

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

Newsletter of / Le Journal de
Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 14 – March 15, 2002

Do You Know ? / Savez-Vous ?

GTA Juniors : Part of Canada’s Present & Future (Part 6)
“ Spotlight “ on Nikolay Noritsyn !

Introduction

This is the sixth article in the series highlighting GTA Juniors. Today we review the chess career of 10 year old Nikolay Noritsyn, and 4 of his games.

Nikolay’s Progress and Successes

Nikolay will be 11 years old on May 28th this year. He started to play chess in his country of birth, the region of Kaliningrad, Russia, when he was only 6 years old.

He and his family moved to Israel in 1997, shortly after his 6th birthday. In Israel, he played in a very strong club in an area near to Tel Aviv (it is the club where well-known Israeli GM Boris Gelfand [see reference to him below] played, and some other GM’s). He played his first rated tournaments in Israel when 9 years of age, in the Under 10 years old league. In fact he was the highest rated in the league, but due to some unfortunate games, came second in the standings (still no mean feat). He was slated to play for Israel in the European Youth CC (Under 10 years old), but his family came to Canada, via a visit to Russia to relatives, in December, 2001, and so that dream of Nikolay’s remained unfulfilled. You will see one of his games played during his stopover visit back to Russia, on the way to Canada.

In Canada, he got his first provisional rating from one of the Dutton Chess Active tournaments. He is now active-rated at 1925, the middle of the A-class (based on 12 games) ! But those who watched his games saw him clearly winning a number of games, which he lost by oversight near the end in the time scrambles. Many feel that this rating is perhaps low, and will quickly climb. Also, he played some stiff opposition in the Actives. Perhaps, too, he is still getting his confidence, playing in Canada

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(easy access – Victoria Park Stn./Pharmacy Bus; Lawrence E. Stn./Lawrence W. Bus)

. In the regular rating he has done better – he started out with a middle expert ranking after 5 games. It was 2119, and he is currently rated at 2070, after the 2002 Toronto Class Tournament this month.

Nikolay, and his younger sister, Elizabeth, have joined the Dutton CC. Nikolay has also decided to play in the Dutton Chess Malcolm Sim, 10 player, Round robin tournament, Expert Section. There is a registration fee, and \$ prizes. This is played on 9 consecutive Wednesdays, at the DCC (with one week off in this school break week). This is a wonderful tournament for stronger players such as Nikolay. Elizabeth is playing in the regular DCC club swiss.

[Political aside : The Malcolm Sim tournament has attracted the stronger players, such as Nikolay, away from the regular club swiss tournaments (Nikolay was registered in the regular swiss, and withdrew to play in the Malcolm Sim). These “ club “ tournaments are played on Thursdays here at SCC, and on Wednesdays at DCC . It does seem, though, that we are less affected than DCC, because we have mostly “ club “ players, and a number of our members find it fun to play both the Wed. Malcom Sim or DCC , and then the Thurs. SCC club swiss. Thus there are less strong players for middle and lower-ranked players to play against in the early rounds of the swiss. Is there an answer to this ? Can both high – rated players, and lower-rated players both be satisfied at the same time ? Tough question : end of “ aside “ !!].

We wish Nikolay luck in keeping up his expert rating, and one day, pushing it up into the Master (2200 and over) Class.

Nikolay is now ranked # 1 in the list of top juniors (mixed) in Canada (Under 12 years old). If he would play in the Canadian CYCC, and come first, he could represent Canada as the top player on the Under 12 years old team, which goes to the island of Crete, Greece, we believe, to play in the FIDE World Youth Chess Festival championships. So though he missed the European YCC, maybe he has a chance now to go to the World YCC. Also, because of his age, he will also be in the Under 12 years old section next year ! (have to be 11 years old at 12:00 AM, January 1, 2003).

But he will still have to win. And he will be given strong opposition by Irakli Vadachkoriya (# 2 – 1918 : see SCTCN&V Issue # 13), and Raja Panjwani (# 3 – 1886).

Congratulations Nikolay, and we look forward to seeing you rise up through the Expert class !!

On With the Games !

[**Note** :

SCTCN&V, as a service to its readers, attaches to the cover e-mail accompanying this newsletter:

1. the annotated games in the text of this newsletter, in “ .pgn ” database format (this Issue, NikolayAnn.pgn) ! There may be minor variations, due to later newsletter 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 !

2. a second database (Nikolay.pgn). It contains Nikolay’s games, but unannotated.

