

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

Newsletter of / Le Journal de
Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 10 - 2 – September 15, 2008

SCC AGM – Report

(provided by President, Maurice Smith)

The meeting was held Thursday, Sept. 4. Here is Maurice's report:

The new Executive are

President Maurice Smith
Vice President Bryan Lamb
Secretary Steve Karpik
Treasurer Andrew Philip
Officer At Large Martin Maister

There will be an SCC Grand Prix. Bryan will work out the formula.

The members will be allowed to vote on whether they want the Championship to be the second tournament out of five or the fourth tournament. When we have it as the third tournament like last year it gets interrupted a lot because of bad weather.

(Continued on next page)

SCTCN&V Website : <http://scarboroughchess.webhop.net>
SCC e – mail : info@ScarboroughChessClub.ca **SCC Website :** <http://www.ScarboroughChessClub.ca>
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(½ way between Eglinton Ave. and Lawrence Ave.)

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Final Chess Masters (Grand Slam) Tournament, Bilbao, Spain

The first qualifiers were the winners of Corus 2008, Morelia - Linares 2008, and Mtel Masters 2008 - GM Levon Aronian, GM Viswanathan Anand, and GM Vassily Ivanchuk. Then the 2nd place players also qualified GM Magnus Carlsen and GM Veselin Topalov and finally the best all-round player left Teimour Radjabov (from TWIC)::

Viswanathan Anand.



Born in Madras (now Chennai, India, 1969) He is no doubt one of the greatest geniuses in chess history in the last fifteen centuries. But his easygoing character makes him the complete opposite of Fischer, Kárpov and Kaspárov. World champion and number one at the age of 38, he lives in Collado Mediano (Madrid), the rapid of Madras wants to polish even more his record in Bilbao at a month from the struggle for the crown with Russian Vladimir Krámnik. Part of his preparation will entail fighting for the first prize in the Grand Slam Final Masters in Bilbao: “Playing with the best ones in the world in a tournament like this one is an appropriate way to keep fit”.

- **Magnus Carlsen**



Tonsberg (Norway, 1990). His second places at the Wijk aan Zee Corus (Holland) 2008 and at the Ciudad de Linares 2008, when he repeated his 2007 achievement have made him deserve a special invitation for the Bilbao Grand Slam Chess Final Masters and show that this 17 year-old Norwegian is already mature for even greater achievements. He is Grandmaster ever since he was 13 years old, the third youngest in history and he is now second in the world's ranking. Magnus Carlsen recommends parents of child prodigies: "to give them support but without putting pressure on them. My father taught me to play chess when I was five, but I wasn't interested at the time and he left me alone".

- **Vassily Ivanchuk.**



Berezhany (Ukraine, 1969). His sensational victory in the Sofia's Mtel Masters 2008 gave him the right to be in the Bilbao Final Masters. But even without this feat, Vassily Ivanchuk deserves a place among the top-class chess players: at almost 40, he is the oldest luminary though he is nevertheless at the peak of his career. Chess lover to the core, tireless worker of encyclopedic knowledge he is a genius absent-minded wise man of whom everybody - even his most bitter rivals- speaks very fondly.

- **Véselin Topálov.**



Ruse (Bulgaria, 1975). Natural, modest and very friendly; he is a fighter and well disciplined for his everyday training; and tries to keep a good image. That's Véselin Topálov, the 33 year-old Bulgarian from Salamanca world chess champion in 2005 and currently number six in the chess rankings, with the clear aim to take up again the crown in 2009. His main challenge will be the Candidates Final against American Gata Kamski at the end of November. The winner will dispute the World Championship in 2009. Therefore, he arrives in the Bilbao Grand Slam Final Masters at a great time.

- **Teimour Radjábov.**



Baku (Azerbaijan, 1987). Very few child prodigies have impressed so much as Teimour Radjábov. At 12, when he became European Champion U-18, he already showed a strategic depth and good manners not expected from someone of his age. At 14 he became grandmaster. At 15 he defeated Kaspárov with the black pieces in Linares. Today he is 21 and has settled among the elite, though everything shows that he's still got a long way to go, as he will most probably demonstrate in Bilbao. Now Radjábov is undergoing a self debate about whether he should stick to his aggressive style of the last years or become more conservative and pragmatic.

- **Levon Aronián.**



Yereván (Armenia, 1982). He is a great chess luminary: he is only 25 years old but he has already won the World Cup and the Linares and Wijk aan Zee (twice) tournaments. That naturalness, his universal style and belonging to a country where chess is the national passion, as well as a balanced nervous system configure the 25 year-old Armenian Levon Aronián as a very solid value. Prone to high risk in his games, Aronián is esteemed by both organizers and followers and could not miss the Bilbao Final Masters.

(from official website)

It was played from Sept. 1 – 13. (from ChessBase). It is one of the strongest chess tournaments ever: six players averaging 2775.6 Elo points, making it a Category XXII event. The games are being played in the centre of the city square in a glass “ aquarium “.



The scoring system is unusual, with three points for a win, one for a draw and zero for a loss. The prize fund? A cool 400,000 Euros (US \$585,000). The sums are unprecedented for an event like this. Only World Championships have exceeded the amount.

Other tournaments this year have not been as strong. Morelia/Linares had an average rating of 2756. The Tal Memorial averaged 2745 Elo points. The January Corus Wijk aan Zee tournament had an average rating of 2742. The FIDE Grand Prix # 2 (Sochi) had 2730. The first FIDE Grand Prix # 1 (Baku), and the Aerosvit, Ukraine, tournaments were 2717.

The winner was 2005 FIDE World Champion, Veselin Topalov, with 17 pts., 4 pts. ahead of the 2nd/3rd place finishers, Carlsen and Aronian (under the Bilbao scoring system).

In Rd. 1, Carlsen won a nice Queen & Pawns endgame against Aronian, to take sole possession of first, with 3 pts. under the new scoring system. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

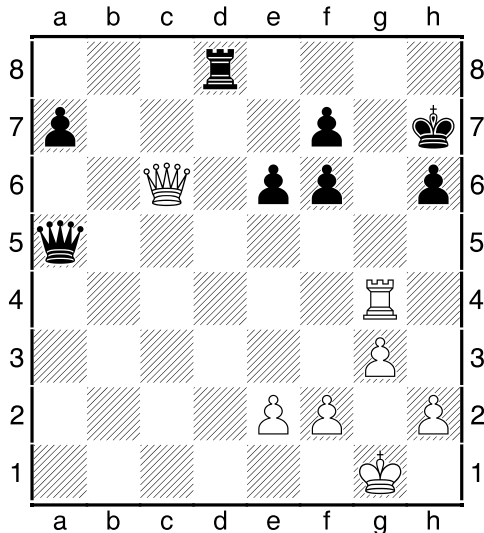
Aronian, Levon (2737) – Carlsen, Magnus (2775) [A32]

Final Chess Masters (Grand Slam) Montreal (1), 02.09.2008

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.g3 Bb4+ 6.Nd2 [6.Nc3 Ne4 7.Bd2 Bxc3 8.Bxc3 Qf6 9.f4 Nxc3 10.bxc3 0-0=] **6...Nc6 7.Nc2 Be7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 Rb8 10.Ne4 b5** [10...d6 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6=] **11.cxb5 Rxb5 12.Nd6 Bxd6** [12...Rb8 13.b3 Ba6=] **13.Qxd6 Bb7 14.Na3** [14.Rd1 Rb6 15.Be3 Rxb2=] **14...Rb6 15.Be3!** Aronian sacs the bP **15...Rxb2** Carlsen goes up a P **16.Bc5 Re8** [16...Rxe2?! 17.Rfb1 Ba6 18.Rd1 Qc8 19.Qxf8+ Qxf8 20.Bxf8 Kxf8± Aronian would be up the exchange, but Carlsen would have 2 P compensation] **17.Rab1 Rxb1 18.Rxb1 Ba6 19.Nb5 Bxb5 20.Rxb5 Qc8** [20...e5 21.e4 Qc8=] **21.a4 21...h6** the game has been dead equal to here, though Carlsen is still up a P [21...a6 22.Rb1 (22.Rb6?! Na5♞) 22...e5=] **22.Ba3?!♞** now Carlsen gets the advantage [22.e4 e5 23.f3 Qa6 24.Qd1 Rd8=] **22...Qa6** [22...a6 23.Rb1 Na5 24.Qd3 d5♞] **23.Bb2?!♞** Aronian cannot afford to sac the aP, and be down 2 P. [23.Qd1 d5 24.Bb2 Ne4 25.Qc2 Nd6 26.Rc5 Nc4♞] **23...Qxa4** Carlsen goes up 2 P **24.Bxc6 dxc6?!♞** [24...Qa6 25.Rc5

dx6 26.Qxc6 Qxc6 27.Rxc6 Rd8] **25.Rb4** [25.Qxc6?! a6 26.Rc5 Qxc6 27.Rxc6 Ra8] **25...Qa5**
26.Bxf6 gxf6 27.Rg4+ Kh7 28.Qxc6 Carlsen is up 1 P again **28...Rd8**

Position after 28...Rd8



29.Qc2+?-+ Carlsen gets a "winning" advantage [29.Ra4 Qb6 30.Qc3 Qb7 31.f3 f5 32.Qf6 Qb6+ 33.Kg2 Rg8 34.Qxf7+ Rg7 35.Qf6 Qe3=] **29...f5 30.Ra4 Qe1+ 31.Kg2 Rd1 32.Qc7 Kg6 33.Kf3** - 2.30 [33.Qb8 a5 34.Qg8+ Kf6 35.Qh8+ Ke7 36.Qe5 Qh1+ 37.Kh3 Qf1+ 38.Kh4 Qxf2+ - 2.23] **33...Qh1+ 34.Ke3 Ra1 35.Qc2 Rxa4 36.Qxa4 Qc1+ 37.Kf3 Qc3+ 38.Kg2 a5 39.g4?!-+** - 2.83 [39.e4 Qb4 40.exf5+ exf5 41.Qa1 a4+- - 2.14] **39...Qe5?-+** - 2.12 [39...Qb4 40.gxf5+ exf5 41.Qa1 a4+- - 3.00] **40.gxf5+ Kxf5 41.Qe8 Kg6 42.Qf8?-+** - 2.92 [42.Qg8+ Qg7 43.Qe8 Kh7+ 44.Kh3 Qf6+- - 2.13] **42...a4 43.e3** - 3.74 [43.h3? Qb2 44.Qg8+ Qg7 45.Qa8 Kh7+ 46.Kh2 Qe5+ 47.Kg1 Qg5+ 48.Kh2 Qf4+ 49.Kg1 Qc1+ 50.Kh2 a3+- - 5.32] **43...Qe4+?-+** - 2.55 [43...Qb2 44.Kh3 Qxf2 45.Qg8+ Kf6 46.Qd8+ Kf5 47.Qd3+ Kg5 48.Qd8+ Qf6 49.Qg8+ Qg6 50.Qd8+ f6 51.Qf8 h5+- - 5.81] **44.Kg3 Qd3 45.h4 a3 46.Kh2 Qf5?-+** - 2.98 now is the time to push the P again [46...a2 47.h5+ Kf6 48.Qh8+ Ke7 49.Qb2 Qd5+- - 9.92] **47.Qxa3 Qxf2+ 48.Kh3 Qf3+ 49.Kh2 Kh5 50.Qf8?-+** - 5.10 [50.Qc5+ Kxh4 51.Qb4+ Kg5 52.Qa5+ Kg6+- - 3.30] **50...Qf2+ 51.Kh1?-+** - 8.43 [51.Kh3 Qxe3+ 52.Kg2 Qf4+- - 5.69] **51...Kg4+-** - 9.32 **0-1**

This tournament has a no draws rule, based on the so-called "Sofia rule" (first used in the Sofia M-Tel Masters tournament). The rule here is:

5. - Players are not allowed to agree draw without arbiter's permission. In case both players request it to him, the arbiter will make his decision after consulting with a technical assistant.

