

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 # 10-11 – February 1 , 2009

Karjakin Wins at Corus GM “ A “, Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands

The players were (from ChessBase):

Participants of Grandmaster Group A

Title	Player	Nat.	Rating	rank
GM	Vassily Ivanchuk	UKR	2779	3
GM	Magnus Carlsen	NOR	2776	4
GM	Alexander Morozevich	RUS	2771	5
GM	Teimour Radjabov	AZE	2761	6
GM	Sergei Movsesian	SVK	2751	10
GM	Levon Aronian	ARM	2750	11
GM	Wang Yue	CHN	2739	13
GM	Gata Kamsky	USA	2725	17
GM	Leinier Dominguez	CUB	2717	23
GM	Michael Adams	ENG	2712	24
GM	Sergei Karjakin	UKR	2706	27
GM	Loek van Wely	NED	2625	
GM	Daniel Stellwagen	NED	2612	
GM	Jan Smeets	NED	2601	

This is the first major tournament of the new year, and was a strong, 14-player round robin, starting Jan. 17 and ending today, Feb. 1. The average rating for this

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tournament is 2716 (the 2008 Corus was somewhat stronger with an average rating of 2742). Unfortunately top players like Viswanathan Anand (India), 15th and current World Champion, Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), 14th World Champion, and Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), currently # 1 on the FIDE rating list, did not play. But the tournament does boast the #3, #4, #5, and #6 players in the world, with 11 of the 14 players being over 2700.

The sole winner, with a score of 8 / 13 pts. was 18-year old Sergei Karjakin.



He has finally stepped out from the shadow of his better-known, and recently more successful contemporary, Carlsen, also 18 years old (who finished tied 5th/6th).

In second with 7.5 pts. were: Teimour Radjabov; Levon Aronian; and Sergei Movsesian.

The final standings were (from TWIC):

Corus A Wijk aan Zee (NED), 17 i-1 ii 2009													cat. XIX (2716)							
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4			
1.	Karjakin, Sergey	g	UKR	2706	*	½	½	1	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	1	1	1	8	2803
2.	Aronian, Levon	g	ARM	2750	½	*	½	1	½	0	1	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	7½	2770

3.	Radjabov, Teimour	g	AZE	2761	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	0	1	½	1	½	½	½	7½	2769
4.	Movsesian, Sergei	g	SVK	2751	0	0	½	*	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	1	7½	2770
5.	Carlsen, Magnus	g	NOR	2776	½	½	½	½	*	1	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	½	7	2740
6.	Dominguez Perez, Leinier	g	CUB	2717	0	1	½	½	0	*	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	7	2745
7.	Kamsky, Gata	g	USA	2725	1	0	0	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	6½	2715
8.	Van Wely, Loek	g	NED	2625	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	0	6	2694
9.	Wang Yue	g	CHN	2739	½	½	0	½	1	½	½	½	*	½	0	½	0	1	6	2685
10.	Smeets, Jan	g	NED	2601	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	*	1	½	½	0	6	2695
11.	Ivanchuk, Vassily	g	UKR	2779	1	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	1	0	*	½	½	0	5½	2654
12.	Stellwagen, Daniël	g	NED	2612	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	5½	2667
13.	Adams, Michael	g	ENG	2712	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	*	½	5½	2659
14.	Morozevich, Alexander	g	RUS	2771	0	½	½	0	½	0	0	1	0	1	1	½	½	*	5½	2654

In Rd. 1, Karjakin



had the advantage out of the opening and early middle game. But then Morozevich managed to get a “ clear “ advantage. Then on move 22, he made a very weak knight move and suddenly Karjakin had the “ clear “ advantage. Karjakin kept the advantage right down to the end, and had a swarming attack on Morozevich’s king, and he resigned. This put Karjakin into a tie with Smeets for first. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

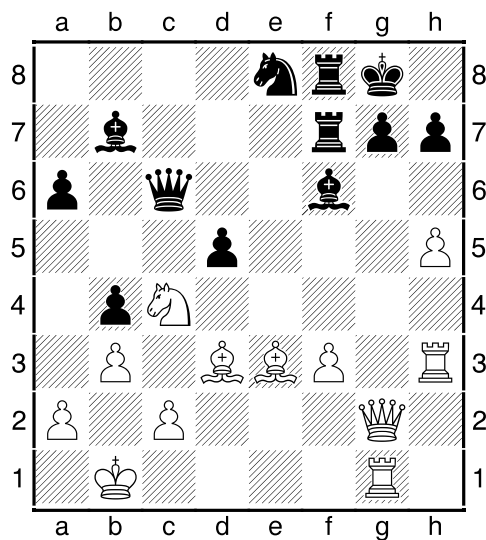
Karjakin, Sergey (2706) – Morozevich, A (2771) [B48]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (1), 17.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7?!± Karjakin gets a " clear " advantage early in the opening [5...Nf6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5±] 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2?!± [7.f4 Bb4 8.Bd3 Nf6±] 7...Nf6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.f3 0-0 10.g4 b5 11.g5 Ne8 12.h4?!= [12.f4 Bb7 13.Nb3 b4 14.Na4 Na5±] 12...Ne5 13.Kb1 [13.h5 b4 14.Na4 Bb7=] 13...Bb7 14.h5 Rc8 [14...b4 15.Na4 Qa5 16.b3 Nd6=] 15.Qg2 b4 [15...f5 16.exf5 exf5 17.Bf4 b4 18.Nce2 Bd6=] 16.Na4 f5 17.gxf6 Nxf6?!± [17...Bxf6 18.Nb3 Nxf3! 19.Nbc5

(19.Qxf3?? Qxc2+ 20.Ka1 Bxb2+ 21.Nxb2 Rxf3+) 19...Ne5=] **18.Bd3?!=** [18.Nb6! Rb8 (18...Qxb6?? 19.Nf5 exf5 20.Bxb6 Nxe4 21.h6 2.45 (21.fxe4? Bxe4 22.Qe2 d6 23.Bg2 Rxc2 24.Qxc2 Bxc2+ 25.Kxc2 g5+- 2.77) 21...Ng5 22.hxg7 Kxg7 23.Qe2 d6+- 2.69) 19.Rg1 Rf7±] **18...Rf7 19.b3?!±** for the first time in the game, Morozevich gets the advantage [19.Nb3 d5 20.h6 g6=] **19...Rcf8 20.Rdg1 Ne8?!=** [20...Kh8 21.Qe2 Ra8±] **21.Rh3** [21.Be2 Bd6 22.Rc1 Be7 23.Rcg1=] **21...Bf6** [21...Bd6 22.Qe2 Nxd3 23.cxd3 Nf6=] **22.Nb2?±** Morozevich gets a " clear " advantage [22.Qd2 Nxd3 (22...Qd6?! 23.Ne2 Nxd3 24.cxd3 Qe5 25.d4 Qc7±) 23.cxd3 Qa5=] **22...Nc6?±** suddenly Karjakin has a " clear " advantage [22...Nd6 23.f4 Nxd3 24.cxd3 Rc8±] **23.Nxc6 Qxc6?!+-** Karjakin gets a " winning " advantage [23...Bxc6?! 24.Nc4 d5+-; 23...Bxb2 24.Kxb2 Bxc6 25.Kb1 d6±] **24.Nc4?!+-** not the strongest continuation [24.e5 Bxe5 25.Nc4 Bc3+- 3.35] **24...d5?!+-** 2.01 [24...Bc3 25.Na5 Qc7 26.Nxb7 Qxb7+- 1.61] **25.exd5 exd5** 4.16 [25...Qxd5? 26.h6 g5 27.Bxg5 Qxg5 28.Qh2 Qxg1+ 29.Qxg1+ Kh8 30.Qc5 a5+- 4.97]

Position after 25...exd5



26.h6!+- 5:00 Morozevich resigned. The game could have continued **26...Rc7** 5.00 [26...dxc4?? 27.Bxh7+ Kh8 (27...Kxh7?? 28.hxg7+ Bh4 29.g8Q+ Rxg8 30.Qxg8#) 28.Be4 g5+- 10.01] **27.Bxh7+!** Morozevich would go up a P **27...Kf7** [27...Kxh7?? 28.hxg7+ Kg8 29.Rh8+ Kf7 30.gxf8Q+ Ke6 31.Qh3#] **28.Bg6+ Ke7 29.Re1 Kd8 30.h7 Rh8+-** 5.48 Karjakin would be up a passed pawn on the 7th rank **1-0**

In Rd. 2, Movsesian



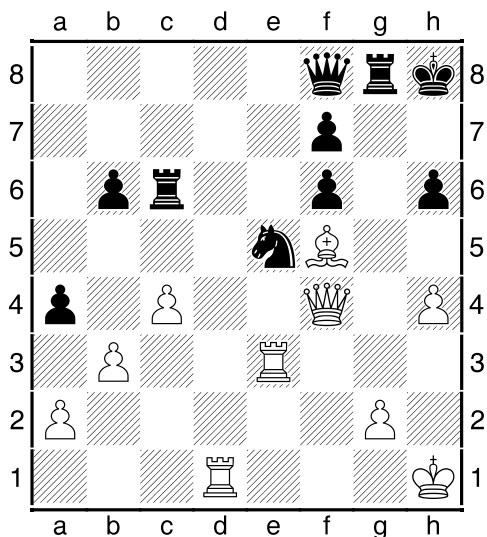
sacked a pawn in the opening, and then eventually got it back, with a strong K-side attack. Adams underestimated the K-side tactics, and with mate and material threats, Adams resigned. This lifted Movsesian into a 3-way tie for first with Smeets and Karjakin. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Movsesian, S (2751) – Adams, Mi (2712) [C50]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (2), 18.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4= [3.Bb5±] 3...Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d4 Movsesian sacs a P for development [5.Nc3 d6 6.d3 Na5 7.Na4 Bb6=] 5...Bxd4 Adams goes up a P 6.Nxd4 Nxd4 7.f4?!± [7.Be3 Ne6 8.Nc3 0-0=] 7...d6 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.Bg5 Be6?!= [9...Qe7 10.Nd2 Ne6 11.Be3 0-0±] 10.Na3 Qe7 11.c3 Nc6 12.Kh1 Rd8 13.Qe2 h6?!± [13...a6 14.Rf2 Nb8=] 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Rf2 Rg8 16.Raf1 Rg6 17.Nc2 Kf8?!± Movsesian gets a " clear " advantage [17...Bg4 18.Qe3 Kf8 19.Bd5 Qd6±] 18.Ne3 Nb8 19.Qh5?!± [19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Nd7±] 19...Kg7 20.Qf3 Movsesian is building up quite a battering ram with heavy artillery tripled on the half-opened f-file 20...Kh7 21.Nd5 [21.Nf5 Qf8 22.Bd5 c6 23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.Nh4 Rg7 25.Qxf6 Qxf6 26.Rxf6 Re8± material equality] 21...Bxd5?!± [21...Qd6 22.Be2 Kg7 23.Rd1 Qf8±] 22.exd5 e4 23.Qf4?!± [23.Qe2 Re8 24.Rf4 Kg7±] 23...Rd6?!± [23...b5 24.Bb3 Na6±] 24.Re2 Nd7?!+- [24...Qe5 25.Rxe4 Qxf4 26.Rexf4 Kg7±] 25.Rxe4 material equality 25...Ne5 26.Bb3 Kg8 27.c4 b6 28.Bc2 Qf8 29.Re3 Rg5 30.Bf5 Kh8 31.Rfe1 a5 32.b3 c6 33.dxc6 Rxc6 34.h4 puts pressure on the h6P 34...Rg8 35.Rd1 a4?+- 5.77 a bad inaccuracy at this point in the game; Adams underestimates the tactical possibilities for W [35...Ng6 36.Bxg6 Rxg6 37.Red3 Re6 38.Rd8 Re1+ 39.Kh2 Re8+- 1.46]

Position after 35...a4?



36.Rd8! using the weak h6P 36...Qg7 37.Rxg8+ Kxg8 38.Rg3+- 7.12 nicely winning the R or the Q; Adams resigned. The game could have continued 38...Rc5 7.25 [38...Ng6?? 39.Bxg6 fxf6 40.Qe4 g5 41.Qxc6+- 8.80] 39.Rxg7+ Kxg7+- 7.25 Movsesian would be up Q vs R 1-0

In Rd. 3, Kamsky



played a very close game with Morozevich. With Kamsky having the advantage, Moro wrongly went for an exchange sac + P. Kamsky then got into mating position and Moro resigned. This put Kamsky into a 5-way tie for first. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kamsky, G (2725) – Morozevich, A (2771) [C78]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (3), 19.01.2009

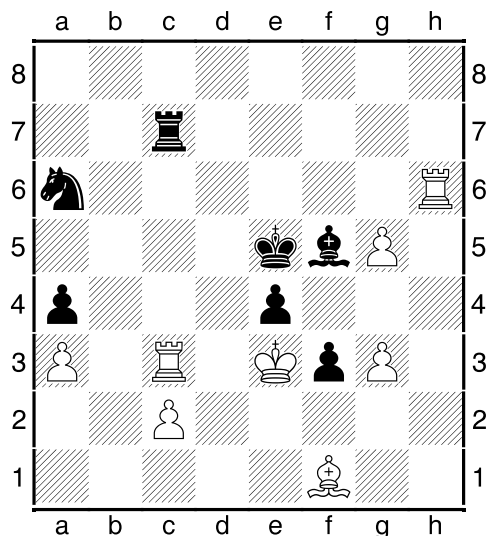
1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5?!±** Kamsky gets a " clear " advantage [6...Be7 7.d4 d6 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Qxd8+ Bxd8 10.Nc3 0-0±] **7.c3?!±** [7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.d4 Bb7 9.dxc5 Qe7±] **7...d6?!±** [7...Nxe4 8.Qe1 d5 9.d3 Nf6±] **8.a4?!±** [8.d4 Ba7 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8+ Nxd8 11.Nxe5 Nxe4±] **8...Rb8** [8...Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6±] **9.axb5** [9.d4 Bb6 10.axb5 axb5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Qxd8+ Kxd8±] **9...axb5 10.d3?!=** [10.d4 Bb6 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Qxd8+ Kxd8±] **10...0-0 11.h3** [11.d4 Bb6 12.d5 Ne7=] **11...Ne7** [11...b4 12.Bg5 bxc3 13.bxc3 h6=] **12.Na3** [12.Bg5 Ng6 13.d4 Bb6=] **12...Ng6 13.Nc2 h6** [13...b4 14.Nxb4 Bxb4 15.cxb4 Rxb4=] **14.Re1 Bb6** [14...Bb7 15.Ne3 Qd7=] **15.Ne3 c6 16.Nh2?!±** for the first time in the game, Morozevich gets the advantage [16.Qc2 Qe8 17.Nf1 Be6=] **16...Kh8?!=** [16...Be6 17.Nf3 Nf4±] **17.Nhg4?!±** [17.Qc2 Be6 18.Nf3 Nf4=] **17...Nxc4?!=** [17...Be6 18.g3 Nxc4 19.hxc4 Qf6±] **18.hxc4 Qh4 19.d4 exd4 20.cxd4 Qf6?!±** [20...Ne7 21.Nf5 Nxf5 22.gxf5 Bb7=] **21.Nf5 Kg8 22.Be3 Bxf5?!±** Kamsky gets back a " clear " advantage [22...c5 23.e5 dxe5 24.dxc5 Bc7±] **23.gxf5 Ne7 24.Bc2 Rfd8** [24...Ra8 25.Qd3 Rfd8±] **25.b4 c5 26.bxc5 dxc5 27.Qg4 Rxd4?!+–** Moro wrongly decides to sac the exchange; Kamsky gets a " winning " advantage [27...h5] **28.Bxd4** [28.Qg3?! Re8 29.Bxd4 Qxd4±] **28...Qxd4** Kamsky is up the exchange, but Morozevich has a P compensation **29.Qg3 Nc6 30.e5 c4** 1.75 [30...Bc7 31.f6 g5+– 1.66] **31.Rad1 Qb2 32.f6 g5?+–** 6.84 [32...g6 33.Re2 Nd4 34.Rxd4 Qc1+ (34...Bxd4?? 35.e6 Be5 36.Rxe5 Qxe5 37.Qxe5+– it is mate in 7 moves) 35.Rd1 Qg5+– 6.98] **33.Re2 Qb4?+–** 13.19 [33...Nd4 34.Bh7+ Kxh7 35.Rxb2+– 8.45] **34.Qh3+–** Moro resigned. It is mate in 12 moves. **34...Kf8 35.Rd6 Bxf2+ 36.Kxf2 Qc5+ 37.Re3 Ke8 38.Qd7+ Kf8 39.e6 Qxe3+ 40.Kxe3 fxe6 41.Qg7+ Ke8 42.Qg8# 1-0**

