

2001 Dortmund

Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001, Dortmund (GER)
July 12 – 22, 2001, cat. XXI (2755)

N	PLAYERS	ELO	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot	P
1	MOROZEVICH	RUS 2749		0	=	1	0	=		0	=	1	=	1	5	4
2	TOPALOV	BUL 2711	1		=	=	0	1	1		=	=	=	1	6.5	I-II
3	LEKO	HUN 2730	=	=		1	=	=	=	=		=	=	=	5.5	III
4	ADAMS	ENG 2744	0	=	0		=	=	0	=	=		=	=	3.5	5
5	KRAMNIK	RUS 2802	1	1	=	=		=	=	=	=	=		1	6.5	I-II
6	ANAND	IND 2794	=	0	=	=	=		0	0	=	=	0		3	6

Round 1

(Ilya Glukhovsky, analysis by Sergei Shipov)

Everyone had the impression that the start of the Dortmund tournament would be peaceful. Just think about it: both favorites, Anand and Kramnik, had the black pieces, whereas the third encounter featured Leko and Adams. Quite often their games are closed out right in the opening.

Against all odds, it was a paradoxical round. The most fighting encounter ended in a draw, whereas the other games, which initially were casting gloom over the audience, turned out to be decisive. Let's start with the thriller. After dodging in the opening, Morozevich and Anand reached a well-known position. The opponents launched attacks on the opposite wings in the spirit of the Sicilian Defense. It looked like Anand was a half-step ahead of his opponent all the time. Black's castling on the move 26 was particularly impressive, showing amazing courage under fire!

However, Morozevich kept posing problems to his opponent and managed to scare the FIDE Champion just for a moment. No sooner had Anand made an inaccurate move with his queen (33...Qb6) than the Russian GM regained the sacrificed material and transposed into a drawing endgame.

Up to the first time control, the above-mentioned game was in the spotlight. Two other encounters evoked nothing more but grumbling: "It is time to agree to draws.

However, as soon as Anand and Morozevich left the stage, it turned out that Leko had rolled up his sleeves in the game with Adams, whereas Kramnik had been in no hurry to let Topalov off.

Both these games had very calm beginnings. After a disengaging 21...b5, Adams was confidently sailing into a drawing harbor on the black side of the Petroff Defense in the encounter with Leko. Having comfortably equalized with Black, Kramnik did not seem to aspire to more than a half point.

However, closer to the first time control the situation changed. The English Spiderman, Adams relaxed his vigilance and went

through the horror of a slow death. In amateur opinion the endgame "the knight and three pawns against the bishop and two pawns on the same side" looked like a draw, but the professional Leko proved this wrong! I am under the impression that Adams could have put up more stubborn resistance. One way or another, Leko won the game. Surprise? Just refresh your memory - GM Shipov predicted it. Kramnik demonstrated an even more impressive technique of handling the knight. Post factum, the KC experts established that the endgame was not as safe as everybody thought. However, it is hardly possible to feel all these nuances at the board. It looked like Kramnik was just checking his opponent in the hope of an accidental inaccuracy. A couple of moves down the road it turned out that there was no need of waiting for mistakes - White was doomed anyway. I recommend that you analyze this amazing ending thoroughly. Kramnik proved one more time that he is endgame specialist #1 today.

Thus, Kramnik and Leko are on top. The second round will see the leaders' clash. Kramnik is playing White. I am sure Vladimir will try to score his first (!) victory over Leko in classical chess. Morozevich takes on Topalov, also with White. Unlucky Adams is in for another tough test: the black pieces in the game with Anand. Up to this moment Michael has lost 11 and drawn 7 games on the black side facing the Indian GM. However, there's always a chance!

July 12, 2001

Morozevich - Anand **1/2**

Topalov - **Kramnik 0:1**

Leko - Adams 1:0

Morozevich,A (2749) – Anand,V (2794)
[B48]

This thriller kept the audience in suspense till the very end. Fortunately, both gladiators survived.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3

Is it going to be the closed variation of the Sicilian Defense?

2...e6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4

Nope!

4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.Be3 a6

It is the Paulsen Variation. A transposition into the Scheveningen system is quite possible.

7.Qd2 Nf6 8.0-0-0

An aggressive plan.

8...Bb4 9.f3

Now the pawn structure typical of the English Attack has emerged on the board. We can see all sorts of opening metamorphosis!

9...Ne5 10.Nb3 b5 11.Bd4 Be7N

A novelty. Vishy is hiding his dark-squared bishop from an exchange. Black had wide choice here.

Obviously bad is 11...Nc4 12.Qg5!.

I think both opponents remember the game Morozevich,A-Kobalija,M (St Petersburg 1998) which saw 11...Nc6 12.Bf2 0-0

13.Bg3 e5 14.a3 Bxc3 15.Qxc3 d6 16.Na5

Bd7 17.Nxc6 Bxc6 18.Bh4 and White

obtained a clear advantage.

Black has the options of 11...Bb7 or even

11...h6 - Lajosh Portish played this way

against young Vishy.

12.Kb1 d6 13.Qf2

Protecting the f3-pawn. White is ready to launch a pawn assault on the kingside.

However, this position contains two subtleties. First, the black king has not castled yet. Second, the b3-knight is far from the kingside. Summing up, it does look like White has an advantage here.

13...Rb8

Quite naturally, Vishy is in no hurry to castle into a mating attack. Another good option was 13...b4 14.Na4 Rb8.

14.g4 h6

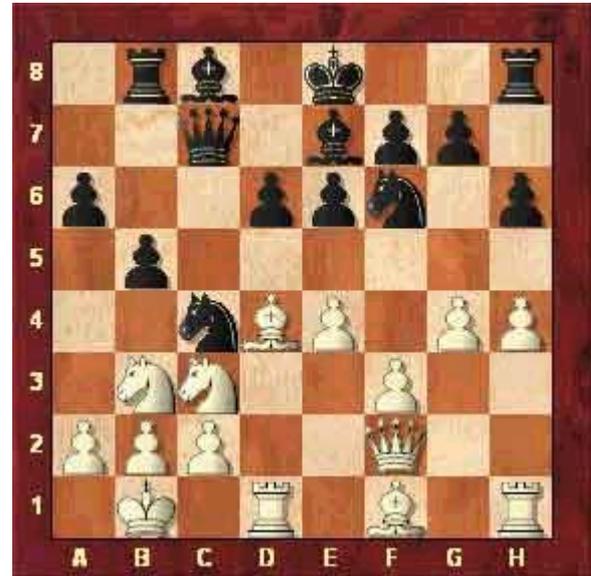
In case of 14...b4, White should not retreat with his knight to the edge of the board (15.Na4) in view of 15...Nfd7! threatening Qc6-c5; he should opt for 15.Ne2 with sharp play.

15.h4 Nc4

It is hard to abstain from the pawn attack - 15...b4 16.Ne2 (16.Na4 Nfd7) 16...a5 - it looks like Black is first to develop his

initiative in this case. On the other hand, the continuation Anand preferred also looks promising.

In order to play g4-g5 White should remove his f1-bishop, but the question is: Where? I considered the squares g2 and d3. Alexander found a third way.



16.Bxc4!?

I have always said that he is an unusual player. Who else dares to open the file in front of his own king?

16...bxc4 17.Nd2 e5

Black is forced to play this way. Otherwise White has a comfortable attack.

18.Ba7 Rb7 19.g5!

The point of Morozevich's plan! He has obtained an excellent d5-square for his knight.

19...Nh5!

After 19...Rxa7 20.gxf6 gxf6 21.Nd5 Qc5 Black can fight only for a draw.

20.Nd5 Qc6

Here we go. Vishy ignores White's strong knight so far.

21.Nf1

As a matter of fact this maneuver is forced. The d2-pawn impedes his forces. However, White did not manage to transfer this knight to a decent square. After 21.Be3 Qb5! (but not 21...c3 22.Nb3 cxb2 23.Na5; 21...Be6) 22.b3 Be6 the knight should move to f1 anyway.

21...Be6 22.Be3

On 22.Nxe7 the best continuation is

22...Kxe7!

22...Bxd5

Black had another interesting option - to frolic in the center by playing 22...f5.

23.exd5

Another non-trivial decision. I can't understand why White refrained from the natural 23.Rxd5.

23...Qb5 24.c3 Nf4 25.Bxf4

Otherwise the black knight will get to d3.

25...exf4

So, the white knight is out of a job. It can't be transferred to e4 via d2 in view of checkmate.

26.Rg1 0-0!

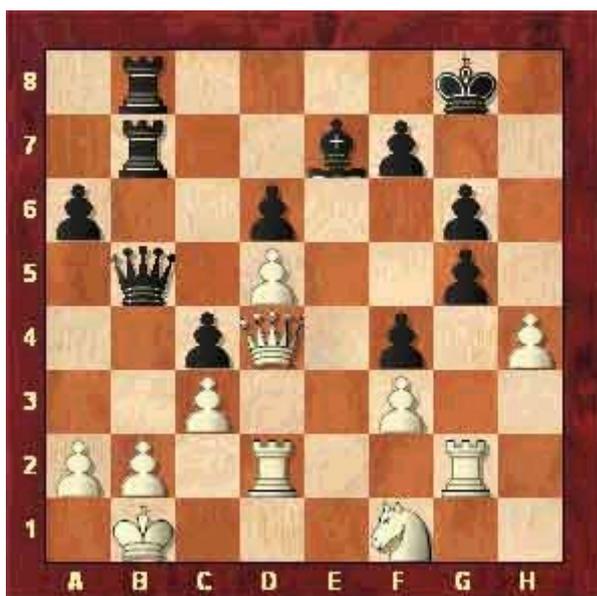
A brilliant decision! On the surface, Black has just castled into a mating attack. In reality, Vishy has mobilized his rook. Not so good is 26...hgx5 27.hgx5 Rh5 in view of 28.Qc2 Rxc5 29.Rxc5 Bxc5 30.a4! and the white knight can't reach the e4-square. Pawns do not count in this position. Since both kings do not feel safe, putting the pieces in active positions is much more important.

27.Rg2

I guess on 27.gxh6 Anand would play 27...Bf6!.

27...Rfb8 28.Rd2 g6 29.Qd4 hxg5

I was sure at this point that Anand was close to victory. He was going to transfer his



bishop to g7 and...

30.Nh2!

White has skillfully complicated the issue during time trouble.

30...gxh4 31.Ng4 Bg5 32.Nf6+ Bxf6

33.Qxf6

Black's dangerous Bishop is annihilated.

33...Qb6

It looks like Vishy missed his chance at this point. This chance lies in the variation 33...h3! 34.Rge2 (or 34.Rh2 Qb6 with the idea of delivering check from g1.) 34...Qc5 35.Rd4 and here comes 35...a5! with the obvious idea of pushing the pawn to a3.

34.Rde2 Qd8

In this position 34...h3 results in a draw by perpetual - 35.Rxc6+! fxc6 36.Qxc6+ Rg7 37.Re8+ Rxe8 38.Qxe8+ Kh7 39.Qh5+.

35.Qxf4 Re7 36.Qxh4

While Black was busy consolidating his position, White managed to restore material equilibrium.

36...Rxe2 37.Qxd8+ Rxd8 38.Rxe2 Rc8

Draw. This was a very interesting game. Both opponents demonstrated true mastery. 1/2-1/2

Leko,P (2730) - Adams,M (2744) [C42]

Peter Leko outplayed his strong opponent in the endgame. I would say he did it out of the blue, a la Karpov.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Nb4 9.Be2 0-0 10.Nc3 Be6 11.Ne5 f6 12.Nf3 Kh8

Petroff's Defense is so deeply analyzed that it is just impossible to comment on all the opening subtleties.

13.cxd5

A novelty. The main continuation in this position is 13.Re1. Black usually reacts with c7-c6 or c7-c5. Adams has some success with 13.Qb3.

13...Nxc3 14.bxc3 Nxd5 15.Bd3! c5

Quite naturally Michael noticed an easy trap - 15...Nxc3? 16.Qe1!

16.c4 Nb4 17.d5 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Bf7 19.Bf4

White let Black have the so-called two-bishop advantage, but gained more space.

19...Bd6

One of Black's bishops is gone. The continuation 19...b5!?, with sharp play, looked more consistent.

20.Bxd6 Qxd6 21.Nh4 b5!

Right! Otherwise Black will suffocate.

22.cxb5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Bxd5 24.Rfc1 Rfd8

After 24...c4 25.Nf5 Black still has a few problems to solve.

25.Rxc5 Bxa2

Two more pawns left the board. One may think that a draw is not far away. However, Black had a hard time trying to exchange the white b5-pawn.



26.h3 Bf7?!

I think better was 26...Be6!, not allowing the white knight on f5.

27.Nf5 Rd5 28.Rxd5 Bxd5

The black rook is badly misplaced. This decided the game in White's favor.

29.Ra5

Threatening b5-b6!

29...g6 30.Nd4 Bb7 31.Ne6!

The white nimble knight keeps pestering the black bishop.

31...h5?

This is a mistake. However, even after the correct 31...f5! Black is in for a tough defense.

32.Nc5 Rb8

Black was unable to save the pawn: 32...Bd5 33.Nd7!

33.Nd7 Ra8 34.Nxf6 a6 35.bxa6

A rook endgame that could have emerged, after 35.b6?! Rd8 36.Re5 Rd6 37.Re7 Rxf6 38.Rxb7 a5, is drawing.

35...Rxa6 36.Rxa6 Bxa6 37.h4!

Unbelievable but true: this endgame with the pawns on the same wing is losing for Black. Why? Just check it out.



37...Kg7 38.Ne4 Kf7

Maybe more stubborn was just to keep the king on h6 - 38...Kh6 and to move the bishop all around the board.

39.Kh2 Bd3

Or 39...Bf1 40.Kg3 Ke6 41.Nd2 Bd3 42.Kf4.

40.f3 Bf1 41.Kg3 Ke6 42.Nd2! Bd3 43.Kf4 Kf6 44.Ne4+ Kf7 45.Kg5!

As soon as the white king took up the g5-square the evaluation of the position became clear. The white pawn is marching to f5 and Black's defense is collapsing. It is well-known that in the endgame the knight with two passed pawns vs. bishop is winning.

45...Bf1 46.g3 Be2 47.Nd2 Kg7 48.f4 Bd1 49.Nc4

Black resigns.

1-0

Topalov, V (2711) – Kramnik, V (2802)
[A17]

Kramnik pulled this victory literally out of nothing! He did a better job in the opening

and harmoniously arranged his pieces. However, Topalov played accurately enough. At first glance it was impossible for Black to increase his advantage. When three pairs of minor pieces and four rooks left the board it looked like a draw was not far away. However at this point Veselin relaxed his vigilance. Vladimir demonstrated his masterly endgame technique.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qb3 c5
Kramnik has experience in this line, though on the white side. Maybe Vladimir's opening choice came as a surprise for Topalov.

5.g3 Nc6

Threatening (if the opportunity presents itself) Na5, winning the c4-pawn.

6.a3 Ba5 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 d5 9.d3 h6

A good restricting move, which in fact leaves just one square for White's dark-squared bishop.

10.Bf4 Re8

White should do something about Black's impending pawn attack in the center.

11.Na4

The game Fillipov - Kiriakov (Krasnojarsk 1998) went 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5. Here Black has a good option - 12...Ng4 13.Bf4 d4 14.Ne4 e5 15.Bc1 Bb6.

11...b6

The most natural move, although 11...Qe7 is also possible. The key is that 12.Qb5 leads nowhere in view of 12...Nd7.

12.Ne5 Bd7

The line 12...Nd4 13.Qd1 Bb7 also looks pretty good, but Vladimir did not want to drive the white queen to a better position.

13.e3

After 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 Black would have been much stronger in the center.

13...g5!?

The continuation 13...Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Ng4 15.Bc3 does not promise much. With this sharp pawn move Kramnik is going to obtain the same position but with the bishop on c6.

14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Be5 Ng4 16.Bc3 Bxc3

I can't rule out the possibility that Vladimir counted on the variation 16...Qd7!?

17.Nxc5! bxc5 18.Bxa5 dxc4 in hopes of creating threats along the a8-h1 diagonal, but realized that Black's initiative was insufficient. For example, 19.dxc4 (another option deserving a closer look is 19.Bxc6 Qxc6 20.Qc3!?) preventing the black knight from taking up the a5-square) 19...Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Rab8 (20...Ne5 21.Qc2) 21.Qc3 Qb7+ 22.Kg1 and Black can't play 22...Qxb2? in view of 23.Qxb2 Rxb2 24.h3 Ne5 25.Bc3.

17.Nxc3 dxc4 18.dxc4 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Qe7

The position is about equal. I expected a piece treaty to be signed at this point. However, the opponents continued the battle.

20.Ne4 f5 21.h3 Ne5

Black could not achieve his goal with 21...fxe4 22.hxg4 Qf6 because White simply parts with a pawn to activate his pieces. After 23.Rad1 Qf3+ 24.Kg1 Qxg4 25.Rd7 White's position is no worse.

22.Qc3 Nd7 23.Nd2

A planned retreat.

23...Rad8 24.Rad1 Nf6 25.Nf3 Rxd1

26.Rxd1 e5 27.Qc2

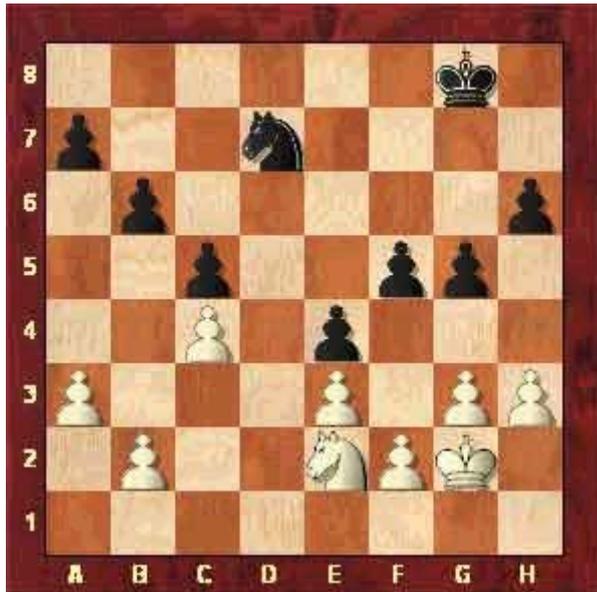
Maybe White should have played 27.b4 because 27...Qb7 can be met by 28.Qc2.

27...e4 28.Ng1 Rd8 29.Ne2

White allows trading the queens. More consistent was 29.Rxd8+ Qxd8 30.b4 in order to meet 30...Qd3 by 31.Qa4. Black's exposed king will have hard time escaping from the white queen.

29...Rxd1 30.Qxd1 Qd7! 31.Qxd7 Nxd7

A knight endgame in which Black has some space advantage has emerged on the board. It is hard to believe that White can lose this ending. However, it is even more difficult to point out Topalov's decisive mistake.



32.b3 Ne5 33.Nc3 Kf7 34.g4

If 34.Kf1 then 34...Nd3 and the white king can't advance in view of a check from c1. Topalov is breaking Black's pawn chain, but the opponent is creating an outside passer.

34...fxg4 35.hxg4 Nxg4 36.Nxe4 Ke6 37.Nc3?!

White should have moved his king to a more active position with 37.Kg3. After 37...Ne5 38.f4 gxf4+ 39.exf4 Nd3 40.Kg4 h5+ 41.Kg5! White is just in time to create counterplay. However, Kramnik could opt for the cunning 37...Nf6 (a pawn ending is bad for White) and torture his opponent for a while.

37...Ne5 38.f4

After this move White has no way out. However, even after 38.Kg3 Nd3 or 38.Nb5 Nc6 Topalov was doomed to a difficult defense.

38...gxf4 39.exf4 Nc6 40.Nb5 h5! 41.Kg3 a5!

It is not clear how to foil Black's plan. After trading the f-pawn for the h-pawn, the Black king will be closer to the most important sector of the front: the queenside.

42.Nc7+

Black threatened 42...Nd4, transposing into a winning pawn ending. The continuation 42.Kf3 Nd4+ does not change much. After the move made, White is deprived of the

check from d6, reacting to Nf5.

42...Kf5 43.Nd5 Nd4 44.Kh4?!

White's last chance was 44.Nxb6 Nxb3 45.Nd7 h4+ 46.Kf3! h3 47.Kg3 h2 48.Kxh2 Kxf4 49.Kg2 Ke3 50.Kf1 Kd4 51.Ke2 Kxc4 52.Kd1 Kc3! and Black is winning. Now the white king is way too late to the queenside.

44...Nxb3 45.Kxh5 Nd2 46.Nxb6 Kxf4 47.Na4 Ne4 0-1

Round 2

(Ilya Glukhovskiy, analysis by Sregei Shipov and Maxim Notkin)

None of the world champions among those playing now in Dortmund will write even a couple of agreeable words about this bygone day in his diary.

Anand has no reason to think this is fun.

Today he played Adams with White.

Anand's previous score with him (+11) made Viswanathan optimistic. But the game went wrong. In one night Adams had managed to polish the same variation of the Petroff (in which he had lost to Leko the day before) to demonstrate this reinforcement to the opponent. Maybe the reinforcement was extremely effective, or maybe Viswanathan was not ready for a big game; one way or the other, after three real moves the opponents agreed to a draw. The play didn't turn out to be sharp at all.

Will there be many games of this kind in the tournament? This question is doubtless absolutely rhetorical, but quite interesting. Well, let's wait and see.

The Kramnik-Leko duel did not turn out to be gripping either. At a certain moment it seemed likely that Kramnik would win the game (so great the belief in his mastery of playing endings is). The lesson Vladimir taught to Topalov yesterday was a good contribution to this belief. When Kramnik was left a pawn up, everyone was quite sure as to the outcome of the game, but Leko's defense was precise. It seems that, contrary to expectations, Vladimir did not make the most of the position he had. Leko escaped again. The sly Hungarian, playing Kramnik on a regular basis, remains the only chess

player in the world not to stop the clock and say “I resign” (I mean games under a classical time control).

Morozevich still manages to keep (and increase) his rating, playing hardcore and highly competitive chess. It seems that he does not sleep a wink!

Today Alexander’s play was excellent to a point. With the help of his “ugly” variation he revived the well-explored Petroff. He didn’t gain a considerable advantage (if any) in the opening, but he obtained a very competitive position that was full of spice and vinegar, and this is an achievement in itself. At the right moment Alexander sacrificed a piece, but Veselin rejected the dubious offer and offered, in turn, the repetition of moves. Alexander refused to repeat moves, and sacrificed his other knight, but his opponent turned it down again. Veselin himself likes to give a piece away for a good attack, and it was obvious to the naked eye that the attack might be effective.

After that the game assumed quite a different bent. The play of Morozevich’s opponent was precise and quick. The white knights, Alexander’s favorite pieces, were attacked by Black for ten moves, but Veselin did not hurry to capture the knights. Instead, he gradually improved his pieces’ position. At last, having calculated all the possible lines, Topalov gave away his rook for both of his opponent’s knights and immediately obtained a winning position. On the 40th move Morozevich overlooked a mate in two moves, but that couldn’t change anything. Alexander once again fell a victim of his own competitiveness, though it is true that his opponent’s play was really excellent. In order to refute White’s attack, Veselin had to play to the best of his technique.

I wouldn’t like to draw conclusions on the basis of only two bygone rounds, but there is something I would focus your attention on.

Anand does not look cheerful. He only strikes me as someone with pure professionalism but no fresh blood.

Hopefully, during next rounds

Viswanathan’s play will be more intricate.

July 13, 2001

Morozevich - Topalov 0:1

Kramnik - Leko 1/2

Anand - Adams 1/2

Anand,V (2794) - Adams,M (2744) [C42]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4
5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Nb4
9.Be2 0-0 10.Nc3 Be6 11.Ne5 f6 12.Nf3
Kh8 13.cxd5 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Nxd5 15.Bd3
c5 16.c4 Nb4 17.d5 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Bd6**

A novelty! And, to all appearances, quite a serious one! Yesterday, in the game with Leko, Adams played 18...Bf7 and after 19.Bf4 Bd6 20.Bxd6 Qxd6 21.Nh4 b5 22.cxb5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Bxd5 he failed to hold his own in the ending. The idea of the move made in the game consists in not allowing the white bishop to occupy the f4-square.

19.Qb3 Bg4 20.h3 Bh5 21.a4 1/2-1/2

Viswanathan reasoned that his position was no better, and the opponents signed a peace deal. Adams’ novelty had worked fine. The outcome proved favorable for the Englishman: His score against Anand is much too bad.

