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The 39th Olympiad at Khanty-Mansiysk

Report on the Open and Women's Teams



Plus: Mike Steadman's European hunt for the elusive IM Norm

Steve Willard reveals Correspondence Chess Tactics

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NZCF President Paul Spiller provided this summary of the 81st FIDE Congress – Points of Interest

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov re-elected as FIDE President for 2010-2014

- Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan (UAE) re-elected as Continental President for Asia
- Brian Jones (Australia) elected as President Zone 3.6 Oceania
- Paul Spiller (New Zealand) directly appointed to the Asian Presidential/Executive Board
- Brian Jones (Australia) elected as Board member of Commonwealth Chess Association
- Oceania awarded right to host the 2012 Commonwealth Closed Championship

2010 Chess Olympiad – The New Zealand Open Team at Khanty-Mansiysk

By Hilton Bennett

When the Western Siberian city of Khanty-Mansiysk won the rights to host the 39th Chess Olympiad in 2010 ahead of several other strong bids at the FIDE Congress in Turin in 2006, there was certainly some surprise but also a feeling that the Russian passion for chess combined with the wealth and determination of the local Ugra region would produce a good outcome.

Khanty-Mansiysk with a population of approximately 70,000 is the administrative centre of the Ugra autonomous region, which is a major area for oil and gas production and a significant contributor to the Russian economy. It is located some 2,000 kilometres north east of Moscow on the Western Siberian plain, and sits on the River Irtysh only 15 kilometres from its confluence with River Ob. These river systems are amongst the largest in Russia, and support significant shipping activities and fishing. The decades of wealth from oil and gas have also left their mark on the city, which boasts many impressive amenities and modern architecturally designed buildings.

World Cup and other events had been held there successfully but the Olympiad was on an entirely different scale with over 2,000

players, officials, delegates, and press. The transport and accommodation infrastructure simply did not exist to deal with this



number of visitors. It was not going to be cheap but there was a plan which involved building large, new hotels, offering free charter flights to bring in Olympiad participants from various points on the globe, upgrading the local airport, and building other new local facilities. Cost did not seem to be an issue. Towards the end of 2009 in the wake of a global financial crisis, with building projects in Khanty-Mansiysk running seriously behind schedule, the mood around the chess world had changed to dire pessimism. Despite the constant assurances from the organisers and FIDE that ‘it would be right on the night’ no-one seemed entirely convinced.

The crisis of confidence deepened in the

months leading up to the Olympiad as worries over charter flights, accommodation, food, and various visa challenges emerged. The organisers had seemingly made an eleventh hour plea to the Russian government for assistance as the chess world waited anxiously. Finally as participants waited to board charter flights on the 19th and 20th of September the grey clouds over the event started to lift. Participants recognised friends and familiar faces at airports, there was a sense that if you put 2,000 chess-players together in one place they would have a good time no matter what, and what's more everything was going more smoothly than expected. This was a turning point.

From that time on the Olympiad was in my opinion testimony to the ability of Russia to commit resources to achieve extraordinary outcomes for something that is considered important such as chess. The flights, arrival, accreditation, and transport all went smoothly and were well organised. The 850 room hotel had only just been finished but was spacious, well appointed and comfortable. A small army of restaurant chefs and workers had been brought in from St Petersburg for the event, and they served up excellent quality food for the duration of the Olympiad. A large fleet of buses was available to efficiently move the huge number of players and officials between the hotel and various venues. The list goes on. There will always be some organisational issues with an event on this scale, but most of the important elements were in place.

Another very welcome part of the organisation was the allocation of a student

from the local university to each delegation in a role which quaintly translated as 'tutor'. New Zealand was very fortunate to get the services of a friendly and helpful student of English at the local university, Mariya Ushakova, who quickly became an honorary kiwi. The resourceful Mariya was invaluable in helping to deal with all manner of situations from language problems to navigating Russian bureaucracy. She will now be easily recognisable as the only person in Khanty-Mansiysk occasionally wearing an All Blacks' rugby jersey!

The actual competition took place in the large, modern, indoor tennis facility situated about 5 kilometres from the Olympic Hotel. This impressive 15,500 sq. metre centre with space for around 3,500 people housed both the Open and Women's events without difficulty, along with stalls and merchandise, press centre, and other facilities. The actual FIDE Congress was held at another location in the newly built Ugra Chess Academy, while the Opening and Closing Ceremonies took place in the ice hockey stadium.

Several key decisions to be taken at the FIDE Congress served as the constant backdrop to the chess events. The first was the vote for the FIDE Presidency between incumbent Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov, who had teamed up with another ex-world champion and chess icon Garry Kasparov to provide a formidable challenge for the role. The campaigns were conducted aggressively, at times verging on the hostile, as legal challenges were made and claims of wrongdoing swirled around proxy votes.

However in the final analysis Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and his team were re-elected for another term of four years.

The second and much less controversial vote was for the allocation of the 2014 Olympiad. The two bids were from the Arctic Circle city of Tromsø in Norway, and Albena on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The 2012 Olympiad is already scheduled for Istanbul in Turkey. Propelled by the Magnus Carlsen factor and US \$12 million of government funding, the Norwegian bid was a clear winner. This seemed to be a popular decision with most chess-players.

The Open Tournament

The unavailability of key players including GM Murray Chandler, and IMs Puchen Wang, Russell Dive, Anthony Ker, and Paul Garbett amongst others, together with several late withdrawals, produced a relatively inexperienced Open team compared with previous Olympiads. The team members in board order were FM Bob Smith, FM Michael Steadman, FM Nic Croad, and Daniel Han, with Team Captain Hilton Bennett acting as reserve in the event of an emergency. While Bob Smith has considerable Olympiad experience the other three team members had only one Olympiad between them. This did however provide an opportunity for a new group of players to gain from the rigour of Olympiad competition. Mike was coming to the event fresh from several strong tournaments in Europe, Nic has been relatively active since moving to the UK, and Daniel has had some success in 2010 in

NZ.