The main purpose of this is that some readers prefer to first play the games over unannotated, and to annotate them themselves. Then they look at the database annotations (human & computer).

The second reason we do 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.S. : SCTCN&V Junior Database - we have the database of all junior games that have appeared in our series, since Jan. 1, 2002, annotated, in .pgn format. Simply contact the editor by e-mail, and request it if you would like it sent to you.]

Nikolay Noritsyn – Hodeev

Russia, September, 2001

[Notes by Bob Armstrong]

B78 : Sicilian Dragon : Yugoslav Attack

1.e4 c5

[Fritz 6 shows it's bias against the Sicilian by valuing the position as +/- . I will ignore this, and continue to treat the position as = . I will, for computer slaves, however, give the Fritz evaluation in (), if we differ where I do an evaluation .]

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 Bd7 10.Bc4

[Here Fritz 6 prefers a direct W attack on the Bl. K : 10.g4 Rc8 11.h4 a6 12.h5 b5= (Fr.:+/=)]

10...Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Bh6

[again, Fritz 6 prefers the direct P attack : 12.g4 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.g5 Nh5=]

12...Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.h4

[Fritz 6 prefers the other P first 15.g4 Re8 16.h4 h5 17.gxh5 Nxh5= (Fr.:+/=)]

15...h5 16.Rdg1

[last book move in Fritz 6 ; 16.g4!? hxg4 W goes down a P, but will get attacking compensation 17.h5 Qa5 18.Nb3 Qc7 (18...Qa6±) 19.fxg4 Bxg4 20.hxg6 fxg6= (Fr.6:+/=)]

16...a5?± [16...Qb6=] 17.g4 Qb6?± [17...hxg4±] 18.Nde2?±

[18.Nf5+± Bxf5 (18...gxf5?+- 19.Nd5 Rxc2+ 20.Kxc2 Qc5+ 21.Kb1 fxg4+- W is up a R vs B+2 P's) 19.gxf5 W gets back material equality 19...Rb4 20.Nd1 (20.b3) 20...Kh7 21.fxg6+ fxg6±]

18...Rfc8?± [18...hxg4±] 19.gxh5 Nxh5 20.f4??± [20.Rg5±; 20.Qg5 Be6±] 20...Bc6 21.Ng3 Nxc3

22.Rxg3 Bxe4 23.Nxe4?? [23.Re1±] 23...Qc6

[23...Rxe4?? 24.f5 Qc6 25.fxg6=]

24.c3

[24.Rc3? Qxe4 25.Re1 Qf5 26.Rxc4 Rxc4 27.Rxe7 Rxf4 28.Re8 Rf1+ 29.Re1 Rxe1+ 30.Qxe1 Qf4+ 31.Kb1 d5-+]

24...Qxe4 25.Rf1 a4??=

[from here, Bl. just seems to go down hill : 25...Rd4±]

26.h5 R4c6??+-

[26...Kf8=; interesting is 26...a3 27.hxg6 axb2+ 28.Kxb2 Ra4=]

27.hxg6??±

[27.f5 Qe5 28.Rg5 f6 29.Re1 Rxc3+ 30.bxc3 Qxc3+ 31.Qxc3 Rxc3+ 32.Kd2 fxc5 33.Kxc3 gxf5 34.Rxe7+ Kf6 35.Rxb7 Kxf5+-]

27...Qc4??+- [27...a3 28.Re1 Qf5 29.Qd4+± (29.Rxe7?? axb2+ 30.Qxb2 Qxf4+ 31.Rge3 Rxc3+ 32.Kb1 Qf1+ 33.Re1 Qd3+ 34.Ka1 Qxg6±)]

28.gxf7+ ? +/-

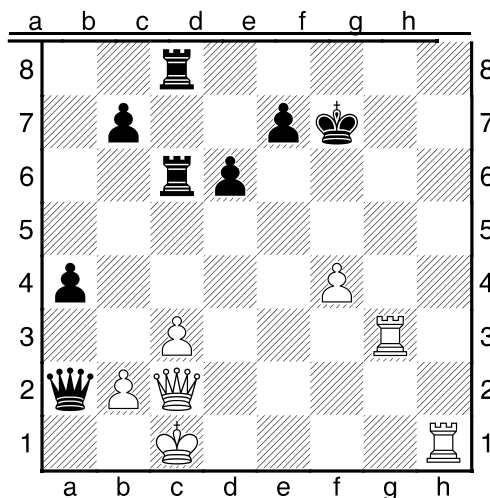
[best is 28.Rh1 Rg8 29.Rh7+ Kf8 30.Qe3 +-]

28...Kxf7 29.Rh1?+/=

[Nikolay needs to immediately neutralize any play by Bl. in the centre, and immediately pile up on Bl.'s backward eP : 29.Re1± Rf8 30.Rge3 Rc7 31.Kb1 a3 32.b3 Qb5 33.Qc2 Qd7 34.Re6 Ke8 35.Qg6+ Kd8±]

29...Qxa2 30.Qc2

[30.Rh7+ Ke8 31.Re3 +/-]



Position after 30.Qc2 .

