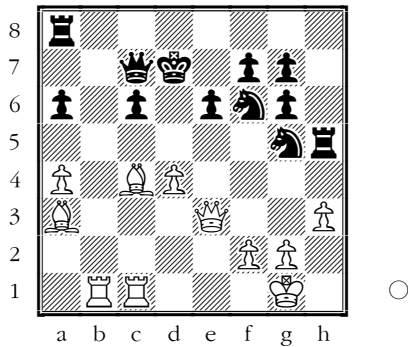


Test Yourself!

Schuurman (2234) – Kobese (2397)

Gibraltar Masters ENG (10.23),
02.02.2006



On this Day...

GM Sergey Kalinitschew, who now plays for Germany, was born on 3rd February 1956 – today he celebrates his 50th birthday.

So far, Kalinitschew's best ELO was 2533, in October-2004 list. His current ELO is 2503.



World Chess News

Gibtelecom Masters

Bulgarian GM Kiril Georgiev drew a long game with Emil Sutovsky in the last round and thereby won the strong Gibraltar Swiss tournament alone. He showed an outstanding result: 8½ out of 10. Apart from the first prize of 6000 GB Pounds, Georgiev (now rated 2645) also earned 20 ELO points.

Nigel Short and Sutovsky shared second place and received 3,500 pounds each. The winner of the Best



Game prize (1000 Pounds) was Julen Arizmendi for his game against Zahar Efimenko in Round 4. The end of this game was our quiz in CT-1909.

From the Round 10 report by John Saunders:

"How Viktor Korchnoi does it at his age I'll never know. After his game, I cruelly took him to one side and asked him to help reconstruct his 8th round win against Bakre (the version printed in the Round eight bulletin was slightly wrong, incidentally). Viktor happily rattled off the 100 or so moves from memory."

Round 10 top results:

- Ki.Georgiev (8) – Sutovsky (7) ½–½
- Al-Modiahki (6½) –Short (6½) 0–1
- Areshchenko (6½) – Volkov (6½) ½–½
- Bologan (6) – Gurevich (6½) ½–½
- Speelman (6) – Shirov (6) 0–1
- Akopian (6) – Ganguly (6) 1–0
- Efimenko (6) – Al Sayed (6) 1–0
- Bellon Lopez (6) – Kobalia (6) ½–½
- Gyimesi (6) – Cramling (6) 1–0
- Zhu Chen (5½) – Arizmendi (6) 1–0

Final standings:

- 1. Ki.Georgiev – 8½,
- 2–3. Short and Sutovsky – 7½,
- 4–10. Akopian, Areshchenko, Efimenko, Gurevich, Gyimesi, Shirov and Volkov – 7,
- 11–23. Al-Modiahki, Bellon Lopez, Bologan, Kobalia, Korchnoi, M.Pavlovic, Pelletier, Sandipan, Spraggett, Stefanova, Sundararajan, Zhu Chen and Zhukova – 6½, etc. (126 players).

[The full crosstable](#)

Cuernavaca Young Masters

In Mexico, all Round 1 games were drawn, but even the compatriots, Bruzon and Dominguez of Cuba, tried really hard. The shortest game was Ponomariov vs Nakamura: 36 moves.

Round 1 results:

Cheparinov – Karjakin ½–½

Ponomarev – Nakamura ½–½

Volokitin – Vallejo Pons ½–½

Leon Hoyos – Felgaer ½–½

Bruzon – Dominguez ½–½

[Official site](#)

Yasser Seirawan on FIDE

"Dear Alex,

Greetings and salutations to you and the readers of *Chess Today*! I'm writing you regarding your editorial about the upcoming FIDE elections. I wanted to point out a historical inaccuracy and to offer the readers of *Chess Today* my own perspective.

In 1994 at the Moscow Olympiad, Florencio Campomanes was re-elected in the most dubious FIDE election ever held. You will recall the famous speech of Andrei Makarov, the Russian delegate, threatening Anatoly Karpov with having his legs broken in an open session of the FIDE Congress. The same delegate spoke passionately about his love for democracy and why all delegates must vote for Campomanes. Or else!