Susan Polgar's Blog recounts what appears to be a clear inconsistency in the application of the rules in Round 1. She states:

" The faster than usual time control (90 minutes for the first 40 moves and another 60 minutes to finish the game) created an interesting "situation" in round 1.

After the Radjabov - Topalov game reached a drawish looking Rook endgame, typically for tournaments with no "Sofia rules" the players would have agreed to a draw. But in

this case, they needed the approval of the technical assistant's (Javier Moreno). They did not get the "permission" needed and had to fight on, until King versus King!

So far, so good! And here comes to "controversial" part...

A bit later, after Ivanchuk playing a good game versus the reigning World Champion Anand, he reached a Q+R+ps vs. Q+R+ps endgame with an extra Pawn.

As I found out at the after-the-game interview from Vassily, he forgot that in this tournament there are no increments. It is a sudden-death time control! He left himself with only 24 seconds versus Anand's 25+ minutes for the rest of the game! Ivanchuk being a Pawn up, offered a draw, which Anand accepted!

Here is the situation.

What would have happened if Anand would have decided to play on – for time? He would have had excellent chances to win on time. He certainly had the right to do so, according to the rules, but I guess he felt "it's low blow".

Anand said after the game that perhaps at another time or in another tournament, he may have played on. However, in this game, he didn't feel that he deserved to win this way because he was hanging on for a draw. It was certainly excellent sportsmanship on Vishy's part.

I was puzzled about the "Sofia rules" not being enforced in this case and they were in the Radjabov - Topalov game. The first game looked more drawish to me than the Anand - Ivanchuk game.

I believe that the "Sofia rules" need some further refining to deal with similar cases. I believe the rules should be clearer to avoid misunderstandings in the future. "

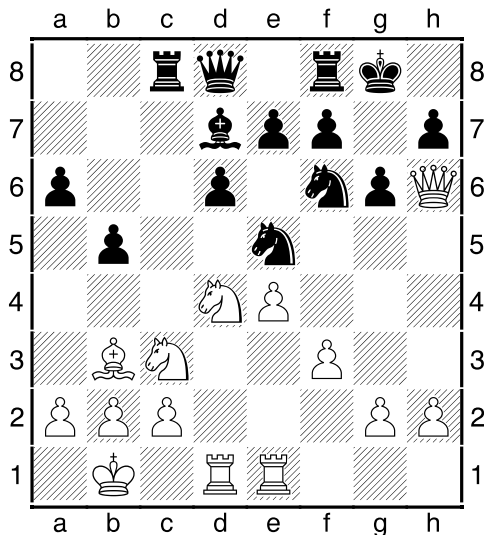
As a footnote to this, Anand gets full marks for being a gentleman at the chess board. When Ivanchuk offered a draw, he was up a pawn, with winning chances, but he had 22 seconds left to finish the game (there are no increments). Anand could well have refused the draw offer and just won by Ivanchuk flagging. But Anand, ever the gentleman, refused to win this way, when down material, and the best he could hope for on the board was a draw. He accepted the draw – Mig Greengard, on ICC, noted that he thought there were players in the top 20 who would not have accepted, and would have flagged Ivanchuk.

In Rd. 2, Carlsen played a thematic exchange sac on c3 in the Sicilian, but Ivanchuk got only a "slight" advantage. Carlsen then managed to find a perpetual check. This left him alone in first place with 4 pts., 2 pts ahead of second (under the new scoring system). Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ivanchuk, Vassily (2781) – Carlsen, Magnus (2775) [A00]

Final Chess Masters (Grand Slam) Montreal (2), 03.09.2008

1.e4 c5± 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 [4...g6±] 5.Nc3 g6 [5...e6 6.Be3 Be7 7.Qf3 Nc6±] 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4?!= [9.Be2 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Qa5±] 9...Bd7 10.0-0-0 [10.0-0 Ne5 11.Be2 a6=] 10...Rc8 [10...Qc7 11.Bd5 Rac8=] 11.Bb3?!± [11.Be2 a6 12.g4 b5=] 11...Ne5?!= [11...Na5 12.Rhe1 Re8±] 12.Kb1 a6?!± [12...a5 13.a3 Re8 14.Ba2 Nc4=] 13.Rhe1?!= [13.h4 a5 14.h5 a4 15.Nxa4 Bxa4 16.Bxa4 Nc4±] 13...b5 14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Qxh6



Rxc3?!± Carlsen plays a thematic exchange sac in this variation [15...a5 16.Ncxb5 a4 17.Bxa4 Qa5 18.Nxd6 (18.b3?! Nc4 19.Re3 Rb8±) 18...exd6 19.Bb3 Rc7=] **16.bxc3** Ivanchuk goes up the exchange **16...a5** [16...Qa5 17.g4 Rc8 18.h4 Qxc3±] **17.f4!** Ivanchuk decides to sac the B for an attack (17.a3? Qc7 18.Qd2 Rb8=) **17...Neg4 18.Qh4 a4 19.Bxf7+ Rxf7** Ivanchuk has B + N vs R + P **20.e5?±** Ivanchuk loses his advantage [20.h3 Nxe4 21.Rxe4 Nf6±] **20...Nd5 21.e6 Nxc3+?±** Ivanchuk gets back the advantage [21...Rxf4 22.Ne2 Re4 23.exd7 Ngf6 24.Qg5 Rg4 25.Qc1 Qxd7±] **22.Kc1?!=** [22.Ka1 Bxe6 23.Nxe6 Qc8±] **22...Bxe6 23.Nxe6** Ivanchuk is up the exchange, but Carlsen has a P compensation **23...Qa5** Carlsen goes for a perpetual check **24.Qxg4** Ivanchuk is up R vs P **24...Nxa2+** Ivanchuk is up R vs 2 P **25.Kb2 Qc3+ 26.Kxa2** Ivanchuk is up R + N vs 2 P, but his K is trapped in the a1 corner **26...Qxc2+** Ivanchuk is up R + N vs 3 P **27.Ka1 Qc3+ 28.Kb1 Qb3+ 29.Ka1 Qc3+ 1/2-1/2**

In Rd. 3, Topalov went up a P against Carlsen, and then 2 P's. He then went on to win. This left him in sole possession of first place. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, Using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2775) – Topalov, V (2777) [D58]

Grand Slam Final Bilbao ESP (3), 04.09.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7?!± [4...Nbd7] 5.Bg5 h6 [5...0-0 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 c5±] 6.Bh4 0-0 7.e3 b6 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Bg3?!= [10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Nxd5 Bxd5±] 10...c5?!± [10...Ne4 11.Bxe4 dxe4 12.Ne5 Bd6=] 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.e4 Bb7 14.Rc1 a6 15.b4?!= Carlsen sacs his bP 15...cxb4 Topalov goes up a P 16.Bc7 [16.Rc7 Rb8 17.Qe2 b5=] 16...Qe8 17.Qe2 b5 18.Ba5 Rc8 19.Qb2?!± [19.Rb1 e5 20.dxe5 Bc5=] 19...Nf6 20.Rxc8 [20.Rce1?! Rc3 21.Ne5 Ra3 22.Bxb4 Bxb4 23.Qxb4 Rxa2±] 20...Qxc8 21.Nd2?!± Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [21.Re1 Qc3 22.Qxc3 bxc3 23.Bxc3 Rc8 24.Bb2 Bb4 25.Re2

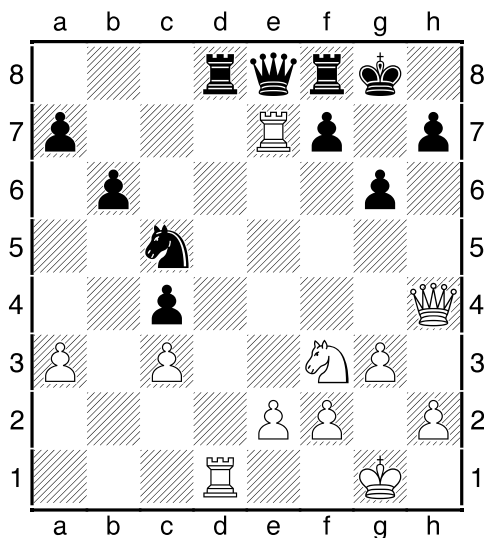
Nd7] 21...Qc3 22.Qxc3 bxc3 23.Bxc3 material equality 23...Rc8 24.Ba5 Bd8 25.Bxd8 Rxd8 26.Rd1 Rxd4 Topalov goes up a P again 27.Nb3 Rd8 28.f3 Kf8 29.Kf2 Nd7 30.Be2 Ke7 31.Na5 Ba8 32.Rc1 Kd6 33.Ke3 Nb6 34.f4 Rc8 35.Rxc8 Nxc8 36.Kd4 Ne7 37.Bf3 Kc7 38.Nb3 Kb6 39.Ke5??+- - 2.02 a blunder - this loses a second P [39.Ke3 b4 40.g3 a5] 39...Ng6+ 40.Kd6 Nxf4 Topalov goes up 2 P 41.Nc5 b4 42.h4 a5 43.g3 Nh3 44.Nd7+ Ka7 45.Kc5 f5 46.Kb5?+- - 3.38 [46.exf5 Bxf3 47.fxe6 Nf2 48.Kb5 Kb7+- - 2.17] 46...fxe4 Topalov goes up 3 P 47.Bh5 e3 48.Kxa5 Topalov is up 2 P again 48...g6 49.Bg4 h5 50.Be2 Ng1 51.Bf1 e2 52.Bxe2 Nxe2 Topalov is up B + P 53.Nf8 Be4?+- - 3.43 [53...Bd5 54.Kxb4 Bxa2 55.Kc5 e5 56.Nxg6 e4+- - 4.13] 54.Nxe6 Nxg3 55.Nf4 Kb7 56.Kxb4 Topalov is up a B 56...Kc6+- - 3.88 0-1