What is the correct move here for Bl. to stay equal ??

30...Ke8??+-

[a mating blunder : 30...Qe6 31.Rh7+ Ke8 32.Rxe7+ Kxe7 33.Qh7+ Kd8 34.Rg8+ Qxg8 35.Qxg8+ Kc7 36.Qg7+ Kb8 37.Kc2 b5=]

31.Qf5 Qa1+

[Bl. pulls out all the stops to see if he can weasel a draw.]

32.Kc2 Rxc3+ 33.bxc3 Qa2+ 34.Kd1 Qa1+ 35.Kd2 Qa2+ 36.Kd3 Qc4+ 37.Kd2 Qa2+ 38.Ke1 [and the W K escapes any perpetual check !]

1-0

Gaja Srinivasan (1837) - Nikolay Noritsyn (2057)

2002 St. Valentine's Day Open – Under 2100 Dutton Chess Club (4), 17.02.2002

[Notes by Bob Armstrong]

C44: Ponziani Opening and Scotch Gambit

This is the Bd. # 1 game in the fourth round, in the Under 2100 section, to see who would be leading going into the final fifth round that afternoon. It's a positional battle on the validity of an advanced, passed center P, with a tactical fireworks ending.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5?± [4.Qa4=] 4...Qxd5 5.d4 Bg4 last book move 6.Be2 e4?=[6...0-0-0±] 7.Ng5 Bxe2 8.Qxe2 f5 9.0-0 0-0-0 10.f3 Nf6 11.fxe4 fxe4

[and here we get to the theme of the middlegame – the validity of the advanced, passed, Bl. eP !]

12.Be3

[The bishop blocks e4 ; but interestingly, Fritz 6 wants to have the Q-side B move the Bl. N off f6 first, and then come back to block the P; then it says the position is = : 12.Nh3 Re8 13.Bg5 Nd7 14.Be3 Bd6=]

12...Qd7??±

[the Q must stay to help protect the weak advanced, passed, eP : 12...h6!? 13.Nh3 Bd6 14.Nd2 Rhf8 15.Nc4 g5=]

13.Nd2 Re8 14.Rf4

[The pressure on the currently unsupported pawn grows; not 14.Bf4±]

14...Bd6 15.Rh4 Qf5

[15...Be7 16.Ngxe4 Nd5 17.Rh3±]

16.Nf7?±

[16.Rf1 Qg6 17.Ndxex4 [timber !! the eP falls] 17...Kb8 (17...Rxe4 18.Rxe4 Nxe4 19.Qg4+ Kb8 20.Qxe4 Qxe4 21.Nxe4 Re8 22.Nxd6 cxd6 23.Rf3 h6±) 18.Nxd6 cxd6±]

16...Rhf8 17.Nxd6+ cxd6 18.Rf1 Qe6 19.Rhf4 d5

[this protection of the eP may not last long !]

20.c4

[the " attack the base of the P chain " principle in action]

20...Ne7 21.cxd5?±

[unbelievably, W should not exchange for the Bl. dP right away : 21.b3 h6 22.R4f2 Kb8 23.a3 Qc6 24.Bf4+ Ka8±]

21...Nexd5 22.Rf5 Nxe3??±

[22...Kd8±; 22...Kb8=]

23.Qxe3 Qd6

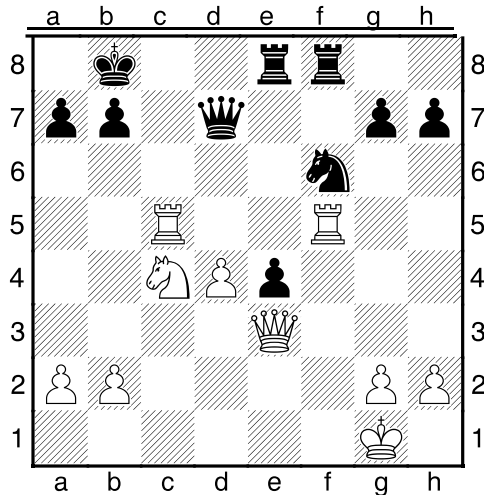
[23...Kd8 24.Qg3 e3 [Bl. cannot leave the eP where it is !!] 25.Re5±]