By the time of the 1995 FIDE Congress in Paris, attending delegates had become ashamed about the 1994 election and were seeking amends. The revolt was in full swing and Campomanes was asked to step down. Karpov had brought his friend Kirsan Ilyumzhinov to the 1995 FIDE Congress. With the pressure building, Campomanes decided upon a graceful exit and resigned in favour of Ilyumzhinov rather than endure the old heave ho. Campomanes became FIDE's "Honorary Chairman", while Ilyumzhinov replaced him as FIDE President in 1995.

The FIDE Congress in Yerevan 1996 was an Olympiad year where many delegates met. During the non-Olympiad years, fewer delegates come to the FIDE Congress. It was decided to hold a new election or rather to confirm the results of the 1995

Congress. Ilyumzhinov was re-elected, unopposed. There was the famous story of Ignatius Leong (Singapore) hiding in the American delegates hotel room fearing for his life. In Elista 1998, FIDE was back to its normal schedule of elections every four years. A member of the opposition, Bachar Kouatly (France), withdrew and fled Elista, out of fear of physical reprisals. Again, Ilyumzhinov was re-elected, unopposed. In Bled 2002, Ilyumzhinov was re-elected unopposed when Leong withdrew his ticket at the last moment. Amazingly enough, Ilyumzhinov and his ticket of professional chess politicians have never faced a contested FIDE election. Turin 2006 will be a first.

2006 will mark the eleventh year that Ilyumzhinov has held the FIDE Presidency post. The "reign of error" as I call it, has been securely in place for these very long years. During this time we have witnessed the decline of FIDE as a respectable chess organization. Each year seems to have brought a new scandal. We have careened from one piece of bad news to another. The rank and file doubt the integrity of FIDE and its reputation is at an all time low. Newspaper articles about FIDE tend to focus mostly on the negative, highlighting the eccentric behaviour of its leader. Our friend Robert Huntington, the Associated Press chess reporter, resigned his post in disgust in 2002. In his goodbye letter, posted on the TWIC website, Robert wrote that the acronym FIDE had changed. The new meaning had become, "Federation International for the Destruction of Echecs". FIDE was plumbing new lows and destroying the very institutions that made chess a revered sport.

Certainly, the prestigious title of FIDE World Champion has been degraded if not destroyed. While San Luis did much to restore some of the lost cache of our highest title, the chaos caused by the split over the last thirteen years continues unabated. Following the Prague Agreement of 2002, FIDE broke every promise it had made to the players, to our host Bessel Kok

and to the chess world. Knockout events that were to become World Championship matches were switched to double round robin tournament finals. Can anyone guarantee that the rules for the new cycle won't change in midstream? FIDE's leaders do not abide by the statutes of the organization, rules of play nor contractual agreements signed and executed. Recently, Ilyumzhinov demanded that anyone seeking FIDE Presidential offices post one million dollars to FIDE's accounts. Try to find that one in the FIDE statutes! Ridiculous whimsy or standard operating procedure? The ruse was clear enough: "This is my fiefdom, no one else is welcome!"

I suppose we should be grateful, FIDE no longer threatens physical reprisals, sanctions and fines will do nicely. (Hmm, my blunder, I forgot Calvia.) Today's chess professionals can be barred if they test positive for steroids. Bans include two year and lifetime sanctions as well as extravagant monetary penalties. FIDE's chairperson of the Medical Committee assures that she only seeks fair play so that no player has a physically drug induced advantage over another. For the life of me I cannot understand how using steroids will revive my cherished Caro-Kann. Common sense has flown out of the window!

FIDE has stopped to become a prospective partner for major sponsors. In truth, it is an organization they no longer even think about. I know this from personal experience that corporate sponsors won't touch our sport for the simple reason they do not want the name of their company and its products tainted by association with the FIDE organization. That is pretty damning. Outside of the one-time-only sponsorship of municipalities and other government agents I can't think of a single major corporate sponsor that has supported FIDE in ages. Can you? It is Kirsan's money that has supported the FIDE organization, his rules, his formats and his administration. Again, I can't think of

another single sports body where the President has to personally financially guarantee his vision for the "growth" of the sport. FIDE is addicted to the money of one person. It is not the product, chess, which is lacking it is the lack of capable, competent, professional administrators selling that product. Our cherished, noble sport that once held such high cultural importance has morphed. We have become a band of beggars.

