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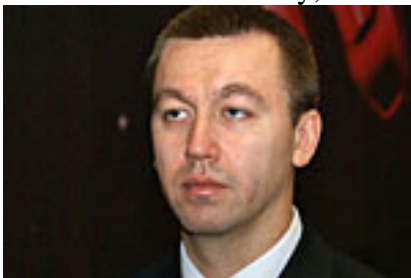
Issue # 10-13 – March 1 , 2009

Topalov 2009 World Championship Challenger !

The 2009 World Championship Challengers’ match was between the number 1 ranked player in the World, Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria),



rated 2796 (FIDE Jan. list), 2006 World Championship Challenger (who lost), and American Gata Kamsky,



17, rated 2725, former World Championship Challenger in the prior millennium (1996 - who lost).

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It was to have been an 8-game match, but Topalov ended it in Game 7. It was played in Sofia, Bulgaria and started on Tuesday, February 17, and ended on February 26. The prize money was split equally between the players.

Topalov won the match with a score of 4.5 – 2.5.

Game 1 of the match was a fairly tame draw. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, Veselin (2796) – Kamsky, Gata (2715) [A00]

WC Challengers' Match Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (1), 17.02.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 [7.Nf3 c5 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.0-0 0-0±] **7...c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Na5 11.Bd3 b6 12.Qd2 e5 13.Bh6?!=** this will lose a P [13.dxc5 Be6 14.Rfd1 Qc7±] **13...cxd4?±** Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [13...Bxh6 14.Qxh6 cxd4 15.Rac1 Qf6=] **14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.cxd4 exd4** Kamsky goes up a P **16.f4?!±** [16.Qb2 Kg8 17.Nxd4 Qe7±] **16...f6 17.e5?!=** Topalov has lost his advantage [17.Qb2?! Qd6 18.Rad1 Bg4=; 17.f5 Qe7 18.Rac1 Qe5±] **17...Bd7?!±** [17...Bb7 18.Rae1 Kh8=] **18.exf6+?!=** [18.Nxd4 Nc6 19.Nf3 Bg4±] **18...Qxf6 19.Ng3 Kh8 20.f5 gxf5 21.Bxf5 Bxf5 22.Rxf5 Qd6 23.Raf1** [23.Rc1 Rad8 24.Ne4 Qd7=] **23...Nc6 24.Ne4 Qe7 25.Qh6 Rxf5 26.Rxf5 Ne5 27.h3?±** Kamsky gets a " clear " advantage [27.Qd2 d3 28.Qc3 Re8=] **27...Ng6 28.Rh5 Rg8?±** Kamsky loses his advantage [28...Kg8 29.Nf6+ Qxf6 30.Qxh7+ Kf8 31.Rh6 Re8± (31...Qg7? 32.Qxg6 Qxg6 33.Rxg6 Rc8=)] **29.Nf6 Rg7 30.Nxh7** material equality **30...Rxh7 31.Qxg6 Qe3+ 32.Kf1 Qc1+ 33.Kf2 Qd2+ 34.Kg3 Qe3+ 35.Kh2 Qf4+=** [35...Rxh5?! 36.Qxh5+ Kg7 37.Qg4+ Kf6=] ½-½

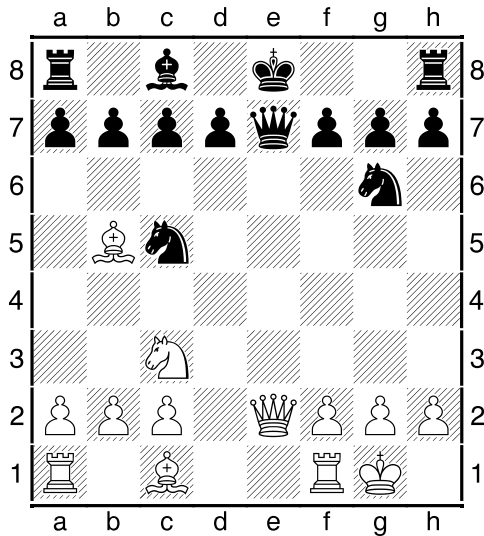
In the second game, Kamsky seemed unsure of the opening and fell an hour behind Topalov on the clock. But by the same token, he played aggressively, sacking a P in the opening. But eventually Topalov had a passed P and overwhelming pressure in the centre, and was poised to win an N. Kamsky had to make 16 moves in 2 min., and he ended up flagging. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kamsky, Gata (2725) – Topalov, Veselin (2796) [A00]

WC Challengers' Match Sofia, Bulgaria (2), 18.02.2009

1.e4± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Bc5** [4...Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7±] **5.Nxe5 Nxe4** [5...0-0 6.Nd3 Bd4±] **6.Qe2 Nxe5** [6...Qe7 7.Qxe4 Nxe5±] **7.d4** Kamsky is willing to gambit the P [7.Qxe4 Qe7 8.Nc3 Ng6 9.Qxe7+ Nxe7±] **7...Qe7** [7...Bxd4?? 8.Qxe4 Qf6 9.c3 (9.Qxd4?? Nf3+! 10.gxf3 Qxd4-+) 9...Bb6+-] **8.dxc5 Nxc5** Topalov goes up a P [8...Ng6 9.b4 0-0 10.Nd2 d5 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Bb2 a5±] **9.Nc3 Ng6**

Position after 9...Ng6



10.Qh5?!= Kamsky plays aggressively [10.Be3 Ne6 11.Bd3 0-0±] **10...c6 11.Bg5 f6?!±** [11...Qd6 12.Rae1+ Ne6 13.Bd3 0-0=] **12.Rae1?!=** [12.Rfe1 Ne6 13.Bd3 0-0 14.Be3 Qf7±] **12...Ne6 13.Bd3 0-0!** it is best to just castle into the potential attack [13...fxg5? 14.Bxg6+ Kf8 15.Re3 Qf6±] **14.Bd2 d5** [14...Qf7 15.Ne4 Ne5 16.Qh4 Nxd3 17.cxd3 d5 18.Nd6 Qc7=] **15.f4** Kamsky continues to play aggressively, as compensation for the lost pawn **15...Qc5+ 16.Kh1?!±** for the first time in the game, Topalov gets the advantage [16.Be3 d4 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Qxc5 Nxc5 19.Bxd4 Na6=] **16...d4 17.Bf5?!±** Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [17.Qxc5 Nxc5 18.Bc4+ Kh8 19.Ne2 Ne4±] **17...Rf7?=** Topalov has lost his advantage [17...Nexf4 18.Rxf4 dxc3 19.Bxc3 Bxf5 20.Rxf5 Qc4±] **18.Ne4 Qd5 19.Bxg6** [19.Ng3 Ngf8 20.Qg4 Qxa2=] **19...hxg6 20.Qxd5?!±** Kamsky needs to simplify because he is already in bad time trouble. Topalov again gets a " clear " advantage. [20.Qxg6 Nf8 21.Qg3 Bf5=] **20...cxd5 21.Nd6 Rc7 22.c4?!-+** Topalov gets a " winning " advantage, with Kamsky in time trouble [22.Nxc8 Raxc8 23.Rxe6 Rxc2 24.Bb4 Rxb2 25.a3 d3±] **22...dxc3 23.Bxc3 d4?!±** [23...Rc6 24.Bb4 a5 25.Ba3 b5 26.f5 gxf5 27.Nxf5 Kf7-+] **24.Bb4?!-+** Kamsky has less than 2 min. for 16 moves [24.Nxc8 Raxc8 25.Rxe6 dxc3 26.bxc3 Rxc3±] **24...Bd7 25.Rf2 a5 26.Ba3 b5 27.b3** Kamsky has 1 min. for 13 moves **27...b4 28.Bb2 Ra6 29.Ne4 Rac6 30.Kg1 Rc2 31.g3 d3 32.Rd1?!-+ - 4.18** [32.Rb1 Rxf2 33.Nxf2 d2-+ - 4.17] **32...f5-+ - 4.29** Kamsky flagged. He is about to lose material anyways **33.Rxd3 fxe4 34.Rdd2 Rxd2 35.Rxd2 g5-+ - 4.18** Topalov would be up an N 0-1

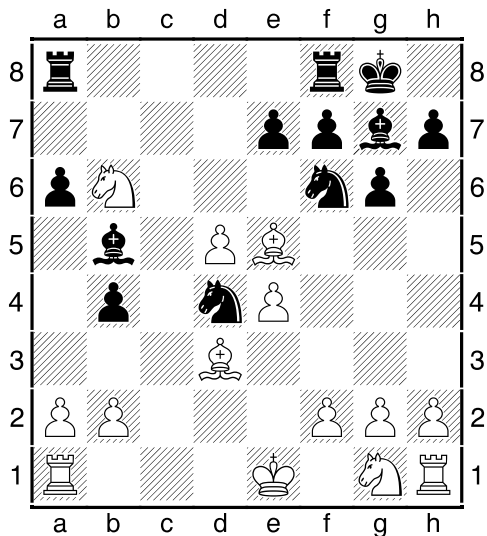
Game 3 was a non-main line Grunfeld with some exciting tactical lines. But eventually material was equal and neither player could improve their position, and a draw by repetition was initiated by Topalov. The score now: Topalov 1.5 - .5 Kamsky. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, Veselin (2796) – Kamsky, Gata (2725) [A00]

W.C. Challengers' Match Sofia, Bulgaria (3), 20.02.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qb3 [4.Nf3 Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5±] **4...dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bg7 6.e4** [6.Bf4 c6 7.Nf3 Qa5=] **6...0-0 7.Be2 a6** [7...Ne8 8.Be3 Nd6 9.Qa4 Bd7 10.Qc2 Nc6±] **8.Bf4** [8.Nf3 b5 9.Qb3 Bb7±] **8...b5 9.Qxc7** Topalov goes up a P **9...Qxc7** [9...Qxd4 10.Rd1 Qb4±] **10.Bxc7 b4 11.Na4 Nc6** may be better to just take the P? [11...Bb7?! 12.f3 Rc8 13.Bxb8 Rxb8±; 11...Nxe4 12.Nb6 Bb7 (12...Bxd4?! 13.Nxa8 Bb7 14.0-0-0 b3 15.Kb1 Bxa8 16.f3 Bf6 a) 16...bxa2+ 17.Kxa2 Bd5+ (17...Nf2?! 18.Rxd4 Nc6 19.Rd1 Nb4+ 20.Kb1 Nd5+-) 18.Ka3 Nf2 19.Rxd4 Be6±; b) 16...Nf2?! 17.Rxd4 Nc6 18.Rd1 bxa2+ 19.Kxa2 Nb4+ 20.Kb1

Nd5+-; 17.Nh3 Nc5±) 13.Nxa8 Bxd4 14.Nb6 Nxf2±] **12.d5 Nd4 13.Bd3 Bd7 14.Nb6 Bb5 15.Be5?!=** [15.Rd1 Ra7 16.Be5 Bxd3 17.Rxd3 Nc2+ 18.Ke2 Nxe4±]



15...Nxe4! Topalov uses the fact that Gata's b6N is trapped; material equality **16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Bxe4** Topalov is temporarily up an N **17...Rab8 18.0-0-0 Nf5 19.Bxf5 gxf5 20.d6 Rxb6** material equality **21.dxe7 Re8 22.Nf3 Rxe7 23.Nd4 Bd7 24.Rhe1 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Rh6 26.Re7 Rd6 27.Ne2 Kf6 28.Re3 Ba4 29.b3 Bc6 30.Nf4 a5 31.g3 Be4 32.f3 Bc6 33.h4 Rd4 34.Kc2 Bb5 35.Nh5+** seeing no way to improve his position, Topalov goes for a draw by repetition. **35...Kg6 36.Nf4+ Kf6 37.Nh5+=** ½-½

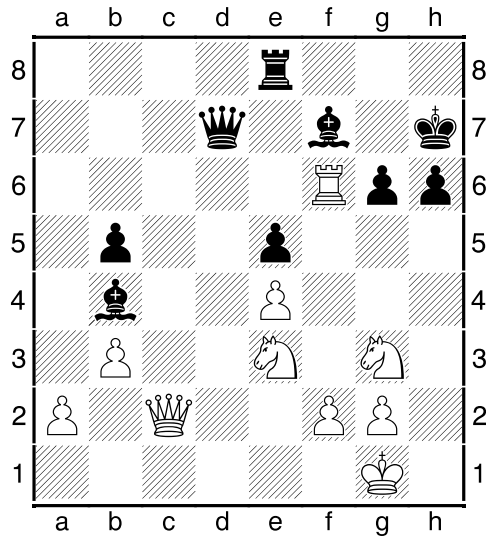
In Game 4, Kamsky sacked a pawn, got it back, and then went up a pawn. He played a strong late middle game and eventually was going to win Topalov's B. So the win moved Kamsky into a tie in the match. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kamsky, G (2725) – Topalov, V (2796) [C92]