24.Rc5+?±

[24.Nxe4 Rxe4 25.Rxf6 Rxf6 26.Rc1+ Kb8 27.Qxe4 Re6±]

24...Kb8 25.Nc4 Qd7 26.Rff5?±

[with this inferior move, Nikolay gets back in the game, and he still has his passed, advanced eP, which will be dangerous; W should have played 26.Ne5 Qd6 27.b4±]



Position after 26.Rf5 ? =

What move should Nikolay (Bl.) make to stay = ??

26...Ng4??+-

[instead of simply winning the game , Nikolay misjudges, and makes the losing move, after such a strong, determined battle to stay in the game – unfortunate; and the error is not one that is by any means easy to see; so full marks must be given to Gaja for the brilliant way Nikolay's error is exploited – look and be amazed by another rising junior's talent ! Best for Nikolay is 26...b6 [the only rescuing move] 27.Ne5 Qe6 28.Nc6+ Kb7=]

27.Qf4+ Ka8 28.Nb6+!

[Demolishes the pawn shield; not 28.Qxg4?? [capturing the knight is not a good idea] 28...Qxd4+ 29.Kh1 Qxc5 30.Rxf8 Rxf8-+]

28...axb6 29.Ra5+!!

[a powerful sacrifice which decides the game.The nicest combinations are those leading to mate]

29...bxa5 30.Rxa5#

[A beautiful mate combination]

1-0

Nikolay Noritsyn (2057) - Derek Pleau (1904)

2002 St. Valentine's Day – Under 2100 Dutton Chess Club (5), 17.02.2002

[Notes by Bob Armstrong]

B92: Sicilian Najdorf: 6 Be2

1.e4 c5

[Fritz 6 has a prejudice against the Sicilian, and evaluates the position as +/- . I will ignore this until the position is truly unbalanced (though I will give the Fritz 6 evaluation in (), when I do an evaluation).]

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be2 Be6 9.0-0 0-0 10.f4 Qc7 11.f5 Bc4 12.Bg5 last book move 12...Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Nbd7 14.a4 Rac8 15.Rf3 b5??±

[a very wrong strategy, despite the vulnerable-looking nature of the 2 N's. This is a case where a minority attack ought not to be the plan; 15...Qc4!? deserves consideration 16.Qxc4 Rxc4= (Fr.:+/=)]

16.axb5 axb5 17.Qxb5 Rb8

[playing the R's on the a & b files seems preferable to what Derek did ; for example 17...Ra8 18.Rff1 Rfb8 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Qd3 Qa7+ 21.Be3 Nc5 22.Nxc5 dxc5± but at least there's temporarily no more Passed P.]

18.Qe2 Nb6 19.Rg3

[Nikolay has not brought his R up for nothing !]

19...Qc4

[19...Rfc8 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.Rd3±] **20.Qf3** [20.Qxc4 Nxc4 21.Ra7 Bd8 22.Bxf6 Bxf6+--]

20...d5? [⊃20...Rfd8+--] **21.Bh6 Nxe4**

[21...g6 22.Bxf8 Kxf8 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.exd5 Nbx d5 25.Nxd5 Nxd5 26.Re1+--]

22.Rxg7+

[22.f6!? keeps an even firmer grip 22...Bc5+ 23.Nxc5 Nxg3 24.Qxg3 g6 25.Bxf8 Rxf8+--]

22...Kh8 23.Nxe4 dxe4

[23...Qxe4 24.Qxe4 dxe4+--]

24.Qh5 Bc5+

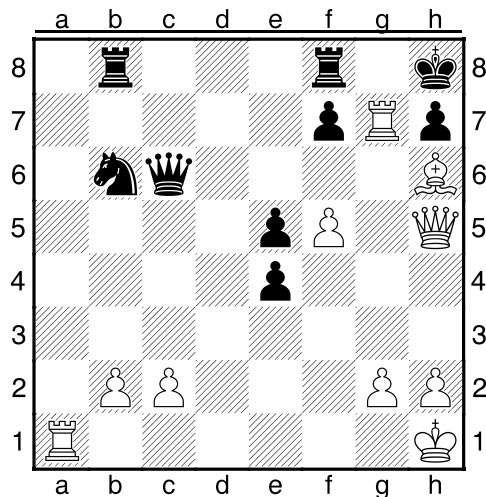
[24...Nd7 a last effort to resist the inevitable 25.Rxh7+!! Demolition of pawn structure 25...Kxh7 26.Bxf8+ Kg8 27.Bxe7 Qxc2 28.Qg5+ Kh7+--]