Can anyone think of a single FIDE initiative introduced in the last eleven years that hasn't been tainted by scandal or mishap? To much fanfare, FIDE announced that the new Knockout World Championships would be five million dollar events held every year. This changed to three million dollar events held every other year, to one and a half million dollar events. How about the FIDE Rapid Chess events that were summarily cancelled? The aborted matches in Baghdad, Buenos Aires and Yalta? The FIDE time control and its announcement that a "majority" of top players polled favoured ninety minutes plus thirty seconds for the whole game? Other personal favourites include FIDE Commerce President Artyom Tarasov explaining that FIDE was in a "war" with chess organizers. That this war mandated that FIDE hold competing events against "private" tournaments such as Wijk Aan Zee and others.

The bouncing checks in Las Vegas was a low light. If memory serves, the winners Alexander Khalifman had to wait over six months for full payment. By the way, in the United States to knowingly write a check without sufficient funds in the account is a banking fraud. A felonious act. A recent FIDE declaration that Kasparov was a "liar" during a press conference was a good one. FIDE Deputy President Markopoulos had to write an open letter of apology trying to explain which side spoke with the greatest integrity. That had me laughing for ages. What a paradigm of virtue he is! Is it any wonder that Garry had decided enough was

enough? Others will have their own favourites such as fixed tournaments and awarding Grandmaster titles to players no one had ever seen compete. The list of mistakes seems nearly endless.

Recently, I think Karpov misspoke when he talked about chess disappearing in the next four years. What Tolya likely meant was, "professional chess". Viewed from this qualification he is of course right. A large number of our colleagues have quit. Matthew Sadler of the UK, Jeroen Piket from the Netherlands were both top national players when they stopped. Kasparov's retirement was the biggest blow of all to the professional class. If professional chess is to survive, a change of FIDE leaders is a mandatory first step. Despite the efforts of the FIDE to damage chess, it will live for another hundred years, at least. Today's professionals are more likely to be chess teachers than players. This trend will continue as long as the current FIDE "leadership" remains in place.

My view is that the 2006 FIDE elections is going to be the biggest chess story of the year. Either we get four more years of the reign of error or we get a breath of fresh air and a chance to get off our knees. I've known Bessel Kok for twenty years and I can't think of a more highly qualified, respected and capable candidate for change. If professional chess players care about the survival of their sport, they will enthusiastically encourage their federations to vote for Bessel Kok and a new future.

If the above makes for uncomfortable reading, just imagine the reactions of corporate sponsorships. After making personal contact with a top officer of a company to offer a written proposal, the officer takes the written proposal to his team and tells them, "Chess is cool! My kids play chess. Let us have some fun and host a chess event." The proposal gets passed around the office and ends up on the desk of some internal marketing division. The marketing people do a quick Google

search, which spits out different versions of the above history and informs that on top of everything else, the "Honorary Chairman" of the FIDE is a convicted embezzler. A felon is an Honorary Chairman of a world organization?! Exasperation is the order of the day. Along with the rest of the stories, the immediate reaction is an alarmed, "Time out! We don't want to get involved with this group. Hell, the chess players don't even know who their own world champion is! We can't guarantee that coverage of our event will even be positive. Let us just keep to the tried and true and take a pass." In no time, the company team has nixed our proposal in order to spend its marketing dollars on other sports. This is the legacy that the reign of error has brought us. If chess has a future for professional players we are going to have to rebuild the credibility of our damaged image and get our own house in order. Otherwise chess is going to have the most over qualified teachers of any sport. Ever.

With kind regards,

Yasser Seirawan"

Chess For Peace: Gorbachev Chess Set to be Auctioned

by Irwin Fisk

Dr Mikhail Korenman, Director of the Chess for Peace Initiative will put the famed Gorbachev chess set up for auction on eBay on February 3-12. The chess set and board, autographed by former President Mikhail Gorbachev and former World Chess Champions Anatoly Karpov and Susan Polgar, was used by Gorbachev and Alan Murray, assistant managing editor of the Wall Street Journal during their historic meeting. Gorbachev and Murray played chess while discussing world affairs before a near capacity audience on October 29, 2005 at Presser Hall, which is located on the campus of Bethany College. The two drew many analogies between chess and politics during their hour-long discussion.