NZ went in to the Open tournament seeded 92 from 149 teams and in Round 1 drew the formidable Cuban team. Even without top player Leinier Dominguez the all GM Cubans were a very difficult challenge, and despite stout resistance on all boards NZ eventually lost 0-4. Bob fought hard with white to create drawing chances against GM Bruzon, but in the end he went astray in a difficult position. Mike went on the attack in an opposite sides castling position in the French, but his opponent GM Quesada defended calmly before finding a decisive tactic to open up the castled black king. Nic and Daniel were both holding their positions against their respective opponents until each made inaccuracies which were decisively punished.

In Round 2 NZ was drawn against the 146th seeded team Mauritania, which had unrated players on all boards. Could this possibly be the first competition between NZ and Mauritania in any sport or activity? As proof that even the lower ranked teams at the Olympiad are now quite well organised and prepared, our opponents offered some solid resistance and eventually secured draws on boards 3 and 4. Bob gradually gained the ascendancy on board 1 winning several pawns and then converting in 50 moves. Mike converted his space advantage into a decisive kingside attack, while Nic struggled to draw a position that was possibly lost at some point. Daniel built up a plus against the Slav but was unable to convert. Final score; NZ won 3-1.

Round 3 saw NZ paired with the 75th seeded Ireland. Bob found himself on the

white side of a Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation against strong IM Sam Collins, the author of several books on the Lopez. He put up stubborn resistance after being under pressure early on but eventually succumbed. Mike meanwhile was engaged in an entertaining struggle with the rising young Irish star Alex Astaneh Lopez.

(Notes by Mike Steadman)

Astaneh Lopez,Alex (2393) - Steadman,Michael (2309) [C04]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ngf3 Nf6

5.e5 Nd7 6.Bd3 Nb4 7.Be2 c5 8.c3 Nc6

We have transposed into the Universal System, one move behind for each player assuming White plays Bd3 next, but other moves don't make much sense. **9.Bd3 g6 10.a3** This move surprised me, as my g6 surprised him. I was confused and should answer a5 to this and just get into normal lines, so we are both on our own now.

10...Bg7 11.b4 cxd4 12.cxd4 0-0 13.Bb2

a6 Waste of a move, White wont play b5 at this time as it drives Black's knight where it needs to go and f5 would be a good home.

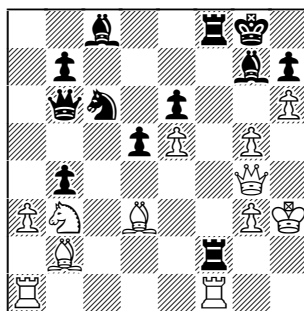
14.0-0 f6 15.Qe2 fxe5 16.Nxe5 Ndx5

17.dxe5 Bd7 18.Nb3 Rf7 Not the best move, but I had looked at my young opponent previous games and decided that a slow positional squeeze was not for him and he wanted to smash me on the kingside. So a risk, but I thought doubling the rooks would pay dividends when he had to push the pawns forward.

19.f4 Qb6+ 20.Kh1 Raf8 21.g3 Bc8 22.h4 Bh6 23.Qg4

a5 White is winning here, but he needed some exact moves and little time on his clock to do it in. **24.h5 g5 25.Kg2?** And here is the mistake, he was worried about the Queen getting into f2 and close to his King after he takes the g pawn, making this

move allows Black to break through on the queenside and get to use my doubled Rooks. [25.b5! a4 (25...Ne7 26.Bd4 Qd8 27.fxg5 Rg7 28.Rxf8+ Qxf8 29.Be3 White is winning easily.) 26.Nd2 Qe3 27.Rf3 Nxe5 28.Bxe5 Qxd2 29.Raf1 Rf5 Black's position looks pretty ropey, but he's not lost yet, this is why he was using so much time, it appears that White should be cruising.] **25...axb4 26.fxg5?** Mistakes follow mistakes, a4 was in order to try and close the queenside down, Black is now winning and White also has no time left, not a good place to be [26.a4 Rg7 27.fxg5 Rxf1 28.Rxf1 Rg5 29.Qh4 Qd8 30.Rf6 Rg7 31.Bc1 Bxc1 32.Nxc1 Black is a pawn up, but White has active pieces, but endgames are bad for White, so Black can play to swap off the heavy pieces and should have the better chances. The move played allows a move that was impossible before Kg2. Black is winning, but some scary positions are needed before the score sheets are signed.] **26...Rf2+ 27.Kh3 Bg7 28.h6**



28.....Bxe5! This was the only move and a winning one, at the time it was easy to play as I saw everything else lost and although the pawns look scary, I felt Black was safe and White's King was also in

trouble with the White squared Bishop prepared to do the damage. **29.g6 Bxb2 30.g7** [30.Rxf2 Qxf2 31.g7 Rd8 32.Rf1 Qxf1+ 33.Bxf1 e5 This was the key variation to see, the pin on the Queen allows Back to notch up the point.] **30...Re8 31.Rxf2 Qxf2 32.Qh5 e5+** Finally the "bad Bishop" comes into the game, and as usual, whenever this Bishop becomes good, Black is normally winning. **33.g4 Bxg4+ 34.Kxg4 Qg2+ 35.Kf5 Qg6+** I saw the Re7 move, which leaves White helpless, but as I now only had a few moves left before the time control, getting the queens off into the easy win which also got me to the time control was a no brainer. **36.Qxg6 hxg6+ 37.Kxg6 Ne7+ 38.Kg5 Bxa1 39.Nxa1 e4 40.Be2 Kh7 41.Bh5 Ra8 42.a4 Rxa4 43.Nc2 b3 44.Ne3 d4 45.Nf5 Ra5 46.Bg4 0-1.** My opponent was pretty depressed about this loss, he was winning, but as I have often found, concrete calculation is needed and one lazy move can ruin your game. Kg2 lost the game, although Black had to find some hairy moves. This helped us win the match, a good lesson for the young man.