In Rd. 5, Karjakin got up the exchange against Stellwagen, who had a pawn compensation. The game then went back to equality. But Karjakin again got the advantage, and then won a pawn, and then a second pawn. In a losing position, Stellwagen then blundered his N. This left Karjakin solely in first place. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Karjakin, Sergey (2706) – Stellwagen, D (2612) [B48]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (5), 22.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7?!± Karjakin gets an early " clear " advantage [5...Nf6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5±] 6.Be3 a6 [6...Nf6 7.Ndb5 Qb8 8.f4 d6±] 7.Qd2?!± [7.f4 b5 8.Be2 Bb7±] 7...Nf6 8.0-0-0 Bb4 9.f3 Ne5 10.Nb3 b5 11.Qe1 Rb8 12.Qg3?!= Karjakin loses his advantage [12.a3 Be7 13.f4 Nc4 14.e5 Ng4±] 12...Nh5?!± [12...0-0 13.Bd4 Bd6=] 13.Qf2 [13.Qg5?! g6 14.Bd4 f6 15.Qe3 Nc4 16.Qe1 Be7=] 13...Bxc3 14.Bc5! Commentators on World Chess Live applauded this move, not recapturing the B and making threats with Bd6 14...d5! Stellwagen finds the right response [14...Bxb2+? 15.Kxb2 d5 (15...Nc4+? 16.Bxc4 bxc4 17.Bd6 Qd8 (17...Qb6?! 18.Qh4 Nf6 19.Qg3 cxb3 20.axb3 Bb7 21.Qxg7 Rg8 22.Qxf6 Qd8 23.Qh6 Rc8 24.Qxh7 Qg5+- 3.94) 18.Bxb8 cxb3 19.axb3 0-0+- 3.39) 16.exd5 Nc4+ 17.Ka1 Nf6 18.dxe6 Bxe6 19.Bxc4 bxc4 20.Bd6 Qb6 21.Qxb6 Rxb6 22.Bc7 Nd7 23.Bxb6 cxb3 24.Ba5 bxa2+- 1.95] 15.bxc3?± for the first time in the game, Stellwagen gets the advantage [15.exd5 exd5 (15...Bxb2+?! 16.Kxb2 Nc4+ 17.Ka1 Nf6 18.dxe6 Bxe6±) 16.bxc3 Be6±] 15...Bb7 16.Qh4 Nf4 17.Qg3 [17.Qe1 Nfg6 18.h4 h5±] 17...Nfg6 [17...f6 18.Bb4 Rc8=] 18.f4 Nd7 19.Bb4 Qxf4+?!± Karjakin gets a " clear " advantage again [19...Nf6 20.exd5 Nxd5±] 20.Qxf4 Nxf4 21.Bd6 Ng6 22.Bxb8 Nxb8 Karjakin is up the exchange, but Stellwagen has a P compensation 23.Na5?!± [23.Nc5 Bc6 24.exd5 Bxd5 25.Nxa6 Nxa6 26.Bxb5+ Ke7 27.Bxa6 Ra8 28.Rhe1 Bxg2 29.Bc4 e5±] 23...Ba8 24.exd5 Bxd5 [24...exd5?! 25.Be2 Nc6±] 25.c4 bxc4 26.Nxc4 Ke7 27.Ne3 Bc6?!± [27...Bb7 28.h4 h5±] 28.Rd4 Ne5 [28...f5 29.Bd3 Nd7 30.Re1 Nge5±] 29.Be2 Nbd7 30.Rhd1 Nc5 31.g3?= Karjakin has again lost his advantage [31.Nc4 Ned7 32.Bf3 Bxf3 33.gxf3 Rc8±] 31...Rc8 32.Nc4 [32.Ng4?! Ned7 33.Rf1 f5 34.Ne3 g5=; 32.Rh4 h6 33.Rhd4 Ne4=] 32...Nxc4 33.Bxc4 a5?!± [33...f5 34.Bd3 g5=] 34.Re1 f6 35.Re3 e5 36.Be2 Be8 37.Rh4?!= [37.Bg4 Rc7 38.Bf3 Bf7±] 37...h6 38.Ra3 Ra8?!± [38...a4 39.Rb4 f5=] 39.Rb4 Kd6 40.Bf3 Ra7?!± again Karjakin gets back a " clear " advantage [40...Bc6 41.Bxc6 Kxc6±] 41.Rb8 Bd7 42.Kd2 [42.Re3 Rc7 43.Rb6+ Bc6±] 42...e4 43.Be2 f5 [43...Ke5 44.Bb5 f5±] 44.h4 a4 [44...Ne6 45.Bb5 g5 46.Bxd7 Rxd7 47.Ke3 gxh4 48.gxh4 a4 49.Rxa4 f4+ 50.Kf2 Ke5±] 45.Rc3 Rc7 46.a3 g5?!+- Karjakin gets a " winning " advantage [46...Be6 47.h5 Bf7 48.Ke3 Ke5+-; 46...Rb7 47.Rxb7 Nxb7±] 47.Rh8 f4 48.Rxh6+ Karjakin goes up the exchange 48...Ke5 49.hxg5 Karjakin goes up the exchange + P 49...f3 50.Bf1 Bf5 51.Ke3 Na6??+- 8.60 Stellwagen blunders a minor piece [51...Be6 52.g6 Na6 53.Rh5+ Kf6+- 4.78]



52.Rhc6+- 8.47 Stellwagen resigned. The game could have continued 52...Bg6 [52...Rxc6 53.Rxc6 Nb8 54.Rc5+ Ke6 55.Bc4+ Ke7 56.Rxf5+-] 53.Bxa6 Rxc6 54.Rxc6 Be8+- 10.60 Karjakin would be up R + P 1-0

In Rd. 6, Karjakin just escaped with a draw. Carlsen



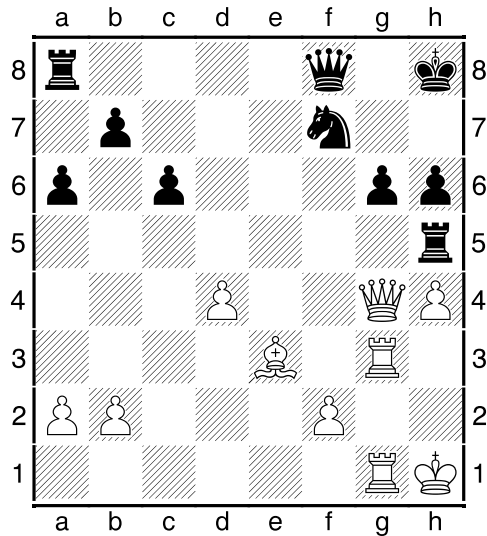
had a good K-side attack and a “ winning “ advantage, but then blew it on move 35, and the game came back to equality. Then he went up a P and had a “ clear “ advantage going into the ending, but Karjakin played accurately and drew. This left Karjakin alone in first place. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2776) – Karjakin, Sergey (2706) [D11]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (6), 23.01.2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6± [2...e6=] **3.Nf3 Nf6** [3...dxc4 4.e4 b5±] **4.e3 a6** [4...e6 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.Nbd2 Nbd7±] **5.Bd3 Bg4** [5...dxc4?! 6.Bxc4 Nbd7 7.0-0 Nb6 8.Bd3 Bg4±; 5...Nbd7 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.0-0 e6 8.Nc3 b6±] **6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.Qc2?!=** [7.0-0?! e5 8.cxd5 cxd5=; 7.Qb3 Qc7 8.0-0 e6±] **7...e6 8.0-0 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Be7** [9...b5?! 10.Be2 Rc8±] **10.e4** [10.Bd3 c5 11.Ne5 Bh5=] **10...0-0 11.Bd3 h6** [11...Kh8 12.Nb3 Bxf3 13.gxf3 c5=] **12.h3** [12.Nb3 a5 13.Be3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 a4 15.Nd2 c5=] **12...Bh5 13.e5?!±** for the first time in the game, Karjakin gets the advantage [13.Nb3 c5 14.dxc5 Nxc5 15.Nxc5 Bxc5 16.e5 Nd7=] **13...Nd5 14.g4** [14.Bh7+ Kh8 15.Be4 c5±] **14...Nb4?!=** [14...Bg6 15.Bxg6 fxg6 16.Qxg6 Nf4 17.Qe4 Nb6± (17...Nhx3+? 18.Kh2 Nf4 19.Nc4 Nd5±)] **15.Bh7+ Kh8 16.Qb1 f5 17.exf6 Nxf6 18.gxh5** Half opening the g-file **18...Nhx7 19.Ne5 Kg8 20.Qg6** Carlsen moves to take advantage of the now half-opened g-file **20...Rf6 21.Qg4 Ng5 22.Ndc4 Nd5 23.h4?!±** [23.Bxg5 hxg5 24.Ng6 c5=] **23...Nf7 24.Kh1 Bf8 25.Be3 Ne7±** opening up the b6 square for a nice tactical shot; Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [25...a5?! 26.Rg1 a4=; 25...Rc8 26.Rad1 Nd6 27.Nxd6 Bxd6±] **26.Nb6! Ra7?!+-** Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [26...Qxb6 27.Nd7 Qb5 28.Nxf6+ Kh8± Carlsen would be up the exchange] **27.Ned7 Rf5 28.Rg1** continuing to use the half-opened g-file **28...Nd5 29.Nxd5?!±** [29.Nxf8! Kxf8 30.Qxg7+ Ke7 31.Bxh6 (31.Nxd5+?! Qxd5+ 32.Kh2 b6±) 31...Qxb6 32.Qf8+ Kd7+-] **29...Rxd5 30.Nxf8 Qxf8 31.Rg3 Ra8 32.Rag1** tripling on the half-opened g-file **32...Kh8 33.Qxe6 Rxh5?!+-** [33...Re8 34.Qh3 Rxh5 35.Qg4 g6 36.Qxg6 Rxh4+ 37.Kg2 Nd6±] **34.Qg4 g6?+-** 4.26 Carlsen's attack is becoming more effective [34...Rb5 35.Qxg7+ Qxg7 36.Rxg7 Rf8 37.R7g4 Rd5+- 1.89]

Position after 34...g6?



35.d5??= just taking the P is winning; Carlsen loses his advantage; Karjakin now solidifies his defence [35.Qxg6 Rxh4+ 36.Kg2 Nd6+- 4.18] **35...Ne5 36.Bd4 Qf6 37.Bxe5 Qxe5 38.dxc6 bxc6 39.Rd1** [39.Qxg6 Rxh4+ 40.Kg2 Rf8=] **39...Rg8 40.Qd4 Qxd4 41.Rxd4 g5 42.Rc3 Rf8?!±** Carlsen gets the advantage again [42...Rg6 43.b4 Rf6=] **43.Kg1?!=** [43.Rxc6 Rxf2 44.Kg1 Rf4±] **43...Rf6 44.hxg5 Rxg5+ 45.Kf1 Kg7 46.Rdc4 Ra5 47.a3 Rb5?!±** [47...Raf5 48.Rc2 Kg6 49.Rc5 Kg5=] **48.Rc2?!=** [48.Rxc6 Rxb2 49.Rxf6 Kxf6±] **48...Rd6?!±** [48...Rbf5 49.Rc5 Kg6=] **49.a4?!=** [49.Rxc6 Rxc6 50.Rxc6 Rxb2 51.Rxa6 h5±] **49...Rb6?±** Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage in the ending play [49...Ra5 50.b3 Rd1+ 51.Ke2 Rb1=] **50.b4 a5!** Karjakin is about to lose a P, so he makes it double up on the a-file **51.bxa5** Carlsen goes up a P **51...Ra6 52.Rg4+ Kf7 53.Rc5 Rd5 54.Rgc4 Rxa5 55.Rxc6 Rd1+ 56.Ke2?!±** [56.Kg2 Rg5+ 57.Kf3 Ra1±] **56...Ra1 57.Rf4+** [57.Rb6 Ra2+ 58.Ke3 Ra3+ 59.Kd2 Rf5±] **57...Ke7 58.Rcc4** [58.Re4+ Kf8 59.Rcc4 Kf7±] **58...h5 59.Rb4 Ra2+** [59...Ra3 60.f3 Ra2+ 61.Ke3 Ke6±] **60.Kf3 Ra3+?!±** [60...Rg5 61.Rfe4+ Kd6±] **61.Kg2 Ke6 62.Rbe4+ Kd6 63.f3 Ra2+ 64.Kh3 Ra1 65.Rd4+ Ke6 66.Rb4 Rg5 67.Rfe4+ Kf6 68.Rf4+?!±** [68.Rb6+ Kf7 69.Rf4+ Kg7±] **68...Ke6 69.Rb6+ Ke7 70.Rb2** [70.Re4+ Kf7 71.Rf4+ Ke7±] **70...Rh1+ 71.Rh2 Ra1?!±** [71...Re1 72.Kh4 Ra5±] **72.Kh4?!±** [72.Re2+ Kd7±] **72...Rg8 73.Rd4?!=** Carlsen has lost his advantage [73.Re2+ Kd6 74.Kh3 Rh1+ 75.Rh2 Rf1±] **73...Kf6 74.Rf4+** [74.Rc4 Kf5 75.Re4 Ra3=] **74...Ke5 75.Rb4 Kf5 76.Kh3 Ra3 77.Rf2 Ra8 78.Rb5+ Kf4 79.Rxh5 Rxf3+=** Carlsen cannot win with just the extra final rook pawn ½-½

There is the saying: " Misery Loves Company ". I think that is why we average chess players love to see the GM's foul up – just like we are want to do – only significantly more often. So we felt we had to show Smeets blunder against Morozevich,

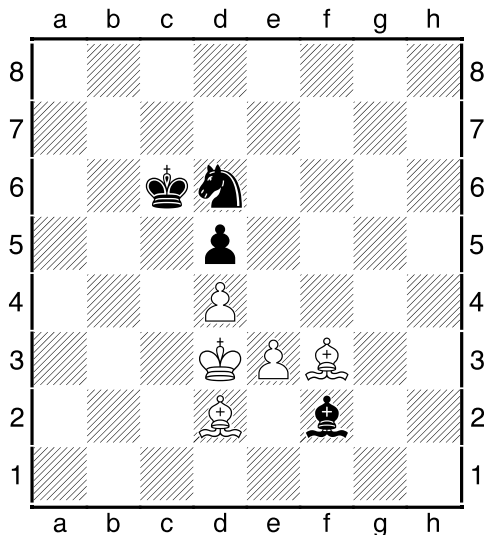


in a drawn game, in Rd. 7. Morozevich provocatively moves his B to d2, where it can be attacked by Smeets' knight. Sure enough.....

Morozevich, A (2771) – Smeets, J (2601) [D11]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 24.01.2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nh4 Bh5 8.h3 g5 9.Nf3 h6 10.g4 Bg6 11.h4 Qxb3 12.axb3 Rg8 13.hxg5 hxg5 14.c5 Nxc4 15.b4 f6 16.b5 cxb5 17.Rg1 Nh6 18.Nxb5 Kd7 19.Rxa7 Rxa7 20.Nxa7 Nc6 21.Nxc6 bxc6 22.b4 Be7 23.Kd2 Be4 24.Ne1 g4 25.Kc3 f5 26.Nd3 Bh4 27.f4 gxf3 28.Rh1 Bg5 29.Ne5+ Kc7 30.Rh3 Ra8 31.Nxf3 Bxf3 32.Rxf3 Ra2 33.Rh3 Ng4 34.b5 cxb5 35.Bxb5 Rh2 36.Rxh2 Nxh2 37.Kd3 Ng4 38.Bd2 Bh4 39.Ba5+ Kc8 40.Be8 Nf6 41.Bf7 Kd7 42.c6+ Kxc6 43.Bxe6 Ne4 44.Bxf5 Nd6 45.Bg4 Nc4 46.Bc3 Nd6 47.Bf3 Bf2 48.Bd2



Nc4??? 49.Bxd5+! (if 49...Kxd5 50.e4+ K moves 61.Kxc4 winning) 1-0

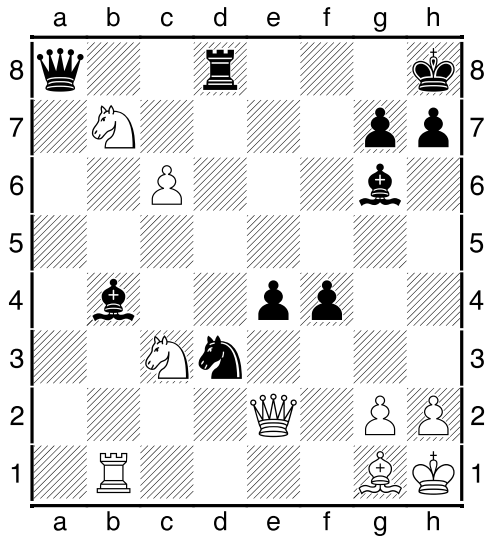
Also in Rd. 7, Movsesian made it look easy against Ivanchuk. After a close opening and early middle game, Movsesian got the advantage, then a “ winning “ advantage. Next he went up a Pawn. Ivanchuk got it back but by then he was lost. With this win, Movsesian moved into a 2-way tie for first at the half-way mark, with Karjakin. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ivanchuk, V (2779) – Movsesian, S (2751) [B80]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 24.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Be3 Nc6 7.f4 Bd7 8.Be2 Be7 9.Ndb5 Qb8 10.a4 0-0 11.0-0 Rd8 12.Kh1 Nb4 13.Bf3 e5 14.Qe2 Bc6 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.a5?!= [16.Qf2 b6 17.Na3 Qb7±] 16...b6 17.axb6 axb6 18.Rxa8 Bxa8 19.Na4 Bc6 20.c4 Nxe4 21.Nxb6 f5 22.Nc3 Qb7 23.c5?!± Movsesian gets the advantage [23.Kg1 g6 24.Nxe4 Bxe4 25.c5 Bxf3 26.gxf3 Kg7=] 23...Nd3 24.Bxe4 [24.Nxe4 fxe4 25.Bg4 Kh8±] 24...Bxe4 25.b4 Kh8 26.Rb1 f4 27.Bg1 Bg6 28.Nc4?+ Movsesian gets a " winning " advantage [28.Rd1 Bf6 29.b5 e4 30.Nbd5 Bxc3 31.Nxc3 f3±] 28...e4 29.Na5 Qa8 30.c6 – 2.88 [30.Qg4? f3 31.Rf1 Bf6+ – 3.68] 30...Bxb4 Movsesian goes up a P 31.Nb7 Ivanchuk was now in serious time trouble

Position after 31.Nb7



31...f3 32.gxf3 exf3 33.Qxf3?!-+ - 7.11 Material equality, but Ivanchuk is lost (his N is hanging)
 [33.Qf1 Bxc3 34.Nxd8 f2 35.Nf7+ Bxf7 36.Bxf2 Nf4-+ - 6.51; 33.Qd1? Rf8 34.Rxb4 f2 35.Rd4
 Qe8 36.Nc5 f1Q 37.Qxf1 Rxf1-+ - 12.44] **33...Rf8 34.Qd5 - 7.82** [34.Qg2 Bxc3-+ - 8.27]
34...Bxc3 Movsesian goes up a B **35.c7 Nf4-+ - 10.98** attacking the R as well **0-1**