World Chess Challenge Sofia BUL (4), 21.02.2009

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?! d6 7.d4 b5 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Bb3 Bg4=] **6...b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3?!=** [9.d4 Bg4 10.Qd3 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Qc8±] **9...Bb7** [9...Na5 10.Bc2 c5=] **10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.Ng5** [12.Bc2 Qd7 13.d5 Ne7=] **12...Re7 13.d5 Nb8?!±** [13...Na5 14.Bc2 c6=] **14.Nf1 Nbd7 15.Ng3 g6?!±** Kamsky gets a " clear " advantage [15...h6 16.Nf3 Re8=] **16.Bc2?!** [16.Be3 Rc8 17.Qd2 Bg7±] **16...h6?!±** [16...Qc8 17.Nf3 c6=] **17.Nf3 Nb6 18.h4 Qd7 19.Nh2 Bg7 20.h5 Rf8 21.Nhf1?!=** [21.Qf3 Kh7 22.b3 Ree8±] **21...c6 22.dxc6 Qxc6 23.Ne3 Kh7?!±** [23...d5 24.hxg6 fxc6 25.exd5 Nfxd5=] **24.Qf3?!=** [24.a4 Nxa4 25.Bxa4 bxa4 26.Rxa4 Ree8±] **24...Bc8?!±** [24...Rd7 25.Ng4 Nxc4 26.Qxc4 Rdd8=] **25.Rd1 Be6 26.b3?!=** Kamsky dubiously saccs his cP and loses his advantage [26.Bb3 Bc8 27.a3 a5±] **26...Qxc3** Topalov goes up a P **27.Bd2 Qc7 28.Ba5 Qb8 29.Rd2** [29.Qe2 Rc8 30.a4 bxa4 31.bxa4 Rb7=] **29...Nc8** [29...Rc8 30.Rad1 Rd7=] **30.Rad1 b4 31.Qe2 Kh8?±** Kamsky gets back his " clear " advantage [31...Ra7 32.Bd3 Ne7 33.hxc6+ fxc6 34.Bc4 Bd7=] **32.Bd3 Na7 33.Rc1 Nb5** [33...Rc8 34.Rdc2 Rxc2 35.Rxc2 Nb5±] **34.Bxb5 axb5 35.Bxb4** material equality **35...Rd7 36.Rc6 Rfd8 37.Qd1 Bf8 38.Qc2 Kh7 39.Ba5 Re8 40.hxc6+ fxc6 41.Bc7 Qb7 42.Bxd6** Kamsky goes up a P **42...Bf7 43.Bb4 Bxb4 44.Rxd7 Qxd7 45.Rxf6**

Position after 45.Rxf6



Re6?!+- Kamsky gets a "winning" advantage [45...Be6 46.Nd5 Be7 47.Nxe7 Qxe7 48.Rf3 b4±] **46.Nd5 Bf8 47.Rf3** [47.Rxe6 Qxe6+-] **47...Kg7 48.Rc3 Ra6** [48...Bd6 49.a4 Re8+-] **49.Rc7 Qd6** [49...Qe6 50.Nf1 Bd6+-; 49...Qe8 50.Qe2 Qe6+-] **50.Qe2 Kg8?!+-** 2.48 [50...Qe6 51.Nf1 Ra3+- 1.81] **51.Qxb5 Rxa2 52.Qb7 Ra1+ 53.Kh2 Bxd5 54.exd5 Qf6 55.Qc8 Qh4+ 56.Qh3 Qxh3+ 57.Kxh3 Rd1 58.Ne4 Ba3 59.Ra7 Bb4 60.Rb7 Ba3 61.f3 Kf8 62.Rb5 h5 63.Kg3 Rc1 64.Rb8+ Kf7 65.Rb7+ Kf8 66.Kf2 Rc2+ 67.Kf1 Rc1+ 68.Ke2 Rc2+ 69.Kd3 Rxc2** material equality **70.Ra7 Be7 71.d6 Bd8 72.Nc5 Ke8?+-** 8.78 [72...Bf6 73.Ra8+ Kf7 74.Ne4 Rg1+- 2.38 material equality] **73.Rh7?+-** 3.83[73.Rg7 e4+ 74.fxe4 Rg3+ 75.Ke2 Rg2+ 76.Kf3 Rd2 77.Rg8+ Kf7 78.Rxd8+- 9.79 Kamsky would be up N + P] **1-0**

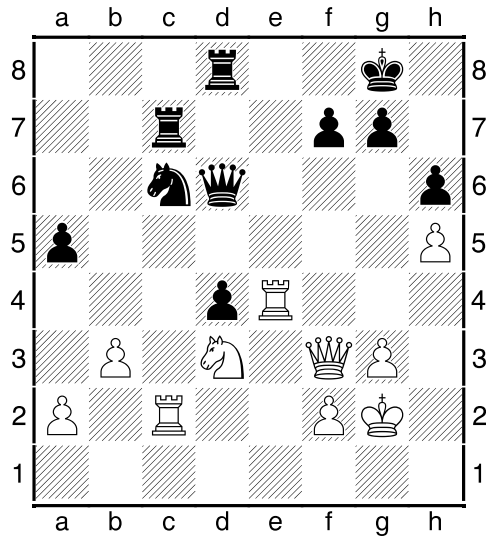
In Game 5, with the match tied, Kamsky as black played a surprise French Defence, which he has never been known to have done before. He ended up with an isolated centre pawn, but most commentators felt he could draw it if there were no mistakes. Well, Kamsky made a devastating miscalculation on a rather simple move, and ended up down a P, with queens on the board. He tried a bit for a perpetual, but it wasn't there, and he resigned. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, Veselin (2796) – Kamsky, Gata (2725) [A00]

W.C. Challengers' Match Sofia, Bulgaria (5), 23.02.2009

1.e4± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted **1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bb5?!=** [6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Ne7 8.Bd3 c5±] **6...Bd7 7.Nxc6 Bxc6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.c4** [9.0-0 Bd6 10.Qe2 Qc7 11.Nf3 Rb8=] **9...Bd6?!±** [9...Nf6 10.Qa4 Qc7=] **10.cxd5?!=** [10.Qe2 Qc7 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.exd5 Nf6 13.dxe6 0-0±] **10...cxd5 11.exd5 exd5 12.0-0 Ne7 13.Nf3 0-0 14.Qd3 Qd7 15.Rd1 Rfd8 16.Be3 a5** [16...Qf5 17.Kf1 Qxd3+ 18.Rxd3 h6=] **17.g3 h6** [17...Qh3 18.Rac1 a4=] **18.Bb6 Rdc8 19.Bd4 Bc5 20.Bc3 Bb4 21.Be5 Bd6 22.Rd2 Bxe5 23.Nxe5 Qd6?!±** [23...Qe6 24.Re2 Rc5=] **24.Re1 Rc7 25.Qf3 Rf8 26.Kg2 Rb7 27.h4?!=** [27.h3?! f5 28.Rde2 Rb4=; 27.b3 Rc7 28.Rd4 f6 29.Nd3 Rc2±] **27...Qb4?!±** [27...a4 28.Ree2 Rb5=] **28.Ree2?!=** [28.Rde2 Qd6 29.Rd1 Ra7±] **28...Qa4?!±** [28...Rc7 29.Rd1 a4=] **29.b3 Qb4 30.Nd3 Qd6 31.h5?!=** [31.Qf4 Qb6 32.Rc2 Rd7±] **31...Rc7?!±** [31...Rd8 32.Ne5 Nc6=] **32.Nf4?!=** [32.Qf4 Qd7 33.Ne5 Qc8±] **32...d4 33.Re4 Nc6 34.Nd3 Rd8 35.Rc2**

Position after 35.Rc2



Nb4??± Kamsky blunders the dP; Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [35...f5 36.Qxf5 Ne7 37.Re6 Qxg3+ 38.fxc3 Rxc2+ 39.Qf2 Rxf2+ 40.Kxf2 Nd5=] **36.Nxb4 axb4 37.Rxd4** Topalov goes up a P **37...Qf8?!+-** Kamsky sacs his bP, in order to try to have chances for a perpetual. Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [37...Qxd4 38.Rxc7 Rf8 39.Rc4 Qd2±] **38.Rxd8 Qxd8 39.Rxc7 Qxc7 40.Qa8+ Kh7 41.Qe4+ Kg8 42.Qxb4** Topalov goes up 2 P **42...Qc6+ 43.Kg1 Qc1+ 44.Kh2 Qc2 45.Qe1 Kf8 46.a3 Qb2 47.Qb4+ Kg8 48.Kg2 Qe5 49.Qg4 Qb2 50.Qc8+ Kh7 51.Qc4 Qxa3 52.Qxf7 Qb4 53.Qc4 Qb7+ 54.Kg1 Qf3 55.g4** Line

In Game 6, Topalov's Caro-can shut Kamsky down with white, and the game was somewhat of a grind, trying to make something of infinitesimal advantages. It ended in a draw, with Topalov now leading 3.5 – 2.5. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kamsky, Gata (2725) – Topalov, Veselin (2796) [A00]

W.C. Challengers' Match Sofia, Bulgaria (6), 24.02.2009

1.e4± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted **1...c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.Be3 cxd4** [6...Nd7 7.0-0 Ne7±] **7.Nxd4 Ne7 8.Nd2 Nbc6** [8...Bg6 9.h4 h5±] **9.N2f3 Bg4 10.0-0 Bxf3 11.Nxf3 g6?!±** Kamsky gets a " clear " advantage [11...Ng6 12.Rc1 Be7±] **12.c4 Bg7 13.cxd5 Nxd5 14.Bc5 Bf8 15.Qc1?!±** [15.Bxf8 Kxf8 16.Re1 Kg7±] **15...Rc8** [15...Bxc5 16.Qxc5 Rc8 17.Rfe1 Qe7±] **16.Bxf8 Nd4 17.Qd1 Nxe2+ 18.Qxe2 Kxf8 19.Rac1 Kg7 20.h4?!=** [20.Qd3?! Qa5 21.a3 Qa4=; 20.Rxc8 Qxc8 21.Nd4 a6±] **20...Qb6?!±** [20...Qa5 21.b3 Rhd8=] **21.g3** [21.Qd2?! h6 22.a3 Rhd8=] **21...h6 22.a3 Rc5 23.Rc2?!=** [23.Rxc5 Qxc5 24.Rd1 Rd8±] **23...Rhc8 24.Rfc1 a5 25.Qd2 Rxc2 26.Rxc2 Rc5 27.Qc1 Rxc2 28.Qxc2 Ne7 29.Qc3 Nc6 30.b3 Qd8 31.a4 Qd1+ 32.Kg2 Qe2 33.Qe3 Qd1 34.Nd2 Nb4 35.Nc4 Nc2 36.Qd2 Qb1?!±** [36...Ne1+ 37.Kh3 Qb1=] ½-½

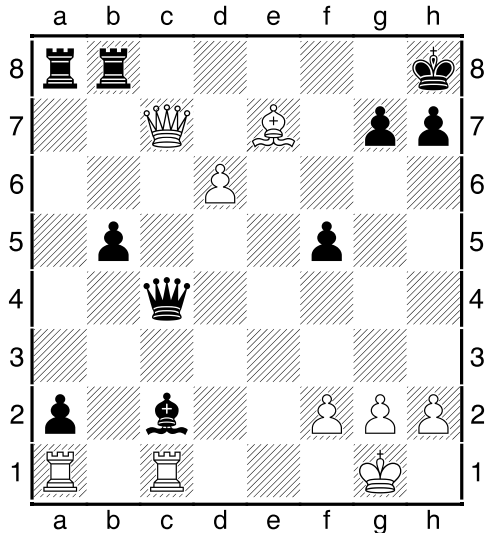
In game 7, Kamsky looked poised to tie the match a couple of times. He had a " clear " advantage and was up 2 pawns, when he blundered and gave Topalov back equality. Then he got a " winning " advantage, up 1 pawn, and he made a worse blunder in time pressure, giving Topalov a " winning " advantage. Topalov managed to queen and

Kamsky had to sac his R for it. Topalov won the game, and the match. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, Veselin (2796) – Kamsky, Gata (2725) [A00]

WC Challengers' Match Sofia, Bulgaria (7), 26.02.2009

1.e4± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted 1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 Kamsky temporarily goes up a P 6.Bc4 Qd6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Re1 Be7 9.Nb3 Nc6 10.Nbxd4 material equality 10...Nxd4 11.Nxd4?!= [11.Qxd4 Qxd4 12.Nxd4 0-0±] 11...0-0 12.c3 Bd7 [12...e5 13.Nf3 Qxd1 14.Rxd1 Bg4=] 13.Qf3 Qb6?!± [13...Qc7 14.Bd3 Bd6 15.h3 Bh2+ 16.Kh1 Be5=] 14.Bb3 a5 15.Be3 Bc5 16.Rad1?!= [16.Qg3 a4 17.Bc2 e5 18.Qxe5 Rfe8 19.Qg5 h6 20.Qg3 Qxb2 21.Bxh6 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Ng4 23.Bc1 Qxa2=; 16.Bg5 a4 17.Bc4 Bxd4 18.cxd4 Bc6± (18...Qxd4?! 19.Rad1 Qxc4 20.Bxf6 Qc2± (20...gxf6 21.Re4 Qxe4 22.Qxe4 Rfd8±))] 16...a4 17.Bc2?!± Topalov decides to sac his bP for activity he hopes to generate in the centre [17.Bc4 e5 18.Nf5 e4 19.Ne7+ Kh8 20.Qg3 Bxe3 21.Qxe3 Qxe3 22.fxe3 Be6=] 17...Qxb2 Kamsky goes up a P again 18.Bg5 Nd5 19.c4 Bxd4 20.Qd3 f5 21.Qxd4 Qxc2 22.cxd5 Qxa2 Kamsky goes up 2 P 23.Qb6 a3 24.Be7?!± Kamsky gets a " clear " advantage [24.dxe6? Bc6 25.Bc1 Rfe8 26.e7 Qf7± (26...Ra6? 27.Qc5 Qf7=) ; 24.Qd6 Bc8 25.Be3 Qc4±] 24...Rfe8 25.Qd6 [25.Qxb7 Ba4 26.Ra1 Qxd5 27.Qxd5 exd5 28.Rxa3 d4±] 25...Ba4??= at a critical moment, after spending 30 min., Kamsky blunders and lets Topalov get equality. [25...Bc8 26.Qc7 Qb3 27.Ra1 a2±] 26.Qxe6+ Kamsky is up a P 26...Kh8 27.Ra1 Qc4 28.Rec1?!± [28.Rxa3 Bb3 29.Bg5] 28...Bc2 29.Qd7?-+ - 1.73 Kamsky gets back a " winning " advantage [29.Qe5 Ra5 30.Qe1 Rxd5 31.Rxa3 Qd4 32.Rxc2 Rxe7±] 29...a2 30.d6?-+ - 2.57 [30.Qxb7 Qe4 31.Qb2 Rxe7 32.Qxc2 Qxd5+- - 1.80] 30...b5 31.Qb7 Reb8?!± the time pressure is affecting Kamsky's play [31...b4 32.Qb6 Rg8-+] 32.Qc7



