

Scarborough Community of Toronto Chess News & Views

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Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 13 – March 1, 2002

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

GTA Juniors : Part of Canada’s Present & Future (Part 5) **“ Spotlight “ on Irakli Vadachkoriya !**

Introduction

This is the fifth article in the series highlighting GTA Juniors. Today we review the chess career of 12 year old Irakli Vadachkoriya, and 4 of his games.

Irakli’s Progress and Successes

When Irakli first started to play chess in Canada, he got his first provisional rating from the 1999 Scarborough Christmas Active – a rating of 2091 !! It was at that tournament that crowds surrounded his games, as they did those of Alina Sviridovitch [now #1 Can. Junior Under 10 years old]. She also played great games, though she lost a number and ended up with a 1316 provisional active rating [still not bad for a 7 year old !] Irakli joined the Dutton CC, and after playing his first club tournament in December 1999, he went immediately into the top quarter of the B Class (1765). His rating then plateaued until the May 2000 Ontario Open (Under 2000). There he scored an excellent 4.5/6 pts., and his rating jumped a full 136 pts. from the one tournament. He obtained a mid-A Class rating of 1901. The next goal Irakli set for himself, was climbing over 2000, into the expert class. Less than a year later, in the April 2001 Toronto Open (Under 2000), he again scored an excellent 4.5/6 pts., and achieved his goal – his rating jumped to 2042 !

Since then, Irakli’s rating has hovered between low expert and high A – Class player. You will see 2 wonderful games he recently won (below), in rounds one and two of the Toronto 2002 St. Valentine’s Day Open last month. His current rating is 1918.

Irakli already has some international experience under his belt. In 2001, he

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Wexford Seniors’ Apartments (Comm. Ctre.), 1860 Lawrence Ave E. (just east of Pharmacy Ave.)
(easy access – Victoria Park Stn./Pharmacy Bus; Lawrence E. Stn./Lawrence W. Bus)

represented Canada as the top player on the Under 12 years old team, which went to Oropesa, Spain, to play in the FIDE World Youth Chess Festival championships. He finished in the middle of his group of 117 players.

Irakli is # 2 on the list of top Can. juniors under 12 (have to be 11 years at 12:00 AM, Jan. 1, 2002).

Congratulations Irakli, and we look forward to seeing you progress back up into the Expert class in the near future !

On With the Games !

[**Note** : SCTCN&V, as a service to its readers, attaches to the cover e-mail accompanying this newsletter, the annotated games in the text of this newsletter, in “.pgn ” database format (this Issue, IrakliAnn.pgn) ! There may be minor variations, due to later text amendments. You need only open the attachment, and spend a few minutes clicking through these interesting junior games, and the full annotations ! We make your life easier. Enjoy !

P.S. Added Bonus ! - We are also attaching TODAY a second database (Irakli.pgn). It contains Irakli's games, but unannotated. The purpose of this is to make the games easily available to those who may not have a chess program that uses a .pgn database, but do have a “ chess game reader “ (many are free off the internet). Annotations are a problem for “ readers “, unless they are properly set up in the database (or in the main newsletter text). And different readers have different requirements. So, for those of you who only have “ readers “, you will be able to enter and play over the unannotated game, following the annotations set out in the main text of the newsletter !! This gets those readers, with “ readers “, part way home anyway. We have some techies volunteering time to the newsletter, to see if we can find an acceptable way of getting those of you with only “ readers “, the annotations as well. Stay posted... but in the meantime, you have the main game to play over !!

P.P.S. SCTCN&V Junior Database - we have the database of all junior games that have appeared in our series, annotated, in .pgn format. Simply contact the editor by e-mail, and request it if you would like it sent to you.]

Andrew Picana (2036) - Irakli Vadachkoriya (1949)

Toronto Closed Reserves '02 DCC, Toronto, 01.2002

[Notes by Fritz 6 Auto-analysis at 240sec./move]

Here Irakli takes on an active Toronto expert (member of the Scarborough Chess Club). In fact, Andrew won the Reserves Section, and is now entitled to play in the Closed top section next year. But he was lucky to escape with a draw from Irakli, as you'll see.

A26: English Opening vs King's Indian

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.d3 e5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.a3 a5 11.Rb1 Bg7 12.Qc2 last book move 12...f5 13.b4 axb4 14.axb4 Be6 15.b5 This push gains space 15...Ne7 16.Nd2 Rb8 17.Nb3 f4 Black wins space 18.Rfd1 fxb3 19.hxg3 c6 20.c5 d5 21.bxc6 bxc6 22.Na4 Nc8 [22...Qc7 23.Nb6=]

23.Nd2

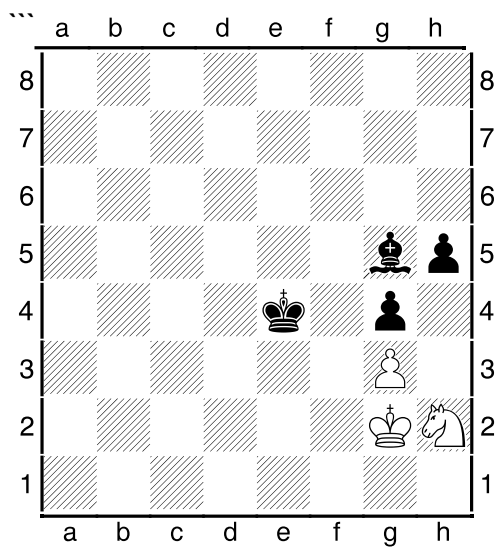
[23.Nd4! should be considered 23...Rxb1 24.Nxe6 Rxd1+ 25.Qxd1=]