The large carved chess set and board are being sold as part of a fundraising effort for the upcoming Chess for Peace Festival that is slated for June 6–11 in Lindsborg, Kansas. The festival will bring students from throughout the world and the U.S. to play chess and forge friendships during the weeklong event. "We are also seeking individuals and corporations who would like to sponsor an individual or a team so they could attend the Chess for Peace Festival," said Mikhail Korenman.

Former U.S. Senator Nancy Kassebaum–Baker, former Kansas Governor John Carlin, former Kansas Lt. Governor Sheila Frahm, and former Congressman Dick Nichols serve on the Chess for Peace National Advisory Board. Former World Champion Anatoly Karpov and Former Women's World Champion Susan Polgar, along with U.S. Chess Federation V.P., Don Schultz, also serve on the board.

AF4C Announces Wildcards for US Championship

by John B. Henderson

SEATTLE, January 30, 2006. The stated mission of the AF4C is to use their wild card spots in the US Championship to help promote the development of exceptionally promising junior players.

Last year, we selected Salvijus Bercys, who is the #1 US rated player aged 16. Running Bercys a close second is New York's **Alex Lenderman** (USCF rating 2427), who throughout 2005 continually dominated the junior scene in the US with a number of impressive performances. He gained IM norms at the Hungary 'First Saturday' tournament, scoring 10/13, and at Foxwoods 2005, scoring 6/9. At the 2005 World Open, Alex, scoring 6/9, gained his third and final IM norm, though narrowly missed out on tiebreak for a direct qualifying spot for the US Championship.

Alex then went from the World Open to the world stage with an unbeaten

score of 9/11 to take the U16 title at the 2005 World Youth Chess Championship in Belfort, France, becoming in the process the first American to bring home gold since Tal Shaked captured the World Junior title in 1997. On the January 2006 FIDE rating list, Alex Lenderman has an ELO rating of 2431 that ranks him as 62nd in the United States and he thus becomes our first wild card selection for the 2006 US Chess Championship.

Last year, the AF4C also offered a wild card spot to one of the top names in the game in Gata Kamsky, who used his berth in the US Championship to stage a dramatic comeback on the world stage. Our second wild card selection this year again goes to a famous player making a comeback, GM **Max Dlugy** – a player who made headline news throughout 2005, though perhaps not for what he'd have liked it for!

Max is a former World Junior Champion. He went on to become one of the US' leading players winning the World Open twice and National Open three times. Not content with just playing, he also offered his services directly to US Chess in a leading administrative role by becoming, at 24, the youngest president in the history of the USCF, serving from 1990–1993.

He retired from full-time chess in the mid-nineties, going on to use his strategic skills for a successful career on Wall Street as a securities trader for Bankers Trust – a job he applied for after the company advertised directly for chess players. Along with some fellow investors, Dlugy then sought a bigger challenge in his former homeland by buying shares in Russian factories and bringing to them much-needed American management techniques. He became chairman of the Solikamsk Magnesium Works in the Perm region of Russia, which innocently led to him becoming embroiled in an alleged \$9 million fraud brought by disgruntled business partners.

To the shock of many chess fans and his fellow players, Max languished in a Russian prison for 9 months protesting his innocence. On a point of principle, he even turned down the chance of an early release by refusing to plead guilty to a minor charge. Common sense prevailed though, and when the case came to trial he was completely exonerated by the judge.

Thankfully, Max was released from prison just before Christmas and was reunited with his wife, Marina, and two children, Michelle, 16, and Matthew, 13, back home in Fort Lee, New Jersey. Whilst in prison, Max sought solace – amongst other activities and pursuits – through playing chess, where he once again rediscovered his joy for the game and now seeks to return to top-level play.

The chairman of the selection committee was AF4C co-founder and board member, Dr. Jim Roberts, and committee members were AF4C president Erik Anderson and chess journalist John Henderson. The committee would like to thank numerous US championship players and others in the chess community for their input into these decisions.

