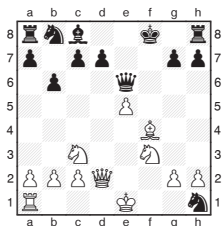


**Michael Adams**



## Juniors show their mettle

With so many other tournament options available to young players, the World Junior has declined in importance, but is still hard-fought.



**M. Antipov - M. Codenotti**  
Athens 2012

The game is already chaotic with both king's bishop pawns disappearing.

- 7.Qd1-d5**                      **Nf2xh1**  
**8.Qd5xc5+**                  **Kf8xf7**  
**9.Qc5-d5+**                  **Kf7-f8**  
**10.Nb1-c3**

Although Black's position is theoretically OK, in practice the hazards are very difficult to negotiate.

- 10...**                              **Qd8-e7**  
**11.Bc1-f4**                      **Qe7-e6**  
 11...Qe7-f7 12.Qd5-d2 h7-h6 13.0-0-0 Kf8-g8 shuffles the king to a safer spot.  
**12.Qd5-d2**                      **b7-b6**  
**13.0-0-0**                        **Bc8-b7**  
**14.Nf3-g5**                      **Qe6-e7**

The wrong square for the queen 14...Qe6-f5 15.e5-e6 h7-h6 was better.

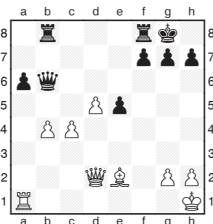
- 15.e5-e6**                        **d7-d6**  
 15...d7xe6 16.Bf4xc7  
 Kf8-g8 17.Qd2-d8+ Qe7-f8, however unappetising, was the only hope.

- 16.Nc3-d5**                      **Bb7xd5**  
**17.Qd2xd5**                      **c7-c6**  
**18.Qd5-f5+**                  **Kf8-e8**  
**19.Ng5-f7**  
 19.Bf4xd6 Qe7-f6 allows Black to survive longer.  
**19...**                              **Qe7-f6**

19...Rh8-f8 20.Bf4-g5 closes the show.

- 20.Nf7xd6+**                  **Ke8-f8**  
 and Black resigned in view of 21.e6-e7+ Kf8xe7 22.Rd1-e1+ Ke7-d8 23.Qf5-c8 mate.

In the next two games we see some impressive pawn power. The first was won by an English participant and the second by the new champion.



**Yang-Fan Zhou - A. Vasques**  
Athens 2012

Black is a clear exchange up, but the game shows the power of connected, well advanced passed pawns.

- 23.c4-c5**                        **Qb6xb4**  
**24.Qd2xb4**                      **Rb8xb4**  
**25.c5-c6**                        **Rb4-d4**

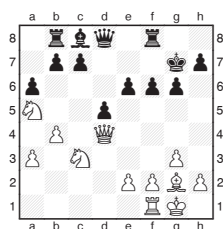
Better was 25...Rf8-c8 26.Ra1-d1 Kg8-f8 27.d5-d6 Rc8xc6 28.d6-d7 Rb4-b8 29.d7-d8Q+ Rb8xd8 30.Rd1xd8+ with a drawish endgame. 25...Rb4-b2 is also possible, the game move allowing an exchange of rooks is a major error, after which the pawns are unstoppable.

- 26.Ra1-d1**                      **f7-f5**  
 26...Rd4xd1+ 27.Be2xd1 Rf8-c8 28.Bd1-a4 f7-f5 29.d5-d6 Rc8xc6 30.Ba4xc6 Kg8-f7 31.Kh1-g1 was relatively best.

- 27.d5-d6**                        **Kg8-f7**  
**28.Rd1xd4**                      **e5xd4**  
**29.Be2-c4+**

A key check, shepherding the king away from the pawns.

- 29...**                              **Kf7-f6**  
**30.c6-c7**                        **Rf8-e8**  
**31.Kh1-g1**                      **d4-d3**  
**32.d6-d7**  
 1-0



**N. Grandelius - A. Ipatov**  
Athens 2012

- 18...**                              **c7-c5**

A neat thrust getting the pawns rolling.

- 19.Qd4-f4**  
 Not 19.Qd4xc5 b7-b6.  
**19...**                              **Bc8-d7**

**20.Rf1-d1**  
 White should have immediately withdrawn his knight 20.Na5-b3.

- 20...**                              **b7-b6**  
**21.Na5-b3**                      **c5-c4**  
**22.Nb3-d2**

22.Nb3-d4 e6-e5 23.Qf4-e3 was relatively best. Now a tidal wave of pawns washes away White's position.

- 22...**                              **e6-e5**  
**23.Qf4-f3**                      **d5-d4**  
**24.Nc3-d5**                      **Rb8-c8**  
**25.e2-e4**                        **c4-c3**  
**26.Nd2-f1**                      **Bd7-b5**  
**27.h2-h4**                        **f6-f5**

Undermining the knight on d5.

- 28.Rd1-c1**                      **Bb5-c4**  
**29.h4-h5**                        **b6-b5**  
 29...Bc4xd5 30.e4xd5 e5-e4 looks tempting.

- 30.h5xg6**                        **h7xg6**  
**31.g3-g4**                        **Qd8-g5**  
**32.Qf3-g3**                      **Rf8-e8**

The simple 32...f5xe4 was good but Ipatov takes no chances.

- 33.g4xf5**                        **Qg5xg3**  
**34.f5-f6+**                      **Kg7-f8**  
**35.f2xg3**                        **Bc4xd5**  
**36.e4xd5**                        **e5-e4**  
**37.d5-d6**

37.Bg2-h3 was a better try, Black should respond with 37...Kf8-f7.

- 37...**                              **Rc8-d8**  
**38.g3-g4**                        **e4-e3**  
**39.g4-g5**                        **e3-e2**  
**40.Kg1-f2**                      **d4-d3**  
**41.Nf1-e3**                      **Re8xe3**  
**42.Rc1-h1**                      **e2-e1Q+**  
 0-1