23...Na7 24.Rxb8 Qxb8 25.Nb6 Nb5 26.Ra1 Qc7 27.e3 Secures d4 **27...e4 28.Rf1 exd3 29.Qxd3 Kh7 30.Nb3** [30.e4 Nd4?] **30...Bf5 31.e4 dxe4 32.Bxe4 Rd8 33.Qf3 Nd4 34.Nxd4 Bxe4 35.Qxe4 Bxd4** [35...Rxd4?! 36.Qf3=]

36.Kg2 Bxc5 37.Nc4 Bd4 38.Rd1 Bf6
[38...c5?]

39.Rxd8= Qxd8 40.Qxc6 Qe7 41.Ne3 Bg7 42.Ng4 h5 43.Nh2 Qf6 44.Qxf6 Bxf6 45.f4 g5 46.f5
[46.Kf3= and White can hope to live]

46...g4+ 47.Nf1 Kh6 48.Nh2 Kg5 49.Nf1 Kxf5 50.Nh2 Bg5 51.Nf1 Ke4 52.Nh2



Position after 52.Nh2

What do you think Bl.'s best move is to keep Bl.'s winning chances alive ?? Can you find a winning line for Irakli ??

52,,,, Kf5??

[a transit from better to worse [352...Be7-+ Black has a promising position]

53.Nf1=

1/2-1/2

A very well-played game, on the edge of a possible victory !

Irakli Vadachkoriya (1949) – Bob Armstrong (1751)

Toronto Valentine's Day Open '02 DCC, Toronto (1), 15.02.2002
[Notes are by Irakli Vadachkoriya (IV) & Bob Armstrong (BA)]

Irakli and I racked our brains to come up with a name for this wonderful artistic creation he and I had crafted here together :

Irakli : " How NOT to play the ' Modern Defence ' for Black ! "

Bob : " An abject lesson, for those who would eschew " classical " principles . "

1.e4 g6

[IV : Bob plays what appears at the start to be a Pirc, but with some major adjustments.

BA : Fitz 6 does not accept modern opening principles. It values the K-side fianchetto as an inaccuracy, and gives the position a =/+ . My own analysis, therefore, ignores Fritz' evaluation in the early opening. I treat the position as = .]

2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bc4

[IV : I chose an old plan for W in the Pirc, hoping that Bob doesn't know how to get the better for Bl..

BA : I have found that this is one of the most effective set-ups for W against a Modern Defence (though the line with Be2 is also very dangerous to Bl,'s health) .]

4...a6

[BA : this is the key move that telegraphs to W that Bl. is up to something in the opening defence – I am going to go into a ' Modern Defence ' set-up, not developing for a long while, my K-side N (which will nearly always end up, early, in a Pirc, on f6).]

5.a4

[BA : it has become common to play this to slow the start of Bl.'s Q-side advance, for which it gets credit. However, should Bl. rather be thinking of a K-side expansion, then 5.a4 becomes a key wasted move, effectively giving Bl. a tempo; better may be 5.Qf3 e6=]

5...Nc6

[BA : Interestingly, the Fritz 6 Chess Program does not find fault with this move. Its initial valuation (an inaccuracy) is merely carried forward. As I said earlier, I will, for my purposes, still value the position as = .

IV : Here Bl. doesn't move 6...Nf6, so the N won't get attacked by 7.e5 ; BA : for example 5...Nf6± (BA : or =) 6.Nf3 (6.e5 dxe5 7.dxe5 Qxd1+ 8.Nxd1 Ng4=) 6...Nxe4 7.Nxe4 d5 8.Bd3 dxe4 9.Bxe4 Nd7± (BA : or =)]

6.Nf3 Bd7?!

[BA : Modern Defence : Armstrong Variation – I've been experimenting recently with this move. I don't know the extent to which it has been played previously, in databases [if anyone worthwhile has even tried it !]. It blocks the exchange of Q's, if the dP's get exchanged; it also facilitates an eventual ...0-0-0, if Bl. gets to it [which he doesn't here – with disastrous results]. Admittedly, however, it does also bring a whole set of difficulties with it. An interesting alternative is 6...Bg4 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Ke8 9.Qxg4 Nxd4 10.Qd1 h6 11.Nh3 e5± (BA : or =)]

7.0-0 7...h6?!±

[IV : I personally think that this move is a waste of time for Bl., because Bl. has made a lot of moves with P's, and Bl. is falling back in development.

BA : there is a reason behind this move, but for our purposes here of looking at Irakli's game, an explanation can come during another game. And, for the sake of argument, I am willing to now evaluate the position as giving a " slight " edge to W.]

8.Re1 e5

[BA : the normal move in many Modern Defence lines in this type of position; also playable is 8...Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 e6±]

9.dxe5

[BA : superior to 9.d5 Nce7± (9...Nd4? 10.Nxd4 exd4 11.Ne2 Qf6±)]

9...dxe5

[BA : 9...Nxe5?± 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 (10...dxe5? 11.Qd5 Qf6 12.Qxb7 Qc6 13.Qb3 Be6 14.Nd5 Nf6 15.Bb5! axb5 16.axb5 Qb7 17.Nxc7+! Qxc7 18.Rxa8+ Ke7+-) 11.Qd5 Be6 12.Qxb7 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Bxc4 14.Qc6+ Kf8 15.Qxc4 Kg7±]

10.Be3 f5??+-

[IV : A big blunder for Bl, given W's coming 11.exf5 and then N to e5.