In Rd. 8 Ivanchuk



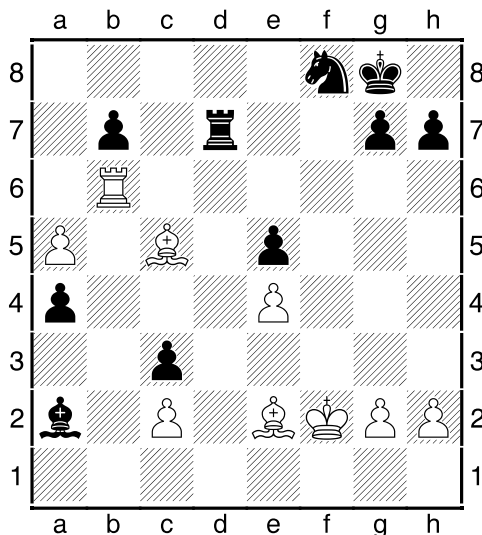
played a strong game, sacking 2 pawns for a superior position, and then winning three pawns in a row, and threatening to win a fourth. So Karjakin, the leader, resigned. The loss dropped Karjakin into a 4-way tie for 2nd, behind the leader, Movsesian. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ivanchuk, Vassily (2779) – Karjakin, Sergei (2706) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (8), 25.01.2009

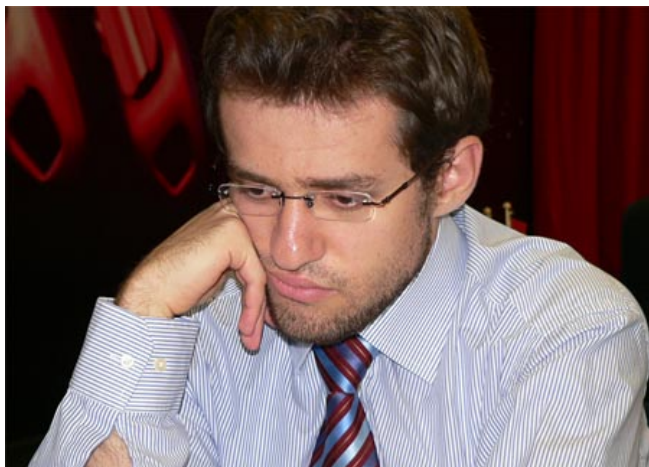
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Be2 e5?!± Ivanchuk gets an early " clear " advantage in this line [6...g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.f4 0-0±] **7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Be6 10.Qd2?!±** [10.Nd5 Nxe4 11.Bb6 Qe8±] **10...Nbd7** [10...d5 11.exd5 Nxd5±] **11.a4** [11.f4 b5±] **11...Qc7 12.Rfd1?!=** [12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne4 14.Qc1 f5±] **12...Rac8 13.a5 Nc5 14.Nxc5 dxc5 15.Qe1 Rfd8 16.Rxd8+ Rxd8 17.f3 c4 18.Na4 Nd7** [18...Qc6 19.Kh1 Nd7=] **19.Qc3** [19.Rd1 Kh8 20.Nb6 Nxb6 21.Rxd8+ Qxd8 22.axb6 Qe8=] **19...f6?!±** [19...Qc6 20.b3 cxb3 21.Qxc6 bxc6 22.cxb3 Bxb3= Karjakin would be up a P] **20.b3?!=** [20.b4 Rf8 21.Rd1 Rc8±] **20...Rc8 21.b4 Qc6 22.Qa3 f5 23.b5!** Ivanchuk sacs a P to get some activity [23.exf5 Bxf5 24.c3 e4=] **23...axb5** Karjakin goes up a P **24.Qxe7 bxa4 25.Rd1 Nf8 26.Rd6 Re8 27.Rxc6 Rxe7 28.Bc5 Rd7?+-** allowing

Ivanchuk to get 2 minor pieces for a R; Ivanchuk gets a " winning " advantage [28...Re8 29.Rc7 fxe4 30.fxe4 Ra8=] **29.Rb6?!±** Ivanchuk misses the tactical win [29.Rxe6 Nxe6 30.Bxc4 Kh8 (30...Kf7?? 31.exf5 Kf6 32.fxe6 Rc7 33.e7 Rxe7 34.Bxe7+ Kxe7+- 4.14) 31.Bxe6 Rd1+ 32.Kf2 Rd2+ 33.Kf1 Rxc2+- 1.41 Ivanchuk would be up 2 B's vs R + P] **29...fxe4 30.fxe4 c3?!+-** Ivanchuk gets a " winning " advantage [30...Rd8 31.Bxf8 Kxf8 32.Rxe6 a3 33.Bxc4 Rd1+ 34.Kf2 Rd2+ 35.Kg3 Rxc2 36.Bd5 a2 37.Bxa2 Rxa2 38.Rxe5 Rb2±] **31.Kf2?!±** [31.Bb5?! Rd1+ 32.Kf2 Nd7 33.Rxe6 Nxc5 34.Rxe5 Nd7±; 31.Bb4 Ba2 32.Bb5 Rc7+-] **31...Ba2**



32.a6! Ivanchuk now sacs a second P [32.Bd6 Ne6 33.Bb5 Rxd6 34.Rxd6 Nc5±] **32...bxa6** Karjakin goes up 2 P **33.Rb8 Rf7+ 34.Ke3 g6 35.Bd6 Rf6?!+-** [35...a5?! 36.Ra8 Be6+-; 35...a3 36.Bxa3 Kg7 37.Bb4 Nd7 38.Rb7 Be6±] **36.Rd8 a3?!+-** 2.56 [36...Rf7 37.Bxa6 a3 38.Ra8 Be6+- 1.96] **37.Bxa3** Karjakin is still up a P, but is lost **37...Kg7 38.Bd6 Rf7 39.Bxe5+** material equality **39...Kh6 40.Bxa6** Ivanchuk goes up a P **40...Ne6 41.Rc8+-** 3.08 Ivanchuk is going to go up a second P. Karjakin resigned **1-0**

In Rd. 9 Aronian

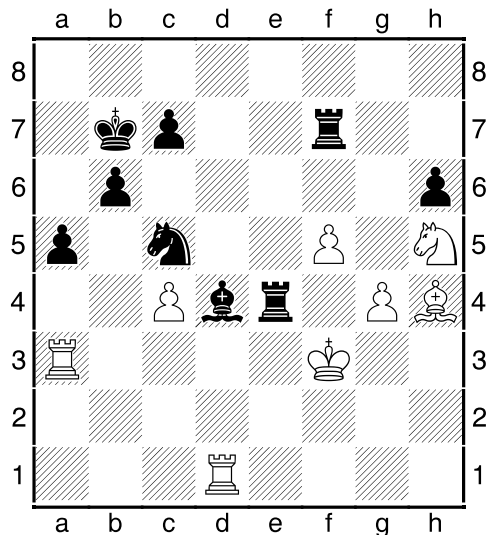


and Kamsky played a very close game until the late middle game. Then the advantage shifted to Aronian. There were a number of exchange sacs back and forth – exciting. But when the smoke cleared, Aronian was up 2 pawns and he won. This put him into a 3-way tie for first with Karjakin and Dominguez Perez. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kamsky, G (2725) – Aronian, L (2750) [C67]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 27.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 Aronian temporarily goes up a P 5.d4 Nd6 Berlin Defence [5...exd4 6.Re1 f5 7.Nxd4 Qf6±] 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 material equality 7...Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 h6?!± Kamsky gets a " clear " advantage [9...Be6 10.Ng5 Bc4 11.Rd1+ Kc8±] 10.b3?!± [10.Rd1+ Ke8 11.Ne2 Be7±] 10...a5 [10...Be6 11.Bb2 Kc8±] 11.a4 [11.Rd1+ Ke8 12.Bb2 Be6±] 11...Be6 12.Ne2 Bd5 13.Rd1 Kc8 14.Ne1?!= [14.Bb2 Be7 15.Ne1 g5±] 14...g5 15.Bb2 Bg7 16.Nd3 b6 17.f3 Kb7 18.Kf2 Be6 19.g4 Ne7 20.Ng3 Rhd8 21.h3 c5 22.f4 c4 23.bxc4 Bxc4 24.f5 Nc6 25.e6 Bf8 [25...Bd4+ 26.Bxd4 Rxd4=] 26.exf7 Kamsky creates a passed fP for himself on f5 [26.Bf6 fxe6 27.Bxd8 Rxd8 28.f6 Bd5=] 26...Bxf7 27.Ne4 Bc4 28.Bf6 Re8 29.Kf3 Ka7 30.Ndf2 Ba6 31.h4 [31.Rd7 Rac8 32.Nd3 Bb7=] 31...gxh4 32.Bxh4 Bb7 33.Kf4 [33.Bf6 Rac8 34.Rd7 Nb4=] 33...Nb4 34.c4 [34.Rd2? Nd5+ 35.Kg3 Bc6±] 34...Na6 [34...Rac8 35.Rd2 Nc6=] 35.Nc3 Bc6 36.Nfe4 [36.Nb5+?! Kb7 37.Re1 Bb4±] 36...Nc5 [36...Kb7 37.Ra2 Rab8=] 37.Nf6 [37.Nxc5 Bxc5 38.Bf6 Re3=] 37...Re7 38.Nh5?!± for the first time in the game, Aronian gets the advantage [38.Bf2 Bg7 39.Ncd5 Rf7 40.Bxc5 bxc5 41.Ne4 Bxa1 42.Rxa1 Bxd5 43.cxd5 Rd7=] 38...Rf7 39.Nb5+?!± Aronian gets a " clear " advantage [39.Bf2 Nd7 40.Nb5+ Kb7±] 39...Kb7 40.Ra2?!-+ Aronian gets a " winning " advantage [40.Kg3 Re8 41.Re1 Rxe1 42.Rxe1 Nxa4±] 40...Re8 41.Nf6 41...Ree7 42.Nd4 Bxa4?!± Aronian goes up a P [42...Bg7 43.Nxc6 Kxc6 44.Nd5 Re4+ 45.Kf3 h5-+] 43.Rxa4?!-+ Kamsky wrongly offers to sac the exchange; Kamsky goes up an N vs P 43...Bg7± Aronian wrongly refuses the sac, and is losing his advantage [43...Nxa4 44.Ne6 Nb2 45.Rd4 a4-+ Aronian would be up the exchange + P] 44.Nh5?!± [44.Ne6 Nxe6+ 45.fxe6 Rxe6 46.Kf5 Rxf6+ 47.Bxf6 Rxf6+ 48.Ke4 Re6+ 49.Kf4 Kc6±] 44...Re4+ 45.Kf3 Bxd4 Aronian is up a P 46.Ra3?!-+ [46.Ra2 Kc6 47.Re2 Rxe2 48.Kxe2 Be5±]



46...Rxf5+! Aronian sacs the exchange for a P 47.gxf5 Rxh4 Kamsky is up the exchange, but Aronian has 2 P compensation 48.Ng3 a4?!± [48...Nd7 49.Kg2 Bc5 50.Rc3 Ne5-+] 49.Ra2?!-+ wrong rook [49.Rh1 Rxh1 50.Nxh1 Bb2 51.Ra2 a3±] 49...Be5 50.Rd5 Bd6 51.Rxd6?-+ - 2.57 sacking the exchange is correct, but Kamsky goes after the wrong piece [51.Rxc5 Bxc5 52.Rxa4 Bd6-+ - 2.09 Aronian would be up a P] 51...cxd6 Aronian is up 2 P 52.f6 Ne6?!-+ - 1.66 [52...Rxc4 53.Nf5 Kc7 54.Re2 Nd7-+ - 2.16 Aronian would be up 3 P] 53.Rxa4 Aronian is up a P 53...Rf4+?-+ - 1.51 [53...d5 54.Ke2 dxc4 55.Nf5 Re4+ (55...Rh2+?! 56.Ke1 c3± Aronian would be up 3 P) 56.Kd1 Rf4-+ - 2.52] 54.Ke3 Rxf6 Aronian goes back up 2 P 55.Ra1?!-+ - 2.17 [55.Ne4 Nc5 56.Nxf6 Nxa4-+ - 1.70] 55...Ng5 56.Ne2 Rf3+ 57.Kd4 Kc6 58.Ra8 Rf8 59.Ra7 Ne6+ 60.Ke3 Rf5 61.Rh7 Re5+ 62.Kd2 h5 63.Rh6 Kc5 64.Kd3 Kb4 65.Ng3 Nf4+ 66.Kd4 Rc5 67.Rxd6 Rxc4+ 68.Ke3 b5 69.Rd1?!-+ - 2.71 [69.Rh6 Nd5+ 70.Kd2 Rd4+ 71.Ke1 Rg4-+ - 2.30]

69...Ng2+?!-+ - 1.90 [69...h4?! 70.Ne4 Ne6+- - 1.83; 69...Ka5 70.Ne4 Ng2+ 71.Kf3 Nh4+ 72.Kf4 Ng6+ 73.Kf5 Ne7+ 74.Ke5 h4+- - 2.54] 70.Kf3 Nh4+ 71.Ke2 Rc2+ 72.Kf1 Ng2 73.Rb1+ Kc4 74.Nf5 - 3.94 [74.Nxh5? b4 75.Ra1 Ne3+ 76.Kg1 b3 77.Ra8 Nd5+- - 7.00] 74...b4 75.Kg1 Kc5 76.Ra1?+- - 5.08 [76.Rb3 Nf4 77.Re3 Nd5+- - 4.03] 76...b3 77.Ra5+ Kb4 78.Ra7 Nf4?+- - 3.99 [78...b2 79.Rb7+ Kc5 80.Kh2 Ne3+ 81.Kh3 Nf1+- - 5.30] 79.Rb7+ Kc3 80.Ne3 - 5.09 [80.Rxb3+? Kxb3 81.Nd4+ Kc3 82.Nxc2 Kxc2+- - 11.49] 80...Rc1+-- - 4.93 0-1

In Rd. 10 Aronian won an ending against Adams, being up 2 pawns. This allowed Aronian to become co-leader with Karjakin. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Aronian, Levon (2750) – Adams, Michael (2712) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (10), 28.01.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 [3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Be7=] 3...d5 4.Nf3 dxc4 Adams goes up a P 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Qa4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Nd5 8.Bxb4 Ndx4 9.Nc3 a6 [9...Bd7 10.0-0 a5 11.Qb5 Nxd4 12.Qxc4 Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3 c6=] 10.Ne5 0-0?!± [10...Bd7 11.Nxd7 b5 12.Qd1 Qxd7=] 11.Nxc6 [11.a3 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd5±] 11...Nxc6 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Qxc4 material equality 13...Rb8 [13...e5 14.dxe5 Qe7 15.f4 Rb8±] 14.b3 [14.0-0-0 Qd6 15.Qc5 f6±] 14...Qd6 [14...e5 15.Rd1 Be6 16.Qc5 e4±] 15.Ne4?!= [15.Rd1 e5 16.dxe5 Qxe5±] 15...Qb4+?!± Aronian gets a " clear " advantage [15...Qd5 16.Qxd5 cxd5 17.Nc5 Re8=] 16.Qxb4 Rxb4 17.0-0-0?=[17.e3 e5 18.Nc5 exd4 19.a3 Rb8 20.exd4 Rd8±] 17...e5 18.Rd2 a5?± [18...exd4 19.Rhd1 Bg4 20.Rxd4 Rxd4 21.Rxd4 Bxe2 22.Rd7 Rc8=] 19.Rhd1 a4 20.Nc5 axb3 21.axb3 Be6 22.Kb2 Rb5 23.Rc1 Rfb8 24.Rc3 exd4 25.Rxd4 h6 26.Nxe6 fxe6 27.Rd7 R8b7 28.Rd4?!± [28.Re7 Rh5 29.h4 Re5±] 28...Kf7 [28...Rb8± offering to draw] 29.h4 Ke7 30.Re4 R7b6 31.Rce3 c5 32.Rg4 Kf7 33.Rf3+ Kg8 34.Rc3 Rd6 35.Ra4 Kf7 36.Kc2 Ke7 37.Rg4 Ra5?!± [37...Kf7±] 38.Rxg7+ Aronian goes up a P 38...Kf6 39.Rxc7 Aronian goes up 2 P 39...Ra2+ 40.Kc1 Rxe2?!+- Aronian is only up a P now, but gets a " winning " advantage [40...Rdd2 41.Rf3+ Ke5 42.Rxc5+ Kd6 43.Rfc3 Rxe2 44.Rc6+ Kd7 45.Rc2 Rxf2 46.Rxf2 Rxf2 47.Rc3 Kd6±] 41.Rf3+ Kg6 42.Rxc5 Aronian goes up 2 P 42...Rdd2 43.h5+ Kg7 44.Rc7+ Kg8 45.Re3+- Adams resigned. The game could have continued 45...Rxe3 46.Kxd2 Rxb3 47.Re7 Rb5+- 1.56[47...Rb2+ 48.Ke3 Rb3+ (48...Rb1+- 1.64) 49.Kf4 Rb4+ 50.Kf3 Rb5 51.Kg4 Re5+- 1.52] 1-0

In Rd. 11, Aronian, then the clear leader, sacked the exchange for 2 pawns compensation. Then it converted to him having 2 pawns for a knight. But he could not hold it and Dominguez