In Rd. 4, Topalov defeated Anand, reigning World Champion, in 25 moves, with a great final move. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, V (2777) – Anand, V (2798) [E15]

Grand Slam Final Bilbao ESP (4), 05.09.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6± Queen's Indian Defence [3...d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Qc2 c5=] 4.g3= [4.Nc3±] 4...Ba6 5.Qc2 Bb7 6.Bg2 c5 7.d5!? Topalov decides to sac a P with Anand's K still in the centre 7...exd5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Be7 10.Rd1 Qc8 11.a3 Nf6 12.Bg5 d5?!± [12...0-0 13.Nc3 Re8 14.Bxf6 Bxf6=] 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nc3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Na6 16.Nh4 g6 [16...Qe6?! 17.Qa4+ Qc6 18.Qf4 Qc7±] 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 0-0 19.Rad1 Nc7 20.Rd7 Ne6 21.Qe4 [21.Qa4 Re8 22.Qc4 Rd8 23.Rxd8+ Nxd8±] 21...Qe8?!± Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [21...Qa6 22.Rxf7! Rxf7 23.Qxa8+ Nf8±] 22.Nf3 c4?!+- Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [22...Nd4! 23.Ne5 Nc6 24.f4 Nxe5 25.fxe5 Qe6±] 23.Qh4 Nc5?!+- 2.29 [23...h5 24.Ne5 f6 25.Nc6 Rf7+- 1.72] 24.Re7 Rd8



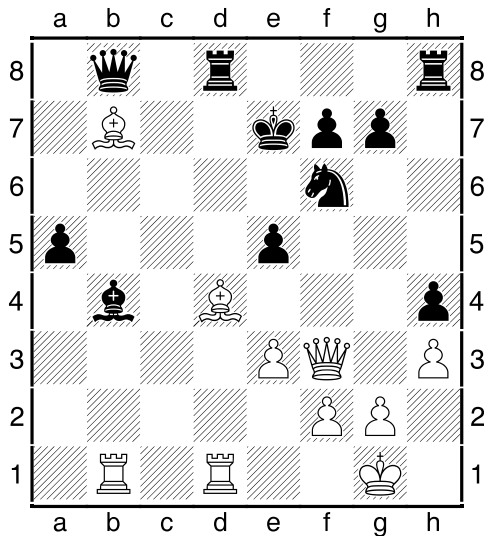
25.Rf1!+- 2.41 Anand resigned. He must lose material 25...Qa4 26.Ng5 h5 27.Nxf7! Rxf7 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Qxd8 Ne6 30.Qc8 Qb3 31.Rc1 Kf6+- 4.15 1-0

In Rd. 6, Carlsen again took sole possession of first place with a convincing win over Aronian. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2775) – Aronian, L (2737) [D47]

Grand Slam Final Bilbao ESP (6), 08.09.2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6?!± [4...dxc4] 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.a3 [9.e4 b4 10.Na4 Qa5±] 9...b4 [9...a6 10.b4 a5 11.bxa5 Qxa5 12.Bb2 Bd6±] 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 bxa3 Aronian goes up a P 12.0-0!? Carlsen decides to sac the captured P [12.bxa3 Bd6 13.Rb1 Qc7±] 12...Nf6 [12...Bd6 13.b3 Nf6 14.Bd3 Qe7±] 13.Bd3 axb2 14.Bxb2 a5 15.d5?± Carlsen decides to sac a second P, with Aronian's K still in the centre [15.Qa4 Bb4 16.Ba3 Nd5 17.e4 Nb6 18.Qc2 Qe7±] 15...Nxd5 Aronian goes up 2 P [15...exd5 16.Nd4 Qc7±] 16.Ne5 Nf6?± [16...Qg5 17.f4 Qh4 18.Qb1 Bb4±] 17.Qa4 Bb4 18.Nxc6 Aronian is only up a P again 18...Bxc6 19.Qxc6+ Ke7?!± Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [19...Kf8 20.Rfd1 Qd5 21.Qc7 Bd6 22.Qc2 Qh5±] 20.Rfd1 Rc8 21.Qf3 Qb6 22.Bd4?!± [22.Rab1 h6 23.Qg3 Kf8±] 22...Qb8 23.Ba6 Rcd8 24.Bb7?!= Carlsen has lost his advantage [24.Rab1 Rhe8 25.Rd3 e5 26.Bc5+ Bxc5 27.Rxb8 Rxb8±; 24.Rdb1 Rd5 25.Bc4 Rf5 26.Qe2 Rd8±] 24...h5?± [24...e5 25.Bb6 Rd6 26.Rxd6 Qxd6=] 25.h3?!± [25.Qc6 Rd6 26.Bc5 Bxc5 27.Qxc5 Rhd8±] 25...h4 26.Rab1 e5



27.Rxb4! Carlsen offers to sac the exchange 27...axb4?+- Aronian is up the exchange + P. Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [27...exd4 28.Rbxd4 Qc7 29.Bd5 Nxd5 30.Qe4+ Kf8 31.Rxd5 Rxd5 32.Qxd5 Rh6±] 28.Bc5+ Ke6 29.Ra1 Rd6! 4.49 Aronian decides to sac back the exchange [29...Rd3? 30.Ra6+ Rd6 31.Rxd6+ Qxd6 32.Bxd6 Kxd6+- 7.86] 30.Bxd6 Kxd6 31.Qc6+ Ke7 32.Ra8 Qd6 33.Qxd6+ 4.80 [33.Rxh8 Qxc6 34.Bxc6 g5+- 5.05] 33...Kxd6 34.Rxh8 Carlsen is up R vs P 34...b3 35.Ba6?+- 4.23 [35.Rc8 b2 36.Rc6+ Kd7 37.Rb6 Ne8+- 5.22] 35...Nd7 36.Rxh4 Carlsen is up a R 36...Nc5+- 5.10 1-0

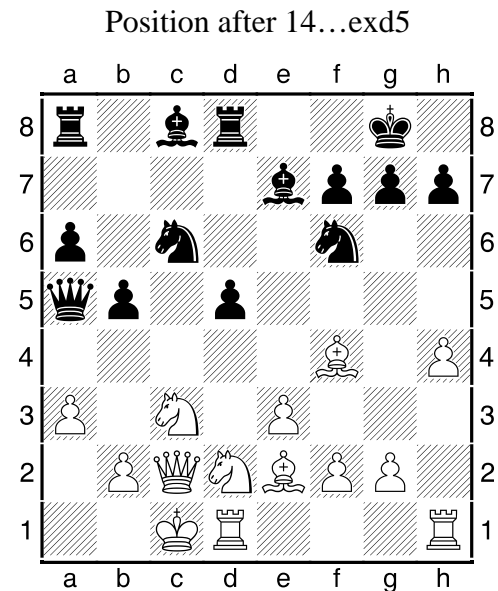
In Rd. 7, Carlsen failed to lengthen his lead, though he remained alone in first, losing to Ivanchuk in a classic attack on both wings race. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, Magnus (2775) – Ivanchuk, Vassily (2781) [A00]

Final Chess Masters (Grand Slam) Bilboa, Spain, 09.09.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0?!± [5...Nh5 6.Bd2 Nf6=] 6.e3 c5 [6...Nbd7 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 a6±] 7.dxc5 Bxc5 [7...Qa5 8.Bd6 Bxd6 9.cxd6 Rd8±] 8.Qc2?!= [8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 exd5±] 8...Nc6 9.a3 Qa5 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.h4 Rd8 12.Nd2 [12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 exd5=] 12...a6?!± [12...e5 13.Bg5 Bg4 14.f3 Be6=; Played in 2007 Corus was Topalov – Kramnik

12...dxc4?! 13.Nxc4 (slightly better is 13.Bxc4=) 13...Rxd1+ 14.Qxd1 Qd8± (slightly better is 14...Qc5)] **13.Be2?±** somewhat of a lemon; for the first time in the game, Ivanchuk gets the advantage, a " clear " advantage [13.Nb3 Qb6 14.c5 Qa7±] **13...b5 14.cxd5 exd5**



15.g4?!-+ Ivanchuk gets a " winning " advantage [15.Nb3 Qb6 16.h5 Be6±] **15...Be6** [15...Qb6?! 16.g5 Ng4 17.Bf3 Be6±] **16.Nb3** - 1.45 [16.g5 Ne4 17.Ndxe4 dxe4 18.Qxe4 b4-+ - 1.70] **16...Qb6 17.g5** - 1.51 [17.Bg5 Rac8 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.exd4 a5-+ - 1.93] **17...Ne4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Rxd8+ Nxd8?±** [19...Qxd8 20.Kb1 Qd5 21.Nc1 Rc8-+] **20.Kb1 Rc8** [20...b4?! 21.a4 Rc8 22.Qd1 Nb7±] **21.Qd1** [21.Qxe4?? Bxb3 22.Bd3 Qg6 23.h5 Qxe4 24.Bxe4 g6-+ - 3.04] **21...Nc6 22.h5 a5 23.g6** [23.Nd2 a4 24.Bg4 Bxg4 25.Qxg4 Rd8±] **23...a4 24.Nd2 b4 25.gxf7+?!-+** [25.Nc4 Bxc4 26.Bxc4 bxa3 27.Qc2 h6±] **25...Bxf7 26.Nc4 Qb7 27.Qxa4** Magnus goes up a P **27...bxa3 28.Nxa3 Bxa3 29.Qxa3 Nb4 30.b3?+ -** 6.11 [30.Bd6 Ba2+ 31.Ka1 Nc2+ 32.Kxa2 Qf7+ 33.Kb1 Nxa3+ 34.Bxa3 Qxf2-+ - 4.43] **30...Nd3 31.Bxd3 exd3 32.Rc1?+ -** 12.54 [32.f3 Rc3 33.Qb2 Rxb3-+ - 9.98] **32...d2-+ -** 12.54 **0-1**