On board 3 Nic played well to steadily convert an opening advantage leaving NZ leading 2-1. Unfortunately Daniel's queen and pawn ending looked lost until a last gasp mistake by his opponent secured a draw and a 2.5-1.5 victory for NZ.

Round 4 pitted NZ against a strong Austrian team seeded 45th with two GMs and two strong IMs. Bob had an intriguing struggle on board 1

(Notes by Bob Smith)

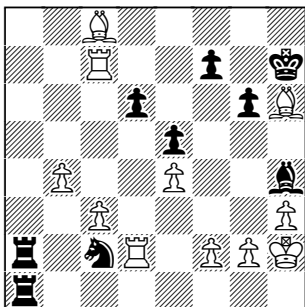
I had already thrown away a drawn

position against Cuban GM Bruzon (2679) in round one, and had nearly held Irish IM Sam Collins (2431) to a draw in round three, so I knew I was playing reasonable chess. But still I wasn't especially confident going into round 4 against Austrian GM Markus Ragger (2628). But I was enjoying the challenge of playing board one at an Olympiad for the first time!

Smith, Robert W (2282) - Ragger, Markus (2628)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 I had a few ideas in the Guicco and had seen my opponent was a Ruy Lopez expert. **3...Nf6 4.d3** No two knights thanks! **4...Be7 5.h3** A useful waiting move; white wants to know where black's king is going. **5...0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.c3 Na5 8.Bb5 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bc2 c5 11.Nbd2** Now it's a Ruy Lopez - but not a critical line. **11...Nc6 12.Re1** Discouraging ...d5. **12...h6 13.a4** Aiming to loosen the q-side and set up a possible target. **13...Be6 14.Nf1 Qc7 15.Qe2** Again discouraging ...d5 and with half an eye on b5. **15...Rfe8 16.Ng3 Rad8 17.axb5 axb5 18.Nh4 Nxe4?! 19.dxe4** Not 19.Qxe4 ...d5 → **19...Bxh4 20.Qxb5** The position is equal - but now black starts to get ambitious. **20...c4 21.Ra6 Nb8 22.Ra4 Rc8 22...Bd7? 23.Qxc4 23.Qa5 Qc6 24.Rb4 Qd7 25.Qb6** Multi-purpose: the queen can come back for defence, the Nc6 fork is avoided, and the threat of Ba4 looms. **25...Nc6 26.Ba4 Be7 27.Rd1 Red8 27...d5? 28.exd5 +- 28.Nf5 Bf8 29.Ne3 Qc7 30.Qxc7 Rxc7 31.Rb6 Na5 32.Nd5 Ra7 33.Be3 Raa8 34.Rb4 Bxd5 35.Rxd5 Rdc8 36.Bd7 Rc7 37.Bg4 Nb3 38.Be2 Na1 39.Rxc4 Rb7 40.b4** Steady play by white has yielded a winning position (Fritz gives 1.62 advantage) but I was getting low

on time. 40...Nc2 41.Bd2 Ra2 42.Bg4 Be7 43.Bf5 g6 44.Bc8 Rba7 45.Bxh6 Ra1+ 46.Kh2 R7a2 47.Rd2 Kh7 48.Rc7 Bh4



49.Bf8 49.Be6!! as Nic Croad pointed out afterwards, would have banked the point. (49...Kxh6 50.Bxa2 Rxa2 51.b5) Difficult to see with only a few minutes on the clock. 49...Kg8 50.Bxd6 Re1 51.g3 Bg5 52.f4 exf4 53.Bxf4 Bxf4 54.gxf4 Nxb4 55.Rxa2 Nxa2 56.Bb7 Re2+ 57.Kg3 57.Kg1 was better, but Fritz still thinks I'm winning even after this. 57...Re3+ 58.Kg4 Nxc3 59.e5 Nd1 60.Rc2? A terrible move. By now I was playing by reflex and starting to see ghosts. 60...Rb3 61.Rc7 Nf2+ 62.Kg5 Nxb3+ 63.Kh6 Kf8 64.Rxf7+ The last winning try was 64.Bd5, but my flag was hanging and I'd had enough. 64...Kxf7 65.Bd5+ Ke7 66.Bxb3 Nxf4 67.Kg5 Nd3 68.Kxg6 ½-½ A disappointing draw against a strong Grandmaster. More self-belief and better clock management would have resulted in more - but at least I didn't throw away the half- point as well!

Meanwhile on the other boards Mike's Dutch suffered against GM Shengelai, Nic blundered and lost quickly, and Daniel

went astray and succumbed to a kingside attack. Final score, NZ lost 0.5-3.5.

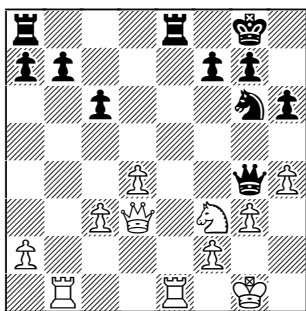
Round 5 and NZ have drawn 76th seeded Iraq. Bob drew on the black side of a Maroczy bind position against a 2342 opponent, while Mike missed a possible chance to exploit a plus and drew. Nic found himself defending a difficult rook and pawn ending which he eventually lost, while Daniel cashed in on some inaccurate play by his 2397 opponent to record a pleasing win, leaving the final match score as a 2-2 draw.

