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Chess Editorial

By Executive Editor, IM Malcolm Pein

Follow me on Twitter: @TelegraphChess

My favourite part of *CHESS* used to be Ad-dicts Corner, which was written by Richard James and the late Mike Fox. One of the regular features was IAGOCOT which stood for: 'It's a game of chess out there' and featured all the journalistic and other verbal abuses of the royal game.

Some classic analogies stand out. I think it might have been the famous snooker commentator Ted Lowe who once said: "A wonderful game, snooker, like chess with balls". This got GM and Oxford mathematician Jonathan Levitt thinking, and applying the full weight of his academic training, he surmised:

Assuming Chess + Balls = Snooker

Then, subtracting the Balls from both sides of the equation, we get:

Chess = Snooker - Balls

It follows that chess is like snooker without balls, which, of course as he pointed out, would not be hugely interesting.



A great result in Oporto for Keith Arkell, the first European 50+ Champion.

And now after Vladimir Putin's annexation of the Crimea, just a few years after he performed a similar take-over in South Ossetia and bombed Georgia, the media has gone mad with the chess metaphor. There have been many who assert that Putin is playing chess better than the leaders of the free world or, as House Intelligence Chair Mike Rogers (R-MI) put it on that paragon of balanced reporting *Fox News*: "Putin is playing chess, and I think we're playing marbles."

Congratulations to Keith Arkell

Keith won the inaugural European 50+ Championship. He scored an unbeaten 7/9 in Oporto, Portugal, received the trophy from Garry Kasparov, and celebrated with, of course, a glass of port. Kudos also to the individuals who supported Keith's trip after he posted a request on the English Chess Forum.

I have long thought the forum ought to be abolished for the good of some of its hyperactive contributors and for the sanity of English chess in general, as most of the insightful stuff there is drowned out by colossal outpourings of drivel from people who seem to have either had a few too

many, or had a few taken away. However, the generosity shown by some on this occasion certainly makes up for some of the sins of what our regular contributor Steve Giddins once wittily described as "the termites".

Keith drew his last-round game and finished half a point clear. This is perhaps his finest achievement since he became a grandmaster in 1995, aside from some of the massive scalps he has accumulated in individual games. Keith's book *Arkell's Odyssey* will need an extra chapter and a reprint. A full report will be in the next issue.

Motylev Also On Fire

The European Individual Championship was staged in Yerevan and was a triumph for the former Russian champion Alexander Motylev, who scored an unbeaten 9/11 and recorded a 2872 TPR. Secur-

ing victory by a margin of a full point is a rare feat in such an incredibly competitive event, but Motylev managed it. There were no English players at Yerevan which was a disappointment as it was a qualifier for the World Cup, but it's an expensive event to attend and the ECF does not have the funds to support a squad of players to go there.

France was represented only by their top players Etienne Bacrot and Laurent Fressinet, the latter qualifying for the World Cup. Traditionally these tournaments are dominated by Eastern European players and this year was no different, but one performance stood out, that of the 19-year-old David Anton Guijarro of Spain who was second on tie-break with 8/9 and a TPR of 2775. Anton's scalps included Bacrot and Baadur Jobava, who has been the form player of 2014. Anton beat them in the final two rounds, a spectacular performance.

Motylev started badly with a draw in round one and in round two needed all his tactical ingenuity to overcome the Norwegian prodigy Aryan Tari, who played superbly in a sharp Najdorf.

A.Motylev-A.Tari
European Championship,
Yerevan 2014
Sicilian Najdorf

1 e4 c5 2 d4 f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 dxd4
d6 5 d3 a6 6 e3 e5 7 b3 e6 8
h3 e7 9 f3 0-0 10 0-0 b5 11 g4
b4 12 d5 dxd5 13 exd5 c8 14 d3



David Anton Guijarro (left) receives his prize from the legendary Armenian GM Smbat Lputian.

a5 15 b1 a4 16 d2 a6 17 f5
d7 18 h4 c7 19 g5 c5 20 e4
xe4 21 xe4 fb8 22 c1 c4 23
h5 f8 24 f5 g6 25 hxg6 hxg6 26
f3



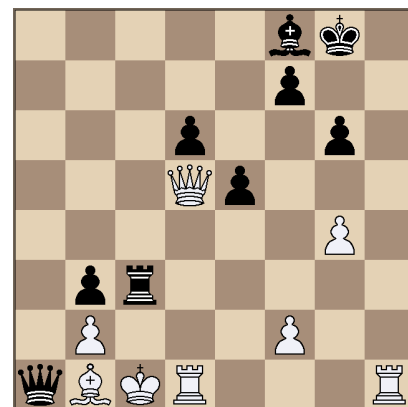
26...b3 27 cxb3 xb3!