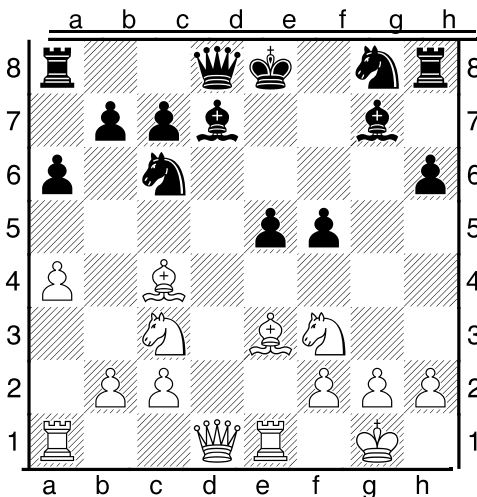
BA : aggressive, but losing ! It appears that making a preparatory move, does not make ...f5 any more playable; if anything, it's worse ! Correct, leaving W with just a ⊕ slight ⊕ advantage, is 10...Bg4 11.Nd5 Nf6 (11...f5?? 12.h3 Bh5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.Bb6! cxb6 15.Nxe5 Bxd1 16.Nxc6+ Be2 17.Rxe2+ Kf8 18.Nxd8 Rxd8+-) 12.h3 Be6±]

11.exf5

[BA : Irakli took 23 min. to decide to exchange this P; we'll see why on move 12 !]

11...gxf5?

[BA ⊕ better, though of little help, is 11...Bxf5 12.Qe2 Nge7 13.Bc5 Bg4+- when Bl. is losing, but just holding on by his fingertips, maybe !]



Position after Bl.'s 11...gxf5 ?

SCTCN&V's "Beat the Player Contest" !

Set up the position on a board; set your clock

at 5:44. GO ! If your flag falls, you lose.

See if you can find the best move faster than

Irakli did !! (no peeking at Irakli's move 12 below !!)

[BA : Irakli then spent 16 more min. deciding that this offered sac was sound !]

12.Nxe5!!

[BA : Now my turn to think ! And sweat ! I took 27 min. to decide I was toast in all lines !]

12...Nf6

[IV : Bl. is only down a P, but he is also down a K !! Any take on e5 leads Bl. to a loss after Qg5.

BA : for example, capturing the N, either way, leads to mate !! 12...Nxe5 13.Qh5+ Ke7 14.Bc5+ Kf6 15.Nd5+ Ke6 16.Qg6+ Qf6 17.Nxf6#; or 12...Bxe5 13.Qh5+ Ke7 14.Qf7+ Kd6 15.Rad1+ Nd4 16.Rxd4+ Kc6 (16...Bxd4 17.Qd5+ Ke7 18.Bg5+ Kf8 19.Qf7#) 17.Qd5+ Kb6 18.Re4+ Bd4 19.Bxd4+ c5 20.Qxc5#] I thought that the Q-sac was likely best, though losing, but just couldn't bring myself to concede this, by playing 12...Qe7 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Bc5 Bxc3 15.Qh5+ Kd8 16.Bxe7+ Nxe7 17.bxc3 Be4+-]

13.Nf7

[BA : perhaps better, though it really matters little, which way I meet my demise, is 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Bd4+ Qe7 (14...Be4 15.Nxe4 fxe4 16.Rxe4+ Kd7 17.Bxf6+ Kc8 18.Bxd8+-; 14...Kd7 15.Bxf6+ Kc8 16.Bxd8+-) 15.Rxe7+-]

13...Qc8

[BA : is this any better ? 13...Qe7 14.Bc5 Qe4 15.f3+--]

14.Bc5+ 14...Ne4

[IV : the Bl. team is giving away every piece they can to try to save their abandoned, motionless K; that makes it a party for W !]

[BA : of no help either is 14...Be6 15.Bxe6 (15.Nxh8 Nd8 16.Nd5 Ng4 17.Nf4 Qd7+--) 15...Qxe6 16.Nd6+ cxd6 17.Rxe6+ Kf7 18.Rxd6 Rhd8+--]

15.Nxe4 fxe4 16.Rxe4+ Ne5

[BA : 16...Be6 17.Bxe6 Qxe6 (or the wonderful computer-generated 17...Bf6 18.Bxc8+ Ne7 19.Nxh8 a5 20.Qh5+ Kd8 21.Rd1+ Bd4 22.Rdxd4+ Kxc8 23.Qe8#) 18.Rxe6+ Kxf7 19.Qd5 Rhf8 20.Rxc6+ Ke8 21.Re1+ Be5 22.Rxe5#]

17.Nxe5 Bxe5

[BA : 17...Be6 18.Qh5+ Kd8 19.Qh4+ Bf6 20.Qxf6+ Ke8 21.Qe7#]

18.Qh5+ Resigns

[BA : 18...Kd8 19.Qh4+ Ke8 (19...Bf6 20.Qxf6#) 20.Qe7#]

1-0

A truly far-seeing move 12 sacrifice offer by Irakli – he will be a force to be reckoned with as his play continues to improve !!