After a rest day which included visits to various local points of interest and the now famous Bermuda Party, NZ drew the 63rd ranked Scotland with GMs on the top two boards. After a long tough struggle Bob eventually lost to GM Colin McNab, while despite being worse for much of the game Mike defended stoutly to draw with GM John Shaw. Nic took full advantage when his IM opponent Burns-Mannion went astray and recorded a good win, but unfortunately Daniel, after being better for much of the game against Morrison, drifted into a worse then losing position. The final result was a loss 1.5-2.5.

Round 7 found NZ playing 107th seeded Panama. On board 1 Bob's struggle against his IM opponent ended with a draw by repetition, while Mike played actively in an Advance French to record the full point. Nic drew on board 3 while Daniel completed the following pleasing win to leave NZ with a win by 3-1.

(Notes by Daniel Han)
Aizpurua, Patrick - Han, Daniel [C42]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 [6...Nc6 is the other main line] 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.Nc3?! This is probably not the best move as it gives black easy play. The main moves are [9.Qc2 or; 9.Re1] 9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Bg4 12.Rb1 Qc7 [12...b5!? is normally played] 13.h3 Bf5 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Nd7 16.Re1 Rfe8 17.Bd2 Nf8 18.Ng5 Bf4 19.Bxf4 Qxf4 20.h4?! h6 [20...Qxh4 21.Qf5 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 f6 23.Nf3 Qh6 leaves white slightly better] 21.g3 Qg4?! [21...Qc7] 22.Nf3 Ng6?



[22...Qd7 23.Ne5 Qc7 24.Qf3 Re7 25.Re3 Rae8 26.Rbe1 Ne6=] 23.Kh2? [23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Rxb7 Nf4 25.Ne5 We both missed this move 25...Qc8 (25...Rxe5?? 26.Rb8+) 26.Qa6 Ne2+ 27.Kg2 Nxc3 28.Qxc6] 23...b5 24.Nd2 Rad8 25.Qf3 Qd7 26.Nb3 Ne7 27.Re5 Nd5 28.Rbe1 Rxe5 29.Rxe5 Re8 30.Nc5 Qc8 31.Rxe8+ Qxe8 the position is equal 32.a4? this gives black an outside passed pawn 32...bxa4 33.Nxa4 Qe1 34.c4 Nf6 35.Kg2 Qe6 36.Qc3? [36.Qd3 is a better move] 36...Qe4+ 37.Kf1? [37.Qf3 Qxd4 38.Qxc6 g6] 37...Ng4 white is in trouble 38.Nc5? [38.f3 is probably better, but it exposes the king to lots of checks] 38...Nh2+ 39.Kg1 Nf3+

40.Kf1 Qxd4 41.Qxf3 Qxc5 42.Qe4 Kf8 43.Qd3 g6 44.Kg2 a5 45.Qd8+ Kg7 46.Qa8? this simplifies black's task 46...Qxc4 47.Qxa5 Qd5+ 48.Qxd5 cxd5 49.Kf1 Kf6 50.Ke2 Ke5 51.Ke3 h5 52.f3 d4+ 53.Kd3 Kd5 54.Kd2 Kc4 55.g4 d3 56.gxh5 gxh5 57.f4 f5 white resigns 0-1

The match between NZ and South Africa is something of an institution for both nations as it seems to occur at almost every Olympiad. There is always a hint of the friendly competitiveness that accompanies most contests between these countries, and so it was to be in round 8. Bob and Mike continued the excellent form that they had shown to date against strong opposition by recording the following two efforts against their strong IM opposition.

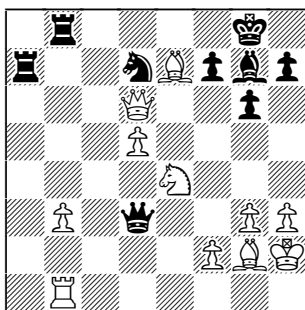
(Notes by Bob Smith)

Leading up to round 8 I'd had a couple of draws with 2300+ players and gone wrong in a drawn ending against Scottish IM Colin McNabb (2445). By this time anyone under 2400 seemed like a chance, so I was optimistic going into the match against South Africa.

Solomon, Kenny (2394) - Smith, Robert W (2282)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 I hadn't played a Benko for a while and thought it might be a small surprise. Plus I don't mind the variation I noticed he usually plays as white. 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.g3 d6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Bg2 Nbd7 10.Rb1 Qa5 I had been planning to play Qb6, but white was threatening to get a favourable set-up with b3 and Bb2. 11.Bd2 0-0 12.0-0 Ng4 A natural move to pressure the c4 square, open the diagonal for the Bg7 and eliminate

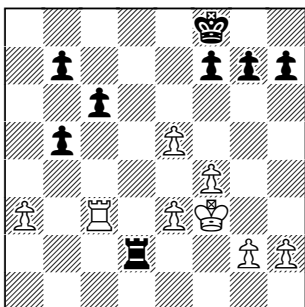
the f3 knight in case black plays ...c4.
13.Qc2 Nge5 14.b3 Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Rfb8
16.Rfc1 Ne5 17.Bg2 Qa3! Holes should be occupied. This increases the queen-side pressure. **18.h3 c4** The natural follow-up.
19.Kh2 Nd7 Heading for c5 to put more on b3. White - who has had none of the fun so far - was starting to get into time trouble.
20.Ne4 Tricky but there's a flaw. **20...cxb3**
21.axb3 Bxe2 22.Bg5 Qa6! 23.Bxe7 Bd3
24.Qc7 Bxb1 25.Rxb1 Ra7 26.Qxd6 Qd3!
 A difficult move to cope with in time trouble.