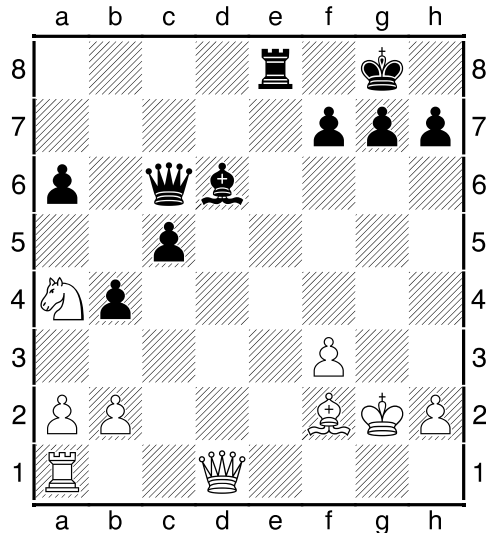
moved into a 4-way tie for first with Aronian, Movsesian and Radjabov, with 2 rounds to go. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Dominguez Perez, L (2717) – Aronian, L (2750) [C88]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (11), 30.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1?!=** [6.Nc3 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.d3 d6±] **6...b5?!±** [6...d6 7.d4 b5 8.Bb3 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.c3 dxc3 11.Nxc3 0-0=] **7.Bb3 0-0 8.d4 Nxd4** Aronian goes up a P [8...d6 9.c3 Bg4 10.Qd3 Qd7±] **9.Nxd4 exd4 10.e5 Ne8 11.c3?!=** [11.Qf3 Rb8 12.c3 dxc3 13.Nxc3 d6±] **11...dxc3 12.Nxc3 d6 13.Bd5** [13.Qf3 Be6 14.Rd1 Qc8 15.Nd5 Bd8=] **13...Rb8 14.Be3 Be6 15.Ba7 Bxd5 16.Bxb8?!±** Dominguez wrongly goes up the exchange; Aronian has a P compensation, and gets the advantage for the first time in the game [16.Nxd5 Rb7 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.exd6 Qxd6=] **16...Bb7?!=** [16...Ba8 17.Ba7 c5±] **17.Ba7 Qa8** [17...c5 18.Rc1 Qc7=] **18.exd6 Bxd6 19.Bd4 b4 20.Na4 Bxg2** Aronian has 2 P compensation for being down the exchange **21.Rxe8 Qxe8** [21...Rxe8?! 22.Qg4 Be5 23.Bxe5 Rxe5 24.Qxg2 Qe8 25.b3 h6±] **22.Kxg2** Dominguez has N vs 2 P, but the position is equal **22...c5 23.Be3 Qc6+ 24.f3 Re8 25.Bf2**

Position after 25.Bf2



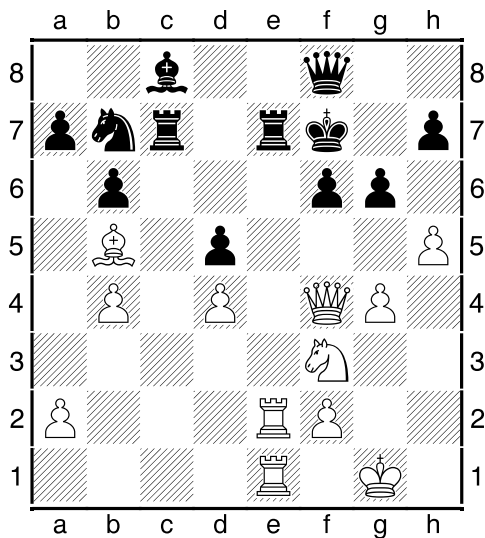
c4?± the losing move; Dominguez gets a " clear " advantage [25...Re5 26.Rc1 Rd5 27.Qb3 Rg5+ 28.Kf1 Rf5=] **26.Nb6 c3** [26...Bf4 27.Nd5 Be5 28.Nxb4 Qg6+ 29.Kh1 Qh6 30.Qg1 a5 31.Nd5 Qc6±] **27.bxc3 bxc3 28.Qd5 Qc7 29.Nc4 Bb4 30.Rc1 Re2 31.Rxc3** Dominguez is up N vs P **31...h6?!+-** Dominguez gets a " winning " advantage [31...g6 32.Rc1 Qa7 33.Qd8+ (33.Rf1? Bc5 34.f4 (34.Qd8+?! Kg7 35.Qh4 Qc7±) 34...Rxf2+ 35.Rxf2 Bxf2 36.Qd8+ Kg7 37.Nd6 h6 38.Ne8+ Kh7 39.Nf6+ Kg7 40.Ne8+=) 33...Kg7±; 31...Bxc3?? 32.Qa8+ Qd8 33.Qxd8+ Re8 34.Qxe8#] **32.Re3** [32.Rc1?! Rxa2±] **32...Rxa2?+-** 2.89 Dominguez is up N vs 2 P's , but sacking the exchange is better for Aronian, though still losing [32...Rxf2+! 33.Kxf2 Qxh2+ 34.Kf1 Qh1+ 35.Ke2 Qe1+ 36.Kd3 Qb1+- 1.71] **33.Re8+ Kh7 34.Ne3?+-** 2.57 [34.Ne5 Rxf2+ 35.Kxf2 Qc2+ 36.Kg3 Be1+ 37.Kh3 Qf5+ 38.Kg2 Qc2+ 39.Kh1 Qb1+- 3.96] **34...Rxf2+** 3.52 in desperation, Aronian correctly sacs the exchange, though he is still lost [34...Rb2? 35.Qd3+ g6 36.Qd4 Rxf2+ 37.Kxf2 Qxh2+ 38.Ng2 Be1+ 39.Rxe1 Qb8+- 9.07; 34...Ra4?? 35.Qf5+ g6 36.Qf6 Qxh2+ 37.Kxh2 Bd6+ 38.f4 Bxf4+ 39.Kg2 Bxe3 40.Qxf7#; 34...Qa5? 35.Qe4+ f5 36.Nxf5 Rxf2+ 37.Kxf2 Qa2+ 38.Kf1 Qa1+ 39.Kg2 Qa2+ 40.Kh3 Qf7+- 11.54; 34...Rd2? 35.Qe4+ f5 36.Qxb4+- 5.50] **35.Kxf2** Dominguez is up R vs 2 P's **35...Bc3 36.Kg2+-** 3.42 Dominguez is up R vs 2 P's **1-0**

In Rd. 12, Carlsen got a devastating K-side attack against Smeets, won his second game of the tournament, and moved into a 6-way tie for first with Aronian, Radjabov, Movsesian, Karjakin and Dominguez. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2776) – Smeets, J (2601) [B10]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (12), 31.01.2009

1.c4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bb5 e6 8.0-0 Be7?!± [8...Bd6 9.d4 0-0=] 9.d4 0-0 10.Re1 Bd7 [10...Nf6 11.Be3 Bd7±] 11.Bd3?!= [11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Qb3 Be6±] 11...Rc8 [11...Nf6?! 12.Ne5 Nb4 13.Bb1 Be8±] 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Ne5 Bf6 [13...Be6 14.Bd2 Nb4 (14...Nxd4 15.Bc3 Nf5=) 15.Bb1 g6 16.Qb3 Nc6 17.Nxc6 bxc6=] 14.Bf4 [14.Nxc6 Rxc6 15.Bf4 Re6=] 14...g6?!± [14...Be6 15.Nxc6 Rxc6=] 15.Qb3 Na5 [15...Nxd4 16.Qxb7 Be6 17.Qxa7 Nc2 18.Bxc2 Rxc2±] 16.Qb4 [16.Qxd5 Bc6 17.Qxd8 Rfxd8 18.Rab1 Rxd4±] 16...Be6 17.Bh6 Bg7 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.h4?!= [19.a4 Re8 20.h3 Re7 21.Nf3 f6±] 19...Re8?!± [19...b6 20.Ba6 Rc2=] 20.h5 f6 21.Nf3 b6 22.Bb5 Re7 23.Re2 Rcc7?!± Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [23...Nc6 24.Qa3 Bg4±] 24.Rae1 Kf7?!+- Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [24...Nc6 25.Qa3 Bf7±] 25.Qd2 Qf8 26.Qf4 Bf5 27.g4 Bc8?+- 7.88 [27...Be4 28.g5 f5 29.Ne5+ Rxe5 30.Qxe5 Qd8+- 4.75] 28.b4?+- 4.05 Carlsen misses the long mating line [28.g5 f5 29.hxg6+ hxg6 30.Ne5+ Kg7 31.Nxg6 Kxg6 32.Qd6+ Kh5 33.Rxe7 f4 34.Be8+ Kg4 35.Qxc7 Bf5+- it is mate in 10 moves] 28...Nb7



29.Bc6!+- 5.77 Smeets resigned. He must lose material: [29.g5? Rxe2 30.Qxc7+ Qe7 31.Rc1 Qxc7 32.Rxc7+ Re7 33.hxg6+ hxg6 34.Rxc8 Nd6 35.gxf6 Nxc8 36.fxe7 Nxe7 37.Ne5+ Ke6+- 4.68] **29...h6** [29...Rxc6? 30.Rxe7+ Qxe7 31.Ng5+ Ke8 32.Rxe7+ Kxe7 33.Nxh7 g5 34.Nxg5 fxg5 35.Qxg5+ Ke8 36.b5 Rc3 37.Qxd5 Nd8+- 8.99 Carlsen would have Q + 4 P vs R + B + N] **30.g5 hxg5 31.Nxg5+ Kg7 32.h6+ Kh8 33.Qxc7! Rxc7 34.Re8 fxe5 35.Rxf8+ Kh7 36.Ree8 Kxh6 37.Rxc8 Rxc8 38.Rxc8 Nd6+- 7.53** Carlsen would be up R vs P **1-0**

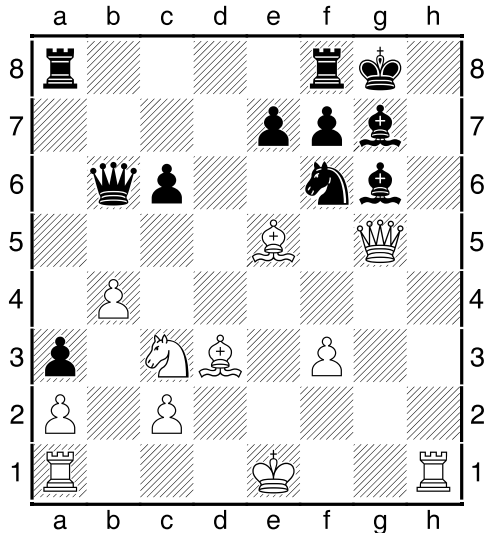
In the final round 13, Karjakin defeated Dominguez, who over-pressed, in an exciting game. This allowed Karjakin to take clear first. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Dominguez Perez, L (2717) – Karjakin, Sergey (2706) [B90]

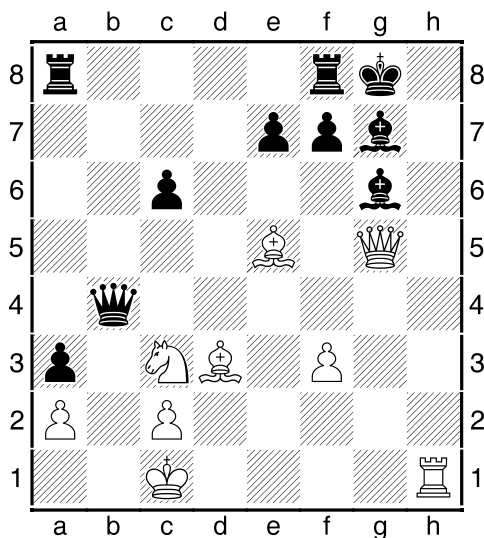
Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (13), 01.02.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bc1 [7.Bg5 Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6±] 7...Nf6 8.Be3 [8.Be2 g6 9.Be3 Bg7±] 8...Ng4 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 Bg7 12.h3 Nf6 13.Qe2 Nc6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.e5 dxe5 16.Bxe5 0-0 17.g4?!= [17.g3 a5 18.Bg2 Ba6±] 17...a5?!± [17...Be6 18.Bg2 Rb8=] 18.h4 Bxg4?!± Karjakin goes up a P, but Dominguez gets a " clear " advantage [18...Ba6 19.Qf3 Bxf1 20.hxg5 hxg5 21.Kxf1 Qd7±] 19.f3 Bf5 20.hxg5 hxg5 21.Qe3 a4 [21...Qd7 22.Qxg5 Qe6 23.f4 Rfd8±; 21...Qc8 22.Qxg5 Qe6±] 22.Qxg5 material equality [22.Bd3 Bxd3 23.0-0-0 a3 24.b3 Qc8±] 22...Bg6 23.Bd3 [23.Bc4? e6 24.Qg3 Qa5=; 23.f4?! e6 24.Bd3 Nd7±] 23...a3 [23...Qa5 24.Bxg6 fxe5 25.f4 a3 26.b4 Qxb4 27.Qxg6 Ra5±] 24.b4 Qb6

Position after 24...Qb6



25.Rh4?= Dominguez has lost his advantage [25.Rb1 Nh7 26.Qf4 Bxe5 27.Qxe5 Qb8±] 25...Nh7 26.Rxh7?!± Dominguez wrongly decides to sac the exchange to continue his attack. For the first time in the game, Karjakin gets the advantage [26.Qf4 Bxe5 27.Qxe5 Qg1+ 28.Bf1 Qg5 29.Qxg5 Nxe5 30.Bg2 e5= material equality] 26...Kxh7 Karjakin goes up the exchange 27.0-0-0 Qxb4 Karjakin is up the exchange + P 28.Rh1+ [28.Bxg6+ fxe5 29.Rh1+ Kg8±] 28...Kg8



29.Bxg7??-+ - 1.71 Dominguez blunders, exchanging the wrong B; Karjakin gets a "winning" advantage [29.Bxg6 fxc6 30.Qxg6 Rf6 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Ne4 Rd8#] **29...Kxg7 30.Qh6+ Kf6 31.Ne4+?!-+ - 2.63** [31.Bxg6 fxc6 32.Ne4+ Ke6 33.Qxg6+ Kd7 34.Rd1+ Kc7 35.Qg3+ Kb6 36.Rd3 Qb2+ 37.Kd2 Rfd8+- - 2.07] **31...Ke6 32.Rd1?-+ - 3.36** [32.Qh3+ f5 33.Qg3 Kd7 34.Qxg6 fxe4 35.Qg4+ Kc7 36.Qxe4 Qxe4 37.Bxe4 Rab8-+ - 2.11] **32...Qb2+ 33.Kd2 Kd7?-+ - 1.90** [33...Rh8 34.Qf4 Bxe4 35.fxe4 Qb4+ 36.Ke3 f6-+ - 3.50] **34.Qf4?-+ - 3.57** [34.Nc5+ Ke8 35.Bxg6 Rd8+ 36.Ke2 Qb5+ 37.Rd3 Rxd3 38.Nxd3 fxc6 39.Qxg6+ Kd8-+ - 1.67] **34...Rfd8 35.Ke2 Ke8 36.Rh1 Ra5 37.Qc7 Rad5 38.Ke3?-+ -7.66** [38.Qxc6+ Kf8 39.Ke3 e6 40.Qc7 Kg7-+ - 2.74] **38...Kf8?-+ - 3.13** [38...Rxd3+ 39.cxd3 Bxe4 40.fxe4 Qd4+ 41.Kf4 Qf2+ 42.Kg4 Qg2+ 43.Kf4 Qxh1-+ - 16.22 Karjakin would be up R + P] **39.c3?-+ - 25.55** Dominguez blunders his B [39.Qxc6 e6 40.Qc7 Kg7-+ - 2.74] **39...Rxd3+** Karjakin goes up 2 R's + P **40.Kf4 f6?-+ - 15.60** Karjakin misses a long mating line [40...Rxf3+ 41.Kxf3 Bxe4+ 42.Kxe4 Qe2+ 43.Kf4 Qf2+ 44.Kg4 f5+ 45.Kg5 Qg2+ 46.Kxf5 Rd5+ it is mate in 8 moves] **41.Rh8+ Kf7-+** Dominguez resigned. Karjakin mates in 9 moves **42.Rh7+ Bxh7 43.Ng5+ fxc6+ 44.Kg3 Rxf3+ 45.Kxf3 Rd3+ 46.Kg4 Qg2+ 47.Qg3 Qxc6+ 48.Kh5 Qh4# 0-1**

[Corus B winner – Fabiano Caruana (Italy)
Corus C winner – Wesley So (Philippines)]

New Tournament Added to 2009 Grand Slam

(from ICC Chess.FM Blog): “ News from Wijk aan Zee on the 2009 Grand Slam. Nanjing, China, will join the Grand Slam Chess Association in the 2009 season.

The winner of the category 21 super-tournament that was held from December 10 to 22, 2008, Veselin Topalov, will be retroactively seeded into the Grand Slam Final. The final is planned once again for Bilbao, Spain, next September.

The news was announced at a press conference in Wijk aan Zee this afternoon. Making the announcement were representatives from the GSCA, Silvio Danailov, Juan Fernandez, and Jeroen van den Berg.

“Now, with the inclusion of Asia, we think that the association of professional chess will be much more important,” Danailov said, paraphrasing Juan Fernandez, who spoke in Spanish.

The decision to retroactively qualify Topalov was reached by consensus of the GSCA organizers, in an effort to speed up the inclusion of China by making it the first tournament in the current season.

A fifth tournament is tentatively planned from a country in South America, as early as this year, perhaps July. The winner would also qualify. A sixth qualifier will be chosen as a wild card.

The schedule of the Grand Slam events in 2009 is as follows:

Linares: February 18 to Mar 8
M-tel Masters: May 12 to 24

Bilbao: September 2 to 15

Nanjing (provisional dates): Sept 27 to Oct 8 “

It is interesting to note that this major development of a Grand Slam circuit, has been the result of “ private enterprise “, not FIDE. And it contrasts significantly with all the administrative problems the FIDE Grand Prix has been experiencing. It gives a lot more ammunition to the right wing arguments, over big government ! The other aspect that will fuel skeptics is the fact that Danilov, Topalov’s manager, is one of the Grand Slam organizers, and he has now gotten his client into the most prestigious tournament as the first qualifier. The counter to this is that all the qualifying tournament organizers have agreed to this. So we’ll leave the skeptics to rail on.

