawn rather than allow the awkward 26...Bg7xf6 27.Qf2-d2.

39.Qa6-c4

Kg8-h8

40.e4-e5

Although it would not have affected the outcome of the match, it is interesting to note that 40.Re6xe8+ Qb8xe8 41.Nc3-d1 Nc2-a3 42.Qc4-d3 Rb2-a2 43.g5-g6 h7-h6 44.Rh4xh6+ Bg7xh6 45.Qd3-c3+ Bh6-g7 46.Qc3-h3+ Kh8-g8 47.Qh3-b3+ would have saved half a point.

27.Rh3-g3

White should have grabbed the pawn immediately, Kasparov gives 27.Be3xb6 Nf6-g4 28.Bb6xc7 Ng4xf2 29.Bc7xd6 Nf2xd1 30.Bd6xe7 Nd1xc3 31.b2xc3 Nb4xc2 as the best line with compensation for the pawn.

40...

41.Kg1-h1

42.Kh1xg2

Qb8-a7+

Ba8xg2+

Nc2-d4+

0-1

27...

28.Be3xb6

29.Bb6-e3

30.Rg3-g4

Re7-f7

Qc7-b8

Nf6-h5

The draw resulting from 30.Rg3-f3 Nh5-f6 didn't help Karpov, so his rook goes walkabout to keep the game going.

In similar vein, I must also mention the fascinating *From London to Elista* by Evgeny Bareev and Ilya Levitov (www.newinchess.com) which won the ECF Book of the Year award in 2008. Bareev was one of Kramnik's main seconds during his matches with Kasparov and Leko and also gives his views, from a greater distance, on the ill-tempered encounter with Topalov.

30...

31.Rg4-h4

Nh5-f6

g6-g5

An excellent decision, Black needs to continue energetically as White would retain an edge after slower continuations despite the offside rook.

In conversational style, the authors take you through the course of the match revealing the agonies faced by seconds, giving the differing views between Kramnik and his staff on the Berlin variation, and providing insight into the infamous game eight of the Leko match, where Kramnik's preparation lead him to immediate disaster in the Marshall Gambit.

32.f4xg5

33.Qf2-d2

34.Qd2xe3

35.Qe3-b6

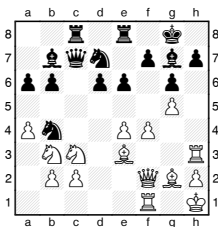
Nf6-g4

Ng4xe3

Nb4xc2

Bb7-a8

The calm centralising move 35...Bg7-e5 makes a lot of sense here.



**Karpov, A - Kasparov, G
World Championship Moscow
1985**

Michael Adams

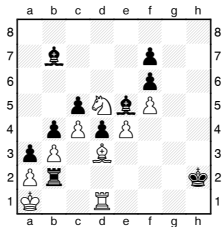


Fireworks as Canada puts itself on the map at last

The itinerant life of a professional chess player has given me the opportunity to visit many countries, so these days adding to my total is not so easy. Therefore it was with especial pleasure that I made my first trip to Canada recently to play in the Canadian Open in Edmonton.

Organisers Vlad Rekhson and Micah Hughey of the Alberta Chess Association were fine hosts and did a tremendous job keeping the players entertained with simul, lectures and dinners during their enjoyable event.

Their efforts were rewarded with good performances from the home field with young talent Mark Bluvshstein and local player Edward Porper sharing first place, but as we see below, a few of the visitors also created some fireworks in their games.



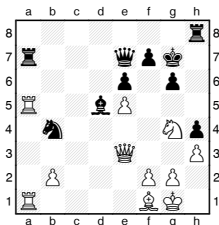
Hommes, T - Bluvshstein, M Canadian Open Edmonton 2009

The overall victor finished the event with a nice piece of dark-square domination, after playing:

50.Nd5-e7

White then resigned as 50...

Bb7xe4 51.Bd3xe4 d4-d3 is not a pretty picture from his point of view, if 52.Ne7-c6 Rb2-d2+ mates.



Perelshteyn, E - Kovalyov, A Canadian Open Edmonton 2009

36... Ra7-b7

White is firmly in control, but Black could have hung on with 36...Ra7-c7.

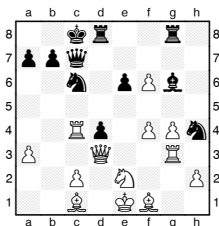
37.Ra5-a8

Exploiting the fact that the rook has interfered with the bishop's control of this square proves decisive.

37... Nb4-c2

38.Ra8xh8

38.Qe3-c1 also does the job, but this leads to a prettier finish. Black resigned as 38...Nc2xe3 39.Ra1-a8 closes the mating net.



Shirov, A - Ganguly, S Canadian Open Edmonton 2009

22.Rc4xc6

If the queen retreats 22.Qd3-d2 e6-e5 keeps some chances, but Alexei comes up with an inspired sequence meeting the threat to his own queen by attacking his opponent's in return.

22... Qc7xc6
23.Ne2xd4 Qc6-h1

Exchanges don't help as 23... Bg6xd3 24.Nd4xc6 b7xc6 25.Bf1xd3 leads to an easily winning ending, 23...Qc6-d7

24.Qd3-c4+ Kc8-b8 25.Bc1-e3 was the best practical chance.

24.f4-f5

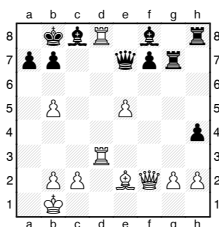
Another clever idea freeing the perfect square for his dark-squared bishop.

24... e6xf5
25.Bc1-f4 Bg6-e8

If 25...Rd8xd4 26.Qd3xd4 Nh4-f3+ 27.Rg3xf3 Qh1xf3 28.Qd4-c4+ picks up the rook or gives mate.

26.Qd3-c4+ Be8-c6
27.Qc4-e6+ Bc6-d7

28.Rg3-c3+ Black resigned as 28...Qh1-c6 29.Rc3xc6+ b7xc6 30.Bf1-a6 is mate.



