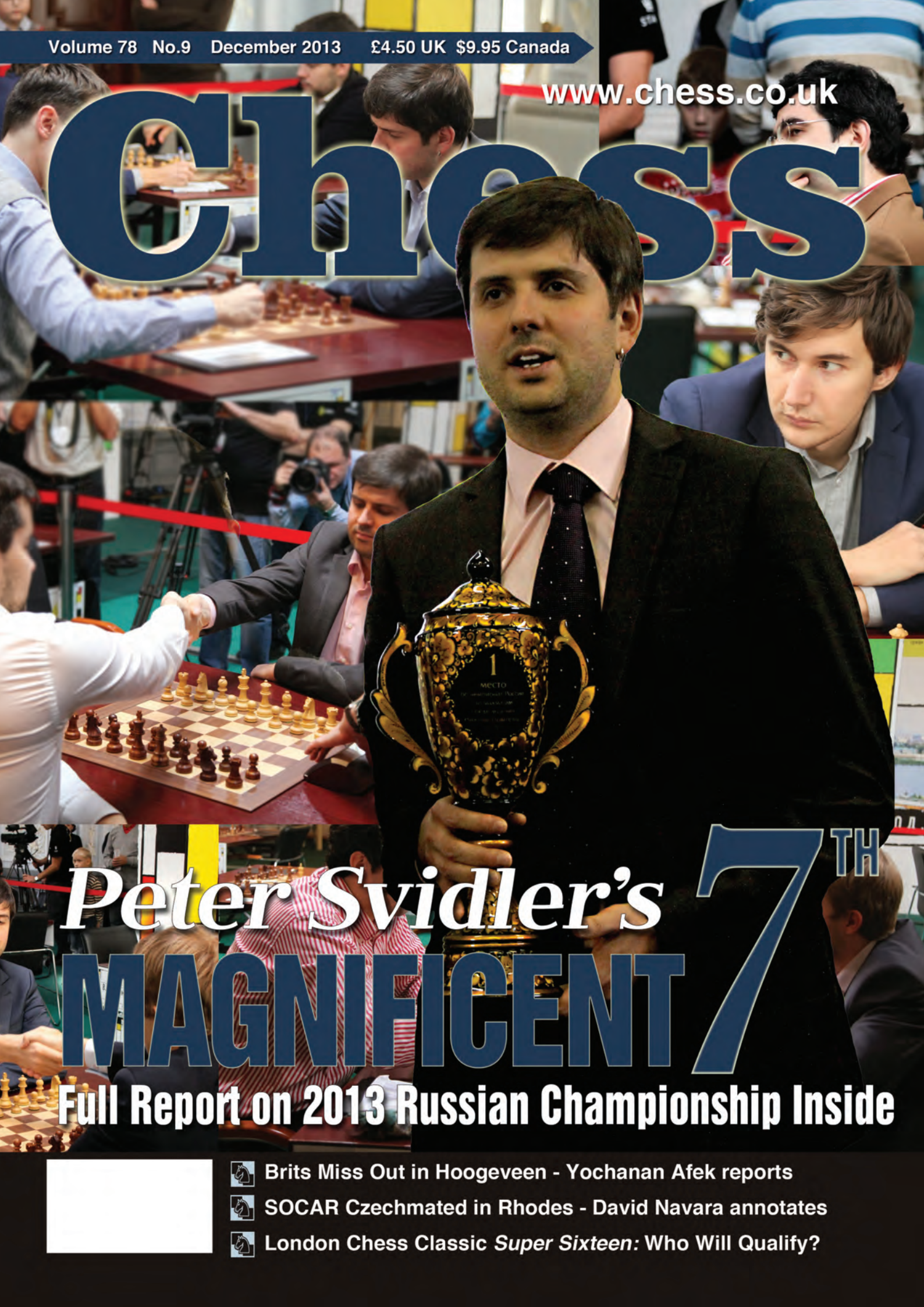


chess



Peter Svidler's

MAGNIFICENT

7TH

Full Report on 2013 Russian Championship Inside



Brits Miss Out in Hoogeveen - Yochanan Afek reports



SOCAR Czechmated in Rhodes - David Navara annotates



London Chess Classic Super Sixteen: Who Will Qualify?