FIDE Grand Prix in Trouble - Karlovy Vary officially cancelled

(from ChessBase) 19.01.2009 – The Grand Prix circuit, announced by FIDE in February 2008, has run into further trouble. After Doha pulled out and the event had to be hurriedly moved to Elista, Kalmykia, some of the participants – Magnus Carlsen, Michael Adams – followed suit. Then the fourth Grand Prix in Montreux, Switzerland was cancelled, and now the sixth in the Czech Republic is off the table.

FIDE Women’s Grand Prix 2009-2010

original list of players:

1. Kosteniuk Alexandra (RUS) WWC 2008
2. Hou Yifan (CHN) – finalist WWCC 2008
3. Koneru Humpy (IND) – semifinalist WWCC 2008
4. Pia Cramling (SWE) – semifinalist WWCC 2008
5. Polgar Judit (HUN) 2709,50 - Oct 07 & 08
6. Polgar Zsuzsa (USA) 2577,00 - Oct 07 & 08
7. Xie Jun (CHN) 2574,00 - Oct 07 & 08
8. Zhao Xue (CHN) 2524,00 - Oct 07 & 08
9. Sebag Marie (FRA) 2521,00 - Oct 07 & 08
10. Zhu Chen (QAT) 2513,50 - Oct 07 & 08

11. President’s nominee
12. President’s nominee
13. Host city nominee
14. Host city nominee
15. Host city nominee
16. Host city nominee
17. Host city nominee
18. Host city nominee

1st reserve by rating: Stefanova Antoaneta (BUL) 2505,50 - Oct 07 & 08

2nd reserve by rating: Kosintseva Tatiana (RUS) 2502,50 - Oct 07 & 08
3rd reserve by rating: Chiburdanidze Maia (GEO) 2494,50 - Oct 07 & 08

Format of the Women's Grand Prix 2009-2010

The Grand Prix will be a series of six tournaments held over two years (2009-2010) in leading world cities. The bidding process for the final selection of cities will commence in June 2008 and be finalized by Dresden Congress, November 2008.

The timing of evaluating and contracting host city offers will be very important particularly at the start of the series. Offers to host and contract three tournaments over the next six years (i.e. three cycles – for 2009/10, 2011/2 and 2013/4) will be given preference.

18 top world players will be selected to compete in these tournaments. Each player agrees and will contract to participate in exactly 4 of these tournaments. Players must rank their preference of tournaments once the final list of host cities is announced and the dates are allocated to each host city.

FIDE reserves the right to assign players to tournaments according to the organizational needs and the players for each tournament will be announced before the cycle begins.

Each tournament will have 12 players playing over a schedule of seventeen days. The months allocated for the organization of the Grand Prix tournaments are March, June and September of each respective year. These months have been selected to ensure there is no conflict with any other major event.

In view of an objective of harmonization of the FIDE chess calendar, the months for the Grand Prix for 2009/2010 are fixed as above, and the World Cup will be scheduled to meet the timing of the Grand Prix series.

(Source – FIDE –Global Chess)

Given all the problems with the open Grand Prix (see article above), one has to wonder how FIDE will get enough cities to bid for this – is it doomed to fall apart too?

No Doping Penalty for Ivanchuk

(from Susan Polgar Chess Blog)

Breaking News! No Penalty for Ivanchuk!



Wijk aan Zee (NED), January 21, 2009

Drug testing is still relatively rare in chess. However, it does occur in various official

events and was carried out during the course of the Dresden Olympiad. Unfortunately, a high proportion of the tests were scheduled during the last round and there was a lack of personnel, which led to a procedural error: there was not a designated Doping Control Officer present at this match (USA v Ukraine).

After losing a crucial game for his country, Mr. Ivanchuk was distraught. The Hearing Panel concludes that although the arbiter attempted to inform Mr. Ivanchuk in English that he should accompany him for a doping test, Mr. Ivanchuk apparently failed to understand the instructions, especially since English is not Mr. Ivanchuk's first language. If there had been a Doping Control Officer present, he would have immediately gone to Mr. Ivanchuk's board and there would have been communication between him and Mr. Ivanchuk. In that case the outcome might have been different. Because there was no notification by the Doping Control officer, there was no refusal in the sense of the regulations.

The Conclusion:

The procedural error allied with Mr. Ivanchuk's state of mind led him unintentionally to miss the test. **The Hearing Panel therefore concludes unanimously that there should be no penalty.**

Spraggett 2nd – Seville International, Spain

This 221 player tournament, including 14 GM's, was a 9-round swiss, and concluded Jan. 31. On tie-break, GM Kevin Spraggett, 1/2 pt. behind the winner, came second (he was originally ranked 2nd as well).

XXXIV Abierto Internacional "Ciudad de Sevilla"
Clasificación Final

Rank S No. Name Rtg FED Club Pts BH.

1	11	GM	RIVAS PASTOR Manuel	2514	ESP	ESPAÑA	.....	7½	45
2	2	GM	SPRAGGETT Kevin	2586	CAN	CANADA		7	46
3	23	IM	HUERGA LEACHE Mikel	2418	ESP	ESPAÑA	.....	7	45½
4	7	GM	MATAMOROS FRANCO Carlos S	2532	ECU	ECUADOR	....	7	45½
5	3	GM	SALGADO LOPEZ Ivan	2554	ESP	ESPAÑA	.....	7	45½
6	5	GM	KURAJICA Bojan	2552	CRO	CROACIA	.....	7	45
7	15	GM	POGORELOV Ruslan	2451	UKR	UKRANIA	.....	7	41½
8	31	WIM	ROBLES GARCIA Claudia	2258	ESP	GRANADA	.....	7	37½

Unbalanced Material

(Written and copyright 2009 by David Cohen)

I love playing through chess games where there is a huge material imbalance. Just how much material can a player sacrifice, in exchange for the opportunity to attack? Will it lead to mate? Will it lead to the material being regained with interest, and a won position

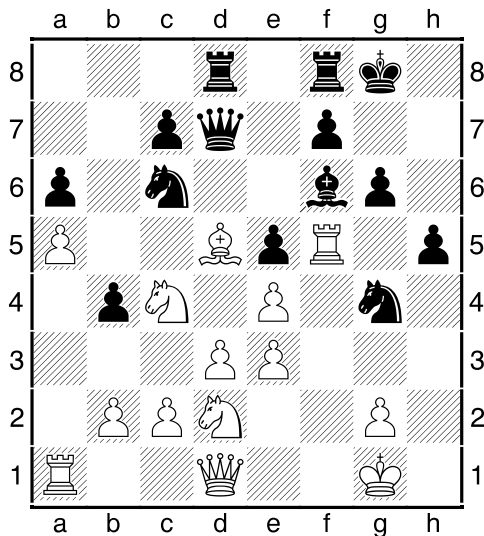
reached? The situation must resolve itself eventually. But the play between the first sacrifice and the resolution is very entertaining.

Here's an example for you to play through and enjoy.

Viswanathan **Anand** - Ivan **Sokolov**

Hoogovens, Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands, 1996

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 O-O 8.a4 b4 9.d3 d6 10.a5 Bg4 11.Be3 d5 12.Nbd2 h6 13.h3 d4 14.hxg4 dxe3 15.fxe3 Nxg4 16.Bd5 Qd7 17.Nc4 Bf6 18.Nfd2 h5 19.Rf1 Rad8 20.Rf5 g6



So far, it's been a normal Spanish game: White attacks on the king-side, Black tries for counter-play. But now the game gets crazy!

21.Qxg4 hxg4 22.Rxf6

White receives only 2 minor pieces in return for the sacrificed queen and the chance to attack!

22... Ne7 23.Bxf7+

No retreat; White must continue to attack! If 23... Rxf7 24.Rxf7 Kxf7 25.Nxe5+, 26.Nxd7 winning back the queen and coming out ahead by 2 pawns.

23... Kg7 24.Raf1 Qb5 25.g3 Rd7 26.R1f2 Qc5 27.Nb3 Qa7

27... Qb5 guarding P/e5 would mean equality.

28.Nxe5

White can also try 28.Rxa6 Qxa6 29.Nc5 Qc6 30.Ne6+ Qxe6 (forced since king moves like 30... Kh7 are met by 31.Rh2#) 31.Bxe6 Rxf2 32.Kxf2.

28... Qxe3 29.Nxd7

White regained all of the material and more, but now Black has the chance to counter-attack.

29... Rh8 30.Kg2 Rh3 31.Bxg6 Nxb6 32.Kf1 Rh1+

32... Rxb3 was another way to continue.

33.Kg2 Rd1 34.Rxb6+ Kxb6 35.Ne5+ Kg7 36.Nxb4 Qe1 37.Kf3 Qh1+ 38.Kf4 Rf1 39.Ke3 Qg1 40.Kf3 Rxf2+ 41.Nxf2 Qb1

A tremendous battle, but it's over. There is material equality, but the endgame factors are decisive. Black's queen is mobile, whereas White's knights have limited range. White's passed pawns are not as effective (nor as quick) against the queen as the lone Black outside passed pawn is against the knights.

42.Nd4 Qxb2 43.Nf5+ Kf7 44.Ne3 Qa2 45.d4 Qxa5 46.e5 Qa1 47.Ke4 a5 48.d5 a4 0-1

Canadian Post-Secondary Chess Championship

(posted by Frank Dixon on ChessTalk)

Congratulations to the team from the University of Western Ontario, which captured the 2009 Canadian Post-Secondary Team Championship, hosted in Kingston by Queen's University this weekend!!

Western, the top seed, scored 4.5/5 match points, defeating in head-to-head encounters Toronto (#3 seed), Waterloo (#4), Guelph (#5), and Carleton (#6). Only in the last round did they allow a drawn match with #2 seed Dalhousie, after they had already clinched at least a tie for first going into the round. Western wins the Queen's Cup for Chess, donated by the Queen's University Chess Club for annual national competition at this level.

Western's team is (from boards one to four): FM Raja Panjwani, FM Jonathan Tayar, Sean Rachar, and Irakli Vadachkoriya.

There was a five-way tie for second place, among Dalhousie, Toronto, Waterloo, Guelph, and Queen's. Guelph had the most game points, so is placed second on tiebreak.

Board prizes in the top section were won by:

1: FM Christian Stevens (Guelph), 4.5/5 [Ed. – former SCC junior]

- 2: FM Jonathan Tayar (Western), 5/5
- 3: Alex Ferreira (Toronto), 4.5/5 [Ed. – SCC member]
- 4: Irakli Vadachkoriya (Western), 4/5.

The Group B tournament was won by University of Toronto C, with a perfect 5/5 match points. McMaster placed second on tiebreak over Western B, both with 3.5/5.

And especial thanks to IA / IO Hal Bond, Chief Arbiter, and Head Organizer Tyler Longo, President of the Queen's Chess Club [Ed. – former SCC member]. The event ran very smoothly with no disputes, and the players displayed outstanding sportsmanship. Feedback from players showed they were happy with the event.

Next year's championship will be hosted in January, 2010 by the University of Toronto, Hart House Chess Club.

A “ Class Tournament “ Is a Good Idea

Last Issue, we lobbed into the discussion arena, the idea of holding a “ Class Tournament “. Its features were:

1. **The Equal Treatment Rule** - The entry fees, minus a proportionate amount of the expenses (No. of players in a section/total no. of players), would STAY in a section - if you want bigger prizes in a section, then get out and promote the tournament to players in your section. So the biggest first prize could well be in the U 1400 section, if that's where the most players show up ! (that may drive some > 2000 players nuts).
2. **The “ More “ Prizes Rule** - There will be a prize for every 4 players in the section.
3. **The Anti-Sandbagging Rule** – A player may not play in a section for which he would otherwise qualify, if, in the last 3 years, his rating has been higher than the ceiling rating of the section + 50 pts (e.g. a player is rated 1799 and wants to play in the 1799 & Under section. But in 2007, his rating was 1850. His highest allowable rating would be $1799 + 50 = 1849$. Therefore he cannot play in his otherwise normal section).

We had the opinion of one SCC organizer, Alex Ferreira, who had some concerns about this idea. We asked our readers to weigh in with their ideas. Here are some thoughts on this type of tournament from SCC President, and past organizer, Maurice Smith:

“ I think having class tournaments is a great idea. Many years ago we used to have Class Championships for just the class players. However, the high rated players made a fuss so eventually they were included too. At the moment the masters do all right with tournaments. There are many weekend tournaments in Ontario. Nearly all of them offer by far the most money in the top section. The result is the class players are subsidizing the top players.

The result of that is that many class players have dropped out of these tournaments. I find that looking at cross tables, that the high rated players remain steady, but the class sections are mostly filled with Juniors. The total attendance is nowhere near where it used to be. Top players generally stay in the game in pursuit of titles, while Juniors dream of getting to the top. However when class players realize that they have probably reached the best level, there are no incentives for them to continue. They can either keep on subsidizing the top level or play on the internet. The last five years have seen a tremendous loss of CFC members and mainly they are class players. They desperately need incentives to keep playing.

Several years ago the CFC budgeted \$6,000 for the Canadian Championship. This was when they had a lot of class players paying membership fees. Now the players have to pay a high entry fee and also hope there is sponsorship. Losing class players hurts the top rated players more than most other things. Therefore incentives for class players helps all players when you look at the larger picture. I would play in such a tournament. However I keep hoping that I have retired from organizing. Anyway, class tournaments is a good idea and I hope it receives the support it should. “

What do you think? Would you play in such a tournament? Would you organize such a tournament? Let us know why, or, why not ! We'll publish your opinion next Issue.

Toronto Closed Starts

This tournament started Tuesday, Jan. 27 at the Willowdale CC and runs to April..

The **Championship section** is a 10-player round robin (Av. Rtg. – 2222). The participants are:

David (Yu) Peng 2372

Michael Barron 2344

Roman Sapozhnikov 2274

Michael Kimelman 2273

Wajdy Shebetah 2251

Liam Henry 2242 (former SCC junior)

Arthur Calugar 2226

Ruperto Frilles 2096 (former SCC member)

Geordie Derraugh 2090 (SCC member)

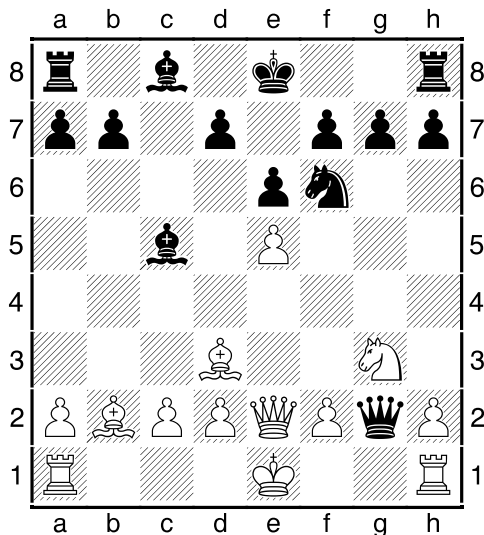
Nikita Gusev 2051

A wild opening occurred in the game between Sapozhnikov and Michael K., with Roman coming out on top. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Sapozhnikov, Roman – Kimelman, Michael [B30]

Toronto Closed Championship Willowdale Chess Club (1), 27.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **1...c5** **2.Nf3 e6** **3.Nc3 Nc6** [3...d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Nxd4 Bxb5 7.Ndxb5 a6 8.Nd4 Be7±] **4.Bb5 Nd4** **5.Nxd4?!=** [5.0-0 a6 6.Bd3 Ne7±] **5...cxd4** **6.Ne2?!±** Michael gets the advantage [6.Nb1 Qg5 7.Bf1 W has made a full retreat; after 7 moves, all major pieces are on their home squares ! 7...Bb4=] **6...Qg5** **7.Bc4?!±** Michael gets a " clear " advantage [7.a4 Qxg2 8.Ng3 Qh3±] **7...Qxg2** Michael goes up a P **8.Ng3 d3?±** Michael returns the P, to clear the diagonal for the B, but loses his advantage [8...Qh3 9.Qh5 Qxh5 10.Nxh5 g6 11.Ng3 Ne7±] **9.Bxd3** material equality **9...Bc5** a little mate threat **10.Qe2 Nf6?±** now Roman gets a " clear " advantage [10...Ne7 11.e5 0-0=] **11.b4?±** Roman wrongly offers to sac a P in developing his Q-side B (which Michael shouldn't take), and he loses his advantage too [11.e5 Nd5 12.Be4 Qh3 13.c3 Nf4 14.Qf3 Ng6±] **11...Bxb4?!±** Michael goes up a P [11...Bd4 12.c3 Be5 13.f4 Qxe2+ 14.Nxe2 Bc7=] **12.Bb2?!=** [12.e5 Nd5 13.Be4 Qh3±] **12...Bc5?!±** [12...Qh3 13.0-0-0 Qh4=] **13.e5**



Nh5?+- Michael wrongly sacs his N for an attack; Roman gets a " winning " advantage [13...Nd5 14.Be4 Qh3±] **14.Qxh5** Roman is up an N vs P **14...Bxf2+** Roman is up N vs 2 P **15.Kd1 Bxg3** **16.hxg3 Qxg3** Michael has managed to get 3 P's vs B, but Roman has a " winning " advantage **17.Rf1 g6** **18.Qh6 Qg4+** **19.Kc1 b5?+-** 8.32 Michael wrongly sacs a P to open a file to the W K [19...Qb4 20.Rb1 Qc5 21.Bc3 a5+- 3.79] **20.Qg7 Rf8** **21.Bxb5** Roman is up B vs 2 P's **21...Qb4** 10.43 [21...Qg3 22.a4 Bb7+- 10.16] **22.a4!+-** 10.49 creating the X-ray attack on the Q and f8R by the B, and it is mate. Michael resigned. The game could have continued **22...a6** **23.Ba3 Qxa3+** **24.Rxa3 axb5** **25.Raf3 Ke7** [25...Bb7?? 26.Rxf7 0-0-0 27.Rxf8 Bc6 28.Rxd8+ Kxd8 29.Qf8+ Kc7 30.a5 d5 31.Rf7+ Bd7 32.Qd6+ Kb7 33.Rxd7+ Ka8 34.Qf8#] **26.Rxf7+ Rxf7** **27.Rxf7+ Kd8** **28.Qf8+ Kc7** **29.Qc5+ Kb7** **30.Qxb5+ Ka7+-** it is mate in 9 moves **1-0**

The **Reserves section** is a 9-player round robin (Av. Rtg. – 1962) :

Michael Kleinman 2046

Alex Ferreira 2017 (SCC member)

Anthony Cheron 2012

Yelizaveta Orlova 1993

Mickey Stein 1985 (former SCC member)

Oleg Tseluiko 1968

Dariush Kenani 1908

Alexandru Florea 1885

Bob Armstrong 1845 (SCC member)

SCC Jack Frost Swiss

This 8 Rd. swiss started Thursday, January 8 and runs to Thursday, February 26. It is held in 2 sections: Open Section; U 1700 section. 35 players registered for the Open section. As with our first tournament this year, it was very strong at the top, with 5 masters and 6 experts !! 29 players registered for the U 1700 section. The total of 64 players continued the highest numbers we have had out since early in the millennium. The highest we've had out this 2008-9 year is 68 players for the Howard Ridout Swiss in the early Fall, 2008.