Ganguly, S - Krush, I Canadian Open Edmonton 2009

30... Rh8-h6

Black's pieces don't look very happy huddled on the first two ranks, but after the correct 30... Qe7-c7 it is hard to find anything better than 31.Rd8xc8+ Qc7xc8 32.Qf2-f6 Qc8-e6 33.Qf6-d8+ Qe6-c8 34.Qd8-f6 with a repetition.

31.Rd8xc8+ Kb8xc8
32.Qf2xa7

Although Irina has a lot of material at her disposal on the kingside, it proves unable to defend her king on the other side of the board.

32... Rg7xg7

It wasn't possible to take the king's pawn due to 32...Qe7xe5 33.Qa7-a8+ Kc8-c7 (33...Qe5-b8 34.Rd3-d8+) 34.Qa8-d8 mate, and 32...Rg7-g5 33.Be2-f3 or 32...f7-f5 33.b5-b6 lead to death by quiet move.

33.Rd3-c3+ Kc8-d7
34.Qa7xb7+ 1-0

Michael Adams



London's top table in town

The Staunton Memorial begins today at Simpson's in the Strand. It features both the now traditional Jan Mol sponsored UK v Netherlands match, and also a new All-Play-All section with sponsorship by Terry Chapman. The games start at 2.30pm every day until August 17.

Back in 2001, Chapman took on Garry Kasparov at two pawns odds in an entertaining throwback to a previous era of chess at the same venue. I was very struck by Chapman's swashbuckling game from the last round of this year's 4NCL; it features a very unusual sacrifice where he unexpectedly gives up a piece purely to impede his opponent's development.

dislodging the bishop to get his king out of danger.

13.Qd1-e1

Threatening to capture on b4 with check, interferes with Black's plan.

13...

Qd8-c7

14.c4-c5

A line like 14.a3xb4 e5xd4 15.e3xd4 Qc7xc4 16.Nb1-a3 Qc4xd4+ 17.Bc1-e3 Qd4-g4 18.Bg6-d3, makes the computer chuckle, but over the board Black's position might not be so easy to handle.

14...

b7-b6

Chapman was expecting the stronger 14...Rh8-h6 15.Qe1-g3 Ke7-d8 which looks pretty safe for Black.

15.a3xb4

Bc8-b7

16.Nb1-c3

a7-a5

17.e3-e4

Another inspired idea, giving priority to open lines over material.

17...

a5xb4

1f17...e5xd4 18.Nc3-b5 is a good reply.

18.Nc3-b5

Qc7-c6

19.Nb5-a7

Ra8xa7

Fortunately, Arkell isn't interested in repeating the position with 19...Qc6-c7 20.Na7-b5 and the entertainment continues.

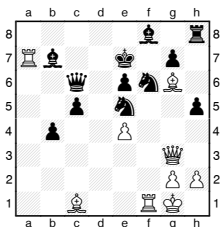
20.Ra1xa7

b6xc5

21.d4xe5

Nd7xe5

22.Qe1-g3



White is way behind on material, but his remaining army is very active and Black's king is still leading from the front.

22...

Ne5-d7

Arkell had intended 22...Ne5xg6 23.Qg3xg6 Qc6xe4 before discovering the nasty 24.Rf1xf6 Qe4-d4+ 25.Rf6-f2, 23...Ke7-d7, making a run to the queenside was reasonable though.

23.e4-e5

White could have tried 23.Bc1-g5 but this regains some material.

23...

h5-h4

24.e5xf6+

g7xf6

25.Qg3-f3

It's tempting to keep queens on with 25.Qg3-g4 Qc6-b6 (25...h4-h3 26.Rf1-d1) 26.Rf1-e1, however, the exchange doesn't solve all Black's problems.

25...

Qc6xf3

26.g2xf3

Bb7-d5

26...Rh8-g8 27.Ra7xb7 Rg8xg6+ achieves a welcome simplification, but White remains very active.

27.Bg6-e4

Bd5xe4

My immediate thought was 27...Bf8-h6 here when 28.Be4xd5 e6xd5 29.Rf1-e1+ Ke7-d6 30.Ra7-a6+ Kd6-c7 31.Ra6-a7+ Kc7-d6 leads to a draw. The heartless machine suggests the complex line 27...c5-c4 28.Rf1-d1 Rh8-h5 29.Be4-g6 Rh5-e5 30.Bc1-f4 b4-b3 where Black's passed pawns give him the edge.

28.f3xe4

Bf8-g7

Developing his bishop proves a big mistake, 28...Rh8-h7 29.Rf1-d1 Ke7-d8 was still quite ok. When White's last piece emerges next go, the queenside pawns drop off and the material balance moves in White's favour.

29.Bc1-e3

Rh8-d8

30.Be3xc5+

Ke7-e8

31.Bc5xb4

Bg7-h6

32.Ra7-a6

With both players affected by the tension and difficulty of the game and time shortage there are a few inaccuracies towards the end, here 32.Ra7-b7 was more efficient.

32..

Bh6-e3+

32...Ke8-f7 was better.

33.Kg1-h1

Ke8-f7

34.Rf1-d1

Kf7-g6

34...Nd7-b8 would have struggled on a bit.

35.Ra6-a3

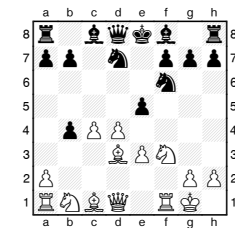
Well played, this calm retreat ends proceedings 35.Ra6-d6 Rd8-b8 or 35.Bb4-e7 Nd7-c5 allow Black to fight on.

35...

Be3-h6

36.Ra3-d3

1-0



Chapman, T - Arkell, K
4NCL 2009

9.Nf3-g5

h7-h6

10.Ng5-e6

f7xe6

11.Bd3-g6+

Ke8-e7

The idea is slightly reminiscent of a similar sacrifice in the Caro Kann, but there White has a pawn for the piece, here he is one down in addition. Although objectively a bit iffy, the problems in developing and coordinating his pieces make it a good punt in a practical game.