Kramnik - Leko [E48]

The World Champion struggled hard to outplay his most unfavorable opponent, whom he has never defeated in classical chess, but Kramnik again failed to attain his aim.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4

The Nimzo-Indian Defense.

4.e3

The Rubinstein Variation.

**4...0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Nge2 Re8
8.0-0**

The Karlsbad pawn structure has arisen, but, compared with the usual Queen’s Gambit, White’s dark-square bishop is passively positioned.

8...Bf8 9.a3 a5!

Preventing b2-b4.

10.Kh1N

A novelty. This is a useful prophylactic move. Here are a couple of examples taken from recent practice. Aleksandrov,A-Georgiev,K/Germany 2000/: 10.Qc2 Na6 11.Bd2 c6 12.Rad1 g6 13.Bc1 Nc7 14.Rfe1 Ne6 15.Qb1 b5 16.Nf4 Nxf4 17.exf4 Rxe1+ 18.Rxe1 Qb6 19.h3 c5 20.dxc5 Bxc5=; Gurevich,M-Akesson,R/Stockholm 1987: 10.Bc2 c6 11.f3 Qb6?! (11...c5!) 12.Kh1 Be6 13.e4 g6 14.e5 Nh5 15.f4 f5 16.exf6 Nd7 17.f5 gxf5 18.f7+ Bxf7 19.Bxf5 Nhf6 20.Qd3 Bg7 21.Bg5, and White has the initiative.

10...Na6 11.f3 c5!

This is exactly right. Otherwise White would with no problem put into practice his planned e3-e4 breakthrough and gain the advantage, as was the case in the game Gurevich,M-Akesson,R

12.Nf4

With the simple idea of capturing first on c5 and then on d5, winning the queen with Bxh7+.

12...Nc7

Now Black has hit upon the idea of playing c5-c4 with a tempo, followed by the b7-pawn's run to the b4-square. That's why there ensues

13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.e4

The position is being simplified.

14...dxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4

The aggressive 16.fxe4 could lead to a win, loss, or draw. But Kramnik prefers two outcomes out of three possible ones!

16...Qxd1

Too passive. Black surrenders the "d"-file to the opponent. I believe the queens should have been saved by playing 16...Qf6, followed by lots of complicated lines. On the face of it, Black is OK in the different continuations. For example, 17.Qc2 Bd6 18.Bxh7+ Kh8 19.Nh5 Qh4 20.g4 Bxh2 21.Qxh2 Qxh2+ 22.Kxh2 Kxh7 with equality.

17.Rxd1

Black has a problem concerning the b7-pawn, and it is unclear how he should develop his queenside.

17...Nb5

The following drastic move deserves

attention: 17...f5, in order to get rid of the unpleasant white bishop.

18.Nd3

The enticing 18.Rd5 is met by Black's 18...Nd4! with the idea of 19.Rxc5 Nb3

18...Bf8

Correct. In case of 18...Bb6 19.Bf4 Nd4 20.Ne5, White gains the upper hand.

19.Bf4 Nd6

Now if 19...Nd4, White can exchange his bishop: 20.Rac1 Ne2 21.Rc7 Nxf4 22.Nxf4, thus developing a serious initiative.

20.Bd5 Be6

Yet Peter trades off White's dangerous light-square bishop.

21.Bxe6 Rxe6

In my opinion safer is 21...fxe6, though here, too, there is a prolonged defense in store for Black.

22.Nc5

Winning a pawn. At this moment it seemed likely that the world champion would prevail.

22...Rf6 23.Be5

Probably taking the pawn would be more worthwhile: 23.Bxd6 Rxd6 24.Rxd6 Bxd6 25.Nxb7 Be5 26.Rb1

23...Rf5

Interesting is 23...Rh6!?, after which it is not good to exchange on d6, because the h2-pawn is unprotected there. In response to 24.Bf4 there is 24...Rh5!

24.Bxd6 Bxd6 25.Nxb7

For better or worse, White has captured the pawn. However, the white knight is now evidently weaker than the black bishop. More to the point, the first rank is weak, so White has difficulty in consolidating his position.

25...Be7 26.Nd6

Go back! Quick! Join your army, breaking the encirclement! It's hard to win in case of 26.Rd7 Bf6 27.Rad1 Rb5;

The move 26.a4! is not the best option, because in that case Black's bishop will occupy the comfortable b4-square. But it seems that in this very line White can retain his extra pawn.

26...Rc5 27.Rab1

And after 27.b4 axb4 28.axb4 Rxa1 29.Rxa1 Rd5 30.Nc4 g6! material equality is

restored;
or 27.Ne4 Rb5 28.Rd2 Rab8 - one can't really play 29.Ra2 here, because this is too ugly to be true;

27.b3 Rb8

27...Rd8 28.b4

In the line 28.Ne4 Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Rb5 30.Rd2 Bxa3!, White's problem is the first rank mate.

28...axb4 29.axb4 Re5 30.Nc4 Rxd1+ 31.Rxd1 Rb5 32.Ne3 Bxb4 33.Rb1 Rb8 34.Nd5 Bd6

A draw was agreed! Both of the opponents remain the leaders.

Morozevich - Topalov [C42]

Morozevich played his favorite variation of the Petroff. After his forces were mobilized, White offered both of his knights (in succession) as a sacrifice. Black stiffly rejected the gifts. Alexander declined a move-repetition draw, but he failed to hit on the right continuation of his attack. After Veselin's precise defense, White's initiative was lost.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Bd3

Morozevich chooses his favorite variation, one that provided him with victory in the unforgettable game against Shirov at the recent Astana tournament.

5...Nf6

Shirov preferred 5...d5 6.Qe2 Qe7

6.h3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c3 c5 9.Bc2 Nc6 10.d4 Be6 11.Re1

So far the game has gone the same way as the Morozevich-Vladimirov game (New Delhi, 2000).

11...h6!

A considerable strengthening. In this situation, the Kazakh Grandmaster played 11...Qc8 12.Bg5 Nd5 13.Na3 h6, but after 14.Qd3! Bf5 15.Qxf5 Qxf5 16.Bxf5 Bxg5 17.Be4! White obtained an obviously better ending. Topalov settles the problem concerning the g5-square radically.

12.Be3 Re8 13.Nbd2 Bf8

Veselin is in no hurry to play 13...Nd5, because after 14.Nf1 Nxe3 15.Nxe3, Black,

due to the threat of 16.d5, will have to let his "d"-pawn become isolated.

14.Ne4 Nd5

14...Nxe4 15.Bxe4 d5 16.Bc2 is to White's advantage;

14...Bd5 forces an unpleasant ending for

Black: 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.dxc5 Bxf3

17.Qxf3 Qxf3 18.gxf3 dxc5 19.Be4

15.dxc5

Interesting is 15.Bc1!?, threatening 16.d5.

Topalov would probably have responded to this with 15...Bf5

15...Nxe3 16.Rxe3 dxc5 17.Qe2 Qc7

17...Qb6 does not create any threats on the

b2-pawn; 18.Re1 Qxb2? 19.Nf6+! gxf6

20.Bh7+

18.Re1

Morozevich decides that the time has not yet come for risky lunges: 18.Nfg5 hxg5

19.Nxg5 (19.Qh5 Bf5 20.Nf6+ gxf6 21.Bxf5

Bg7-+) 19...g6 20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.Rxe6 fxe6

22.Qxe6+ Qf7



18...Rad8

19.Neg5

White is going to attack!

19...Rd6!

Losing is 19...Bd7 20.Qd3; Accepting the sacrifice would also allow White good attacking prospects: 19...hxg5 20.Nxg5 g6 (20...Bd6 21.Qh5) 21.Bxg6! fvg6 22.Nxe6

20.Ne4

After 20.Nxe6 Rxe6 (but not 20...Rdx6?

21.Qd3+-) 21.Bb3 Rxe3 22.Qxe3 White

keeps a slight advantage, but Alexander, to his misfortune, tries his luck with the other

knight.

20...Rdd8 21.Nfg5!

Objectively speaking this is a good move, but Morozevich's rejection of a draw by repeating moves resulted in his defeat.

21...Bd5!

In response to this sacrifice, Veselin plays a cold-blooded protective move.

22.Qh5?

He should have continued in the same active fashion! 22.Nh7! Bxe4 (losing is 22...Kxh7? 23.Nf6+ Kh8 24.Rxe8; unsatisfactory is 22...Be7 23.Nxc5! Bxa2? 24.Nf6+! gxf6 25.Qg4+ Kf8 26.Bh7!+-) 23.Rxe4 Re7 24.Nxf8 Kxf8. White's position is better, but there are many defensive resources. After Alexander's move, Veselin manages to pin White's pieces on the front line.



22...Re5!

White has to take the g6 and f5 threats into consideration. And the most important thing is that he doesn't see where to attack, since Black's position is so well protected.

23.f4 Rf5 24.g3

In response to the knight's retreat from e4, there is the tentative g7-g6 move. For example, 24.Ng3 g6 25.Qe2 Rxf4, and White loses his pawn with no compensation whatsoever.

24...g6 25.Qh4 c4!

It was quite possible to gain a material advantage right after 25...hxg5 26.Nxg5 Rxg5 27.Qxg5, but Topalov is in no hurry: He realizes that the g5-knight will not get away from him.

26.Kh2

In case of 26.Nf3 the white queen is done for: 26...Be7! 27.Qxh6 (27.Qg4 h5) 27...Bxe4! (but not 27...Rh5?? 28.Nf6+! Bxf6 29.Re8+) 28.Bxe4 Rh5-+

26...Kg7 27.Qg4 hxg5 28.Nxg5 Rxg5

29.Qxg5 Qb6

White's position is lost. Topalov played in an extremely precise and safe fashion in the time trouble.

30.f5 Be7! 31.Qf4

31.Rxe7? Qf2#

31...Qxb2 32.Rxe7

In response to 32.R1e2 Black plays

32...Qc1!

32...Qxc2+ 33.R1e2 Qxf5 34.Qxf5 gxf5

35.Re8

If 35.Rxb7 Nd4, winning the exchange.

35...Rd7!

It is even easier to win with the help of the rooks.

36.Rd2 Kf6 37.Kg1 Ne5 38.Kf2 Nd3+

39.Ke3 Bc6 40.Rb8

A mate in two moves can be seen here, but at this point it does not really matter much.

40...Re7+

40...Re7+ 41.Kd4 Re4#

0-1

Round 3

(Ilya Glukhovsky)

1995 – Rubinstein Memorial and Elenit (Bulgaria)

1996 - Madrid, Leon, Dos-Hermanas, Amsterdam and Novgorod.

1997 – Madrid and Antwerp.

This is the list of Topalov's tournament victories. I think he was in the top trio back in 1996. However, Veselin did not manage to win a single tournament from 1998 to 2000. I am not going to analyze the reasons behind this slump. I would just like to note that the slack, passive Topalov of recent years is history now.

Although Veselin did not look very impressive in Wijk aan Zee at the beginning of the year, a couple of months down the road he shared first place with Kramnik in Monaco. Then came a confident +3

performance in Sarajevo. Now it is Dortmund. The Bulgarian player started on a sad note (the defeat by Kramnik on the white side). However, the second and third rounds reminded us of the Topalov of the middle 90s.

Veselin has beaten Anand today. This is the first defeat of Vishy in classical chess since last July (here in Dortmund he lost to Kramnik). Topalov played vigorously and resolutely. Maybe a deep analysis will reveal that Vishy had a draw at some point... Human forces and energy are limited. Even his legendary defensive skill did not help Anand this time.

By the way, it looks like Anand is having a free ride in this tournament. Yesterday he emulated Leko's game; today he has repeated the line that brought success to Shirov in his encounter with Topalov in Leon.

The Bulgarian GM met Vishy fully armed. He introduced a strong novelty (13.Qe2) and by move 16 Black's king was forced to take a dangerous trip to the f6-square. The rest of the game looked like a fencers' encounter: White tried to reach his opponent, whereas Black, deprived of any counter-attacking options, was just dodging. Up to a certain point Anand was accurate enough. When only White's three pawns and the queen vs. Black's two rooks were left on the board, it looked like a draw was not far away.

Indeed, the game was over a few moves down the road, but it was White who scored the victory. Most likely Anand committed a fatal mistake at this stage of the game, but there is no doubt that Veselin deserved his triumph.

Against the background of this battle-piece other games looked somewhat dull.

Morozevich precisely equalized in his favorite line of the French Defense, whereas Leko, more than satisfied with his good start, was not in the mood to bend over backwards to try to win.

The very first move was the most interesting one in this game. Having played 1...c5! the World Champion meant business. Adams failed to obtain an equal position. Even the white pieces did not help him. Kramnik

grasped the initiative and apparently played correctly. However, his play lacked some zest, and Mickey leveled the situation. Adams could have even tried to turn the tables, but the thought of doing so never occurred to him. That is why a draw was agreed.

The participants in the tournament are divided exactly into two parts. Kramnik, Topalov and Leko scored twice as many points as Anand, Morozevich and Adams. The "leaders" are taking on "outsiders" tomorrow: Adams – Topalov, Kramnik – Morozevich, Leko – Anand. I venture upon the guess that a well-known saying, "the last will become first" has nothing to do with the next round.

July 14, 2001

Leko - Morozevich 1/2

Adams - Kramnik 1/2

Topalov - Anand 1:0

V.Topalov (2711) – V.Anand (2794) [C11]

Commented by Maxim Notkin

This was a very tense and exciting battle. Topalov's novelty gave him a long-lasting initiative. Vishy was resourcefully defending, whereas Veselin was skillfully seeking out new attacking options. Anand committed a fatal mistake just a half step from a draw. The white queen triumphed over the two black rooks.

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4
5.Nxe4 Nbd7 6.Nf3 h6 7.Nxf6+ Nxf6
8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Bb5+ c6 10.Bd3 a6**

In this position, Black usually chooses between 10...g6 and 10...Bd6. The a7-a6 idea, preparing c6-c5, was introduced by Bareev in the game with Dolmatov (Groningen 1993). However, White did not check from b5, but immediately played Bd3. Shirov used this continuation vs. Topalov in their advanced chess game in Leon and won. Vishy decided to see whether Veselin had prepared an improvement for the Dortmund tournament.

11.c3 c5 12.Ne5 Bd6



13.Qe2!?

Here comes Topalov's novelty. In the game with Shirov he played 13.Qa4+ Ke7 14.0-0 Bxe5 15.dxe5 Qxe5 16.Rae1 Qc7 17.Qh4+ g5 18.Qh5 Bd7 and Black managed to repulse White's attack and to convert his material advantage in a very sharp battle.

13...cxd4 14.cxd4 Bd7

After 14...Bb4+ 15.Kf1 White loses the castling option, but his rook can be brought into play on the h-file - 15...0-0 16.Qe4 Rd8 17.h4, with the initiative.

Anand reasoned that developing the light-squared bishop was his main task. He is not upset about being deprived of castling, either.

15.0-0

After the tempting 15.Qe4! Black can hold with 15...Bxe5 16.dxe5 Qf5!

15...Qf4

In case of 15...Rd8 16.f4, Black's position is too passive.

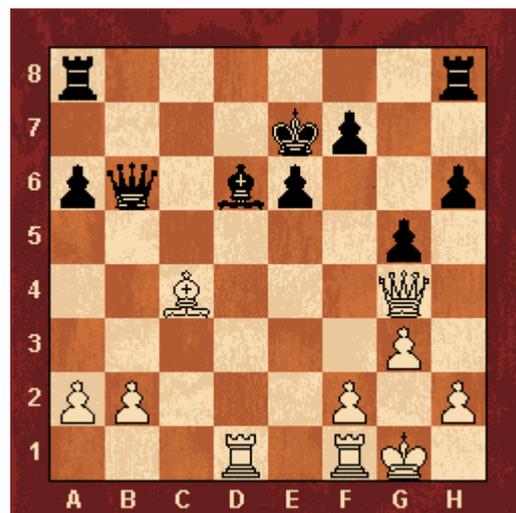
16.g3!

A rook transfer to the center - 16.Rfd1 - also deserved a look, though after 16...Bxe5 17.dxe5 Bc6 18.Rac1 Bd5! (18...0-0? 19.Rc4 Qg5 20.Rg4 Qe7 21.Qe3 Kh8 22.Qg3 with a strong attack) 19.Rc7 0-0 Black still can resist.

16...Qxd4 17.Nxd7 Kxd7 18.Qf3

White is regaining a pawn. Due to the insecure position of the black king, Topalov's position is better.

18...Ke7 19.Qxb7+ Kf6 20.Rad1 Qa7 21.Qf3+ Ke7 22.Qg4 g5 23.Bc4 Qb6



24.Rd3!

An excellent maneuver. This rook has a lot to do on the third rank.

24...Rad8

After 24...Qxb2 25.Re1 the black king perishes under a violent onslaught: 25...Qf6 26.Rf3 Qg6 27.Rxf7+! Qxf7 28.Rxe6+ Kf8 29.Rxd6+-.

25.Rf3

Veselin is aiming at the black king. Not so promising was 25.Rb3 Qc6 26.Qe2 a5.

25...Be5

25...Qxb2?? 26.Rxf7+! with mate in two.

26.Re1 f6

Extremely risky is 26...Rd4?! 27.Rxf7+! Kxf7 28.Qf5+ Ke7 (28...Bf6 29.Rxe6) 29.Qxe5 Rf8 30.Bxe6 Qd6! 31.Qg7+ Kd8 32.Qxh6.

27.Qh5

White is threatening 28.Rxe5. Black has to defend against tactical blows on every move.

I think a "center-oriented" 27.Qe4! was more dangerous for Black. If 27...Rd4 then 28.Qg6.

27...Qb4!

After 27...Qxb2 White switches to the b-file - 28.Rb3 Qd2 29.Rb7+ Rd7 30.Reb1 and if 30...Rxb7 31.Rxb7+ Kd6 then 32.Qf7! Qe1+ 33.Bf1 Bd4 34.Rd7+ Ke5 35.Rxd4 Kxd4, and here comes the fantastic 36.Qg7!!.

Amazingly enough, the black rook has no good retreat square - 36...Ra8 (the best one) 37.Qd7+ Ke5 38.Qc7+ Kf5 39.Qc2+! Ke5 (39...Kg4 40.h3+ Kh5 41.g4+ Kh4 42.Qg6 with a checkmate; 39...Qe4 40.Bd3+-)

40.Qc5+ Ke4 41.Qc6++.

28.Rxe5!

A similar position emerges after 28.Re4!? Qd2! (in case of 28...Qxb2 29.Rb3 Qc1+ 30.Kg2 and Black is defenseless) 29.Rxe5 Qc1+ 30.Kg2 Qxc4.

28...Qxc4 29.Re1

On 29.Rc3 Black would have sacrificed the queen: 29...Qxc3! (if 29...Qxa2? 30.Rc7+ Kd6 31.Rec5 and the Black king is in a sorry plight.) 30.bxc3 fxe5 31.Qe2 Rd6 32.Qxe5 Rh7 with good drawing chances.

29...Qxa2

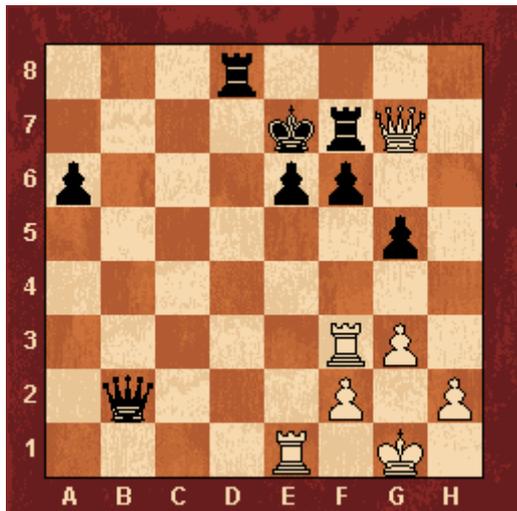
With every pawn capture, Visly is getting closer to the desired draw.

30.Qg6 Rhf8 31.Qxh6 Qxb2

In case of 31...e5, White could conduct the following combination - 32.Qg7+ Rf7 33.Rxe5+! fxe5 34.Qxg5+.

Then, after 34...Ke8 35.Qxe5+ Kd7, White closes out the game with the incredible 36.Rc3!! (total domination!) 36...Qb1+ 37.Kg2 Rxf2+ (there is no other choice) 38.Kxf2 Qxb2+ 39.Ke3!! and Black is forced to trade the queens - 39...Qb6+ 40.Qd4+ Qxd4+ 41.Kxd4, and the endgame that has emerged is hopeless for Black. And if 34...Ke6, then 35.Rxf7 Rd1+ 36.Kg2 Kxf7 (36...Qd5+ 37.Rf3) 37.Qh5+ Ke6 38.Qxd1 Qxb2 with a big advantage in the queen ending.

After the move that was played in the game the same tactical idea works.

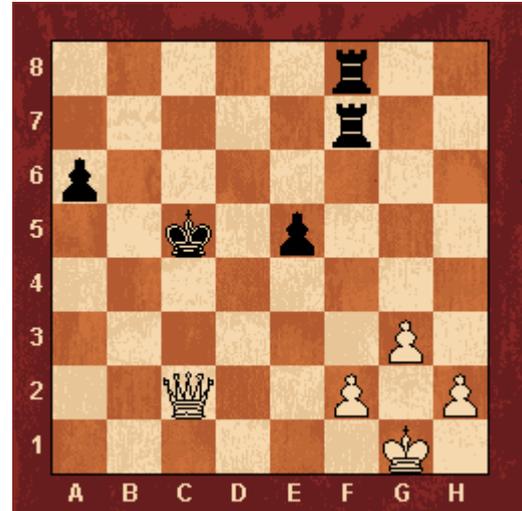


32.Qg7+ Rf7

33.Rxe6+! Kxe6 34.Re3+ Qe5 35.Rxe5+ fxe5 36.Qxg5 Rdf8

The f2-pawn is doomed. Veselin has started a series of checks...

37.Qg4+ Kd5 38.Qd1+ Kc5 39.Qc2+ ... and succeeded.



39...Kb4?

An absurd mistake. After 39...Kb6 40.Qb2+ (in case of 40.h4 Rxf2 41.Qxf2+ Rxf2 42.Kxf2 a5 White is first to promote to a queen, but Black saves the game thanks to his a5-pawn.) 40...Kc6 41.Qa2 Rxf2 42.Qxa6+ Kd5 White can't exchange his queen for two black rooks to his advantage - 43.Qb7+ (43.Qd3+ Kc6 44.Qc4+ Kd6) 43...Kd4! 44.Qb6+ Kd3 45.Qxf2 Rxf2 46.Kxf2 Kd2 47.Kf3 Kd3. Draw!

I think Black has good drawing chances even in less forced lines.

40.Qb2+ Kc5

Black loses after 40...Kc4 41.Qe2+ Kd5 42.Qd3+! Kc5 43.Qxa6 or 40...Ka4 41.Qa1+! Kb4 42.Qxa6 and the f2-pawn is taboo for Anand.

41.Qxe5+ Kb6 42.h4 a5 43.h5 Rd7

There is no point in advancing the a-pawn - 43...a4 44.h6 - because after a few checks this pawn falls victim to the white queen.

44.Qe6+ Kc7 45.h6 1-0

Adams,M (2744) – Kramnik,V (2802)
[B80]

Commented by Sergey Shipov

This was a big battle, in which the World Champion did not profit by all of his opportunities.

1.e4 c5

This is the first surprise. Vladimir has preferred 1...e5 lately. This time he decided to return to the Sicilian Defense - the opening of his youth.

2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 d6

The Scheveningen structure.

6.Be3 Nf6 7.Qd2

An aggressive setup. White is going to evacuate his king to the queenside.

7...Be7 8.f3 0-0 9.0-0-0

Castling on the opposite wings are a true sign of a sharp middle game.

9...a6

On 9...d5 White has lately responded 10.Qe1 with good results.

10.g4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5 12.Kb1 Qc7

Garry Kasparov, the best expert in the Sicilian Defense, played differently in this position - 12...Bb7 13.h4 Rc8 14.g5 Nd7 15.Rg1 b4 16.Ne2 Ne5 17.Rg3 Nc4 18.Qc1 e5 19.Bf2 a5 20.Bg2 Ba6 21.Re1 a4 22.Bh3 Rc6 23.Qd1 d5! -/+ . Topalov, V- Kasparov, G/Amsterdam/1995.

13.g5 Nd7 14.h4

The attacks on the opposite wings are under way. The most important thing in this matter is to keep an eye on the situation in the center!

