

Move along now

OUTSIDE OF Eastern Europe chess has never really enjoyed great popularity as a spectator sport, perhaps due to the slow rate of play.

The organisers of the biannual Reykjavik Grandmaster event in Iceland have tried to overcome this by introducing the "Icelandic Modern System" of 30 moves in the first 90 minutes and 20 in the next hour, instead of the normal 40 moves in two hours. This has the effect of bringing the critical phase of a game down from 30-40 moves to around 25-30 moves, producing plenty of action when players have to dash out their last few moves to avoid a time forfeit.

In the first round of this year's tourney American Grandmaster Robert Byrne lost a game while a piece up against the eventual winner, IM Viktor Kupreichik of the USSR, when he forgot the time limit was 30 moves. In the rush to catch up he blundered.

Results: Kupreichik 8½ points (and a GM norm), Browne (USA) 7½, Miles (Eng) and Sosonko (Holl) 7; Vasyucov (USSR) 6½; Torre (Phil) and Petursson (Iceland) 6; Byrne (USA) and Schussler (Swed) 5½; Arnason and Sigurjonsson (both Iceland) 5; Angatysson (Iceland) 4½; H. Olafson (Iceland) 4.

BENONI DEFENCE

GENNADI SOSONKO (Holland)	EVGENY VASYUCOV (USSR)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	c5
4. d5	e×d5
5. c×d5	g6
6. Nc3	Bg7

In trying to tempt White to play the unclear 7.d6 Vasyucov cuts down his own opening options, as Sosonko demonstrates. I prefer 6...d6 and if 7.Bf4 a6! 8.a4 Bg7 eliminating the game continuation.

7. Bf4	d6
8. Qa4 chl?	Bd7

Black has little choice but to interpose with his bishop due to the weakness of his d-pawn. The problem is that the bishop is not well placed on d7, obstructing his development.

9. Qb3	Qc7
10. e4	0-0
11. Be2	Nh5

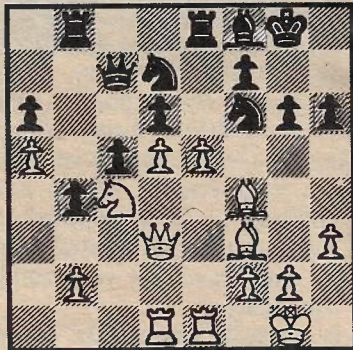
Considering that Black's intention in this game is to play ...b5 he could well attempt this immediately, e.g. 11...b5!? 12.B×b5 N×e4 13.N×e4 Qa5 ch etc.

12. Be3	a6
13. 0-0	b5
14. a4	b4
15. Nb1	Bg4

16. Nbd2	Nd7
17. h3	B×f3
18. B×f3	Nhf6
19. a5	...

By encouraging the Black b-pawn to b4 Sosonko has created an ideal post for his knight, which continually threatens to occupy c4. 19.a5 cancels out any ideas Vasyucov might have had of challenging this knight with ...Nb6.

19. ...	Rfe8
20. Bf4	Rab8
21. Rfe1	Bf8
22. Qd3	Rb5
23. Nc4	Rbb8
24. Rad1	h6
25. e5!	...



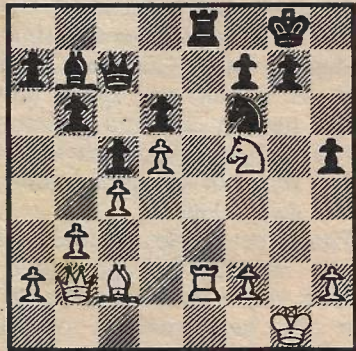
The thematic breakthrough after which Black's game quickly collapses.

25. ...	d×e5
26. d6	Qc8
27. B×e5	Rd8
28. Bg3	b3
29. Ne5	N×e5
30. B×e5	Nd7
31. Bc3	Bg7
32. Bd5	B×c3
33. B×f7 ch	Resigns

After 33...K×f7 34.Re7 ch leads to checkmate.

K. Helmers of Norway, who withdrew because of illness, also received a nasty dose of medicine from Sosonko.

HELMERS



SOSONKO

Sosonko continued 1.Q×f6! g×f6 2.R×e8 ch Kh7 and Black resigns. 3.Re7 Qc8 4.R×f7 ch Kh8 5.Nh6 wins everything.

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