12.a2-a3

h6-h5

Sensibly, Arkell focuses on

Michael Adams



Howell turns up the pressure

Eighteen-year-old David Howell was the deserved winner of the British Championships with an excellent 9/11.

Howell is rarely happy to settle for a draw when there are still chances to win available and this determined attitude served him well as he cranked up the pressure on his opponents to good effect. This was even more impressive as he played an extremely tough field, taking on one of the joint second placed finishers Mark Hebden as early as round two.

Mark could be pleased with another good result following his impressive showing in the Scottish Open Championships and Simon Williams, who also finished just half a point back, played very good chess, but neither of them could keep up with David's relentless pace.

easy to extricate the queen.

12.Nd2-e4 **0-0**

A difficult choice, as it's not clear where to hide Black's king, 12...f6-f5 13.Ne4-d6+ Ke8-f8 was another approach. The queen retreat 12...Qh2-h6 looks tempting, but is well met by 13.Qd1-d6.

13.Qd1-d2 **Rf8-d8**

14.Ne4xf6+ **Kg8-h8**

15.Qd2-g5 **h7-h6**

16.Qg5-g4 **Qh2-h1**

The queen returns to the corner to cover the e4 square, 16...e6-e5 17.Qg4-e4 Kh8-g7 18.Nc3-d5 is better for White.

17.Ra1-d1 **Rd8xd1+**

18.Nc3xd1 **Bc8-d7**

19.Nd1-e3

It might have been better to play 19.Nf6xd7 Ra8-d8 20.Nd7-f6 Nc6-e5 21.Qg4-e4 Ne5-f3+ 22.Ke1-e2 Nf3-g1+ 23.Ke2-e3 Qh1xe4+ 24.Nf6xe4 Rd8xd1 25.Bf1-g2 with a promising ending.

19... **Nc6-e5**

20.Qg4-f4 **Ne5-f3+**

21.Ke1-e2 **Ra8-d8**

Following the game live online I was expecting the stronger 21...Bd7-c6 22.Nf6-g4 f7-f5 23.Ng4-e5 Nf3-g5 when the position is still murky.

22.Bf1-g2 **Nf3-g1+**

I assumed the game was over here as following 22...Bd7-b5+ 23.Ke2xf3 Bb5-c6+ 24.Nf6-e4 Qh1-h5+ 25.g3-g4 the White king runs to safety. However, the computer suggests the resourceful 22...e6-e5 23.Bg2xh1 (Not 23.Qf4xf3 Bd7-b5+ 24.c2-c4 Bb5xc4+ 25.Ne3xc4 Qh1-d1+ 26.Ke2-e3 Qd1-d3 mate) 23...e5xf4 24.Bh1xf3 f4xe3 when White still has work to do.

23.Ke2-f1 **Qh1-h2**

After 23...Bd7-b5+ 24.c2-c4, all the key squares are covered.

24.Nf6-g4

Black resigned as besides his attacked queen and stranded knight Qf4-f6+ is threatened.

Hebden, M - Buckley, G
British Championship,
Torquay, 2009

22... **Bb7-c6**

After 22...Qe7-g5 23.c5-c6 blocks out Black's bishop, but he could have saved the game by moving it a little further down the diagonal: 22...Bb7-e4 23.Kg1xh2 Qe7-g5 24.f2-f3 Rd8-d2 25.c5xb6 Qg5-h6+ 26.Kh2-g1 Qh6-e3+ with perpetual.

23.c5xb6 **Bc6xa4**

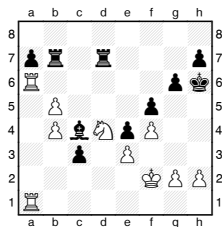
24.b6-b7 **Qe7-f8**

The passed pawn can only be held up, not permanently stopped.

25.Qb2-b6 **Ba4-d7**

26.Rc1-d1

With all of his pieces dominated Black resigned.



Hawkins, J - Arkell, K
British Championship,
Torquay, 2009

36... **Kh6-h5**

White has only a slight edge after 36...Kh6-g7 37.Ra6-a5, the reduced material encourages Black's king to venture forward, but it runs into a perfect storm.

37.h2-h3 **Bc4xb5**

Things have already gone seriously awry, but 37...Rb7xb5 38.Nd4xb5 Rd7-d2+ 39.Kf2-g3 Bc4xb5 would have fought on a bit longer. After Arkell's move it is mate in eight!

38.g2-g4+ **Kh5-h4**

Black dies a slightly more lingering death following 38...f5xg4 39.h3xg4+ Kh5xg4 40.Ra1-g1+ Kg4-h3 41.Ra6-a1 Rd7xd4 42.Rg1-g3+ Kh3-h2 43.Rg3-g2+ Kh2-h3 44.Ra1-h1 mate.

39.Nd4xf5+ **Kh4xh3**

Or 39...g6xf5 40.Ra6-h6 mate.

40.Ra1-h1+

Black resigned before 40...

Kh3xg4 41.Nf5-h6 mate.

Howell, D - Palliser, R
British Championship,
Torquay, 2009

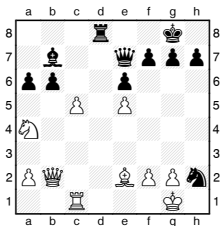
10.d4xc5

A very good practical decision; this sets more problems than the standard 10.Rh1-g1 Nc6xd4 11.Bf1-g2 Qd5-e5.

10... **Qd5xh1**

11.Ne2-c3 **Qh1xh2**

11...f6-f5 12.Qd1-h5 it's not



Michael Adams



Short surge inspires UK

The UK team triumphed over the Netherlands by 26.5-23.5 in the Howard Staunton Memorial event mainly due to Nigel Short's monumental 8/10 score including wins against each individual Dutch team member.