This will be the fifth year that AF4C has hosted the annual tournament and its second year doing so in conjunction with the NTC Foundation in San Diego. For further championship details, go to www.uschesschampionship.com

Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

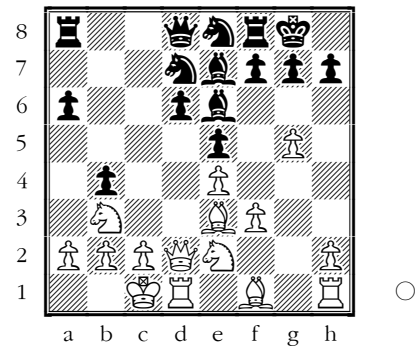
White: S. Karjakin (2660)

Black: V. Anand (2792)

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (1),
14.01.2006

Sicilian, Najdorf – [B90]

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4
♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♕e3 e5 7.♗b3 ♕e6
8.f3 ♕e7 9.♖d2 0-0 10.0-0-0
♗bd7 11.g4 b5 12.g5 b4 13.♗e2
♗e8 (D)**



After the Karjakin–Anand game (Round 1 of Corus–2006), this complex variation was tested in Leko–Karjakin (Corus Round 2), and, a bit later, on January 28, it simultaneously occurred in three other grandmaster games in other events!

14.f4

The capture on b4 is dubious – Black is not obliged to take on g5 with the bishop and can also consider 14...d5 and 14...a5.

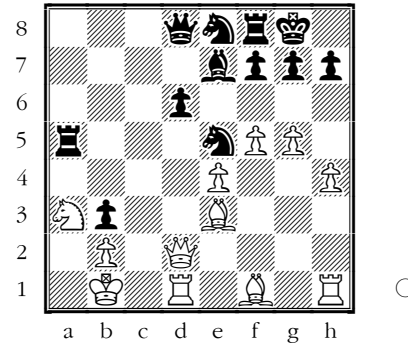
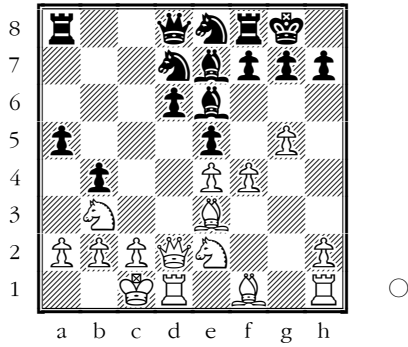
Other possibilities for White are:

14.♗g3 a5 15.♖b1 a4 (15...♗c7!? and then, usually, 16.f4 a4 17.♗c1 exf4 18.♗xf4 ♗c5 as in Smirin–De Firmian, Polanica Zdroj 1995) 16.♗c1 ♖b8. Black has also tried 16...♗a5 Akopian–Zagrebelny, Russian League 2004, CT–1263, also 16...b3 17.cxb3 axb3 18.a3 ♖c8!? Erenburg–Hracek, Bundesliga 2006, and 16...♗c7 17.♗f5 (17.f4 was Svidler–Kasimdzhanov, San–Luis FIDE Wch 2005: a famous game, which was annotated in CT) 17...♗d8 18.♗xd6 b3 19.♗c4 ♗e7N 20.cxb3 axb3 21.♗xb3 ♗c7 22.♖xd7! ♗xd7 23.♗xd7 and in Shirov–Sandipan, Gibraltar 2006 the irrational fight began: 23...♗e6!? (truly creative) 24.♗xe7 ♖d8 25.♗xe6 (25.♗a7!?) 25...♖d1+ 26.♗c1 ♖xf3∞.

In Leko–Karjakin, Wijk aan Zee 2006 Black was OK after **14.h4** a5 15.♖b1 a4 16.♗bc1 ♗b6!? 17.♗g3 d5 18.♗xb6 ♖xb6 19.exd5 ♗d8 20.♗c4 ♗c7 21.dxe6!? ♗xd2 22.exf7+ ♖h8 23.♗xd2 ♖c6N (½–½, 29).

14.♖b1 is transpositional: 14...a5 15.♗bc1 a4 and now 16.f4 – 14.f4 a5 15.♖b1, or 14.h4 – 14.h4 a5 15.♖b1.

