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SEPTEMBER 2005

VOLUME 70 NO.6

www.chess.co.uk



Printed in UK

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London Chess Centre



Where chess is king

A SURPRISE WINNER IN DORTMUND!

by James Coleman

The Category 19 Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting was held between July 8th to 17th and featured six of the world's top ten Grandmasters. Pre-tournament favourites were Bulgarian World Number Three Veselin Topalov—fresh from his recent victory at the M-Tel Masters, as well as two time Dortmund Champion Peter Leko and World Champion Vladimir Kramnik—though the latter would be the first to admit that his recent form has been poor by his standards. Other competitors included super-tournament regulars Svidler, Adams and Van Wely as well as some other players who are highly successful in strong Open Tournaments such as Peter Heine Nielsen and Emil Sutovsky. The local favourite, nineteen year old Arkadij Naiditsch was participating for the third year in the Super Tournament.

With so many experienced Super Grandmasters competing it was always going to be difficult to pick a likely winner, though there were several players that it was felt were playing “for the experience” and were not quite yet ready to win a tournament of this calibre. And yet it turned out that it was one of these players, teenager Arkadij Naiditsch, the lowest rated player in the tournament who re-wrote the record books with a stunning tournament victory scoring 5½ points out of 9. So surprising was this result I scanned the record books to find something comparable—one that comes to mind is Glenn Flear's historic tournament victory at the Philips and Drew Tournament in London 1986, when he was brought in as a last minute reserve and topped a field of World Class players. Though, unlike the British GM, I don't believe that Naiditsch went out during one of his games to get married—but that's another story...

As far as I know, it is also the first time for over eighty years that a German player has won an event of this stature. Lasker's victory in New York 1924 comes to mind but I don't recall anything since.

Naiditsch made the best possible start as Sutovsky fell victim to some preparation in a sharp Sveshnikov.

Arkadij Naiditsch *White*
Emil Sutovsky *Black*
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 d3 f3 3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 dxd4 f6 5 dxc3 e5 6 ddb5 d6 7 g5 a6 8 da3 b5 9 d5 e7 10 dxe7

		Sparkassen Chess Meeting, Dortmund											
		8-17 July 2005. Average Rating: 2709 (Category 19)											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot	
1	A.Naiditsch <i>Germany</i>	2612	X	0	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	5½
2	V.Topalov <i>Bulgaria</i>	2788	1	X	½	1	½	0	0	1	½	½	5
3	E.Bacrot <i>France</i>	2729	½	½	X	0	½	1	1	½	1	0	5
4	L.Van Wely <i>Holland</i>	2655	½	0	1	X	½	½	1	0	1	½	5
5	P.Svidler <i>Russia</i>	2738	½	½	½	½	X	½	½	1	½	½	5
6	V.Kramnik <i>Russia</i>	2744	½	1	0	½	½	X	½	½	0	1	4½
7	M.Adams <i>England</i>	2719	½	1	0	0	½	½	X	½	½	1	4½
8	P.Leko <i>Hungary</i>	2763	0	0	½	1	0	½	½	X	½	1	4
9	E.Sutovsky <i>Israel</i>	2674	0	½	0	0	½	1	½	½	X	½	3½
10	P.H.Nielsen <i>Denmark</i>	2668	0	½	1	½	½	0	0	0	½	X	3

This is one of many main lines in the Sveshnikov. Here 10 dxf6 is the main move when Black should take with the bishop with a more positional struggle.

10 ... dxe7 11 d3 b7 12 dxf6 gxf6 13 h5 d5 14 0-0-0! d4

14 ... f5?! 15 exd5 e4 16 d6!

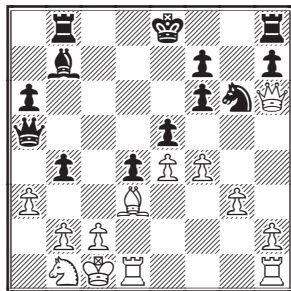
15 b1 a5 16 a3 b4

16 ... c8! was suggested by Shipov, but I cannot immediately see why it's any better.