Rc8??+- in time pressure, Kamsky blunders again; Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [32...Bd3 33.d7 Qxc7 34.Rxc7 Bc4 35.h3 h6±] 33.Qxc4 Rxc4 34.d7 Bb1 [34...Bb3 35.d8Q+ Rxd8 36.Rxc4 Bxc4 37.Bxd8 b4+-; 34...Rd4 35.d8Q+ Rxd8+- (35...Raxd8 36.Bxd8 Bb3 37.Ba5 h6+-)] 35.Rd1 1.55 [35.Rxc4 bxc4 36.Kf1 c3 37.Ke2 Kg8 38.d8Q+ Rxd8 39.Bxd8 Kf7 40.Kd1 Ke6+- 1.48] 35...Kg8 1.63 [35...h6 36.d8Q+ Rxd8 37.Rxd8+ Kh7+- 1.41] 36.d8Q+ Rxd8 37.Bxd8 Topalov is up R vs 2 connected, passed P 37...Bc2 38.Rdc1 b4??+- 2.96 [38...Bd3 39.Rxc4 Bxc4 40.Ba5 Kf7 41.Bc3 g5+- 1.74] 39.Rxa2 Topalov is up R vs P 39...b3 40.Ra8 Kf7 41.Rb8 Ke6 42.Re1+ Kd5 43.Be7 Ra4 44.Bf8 Ra7 45.h4+- 3.61 1-0

Super GM Tournament, Linares, Spain

This 8-player round robin, the second major tournament of the New Year, is being played from Feb. 18 to March 8. The winner takes 100,000 Euros and the trophy; 2nd and 3rd take 75,000 and 50,000 Euros. The average rating of this tournament is 2756; this is much stronger than the recent Corus, Wijk aan Zee tournament in January, which had an average rating of 2716. It is the same rating as the tournament had last year. But it is not as strong as the strongest tournament in 2008, the Grand Slam, in Bilbao, Spain, which had an amazing average rating of 2776.

The participants are:

Viswanathan Anand (IND)	2791
Vassily Ivanchuk (UKR)	2779
Magnus Carlsen (NOR)	2776
Teimour Radjabov (AZE)	2761
Levon Aronian (ARM)	2750
Wang Yue (CHN)	2739
Alexander Grischuk (RUS)	2733
Leinier Dominguez (CUB)	2717

After 8 rounds, the leader is Alexander Grischuk, with 5.5 pts.. He is followed by a point in 2nd/3rd by Levon Aronian and Vassily Ivanchuk.

In Rd. 1 , 15th and current World Champion, Anand,



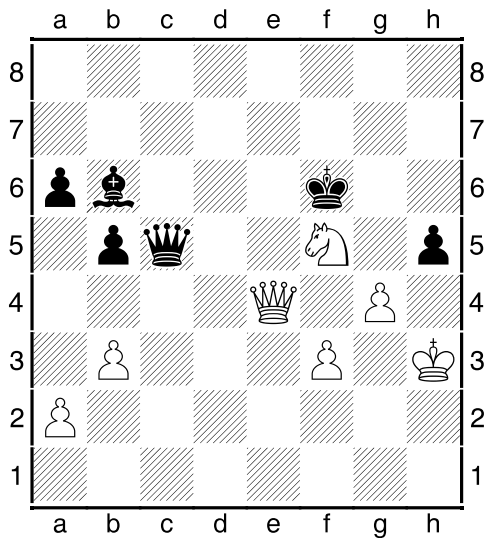
jumped into sole possession of 1st place with a nice win over Radjabov. Anand eventually went up a P. Then he sacked it back to allow his Q and N to harass Radjabov's K, which was unprotected. Radjabov resigned when he was going to have to sack his Q to stop a mate. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Anand, Viswanathan (2791) – Radjabov, Teimour (2761) [B33]

Linares Sofia, Bulgaria (1), 19.02.2009

1.e4± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted. 1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5± Fritz is unhappy with this line; Anand gets an early " clear " advantage [5...e6±] 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5?!± [7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7±] 7...a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.Bd3 Ne7

12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.0-0?!= [13.c4 0-0 14.cxb5 Rd8 15.0-0 f5±] **13...0-0 14.c4 f5 15.Qf3** [15.cxb5 Rd8 16.bxa6 Bxa6 17.Bxa6 Rxa6 18.Qd5 fxe4=] **15...d5** Radjabov sacs a P to open up his possibilities [15...Qb7 16.Qe2 bxc4 17.Nxc4 fxe4 18.Qxe4 Qxe4 19.Bxe4 Rb8=] **16.cxd5** Anand goes up a P **16...fxe4 17.Bxe4 Rb8 18.Rad1** [18.Rac1 Qd8 19.Rc6 f5 20.Bc2 Kh8=] **18...f5** [18...Rb6 19.Rc1 Qd8=] **19.d6 Qf6 20.Bc6 Be6 21.Bd5 Rbd8?!±** [21...Kh8 22.Bxe6 Qxe6=] **22.Qb3?!=** [22.Bxe6+ Qxe6±] **22...Bf7 23.Nc2 Rxd6** material equality **24.Bxf7+ Rxf7 25.Rxd6** [25.Ne3 Rd4 26.Rfe1 Kh8 27.Rxd4 exd4 28.Nc2 Rf8=] **25...Qxd6 26.Ne3 f4 27.Rd1?!±** for the first time in the game, Radjabov gets the advantage [27.Nf5 Qf6 28.Nxg7 Kxg7 29.Re1 Rd7=] **27...Qg6 28.Nd5 Bf8 29.f3 Kh8 30.Nc3 Rg7 31.Rd2 Bc5+ 32.Kf1 Bd4?!=** [32...Rg8 33.Qd5 Bd4 34.Ne4 Rc8±] **33.Ne4 Rc7** [33...Rd7 34.Qc2 Rd8=; 33...Rg8 34.Qd5 Rc8 35.Rc2! Qf5= (35...Rxc2 36.Qd8+ Qg8 37.Qf6+ Qg7 38.Qd8+=)] **34.Rc2 Rc6** [34...Qb6 35.Nf6 Rc4=] **35.Qd3 Kg7 36.b3?!±** [36.Qa3 Kf7 37.Qd3 Ke8=] **36...h6?!=** [36...h5 37.Qd2 h4±] **37.g4 fxg3?!±** Anand gets the advantage again [37...Qe6 38.h4 a5 39.Rxc6 Qxc6=] **38.hxg3 Qe6** [38...b4 39.Ke2 Qe6 40.Rxc6 Qxc6±; 38...a5 39.Kg2 a4 40.bxa4 bxa4±] **39.Kg2** [39.Ke2 Rxc2+ 40.Qxc2 Qh3 41.Qc7+ Kg6±] **39...Qc8** [39...b4 40.Rxc6 Qxc6±] **40.Rxc6 Qxc6 41.Qd2 Qe6 42.g4 Qc6?!±** Anand gets a "clear" advantage [42...Kf7 43.Ng3 Bc5 44.Qc2 Be7±] **43.Ng3 Kh7?!+-** Anand gets a "winning" advantage [43...Bb6 44.Qd3 Qe6±] **44.Nf5?!±** [44.Qd3+ Kh8 45.Qf5 Qc1 46.Kh3 Qd1+-] **44...Bb6 45.Qd3 Kh8 46.Qe2 Bc7 47.Qd2 Kh7?!+-** [47...Bb6 48.Nxh6 e4 49.Qg5 exf3+ 50.Kh3 Qe6±] **48.Ne7 Qc5** [48...Qd6 49.Qc2+ Kh8 50.Nf5 Qb6+-] **49.Qd3+ Kh8 50.Qd7 e4** 3.39 **51.Qe8+?+-** 1.93 [51.Kh3 exf3 52.Qe6 Qg5 53.Qc8+ Kh7 54.Qxc7 h5+- 3.48 Anand would be up N vs P] **51...Kg7 52.Nf5+ Kf6 53.Qxe4** 1.93 Anand goes up a P **53...Bb6?+-** 3.48 [53...Qe5 54.Qc6+ Kf7 55.Nxh6+ Kf8+- 1.76] **54.Kh3 h5?+-** 5.05 [54...Bd8 55.Qa8 Qb6+- 3.87]



55.g5+! Kxg5 material equality again **56.Ne7 Kf6 57.Nd5+ Kg7 58.Qe5+ Kh6??+-** 11.42 – a blunder – Radjabov goes to the wrong square [58...Kf8 59.Qf6+ Ke8 60.Qe6+ Kd8 61.Nxb6 Kc7 62.Nd5+ Kb8+- 6.29 Anand would be up an N] **59.Qf6+ Kh7 60.Qf7+ Kh6 61.Ne7+-** 11.64 Radjabov must lose material to stop the mate threat. He resigned. The game could have continued **61...Qg1 62.Ng8+ Qxg8 63.Qxg8+-** 13.42 Anand would be up Q vs B **1-0**

In Rd. 4 Grischuk



defeated Radjabov to lift him into a tie for first with Aronian. Here is their game:

Radjabov, T (2761) – Grischuk, A (2733) [E17]

XXVI Super GM Linares ESP (4), 22.02.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.d5 exd5 7.Nh4 c6 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nf5 0-0 10.e4 Nc7 11.Bf4 d5 12.Qg4 Ne6 13.Nc3 Kh8 14.Be5 Bf6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.0-0-0 Nd7 17.f4 Ndc5 18.e5 Qg6 19.Qh3 f6 20.Nh4 Qh6 21.Nf3 Qxh3 22.Bxh3 Nc7 23.b4 N5a6 24.b5 cxb5 25.Rhe1 b4 26.Ne2 Bc8 27.Bg2 Bf5 28.Nfd4 fxe5 29.fxe5 Be4 30.Bxe4 dxe4 31.Nf4 Nc5 32.h4 Rae8 33.e6 a5 34.Kb1 N7xe6 35.Ndxe6 Nxe6 36.Nd5 Nc5 37.Nxb6 h6 38.Nc4 Rf2 39.Rd5 Na4 40.Rxa5 Nc3+ 41.Ka1 0-1

In Rd. 6, Carlsen



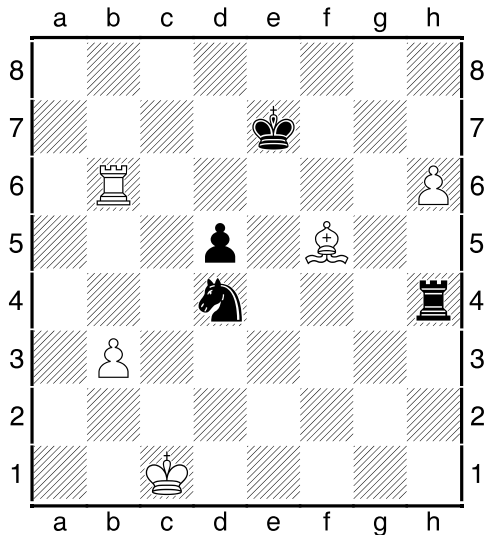
went up 2 pawns against Anand, whom he's never beaten in classical time control play. Anand won the 2 pawns back, but by now Carlsen was able to queen one of his pawns, by effectively winning the exchange for the Queen. He then went on to win the ending. This win lifted him into a tie for second with Aronian, a point behind Grischuk. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, Magnus (2776) – Anand, Viswanathan (2791) [A00]

Linares – Linares, Spain (6), 25.02.2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4 new opening theory finds this playable [7.Be2 dxc4 8.Bxc4 0-0=] 7...Nxc4 Anand temporarily goes up a P 8.Rg1 Qf6 9.Rxc4 Qxf3 10.Rxc7 material equality 10...Nf6 11.h3 Qf5?!± [11...h6 12.Bd2 (12.b3?! e5 13.cxd5 exd4 14.Bg2 Qf5) 12...Kf8=] 12.Qxf5 exf5 13.cxd5 cxd5?!± Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [13...Nxd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Bd2 Ke7±] 14.Nb5 Bb4+ 15.Bd2 Bxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Ke7 17.Bd3 Be6 18.Nc7?!± [18.Rc1] 18...Rag8 19.Nxe6 Kxe6 20.Rxc7?!= [20.Rag1 Rxc7 21.Rxc7 Ne4+ 22.Ke2 Kf6 23.Rg2 Re8±] 20...Nxc7± [20...Rxc7 21.Ke2 Ne4 22.Rf1 h5=] 21.Ke2 Ne7 22.Kf3 Rc8 23.a4 Rc7 24.a5 h6 25.h4 Kf6 26.h5 Nc8 27.Kf4 Nd6 28.Rg1 Rc8 29.f3 Ke6 30.Rg7 Rh8 31.Bc2 Rc8 32.Bb3 Rh8 33.Rg1 Rc8 34.Rg7 [34.Rg2 Ne8 35.Bc2 Nd6 36.Bd3 Rc1±] 34...Rh8 35.Rg2 Rc8 36.Rg1 [36.Rc2 Rxc2 37.Bxc2 Nc4 38.b4 Kf6±] 36...Ne8 37.e4 fxe4 38.fxe4 Nf6