14...a5 (D)



15.f5

Somewhat calmer is 15.♖b1 a4 16.♗bc1 exf4 17.♗xf4 (17.♗xf4 ♘c5!? Svidler–Vallejo, Monaco rpd 2004) 17...♗xg5 18.♗xe6 ♗xe3 19.♗xd8 ♗xd2 20.♖xd2 ♖xd8 21.♖d4∞ (as in Almasi–Vallejo, Tripoli FIDE Wch 2004) leading to a complex endgame.

15...a4! 16.♗bd4!?

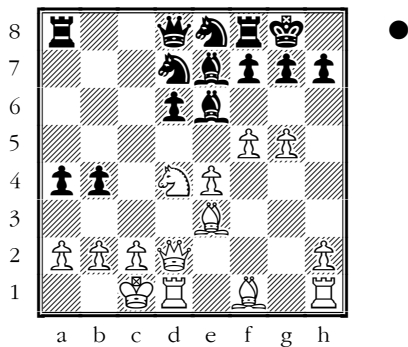
16.fxe6!? axb3 17.exf7+ ♖xf7 18.♖b1∞ has been played at least twelve times since Topalov–Vallejo, Linares 2005.

In the game Baramidze–P.H.Nielsen, Bundesliga 2006 White was worse after 16.♖b1!N axb3 17.cxb3 ♖xa2! 18.fxe6 fxe6! 19.♗h3 (the point is 19.♖xa2 ♖a8+! 20.♖b1 ♖xe4+) 19...♖a5 20.♗xe6+ ♖h8.

16...exd4

Maybe Black can also begin with 16...b3.

17.♗xd4 (D)



17...b3

Not 17...♗xa2? 18.♗c6!± Svetushkin–Lupulescu, Bucharest open 2005.

18.♖b1!? bxc2+ 19.♗xc2 ♗b3

Possibly stronger than 19...♗xa2+, which was tested in Van Kempen–Tiemann, 18th corr. Wch 2003–4.

20.axb3 axb3 21.♗a3 ♗e5 22.h4

22.♖g2 was once seen in the "Freestyle" internet tournament game.

22...♖a5! (D)

Black prepares both ...d5 and ...♖a8.

23.♖c3?N

A bad move (which was suggested by GM Vallejo in *Informator* 93!). What else does White have? 23.♖e2 d5! was good for Black in Leko–Vallejo, Monaco (rapid) 2005. Nikolai Vlassov in his CT–1606 notes opined that White has an edge after 23.♖b4! ♖a8 24.♗b6 ♖a4 25.♖xb3 ♖xe4+ 26.♗c2!. Well, probably things are not that clear, but this direction requires investigation... (I would love to see a Vlassov vs Anand game in this line!). Hardly good for White is 23.♗b5 ♖a8! (www.inforchess.com). FM Giddins at BCM Online reported: "After the present game, the players looked at 23.♗d4 and 23.♖h3 here, although neither move seems to pose Black any great problems."

23...♖a8!± 24.♗g2?!

Not much better is 24.♗d3 ♗xd3 25.♖xd3 d5!±, or 24.♖d4 d5±.

24...♗c7!! +-

The first sacrifice, which was "played a tempo and obviously coming from home preparation" (chessbase.com) is the beginning of a beautiful and decisive combination. According to www.inforchess.com, the program Rybka 1,01 Beta 9 needed 31 minutes to realize that Anand's move is good, and 1 hour 9 minutes to verify that it wins...

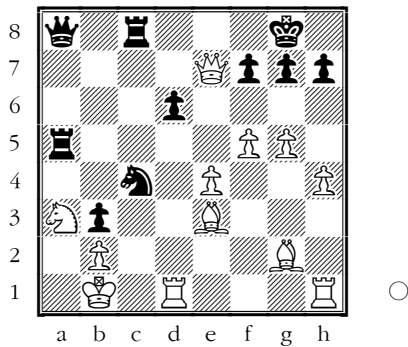
Vallejo in *Informator* gave only 24...♖a4 25.♖d4∞.

25.♖xc7

Otherwise Black will attack with all his forces.

