

Scarborough Community of Toronto
Chess News & Views

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Scarborough Chess Club

“ FRIENDLY Chess Since 1960 ”

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 11-8 – December 15 , 2009

2009 FIDE World Cup Rds. 4 – 7 – Gelfand Through to Candidates

The FIDE World Cup 2009 is a knockout tournament of 128 players representing all the top players (except those already qualified to the 2010 Candidates Matches), world zone and continental top players, and some wild card participants. It is being held from November 20th till December 15th, 2009 in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, just like the previous two World Cups won by Levon Aronian and Gata Kamsky respectively.

The winner of the World Cup qualifies into the 2010 Candidates Matches, which will determine the Challenger in the 2011 World Championship Match.

The winner was Boris Gelfand (Israel), who pockets \$ 96,000. The runner-up, Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine) wins \$ 64,000.

Here is how it all unfolded:

Round 1 – Our Canadian Champion, Jean Hebert, of Quebec, lost to # 8 in the world, Russian Peter Svidler : 2-0 (games reported in the Dec. 1 Issue).

Round 4

(regular 2-game matches reported on in Dec. 1 Issue)

Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine - 2739) 3.5 – 2.5 Etienne Bacrot (France – 2700)
Vugar Gashimov (Azerbaijan - 2758) 3.5 – 1.5 Fabiano Caruana (Italy – 2652)

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Alexei Shirov (Spain - 2719)	.5 – 1.5 Peter Svidler (Russia – 2754)
Wesley So (Philippines - 2640)	1 – 4 Vladimir Malakhov (Russia – 2706)
Nikita Vitiugov (Russia - 2694)	5 – 1.5 Sergei Karjakin (Ukraine – 2723)
Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France - 2718)	3.5 – 4.5 Boris Gelfand (Israel - 2758)
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan – 2719)	1.5 – .5 Viktor Laznicka (Czech Republic – 2637)
Alexander Grischuk (Russia – 2736)	3 – 5 Dmitry Jakovenko (Russia - 2736)

Round 5

Top Half of Draw

Sergei Karjakin (Ukraine – 2723) 1.5 - 5 Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan – 2719)
 Boris Gelfand (Israel - 2758) 3.5 – 1.5 Dmitry Jakovenko (Russia - 2736)

Bottom Half of Draw

Ruslan Ponomarev (Ukraine - 2739) 3.5 – 1.5 Vugar Gashimov (Azerbaijan - 2758)
 Peter Svidler (Russia – 2754) 5 - 1.5 Vladimir Malakhov (Russia – 2706)

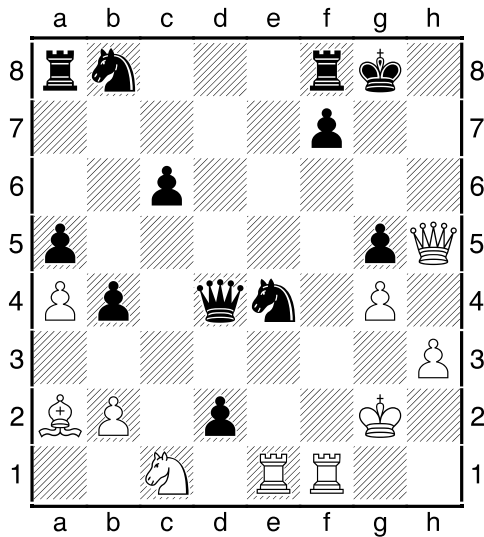
1. Malakhov/Svidler – In game 1, Malakhov pretty much destroyed Svidler, going up 2 pawns, and then pushing his passed pawn down the centre to promotion. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Svidler, P (2754) – Malakhov, V (2706) [D15]

World Cup Khanty–Mansiysk RUS (5), 03.12.2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 a6?!± [4...e6?! 5.e3 Nbd7±; 4...dxc4 5.e4 b5=] **5.e3 b5 6.c5 g6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Bg7 10.g4?!=** trying to discourage Malakhov from castling K-side [10.0-0 0-0 11.Rd1 e5±] **10...e5 11.Qg3 Nfd7** [11...Nbd7 12.Bd2 Qe7=] **12.Ne2?!±** [12.0-0 a5 13.Bd2 h5=] **12...Qe7 13.0-0 h5 14.f3 Nf8** [14...hxg4 15.hxg4 a5±] **15.a4 b4** [15...hxg4?! 16.hxg4 bxa4 17.Rxa4 Ne6=] **16.Bd2 a5?!=** [16...hxg4 17.hxg4 Nbd7±] **17.e4 dxe4 18.Bxe4 Ne6 19.Rae1 h4?!±** [19...Nd7?! 20.Bxc6 0-0-0±; 19...hxg4 20.fxg4 0-0=] **20.Qf2 0-0 21.f4 exd4?!±** Malakhov goes up a P but Svidler gets a " clear " advantage [21...f5 22.Bd3 e4 23.Bc4 Na6±] **22.f5?±** Malakhov gets back the advantage [22.Nc1 Ra7 (22...Nxc5 23.Bxc6 Nxc6 24.Rxe7 Nxe7 25.Qxh4 Rfe8±) 23.f5 Nxc5±] **22...Nxc5** Malakhov goes up 2 P's **23.Bb1 d3 24.Nc1 Qd6 25.Ba2?+** Malakhov gets a " winning " advantage [25.f6 Bxf6 26.Qxf6 Qg3+ 27.Kh1 Qxh3+ 28.Kg1 Qxg4+ 29.Kh2 Nbd7±] **25...Bd4 26.Be3 Ne4 27.Qxh4** Malakhov is up a P **27...g5 28.Qh5 d2 29.f6?+ – 8.14** [29.Qg6+ Qxg6 30.fxg6 dxe1Q 31.gxf7+ Kh7 32.Rxe1 Bxe3+ 33.Rxe3 Nf6+ – 3.27 Malakhov would be up R vs P] **29...Qxf6** Malakhov is up 2 P's again **30.Bxd4?+ – 19.26** [30.Kg2 dxe1Q 31.Rxf6 Qg3+ 32.Kf1 Bxf6 33.Qg6+ Bg7 34.Qxe4 Nd7 35.Bd2 Qxh3+ 36.Qg2 Qxg2+ 37.Kxg2 Bxb2 38.Bxg5 Bxc1 39.Bxc1 Rfe8+ – 13.90] **30...Qxd4+ 31.Kg2??+** leads to mate in 5 moves [31.Kh2 Qd6+ 32.Kh1 Ng3+ 33.Kg2 Nxh5 34.gxh5 dxe1Q 35.Rxe1 Qd2+ 36.Kf1 Qxb2+ – 23.43]

Position after 31.Kg2?



31...dxe1N+!!-+ mate in 4 moves – great promotion – Svidler resigned. [a major blunder would have been 31...dxe1Q?? 32.Bxf7+ Rxf7 33.Qxf7+ Kh8 34.Qf8+ Kh7 35.Rf7+ Kg6 36.Qg8+ Qg7 37.Qxg7#] It is mate **32.Kh1 Ng3+ 33.Kh2 Nxf1+ 34.Kh1 Qe4+ 35.Kg1 Qg2# 0-1**

In Game 2, however, Svidler tried to come back. He went up a P in the middle game, but the game was still unwinnable, and he agreed to a draw. So Malakhov goes through to round 6.

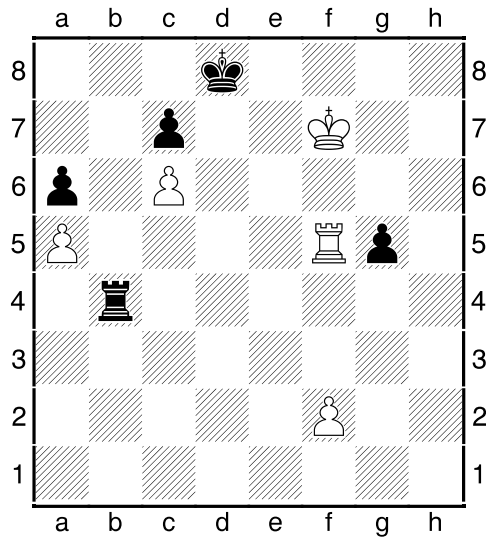
2. Karjakin/Mamedyarov – Karjakin went through to the 6th round on the strength of his win in Game 1 (Game 2 was drawn). Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Karjakin, Sergey (2723) – Mamedyarov, S (2719) [C80]

World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (5.1), 03.12.2009

1.e4= 0.20 1...e5 for Fritz, the only equalizing move 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 [8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 c6=] 8...Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7?!± [10...Nxb3 11.axb3 Be7=] 11.Bc2 d4 [11...Bg4 12.Re1 0-0±] 12.Nb3 [12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Qxd4 14.Nf3 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Rd8±] 12...d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 Bf5 15.b4 0-0 16.Re1 Qd5 17.h3 [17.Be3 Rfd8 18.Bg5 Qd7±] 17...Rfd8 [17...Qd7 18.Bf4 Rfd8±] 18.g4 Be6?!± Karjakin gets a " clear " advantage [18...d2 19.Bxd2 Bxb1 20.Rxb1 f6±] 19.Re3 h5 20.Qxd3 Karjakin goes up a P 20...Qxd3 21.Bxd3 hxg4 22.hxg4 Bd5 23.Bc2 [23.Be4 a5 24.Bxd5 Rxd5±] 23...Bxf3 [23...a5 24.bxa5 Nxa5±] 24.Rxf3 Nxe5 material equality 25.Rh3 g6 26.g5 Re8 27.Bf4 Bf8 28.Re3 Bd6 29.Bb3?!± [29.Kf1 Re7 30.b3 Kg7±] 29...Nc4 30.Bxc4 Bxf4 31.Rf3 Bh2+?!± [31...bxc4 32.Rxf4 Re5 33.Rxc4 Rxc4 34.Kf1 Rh5 35.Ra2 Ra7 36.Rc6 Kf8 37.Rcxa6 Rxa6 38.Rxa6 Ke7±] 32.Kxh2 bxc4 33.Rf4 [33.Ra5 Re2 34.Rf4 Rxb2 35.Kg3 Rd8±] 33...Re5 34.Rxc4 Rxc4 35.Ra5 Rxa5 36.bxa5 Ra7 37.Kg3 Kf8 38.Kf4 Ke7 39.b4 Kd7 40.Ke5 Rb7 41.Rd4+ Kc8 42.Kf6 Rb5 43.Rf4 Rd5 44.Kxf7 Karjakin goes up a P 44...g5 45.Rf6 Rd3 46.c4?!± [46.Rxa6 Kb7 47.Rg6 Rxc3 48.Rxc3 Rf3+ 49.Ke6 Rxf2 50.b5 Rd2±] 46...Rd4 47.c5 Rxb4 material equality 48.c6 Kd8?+- the losing move; Karjakin gets a " winning " advantage [48...Rb2 49.f3 Rb3 50.Kg6 Kd8 51.Kxg5 Ke7±] 49.Rf5?!± Karjakin misses the winning line [49.f3 Kc8 50.Ke7 Kb8 51.Rf8+ Ka7 52.Kd7 g4 53.Kxc7 gxf3 54.Rxf3 Rb1+- 4.45 Karjakin would be up a P, passed, on the 6th rank]

Position after 49.Rf5?



49...Rb2?+- Mamedyarov gives Karjakin back a "winning" advantage [49...g4 50.Rd5+ Kc8 51.Rg5 Kb8 52.Rg8+ Ka7±] **50.f4 Rf2 51.Rd5+ Kc8 52.Ke7+-** 3.70 Mamedyarov must lose a R, to stop a passed fP. The game could have continued **52...Re2+ 53.Re5 Rc2 54.f5 Rxc6 55.f6 Rd6 56.f7 Rd7+ 57.Kf6 Rxf7+ 58.Kxf7 1-0**

Round 6 – Semi-finals

Match 1. Boris Gelfand (Israel - 2758) 2 – 0 Sergei Karjakin (Ukraine – 2723)

Gelfand took the lead by winning with the black pieces in Game 1. He went up a P, then two, then three. Karjakin resigned a few moves later. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Karjakin, Sergey (2723) – Gelfand, B (2758) [C55]

World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (6.1), 06.12.2009

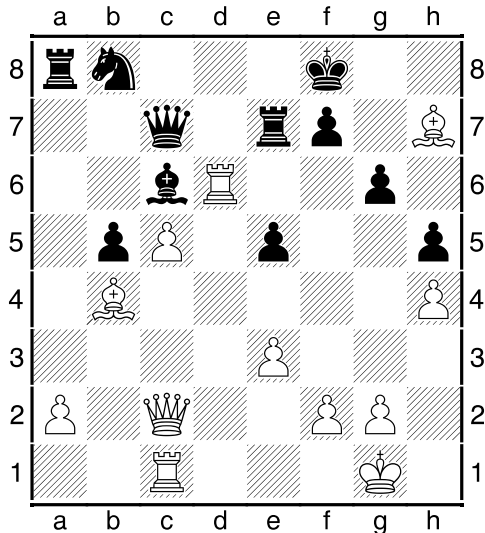
1.e4= 0.20 **1...e5** for Fritz, the only equalizing move **2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Bb3 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.h3** [8.Nc3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Bf5=] **8...a5 9.a4 Nd4 10.Nxd4 exd4 11.Re1 Ra6** [11...Be6 12.Nd2 Bb4 13.Qf3 Qg5=] **12.Qh5?!±** [12.Bxd5 Qxd5 13.Rxe7 Rg6 14.g4 Qh5=] **12...Nb4?!=** [12...Bb4 13.Re2 Re6±] **13.Na3 Rg6 14.Bf4?!±** [14.Re4 Be6 15.Bxe6 fxe6=] **14...b6 15.Qf3 Be6 16.Bxe6?!±** [16.Bc4 Bc5 17.Bg3 Bxc4 18.dxc4 Qd7±] **16...fxe6 17.Qe4 Bd6 18.Bxd6 cxd6** [18...Qxd6? 19.Nb5 Qf4 20.Qxf4 Rxf4=] **19.Qxd4?!-+** – 1.88 Karjakin goes up a P, but Gelfand gets a "winning" advantage [19.g3?! e5 20.c3 Rf4+- – 2.74; 19.f4 Nd5 20.Rf1 Ne3±] **19...Qg5 20.g3 Qf5 21.g4 h5?+-** – 2.06 [21...Nd5 22.c4 Qf3 23.cxd5 Qxh3 24.Re3 Rxc4+ 25.Qxg4 Qxg4+ 26.Rg3 Qd4+- – 6.93] **22.Re4 d5 23.Kh2 Qf3 24.Ree1 hxg4** material equality **25.Qe3 gxh3** Gelfand goes up a P **26.Qxf3 Rxf3 27.Rg1 Rxf2+ 28.Kxh3 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Nxc2** Gelfand goes up 2 P's **30.Nb5 Rf3+?-+** – 2.87 [30...Rd2 31.Rg3 Kf7 32.Kh4 Kf6+- – 3.68] **31.Kg4?-+** – 4.70 Karjakin certainly can't afford to give up another P [31.Rg3 Rf1 32.Kg4 d4+- – 3.11] **31...Rxd3** Gelfand is up 3 P's **32.Nd6 Ne3+ 33.Kf4 Nc4+-** – 3.96 **0-1**