14...b4 15.Na4

A novelty. The white knight is trying to slow down Black's attack with his frail body. However, he constantly finds himself under attack and does not participate in the fight for the central squares.

15...Bb7!?

Black had another good option at his disposal, 15...Rb8, with the idea of 16.h5 Qa5! or 16.e4 Qc6! with a double attack in both cases.

16.b3

As usual Adams is playing very cautiously. More consistent was snatching a pawn and suffering for it after 16.Qxb4 Rfc8 (16...d5? 17.Qxe7) 17.Qd2 Rab8 18.Nc3 - obviously Black has a good initiative, but it is still

questionable whether it is worth a pawn.

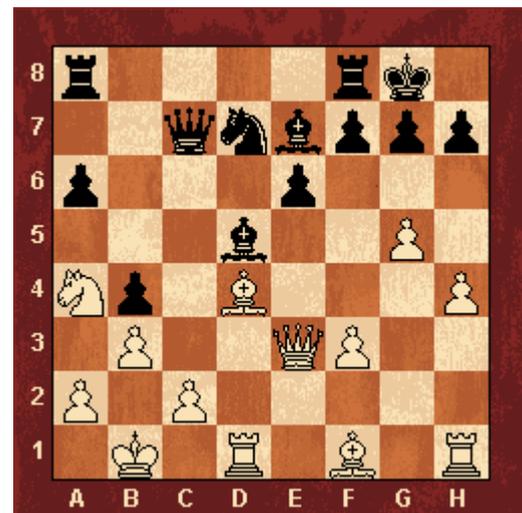
16...d5!

Making use of the white knight's absence at the critical sector of the front, Black is opening the center and in my opinion is getting the advantage.

17.exd5

A real Sicilian Defense player would consider sharp moves like 17.e5 or 17.g6, but Michael has no desire to deviate from his strategy of safety.

17...Bxd5 18.Qe3



This is one of the critical moments of the game. How should Black develop his initiative?

18...Rfc8

On 18...Rac8 Vladimir apparently was afraid of 19.Bxa6 Qxc2+ 20.Ka1 and Black has to switch to defense for a while.

After 18...Qc6 White has the cunning response 19.Bb2! threatening Qd4.

So, with all the above-mentioned lines in mind, maybe Black should have removed the a6-pawn from under fire and only after that brought his a8-rook into action with 19.Bb5 Rad8. I think Black is slightly better.

19.Bd3 Nc5

Quite logical. Since the rook remained on a8, Black should clear the way for his a-pawn.

In case of 19...Bd6 20.Be4 Bf4 21.Qd3 Bxe4 22.Qxe4, White can hold the position.

20.Nxc5 Bxc5 21.Be4

The endgame which could have arisen after

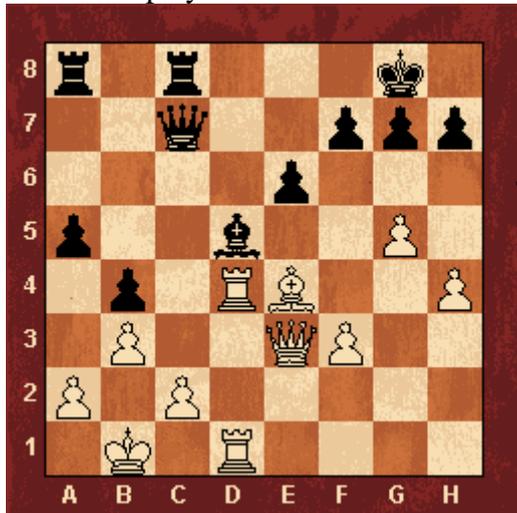
21.Bxc5 Qxc5 22.Qxc5 Rxc5 23.Rhf1
favors Black.

21...Bxd4 22.Rxd4 a5!

The weakness of the c2-square and possible opening of the files on the queenside make White worry about his king.

23.Rhd1!

White is late with his attack on the kingside. He should play in the center.



23...g6

Starting from this moment, Black's play does not impress me anymore. It looks like time trouble has taken its toll. The most dangerous continuation for White was 23...a4!? - Black sacrifices a pawn, but "strips" the white king and gets serious initiative. The following variation illustrates my point - 24.Rxb4 (or 24.Qd2 Ra5! 25.Rxb4 axb3 26.cxb3 Qa7) 24...axb3 25.cxb3 Bxe4+ 26.Qxe4 Qh2. In both cases, Black creates dangerous threats.

24.Qe2

The c2-square is protected!

24...Qg3

After this move White could have played for a win. I think Black should have exchanged on e4 followed by the breakthrough a4-a5.

25.Bxd5 exd5 26.Rxd5

Black could have faced unpleasant problems after 26.f4! with the idea of meeting 26...Qxh4 with 27.Qg2! (threatening to trap the black queen) 27...Re8 28.f5! and White has a dangerous initiative.

26...Qxh4 27.Qd2

[27.Qe7 h5!]

27...Qg3 28.f4 Qc3 29.Qxc3 Rxc3

There will be no fight in this rook endgame. The position is equal. A quick draw is coming.

30.f5 gxf5 31.Rxf5 Ra7 32.Rd2 Kg7

33.Kb2 a4 34.a3 axb3 35.axb4 bxc2

36.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 37.Kxc2 1/2-1/2

Leko,P (2730) - Morozevich,A (2749)

[C11]

Commented by Nikolay Vlassov

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4

5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Nf3 a6 8.g3 Nc6

9.Nc3N

This is an attempt to improve White's play compared to the game Milos,G-

Morozevich,A/Istanbul 2000: 9.Bg2 e5

10.d5 Nb4 11.Nc3 c6 12.dxc6 Qxd1+

13.Rxd1 bxc6 14.a3 Nd5 15.Nxd5 cxd5

16.Rxd5 0-0 17.0-0 Be6 18.Rd2 Rab8 19.b4

a5 20.bxa5 Rb5 21.Nh4 Rxa5 22.Be4 1/2-

1/2.

9...h5!?

The reserved 9...b6 was an alternative.

10.Bg2

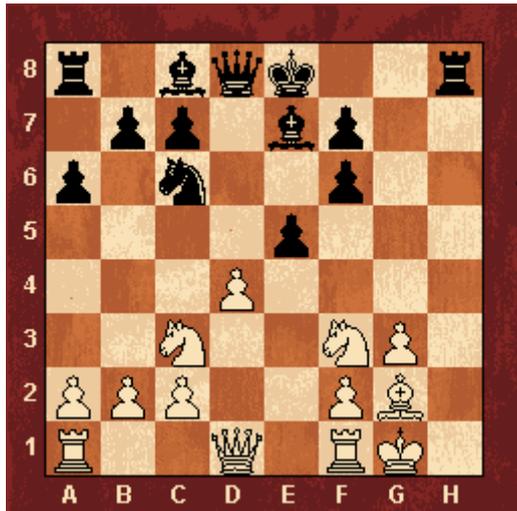
After 10.Qd2 Black had a very effective option: 10...Bf8! and White can't castle long!

10...h4 11.0-0

Played without prejudice! The black pieces are not very well placed to start an attack on the white king.

11...hxg3 12.hxg3 e5!

Nevertheless, he has no problem equalizing the game.



13.dxe5 Qxd1 14.Raxd1 fxe5 15.Nd5 Bd6
 Another option, 15...Bd8!?, does not look as natural, but it allows Black to preserve the two bishops. Besides it contains an interesting trap - 16.Nxe5? Nxe5 17.Rfe1 f6 18.f4 c6 19.Nc3 Bb6+ 20.Kf1 0-0!-+
16.Ng5 Kf8

I still hoped for 16...Bf5 and Morozevich had some chances to continue the battle (I bet 5 bucks on his victory). Well, not this time.

17.Nb6!

Now White is easily reaching ... a draw.
17...cxb6 18.Rxd6 Ke7 19.Rd2 1/2-1/2

Round 4

(Ilya Glukhovsky)

Bookmakers are clever people. The betting ratio for the draw in the Leko-Anand game was almost 1.5. You could have staked your last penny – it was safe money. If you had staked anything, only one moment in the game could have excited you, i.e. when Peter declined the repetition of moves on the 29th move.

Anand's choice in the opening, the Caro-Kann Defense, unmistakably demonstrated Vishi's intentions for the game. It would have been extremely difficult, maybe even impossible, to destroy Anand's position. But his opponent didn't even try to do that. Soon after Peter's rejection of move repetition,

White's offer of a draw was accepted.

But the other participants in the tournament distinguished themselves today.

Vladimir Kramnik, playing Morozevich, demonstrated again that he knew inside out how to play the ending. Today Vladimir

made up his mind not to examine

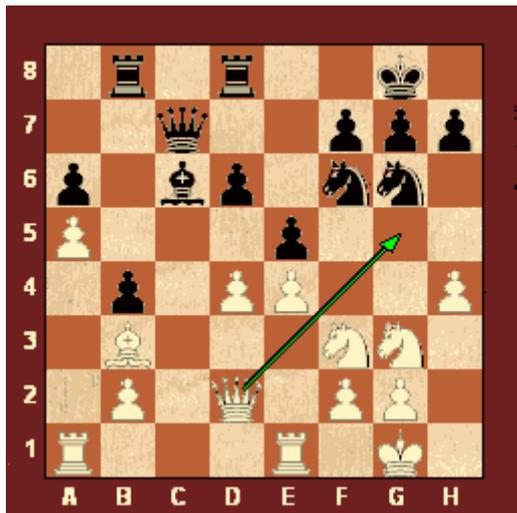
Alexander's level of home preparation in the basic variations of the Slav Defense. Instead, he employed his favorite trick, that is, transition into the ending with a minimal advantage, and then he really started playing.

It seemed likely that a draw would soon ensue. Alexander's only task was to position his knight on the blocking c6-square, and this he for a long time couldn't do. When the knight at last found itself on the desired square, he immediately had to leave it and come to the king's rescue.

Through unbelievably shrewd maneuvers, White loosened his opponent's position. To add to this, practically all of the work was done by the white bishop. The Bc1-f4-g3-h4-g3-d6-e7-f6 route was covered in the game, and it is interesting to note that pieces in Karpov's best games followed similar routes. After the white bishop settled himself on f6, Black might as well have resigned. In time trouble, Alexander made 10 more moves and resigned in the deep zugzwang position. This was a brilliant achievement by the World Champion.

The struggle at the neighboring table was no less dramatic (however, it was less exemplary). Topalov, who is apparently setting out to fight Kramnik in struggling for first place, played a serious game against Adams. The Ruy Lopez was a success. At first the Englishman pressed Topalov. Michael is not in the habit of being an outsider, and today he went out of his way to refute his opponent's opening (and this opponent, as usual, tended to risk right to the edge of the abyss).

The climax arrived on the 24th move.



At this point the Englishman might have reaped the fruits of his precise game. But to do that, he had to turn down his habitual tactics of stifling the opponent and make a peculiarly Spanish move, Qg5.

The spice of this move manifests itself in the line 24...Kf8 25.h5 h6 26. Qc1!! The queen returns quite effectively: There is no preventing the d4-d5 threat. Alas, Michael preferred the simple 24.Rac1, and from that point on he started surrendering the positions he had conquered with such a lot of effort. Soon he was absolutely outplayed, but then it was his opponent's turn to slip up.

Veselin didn't notice an easy win, and the complicated one he had counted on did not present itself. It was perpetual check that let Adams escape. Probably both opponents were left discontented with this intricate game. "It is art that benefits," as is commonly written in books. Well, of course, Kramnik has also benefited: Now he is the sole leader.

July 15

Adams - Topalov 1/2

Kramnik - Morozevich 1:0

Leko - Anand 1/2

Kramnik - Morozevich [D12]

A draw could scarcely be predicted in this game. This year, in two games out of the

three played by these participants, Black has gained the upper hand! Now this tradition has unexpectedly been broken. Having played a precise ending (as he has done several times), the World Champion won with White to become the sole leader of the tournament.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3

A venomous variation. Objectively speaking, White has nothing special here except some nuances.

4...Bf5!

This is the strongest response. Black manages to happily position his light-square bishop.

5.Nc3 a6!

It is surprising how Morozevich manages to hit upon such rare and strong moves in the early opening!

The standard line, 5...e6 6.Nh4, leads to a position in which White has the two bishops.

6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 e6

The bishop exchange is to Black's advantage. In my opinion, he has already forced equality.

8.0-0 Be7

A novelty. The Horvath-Timoshenko game went: 8...b5 9.b3 Nbd7, and here, instead of the key 10.e4, White passively played 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.a4 b4 12.Ne2 Bd6 13.Bb2 0-0 14.Rac1, followed by signing a peace deal.

9.e4 0-0

An offer to allow the French structure.

10.Rd1

Maintaining the pressure in the center. Of course, the French Defense with no light-square bishops would not inspire White; thus, no good would come of 10.e5 Nfd7.

10...b5

Alexander intends to eliminate this pressure! 10...Nbd7!?

11.c5

This decision is not trivial. 11.b3 suggests itself, followed by, for example, 11...b4 12.e5 bxc3 13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Qxc3 with interesting play.

11...dxe4

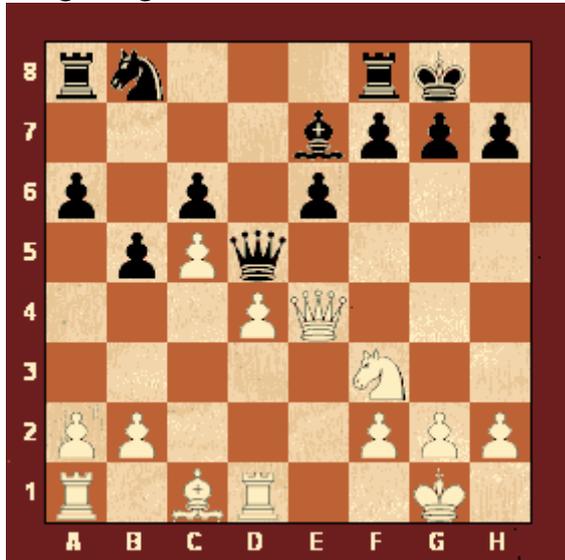
The continuation 11...b4 12.e5 bxc3 13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Qxc3 Nd7 15.Bf4 appears to be to

White's advantage. The c6-pawn is potentially weak.

12.Nxe4 Nxe4

12...Nbd7 suggests itself, but what should be done after 13.Bf4! ? The white pieces are making for the d6-square.

13.Qxe4 Qd5!



Certainly not 13...Bxc5?! If undeveloped, one shouldn't capture such pawns. Then possible is the straightforward 14.Ng5 g6 15.Qh4 h5 16.g4! and the black king has a lot of difficulty.

14.Qxd5!

From the positional point of view, bad is 14.Ng5 Bxg5 15.Qxd5 cxd5 16.Bxg5 Nc6, avoiding the exchange. Possible is 14.Qc2 Nd7 - the black queen is positioned not merely beautifully, but also effectively.

14...cxd5

In case of 14...exd5, White might as well try to intrude to e7 with 15.Re1 Bf6 16.Bg5!

15.Bf4

In this structure the main question is as follows: Will Black be able to move the knight to the wonderful blocking c6-square?

15...Nc6

An important moment. 15...f6 deserves attention, followed by 16.Re1 Kf7 17.Re3, and White's doubled rooks prevent Black from moving his knight to c6. But the situation may be changed soon! Getting on with the above-mentioned line, through 17...Re8! 18.Rae1 Bd8, White (in order to avoid worse outcomes) should exchange on

b8: 19.Bxb8 Rxb8, and, from my point of view, the position becomes roughly even.

16.Ne5!

The knight exchange is to White's advantage.

16...Nb8!?

An original response. Black plans to play f7-f6 to return his knight to the desired square. The following leads to White's obvious advantage: 16...Rfc8 17.Nxc6 Rxc6 18.b4!, followed by the a2-a4 blow-up on the next move.

17.Rd3!

As people commonly say in such cases, this is a multifunctional move! White intends to double the rooks along the e-file or to transpose his rook somewhere along the third rank. This will depend on the opponent's actions. Also possible is 17.Re1!? with the idea of 17...f6 (or 17...g5 18.Bg3 f6 19.Ng4! Kf7 20.Nh6+ Kg6 21.Rxe6+-) 18.Nd3 Kf7 19.Bxb8 Raxb8 20.Nf4, and White wins. However, Black's could respond 17...Rfc8!, retaining his counterchances.

Of course, for White there is no point in playing 17.c6 f6 18.c7 fxe5 19.cxb8Q Raxb8 20.Bxe5 Rbc8

17...Rc8

The following line is to White's advantage: 17...g5 18.Bg3 f6 19.Nf3! (and it is quite unclear what will come of 19.Ng4 Nc6 20.Re1 Kf7 21.Nh6+ Kg6 22.Rxe6 Rac8 23.Ng4 Kf5!) 19...Nc6 20.Re1 Kf7 21.Rde3 Nd8 22.Bc7 Re8 23.g4!, and he can develop attacking ideas on both kingside and queenside.

Here the most fundamental move to make is 17...f6 18.Nf3 Nc6 19.Re1 Kf7 20.Rde3 and in this situation Black might play 20...Nxd4! (did Alexander see this possibility, I wonder?) 21.Nxd4 Bxc5 22.Rd3 (not so good is 22.Nxe6 Bxe3 23.Rxe3 Rfc8!) 22...Bxd4 23.Rxd4 e5 24.Bxe5 fxe5 25.Rxd5 (25.Rxe5 Rfe8) 25...Rfe8 26.Rdxe5 Rxe5 27.Rxe5 Rc8! and there is no win for White in this rook ending.

18.Re1!

The idea is the same. White aims for the e6-square!

18...Bf6

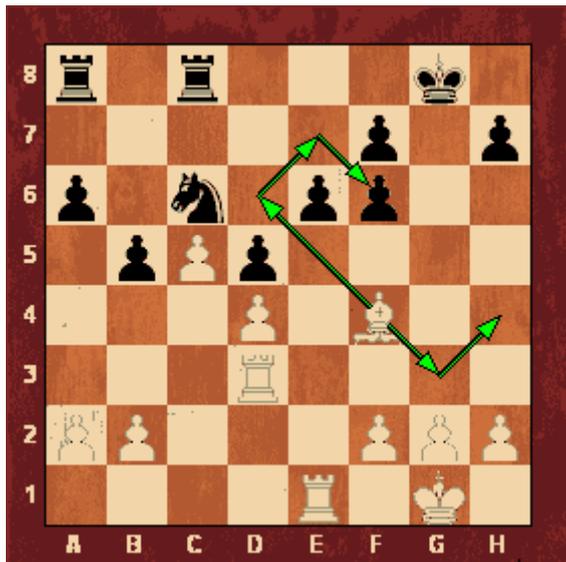
With the obvious threat of exchanging on e5. In the line 18...f6 19.Nf3 Kf7 20.Rde3 Black has to position the rook, not the knight, on c6, and that's bad.

While online I suggested that Black should make the move 18...a5!? - let White speak his mind! For instance, 19.Rb3 b4 20.a3 Na6 21.axb4 a4!, but, as a matter of fact, the a6-a5 move is useful.

19.Ng4 Nc6!?

A risky scheme, but it is difficult to refrain from it. The desired aim is attained: The knight occupies the c6-square. True, the king's position becomes weakened in this case. Meanwhile, it is interesting to know what Vladimir would do in case of the retreat 19...Be7: The exchange on b8 provides him with no immediate advantages. But objectively speaking, White's position is better in that case.

20.Nxf6+ gxf6



21.Bg3!

It was hard to foresee this maneuver in time trouble. The straightforward 21.Bh6 Kh8 changes nothing. (The diagram shows the future route of the bishop!)

21...Kg7 22.Bh4

The f6-square is in danger. The proud knight should be drawn into the game.

22...Ne7

Surely, it is frightful to play 22...f5, because the king becomes much too exposed. For instance, White has the following plan of

attack: 23.Rg3+ Kh6 24.Bg5+! Kh5 25.f4 Rg8 26.Ree3, and Black is apparently done for.

23.g4

I believe that stronger is 23.Rg3+ Ng6 24.f4! and I can see no immediate play for Black. In response to 24...f5, the bishop is transferred to d6: 25.Be7!

23...Ng6?!

Not this way! The white g4-pawn excellently protects the black king. So a possible move is 23...Nc6!?!; the move 23...h5 deserves attention as well.

24.Bg3 a5 25.Bd6!

This isolates the knight from the c6-square. The tempting 25.Rb3 b4 26.a3 is refuted through 26...Ne7! 27.axb4 axb4 28.Rxb4 Nc6, followed by the capture on d4.

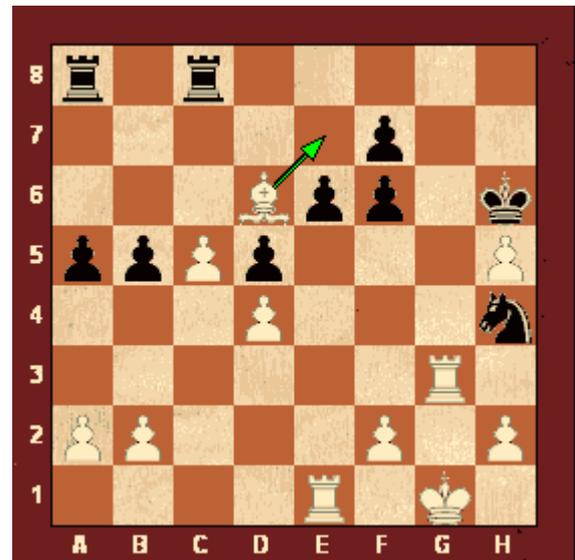
25...h5

Now this blow-up is a failure, and Kramnik certainly proves this. Black's position is not good. The white pawns are threatening to raid on the kingside.

26.gxh5! Nh4

The knight is moving to f5. On the face of it, everything is OK...

27.Rg3+ Kh6



28.Be7!

This practically finishes up the entire struggle! The sacrifice of the exchange is extremely effective.

28...Nf5 29.Bxf6 Nxf3 30.fxf6!

Correct. The h2-pawn has a long way to go.

30...Rg8 31.Kg2 Kxh5 32.h3 Kg6 33.Rf1!

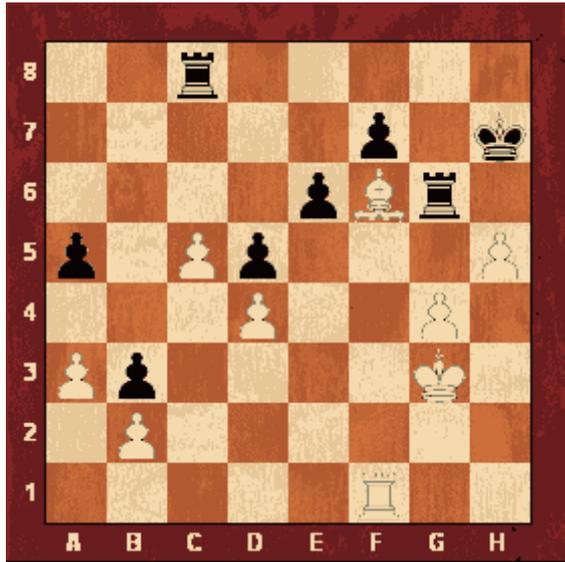
Look, White only has one pawn for the exchange, but his position is winning. The black rooks are blocked. And White has a clear-cut plan of attack on the kingside.

What a picture! There follows

33...Kh7 34.g4 b4 35.Kg3 b3 36.a3!

Of course!

36...Rac8 37.h4 Rg6 38.h5



And at this point Morozevich resigned.

What a great positional game!

1-0

Adams - Topalov [C78]

A dramatic game. Both Michael and Veselin have regrets, but, on the other hand, neither of them lost. And the whole ball of wax is certainly to the spectators' advantage!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5

A modern variation. Its theory is still being developed by top players.

7.a4 Rb8 8.d3

Four years ago Veselin, when playing the great Kasparov, stood his ground after 8.axb5 axb5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.d4 Bxd4 11.Qxd4 d6 12.f4 Nc6 13.Qc3 Ne7 14.Qd3 0-0 15.Nc3 c5! 16.Nxb5 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Rxb5 18.Ra7 c4!? (18...Bd7) 19.Bxc4 d5 20.Qxe7 dxc4 21.Qxd8 Rxd8 +=

Kasparov,G-Topalov,V/Novgorod 1997/

8...d6 9.c3 Bg4 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.h3 Bd7

A novelty. Looks strange: Usually White plays h2-h3 without preliminaries. More logical is the standard 11...Bh5, followed by

12.Re1 Re8 13.axb5 axb5 14.Nf1 Ra8

15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Ng3 Bg6 17.Nh4 Qa7

18.Rf1 Na5 19.Bc2 (19.Nxg6!? hxg6

20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 21.b4) 19...b4+= Nijboer -

Ehlvest/Las Vegas/1999

12.Re1 Bb6 13.Nf1 Ne7 14.Ng3

The move 14.Bg5?! changes nothing,

followed by the simple line 14...Ng6 15.d4

h6 16.dxe5 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.Bxf6

Qxf6! 19.Qxd7? Qxf2+ 20.Kh2 bxa4!