17 h6 g6 18 g3

Preparing to play f4 and open lines.

18 ... b8 19 f4



19 ... b3!?

Tempting but it is uncertain if it's best. Black gets all sorts of sacrificial possibilities which doubtless appealed to Sutovsky who qualified for this tournament by sacrificing lots of pieces and winning the Aeroflot Open in Moscow.

If 19 ... c6 20 f5 bxa3 21 dxa3 b4 22 fxg6 bxb2+ 23 d2 xa3 24 g7± and White's king will be remarkably safe on e2.

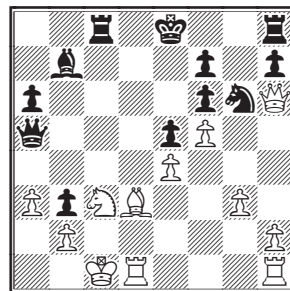
Sutovsky suggested 19 ... bxa3! =. Let's see. 20 dxa3 b4 (b2 is very weak) 21 d4 xe4 (At first sight this loses but if it does not work there is nothing else) 22 xe4 xc4 23 f5

A) 23 ... xb2! secures the draw: 24 xb2 (24 fxg6 b4! 25 gxf7+ e7 and wins) 24 ... b4+ 25 c1 a3+

26 d2 f4!! (A fantastic resource and the only move. Black blocks the queen's defence of e3, leaving White with nothing better than to defend against the mate and allow a perpetual) 27 he1 c3+ 28 c1 with a draw.

B) 23 ... e7 would be an ambitious attempt to win: 24 fxg6 (24 d3 b4 25 b3 c3 26 del1 might be less risky though Black still has a very large initiative) 24 ... hxg6 25 d2 (Fantastic, White has to trap his own king to save the queen!) 25 ... a2 26 e1 xb2 with three pawns for a piece and a raging attack.

20 e4! dxc3 21 dxc3 c8 22 f5



22 ... e7?

This loses, the immediate sacrifice was much more promising: 22 ... xc3+ 23 bxc3 xa3+ 24 d2 e7 25 xf6 0-0! and White has at least a draw but Black is just about on the board.

23 xf6 xc3+ 24 b1! g8 25 bxc3 xa3 26 b6

Remarkably Black has nothing.

26 ... a2+ 27 c1 f8 28 f6 1-0

Michael Adams *White*
Veselin Topalov *Black*
Petroff Defence

1 e4 e5 2 d3 f3 3 d4



Did Arkadij Naiditsch achieve the best German result since Emanuel Lasker's win at New York 1924?

A less common move order than 3 dxe5 d6 4 d3 dxe4 .

3 ... dxe4 4 d3 d5

4 ... $\text{dxc6!?$ 5 exe4 d5 is Murey's incredible idea which succeeded at first but White has a few paths to an advantage, one of which is 6 dxe5 dxe5 7 dxe5 dxe4 8 Wxd8+ xd8 and White is slightly better in the ending.

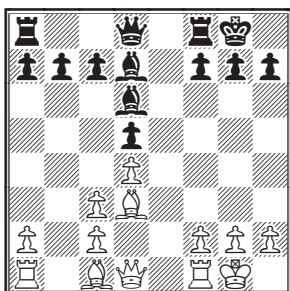
5 dxe5 d7

5 ... d6 Is another popular main line, the two lines often transpose as is the case in this game after Black's seventh move.

6 xd7 xd7 7 0-0 d6 8 c3

8 e1 allows an immediate draw: 8 ... hx2+ 9 hx2 h4+ .

8 ... xc3 9 bxc3 0-0



On the face of it Black stands well with a slight lead in development and better pawns. White's next move is what changes the assessment.

10 h5

Hitting d5 and f5 and forcing a weakness though the exchange of knights reduces the value of the outpost of e5. Theory considers this position to be slightly better for White.