Short has been enjoying an impressive resurgence in form with excellent results in the Dresden Olympiad, Wijk aan Zee, and Malmo and he is closing in on his highest ever rating.

In the game below Nigel has an extra pawn for vague compensation, but it is impressive how with simple play his pieces quickly march through the middle of Black's position.

21.Bc1-d2 **Be6-f7**

Black's position is unravelling fast, so it was probably better to play 21...f5-f4 and then hope for the best.

22.Bd2-c3 **Rf8-e8**
23.d3-d4

Another alert piece of tactical opportunism; Nigel picks up the pace of the game exploiting Black's ill-placed steeds on the second rank with some very direct, but powerful play.

23... **e5-e4**

The loose knight on d7 provides the tactical justification in the line: 23...e5xd4 24.Nb3xd4 Bg7xd4 25.Bc3xd4 Qd6xd4 26.Re1-d1 getting the piece back.

24.Ra1-d1 **Bf7-g6**

Withdrawing the queen with 24...Qd6-c7 was wiser.

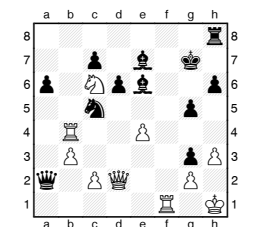
25.c4-c5 **Qd6-c7**
26.d4-d5 **c6xd5**
27.Rd1xd5 **Bg7xc3**
28.Qc2xc3 **Nd7-e5**
29.Re1-d1 **f5-f4**

The foundations of Black's position are crumbling and this desperate lunge doesn't help, but the check 29...Ne5-f3+ 30.Kg1-g2 doesn't lead anywhere, and 29...Bg6-f7 30.Rd5xe5 Re8xe5 31.c5-c6 is also winning for White.

30.c5-c6 **Qc7xc6**

31.Rd5xe5
Black resigned as 31...Qc6xa4 32.Bf1-c4+ Kg8-h7 33.Bc4-b5 is deadly.

Gawain Jones struggled in the first half of the event and was the victim of a nasty swindle below, but showing stamina and determination he picked up some points in the second cycle which proved crucial overall.



Jones, G - Sokolov, I
Staunton Memorial, London, 2009

32.Nc6xe7
With 32.Qd2-c3+ Kg7-h7 33.Nc6xe7 trapping the Black queen before capturing the bishop, Jones would have secured an easy win.

32... **Qa2-b2**

33.Rb4-d4
Trying to keep the queen out of play is less effective now, 33.Ne7-f5+ was better.

33... **Rh8-e8**
34.Ne7-f5+ **Be6xf5**
35.e4xf5 **Nc5-e4**
36.f5-f6+

In a time scramble, this position is very difficult to navigate correctly, 36.Qd2-b4 was stronger as this only drives the king to a safer spot.

36... **Kg7-f8**
37.Qd2-b4 **Ne4-f2+**
38.Kh1-g1 **Qb2xc2**

Sokolov also errs, 38...Nf2xh3+ 39.g2xh3 c7-c5 leaves Black with some extra pawns in the ending.

39.Rd4-d2 **Qc2-c6**
40.f6-f7 **Re8-e4**
41.Qb4-b8+ **Kf8xf7**
42.Rd2-d1

Jon Speelman spotted the only way to stay in the game: 42.Rd2-d3 once the most advanced 'g' pawn is eliminated the game is still in the balance. The ineffectual alternative 42.Qb8-h8 Qc6-c5 is similar to the game, White has only a few spite checks before his king meets its demise.

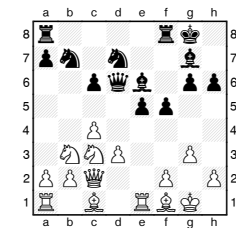
42... **Qc6-c5**
43.Rd1-c1 **Qc5-e3**
44.Rc1xc7+ **Kf7-g6**
45.Qb8-g8+ **Kg6-h5**
46.Qg8-f7+ **Kh5-h4**

Unfortunately, Jones was only able to drive the Black king to a handy hideaway.

47.Rc7-c4 **d6-d5**
48.Rc4xe4+ **d5xe4**
49.b3-b4 **Nf2xh3+**
50.Kg1-h1 **Qe3-g1+**

A nice twist on the famous smothered mate, although the knight can be captured then the passed pawns decide.

51.Rf1xg1 **Nh3-f2+**
52.Qf7xf2 **g3xf2**
53.g2-g3+ **Kh4-h3**
54.Rg1-a1 **e4-e3**
0-1



Short, N - Sokolov, I
Staunton Memorial, London, 2009

19... **a7-a5**

Sokolov thought this had to be met by 20.a2-a4, but Short has spotted a sneaky tactic.

20.Nc3-a4 **g6-g5**

20...Qd6-b4 looks strong, but Short had planned the crafty rejoinder, 21.Nb3-d4 Qb4xe1 (or 21...e5xd4 22.Re1xe6) 22.Nd4xe6 Rf8-f7 23.Ne6xg7 Rf7xg7 24.Na4-c3 and Black's queen is stranded.

CHESS

August 29th 2009

Michael Adams



Oscar-worthy grandmasters

The nice people at ChessBase have for some time been sending me various chess DVDs. Books I could cope with, but this seriously challenged my technological skills.

I started a policy of procrastination, establishing a pile on my windowsill and after a while, I noticed it was getting dark in my office and a possible collapse seemed imminent. Lacking any small children in the house, I called the most highly qualified person; my wife. After some experimentation, we discovered the key to playing the disks was to use your computer and not your DVD player.

I started by watching Viswanathan Anand – *My Career Volume 1*, which does exactly what it says on the tin as he reminisces on some memorable moments. Anand's natural modesty and self-effacing nature come through nicely on the production, as does his love of chess.

He says of the 1984 World Under 16 in Paris, where he had jaundice throughout the entire event and spent all the time he was not playing in his hotel room, "Still, it was fun." Anand also sets the record straight on his shortest defeat in only six moves. He comments drily: "Finally, I get to show you a game in its entirety."