21.Bxa4 Qg1+ 22.Kg3 Bf2+ 23.Kf3 Bxe1

24.Rxe1 Rxb2-+;

and the continuation 14.d4 Ng6 15.Ng3

leads to the game.

14...Ng6 15.d4 c5

The move 15...Re8 deserves attention. It

prevents the white bishop from developing

on e3 (in this case there follow the captures

on d4, a4, and, in the long run, on e4), and

the move 16.Ng5 (16.Be3 exd4 17.cxd4

bx4) scarcely changes anything after the

cold-blooded 16...Nh8!, followed by h6.

16.Be3!

A good, natural move. Now it is obvious

that Black hasn't settled his opening

problems. Slightly weaker is 16.dxc5 dxc5

17.axb5 axb5 18.c4 Bc6 with complicated

play.

16...cxd4

White gains an evident advantage after

16...exd4 17.cxd4 c4 18.Bc2 b4 19.b3 c3

20.Qd3±

17.cxd4 Ba5 18.Re2!

Also interesting is 18.Bd2

18...Bb4 19.a5!?

A very shrewd move! Strange as it might

seem, the future weakness on the a6-square

is now fixed. The position of Black's b8-

rook becomes less reasonable.

19...Bc6 20.Bd2! Bxd2 21.Qxd2 b4!?

Otherwise the white queen will occupy the

b4-square.

22.Ree1

In response to the natural move 22.Bc4!

there follows the equally natural response

22...Nxe4 (but not 22...Bb5 23.Qxb4!)
 23.Nxe4 Bxe4, but it's White's word that counts here ultimately: 24.Nxe5! (24.Rxe4 d5=) 24...dxe5 25.Rxe4 and the white bishop is obviously stronger than the black knight. I believe White's advantage would be obvious here.

22...Qc7 23.h4

White has lots of tempting opportunities here. For example, 23.Rac1 Qb7 24.dxe5 dxe5 25.Qd6! Rbc8 (25...Bxe4 26.Rc7!) 26.Rc4, winning the pawn.

23...Rfd8



24.Rac1

I've been unable to find an escape for Black after the white queen is brought in: 24.Qg5! Look: 24...d5 (h4-h5 threatens, and it is impossible to play h7-h6 due to the capture on g6. As bad is 24...Kf8 25.h5 h6 26.Qc1! followed by d4-d5 with a win: 25.h5 Nxe4 26.Nxe4 dxe4 27.Bxf7+! Kh8 28.hxg6 exf3 29.Qxe5, and the position's evaluation is self-evident.

24...Qb7 25.h5

Probably better is 25.Ng5 Be8 26.h5 Nf4 27.h6! with the idea of 27...gxh6 28.Nh3!

25...Nf4 26.dxe5?!

A couple of careless moves spoil the position entirely!

26...dxe5

Time trouble has set in.

27.Qe3?

Black is also OK after 27.Qc2 Be8 28.Nxe5 Rbc8 29.Bc4 (29.Qb1 Qb5) 29...Qe7 30.Nf3 Nd3!

27...Ng4!

In response to 27...Nd3 there is a counterblow: 28.Bxf7+! Kxf7 29.Rxc6 Qxc6 30.Qxd3!

28.Qc5 Be8!

Now the fatal intrusion on d3 is threatening.

(28...Rbc8 29.Red1!)

29.Bc4 Rdc8 30.Qd6

30.Qb6 Qxb6 31.axb6 Kf8 32.Bxa6 Rxc1 33.Rxc1 Rxb6 =+

30...Qa7

The enticing 30...Rc6 would be a blunder due to the fierce blow 31.Bxf7+! Kxf7 32.Nxe5+ Nxe5 33.Qxe5 Ne6 34.Rxc6 Bxc6 35.Qf5+ Ke7 36.Qxh7, and the black king has a problem.

31.Qd2?

The lesser evil is to suffer in the ending after 31.Rf1 Rd8 32.Qxa6 Qxa6 33.Bxa6 Ra8 34.Bc4 Rxa5 35.Rfd1

31...Rd8 32.Bd5



32...Nxd5

Winning is 32...Nd3!

33.exd5 Rxd5! 34.Qxd5 Qxf2+ 35.Kh1 Qxg3

Black has two pawns for the exchange and a considerable initiative.

36.Rc2

36.Qd6!

36...Bb5

36...b3!?

37.Kg1 h6 38.Rec1!

An excellent chance. White is saved by the

counterattack.

Worse is 38.Qd6 Rf8! 39.Qxb4 Bd3 40.Rd2 e4

38...Re8

38...Qf4!?

39.Rc8! Qf2+ 40.Kh1 Qxb2

In the ending 40...Ne3 41.Qd2 Qxd2

42.Nxd2 Kf8, it is not a sure thing that

Black can play for a win.

41.Rxe8+ Bxe8 42.Rc8 Qa1+ 43.Ng1 Nf6

44.Qc6 b3 45.Rxe8+ Nxe8 46.Qxe8+ Kh7

47.Qxf7

A forced line.

47...Qb1 48.Kh2

I reckon that another safe way out is 48.Qc4

b2 49.g4! A wonderful protective resource!

The black queen has no squares along the

b1-h7 diagonal. A perpetual check or drawn

queen ending seems likely to emerge on the

chessboard.

48...b2 49.Ne2 Qd3 50.Nc3! Qxc3

Letting the opponent declare perpetual

check. (Or 50...b1Q 51.Nxb1 Qxb1

52.Qe6!)=)

So the game was drawn. And what a game!

Round 5

(Iliya Gorovetsky)

Unfortunately the outcome of the game

Anand – Kramnik was quite predictable – a

dull, insipid draw. As a result the opponent's

standings remained the same: World

Champion Kramnik is in first place, whereas

the FIDE Champion Anand is close to the

last line of the crosstable.

Anand does not impress so far. Apparently

he lacks motivation. Indeed, the crown is not

at stake, whereas all the talk about bearing

out the legitimacy of the title are mere

empty words for the Indian GM. Besides,

Vishy's opening preparation for this

tournament leaves a lot to be desired.

Kramnik immediately revealed his peaceful

intentions. The Petroff Defense, an opening

that has not been frequently seen in

Vladimir's games, was back on stage.

Anand tried to improve White's play in a

rare line, but it was just an imitation of a real

fight. A draw was agreed on move 17. So, as

I put it in the headline: "much ado about nothing".

The winner of the encounter Topalov – Leko

could have caught up to Kramnik but there

wasn't one. Quite naturally, Veselin, who is

in good shape in this event, wanted to win

the game, but his attempts to break through

Leko's Queen's Indian fortifications resulted

in a slightly inferior position. The Bulgarian

GM had to find a few accurate moves to

level the situation. Besides, Leko had no

objections.

Alexander Morozevich was the hero of the

day. It looks like in order to start winning

the Muscovite has to find himself in last

place. The first time this paradoxical rule

was demonstrated was in Astana. Here

comes more evidence. Alexander played

very confidently today. He scared his

opponent almost to death with his initiative

on the kingside in an innocuous line of the

English Opening. Mickey sacrificed a pawn

and offered a queen exchange, in the hope of

making up for the material deficit with the

activity of his pieces.

However, Morozevich proved that in this

particular case activity is good, but an extra

pawn is better! Alexander precisely

conducted the final portion of the game. The

only questionable moment occurred in

mutual time trouble. First Morozevich

missed an opportunity to close out the game

in a very elegant way (36...Nxb5 37.Bd3!),

then Adams returned the favor and did not

profit by a windfall opportunity to make the

opponent's life more difficult (40...g6). I

should note, though, that the opponents did

not have computers at hand to check all the

lines, as I do.

It is very hard not to yield to the temptation

of summing up when the tournament race

has reached its half-way mark. Kramnik is

playing in a very solid manner, with a large

safety margin. Nevertheless, he is

confidently leading the field. Bearing in

mind that in the second part of the

tournament the World Champion has the

white pieces in three games, I doubt that he

will let the first prize slip away.

Topalov looks really good. If Veselin

manages to preserve his energy throughout

the tournament, his position in the first trio will be guaranteed. Leko has not surprised anyone: after the victory in the first game he is OK with a draw in all other encounters now.

Morozevich has played very creatively so far. It is very difficult to predict the outcome of his games. Alexander is on the minus side now, but at the end of the event he might find himself either in second place or last. Both Anand and Adams look unconvincing. They badly need a day off. However, Anand will most likely improve his situation, whereas Adams will have a hard time trying to leave the last place in the final standings.

July 16, 2001

Morozevich - Adams 1:0

Topalov - Leko 1/2

Anand - Kramnik 1/2

Anand,V (2794) - Kramnik,V (2802)
[C42]

Commented by S.Shipov

The encounter of the two champions failed to live up to the fans' expectations. There was no real champions fight.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6

Quite naturally, Vladimir is OK with a draw. It does not make any sense to run risks as Black when leading the tournament.

3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Nf6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Re1 Be6 11.c5

Vishy is closing the position. I doubt that this plan will have many adherents. Usually White maintains tension in the center. For example the game Topalov,V-Jussupow,A/Moscow 1994 went 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.a3 Bf6 13.Be4 h6 14.h3 Qd7 15.Bc2 Bf5 16.Ne4 Rae8 17.Nxf6+ Nxf6 18.Rxe8 Rxe8 19.Ba4 Qd6 20.Be3 Re7 21.Rc1 etc.

11...Bg4

Right. Black should put pressure on the d4-pawn.

12.Be2

A novelty. A game between two computers saw 12.Be3 and here Black without long "hesitation" delivered a blow 12...Bxc5 13.dxc5 d4 14.Bd2 dxc3 15.Bxc3 Nd5 16.Rc1, which brought about an approximately equal position. Genius 5 – Fritz 5, Debrecen 1998.

12...Ne4 13.Be3

White is fortifying his base pawn. In the long range, if opportunity presents itself, White is going to advance his queenside pawns.

13...Bf6 14.h3 Bh5

Usually, such moves are made automatically. However, in this particular case Black could have retreated with his bishop to f5 (with the idea of transferring it to e4 straight away, or after the exchange on c3).

15.Qa4

A more consistent continuation was to grope for Black's weaknesses on the queenside right away by 15.Qb3. However, White should have calculated a lot of variations.

For example the capturing on d4 leads to a very sharp play - 15...Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Bxd4 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Rad1 Qf6 20.Nxe4 Qe5, and White emerges slightly better. On 15...Nxc3 White can take with the queen followed by the raid b2-b4-b5.

If 15...Na5, then White obviously can't capture on d5 (16.Qxd5) in view of Nxc3 17.Qxd8 (the queen was under attack, by the way) Nxe2 - check! That is why White should retreat his queen to b4.

I think in this case Black would have had to prove that he was equal.

15...Re8

If 15...Qd7 then White obtains the two-bishop advantage with 16.Ne5! Nxe5 17.Qxd7 Nxd7 18.Bxh5.

16.Rad1 a6!

A useful move. Black is fine. Kramnik arranged his pieces very well. Bearing in mind his d4-weakness Vishy decided not to run risks.

17.a3

protect his weakness on a2.

25...Ne4 26.Bxe4

Forcing a draw. After 26...dxe4 27.Rc7 Bc5 28.Bxc5 bxc5 29.Qb7, an equal rook ending arises.

1/2-1/2

Morozevich,A (2749) - Adams,M (2744)

[A28]

Commented by S.Shipov

Morozevich overcame his streak of bad luck! Michael Adams has always been an uncomfortable opponent for the Russian GM; besides, Morozevich has not had much success in this tournament so far. Both these tendencies were reversed today. Morozevich played really well and deserved his triumph.

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e4

As usual, Sasha is taking a side path instead of a trodden track. No matter, he will pave the way! Generally White develops his light-squared bishop on g2 instead of e2.

4...Bb4 5.d3 d6 6.Be2 h6

For some reason one of the chess classics didn't hurry with castling in this position – after 6...a6 7.0-0 Bc5 8.Be3 Nd4 9.b4 Ba7 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.cxd5 0-0 12.Nxd4 exd4 13.Bf4 Bb6 14.a4 a5 Black obtained roughly equal play and finally won, Milov, V-Korchnoi, V/Dresden 1998.

7.0-0 Bc5

A novelty. Michael studied the classic player's game. He is arranging his pieces in similar manner. Previously Black mainly played 7...0-0.

8.Nd2 Nd4

The domination over the d4-square is Black's main achievement.

9.Nb3 Nxb3

Exactly this way, in order not to miss the main achievement.

10.axb3 0-0

Black can't complain about the position that he obtained after the opening. However, the fight is yet to come.

11.Kh1!

As soon as the f3 knight has left the board, it

is time to send the f2 pawn into fray.

11...c6 12.f4 Bd4 13.Bf3!

With this move Alexander is not only preventing d6-d5, but also freeing the e2-square for his knight.

13...a6 14.h3 Qe7 15.Ne2 Ba7 16.Bd2 b5

17.Ng3 Rb8

Finally Black has created some counterplay on the b-file.

18.Nf5! Bxf5

18...Qc7!?

19.exf5

White's formerly passive light-squared bishop is breaking free. Besides, Black's a6 and c6 pawns are weak. Alexander is outplaying his opponent.

19...bxc4

19...Qb7 20.Bb4!

20.bxc4 Bd4

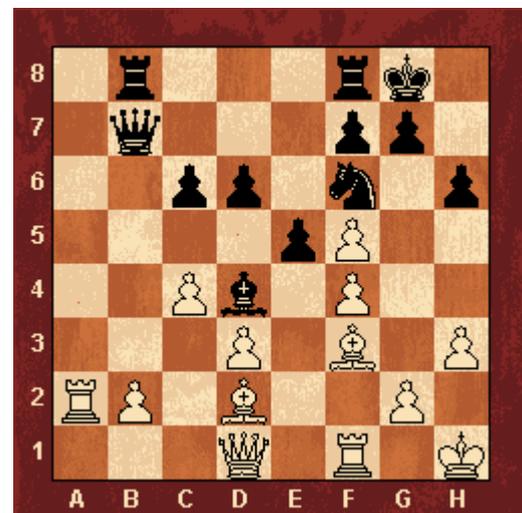
If 20...Rxb2 unpleasant is 21.Bc3!.

21.Rxa6 Qb7!

Black has no compensation for the pawn in the line 21...Rxb2 22.Bxc6 Rfb8 23.Bc1.

22.Ra2

White could have fought for the advantage with 22.Qa4 Qxb2 23.Rd1.



22...Qb3?!

A dubious decision. After the correct 22...Bxb2 White's advantage is minimal.

23.Qxb3 Rxb3 24.fxe5 dxe5 25.Bxc6

In any case White emerges up a pawn.

Michael saw all that, but pinned his hopes on the active positions of his pieces.

25...Rc8! 26.Bf3 Rxd3 27.b4 Bc3!

After 27...e4 28.Be2 Rb3 29.Rd1! Black is in deep trouble.

A ransom in the form of exchange does not help either: 27...Rxc4 28.Be2 Rxd2 29.Bxc4! and the white passing pawn decides.

28.Bxc3 Rxc3 29.Be2

29.c5? e4 30.Be2 Rb8!

29...Rb3

Much more stubborn was 29...Ne4! - this activation of the knight leads to drawing endgames in some lines.

30.b5 Ne4 31.Rf3!

This makes the difference! In the position with the rook on c3 Black would have played Ng3+ and Nxe2, protecting the rook.

31...Rb1+ 32.Kh2 Nd6

Black did not manage to exchange the white bishop.

33.Rfa3! Kh7

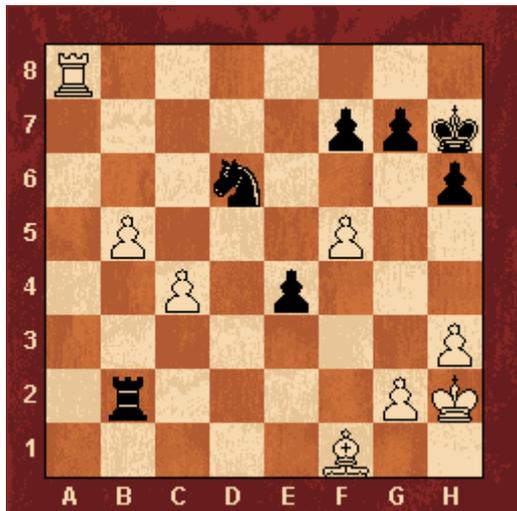
Black also goes down after 33...Nxc4 34.Ra8 Nd6 35.Rxc8+ Nxc8 36.Ra8 Rc1 37.b6+-.

Maybe Michael should have pulled his king closer to the center - 33...Kf8 34.Ra8 Rxa8 35.Rxa8+ Ke7.

34.Ra8 Rxa8 35.Rxa8 Rb2 36.Bf1

It was extremely difficult for a human to find the elegant trick 36.c5 Nxb5 37.Bd3!! and White wins (37...Nd4 38.f6+ g6 39.Rf8 Rb7 40.Bc4).

36...e4



36...Rb1 37.Rd8! Nb7 38.Bd3+-

37.c5!

A decisive breakthrough! However, it is premature to say something like "the rest needs no comment". Time trouble crept in.

37...Nxb5 38.Rb8 e3 39.Bc4

A rook endgame that might have arisen after 39.Rxb5!? e2 40.Bxe2 Rxe2 41.Kg3 is certainly winning for White. His king just marches to the queenside to support his passing pawn.

39...e2 40.Bxf7 g5

There is no point in blaming Michael for this move, which he made with a few seconds left. By a twist of fate, at this very moment Michael could have changed his fate (Sorry for the pun). After 40...g6!! 41.Bxg6+ Kg7 42.Re8 Nd4 43.Bh5 Kf6 it is very difficult for White to win this position.

41.Bg6+ Kg7 42.Rb7+ Kf6 43.Rf7+

Without the g5-pawn Black would not have been forced to move his king on the e-file.

This was the point of the 40...g6! move.

43...Ke5 44.Re7+

Transferring the rook to the correct file with tempo!

44...Kd5 45.f6 Nd4 46.Bh5 Rb1 47.f7 Rf1 48.Rxe2!

The bishop is taking up the f3-square with check, covering White's newborn queen. Black resigned.

1-0

Round 6

(Iliya Gorodetsky)

The participants of the Dortmund tournament seem to have established a certain norm: one decisive game a day. For better or worse, they overfulfilled the plan in the first round, and after that things straightened out. There have been few short draws: At a tournament of such a high standing the protective skills are just masterly.

Many supposed that the Anand – Morozevich duel would give a decisive result today. However Morozevich's victory, despite the fact that it was his 24th birthday, was quite difficult to predict. True, the KC expert Nikolay Vlasov managed to do the

trick. He even staked \$5 on the Muscovite. The prize money of \$60 is a decent reward for the correct prediction.

On his birthday Morozevich continued his dubious experiments. In the opening he provided his opponent with the advantage of the two bishops, moved his own rook to a7, and then employed kingside castling though the g-file was exposed. Had the good old Tarrasch seen the way Moro played, his hair would have stood on end.

So Anand decided to punish the insolent fellow, but he must have overestimated his position. On the face of it, the Indian's play was correct, but after 17...Bg5! it turned out that Black, who was by that moment a pawn down, was fighting for an advantage.

The Indian chess player did not believe his eyes, and in vain. After a few careless moves White's position became critical.

Anand was at a loss, and he soon slipped up. Then he immediately resigned. What a wonderful present on the occasion of Morozevich's birthday! This was the first defeat Anand had suffered playing White since March of last year, and now he is at the bottom of the tournament table. This was an absolutely unexpected fiasco on the part of the FIDE World Champion. More to the point, with such play he will have difficulty in drastically improving his tournament standing.

The Kramnik – Topalov game, which could have determined the fate of first prize, was quite overshadowed. The World Champion habitually pressed his opponent. At a certain moment he seemed close to victory.

Kramnik – Topalov games often resemble each other: Vladimir regularly gains an advantage and then regularly loses it. Today the scenario was the same: with the help of the careless move 29.h4? Topalov brought about equality. The tournament becomes no less intricate!

Adams drew the game with Leko. The Englishman gained a slight advantage in the opening, but then his actions were so passive and indecisive that around the 25th move the Hungarian chess player even captured the initiative. True, Leko, having scored "+1", has nothing against a draw. That's why the

game was soon finished.

I would like to single out the Topalov – Morozevich battle out of the games that are to be played tomorrow. Morozevich has won two games running, and Topalov's play has been excellent throughout the tournament so far. I am confident this is going to be quite interesting!

July 18

Anand - **Morozevich 0:1**

Kramnik - Topalov **1/2**

Adams - Leko **1/2**

Anand,V (2794) - Morozevich,A (2749)
[D11]

Commented by S.Shipov

Vishy Anand did not look his usual self today. He lacked his former defending tenacity and energy. Today he lost with no real struggle. In contrast, Alexander Morozevich now looks his usual self. As was the case in Astana, he didn't have a good start, but his play is gradually improving.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3

Vishy has lately followed the examples of the other participants in the opening. Having studied the Kramnik-Morozevich game, he saw that Alexander had had problems in this scheme. So he made up his mind to outplay Alexander in the same fashion.

4...a6

But Alexander wouldn't stand for anything of the kind! He immediately employed a different continuation. When playing the World Champion, he moved 4...Bf5.

5.Bd3 Bg4 6.Qb3

A precise approach. White at once focuses Black's attention on the b7-square's weakness.

6...Bxf3!

Correct! Otherwise the white knight would move to e5.

7.gxf3

More consistent is, of course, 7.Qxb7!?, but probably Vishy couldn't bring himself to

exercise such a sharp continuation because Morozevich was apparently better prepared in his favorite opening. Afterwards there might ensue 7...Bxg2 8.Rg1 Nbd7 9.Rxg2, and Black would have to prove that he is OK here.

7...Ra7

A novelty! Alexander does like this seemingly clumsy move. This is the way he played Gelfand in a similar position in Astana, and then it didn't take him long to lose. True, the real reason for that fiasco did not lie in this particular move.

Russia's new champion played in a simpler fashion in this position: 7...Qc7 8.Nc3 e6 9.Bd2 dxc4 10.Qxc4 Nbd7 11.Ne4 Be7 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Qc2 Qb6 14.Bc3 c5 15.dxc5 Qxc5 16.Bxf6 Qxc2 17.Bxc2 Nxf6 18.Ke2 Ke7 19.Rac1 Rac8 20.Be4 Nxe4 – with a draw, Solak,D – Motylev,A/Bucharest 2001.

8.Nc3 e6

The light-square bishop has gone west, and that's why Black's pawns are happily positioned on light squares.

9.Qc2 Be7

It would be interesting to immediately winkle out White's intentions through 9...b5, thus drawing the a7-rook into the game. For example, 10.c5 e5 11.dxe5 Nfd7 12.e6 Ne5!, and Black would have good play.



10.Bd2

This indicates a strategy of safety. Before undertaking anything, White would like to develop. 10.Rg1 deserves attention,

followed by the breakthrough in the center - 11.e4 - in response to any move by Black, with a view to moving the dark-square bishop (in one tempo) to a more decent position than d2.

10...0-0

The following blow-up suggests itself:

10...dxc4 11.Bxc4 b5 12.Be2 Nbd7 13.0-0-0 c5, but apparently Alexander wanted to keep the position closed. Well, with the opponent having a pair of bishops, this is quite logical.

11.0-0-0 Nbd7 12.cxd5

Now if 12.e4, then 12...dxc4! 13.Bxc4 b5 14.Bd3 c5, and Black is better.

12...cxd5

Worse is 12...exd5 13.e4.

13.e4 Kh8!

A shrewd response. The white bishop is lured to h7. It is dangerous to weaken the king's shelter with h7-h6 or g7-g6. 13...b5 leads back to the game with a different move order.