Chess

Chess Magazine is published monthly.
Founding Editor: B.H. Wood, OBE, M.Sc +
Executive Editor: Malcolm Pein
Editors: Richard Palliser, Byron Jacobs
Associate Editor: John Saunders
Subscriptions Manager: Paul Harrington

Twitter: @CHESS_Magazine
Twitter: @TelegraphChess - Malcolm Pein

Website: www.chess.co.uk

Subscription Rates:

United Kingdom

1 year (12 issues) £49.95
2 year (24 issues) £89.95
3 year (36 issues) £125

Europe

1 year (12 issues) £60
2 year (24 issues) £112.50
3 year (36 issues) £165

USA & Canada

1 year (12 issues) \$90
2 year (24 issues) \$170
3 year (36 issues) \$250

Rest of World (Airmail)

1 year (12 issues) £72
2 year (24 issues) £130
3 year (36 issues) £180

Distributed by:

Post Scriptum (UK only)
Unit G, OYO Business Park, Hindmans Way,
Dagenham, RM9 6LN - Tel: 020 8526 7779

LMPI (North America)

8155 Larrey Street, Montreal (Quebec),
H1J 2L5, Canada - Tel: 514 355-5610

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors. Contributions to the magazine will be published at the Editors' discretion and may be shortened if space is limited.

No parts of this publication may be reproduced without the prior express permission of the publishers.

All rights reserved. © 2013

Chess Magazine (ISSN 0964-6221) is published by:
Chess & Bridge Ltd, 44 Baker St, London, W1U 7RT
Tel: 020 7388 2404 Fax: 020 7388 2407
Email: info@chess.co.uk, Website: www.chess.co.uk

FRONT COVER:

Cover Design: Matt Read
Cover Photography: Eteri Kublashvili

US & Canadian Readers – You can contact us via our American branch – Chess4Less based in West Palm Beach, FL. Call toll-free on 1-877 89CHESS (24377). You can even order Subscriber Special Offers online via www.chess4less.com

Contents

Editorial	4
Malcolm Pein on the latest developments	
60 Seconds with...	7
Nigel Short	
Peter the Great	8
Steve Giddins on Svidler's seventh Russian title	
Youth Prevails	14
Yochanan Afek reports from the Univé tournament in Hoogeveen	
SOCAR Czechmated in Rhodes	20
David Navara and Jan van de Griendt annotate	
Opening Trends	25
The Slav is at no.1, but the Schlechter Slav is not to be feared	
Anand vs. Carlsen	26
The latest from the big match as of going to press	
The Race for the Super Sixteen	30
Matt Lunn on an unusual feature at this year's London Classic	
Studies	33
Brian Stephenson makes a welcome return	
League Chess in the 1980s	34
John Saunders used to be a London League captain	
Positional Sacrifices	38
James Coleman supplies further guidance for the club player	
Never Mind the Grandmasters...	40
Carl Portman has happy memories of playing in Germany	
How Good is Your Chess?	42
Daniel King features a game from the Russian Championship	
Forthcoming Events	45
Where will you be playing this month?	
Find the Winning Moves	46
Can you do as well as the players at the European Club Cup?	
Home News	50
All the results from Britain's biggest weekend congress	
Overseas News	52
International success for David Eggleston and Alan Merry	
Solutions	54
New Books and Software	55
Saunders on Chess	58
John explains 'Chessperanto' and his dislike of prophylaxis	

Photo credits: AICF (pp.26-27), Steve Connor (pp.24, 31, centre top), Gerry Graham (p.53), Mark Huba (p.31, right), Eteri Kublashvili (pp.1, 9-12), Zeljka Malobabic (pp.20, 30), Ray Morris-Hill (pp.7, 32, left & right), Brendan O'Gorman (p.52), John Saunders (pp.32, centre, 34, 36), Johan Valk (pp.15-17), Jan van de Mortel (p.31, centre lower).