In Rd. 2, Jim Paterson

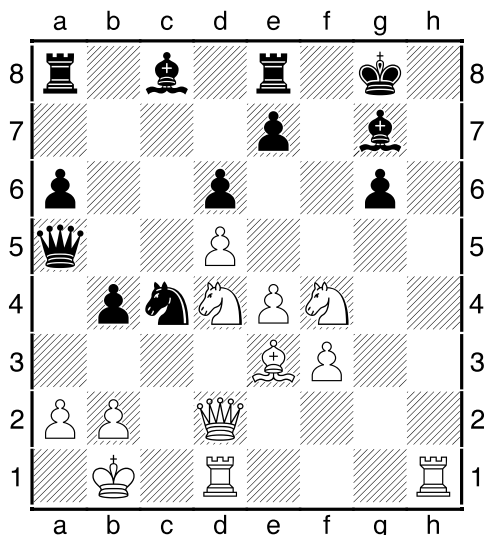


showed how one can attack against the King's Indian, with the Samisch line, though Lui Morra defended admirably until the very end. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Paterson, Jim (1809) – Morra, Lui (1622) [E81]

Scarb.CC Jack Frost Sw. (1700 & Over) Toronto (2), 15.01.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± [2...e6=] 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3= King's Indian – Samisch [5.Nf3±] 5...0-0 6.Be3 c6?!± [6...Nfd7?! 7.h4 c5 8.h5 cxd4 9.Bxd4 Bxd4 10.Qxd4 g5±; 6...Na6 7.Bd3 e5 8.Nge2 Nb4 9.0-0 Nd7=] 7.Qd2 Re8 [7...Qa5 8.Rd1 d5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.e5 Ne8±; 7...Qc7 8.Rd1 c5 9.Nge2 a6±] 8.0-0 a6 9.g4 Jim launches his attack [9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 Qxd2+ 11.Rxd2 Nfd7 12.e6 fxe6±] 9...b5 10.h4 h5?!± Jim gets a " clear " advantage [10...Qa5 11.Qc2 h6 12.g5 hxg5 13.hxg5 Nh5±] 11.gxh5? what seems like a normal move to further the attack is not best. Jim loses his advantage [11.e5 dxe5 12.dxe5 Qxd2+ 13.Rxd2 Nxd4 14.fxg4 Bxg4±] 11...Nhx5 12.Bh3 b4?!± Jim gets back the advantage [12...Qa5 13.Kb1 bxc4 14.Bh6 Bxh3 15.Bxg7 Nxd4 16.Nxh3 Nd7=] 13.Nce2?!= [13.Na4 b3 14.a3 Bxh3 15.Nxh3 Nd7±] 13...Qa5?!± [13...b3 14.a3 (14.axb3?! Qb6=) 14...Nd7±] 14.Kb1 Nd7 15.Bg4 Jim's attack seems stalled [15.Nc1 Qc7 16.Bxd7 Bxd7 17.Nge2 d5±] 15...Nh6 [15...Nb6 16.b3 Bxg4 17.fxg4 Nf6±] 16.Bxd7 [16.h5 Nxd4 17.fxg4 Nf6±] 16...Bxd7 17.Nh3 Be6?!± [17...d5 18.e5 dxc4 19.exf6 exf6 20.Ka1 Re7±] 18.d5 cxd5 19.cxd5 Bc8?!+- Jim gets a " winning " advantage [19...Bxh3 20.Rxh3 Qa4±] 20.Nhf4 20...Nd7?+- 2.16 this is fatal [20...e5 21.Nd3 Rb8+- 1.48] 21.h5 this breaks open Lui's K-side 21...Ne5 22.hxg6?!± [22.Nd4 Nc4 23.Qe2 Nxe3 24.Qxe3 e5 25.dxe6 Bxe6+-] 22...fxg6?!+- 3.53 [22...Nxf3 23.gxf7+ Kxf7 24.Qd3 Bg4+- 2.09] 23.Nd4 Nc4??+- 12.73 Lui attacks when he must defend [23...e6? 24.Nxg6 Qa4+- 10.80; 23...Rf8 24.Qh2 Kf7+- 5.09]



24.Qh2! 15.71 this is dangerous; you can almost feel the mate threat in the air; Jim leaves his B hanging! 24...Kf7 25.Qh7 Nxe3??+- mate in 6 moves [25...Ne5 26.Nc6 Rf8+- it is mate in 12 moves] 26.Qxg6+ Jim goes up a P 26...Kf8?+- mate in 3 moves [26...Kg8 27.Qxe8+ Bf8 28.Rh8+ Kxh8 29.Qxf8+ Kh7 30.Rh1+ Bh3 31.Rxh3#] 27.Nfe6+- Lui resigned. It is mate 27...Bxe6 28.Nxe6+ Kg8 29.Qxg7# 1-0

The next game from Rd. 2 in the top section has 2 interesting features:

1. the opening is unusual;
2. it is like watching a tennis game, as the advantage goes back and forth between Pepin Manalo and Mario Moran-Venegas, until Pepin finally wins. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Manalo, Pepin (1853) – Moran–Venegas, Mario (1766) [C26]

Scarb.CC Jack Frost Sw. (1700 & Over) Toronto (2), 15.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **1...e5 2.Nc3=** [2.Nf3±] **2...Nf6 3.d3?!±** [3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Qxe5+ Qe7 6.Qxe7+ Bxe7 7.Bb3 0-0=] **3...Bc5?±** [3...d5 4.Bg5 d4 5.Nd5 Qd6 6.Nxf6+ gxf6 7.Bd2 Qb6±] **4.f4?±** [4.Bg5 d6 5.Na4 Bb4+ 6.c3 Ba5 7.b4 Bb6 8.Nf3 h6 9.Bh4 Nc6±] **4...d6 5.Be2 a6 6.f5 Nc6?!=** [6...c6 7.g4 h6 8.h4 a5±] **7.h4?±** Mario gets a " clear " advantage [7.Bg5 Nd4 8.Nd5 c6 9.Nxf6+ gxf6 10.Bh4 Bxf5! 11.c3 (11.exf5? Nxf5 12.Nf3 Qb6±) 11...Nxe2 12.Nxe2 Bg4=] **7...Nd4?!±** [7...d5?! 8.g4 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.dxe4 Bd7±; 7...h6 8.Bf3 Nd4 9.g4 c6 10.Nh3 Nd7±] **8.g4 Nxe2?!=** [8...h6 9.g5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 c6±] **9.Qxe2 c6** [9...h5 10.gxh5 Nxh5 11.Qg2 Qd7 12.Bg5 b5=] **10.g5 Ng8?!±** Pepin gets back the advantage [10...Nd7 11.Bd2 b5=] **11.Be3 Qb6 12.Bxc5** [12.Nd1?! h6 13.gxh6 Nxh6 14.Bxc5 Qxc5=] **12...Qxb2?!±** Pepin is up N vs P, and has a " clear " advantage [12...Qxc5 13.0-0-0 b5±] **13.Nd1?±** this loses the exchange, and Pepin's advantage [13.Kd2 dxc5 (13...Qxa1?! 14.Bxd6 Ne7 15.Qg2 Nxf5 16.exf5 Qb2+-) 14.Nf3 f6±] **13...Qxa1 14.Bxd6** Mario is up the exchange **14...Qd4 15.Ba3?!±** Mario gets back a " clear " advantage [15.Bc7 Qc5 16.Nf3 f6±] **15...c5?±** Pepin now gets back the advantage [15...Qd8 16.Bb4 b6±] **16.Nf3 Qd6** [16...Qa4 17.Bb2 h6±] **17.Bb2** [17.Qf2 h6 18.Ne3 b6±] **17...f6 18.Ne3 b5 19.Rg1?±** Mario now gets a " clear " advantage [19.gxf6 gxf6 20.Nxe5! fxe5 21.Qh5+ Kd8 22.Ng4 Bxf5! 23.exf5 Nf6 24.Qh6 Rf8±] **19...Bb7 20.Nd2 0-0-0 21.gxf6 gxf6 22.h5?!+-** Mario gets a " winning " advantage [22.a4 Ne7 23.Rg7 Nc6 24.Qh5 Rd7±] **22...Rd7 23.Rg3 Nh6 24.Qg2 Qf8 25.Nb3 Rg8?!±** [25...Kb8 26.Ba3 Rc7+] **26.Rxg8 Nxg8 27.Ba3 b4?±** Mario has lost his advantage [27...Rg7 28.Bxc5 Qf7±] **28.Bc1 Rg7 29.Qf2 Rc7 30.Nc4 Kd7?±** Pepin gets a " winning " advantage [30...Nh6 31.Bd2 Kd7=] **31.Be3 Qf7?!+-** 3.77 [31...Ke8 32.Bxc5 Qh6 33.Nd6+ Kd7 34.Bxb4 Qxh5+- 3.15] **32.h6** [32.Nxc5+ Ke7 33.Qd2 a5+-] **32...Qh5** 2.19 [32...Bc8 33.Bxc5 Ne7+- 2.91; 32...Qf8 33.Qg1 Nxh6 34.Nxc5+ Rxc5 35.Bxc5 Qg8+- 2.21] **33.Nxc5?+-** 1.56 Mario is still up the exchange, but Pepin has a P compensation now [33.Qg2 Qf7 34.Nxc5+ Rxc5 35.Bxc5 Nxh6+- 6.40 material equality] **33...Kc8?+-** 3.47 [33...Rxc5! 34.Bxc5 Qh1+ 35.Kd2 Qxh6+ 36.Be3 Qf8+- 2.47] **34.Nd6?+-** 1.88 [34.Qg3 Qh1+ 35.Kd2 Ne7+- 5.72] **34...Kb8 35.Ndxb7 Rxb7 36.Nxb7 Kxb7** Pepin is up a P **37.Qg1 Qf7 38.Qg7 Qxg7 39.hxg7 Kc6 40.Kd2 a5 41.c3 Kb5?+-** 5.27 [41...bxc3+ 42.Kxc3 Kd6+- 2.58] **42.d4 bxc3+ 43.Kxc3 h5?+-** 15.59 [43...Kc6 44.dxe5 fxe5 45.Bg5 Kd6+- 7.13] **44.dxe5 fxe5?+-** 27.67 [44...h4 45.exf6 Nxf6 46.Bd4 Nxe4+ 47.Kd3 Nd6+- 24.10] **45.Bg5+-** 27.94 **1-0**

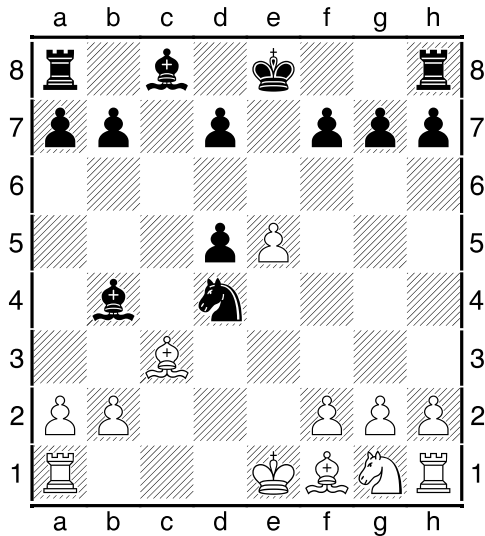
In Rd. 2 in the U 1700 section, newcomer Bill Peng had a game with junior Peter Xie which contained a plethora of tactical lines. Bill won. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Xie, Peter (1468) – Peng, Bill [B22]

Scarb.CC Jack Frost Sw. (U 1700) Toronto (2), 15.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **1...c5 2.c3=** [2.Nf3±] **2...Nf6?!±** [2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5=] **3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4?!=** [5.Qxd4?! e6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Qe4 d6=; 5.Nf3 Nc6 (5...dxc3?? 6.Qxd5+-) 6.cxd4 e6±] **5...e6?!±** [5...Qa5+ 6.Bd2 Qb6 7.Nc3 Qxd4 8.Nf3 Nxc3 9.Bxc3 Qxd1+ 10.Rxd1 b6=] **6.Nc3?!=** [6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Nc3 d6±] **6...Nc6 7.Nxd5 exd5 8.Be3?!±** for the first time in the game, Bill gets the advantage [8.Nf3 d6 9.Bd3 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Bd6=] **8...Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Qb6 10.Bc3?!±** Bill gets a " clear " advantage [10.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 Nxd4±] **10...Qxd4??±** Bill goes up a P, but he misanalyses this combination line; Peter gets back the advantage [10...d6 11.exd6 0-0 12.Bd3 Nxd4± material equality] **11.Qxd4 Nxd4**

Position after 11...Nxd4



12.Bxb4? P Peter is only temporarily up B vs P [12.0-0-0! Bxc3 13.bxc3 Ne6 14.Rxd5 b6± material equality] 12...Nc2+ 13.Kd2 Nxb4 recapturing the minor piece and remaining up a P 14.a3?! P Bill gets back a " clear " advantage [14.Nf3 Ke7 15.Nd4 d6] 14...Nc6 15.Nf3 [15.Bd3 d6 16.exd6 Kd7] 15...0-0?! P sacking the extra P to open up the BI B is better [15...d6 16.exd6 Bg4] 16.Rd1 [16.Bd3 d6 17.exd6 Bg4; 16.Bb5 f6 17.exf6 Rxf6; 16.Re1 d6 17.exd6 Rd8] 16...d6 17.exd6 material equality 17...Rd8 18.Kc1?! P [18.Re1 Be6 19.Bb5 Rxd6] 18...Rxd6 Bill goes up a P 19.Bc4 Be6 20.Ng5!-+ Bill gets a " winning " advantage [20.Be2 d4 21.b4 a6] 20...Ne5 21.Ba2 Bf5 22.Rd2?+ - 3.89 [22.Kd2 Rc8 23.Rde1 Nc4+ 24.Bxc4 dxc4+ 25.Kc1 c3-+ - 2.52] 22...Nd3+ 23.Kd1 Rc8 24.Ke2 h6 25.Nxf7?+ - 3.40 wrong sac [25.Rxd3! Bxd3+ 26.Kxd3 hxg5-+ - 2.68 Bill would be up the exchange + P; 25.g4? Re8+ 26.Kf3 Bg6 27.Nxf7 Be4+ 28.Kg3 Rf6 29.Rxd3 Bxh1 30.Nxh6+ gxh6 31.Bxd5+ Bxd5 32.Rxd5 Re2-+ - 4.31 Bill would be up R vs 2 P's; 25.Nf3?? Re6+ 26.Ne5 (26.Kf1?? Rc1+ 27.Rd1 Rxd1+ 28.Ne1 Rdx1#) 26...Rxe5+ 27.Kf3 Be4+ 28.Ke3 Bxg2+ 29.Kxd3 Bxh1-+ - 10.82 Bill would be up R + 2 P's] 25...Re8+ 26.Kd1 Kxf7?+ - 2.54 Bill goes up an N [26...Rd7 27.h4 (27.Bb1? Nxf2+ 28.Rxf2 Bxb1 29.Kd2 Bg6 30.Nxh6+ gxh6-+ - 4.64 Bill would be up a B) 27...Ree7 (27...Kxf7?? 28.Bb1 Bg4+ 29.f3 Ne5 30.fxg4 Nxg4-+ - 1.77 Bill would only be up a P) 28.Ng5 (28.Nxh6+? gxh6 29.Bb1 Nxf2+ 30.Rxf2 Bxb1-+ - 4.44 Bill would be up a B) 28...hxg5 29.hxg5 Re6-+ - 4.34 Bill would be up N vs P] 27.f3?+ - 6.83 Peter fails to win back the piece [27.Bb1 Rb6 28.Bxd3 Bxd3 29.Rxd3 Rxb2-+ - 2.55 Bill would only be up a P] 27...Rc8 28.Ke2??+ leads to mate [28.Rxd3 Bxd3-+ - 7.23 Bill would be up a R] 28...Re6+ Peter resigned. It is mate 29.Kf1 Re1# 0-1