27.Nc5 Qxb1 28.Nxd7 Rba8 Black cold-bloodedly pockets the material. The position is still murky, but the counter-attack is coming. **29.Nf6+ Kh8 30.g4 Qe1!** A killer. Black exploits white's tangled pieces. By now I was focusing hard on not stuffing it up! **31.Ne4 f5 32.Qe6** A knight move would have allowed ...Be5 or simply a capture on e7. **32...fxe4 33.d6 Qxf2**
34.Qxe4 Qb2! 35.h4 Be5+ 36.Kh3 Ra3
37.Bf6+ Bxf6 38.d7 38...Qxb3+ is crushing - and I had plenty of time. A game white never really got into - and a real endorsement for the Benko! **0-1**

(Notes by Mike Steadman)
Steadman, Michael (2309) - Kobese, Watu (2370) [D02]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c4 Bg4 4.Nc3 e6
5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bf4 Bb4 7.e3 Nf6 [7...Nge7
8.Rc1 0-0 9.h3 Bh5 10.Be2 Bd6 11.Bxd6
Qxd6 12.0-0] 8.a3 [8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8
10.h3] 8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Be2 Na5
11.Nd2 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 Re8 13.c4 dxc4
14.Nxc4 Nd5 15.Be5 Nc6 16.Qb2 Nb6
17.Nxb6 axb6 18.0-0 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Qe7
 Could be fair to say I wasn't too happy with my position here, Black is only a little better, but I thought my winning chances were nil. Time to dig in, here I decided I needed to be wary of Black owning the d file, and also blocking the a pawn and playing b5 and b4, getting two connected past pawns, Black would then be winning all endgames, with a rook each we're drawn, as were King and pawn endgames, so job number one was to swap off the queens and rooks if possible. **20.Rfc1 Ra5**
21.f4 Rd8 22.Qb4 Qd7 23.Rd1 The activity of the White Queen on e7 with e6 threats stops Black from taking the two rooks, this allows a swap of one pair of rooks **23...Rd5 24.Rxd5 Qxd5 25.Qe7** And the activity of the White Queen forces Black to swap the Queens off as well **25...Qd7 26.Qxd7 Rxd7 27.Rc1 b5 28.Kf2**
c6 29.Rc3 Rd2+ 30.Kf3 Kf8 This was the kind of position that I envisaged after move 19, a deceptive position that is even, but appears that Black is better, my opponent refuses draws thinking he is better, he is making a classic mistake.



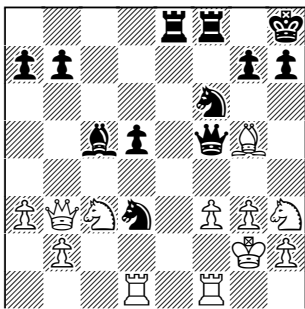
31.h3 Ke7 32.g4 Rh2 33.Rb3 This was my plan, the h pawn is worth the activity I get from playing a4 and getting into his queenside pawns, Black can get a past h pawn, but White easily covers this. **33...Ra2** [33...Rxh3+ 34.Ke4 Rg3 35.g5 h5 36.gxh6 gxh6 37.a4 bxa4 38.Rxb7+ Kf8 39.Ra7 h5 40.Rxa4 h4 41.Ra6 Rg6 42.Ra8+ Kg7 43.f5 Rh6 44.f6+ Kh7 45.Rf8 h3 46.Rxf7+ Kg8 47.Rg7+ Kf8 48.e6 Rxf6 49.Rh7 Rxe6+ 50.Kd3 But my opponent didn't want his prized queenside pawns to go west, so he turned down this drawing line.] **34.Ke4 g6 35.f5 Rc2 36.Rd3 Rc4+ 37.Rd4 Rc3** [37...Ra4 38.Rxa4 bxa4 39.Kd4 gxf5 40.gxf5 b6 41.Kc4 b5+ 42.Kc5 Just to prove that all King and pawn endings are drawn, this option was also turned down by my opponent.] **38.Rd3 Rc1??** White is now winning, amazing, but owning the d file, aggressive pawns and King, if you were given this position and not seen the moves before this, you would not think Black is trying to win. **39.f6+ Ke8 40.e6 fxe6 41.Ke5 Rc4 42.Rd6 b4 43.Rxe6+ Kf8 44.axb4 Rxb4 45.Re7 c5 46.Rxh7 c4 47.Rc7 Rb3 48.e4 c3 49.Kf4 Rb5 50.e5 Rb6 51.Rxc3 1-0.** Did I deserve to win, not sure, but White was never

losing, this was a case of one player not evaluating an endgame correctly and adjusting to the fact he wasn't better anymore.

Meanwhile on the lower two boards Nic lost against an in-form opponent chasing an IM norm, and Daniel, after being worse for much of the game and defending stoutly, ended up in a difficult rook and pawn ending which was lost after 80 moves. The final result was 2-2.

As round 9 approached Mike, who had been playing confidently and aggressively, needed only a draw against a reasonable strength rated player who get an IM norm result. Unfortunately NZ was drawn against 133rd seeds Kenya and he encountered an unrated player on board 2 in a must win encounter. Mike's trusty French was rolled out again, but despite his aggressive intentions his unrated player hung on for the draw. Bob meanwhile continued his good form with a steady win on board 1. Nic and Daniel both also recorded wins to conclude a victory for NZ by 3.5-.5.