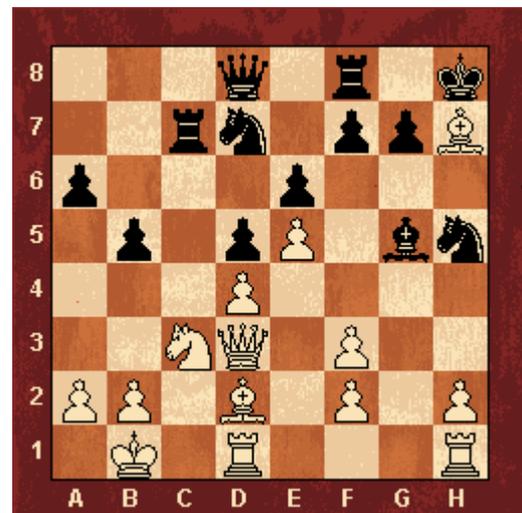
14.e5 Nh5! 15.Bxh7

The move 15.f4 doesn't look bad (threatening Be2). For instance, 15...g6 16.f5! gxf5 17.Rhg1 b5 18.Bxf5! b4 19.Nxd5 exd5 20.Kb1, and White has a serious initiative for a piece.

15...b5 16.Kb1

The white pieces, like cockroaches, run away from the "c"-file in anticipation of the black rook.

16...Rc7 17.Qd3 Bg5!



Well done! Black gains control of the f4-square. Meanwhile, the white pieces are quite awkwardly positioned. How can the h7-bishop be returned from the encirclement?

18.f4

An interesting decision. White slightly simplifies the position.

Of course, bad is 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Ba5 Nf4 20.Qf5 Bh6 21.Bxc7 Qxc7, and Black's two pieces are much stronger than the white rook.

In the line 18.Be3 Bxe3 19.fxe3 Qg5 White loses his bishop, but maybe that's where his practical chance can lie. Look at the following: 20.Rhg1 Qh6 21.Bf5! b4 22.Nxd5 exd5 23.Qb3, and White has good compensation for the piece.

18...Bxf4 19.Bxf4

19.Qf3 Qh4!; 19.Qh3 Qg5!

19...Nxf4 20.Qe3?

And this is a real slip. The following should have been played: 20.Qg3! Kxh7 (In response to 20...Nh5, there is the elegant move 21.Bd3, and capturing the queen results in perpetual check) 21.Qxf4 f6, and Black's advantage, if any, is quite slight.

20...Qh4!

Of course! Now Black has an unquestionable advantage. His pawn structure is better, and his pieces can quickly occupy active positions.

At this point Vishy was at a loss for good moves.

21.Bc2

Of course, better is 21.Bd3!.

21...Rfc8 22.Bd3

(because b5-b4 threatened)

22...Nb6 23.Ne2

23.Qg3 Qh6!

23...Nxd3 24.Rxd3 Nc4 25.Qf3

In the line 25.Qh3 Qxh3 26.Rxh3+ Kg8, White's first rank is weak, and he has to take into account the threat Nc4xb2!.

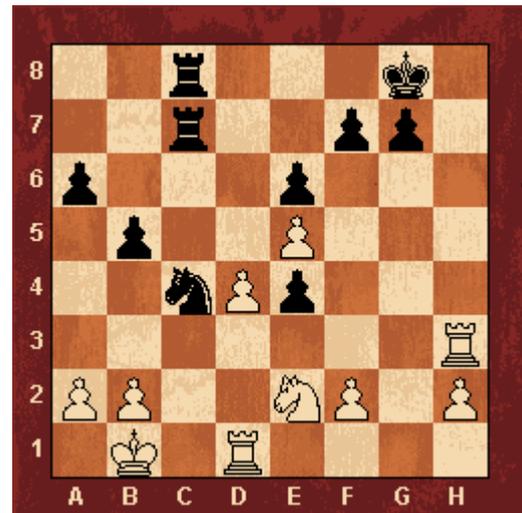
25...Qe4!

Black all the same transposes the game into the ending.

26.Qxe4 dxe4 27.Rh3+ Kg8 28.Rd1?

A slip. In case of 28.Nc3 Rd8 29.Rd1 Rcd7, the black rooks rush into the white camp through d4. The most tenacious move is

28.Rc3, but even here White faces problems: 28...b4 29.Rcc1 Nd2+ 30.Ka1 Rc2!



28...Nxb2!, and White resigned.

This was one of the tournament favorite's worst defeats.

0-1

Kramnik, V (2802) - Topalov, V (2711) [A79]

Commented by S.Shipov

Veselin, with determination, has come through his most unfavorable round, where Kramnik played White! Incidentally, Veselin did not reduce himself to mere defense in well-familiar schemes. He played the Modern Benoni, a competitive opening that involves strategic risks.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.Nd2 Bg7 8.e4 0-0 9.Be2 Re8 10.0-0 Na6 11.f3 Nc7 12.a4 Nd7

In this variation Black plays on the queenside, as is the case with White.

13.Kh1 b6

These opponents tested the same position in Monte Carlo this spring.

14.Ra3N

A novelty. For some reason Vladimir does not want to employ the continuation that provided him with an excellent position after 14.Nc4 Ne5 15.Ne3 f5 16.f4 Nf7 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Bd3 Nh6 19.Qc2 Qf6 20.Bd2 Bd7 21.Rf3 Kh8 22.Raf1 Re7 23.Rh3 Kramnik, V

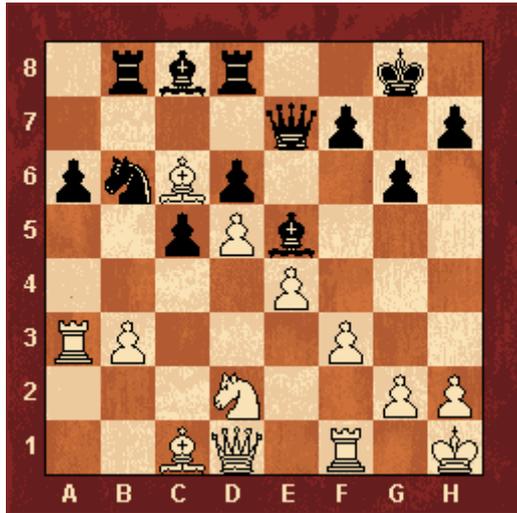
-Topalov, V/Monaco 2001/1/2-1/2 (60).
Obviously both Veselin and Vladimir know how to strengthen Black's play.

14...Qe7 15.Nb5 Nxb5 16.Bxb5 Rd8 17.a5 a6 18.Bc6

As a matter of fact, the bishop could be returned home - 18.axb6 Nxb6 19.Bd3.

18...Rb8 19.axb6 Nxb6 20.b3 Be5

Hoping to move the queen to h4.



But

21.f4! Bg7 22.f5

White redirects his attention to the queenside. 22.Qf3, I believe, would be shrewder, followed by f4-f5 on the next move.

22...Nd7!

The knight is eager to occupy the clear e5-square.

23.Bxd7!

Naturally, White cannot consent to this.

23...Bxd7 24.Qf3 Bd4 25.f6

This advance creates mating opportunities around the black king.

25...Qf8 26.Nc4 Bb5 27.Be3 Bxe3 28.Qxe3 h5 29.h4

A dubious moment. Probably it would be stronger to aim at the a6-pawn at first: 29.Rfa1 - if Black does not capture on c4, then White positions his queen on f4 and creates a luft. In this case White seems to keep good chances for a win: The d6-pawn and the black king are quite weak.

29...Kh7 30.Rfa1 Bxc4 31.bxc4 Rb4

32.Rc3

In response to 32.Qd3 Black can move

32...Qh6! 33.Rxa6 Qf4 and win the pawn back, obtaining a good position.

32...Re8!

This is not merely an attack on the e4-pawn, but also an obstacle against the breakthrough e4-e5.

33.Rxa6 Rb1+ 34.Kh2 Rf1

The f6-pawn is done for, and this means that Black can stand his ground.

35.Rca3 Rxf6 36.e5!

The final desperate attempt to complicate the game. If the black a6-rook is caught through 36.Kg1, Black's response is 36...Re5, and there is no White attack to be seen.

36...Rf5!

A precise response. It is extremely dangerous to give away the two rooks for the queen.

37.e6!

Kramnik cannot be entrapped: 37.Rxd6? Rxe5 38.Qxc5 Qe7 39.Rh3 Re2, and Black's threats are irrefutable.

37...fxe6 38.Ra7+ Kg8 39.Qg3 Qf6 40.Ra8 [40.Qxd6 Rf4!]

40...Rxa8 41.Rxa8+ Kg7 42.Ra7+ Kg8

The forced line has resulted in a position in which White might as well declare perpetual check, because he has nothing else for the sacrificed pawn. Both of the opponents played well, and this draw is a legitimate outcome.

1/2-1/2

Adams, M (2744) - Leko, P (2730) [B40]

Commented by M. Notkin

Adams habitually avoided a theoretical discussion and gained a slightly better position in the opening. Further on, Leko's play looked much more serious. It seemed likely that Peter was going to outplay his opponent, but he yielded to the temptation of playing a combination that resulted in a rook ending in which Black's advantage vanished into thin air.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3

Michael often plays different schemes

against the Sicilian Defense.

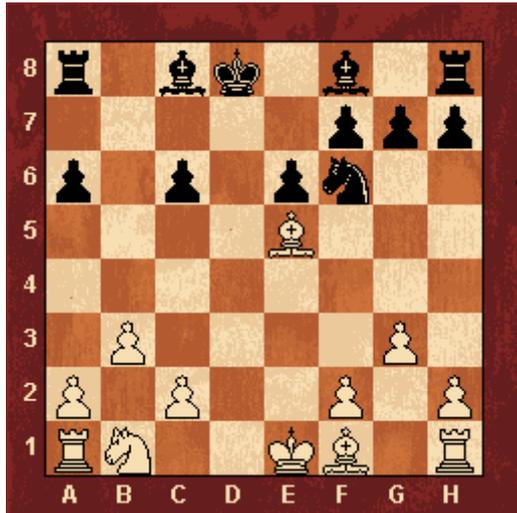
3...a6 4.Bb2 Nc6 5.g3 d6

Leko would not be satisfied with the position arising after 5...Nf6 6.e5 Nd5; that's why he first provides his knight with a route to f6.

6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nf6

Maybe more precise is 7...Bd7 8.Bg2 Nf6.

8.Nxc6!? bxc6 9.e5 dxe5 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Bxe5



White has a clear plan of development, and Black will have to rack his brains over how to position his pieces.

11...Nd7!

In case of 11...Nd5 12.a3, followed by c2-c4, Black's knight could not keep his central position.

12.Bb2 Kc7 13.Bg2 e5 14.Nc3

Better is 14.Nd2.

14...f6 15.0-0-0 Nb6! 16.Rhf1

And after 16.Rhe1 Bf5, Black has enough protective resources.

16...Bd7 17.f4

In response to 17.a4 Black plays 17...a5.

17...exf4 18.Rxf4 Bd6

White has blown up the center, but his opponent's pawn structure on the kingside is quite solid, and Black's pieces have already managed to occupy good fighting positions.

19.Rh4 Be5 20.Ne4 Bxb2+ 21.Kxb2 Bf5

22.Rf4

In case of 22.Nd6 Black would play 22...Rad8! 23.Rhd4 Bg6, and bad is 24.c4? c5 25.R4d2 Bh5!, winning the piece.

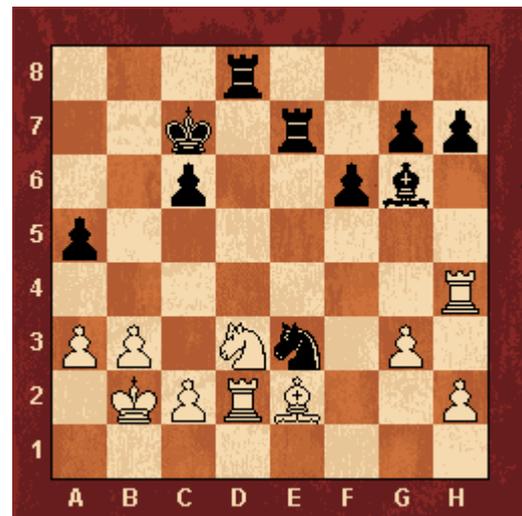
22...Bg6 23.Nc5 Rhe8 24.Rd2 Re5 25.Nd3

Rd8! 26.Bf1 Re3 27.Rdf2

More natural is 27.Rff2, preparing Nf4.

27...a5 28.Rh4 Nd5 29.a3 Re7 30.Rd2 Ne3 31.Be2

Leko's play for the last fifteen moves has been consistent and strong. But at this point Peter's patience is wearing thin, and he makes a hasty decision.



31...Nxc2

With the move 31...Be4!? he might have blocked the white rook in order to fight for a win. 31...h6 does not look bad either.

32.Rxc2

After 32.Kxc2? Rxe2! 33.Rxe2 Bxd3+ 34.Kd2 Bxe2+ 35.Kxe2 h6, White is left without the pawn.

32...Bxd3 33.Bxd3 Rxd3

The opponents calculated the tentative line 33...Rxd3 34.Rxh7 Ree3 (34...Kb6 35.Ka2 Ree3 36.Rb2) 35.Rxg7+ Kb6 36.b4 a4 37.Rg6 Rf3 38.h4 Rxa3 39.h5 Rab3+ 40.Ka2, where, thanks to the passed h-pawn, White's chances were no worse, and he signed a peace deal.

1/2-1/2

Round 7

(Iliya gorodetsky)

If not for Topalov, the Dortmund tournament would have lacked any intrigue. Having scored his third victory, Veselin caught up to Kramnik. Although, with just three rounds to go the World Champion has

more comfortable opponents at the finish of the event, compared to the opposition the Bulgarian GM will face, Topalov preserves fair chances for first prize.

Many expected a real storm on the board in the game Topalov – Morozevich. To tell you the truth, there was nothing of the sort. After an original opening, the opponent skipped the middle game and went right into a complicated ending. White arranged his pieces better, but up to a certain point I was under impression that a draw in this encounter was more probable than White's victory. However, Topalov managed to outplay his opponent in a game full of positional subtleties. Every time it was really needed he advanced his c-pawn. When the pawn in question crept as far as c5, it became clear that Black was in deep trouble.

The resourceful Morozevich found a way to complicate the issue with an unexpected exchange sacrifice. Topalov did not accept the offer, and preferred to safeguard his favorite c-pawn. The Bulgarian's favorite captured the d-pawn and changed both her name and file. Exactly at this point Morozevich got a chance to save the game. However, the Muscovite had no time left on his clock. He committed a fatal mistake with his 32d move: his knight jumped to c3 right under the fire of the b2-pawn. I don't know whether Topalov raised his eyebrows or not; one way or another after a five-minute reflection he captured the knight. A couple of moves down the road Morozevich resigned – the d-pawn (c-pawn in her girlhood) was about to reach the eighth rank. In keeping with recent tradition, the two other games were not as exciting. Adams and Anand licked their wounds. Having run out of steam by move 23, the outsiders parted quite dissatisfied with their performance. Kramnik opted for the Sicilian Defense for the second time in this event. He had no problems with obtaining promising counterplay, but again did not manage to win. It looked like the World Champion was outplaying his opponent in the endgame, but this turned out to be an illusion. Leko does not lose such positions.

Let's try to figure out what will happen at the finish of the tournament. Only Kramnik and Topalov have chances for the first prize. I just don't believe in Leko's triumph.

Kramnik is playing with Adams and Anand on the white side and taking on Morozevich in the last round with Black. Most likely the champion will win one of these games, although he always looks somewhat weary at the end of tournaments.

Topalov is playing twice on the black side vs. Anand and Leko, and one game vs. Adams in the last round with White. If Veselin stands his ground in both "black" encounters, he will have a real chance to tie for the first place. Who knows, maybe I discarded Leko too soon. All he needs to come out of the shadows is Morozevich's tossing out something like Nc3+ in their game.

Nevertheless, Kramnik is the favorite #1 to win the event!

July 19, 2001

Topalov - Morozevich 1:0

Leko - Kramnik 1/2

Adams - Anand 1/2

Topalov, V (2711) - Morozevich, A (2749)
[B33]

Commented by S. Shipov

A draw was a not very probable outcome in the game of these two fighters. All the bookies were of the same opinion.

1.e4 c5

Alexander, what has become of your French Defense? Maybe it is on the siding...

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qb6 5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.a3 Be7

This line is not one of the most popular variations. However, this position occurred in the seventh game of Anand - Kramnik rapid chess match (Mainz, 2001). It is well known that World Champions do not play bad openings.

8.Bf4

Veselin has spotted the weakness of the d6-

square. Anand opted for 8.f4.

8...0-0 9.Bd6N

A novelty. White is hampering Black's development by blocking the d-pawn. The sequence 9.e5 Ne8 10.Bd3 a6 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Re1+= occurred in the game Ljubojevic - Panno (Vina del Mar 1988).

Completely innocuous for Black is 9.Be2 d6 10.0-0 a6 11.Qd3 Ne5 12.Qg3 Qc7 13.Bh6 Ng6 14.Be3 e5 15.Rfd1 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 f5 Holmsten,A-Dvoirys,S/Cappelle la Grande 1999/0-1(33).

Topalov has his own opinion about this position.

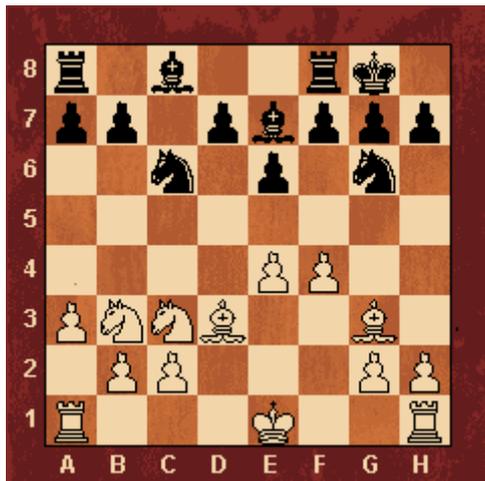
9...Ng4 10.Bg3 Nge5

White did not manage to consolidate his grip on the d6-square.

11.f4 Qe3+ 12.Be2 Ng6

However, Black has not enjoyed control over the e5-square for a long time.

13.Qd3! Qxd3 14.Bxd3



The exchange of queens is a rare case in the Sicilian Defense. This particular endgame favors White, because half of the black pieces are still on the eighth rank. The g6-knight does not please Morozevich's eyes either.

14...a6 15.0-0 f6

I think the natural move 15...d6 was better.

16.Ne2 b5 17.Bf2 Rb8 18.g3!

The g6-knight can relax! White is clearly better.

18...Nh8!

Such original maneuvers are often seen in Morozevich games!

19.Rd2 Nf7 20.Rhd1 Re8 21.c3 e5 22.c4 b4 23.a4 Bf8 24.c5!

Veselin is methodically improving his position. His light square bishop is heading for c4.

24...exf4 25.gxf4 d6

Black is trying to break loose from White's positional grip.

26.Kb1 h5

An obscure idea. 26...Bg4!/? deserves attention.

27.Rc1 Bb7 28.Bc4

The continuation 28.Ng3 h4 29.Nf5 also looks very strong.

28...Rxe4 29.Bd5



Little by little, Black's position has transformed from worse to losing. Morozevich tried to confuse his merciless judge. He nearly succeeded...

29...Ne7! 30.Bxf7+

Much simpler was 30.Bxe4 Bxe4+ 31.Ka1.

30...Kxf7 31.cxd6 Nd5 32.Nc5

Here came an inconceivable, unbelievable blow.



32...Nc3+!?

I put this mark only because this move is really spectacular. Objectively speaking, better was 32...Rxe2 33.Rxe2 Bxd6, and Black has some resources to continue the battle.

However, Morozevich is a man from a different dimension. He plays a different game compared to us mere mortals. So I am not in position to judge him.

33.bxc3 bxc3 34.Rxc3 Rb4+ 35.Ka2 Be4 36.Ka3 a5 37.Nd7! R8b7 38.Nxf8

Black resigned. Topalov caught up to Kramnik!

1-0

Leko,P (2730) - Kramnik,V (2802) [B83]

Commented by S.Shipov

This was a complicated, fighting game, in which neither of the opponents digressed from equality. So, it was a good grandmaster draw, in the finest sense of the word.

1.e4 c5

A good sign. The Sicilian Defense is characterized by being a "game-for-three-results".

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 d6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Be2

The Scheveningen Variation. I expect both kings to castle short...

7...Be7 8.Qd2!

Nothing of this sort! Peter has opted for an active plan with the opposite wings castled.

8...0-0 9.f4 a6 10.0-0 Nd7 11.g4

White is first to demonstrate his aggressive

intentions.

11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5

Black is not wasting time either!

13.a3 Bb7

It is not that easy to carry out the b5-b4 breakthrough: 13...Rb8 14.h4 b4 15.axb4 Rxb4 16.Nd5! +/-.

14.g5 Rc8 15.Rhg1

A novelty. In the game Sedlak-Grigoriant/YUG/2000 after 15.h4 Nc5 16.Qe3 Qc7 17.f5 a sharp position with mutual chances emerged, in which White did a better job.



15...e5!

The right decision! It is time to open the center because Black is tardy with his attack on the queenside. For example, 15...Qa5 16.Kb1 b4 fails to a combinational blow, 17.axb4 Qxb4 18.Nd5!.

16.Be3 exf4 17.Bxf4 Nc5 18.Qe3

A roughly equal position emerges after 18.Bxd6; on 18.Bf3 Black has a strong continuation at his disposal, namely 18...a5!.

18...Qc7

Another good option is 18...Ne6.

19.e5

This is nothing else but the correct evaluation of this position, which is as follows - Black is fine. An aggressive 19.Bg4 is met by 19...Nxe4! 20.Bxc8 Rxc8 21.Rd3 a5 and Black has a dangerous initiative.

19...dxe5 20.Bxe5 Qb6

With a simple threat Nb3+.

21.Kb1 Na4

Obviously bad is 21...b4 22.axb4 Qxb4

23.Bxg7!
22.Qxb6 Nxb6



Apparently it is time to agree to a draw. No way! The fighters still want to continue the battle.

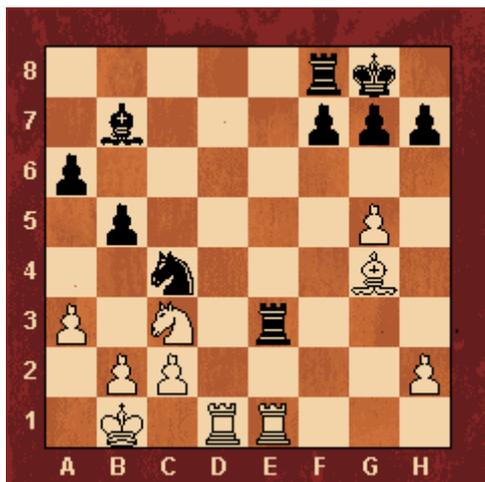
23.Bg4

White had the interesting move 23.Bd4!? with the idea of advancing the h2-pawn as far as possible.

23...Rce8 24.Bd6 Nc4 25.Bxe7 Rxe7 26.Rge1 Re3!

An unpleasant move for White. Black threatens Nxa3+.

Vladimir had a slight advantage in the opening. However Peter has reached a draw with accurate defense.



27.Kc1! g6

After 27...Rfe8 28.Rxe3 Nxe3 29.Re1 Kf8 30.Bh3 the position is equal.

28.Bd7 Rxe1 29.Rxe1 Rd8 30.Bg4 Rd4

31.h3 Rf4 32.a4 b4 33.Ne2 Rf2 34.Nd4 Rf4
Black's last chance to play for win lay in the variation 34...h6!? 35.gxh6 Kh7 and White still had to work for a draw.

35.Ne2 Rf2

Draw!

1/2-1/2

Adams,M (2744) - Anand,V (2794) [B52]
Commented by M.Notkin

The opponents made just a few original moves. Both tried to play with a big safety margin. This was a rather dull draw.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.b3 Nf6 7.Re1 g6 8.c3 Bg7 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 d5 11.e5 Ne4 12.Bb2

Not so precise is 12.Nbd2 Nc3! 13.Qc2 Nb5, as was played in the game Leko - Kasparov (Frankfurt 2000).

12...0-0 13.Nbd2 Nxd2

The continuation 13...f5 has been tested as well. However, the move in the text is solidier.

14.Qxd2 Rfc8 15.h3 Nd8!

A key maneuver in Black's setup. The knight is transferred to e6, where he is placed no worse than on c6, whereas Black's rooks will operate on the c-file.

16.Rac1 Ne6 17.Ba3 Bf8 18.Nh2 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 a5

Only this move opened a new page in chess history. The encounter Adams - Ftacnik (Bundesliga 1999) saw 19...Rc8 20.Rxc8 Qxc8 21.Ng4 Qc6 22.Ne3 b6 23.Qd1 f5 and Black easily reached a draw. It is hardly possible to think of a real improvement for White. Nevertheless, Anand has deviated first.