In game 2, Gelfand finished off Karjakin in style, with a B-sac attack on the K's pawn front, which ended in victory. Gelfand goes through to the finals. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Gelfand, B (2758) – Karjakin, Sergey (2723) [D45]

World Cup Khanty–Mansiysk RUS (6.2), 06.12.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b5?!± [9...e5 10.a4 Qe7 11.b3 a5=] **10.Be2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.Bd2 e5 13.Rac1 a6 14.b4 Rfe8** [14...Bxb4?! 15.Nxb5 axb5 16.Bxb4 Rfe8±] **15.Bd3!** Gelfand temporarily sacs the bP to get at the K-side, and thus win the cP **15...Bxb4** Karjakin goes up a P **16.Ng5** [16.Nxb5?? axb5 17.Bxb4 e4 18.Be2 exf3 19.Bxf3 Nb6+] **16...h6?!±** Gelfand gets a " clear " advantage [16...Nf8] **17.Nxb5!** material equality **17...axb5 18.Bh7+ Kf8 19.Bxb4+ c5 20.dxc5** Gelfand goes up a P **20...Bc6 21.Be4 Nb8?!+-** Gelfand gets a " winning " advantage [21...Ra6 22.Nh7+ Kg8 23.Nxf6+ Nxf6 24.Bxc6 Rxc6±] **22.Nh7+!** Gelfand is going to allow his B to be trapped in the corner, opening up sacking possibilities **22...Nxb7 23.Bxb7 g6 24.Rd6** focusing on g6 **24...Re7?+-** 3.20 [24...Na6 25.Be1 Red8+- 2.43] **25.h4?+-** 2.02 [25.Rf6 Nd7 26.Qxg6! Nxf6 27.Qxh6+ Ke8 28.Qxf6 Re6 29.Qg7 Qe7 30.Bf5 Qf8 31.Qxf8+ Kxf8 32.Bxe6 fxe6 33.a3 Kf7+- 3.07] **25...h5?+-** 6.10 Ponomariov underestimates the strength of the B-sac. [25...Qc8 26.f3 Na6 27.a3 Be8+- 2.02]



26.Bxg6! Gelfand sees potential in a B-sac attack **26...fxg6 27.Qxg6** Gelfand has 3 P's for an N, and an attack **27...Rxa2?+-** 10.20 Karjakin is up N vs 2 P's, but is under attack [27...Rg7 28.Qf6+ Kg8 29.Rd8+ Qxd8 30.Qxd8+ Kh7+- 6.55] **28.Rcd1 Rf7??+-** leads to mate in 12 moves [28...Ra1 29.Rxa1 Rg7 30.Qf5+ Kg8+- 18.17] **29.Qh6+ Rg7 30.Qf6+?+-** a slightly longer mate in 15 moves [30.Rg6 Rxf2 31.Rd8+! Ke7 32.Qg5+ Kf7 33.Rxg7+ Ke6 34.Rg6+ Kf7 35.Kxf2 Qxd8 36.Qf5+ Qf6 37.Rxf6+ Ke8 38.Rf8+ Ke7 39.Qf7#] **30...Kg8 31.Rd8+ Kh7 32.Qf5+ Rg6 33.Qxh5+** Gelfand again has 3 P's vs N **33...Rh6 34.Qf5++-** and it is mate in 10 moves **1-0**

Match 2. Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine - 2739) .4 - .2 Vladimir Malakhov (Russia – 2706)

Ponomariov and Malakhov drew the 2 regular time games, which sent them into the first tie-break of 4 rapid games.

Malakhov struck first in the rapid playoff, winning game 1 – equal material at the end, but he was the one who could promote his passed pawn.

In Game 2, Ponomariov, with the Black pieces, came roaring back with a win. He was down a P much of the game, but then equalized and got his passed P to the 2nd rank. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Malakhov, V (2706) – Ponomariov, R (2739) [D85]

World Cup Khanty–Mansiysk RUS (6.4), 08.12.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± [2...e6=] 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bd2 [5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7±] 5...Nb6 [5...Bg7 6.e4 Nb6 7.Nf3 0-0±] 6.Bf4 Bg7 7.e3 0-0 8.Nf3 c5?!± Ponomariov wrongly sacs the P. Malakhov gets a " clear " advantage [8...N8d7 9.Qc2 c5±] 9.dxc5 Malakhov goes up a P 9...N6d7 10.Nd5 e5 11.Bg3 Nc6 12.Rc1 Nf6 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Bd3 e4?!+– Malakhov gets a " winning " advantage [14...Bg4 15.Qa4 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Qxf3 17.0-0 Rab8±] 15.Bxe4 Qxb2 16.0-0 Be6 17.Bd6 Rfe8 18.Bd5 Qf6 19.Rb1 Na5 20.e4 Rac8 21.e5 Qf5?+– 3.55 [21...Qd8 22.Bxb7 Bxa2 23.Bxc8 Bxb1+– 2.75] 22.Rb4?+– 1.89 [22.Nd4 Qxb1 23.Qxb1 Bxd5+– 3.96] 22...Bxd5 23.Qxd5 Qe6 24.Qxe6 Rxe6 25.Rb5?!± [25.Nd4 Ree8 26.f4 b6+–] 25...b6 26.cxb6 axb6 27.Nd2?– Malakhov has lost his advantage [27.Ng5 Ree8 28.f4 Nc4±] 27...Nb7 28.Ne4 [28.Rxb6 Bxe5 29.Rxb7 Bxd6=] 28...Nxd6 29.Nxd6 Ra8 30.f4 f6 31.f5 [31.Nc4 Rxa2 32.Rf2 Ra1+ 33.Rf1 Ra2=] 31...gxf5 32.Nxf5 fxe5 material equality 33.Rfb1?– for the first time in the game, Ponomariov gets the advantage, a " clear " advantage [33.Nxg7 Kxg7 34.Rf2 Kg6=] 33...Bf8 34.R5b2 Bc5+ 35.Kh1 e4 36.Re2 Kf7 37.Rbe1 Ra4 38.g3 Kf6 39.Rf1 Ke5 40.Kg2 Rf6 41.g4 h5 42.h3 hxg4 43.hxg4 Rg6 44.Kh3 Ra3+?= [44...Rg8 45.Nh6 Ra3+ 46.Kg2 Rga8?] 45.Ng3 e3 46.Nf5?– [46.Rf5+ Kd4 47.g5 Bd6=] 46...Rg8 47.Kg3 Rga8 48.Kf3?!+– Ponomariov gets a " winning " advantage [48.Rfe1 R8a4 49.Kh4 Kf4?] 48...R8a4 49.Rfe1 Rf4+ 50.Kg3 Ke4 51.Rb1 Rf3+ 52.Kg2 Kf4 53.Rc1 Rf2+ 54.Rxf2+ exf2 55.Rc4+ Kg5 56.Nd4 Re3 57.a4 Re1+ – 1.98 0-1

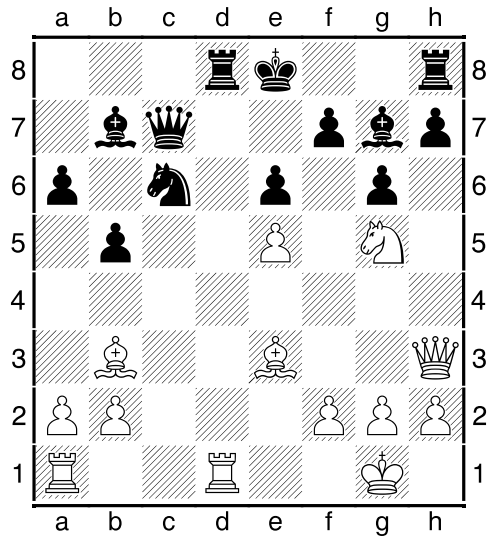
In Game 3, Ponomariov went for the win, with a B-sac, exposing Malakhov's K in the centre, and garnering 2 P's for it. He then got back his minor piece and went up 2 P's. But there were opposite coloured B's making it difficult to make progress. So he sacked the exchange to be able to promote one of his passed P's.. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ponomariov, R (2739) – Malakhov, V (2706) [A09]

World Cup Khanty–Mansiysk RUS (6.5), 08.12.2009

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6± [2...d4 3.g3 Nc6=] 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 [4...e6 5.d4 Nbd7±] 5.Be2 dxc4 6.Bxc4 b5 7.Bb3 e6 8.0-0 Bb7 9.d4 c5 10.e4 Be7 11.e5 Ne4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Qe2?!= [13.Re1 Bb7 14.dxc5 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Nd7±] 13...Bb7?± Ponomariov gets a " clear " advantage [13...Bg6 14.dxc5 Bd3 15.Qe3 Bxf1 16.Kxf1 Nd7=] 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Ng5 Nc6 16.Qh5 g6 17.Qh6 [17.Qf3 0-0 18.Qh3 h5±] 17...Bf8 18.Qh3 with Malakhov's K in the centre, e6 has now become a critical point, with three white pieces trained on it. 18...Qc7 19.Rd1 [19.f4?! Nd4 20.Be3 Nxb3 21.axb3 Rc8±; 19.Be3?! Qxe5 20.Rfe1 Qf5±] 19...Rd8?!+– Ponomariov gets a " winning " advantage [19...Qxe5 20.Nxf7! Kxf7 21.Rd7+ Ke8 22.Bf4! Qf5 23.Qxf5 gxf5 24.Rxb7 Na5±] 20.Be3 Bg7 2.64 [20...Nxe5? 21.Bf4 (21.Nxe6?! fxe6 22.Qxe6+ Qe7±) 21...Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Nf3+ 23.gxf3 Qxf4 24.Nxe6! fxe6 25.Qxe6+ Be7 26.Qd7+ Kf8 27.Qxb7 Qg5+ 28.Kh1 Qc5+– 4.95]

Position after 20...Bg7



21.Bxe6! the sac we were all waiting for comes about **21...fxe6 22.Nxe6** Malakhov is up B vs 2 P's **22...Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Qf7 24.Nxg7+ 2.77 [24.Bf4 b4 25.Bg3 a5+- 2.43] 24...Qxg7 25.Bc5?+- 1.48 [25.Bg5 Qc7 26.Rd6 Bc8+- 3.44] 25...Qf7 26.e6 Qf5 27.Qxf5 gxf5 28.Rd7 Bc8 29.Rc7 Bxe6 30.Rxc6** Ponomariov gets back his piece and is up a P **30...Kf7 31.Rxa6** Ponomariov is up 2 P's, but there are opposite coloured B's. **31...Rd8 32.h3 f4 33.a4 Rd5 34.b4 bxa4 35.Rxa4 f3 36.Ra3 fxg2 37.Kxg2 Rh5 38.Rf3+ Ke8 39.Rc3 Bd7 40.Re3+ Kd8 41.Be7+ Kc7 42.h4 Rf5 43.Kg3 Bc6 44.Bc5 h5 45.f4 Bb5 46.Re7+ Kc6 47.Rg7 Kd5 48.Kf3 Bd3 49.Rd7+ Kc4 2.24** Malakhov has been working hard to restrict any W progress, though losing. **50.Ke3 Bb1 51.Rd1 Bc2?+- 5.20** now Malakhov is getting into real difficulty [51...Ba2 52.Ke4 Rf7 53.f5 Bb3+- 2.89] **52.Rc1 52...Kb3 53.Rxc2!+- 5.20** a nice exchange sac to lead to a won ending with his 2 extra P's. **1-0**

Ponomariov went on to win Game 4 as well, and took the rapid tie-break match 3:1. He moves into the final against Gelfand.

Round 7 – Finals

Boris Gelfand (Israel - 2758)



vs
Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine - 2739)



The finals is a four game match of regular time games. If tied, then it goes to rapid tie-break (4 games). If still tied it goes to a series of 2-game blitz games. If still tied, they play the Armageddon game – White gets 5 min; Bl gets 4 min.; if Bl wins or draws, he wins the match.

To get to the finals, each has defeated:

Gelfand: Andrei Obodchuk; Farrukh Amonatov; Judit Polgar; Maxime Vachier-Lagrave; Dimitrij Jakovenko; Sergei Karjakin.

Ponomariov: Essam El Gindy; Varuzhan Akobian; Alexander Motylev; Etienne Bacrot; Vugar Gashimov; Vladimir Malakhov.