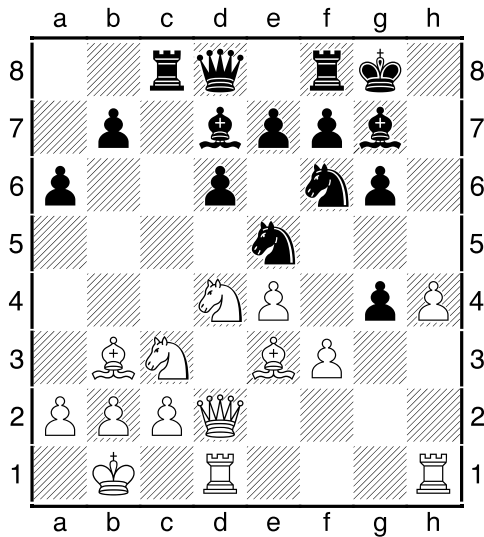
In Rd. 8, Topalov (in second) met Carlsen (in first). Topalov attacked Carlsen's Sicilian-Dragon, sacking 2 pawns. He got a " winning " advantage, got his 2 pawns back, and then went up a P and won. Topalov then jumped into first, and Carlsen dropped to 3rd/4th. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, Veselin (2777) – Carlsen, Magnus (2775) [A00]

Final Chess Masters (Grand Slam) Bilbao, Spain (8), 10.09.2008

1.e4± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted **1...c5** Sicilian Defence **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6** Dragon Variation **6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4?!=** [9.0-0-0 Qa5 10.h4 h5±] **9...Bd7 10.0-0-0** [10.0-0 Ne5 11.Bb3 Rc8=] **10...Rc8 11.Bb3** [11.Be2 a6 (11...Qa5?! 12.Kb1 Rfe8±) 12.g4 b5=] **11...Ne5** [11...Na5 12.g4 Nxb3+ 13.Nxb3 Be6=] **12.Kb1 a6?!±** [12...a5 13.a3 Re8 14.Rhe1 a4=] **13.h4 h5 14.g4!?** Topalov sacks a P to try to open up Carlsen's K-side [14.Bh6 Rc5 (14...Nc4?! 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7±) 15.Rhe1 Qa5±] **14...hxg4** Carlsen goes up a P

Position after 14...hxg4



15.h5!? now Topalov sacs a second P **15...Nxb5** Carlsen goes up 2 P **16.Rdg1 Rc5** [16...a5?! 17.Bh6 Rxc3 18.Bxg7 Rxb3 19.Qh6 f6 20.Rxh5 gxh5 21.Qh8+ Kf7 22.Bxf8 Rb4±; 16...Re8 17.Bh6 Bf6 18.Nd5 b5±] **17.Bh6 Kh7?!±** Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [17...Re8 18.Nd5 Qa5±] **18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.f4 Nc4 20.Bxc4 Rxc4 21.f5 e5 22.Nde2 Rh8 23.b3?!±** [23.fxg6 fxg6 24.Qxd6 Qe8±] **23...Rc6?+-** Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [23...Rc8 24.Rxg4 Nf6±] **24.Rxg4** Carlsen is only up a P **24...Nf6 25.Rgg1 Rxh1 26.Rxh1 Ng4 27.Ng3 Kg8 28.Nd5 Rc5 29.Ne3 Nxe3 30.Qxe3 Qf6 31.Qh6 Qg7 32.Qg5 f6 33.Qd2 Rc6?+-** 2.89 [33...g5 34.Qxd6 Rc6 35.Qd5+ Kf8 36.Nf1 Ke8+- 1.61] **34.Kb2?!±** [34.Qa5 b6 35.Qxa6 Qf7 36.Qe2 Qg7+-] **34...gxf5** [34...g5 35.Nf1 Be8 36.Ne3 Kf8±] **35.Qa5** [35.Nxf5 Bxf5 36.exf5 Kf8±] **35...Qe7?!+-** [35...b6 36.Qd5+ Kf8 37.Nxf5 Qg8 38.Qxg8+ Kxg8 39.Ne7+ Kf8 40.Nxc6 Bxc6±] **36.Qd5+** [36.Nxf5 Bxf5 37.exf5 Kf8+-] **36...Be6 37.Qd1 Qg7** 2.04 [37...fxe4? 38.Qh5 Kf8 39.Qh8+ Bg8 40.Nf5 Qf7 41.Rg1 e3+- 3.61] **38.exf5 Bf7 39.Ne4 Kf8 40.Nxd6** material equality **40...Ke7?+-** 6.27 [40...Bg8 41.Ne4 Qg2 42.Rh4 Bd5 43.Qxd5 Qxc2+ 44.Ka3 Qc1+ 45.Ka4 b5+ 46.Kb4 Qe1+ 47.Qd2 Qxd2+ 48.Nxd2 Rc2 49.Ne4 Rxa2 50.Rh6 Re2 51.Rxf6+ Kg7 52.Rg6+ Kf8 53.Nd6 Rf2+- 5.05] **41.Nxb7** Topalov goes up a P **41...Qg8 42.Qd2?+-** 3.93 [42.Rh7! Rxc2+ 43.Qxc2 (43.Kxc2? Qg2+ 44.Kc1 Qxb7+- 3.34) 43...Qxh7 44.Qc5+ Kd7 45.Qd6+ Kc8 46.Qc6+ Kb8+- 7.50] **42...Rb6 43.Rd1 Qc8 44.Nd6?+-** 1.82 [44.Nd8 Be8 45.Qd5 Bd7+- 3.86] **44...Qd7 45.Nxf7 Qxd2 46.Rxd2 Kxf7 47.c4 Ke7 48.Kc3+-** 2.28 **1-0**

As a side note, after round 8, the unofficial " live rating list " (which tracks top players game by game, whereas the " official FIDE rating list " comes out every 3 months) gives the following rankings:

1. Ivanchuk(!) 2791.3
2. Morozevich 2787
3. Carlsen 2786.2
4. Topalov 2785.2
5. Anand(!) 2783.9
6. Kramnik 2771.9
7. Aronian 2761.1

8. Leko 2746.6

9. Radjabov 2746.2

In Round 10, Topalov defeated Ivanchuk to lengthen his lead and capture first place with 17 pts. As a result, he jumped to # 1 on the live rating list (Carlsen is # 3):

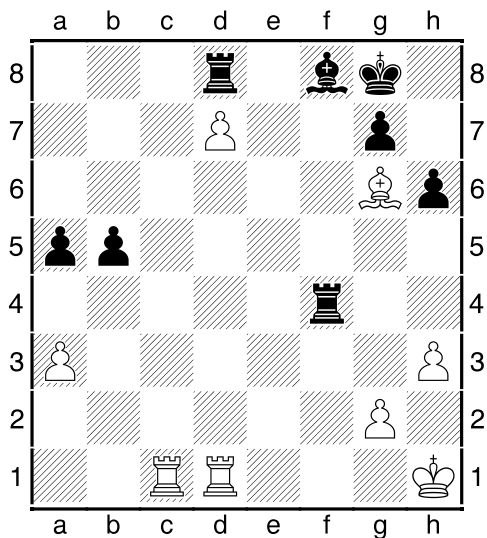
#	Player	Live rating	diff.	games	events	born
01	Veselin Topalov	2790.6	+13.6	10	1	1975
02	Alex. Morozevich	2787.0	-1	9	1	1977
03	Magnus Carlsen	2786.1	+11.1	31	3	1990
04	Vassily Ivanchuk	2785.6	+4.6	50	5	1969
05	Vishy Anand	2783.2	-14.8	10	1	1969
06	Vladimir Kramnik	2771.9	-16.1	16	2	1975

Here is the Topalov game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, V (2777) – Ivanchuk, V (2781) [D47]

Grand Slam Final Bilbao ESP (10), 13.09.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6± Semi-Slav Defence [4...Nbd7 5.e3 Bb4±] 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.a3?!= [9.e4 b4 10.Na4 Qa5 11.e5 Nd5±] 9...Bd6?!± [9...a6 10.b4 a5 11.bxa5 Rxa5 12.Qc2 Qa8=] 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qc2 h6 12.e4?!= [12.Bd2 a5 13.Rfc1 Rc8±] 12...e5 13.dxe5 [13.Rd1 a6 14.h3 Qc7=] 13...Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.h3 a6 16.Be3 c5?!± an unsound sac of the cP [16...Re8 17.f4 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qe7=] 17.Bxc5 Topalov goes up a P 17...Re8 18.Rad1 Qc7 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.exd5 Bxb2 material equality 21.d6 with the cP gone, this dP becomes a dangerous runner 21...Qc6 22.f3 Rec8?!± Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [22...Rad8 23.Rfe1 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Bf6±] 23.Bh7+ Kh8± [23...Kf8 24.Qxb2 Qxc5+ 25.Rf2 Rd8 26.d7 a5±] 24.Be4 Qxc5+ 25.Qxc5 Rxc5 26.Bxb7 Rd8 27.Rfe1 [27.Bxa6 Rc6 28.Bxb5 Rxd6 29.Rxd6 Rxd6±] 27...Be5 28.d7 a5 29.f4 Bc7 30.Bd5 [30.Re8+ Kh7 31.Bd5 Kg6±] 30...Kh7?!+- Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [30...g5 31.Re7 gxf4 32.Rxf7 Be5 33.Kf1 b4±] 31.Bxf7 Topalov gets up a P again 31...Rf5 32.Ba2 Rxf4 material equality again 33.Bb1+ Kg8 34.Bg6 Bb6+ 35.Kh1 Bc5 36.Rc1?!± [36.Rd3 Rff8 37.Re5 Bb6+-] 36...Bf8 37.Red1?!± Topalov is losing his advantage [37.Be8 Rc4 38.Rxc4 bxc4 39.Re3 Bd6±]



37...Bxa3??+- a blunder – cannot afford to grab the P; Ivanchuk goes up a P, but Topalov gets a " winning " advantage again [37...Rc4 38.Rb1 b4 39.axb4 axb4±] 38.Rc8 Rff8 39.Be8 Be7 40.Re1 Bg5 41.g3 a4 42.h4 Bf6 43.Re6+- 2.12 Topalov can now " remove the defender ". Ivanchuk resigned. 1-0

The final standings were (from ChessBase):

Player	games	wins	draws	losses	points
Veselin Topalov	10	4	5	1	17
Magnus Carlsen	10	3	4	2	13
Levon Aronian	10	3	4	3	13
Vassily Ivanchuk	10	2	6	2	12
Teimur Radjabov	10	1	7	2	10
Vishy Anand	10	0	8	2	8

The World Champion, Anand, came LAST ! Not a good omen for his upcoming defence of the title against ex-World Champion, Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), next month.