Steve Laughlin (2064) – Irakli Vadachkoriya (1949)

Toronto Valentine's Day Open '02 DCC, Toronto (2), 16.02.2002

(Notes by Bob Armstrong)

Steve was the 2nd highest-rated player in the Under 2100 section, and Irakli knocks him off with a surprise move 13..... opening exchange sacrifice, which he has had prepared for some time, waiting for someone unexpected (read Steve Laughlin) to come along. Irakli, I believe, would be the first to admit that he could not calculate, nor maybe even intuit, the value of such a sacrifice so early on, though it is thematic, had he not studied and memorized it. As for Steve, SCTCN&V checked with him, and he advised that he was well-aware of the thematic sac on c3, and briefly considered it, but believed it was premature to play it at that time.

Irakli graciously gave permission to SCTCN&V to publish this game, despite exposing a truly devastating opening weapon. We very much appreciate his willingness to use his knowledge to teach others !

B:76 Sicilian Dragon : Yugoslav Attack

1.e4 c5

[Our rigid, consevative, classically programmed Fritz 6 considers the Sicilian inferior !?!! I shall ignore its valuations initially.]

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.g4

[a trademark move for W in this set-up; the best respose is for Bl. to have moved the f6N, so that ...f5 is immediately playable as a counter-offensive.]

11...Qa5 12.Kb1 Rfc8 13.Bxf6???

[The last book move in Fritz 6. Playable is 13.g5 Ne8 14.Nd5 Qxd2 15.Rxd2 Bxd5 16.exd5 Bxd4 17.Rxd4 Rc5± (or =)]

13...Rxc3!! N

[here's the innovation, surprise, cruncher ! Irakli advised that this is a prepared exchange sacrifice in his repertoire in this opening, and Steve walked right into it. Certainly not to be played is 13...Bxf6?? 14.Nd5 Qxd2 15.Nxf6+ Kg7 why should Bl. muck up his P-structure, when the N can't escape (15...exf6? 16.Rxd2 Rc6 17.Be2 Rac8±) 16.Ne8+ Rxe8=]

14.Qxc3

[14.Bxc3 Qxa2+ And W's Q-side P structure is starting to crumble; wait 'til the future pressure !]

14...Qxa2+ 15.Kc1 Bxf6 16.Qe3?+-

[avoids the mate, but solves nothing; best is 16.Qa3± ; not 16.Qc7?? Bg5+ 17.f4 Bxf4+ 18.Rd2 Qa1#]

16...Qxb2+

[16...Bxb2+?! 17.Kd2-+]

17.Kd2 Rc8

[Bl.'s job is easier with 17...Bd4 18.Bd3 (W's Q is harassed on all fronts if she tries to save herself in order to help, and goes down herself anyway 18.Qd3 Qb4+ 19.Ke2 Bc4 20.f4 Bxd3+ 21.cxd3 Bb6-+; **or** 18.Qf4 Qc3+ 19.Kc1 Be3+ 20.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 21.Kb2-+; **or** 18.Qe1 Qc3+ 19.Kc1 Qa3+ 20.Kd2 Bc3+ 21.Ke2 Bxe1-+; 18.Rc1) 18...Qc3+ 19.Ke2 Bxe3 20.Kxe3-+]

18.Bd3

[18.Rc1 Bd4 19.Qd3 Bc4-+ as we saw in an earlier transposition]

18...Bb3

[also quite playable is 18...Bd4 19.Ke2 (19.Qh6 Rxc2+ 20.Bxc2 Qc3+ 21.Ke2 Qxc2+ 22.Qd2 Bc4+ 23.Ke1 Bc3 24.Kf2 Bxd2 25.Kg3 Be3-+; 19.Rb1 Qc3+ 20.Ke2 Bxe3 21.Kxe3 d5-+) 19...Bxe3 20.Kxe3 Qc3-+]

19.Rc1

[W really has no escapes : 19.Ke2 Bxc2 20.Bxc2 Rc3-+]

19...Rc5?!

[perhaps somewhat stronger is **19...Bd4-+ 20.Qf4** (**a**)20.Qg5 Rc5 (20...Rxc2+ 21.Rxc2 Bxc2 22.Bxc2 Qc3+ 23.Ke2 Qxc2+ 24.Qd2 Qc4+ 25.Qd3 Qa2+ 26.Qd2 Qa4-+) 21.Qf4 Rc3-+ and see below for the winning concepts; **b**)20.Qe2 Bxc2 21.Bxc2 Be5-+ (20...Rc3 {20...Rxc2+ 21.Rxc2 Bxc2 22.Bxc2 e5-+} 21.Ke2-+ (21.Rhd1 Rxd3+ 22.Ke2 {22.Kxd3?? Bc4+ 23.Kxc4 Qc3+ 24.Kb5 a6+ 25.Ka4 b5#} 22...Be3 23.Qxe3 {23.Qg3 Rc3 24.Kf1 Rxc2 25.Rxc2 Qxc2 26.Rd5 Bc4+ 27.Rd3 Qxd3+ 28.Kg2 Qf1#} 23...Rxe3+ 24.Kxe3 Bxc2-+) **21...Rxd3 22.Rhd1** (22.Kxd3?? Qc3+ 23.Ke2 Bc4+ 24.Kd1 Be3 the Q falls & mate follows) **22...e5 23.Qg5 Re3+ 24.Qxe3** (24.Kf1?? Bxc2 25.Qd8+ Kg7 26.Re1 Bd3+ 27.Re2 Qxe2+ 28.Kg1 Rxe4+ 29.Kh1 Qxf3#) **24...Bc4+ 25.Qd3 Bxd3+ 26.Rxd3 Qxc1-+]**