Game 1 on Dec. 10, was drawn. Ponomariov was up a passed P, but Gelfand had a perpetual, or got back the P. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz)::

Ponomariov, R (2739) – Gelfand, B (2758) [C42]

World Cup Khanty–Mansiysk RUS (7.1), 10.12.2009

1.e4= 0.20 **1...e5** for Fritz, the only equalizing move **2.Nf3 Nf6±** Petroff Defence [2...Nc6=] **3.Nxe5 d6** [3...Qe7 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nxe5 6.dxe5 Qxe5±] **4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4** [5.Qe2 Qe7 6.d3 Nf6±] **5...d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4** [8.Re1 0-0 9.Nbd2 Nxd2 10.Bxd2 Nb4 11.Bxb4 Bxb4 12.c3 Bd6±] **8...Nb4 9.Be2 0-0** [9...dxc4 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Nd3 12.Bxd3 cxd3 13.Qxd3 0-0±] **10.Nc3 Bf5 11.a3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Nc6 13.Re1 Re8 14.cxd5 Qxd5 15.Bf4 Rac8 16.h3** [16.Bd3 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 Na5±] **16...h6** [16...b5 17.Nd2 Nd8±] **17.Qc1 Bf6 18.Qb2 Na5 19.Be5 Bxe5 20.Nxe5 c5 21.Bf3 Qd6 22.Rad1 b6 23.Qa2?!=** [23.Bh5 Re7 24.Qe2 cxd4 25.Bxf7+ Rxf7 26.Nxf7 Qf6 (26...Kxf7?? 27.Rxd4 Qg6+-) 27.Nxh6+ Qxh6±] **23...Be6 24.d5 Bxh3?!±** [24...Bf5 25.Nc4 Nxc4 26.Qxc4 a5=] **25.Nxf7 Rxe1+ 26.Rxe1 Kxf7 27.gxh3 Re8 28.Rxe8** [28.Be4 g6 29.Re3 Kg7±] **28...Kxe8 29.Qe2+?!=** [29.Qb1 Kd8 30.Qh7 Qf8±] **29...Kd8 30.Qa6 Qg6+ 31.Bg2 Qb1+ 32.Kh2 Qf5 33.Qxa7** Ponomariov goes up a P **33...Qf4+ 34.Kg1 Qc1+ 35.Kh2** [35.Bf1 Qg5+ 36.Kh1 Qxd5+ 37.Bg2 Qd1+ 38.Kh2 Qd6+ 39.Kg1 g5=] **35...Qf4+ 36.Kg1 Qc1+ 37.Kh2=** ½-½

Game 2 was drawn as well, after only 20 moves.

Game 3 was a Grunfeld, Ponomariov playing white. Ponomariov went up a P on move 31. But he could see no future and got a draw by repetition.

Game 4 was somewhat interesting, but drawn. Here is the game:

Gelfand, B (2758) – Ponomariov, R (2739) [E06]

World Cup Khanty–Mansiysk RUS (7.4), 13.12.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Qxc4 Bc6 10.Bf4 a5 11.Nc3 Na6 12.Ne5 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Nd5 14.Rad1 Nab4 15.Bc1 Nb6 16.Qb3 N4d5 17.Nb5 c6 18.Na3 Nb4 19.e4 Nd7 20.Nf3 Qb6 21.h4 Nf6 22.Bg5 h6 23.Nc4 Qd8 24.Bxf6 Bxf6 25.Nce5 Qc7 26.Ng4 Be7 27.Qe3 h5 28.Nge5 Bf6 29.Qe2 g6 30.g4 hxg4 31.Nxg4 Qf4 32.Nxf6+ Qxf6 33.Qe3 Kg7 34.Rh1 Rh8 35.Rh3 ½-½

So the Championship Match moved into the 4-game rapid tie-break on Monday, Dec. 14.

Game 1 was an effort by both sides, 51 moves, but a rather uneventful draw.

Gelfand won Game 2, being up a passed P. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Gelfand, Boris – Ponomariov, Ruslan [E04]

World Cup Khanty–Mansiysk RUS (7.6), 14.12.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.dxc5 Qxd1 8.Rxd1 Bxc5 9.Nbd2 c3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Ne1 Be7?!± [11...Nd5?! 12.Ne4 Bb6±; 11...Rd8 12.Nd3 Be7=] 12.Nd3?!± [12.Nc4 Nd5 13.Bxd5 exd5 14.Ne3 Re8 15.Nxd5 Bd8 16.Be3 Bf5±] 12...Nd5 [12...Rd8 13.Bb2 Bd7=] 13.Bb2 Nb6 14.Rab1 Na5 15.Ba1 Rd8 [15...Rb8 16.c4 Naxc4 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.Bd4 f6=] 16.c4! Gelfand sacks a P to open up the file to the bP [16.Rb5 Nc6 17.c4 Nd4=] 16...Naxc4 Ponomariov goes up a P 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.Bxb7 material equality 18...Bxb7 19.Rxb7 Bf6?!± [19...Ba3?! 20.Rdb1 a5±; 19...Bf8 20.Rc1 Nd6=] 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Rc1 Nd6 22.Re7 Nb5 [22...a5 23.a4 Nc8±] 23.a4 Kf8 24.Rb7 Nd6 25.Rbc7 Ne8 26.R7c5 Rab8 27.R1c4 [27.f3 Nd6 28.Kf2 Rdc8±] 27...f5 [27...Nd6 28.Rh4 Kg7±] 28.Kg2 Rb7 29.a5 Nd6?!± 30.Rd4 Ke8!?!± Gelfand gets a " clear " advantage [30...Ke7 31.a6 Rb6±] 31.f3 Nb5 [31...Re7 32.a6 f6±] 32.Rh4 Kf8?!± Gelfand gets a " winning " advantage [32...Rd5 33.Rxd5 exd5 34.Rxh7 Nc3±] 33.a6 Rb6 34.Rb4 Rd5?+- 2.71 [34...Nd4 35.Rc7 Rxb4 36.Nxb4 Ra8+- 1.79] 35.Rxd5 exd5 36.Nf4 Nc7 37.Rxb6 axb6 38.a7 d4 39.Nd5 Na8 40.Kf2 Ke8 41.e3 dxe3+ 42.Kxe3 Kd7 43.Nf6+ Ke7?+- 3.66 [43...Kc7 44.Nxh7 b5+- 3.00] 44.Nxh7 Gelfand goes up a P 44...f6 5.15 [44...b5? 45.Kd4 b4 46.h4 f6+- 7.20] 45.g4?+- 3.02 [45.Kf4 Ke6 46.h4 Nc7+- 5.15] 45...b5?+- 5.53 [45...fxg4 46.fxg4 Kf7+- 4.93] 46.g5? 3.87 [46.gxf5 Kf7 47.Kd3 Ke7 48.Kc3 Nc7+- 9.14] 46...fxg5 47.Nxg5 Kf6 48.f4 b4 49.Kd4 Nb6 9.66 [49...b3? 50.Kc3 b2 51.Kxb2 Kg6+- 10.33] 50.Nf3 b3 11.14 [50...Ke7 51.Kc5 Na8 52.Kc6 Kf6+- 13.92] 51.Kc3?+- 10.32 [51.Nd2 b2 52.Kc5 Nd7+ 53.Kc6 Nf8+- 12.36] 51...Ke6 52.h4?+- 8.84[52.Kxb3 Kd6+- 11.37] 1-0

Game 3, was an exciting game. Ponomariov went up a P in the early end game, but Gelfand got it back. Then Ponomariov sacked the exchange to queen his passed pawn and ended up the exchange, but Gelfand had 2 P's compensation (connected and passed). But then Ponomariov had to sac his R to get the 2 pawns, and Gelfand was left with only an N – draw. Here is the game:

Ponomariov, Ruslan – Gelfand, Boris [D11]

World Cup Khanty–Mansiysk RUS (7.7), 14.12.2009

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qb3 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bg4 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.e4 e6 8.Be3 Be7 9.Qb3 0-0 10.Be2 b5 11.Ne5 Bxe2 12.Nxc6 Qe8 13.Nxe2 Nxe4 14.Qxb5 Nb6 15.0-0 Nd5 16.Rac1 Bd6 17.Qd3 f5 18.f3 Nef6 19.Bf2 Nh5 20.Ne5 Rd8 21.Qa6 Nhf4 22.Nxf4 Nxf4 23.Be3 Nd5 24.Bg5

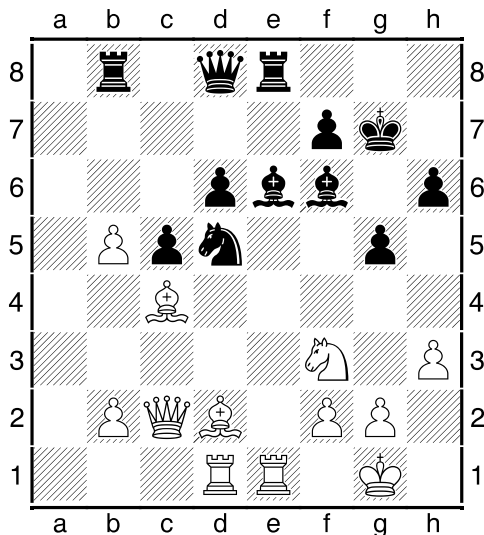
Bxe5 25.dxe5 Rd7 26.Bd2 Nc7 27.Qa5 Nd5 28.Rc6 Rb7 29.Rc2 Qb8 30.b3 Qxe5 31.Rfc1 h6 32.Kh1 Qd4 33.Qc5 Qxc5 34.Rxc5 Kf7 35.Kg1 Rd8 36.Kf1 Kf6 37.Ke2 g5 38.g3 Rd6 39.Rc6 Rbd7 40.Rxd6 Rxd6 41.Rc4 e5 42.a4 Ke6 43.Rc8 Rb6 44.Rh8 Kf7 45.Rh7+ Kg6 46.Rxa7 Rxb3 47.Ra6+ Kf7 48.Rd6 Nb6 49.Rxh6 f4 50.gxf4 gxf4 51.a5 Nc4 52.a6 Rb2 53.Kd3 Nxd2 54.a7 Ra2 55.Rh8 Nxf3 56.a8Q Rxa8 57.Rxa8 Nxh2 58.Ra6 f3 59.Ke3 e4 60.Ra1 Ke6 61.Rh1 Ng4+ 62.Kxe4 Nf2+ 63.Kxf3 Nxh1 ½-½

Game 4 was a Modern Defence, with Gelfand playing White. Gelfand uncorked a B-sac that led to him being up the exchange, but with Ponomariov having a P compensation (Ponomariov had 2 connected, passed P's). He also had the 2 B's on an open board. He managed to queen and ended up 2 B's, with an extra passed P. Gelfand resigned. The match was tied Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Gelfand, Boris – Ponomariov, Ruslan [A04]

World Cup Khanty–Mansiysk RUS (7.8), 14.12.2009

1.Nf3 g6± [1...Nf6=] 2.d4 Bg7 3.e4 d6 4.c4 c5 5.d5 [5.dxc5 Qa5+ 6.Bd2 Qxc5±] 5...e6 [5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Na6 7.Be2 Qb6±] 6.Nc3 Ne7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 exd5 9.exd5 h6 10.h3 g5?!± Gelfand gets an early " clear " advantage [10...Nd7 11.Bf4 Nf5 12.Qd2 Ne5±] 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Ne4 Nf6 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Bd3 Kg7 15.Qc2 b5 16.cxb5 Nxd5?!+- Gelfand gets a " winning " advantage [16...a6 17.bxa6 Bxa6 18.Be4 Qb6±] 17.Bd2?± Gelfand is losing his advantage [17.Be4 Nb4 18.Qa4 d5+-] 17...Rb8 [17...Be6 18.Bc4 Rb8 19.a4 a6±] 18.Rad1 [18.a4 Be6 19.Rad1 a6±] 18...a6 19.a4 axb5 20.axb5 Be6 21.Bc4 Re8 [21...Nc7 22.Ba5 Bxc4 23.Qxc4 Qd7±]



22.Bxg5?!= the sac is not best; Gelfand goes up a P; Gelfand has lost his advantage [22.Bxd5 Bxd5 23.Rxe8 Qxe8 24.Bxg5! hxg5 25.Rxd5 Rxb5 26.Rxd6 Qb8±] 22...hxg5 23.Bxd5 Rxb5 material equality 24.b3 Bxd5 25.Rxe8! Gelfand goes up the exchange 25...Bxb3 Gelfand is up the exchange, but Ponomariov has a P compensation (and now has 2 connected, passed P's) 26.Qe4?!± for the first time in the game, Ponomariov gets the advantage [26.Qe2 Bxd1 27.Qxb5 Qc7 28.Re3 Bxf3 29.Rxf3 Qe7=] 26...d5 27.Qe2 Qd7?!= [27...Bxd1 28.Qxb5 Qc7±] 28.Re1 Bc4 29.Qe3 [29.Qd2 Rb2 30.Qe3 Qc7=] 29...d4 30.Qc1?!± [30.Qa3?! Qc6 31.Qc1 Bd3±; 30.Qd2 Be6 31.R8xe6 fxe6 32.Nxg5 e5 33.Ne4 Qc6=] 30...Bd3 31.Qa3 Bh7 32.Ra8?!± Ponomariov gets a " clear " advantage [32.Nd2 Rb4 33.Qa6 d3±] 32...d3 33.Qc1?!+- Ponomariov gets a " winning " advantage [33.Qa4 c4 34.Qxc4 d2 35.Rd1 Rb1 36.Rxb1 Bxb1 37.Nxd2 Qxd2±] 33...Qd5

34.Rae8+ - 2.45 [34.Rc8 Bf5 35.Rc7 Bxh3+ - 1.53 Gelfand is up the exchange, but Ponomarev has 2 connected, passed P's compensation] **34...c4** these pawns are unstoppable
35.Qa3 - 3.43 [35.Rc8 Rc5 36.Rxc5 Qxc5+ - 3.82] **35...d2?+** - 2.02 [35...Qc5 36.Qa6 Rb6 37.Qa7 c3+ - 3.58] **36.Rd1?+** - 3.22 [36.Qf8+ Kg6 37.Nxd2 Qxd2+ - 2.18] **36...c3 37.Qf8+ Kg6 38.Rc8 Qb3 39.Rc6?+** - 13.71 [39.Ra1 d1Q+ 40.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 41.Kh2 Qd7+ - 5.48] **39...Qxd1+** Ponomarev goes up B + P **40.Kh2 Qxf3!** the final finesse - a Q-sac to queen **41.gxf3 d1Q+** - 18.48 Ponomarev is up 2 B's with a second pawn promoting shortly. **0-1**

Since the rapid tie-break was tied, they went into 5 pairs of blitz tie-breaks.

Gelfand won on the blitz tie-break. The first two games were split. In the second pair, Gelfand won both games. Gelfand goes through to the Candidates Matches.