**Printed in the UK by The Magazine
Printing Company using only paper
from FSC/PEFC suppliers
www.magprint.co.uk**



The Race for the Super Sixteen

Matt Lunn on an unusual feature in this year's London Classic Open

The Super Sixteen Rapidplay, the centrepiece of the 5th London Chess Classic, has an unusual qualification process. After four rounds of the FIDE Open, the two leading participants (with the highest-rated progressing in the event of a tie) will be promoted to the Rapidplay, the bottom prize for which eclipses that for first place in its feeder event.

Consequently, this year's FIDE Open looks like it will be far stronger than its predecessors, with scores of hungry grandmasters and optimistic amateurs looking to take advantage of a once in a lifetime opportunity. The previous four events have seen a total of five 2600+ participants (counting Abhijeet Gupta twice). This year alone, we have nine (not including Abhijeet Gupta).

Below are short profiles of the 13 entrants rated over 2550, as of the time of going to press. The cosmopolitan nature of the event is exemplified by the fact that these players are all of different nationalities.

Boris Grachev

Federation: Russia

Rating: 2669

Peak Rat: 2705 (March 12)

Boris Grachev is not a household name, which, considering his rating, is a little surprising. Then again, despite having been in the Top-100 for over five years, he's Russia's 19th highest-rated player.

The London Classic provides Grachev with an excellent opportunity to raise his profile. As the top seed, 4/4 will guarantee promotion to the Super Sixteen, and his consistently good results against sub-2500 opposition make this a definite possibility. A speed chess specialist, he currently tops the 3-minute chart on the Internet Chess Club (ICC), where he plays as 'Vidocq'.

Andrei Istratescu

Federation: France

Rating: 2668

Peak Rat: 2668 (Nov 13)

Best known to British audiences for

sharing first at Hastings 2009/10, Andrei Istratescu came to prominence for claiming that Alexandru Crisan, formerly the world no.33 (in 1997), obtained his rating by fraudulent means. The Romanian businessman's rise in the rankings was due to a series of spectacular results in tournaments whose scoresheets were never published. Istratescu's letter to FIDE resulted in Crisan being asked to prove his worth in an event that wasn't under the auspice of the Romanian Chess Federation. At the 2001 Vidmar Memorial tournament in Slovenia, Crisan scored ½/9, and he hasn't played a competitive game since.

When he's not busy fighting against corruption, Istratescu is a pretty useful player, and comes to the Classic in the form of his life. Indeed, 4/4 is a highly plausible score and, as with Grachev, qualification is his to lose.

Emil Sutovsky

Federation: Israel

Rating: 2657

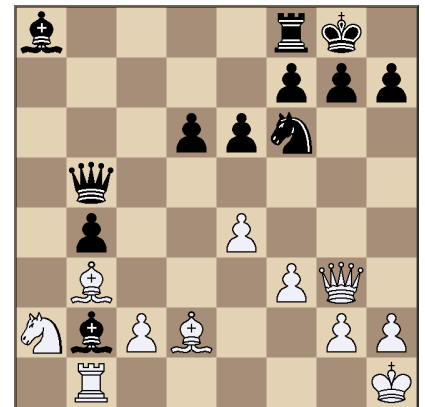
Peak Rat: 2703 (Jan 12)



Perhaps the best known overseas player in the Open, Emil Sutovsky is widely regarded for his creative and uncompromising

style. Although this has previously led to uneven tournament results, there are very few players in the world who will have the better of him in unclear positions. A prime example of his calculating ability is his 2005 win over Danny Gormally (see below) at the Gibraltar Masters, which Vishy Anand described as the best game he'd ever seen. Sutovsky is also known for being President of the Association of Chess Professionals, and for his bass-baritone voice.

D.Gormally-E.Sutovsky Gibraltar 2005



29...d5! 30 ♖xb4 dxe4!! 31 c4 ♜f5 32 ♜xf8 ♜h5 33 ♜g4 exf3 34 ♜xf5 fxg2+ 35 ♜g1 ♜d4+ 36 ♜f2 ♜f4 0-1

Aleksandar Delchev

Federation: Bulgaria

Rating: 2642

Peak Rat: 2669 (Oct 05)

A former European Junior Champion, Aleksandar Delchev is one of the world's leading experts on ...e6 Sicilians. This month he came outright first at the Bavarian Open in Bad Wiessee, recovering from his round 4 loss to David Eggleston by recording five consecutive victories. His many years of tournament experience make him a favourite to win the FIDE Open if he doesn't qualify for the Super Sixteen.