20.f4

[with Irakli letting off the pressure a bit, Steve counterattacks to try and save his game; but this way is an error. The correct counter, though still losing, is 20.Kd1 Bc4 21.f4 Qa2 22.e5 Bxd3 23.cxd3 Rxc1+ 24.Qxc1 dxe5 25.g5 Bg7 26.Qc8+ Bf8 27.Qxb7 Qa4+ 28.Ke2 Qc2+ 29.Ke1 exf4-+]

20...Bd4 21.Qf3

[only temporarily looking better for W is 21.Qg3 Rc3 (21...b5 22.Rhf1 a5 23.h4 Rc3 24.Rf3 Bc4 25.Bxc4 Rxc4 26.Rb3 Qa2 27.h5 Bb2 28.Rh1 a4-+) 22.Rhf1 Bc5 23.Rf3 Bb4 24.Kd1 Ba4 25.f5 Ba3 26.Qf4 Qxc1+ 27.Qxc1 Bxc1 28.Kxc1 Bxc2 29.Be2 Rc7 30.Ra3 Bxe4+ 31.Kd2 gxf5 32.gxf5 Bxf5 33.Rxa7 e5-+]

21...Ba4?!

[the best winning line is 21...d5 22.Rhd1 e5 23.fxe5 Qc3+ 24.Ke2 dxe4 25.Bxe4 Bc4+ 26.Bd3 Rxe5+ 27.Kf1 Bd5 28.Qf4 Be3 29.Qg3 Bxc1 30.Rxc1 Re6 31.Re1 Bg2+ 32.Kxg2 Qxe1 33.Qxe1 Rxe1 34.Kf2 Re5-+; also good is 21...Rc3 22.Qe2 Bc4 23.Bxc4 Qb4 24.Bxf7+ Kxf7 25.Kd1 Be3 26.e5 Bxc1 27.Re1 Bxf4 28.Qe4 Rc4-+]

22.Qd1

[Steve has come back to defend a lost position, when his only vain hope is his attack. Over-the-board, opponents, even good ones, do go wrong ! Steve could have tried an attack like 22.f5-+. For example there is a line for Bl., where W manages to hold onto -/+ for some time during this valiant defence !! Bl. might correctly try 22...Bc3+ 23.Ke2 Bf6 (see 23 ..Bb4+ below) 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.Rhd1 b5 26.h4 Bxh4, all of which is fine for Bl.

But what if Bl. picks 23..Bb4+, also an apparently reasonable move, instead of 23..Bf6?. Interestingly, Fritz 6 initially evaluates Bl. as having made an inaccuracy on 22...Bc3+ ? -/+ It values the position after 23..Bb4+ only -/+ !! The line continues 24.fxg6 hxg6 25.Rhf1 f6 26.Ke3. Here Bl. has a choice :

A) again on this first alternate move of Bl., 26,,b5, Fritz 6 evaluates wrongly, giving the position only a -/+ . W. happily follows it. But he gets to (i) 27.Qe2, only to find that now Fritz 6 finally agrees that indeed W has no way of saving himself : 27..;Qc3 28.Kf2 (28.Ra1 Re5 29.Kf2 d5-+) a5 -+; Nor is there help in (ii) 27.h4 Qc3 28.Qe2 Re5 29.Kf2 d5 -+;

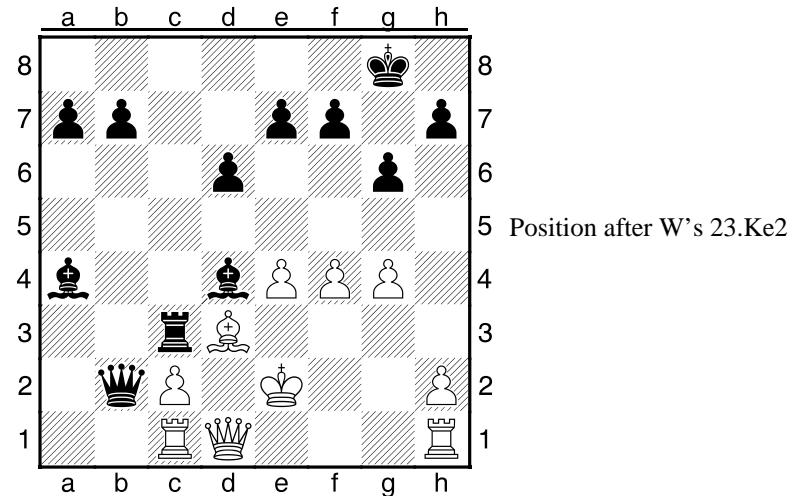
B) Fritz starts this alternative out for Bl. as only -/+ as well : 26.. Rc3 .27.Kf2 -+{ only at this move is Fritz 6 able to evaluate the position as lost for W., and that in fact it has been lost since 23...Bb4 -+ } . 27...Bxc2 28.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 29.Bxc2 Qxc2+ 30.Kg1 Bc3-+]

22...Rc3!?

[how is mate threatened ?]

23.Ke2

[23.Qe1 Rxc2+ 24.Rxc2 Bxc2 25.Qe2 Bxd3+ 26.Kd1 Qxe2+ 27.Kc1 Qc2#; 23.Qf3 Bxc2 24.Rxc2 Qxc2+ 25.Bxc2 Rxf3-+]



23...Rxd3!!