Round 10 saw NZ drawn against the 71st seed Belgium. With two strong IMs and out-rating NZ on every board this was a tough encounter. Bob drifted into a worse position against his IM opponent, lost a pawn, and then the ensuing ending. Mike needing a win for his IM norm against a strong opponent played aggressively with the Dutch and reached a position where he had the win on the board but sadly missed the decisive tactic. The game ended in a draw. Nic drew a tough encounter but Daniel lost on board 4 to conclude a 1-3 loss.



[22...Ng4! Is the decisive tactic. 23.fxg4 (23.Ng1 Nxh2 24. Kxh2 Bxg1+ 25.Kxg1 Qxg5+) 23...Re2+ -+]

Coming into the final round it appeared that Mike's IM norm chances had gone as he would not be able to get a sufficiently highly rated opponent. However NZ was leading the Category D group of countries, but would need a win in the final encounter against 88th seeded UAE as the other main contenders Libya had drawn relatively easy opponents. Bob encountered yet another GM level opponent but was unable to hold as black in a Nimzo-Indian. Daniel cashed in on his opponents tactical oversight to record a win and Nic finished with a draw. Needing a win to take the match and the Category prize for NZ, Mike over-pressed in a drawn position to lose. The final result was therefore 1.5-2.5.

The final standing of 91st was probably not an entirely fair reflection of a good performance by a relatively inexperienced NZ team. Several milestones unfortunately just eluded the team, but the experience of tough competition in this sort of environment

was definitely a plus, as was the opportunity to take part in what turned out to be a superb Olympiad. Much credit must go to the Russian organisers for pulling it all together, and to the people of Khanty-Mansiysk for their hospitality.

Book Review

New in Chess: the First 25 Years Ed. Steve Giddins

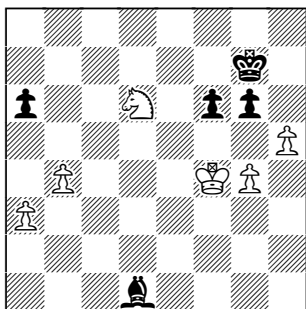
By Arthur Pomeroy

Over the last quarter century, *New in Chess* from Holland has been the standout among chess magazines for its treatment of international competitions, interviews with leading players, and articles of general interest. To commemorate the first 25 years since 1984, English chess writer Steve Giddins has selected some 60 pieces, beginning with an interview with Mikhail Botvinnik and ending with another with Vishy Anand after his success against Vladimir Kramnik. All the greats of recent times down to Magnus Carlsen are represented, but so too are colourful characters such as Michael Basman of Killer Grob fame and the great composer Genrikh Kasparian.

This is a book for the coffee table or to take on holiday. Open it at any place and there is something that will amuse (particularly the

paranoia of the greats – the interview with David Bronstein illustrates this as much as the quirks of Bobby Fischer) or an annotated game that will delight (for instance, Beliavsky-Nunn, 1985, or Kasparov-Topalov, 1999, both from the Wijk an Zee tournament: must be something in the Dutch sea air). Annotations from Tony Miles aim at insulting his opponent (a visitor to these shores, here referred to as ‘Gump’), while Valery Salov’s notes to a game against Shirov veer into weird speculations on the Knights Templar.

To finish, a position between Kasparov and Timman from Linares 1993. Black has just played 49. ... Bd1 (he should have played 49. ... Bd7), which allows a nasty little tactic.



Solution Page 22

Hunting Those Elusive IM Norms - My 2010 European Tour



By Mike Steadman

Early on this year Ian Rogers asked me if I would be keen to play in the BDO IM tournament in Amsterdam in August. The team for the Olympiad team to Russia hadn't been announced, but with the word everyone was planning not to travel to Russia, I thought why not enter and take my chances. If I missed selection, then I would need to find a third tournament. I could take in the September First Saturday event, and I was sure I could find another event if Russia didn't pan out. As it happened, I got selected to play, so my schedule was Amsterdam 10 player IM round robin, September First Saturday and then off to Russia for the Olympiad.

I got to England a week before the event

started, stayed with my brother in London for a few days and then went to Amsterdam and followed the Young GM vs Old GM event going on in Amsterdam at the time. Ian and Kathy Rogers were my hosts for this part of the chess adventure and I was rooming with the Australian Tomek Rej. Amsterdam is a terrific place to visit and play chess in. Everyone speaks English, the trams and trains are reliable and getting around is very easy. Had an amazing moment when Kathy got online and searched out some travel details for Tomek and I to get to The Haig (needed to get my visa sorted for Russia). She gave us tram, bus and train connections, the minutes they would arrive and the time they would drop us off at each point. Off we went with our direction sheet, and every connection was exactly as she had described. Very bizarre.

Kathy and Ian live in a block of flats that had 13 floors, they were on the 7th. Great flat, many a chess player seems to use it as a base. Reason I mention the 13 floors, was I started doing a bit of a daily floor climbing challenge, could only manage 4 flights when I arrived, but got to 7 flights by the last day. As will be clear, the chess might have been going downhill, but the fitness was getting better. They were great hosts and at the time we were there, they also had a couple staying from Greece, so a very entertaining atmosphere was always there to greet us each day. Watching the GMs up close was also interesting as well, the likes of Gelfand, Svidler and Giri etc.