Mateusz Bartel

Federation: Poland

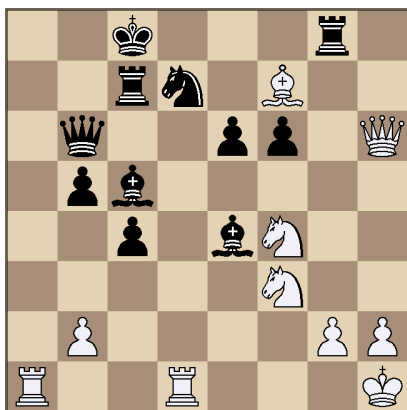
Rating: 2626

Peak Rat: 2677 (May 12)

Mateusz Bartel comes into the tournament on the back of a bad run of form; his two losses against 2300s at the European Club Cup prove particularly worrying in the context of qualifying for the main event. Nevertheless, he is a highly combative player with a string of impressive victories to his name. Most notably, he won an incredible game with the black pieces against Sasikiran at the 2012 Aeroflot Open, before beating Fabiano Caruana in 22 moves the following round.

K.Sasikiran-M.Bartel

Aeroflot Open,
Moscow 2012



29...♖xg2! 30 ♖xg2 ♗xf3+ 31 ♖xf3 ♗e5+ 32 ♖e2 ♗xf7 33 ♖g6 ♖e7 34 ♖a8+ ♖c7 35 ♖f8 ♗e5 36 ♖xf6 ♗d7 37 ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 38 ♗g6 ♖b7 39 ♗e5+ ♖c7 40 ♗f3 ♖e4+ 41 ♖f1 ♖d3+ 42 ♖g2 ♖e2+ 43 ♖g3 ♗d6+ 0-1

Robin van Kampen

Federation: Netherlands

Rating: 2618

Peak Rat: 2618 (Nov 13)

Well known in the UK for his appearances in the 4NCL, Robin van Kampen is one of four former winners of the FIDE Open revisiting the tournament this year. Until recently, van Kampen was considered an 'Open' specialist, but his performances at various high profile Dutch tournaments – notably Wijk aan Zee (2011 and 2013) and, as covered in this issue, the 2013 Unive Crown event – demonstrate that he also feels at home on the bigger stage. As he is just 19, he's certainly one to watch, not

least because of his work as Anish Giri's second.



Incidentally, both Giri and van Kampen, as well as Fabiano Caruana, are trained by the coach of the moment, Vladimir Chuchelov.

Sabino Brunello

Federation: Italy

Rating: 2615

Peak Rat: 2617 (Sep 13)



2013 has been a terrific year for Sabino Brunello. He began it with an astonishing 11/13 in the C group at Wijk aan Zee, registering one of the best performances in the tournament's history. His '+4' score at the European Individual Championship, which included a fine technical win against Sanan Sjugirov, qualified him for the World Cup in Tromsø, where he was eliminated by Pavel Eljanov. His consistently good results against 2500s make him another prime candidate to win the FIDE Open should strong starts by the higher-seeded players prevent him from qualifying for the main event.

Viorel Iordachescu

Federation: Moldova

Rating: 2614

Peak Rat: 2651 (Jan 12)

As well as being one of Moldova's strongest grandmasters, Viorel Iordachescu is a pioneer for using chess as an educational tool. His presidency of Moldova's National Chess Academy has seen the development of chess in schools cited as one of its principle priorities, so the legendary Chebanenko's former pupil will be a very welcome figure at the Classic. An incredibly solid player, Iordachescu may very well be undefeated after nine rounds, although he will need to shake off his recent tendency towards drawing in order to qualify for the Super Sixteen or win the Open.