[eliminates the defender.]

24.Resigns

[24.Qxd3 Bb5 25.Qxb5 Qxb5+ 26.Kf3 Qc4 27.Rhd1 Bb6 28.g5 Qe6 29.Kg3 Qxe4 30.Rf1 e5 31.Rb1 Qe3+ 32.Kg4 Qe2+ 33.Kg3 exf4+ Bl. goes cherry-picking, for the day the Q throws

herself on the 2 R's, and an ending much in Bl.'s favour ensues (I think). 34.Rxf4 Bg1 ah ! the value of a forage ! 35.Rxg1 Qe3+ 36.Kg2 Qxf4 & Bl is up Q+3P's (1 passed) vs the lonely R survivor. No million \$\$ for this ' survivor ' .

0-1

Christian Stevens - Irakli Vadachkoriya

(Notes by Bob Armstrong)

This game was played this year; Irakli is playing the 5th top rated junior in Canada in the Under 16 years old group. There are no pyrotechnics here. This game takes a well-worn path in the opening. Both players are to be commended for a well-fought positional battle; just careful manoeuvring by both sides. But that does not mean the game is boring or uninterestingnot by a longshot. This one is for the player who has some interest in the theory of chess openings, though it is definitely a game from which all levels of player can learn.

D46: Semi-Slav: Black avoids the Meran

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bd3 Nbd7 6.0-0 Bd6?±

[to maintain equality, necessary is 6...dxc4=]

7.Nbd2

[7.c5 Bc7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Qc2 Re8 10.b4 e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 (12.a4☞) 12...Rxe5=]

7...0-0 8.e4

[8.c5 Bc7 9.Qc2 Re8 10.b4 a5 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 axb4 13.Nxf6+ Nxf6 14.Bd2 b5 15.cxb6 Bxb6 16.Bxb4 Bxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Qxc6 Rb8]

8...dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 h6 [10...c5±] 11.Bc2 [11.Re1±] 11...e5 12.Qd3?± [12.Re1±] 12...f5 13.dxe5 last book move 13...Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.f4

[though Fritz 6 initially evaluates this position as advantageous to Bl., its own subsequent evaluation does not support this : 15.Re1!? Qxd3 16.Bxd3=]

15...Qxd3 16.Bxd3 Bf6

[16...Bd4+ 17.Kh1☞]

17.Rb1 [17.Rd1☞] Be6 [17...Bd4+☞] 18.b3 Rad8 [18...Bd4+☞] 19.Rf3 Rd7 [19...Kf7☞] 20.Bb2 Bxb2?± [20...Kf7☞] 21.Rxb2 Rfd8 22.Bf1

[Fritz 6 gives this move =/+; further evaluation to move 25 puts the lie to this idea. However, it is still possible that longer term evaluation after 25...Kf7 might eventually show a =/+, in which case 22.Bf1 is a mistake for W, and the =/+ valuation would be correct. This is the key test that must be used to test and find the errors a chess computer makes. An alternate is 22.Re3 Rxd3 23.Rxe6 R8d4=]

22...Rd2 23.Rxd2 Rxd2 24.Rf2 [24.a4=] 24...Rd1 25.Re2 Kf7=

[note the ending theory involved in playing this ending to perfection ! 26.Kf2 g5 27.g3 gxf4 28.gxf4 b5 29.cxb5 cxb5 30.Bg2 b4 31.Ke3 Ke7 32.Rc2 Kd7 33.Bf3 Rg1 34.Kf2 Ra1 35.h4 Kd6 36.h5 a5 37.Ke2 Rb1 38.Bg2 Bd7 39.Rd2+ Ke7 40.Kd3 Rc1 41.Re2+ Kd6 42.Re5 Rc3+ 43.Kd4 Rc2 44.Bh3 Rd2+ 45.Ke3 Rxa2 46.Bxf5 a4 47.bxa4 Rxa4 48.Bxd7 Kxd7 49.f5 = (you take it further)

½-½

Backgrounder

This is an SCTCN&V series on the top GTA juniors, such as Irakli (We have previously featured Alina Sviridovitch, Hazel Smith, David Hier and Shiyam

Thavandiran). Unfortunately, we can only “ spotlight “ so many juniors in our series – some other deserving ones may not be reached. But we hope the highlighting of our GTA junior talent will encourage all juniors in the GTA to love the game, and continue to improve. We hope they all, and our adult readers, enjoy the series.

We are giving only a very short personal resume of the junior’s accomplishments. We prefer to let their games speak for them ! We’ve tried to choose an interesting collection of 4 games, that show their style, positional ability, tactical ability, etc.. Sometimes, as in this Issue, we use one of their games for one of our special sections (this Issue, Irakli’s 4th game shows up in “ Theorists’ Corner “ – a new feature in SCTCN&V)

We have tried to limit the annotations, because of the nature of the newsletter, not too successfully, to about 15 key points in the game. We make no pretense to GM analysis. Yours truly (computer-enhanced), the odd volunteer, some juniors, some juniors’ victims, are merely annotating to make the games a bit more interesting reading; it is more to highlight something about the junior’s style, rather than to be the last word on theoretical analysis of the position (though the annotations are of good quality . We think you will notice this if you play the annotation lines over in the games database accompanying this newsletter).