25...♖c8!! 26.♖xe7 ♗c4! (D)

Obviously, not 26...♖xa3? 27.bxa3 ♖xa3, which fails to 28.♖a7 +-.

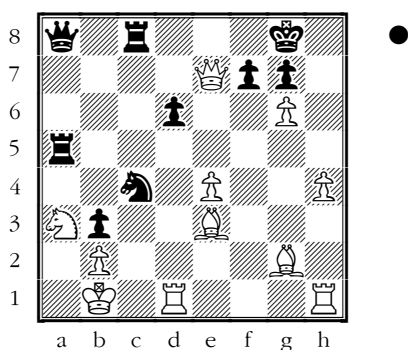


27.g6

The most tricky defensive attempt was 27.♘c5!?, which gives Black a choice between a number of attractive lines, but not all of them are convincing. The clearest way is 27...♗xa3! (not 27...♗xc5?? 28.e5! d5 29.e6!) 28.bxa3 (28.♗xa3 ♖xa3+ 29.bxa3 ♗xa3 30.♗d2 ♗a8) 28...♗xc5! 29.a4 (likes of 29.♗d5 lose to 29...♖xa3+ 30.♖b2 ♖c4+) 29...♖a3+ 30.♖b2 ♗c2+! (the key move) 31.♖xa3 (31.♖xb3 ♖b8+! 32.♖xa3 ♖b2#) 31...♖b8! ("humanistic"; there is also a forced mate after 31...♗a2+ 32.♖b4 ♖xa4+ 33.♖c3 ♖c6+ 34.♖d3 ♖c2+ 35.♖d4 ♖f2+! 36.♖c4 ♗c2+!, etc.) 32.♗a1 b2! and White can resign.

Other lines are much simpler: 27.♘c1 ♖xa3+ (or 27...♖c6, Kavalek) 28.bxa3 ♗xa3 29.♘b2 (or 29.♘a3 ♖xa3) 29...♗a1+ 30.♘a1 ♖a2#, or 27.e5 ♖xg2! (also crushing is 27...♖xa3+ 28.bxa3 ♖xg2!).

27...hxc6 28.fxc6 (D)



28...♖xa3+

As it seems, Black wins also after 28...♗xa3 29.♖xf7+ (29.bxa3 ♖xa3+ 30.♖b2 ♗c2+! 31.♖xb3 ♖b8+, mating) 29...♖h8 30.bxa3 ♖xa3+ 31.♖b2 ♖c4+!, etc.

29.bxa3 ♗xa3 30.gxf7+ ♖h7!
31.f8♖+ ♗xf8! 32.♖xf8 ♗a1+!
33.♖b2 ♗a2+

Now 34.♖b1 ♖xf8 leaves White with no hope. So...

34.♖c3

"Here Anand invested a few minutes to find the mate" – chessbase.com.

34...♖a5+!

The only path to a forced victory.

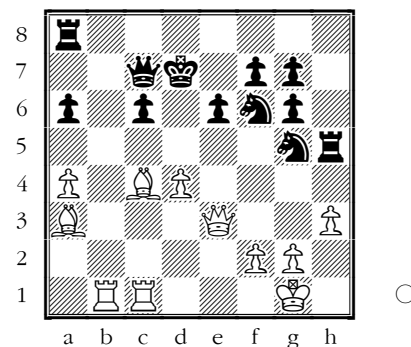
35.♖d3 ♖b5+ 36.♖d4 ♗a4+!

37.♖c3 ♖c4+ 0-1

Solution to our quiz:

Schuurman (2234) – Kobese (2397)

Gibraltar Masters ENG (10.23),
02.02.2006



22.d5!+- ♖fe4

22...exd5 23.♖e7+ ♖c8 24.♖f8+ ♖d8
25.♗xa6+! ♗xa6 26.♗b8+ ♖xb8
27.♖xd8+; 22...♖xd5 23.♗xd5 exd5
24.♖e7+ ♖c8 25.♖e8+ ♖d8 26.♗xc6#;
22...cxd5 23.♗b5+

23.dxe6+ fxe6 24.♗d1+ ♖e8

25.♗xe6 1-0

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