5.Nb1-c3

The story goes that Anand had seen a game between Tony Miles and Larry Christiansen published in *Chess Informant* and decided to repeat it without checking the analysis. In fact that game was a prearranged draw, but Tony spotted the winning move and flicked an imaginary speck of dust off the e2 square to alert Larry to his blunder before continuing 6.Nc3xe4. Anand reveals that he got confused by his intended preparation; 5.c2-c4 Bf8-e7 6.Nb1-c3 Bc8-f5 and then mistakenly played the bishop move in response anyway one move earlier.

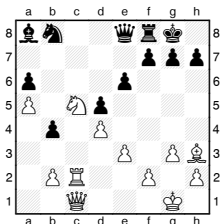
6.Qd1-e2

Vishy resigned as 6...d6-d5 7.d2-d3 or 6...Qd8-e7 7.Nc3-d5 both win a piece.

I was intrigued by the title of Nigel Davies' *How to Beat Younger Players*, which is apparently part of the *Chess for Scoundrels* series. However, I grew a bit doubtful when the introduction contained advice on healthy eating and exercise.

Fortunately, things picked up as he recommends some low-maintenance opening systems designed to lead to middle games which more suit the senior player or allow you to exploit the youngsters' lack of experience in the endgame. I am not sure it is the complete solution to playing Magnus Carlsen however.

The game below is certainly a stunning success for his suggested methods, as perhaps the greatest expert on this subject, Viktor Korchnoi, squeezes Sergei Tiviakov to death without a shot being fired.



Kortschnoj, V - Tiviakov, S
Banyoles 2006

28...

The bishop can't get out due to 28...Ba8-c6 29.Nc5xa6, 28...h7-

Bc8-f5

h6 was probably wiser, although 29.Bh3-f1 is very unpleasant.

29.d4xe5

30.Bh3-g2

Probably underestimated by Tiviakov, this move preventing d5-d4, keeps total control.

30...

31.Nc5-b3

32.Nb3-d4

33.Bg2-h3

Now the knight has been repositioned to an even better square, the bishop returns to a more productive diagonal.

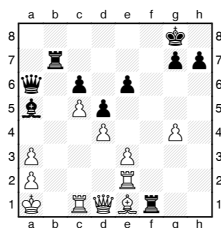
33...

34.Rc2-c8

35.Rc8-c7

Just as his queenside pieces have emerged, one of them drops off so Tiviakov resigns.

Grandmasters seem to make rather better presenters than I might have expected, but Rustam Kasimdzhanov's *Strategy: Step by Step* is especially slick and snappily presented. He dives quickly into his exploration of in-depth planning and deftly guides the amateur player through these swirling waters. The coverage of six of his games in considerable detail, explaining the positional features of the situation, is very instructive.



Istratescu, A - Kasimdzhanov, R
Kemer 2007

34..

The thematic 34...e6-e5 was even more deadly as 35.d4xe5 Ba5-c7 switches back decisively or 35.g4-g5 e5-e4 when White is totally move bound.

35.Qd1-c2

35.e3-e4 would have enabled White to fight on a bit.

35...

White resigned as 36.Be1xc3 Qa6xe2 wins.

Zapata, A - Anand, V
Biel 1988

e6-e5

Ba5-c3+

Michael Adams



Rising stars play tough

Young against old has always been a popular format for chess tournaments. In the distant past when I was able to appear for the former, I took part in such an event in Cannes; as I remember the seniors had a pretty easy time of it except when they were playing a junior by the name of Vishy Anand.

These days the pendulum has swung the other way, and in the Rising Stars vs Experience match in Amsterdam, the organisers had to resort to fielding 33-year-old Peter Svidler on the Experience Team to even things up a bit.

38... e5-e4
If 38...Rc1-c8 39.b6-b7 Rc8-b8 40.Kb4-c5 White has saved some tempi on the previous variation and wins comfortably.

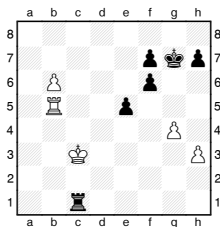
39.b6-b7 e4-e3
40.b7-b8Q e3-e2
Threatening to queen with check, but Nakamura has planned a tactical retort to stop the pawn.

41.Rb5-g5+ f6xg5
The rook must be captured as 41...Kg7-h6 42.Qb8-f8+ Kh6xg5 43.Qf8-g7+ Kg5-f4 44.Qg7-h6+ wins Black's rook.

42.Qb8-e5+ Kg7-f8
43.Qe5xe2 Rc1-c6
44.Qe2-e5 h7-h6
45.Kb4-b5 Rc6-e6
46.Qe5-h8+ Kf8-e7

Unfortunately for Nakamura, now the smoke has cleared, we have arrived at an ending where White's material advantage is unimportant as Van Wely has ended up with an unbreakable fortress. He simply switches his rook along the third rank and there is no way to break through. The game was drawn 32 moves later.

We finish with a spectacular victory by Vassily Ivanchuk which helped him to win the 5th FIDE Grand Prix event.



Nakamura, H - Van Wely, L
Amsterdam 2009

38.Kc3-b4

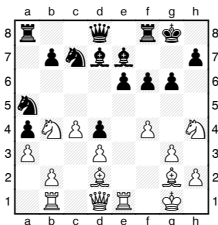
It seems logical to advance White's king to support the passed pawn, but in fact taking the scenic route with 38.Kc3-d3 Rc1-c8 39.b6-b7 Rc8-b8 40.Kd3-e4 Kg7-g6 41.Ke4-d5 seems to win. Now 41...h7-h5 looks the best try, but 42.Kd5-c6 h5xg4 43.h3xg4 Kg6-g5 44.Rb5-b4 f6-f5 45.g4xf5 Kg5xf5 46.Kc6-c7 Rb8xb7+ 47.Rb4xb7 e5-e4 48.Kc7-d6 e4-e3 49.Rb7-e7 Kf5-f4 50.Kd6-d5 collects Black's pawns.