39.e5 Ne4 40.Ke3 b6 41.axb6 axb6 42.Kd3 [42.Bd1 Rc4 43.Rg8 Rb4±] 42...Nf2+ 43.Ke2 [43.Kd2 Ne4+ 44.Ke3 Ng5±] 43...Ne4 44.Ke3 f6 [44...Ng5 45.Rf1 Ne4 46.Rxf7 Kxf7 47.Bxd5+ Ke7 48.Bxe4 Ke6±] 45.Rg6 Rc1 46.Rxh6?!± Carlsen goes up a P [46.exf6 Nxf6 47.Bxd5+ Ke7 48.Bf3 Rc2 49.b4 Rb2 50.d5 Rxb4±] 46...Rh1 47.Bc2 Rh3+?!± [47...Re1+ 48.Kd3 b5±] 48.Kf4 Rh4+ 49.Kf3 Nd2+ 50.Ke2 Rh2+ 51.Kd1 Nc4 52.Rxf6+ Carlsen goes up 2 P 52...Ke7 53.Bg6 Rd2+ 54.Kc1 Rxd4 Carlsen is up a P 55.b3 Nxe5 material equality 56.Rxb6 Carlsen goes up a P again 56...Rh4 57.Bf5?!± [57.Kb2 Rh3 58.Ra6 Ng4±] 57...Nf3?!± [57...Nc4! 58.Re6+ (58.bxc4?! Rxb5 59.Bg6 Rh1+ 60.Kd2 dxc4 61.Kc3 Rh4=) 58...Kf7 59.h6 Na5±] 58.h6 Nd4



59.h7! Carlsen sacs his B to get his hP to the 7th rank 59...Nxf5 Anand is up N vs P 60.Rb8 Nd4 61.Kb2 Kd6?!+- [61...Rh2+ 62.Kc3 Ne2+ 63.Kb4 Rh4+ 64.Kc5 Nd4±] 62.h8Q Rxh8 63.Rxh8 Carlsen is up the exchange 63...Kc5 64.Rh5 [64.Ka3 Nc6 65.Ka4 d4+-] 64...Nc6 [64...Nb5 65.Rh6 d4+-] 65.Rh4?!± [65.Ka3 Nb4 66.Ka4 Nd3+-] 65...Nb4 66.Ka3 d4 67.Rh5+ Nd5 68.Kb2 Kc6 69.Ka3 Kc5 70.Rh4 Nb4 71.Rh8 Nc6?!+- [71...Nc2+ 72.Kb2 Nb4±] 72.Rh5+ Kd6 73.b4 d3 74.Rh3 Ne5 75.Kb3 d2 76.Kc2 Nc6 77.Rh4 Kd5+- 2.92 1-0

In Rd. 7, Ivanchuk



defeated Aronian, and this lifted him into a tie for 2nd with Carlsen, both a point behind the leader, Grischuk, with 5 points. Here is the game:

Aronian, L (2750) – Ivanchuk, V (2779) [E92]

XXVI Super GM Linares ESP (7), 26.02.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3 c6 8.d5 Ng4 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bh4 c5 11.0-0 h5 12.Ne1 Nh6 13.f3 Nf7 14.Rb1 Bh6 15.Bf2 Na6 16.a3 b6 17.b4 f5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.f4 Bxf4 20.Bxh5 Bd7 21.Rb3 Qg5 22.b5 Nc7 23.Bxf7+ Rxf7 24.Ne2 Rg7 25.Nxf4 Qxf4 26.Bxc5 Qh6

27.Be3 f4 28.Bc1 Bg4 29.Qd2 Rf8 30.Nd3 Ne8 31.Nxf4 Rxf4 32.Rxf4 Qxf4 33.Qxf4 exf4 34.Bxf4 Rf7 35.g3 Re7 36.h3 Bxh3 37.Kf2 Nf6 38.g4 Bxg4 39.Re3 Ne4+ 40.Ke1 Kf7 41.a4 Nc5 42.Kd2 Rxe3 43.Kxe3 Ke7 44.Kd4 0-1

In Rd. 8, Aronian,

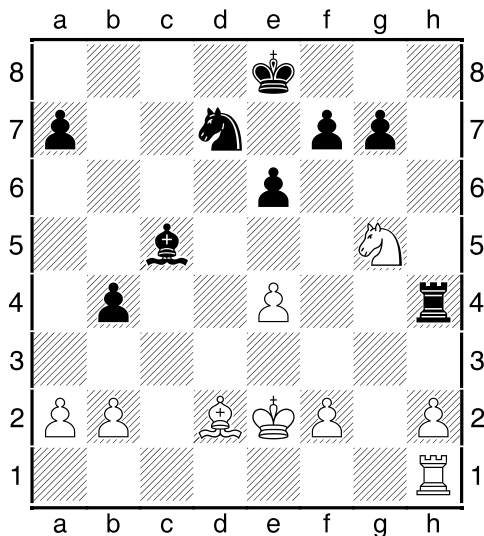


a former leader, defeated Carlsen in a classic R & P ending battle to move back into contention, tied for 2nd/3rd with Ivanchuk, both a point behind Grischuk. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2776) – Aronian, L (2750) [D45]

XXVI Super GM Linares ESP (8), 28.02.2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4 [7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5=] 7...h6 [7...Nxc4 8.Rg1 h5=] 8.Bd2 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b5 [9...Rb8 10.h3 b5 11.Bd3 b4 12.Na4 Bb7=] 10.Be2 Bb7 11.e4 Be7 12.g5 [12.0-0 Nxc4 13.Rad1 0-0=] 12...hxg5 13.Nxc5?! material equality [13.e5 b4 14.Na4 g4 15.Ng5 Nd5=] 13...b4?! [13...c5 14.dxc5 b4 15.Na4 (15.c6?! Bxc6 16.Nb5 Nc5=) 15...Rh4=] 14.Na4 c5 15.Nxc5 Carlsen goes up a P 15...Nxc5 16.dxc5 Rc8 17.Qa4+?! Carlsen should take the 2nd P [17.Bxb4 Qc7 18.Qc3 Qf4=] 17...Bc6 18.Bb5 Bxb5 19.Qxb5+ Qd7 20.Qxd7+ [20.Qe2 Rxc5 21.Be3 Ra5=] 20...Nxd7 21.Ke2 Rh4 22.Rac1 Rxc5 material equality again 23.Rxc5 Bxc5



24.f4?! though hard to see, the problem here is the BI B. In future Carlsen will have a vulnerable eP and Q-side P at the same time, and the B will attack b2 and keep the K back from e3. Aronian gets a " clear " advantage [24.Be3! Bxe3 25.Kxe3 Ne5= (25...Nc5?? 26.Rc1 Na4±) ; 24.f3?! e5 25.h3 Rh6 26.Nxf7 Kxf7 27.Bxh6 gxh6=] 24...e5 25.h3 exf4 26.Nf3 Rh6 27.Bxf4 Re6 28.Nd2 Bd4 here comes the problem B Carlsen didn't get rid of when he had the chance earlier

29.Rb1 this will not protect the Q-side. Was it better to give up the eP? [29.a3 bxa3 30.bxa3 Nc5 31.Rc1 Nxe4 Carlsen keeps the aP] **29...Ra6** [29...Nc5? 30.Be3 Bxe3 31.Kxe3 f5 32.Rg1 g6 33.Kf3 fxe4+ 34.Ke3 Nd7=] **30.a3** [30.Kd3 Bf6 31.Kc2 Rc6+ 32.Kd3 Nc5+ 33.Ke3 Ra6] **30...bxa3 31.bxa3 Rxa3** Aronian goes up a passed aP – dangerous **32.Nc4 Ra2+ 33.Kd3 Bf2 34.Bd6 Nb6 35.Bb4 Nxc4 36.Kxc4 Bb6 37.Kd5 Rg2 38.Rb3 Rg5+ 39.e5 Bc7?! [39...Kd7 40.Rf3 f6 41.Bc3 Bc7 42.h4 Rh5] 40.Bd6 Bxd6 41.Kxd6 Rg6+ 42.Kd5 Rb6 43.Rc3?! [43.Ra3?! Rb5+ 44.Kd6 a5; 43.Rg3 Ke7 (43...g6 44.Rc3 Rb5+ 45.Kd6 Kd8) 44.Rc3 Kd7] 43...Kd7 44.Rf3 Ke7 45.Rc3 Rb7 46.Rc6 g6 47.Ra6 Kf8 48.Ke4 Kg7 49.Kf4 Re7 50.Ra5 Kh6 51.Kg4 a6 52.Rxa6?! taking is a no-no [52.h4 Re6 53.Rc5 Rb6] 52...Rxe5 53.Rb6 Re3 54.Ra6 f5+ 55.Kh4 Re4+ 56.Kg3 Kg5 57.Ra3 Re2 58.Kf3 Rh2 59.Kg3 Rb2 60.Ra8 Rb3+ 61.Kg2 Kf4?! [61...Rb4 62.Kf3 Rf4+ 63.Kg2 Rd4] 62.Ra4+ Ke3 63.h4 Rb6 64.Kg3 Rd6 65.Rf4?! [65.Ra7 Re6 66.Ra1 Ke4] 65...Rd1 66.Rf3+ Ke4 67.Rf4+ Ke5 68.Ra4 f4+ 69.Kg2 Rd2+ 70.Kf3 [70.Kg1 Rd6 71.Ra5+ Rd5] 70...Rd3+ 71.Kg2 Rg3+ 72.Kh2 Kf5 73.Ra6 Re3 [73...Ke4? 74.Ra4+ Kf3 75.Ra6 Ke2=] 74.Ra5+ Re5 75.Ra2 Kg4 76.Rg2+ Kh5 77.Kh3 Ra5 78.Rg1 Ra3+ 79.Kh2 Ra6 80.Kh3 Ra5 81.Rg2 Rc5 82.Rg1 f3?= Aronian gives Carlsen drawing chances [82...Rc3+ 83.Kh2 Rc2+ 84.Kh3 Rc5] 83.Kg3 Rf5 84.Rf1??-+ a blunder; Carlsen misses his draw; Aronian gets a " winning " advantage [84.Kf2 Rf6 85.Rh1 Kg4 86.Rg1+ Kxh4 87.Rh1+ Kg4 88.Rg1+ Kf4 89.Rg3 Rc6 90.Rxf3+ Kg4=] 84...f2 85.Kh3 Rf3+ 86.Kg2 Kg4 87.h5 Rg3+ 88.Kh2 Kf3 89.Ra1 Rg2+ 90.Kh1 Rg5 91.Ra3+ Kf4 92.Ra4+ Kg3 93.Ra3+ Kh4+ – 5.75 0-1**

OCA Governors To Decide: Can Ont. CFC Members Elect CFC Governors?

(Posted on CFC Chess Forum on Feb. 20)

Today I [Ed. – Bob Armstrong] filed with the OCA Secretary, Michael von Keitz, a formal motion to amend the OCA Bylaws. Here is my letter to him:

Feb. 20, 2009

Hi Michael:

I am now formally filing my motion on amending the OCA Bylaws to allow Ontario CFC members to " elect " the regional Ontario CFC Governors (currently they are elected by the OCA Governors). The motion is attached, and it is formally moved/seconded on my behalf by OCA Governor Kerry Liles, OCA Treasurer, and OCA Governor Michael von Keitz, OCA Secretary, respectively.

This matter was put over to the OCA AGM this Spring by Chris Mallon, on the filing of my original brief on this matter.

I would ask that you forward this e-mail and its attachment to all OCA Governors.

I am considering attending the AGM, if I will be able to speak to the motion, and answer questions on it, along with my mover and seconder. Please let me know if I will be recognized, though not an OCA Governor.

Thank you.

Bob

It is our view that the CFC Handbook gives the right to elect CFC Governors to the CFC Members, not the associations affiliated with the CFC; therefore NOT the OCA

Governors, as the OCA Bylaws currently state. We will let you know what the OCA Governors finally decide. My personal thanks to Kerry and Michael for moving and seconding the motion on my behalf, since a member of the OCA has no right by themselves to bring motions before the OCA.

CFC Moves on Fees

(from 2008/9GL4)

Motion 2009-07 (Moved David Lavin / Maurice Smith)

Effective May 1st, 2009 the CFC Tournament Fee will be \$20 per player per tournament, \$4 of which will go to the Provincial Authority. The CFC Tournament Fee for Juniors will be \$10 per player per tournament, of which \$2 will go to the Provincial Authority. This replaces the entire Section of Article 375 Tournament Playing Fee in the Handbook.