25.Nxc5 Qxc5+

[25...Rfc8 cannot undo what has already been done 26.f6 Qxc5+ 27.Be3 Qxe3+ 28.Kh1 h6 29.Rh7+ Kxh7 30.Qxf7+ Kh8 31.Qg7#]

26.Kh1 Qc6 [Plans Ra8]

How should Nickolay now continue the attack ??



27.Rxh7+! Demolishes the pawn shield **27...Kxh7** Decoy to h7 **28.Bg5+**

[28.Bf4+! Kg7 29.Bxe5+ f6 30.Qg6+ Kh8 31.Ra3 Qc3 32.Rxc3 e3 33.Rxe3 Rf7 34.Rh3+ Rh7 35.Rxh7#]

28...Kg8

[28...Kg7 29.f6+ Qxf6 30.Bxf6+ Kxf6 31.Rf1+ Ke6 32.Qf5+ Kd6 33.Rd1+ Kc6 34.Qxe4+ Kc7 35.Qxe5+ Kb7 36.Qe4+ Nd5 37.Qxd5+ Kb6 38.Qd6+ Kb7 39.Qb4+ Kc6 40.Qc4+ Kb6 41.Rd6+ Kb7 42.Qc6+ Ka7 43.Qa6#]

29.f6

[29.f6 Nd5 30.Qh6 Nxf6 31.Bxf6 Qxf6 32.Qxf6+--; 29.Qg4 Qg6 30.fxc6 f5+--]

1-0

Nikolay Noritsyn (2119) - David Cohen (2004)

Malcolm Sim Memorial Toronto, Ontario (2), 20.02.2002

[Notes by David Cohen [DC]/Bob Armstrong [BA]]

B01: Scandinavian Defence

1.e4 d5

[DC : I've never played this defence before.]

2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nf6

[DC : 4...Nb6 is the usual choice.]

5.Nc3 last book move **5...Bf5?±**

[DC : commits the Q-side B too soon. It's better to wait until the position dictates where to place it; best is 5...e6=]

6.Nf3 e6 Controls d5 **7.Be2 Be7 8.Be3** DC : Novelty. **8...0-0 9.0-0 Nc6?±**

[BA : to maintain the status quo, David could have tried 9...Ne4 10.Nxe4 Bxe4 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Qd6 13.Qe4 Nc6±;

DC : to preserve the B on h7, Bl. might try 9...h6 BA : which might continue 10.Qb3 Qc8 11.d5 exd5 12.cxd5 BA : here Nikolay again would end up with an advanced, isolated centre P, but this time as W. 12...Nbd7±]

10.Nh4 Bg6 11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.Qd2

[DC : W's plan is simple,clear, aggressive and good : develop the pieces to central squares].

12...Kh7

[DC : Bl.'s plan is to attack the W K along the open h-file.]

13.Rfd1 Rh8 14.Rac1 Kg8 15.h3

[DC : W stops Bl.'s first effort with a simple move.]

15...Qd7

[DC : Bl. resumes development. However, Bl. is behind in development and the R's will be disconnected.]

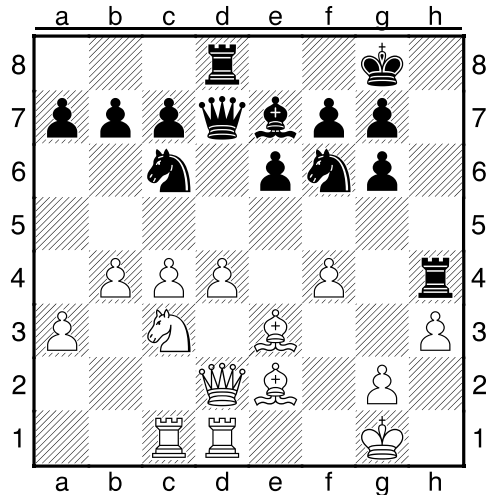
16.a3 Rd8 17.b4 Rh4?+-

[BA : 17...Bd6 18.d5±]

18.f4?±

[BA : 18.d5 exd5 19.Nxd5 Qe8+--]

Position after 18.f4 ?
 What is Bl.'s best move now ?