We hope you are enjoying our line-up of junior games. We hope our series contributes to GTA juniors’ enjoyment of chess, and provides some encouragement for them to continue to improve their chess.

2002 Linares, Spain, Grandmaster Tournament

This is the most watched tournament since the Corus Wijk aan Zee tournament in the Netherlands in January. It is the second strongest tournament of the year , being a FIDE Category XX (Astana, Kazakstan, is stronger). It started Feb. 22, and goes to March 10. The line-up of players is awesome :

Michael **Adams** (England) 2742 (# 4) Ruslan **Ponomariov** (Ukraine) 2727 (# 7)
– FIDE 2001/2 WCC



Garry **Kasparov** (Russia) 2838 (# 1) - FIDE 13th WCC
(picture from ChessBase)



Viswanathan **Anand** (India) – 2757 (# 3) (FIDE 2000 WCC)



Francisco **Vallejo Pons** (Spain):2629 (# 60)



Vassily **Ivanchuk** (Ukraine) – 2717 (# 8) FIDE 2001/2 WCC Runner-Up
Alexei **Shirov** (Spain) – 2715 (# 9) FIDE 2000 WCC Runner-Up

[Notes : 1) Pictures from TWIC, unless otherwise noted;
2) Ratings and rankings are from official FIDE Jan. 2 / 02 Rating list (doesn't include Wijk aan Zee, nor the WCC)]

After 5 rounds, Kasparov, and the new young Spanish star, “ Paco “ Vallejo Pons, are leading with 2.5 / 5 pts., but Kasparov has played one less game ! All the other 5 are close on their heels at 2/5. We’ll have the full final report in our next Issue # 14 on March 15.

Cohen Takes Us to the Chess Movies ! (New)

We are quite appreciative of David Cohen voluntarily providing this article for our reading pleasure. We have arranged for him to provide us with 2 more chess movie reviews for future Issues.

This is a movie that has had mixed reviews by chess players and movie critics. It was produced in 2000, and appeared on video last year. If you are a movie buff, you may find it interesting to know that the author of the novel, on which the movie is based, is also the author of “ Lolita “ . It has been seen by many chess players, including David Cohen, and I am dying to see it as soon as I get a chance.

Here are his thoughts on it :

“ The Luzhin Defence – A Review (Movie # 1)

(Written and Copyright 2002 : by David Cohen (organizer of 2001
Women’s Canadian Closed Championship, and
former CFC Women’s Chess Coordinator)

This drama is beautifully filmed on locations in Italy and Hungary, where European high-society of the 1920s, and Russia from an earlier period, are recreated. The story concerns a Russian chess grandmaster, Luzhin, who is playing in a tournament in Italy for the 'World Championship'. He falls in love with a guest at the resort where the tournament is being held. His story unfolds slowly. There are flashbacks to his childhood in Russia, as his family's troubles are revealed. Then his former coach emerges after a long absence, in order to betray him to his main rival for the title. The pressures from his romance; from his recollections of his family experiences as a youth; from his former coach; and from his over-the-board play all come to a head simultaneously.

The major theme of the movie is how a chess player deals with adversity in life. The author (of the novel on which the movie is based) is proposing that a chess player does so by escaping into the chess game. In this respect, several observations by the characters are well stated. I'll leave it to you to decide if they're correct. The portrayal and actions of Luzhin are the author's main illustration of this theme. The movie's title refers to the twin action: Luzhin's defences to the situations off and on the board.

The chess play itself is wonderfully well done. The chess pieces, boards and clocks are appropriate to the nature and setting of the tournament. The moves, presumably concocted by the chess consultant for the movie, British GM Jonathan Speelman, are played accurately. The body movements and facial expressions of the players match the chessboard action. In particular, the cockiness of Luzhin as a youth, and the pain and pressure of the time scramble, are portrayed excellently.

While I believe the movie accurately depicts a major chess tournament of the 1920s, I do not believe that it depicts the atmosphere of a 'world championship'.

Furthermore, be forewarned that, during the second part of the event, the rules of the event are pure fantasy, designed to meet the plot needs of the author.

I recommend this movie for adult chess players. Your willingness to watch it with your partner should vary proportionately with your partner's tolerance for your chess playing. I do not recommend it for children; the themes can be handled by children with parental guidance, however, I don't believe that they would enjoy the movie. “

We're not sure how many video stores have it, but we know Blockbuster Video does. Has David talked you into spending a couple of enjoyable hours one evening (when you're not playing chess !!) in front of the VCR ?

1st 2002 NAO Chess Masters Tournament, Cannes, France (Category XVIII – 2678)

This is the strongest chess tournament ever held in France. It started Feb. 22, and finishes March 3. It has many notables playing : Evgeny Bareev (Russia) – 2707 (# 11), and recent winner of the strong Corus Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands tournament; Anatoly Karpov (Russia) – 2693 (# 16), FIDE 12th WCC – he is the current leader after 6 rounds, being undefeated, with 4/6 pts.; Alexander Morozovitch (Russia) – 2742 (# 5); Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) – 2739 (# 6) – he is tied for 2nd/3rd, also undefeated, with 3.5/6; Peter Leko (Hungary) – 2713 (# 10); Boris Gelfand (Israel) – 2703 (# 12) – tied for 2nd/3rd, also undefeated; four strong French players, the strongest being Joel Lautier – 2687 (# 19); and one of the other French players is one of SCTCN&V's “ terrible '83 'ers “, Etienne Bacrot – 2649 (# 41). (Our '83'ers are three players only 18 years old on Jan. 1, and up and comers; our other two '83 'ers we picked to watch were Ruslan Ponomariov (!! good pick, eh ??) and Alexander Grischuk).