1st London Chess Classic

London had geared-up for it's biggest chess tournament in 25 years, as the inaugural London Chess Classic got underway on Tuesday 8 December at the Olympia Conference Centre. The field was very strong at the top:

1 st London Chess Classic (ENG), 8-16 xii 2009. Cat XIX (2696.25) Players list (November ratings)					
No	Name	Ti	NAT	Nov Elo	DoB
1	Carlsen, Magnus	g	NOR	2801	1990
2	Kramnik, Vladimir	g	RUS	2772	1975
3	Nakamura, Hikaru	g	USA	2715	1987
4	Short, Nigel D	g	ENG	2707	1965
5	Adams, Michael	g	ENG	2698	1971
6	Ni, Hua	g	CHN	2665	1983
7	McShane, Luke J	g	ENG	2615	1984
8	Howell, David W L	g	ENG	2597	1990

The winner, with 13 pts., was Magnus Carlsen.



In Rd. 1, Carlsen, recent Spring Pearl, Nanjing winner, played Kramnik, recent Tal Memorial Champion, and 14th World Champion, and came out on top. Carlsen became co-leader with McShane. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2801) – Kramnik, V (2772) [A29]

Chess Classic London ENG (1), 08.12.2009

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.0-0 Be7 8.a3?! [8.d3 Be6 9.a4 a5=] 8...0-0 9.b4 Be6 10.Rb1 [10.d3 f5 11.b5 Nd4#] 10...f6?!= [10...a6 11.d3 f5#] 11.d3 a5 12.b5 Nd4 13.Nd2 Qc8 [13...Bd5 14.Bh3 Be6 15.Bg2 Bd5=] 14.e3 Nf5 15.Qc2 [15.Bb2 a4 16.Rc1 Ra5=] 15...Rd8 16.Bb2 a4 17.Rfc1 Nd6 18.Nde4 Ne8 19.Qe2 Bf8 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 Qd7 [21...Bg4 22.Qf1 Rb8=] 22.d4 c6?± Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [22...Bg4 23.Qe1 Nc4=] 23.Nc5 Bxc5 24.dxc5 Nc4 25.Rd1 Qc7 26.Bc1 Na5 27.bxc6 bxc6 28.Nxa4 Carlsen goes up a P 28...Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1 Rd8 30.Qc2 Qf7 31.Nc3 Qh5 32.Ne2 Bf5?!+- Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [32...Nc7 33.Nd4 Bd5±] 33.e4 Bg4 34.Ng3 Qf7 35.Bf1 Be6 36.Qc3 Ra8 37.Rb4 Qd7 38.f5 Bf7 39.Bf4 Qd1 40.Kf2 Nb3 41.Be2 Qb1 42.Bc4 Rxa3 material equality 43.Ne2?+- 6.87 Kramnik will lose his N – he resigned [43.Bxf7+ Kxf7 44.Qc4+ Kf8+- 7.75] The game could have continued 43...Qa1 44.Bxf7+ Kh8 [44...Kxf7?? 45.Qc4+ Kf8 46.Rb7 Qf1+ 47.Kxf1 Nd2+ 48.Bxd2 Rf3+ 49.Ke1 Nd6 50.cxd6 Rf1+ 51.Kxf1 Ke8 52.Qg8#] 45.Rb8 Ra8 46.Qxa1 Nxa1 47.Rxa8+- 19.94 1-0

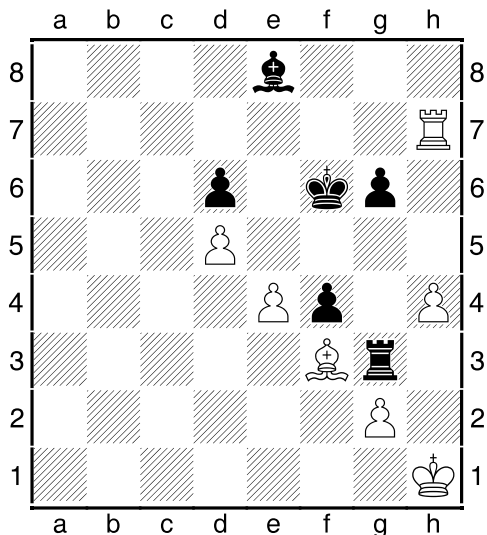
In Rd. 2, Carlsen took sole possession of first place when he defeated the co-leader McShane. He went up a P twice, and twice McShane equalized. But Carlsen created a passed P in the process, and McShane was going to have to sac his B to stop it from promoting. The win gave Carlsen sole possession of first place. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2801) – McShane, L (2615) [E94]

Chess Classic London ENG (2), 09.12.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± [2...e6=] 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 King's Indian Defence 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 [6...c5 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.e5 dxe5 9.dxe5 Ng4 10.e6 Nde5 11.Qxd8 Rxd8 12.exf7+ Nxf7±] 7.0-0 [7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 Re8±] 7...Na6 8.Re1?!= [8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Re1 Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Nc5±] 8...Qe8?!± [8...exd4 9.Nxd4 Nc5=] 9.Bf1 c6 10.Rb1 Bg4?!± Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [10...exd4 11.Nxd4 Qe7±] 11.d5 c5 [11...Qe7 12.h3 Bd7±] 12.Be2?!± [12.a3 Qe7 13.h3 Bd7±] 12...Kh8?!± [12...Qe7 13.a3 Bd7±] 13.a3 Bd7 14.b4 b6 15.Bg5 Ng8 16.Nb5 f6 17.Bh4 Qe7 18.Nd2?!± [18.Qc1 cxb4 19.axb4 Bxb5 20.cxb5 Rfc8±] 18...Nh6 [18...g5 19.Bg3 f5±] 19.Nf1 Rfc8?!± [19...g5 20.Bg3 f5±] 20.Ne3 Nc7 21.bxc5?!± [21.Nc3 Qf8 22.Qd2 cxb4 23.axb4 f5±] 21...Nxb5 22.cxb5 Rxc5 23.f3 Rac8 24.Bd3 Qf8?!± [24...Rc3 25.Rb4 R8c5±] 25.Bf2 f5 [25...Rc3 26.a4 f5±] 26.a4 R5c7 27.h3?± Carlsen has lost his advantage [27.Qd2 f4 28.Nc2 g5±] 27...Bf6?± Carlsen gets back his " clear " advantage [27...f4 28.Nc2 Nf7±] 28.Qd2?!± [28.Qe2 fxe4 29.fxe4 g5±] 28...Bg5?!± [28...Qe7 29.Rec1 Bh4±] 29.a5 fxe4 [29...bxa5 30.Qxa5 fxe4 31.fxe4 Qe7±] 30.fxe4 Nf7 31.axb6 axb6 32.Qe2 Rb7 33.Nc4 Qd8 34.Rf1 Kg7?!+± Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [34...Bf4 35.Qe1 Ra8±] 35.Kh1 Be8 36.Qb2 1.47 [36.Bg1?! h5 37.Qb2 h4±; 36.Qe1 h5 37.Qb4 h4+± 1.47] 36...Nh6 37.Bxb6?!± Carlsen goes up a P [37.Ra1 Nf7 38.Be2 h5+±] 37...Qe7?!+± [37...Rxb6 38.Qf2 Bxb5±] 38.Qf2 Rcb8 39.Rb3 Ng8 40.Be2 Nf6 41.Bf3 Rxb6 42.Nxb6 Carlsen is up the exchange + P 42...Qc7 43.h4 Bh6 44.Na4 1.41 [44.Nc4! Rxb5 45.Ra3 Rb7+± 1.63] 44...Rxb5 Carlsen is up the exchange 45.Be2 [45.Rxb5 Bxb5 46.Ra1 Be8+±] 45...Rxb3 46.Qxf6+ material equality 46...Kg8 47.Nc5 Rg3 2.04 [47...Rc3 48.Ne6 Qf7+± 1.90] 48.Ne6 [48.h5 Bf4 49.Ne6 Qf7+±] 48...Qf7 49.Qxf7+ Bxf7 50.Rb1 Be8 51.Bf3 Kf7 52.Rb7+ Kf6 53.Rxh7 Carlsen goes up a P 53...Bf4 54.Nxf4 exf4

Position after 54.exf4



55.e5+! Carlsen sacs a P to create a passed P 55...dxe5 material equality [55...Kxe5?? 56.Re7+ Kd4 57.Rxe8+± 6.28] 56.d6 this P is dangerous 56...e4 57.Bxe4 Carlsen goes up a P 57...Re3 58.Bd5 Kf5 59.Kh2 Re5 60.Bf3 Kf6 3.49 [60...Ke6? 61.d7 Bxd7 62.Bg4+ Rf5 63.Bxf5+ gxf5+± 5.25; 60...g5 61.d7 Bxd7 62.Rxd7 gxh4+± 3.55] 61.d7+± 3.61 McShane must sac his B. He resigned 1-0

In Rd. 3, the game was quite close for a while, but at move 22 Kramnik got a “ winning “ advantage and never gave it up. He eventually went up a P, and then swarmed McShane’s K, causing loss of material. The win put Kramnik in sole second, one point

behind Carlsen – they are using the Bilbao point system – win = 3 pts.; draw = 1 pt.; loss = 0 pts.. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

McShane, L (2615) – Kramnik, V (2772) [C24]

Chess Classic London ENG (3), 10.12.2009

1.e4= 0.20 1...e5 for Fritz, the only equalizing move 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Na4 Bb6 7.c3 Be6 8.Bb3 Bxb3 9.axb3 Nbd7 10.b4 Bxf2+! the N is trapped 11.Kxf2 McShane is up B vs P 11...b5 12.Bd2 bxa4 13.Qxa4 material equality 13...c5 14.b5?! [14.Rhe1 cxb4 15.cxb4 Qb6+ 16.Kf1 Ng4 17.Re2 Rfd8=] 14...d5?!= [14...c4 15.Qxc4 Rc8=] 15.exd5 McShane goes up a P 15...Nb6 16.Qc2?! [16.Qh4 Qxd5 17.Bg5 Qxd3 18.Bxf6 Qc2+ 19.Kg1 gxf6 20.Qxf6 Nd7 21.Qg5+ Kh8 22.Qd2 Qf5=] 16...c4 [16...Ng4+?! 17.Kg3 f5=] 17.Nxe5?! [17.Rhe1 Qxd5 18.d4 e4 19.Ne5 Qxb5=] 17...Qxd5 McShane is up a P 18.d4 Ne4+ 19.Kg1 Rfe8 20.Nf3 Qxb5 material equality 21.h4 Qb3 22.Qb1?!+ Kramnik gets a " winning " advantage [22.Qxb3 cxb3 23.Rh3 a5=] 22...Nd5 23.Rh3 h6?! [23...Rab8 24.Qf1 Qxb2 25.Rxa7 Qb1-+] 24.Qc1 [24.Qa2 Qc2 25.Qxc4 Qxb2 26.Qa2 Qxa2 27.Rxa2 Ndx3 28.Bxc3 Nxc3=] 24...Qb6 25.Ra4?!+ [25.Qc2 Re6 26.Rf1 Rae8=] 25...Rab8 - 1.60 26.Ra2 Qb3?! [26...Re7 27.Qf1 Qc7-+] 27.Qa1?!+ -2.36 [27.Ra5 Red8 28.Ne5 Qxb2=] 27...Rb6 - 3.01 28.Kh2 Ndf6?+ - 2.61 [28...Rbe6 29.Be1 Qb8+ - 3.48] 29.Be1 Ng4+ 30.Kg1 - 3.08 30...Nef6?+ - 1.97 [30...Ne3 31.Qb1 Rg6-+ - 3.08] 31.d5?+ - 2.80 there is no compensation for sacking this P [31.Bd2? Re2 32.Rg3 Rb7-+ - 3.02; 31.Rxa7 Qxb2 32.Ra2 Qxa1 33.Rxa1 Rb2 - 2.20] 31...Nxd5 Kramnik goes up a P 32.Rg3 Ndf6?+ - 2.71 [32...h5 33.Rxa7 Nf4 34.Kh1 Nd3-+ - 4.37] 33.Bd2?+ - 6.96 McShane should just win the aP [33.Rxa7 Rbe6 34.Ra8 Qb6+ 35.Kh1 h5-+ - 3.37] 33...Rd6 34.Ra3 - 9.41 now the P should not be won [34.Rxa7?! Qb8 35.Be1 Rde6-+ -9.90] 34...Qb6+ 35.Kh1 Nf2+ - 17.16 [35...Qf2? 36.Rxg4 Nxd4 37.Qg1 Qg3 38.Be1 Rxe1 39.Qxe1 Nf2+ 40.Kg1 Rd1 41.Qxd1 Nxd1 42.Ra1 Ne3-+ - 13.84] 36.Kh2?+ - 18.52 [36.Kg1 N2e4+ 37.Nd4 Nxg3-+ - 17.08] 36...N6g4+?+ - 16.39 McShane resigned. He must lose more material. [36...Rxd2! 37.Nxd2 N6g4+ 38.Rxg4 Nxg4+ 39.Kh3 Nf2+ 40.Kh2 Qd6+ 41.g3 Re2-+ mate in 9 moves] The game could have continued 37.Rxg4 Nxg4+ 38.Kh3 Nf2+ 39.Kh2 Rxd2 40.Qf1 Rd1-+ - 26.37 0-1

In Rd. 5 on Dec.13, Carlsen could not get the advantage against Ni until move 30. But he then parlayed it into a “ winning “ advantage, with a big space advantage. Ni had little scope for his pieces, and Carlsen threatened to win a pawn, a passed one. Ni resigned. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Ni Hua (2665) – Carlsen, M (2801) [B51]