20.Nf1 a4 21.Bb4 axb3 22.axb3 h5 23.Qd3 Bh6

There was no continuation of the battle. A draw was agreed.

1/2-1/2

Round 8

(Mark Glukhovsky)

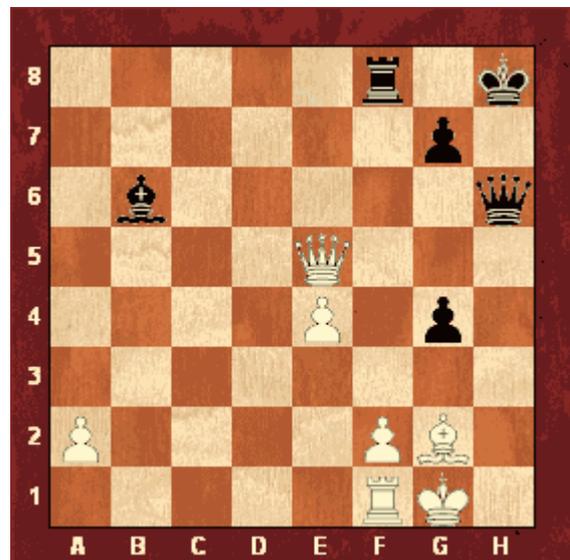
A fantastic day! The tradition has not been broken: There was one decisive game in the round, and the players kept the spectators' attention till the last minute.

All of the results today were absolutely unexpected. No wonder that today only one of the four of us in the Moscow office who had bet on certain results of the games managed to hit the jackpot. For want of something better to do, this guy who, no matter how hard he may try, is unable to tell the rook from the bishop, asked us, "the professionals", to stake his \$5 on someone. So we decided to stake his money on Topalov: The betting ratio against this player was the biggest, and the guy's money was not ours, so we wouldn't regret it anyway. But let me get the facts straight. Kramnik was the first to astonish everyone. The tournament's leader and favorite played White against Adams, who ranked last. The general public sentiment before the round began was to the effect that Vladimir would not necessarily win, but that he would torture his adversary long. When is Vladimir going to win, if not today? That's what we thought, but not Vladimir. Having exchanged no piece or pawn by the 18th move, Kramnik offered a draw. It is a mystery why he should have taken such an action. The position turned out to be anything – perhaps equal, or complicated – but not drawing. There were still 20 – 30 moves to make to achieve a draw. Alas, the game was a far cry from exemplary. The only reasonable excuse for the Russian chess player's peace-loving behavior (besides the traditional fatigue towards the end of the tournament) is the fact that Veselin Topalov, Kramnik's main rival, was balancing between defeat and draw by the time of Vladimir's peace-deal signing.

Veselin played Black against Anand today. He was, as usual, competitively tuned, and this might have been his undoing. Having played not an excellent opening, the Bulgarian player's position was far from the best by the same 18th move. If provided with a position of this kind against such a strong opponent, most chess players would be discouraged. I believe that even

Topalov's fate would have been the same if all of this had happened about 10 months ago. But this time thing went the other way around.

Veselin started his salvation campaign with the same youthful enthusiasm that distinguished his play earlier and that seems to be returning to him. Anand helped him a bit through the play that was not ideal; yet Anand made no bad mistakes – except one: Vishy overlooked the moment where he could offer a draw without being refused. White's position remained rather strong for some time more. When, on the 37th move, Anand made up his mind to exchange queens and force a draw, it was too late. Black dodged the exchange, and it turned out that White had nothing to support the f2-square with: This square was attacked by all of the remaining adverse pieces. The contrast was much too striking. Topalov, who didn't believe in his luck at that point, missed the opportunity of finishing the game on the 40th move.



After the bland 40... Rf4 it would have turned out that White couldn't decently defend from the g4-g3 threat and the ensuing mating attack. Alas, Topalov chose to play 40...Qh4, and after that he had to explain to Anand in the course of 44 more moves that there was no dodging fate. Topalov, like a magician, went on with new menaces with the help of his remaining

pieces that were not numerous. Anand succeeded in defense, but at the last minute he relaxed and immediately laid down his arms. It was not only Anand who turned out to be punished (I won't tell you for what, though I have a hypothesis), but also Kramnik. The latter was punished for his excessive peace-loving behavior. The Bulgarian chess player, who started the tournament with a defeat, has become the leader.

Morozevich drew his game today. Generally speaking, it is quite easy to draw a game if you play White against Leko. I don't mean that you or I am able to do this, but this is an easy task for a player of Morozevich's class. What you have to do is just come up with an offer of a draw, having previously set up the pieces in strict accordance with chess theory. But this would be too simple for Alexander. He played the Bishop's Opening and was soon absolutely defeated. Leko's play was just wonderful. He prepared and implemented an energetic breakthrough on the queenside, made his opponent slip up, and shifted from a multi-piece tactical struggle (which seems to be Morozevich's hobby-horse) to the ending where had good chances for a win and absolutely no risk (which is his own hobby-horse). But things happen, and this time Leko did not make use of his advantage and thus failed to change his tournament table standing. Well, anyway this tournament standing (he ranks 3rd) seems to satisfy him.

Or does it? This we will find out tomorrow – Leko is playing White against the tournament leader. The game next door will not leave anyone indifferent either: Kramnik is playing White against Anand. So we won't be bored.

July 20, 2001

Morozevich - Leko **1/2**
 Kramnik - Adams **1/2**
 Anand - Topalov **0:1**

Morozevich - Leko [C28]
Commented by S. Shipov

This was a draw in a hard and prolonged battle. Leko's play was excellent at his transition from the opening to the middle game. Through energetic play he gained a big advantage. And then Morozevich performed brilliantly. He proved that, besides imagination and combinational talent, he has excellent technique. Anyway, he saved an extremely complicated ending!

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Na5 5.Nge2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Ng3 d6 8.a4 Nxc4 9.dxc4 Be6 10.b3 c6

Black's position is somewhat tense, but he has two bishops and no weak points.

11.Bb2

In this position, Bent Larsen developed his bishop on a3: 11.Ba3

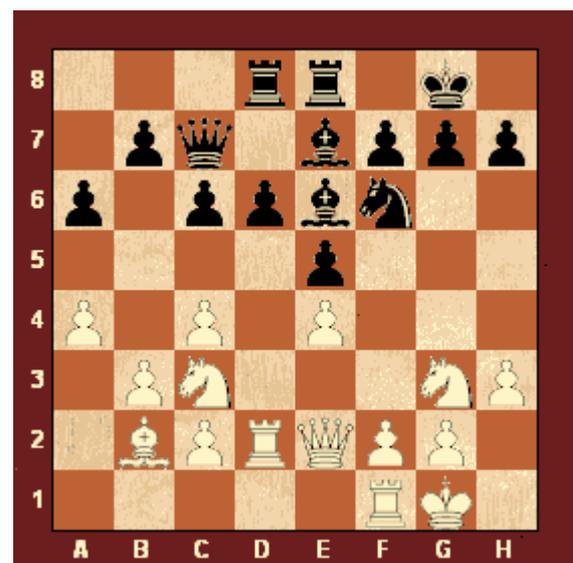
11...Qc7

A novelty. Black achieved a good position after 11...g6 12.f4 Ng4 13.Qe2 exf4 14.Rxf4 Ne5 15.Kh1 Bg5 in the game Shadrina, T-Koniushkov, I/Kstovo 1997/, but, of course, it is not necessary to weaken the kingside now.

12.Qe2 Rfe8 13.h3 Rad8 14.Rad1

Probably the doubling of the rooks along the d-file should have been implemented in a different way: 14.Rfd1

14...a6 15.Rd2



On the face of it, White controls the situation, but actually this is an illusion.

15...b5!

This combinational stroke blows up the position, which is to Black's advantage.

16.axb5 axb5 17.cxb5 d5!

The crux of Black's plot!

18.b6

Running from danger. After 18.bxc6 d4 and after the capture on c6, Black obtains such serious compensation for the pawn that it is White who would have to think of possible equality.

18...Qxb6 19.Na4 Qa5 20.exd5?

This looks like a miscalculation. The following keeps roughly even chances: 20.Bxe5, followed by 20...Nxe4 21.Nxe4 dxe4 22.Rxd8 Bxd8 23.Qxe4 Bxh3. And here it is possible to simply capture the bishop and then play c6. Another option is the complicated move 24.Rd1, followed by complicated play, and the position becomes even.

20...Nxd5 21.Rfd1

Alexander must have wanted to take the e5-pawn here, but then he noticed that after 21.Bxe5 Bb4 22.Rdd1 Bc8 it is quite difficult to eliminate the pin along the e-file.

21...f6

The b2-bishop is done for. Black has a positional advantage.

22.c4?!

22.Qf3

22...Nf4 23.Qe3 Rxd2 24.Rxd2 Bxc4!

And now he has material advantage as well!

25.bxc4 Qxa4 26.Qe4 Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Bxd8

28.Kh2 Qa8 29.Nf5 Qb7 30.Bc1 Ne6

31.Qg4 Kh8 32.Qd1 Be7 33.Nxe7 Qxe7

At this moment we discussed the arising position with Kasparov, and he questioned White's chances for a draw. Seemingly the queen exchange is to Black's advantage here. The ending is very competitive, of course, and it is hard to give a precise answer to the following question: Is Black's position winning?

34.Qa4 Qe8 35.Be3 Kg8 36.Qa7 Qd8

37.Qb7 Qc7 38.Qa8+ Kf7 39.g4 Qd7

40.Kg2 h6 41.Qb8 c5 42.Qb1 Qc6+ 43.f3

Nd4 44.Qe4 Qxe4 45.fxe4

The queen exchange has nevertheless taken place, but simultaneously a closed pawn structure has appeared. The white bishop is

in the position of attacking the black pawns.

45...Ke6 46.Kf2

46.h4!?

46...g5 47.Bd2 Kf7 48.Ba5 Nb3

If 48...Kg6 with the idea of h6-h5-h4, then 49.Bd8!

49.Bc7!

The bishop's activity is the basis of White's well-being.

49...Nd4 50.Bb6 Ne6 51.Kg3 Ke7

The last chance of struggling for a win lies in the line 51...Kg6 52.h4 h5!

52.h4 gxh4+ 53.Kxh4 Kd6 54.Kh5 Ng5

55.Kxh6 Nxe4 56.Kg6

Too many pawns have been exchanged.

Black's chances are vanishing into thin air.

56...Ke6

56...Nd2 57.Kxf6 Nxc4 58.Ba7 e4 59.g5 also leads to peace.

57.Ba7 Nf2 58.g5 fxe5 59.Bxc5 Ne4 60.Be3

g4 61.Kh5 Kf5 62.Kh4 Nf6 63.c5 Nd5

64.c6! Ke4 65.Bc5 Kf3 66.Bd6 e4 67.c7

Nxc7

Draw.

Anand - Topalov [B51]

Commented by Maxim Notkin

Anand and Topalov have doubtless played the two most spectacular games of the Dortmund tournament. The first game became Veselin's brilliant creative achievement, whereas the second one hasn't turned out to be that immaculate. In the opening Visny gained a solid advantage, but (what's to be done?) he didn't have happy play again. He let his advantage slip and obtained a worse position.

On the 40th move Topalov missed the opportunity of settling the game through an opposed-bishop attack (as was the case with his first game!) and passed over to the ending. There, with the help of ingenious play, he seemed to have achieved a winning position again, but Anand hit upon a fantastic saving idea.

But Veselin did not want to put up with a drawing outcome! And Visny failed to come through the new attack. His blunder resulted in Topalov's winning the micromatch 2:0.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.0-0 Bd7

**5.Re1 Nf6 6.c3 a6 7.Bf1 Bg4 8.d3 e6
9.Nbd2 Nd7?!**

A pretentious move. The usual continuation is 9...Be7

10.h3 Bh5 11.g4 Bg6 12.d4! cxd4

In case of 12...Be7 it is necessary to take into account 13.d5! exd5 14.exd5 Nce5 15.Nxe5 dxe5 (15...Nxe5? 16.f4 Nd3 17.f5!) 16.f4!

13.cxd4 e5 14.d5

It would be a good job if the tension in the center were sustained via 14.Nc4, but Black prefers to play 14...b5, and in response to 15.Ne3 he rashly moves 15...Bxe4

14...Ncb8 15.b4!? h5 16.g5

Incorrect is 16.Nc4? hxg4 17.hxg4 Nf6 18.Ng5 b5

16...a5

Veselin is in search of counterplay all over the board. 16...h4 17.Nc4 b6 deserves attention.

17.bxa5 Be7

In case of 17...Rxa5 18.a4 Nc5?! 19.Nb3! White's advantage is obvious.

18.Nb3 0-0

In response to 18...Na6 the following looks good: 19.Bb5! 0-0 20.Nh4 Ndc5 21.Nxg6 fxc6 22.h4 +/-

19.Qd2

A slightly far-fetched continuation. The following would keep the advantage: 19.Bd2 Na6 20.Rc1 Nac5 21.Rc4 f6 22.Nxc5 Nxc5 23.gxf6 Bxf6 (23...Rxf6 24.Bb4) 24.Qe2

19...Na6 20.Nh4 Nac5! 21.Bg2 b6 22.Nf5

The blow-up of the f-file after 22.Nxg6 fxc6 is to Black's advantage.

22...f6!

In case of 22...Bxf5 23.exf5 Nxb3 (or 23...bxa5 24.Nxc5 Nxc5 25.Qe3) 24.axb3 Rxa5 25.Rxa5 bxa5 26.Qe3 White's outlook for attack is bright.

23.Nh4 Qe8 24.Nxc5

Interesting is 24.Qc3!? preparing the capture on b6; for example, 24...fxg5 25.Nxg6 Qxg6 26.axb6

24...Nxc5 25.axb6 fxc6 26.Nxg6 Qxg6

27.Qe2

There is no saving the b6-pawn. Perhaps this fact demoralized Vishy. From this point his play was extremely wishy-washy.

27...Rfb8 28.Rb1 Bd8 29.Be3

In response to 29.Bf3 Black plays 29...g4!

30.hxg4 hxg4 31.Bxg4 Rxa2! 32.Qxa2 Qxg4+ 33.Kf1 Qh3+, followed by perpetual check, because impossible is 34.Ke2??

Qd3#. However, knowing the outcome of the battle, one can say that this is just the way the Indian Champion should have continued.

29...Bxb6 30.Rec1 g4 31.hxg4 hxg4 32.Rb4 Ba5

Preferable is 32...Ba7.

33.Rxb8+ Rxb8 34.Bxc5 dxc5 35.d6

No good is in store for White after 35.Rxc5? Rb1+ 36.Bf1 g3.

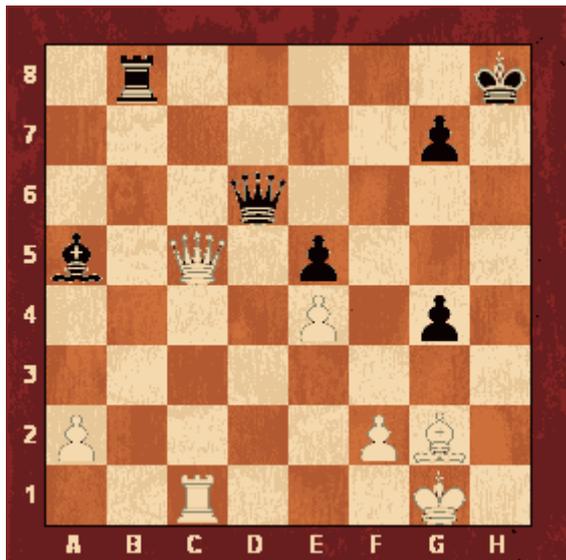
35...Qxd6 36.Qc4+

The other pawn should have been taken:

36.Qxg4.

36...Kh8 37.Qxc5





37...Qh6!

The following leads to a draw: 37...Qxc5 38.Rxc5 Bb6 39.Rxe5 g3 40.Kf1 Bxf2, but now Topalov wants more.

38.Rd1?

38.Qe3 should have been played.

38...Bb6!

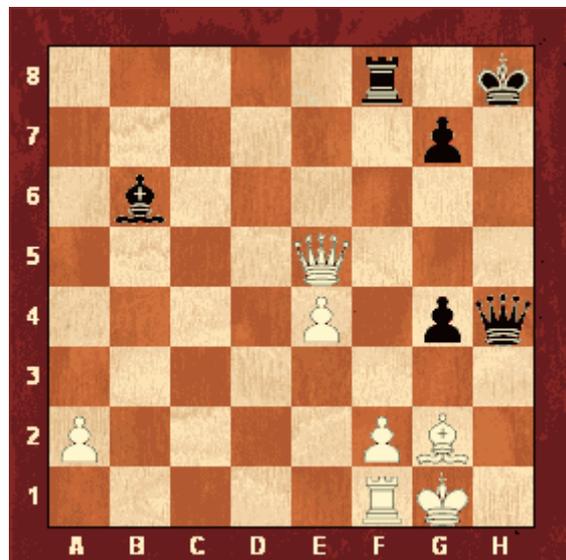
The following also looks nice: 38...g3!?

39.Qxa5 Qh2+ 40.Kf1 gxf2 41.Rd8+ Kh7! 42.Rxb8 (White has lost material, and then comes 42.Kxf2 Qh4+ 43.Ke2 Rxd8 44.Qxe5) 42...Qg1+ 43.Ke2 Qxg2 44.Rh8+! Kxh8 45.Qd8+ Kh7 46.Qh4+ Kg6 47.Qxf2 Qxe4+, with an extra pawn in the queen ending.

39.Qxe5 Rf8 40.Rf1

In case of 40.Qh2 Rxf2 41.Qxh6+ gxh6 the a2-pawn is lost. Nevertheless, this is just how he should have played.

40...Qh4?



The 40th move! After 40...Rf4! (threatening 41...g3) 41.Qc3 Qh4 Black would settle the game via an immediate attack. Now White exchanges queens.

41.Qh2 Bxf2+ 42.Kh1 Qxh2+

In response to 42...g5, White, with the intention of undoubling the pawns, meets the opponent's desires: 43.Qxh4+ gxh4 44.a4! h3 45.Bxh3! gxh3 46.a5, and Black cannot avoid the rook exchange.

43.Kxh2 g5

After 43...Rf6 White would have to make the same awkward move as he made in the game: 44.Bh1

44.Bh1! g3+ 45.Kg2 g4

It seems that there is a safe square for the white king, but this is no more than an illusion.

46.Rd1 Kg7 47.Kf1! Bd4+ 48.Ke2

48.Kg2 Be5 49.Rd2 Rf3 would complicate the situation, but with 48.Ke2, the torture continues.

48...Be5

48...Rf2+ 49.Kd3 Be5 50.Rd2

49.Rd2 Ra8 50.Bg2 Kf6 51.Kd3 Kg5

52.Ke2

The king should have been activated:

52.Kc4! Kf4 53.Re2

52...Kf4 53.Rc2 Ra3 54.Rd2 Re3+ 55.Kd1

Ra3 56.Re2

Trouble is brewing, but there is no decisive breakthrough to be seen so far. Topalov redeploys his forces.

56...Ra7 57.Rc2 Rb7! 58.Re2 Rb1+ 59.Kc2 Rg1

Black is about to triumph, but at this point Anand seems to have a temporary stroke of luck.

60.Kd3! Rc1

It turns out that the elaborately prepared sacrifice does not lead to the target:

60...Rxc2!? 61.Rxc2 Kf3 62.Rg1 g2 63.a4 Kf2 64.Rxc2+ Kxc2 65.a5 g3 66.a6 Bb8 67.e5, and White promotes the pawn in time! But Topalov is in no hurry to sign a peace deal.

61.Rd2 Rc3+ 62.Ke2 Rf3! 63.Kd1

After 63.Bxf3? gxf3+ 64.Kf1 Ke3 65.Rc2 Kd3! the rook doesn't have enough squares

on the second rank, and it cannot go away due to 66...g2+.

In the line 63.Rc2? Rf2+ 64.Kd3 Rxc2! 65.Kxc2 Ke3 66.a4 Kf2 67.a5 Kxg2 68.a6 Bb8 69.e5 Kf3 70.e6 g2 71.e7 g1Q 72.e8Q, Black retains his pawn and he easily wins.

63...Bc3

In case of 63...Kxe4 64.Re2+ Kf4, the white bishop is at last drawn into the game. Now in response to the black rook's retreat there can follow Re4+;

the opposed-bishop ending 63...Rf2

64.Rxf2+ gxf2 65.Ke2 Kg3 66.Kf1 is surely drawish.

64.Re2 Ke5 65.Kc2 Bd4 66.Kd1 Rf8

67.Rd2 Rb8 68.Ke2 Bc3 69.Rd5+

Bad is 69.Rc2 Kd4 70.Kd1 Rb1+ 71.Rc1 (71.Ke2?? Re1#) 71...Rxc1+ 72.Kxc1 Ke3 73.Kc2 Be5 74.a4 Kf2 75.a5 Kxg2 76.a6 Kf3 77.a7 g2 78.a8Q g1Q-+

69...Ke6 70.Kd3 Be5

In the rook ending 70...Rb2 71.Kxc3 Rxc3, a draw ensues: 72.Rg5 Rxa2 73.Rxc3 Ke5 74.Kd3

71.Rc5 Rb1 72.Rc6+ Kd7 73.Rc2 Rg1

This is the same position as that after the 60th move, but the black king has been driven far back. At this moment no one doubted the drawing outcome of the game.

74.a4 Ra1 75.Kc4 Ke6

In case of 75...Rxa4+ 76.Kd5, White, with his king so active, does not run any risks.

76.Kb3 Bd4 77.Ra2 Rg1

Another fruitful idea is to attack the white bishop with Bf2, but the white "a"-pawn has already started its advancement.

78.a5 Bf2 79.a6 Ke5

Here a draw follows after 79...Rxc2 80.a7 Bxa7 81.Rxc2 Bf2 82.Kc3 Ke5 83.Kd3 Kf4 84.Ke2 Kxe4 (84...Bd4 85.Kf1 Kf3 86.Ra2 Bf2 87.Ra3+ Kxe4 88.Kg2=) 85.Rxf2! gxf2 86.Kxf2

80.Ra5+ Kf6

A fantastic position emerges in case of 80...Kf4? 81.Kc4!! and now if 81...Rxc2? then 82.Kd3!! and the mate on f5 can be escaped only through giving away all of the pieces: 82...Bc5 83.Rxc5 Rd2+ (83...Kf3 84.Rf5# - here mate is inevitable, and it is so vivid!!)

81.e5+?!

I can understand the desire to set the long-detained bishop free, but the patient move 81.Ra2 would result in a draw. For instance, in case of 81...Kg5 82.Kc4 Rxc2 (in response to 82...Kf4 there again follows the stunning 83.Ra5!!) 83.a7 Bxa7 84.Rxc2 Kf4, White is saved with the help of the pawn: 85.e5!

81...Ke6 82.Bd5+

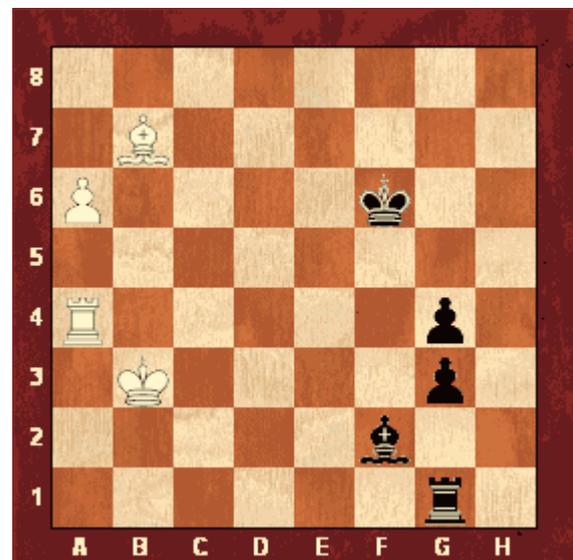
Impossible is 82.Bb7 in view of 82...g2 83.Bxc2 Rxc2 84.a7 Bxa7 85.Rxa7 Kxe5, and the rook ending is lost.