Women's World Chess Championship

(from ChessBase) The Women's World Chess Championship 2008 is taking place from August 28th to September 18th in Nalchik, in the Kabardino-Balkaria region of Russia. 64 players were eligible to play in the knock-out event, which has a prize fund of US \$450,000. Due to the tensions in the region the Georgian players and a few others decided not to participate. The Canadian women's champion, WIM Natalia Khoudgarian, had the right to participate, but decided not to play.

In the second round, Russian Svetlana Matveeva defeated 2006 World Champion Yuhua Xu.



So there will definitely be a new Women's World Champion in Nalchik. Also one of China's best players and former World Girl's Champion GM-elect Zhao Xue (2522) was knocked out by a fellow Chinese young star Shen Yang (2445).

The match-ups for Rd. 3 were (from the Polgar Blog) [bold = higher rated]::

Upper bracket

Matveeva, Svetlana (Ind. - 2412) vs. **Ushenina, Anna (Ukr. - 2476)**
Konsintseva, Tatjana (Rus. - 2511) vs. Kosteniuk, Aleksandra (Rus. - 2510)
Stefanova, Antoaneta (Bul. - 2550) vs. Gaponenko, Inna (Ukr. - 2468)
Cramling, Pia (Swe. - 2544) vs. Ruan, Lufei (Chn. - 2499)

Lower bracket

Koneru, Humpy (Ind. - 2622) vs. Hoang Thanh, Trang (Hun. - 2487)
 Shen, Yang (Chn. - 2445) vs. **Kosintseva, Nadezhda (Rus. - 2460)**
Hou, Yifan (Chn. - 2577) vs. Sedina, Elena (Ita. - 2344)
 Mkrtchian, Lilit (Arm. - 2436) vs. **Harika, Dronavalli (Ind. - 2461)**

The match-ups for Rd. 4, and results, were (from ChessBase):

Results of round four (complete)

Nat.	Name	Rtng	G1	G2	R1	R2	B1	B2	SD	Tot.
Round 4 Match 01										
RUS	Kosteniuk, Aleksandra	2510	½	1						1.5
UKR	Ushenina, Anna	2476	½	0						0.5
Round 4 Match 02										
IND	Koneru, Humpy	2622	1	1						2.0
CHN	Shen, Yang	2445	0	0						0.0
Round 4 Match 03										
ARM	Mkrtchian, Lilit	2436	½	0						0.5
CHN	Hou, Yifan	2557	½	1						1.0
Round 4 Match 04										
BUL	Stefanova, Antoaneta	2550	0	½						0.5
SWE	Cramling, Pia	2544	1	½						1.0

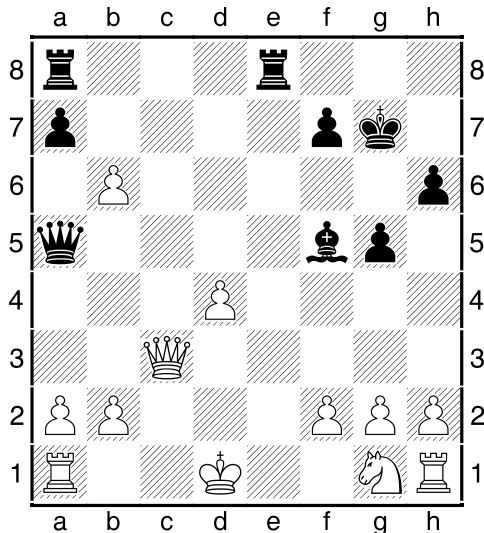
In Rd. 4, game 2, Kosteniuk played active chess, sacking pawns, and got a nice win over Ushenina. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ushenina, A (2476) – Kosteniuk, A (2510) [E35]

WCh–Women Nalchik RUS (4.2), 07.09.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 [6.Nf3 Ne4 (6...0-0?! 7.Bg5 c5 8.dxc5 Be6±) 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Bf5=] **6...c5?!±** [6...Qd6 7.e3 Ne4 8.Bf4 Qc6=] **7.dxc5** Ushenina goes up a P **7...h6** Kosteniuk sacs the cP [7...Bxc5?! 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.Nxd5 Nxd5 10.Bxe7 Kxe7±] **8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Ne4 10.e3** [10.Be5 0-0±] **10...Qa5 11.Be5?!=** [11.Nge2 Nc6 12.a3 Bf5±] **11...0-0**

12.Bd3 Nc6 13.Bxe4 Nxe5?± Ushenina gets a " clear " advantage [13...dxe4 14.Bd6 Re8 15.Rc1 b6=] **14.Bh7+?**= [14.Bxd5 Qxc5 15.0-0-0 Be6±] **14...Kg7 15.Bd3 b6** Kosteniuk decides to sac a second P **16.cxb6?+** Ushenina goes up 2 P, but Kosteniuk gets a " winning " advantage (the first time in the game, she's had the advantage) [16.Nge2 bxc5 17.0-0 Rd8 18.Bf5 Bb7=] **16...d4** Kosteniuk decides to sac a third P; Ushenina's K is still in the centre **17.exd4** Ushenina goes up 3 P **17...Nxd3+ 18.Qxd3 Re8+ 19.Kd1 Bf5 20.Qd2 Bxc3 21.Qxc3**



Qxb6?+ - 4.61 Kosteniuk wins back a P, but misses the long, complicated mate [21...Qb5 22.d5+ Kg8 23.Nf3 Qe2+ 24.Kc1 Rac8 25.Nd4 Qxf2 26.Kd1 Rxc3 27.bxc3 Re3 28.g4 Rd3+ 29.Kc1 Rxc3+ 30.Kd1 Bxg4+ 31.Nf3 Bxf3#] **22.Ne2?+** - 12.96 [22.d5+? f6 23.Nf3 Rac8 24.Qd2 Bc2+ 25.Qxc2 Rxc2 26.Kxc2 Qc5+ and it is mate in 11 moves; 22.Nf3 Rac8 23.Qd2 Bc2+ 24.Qxc2 Rxc2 25.Kxc2 Rc8+ 26.Kd3 Qxb2 - 9.63] **22...Rac8 23.Qa3?+** - 17.62 leads to mate [23.Ng3 Rxc3 24.Nxf5+ Kg6 25.bxc3 Qb2 26.Ne3 Qxa1+ 27.Ke2 Qxh1-+ - 16.82] **23...Rc2?+** - 8.14 Kosteniuk misses the shorter mate [23...Qc6 24.Qc3 Qb5 25.Qd2 Rc2 26.Qxc2 Bxc2+ 27.Kxc2 Rxe2+ 28.Kc3 Qxb2+ 29.Kc4 Rc2+ 30.Kd5 Qb6 31.Ke4 Qe6+ 32.Kf3 Rc3#] **24.Re1** and it is mate in 14 moves [24.Qb3 Rxe2 25.Qxb6 axb6 26.a3 Rcd2+ 27.Kc1 Rxb2 28.Kd1 Rxf2+ and it is mate in 7 moves] **24...Rd8 25.Qe3 Qxb2** Ushenina is up a P, and mated in 10 moves **26.Rc1 Re8?+** - 19.73 missing the mate[26...Rdc8 27.Rf1 Bd3 28.Nc3 Re8 29.Rxc2 Qxc2+ 30.Ke1 Qxc3+ 31.Kd1 Qc2+ 32.Ke1 Qc1#] **0-1**

In the semi-finals, it was Hou



vs Koneru,



And, Kosteniuk



vs Cramling.



Hou and Kosteniuk won game 1 of the 2-game match. Kosteniuk , in game 2, got Cramling in a perpetual check, drawing the game , winning the match, and going through to the finals.

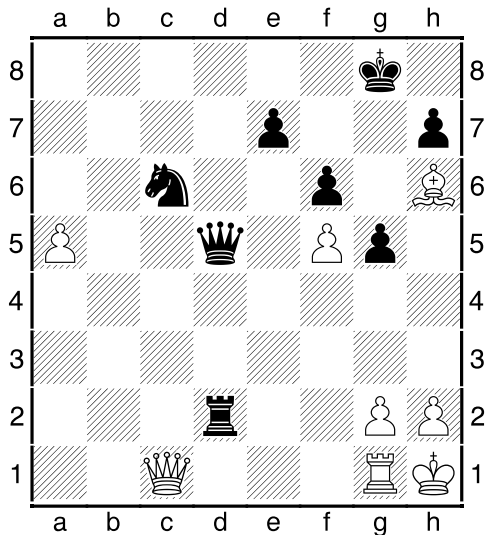
In their game 2, Hou had a “ slight “ advantage in the late middle game, but then grabbed the fatal aP. Koneru got a mate in 5 situation , so Hou resigned, leaving the 2-game semi-final match tied. So they went on to tie-break games on September 12. Here is their game # 2 (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Koneru, H (2622) - Hou, Yifan (2557) [A35]

WCh–Women Nalchik RUS (5.2), 10.09.2008

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 Nc6?!± [3...e6 4.e3 Be7 5.d4 0-0=] **4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 g6 6.Nc2?!=** [6.e4 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0±] **6...Bg7 7.e4 d6 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Be6?!±** [9...Nd7 10.Be3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Nc5=] **10.b3?!=** [10.Be3 Rc8 11.f4 Qd7±] **10...a6 11.Rb1 Rb8?!±** [11...Nd7 12.Qd2 a5=] **12.Bb2 Qa5 13.b4 Qd8?!±** Koneru gets a " clear " advantage [13...Nxb4?! 14.Nxb4 Qxb4 15.Nd5 Qa5 16.Nxe7+ Kh8 17.Qd4 Ne8 18.Qa7 Nf6 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Nc6 Qxa2 21.Nxb8 Qxe2 22.Qxb7 Qxc4±; 13...Qg5 14.f4 Qh4 15.a3 Ng4 16.h3 Nf6±] **14.f4 b5** [14...Rc8 15.Kh1 a5±] **15.cxb5 axb5 16.Kh1 Qd7 17.Qd2?!±** [17.a3 Bc4 18.Bxc4 bxc4±] **17...Rfd8?!±** [17...Rfc8 18.Bd3 (18.Bxb5?! Rxb5 19.Nxb5 Bxa2 20.Bxf6 Bxf6=) 18...Ng4 19.Nd5 Bxb2 20.Rxb2 Bxd5 21.exd5 Na7±] **18.Ne3?±** Koneru loses her advantage. For the first time in the game, Hou gets the advantage, a " clear " advantage [18.a3 d5 19.exd5 Nxd5 20.Nxb5 Bxb2 21.Rxb2 Qb7±] **18...d5 19.exd5 Nxd5 20.Nexd5 Bxd5 21.Bxb5** Koneru goes up a P **21...Qb7** [21...Qe6? 22.Rbe1 Qf5=] **22.Nxd5 Qxb5 23.Bxg7 Rxd5 24.Qc3 Rd3 25.Qa1 f6 26.a4 Qd5 27.Bh6 Rxb4?!±** material equality [27...Nd4