Chess Classic London ENG (5), 13.12.2009

1.e4= 0.20 1...c5± [1...e5= For Fritz, the only equalizing move. For all other normal replies, including the Sicilian, W is given a " slight " advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.] 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 [3...Bd7±] 4.d4 a6 [4...Ngf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 cxd4 7.Qxd4 g6±; 4...cxd4 5.Qxd4 a6 6.Qa4 Ngf6±] 5.Bxd7+ [5.Be2 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Qc7±] 5...Bxd7 6.dxc5 dxc5 7.Nc3 e6 8.Bf4 Ne7 9.Ne5 Ng6 10.Qh5 Bc6?!± Ni gets a " clear " advantage [10...Qh4 11.Qxh4 Nxh4±] 11.Bg3?!± [11.Nxg6 fxg6 12.Qg4 Qd7±] 11...Nxe5 12.Bxe5 c4 [12...b5 13.0-0 b4 14.Rfd1 Qb6 15.Ne2 Bxe4±] 13.0-0 Qa5 14.Qg5 h6 15.Qg3 f6 [15...h5 16.Rfd1 h4 17.Qg5 Rh6 18.h3 Rg6±] 16.Qg6+ Ke7 17.Bf4 Be8 18.Qg3 Kf7 19.Rad1 [19.e5 Bc6 20.Qh3 fxe5 21.Rae1 (21.Be3?! Bb4=) 21...e4±] 19...Bc6 20.Rd2?!= Ni loses his advantage [20.a3 Qh5 21.Bd6 Bxd6 22.Qxd6 Rac8±] 20...e5 21.Be3 Bb4 22.f4 Rhe8 [22...exf4 23.Bxf4 Rhe8=] 23.f5 Bc5 [23...Kf8 24.Qg6 Red8=] 24.Rfd1 Rad8 25.Rxd8 [25.Kh1 Bxe3 26.Qxe3 Rxd2 27.Qxd2 Qb4=] 25...Bxe3+ 26.Qxe3 Rxd8 27.Rxd8 27...Qxd8 28.Kf2 Qd6 [28...Ke8 29.g4 Qd6 30.a3 Ke7=] 29.a3 a5 [29...Ke8 30.g4 Ke7=] 30.Kf3?! [30...b5 31.Ke2 Qd4 32.Kf2 Qd7=] 31.g3?! [31.Ke2 Qd4 32.Qxd4 exd4 33.Nd5 Kf7=] 31...b5 32.Ke2 b4 33.axb4 axb4 34.Nd1?! [34...Ke8 35.Ne2 Qd4 36.Nd1 Qd4=] Carlsen gets a " clear "

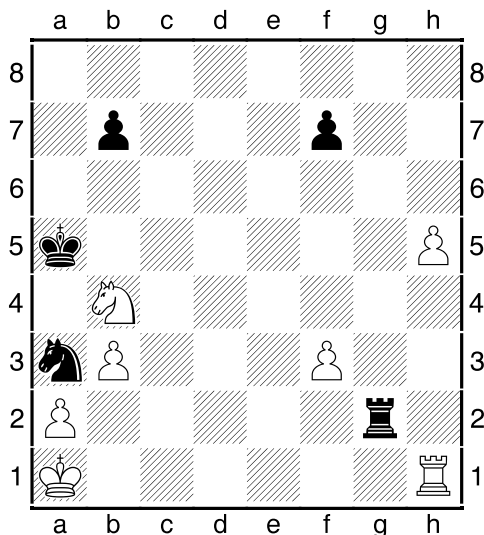
advantage [34.Na2 Kh7 35.g4 Bb7] 34...Ba4 35.b3 cxb3 36.cxb3 Qa6+?! [36...Bb5+ 37.Ke1 Qc6 38.Kd2 Qa8] 37.Kd2?! [37.Ke1 Be8 38.Qc5 Bh5 39.Qc4+ Qxc4 40.bxc4 g6] 37...Bb5 38.Qc5 Qa2+ 39.Qc2?!+- Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [39.Kc1 Be2 40.Ne3 Qxb3] 39...Qa7 40.Qc8+?-+ - 3.18 [40.g4 Qd4+ 41.Kc1 Kh7-+ - 1.77] 40...Kh7 41.Kc1 Qa1+ 42.Kc2 Qd4+- - 3.02 Ni resigned. The game could have continued 43.Kc1 [43.Qb7 Bd3+ 44.Kd2 Bxe4+- + it is mate in12 moves] 43...Qxe4+- - 4.67 Carlsen goes up a P. 0-1

In Round 6 Kramnik defeated Short, to keep one-point behind Carlsen, alone in second place. He went up 2 P's, and then sacked his N to queen. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kramnik, V (2772) – Short, N (2707) [D38]

Chess Classic London ENG (6), 14.12.2009

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4?!± [4...Be7 5.Bg5 Nc6=] 5.Qb3 c5 [5...Nc6 6.Bg5 dxc4 7.Qxc4 Qd5±] 6.cxd5 exd5 7.dxc5 Kramnik goes up a P 7...Nc6 8.Bg5 Be6 9.0-0-0 Qa5 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Nxd5 Kramnik goes up 2 P's 11...0-0-0?!± Kramnik gets a " clear " advantage [11...Qxc5+ 12.Qc2 0-0-0=] 12.e4 f5 13.Bc4 Bxc5 Kramnik is up a P [13...Qxc5 14.Kb1 fxe4 15.Ng5 Na5± (15...b5 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Nxb4 bxc4±)] 14.Ng5?!± [14.Nf6 Bxc4 15.Qxc4 fxe4 16.Nxe4 Bb6 17.Qxf7 Kb8±] 14...fxe4 15.Nxe4 Bd4 16.Ndc3 Rhe8?!± [16...Bxc4 17.Qxc4 Rd7±] 17.Bxe6+?!± [17.Nb5 Be5 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.Bxe6+ fxe6 20.Qxe6+ Kb8± Kramnik would be up 2 P's] 17...Rxe6 18.f3 Ne5?!± [18...Rg6 19.g4 f5 20.gxf5 Qxf5±] 19.Nb5 Rb6 20.Qc2+ Rc6 21.Nec3 Bxc3 22.Rxd8+ Kxd8 23.Nxc3 Kc7?!+- Kramnik gets a " winning " advantage [23...Nc4 24.Rd1+ Kc7±] 24.Rd1?!± [24.Kb1 Ng6 25.Re1 Qc5+-] 24...a6?!+- [24...Nc4 25.Qd3 Qg5+ 26.Kb1 Kb8±] 25.Qxh7?!± Kramnik goes up 2 P's [25.Rd5 Qb4 26.Qxh7 Nc4+-] 25...Kb8?!+- Short should just win the P [25...Qxa2 26.Qg8 Nd7±] 26.Kb1 Nc4 27.Qh8+ Rc8 28.Qd4 Qb4 29.b3 a5 30.Ka1 Na3 31.Qxb4 axb4 32.Nd5 Rc2 33.Nxb4 Rxg2 34.Rh1 Ka7 35.h4 Kb6 3.38 36.h5 Ka5 4.11



37.h6! Kramnik sacks his N to advance his hP 37...Kxb4 Short is up N vs 2 P's, but Kramnik will have a passed pawn on the 7th rank 38.h7 Nc2+ 39.Kb1 Na3+ 40.Kc1+- 3.54 The pawn will queen 1-0

In the final round 7, both Carlsen and Kramnik drew. This left Carlsen in first place, a point ahead of Kramnik, who was alone in second.

The final standings were (using the Bilbao point system):

1. Carlsen – 13 pts.
2. Kramnik – 12 pts.
3. Adams – 9 pts.
4. Howell – 9 pts
5. McShane – 7 pts..
6. Nakamura – 6 pts.
7. Ni – 6 pts.
8. Short – 5 pts.

Montreal/Toronto IM Dies



(from the ChessDrum)

[Michael Schleifer - 1967- Nov. 21, 2009](#) (ChessTalk link) – Though normally living in Montreal, Michael moved back to Toronto a while ago (he grew up in Toronto), and when the Bayview Games Club was on Bayview Ave., he would show up from time to time, and played in some weekend tournaments there. I had the pleasure of playing Michael twice, once in a weekender at the Bayview Club, and once in the Toronto PwC Toronto Open in May. I thought I did creditably in both games, though I lost, and he complimented me on my efforts. I found him quite pleasant in the post-mortem. For those of you who still have your old *En Passant* collection, the August 1996 issue has an interview with Michael.

Life is sometimes just too short for some, it seems.

2009 Torneio Internacional da Figueira Foz, Portugal

Anton Kovalyov (playing for Argentina, but living in Canada) and Kevin Spraggett played in this 46-player Open Nov. 27 to Dec. 6.

Kovalyov took clear first with 7/9 - winning at least 1200 euros; Spraggett finished tied for 2nd-3rd with 6.5 - winning at least 650 euros. Here were the top standings:

Rk.	Name	FED	Rtg	Pts.	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	GM Kovalyov Anton	ARG	2601	7,0	19936	36,0	28,0
2	GM Petkov Vladimir	BUL	2477	6,5	19979	36,0	29,0
3	GM Spraggett Kevin	CAN	2594	6,5	19017	32,5	28,0
4	GM Romanishin Oleg	UKR	2510	6,0	19366	33,0	27,5
5	GM Paunovic Dragan	SRB	2554	6,0	19023	32,5	27,5
6	GM Kasparov Sergey	BLR	2483	6,0	18536	31,5	27,0
7	GM Dzhumaev Marat	UZB	2528	6,0	17796	28,0	24,0
8	NM Padeiro José	POR	2262	6,0	17746	28,0	24,0
9	GM Rotstein Arkadij	GER	2550	6,0	16965	31,5	28,5
10	GM Galego Luis	POR	2446	6,0	16928	31,0	28,0

The Strongest Woman Player Ever- Judit Polgar – Short Autobiography

(from Susan Polgar Blog)

I have never been good at writing CVs. This is because I have trouble coming up with the usual items, such as educational institution, course of study, profession and career path. I never went to school, having done all my studies at home, and I have never held a conventional job.

Practically from the moment of my birth, on July 23, 1976, I became involved in an educational experiment. Even before I came into the world, my parents had already decided: I would be a chess player.

My sister Susan had been a successful player for years, winning one tournament after the other.

Based on educational research, our parents decided that their children's lives and careers would be a living example that would prove that any healthy child – if taught early and intensively - can be brought up to be an outstanding person – or, in the words of my father László Polgár: a genius.

Thus, my CV essentially consists of my achievements as a chess player. I was 9 when I first won an international chess tournament, and at age 12 and 14, I won the boys' World Youth Chess tournament in my age groups. I was 12 when – for the first time in the history of Hungarian chess – my team, including Ildikó Mádl and my two sisters Susan and Sofia, won an Olympic gold medal in women's chess. We repeated this achievement in 1990. But ever since that second Olympic gold medal, I have competed only against men.

In 1991, I became Chess Grandmaster, breaking Bobby Fischer's record as youngest grandmaster in history at the time. On four occasions, I played on the Hungarian men's Olympic chess team, and we won a silver medal in 2002. I have defeated world chess champions Spassky, Karpov, Kasparov, Topalov and Anand at international tournaments, matches and rapid tournaments.

I have been the world's No. 1 woman chess player for nearly 20 years straight, since 1989. Among men, I was ranked 8th in 2005. I was awarded the Chess Oscar seven times, and was elected Woman Chess Player of the Century.

In the past few years, I have been able to add some “normal” items to my CV: In 2000, I married Gusztáv Font, a veterinarian. We have two children, Olivér and Hanna. And thus, not only my CV, but my whole life has become more complete.

SCC – Who Are We ??

This is a series, in each Issue, where we introduce to our subscribers, the members who make up SCC, the friendliest chess club in Canada ! This Issue we introduce your intrepid editor:

Bob Armstrong

The earliest recollection I have of playing chess was with our parish priest, Father Scalisi, on the steps of the Church Rectory when I was ten or eleven years old. I am not actually sure whether it was he who taught me how to play, or if I had learned it from someone else earlier. Nevertheless, I played only rarely while in elementary school and junior high school. Upon entering senior high in Grade 11, I played some casual chess

infrequently at the high school chess club but I didn't play on the team in the inter-school league.

My first contact with rated chess came in my first year at University of Western Ontario. I joined the university chess club, which at that time was small, and quite weak. I won the University Championship at the start of the school year in 1964 – I was about a high “ B “ class player at the time. As a result, I got to play first board for U.W.O. in the Canadian Inter-Collegiate in the winter of 1965 in Montreal. I got killed ! There were experts and masters playing on first boards, and I didn't win or draw a game !

In the fall of 1965, I joined my first non-university chess club, the German-Canadian club in London, Ontario and with them I played in some inter-club league games.

There was no chess club in my hometown, Sarnia, at that time. Fortunately, my father had seen an article about a local chess player named Phil Haley. My dad knew very little about chess, nor strength in chess, but he called up Phil and told him I played chess and was looking for people to play with. So when I came home for the summer in 1966, I had an opponent ! Neither I nor my father knew that Phil was a former Provincial Champion. But, Phil, being the gentleman he is, agreed to play me at his house.

I still remember going there: I can see the card table with the set being put out, and his wife, Betty June, having had prepared sandwiches for us. Phil and I thereafter became life-long friends. That very summer Phil and I went across the St. Clair River and played in a couple of Detroit, USA, tournaments. Phil moved to Toronto and we re-established contact some time after when I had moved to Toronto in 1969 to attend U. of T.. We both played at the Scarborough Chess Club.

Thanks to Phil and my nourished, blossoming obsession/adoration for the game, I registered for my first Canadian multi-day tournament outside of a club - the 1966 Canadian Open in Kingston. As I recollect, my result was mediocre, below fifty percent. I then played again in a Canadian Open in 1968 in Toronto. My round one was memorable, as I defeated a well-known Montrealer, Ignas Zalys. He was a former Champion of Montreal, and I believe a correspondence IM. Here is my win against him:

Armstrong, Robert – Zalys, Ignas [E11]

Can. Open (Toronto) Toronto, 01.01.1968

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1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 c5 5.Bd2 0-0 6.a3 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 Ne4 8.Rc1 b6 9.e3 Bb7 10.Be2
d5 11.0-0 Nd7 12.dxc5 Ndx5 13.Bd4 Rc8 14.b4 Nd7 15.Nd2 e5 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Bb2 Qe7
18.Qb3 Qe6 19.Rc3 Rc7 20.Rfc1 Rfc8 21.Qa4 Kh8 22.Qd1 Ba6 23.Qc2 f5 24.h3 Bb7 25.Qd2
Ba6 26.Qc2 Qf7 27.Qa4 Bb7 28.c5 bxc5 29.Qb5 Bc6 30.Qa5 Nb6 31.Rxc5 Nd7 32.R5c2 f4
33.Ba6 Qe6 34.Bxc8 Rxc8 35.Rxc6 1-0
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But you can't tell a book by its cover...After this fateful win, I then proceeded to lose my next 5 games in a row !!

It took me 'til 2006 (38 years later) before I would set foot again in a Canadian Open, in Kitchener. Then I got the bug, and played in Ottawa in 2007 (coming tied for third in the U 1800 class), Montreal in 2008 and Edmonton in 2009.