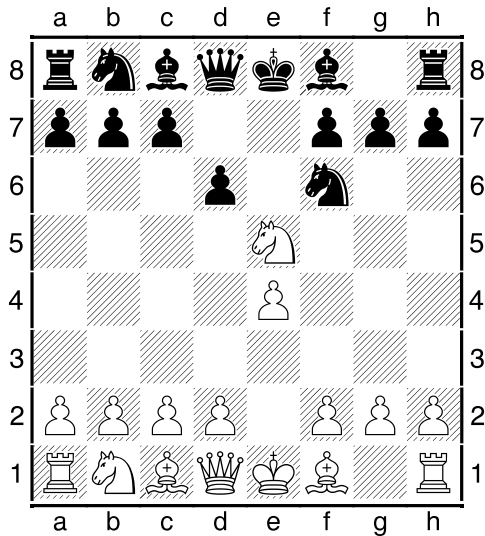
In Rd. 3 on Bd. 2 in the top section, returning member Andrei Moffat sacked (unsoundly) his N for 2 P's. But he managed to then a while later, get the advantage, and then get 3 P's for his N. But John then got the advantage. The tide then shifted again in Andrei's favour and eventually he got 4 P's for his N, a " winning " advantage, and he went on to win. This put him into a 3-way tie for first place. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Moffat, Andrei (2092) – Hall, John (2208) [C42]

Scarb.CC Jack Frost Sw. (1700 & Over) Toronto (3), 22.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 [3.d4 exd4 4.e5 Ne4 5.Qxd4 d5 6.exd6 Nxd6±] 3...d6

Position after 3...d6



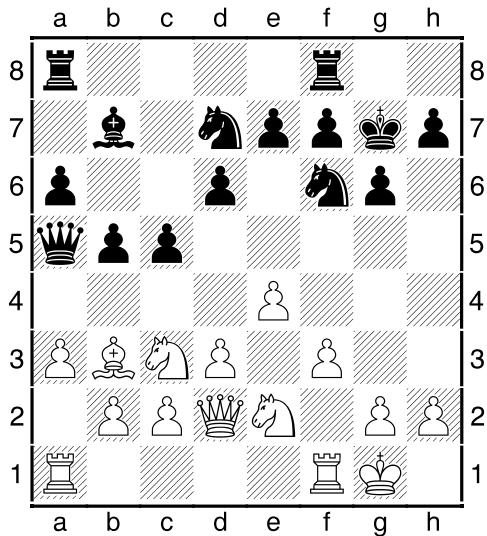
4.Nxf7? Andrei goes for an unsound sacrifice; [4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qe2 Qe7 6.Nc3 (6.d3?! Nf6=) 6...Nxc3 7.dxc3 Nc6±] **4...Kxf7** John is up N vs 2 P **5.d4 c5 6.Nc3 cxd4** [6...Bg4 7.f3 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Nc6 9.Qa4 Be6±] **7.Bc4+ Be6?** [7...d5 8.Nxd5 Be6 9.0-0 Nbd7±] **8.Bxe6+ Kxe6 9.Qxd4** John is still up N vs 2 P's **9...Nc6?!±** Andrei gets a "clear" advantage [9...Kf7 10.Qc4+ d5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.0-0 Na6 13.Rd1 Qc8 14.Qxd5+ Qe6±] **10.Qc4+ Kd7 11.Bf4 Qe8 12.0-0-0 Nh5?!+-** Andrei gets a "winning" advantage [12...Qe6 13.Qa4 Ke8 14.Rhe1 Kf7±] **13.Bxd6** Andrei has 3 P's vs N **13...Kc8 14.e5 Bxd6 15.Qg4+?!±** [15.exd6 Nf6 16.Nb5 Qd7+-] **15...Kb8 16.exd6 Qg6 17.Qxg6 hxg6 18.Nb5 a6 19.Nc7 Ra7 20.Rhe1 Nf6 21.h3 b6 22.Rd3?!±** Andrei is losing his advantage [22.Re3 Kc8 23.f4 Rd8±] **22...Rd8 23.a3?!=** Andrei has lost his advantage [23.f4 Kc8 24.Re6 Na5±] **23...Kc8 24.Ree3?!±** John gets back the advantage [24.b4 Nd4! 25.Rxd4 Rxc7=] **24...Kd7?** [24...Nd4! 25.Nxa6 Nf5 26.Rc3+ Kb7 27.Nb4 Nxe3 28.Rc7+ Ka8 29.Rxa7+ Kxa7 30.Nc6+ Kb7 31.Nxd8+ Kc8 32.fxe3 Kxd8±] **25.f4?!=** [25.b4 Kc8 26.Ne6 (26.Nxa6? Rxa6 27.b5 Ra4 28.bxc6 Ne4±; 26.f4 Nd4!±) 26...Re8±; 25.c4 Kc8 26.Nd5 Rb7±] **25...Rf8?!±** Andrei gets a "clear" advantage again [25...Kc8 26.Re6 Nd4!]=] **26.g3?!±** [26.Rg3 Nh5 27.Rxg6 Rxf4±] **26...Ne8 27.Nd5 Nxd6?!±** [27...Rb7] **28.Nxb6+ Kc7 29.Nd5+ Kb8?!+-** Andrei gets a "winning" advantage [29...Kd7 30.c4 g5 31.b4 Nf5±] **30.Re6 Rd8 31.b3?+-** 1.82 [31.Nb4 Nxb4 32.Rdxd6 Rxd6 33.Rxd6 Nxc2 34.Kxc2 g5 35.f5 Rc7+ 36.Kb1 Kb7+- 4.48] **31...Na5?+-** 2.88 [31...Rf7 32.c4 Kb7+- 1.56] **32.c4?+-** 1.70 [32.Nb4 Ndb7 33.Nxa6+ Ka8+- 4.11] **32...Nc8 33.Rxg6** Andrei is up 4 P's vs N **33...Rb7 34.Kc2 Re8?+-** 4.50 [34...Ka7 35.g4 Rd6 36.Rxd6 Nxd6+- 2.41] **35.Rxa6** Andrei is up 5 P's vs N **35...Nxc4?+-** 6.35 the sac is unnecessary, but John was in time trouble [35...Ra7 36.Rxa7 Kxa7+- 4.44] **36.bxc4** 6.32 Andrei is up N + 4 P's **36...Re2+ 37.Kc3 Rb1+-** 7.12 [37...Ne7+- 6.80] **1-0**

In Rd. 3 on top board in the U 1700 section, Steve Karpik got in trouble in a long tricky line he entered into trying to exchange off a number of pieces. The answer is not easy to spot at the start, but Dean Ward found it at the right time, and won a piece. Steve battled well, down a piece, against Dean's K-side attack, but eventually got mated. There are some interesting rook-sac attacks that Dean missed, and are instructive. This win left Dean in a 2-way tie for first with new member junior Bill Peng. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ward, Dean (1659) – Karpik, Steve (1511) [B07]

Scarb.CC Jack Frost Sw. (U 1700) Toronto (3), 22.01.2009

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted 1...d6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4?!= [3.d4±] 3...g6± [3...e6=] 4.d3?!= [4.Nf3 Bg7 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Nxe4 d5 7.Bd3 dxe4 8.Bxe4 e5±] 4...Bg7 [4...Nc6 5.Bb5 a6 6.Ba4 Bg7=] 5.f3 a6 6.Be3 b5 7.Bb3 Bb7?!± [7...0-0 8.Nge2 c5=] 8.a3 [8.Nge2 c5 9.0-0 Nc6±] 8...c5 9.Qd2 Nbd7 [9...Nc6 10.Nge2 Qb6±] 10.Bh6?!= [10.Nge2 0-0 11.0-0 e6±] 10...0-0 11.Nge2 Qa5 [11...Qb6 12.Ba2 Bxh6 13.Qxh6 a5=] 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.0-0



d5?± Steve goes into an exchange of pieces in the centre, relying on the pin on the c3N to not lose a piece; but he has missed something; Dean gets a " clear " advantage [13...e6 14.Qe3 Qb6=] 14.exd5?!± Dean goes up a P [14.Bxd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Qc7±] 14...Bxd5??+- Steve enters the ill-fated line to get back his P; he can win it back but must go about it differently [14...Qb6 15.Kh1 a5 16.a4 b4 17.Ne4 Bxd5±] 15.Bxd5 Nxd5 16.b4! the unexpected move, removing the pin on the c3N 16...cxb4?+- 4.32 Steve should get at least a P for his N [16...Nxb4 17.axb4 Qxb4+- 2.26] 17.Nxd5 Steve temporarily has a P for his N 17...e6 18.axb4 Dean is up an N 18...Qd8 19.Ne3 Qe7 20.Ng3 Nb6 21.Rfe1 Qa7 22.Kh1 Rac8?!+- 5.57 [22...Qc7 23.Ne4 h5+- 4.94] 23.Ng4?+- 3.71 [23.c4 bxc4 24.dxc4 Kg8+- 6.05] 23...Nd5 24.Qh6+?+- 3.15 [24.Ne4 f5 25.c4 bxc4 26.dxc4 fxc4 (26...Nf6? 27.Qh6+ Kh8 28.Ngxf6 fxe4 29.Nxe4 Kg8+- 7.73) 27.Qb2+ Kg8 28.cxd5 exd5 29.Nf6+ Kh8 (29...Kf7?? 30.Nxd5 gxf3 31.Qf6+ Kg8 32.Ne7+ Qxe7 33.Qxe7 f2+- 12.57) 30.Nd7+ d4 31.Nxf8 Rxf8+- 6.32] 24...Kg8 25.Rac1 Qd4?!+- 3.89 [25...f5 26.Ne5 Nxb4+- 3.27] 26.Re4?+- 2.45 [26.Ne4 f5 27.Ng5 Qa7 28.Ne5 Nxb4+- 4.84] 26...Qb2 27.c4 f6?+- 5.99 [27...f5? 28.Re2 Qa3 29.Nh5! Rc7 (29...gxh5 30.Qxe6+ Kh8 31.Qe5+ Nf6 32.Ra1 Qxa1+ 33.Qxa1 fxc4+- 5.82) 30.Rec2 Rfc8+- 5.70; 27...bxc4 28.dxc4 f5 29.Re2 Qg7+- 2.78] 28.Re2 Qa3 29.Rxe6 Dean goes up N + P 29...bxc4 30.dxc4 f5 31.Rce1?+- 6.43 Dean misses the attacking R-sac [31.Rxg6+! hxg6 32.Qxg6+ Kh8 33.Qh6+ Kg8 34.Qg5+ Kh8 35.Qh4+ Kg7 36.Nh5+ Kf7 37.Ne5+ Ke6 38.cxd5+ Kd6 (38...Kxe5?? 39.Qf4+ Kxd5 40.Qd2+ Ke6 41.Re1+ Qe3 42.Rxe3+ Kf7 43.Qd7+ Kg6 44.Re6+ Rf6 45.Rxf6+ Kg5 (45...Kxh5 46.Qxf5+ Kh4 47.g3#) 46.Qxf5+ Kh4 47.g3#) 39.Nc4+ Rxc4 40.Qxc4 Qxc1+ 41.Qxc1+- f4 and it is mate in 11 moves] 31...Qxb4??+- why not exchange N's and get rid of an attacker ?? It is now mate in 17 moves [31...fxg4 32.cxd5 Rc7 33.d6 (33.Re7?? Rxe7 34.Rxe7 Qa1+ 35.Qc1 Qxc1+ 36.Re1 Qxe1+ 37.Nf1 Qxf1#) 33...Rcf7+- 6.52] 32.cxd5?+- 9.52 again Dean misses the R-sac attack and mate [32.Rxg6+! hxg6 33.Qxg6+ Kh8 34.Qh5+ Kg7 35.Qg5+ Kh8 36.Qh4+ Kg8 37.Nh6+ Kg7 38.Nhx5+ Rxf5 39.Nxf5+ Kf7 40.Qh7+ Kf6 41.Qh6+ Kxf5 (41...Kf7 42.Qg7#) 42.g4#] 32...fxg4 Dean is still up the N 33.Re7?+- 4.50 [33.R6e4 Rc4 34.Re7 Qxe1+ 35.Rxe1 Rc7+- 12.05] 33...Qc3?+- after putting up a good battle, down a piece, Steve blunders into a one-move

mate, though the game has been lost for some time now. [33...Rf7 34.R7e4 Qb5+- 4.52]
34.Qxh7# 1-0

In Rd. 4 in the top section on Bd. 3, Lui Morra (1622) gave master John Hall (on left)



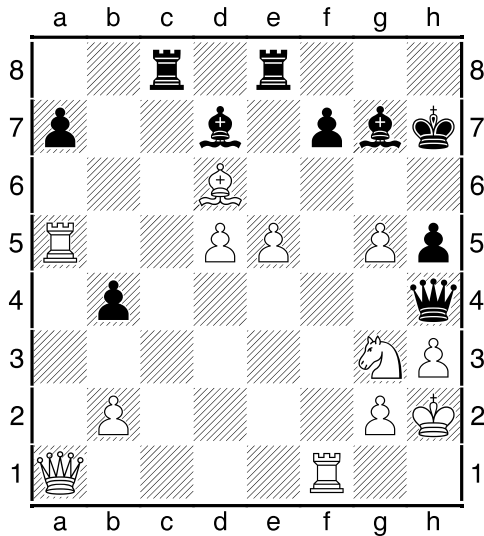
a scare. John handled the game easily initially and got a good “ winning “ advantage which he slowly increased. But then on move 29, John missed a nice tactical bishop sac to start an attack on John’s king. 2 moves later he let Lui get a full blown attack and Lui had the “ winning “ advantage. Then both got into time trouble. Lui eventually flagged in an equal position. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Hall, John (2208) – Morra, Lui (1622) [E61]

Scarb. Jack Frost Sw. (1700 & Over) Toronto (4), 29.01.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6± [2...e6=] 3.c4 [3.e3±] 3...Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 [4...c5 5.e4 Qa5±] 5.Bg5?!= [5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.0-0 Nbd7±] 5...0-0 6.e3 c5 7.d5 Qa5 8.Bd3 Na6 9.0-0 e6?!± [9...h6 10.Bh4 Bd7 (10...g5?! 11.Bg3 Nh5 12.Nd2 Nxc3 13.fxc3 Bd7±) 11.Qd2 g5 12.Bg3 Nh5 13.a3 Nc7=; 9...Re8 10.Qd2 Bg4 11.e4 Nd7=] 10.a3 exd5?!± John gets a " clear " advantage [10...h6 11.Bh4 Nc7±] 11.cxd5 Nc7 12.e4 b5 13.Nd2?!± [13.Qd2 Qb6 14.Bh6 a5±] 13...Qb6 14.h3 b4?+- John gets a " winning " advantage [14...Nd7 15.a4 c4 16.Be2 a6±] 15.Nc4 Qb8 16.axb4 cxb4 17.Ne2 Nb5 18.Bf4 Re8 19.Ng3 Bd7 20.Ra6 Qc8 21.Ra5 Qd8 22.Qa1?!± [22.Qd2 h5 23.Bg5 b3+-] 22...Rc8 [22...h5?! 23.Bg5 Nd4+- 1.46] 23.Nxd6 John goes up a P 23...Nxd6 24.Bxd6 h5?!+- 2.26 [24...Bf5 25.Bxb4 Bxe4 26.Nxe4 Nxe4 27.Bb5 Re5±] 25.e5 Nh7?+- 3.25 [25...h4 26.Ne2 Nh5 27.f4 g5+- 2.38] 26.f4 Qh4?!+- 4.19 [26...Qb6+ 27.Kh2 h4 28.Ne2 Bf5+- 3.66] 27.Kh2?!+- 3.29 [27.Qe1 Bxh3! 28.gxh3 Qxh3 29.Bb1 Rcd8+- 3.66] 27...g5?+- 6.52 [27...Ng5! 28.fxc5 Bxe5 29.Bxe5 Rxe5 30.Ne4 Rxe4 31.Bxe4 Qxe4+- 3.04] 28.Bxh7+ Kxh7 29.fxc5??± John goes up 2 P's, but it is a blunder, setting up a nice tactical attack for Lui; John is losing his advantage [29.Qb1+ Kh8 30.Nf5 Bxf5 31.Qxf5 g4+- 7.28]

Position after 29.fxg5??