Ivanchuk, V - Alekseev, E

Jermuk 2009

18.f4-f5 g6xf5
Alekseev is reluctant to allow Vassily to hop his knight into the middle after 18...e6xf5 19.Nb4-d5, but opening his king is a hazardous operation in a practical game.

19.g3-g4 f5-f4
Black could have justified his last move with a hidden defensive resource, after 19...



f5xg4 20.Qd1xg4+ Kg8-h8 21.Nh4-g6+ (21.Qg4xd4 is better, but Black is out of trouble.) 21...h7xg6 22.Qg4xg6 Black's king looks in desperate trouble, but the surprising 22...Rf8-f7 works perfectly as the rook can't be taken as 23.Qg6xf7 Bd7-e8 traps White's queen and repels the attack.

20.Bd2xf4 Nc7-a6
21.Nb4-d5 e6xd5
22.Bg2xd5+ Kg8-g7
If 22...Kg8-h8 23.Qd1-f3 threatens the nasty 24.Nh4-g6+h7xg6 25.Qf3-h3+ and mate next go.

23.Kg1-h1
Ivanchuk's inspired piece sacrifice has made the black king very uncomfortable and brought White's light-squared bishop to a commanding post. Now he decides to make a very cool preparatory move, aiming to bring his rook to the 'g' line, but the direct 23.Qd1-f3 was also very tempting.

23... Rf8-e8
The rook moves again two moves later so 23...Na5-c6 bringing a piece back towards the kingside was a better chance.

24.g4-g5
Alekseev was probably anticipating 24.Nh4-f5+, but instead Ivanchuk decisively opens a route for his queen and finishes the game in style.

24... Kg7-h8
The rest is hopeless for Black as his three pieces resting on the 'a' line contribute nothing to the defence.

However, other attempts are also insufficient: 24...f6xg5 25.Qd1-h5 or 24...Bd7-c6 25.Re1xe7+ Re8xe7 26.g5xf6+ Kg7xf6 27.Qd1-h5 eliminating all the defenders and leaving the Black monarch to its fate.

25.Qd1-h5 Re8-g8
26.Bd5xg8 Kh8xg8
27.g5-g6 Bd7-c6+
28.Re1-e4 Bc6xe4+
29.d3xe4 h7xg6
30.Qh5xg6+ Kg8-h8
31.Qg6-h5+
Black resigned as 31...Kh8-g7 32.Rb1-g1+ Kg7-f8 33.Bf4-h6 is mate.

CHESS

September 12th 2009

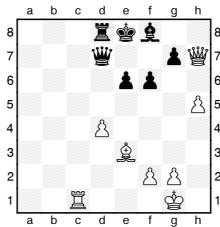
Michael Adams



Schoolboy on way to being a master

The UK Chess Challenge, which is the brainchild of International Master Mike Basman, enables children from schools throughout the country to qualify for a national grand final. It has expanded considerably since its beginnings in 1996 and now regularly attracts around 70,000 participants a year.

This year's overall winner, 13-year-old Felix Ynojosa, added to his growing reputation and is a name to look out for in the future.



Ynojosa, F - Owens, M British Land UK Chess Challenge

White's extra pawn and Black's vulnerable king give him a nice edge, but it's not easy to break open Black's compact position. Felix comes up with a clever sacrifice, clearing a lot of lines with decisive effect.

37.d4-d5 e6xd5
38.Be3-b6 Rd8-b8
39.Qh7-g6+

There was an even cuter finish here; 39.h5-h6 Rb8xb6 (39...g7xh6 40.Rc1-e1+ is curtains) 40.Qh7-g6+ Ke8-d8 41.h6-h7 and the pawn jogs through for a touchdown.

39... Qd7-f7

40.Rc1-e1+
A natural continuation, but the sneaky 40.Qg6-g3 Rb8xb6 41.Rc1-c8+ Ke8-d7 42.Rc8-c7+ was even better.

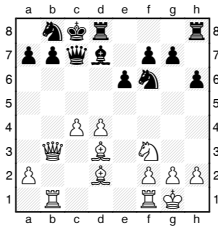
40... Bf8-e7
41.Bb6-c5 Rb8-b7
42.Qg6-f5

Now that Black is in a nasty pin, White switches his queen to a powerful post contrasting with Black's passively placed counterpart.

42... Rb7-c7

The final blunder, but Black's position isn't salvageable anyway. A possible continuation is 42...Ke8-d8 43.Bc5-d4 Be7-b4 44.Re1-e6 Rb7-d7 45.h5-h6 g7xh6 46.Re6-a6 when the Black monarch is too exposed to survive.

43.Bc5xe7 Rc7xe7
44.Qf5-c8 mate



Khandelwal, A - Li, H British Land UK Chess Challenge

Black's king is very unhappily placed on the queenside and Khandelwal takes advantage neatly by harassing the Black queen which is tied to the defence of b7.

16.Bd2-f4 Qc7-b6
17.Qb3-a3 Qb6-a6
18.Qa3-c5+ Bd7-c6

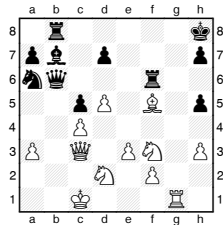
Black hoped to exchange queens for the price of a pawn, now there is no good way to block the check as 18...Nb8-c6 19.Nf3-e5 is also very strong.

19.Qc5-e5 Kc8-d7
20.d4-d5 Kd7-e7

Relatively best as, 20...e6xd5 21.Bd3-f5 mate, and 20...Bc6xd5 21.c4xd5 Qa6xd3 22.Rb1xb7+ are immediately decisive.

21.d5xc6 Nb8xc6
22.Qe5-e2

...and White comfortably converted the extra piece into the full point 11 moves later.

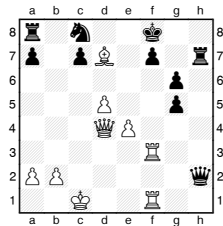


Whitfield, C - Khandelwal, A British Land UK Chess Challenge

Bad karma down the long diagonal is inevitable, but white puts the boot in with a particularly vicious interruption.