I never left the game completely during those 38 years. When I moved to Toronto in 1969, I joined the U. of T. Hart House Chess Club, but only for casual and blitz play, and I played relatively little. I visited the Scarborough Chess Club a few times but did not join until some years later.

By the late 70's I was married, with 2 children, a house, a mortgage, and working as a lawyer. I did teach both my son and daughter to play chess when they were very young, and it proved a fun activity – I used a rather unique method I thought would be good for young children – I let them initially move the pieces wherever they wanted, and capture whatever they wanted. Then step by step I introduced a new rule of play (true moves of the pieces, etc.), until they understood the game. There was sometimes some resistance when the queen could no longer go flying across the board over pieces, to capture the other queen ! They now do play sometimes with their friends.

Though this period of my life allowed me little time to play chess, I did join the Scarborough Chess Club when it was at Macey Hall, and then the W.A. Porter Collegiate Institute, in Scarborough. I played on and off for many years, sometimes not playing for years at a time. I had so little time that I would rush directly from work to SCC, play my game, and then go home and never think about chess again, nor touch a board, until the following Thursday. Chess was like my own little oasis in a very busy life as a Director of a legal aid clinic and lawyer dealing with cases of immigration and refugee law, landlord and tenant disputes, employment insurance, welfare, family law, etc., and where I had little time to myself. For two years during this time, I played Correspondence Chess when I was not playing at SCC – it seems very slow now, waiting for a month for a move to come in the mail, and games taking years to play. I played in some of the weekend tournaments in Toronto, and others organized by the SCC. In one tournament, I played the very well-known American IM, Donald Byrne – Donald is famous for losing to Bobby Fischer in the Immortal Game, a highly published game sometimes called “ The “ game of the 20th century. I managed to get to the fortieth move in time control, with even material – but when I saw I was going to lose a pawn imminently, and being somewhat in awe of my opponent, I respectfully resigned. My rating changed little over these years, and I faithfully remained a “ B “ class player, where I had started back in 1964.

Unfortunately, I fell ill in 1996 and my life shrunk dramatically. I had to quit my law practice. The one thing I could motivate myself to do, was to go to SCC on Thursday nights. We were at Wexford Collegiate Institute by then. It was in 1999 that I started the Scarborough Community of Toronto Chess News & Views, a new club newsletter (originally called “ ChessTalk “). It started as a small part-page notice on the club bulletin board with a bit of club news. Thanks to the newsletter, I started to learn to use the computer, an invaluable skill to add to my arsenal.

Soon the newsletter started to report on major international tournament results. It grew to a couple of pages, and started to report a bit on FIDE politics, and became a handout to club members. We then went to an e-newsletter format as it continued to grow to often 5 pages, with an accompanying games database, and this allowed us to start sending it to past members and non-members as well as members – it was free. Over the last eleven years the newsletter has added pictures and games (international, national local, club), and reports regularly on chess politics at all levels, and sometimes has 20-30 pages. The newsletter is the longest running bi-weekly/twice monthly chess newsletter in Canada. I have been its editor since its inception. I have also volunteered for the SCC Executive for 1 ½ years as “ Officer-at-large “ a couple of years ago, as well as doing a bit of tournament organizing. Further, I instituted the SCC Games Database in the Fall of 2006, and continue to be the database administrator. In addition, I volunteered time to do game analysis each week with my Fritz program, free, for those members who wanted it.

When Mark Dutton, former SCC manager, opened his own club on Bayview Avenue, above the Chess 'N Math Strategy Games chess store, I also joined that club, and played twice a week. This I continued when Dutton closed his club and Vlad Dobrich later opened the Bayview Games Club at the same location. Since I was forcibly retired, I had more time to enjoy my passion – playing chess. In 2007, I was listed on the CFC chess website as the most active tournament player in Canada, and in 2008, I was the fifth most active.

But there is sort of a disconnection for me regarding chess. Although I love to play, I have never been able to study chess or play over the games of grandmasters. It may be that for me chess was pure enjoyment during my busy work years, and somehow studying seemed contradictory to my seeing chess as “leisure time”. My chess library totals less than ten books, and the few I have for study, I confess, have never been opened past the first couple of pages. Amazingly however, I am willing to use a chess program to analyze games and to keep an openings book. My goals in chess have always been relative to accepting this limitation in my approach to chess – I love to play; I don't love to study. Curiously, I have minimal interest in casual chess. I played on-line for a while, but then gave it up. I play skittles rarely. What I really love is to play under pressure. I thoroughly enjoy competitive tournament conditions.

I am, however, quite an enigma. I am an inconsistent chess player. I seem to play best against stronger opposition under longer time controls. But I will regularly lose to players hundreds of points below me, and hang pieces. As well, in the past, I discovered that seventy percent of my losses were due to time trouble. I could no longer stand it – often losing won games. I knew I had to do something. So I developed for myself a time budgeting system, which corresponded to the real time needed. Amazingly, now less than fifteen percent of my games are lost due to time trouble. My rating has become much more consistent.

My chess has incrementally improved. I now reside in the low A Class more than in the high B class. In April 2001, I went over 1900 for the first, one and only time. And at the Toronto Open in May, 2009, for the first time I drew a Master (who happened to be the CFC President David Lavin). On a lucky streak, in that same tournament, I drew another master, Ilia Bluvshtein, father of the # 2 Canadian, GM Mark Bluvshtein. And then in the 2009 Canadian Open, I drew my third master. Despite my upcoming 65th birthday in 2010, like a good wine, I am improving, and have been holding my own against the aging process!

I have always liked to follow chess information on chess websites, and have participated in the most popular Canadian website, ChessTalk. As things progressed, I became more vocal on Canadian chess issues on the chat site. This led me to start mobilizing ordinary chess players in the Grassroots' Campaign, which was promoting radical restructuring of the Chess Federation of Canada. With perseverance, we were very successful, as nearly all of our platform was instituted by the CFC Governors. Later I organized a second grassroots members group, the CFC Constitutional Coalition, which was set up to improve the administration of the CFC and its operations. We have brought a number of motions before the governors to better the organization.

In the Spring of 2008, I took over the balance of the term of a retiring CFC Governor, and became directly involved in CFC governance, and got re-elected for a

further one year term in July, 2009. I have been able to bring motions at the CFC level and the OCA level, and chair a constitutional review committee for the GTCL.

In conclusion, I would like to share one of the most surprising experiences I have ever had, and off the topic of my dedication to the chess community or my interest in playing chess. My wife Mary Anne and I have been married 38 years. Throughout our marriage, Mary Anne has said she was not comfortable with competition and was not a games person. She swore she would never play chess in her life and likened the chess community to a nest of vipers (based on our blood and guts politics, and our wild west chat sites). Fair enough - live and let live. Out of the blue, about a year and a half ago, at our farm, my wife looked over and mumbled that maybe she would “ let “ me teach her chess. “ SAY WHAT ??? “ I said “ sure “. Then she went silent for 6 months on the topic. I was sure it had never happened. But then about a year ago she asked me to get out the set at the farm, and see if I could teach her. Pure joy!! After about an hour and a half lesson, she had the basics. And we started to play sometimes. She’s a beginner, but it is a great addition to the things the two of us share. She had always been interested in what was going on in chess, and was always willing to hear me rattle on about Fischer, Kasparov, etc.. Now she actually knows what it is that is such a passion for me.

With my wife, the competition is fierce and the pressure is on, so I can stand the casualness of it all...but more seriously, it also highlights the social side of chess. Those of us involved in tournament chess make life-long friends with others who understand our obsession. We meet young and old, every race, colour and creed, eccentric and wonderful personalities, and yes, like in all walks of life, some jerks to get your blood boiling. But this is to say that there is a lot more to chess than just what transpires across the board.

I thoroughly enjoy chess in all its aspects, and look forward to many more active chess years.

Rick’s Chess Trivia

(questions/presentations researched by Rick Garel,



former SCC Executive, SCC member, Orillia CC President)

Last Issue’s Chess Trivia was the **question:**

Who is famous for the chess saying: “ the threat is worse than the execution “?

The Answer (We had someone guess Alexander Alekhine – not right)

Emanuel Lasker

Emanuel Lasker and Aron Nimzowitch were playing a game and Lasker had agreed not to smoke his cigars during the game because Nimzo was allergic to smoke. About six or seven moves into the game Lasker pulls out his cigar, bites off the end and puts it in his mouth. Nimzo immediately jumps up and tells the ref. “ Look he is smoking “; the ref. says “ No, it is not lit”; to which Nimzo replies “ Ahh but he is threatening to smoke and you as well as anybody else knows that Lasker says the threat is worse than its execution “.

Today’s Trivia Question is:

When Fischer played for the World Championship at Reykjavik 1972, how many times had he beaten his opponent prior to that match?

You can use any resource available to answer the question ! Just find it fast and send it in as fast as you can, by e-mail, to Rick : rickgarel@gmail.com .

The first correct e-mail received wins, and gets bragging rights. Also, we will publish the honoured winner’s name in the next newsletter, along with a few details they provide as to their chess experience (if they wish), along with Rick’s researched answer.

Thanks for playing !!

Chess History is fun !!

Also write Rick if you have any chess trivia questions or presentations you’d like him to consider for his column. He will give credit to the author if he uses your suggestion. Write Rick Garel : rickgarel@gmail.com

SCC Howard Ridout Memorial Swiss

This first SCC Swiss of the season ran from Sept. 10 to Oct. 29. 48 players showed up for the Open section. It was headed by 7 masters (!) and 5 experts, some of whom are former masters. 34 players registered for the U 1700 section. The total of 82 players is higher than our average last year of mid-70’s per tournament. The executive feels we can take 80 players at maximum (though admittedly quite crowded), given byes, and so we were feeling the pressure on our maximum.

The winners were:

Open Section:

1st – 6 pts. – Master Liam Henry

2nd/7th – 5.5 pts. – Expert Rune Pedersen (second on tie-break); Expert David Southam (third on tie-break); Master Andrei Moffat; WIM Yuanling Yuan; Master John Hall; Master Karl Sellars

U 1700 section:

1st/2nd – 6 pts. – Scott Huston (winner on tie-break); Junior Tony Lin
3rd/5th – 5.5 pts. – Junior Peter Xie (third on tie-break); Junior John Walker; Andrew Philip

Publication of games under the SCC Policy on the Games Database was delayed until the end of the tournament.

So in this Issue, and the past 3 Issues, we are presenting some of the more interesting games from various rounds. Here are the games from Rds. 7 & 8.

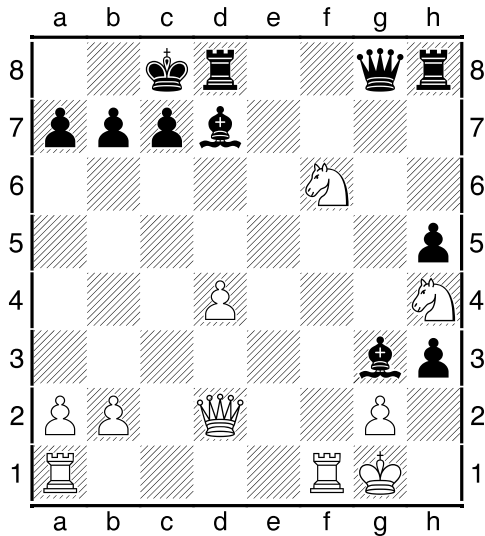
In Rd. 7 in the Open section, Liam Henry had a “ winning “ advantage against Andrew Picana. Then he sacked his Q + P for 2 B’s (a bit of a dubious sac, but he still maintained a “ clear “ advantage, he had had such a good attack going). Andrew eventually had to sac back his Q to repel the attack, and Liam went up B + P and won. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Picana, Andrew (2103) – Henry, Liam (2275) [C01]

SCC Howard Ridout Swiss (Open) Toronto (7), 22.10.2009

79MB, Fritz11.ctg, KENCOMPUTER 1.e4= 0.20 1...e6± [1...e5= For Fritz, the only equalizing move. For all other normal replies, including the French, W is given a " slight " advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.] 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5?!= [3.e5 Ne7 4.d4 Nf5±] 3...exd5 4.d4 Bd6?!± [4...Nf6 5.Bd3 Be7=] 5.Nc3?!= [5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Qe2+ Be7±] 5...Ne7?!± [5...Nf6 6.Bd3 0-0=] 6.Bd3 Bg4 [6...c6 7.0-0 0-0±] 7.Bg5?!= [7.Nb5 Nbc6 8.c3 a6 9.Nxd6+ Qxd6±] 7...Qd7?!± [7...Nbc6 8.Nb5 f6 9.Bd2 Bb4=] 8.Bb5?± for the first time in the game, Liam gets the advantage [8.Nb5 f6 9.Bd2 Nbc6±] 8...Nbc6 9.0-0 f6 10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 h5?!= aggressive, but perhaps premature [11...0-0-0 12.Na4 Nf5 13.Bxd6 Qxd6±] 12.Bxc6 [12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.Bxc6+ Qxc6=] 12...Qxc6 13.h3?± Liam gets a " clear " advantage [13.Bxd6 Qxd6 14.Re1 c6=] 13...Bd7 14.Qd2?!+ Liam gets a " winning " advantage [14.a4 g4 15.hxg4 Bxg3 16.fxg3 hxg4 17.Nh4 0-0-0±] 14...0-0-0 Liam seems poised for a nice attack on Andrew's K-side 15.Ne2 Nf5 16.c4?-+ – 2.75 [16.Ne1 Nxc3 17.fxg3 Rhe8!-+ – 1.80] 16...g4 17.cxd5?-+ – 3.53 [17.Nh4 gxh3 18.Qa5 Nxc3 19.fxg3 Qxc4 20.Qxa7 c6-+ – 2.29] 17...Qxd5 18.Nc3 Qg8 19.Nh4 Nxc3 20.fxg3 gxh3?-+ – 3.02 not the strongest continuation, but Liam goes up a P [20...Bxg3 21.Nf5 Bxf5 22.Rxf5 gxh3 23.gxh3 Be5+ 24.Kh1 Rxd4 25.Qe2 Qe6-+ – 4.32] 21.Ne4 Bxg3 Liam goes up 2 P's 22.Nxf6?-+ – 4.41 Liam is up a P [22.Nxc3 Qxc3 23.Qf4 Qg8 24.Qxf6 hxg2 25.Rf2 Kb8-+ – 2.98]

Position after 22.Nxf6?