82...Kxe5 83.Bb7+ Kf6

In response to 83...Kd6, White earlier played 84.Ra2 (in the rook ending impossible is 84.a7 Bxa7 85.Rxa7 g2 86.Bxc2 Rxc2 87.Ra5 (87.Kc3 Ke5 88.Rf7 Ke4) 87...Ke6 88.Kc3 Kf6 89.Kd3 Rf2 90.Ke3 g3-+; 84...g2 85.Ka4! and if 85...g3, then 86.Bxc2 Rxc2 87.a7 Bxa7 88.Rxc2 Bf2 89.Rxc3 Bxc3

84.Ra4??

After prolonged and ingenious defense, Anand again makes a blunder, as was the case in his first game. He should have necessarily played 84.Ra2



84...g2 0-1

Round 9

Who could ever have imagined before the tournament that Anand and Adams would score fewer points together than Topalov alone? So, all pre-tournament forecasts are busted. The intrigue of the tournament has been unfolding according to its own, incredible scenario. We will find out tomorrow who Caissa's favorite is. Today we saw the twilight of the gods. Kramnik faced Anand today. After Topalov's spurt of yesterday, Kramnik unexpectedly found himself in the second place. He had to play for a win today, bearing in mind (among other factors) Vishy's awful shape. Their encounter turned out to be an excellent, textbook game, with a classical pawn sacrifice in the Queen's Gambit Accepted: Kramnik's favorite breakthrough, d4-d5. Kramnik energetically conducted the attack on the kingside, and converted extra material in the endgame. Vladimir has scored a whole array of similar victories against good, but not elite players (one that comes to my mind was vs. Van Wely, for example). The game vs. Adams was of this kind. Kramnik dominated, but Anand was just not there, only the shell of the Indian GM. This shell knows the openings, plays fast, and wields good technique, and so demonstrates a 2600-2650 level. However, there was not the ability to fight to the last or search for tactical chances when defending tough positions, nor the legendary resourcefulness so characteristic of Vishy. It looks like Anand has just one desire left – to finish the tournament as soon as possible. He did succeed – it was all over by move 39. Adams suffered just a little bit longer than Vishy. As usual, Morozevich picked up momentum closer to the end of the tournament, whereas Mickey apparently became exhausted. The Englishman obtained no advantage in the opening and then failed to compete with his opponent in a complicated situation with lots of tactics in the air. Adams could have intercepted the initiative, but miscalculated and found himself completely outplayed. Alexander played in a very elegant, inventive manner and scored a well-deserved victory. Now he

has 4.5 points to his name and one more game with White vs. Kramnik in the last round. Will Morozevich be able to retain his 50% score in the final standings? The Leko – Topalov game was far less dramatic. As I had surmised yesterday, Peter, quite satisfied with his place in the crosstable, did not crave a win today. Veselin intercepted the initiative, but committed an inaccuracy and had to play carefully to reach equality. Well, every human being has a limited reserve of energy. After yesterday's battle with Anand, Veselin needed some rest. The fate of the first place in this event will be decided in his game with Adams.

July 21, 2001

Adams - **Morozevich 0:1**
 Leko - Topalov **1/2**
Kramnik - Anand 1:0

Kramnik - Anand

This game demonstrated one more time that Anand has been unable to play on his former high level.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4

The champions continue their old theoretical battle. They played the Queen's Gambit Accepted five times in their rapid chess match in Mainz.

3.Nf3 e6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.Bb3

This is the most fashionable variation nowadays.

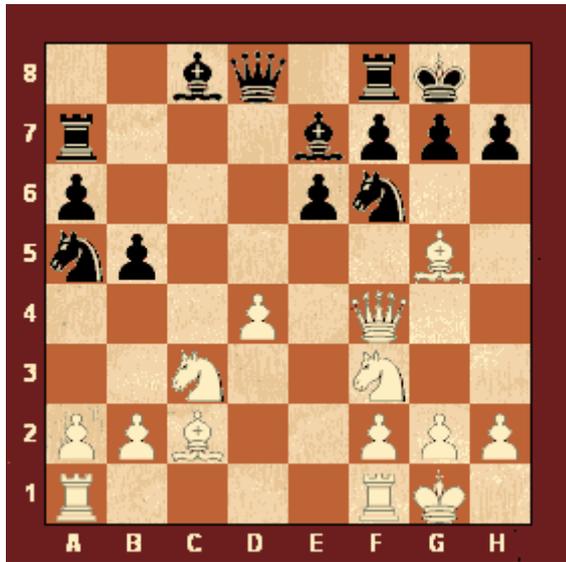
7...cxd4 8.exd4 Nc6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Bg5 0-0 11.Qd2!

White is going to bring his queen closer to the black king from d2 to f4.

11...Na5 12.Bc2 b5 13.Qf4 Ra7N

A novelty. Indeed, Black places his rook on a7 not only in the Slav Defense (see Morozevich's games), but also in the Queen's Gambit Accepted. Vishy is planning to bring his rook into action along the seventh rank. (Black found himself in an inferior position after 13...Bb7 14.Rad1 g6 15.Bh6 Nh5 16.Qg4 f5?! 17.Qh3 Rc8 18.d5! This sequence occurred in the game

Tkachiev - Lesiege/New Delhi/ 2000.
 However, I think Black's play can be improved.)



14.Rad1 Bb7

Black's last two moves look really strange. Can you imagine the move Ra8-a7 in case of a different move order - 13...Bb7! 14.Rad1? (Another option, 14...Nc4, suggested itself. Now if 15.b3 then 15...Na3 16.Bd3 b4 and Black has a normal position. It looks like in this case White should seek after a breakthrough in the center as well.)

15.d5!

A powerful breakthrough in the center, which came in the nick of time. In case of just a one- move delay, Black could have blocked the d5-square.

15...Bxd5

Even worse is 15...exd5 16.Qh4 h6 (16...g6 17.Ne4!+-) 17.Bxh6! gxh6 18.Qxh6 and the Black king has no escape. In case of 15...Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 White plays a combination: 17.Rxd5! exd5 (17...Qxd5 18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Qh4+-) 18.Bxh7+ Kxh7 19.Qh4+ Kg8 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Ng5. I am going to talk about this position in detail in my next comment.

16.Nxd5 exd5

After 16...Nxd5 17.Rxd5! exd5 (17...Qxd5 18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Qh4) 18.Bxh7+ Kxh7 19.Qh4+ Kg8 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Ng5 Qxg5 22.Qxg5 Rd7, Black has a rook and knight vs. White's queen. Black pins his hopes on the passing d-pawn. What should White do?

Apparently he has to advance his pawn to h6! That would be 23.h4 d4 24.h5, however, at this point Black has the option of 24...Rd6! To cut a long story short, it is not that obvious that White's position is winning.

17.Qh4

17.Rfe1!?



17...h5!

A brilliant defensive resource! As before, Black could not play 17...h6 because of 18.Bxh6! For example, 18...gxh6 19.Qxh6 Rc7 20.Nd4! Rxc2 21.Rd3 Ng4 22.Rg3 Qd7 23.Qh5+-

18.Rfe1!

Right! All the pieces without exception should take part in the attack. I can't get rid of the impression that a real master is managing the white forces... (The primitive 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Qxh5 g6 20.Qxd5 Qxd5 21.Rxd5 Bxb2= lead nowhere.)

18...Nc6!

Another good move. It is very important to take control over the d4-square to prevent White from transferring the knight to f5. For example, 18...Rc7?! 19.Nd4 Nc4 20.Nf5 Nxb2 21.Rc1 and Black is in deep trouble. In the course of my on-line comments I thought that Black was OK after 18...Qc8 19.Nd4 Qg4. However, with a fresh mind I found the unpleasant continuation 20.Qxg4 hxg4 21.Bd2! Bd8 22.Bb4 Re8 23.Rxe8+ Nxe8 24.Bf5 and White either regains the g4-pawn with a better endgame or wins an

exchange after capturing on a5 followed by Nd4-c6.



19.g4!

It is time now!

19...Qd6

19...Nxg4? 20.Qxh5

20.gxh5 Qb4

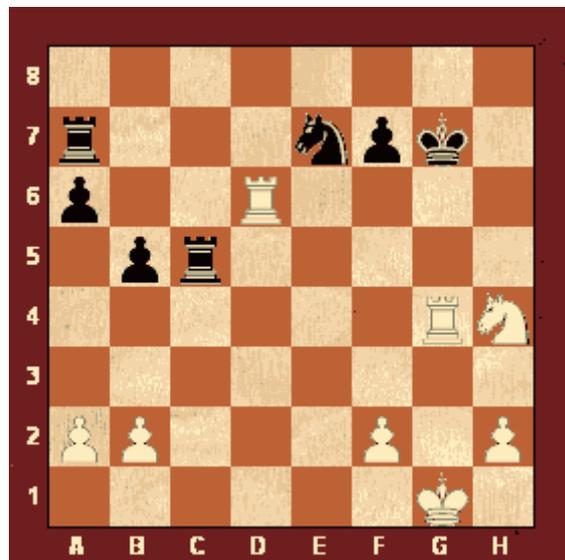
On 20...Nh7 highly unpleasant is 21.Bf4! Qb4 22.Qg3 and White has a dangerous attack.

21.h6! Qxh4 22.Nxh4

White failed to do it from the left, but succeeded from the right!

22...Ne4?!

This is not the best continuation. Vishy is giving up a pawn. The emerging endgame is bad for Black. Maybe Black should have suffered after 22...gxh6 23.Bxh6 Rd8. White is clearly better, but his win is not that



obvious.

23.hxg7 Rc8

23...Rd8!? 24.Bxe7 Rxe7 25.Nf5 Re5

26.Bxe4 dxe4 27.Rxd8+ Nxd8 28.Ng3±

24.Bxe7 Nxe7 25.Bxe4 dxe4 26.Rxe4 Kxg7

27.Rd6!

A precise decision. White does not really need to protect his second rank.

27...Rc5

If 27...Rc2 then 28.Rg4+ Kh7 29.Rf6 Ng8

30.Rf5! winning.

28.Rg4+ Kh7

29.Nf3!

Amazing energy in every move by White!

29...Ng6

The continuation 29...Rc2!? 30.Ng5+ Kg7 required superhuman composure, which

Vishy is incapable of in this tournament.

30.Ng5+ Kg7 31.Nxf7!

White is already two pawns up!

31...Rxf7 32.Rdxg6+ Kh7 33.R6g5 Rxd5

34.Rxd5 Rc7

Black's last straw of hope is in an endgame with the f- and h-pawns. However, Kramnik is accurate.

35.a3 b4!

35...Rc2 36.b4 Ra2 37.Rg3+-

36.axb4 Rc1+ 37.Kg2 Rb1 38.Ra5! Rxb2

39.Ra4!

That's it! Black can't exchange the pawns. His king can't advance in view of the check from a6. While is going to gradually advance his kingside pawns. Black resigned. The World Champion caught up to Topalov!
1-0

(23) Adams - Morozevich [C03]

Commented by N. Vlassov

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.e5 c5 5.dxc5 Nc6 6.Ngf3 Bxc5 7.Nb3 Bb6 8.Bd3 f6N

This move, natural for any French Defense adherent, is a novelty. It looks like a good one.

9.Qe2 fxe5 10.Nxe5 Nf6 11.0-0

Mickey does not feel danger. White had another option, 11.Bb5, which deserves a closer look, although after 11...Qd6! Black

has no problems.

11...Nxe5 12.Qxe5 0-0

White can't retain control over the e5-square. His queen as a blocker is good for nothing, whereas the b3-knight is utterly misplaced.

13.Bg5

If 13.Qg5 then 13...e5! 14.Qxe5 Ng4 15.Qh5 g6 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Qxg6+ Kh8 18.h3 Qf6 19.Qxf6+ Nxf6 and Black is better.

13...Bc7 14.Qd4 h6

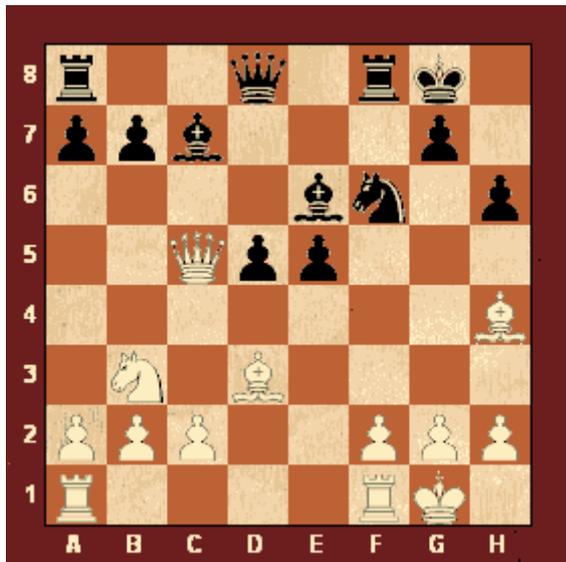
This way Black is bereaving the white queen of the h4-square. Moro has no desire to trade queens! 14...e5 15.Qh4 h6 16.Bd2 Ng4 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.h3 Nf6

15.Bh4

It was worth fighting over the e5-square: 15.Bf4 Bb6 16.Qb4

15...e5 16.Qc5 Be6

On 16...a5 17.a4 g5 18.Bg3 Nh5, which also looks good at first glance, White had a fantastic retort: 19.Rad1! Nxc3 20.Bc4!! intercepting the initiative.



17.Rad1 Rc8 18.Qe3

White should have ventured upon 18.Qxa7 to suffer for a pawn, but not for free. For example, after 18...b6 19.Qa4 e4 20.Bxe4 g5 21.Nd4 Qd7 22.Qxd7 Bxd7 23.Bxg5 hxg5 24.Bf5 White has three pawns for a piece and some drawing chances.

18...e4 19.Bxe4!?

Adams has no inclination for passive defense after 19.Be2 Bb6 20.Qd2 Qe8 21.c3

Nh5; Michael is trying to turn the table around.

19...Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Qd6?!

After 20...Ng4 21.Bxd8 Nxe3 22.fxe3 Rxf1+ 23.Rxf1 dxe4 24.Kxh2 Bxb3 25.axb3 Rxd8 almost all the pieces would have gone with the wind. Besides, this endgame would have favored Black because of White's doubled pawns. However, it is not good enough for Morozevich!

21.Bxf6



21...Bf4

21...Rxf6 22.Rfe1

22.Qf3?

Mickey has not captured the pawn one more time! After 22.Qxa7! Rxf6 23.Qxb7 Rb8 24.Rxd5!± Black's idea could have been refuted.

22...Rxf6 23.Bxd5

It looks like White has outplayed Black. His bishop has snatched two pawns. However, Black has an amazing continuation at his disposal, namely

23...Be5!!

23...Bxd5 24.Rxd5 Qe7 25.Nd4±

24.Bxb7

There is no fun for White in the line 24.Bxe6+ Qxe6 25.Qxb7 Rxc2 26.Rde1 Rxf2 27.Rxf2 Rxf2 28.Qxa7 Rf4!-+

24...Qe7!

Black could have forced an elegant draw: 24...Rc4 25.Rxd6 Rh4+ 26.Qh3 Bxh3 27.Rxf6 Bf5+-. This is not quite enough for Moro!

25.Qe4

Black could have tried to save the game in the ending an exchange down: 25.Qe2 Rf5 26.f4 Qxb7 27.fxe5 Bc4 28.Rd8+ Rxd8 29.Qxc4+ Qf7 30.Qxf7+ Rxf7 -/+

25...Rf5! 26.Rfe1?

White had an option to play the endgame rook+knight vs. the queen, which could have emerged after 26.f4 Rc4 27.Qxf5 Bxf5 28.Bd5+ Be6 29.Bxc4 Bxc4 30.fxe5 Bxf1 31.Rxf1 Qxe5 -/+. Instead, Adams fell into a nice trap.

26...Rf4!

Exactly at this moment, as soon as White hastily unguarded his f2 pawn!

27.Qe3

27.Qxf4 Bxf4 28.Bxc8 Qh4+ 29.Kg1 Qh2+ 30.Kf1 Bc4+ 31.Rd3 Qh1+ 32.Ke2 Qxg2-+; 27.Qxe5 Qh4+ 28.Kg1 Qxf2++

27...Rh4+

Having calculated the simple variation 28.Kg1 Bh2+ 29.Kf1 Bc4+ 30.Rd3 Qxb7, White resigned. Morozevich's risky but very resourceful and inventive play was rewarded with another impressive victory!

0-1

Leko - Topalov [B51]

Commented by M. Notkin.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.0-0 Bd7

5.Re1 Nf6

The opponents have repeated yesterday's encounter Anand - Topalov so far. It looks like Leko took a fancy to the position that Vishy obtained in the opening, whereas Veselin enjoyed the outcome of that game.

6.h3

Anand proceeded with 6.c3

6...a6 7.Bf1 e6 8.c3 Be7 9.Na3

This is a novelty, which does not look like a good one. Previously White has tested 9.d4.

9...0-0 10.Nc2 Ne5!

A well-known idea. The knight transfer to c2 no longer makes sense.

11.d3

After 11.d4 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 the c2-knight does not participate in the fight for the center. Leko opted for a more reserved continuation.

11...Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Ba4

Black is resorting to a trick. Simpler was the immediate 12...Bc6

13.Qe2

In case of 13.b3 White's pawn structure is loosened; after 13.Ne3 the c1-h6 diagonal for the white bishop is barred.

13...Bc6 14.g3 d5 15.e5 Nd7

The position that emerged on the board is typical of the King's Indian. White plays on the kingside, whereas Black develops his initiative on the opposite wing.

16.h4

White could have played 16.d4 In this case it is not that easy for Black to exchange the light-squared bishops. For example, 16...Bb5 17.Qg4 Bxf1? 18.Bh6! Bg5?! 19.Bxg5 Bxh3 20.Qh4! However, Leko is in no hurry to advance this pawn.

16...Qb6 17.Bg2

Leko takes his time again. Many would strike up standard activity on the kingside with 17.h5 h6 18.Qg4 Kh7 19.d4



17...Rae8!

Topalov is employing the favorite strategy of his opponent - arranging the pieces in the center.

18.Rb1

On 18.Qg4 Black had a possible (although not necessary) continuation at his disposal: 18...f6!? 19.Qxe6+ Kh8 20.Bxd5 (20.exf6 Nxf6 21.b3 Bd8 22.Qh3 Bd7 23.Qh1 Rxe1+ 24.Nxe1 Ng4) 20...Bd8 21.Qh3 Bxd5

22.Qxd7 Bc6 23.Qg4 fxe5, with full compensation for a pawn.

18...Bd8

There was no need for this move. A standard continuation, 18...f6 19.exf6 Bxf6=+, was called for.

19.b4 Qc7 20.Bf4 Be7 21.Ne3 cxb4 22.cxb4 Qb6

Veselin's play at his stage of the game does not really impress. Strange maneuvers with the bishop and the queen have made for improving Black's position.

23.Ng4 Rc8 24.Be3 d4 25.Bxc6 Rxc6 26.Bg5 Bxg5 27.hxg5 Rfc8

Despite all his inaccuracies, Black is still slightly better due to having total control over the open c-file.

28.Qe4 Rc2 29.a4 a5

Apparently Topalov disliked something in a very natural line: 29...R8c3 30.a5 Qb5 31.Qxd4 (31.Red1 Qd5 32.Qxd5 exd5 =+) 31...Rxd3 32.Qe4 and Black emerges down a pawn. However, good coordination of his pieces balance out White's small material advantage.

30.bxa5 Qxa5 31.Qxd4

On 31.Qxb7 interesting is 31...Qd8!? with the idea of attacking three of White's pawns (a4,d3 and g5) by Nc5. After 31...Qxa4 32.Ra1 Qc6 33.Qxc6 R2xc6 34.Ra4 Rc3 35.Rxd4 Nc5 36.Rd1 White emerges a pawn up.

31...Qc7 32.Rb5 Rd8 33.Qd6

This queen exchange is completely innocuous. Peter is forcing his favorite result. We should bear in mind, though, that the Hungarian GM did not have much time left on the clock.

33...Qxd6 34.exd6 b6 35.d4

Or 35.Ne3 Ra2 36.Nc4 Rxa4 37.Nxb6 Nxb6 38.Rxb6 Rd4=

35...Rc6 36.d5

If 36.Ne5 Black also proceeds with 36...Rxd6

36...Rxd6 37.dxe6 fxe6

1/2-1/2

Round 10

(Mark Glukhovsky)

There is nothing to review today, really.

There were three short draws, and therefore the participants' ranks were not changed.

The players' fatigue told on their games, and in each pair there was someone who was quite satisfied with his tournament standing. But there was also someone who was not satisfied. And that someone was so dissatisfied that even a hypothetical win would not have cheered him up. So let's talk a little about the outcomes of the tournament.

It was Anand who presented the biggest sensation. I wouldn't like to discuss at length the reasons for his striking fiasco. Probably the main reason is the absence of motivation. Vishy has already achieved everything in chess: He won the FIDE World Championship, and he won it in his motherland. Among the witnesses of his triumph were a billion fans. What else can he want?

Of course, this is not the only reason. After the New Delhi tournament, Anand came second in Wijk aan Zee and first in Merida. There must be some other reason that we don't know. Let's not make guesses, but only pinpoint his psychological instability. The second half of his tournament can be compared with the second half of his match with Kasparov in New York in 1995. Vishy simply couldn't change the course of events. There were no weak players in the tournament, so he had no one to focus on. Anand's last setback was his defeat when he played White against Morozevich in the 6th round. Eventually the result of Anand's bad luck was that his score was -4. We can only wish him to forget this tournament as soon as possible and prepare for the next one. The tournament's second sensation was Topalov's return. I hope he be back for a long time. Anyway, the Bulgarian's play (and not only his result) is promising. In every game Veselin played his best, struggled and fought, and ultimately outplayed his opponents. The results of his play were +2 (against Anand) and +2 (against Morozevich). (And mind that he started with a defeat!) It turns out that those were right who supposed that the reasons for

Veselin's wins and losses lie in the store of his own energy. Where did he get all those stores from? Anyway while the resource of his energy is not exhausted, he is quite capable of competing with the "big three". There were no more sensations. The play of the other first-prize winner, Vladimir Kramnik, was as usual. He won the games that could be won, he didn't lose, and eventually he scored +3, which sufficed for first place. In my opinion, this is not too great of a success. This is just his level of play.

Morozevich did not surprise us either. He played six decisive games; his play was better in the second half of the tournament, and his play with Black was better than his play with White. If he had lost fewer games, he would have been in the position of fighting for prizes. Well, he must know this himself.

Now to Adams. Adams scored -3, but someone is always supposed to lose. I wouldn't call this an outstanding fiasco, though Mickey would probably disagree with me here. Well, that's about all.

Oh, and there is Leko, of course. After the first round there appeared a standing joke: What Leko now has to do is simply draw nine games, and then he will no doubt come first. But Peter was not in the mood to joke. He firmly drew nine games, and from time to time his play was really brilliant, specifically, when he had to play that way. His peace-loving behavior is as striking as ever.

Anyway, the overall results and the bright intrigue of this tournament do not give us grounds for grumbling. The competition was excellent. Let's wait for the next one.

July 22

Topalov - Adams 1/2

Morozevich - Kramnik 1/2

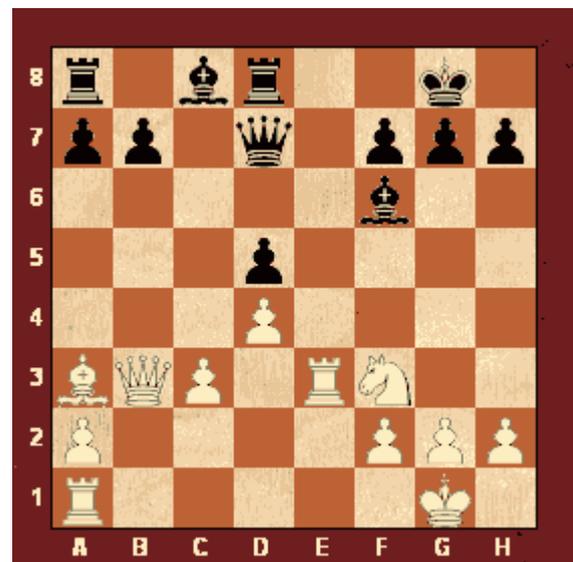
Anand - Leko 1/2

Topalov - Adams [C42]

Commented by M. Notkin

Adams demonstrated a considerably strengthened version of the Petroff, in which Kramnik, playing Topalov, had to exercise a stubborn defense. Perhaps in a different tournament situation Mickey would have decided to play for a win, but this time he settled for a draw.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Nb4 9.Re1 Nxd3 10.Qxd3 c6 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Qb5+ Qd7 13.Qb3 0-0 14.Nc3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Rd8 16.Ba3 Bf6 17.Re3



17...Qc7!