Jon Ludvig Hammer

Federation: Norway

Rating: 2612

Peak Rat: 2647 (Jan 11)



Fortunately or otherwise, Jon Ludvig Hammer's chess career has been inextricably linked with Magnus Carlsen's. Friends and former schoolmates, the two recently appeared together in *Magnus Carlsen's Last Big Title*, a short English language documentary about the world championship challenger. Although we can only infer what the precise nature of his duties as Carlsen's second are, it is very possible that he will come to London armed with a fearsome opening repertoire. At the very least, his 8/9 in the inaugural FIDE Open will make him confident of a strong performance. Moreover, Hammer is a renowned optimist, confident in even the most risky position against GM opposition.

Abhijeet Gupta

Federation: India

Rating: 2594

Peak Rat: 2667 (Nov 12)



This will be Abhijeet Gupta's third appearance at the tournament he won in 2011. His chess CV is highly impressive: his triumphs include, amongst others, winning the World Junior Championship in 2008 and the Commonwealth Championship in 2013. Like Hammer, he will surely enter the Open brimming with confidence.

Vladislav Nevednichy

Federation: Romania

Rating: 2590

Peak Rat: 2603 (July 13)

A former member of Moldova's Olympiad team, Vladislav Nevednichy is now one of Romania's strongest grandmasters. In April 2013, Nevednichy came outright first at the Golden Island Krk tournament in Croatia, finishing one and a half points ahead of his nearest rival. He is currently representing Romania at the European Team Championships in Warsaw, where he is on 3½/4 at the time of writing.

Alexandr Fier

Federation: Brazil

Rating: 2572

Peak Rat: 2653 (Nov 09)

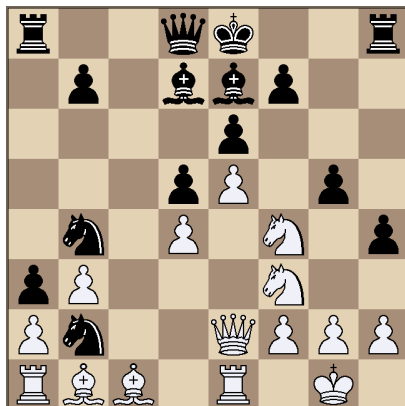
Alexandr Hilario Takeda dos Santos Fier is South America's answer to Julian Hodgson, being possessed of a sparkling imagination and a knack for destroying weaker opponents. His results of late have been

mixed; in September he won the strong Izmir Open in Turkey, but then scored just 50% against a 2200 average in Georgia's Nona Gaprindashvili Cup. Regardless of which Fier reveals itself at Olympia, his games will see plenty of fireworks.

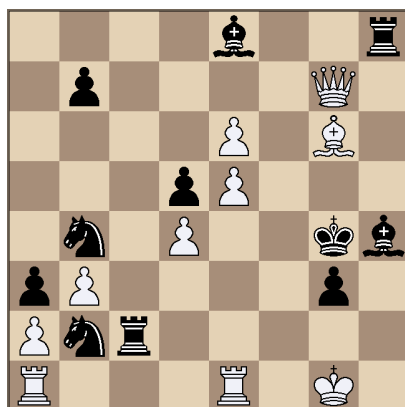


A.Fier-J.Ryan

Sabadell Open 2009

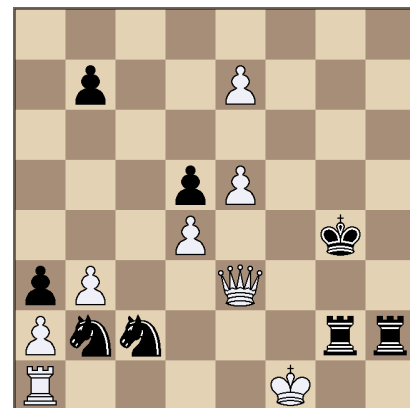


20 ♖g6! fxg6 21 ♙xg6+ ♕f8 22 ♜xg5! ♙xg5 23 ♖f3+ ♗g7 24 ♖f7+ ♗h6 25 f4 ♙e7 26 g4! hxg3 27 h4 ♙xh4 28 ♗g2 ♖c8 29 ♙d2 ♙e8 30 f5+ ♖g5 31 ♙xg5+ ♗xg5 32 ♖g7 ♖c2+ 33 ♗g1 ♗g4! 34 fxe6



34...♖f2?