22...Bxh4?!? an enterprising but dubious Q-sac, though he still has a " clear " advantage [22...Qg7 23.Nf5! Qxf6 24.Nxg3 Qg6+ - 5.15 Liam would be up a P] **23.Nxg8 Rhxg8** Andrew is up Q vs 2 B's + P **24.Qf4?+-** - 4.88 [24.Rf4 Bg5 25.Raf1 Bh6 26.Qe3 hxg2 27.Rc1 Rgf8 28.Rxc7+ Kxc7 29.Qe5+ Kc8 30.Rxf8 Rxf8 31.Kxg2 h4+ - 3.46] **24...Rxxg2+** Andrew is up Q vs 2 B's + 2 P **25.Kh1 Bc6** threatening a deadly discovered check **26.Rf3?+-** - 8.25 [26.Qf5+ Kb8 27.Rac1 Rf2+ 28.Rxc6 Rxf5 29.Rxf5 bxc6 30.Rxh5 Rxd4+ - 4.40] **26...Rf2 27.Qxh4??+-** leads to mate [27.d5 Rxf3 28.Qxf3 Bxd5 29.Qxd5 Rxd5+ - 9.13] **27...Bxf3+** Andrew is up Q vs R + B + 2 P's **28.Kg1 Rg2+ 29.Kf1 29...h2?+-** - 6.05 Liam misses a rather lengthy mate [29...Be2+ 30.Ke1 Bg4 31.Qf2 (31.b3?? Re8+ 32.Kf1 Rf8+ 33.Qf2 Rgxf2+ 34.Kg1 h2+ 35.Kh1 Bf3#) 31...Re8+ 32.Kd2 Rxf2+ 33.Kd3 Be2+ 34.Kc3 Re3+ mate in 10 moves] **30.Qh3+ Rd7 31.Qxg2 h1Q+ 32.Qxh1 Bxh1** Liam is up a B + P **33.Kf2 Be4 34.Ke3 Bd5 35.Rf1 Rf7 36.Rg1 Rh7 37.Rg3 h4 38.Rh3 Bg2?!+-** - 7.36[38...Bxa2 39.Ke4 Be6+ - 7.89] **0-1**

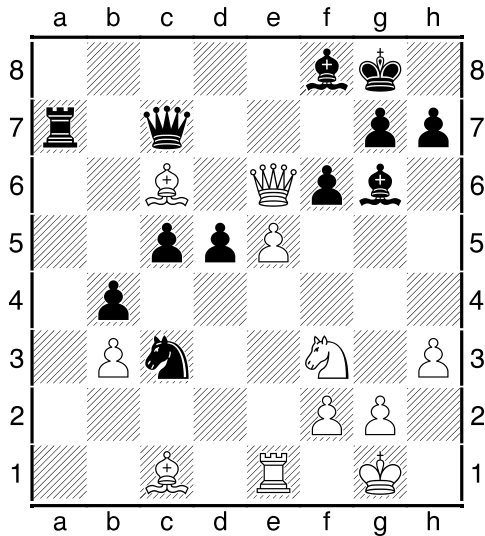
In Rd. 7 in the U 1700 section , junior Peter Xie upset Stephen Bao, there being a 200 point rating difference. He went up a P, then a B + P, and eventually won. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Bao, Stephen (1553) – Xie, Peter (1366) [C90]

Scarborough CC Howard Ridout (U 1700) Toronto (7), 22.10.2009

1.e4= 0.20 **1...e5** For Fritz, the only equalizing move **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 Bg4?!±** [8...0-0=] **9.h3 Bh5 10.a4?!=** [10.g4?! Bg6 11.g5 Nxe4=; 10.d3 Na5 11.Bc2 0-0±] **10...0-0 11.axb5 axb5 12.Rxa8 Qxa8 13.Na3** [13.d3 Na5 14.Bc2 Qb8=] **13...b4 14.Nb5?!±** [14.Nc4 Rb8 15.g4 Bg6=] **14...Qb7 15.Ba4 Ra8 16.b3?+-** this leaves the b5N trapped; Peter gets a " winning " advantage [16.d4 bxc3 17.bxc3 Nd8±] **16...Na7??±** Peter could have trapped the b5N; Peter is losing his advantage [16...Nd8 17.d4 c6 18.Nxd6 Bxd6 19.g4 Nxg4 20.hxg4 Bxg4 21.dxe5 Bxe5 22.cxb4 Qxb4+] **17.Nxa7 Rxa7 18.Qe2?!±** [18.Qc2 bxc3 19.dxc3 Bg6±] **18...Bg6 19.Qc4** [19.d3 bxc3 20.Qc2 Qb4±] **19...c5?!±** [19...Bxe4 20.Qxb4 Qxb4 21.cxb4 Bd3±] **20.d4?!±** [20.d3 bxc3 21.Qxc3 Ra8±] **20...Nxe4 21.dxe5?!+-** Peter gets a " winning " advantage [21.cxb4 cxd4 22.Bc6 Qc8±] **21...d5 22.Qb5 Nxc3?+-** - 2.88 Peter goes up a P [22...Qxb5 23.Bxb5 Nxc3+ - 4.39] **23.Qe8+ Bf8 24.Bc6 Qe7 25.Qb8 Qc7 26.Qe8 f6 27.Qe6+?+-** - 6.40 this does not save the B [27.Bxd5+ Nxd5 28.Qe6+ Qf7+- - 4.58]

Position after 27.Qe6+?



27...Bf7 28.Qg4 Qxc6 Peter is up B + P 29.e6 Bg6 30.Nh4 Re7 - 6.48 [30...Be4 31.f3 Bc2+- - 6.76] 31.f4?+- - 7.87 [31.Nxg6? hxg6 32.Bb2 d4+- - 7.86; 31.Bf4 Be4 32.Nf5 Bxf5 33.Qxf5 Ne4+- - 7.04] 31...f5?+- - 6.61 there is no benefit in sacking this P [31...Be4 32.Nf5 Bxf5 33.Qxf5 Ne4+- - 8.27] 32.Nxf5 Peter is up a B 32...Bxf5 33.Qxf5 Ne4 34.Rd1 d4 35.Re1 Rxe6 Peter is up N + P 36.Qg4 d3 37.f5 Re7?+- - 7.16 [37...Re8 38.f6 c4+- - 8.92] 38.Qf3 c4?+- - 7.87 [38...Qd5 39.Bf4 Qd4+ 40.Kf1 c4+- - 9.93] 39.Bg5?+- - 11.63 [39.bxc4 Qxc4 40.Qf4 Qd5+- - 8.93] 39...Qb6+?+- - 11.51 [39...Qc5+ 40.Be3 d2 41.Rd1 Ng5+- - 15.72] 40.Kh1?+- - 28.36 [40.Be3 Nc3! 41.Bxb6 Rxe1+ 42.Kh2 d2 43.Bf2 d1Q 44.Bxe1 Qxf3 45.gxf3 cxb3+- - 23.05] 40...Nxg5?+- - 19.37 wins the B, but Peter can do better[40...Nf2+ 41.Kh2 Rxe1+- - 45.90] 0-1

In Rd. 7 in the U 1700 section, our two youngest juniors (both 7 years old I believe) went at it. Kevin managed to win a P in a closely fought opening and early middle game. Then he went up 2 P's, and then 3 P's. Jason could not stop the queening. The game is pretty good quality for the ages and ratings. Here it is (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Wang, Jason (1011) – Yie, Kevin (956) [C50]

SCC Howard Ridout Swiss (U1700) Toronto (7), 22.10.2009

79MB, Fritz11.ctg, KENCOMPUTER 1.e4= 0.20 1...e5 for Fritz, the only equalizing move 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.d3 d6 7.h3 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Be6 11.Nd5 to here the game has been played dead equal 11...Bxd5?!± Kevin omits the preparatory move; Jason gets the advantage [11...g5 12.Bg3 Bxd5 13.exd5 Nb4=] 12.Bxd5 Rb8 13.a5?± [13.c3 g5 14.Bg3 Nxd5 15.exd5 Ne7 16.d4 exd4 17.Nxd4 Qd7± (17...Nxd5?! 18.Nf5 Nf6 19.b4 Ba7 20.Re1 Re8 21.Nxh6+ Kg7 22.Nf5+ Kg8±)] 13...Nb4?± Jason gets a " clear " advantage [13...g5 14.Bg3 Nxd5 15.exd5 Nb4 16.Qd2 Nxd5±] 14.c3?± Jason omits the preparatory move [14.Bc4 Nc6 15.c3 g5 16.Bg3 Nh5 17.Bh2 Nf4±] 14...Nbx5 15.exd5 Qd7?± [15...Ba7 16.d4 Re8=] 16.d4 exd4 17.Nxd4?± this loses a P; Kevin now gets the " clear " advantage [17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.cxd4 Bb4±] 17...Nxd5 Kevin goes up a P 18.b4?!+- this should lose another P; Kevin gets a " winning " advantage [18.Qf3 Bxd4 19.Qxd5 Ba7±] 18...Bxd4?!± Kevin misses winning the P [18...Nxc3 19.Qd3 Bxd4 20.Rac1 Nb5 21.Rc4 Ba7+- - 6.23 Kevin would be up 2 P's] 19.Qxd4 Ne7?!± Kevin is losing his advantage [19...Qc6 20.Ra3 g5 21.Bg3 f5±] 20.Rfe1?!± [20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Rfe1 Qd7±] 20...Ng6 21.Qe4?!+- Kevin gets back a " winning " advantage [21.Bg3 Rbe8 22.c4 Qc6±]

21...Rbe8 22.Qc4 Nxb4 23.Qxh4 Qc6?! [23...Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Re8+] 24.Qg3?!+ [24.Qd4 Re6 25.Rxe6 fxe6] 24...Re6 25.Re3 - 1.48 [25.Rxe6 fxe6 26.Re1 Qd5+ -1.56] 25...Rxe3 26.Qxe3 Re8 27.Qd2 Qe4 28.f3 Qe3+ [28...Qf5 29.Qd4 Re2+] 29.Qxe3 Rxe3 30.Ra3?+ - 2.86 [30.Rc1 Re2 31.Kf1 Rd2 32.Re1 Kf8+ - 1.52] 30...d5 31.b5?!+ - 3.63 this just gives away a P [31.Kf2 d4 32.Ra4 Rxc3+ - 2.93] 31...axb5 Kevin is up 2 P's 32.a6?+ - 6.07 [32.Kf2 d4 33.Rb3 c6 34.Rb4 Rxc3 35.Rxd4 Rc2+ 36.Ke3 Rxg2+ - 3.57] 32...bxa6 33.Rxa6 Rxc3 Kevin goes up 3 P's 34.Ra5 Rb3?+ - 5.66 [34...c6 35.Ra8+ Kh7+ - 7.61] 35.Ra7?+ - 7.94 [35.Ra8+ Kh7 36.Rc8 Rc3+ - 6.45] 35...c5 36.Ra8+ Kh7 37.Rc8?!+ - 9.05 [37.Ra7 f6 38.Rc7 Rc3+ - 8.57] 37...c4 38.Rd8 c3 39.Rxd5?+ - 15.00 Kevin is up 2 P's [39.Kf2? d4 40.Ke2 Rb2+ 41.Kd3 Rd2+ 42.Ke4 c2 43.Rc8 b4+ - 20.02; 39.Kf1 d4 40.Rc8 d3+ - 13.83] 39...c2?+ - 10.72 [39...Rb4 40.Kf2 c2 41.Rc5 Rc4+ - 20.34] 40.Rc5 Rb1+ 41.Kf2 c1Q 42.Rxc1 Rxc1+ - 16.05 Kevin is up R + P 0-1

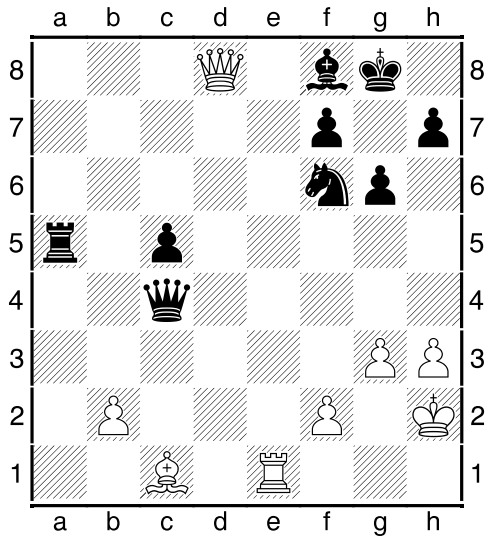
In Rd. 8 in the Open section, there was somewhat of an upset. Martin Maister pushed P's in the centre, opening up his B to win the exchange. Kevin Wu had 2 P's compensation, but Martin won one back, and then pulled out a nice R-sac to get the second one. Martin won and played strongly, but there is something to be learned from the number of mates he missed. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Maister, Martin (1826) – Wu, Kevin (1919) [E65]

SCC Howard Ridout Swiss (Open) Toronto (8), 29.10.2009

79MB, Fritz11.ctg, KENCOMPUTER 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6± [2...e5 3.Nf3 Nc6=] 3.g3= [3.d4±] 3...Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.d4 Na6 [6...c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qb3 Nc6=] 7.0-0 c5 8.d5 Bd7 9.h3 Nc7?!± [9...Qc8?! 10.Kh2 Qd8±; 9...Bf5 10.Ng5 Qa5=] 10.Kh2?!= [10.e4 Qc8 11.Kh2 h6±] 10...b5 11.cxb5 Nxb5 12.Nxb5 Bxb5 13.Rb1? Kevin gets a " clear " advantage [13.Re1 Rb8 14.e4 Qb6=] 13...Qd7?! [13...Bc4 14.Bg5 Bxa2 15.Ra1 Bc4] 14.Re1 Bc4?!= Kevin has lost his advantage [14...e6 15.dxe6 fxe6] 15.e4 Bxa2 Kevin goes up a P 16.Ra1 Bc4 17.e5 dxe5?+- Martin gets a " winning " advantage [17...Ne8 18.Ra4 Qb5 19.Nd2 Bd3=] 18.Nxe5 Qb5 19.Nxc4 Qxc4 20.d6?!± [20.Rxe7 Rfd8 21.b3 Qd4 22.Qxd4 cxd4+-] 20...exd6 [20...Rad8?! 21.Rxe7 a5+-] 21.Bxa8 Rxa8 Martin is up the exchange, but Kevin has 2 P's compensation 22.Qxd6 Martin is up the exchange, and Kevin has a P compensation 22...a5?!+- [22...Qc2?! 23.Be3 h6+- 1.55; 22...Qd4 23.Qxd4 cxd4±] 23.Rxa5! a nice sac by Martin; Martin is up the exchange 23...Rxa5?+- a blunder leading to mate in 8 moves [23...Rc8 24.Qc6! Rf8 (24...Rxc6?? 25.Ra8+ Bf8 26.Bh6 Nd7 27.Rxf8+ Nxf8 28.Re8 Rc8 29.Rxc8 Qf1 30.Rxf8#) 25.Qxc5 Qb3+- 2.87] 24.Qd8+ Bf8