The Topalov - Kramnik game (Las Vegas 1999) continued in the following way:

17...Qc6 18.Be7 Re8 19.Rae1 Bxe7 20.Rxe7 Bd7 21.h3 f6, and Vladimir had to sweat to neutralize the strong knight's advantage over the weak bishop. Adams' move looks like a slip.

18.Qxd5 Be6 19.Qb5 h6 20.h3 Rac8

That's what Mickey was up to! All of his pieces are excellently positioned, White's central pawns are brought to a standstill, and the a3-bishop is awkwardly located. Veselin has failed to refute Black's plot.

21.Qb2

Saving the rook the trouble of defending the a2-pawn. True, this kind of work is not very becoming of the queen.

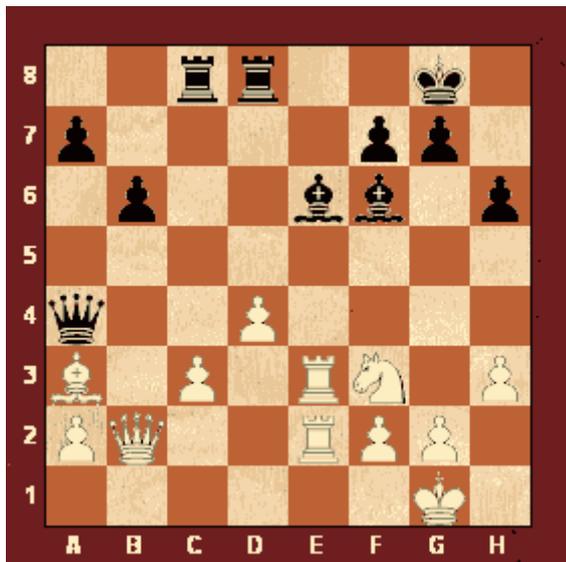
21...b6 22.Rae1 Qc4 23.R1e2

Topalov is surely a master of playing rook endings as well as opposed bishop endings,

as is obvious from his victory over Anand. But even he would most likely fail to win the ending after 23.Nd2 Qxa2 24.Qxa2 Bxa2 25.Ne4 a5 26.Nxf6+ gxf6 27.Be7 Re8 28.Bxf6 Rxe3 29.Rxe3 Rc6.

23...Qa4

It must be pleasant to play Black. The queen gives way to the bishop or rook, so that one of them can occupy the staging post. The queen's new position is no worse than the previous one. Simultaneously, Black aims for the a3-bishop - as if this were played according to a textbook.



24.Kh2 Rd5! 25.Bb4

In case of 25.Qb3 Qxb3 26.axb3 Ra5! 27.Bb4 Rb5! Black wins the b3-pawn back, and his position is better thanks to the passed "a"-pawn.

25...Rcd8

Adams takes no notice of the poor dark-square bishop. Worse is 25...a5 26.Ba3 Rb5 27.Qc1;

or 25...Rb5 26.Qa3! Qxa3 27.Bxa3 Ra5 28.Bb4 Ra4 (28...Rxa2? 29.Rxe6!+-) 29.a3 **26.Nd2**

Black could have played longer (especially after 26...Bg5), but apparently it was more important for Michael to bring this unhappy tournament to a close.

1/2-1/2

Morozevich - Kramnik [C45]

Commented by S. Shipov

This game is important from the theoretical point of view. However I believe that the players were unable to continue the struggle due to, first and foremost, their psychological fatigue.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4

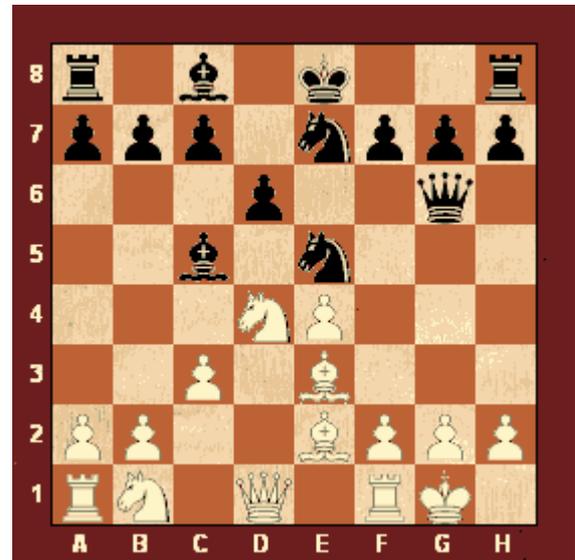
The Scotch Game.

4...Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.c3 Nge7 7.Bc4 Ne5

8.Be2 Qg6 9.0-0 d6

This position is as old as the hills.

Specifically, back in 1878 it was played in the game of Russia's two best chess specialists at the time - Schiffers and Chigorin.



10.f4!

A consistent continuation. White, through a pawn sacrifice, captures the initiative.

10...Qxe4 11.Bf2 Bxd4

The bishop should be exchanged, otherwise the black queen will suffer: 11...N5g6?

12.Nd2 Qxf4 (12...Qd5 13.Bc4) 13.Nb5!

12.cxd4 N5g6 13.g3

A rare continuation. The basic theoretical position emerges after 13.Nc3 Qxf4 14.Nb5 0-0 15.Nxc7 Rb8 - that's the path lots of Grandmasters follow. White is considered to have sufficient compensation for the pawn.

13...Bh3N

A novelty. Earlier the following was played: 13...0-0 14.Nc3 Qf5 15.d5 Qd7 16.Ne4 b6

17.Bd4 f6 18.Bf3 Bb7 19.Nc3 Kh8 20.Bg4 f5 21.Bf3 c5, and at this point the game was drawn by Olsson,K-Lukacs,P/Budapest 1993/

14.Bf3 Qf5 15.Re1

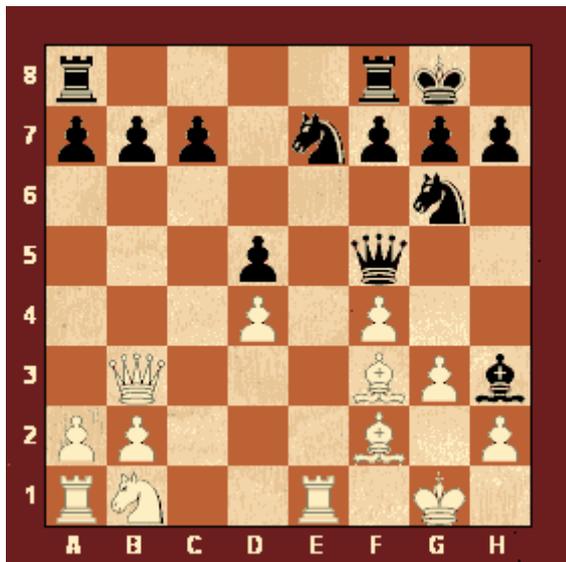
Bad is 15.Bxb7 Rb8, and Black in response captures on b2.

15...d5 16.Qb3 0-0

Correct. Thus Vladimir keeps the initiative. After 16...0-0-0 he should have considered 17.Qa3!?, though also possible is the simple 17.Nc3, with White gaining chances for attack.



Mig Greengard



17.Nc3 c6

Strong is 17...Qd7!? 18.Nxd5 (18.Qxb7 Rfb8) 18...c6 19.Nxe7+ Nxe7 - here Vladimir must have been afraid of the move 20.g4!? however after 20...Rfe8! the position is unclear.

18.Qxb7 Rfb8 19.Qc7 Qf6!

Black intends to play along the light squares. For instance, the maneuver Ne7-f5-h6-g4 is part of his game. White has his own advantages, though. It's a pleasure for him to see the black c6-pawn and the g6-knight. However the game is drawn! No good would come of 19...Rxb2 20.Rxe7 Qc2 21.Nd1!

1/2-1/2

All right, I've taken enough physical and mental abuse this week and it's long past time to fire up the nachos and pour myself a tall tumbler of Stolichnaya. My remaining brain cells were delighted to discover that a 100-proof edition of this fine beverage is now available and this has replaced its numerically-challenged namesake in my freezer. It's all in the interest of producing fine chess writing and toward this end it may be considered a thematic exchange sacrifice. I am a trained professional, do not try this at home. Unless you invite me over.

Later on in this article I'm going to admit to a certain level of prior wrongness on my part, so you may wish to brace yourselves now for that impending cataclysm. But until the sufficient level of fermented-grain-induced numbness sets in to allow me to perform that chore, we'll be looking at one of the strongest chess tournaments of 2001, Dortmund.

Veselin Topalov must be feeling alternately hot and cold toward Viswanathan Anand at this moment. Topalov defeated the Indian world number three twice in Dortmund. Their first game, in round three, was Anand's first loss in a year. The next, in round eight, was Anand's third loss of the tournament, a number that would grow to an unbelievable four a round later. It was that last loss, to world champion Vladimir Kramnik, that brought Kramnik even with Topalov in the crosstable. That was bad enough, but there is also the fact that the FIDE world champion's stunning collapse

will largely eclipse Topalov's return to form and tie for first.

Kramnik was awarded his sixth (!) Dortmund title on tiebreaks over Topalov, probably using some system you need a PhD and more vodka than I've got in my freezer to understand. My favorite tiebreak system, number of wins, would go in favor of the Battling Bulgarian. He picked up four wins by sweeping Morozevich and Anand. Then again, my other favorite system, head-to-head, goes in favor of Kramnik, who defeated Topalov in a filigreed endgame in the first round. Anyway, even advanced multinomial tiebreaks are better than the embarrassment of rapid or blitz tiebreaks after a tough and interesting tournament. I found out about the tiebreak win from the official press release, which is sent out only in German. Thank goodness for the [Babelfish](#) translation website! *"For the sixth time the BGN world champion won today the Dortmund savings banks Chess chess-Meeting and referred the point-same Bulgaren Weselin Topalow owing to better fine valuation to second rank."* Exactly. It's moments like these when I blame Winston Churchill and John Wayne for my not being able to speak German and read the original. It would have served Kramnik right to finish second after he played a non-game against Adams in round eight with the white pieces. He was tied for first at the time, and I bet a glance over at Anand-Topalov convinced him that he could take a day off. At the time of the Kramnik-Adams draw it looked like Anand had come back from the dead like some sort of avenging Parasurama and that Topalov would be lucky to make it to move 25! During Topalov's comeback I bet Kramnik wished more than once that he had played on against Adams.

Kramnik-Adams even managed to leave more material on the board than Anand-Kramnik, and reached the unbreakable record in this regard. Yep, a full set of 32 pieces and pawns was left on the board, and this during a tight race for first place! Hard to believe that Kramnik was ignoring Adams in order to play a must-win against Vishy the next day, especially since the

Englishman was also dropping points like they were flaming toads. But we must give credit where credit is due and point out that Kramnik did win that game against Anand to tie for first, and even take the title on tiebreak points. Nor should we slight Adams, the man who broke Kramnik's long undefeated streak in last year's edition of Dortmund.

It was another super-solid performance from Kramnik, who was running the risk of finishing the year without a tournament win after finishing behind Kasparov in Wijk aan Zee and Astana. While the cat was away, the mouse played, and played well. Kramnik didn't look even pressured during the entire tournament. It was the best result in many years for Topalov, who was close to dropping from the top 10. Let's hope he's back to stay, as his combative attitude and sharp style are a welcome addition to any event. Topalov and Kramnik also tied for first place in this year's Melody Amber rapid/blindfold tournament.

After the tournament Kramnik said that this result was a step toward his goal of taking the top spot on the rating list away from Garry Kasparov. (According to Babelfish, what he said exactly was, *"With this victory in Dortmund I put the base already soon also the No. 1 in the world rank list to be."* Ladies and gentlemen, I give you our world champion, Yoda.) Reaching Kasparov on the rating list isn't going to be easy if Kramnik keeps finishing behind him in the crosstables. Undefeated +3 in a tough Dortmund field was a great showing to be sure, but it's rarely enough for first when Kasparov is around.

If you're wondering why I'm not mentioning the final round it's because there's really no good reason to. At least one person had a reason to play hard, although he usually does anyway. Topalov must have known that his tiebreaks were worse than Kramnik's, and that Kramnik was unlikely to lose to Morozevich, who seemed content to stay on his 50% score. Topalov-Adams was the longest game of the day, weighing in at a paltry 26 moves. This draw made some sense, however, because it looks to me like

Topalov was getting the worse of it, even losing the exchange after 26...Bg5. Morozov-Kramnik went all of 19 before they hit the bar. Anand just wanted to get out of Dortmund and Leko... Well, let's just say their game ended in 13 moves.

Leko added a few more points to his Elo by winning his first game and then drawing the next nine in a row. This typical Lekovian performance shines a little brighter when two world-class players like Adams and Anand were showing just how hard it can be to "only draw" in such a field. If the tournament hadn't ended when it did they both might have been found in one of Dortmund's famous old churches.

The only person to tread water instead of sinking or swimming was the eternally inexplicable Alexander Morozevich, who won three and lost three. The young Russian still hasn't put together a convincing supertournament performance, but he is a ceaseless fighter and his games are almost always spectacular. In round six against Anand he achieved something unique by defeating his second world champion with the black pieces in 2001! In Corus he beat Kramnik on the black side of a dramatic endgame.

All in all a tournament with many interesting plots and subplots. A pity that Anand had to be buried in one of those plots. This is little doubt that he'll be back fighting for first place in his next event, and I wish him a speedy recovery. With Vishy you know that last draw with Leko could well be the start of twelve more undefeated months.

"A vaincre sans péril, on triomphe sans gloire" - Pierre Corneille, Le Cid

It's the world championship follies, round two. I got a lot of mail on this subject after #149, some supportive, others... not so supportive. More importantly, much of it contained valid points and logical reasoning on the matter. While this column is hardly the place for such things, several points that I made also need more explanation.

I talked to Garry Kasparov about the matter and he replied with the annoyingly logical answer that he wasn't going to comment on any of it until BGN contacted him formally.

Apart from the press conference in Dortmund, nothing has been made available by Braingames. No press release, no updates on their website, no official invitations to the players and their managers. (This would be to Kasparov and Anand, the only seeded players.) Maybe BGN's fax machine has been repossessed? No petty cash for envelopes and stamps? Better get an advance from Bahrain, guys!

Several people wrote in to applaud my spirit but question my logic regarding Kramnik's position in all this and what Kasparov's plan should be, if any. Several Grandmasters wrote in, from Seattle to Moscow, and I thank them for their time and comments. After the principals state their cases we'll have a good roundtable discussion on the whole affair.

Let's summarize the various arguments.

1) Kramnik didn't qualify to play Kasparov, what right does he have to insist on a qualification cycle, especially since it's clear to everyone that Kasparov is the number one challenger? Two people went as far to point out that Kramnik himself was eliminated three different times in qualification cycles to reach the world championship, plus once in a FIDE KO.

I qualify that last part as a cheap shot, although his 1998 loss to Alexei Shirov is still fresh in the minds of many fans. (In 1994 Kramnik lost candidates matches to Gata Kamsky and Boris Gelfand.) Because of that result, many people saw the 2000 match as rightfully Shirov's, but BGN's directors thought that Shirov would be "dead meat" against Kasparov and a blowout would be a publicity disaster.

The first part is harder to dismiss. The 2000 match was about the reigning champion facing the strongest challenger for the world championship. It did not have the status or credibility of the chain that produced the first 13 champions, but it was as close as could be achieved. Kramnik made the most of his shot and dethroned Kasparov. But Kasparov has not gone quietly into that good night, instead dominating the tournament scene with three clear firsts, including two ahead of Kramnik.

Kasparov is clearly the top player in the world, meaning a match between Kramnik and anyone else for the title would be a bit of a joke. (Unless the challenger, or someone in his path, had convincingly defeated Kasparov.) For better or for worse, public opinion, ratings, and tournament performance weigh heavily when there is no proven system to rely on. Petrosian hardly tore up the tournament circuit during his reign as champion in the 60s, but everyone knew what was required to be champion, there was rule of law. This meant his mediocre performances and strong showings by players like Spassky and Larsen were irrelevant.

If the world championship is about finding the strongest challenger for the champion you don't have to look much further than the Kasparov residence in Moscow. The problem I see is that if there is a K-K rematch, then what? The winner won't have built anything toward a more credible, inclusive system. He will just wait for another match to come his way, or not. Picking purely on the rating system makes any match look superfluous. Why bother playing at all if we already have the rating list? That doesn't make sense, and history is full of favorites who didn't win.

2) We want a qualification system, but isn't the one proposed by BGN as bad as FIDE's knock-out? Well, pretty much. The starting field is much smaller and higher rated, but the level of randomness is unacceptable if they intend to find the best player as challenger. If you lose one game in the semi-finals it's pretty much over, not exactly convincing stuff. The first stage is only six games, and a boring +1 would probably be enough to move on. Certainly the winner of such an event would have no more credibility than Kramnik has now, which is a decreasing commodity as it is. If Kasparov did play, and lost to someone in a two-game match, the giant sucking sound would be the wind going out of the world championship in a hurry. Sure, a Kramnik-Leko match would be interesting, but it wouldn't settle anything or improve on the status quo. If the

idea is to come up with something better than what we have now, this isn't it. I really doubt BGN or Kramnik think Kasparov (and probably not Anand, especially if he's still FIDE champion come July 2002) would play in such an event. I don't know if this was the first proposal in what will become a long negotiation to get Kasparov to the board or a maneuver to make sure he doesn't get there! Kasparov would rather not play than add legitimacy to such a haphazard event, and there's always the chance that something better will come along...

3) Can't we push for something better that we can all believe in? Ah, the holy grail since 1993, when Kasparov and Nigel Short split their world championship match from FIDE. To his credit, despite various organizational and political fiascos Kasparov has played matches against Anand and Kramnik since then, clearly the two top challengers. In so doing the tradition of the winner of a world championship match having the authority of being the world's top player was maintained. That authority is under severe strain right now, and if the BGN cycle goes forward as announced, and likely without Kasparov if so, it would explode.

So let's settle this the old-fashioned way, a la 1948. Bring the best guys into the ring and let them beat the heck out of each other for a good long time. The last one standing is the world champion! Optimally this battle royal would include someone holding the FIDE belt as well, so we could finally wrap up these loose ends. At the very least we'd have someone on the scene who everyone, players and fans alike, would have to recognize as Top Dog. Right now another Kasparov-Kramnik match would come close to this, but adding Anand to the mix would make it bulletproof.

As you could tell from my last article, I'm a fan of the world championship tradition of title succession. It is something special that the champion must be toppled directly by his successor, and this dramatic process is responsible for a great many legends of the game. This means I would like to see any

resulting system involve the champion coming in at or near the end to defend his title. Before you send me more e-mail about how tennis and golf and curling don't do this, allow me to reply. What's curling? No, that's not it. My answer is so what? They also use rackets and clubs and, um, whatever they use in curling. Why should chess be like all other sports? Would a "champ of the year" model achieve something superior to the traditional system? The Best Player concept has captured the imagination of the public for over a century.

Why not take something like the FIDE KO, cut the field in half and triple the length of the matches, then spread it out over two years!? Constant excitement! Matches could be hosted in the various home nations of the players (whichever player's home nation puts up the best conditions gets the match, for example) so attendance and sponsorship would be excellent.

To sum up the summaries, I would like to see Kasparov and Anand both play in a some sort of rigorous qualifier to face Kramnik, but I don't see it happening. Both players, particularly Kasparov with his terrific 2001 at the board, have credentials and claims that will make them immune from almost any criticism in this regard unless a vastly superior system is proposed. Kasparov's pride alone may make any qualifier anathema, considering 1) his clear status as world number one, 2) the indiscriminate nature of the BGN model, and 3) that he didn't put Kramnik through a qualifier for the 2000 match, he played him because he was the top challenger and wants the same consideration.

I've skipped the money issues because I don't have much in the way of first-hand information. It's not clear that BGN has the money in the bank to support these events and will likely be depending on their sponsors in Bahrain or elsewhere. Kasparov claims money is available now for a rematch with Kramnik, and several groups have floated three and four-way match-tournaments.

As usual, stay tuned! We are inviting knowledgeable participants for a correspondence dialogue here at KC. Mig is the Editor-in-Chief of KasparovChess.com. You can reach him at

Final Review

(by Maxim Notkin)

The results of the Dortmund 2001 tournament refuted our main experts' calculations for the most part. This does not necessarily mean that radical changes are called for in the top rankings. However, two thirds of the participants turned in outstanding results (either good or bad). This tournament will be remembered by chess fans for a long time!

The tournament outcome sent two World Champions – Vladimir Kramnik and Viswanathan Anand -- to the opposite poles of the final standings Veselin Topalov, who has been dormant in classical chess for a while, occupied Anand's place on the top, riding a white horse (or even elephant – I can't abstain from an ethnographical pun when talking about the Indian GM). To cut a long story short, I would describe the final results as follows: Vladimir solidified his position on the chess throne; Vishy owes a couple of convincing tournament victories to the world of chess, because he needs to smooth out the recollections of his failure in Dortmund; Topalov inspired his fans, but he needs another performance of the same level to be reckoned among the chess elite. Now, let's talk about every participant in detail.

Vladimir Kramnik

Vladimir had some sort of a favorable handicap in this event. It is well known that Dortmund is a lucky city for him. Another victory here looks like just another demonstration of a familiar ritual. He showed very solid play without striving to destroy the opponent at any cost, coupled with excellent capitalization on even small chances (as he demonstrated in the endgame with Topalov). His victory over Morozevich was a real masterpiece, despite an

innocuously played opening. The win over Anand in a matter-of-principle encounter came more easily, because Anand was already demoralized. However, that was not Vladimir's fault. This gradually accumulated +3 result and the tie for the first place is just another evidence that Vladimir is on the rise. At least, with no visible effort he hovers at the highest altitude.

I think that the extensive work on the openings, in which Vladimir was engrossed together with his team before the match with Kasparov, is bearing fruit. Many of his novelties were not used in the match (for example one in the Scotch Game), so Vladimir is introducing them right now.

Veselin Topalov

The Bulgarian GM turned in an excellent performance. His two thrillers with Anand disprove a popular perception of chess as a non-spectacular game. The field was extremely strong. There were no outsiders in the tournament to pick on. However, Topalov solved this "problem" by beating both Anand and Morozevich twice. Joking aside, Veselin's good play in this event was based on his good theoretical preparation and inspiration. It looks like Veselin and Silvio (his coach) have rolled up their sleeves. The opponents of the Bulgarian GM will have a hard time facing him in the near future.

Peter Leko

Having scored a good victory over Adams in the first round, Peter concentrated on preserving his positive score throughout the tournament. The event has not added much to Leko's creative profile, but no defeats in 10 games is not such a bad result. I would dare suggest that Peter take part in a XIV category tournament and win more than half of the games; this would make his ill-wishers bite their tongues. I think, though, that Peter does not need my advice.

Alexander Morozevich

I have a good piece of advice for Sasha. When he returns to Moscow, I will call up

and say: "Alexander, if you have a feeling that you just can't win today, play like Peter Leko in a very solid manner and make a draw. When everything goes fine, press for a win as you usually do. If you had stuck with this strategy, you would easily have scored +3". He would agree, as a very polite man. But I afraid it will be the same old story in the next event.

Alexander's result in Dortmund could have been either better or worse. Better – because in his game with Topalov he spurned repetition and darted into an attack instead, which was repelled three moves down the road. Worse – because A) His second game with Adams looked more like a swing B) Anand could have refrained from a few odd moves. C) Alexander was saved by a miracle in his game with Leko. However, I can't talk about luck referring to Morozevich. He deservedly scored all his points! I would like to see a point or a half-point more added to Alexander's score. Well, not this time.

Michael Adams

Michael's flop pales before Anand's failure. Adams has just one excuse – his "client" Morozevich traitorously refused to lose to Michael. Moreover, Alexander beat him twice. Thus all the pre-tournament plans and calculations were disrupted and Michael was unable to redress the situation. Adams fought tenaciously in all other games. He promulgated a very important novelty in the last round encounter with Topalov. Besides, he was close to victory in the game with Veselin from the first part of the tournament. However, the energy needed for victories was not felt in his games.

Viswanathan Anand

Eyewitnesses may know better what really happened with Vishy. He did not look like the real Anand. I think Vishy's bad shape is not the only reason behind his poor performance. I venture upon a guess that chess problems (in the opening) and poor shape overlap. He lost every game he could, and even more.

Let me remind you that such a fiasco

overtook Anand once before, at Dos Hermanas 1999. Well, it looks like the fans of the Indian GM should get used to the fact that such things might happen with their favorite chess player. I have no doubt that Vishy will recuperate by the next tournament.