18...Nh5?+-

[DC : Bl. makes a second effort to attack on the K-side. However, Bl.'s attack is too slow to take advantage of the weak squares resulting from W's K-side P pushes. Also, the move traps the Bl. R on h4; Bl. gambles on getting the R out via f4 and d4. The most important weakness of the move is that it takes the N away from the centre squares that it was guarding. BA : \triangle 18...Bd6!/? \pm]

19.d5 exd5 20.Nxd5

[DC : Nikolay takes advantage of Bl.'s misplaced pieces and slow development with a simple, clear and good plan : a central P push, followed by occupation of the centre by a piece.
 BA : 20.Qxd5?! Qe8 21.Qf3 a5 \pm]

20...Nf6

[BA : sad, but how else could Black save the game, or at least try to ? No better is 20...Qe6 21.Bf3 Bd6+-
 DC : Bl. had to move the Q off of the d-file. W easily finds the winning combination.]

21.Nxf6+ gxf6 22.Qxd7 Rxd7 23.Rxd7 Bd6 24.c5 Bxf4 25.Bxf4 Rxf4 26.Rxc7 Nd4 27.Bf3

[BA : better may have been 27.Bf1 b6 28.c6 a5 29.Rc4 axb4 30.Rc8+ Kg7 31.c7+-]

27...Rxf3

[DC : Bl. plays a combination to win back a piece, but it leaves Bl. with insufficient material to hold the position.
 BA : 27...b6 doesn't get the cat off the tree 28.c6 Nb3 29.Re1+-]

28.gxf3 Ne2+ 29.Kf2

[BA : \triangle 29.Kf1 and White has reached his goal 29...Nxc1 30.Rxb7 Kg7+-]

29...Nxc1 30.Rxb7 Nd3+ 31.Ke3 Ne5 32.Rxa7

[BA : best is 32.f4 which nails it down 32...Nc4+ 33.Kd3 Nb2+ 34.Kd4 Kg7 35.Rxa7 Nd1+-; also playable is 32.Rxa7 Kf8 33.b5+-]

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Backgrounder

This is an SCTCN&V series on the top GTA juniors, such as Nikolay (We have previously featured Alina Sviridovitch, Hazel Smith, David Hier, Shiyam Thavandiran and Irakli Vadachkoriya). 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.. And it shows the maturity of our juniors, such as Nikolay, that they consent on occasion to have us use a game they LOST, when they had good wins to offer. They understand that a “ lost “ game is not necessarily by any means one of their “ bad “ games. And they agree in order to give the readers entertaining games to play over.

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; you might even pair off our human/computer annotations against you and your computer’s best efforts).

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.

Cohen Takes Us to the Chess Movies

Movie Review #2

Written and Copyright 2002 by David Cohen

(Organizer of the 2001 Can. Women’s Closed Championship, and former CFC Women’s Coordinator)

The Great Chess Movie

1982

Available: Toronto Public Library

This Canadian documentary from the National Film Board, directed by Gilles Carle and Canadian International Master Camille Coudari, has a high Canadian content. Coudari frequently appears on screen to explain various chess topics and to present his ideas on chess and chess players. Among those interviewed are Canadian Champion International Master Igor Ivanov, and McGill University Professor Monty Newborn. Several top Canadian players appear on-screen for a few seconds each.

The movie is a historical record of the game of chess. The story of chess is narrated on screen. Several views of the chess world are presented. Chess topics

are explored. It's all supported with interviews and a sprinkling of clips from movies and television.

The movie is an attempt to tell the history of chess, in general, and the world champions, in particular. The focus is on two players: Victor Korchnoi and Anatoly Karpov. The movie shows the action at the Stratham tournament in Lone Pine, California, where Korchnoi is competing; at the IBM tournament in Amsterdam, where Karpov is competing; and at the 1981 World Championship in Merano, where Korchnoi is challenging Karpov.