Anyway, came the event and off we trekked to the opening ceremony to draw lots and find out which part of your pre tournament preparation you can ignore. We

had a last minute change of player, and both Tomek and I drew low numbers which got us the extra white, so that seemed to be a great start. I was drawn against the top seed and I thought that was also good news, better to play him early before he got his eye in. The venue for the BDO Challenge was located about a 15 minute walk from the train station, but was a great venue. They had an open event going on at the same time, but the IM and GM events were in a separate room. We had plenty of space between the boards and drinks and snacks were supplied, so everything that could be done for us, was done, all we had to do was play good chess.

Round 1 was not a great start for me, playing White against Bosboom he played an early Bxc3+ idea, I had dabbled with this line myself a few times, so although I wasn't prepared for it, I wasn't particularly scared by this line, knew how to defuse it and got a reasonable opening. I proceeded to then come up with a dumb plan and ruin a perfect position, it was horrible and I was beaten badly. Showing the game to Ian later wasn't a pleasant experience. The line for me to play was obvious and I was unsure why I hadn't played it and had played such a bad plan. Not the start I was looking for.

Steadman, Michael - Bosboom, Manuel

BDO Toernooi Haarlem (1.7)

[Steadman/Hazai]

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 d6 6.e4 Qa5 7.Qc2 f5 8.Bd3 fxe4 9.Bxe4 Nf6 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.Nf3 b5 12.cxb5 Nb6 13.Nd2 [13.0-0 c4 14.Be4 Qxb5 15.Bg5 (15.Nd4)] 13...Nfxd5?! [13...Nbx d5 14.Ne4] 14.c4? Here was

when I needed to start calculating, a4 was obvious! [14.a4 0-0 15.Bb2 Obvious point is that Black's queen is very stuck and he'll need some strange moves to get out. (15.Bxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 This is only a draw.)] **14...Nb4 15.Qc3?! [15.Bxg6+ hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kd7 (16...Kd8 17.0-0©) 17.0-0© Black is better here, but at least this should have tried, with the move played I go down without a fight.] 15...Nxd3+ 16.Qxd3 Bf5 17.Qb3 a6 18.0-0 axb5 [18...0-0] 19.cxb5 Qa4 20.Qc3 [20.Bb2 Qxb3 21.axb3 0-0 22.Ra6] 20...Kd7 [20...0-0μ] 21.Qf3 Rhb8 22.Re1 [22.Qc6+ Kd8 23.Re1 Qd4 24.Nb3 Qd5] 22...Qxb5 23.g4?! [23.Ne4] 23...Bc2 24.Qc3? [24.Qf7 Nc8 25.Nf3 Kc6 26.Bf4 Qd3 27.Re3 Qd5 Black is better, but still more to play after Qxh7. The move played loses quickly.] 24...Qa4+ 25.Bb2 Nd5 26.Qf3 Qc6 [26...Rxb2 27.Qxd5 Qxg4+-+] 27.Bg7 h5 28.h3 hxg4 29.hxg4 Rb4 30.Qe2 Re8 31.Bh6 Ba4?! [31...e5-+] 32.Qe6+ Kc7 33.Qxg6 Nf6 [33...Nf4] 34.f3 Qd5 35.Rac1 [35.Qg5! Qxg5 36.Bxg5 Nxc4 37.Rxe7+ Rxe7 38.Bxe7] 35...Bc6 36.Ne4 Qe5 37.Kf2 Rb2+ 38.Kf1 Bb5+ 39.Kg1 Qh2# 0-1**

Round 2 I was Black against Kuipers, he had looked good in his win in round 1. I knew he was an e4 player and prepared the classical French for this game. An opening I enjoy playing, but one that hasn't been too kind to me. This continued in this game as well, I was under the kosh, got back to be level and just when I got even again I blundered and lost.

Round 3 I had White against Admiraal – he is an up and coming junior, sharp with the

tactics and the dragon is a great opening for him. He plays the accelerated dragon this time and I remembered some lines from one of Bill Forster's games against a GM in Aussie, so thought I would give it a crack. Was a great seesaw game and a draw was well earned by the end, we both had winning chances and a draw was probably a good result.

Round 4 I was White against van Ruitenburg. I played an f3 Nimzo and this was my only win of the event. I wasn't to know at the time, instead thought I had finally turned the corner, but this was not to be my event, bad moves were to haunt me yet.

Steadman, Michael-VanRuitenburg, Joost
BDO Toernooi Haarlem (4.10)
[Steadman/Hazai]

1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 Nxd5 is the main line, I have always enjoyed this line, even though I recently lost to West at the George, I had tweaked the line since then. [7...Nxd5] **8.e3 0-0 [8...Qc7! This causes White some issues due the threat of some Qc3+ lines.] 9.Bd3 b6 10.Ne2 Ba6 11.0-0 Re8 12.Ng3 Bxd3 [12...Qd7! 13.Ra2 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Nc6 From d7 the Queen eyes the a4 square and with Na5 and Nc4, Black gets good pressure and White has to jettison the Queenside for the attack.] 13.Qxd3 Nc6 14.Bb2 h5 15.Rae1 g6 16.e4 h4 17.Nh1 Nh5 [17...cxd4 18.cxd4 Nh5 19.Nf2! (19.e5 Nf4 20.Qe3 Qg5 21.g3 hxg3 22.hxg3 Ne6 23.f4 Qf5÷ V.Georgiev-Thavandiran, Montreal 2009) 19...Nf4 20.Qb5 Qg5 21.Ng4 Rec8 22.g3 hxg3 23.hxg3 Nh5 24.Kg2 Qd2+ 25.Re2 Nxd4**