10 ... f5

The d7 is now condemned to a passive existence.

11 e1 c6

11 ... f6 intending ae8 is more consistent. 12 f3 h8 13 xd5 (13 f4 is better.) 13 ... c6 is a risky pawn grab for White.

12 g5 c7 13 c4 e8

13 ... b4 14 e2 c3 15 d1 xd4 16 cd5 cd5 17 f3 a5 18 c4! with the initiative and if 18 ... c6 19 e7 .

14 h3 h6

14 ... dxc4 was previously played, intending to avoid the kind of clamp that White effects in this game.

15 d2 f7 16 c5 c7 17 ab1 d7

Alternatives are 17 ... $\text{b8!?$ and 17 ... b6, met by 18 cxb6 axb6 19 b4 .

18 f3 g6 19 h4!

Squeeze.

19 ... f7 20 f4

Trying to exchange the good bishop by 20 xb7 h2+ 21 hx2 xb7 22 e6 gives some compensation but there is no need to sacrifice at this stage. Adams has a stable advantage with f5 weak and the black bishops passive in comparison to White's.

20 ... a5! 21 ec1 h5 22 g3 b5

23 cxb6 xb6 24 c3

24 hx6?? f4 25 g5 d8 26 e5 gxh6 .

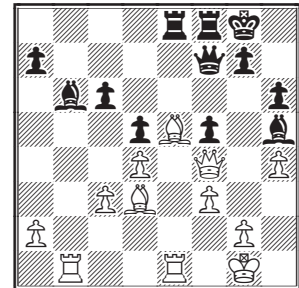
24 ... h7 25 e5 g6 26 f4

Adams avoids a queen exchange as his king is the safer.

26 ... ae8 27 e1 g8 28 f3!

Threat g4 .

28 ... f7



29 d6

The killer move because the e7 square and the f5 pawn cannot both be held.

29 ... xe1+ 30 xe1 e8

30 ... d8 31 b4 g6 32 e7 .

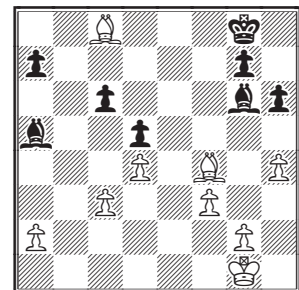
31 xe8+ xe8 32 e5

32 xf5? e1+ 33 h2 hx4+ gets the queens off and Black escapes. Now there is no counterplay.

32 ... g6 33 xf5

33 h5 was a tempting alternative. Perhaps Adams felt the position after 33 ... hx5 34 xf5 g6 35 xg6 xe5 was a little bit loose, though after 36 f2 he has a good position as c6 cannot be satisfactorily defended.

33 ... f7 34 c8 xf4 35 xf4 a5



36 b8

This wins because an outside passed pawn is created. Black could have prevented it but then would have been totally tied down.

36 ... a6

36 ... b6 37 b7 e8 38 f2 f7 39 e3 and Black is completely passive



Emil Sutovsky seems quietly confident

and a kingside pawn advance will decide.

37 ♖xa6 ♗b1 38 a3 ♙xc3 39 ♖a7 ♙c2 40 h5 ♗f7 41 ♗f2 ♗b2 42 ♙c5 ♙c1 43 ♗e1 ♖f4 44 ♙e2 ♗b3 45 g4 ♖a4 46 ♙d1 ♗g3+ 47 ♗e2 ♗b5+ 48 ♗e3 ♙c7 49 a4 ♙c4 50 ♗b4

Adams methodically pushes the pawn home

50 ... ♗h2 51 ♗f2 g6 52 hxg6+ ♗xg6 53 ♙e2 ♗g1+ 54 ♗xg1 ♙xe2 55 ♗f2

The winning plan is f4 f5 ♗g3 ♗f4 and pawn a5. Black will be unable to prevent a further king march and playing ...h5 allows gxh5 with a second outside passed pawn

1-0

Emil Sutovsky White
Vladimir Kramnik Black
Ruy Lopez



...but what do you think of your position, Vlad?