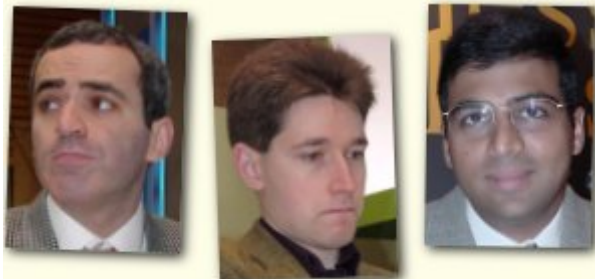
Along the way, the movie tries to explain about the chess players' world. The stories of many world champions are reviewed; Reuben Fine makes psychiatric observations; and grandmasters comment about how they feel playing the game and each other. The movie also examines the development of computer play.

Chess is a big topic. Presented with a western showdown between Korchnoi and Karpov, the viewer can be overwhelmed by the interesting background material and side topics. I think the filming of the chess tournaments and matches, and the interviews with the grandmasters, particularly Bobby Fischer, are the main attractions. The movie appears to me as an excuse to try to tie together the film clips. Nevertheless, the film clips are worth seeing, and the real chess fan should not miss this movie.

2002 Linares, Spain, Super Grandmaster Tournament

This will go down as one of the most watched tournaments in 2002. It is the second strongest tournament of the year, being a FIDE Category XX (Astana, Kazakhstan, is stronger). It started Feb. 22, and went to March 10. The line-up of players was awesome:

Kasparov Adams Anand



Ponomarev Ivanchuk Shirov Vallejo Pons

[Note : 1. Pictures from ChessBase Website ;
2. Ratings and rankings are from official FIDE Jan. 2 / 02
Rating list (doesn't include Wijk aan Zee, nor the WCC
Final)]

Though the line-up was stellar, the real draw was the unknown quantity, the new 2001/2 FIDE World Champion, ranked 7th, 18 year-old Ruslan Ponomariov. And in the other corner was the #1 ranked Garry Kasparov (who just happens to have won Linares 7 times : 1990, 1992, 1993, 1997, 1999, 2000, and last year). Not only that, but immediately after Ruslan won the FIDE crown, Kasparov regaled him as a light-weight, who would never hold his own against his peers in “ classic “ time control chess (not the speedy FIDE Game in 90 min., with 30 sec. increments from move 1). And, lo and behold, Linares was at “ classic “ time control. What was going to be proven at this super-tournament ??

Well, for starters, Garry Kasparov is without doubt still the man to beat. He finished first with 8/12 pts., not losing a single game. And he was a full 1.5 pts. ahead of the second-place finisher !! So does that put the boots to Ponomariov ?

Not really !! Who is clear second but Ruslan Ponomariov, the “ light-weight “ !! He scored 6.5/12 pts., and in his individual encounters with Kasparov, lost one, and drew one. But there is general agreement that Kasparov’s win was a fairly decisive one, but by no means a steam-roller !

The other main threat had thought to have been Viswanathan Anand, 2000 FIDE World Champion. But he played conservative, drawish chess (10 draws out of 12 games), and finished in a 3-way tie for third with 6/12 pts., with Vassily Ivanchuk (FIDE 2001/2 WCC Runner-Up) and Michael Adams.

So where does all this leave Vladimir Kramnik you ask ?? Well, right now, not playing, and nursing his 2000 BrainGamesNetwork World Championship (which he won by beating Kasparov in a match outside the auspices of FIDE).

When are we going to get these horses into the same race ??

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

This was the strongest chess tournament ever held in France. It started Feb. 22, and finished March 3. It had many notables playing : Evgeny Breev (Russia) – 2707 (# 11), and recent winner of the strong January Corus Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands tournament; Anatoly Karpov (Russia) – 2693 (# 16), FIDE 12th W.C.; Alexander Morozovitch (Russia) – 2742 (# 5); Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) – 2739 (# 6); Peter Leko (Hungary) – 2713 (# 10); Boris Gelfand (Israel) – 2703 (# 12); 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) (only 18 years old on Jan. 1, and an up and comer { our other two ’83 ’ers we picked to watch were Ruslan Ponomariov (!! good pick, eh ??) and Alexander Grischuk }),

Tied for first, with 6/9 pts., were Topalov and Gelfand (who, as we mentioned earlier, belonged to the same club as Nikolay Noritsyn did, when Nickolay lived in Israel). Five players tied for 3rd/7th : Bareev, Bacrot (we’re watching Etienne !), Karpov, Leko, and Fressinet, one of the 4 French players.