Weaker is 27...axb3 28 a3! when White proceeds with his attack, commencing h3, and wins.

28 axb3 axb3 29 d2 a7 30 c1
a1+?

Now White can take on d5 with the queen. Instead, 30...xd5! 31 c3 (not 31 d5?? which runs into 31...a1#) 31...xe4 32 xe4 xf2 33 b1 (if 33 d2 a1+) 33...a7 34 c1 would have been a dramatic and equitable end to the game.

31 b1 d5 32 xd5 c8+ 33 c3
xc3+



34 d2!

An easy one to miss, and not 34 bxc3? xc3+ 35 c2 xc2#.

34...xb2+ 35 e1 c2 36 h2!!
c3+ 37 f1 b2 38 g2 e7 39 xc2
1-0

Another standout performance was that of the 13-year-old Armenian prodigy Haik Martirosyan.

**H.Martirosyan-
V.Nevednichy**
European Championship,
Yerevan 2014
London System

1 d4 f6 2 f3 g6 3 f4 g7 4 e3 d6
5 h3 0-0 6 e2 b6 7 c4 b7 8 c3
e4 9 xe4 xe4 10 d2

White sometimes plays his knight to d2 to eject the bishop from e4, but he intends

a different and more aggressive plan with ♖g5 followed by e4. Nevednichy must be fed up with the London System as he also lost after 10 0-0 c5 11 ♜d2 ♙b7 12 ♙f3 ♜c6 13 d5 ♜e5 14 ♙e2 e6 to a 2225-rated player, although his chances at this stage were fine.

10...c5 11 0-0



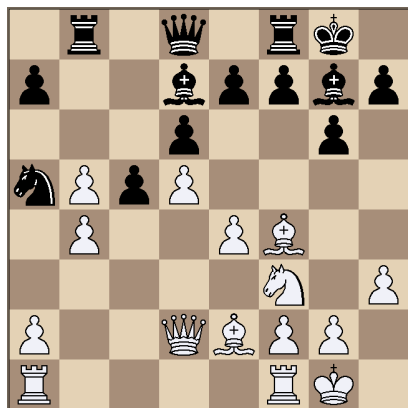
11...♜c6?!

The knight gets sidelined after this. 11...♜d7, and if 12 d5 h6 13 ♜e1 g5 14 ♙g3 followed by bringing the bishop to g6 was fine for Black.

12 d5 ♜a5 13 ♜g5 ♙f5 14 e4 ♜d7 15 ♜f3 b5?!

Natural, but superbly refuted. Instead, 15...e5 16 dxe6 ♙xe6 17 ♜ac1 ♜c6 still leaves White with a nagging edge.

16 cxb5 ♜b8 17 b4!!



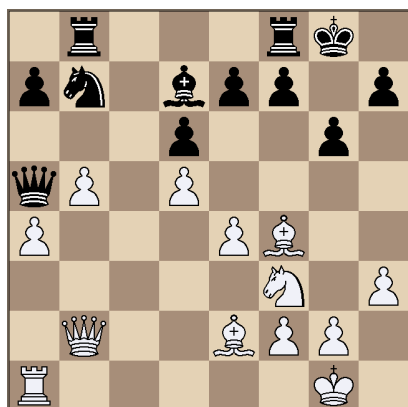
Fine positional judgement.

17...♙xa1 18 ♜xa1 ♜b7 19 a4

The d4-square beckons for the white knight from where it can easily hop to c6 and

wreak havoc. If Black does not take on b4, the knight on b7 is badly placed and, with no open files, Black's rooks have no play.

19...cxb4 20 ♜xb4 ♜a5 21 ♜b2



To add to Nevednichy's woes, his king is vulnerable.

21...♜fc8 22 ♜d2 ♜d8 23 e5 ♙e8 24 ♙h6 ♜c5

24...dxe5 25 ♜xe5 f6 26 ♜c6 ♙xc6 27 dxc6 ♜d6 28 ♙g4 ♜c7 29 ♙e6+ is also crushing.

25 exd6 f6 26 dxe7 ♜xe7

Black is lost.