David Lavin: There has been much discussion about Tournament Memberships. Many feel that they encourage new members, others feel that they are costing the CFC revenue. What cannot be disputed is that an adult Tournament Membership fee of \$10 is incredibly cheap when compared to the Annual Membership of \$36. The cost of processing each membership is the same, so the costs to the CFC of a Tournament Membership is disproportionately high. Secondly, relatively few people play in four tournaments a year so there is a significant incentive to purchase the \$10 Tournament Membership rather than full Membership.

Motion 2009-08 (Moved David Lavin / Maurice Smith)

Effective May 1st 2009 the Rating Fee for Adult Tournaments will be \$3 per person per Tournament if using CFC/SwissSys, \$5 per person per Tournament if not using CFC SwissSys. The rating Fee for Junior Tournaments will be \$0.50 per person per Tournament if using CFC SwissSys, \$2.50 per person per Tournament if not using CFC SwissSys. Tournaments submitted Swiss Assistant shall receive the same rate as those submitted using CFC SwissSys.

This replaces the entire Section of Article 731 Fees in the Handbook and any Motions regarding 731 that were passed and not published.

David Lavin: The CFC at some expense has purchased a software solution to the rating of CFC tournaments. This system was implemented in order to replace the manual input of tournament spreadsheets by the Executive Director and staff that has been expensive to use. We want to encourage TDs to use a system that has proven to be simple to use and beneficial to all parties.

Governors should note that this motion is **NOT identical** to the version originally posted on the CFC Forum – the original version had a junior fee of 1.00 and 3.00 (which was **an unintended increase in the current fees**) and did not mention Swiss Assistant. We apologize for any confusion!

[Ed. – the vote by the Governors on the 2 motions is to be in by Friday, March 6 – we'll see if the Grassroots' Campaign platform incorporated into motion 2009-07 passes !!]

Kitchener-Waterloo Winter Open

(report by Hans Jung on ChessTalk)

We ... had 65 players with good pairing numbers (16 in the top section). Interesting games and interesting results.

The 3 masters in the top section were upset - some more than once. William Klarner, recently returned from Germany, lost 4 games to experts. Michael Dougherty looked to be cruising to another tournament win in Kitchener but was upset in the last round by Vlad Drkulec. Congratulations Vlad on a great tournament result tying for 1st with Gord Olheiser (ditto Gord!)

Mahmud Hassain outclassed the field in the under 2000 with a perfect 5-0.

Derek Rabethge finished clear first in the under 1700. Congratulations Derek!

For the first time in a long time 1st place in all sections was taken by local players.

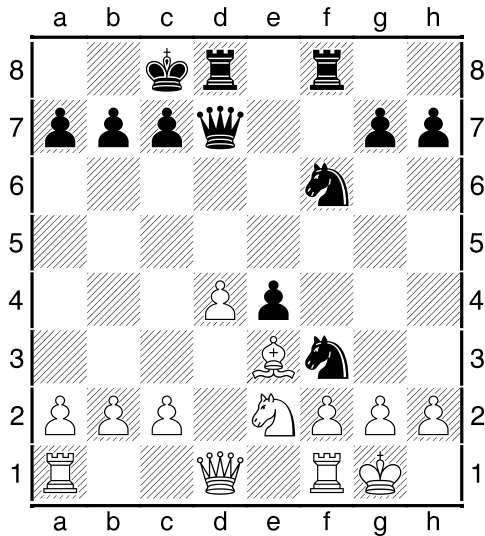
[Ed.: In Rd. 5 in the Open section, on Monday, unfortunately 2 Toronto players got paired – Alex Ferreira and Geordie Derragh – both SCC members and Hart House CC members. They had just played each other the week before at SCC, and they have recently played a match at HH. I had given them a ride down (your intrepid editor was in the U 2000, and scored just 50%). Unfortunately, I had car trouble on the way to Kitchener on the Sunday, and so had to withdraw, since I couldn't chance driving again on Monday. Since they were both from Toronto, and I wasn't coming back on Monday, they arranged with Patrick to play a " satellite " Rd. 5 game at Hart House on Monday morning, with yours truly on site as arbiter ! It was an exciting game – loads of tactics and threats and winning advantage shifting back and forth (see below – Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz). Thanks to Alex and Geordie for the lunch treat after the game ! Here's the game:]

Ferreira, Alex (2060) – Derragh, Geordie (2063) [A00]

Kitchener-Waterloo Winter Open (Open) Toronto (5), 16.02.2009

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 [2...d4 3.Nce2 e5 4.Ng3 Nc6=] **3.Nxe4 e5?!±** [3...Nf6 4.Nxf6+ exf6 5.d4 Be6=] **4.Bc4 Nf6?!±** Geordie commits an opening oversight, making what seems like a standard opening move for Bl. Alex gets an early " clear " advantage [4...Nc6 5.Nf3 (5.d3?! Be7 6.Qh5 g6 7.Qf3 f5=) 5...Bf5 6.Qe2 Qe7±] **5.Ng5 Be6?!+-** Alex gets a " winning " advantage [5...Nd5 6.Qh5 g6 7.Qf3 Qxg5 8.Bxd5 f5±] **6.Bxe6?±** [6.Nxe6 fxe6 7.Nf3! Nc6 8.Ng5 Qe7 9.0-0! Na5 10.Bb5+ c6 11.Bd3 0-0-0+-] **6...fxe6 7.Nxe6** Alex goes up a P [7.d4 Nc6 8.N1f3 e4 9.Nxe6 Qd7 10.Nfg5 h6 11.d5 hxg5 12.Nxf8 Qxd5 13.Qxd5 Nxd5 14.Ne6 Kf7 15.Nxg5+ Kg6 16.Nxe4 Rae8 17.f3 Nf6±] **7...Qd7 8.Nxf8 Rxf8 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.0-0 0-0-0 11.d3** [11.a4?! e4 12.a5 a6=] **11...e4 12.d4?!=** [12.Be3 exd3 13.Nf4 dxc2 14.Qxc2 Qf7±] **12...Ne5?!±** Geordie has hatched a creative sacrificial attack [12...Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Qe2 Qe5=] **13.Be3** [13.c3?! Nf3+! 14.gxf3 (14.Kh1?! Ng4! 15.gxf3 Rxf3 16.Be3 Qd5 17.Ng3 Rxg3! 18.fxg3 Nxe3 19.Qe2 Nxf1 20.Rxf1 e3+ 21.Kg1 Re8±) 14...exf3 15.Nf4 Nd5 16.Qxf3 Nxf4 17.Bxf4 g5=] **13...Nf3+?+-** this is an unsound sac; Alex gets a " winning " advantage [13...Nc4 14.Nf4 (14.Ng3?! h5 15.Nxh5 Rh8 16.Ng3 Nxe3 (16...Ng4? 17.Bg5 (17.Qe2? Ncxe3 18.fxe3 Nxh2 19.Rf4 g5 20.Rxe4 Rdf8±) 17...e3 18.Bxd8 exf2+ 19.Rxf2 Nxf2 20.Kxf2 Nxb2±) 17.fxe3 Ng4=) 14...Rf7 15.Qe2 Nxe3 16.fxe3 Rdf8±]

Position after 13...Nf3?



14.Kh1??-+ a blunder. Alex wrongly refuses the sac, and Geordie gets a "winning" advantage [14.gxf3 exf3 15.Ng3 Nd5 16.Kh1 Rde8+- Alex would be up a B] **14...Ng4 15.gxf3 exf3** Alex is now up a B **16.Ng3??-+** - 5.92 a blunder - Geordie now has a devastating attack [16.Nf4? g5 17.Qxf3 gxf4 18.Bc1 Rf6+- - 3.21; 16.Rg1 Nxe3 17.fxe3 f2 18.Rg2 f1Q+ 19.Qxf1 Rxf1+ 20.Rxf1 g6+- - 1.72] **16...h5??±** suddenly Alex has a "clear" advantage. [the devastating move that Geordie missed 16...Qe7 17.Nf5 Rxf5 18.Rg1 Nxe2! 19.Bg5 Rxe5 20.Rg3 Rxe3 21.fxe3 Rd5+- - 15.36 Geordie would be up N + P] **17.Rg1 Nxe3** 1.73 [17...Rde8 18.Nf1 Rxe3! 19.Rxe3 Re2 (19...Re7?! 20.Rg3 h4 21.Rxf3 Qd5+- 1.82) 20.Rg3 Rxf2±] **18.fxe3 h4 19.Nf1 h3?!+-** 2.71 [19...Rde8 20.d5 Re5+- 2.26] **20.e4?!±** [20.Rg3 Qd5 21.c4 Qe4 22.Qb1 Qc6 23.Qd3 f2+ 24.d5 Qf6+-] **20...Rf4?!+-** [20...Qxd4 21.Qxd4 Rxd4±] **21.Rg3** [21.Rg5?! Qxd4 22.Qxd4 Rxd4±; 21.Ng3 Qxd4 22.Qxd4 Rxd4+-] **21...Rdf8?+-** 3.29 [21...Qe7 22.Qd3 Rxe4 23.Qxf3 Rxd4+- 1.73] **22.Qd3 g5+-** 4.00 [22...Qe7 23.Re1 g5+- 3.41] **23.Ne3?!±** [23.Rxe5 f2 24.Ng3 Qd8+-] **23...g4?!+-** [23...Re8 24.Rf1 Rxe4 25.Rxf3 g4 26.Rf5 Rxd4±] **24.Nc4 f2 25.Nd2 Qf7 26.Rf1 Qxa2** Alex is up an N vs P **27.Qa3** [27.b4 Qa6 28.b5 Qd6+-] **27...Qe6?+-** 3.00 [27...Qxa3 28.bxa3 b6 29.Re3 b5+- 1.63] **28.Qxa7** Alex is up an N **28...c6?+-** 9.31 [28...Qa6 29.Qc5 Qc6 30.Qxc6 bxc6+- 3.22] **29.Qa8+?+-** 5.04 [29.Rb3 b5 30.Qa6+ Kd7+- 10.67] **29...Kd7??+-** 16.41 a blunder, giving up the bP [29...Kc7 30.Qa5+ Kc8 31.Ra3 Qe7+- 6.08] **30.Qxb7+** Alex is up N + P **30...Kd8 31.d5??+-** 7.56 [31.Ra3! Qc8 32.Ra8 Qxa8 33.Qxa8+ Ke7+- 17.57 Alex would be up Q + N + P vs R] **31...cxd5??+-** 16.55 [31...Qc8 32.Qb6+ Ke8 33.Qc5 R8f6+- 9.64] **32.Qxd5+?=?** Alex has lost his advantage [32.Ra3! Qd7 33.Qb8+ Ke7 34.Qe5+ Kf7 35.Qxf4+ Kg8+- 16.80] **32...Qxd5 33.exd5 Re8 34.Ra3 Re1?±** [34...Re2 35.Ra8+ Kc7 36.d6+ Kc6 37.d7 Kxd7=] **35.Ra1? =** [35.c3 Re2 36.Ra8+ Ke7=] **35...Rd4 36.Raxe1 fxe1Q 37.Rxe1 Rxd2** Alex is temporarily up 2 P **38.Rg1 Rxc2** Alex is up a P **39.b3 Rb2 40.Rxe1 Rb1+ 41.Rg1 Rxb3 42.Rg3=** Alex offered a draw, and Geordie willingly accepted ½-½

Hart House Reading Week Open

(report by Alex Ferreira, organizer, and SCC member, on ChessTalk)

This past weekend's event attracted 91 players, including some from Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo, and at least one from each Windsor, Niagara, Ottawa and Edmonton. Most people seem to have enjoyed the event, and we're hoping to repeat it in the first weekend of July.

Open:

IM Leonid Gerzhoy dominated the event, while escaping a very dangerous attack in Round 4 against FM Bindi Cheng, and being forced to earn his last round draw with white against a keen IM Nikolay Noritsyn, a game that lasted nearly the entire 5 hours. University of Toronto's Bindi Cheng & David Peng, along with up and coming junior master Alexander Martchenko, split 2nd & 3rd place between the 3 of them. Gerzhoy finished with 4.5/5, while Peng, Cheng & Martchenko had 4.0/5 each. The U2200 prizes were taken by Hugh Siddeley & Aman Hambleton (1st & 2nd tied), with Alvah Mayo taking 3rd place.

Standings:

Name rtng rd 1 rd 2 rd 3 rd 4 rd 5 TOT

1 Gerzhoy, Leonid.....2514 W 15 W 4 W 6 W 3 D 5 4.5
2 Peng, David.....2372 D 17 W 28 W 21 H--- W 10 4.0
3 Cheng, Bindi.....2348 W 18 W 11 W 13 L 1 W 12 4.0
4 Martchenko, Alexander.....2240 W 23 L 1 W 15 W 13 W 14 4.0

U2000:

A very competitive section and a race too close to call until the very last round. Tied for 1st without conceding a loss came Omar Shah, Sam Haziprodromu, Erik Malmsten & UT's Sina Makaremi, all rated above 1800.

Bruce Dowling & Ben Olden-Cooligan split the U1800 prizes.

Standings:

Name rtng rd 1 rd 2 rd 3 rd 4 rd 5 TOT

1 Shah, Omar.....1939 W 22 W 13 D 14 W 15 D 4 4.0
2 Malmsten, Erik.....1886 W 33 D 15 D 6 W 21 W 14 4.0
3 Makaremi, Sina.....1841 H--- W 27 H--- W 26 W 8 4.0
4 Haziprodromu, Sam.....1811 W 31 W 9 D 8 W 10 D 1 4.0

U1600:

This section was taken by two players rated in the 1300s!