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 ♗b5 ♗f6 4 d3

4 0-0 ♗xe4 5 d4 ♗d6 6 ♙xc6 dxc6 7 dxe5 ♗f5 8 ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 is the tabiya position of the infamous "Berlin Wall" which Kramnik used to such good effect to frustrate Kasparov in their World Title Match in Autumn 2000. I have played this line myself as Black many times in tournament games as well as hundreds of Internet Blitz games and, although White is definitely slightly better, the positions are not to everyone's taste. Sutovsky's move is a popular way to avoid the ending and it contains a fair amount of poison if not handled correctly by Black.

tempo with d2-d3 and then almost immediately d3-d4 ? The answer is simply one of circumstances—had White played d2-d4 on move 4, Black would have been well placed to react to it—but now, with the moves d7-d6 and g7-g6 inserted, the central break is justified, even a tempo down. In effect White is allowing Black to play one of the less highly regarded Lopez defences, a tempo ahead.

6 ... ♙d7 7 ♖e1 ♗g7 8 d5 ♗e7 9 ♙xd7+ ♗xd7

9 ... ♗xd7 wouldn't make sense—Black recaptures with the knight to

4 ... d6

4 ... ♙c5 is the other main line and my usual choice though it's purely a matter of taste, 5 c3 (5 ♙xc6 dxc6 6 ♗xe5?? ♗d4) 5 ... 0-0 6 0-0 d6 7 h3 ♗e7 8 d4 ♗b6 9 ♖e1 ♗g6 and White was no more than fractionally better in *V e l i k h a n l i - J. Coleman, Abu Dhabi Open 2004*, as well as several other games. Black has never lost this position according to my database.

5 0-0 g6 6 d4

I think a natural question would be to wonder why White appears to lose a

pave the way for the advance of the f-pawn.

10 ♙e3

A queenside pawn advance is another way to handle the position 10 a4 0-0 11 a5 a6 12 c4 h6 13 ♖a3 f5 14 b4 was *Morozevich-K.Georgiev, Mallorca 2004*. The position bears quite a resemblance to a King's Indian.

10 ... f5

This may be the place to look for improvements, as Kramnik's position soon becomes quite loose. Perhaps he should simply have castled here.

11 ♗g5 ♗f8 12 exf5 gxf5 13 f4 ♗d7 14 c4 ♗eg6 15 ♗c3 h6 16 ♗f3 e4 17 ♗d4 h5 18 ♗cb5 ♗f7

White was threatening to play ♗xf5 and ♗xc7+

19 ♗e6 ♗xe6 20 dxe6+ ♗xe6 21 ♗d5+

21 ♗xc7+ ♗xc7 22 ♗d5+ ♗e7 23 ♗xf5 ♗f8 24 ♗xe4+ ♗d8 25 ♖xa7 is a typically bizarre variation suggested by Fritz which it understandably rates as clearly better for White.

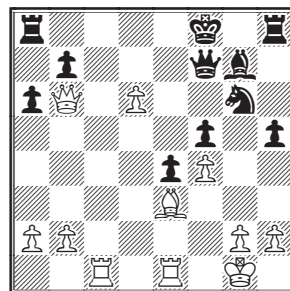
21 ... ♗e7 22 c5 c6 23 cxd6+

23 ♗xd6+ ♗xd6 24 ♗xd6 was the safe way for White to play. After 24 ... ♗e6 the ending looks approximately equal.

23 ... ♗f8 24 ♗b3 cxb5 25 ♖ac1

Intending c7.

25 ... ♗f7 26 ♗xb5 a6 27 ♗b6



27 ... ♗g8

Kramnik is a master of defence but this position proves too much even for him. 27 ... ♙f6 is a suggestion by the computer, when after 28 ♖c7 ♗e6 29 ♗d1 ♗d8 the position is quite scary for Black although he does still have that extra piece.

