

**Michael Adams**



## Matches fit for a Queen

At the end of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, I thought it would be fun to look at some games from the players on the chess throne during some landmark years of her reign.

The world champion when the Queen ascended to the throne in 1952 was Mikhail Botvinnik, who had retained the title in 1951 against David Bronstein.

Although the game below was an unofficial encounter, Botvinnik was ahead of his time in terms of preparation and these encounters were taken seriously. Perhaps the perils of training with your rivals are also evident, as it was his opponent in this encounter who went on to beat Botvinnik in 1957, although he regained the title in a rematch.



**M. Botvinnik - V. Smyslov**  
Moscow training match, 1952

### 14.b2-b3

A very strong move, opening a path for the dark-squared bishop, which soon cuts Black's position in two.

**14...** Rh8-d8  
**15.Bc1-a3+** Ke7-e8  
**16.Ba3-d6** Nd7-b8

As 16...Nd7-b6 17.Bd6-c7 wins material, Black is in serious trouble. Unsurprisingly, returning his knight to base camp doesn't help.

**17.Bd6-c7** Rd8-d7  
**18.Bc7-b6** Nf6-d5

18...a7-a6 would have prolonged the suffering.

**19.Nc3xd5** Rd7xd5  
**20.Ra1xa7** Ra8xa7  
**21.Bb6xa7** Nb8-d7  
**22.e3-e4**

Black resigned, as after 22...Rd5-d6 23.e4-e5 Rd6-d5 24.Be2-c4, the rook is trapped in mid board.

The champion during the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 was Anatoly Karpov, who had won the title by default in 1975 when Bobby Fischer regrettably declined to defend his title. Karpov was especially active in tournament play, reeling off a huge number of victories, as in the event in which the game below was played:



**S. Tatai - A. Karpov**  
Las Palmas, 1977

**23...** Qd4-d3

A spectacular way to exploit his lead in development.

### 24.e2xd3

24.Qc2xd3 e4xd3 25.Bg2-d5+ Kg8-h8 26.e2-e4 also isn't healthy.

**24...** e4xd3+

### 25.Ke1-d2

Now White's king gets fatally drawn up the board. The better 25.Nd1-e3 d3xc2 26.Ke1-d2 Bg7xb2

27.Ne3xg4 Ra8-c8 is also good for Black.

**25...** Re8-e2+  
**26.Kd2xd3** Ra8-d8+  
**27.Kd3-c4** Re2xc2+  
**28.Kc4xb4** Rc2-d2  
**29.f2-f3** Bg7-f8+  
**30.Kb4-a5** Bg4-d7

White resigned, as 31.Bg2-f1 Bf8-c5 swiftly leads to mate.

Now, in this Diamond Jubilee year, we have a Commonwealth player as champion, Viswanathan Anand, who has proved a master of many different formats for the title.

Anand's match with Boris Gelfand lasted just half the 24 games of Botvinnik's matches, although the rapid tie-breaks used to resolve the deadlock were far superior to permitting the champion to retain his title in the event of a tie.



**V. Anand - B. Gelfand**  
World Championship, Moscow 2012

**14...** Qd8-f6

A miscalculation. The correct 14...Nh5-f6 leads to a complex middle game.

**15.g4xh5** Qf6xf3+  
**16.Kd1-c2** Qf3xh1  
**17.Qd2-f2**

As is fitting, this cool Queen move prevents Black's opposite number emerging from the corner so he resigned, as 17...Nb8-c6 (or 17...Nb8-a6 18.Bf1-d3 Na6-b4+ 19.Kc2-d2 Nb4xd3 20.Kd2xd3 Qh1xb1+ 21.Nc3xb1) 18.d5xc6 Qh1xc6 19.Bf1-d3 offer little hope.