28.Rfd1 Nf5 29.Rxd3 Qxd3♣] **28.Rxb4 Nxb4 29.f5** [29.Qb1? Nc6 30.Rg1 Nd8 31.f5 g5 32.a5 Nf7 33.Qb8+ Qd8 34.Qxd8+ Rxd8 35.Bxg5 Nxc5+] **29...g5** [29...Nc6 30.fxc6 hxc6 31.Qb1 Kh7 32.Bf4 Ra3♣] **30.Qc1** [30.Qb1?! Rd2 31.Rg1 Rd4♣] **30...Nc6 31.a5 Rd2 32.Rg1**



Nxa5??+- Hou blunders – the P cannot be taken – it is mate in 9 moves [32...Kh8 33.a6 Ra2 34.Qb1 Rxa6 35.Rd1 Qg8♣] **33.Qc8+ Qd8 34.Qe6+ Kh8 35.Qf7 Qg8 36.Qxe7+-** Koneru goes up a P, and it is mate in 5 moves. Hou resigned. The game would have finished **36...Rd7 37.Qxf6+ Rg7 38.Re1 g4 39.Bxg7+ Qxg7 40.Re8# 1-0**

In the tie break, after winning the first rapid chess game, Hou lost the second. But then in the blitz playoff it was Hou all the way, with two wins in succession. So Hou went through to the finals against Kosteniuk.

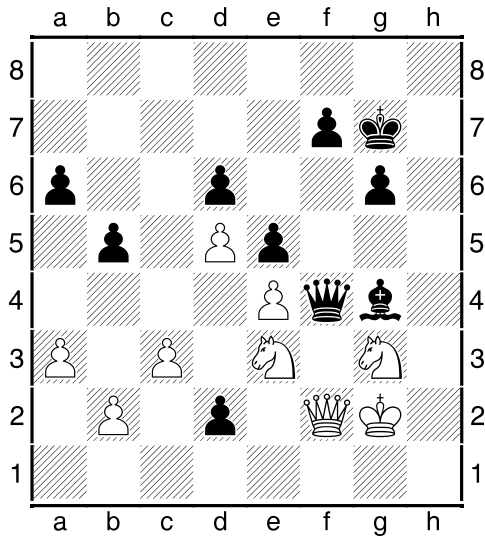
In the 4-game final match, Kosteniuk won the first game, with Hou playing a dubious opening. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Hou, Yifan (2557) – Kosteniuk, A (2510) [C90]

WCh–Women Nalchik RUS (6.1), 14.09.2008

1.e4± Fritz' evaluation not generally accepted **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a3?!=** a weak line [8.d4 d6 9.c3 Bg4±] **8...d6 9.c3 Bg4 10.d3 Na5 11.Bc2 c5 12.h3 Bd7 13.d4 Qc7 14.d5 c4 15.Nbd2 Nb7 16.Nf1 Nc5 17.g4?!♣** aggressive, but not best. Kosteniuk gets the advantage [17.Ng3 a5 18.Be3 h5=] **17...h5 18.N3h2** [18.gxh5 Bxh3 19.Ng3 Nh7♣] **18...hxg4 19.hxg4 Qc8** [19...Nh7 20.Ng3 Bg5 21.Kg2 Qd8♣] **20.f3** [20.g5 Nh7 21.Qh5 g6 22.Qh4 f5 23.gxf6 Nxf6♣] **20...Nh7 21.Ng3 Bg5 22.Nf5?!♣** Kosteniuk gets a " clear " advantage [22.Kg2 Qd8 23.Rh1 g6 24.Bxg5 Nxc5♣] **22...Qd8 23.Kg2 g6 24.Ng3 Kg7 25.Rh1 Rh8** a battle for control of the K-side, and an attack **26.Nhf1 Qf6 27.Be3 Bxe3 28.Nxe3 Ng5 29.Qe2 Rag8 30.Raf1 Qf4 31.Rxh8?!-+** not a good idea to exchange. Kosteniuk gets a " winning " advantage [31.Qf2 Rf8 32.Ne2 Qf6 33.a4 Rxh1 34.Rxh1 Rh8 35.Rxh8 Kxh8♣] **31...Rxh8 32.Rh1 Rxh1 33.Nxh1 Nd3 34.Bxd3 cxd3 35.Qf2 d2 36.Ng3 Nxf3!** Kosteniuk goes up a P **37.Qxf3 Bxg4** Hou is up an N vs 2 P's (but one is passed and on the 2nd rank) **38.Qf2**

Position after 38.Qf2



d1Q?+ – 1.72 not the best line [38...Bh3+! 39.Kg1 Qxe3! 40.Qxe3 d1Q+ 41.Kh2 Bg4+ – 2.64 Kosteniuk would be up a P] **39.Nxd1 Bxd1** Kosteniuk is up a P **40.Qe1?+** – 3.61 [40.Qf1 Bc2 41.Qe2 Qc1+ – 2.57] **40...Bf3+ 41.Kg1 f5 42.exf5 gxf5 43.Qf2 Kg6 44.b3 e4 45.c4 bxc4 46.bxc4 Qg5 47.c5??+** leads to mate in 12 moves [47.Kf1 Qc1+ 48.Qe1 Qxc4+ 49.Kf2 Qc2+ 50.Ke3 Qd3+ 51.Kf4 Bh5 52.Qe3 Qd1+ – 13.09] **47...f4 48.cxd6?+** allows mate in 5 moves [48.Qc2+ it takes 9 moves to mate] **48...fxg3** Kosteniuk is up a B and has mate in 4 moves. Hou resigned. The mate is **49.Qc2 Qh4 50.Qg2 Bxg2 51.Kxg2 Qh2+ 52.Kf1 Qf2# 0-1**

Toronto Labour Day Open

Played August 30-September1, this 5 section 6-round swiss drew 140 players, larger than last year – is chess making a comeback in Toronto?? Bryan Lamb and Randy Moysoski, as TD and TO, put on a good tournament.

Here are the winners:

Open Section

Name	rtng	rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	TOT
1 Thavandiran, Shiyam FM.....	2385	W 18	D 13	W 31	W 11	D 2	W 3	5.0
2 Sambuev, Bator GM.....	2529	W 15	L 31	W 16	W 17	D 1	W 8	4.5
3 Samsonkin, Artiom IM.....	2488	W 16	W 12	W 8	W 4	D 5	L 1	4.5
4 Gerzhoy, Leonid IM.....	2447	W 40	W 19	W 7	L 3	W 18	D 5	4.5
5 Stevens, Christian.....	2371	D 23	W 25	W 10	W 14	D 3	D 4	4.5
6 Peng, David.....	2362	W 21	L 14	W 40	D 15	W 12	W 11	4.5

Shiyam and Christian are both former SCC juniors.

U 2200

Name	rtng	rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	TOT						
1 Kryvoshlyk, Yuriy.....	1546	W	9	D	7	W	2	W	5	W	6	D	3	5.0
2 Mills, Morgon.....	2077	D	4	W	3	L	1	D	8	W	10	W	5	4.0

U 2000

Name	rtng	rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	TOT						
1 Marinkovic, Mate.....	1934	W	10	W	14	W	11	W	8	D	3	D	2	5.0
2 Bzikot, Robert.....	1915	W	13	W	6	W	17	D	3	W	5	D	1	5.0
3 Shah, Omar.....	1976	W	9	W	7	W	15	D	2	D	1	D	4	4.5
4 Prysiazny, Michael.....	1839	L	17	W	23	W	22	W	14	W	7	D	3	4.5

U 1800

Name	rtng	rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	TOT						
1 Itkin, David.....	1646	W	22	L	6	W	12	W	18	W	11	W	4	5.0
2 Haley, Phil.....	1678	W	14	W	23	D	4	L	6	W	9	W	11	4.5
3 Medvedev, Genadi.....	1664	L	12	D	13	W	22	W	17	W	10	W	6	4.5
4 Chan, Alex.....	1626	W	13	W	16	D	2	W	10	W	6	L	1	4.5

Phil Haley is a sometimes SCC member.

U 1600

Name	rtng	rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	TOT						
1 Brown, John.....	1578	W	21	W	19	W	7	W	8	W	4	D	2	5.5
2 Chan, Edward.....	1493	H---	W	32	W	6	W	11	W	5	D	1	5.0	
3 Li, Yuchen.....	1244	W	17	W	24	L	11	W	7	W	23	W	8	5.0

John Brown was an SCC member last year.

SCC'ers at the 2008 Canadian Open

(3rd in a series of 3 articles)

The 2008 Canadian Open took place in Montreal, Quebec, from July 19 – 27. It was a 9 round swiss, in 5 sections, and 330 players were registered, including in the Open Section, 15 GM's.

8 stalwart SCC'ers went to try their skill and luck. They played in 3 different sections. Their results were, in 9 rounds:

Open Section:

40/48 – FM Yuanling Yuan – 3 pts. (1 pt. was a director's 1 pt. bye)

U 2400:

27/53 – Oscar Villalobos – 4.5 pts. (1st round ½ pt. bye due to T.D. error)

U 2000:

8/77 – Bob Armstrong – 6.5 pts.

12/77 – Alex Ferreira – 5.5 pts.

13/77 – Tyler Longo – 5.5 pts.

50/77 – Mario Moran-Venegas – 4 pts.

58/77 – Uwe Hahnewald – 3.5 pts.

60/77 – Michael Perez – 3 pts.