28 ♖ed1 ♗h7 29 ♖c7 ♗f8 30 ♙d4 ♖g8 31 ♗xb7 e3

There is nothing to be done. 31 ... ♗xf4 32 ♖f7 wins.

32 ♖f7 ♖b8 33 ♗d7 ♗d8 34 ♗xf5 ♗xf7 35 ♗xf7 ♖xd6 36 ♗f1 ♗xf4 37 ♗f5+

Sutovsky plans to give back some material to liquidate into a winning ending. The rest is simply a mopping up job.

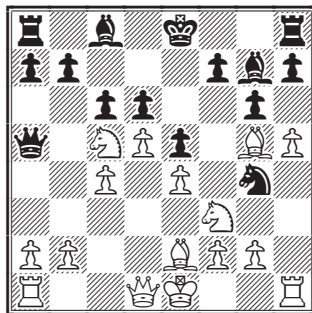
37 ... ♖g6 38 ♗xf4 ♖f8 39 ♗xf8 ♖xf8 40 ♙xe3 ♖e6 41 ♗f2 ♗g6 42 ♖d5 ♙e7 43 ♙c5 ♙f6 44 b3 ♙e5 45 g3 h4 46 gxh4 ♙xh2 47 h5+ ♗h7 48 ♗f3 ♙e5 49 ♖d7+ ♗h6 50 ♗g4 ♙g7 51 ♖d6 1-0

FIND THE WINNING MOVES

This month all the puzzles are taken from the big money **Minneapolis HB Global CC** tournament held in the USA in May and won by Vladimir Akobian

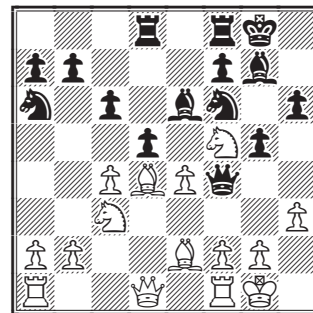
Solutions are on page 40.