Joseph Bellissimo & Michael Rogers both finished with 4.0/5, 8-year-old Joseph without conceding a loss.

Joseph & Michael split the 1st places U1600 & U1400 prizes. James Denis Dylan Martin took the 2nd U1600 prize, Jackie Peng the 2nd U1400 prize & Alex Safir the 3rd U1600 prize.

Standings:

Name rtng rd 1 rd 2 rd 3 rd 4 rd 5 TOT

1 Bellissimo, Joseph.....1380 W 19 D 5 W 18 D 4 W 10 4.0
2 Rogers, Michael.....1330 L 4 W 16 W 14 W 6 W 5 4.0
3 Martin, James Denis Dylan...1340 H--- W 22 L 4 W 18 W 12 3.5

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bryan Lamb, who now has TD'd / organized the last 5 tournaments in Toronto, attracting record numbers of participants each time. If not for Bryan giving himself to chess, the Toronto chess scene would be quite dry.

Behind the scenes, this tournament was a team effort by the Hart House personnel and its Chess Club. Stuart Brammall, Leon Perelman, Bill Kim, Travis Li, Geordie Derrrough, Rob Roller and Day Milman all contributed to this event. Thanks also to Omar Shah, Liam Henry, Kit Ng and Andrew McMillan for on-site assistance.

King Walk

(Written and copyright 2009 by David Cohen)

In the middle game, we usually tuck our king away in the shelter provided by castling. Usually, we do not bring it out voluntarily until the endgame, when it becomes a strong piece. In the endgame, the king can attack without fear of being hunted and chased into a mating net. So, what would possess a player to come up with the idea of willingly taking the king out for a walk in the middle game? Conditions need to be just right. Here, we see a blocked position, good control of the open parts of the board by the attacker, and defenders which are far from the scene of action.

Nigel Short - Jan Timman
Tilburg, Netherlands, 1991

**1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 g6 5. Bc4 Nb6 6. Bb3 Bg7 7. Qe2 Nc6 8. O-O O-O
9. h3 a5 10. a4 dxe5 11. dxe5 Nd4 12. Nxd4 Qxd4 13. Re1**

A line of Alekhine's Defence dating to 1978.

13... e6 14. Nd2 Nd5 15. Nf3 Qc5 16. Qe4

Novelty. 16. Bd2 Fievet-Michaud, 1989 0-1.

16... Qb4

White enjoys a space advantage, thanks to the cramping influence of P/e5. Black tries to relieve the pressure by offering to trade pieces. White doesn't bite.

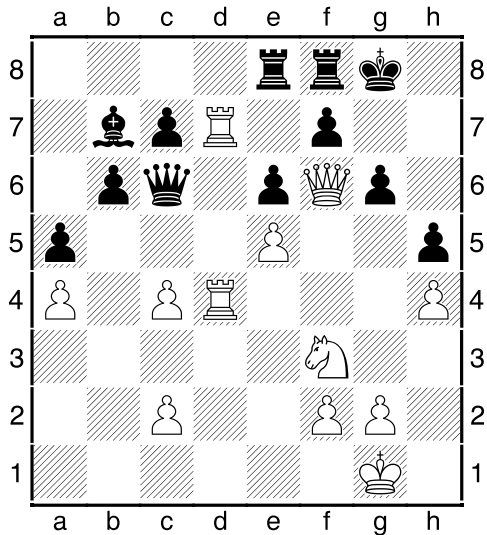
17. Bc4 Nb6 18. b3

Threat: 19. Ba3 skewer along a3-f8 diagonal.

18... Nxc4 19. bxc4 Re8 20. Rd1 Qc5 21. Qh4

Black struggles to complete the development of the queenside pieces. White firms up control of the board by occupying the open d-file. White launches a kingside attack by seeking to eliminate the main defender, the dark-squared bishop. }

21... b6 22. Be3 Qc6 23. Bh6 Bh8 24. Rd8 Bb7 25. Rad1 Bg7 26. R8d7 Rf8 27. Bxg7 Kxg7 28. R1d4 Rae8 29. Qf6+ Kg8 30. h4 h5



31. Kh2 !!

Amazingly, Black is helpless. White's king simply strolls up the board to help deliver mate.

31... Rc8

If 31... Bc8 32. Ng5 Bxd7 (32... Qxd7 33. Rxd7 Bxd7 34. g4 Bxa4 35. gxh5 gxh5 36. Ne4 Kh7 37. Qg5 f5 38. Nf6+ Rxf6 39. exf6) 33. Rf4 Qc5 34. Nxf7 Rxf7 35. Qxf7+ Kh8 36. Qxg6 Qxe5 37. g3 Qg7 38. Qxh5+ Kg8 39. Rg4)

32. Kg3 Rce8 33. Kf4 Bc8 34. Kg5

The Black king can't keep the White king from reaching h6 to support Qg7#, since ..Kh7 abandons f7, allowing White's pieces to flood in.

1-0

Is Chess a Sport??

Last Issue we raised this question with everyone and gave our answer – it was !
 SCC member Ken Kurkowski sent in his opinion:

“ Regarding the eternal question of whether chess is a sport, I don't think it can ever be resolved to everyone's satisfaction. It's sort of like asking, "who was the better chess

player, Morphy or Fischer?" It depends on what criteria you use. The best solution may be to create a new category of "Mind Sports" that would include competitive chess, Go, bridge, poker and other such activities. They have already had a competition for these kind of sports last year in China, with many well-known chess players participating. The only downside to this is that our governments fund "sports", "arts" but not (as yet) "mind sports". “

Any other ideas on this “ eternal question “ ? Send them in !

SCC Jack Frost Swiss

This 7 Rd. swiss started Thursday, January 8 and finished February 19. It was 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, this time 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.

The final standings were:

Open Section:

1st / 3rd – 5.5 pts. – Master David Krupka
Master Bryan Lamb
Expert Andrei Moffat

U 1700 Section:

1st – 5.5 pts. – Dean Ward
2nd/4th – 5 pts. – Maurice Smith
Gabriel Azmitia
Bill Peng

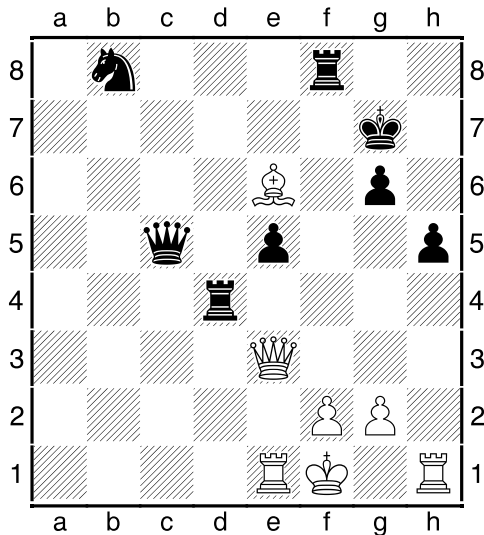
In Rd. 7 in the top section on Bd. 2, co-winner master David Krupka defeated one of the then co-leaders, expert Karl Sellars. Karl was ahead slightly for most of the game, and up a P for the second half. But David sacked a R to go for a draw. Karl, wrongly, thought he saw a way of winning David's Q for 2 R's, and wrongly counter-sacked his R. When the smoke cleared, David was going to be up 2 R's. Karl resigned. The game ended in a flurry of tactics. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Krupka, David (2221) – Sellars, Karl (2196) [B14]

Scarb. CC Jack Frost Sw.(1700 & Over) Toronto (7), 19.02.2009

1.d4 c5± 2.e3?!= [2.dxc5 e6 3.Nc3 Bxc5±] 2...Nf6 3.Nf3 d5 4.c4 [4.Bd3 e6 5.0-0 Nc6=] 4...cxd4 5.exd4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.c5 b6 9.b4 [9.Be2 bxc5 10.dxc5 Ne4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Qxd8 Rxd8=] 9...Bg4 10.Be2 Ne4 11.Rc1 a5 [11...bxc5 12.bxc5 Qa5=] 12.a3?± Karl gets a " clear "

advantage [12.b5 Nxc3 13.Rxc3 bxc5 14.Rxc5 Nd7=] **12...axb4 13.axb4 bxc5 14.bxc5 Ra3?=[14...Qa5 15.Qc2 Nc6 16.0-0 Nxc3 17.Qxc3 Qxc3 18.Rxc3 Rfb8** [15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Ne5?! [16.Nd2 Bxe2 17.Qxe2 Nc6=] **16...Bxe5 17.Bxg4** [17.dxe5 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Nc6] **17...Rd3 18.Qa4 Bxd4** Karl goes up a P **19.Bh6 Bc3+ 20.Kf1 Rd4 21.Qc2 Bd2 22.Bxd2 Rxd2 23.Qxe4** material equality **23...Rd4 24.Qe2 Qa5** [24...e5 25.h4 Qf6 26.g3 h5 27.Bf3 e4 28.Bg2 Rc8] **25.h4?! [25.Bf3 Qa3 26.Qe1 Nc6] 25...e5?! [25...Qa3 26.Re1 Qxc5] 26.h5** [26.Bf3 Qa3 27.Qe3 Rd3 28.Qe1 Rc8; 26.Kg1 Nc6 27.h5 Qa4] **26...Qa3 27.Re1 Qxc5** Karl goes up a P again **28.hxg6 fxg6 29.Be6+ Kg7?!=** [29...Kh8] **30.Qe3 h5** [30...Qb5+ 31.Kg1 Rff4=]



31.Rxh5! David goes for a draw by 3-time repetition **31...Rxf2+??+-** Karl comes up with an unsound sacrifice response – his idea is to pin the Q when it captures the R [31...gxh5 32.Qg5+ Kh7 33.Qxh5+ Kg7 34.Qg5+=] **32.Qxf2 Rf4+-** 9.46 [32...gxh5 33.Qf7+ Kh6 34.Qf6+ Kh7 35.Bf5+ Kg8 36.Qg6+ Kf8 37.Qh6+ Ke7 38.Qg7+ Kd8 39.Qh8+ Kc7 40.Qc8+ Kd6 41.Qxb8+ Qc7+- 9.24 David would be up B vs P; 32...Qe7? 33.Rhxe5 Nc6 34.R5e3 Rh4 35.g3 Rh1+ 36.Kg2 Rxe1 37.Rxe1 Qa7+- 12.53] **33.Qxf4!+-** 9.66 now David grabs the other R, relying on the pin on the eP ! Karl resigned. **1-0**

In Rd. 7 in the U 1700, Dinesh Dattani

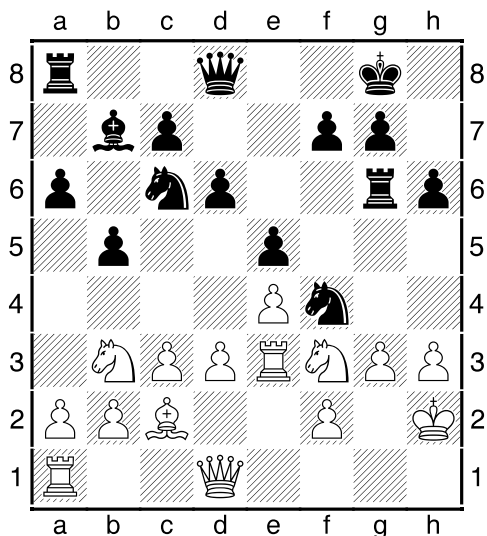


won a slashing sacrificial mate game against Bob Du, though it may not be totally sound. Have a look. Here's the game (Annotations by Dinesh Dattani, using Fritz):

Du, Bob (1238) – Dattani, Dinesh (1338) [C78]

SCC Jack Frost Swiss (U 1700) Toronto (7), 19.02.2009

78MB, Fritz11.ctg, D6KVVNN91 C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.Re1 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 Bb7** [9...Bb6 10.d4 h6 11.Be3 Re8 12.Nbd2 Na5 13.Bc2 Bb7 14.b4 exd4 15.cxd4 Nc4 16.Nxc4 bxc4 17.d5 Bxe3 18.Rxe3 c6 19.dxc6 Bxc6 20.Qd4 d5 21.e5 Ne4 22.Rd1 Qe7 23.a3 Rab8 24.h4 Olivier,J (2368)–Sebag,M (2371)/ Evry 2002/CBM 088 ext/1-0 (35)] **10.Bc2N** [10.d4 exd4 11.cxd4 Bb4 12.Bd2 (12.Re2 h6 13.Bd2 Bxd2 14.Nbxd2 Re8 15.Bc2 Nb4 16.Bb1 Nc6 17.Nf1 Ne7 18.Ng3 Ng6 19.Qc1 Qd7 20.a3 Rac8 21.Qd2 c5 22.d5 Qc7 23.Ba2 Qb6 24.Rae1 c4 25.Rc1 Nd7 26.Bb1 Nde5 Apostolakakis,I–Lazoglou,K/Thessaloniki 1996/CBM 055 ext/1-0 (53)) 12...Bxd2 13.Nbxd2 Re8 14.a3 h6 15.Bc2 b4 16.Ba4 Re7 17.d5 Ne5 18.Nd4 bxa3 19.Nf5 Nd3 20.Re3 Nxb2 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Qb3 Nxa4 23.Qxa4 Qd8 24.Raxa3 Nd7 Arredondo,R–Martinez,C/Aquascalientes 2007/CBM 120 ext/1-0 (38); 10.d3 Ne7 11.Bg5 Ng6 12.Nbd2 h6 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.fxe3 c5 15.a4 Qd7 16.Nf1 c4 17.dxc4 bxc4 18.Bxc4 Nxe4 19.Bd5 Bxd5 20.Qxd5 Nf6 21.Qd2 Rab8 22.Ng3 e4 23.Nd4 Ne5 24.Rf1 Nd3 Aido Espina,S (1662)–Perez Munoz,J/Aviles 2007/CBM 119 ext/1-0 (38); 10.d4 Bb6=] **10...Re8** [10...h6 11.d4 Bb6 12.Be3=] **11.d3** [11.d4 Ba7=] **11...h6** Secures g5 [11...d5 12.Nbd2=] **12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Rxe3** [13.fxe3 Qb8=] **13...Nh5 14.Nbd2** [14.Qf1 Nf4=] **14...Nf4 15.Nb3** [15.Qf1=] **15...Re6** [15...Qf6!?=] **16.Kh2= Rg6** Black threatens to win material: Rg6xg2 [16...Rf6 17.g3 Ne6 18.d4 exd4 19.Nbxd4 Ncxd4 20.cxd4=] **17.g3** White threatens to win material: g3xf4