As usual, I begged, pleaded, threatened everyone to give me their “ most interesting “ game from the tournament – it didn’t necessarily have to be a win; a draw or loss was OK if it was interesting and instructive. I published the first games I received in the last 2 issues. Here is the last game submitted.

Alex (on left – picture from SCC)



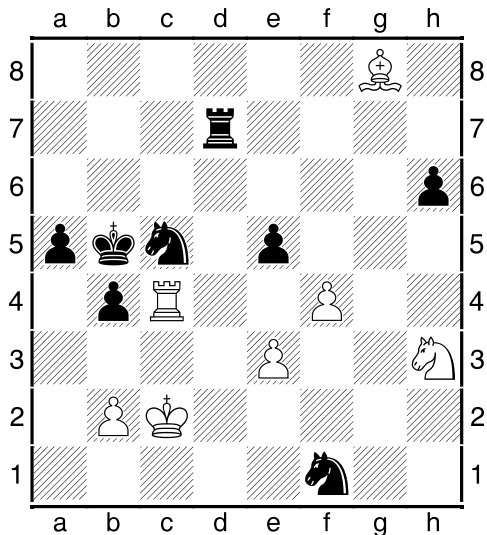
was down a pawn in the late middle game, but got it back. Then he forced his opponent to give up the exchange, and then he picked up pawns and won. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Nunez–Painchaud, Raphael (1750) – Ferreira, Alex (1958) [A09]

2008 Canadian Open (U 2000) Montreal (7), 25.07.2008

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Qc2?? Alex gets a very early " clear " advantage [3.e3 Nc6 (3...e6?! 4.Bxc4 Nf6±; 3...b5?! 4.a4 c6 5.axb5 cxb5 6.Nc3 Bd7 7.d3 b4 8.Ne4 Nf6±) 4.Bxc4 e5=] **3...b5?±** now Raphael gets the " clear " advantage [3...Nc6 4.e4 Bg4 5.Bxc4 Bxf3 6.Qb3 e6 (6...Bxg2??

7.Bxf7+ Kd7 8.Qe6#) 7.Qxf3 Nd4 8.Qd1 Qh4#] **4.a4 b4** [4...Nf6 5.axb5 Bb7±] **5.Qxc4?!±** [5.e4 c5 6.Bxc4 Nc6±] **5...a5** [5...Nf6 6.d3 e6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 Bd6±; 5...e6 6.d3 Nf6±] **6.d4 e6 7.Bf4?!=** [7.e4 Nf6 8.Nbd2 Nbd7±] **7...Bd6 8.Bg3 Ba6?!±** [8...Nf6 9.Nbd2 Bb7=] **9.Qc2 Nd7 10.Nbd2 Ne7 11.Nc4 Bxg3 12.hxg3 Bxc4 13.Qxc4 c5 14.dxc5** Raphael goes up a P **14...Rc8 15.Rd1 Rxc5?!±** material equality [15...Qc7 16.e3 Nxc5 17.Qh4 Nf5 18.Bb5+ Kf8 19.Qh3 Nd6±] **16.Qxc5?=** Raphael loses his advantage [16.Qd4 Nf5 17.Qf4 Ne7±] **16...Nxc5 17.Rxd8+ Kxd8 18.Ne5** [18.Rh5 f5 19.Ng5 Kc8#] **18...Kc7 19.Nxf7** Raphael goes up a P again **19...Rf8** [19...Ra8 20.e4 Nxa4 21.Ng5 Nxb2 22.Nxe6+ Kd6 23.Nxg7 a4=] **20.Rh5** [20.Ne5 Nxa4 21.Nc4 h6=] **20...Nd5 21.Ng5 Nf6 22.Rh4?!#** [22.Nxh7 Nxh5 23.Nxf8 Kd6=] **22...Kb6 23.Rc4 Re8 24.Kd2** [24.Rd4 Rc8 25.e4 h6 26.Nf7 Nxa4#] **24...Nxa4** material equality **25.Kc2 Re7 26.e3 Nc5 27.g4?+ Alex** gets a "winning" advantage [27.Kd1 e5 28.Ke1 h6 29.Nf3 Nfe4#] **27...h6?!#** [27...e5 28.Kd1 h6 29.Nf3 e4 30.Nh2 Rc7+] **28.Nh3?!+ [28.Nf3 Nfe4 29.Nd2 Nxf2#] 28...e5 29.g5 Nfe4 30.gxh6 gxh6 31.g3?+ - 3.57 [31.Ng1 b3+ 32.Kc1 Nxf2+ - 2.34] 31...Rf7?+ - 2.54** wrong file [31...Rd7 32.Rxc5 Nxc5 33.Bc4 a4+ - 4.80] **32.f4?+ - 4.09 [32.Be2 Rd7 33.Kc1 Nd2 34.Rxc5 Nb3+ 35.Kc2 Nxc5+ - 3.80; 32.Kc1 Nb3+ 33.Kc2 Nbd2 34.b3 Nxc4 35.Bxc4 Rf8+ - 3.21] 32...Nxg3** Alex goes up a P **33.Bg2 Kb5?+ - 2.70 [33...Rd7 34.Kb1 Nf5 35.fxe5 Nxe3 36.e6 Rd6 37.Rxc5 Kxc5 38.e7 Re6+ - 5.21] 34.Bd5?+ - 4.03 [34.Rxc5+ Kxc5 35.fxe5 Nf5+ - 3.16] 34...Rd7 35.Bg8 Nf1**



36.Rxc5+ Kxc5 37.fxe5 Nxe3+ Alex is up the exchange + P **38.Kb3 Ng4?+ - 5.66 [38...Rd2 39.Bf7 Nd1 40.Nf4 Rxb2+ 41.Ka4 Rb1+ - 9.29] 39.Nf4 Nxe5** Alex is up the exchange + 2 P **40.Ka4 Rd2?+ - 5.06 [40...Nd3 41.Nxd3+ Rxd3+ - 9.70] 41.Ne6+?+ - 8.10 [41.Kxa5 Rxb2 42.Ka4 Kd4+ - 5.07] 41...Kb6 42.Nf4 Rxb2** Alex is up the exchange + 3 P. Seems to me it would be gentlemanly for W to resign about now **43.Be6?+ - 9.51 [43.Nd5+ Kc5 44.Nc7 Rb1+ - 8.54] 43...Rf2 44.Nd5+ Kc5 45.Ne3 Rf3 46.Nc2 Rc3 47.Bb3 Nc4 48.Na1??+ a blunder** into the shorter mate [48.Bxc4 Kxc4 49.Nxb4 axb4 50.Ka5 Rc2 51.Ka6 Kd4 52.Ka5 b3 53.Kb5 b2 54.Ka4 b1Q 55.Ka5 Ra2#] **48...h5??+ - 19.55** Alex misses the 2-move mate [48...Kb6 49.Bxc4 Ra3#] **0-1**

SCC'ers at the Toronto Labour Day Open

(first in a multi-part series of articles)

This tournament, held August 30-September 1, saw 21 SCC'ers take part in the five sections (140 players total - we are 15% of that total!)! Here were their scores:

Open Section:

WFM Yuanling Yuan – 3.5 pts.
Kevin Wu – 2.5 pts.
Uwe Hahnewald – 2.5 pts.
Michael Perez – 2 pts.
Pepin Manalo – 1.5 pts.

U 2200 :

Josh Sherman – 3.5 pts.
Alex Ferreira – 1 pt.

U 2000 :

Aaron Wu – 4 pts.
Sam Arfin – 3 .5 pts.
Martin Maister – 3.5 pts.
Bob Armstrong – 3 pts.
Mario Moran – 2.5 pts.
Randy Moysoski – 2 pts.
Muneshwar Samaroo – 1.5 pts.

U 1800 :

Doug Gillis – 4 pts.
Nathan Farrant-Diaz – 3.5 pts.
Joe Bellomo – 2.5 pts.
Ken Kurkowski – 2.5 pts.
Jim Roe – 1 pt.

U 1600:

Ted Termeer – 4 pts.
Marc Ben-Avraham – 4 pts.

As usual, I begged, pleaded, threatened, etc. to try to wring some games out of everybody. Some are trickling in. While I'm waiting, I'll start with one of my own wins against Muneshwar, which has a nice attack. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Bob Armstrong



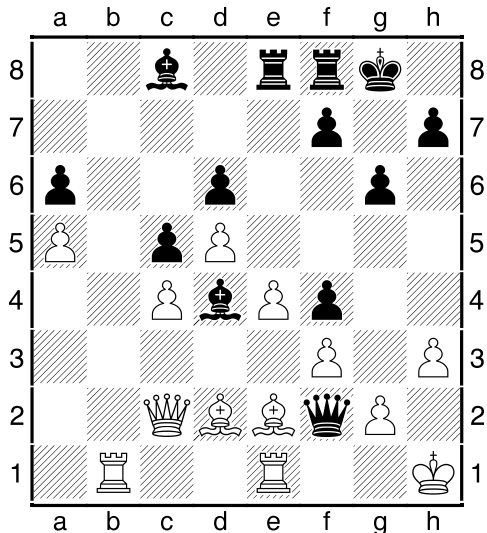
Samaroo, Muneshwar (1592) – Armstrong, Robert (1839) [B06]

Toronto Labour Day Open (U 2000) Toronto (3), 31.08.2008

]