4
L.Van Wely-T.Miller
Round One



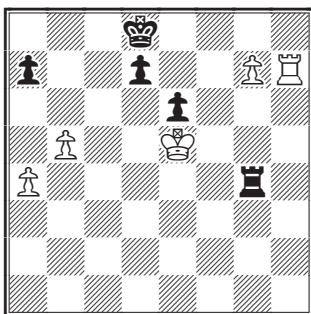
White to move

8
A.Simutowe-P.Atoofi
Round Six



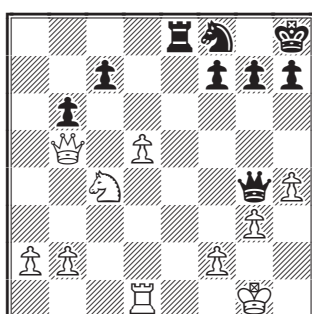
White to move

1
T.Ishhanov-M.Khachiyan
Round Four



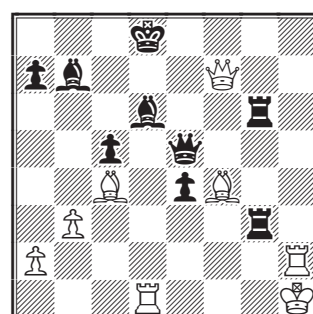
White to move

5
S.Kudrin-T.Lunna
Round One



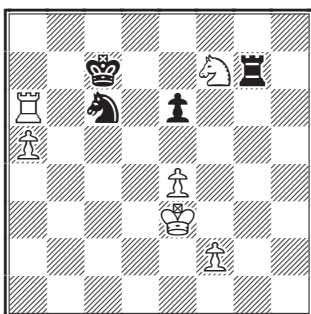
White to move

9
R.Vasquez-J.Friedel
Round Four



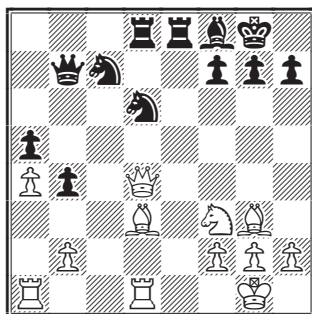
Black to move

2
D.Fridman-L.Milman
Round Eight



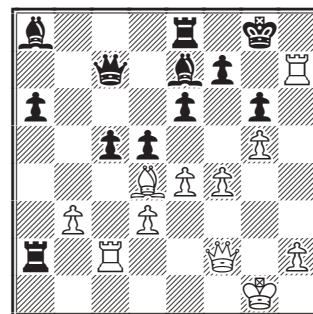
White to move

6
D.Fridman-A.Del Mundo
Round Four



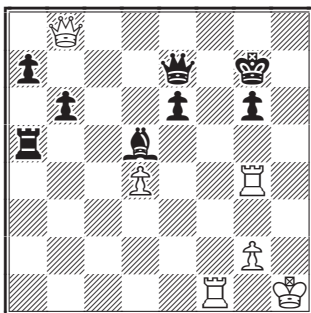
White to move

10
D.Schneider-L.Van Wely
Round Six



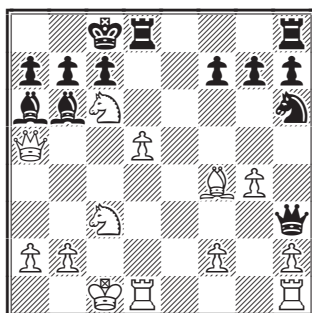
Black to move

3
V.Akobian-B.Lugo
Round Nine



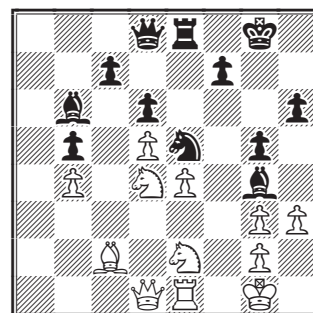
White to move

7
Y.Shulman-D.Zimbeck
Round One



White to move

11
T.Ishhanov -V.Georgiev
Round Six



Black to move

16 year old KATERYNA LAHNO wins European Women's Championship

PHOTO: JOHN HENDERSON



When I first told people I was planning on going to Moldova to play in a chess tournament, “How nice!” the non-chess players remarked, trying to cover up the fact they had never even heard of the country. When I phoned to confirm my flights the operator kept insisting I was travelling to Kiev, “Chisinau,” I corrected for the umpteenth time.

“Yeess” he repeated slowly “when you arrive in Kiev”.

Hmm...

Chess players, being in general fairly well acquainted with the more obscure places in the world, laughed or pulled a face. Those that had visited Moldova looked grim but seeing my worried face hastily added that things had probably changed now.

Despite my forebodings, I was pleasantly surprised that Chisinau is actually a very cosmopolitan city. With its vast array of greenness and lovely warm weather; this was the perfect backdrop for the 6th European Individual Championship. These championships for both men and women have been a source of great controversy and headache over the years. This year’s championships aimed to resolve most of the issues that had haunted previous year’s efforts by introducing changes and consulting the players about what they wanted.

For the first time, players could choose where they wanted to stay and since the tournaments and hotels were located in the centre it meant that players were able to do as they liked—for many it was to shop! Food, is always a topic of contention in chess tournaments: at the Olympiad in Mallorca, FIDE fought the great battle for water against the organisers. In Moldova, the battle continued although it was not over water this time but over small food portions! However our hotel had the last laugh by serving us chicken or beef for lunch and dinner for over 16 days!!

There are no restrictions on who can enter the European Women’s Championships (besides the obvious guys!). Providing one can afford the steep accommodation and travel costs, one has the opportunity to fight for the eighteen world championship places available. Competition as expected was fierce with 163 players competing. Even though some of the big names were absent, having already qualified for the World Championship last year, the tournament actually resembled a massive European Junior event with all the upcoming talents present—in fact the youngest participant was only nine years old!