As Fier later pointed out, after the remarkable 34...♙xg6! 35 ♖xg6+ ♙g5 36 ♖e3 ♖hh2 37 ♖xg3+ ♗xg3 38 ♖xg5+ ♗h3 39 ♖e3+ ♗g4 40 e7 ♖cg2+ 41 ♗f1 ♜c2!



Black would have been OK.
35 ♙d3+ ♗h3 36 ♙f1+ ♖xf1+ 37 ♖xf1 ♙b5 38 ♖xh8 ♜4d3 39 e7 g2 40 ♖f3+ ♗g4 41 ♖f8 1-0

Mark Hebden

Federation: England

Rating: 2556

Peak Rat: 2590 (Nov 98)



A fixture on the UK tournament circuit, Mark Hebden is one of the country's best known and best liked professional players. His expertise in a variety of anti-Indian openings is legendary, which forms the basis of his finely tuned repertoire. Indeed, he even has a variation of the Torre named after him.

Due to his numerous appearances at e2e4 events, which he or Keith Arkell invariably win, listing his tournament successes is a futile exercise. Nevertheless, his equal first at four editions of Cappelle la Grande and the 2009/10 Hastings Masters must rank particularly highly amongst his achievements. Hebden is a fan favourite to qualify for the Super Sixteen, and a real contender to win the FIDE Open.



THE SUPER SIXTEEN

Grandmaster Rapidplay featuring the World's Elite and the Best of British

16 players will battle it out for a first prize of €50,000.

Players will be seeded into 4 groups of 4 in a double round-robin format.

Top 2 players from each group progress to the quarter-finals of the knock-out stages.

Each match is best of two games played at 25 minutes + 10 seconds per move increment.



VLADIMIR KRAMNIK
2794 Elo
RUSSIA

FABIANO CARUANA
2779 Elo
ITALY

VISHY ANAND
2775 Elo
INDIA

HIKARU NAKAMURA
2772 Elo
USA

BORIS GELFAND
2764 Elo
ISRAEL

MICHAEL ADAMS
2761 Elo
ENGLAND

PETER SVIDLER
2746 Elo
RUSSIA

LUKE McSHANE
2697 Elo
ENGLAND



JUDIT POLGAR
2696 Elo
HUNGARY

NIGEL SHORT
2684 Elo
ENGLAND

MATTHEW SADLER
2646 Elo
ENGLAND

DAVID HOWELL
2644 Elo
ENGLAND

GAWAIN JONES
2633 Elo
ENGLAND

TO BE ANNOUNCED

FIDE OPEN QUALIFIER

FIDE OPEN QUALIFIER

Wednesday 11 December (Group stages) <i>Opening ceremony 13:00-14:00</i> 8 games each session	Afternoon session: 14:00 - 17:00
	Evening session: 18:00 - 21:00
Thursday 12 December (Group stages) 8 games each session	Afternoon session: 14:00 - 17:00
	Evening session: 18:00 - 21:00
Friday 13 December (Group stages) <i>Group stage tie-breaks if required will take place on Saturday 14 December 11:00-13:00</i> 8 games each session	Afternoon session: 14:00 - 17:00
	Evening session: 18:00 - 21:00
Saturday 14 December (Quarter-finals) <i>Quarter-final tie-breaks if required will take place on Saturday 14 December 20:30-22:00</i> 4 games each session	Afternoon session: 14:00 - 17:00
	Evening session: 17:30 - 20:30
Sunday 15 December (Semi-finals & Final) <i>Tie-breaks if required take place on Sunday 15 December; 16:00 (Semi-finals), 20:30 (Final). 4 games each session (Semi-finals), 2 games each session (final)</i>	Afternoon session: 13:00 - 16:00
	Evening session: 17:30 - 20:30

TICKETS

Auditorium & Grandmaster Commentary

£15 per session / £25 per day

£100 Tournament Pass (all 5 days)

A £2.50 per ticket booking fee applies

JUNIORS FREE*

** Juniors must be born after 31/8/1995 and be accompanied by a paying adult. Limited to 2 juniors per paying adult.*



ALL ticket sale proceeds go to **Chess in Schools and Communities**

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE
SHOP.CHESS.CO.UK

☎ **020 7486 7015**