Position after 24...Bf8



25.Qxa5?+- 1.81 Martin is up the exchange, but misses the mate [25.Bh6 Ra8 26.Qxa8 Nd7 27.Qxf8+! Nxf8 28.Re8 Qf1 29.Rxf8#] **25...Ne4?+-** 3.38 [25...Qd5 26.Qd2 Qa8+- 2.05] **26.Qa8 Nf6??+-** leads to mate in 5 moves [26...Qc2 27.Qxe4 Qxf2+ 28.Kh1 Qxg3+- 3.57] **27.Bh6 Nd7 28.Bxf8?+-** 7.85 Martin misses the Q-sac mate [28.Qxf8+! Nxf8 29.Re8 Qf1 30.Rxf8#] **28...Nxf8 29.Re8 Qc2??+-** leads to mate in 9 moves [29...Kg7 30.Rxf8 Qe6+- 8.48] **30.Rxf8+ Kg7 31.Rg8+ Kh6 32.Qf3?+-** 13.70 Martin again misses the mate [32.Qf8+ Kg5 (32...Kh5 33.g4+ Kg5 34.Qe7+ f6 35.Qe3+ Kh4 36.Qh6#)] **1-0**

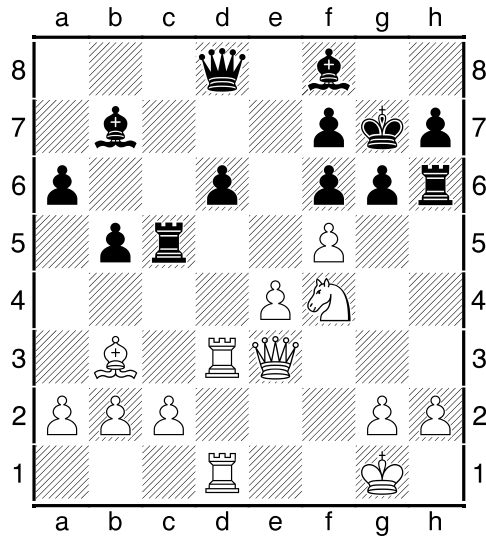
In Rd. 8 in the Open section, returning member Gord Marcille built up pressure in the centre. He then made nice use of a pin to win Mario Moran-Venegas' R. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Marcille, Gord (1855) – Moran–Venegas, Mario (1762) [B56]

Scarborough CC Howard Ridout (Open) Toronto (8), 29.10.2009

1.e4= 0.20 **1...c5±** [1...e5= For Fritz, the only equalizing move. For all other normal replies, including the Sicilian, W is given a " slight " advantage. This evaluation is not generally accepted.] **2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.0-0 g6 8.Bg5?!=** [8.Be3 Ng4 9.Nxc6 Nxe3 10.Qd4 bxc6 11.Qxh8 Nxf1 12.Bxf1 Qa5±] **8...a6?!±** [8...Bg7 9.Nb3 h6=] **9.Bxf6 exf6 10.Bc4 Bg7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Nd5 Rc8?!±** Gord gets a " clear " advantage [13...Re8 14.c3 f5 15.exf5 Qg5±] **14.Qf3?=
[14.c3 Re8 15.Qf3 Re5±] 14...b5 [14...Bxd5 15.Bxd5 Rxc2 16.Rab1 Qb6=] 15.Bb3 Bb7?± [15...Bxd5 16.exd5 f5=] 16.Rad1 Rc5 17.Rd3?=
[17.c3 Re8 18.Qd3 a5±] 17...Re8 [17...a5 18.c3 a4 19.Bc2 Re8=] 18.Red1 [18.Qd1 f5 19.exf5 Rxe1+ 20.Qxe1 Bxb2 21.Qd2 (21.fxg6 hxg6=) 21...Bg7=] 18...Re5?!± [18...a5 19.a4 bxa4 20.Bxa4 Re6=] 19.Nc3 Bf8 20.Qe3 Qa8?!± [20...f5 21.f4 fxe4 22.R3d2 Rf5±] 21.Nd5 Qd8 22.f4 Rh5** the lone R is optimistic **23.f5?!± [23.c3 f5 24.exf5 Qh4 25.h3 Rxf5±] 23...Kg7??+-** Mario underestimates the possibilities with the N - best to get rid of it; Gord gets a " winning " advantage [23...Bxd5 24.Rxd5 Qe7±] **24.Nf4** clearing the d-file, with a threat **24...Rh6?+-** 4.92 Mario misses the tactic now set up [24...Rh4 25.g3 (25.Qxc5?! Rxf4+- 2.15) 25...Rxf4 26.gxf4 Rc7+- 2.77]

Position after 24...Rh6?



25.Qxc5! nice sac, using the pin; Gord goes up a R **25...dxc5?+-** 7.90 [25...Bxe4 26.Qa7 Qe7 27.Qxe7 Bxe7+- 6.73] **26.Rxd8 c4??+-** leads to mate in 9 moves [26...Rh4 27.R1d7 c4 28.Ne6+ Kh6 29.fxg6! fxe6 30.gxh7 Kg6 31.Rxf8 Bxe4 32.Bxc4 Rxh7 33.Rg8+ Kh6 34.Rd4 f5+- 10.85] **27.R1d7?+-** 8.90 Gord misses the mate (it is rather lengthy) [27.Ne6+! fxe6 28.R1d7+ Kg8 29.fxe6 Rxh2 30.Kxh2 Bc6 31.e7 Kf7 32.e8Q+ Kg8 33.Qxf8#] **1-0**

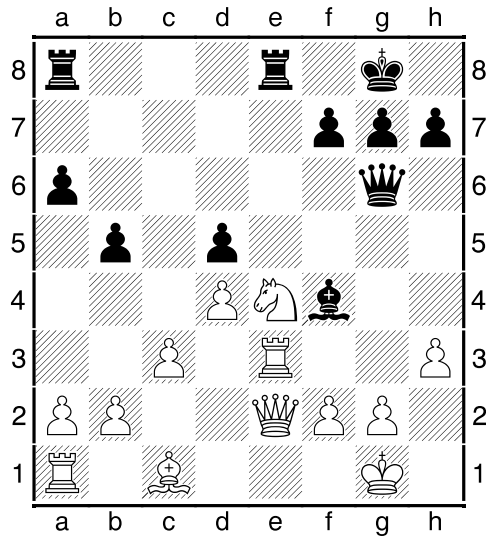
In Rd. 8 in the U 1700 section, Magas Yusuf made what appeared to be a strong move winning the exchange. But Peter Xie showed it was not so simple, and would have gone up 2 P's. But in the middle of this, Magas underestimated the situation, and let an N drop, only to be faced with a sac that won the exchange + B ! Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Xie, Peter (1366) – Yusuf, Magas (1462) [C89]

Scarborough CC Howard Ridout (U 1700) Toronto (8), 29.10.2009

1.e4= 0.20 **1...e5** for Fritz, the only equalizing move **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5?!±** [5...Be7 6.Nc3 b5 7.Bb3 0-0=] **6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5** Peter goes up a P **10...Nxe5 11.Rxe5 c6 12.Bxd5?!=** [12.d4 Bd6 13.Re1 Bf5±] **12...cxd5 13.d4 Bd6 14.Re3 Qh4 15.h3 Bf5 16.Nd2 Rfe8 17.Nf3 Qf6 18.Qe2 Be4?±** Peter gets a " clear " advantage [18...Re4 19.Rxe4 Bxe4=] **19.Nd2 Bf4?!+-** Peter gets a " winning " advantage [19...Qe7 20.Nxe4 dxe4±] **20.Nxe4** Peter goes up N + P **20...Qg6??+-** 14.17 Magas sets up a nice sac [20...dxe4 21.Rxe4 Kf8 22.Bxf4 Qxf4!+- 3.32 Peter would be up 2 P's]

Position after 20...Qg5??



21.Nf6!+- 16.23 a nice sac, winning the exchange + B. Magas resigned. The game could have continued **21...gxf6 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Qxe8+ Kg7 24.Bxf4+- 1-0**

SCC Falling Leaves Swiss

Open to SCC members only

No field limit

Two sections (Open and U1700)

November 5 – December 17

Entry Fee: None

Tournament Director: Bryan Lamb

Time control: G/90

Rounds: 7

Type: Swiss

43 players showed up Nov. 5 for Rd. 1 of the Open section. It is headed by 7 masters (!) and 6 experts. 25 players registered for the U 1700 section. The total of 68 players is slightly fewer than our average last year of over 70 players per tournament (though we had 82 players for the Howard Ridout at the start of the season). The executive feels we can take 80 players as maximum, given byes, and so for the moment, the pressure on our maximum is relieved somewhat.

The leaders after 6 rds. are:

Open Section:

1st – 5.5 pts. - WIM Yuanling Yuan (undefeated - only gave up one draw !)

2nd/5th – 4.5 pts. – Master Rune Pedersen; Master Andrei Moffat; Master Erwin Casareno;
Expert Alex Ferreira

U 1700 Section:

1st – 5 pts. – junior Magas Yusuf (undefeated – gave up 2 draws)

2nd/4th – 4.5 pts. – Scott Huston; Andrew Philip; Yutong Luo

There will be no games of this tournament either sent out to members in database format, nor published, until the tournament has concluded. This is because of the new policy adopted at the September 2009-10 SCC AGM concerning, score sheets, the games database, and the newsletter. If you are interested in finding out about this new policy, just e-mail me at bobarm@sympatico.ca and I will forward to you the new policy. My thanks to SCC member Ken Kurkowski who is now volunteering to work with me on entering the SCC games each week into the tournament database, which will be sent out to members when the tournament is concluded.

Express Your INNER Self !!

Got a chess issue that has been bothering you for a while? Got a favourite chess topic that you've always wanted to share with other chess players? Read something in SCTCN&V that you profoundly agreed with, or maybe (surely not !) disagreed with?

SCTCN&V may be for you. We are very open to publishing freelance articles from our readers – David Cohen and Erik Malmsten have presented us with material in the past. Now we have a new columnist, Rick Garel. Maybe there's a writer inside just waiting to get going !

Also, if you would like us to cover some topic, send us your idea, and we'll see if we can write something up on it.

This may be the chance you've been waiting for ! Want to express your inner self???

Hart House Holidays Open

When: December 18th, 19th, 20th (Fri, Sat, Sun)

Where: Debates Room, 2nd Floor, Hart House, University of Toronto
7 Hart House Circle, Toronto

Style: 5 round Swiss in 4 sections: Open (FIDE Rated), U2100, U1800 & U1500

Rounds: Friday 6pm, Saturday 10am & 4pm, Sunday 10am & 4pm

Time Control: 30/90, SD/60 for U2100, U1800 & U1500 --- 120 minutes with 30 second increment for Open Section.

Entry Fees: \$60 in advance, \$70 cash only on site. Extra \$10 to play up each section.

Registration: 5pm – 5:30pm on Friday, December 18th

Registrants after 5:30pm are not guaranteed to be paired by 6pm

In advance (arrival by Dec 17th) by mail to:

Hart House Chess Club – 7 Hart House Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3H3

Make cheque payable to Hart House Chess Club. No postdated cheques please.

Email registration to alex.ferreira@utoronto.ca (by Dec 17th) Email registrants must arrive onsite by 5:30pm to pay or will be charged onsite fee.

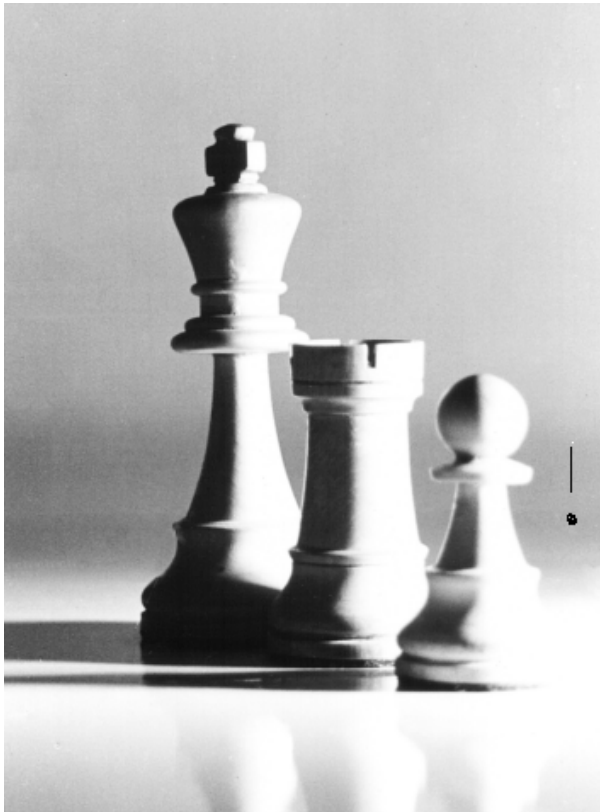
Tournament Director: Bryan Lamb
Organizer: Hart House Chess Club

Please bring sets and clocks.
No smoking. No computers. No cell phones (on).

For all the detailed information, including:
- Printable flyer with all the above information
- Access/Maps & parking info
- Prize fund projection
- Pre-Registered list of players

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

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

B – An item in any language may be submitted for publication, if accompanied by an English translation.

C – The opinions expressed here are those of the editor, and not necessarily those of the Scarborough CC.

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