With a first prize of \$7000 and generous money prizes for the top twenty five, the games were typically uncompromising and aggressive. Throughout the tournament it was almost impossible to tell who would be the likely winner with the lead fluctuating between several players. A tournament of twelve gruelling rounds requires plenty of stamina and typically many who had seemed like strong contenders for the title fell by the wayside with poor finishes whilst others sprung up from nowhere with a strong final performance.

In the end it was the two decisive results for Nadezdha Kosintseva and Kateryna Lahno in round eleven against Peng Zhaoqin and Viktorija Cmilyte respectively that decided who would take first place. Although they were only half a point clear of the field going

WGM Jovanka Houska reports



Nadezhda Kosintseva loses play off

remembered the English guys discussing how the “little girlie” had produced a remarkable performance and crushed several GMs. Since then she has grown in maturity and confidence and this has reflected in her play. In Chisinau, she breezed through the competition seizing all the chances she was given by her opponents. So impressive was the 16 year old’s performance, that had she won her final game then she would have made a grandmaster norm and hence received the male Grandmaster title.

In the game that effectively gave her European title, Kateryna, by playing simple and forceful chess, makes her opponents look completely helpless. What impressed me about this game, played in the tiebreak, is that when nerves and emotions are running riot, Kateryna was completely composed and ruthless!

Nadezhda Kosintseva (2459) White
Kateryna Lahno (2467) Black
Game One, Playoff
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♜f6 3 ♘c3 ♝c6 4 g3

The Glek system. Although this move looks fairly harmless it is actually more dangerous than it appears—especially to one unprepared!

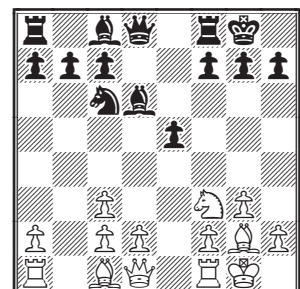
4 ... d5

Black has two valid plans here, one is to strike immediately in the centre with 4 ... d5, the other is to keep the position closed with 4 ... ♗c5. Should Black choose the second option then White’s plan would be to castle kingside and where possible begin an attack down the f-file. 4 ... ♗c5 5 ♗g2 d6 6 d3 a6 7 h3 h6 8 ♗e3 ♗xe3 9 fxe3 ♜e7 10 0-0=.

5 exd5 ♜xd5 6 ♗g2 ♜xc3 7 bxc3 ♗d6

Black can also choose to place the bishop on c5 or e7.

8 0-0 0-0



into the last round they were both helped by the fact that almost all of the top boards settled for quick draws to secure a guaranteed World Championship Place.

Like last year, the winner of the tournament was decided by a play-off; there

it was Kateryna Lahno who stamped her authority by crushing Nadezhda Kosintseva to claim the European Crown. I first heard about Kateryna Lahno two years ago in Istanbul where she was the only female participant in the European Male championship. I

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1.3 Million Master Level Games up to June 2005. Ruffian Chess Engine rated 2671 standard chess & over 3000 at blitz chess. Easy to use database system that searches for players, openings and results. GrandMaster statistical tree, ECO codes, Analyses Games, imports and exports PGN files.

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This is a standalone piece of software. System Requirements: PC, DVD Rom Drive, Windows XP.

Chess Openings for Black, Explained (A Complete Repertoire)

by Lev Alburt,

Roman Dzindzhichashvili,

Eugene Perelshteyn

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550 pages.

Gives you a complete repertoire of opening play -as well as a review of all openings and an explanation of the principles of playing this crucial stage of the game. And although these books concentrate on the first 20 moves or so of a chess game, they never leave you hanging without a plan. The authors make sure you know the themes and ideas so that you can follow up your opening play with winning strategies. Fully illustrated with two-color chess diagrams throughout.