1.e4± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted **1...g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.b3?!=** [4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 c6±] **4...Nf6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Bb2** [6.Be2?! c5 7.0-0 Nc6±; 6.Bd2 a6 7.a4 c5=] **6...c6?!±** Muneshwar gets the advantage [6...c5 7.Be2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nbd7=] **7.Bd3 b5** [7...Nbd7 8.0-0 Qc7 9.Qd2 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5±] **8.h3 Bb7 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Re1 Nh5 11.Ne2 Qc7 12.c4?!=** [12.c3 c5 13.Qd2 (13.Nd2?! Qb6 14.g4 Nhf6=) 13...Nb6±] **12...bxc4 13.bxc4?!±** I get the advantage [13.Bxc4 d5 14.exd5 cxd5 15.Bd3 Qb6=] **13...c5 14.Qc2** [14.Rb1 cxd4 15.Bxd4 a6 16.Nc3 Bxd4 17.Nxd4 e6±] **14...Rab8?!=** [14...cxd4 15.Bxd4 a6 16.Rab1 Bxd4 17.Nfxd4 Rab8±] **15.Bc3?±** I get a " clear " advantage [15.g4 Nhf6 16.d5 h6=] **15...a6?±** an oversight. I wanted to play ...cxd4 and didn't want his N then coming to b5. Could have played ..a6 later. Forgot he could just close it all up. Muneshwar gets the advantage [15...cxd4 16.Nexd4 a6±] **16.d5 e5** [16...e6 17.Qd2 Bxc3 18.Nxc3 e5±] **17.a4 Rbe8?!±** now that the centre is closed, I decided to shift all my pieces for a K-side attack. But Muneshwar gets a " clear " advantage [17...Bh6 18.Reb1 Ng7 19.Ng3 Bf4±] **18.a5?!±** [18.Rab1 Nhf6 19.Qd2 Ba8 20.Ba5 Qa7±] **18...Bc8 19.Bd2** [19.Rab1 Bh6 20.Rb3 f5±; 19.Ra3 Bh6 20.Rb1 f5 21.Bd2 (21.exf5? Ndf6 22.Bd2 (22.fxg6?? e4 23.Ng3 Nxc3 24.fxg3 exd3 25.Qxd3 Ne4 26.gxh7+ Qxh7±) 22...Bxd2 23.Nxd2 e4 24.Nxe4 Nxe4 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.Bxe4 Rxe4 27.Qxe4 Bf5±) 21...fxe4 22.Bxe4 Bxd2 23.Qxd2 Nf4±] **19...Nf4?!±** I thought I could hold my P once on f4 [19...f5 20.Rab1 fxe4 21.Bxe4

Ndf6±] 20.Nxf4 exf4 21.Rab1 Ne5 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 now I had a P restricting W when I attacked 23.Be2?!± [23.Rb6 Qd8 24.Qd1 Qh4±] 23...Qd8 bringing my Q over for my attack, the last preparatory move 24.f3?+ Muneshwar panics, seeing the Q coming. I get a " winning " advantage. Now I can start my attack [24.Bg4 f5 25.exf5 Bxf5 26.Bxf5 Rxf5±] 24...Bd4+ 25.Kh1 Qh4 26.Bf1+ - 2.15 [26.Bc3 Bxc3 27.Qxc3 Bxh3 28.Rb2 (28.gxh3? Qxh3+ 29.Kg1 Re5+ - 4.82) 28...Re5 29.Bd3 Rh5+ - 2.07] 26...Qf2 threatening mate on g1 27.Be2



Bxh3?!+ the sac, though OK, is not best. Better to bring in some more heavy artillery [27...Re5 28.Rf1 Qh4 29.Be1 Qh6 30.Bd3 Rh5 31.Rf2 Qg5+ - 1.99] 28.gxh3 Muneshwar is up B vs P. Any other move leads to mate; the sac has to be accepted 28...Qg3 threatening mate on Qxh3 29.Bxf4! Qxf4 material equality 30.Kg2??+ - 21.35 Muneshwar tries to shift his K to the centre, a deadly mistake [30.Rf1 Re5 31.Bd1 Rg5 32.Qh2 Rg3 33.h4 Be5 34.Rf2 Qe3+ - 3.63] 30...Re5 31.Rh1 Rg5+?+ - 8.93 I miss a much better move - a mate [31...Qe3 32.Rhf1 Qg5+ 33.Kh1 Qg3 34.Bd3 Rh5 35.Qh2 Rxh3 36.Rb2 Bxb2 37.Rf2 Rxh2+ 38.Rxh2 Bd4 39.Rg2 Qh4+ 40.Rh2 Qe1+ 41.Kg2 Qf2+ 42.Kh3 Qxf3+ 43.Kh4 Bf6#] 32.Kf1 Qe3?+ - 2.79 Again I miss the tricky better move [32...Qh2! 33.Ke1 Qxh1+ 34.Kd2 Qxh3 35.Qd3 Rg2+ - 13.86] 33.Bd1??+ this leads to mate [33.Ke1 Rg2 34.Kd1 Bc3 35.Rf1 Bb4+ - 3.07] 33...Rg1+ 34.Rxg1 Qxg1+ 35.Ke2 Qf2+ Muneshwar resigns. It is mate. 36.Kd3 Qe3# 0-1

An interesting game is one submitted by junior WFM Yuanling.

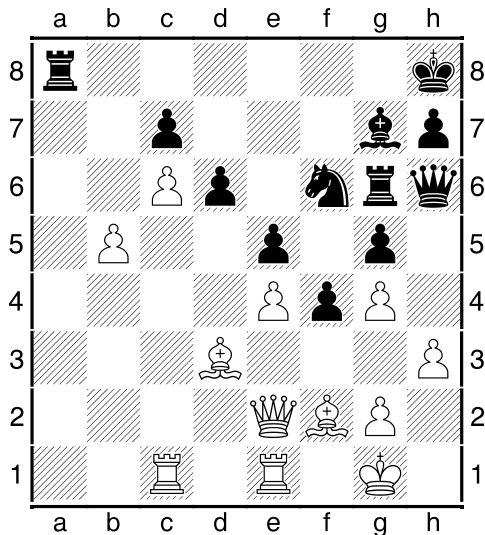


It is a battle between two of our 2008 Canadian Women Olympians, played against junior WFM Hazel Smith. It is a classic win by W on the Q-side, when Black's King's Indian Defence attack on the K-side fails to materialize. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Yuan, Yuanling (2202) – Smith, Hazel (2105) [C60]

2008 Labour Day Open (6), 01.09.2008

1.e4± Fritz evaluation not generally accepted **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.0-0 Ng6 5.c3 d6 6.d4 Bd7 7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.Nf1** [10.d5 Nb8 11.Nc4 Re8±] **10...Nh4** [10...exd4 11.cxd4 Bf6 12.Be3 Bg4±] **11.Nxh4** [11.d5 Na7 12.Be3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Bg5±] **11...Bxh4 12.Be3 Kh8?!±** Yuanling gets a " clear " advantage [12...Qf6 13.g3 Qg6±] **13.Qh5?=[** [13.d5 Ne7 14.Qh5 Ng6±] **13...g6?!±** [13...exd4 14.Bxd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 Qf6=] **14.Qe2?!=[** [14.Qd1 f5 15.exf5 Bxf5±] **14...Bf6?!±** [14...exd4 15.Bxd4+ Nxd4 16.cxd4 f5=] **15.d5 Ne7 16.c4 Bg7** the game has now transposed into a KID **17.c5 f5 18.f3 Ng8** [18...fxe4 19.fxe4 dxc5 20.Bxc5 c6±] **19.Rac1 f4?!±** [19...fxe4 20.Bxe4 Nh6 21.Qd2 Nf5±] **20.Bf2 g5 21.c6?=[** Yuanling loses her advantage [21.Nd2 dxc5 22.Bxc5 Rf6±] **21...bxc6 22.dxc6 Bc8 23.b4 Qe8 24.a4 Qh5** trying to develop a K-side attack **25.h3 Rf6?!±** Hazel slightly misplays her attack [25...Qg6 26.b5 (26.a5?! h5 27.Bb6! cxb6 28.axb6 Rb8 29.Qf2 d5±) 26...axb5 27.axb5 h5=] **26.Nh2 Rg6?!±** Hazel tries to set up an attack, but this will not work. Yuanling will get play on the Q-side. Yuanling gets back a " clear " advantage [26...Rf8 27.b5 axb5 28.axb5 Ne7±] **27.Ng4 Nf6?!+–** Yuanling gets a " winning " advantage [27...Re6 28.Bc4 Re8 29.b5 axb5 30.axb5 Qg6±] **28.b5 axb5 29.axb5** 1.64 **29...Bxg4?+–** 4.25 nothing will come of this exchange [29...Be6 30.b6 cxb6 31.Ba6 Ng8 32.Qd3 Bf8 33.Bb7 Rb8 34.Bxb6 Rg7+– 2.13] **30.fxg4 Qh6**

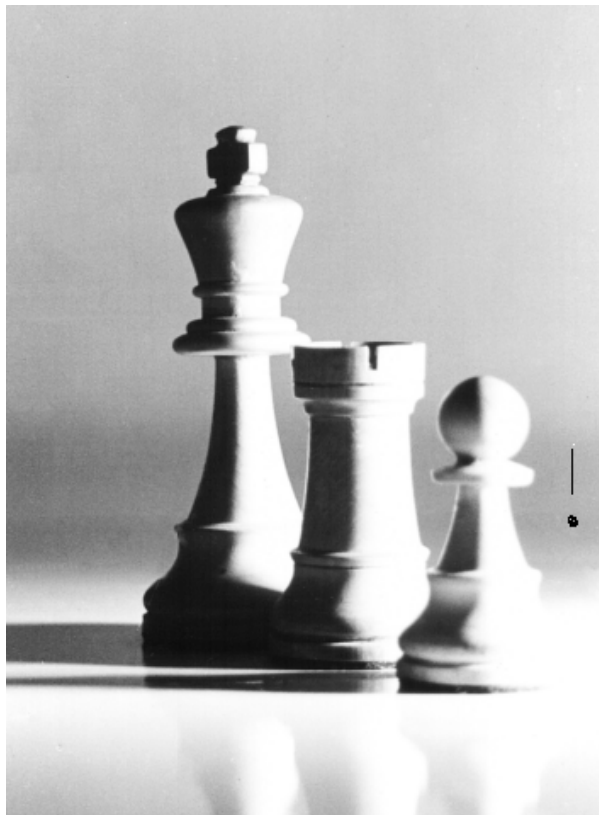


31.b6! finally Yuanling gets to make her move on the Q-side – she sacks a P to move the cP **31...cxb6** Hazel goes up a P, but is lost **32.c7+–** 4.48 Hazel resigns. The cP is too strong. The game might have continued **32...Ng8 33.c8Q Rxc8 34.Rxc8 Rf6 35.Bc4 Bf8+–** 4.70 Yuanling would be up the exchange with Hazel having 2 P compensation, but Hazel's position is hopeless. **1-0**

SCC Howard Ridout Memorial Swiss

This 8 Rd. swiss started Thursday, Sept. 11. It is being held in 2 sections: Open Section; U 1700 section. 35 players registered for the Open section. The club is much stronger at the top this year with 4 masters and 5 experts (our VP, Bryan Lamb, started the tournament on Bd. 6 – a new experience for him !) 25 players registered for the U 1700 section. The total of 60 players is the most we have had out since early in the millennium. SCC is starting to reach the limits of its space – we're just fitting everyone in ! 15 players won their first round in the Open section; 11 players won their first game in the U 1700 section.

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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