27 ♙c4

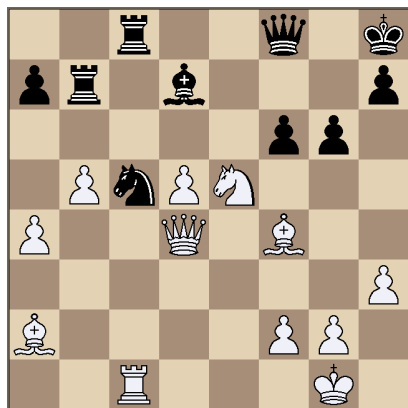
Threatening d6+, winning the queen, so...

27...♜d6 28 ♜d4

Now threatening ♙f4.

28...♜b7 29 ♙f4 ♜f8 30 ♜c1 ♙h8 31

♙a2 ♜d7 32 ♜e5!



32...♙g7

If 32...fxe5 33 ♙xe5+ ♙g8 34 ♜xc5! ♜xc5 35 d6+.

33 ♜c6 ♙xa4 34 ♜xa4 g5 35 ♙e3 h6

36 ♙b1 1-0

The End of the Affair

Or at least I hope so. On the morning of the Varsity match, which he attended in his last act as ECF President, Andrew Paulson announced his resignation. A vote of no confidence had been passed by the ECF Board, as reported in the previous issue, and had the matter gone to the ECF Council in April, I'm sure the outcome would have been no different.

The ECF issued the following statement which seems rather too conciliatory to me, but doubtless the end of the matter was a relief to the Board.

"The Board has today accepted the resignation of Andrew Paulson as President. The Board gratefully recognises Andrew Paulson's contributions to English chess, from his organising of the FIDE Grand Prix and Candidates Tournaments in London to his untiring service since his election as President. Further, the Board nominates Andrew Paulson for the position of Deputy President of the European Chess Union and looks forward to a close and constructive collaboration between the ECU and the ECF. The Board recommends that the ECF Council at its April meeting approves a Motion to give Andrew Paulson standing during the ECU General Assembly election meeting in Tromsø in August by designating him as the official ECF Delegate at that meeting."

Errata

The lucky winners of our survey can be found on p.26. Once again, my thanks to all of you who wrote in. One downside to our always striving to be as topical as possible is that the odd error creeps in, especially in these particular pages. Last month, though, my last-minuteness must have driven the rest of the *CHESS* staff up the wall. Moreover, I managed to make not one but three errors in a sentence: "Maria Muzychuk of Slovenia, Bela Javakhishvili of Georgia and the Chinese teenager Tan Zhongyi made GM results" was what I wrote.

My thanks to a leading GM for pointing out that "Maria Muzychuk plays for Ukraine. Next, the given name of IM Javakhishvili is Lela. Finally, WGM Tan Zhongyi is not a teenager any more, as she was born in 1991." Apart from that, it was fine. Our apologies.

LIFE ON THE BACK RANK by Tristan

@BackRankTristan #LOTBR



How to Win a Won Game

by John Henderson

"I'm more than just 12-12 and Zurich 1953", the late, great David Ionovich Bronstein once remarked. Bronstein was, of course, expressing his irritation that he was remembered best for his controversially drawn 1951 world championship match with Mikhail Botvinnik, and the many plaudits he received for 'his' book on the 1953 Candidates' tournament – a classic that should be read by everyone, as it is arguably one of the finest chess books ever written.

Originally written in Russian, the book, first published in the late 1950s, became a massive best-seller in the USSR, going through many, many reprints – and it also received the ultimate endorsement from Bobby Fischer, who regarded it as one of the best chess books he ever read. But it was another two decades before the English version of Bronstein's blow-by-blow account of the 1953 Candidates' came out.

There was *The Chess Struggle in Practice*, published in 1978 in the USA by the David McKay Company Inc. and also picked up here in the UK by Batsford, in English descriptive notation. This is a hefty hard-back edition, almost 500 pages, and based on the Russian second edition, translated by Oscar D. Freedman (and edited by Burt Hochberg, after the former had died suddenly before finishing the project).



David Bronstein

However the best-known English version of this classic tome is undoubtedly the soft-back Dover (1979) publication for the American market, translated by Jim Marfia, and simply titled *Zurich International Chess Tournament, 1953*, which is still in demand today. This is the one on my shelf – and I am sure that this is the one most of you out there will have fondly treasured reading and rereading through the years.