17...Qf6?? Black is ruining his position [Δ17...Bc8 and Black hangs on 18.gxf4 exf4=] **18.gxf4+- Qxf4+ 19.Kh1 Bc8** [19...Re8 20.Qe2+-] **20.Qf1 Ne7** [20...a5 21.d4+-] **21.Ng1** [21.d4!? Nc6+-] **21...Qh4 22.Ne2 Rf6** [22...Bg4 23.d4+-] **23.Kg1** [23.Rg3 a5+-] **23...Rg6+ 24.Rg3** [Δ24.Kh2+- a pity that White didn't try this] **24...Bxh3± 25.Qe1 Bg4 26.Rc1??** ruins a clearly superior position [Δ26.f3 the rescuing straw 26...Bxf3 27.Rxg6 Qxe1+ 28.Rxe1 Nxg6 29.Kf2±] **26...Bf3 27.Kf1** [27.Rg2 cannot undo what has already been done 27...Rxg2+ 28.Kf1 Qh1+ 29.Ng1 Qxg1#] **27...Qh1+ 28.Ng1 Rxg3 29.fxg3 Qg2# 0-1**

SCC 2008-9 Club Championship

The club championship is in 3 sections this year.

The Championship Section is a 10-player round robin comprised of the top 8 rated players in the club registered (this year is exceptionally strong with 6 masters , 3 experts and 1 “ A “ Class player) – master Liam Henry, WFM/master Yuanling Yuan, master David

Krupka, master John Hall, master Bryan Lamb, master Karl Sellars, expert Hugh Siddeley, and expert Andrei Moffat, along with the two winners of last year's Reserves Championship – expert Oscar Villalobos; A Class Kevin Wu.

The Reserves are split into two. There is an Open Section, and an U 1700 Section. In the top Reserves, 34 players registered, and the roster is headed by 3 experts and a number of A Class players who were formerly experts. In the U 1700 Section, 20 players registered. The winner of the Open Reserves gains entry into next year's Championship Section, so there is something very worthwhile to play for in that section.

A minor administrative controversy arose just before the start of Rd. 1 in the Championship section. SCC is using carbon score sheets for the Championship section this year, to facilitate the collecting of games for the SCC Database. Some of the players asked that the handing in of the carbons be mandatory – SCC has always previously maintained that handing in score sheets for the database was “voluntary”. But it was argued that to make it voluntary was unfair in the top section. There the pairings are known in advance, since it is a round robin, and so a player can prepare for the opponent by looking up their games in the database. It was argued that it was unfair if some players handed in their games, thus allowing others to prepare against them, while others didn't give opponents a chance to prepare, because they refused to hand in their carbons.

Now I had requested of the executive that it be mandatory two weeks earlier, and the executive had unanimously turned me down. Their reasoning was that the emphasis at SCC was on friendship and members feeling comfortable playing there. To make it mandatory might make some championship section players unhappy – they might choose not to play or leave the club. Or at very least, they would be handing the carbons in under protest, and still be unhappy. The executive did not want to “force” members to do this if they didn't want to. As well it seemed they didn't want “professionalization” of the club to trump “friendly informality”.

Legally, the organizers of a tournament “own” the score sheets:

CFC Handbook:

http://www.chess.ca/section_4.htm

Article 8,

" 8.3 The score sheets are the property of the organisers of the event. "

So SCC, as the organizer, has the right to demand that if someone plays in the championship section, then they must hand in their originals. But the executive did not want to follow this path.

Now it is also true, that with this position, other players may be unhappy. They feel they face unfair odds, if they comply with the wish of SCC that games be handed in, though voluntarily. And maybe one of them might quit the tournament in protest.

The upshot was that the executive explained its position to the player raising the “mandatory” argument, and he withdrew his request (though I believe he was still unconvinced of the executive position).

At the end of the first round 7 of the 10 players cooperated and handed in their carbons. Three did not. So one game was missing. We can only assume they have refused, since it was announced that we were collecting the games if we could, and that was the

reason for the carbons for the top section. And a number of the players in the section were around when the executive was explaining its position to one of the players.

But these members are now well within their rights to refuse to hand in the carbons, since this is now CFC policy.

One thing to keep in mind though is the main reason for the SCC Database – the enjoyment of members in being able to play over the games of other members. They may have seen part of the game in the evening and wanted to see how it turned out. Or they may have heard a member crowing about his win, and wanted to check it out. An additional reason for the database is club history – it is a historical record of players, ratings, tournaments, etc. for future members who are always given the full database when they become members.

What do the CFC members think of the Executive policy? Do they agree with the Executive Policy? What do you do at your club? Let us know and we'll publish your opinion. And I hope I have done justice to the executive argument. If not, then one of them can weigh in too, and slap my wrist a bit for inaccuracy.

[As a footnote to this, I would note that Michael Barron, GTCL President, and organizer of the Toronto Closed Championship/Reserves has " mandatory " handing in of the carbons. It was the same, I believe at the recent Kitchener-Waterloo Open – Open Section.]

In Rd. 1 in the Championship section, master John Hall



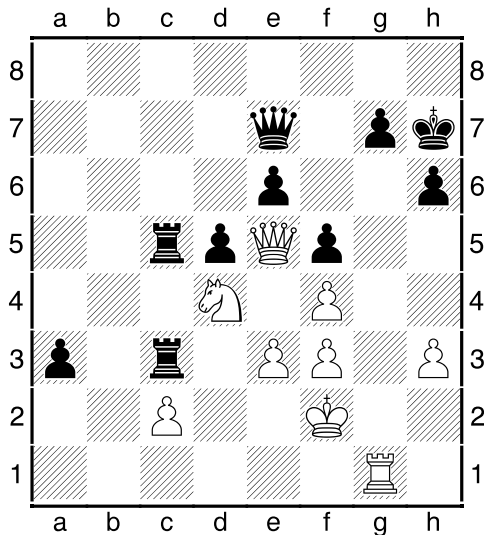
went up a P against expert Andrei Moffat. Then when Andrei lifted his R over to the K-side for an attack, John slowly crowded it in 'til it had no escaped squares and he won the exchange. He subsequently sacked the exchange back to queen his aP. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Moffat, Andrei (2170) – Hall, John (2204) [D00]

Scarb. CC Club Championship Toronto (1), 26.02.2009

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 c6± [2...Nf6=] 3.Bg5?!= [3.e4 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nd2 e6±] 3...h6 4.Bh4 Qb6 5.Rb1 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 Be7 9.Bxe7 Nxe7 10.Nf3 Nd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.b4 Qc7 13.a4?!± John gets the advantage [13.Ne2 b5 14.a4 bxa4=] 13...a5 14.Ne2?!± John gets a " clear " advantage [14.b5 c5 15.b6 Nxb6 16.Nb5 Qc8 17.Qb3 (17.Qa3?! Nc4 18.Qxc5 Qxc5 19.dxc5 Rfc8±) 17...Ra6±] 14...axb4 15.Rxb4 c5 16.dxc5 [16.Rb2 cxd4 17.exd4 Rxa4±] 16...Nxc5 17.Qc3 Rfc8 18.Qa1?!-+ John gets a " winning " advantage [18.Ra1 Ne4 19.Qxc7 Rxc7±] 18...Nc6 19.Rh4?!-+ - 1.57 [19.Rg4 f5 20.Rh4 b5 21.Qd1 (21.Ned4 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 (22.exd4 Ne4+) 22...bxa4+-) 21...bxa4+- - 1.59] 19...b5 20.Nc3 bxa4 John goes up a P 21.Nb5 Qe7 22.Rg4 - 2.57 [22.c4 a3 23.cxd5 a2+- - 2.23] 22...f5 23.Rg3 Ne4 24.Rh3 Qf6 25.Nfd4 Ne5 26.f4 Nc4 27.Rd1 a3 28.Rf3?-+ - 4.73 this R becomes attackable shortly [28.Qa2 Rcb8+- - 3.31] 28...Ra5 29.h3?-+ - 5.52 [29.Re1 Rc5 30.Nc3 Ncd2 31.Nb1 Nxf3+ 32.gxf3 Nd6+- - 4.31] 29...Ncd2 30.Qa2 Nxf3?-+ - 5.57 John misses winning a R [30...Rxb5! 31.Qxa3 (31.Nxb5??

the d4N protects the critical d2 and f3 squares when Bl attacks. 31...Nxf3+ 32.gxf3 Qg6+ 33.Kf1 Qg3 34.fxe4 Qf3+ 35.Ke1 Qxe3+ 36.Kf1 Qxh3+ 37.Kf2 Rxc2+!-+ - 12.91) 31...Nxf3+ 32.gxf3 Qg6+ 33.Kf1 Qh5-+ - 6.82 John would be up a R] **31.gxf3** John is up the exchange + P **31...Qg6+ 32.Kf1 Nc3?+ - 5.19** again John misses winning an N [32...Rxb5! 33.Qxa3 (33.Nxb5??-+ - 12.91) 33...Rbc5 34.c4 Rxc4 35.Qb2 Qh5-+ - 13.09 John would be up R + P] **33.Nxc3 Rxc3 34.Kf2 Qf6 35.Rg1?!-+ - 7.38** [35.Qa1 Qh4+ 36.Ke2 Rac5-+ - 6.93] **35...Rac5 36.Qb1 Qe7?+ - 4.98** [36...e5 37.fxe5 Qxe5 38.Qc1 f4-+ - 14.69] **37.Qb8+ Kh7 38.Qe5**



Rxc2+! John decides to sac back the exchange to simplify queening his aP **39.Nxc2 Rxc2+** John is up 2 P **40.Kg3 Qf7?+ - 7.31** [40...Kg6 41.e4 Kh5-+ 42.Rg2 Rxc2+ 43.Kxc2 Qf6 44.exd5 Qxe5 45.fxe5 exd5 46.e6 Kg6-+ - 17.30] **41.Kh4 a2-+ - 7.31 0-1**

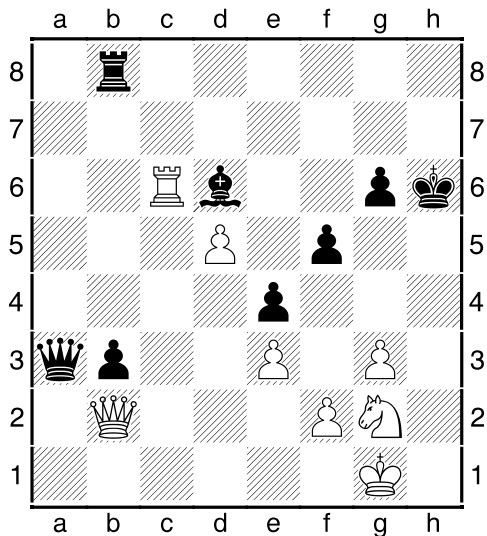
In Rd. 1 in the Reserves – Open, Will Rutherfordale upset returning member Mickey Stein. Mickey had the advantage all game and was marching his passed bP down to queen. But just at the end Will managed to coordinate his Q and N into a deadly mating net, while letting Mickey get his queen! Here is the game (Annotations by Will Rutherfordale/ Bob Armstrong using Fritz):

Rutherfordale, Will (1762) – Stein, Mickey (1957)