We'll have the final full report in our next March 15 Issue # 14.

18th 2002 Capelle la Grande International Open, France

This is a massive Swiss tournament. In 2001, it drew 93 GM's, 72 IM's, with 702 players from 55 countries. It is also one of the strongest Swiss tournaments on the planet (this year's Aeroflot Semi-Open was a large swiss, but it was in sections). This year, our 2001 Canadian Champion, Alexandre Le Siege, participated and was ranked 11 th. It took place Feb. 9-16. He made a strong charge in the last half of the tournament, and finished tied for 2nd place, with 7/9 pts.. Congratulations Alexandre. Alexandre is registered to play in the upcoming Canadian Closed Championship/Zonal and we wish him bonne chance !

2002 Donald Byrne Memorial (Penn State Masters) Tournament, Pennsylvania, USA (Category IV – 2327)

This tournament, to provide IM norm possibilities to young players, was played Feb. 20-26. Our former twice Canadian Junior Champion player (and 2000 Quebec Open Champion), Pascal Charbonneau, scored 6/9 points to score his third IM norm, and get the IM title (he just recently got his second norm on Jan. 30 at the Bermuda GM-B tournament) !!! Pascal Rules !!! And he has given notice he will be

playing in the upcoming Canadian Closed Championship/Zonal. We wish him as well, bonne chance !

2002 Canadian Closed/Zonal Ontario Bursary Tournament

This tournament is to encourage strong Ontario players, over 2049, to go to the Canadian Championship. It will be held March 2 (tomorrow !) and 3. The site is the beautiful Bradgate Arms facility, 56 Foxbar Rd. (southeast of Avenue Rd. and St. Clair West), Toronto. It is a 4 round Swiss. For those with digital clocks, it is Game/90 min., with 30 sec. increments from move 1. For those with analog clocks, it will be 50 moves/110 min., and SD/10 min.. Go directly to the Ontario Chess Association website to be sure of details. Round 1 is at 11: 30 AM tomorrow. You can e-mail Martin Jaeger (martin.jaeger@utoronto.ca) or David Gebhardt (oca@fide.org) if you are interested in attending, or just show up and be registered.

Why is this such a great tournament offer by the OCA ? I quote from the flyer :

“ All entry and late fees, plus \$ 750 (!!) from the OCA Treasury, will be awarded on the basis of tournament results to high finishers who participate in the Canadian Zonal and complete 50 % of their zonal games. Bursaries will be paid out after the zonal. The maximum assistance per player is \$ 750.”

Anybody out there not need \$ 750 big ones ?? Wish I was a strong player in Ontario ! Your OCA is out there, working for you ! Take advantage of your being an OCA member (if you are one of our “ somewhat elite “ players – there are lots of Ontario players 2050 and up !). Good luck to all, and we hope the OCA gets a good turnout for their effort.

2002 Toronto Senior Chess Championship (50 years & older)

This tournament takes place at the same time and place as the Bursary Tournament set out immediately above. But round 1 starts at 11: 00 AM. tomorrow. There are 3 rounds Sat., and 2 rounds Sun.. To keep it to 2 days, and to make it easy on us older folks, there are faster time controls. Entry fee is a very modest \$ 25 (and \$ 3 late fee). You can e-mail one of the two co-organizer/TD's : Wilf Ferner (weferner@pathcom.com) or David Gebhardt (oca@fide.org) if you are attending, or just show up and be registered.

So get out your canes and walkers, and get yourself over to the beautiful Bradgate Arms (providing free courtesy space), a first class residence within a full service luxury hotel (they deserve a plug – this is the second year in a row they've provided us chess players with free space – we appreciate their support – a big “ THANKS “).

GTCL 2001/2 Club Team League Update

This year there are 9 teams participating, with 3 clubs playing both an A-team and a B-team. SCC did this last year, but this year Bryan decided to have only one SCC team.

SCC currently has 4 pts., and is in 6th/7th place. But SCC has 2 games in hand on leading Polonia A, which has 11 pts.. Winning both outstanding games could lift SCC up into a possible tie for 2nd – go get'em SCC. SCC's next game at SCC (Wexford Collegiate still) is on Tues. March 12 against Polonia B. So if you're free that Tues. night, and want to watch some good team chess, and root SCC on, come out and watch. But check with Bryan first, to make sure there's been no location change !

2001/2 GTCL Team Cup Update

Besides the normal league play, the GTCL offers a knockout Cup Championship each year. This year in the quarter finals, SCC met its Toronto rival Dutton CC. Here's how our team did : 1st Bd. – Bryan LAMB - 0; 2nd Bd. – Allan CAI – 1; 3rd Bd. – Arnie LUCKI – 0 ; 4th Bd. – Gaja SRINIVASAN – ½ . So we got knocked out 2.5 : 1.5, but we went down fighting. DCC now moves on to the semi- finals. Good try guys !!

A – Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, at bobarm@sympatico.ca ,or through SCC e-mail, to :

4. Be added to the e-mail list; 2. Submit content (fact, opinion, criticism - recommendations help!).
- B – An item in any language may be submitted for publication, if accompanied by an English translation.
C – The opinions expressed here are those of the editor, and not necessarily those of the Scarborough CC.