26.Bf5-e6 Rb8-f8
27.Qc3xf6+
Black resigned as 27...Rf8xf6 28.Rg1-g8 is mate.

British Land has also made a donation towards the seconding costs for David Howell's upcoming participation in the World Junior Championships. Fortunately this gave me a good reason to include this beautiful finish from the recent Staunton Memorial.



Howell, D - Sokolov, I Staunton Memorial, London

28.Qd4-h8+ Kf8-e7
After 28...Rh7xh8 29.Rf3xf7+ Kf8-g8 30.Rf7-f8+ Kg8-g7 31.Rf1-f7+ Kg7-h6 32.Rf8xh8 mate Black's king has been driven up a cul-de-sac. A very rare mating pattern.

29.Rf3xf7+
Black resigned here as 29...Rh7xf7 30.Rf1xf7+Ke7xf7 31.Qh8xh2 wins on material and 30.Qh8-e8+ is even better leading to mate following: 30...Ke7-d6 31.Qe8-e6+ Kd6-c5 32.Qe6-c6+ Kc5-d4 33.Qc6-c3+ Kd4xe4 34.Rf1-e1+ Ke4xd5 35.Qc3-c6+ Kd5-d4 36.Re1-e4+ Qh8-30e8+ Kd4-d3 37.Qc6-c4 mate.

Michael Adams



Latecomer crashes party in Bilbao

It is a popular theory in chess circles that late replacements perform well in tournaments and oddly it does often seem to be the case.

Of course this is just synchronicity, but further fuel for the fires of fans of this fancy was provided by Levon Aronian's victory in Bilbao where he only participated due to Topalov's withdrawal. Armenia's top player is a class act on and off the board and although he lost his first game, four consecutive wins decided matters over the sprint distance of six games.

theory and offers some new ideas. However, this interesting novelty from Aronian will have to wait until the next edition.

Moving the bishop again seems counter intuitive, but proves very effective now that White's queen has been nudged off the light squares.

22.Bb3-d1 Qh5-g6
23.Bd1-f3

Shirov decides to transfer his bishop to the corner, although it is a good defender there, it limits his active possibilities. However, alternatives don't convince as 23.Ra1-a6 can be met by 23...Rf8-e8 vacating the f8 square for Black's bishop as 24.Ra6xc6 Bd6xg3 wins material, and 23.Qd2-e2 is well met by 23...Nd5-f4.

23... Qg6-f5
24.Bf3-h1 Rf8-e8
25.Re1-e2

This rook move works out very badly as the rook is awkwardly placed on e2. However, the stronger 25.Ra1-a6 Bd6-f8 26.Qd2-c1 (26.Re1-a1 h7-h5 27.Ra6-a8 makes sense, but has a serious tactical flaw; 27...Re8xa8 28.Ra1xa8 Nd5xe3 exposes the back rank) 26...h7-h5 27.Qc1-b1 Qf5-f6 doesn't look very worrying for Black.

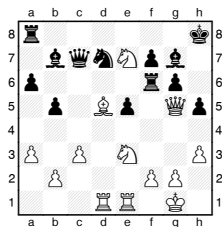
25... h7-h5
26.Qd2-c2
Perhaps Alexei had intended 26.Ra1-e1 h5-h4, but then his rooks are all dressed up with nowhere to go.

26... Qf5-g4
27.Re2-e1 h5-h4
28.Qc2-d1

Given White's serious loss of time, I would imagine he was in severe trouble here, but the computer claims that after 28.Be3-d2 all is not lost 28...Bh3xf1 (28...Re6xe1 29.Ra1xe1 Re8xe1 30.Bd2xe1 Nd5-f4 31.f2-f3 covers everything) 29.Kg1xf1 Qg4-h3+ (29...Re6-e2 30.Qc2-d3) 30.Bh1-g2 Qh3xh2 31.g3xh4 and White survives.

28... Qg4-f5
29.Qd1-f3
Black would still have to show how to break through after the much better 29.Qd1-b1 Qf5-h5 30.Qb1-d1 Bh3-g4 31.Qd1-d2.

29... Qf5-g6
Shirov, disgusted with his play, resigned rather prematurely. His problem is that following 30.Be3-d2 Bh3-g4 31.Qf3-g2 h4-h3, his queen has no flight squares, so 30.Qf3-d1 is forced. Black wins with 30...h4xg3 31.h2xg3 Bh3xf1 (31...Nd5xe3 32.Re1xe3 Re6xe3 33.f2xe3 Bh3xf1 34.Kg1xf1 Re8xe3 is also good enough) 32.Kg1xf1 (32.Bh1xd5 c6xd5 33.Kg1xf1 Bd6xg3 34.f2xg3 Re6xe3 35.Re1xe3 Re8xe3 leaves the white king helpless) 32...Bd6xg3 33.Bh1xd5 c6xd5 34.Qd1-f3 Re6-f6 35.Qf3-g2 Qg6-d3+ 36.Kf1-g1 Bg3xf2+ 37.Be3xf2 Re8xe1+ 38.Ra1xe1 Rf6-g6 wins the queen and the game.



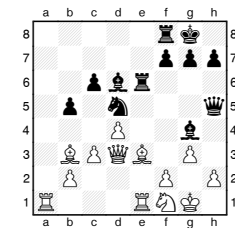
Karjakin, S - Grischuk, A Bilbao 2009

31.Ne3-g4
This neat knight leap wasn't the only good way to proceed, 31.Bd5xf7 Rf6xf7 32.Ne7xg6+ Kh8-g8 33.Ng6-e7+ Kg8-f8 34.Ne3-f5 leaves the black monarch severely exposed.

31... Rf6-f4
The cheeky steed can't be captured due to mate down the 'h' line: 31...h5xg4 32.Qg5-h4+.