29...Bxh3! a nice sac; John is up a P 30.g6+? for the first time in the game, Lui gets the advantage [30.gxh3?? Rc2+ 31.Rf2 Rxf2+ 32.Kh1 Qxh3+ 33.Kg1 Qh2#] 30...fxg6 material equality 31.Rxa7??+ - 3.43 John goes up a P, but it is a blunder giving Lui a "winning" advantage, and an attack [31.Qe1 Rc2 32.Ne2 Qe4 33.Kxh3 Qg4+ 34.Kh2 Rxe5! for] 31...Rc2 Lui leaps to the attack 32.Rxg7+! John correctly decides to sac the exchange to get some counter-play 32...Kxg7 Lui is up the exchange, but John has a P compensation 33.Qa7+ Kh6?! for [33...Kh8 34.Rf2 Bf5+ 35.Kg1 Qxg3 36.Rxc2 Bxc2+ Lui would be up R vs P] 34.Qe3+ Kh7 35.Rf2?!+ both players are now under 5 min. [35.Ne2 Be6+ 36.Kg1 Bxd5 for] 35...Bf5+??= a mistake in time trouble, with Lui losing his advantage [35...Rxf2 36.Qxf2 Be6+ 37.Kg1 Bxd5+] 36.Kg1 Ra8?!± John gets the advantage; he is still down the exchange, but has the P compensation [36...Rxf2 37.Qxf2 Rc8=] 37.Rxc2?!= the time pressure gets to John too; he loses his advantage [37.e6 b3 38.e7 Ra1+ 39.Nf1 Rxf2 40.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 41.Kxf2 Bd7±] 37...Bxc2 38.Nf1?! for now Lui gets back the advantage [38.e6 Ra1+ 39.Nf1 Bb3 40.e7 Bc4 41.Qf3 Qd4+ 42.Kh2 Bxd5 43.e8Q Bxf3 44.Qf7+ Kh8 45.Qf8+ Kh7=] 38...Ra1?!= [38...Be4 39.Qd2 Ra1 40.e6 Qf6 for] 39.e6 Qc4 40.Qf2= Lui flagged 1-0

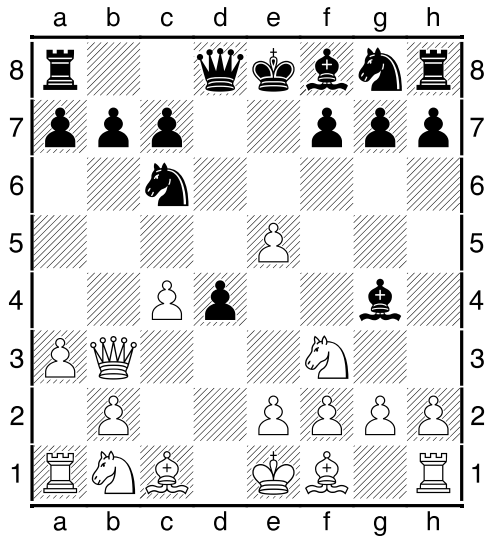
To further show that nothing should be take for granted in the top section, in Rd. 4 on Bd. 5, your intrepid editor (1845) gave master David Krupka a run for his money. The game went right down to both of us having one minute left, with David up a pawn. I then blundered in the time pressure, but by then was lost both on the board and on the clock. It is interesting from an opening point of view, being an Albin Counter Gambit, since I played a sound, but less popular line. And David sacked a second pawn in the opening, getting a big lead in development as compensation. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Armstrong, Robert (1845) – Krupka, David (2221) [D08]

Scarb. CC Jack Frost Sw. (1700 & Over) Toronto (4), 29.01.2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5± Albin Counter Gambit 3.dxe5 I go up the gambitted P 3...d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.a3 in 2007, I played this less popular line against Alex Ferreira. He also continued with 5...Bg4. [5.g3 f6 6.exf6 Nxf6 7.Bg2 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Qe7 9.0-0 Bc5±] 5...Bg4 6.Qb3 Here I improve on the Ferreira game, where I played 6.Nbd2?!=

Position after 6.Qb3



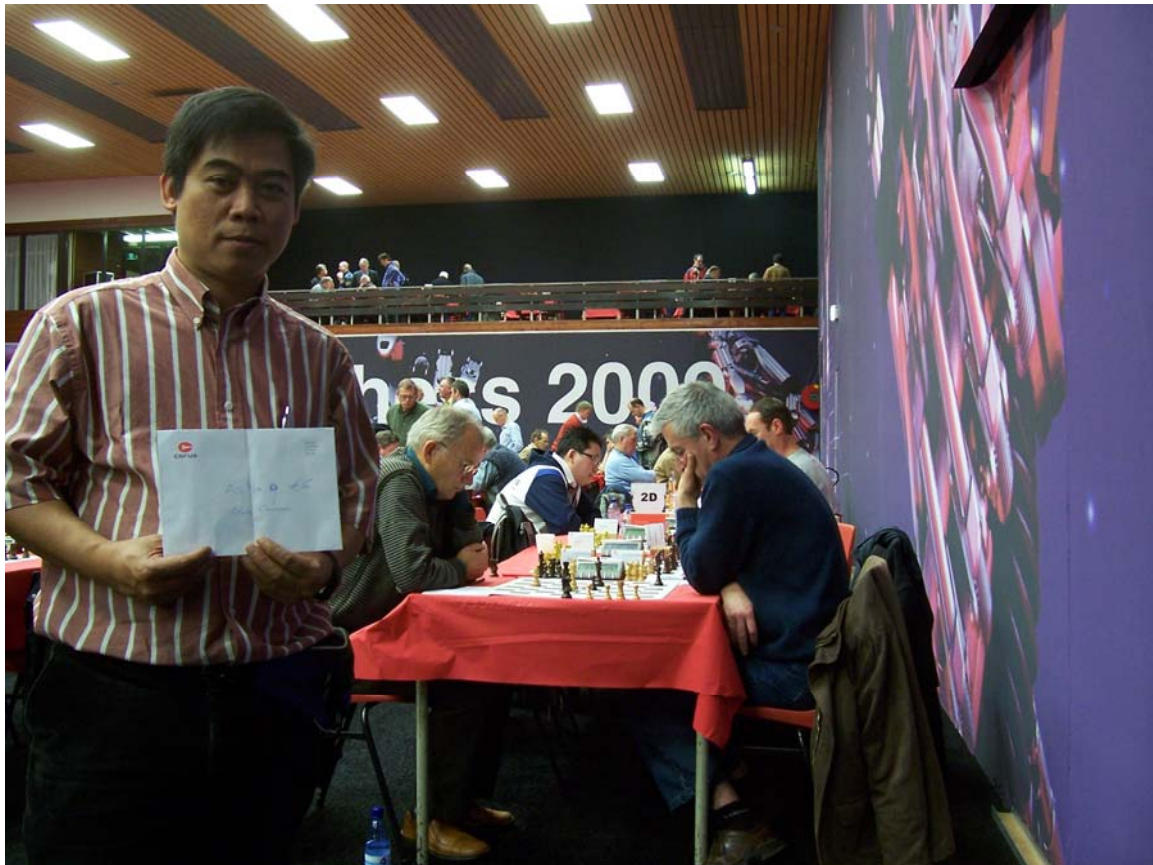
6...Qd7?!± David sacs a second P. I get an early "clear" advantage [6...Rb8+/=; 6...Nge7 7.Qxb7 a5 8.Qb3 Ng6±] **7.Qxb7** I take what is sometimes considered a poisoned P; I go up 2 P **7...Rb8 8.Qa6 f6?!+–** I get a "winning" advantage [8...Rb6 9.Qa4 a5 10.Nbd2 Be7±] **9.exf6?!±** [9.Nbd2 Rb6 10.Qa4 a5 11.Nb3 Nxe5 12.Qxd7+ Bxd7 13.Nxa5 c5+– I would be up 2 P] **9...Nxf6 10.Nbd2 Bd6 11.h3 Bf5** [11...Bh5 12.b4 0-0±] **12.Qa4?!±** I miss a rather sharp line; I was concerned about ...Bc2, trapping my Q. I am losing my advantage [keeping a "clear" advantage is 12.b4! 0-0 (12...Bc2?! 13.b5 Ne5 (13...Rb6?? 14.bxc6 Rxc6 15.Qb5 Rb6 16.Qxd7+ Nxd7+– 5.05 I would be up an N + P) 14.Nxd4 Qe7! 15.e3 (15.Nxc2?? Nd3+ 16.Kd1 Nxf2+ 17.Ke1 0-0 18.Nf3 (18.Kxf2?? Ng4+ 19.Ke1 Bg3+ 20.Kd1 Nf2+ 21.Ke1 Ne4+ 22.Kd1 Nc3#) 18...Nxb1+ – – 2.65 David would be up the exchange, but I would have 2 P compensation) 15...Bg6+– 2.26) 13.c5 Bf4 14.g4 (14.Nc4 Bxc1 15.Rxc1 d3±) 14...Bg6±] **12...a5?!±** [12...0-0 13.b4 Rbe8±] **13.g3?!±** trying to develop at least one of the B [13.Nb3 Ne4 (13...Ne5?! 14.Qxd7+ Bxd7 15.Nxa5 c5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5+–) 14.Nbxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd7+ Bxd7 16.Nxd4 0-0±] **13...0-0** [13...d3 14.g4 dxe2 15.Bxe2 Be6±; 13...Ne4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bg2 0-0 16.0-0 d3±] **14.c5!?** though this is Fritz 1st choice, for me it was just a blunder – I miss the obvious protection of the B after the check; [14.Nh4?! Be4 15.Nhf3 Bg6=; 14.g4?! Bg6=] **14...Bxc5** I am now only up a P **15.Qc4+ Qd5 16.Bg2?!=** I have lost my advantage [16.Qxd5+ Nxd5 17.Bg2 Rfe8 (17...Nde7 18.b3 Bc2±) 18.Nb3! Rxb3 19.Nd2 Nf4 20.gxf4 Rb6±] **16...Be6** I was ahead on time; David had 18 min. left, and I had 54 min.. **17.Qxd5?!±** for the first time in the game, David gets the advantage [a key line to free my game 17.b3 Qf5 18.Qa6 Rb6 19.Qd3 Qxd3 20.exd3 Bf5 21.0-0 Bxd3 22.Re1 Bc2= material equality] **17...Bxd5 18.0-0 Rbe8?!=** [18...Rfe8 19.Re1 a4±] **19.Re1 Re7?!±** I get back a "clear" advantage [19...a4 20.Nf1 Rb8 21.e3 h6=] **20.Nf1?!±** [here I miss the freeing move again 20.b3 Rfe8 21.Kf1 d3 22.e3 a4±] **20...Rb8 21.Nh4 Bxg2** David now had 10 min. left, and I had 32. [21...Re6?! 22.Nf3 h6=] **22.Nxg2 Ne5 23.Nh2?+–** David gets a "winning" advantage [23.Nd2 d3 24.Kf1 Rf8±] **23...Nc4?–** the game has come back to equality, though I am still up a P; it has been quite a struggle [23...Ne4 24.Nf3 d3 25.Be3 Rxb2 26.Nxe5 d2 27.Nc4 dxe1Q+ 28.Rxe1 Ra2 29.Bxc5 Nxc5 30.Nge3 a4+–] **24.Bg5?!±** I decided my bP was toast, and so I might as well try to free up my game [24.Nf3 Rb3 25.Rd1 Nxb2 26.Bxb2 Rxb2 27.Nf4 Bb6=] **24...Bd6 25.Bxf6 gxf6 26.Ng4?!±** [26.Nf3 c5 (26...Re4?! 27.Red1 Rxb2 28.Nxd4 Nd2=) 27.Rac1 Nxb2±] **26...Kf7 27.Nf4?!+–** I had 6 min. left, and David had 5 min.. David gets a "winning" advantage again [27.Red1 c5 28.b4 axb4 29.axb4 Rxb4±] **27...Bxf4 28.gxf4 Rxb2** material equality **29.e4?+–** – 3.00 in the time pressure, I miss a nice little tactical maneuver for David [29.Red1 Nd2 30.Rac1 h5 31.Nh2 Nb3 32.Rc6 Rbxe2+– – 2.16 David would be up a P] **29...Nd2** threatening the fork on f3 **30.Kg2 Nxe4?+–** – 1.75 David goes up a P; David had 1 min. left and I had 2 min.. [30...c5 31.Red1 Nxe4+– – 4.82 David would be up a P] **31.Rab1?+–** – 3.67 [31.Ne5+! Rxe5 32.fxe5 f5+–

- 1.71 I would be up the exchange, but David would have a P compensation (with 2 connected passed P)] **31...Rxb1 32.Rxb1 Nc3??-+** - 2.64 I now had less than a minute left, and David still had a minute; David has been playing much faster than me. [32...h5 33.Nh2 c5-+ - 4.13] **33.Kf3??-+** in the time pressure, with my flag hanging, I blunder my R; but I am losing on the board and losing on time, so it matters little. [33.Rb2 h5 34.Nh2 c5-+ - 3.29 these 2 P are unstoppable] **33...Nxb1-+** - 13.46 I am down R + P **0-1**

In the U 1700 section in Rd. 4, two of our junior D Class players, new member Magas Yusuf , and Zining Yin, played a close game, with an instructive tactical point arising re recaptures. It was a fitting draw. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

SCC'er Visits Corus Tournament

Last year's club champion, Erwin Casareno, who came to Canada from the Netherlands, and is of Pilipino origin, took some time to go see the major Corus tournament in Wijk aan Zee. Here is his e-mail:



In the beginning, I was not happy to go to The Netherlands on January 22,2009 because I was looking forward to playing in the Mississauga Chess club blitz championships (5 minutes per game), as well as round 3 of the Scarborough Chess Club Jack Frost Winter tournament. But I changed my mind when I realized that I could watch the current great

chess players of the world in the strong Corus Tournament. Ivanchuk, Karjakin, Aronian, Hou Yi Fan, Efimenko, Sasikiran and Wesley So. I became more interested when I realized I could have a picture with the once youngest grandmaster of the world, Wesley So, rated 2627 (highest ever by a Filipino player) and the top seed in the Grandmaster group C [Ed. – winner of the Corus C]. From then on, I followed the live games online and learned much from grandmaster play. Also scheduled for Jan 24, 25 is the Corus open rapid, a 30 minute per game tournament conducted over 2 days. Unfortunately, registration has since been closed as early as November 2008. However, my familiarity with the Dutch tournaments (10 years) has encouraged me to also pursue participation in this tournament despite the announced 100 player limit. So I sent an e-mail to the tournament director, stating my intention to play and got a favorable reply. "Be there at 11:30 Jan 24 and register as reserve player".

On January 24, I started around 09:30 from The Hague, travelled by train to Haarlem, changed trains for Hoorn and got off at Beverwijk. From the bus station, I met Mr. Peiter Warmenhoven from Breda and he showed me the way to the rapid playing area, which is inside a big tent erected in the center of Wijk aan Zee. From there, I was accepted to play in the open rapid for 10 euro, about 17 Canadian dollars. In between games, I walked about 80 meters to the main playing area, packed with about 500 players and about a thousand spectators. It is like a big carnival. Big Flat screens show live games of Group A players and the Dutch spectators followed the games of Dutch players bannered by Loek van Wely, Smeets, Stellwagen, Werle, and Nijboer. I took photos (without flash) of the grandmasters whenever I could squeeze myself in the front row. After about 15 minutes, I hurried back to the rapid tournament.

In the rapid tournament, I won my first game with ease. However, in the second round, I had no idea that I was defending with the black pieces against the 2nd highest rated player, Ad van den Berg 2190 and had I known his strength, I would have essayed a more solid defense. I lost in a Sicilian grand prix attack. Well, I comforted myself that I was not supposed to play anyway and is just a tourist there, plus the fact that I have jet lag and my arms were feeling heavy from the 2 vaccinations I got the day before. So I did not pay much attention to my results.

After the loss, I returned to the grandmasters playing area and was lucky to find Wesley So pitted against Harika on a corner table near the spectators. I positioned my camera and programmed the timer and ran to the back ground view before 10 seconds. There, I got not one but 2 photos, as a back ground of the Philippines strongest grandmaster. With my main aim accomplished, I concentrated on my results in the rapid and scored 2 wins before the end of the first day. Jimmy van Zutphen 2172 is leading with 4/4 while I have 3/4. The only grandmaster, Sergey Vokarev 2521 of Russia has 3.5/4 while the Belgian FM Luc Henris 2162 has 3/4. On the second day, I began to think seriously on how I will play my next 3 opponents. I expected to play a slightly weaker opponent but to my surprise, I am white against FM Henris. The game went 1.e4 e5 2.d4 d6 and I began to feel at home as I have played a lot of Tim Honton coffee house games in Scarborough with Filipino masters. I believed I have the advantage in the middle game position. However, I did not calculate exactly the correct sequence of moves which could have led

to devastating kingside attack (after post mortem analysis with the FM). After the loss, the only results I wanted is 2 wins or nothing. I won round 6, and in the final round, I faced with white a strong Dutch player Teeuwen 2158. In the Classical Sicilian, I essayed into the Richer Rauzer and sacrificed a pawn for development. The Dutchman tried to hang on to the pawn while I build up a kingside attack. I was forced to sacrifice quality in order to survive the games. I noticed that I had only 4 minutes left against his 12 minutes so I decided to play automatically until our times leveled at 3 minutes. He avoided repetition of moves during the time scramble but made the mistake which resulted in a queen exchange and a won endgame. He resigned after the queen exchange and I got my 5th point. We were the last to finish in the group. The win enabled me to tie from 5th to 9th places, worth 6 euro.



So on the left; Erwin at centre behind barrier

[also at Corus is long-time SCC member Ted Termeer, of Dutch origin, a regular attendee.. He plays in one of the C Class round robins]

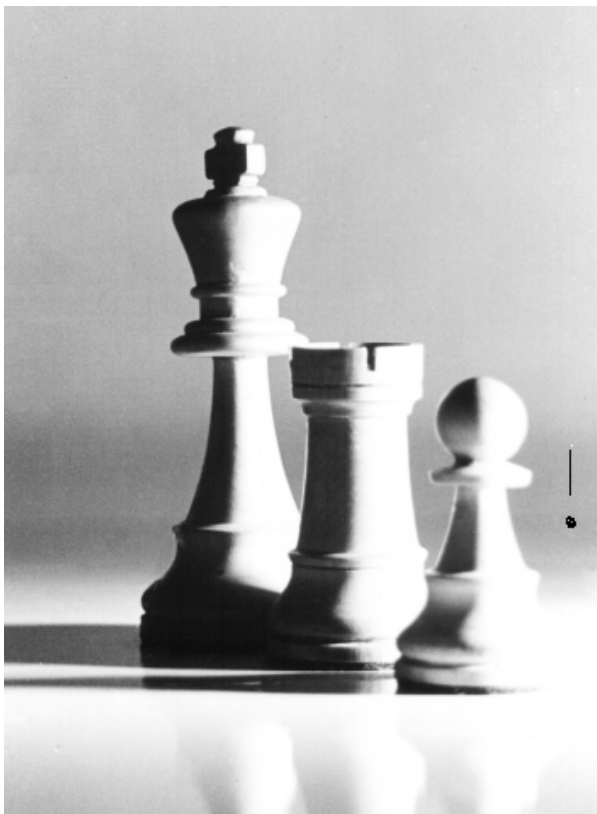
Hart House Reading Week Open

Feb. 20 – 22

Details: <http://hhchess.sa.utoronto.ca/hhopen> (from flyer, but doesn't seem to work)

Contact: Alex Ferreira, Organizer – alex.ferreira@utoronto.ca

An Impressive Trio !



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

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