But what annoyed Bronstein – who let's remember, always had to walk a political tightrope, what with his father once being in prison and also a second cousin to Leon Trotsky – most about his critically-acclaimed book was that he didn't write it himself; he only part wrote it. It was only years later, after the break-up of the Soviet Union, that Bronstein openly admitted to writing only the (superb) annotations to the games. His unnamed co-author was long-time friend and associate, Boris Vainstein, who wrote all the invaluable informative background material, round-by-round narrative, scores, crosstables and introduction to all the games. But Vainstein had become persona non grata with the Soviet authorities during the early 1950s, so his name was forever airbrushed out of the Russian version of the book.

And with this year being the 90th anniversary of Bronstein's birth, and commemorated with the David Bronstein Memorial in his adopted hometown of Minsk (the capital of Belarus), where he died in 2006, I found myself encouraged to reread this old favourite. Moreover, I soon spotted an intriguing early-round generational clash from the Bronstein Memorial, with a line of the Rubinstein Nimzo-Indian Defence that featured highly during the Zurich Candidates Tournament of 1953 and was covered by Bronstein in his (and Vainstein's) aforementioned tome.



The rising Russian star Daniil Dubov.

D. Dubov - Y. Balashov

Bronstein Memorial,

Minsk 2014

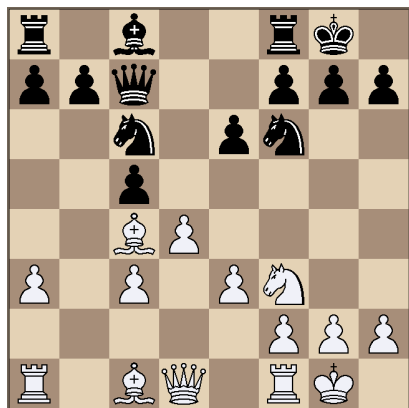
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 e3 0-0 5 ♙d3 c5 6 ♘f3 d5 7 0-0 ♘c6 8 a3 ♙xc3 9 bxc3 dxc4 10 ♙xc4 ♚c7

This line against the Rubinstein variation was at its height during Bronstein's pomp of the 1950s. And, indeed, it featured in half a dozen games or so at the 1953 Zurich Candidates Tournament; with practically every White response tried (11 ♙e1, 11 ♙d3, 11 a4, 11 ♚c2 and 11 ♙a2), but, surprisingly, not Dubov's 11 ♙b2, the common move these days, influenced perhaps by it being one of Vladimir Kramnik's weapons of choice.

Before we go on, let's remind ourselves what Bronstein said about the strategic plan-

ning for this line, in the first game he annotated with it (Najdorf-Reshevsky, game 2), from his Zurich 1953 book:

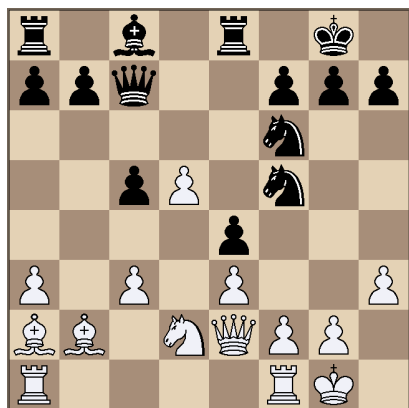


"The placement of White's pieces radiates a great deal of potential energy, which ought to be converted into kinetic – White must set his centre pawns in motion, activating both his rooks and his deeply-buried darksquare bishop. The most logical plan would seem to be the advance of the e-pawn first to e4, and then to e5, to drive Black's knight from f6 and lay the groundwork for a kingside attack."

11 ♖b2 e5 12 h3 e4

Momentarily gaining space. Instead, 12...♗f5 is the more common option today.

13 ♘d2 ♘e7 14 ♖a2 ♘f5 15 ♗e2 ♗e8 16 d5



16...♘d6?!

Black misses his best shot, and at the same stopping White from opening up the game for, as Bronstein describes it, that "deeply-buried darksquare bishop", with 16...♗e5!. After 17 ♗ab1 (the safer option is 17 ♘c4 ♗e7 when White has nothing better than 18 ♘d2 and Black repeats the position with 18...♗e5 and a likely draw) 17...♘xd5 18 c4 ♘c3 19 ♗e1 ♘h4 Black is taking the upper hand, especially with threats of a potential ...♘xh3 in the air.