32.Ng4-h6 Ra8-f8
Now that Karjakin has brought another piece into the attack, it is all over and he embarks on a satisfying series of captures and checks which wipe out most of Grischuk's army before a major knight fork proves the final indignity.

33.Nh6xf7 Rf4xf7
34.Ne7xg6+ Kh8-h7
35.Qg5xh5+ Bg7-h6
36.Bd5xf7 Rf8xf7
37.Rd1xd7 Rf7xd7
38.Ng6-f8+ Kh7-g7
39.Nf8-e6+ 1-0



Shirov, A - Aronian, L Bilbao 2009

A lot of Aronian's success has been based on answering 1.e2-e4 with the Marshall Gambit at every opportunity, an opening he has delved into in great detail and reaped substantial rewards from.

20... Bg4-f5
21.Qd3-d2 Bf5-h3

After a long dearth of Marshall Gambit literature, recently, Everyman has published an excellent book *Fighting the Ruy Lopez* by Milos Pavlovic which gives a good update of existing

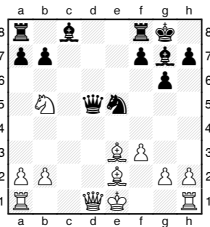
Michael Adams



Time flies for a Spanish grandmaster

Time passes quickly without one really noticing until suddenly faced with a friend's fully grown child. As Jeroen Piket once said, "children are walking calendars".

Hardly a stunning revelation I know, but nevertheless it was a shock to me to be introduced to Alexei Shirov's 14-year-old daughter who had accompanied him to the Spanish League matches on the outskirts of Barcelona. Alexei top scored with 4.5/5, but here I show you a couple of interesting games by my other teammates: one sacrificial middlegame and a deceptive ending with minimal material.



Perez Lopez, J - Perez Candelario, M
Montcada 2009

15... Qd5-e6
Manolo takes the only option which retains winning chances by refusing the exchange of queens.

16.Nb5-c7
White can't resist grabbing the rook, but 16.Be3-c5 taking the bishop out of the firing line and attacking Black's other rook

was well worth considering. 16...Bc8-d7 is one interesting response.

16... Ne5xf3+
17.Ke1-f2
The monarch packs his suitcases as 17.g2xf3 Qe6xe3
18.Nc7xa8 Bg7xb2 doesn't bode well.

17... Qe6-e5
18.Nc7xa8 Nf3-g5
19.Be2-f3
It's not easy for White to coordinate his pieces, bring his king to safety and save the stranded knight. 19.Rh1-f1 Ng5-h3+ 20.g2xh3 Qe5xh2+ 21.Kf2-e1 Bg7xb2 looks likely to lead to perpetual check.

19... Ng5xf3
20.Qd1xf3 Qe5xb2+
21.Kf2-g3 Bg7-e5+
In fact 21...Bc8-d7 planning 22.Na8-c7 Bd7-c6 was even better.

22.Be3-f4 g6-g5
23.Bf4xe5 Qb2xe5+
24.Kg3-f2 Qe5-b2+
25.Kf2-g3
By now a draw is on the cards which could have been forced immediately by interposing the queen 25.Qf3-e2 Qb2-d4+.

25... Qb2-e5+
26.Kg3-f2 Qe5-b2+
27.Kf2-g3 h7-h5
A last throw of the dice which pays great dividends.

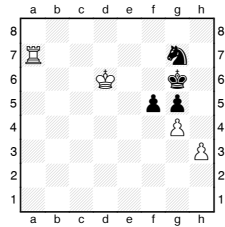
28.h2-h3
The pawn should have advanced two squares: 28.h2-h4 Qb2-e5+ 29.Kg3-f2 Bc8-g4 30.Qf3-e3 Qe5-f6+ 31.Kf2-g3 Qf6-d6+ and the draw is inevitable.

28... h5-h4+
29.Kg3-h2 Qb2-e5+
30.g2-g3 Qe5-b2+

The White monarch can't retreat to the first rank without breaking the connection between the rooks so his king is obliged to continue his journey.

31.Qf3-g2 h4xg3+
32.Kh2xg3 Qb2-e5+
33.Kg3-f2 Qe5-d4+
White resigned as 34.Kf2-f3 Qd4-f6+ 35.Kf3-e3 Rf8-e8+ 36.Ke3-d3 Bc8-f5+ 37.Kd3-c4

Re8-c8+ doesn't make for a pretty picture.



Cheparinov, I - Almeida Quintana, O
Montcada 2009

52.Kd6-e7
Cheparinov had conducted the endgame in textbook fashion so far, but perhaps 52.Kd6-e5 was safer.

52... f5xg4
53.h3xg4 Ng7-f5+
54.g4xf5+ Kg6xf5
55.Ra7-a5+

Black seized his only chance by giving up the knight to reach the rook versus pawn ending which is a little tricky. Surprisingly, this check throws away the win for good, the correct 55.Ke7-d6, aiming to shepherd the black king in front of its own pawn was the right way: 55...g5-g4 (55...Kf5-f4 56.Kd6-d5 g5-g4 57.Kd5-d4 Kf4-f3 58.Kd4-d3) 56.Kd6-d5 Kf5-f4 57.Kd5-d4 Kf4-f3 58.Kd4-d3 g4-g3 59.Ra7-f7+ Kf3-g2 60.Kd3-e2. Now it is black's king who controls matters.

55... Kf5-f4
56.Ke7-f6 g5-g4
57.Ra5-a4+ Kf4-f3
58.Kf6-f5 g4-g3
59.Ra4-a3+ Kf3-f2
60.Kf5-f4 g3-g2
61.Ra3-a2+ Kf2-g1

Even 61...Kf2-f1 62.Kf4-f3 g2-g1N+ is good enough, but this secures the half point in short order.

62.Ra2-a8
62.Kf4-g3 Kg1-h1 63.Ra2xg2 stalemate is the point.

62... Kg1-f2
63.Ra8-a2+ Kf2-g1
64.Ra2xg2+ ½-½