The Scotch Game Explained

by Gary Lane

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Softback. 168 pages. Batsford

Gary Lane provides a back-to-basics volume on one of the classical openings which has been revamped by young

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The Chess Organiser's Handbook (3rd edition)

incorporating the 2005 FIDE LAWS OF CHESS

by Stewart Reuben

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This third edition, while retaining a compact size, features increased legibility. As well as updated comprehensive and practical information on all aspects of running tournaments. Several new chapters have been added on inputting games, websites, junior chess and peripheral events. FIDE Title Regulations have been fully revised and the various Swiss Pairing Systems are compared critically.

It also contains the new FIDE (World Chess Federation) Official Laws of Chess. These Laws were revised at the Chess Olympiad in Calvia, with changes taking effect from July 2005.

A Complete Guide to the Grivas Sicilian

by Efstratios Grivas

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This book is in every way a definitive guide: Efstratios Grivas provides the inside story on a variation of the Sicilian Defence that he has worked for more than 20 years to perfect, and which rightly bears his name. The Grivas Sicilian (1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♗b6) has proved itself sound and reliable in practice, but is also far less well investigated than most Sicilian systems. This gives it an extra sting in practice, which readers will be able to use to their advantage over the board—it is most unlikely that their opponents will have ready a well-worked-out response. The Grivas Sicilian generally leads to positions akin to the Scheveningen, but with some subtle differences. Grivas explains these subtleties at length, helping readers to exploit all their chances to seize the initiative.

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Starting Out: Slav & Semi-Slav

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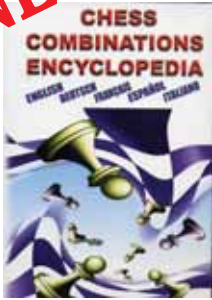
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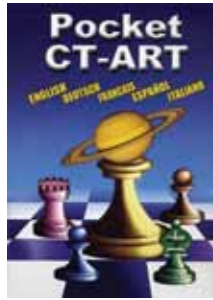
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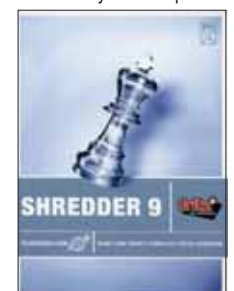
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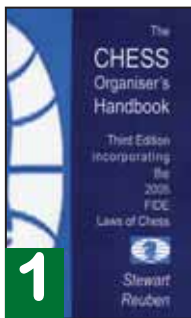
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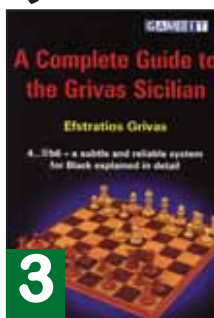
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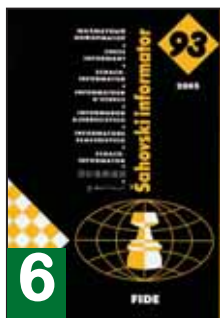
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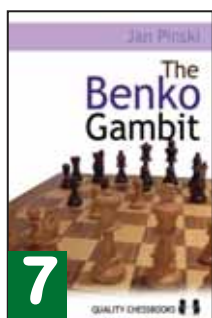
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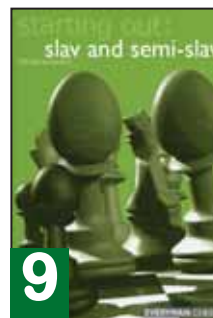
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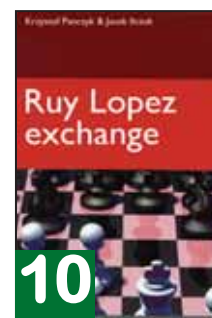
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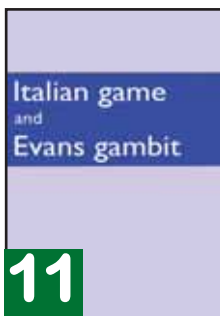
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