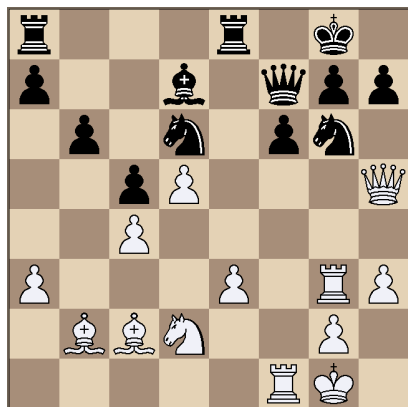
17 c4 ♗e7 18 ♖b1 b6 19 f3!

White must open lines of attack for the bishop-pair.

19...exf3 20 ♗xf3 ♘d7 21 ♗g3 f6 22 ♗h5 ♘f8 23 ♖c2 ♗f7 24 ♗f3 ♘g6 25 ♗f1

White has achieved all that Bronstein asked for: both rooks are active and that dark-squared bishop loitering with intent on the long diagonal (plus the bonus of the light-squared bishop to boot). Now for the kingside assault.

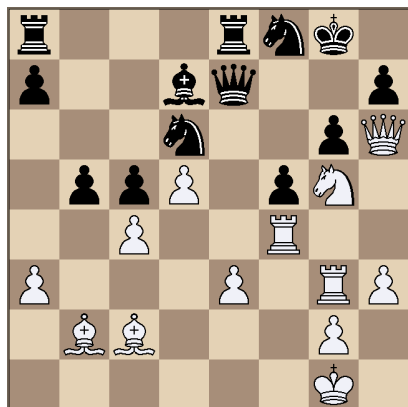
25...♗d7 26 ♗h5



26...f5

Not 26...♗f8? as White crashes through with the spectacular double sacrifice of the 'heavy furniture' for mate, with 27 ♗xf6!! ♗xh5 28 ♗xg7+! ♗xg7 (or 28...♗h8 29 ♗xf8+ ♗xf8 30 ♗g5+ ♗f6 31 ♖xf6#) 29 ♗g6+ ♗f7 30 ♗g7#.

27 ♗f3 ♗e7 28 ♘g5 ♘f8 29 ♗f4 g6 30 ♗h6 b5



31 cxb5

This wins easily, but the more clinical finish was 31 ♗h4! bxc4 32 ♘xh7! ♗xh7 33 ♗xg6+ ♗xg6 34 ♗g4!! ♗xg4 35 ♗h8+ ♗f7 36 ♗f6+ ♗g8 37 hxg4 and Black can't avoid being mated.

31...c4 32 a4 c3 33 ♖a3 1-0

33...♘f7 34 ♖xe7 ♘xh6 35 ♖f6 ♗ac8 36 ♖d4 leaves Black hopelessly lost.

And that, you might think, is that: the new young Russian hope, Daniil Dubov (who will be 18 this month), shows us just how to win a won game. My first reaction was, what with all the Bronstein and Zurich 1953 Nimzo-Indian connotations, that this had to be prime material for column fodder in my near 20-year daily quest in 'filling white-space' for *The Scotsman* newspaper. But there is a postscript to this game.

When I downloaded the pgn file for that round from the Bronstein Memorial, I was first surprised, and then somewhat baffled to see White's clear winning position at the end shown as a '0-1' result. Did that wily 64-year-old Soviet chess school veteran, Yuri Balashov, win on time, and from a lost position, I asked myself. Something inside me told me to quickly check the tournament crosstable for conformation; and sure enough, there in black and white html, it was shown as '1-0' and Dubov among the leaders with the correct score grouping for having won the game.

So I sent off a quick email to that respected online oracle, Mark Crowther, of *The Week in Chess*, informing him that, in this digital age, someone must have placed the wrong king on the wrong square at the end of the game, which would have recorded the wrong result (it happens more frequently than you would think) for the pgn file – and all he had to do was a quick check of the all-important crosstable and standings to confirm that Dubov had, indeed, won.

But it seems other columnists with a daily deadline weren't so willing to check the actual facts and just accepted the score given. About a week later, I saw the same game given by the South African chess columnist Nick Barnett, in the *Cape Argus*, with a headline of 'How to lose a won game'; stating that Dubov had not been able to convert his big advantage, and Balashov had won.

And there but for the grace of God, go I, I thought to myself (which in itself is strange, as I'm a lifelong atheist). If I hadn't been a tad suspicious of the result, and checked the crosstable, then I, too, could well have written my column on how to lose a won game.

Ed. – Copies of Bronstein's classic work on the Zurich tournament of 1953 are still available price at £12.99, or £11.69 for subscribers. Please note this book is only available in descriptive notation. To order call 020 7288 1305, or online at shop.chess.co.uk.