2002 Canadian Closed/Zonal

The Ontario Bursary tournament in Toronto for the Closed/Zonal, turned into a 4 game match between Yuri Ochkoos and Ted Kret, played March 2nd & 3rd. It was won by Yuri, and so OCA will be supporting him financially in his attendance at the

upcoming Canadian Closed / Zonal, in Richmond B.C., which starts next week, Thursday, March 21, with Rd. 1 at 3:00 PM, Pacific Time. The runner-up, Ted Kret, will also be attending. The action will be broadcast live by WorldChessNetwork. The software needed to follow the action can be downloaded free from the WCN website.

The 31 registered participants in the Closed at the date of going to press (Yuri is not yet formally registered) are :

Registered Players

1. 2660 [Le Siège, Alexandre](#) Montreal, PQ
2. 2629 [Spraggett, Kevin](#) Montreal, PQ
3. 2490 [Cummings, David](#) Toronto, ON
4. 2470 [Hébert, Jean](#) Montreal, PQ
5. 2428 [Charbonneau, Pascal](#) Outremont, PQ
6. 2412 [Yoos, Jack](#) Vancouver, BC
7. 2397 [Ross, David](#) Montreal, PQ
8. 2391 [Glinert, Stephen](#) Toronto, ON
9. 2379 [Berry, Jonathan](#) Nanaimo, BC
10. 2353 [Reeve, Jeff](#) Edmonton, AB
11. 2346 [Ristovic, Nenad](#) Calgary, AB
12. 2327 [Huber, Gregory](#) Calgary, AB
13. 2323 [Milicevic, Dragoljub](#) New Westminster, BC
14. 2309 [Neven, Knut](#) Saskatoon, SK
15. 2273 [Herder, David](#) Victoria, BC
16. 2250 [Gardner, Robert J.](#) Edmonton, AB
17. 2238 [Haessel, Dale](#) Calgary, AB
18. 2230 [Wu, Howard](#) Victoria, BC
19. 2229 [Divljan, Igor](#) Toronto, ON
20. 2224 [Patterson, Roger](#) Gloucester, ON
21. 2221 [Poitras, Luc](#) Burnaby, BC
22. 2219 [Jiganchine, Roman](#) Vancouver, BC
23. 2210 [Zubac, Marius](#) Waterloo, ON
24. 2207 [Roussel-Roozmon, Thomas](#) Laval, PQ
25. 2202 [Kret, Ted](#) Mississauga, ON
26. 2200 [Lawson, Eric](#) St Rose Laval, PQ
27. 2173 [Stanford, Mike](#) Victoria, BC
28. 2169 [Bogle, Bill](#) Quispamsis, NB
29. 2164 [Mayo, Alvah](#) Halifax, NS
30. 2085 [LeBlanc, Paul](#) Victoria, BC
31. 2063 [Hladek, David](#) New Westminster, BC

We wish everyone “ good chess “, and we understand the conditions will be A-1 for this tournament, thanks to the fine efforts of the organizing team. The average rating for this Closed, so far, is 2299. We’ll have a full report in our Issue # 15 on April 1. If there is a play-off needed that day, then we will likely hold publishing that Issue, until we have the final results to give you.

SCC Special General Meeting of All Members – Thurs., March 21 @ 6:40 PM

SCC has suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune since the amalgamation of the City of Toronto. Even before the high school cafeteria rates skyrocketed, the Wexford Collegiate Institute was randomly having to pull our permit, often at the last minute, sometimes when notice to members was hardly possible. Then when the hourly rental rate for the cafeteria went through the roof, we did find a home, thanks to the support of the Wexford Seniors Centre. But they sometimes had to cancel our room reservation for other activities. Then there was the flu quarantine, where we had to go back to the school, at the exorbitant rates, 'til the illness among the residents had run its course. And after being back in only a short while, the centre decided to renovate its basement rooms, and we were temporarily, we were told, evicted until the renovations would be finished. Again we had to revert to the high school, and cut our hours, and cancel our Sunday meetings, because of the financial burden. It's amazing SCC is still staggering forward, and doing it rather well we'd say.

Well, we may have found a reasonable new home, since it was starting to look like we might not be given back the renovated basement room in the seniors' building. But it is not perfect – but, then, what is in life ?? So come on Thursday and hear the details (we've already sent them on to our e-mail members; so make sure to tell members who are not on e-mail). We need to decide if we are going to move to the new location. We have it tentatively booked to start Thursday, April 11, if we decide to go for it ('til then, it's the Wexford Collegiate cafeteria, on our current schedule).

See you all there – COME AND VOTE – IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT CLUB !!

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

5. Be added to the free e-mail list; 2. Submit content (fact, opinion, criticism, recommendations!).

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.

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