SCC Club Champ. – Reserves – Open SCC (1), 26.02.2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.e3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Bd2?!? Mickey gets the advantage first [9.Qc2 Nb6 10.Re1 Bg4=] **9...Re8 10.Qc2 Nf8?!=** [10...Qe7 11.Nh4 Nb6=] **11.Rfc1?!?** [11.Rae1 Bg4 12.Kh1 Qc7 13.h3 Bh5=] **11...Bg4 12.Ne1 Rc8 13.Bf5** WR – A positional error: White's B is worth more than Black's, and the White Q belongs on the Q side to take part in the battle there. **13...Bxf5 14.Qxf5 Ne4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Rab1?!?** Mickey gets a " clear " advantage [16.Nc2 g6 17.Qa5 Qxa5 18.Bxa5 Ne6=] **16...g6 17.Qh3 Ne6 18.b4 Nc7?!?** [18...f5 19.Qh6 f4=] **19.a4 a6 20.Bc3?!?** [20.Nc2 Nd5 21.Na1 Rc7=] **20...Nd5 21.Bd2?!+** Mickey gets a " winning " advantage [21.Rc2 Qg5 22.Bd2 Rc7=] **21...f5?!?** [21...b5? 22.Nc2 Nb6 23.a5 Nc4=; 21...Rc7 22.Rd1 Re6 23.Rbc1 Nxb4-+] **22.b5 axb5 23.axb5 cxb5** [23...c5?! 24.Nc2 Qg5 25.dxc5 Bxc5=] **24.Rxc8 Qxc8 25.Rxb5** material equality **25...Qc6 26.Rb1 Nc3 27.Bxc3 Qxc3 28.g3 b5 29.Qf1 b4?!?** WR – The fight becomes interesting. [29...Rb8 30.Ng2 Qc4=] **30.Qb5 Rd8 31.h4** WR – People thought I made a good move here. BA – Fritz says it is an acceptable move, but not one of its first 4 choices. **31...Qc7 32.h5?!?** but moving it again is not good; Mickey gets back a " clear " advantage again [32.Ng2 Qd7 33.Qa5 Rc8 34.Qd5+ Kf8 35.Qa2 Qc7=] **32...Kg7 33.hxg6 hxg6 34.Qe2 Rb8 35.Qb2 b3** this pawn gets more and more

dangerous the closer it creeps, especially since Will is unable to get his own passed dP moving.
36.Rc1 Qb6 37.d5+?!+- - 1.56 Mickey gets a "winning" advantage [37.Ng2?! g5 38.Rc6! Qd8 (38...Qxc6?? 39.d5+ Be5 40.Qxe5+ Qf6 41.Qc7+ Kh6 42.Qxb8+-) 39.Rc3 Ba3! 40.Qb1 b2-+ - 2.03; 37.Rc6!? Qb4 38.d5+ Kf7 39.Kh2 Ra8 40.Ng2 Qa3-+ - 1.62; 37.Rb1 Be7 38.Rc1 Qa5 39.Ra1 Qc7 40.Kh1 Qb6±] **37...Kh6?±** right piece - wrong direction ! Mickey is losing his advantage [37...Kf7 38.Ng2 Qa5 39.Ra1 Qxd5-+] **38.Rc6?+-** Will gives Mickey back a "winning" advantage [38.Nd3! Qa7 (38...exd3?? 39.Kg2 Qxe3 40.Rh1+ Kg5 41.fxe3 Re8 42.Qg7+- W mates in 7 moves) 39.Kg2 Qe7 40.Rh1+ Kg5±] **38...Qb4?±** Mickey has lost his advantage [38...Qd8 39.f4 Kh7 40.Kf1 Qe7-+] **39.Ng2 Qa3?±** Mickey misplays it after having the advantage all game; for the first time in the game, Will gets the advantage, a "clear" advantage [39...Rf8 40.Kh2 Qb8 41.Nf4 Rf7=]



40.Qf6! WR - Here we go. BA - Will is starting to swarm the defenceless K, and allowing Mickey to queen ! **40...b2??+-** a blunder - not sensing the danger, Mickey still hopes to queen his P; but now Will has a "winning" advantage In fact it is mate in 15 moves at best. [40...Rf8 41.Qe6 Qa1+ 42.Kh2 Rf6 43.Qe8 Rf8±] **41.Nh4 b1Q+** Mickey is hoping his K can run away from the one-move mate threat. Mickey is up Q vs P **42.Kg2 Kh7** the K is not going to run away from this mate [42...Rg8 43.Nxf5+ Kh7 44.Qh4#] **43.Qf7+** Mickey resigned. It is mate **43...Kh8** [43...Kh6 44.Qxg6#] **44.Nxg6# 1-0**

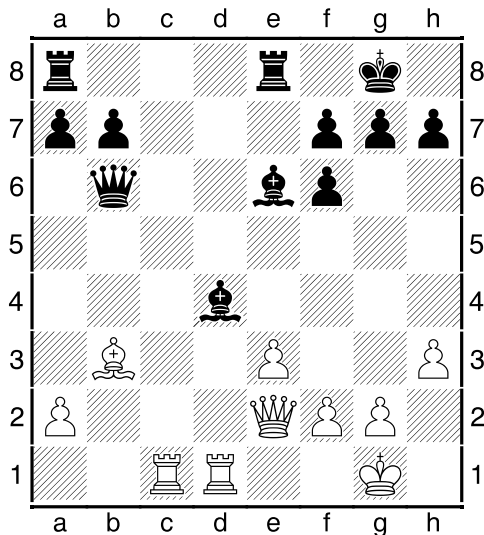
In Rd. 1 in the Reserves - U 1700, junior Magas Yusuf won with some nice tactics against veteran Andrew Philip, who in the last half of the game put up stubborn resistance, though down material - have to make these juniors earn their points ! Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Philip, Andrew (1597) - Yusuf, Magas (1344) [D00]

Scarb. CC Club Champ.- Reserves -U 1700 Toronto (1), 26.02.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.Bxf6 [3.e3 Ne4 4.Bf4 Bf5=] **3...exf6** [3...gxf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Qd2 Rg8=] **4.e3 c5** [4...c6 5.c4 Qb6 6.Qc2 Be6=; 4...Be6 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.Nc3 0-0=; 4...Bd6 5.Nf3 Bg4=] **5.dxc5 Bxc5 6.c3** [6.Nc3 Be6 7.Bb5+ Nd7=] **6...0-0** [6...Qb6 7.Qc2 Nc6=] **7.Bd3** [7.Nd2 Qc7 8.Nb3 Bd6 9.Nf3 Be6=] **7...Re8 8.Ne2?!±** Magas gets the advantage [8.Nf3 Qb6 9.Qc2 h6=] **8...Nc6** [8...Nd7?! 9.0-0 Qb6=] **9.0-0** [9.Qc2 Qb6 10.Nd2 Ne5±] **9...Bg4?!=** [9...Qb6 10.Qc2 Ne5 11.Nf4 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 Qxb2 13.Nd2 Rd8±] **10.h3 Bd7 11.Nd2 Ne5 12.Bc2 Qb6?!±** Andrew gets the advantage [12...Bd6 13.Nf4 Bc6 14.Nb3 Nc4=] **13.Nd4?±** a blunder - Andrew moves the wrong N; this loses 2 P's; Magas gets a "clear" advantage [13.Nb3 Bf8 14.Qxd5 Bb5±] **13...Qxb2**

Magas goes up a P **14.Bb3** [14.Rb1 Qxc3 15.Rb3 Qa5 16.Rxb7 Bb6] **14...Qxc3** Magas goes up 2 P's **15.Rc1?!-+** Andrew should just win the P; Magas gets a "winning" advantage [15.Bxd5 Bxd4 16.exd4 Qxd4 17.Nf3 Qxd1 18.Rfxd1 Ba4] **15...Qb4?!-** [15...Qa5 16.Bc2 Bd6+] **16.N2f3?!-** again Andrew should just take the P [16.Bxd5 Bxd4 17.exd4 Qxd4 18.Nf3 Qxd1 19.Rfxd1 Ba4 20.Bxb7 Bxd1 21.Bxa8 Bxf3 22.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 g6] **16...Be6?-** Magas is losing his advantage [16...Bxd4 17.Nxd4 Qd6 18.Qh5 g6 19.Qh4 Rac8] **17.Qe2?-+** Andrew gives Magas back a "winning" advantage [17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Nxe5 fxe5 19.Bxd5 Bxe3 20.fxe3 exd5 21.Qxd5+ Kh8] **17...Nxf3+ 18.Nxf3 Qb6 19.Rfd1 d4?-** this just loses a P [19...Rad8 20.Qd3 Qd6+] **20.Nxd4** Magas is now up only 1 P **20...Bxd4**



21.Rxd4??-+ Andrew fails to see the tactic involved in the position – the pin on the W eP [21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.Rb1 Qc7 23.Rxd4 Rad8] **21...Bxb3!** clearing the e-file **22.axb3?-+** – 6.56 Andrew still misses the loss of the R (would have been better to give Magas the B) [22.Qb2 Be6 23.Rb4 Qa5 24.Rxb7 a6+ – 4.25] **22...Qxd4!** Magas is up R + P **23.Qb5?-+** – 8.13 another tactical sac has now arisen [23.Rc4 Qd5 24.Qb2 Red8+ – 7.23] **23...Rxe3!** a beautiful sac by Magas; he goes up R + 2 P's **24.Qxb7-+** 9.03 Andrew is having no part of "winning" a R ! Magas is up R + P again [24.fxe3?? Qxe3+ 25.Kh2 Qf4+ 26.Kg1 Qxc1+ 27.Qf1 Qe3+ 28.Qf2 Qxb3+ – 20.95] **24...Ree8?-+** – 6.80 [24...Rae8 25.Rf1 Re1 26.g3 avoiding the mate threat 26...Rxf1+ 27.Kxf1 Qe4+ – 10.06] **25.Qf3 Rab8 26.Qc6 Qb6 27.Qd7 Qxb3?-+** – 5.77 Magas is up R + 2 P [27...Rbd8 28.Qa4 Re2 29.Qf4 Rde8+ – 8.22] **28.Rc7** – 8.93 Andrew is making Magas work for his win by keeping the threats coming (don't take that Q off the diagonal), despite being down material (though there may be stronger moves) [28.Qxa7 Qb4 29.Qa1 Re2+ – 5.92] **28...h6?-+** – 6.23 Magas should not drop his great passed aP [28...a5 29.Qd2 Qb4+ – 10.23] **29.Rxa7** Magas is up R + doubled P **29...Qe6 30.Qa4 Qe1+ 31.Kh2 Qxf2?-+** – 6.88 Magas is up R + 2 P's [31...Qe5+ 32.f4 (32.Kg1?? Rb1+ 33.Qd1 Rxd1#) 32...Qe3 33.Qa2 (33.Ra5 Qf2 34.Qa3 Re1+ it is mate in 11 moves) 33...Rb3 34.Ra8 Qxf4+ 35.Kg1 Qe3+ 36.Kh1 Qe1+ 37.Kh2 Qg3+ 38.Kh1 Rbe3+ – 24.76] **32.Rb7?-+** -15.40 [32.Qa2 Qf4+ 33.g3 Qg5+ – 11.25] **32...Rf8?-+** – 8.49 [32...f5 33.Rxb8 Rxb8+ – 19.92] **33.Qd7?-+** – 17.69 [33.Rb3 Rxb3 34.Qxb3 Rc8+ – 9.12] **33...Rxb7?-+** – 14.68 [33...Qf4+ 34.Kh1 Rxb7 35.Qxb7 Re8+ – 25.60] **34.Qxb7 Qf4+ 35.Kg1** – 17.37 [35.g3? Qc1 36.h4 Rd8+ – 18.12] **35...Rb8-+** – 17.37 **0-1**

BGC Alive In New Location – Maybe the Strongest Regular Can. Blitz Tournament
(Posted by Vlad Dobrich on ChessTalk)

Blitz Chess Tournaments

Every Saturday from 1:30 pm

at the SEANACHAI Irish Pub, 1106 Danforth just east of the Donlands subway station.

These 7 double round swiss tourneys are recommended for players rated above 1800.

The pace is 5 minutes per player per game.

Following the tournament, more casual chess is the norm as players come for a weekly get together from 4:30 pm on.

The entry fee is \$30 which includes a \$5 credit with the bar or food service. They have an excellent kitchen!

Cash prizes are awarded at the end of the chess tournament (about 4:30 pm), usually paying the top three but also good prizes for lower rating groupings.

Chess sets and clocks are provided.

The 2009 Canadian Junior Championship

(posted on ChessTalk)

The 2009 Canadian Junior Championship will be held in Victoria at the Hotel Grand Pacific www.hotelgrandpacific.com

The Canadian Junior is a qualifier for the World Junior being held in Mar del Plata, Argentina from 16 to 29 October 2009.

More information and a website will be posted soon.

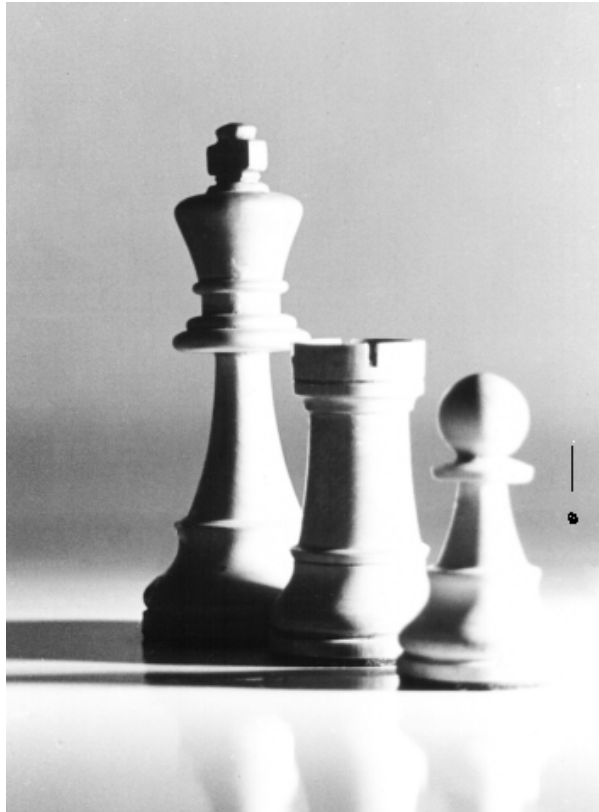
The tournament will follow the CYCC from July 25 - 28.

Just wanted to get this information out early to allow planning and flight booking to take this additional event into account.

Brian Raymer

Chief Organizer 2009 CYCC and Canadian Junior

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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