26.Rxd2 Nxb5 27.Rxd5 The Black squared Bishop is a monster and White's pieces are very active.] **18.g3?** [18.Nf2! cxd4 (18...Nf4 19.Qb5 Qg5 20.Ng4±) 19.cxd4 - 17...cxd4] **18...cxd4 19.cxd4 Qd7 20.e5 hgx3** [20...Rac8 21.f4 Ne7] **21.hgx3 Qh3?** [21...Rac8 Black should play normal moves and not get carried away, White has too many pieces around the King and defends easily.] **22.f4 Kg7 23.Qf3 Rh8 24.Re2 Kg8 25.Rh2** [25.f5! Qxf5 26.Qxd5 Qe6 27.Qe4 Rd8 28.g4 Ng7 29.Rf6+-] **25...Qe6 26.g4+- Ng7 27.Rxh8+ Kxh8 28.f5 gxf5 29.gxf5 Qh6 30.Ng3 Rc8 31.Rf2 Qg5 32.Rg2 Nxd4 33.Bxd4 Nxf5 34.Qxf5 [34.e6+] 34...Rc1+ 35.Kh2** Great relief to get a win - whew! 1-0

Round 5 I had Black against Turova, having her GM husband over and playing in the GM event must have helped. We played a Dutch and she played the Nh3 line and played a nice game and positionally I was crushed – nasty shock to the system.

Round 6 was the other IM Manea, I was pretty shell shocked by this stage and tried a line that has worked for me against his Sicilian, he did nothing fancy and just tried swapping bits off to get to an endgame. I had a chance to attack, backed off and that gave him his chance to consolidate and then as the saying goes, most Sicilian endgames are good for Black, and this was no exception, another loss.

Round 7 was probably my worst game, I was Black against Tomek Rej, was winning easy, 2 pawns up and cruising. I got lazy and allowed him an attack and he turned defeat into a win. Looks like last place was

firmly in my grasp.

Round 8 was against De Wit, was a Modern and White got a reasonable game, I turned down a draw and then proceeded to go nuts. I overreached and then tried to save the draw. I made a mistake in the endgame and there was no way back.

Round 9 and I had Black against Wijswijt – I tried a Leningrad Dutch, very messy position occurred, analysis showed we both kept making mistakes all throughout the game. Issue was I made the last one and with some bad calculation I managed to lose the game. A very disappointing event.

So Amsterdam was over. I took Ian and Kathy out to dinner to thank them for their kindness, then got on a plane to Budapest. Ian had arranged for me to stay and get some coaching from Lazslo Hazai, he has trained a number of Australians and I was looking forward to it. We met up and the airport, he was easy to spot, the one holding “The Week in Chess” magazine, and off we went on bus, train and tram till we got to his apartment. The time with Lazslo was priceless, we started the next day by going through some of my games. We started with this year's George Trundle, not so bad as I had some good wins there, we then went through the Amsterdam event. This was a nightmare, regurgitating some real horror stories. Anyway, by the time we got to the end of these 18 games his summary was that I was a lazy calculator and because of this my endgames were also weak. My openings were disorderly and not enough depth was known.

Lazslo's plan was that I needed to focus on one particular opening and know this deeply and have options within this opening. His theory was it doesn't matter if the opponent knows I will play the French, I will play it all the time, have a couple of lines within the French against any of the white replies. So we began working on the openings and creating pgn files, The days started about 8.30am, we stopped for a 2 hr lunch, went through to 6.00 ish, had dinner and then carried on through to 10.00 pm. Very long and tiring days. I had 4 days of preparation with Lazslo before the event. The format was again one game per day, starting at 4.00pm. We would start preparation at 8.30am, work through to about 2.00pm, have lunch and then rest up before the game. When I finished, we would have dinner, go through the game for any lessons, then look at the preparation that Lazslo had prepared for me for the next day's game. His theory was that a brief view of the preparation file was best done about an hour before you went to bed and then you would mull over what was needed during your sleep state.

The First Saturday event was a new one for me, I was selected to play in the 6 player double round robin. I was looking forward to it. Although I had not played winning chess in Amsterdam, I felt I wasn't too far away from getting some points. I also felt better with the coaching I was getting from Lazslo, some real clarity was starting to shine through for me. But the calculating problem was not going to be fixed overnight. Anyway, I was looking forward to the event starting. This was really a tournament of two halves, a norm was really there to be had if I had taken my

chances.

Round 1 I had White against Farago, not a bad start as he was an old fashioned King's Indian man and my Bd3 line worked a treat. I did my usual and managed to clutch a loss from a winning position, bad calculation haunting me again.

Steadman,M (2309) - Farago,S (2272)

Budapest (1), 04.09.2010

[Steadman/Hazai]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Bg7 5.Bd3 e5?! [5...0-0] 6.d5 a5 [6...0-0] 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 Nh5 9.Be3 f5 [9...Na6] 10.exf5 gxf5 11.f4 e4 12.Bc2 Nf6 13.h3 Na6 14.a3 Bd7 15.Rb1 Qe7 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 b6 18.Nd4 Kh8 19.Ba4 Rg8 20.Bxd7 Qxd7 21.Rf2 Nb8 22.Ne6 [22.Ncb5± This is a better way to play this, delays the c5 options by Black.] 22...c5 23.bxc5 bxc5 24.Nb5 Na6 25.Ra2 Lazy calculation again, was worried about e3 options if I played Bd2 immediately, was just bad for Black. [25.Bd2! e3 26.Bxe3 Ne4 27.Ra2 Nb4 28.Rxa8 Rxa8 29.Qh5+-] **25...Nb4 26.Rxa8 Rxa8 27.Bd2 Nd3 28.Bc3 Ne8 29.Nxg7** This is obvious and is still winning, but lazy calculation again, Bxg7 was stronger. [29.Bxg7+! Nxg7 30.Ra1! Rxa1 31.Qxa1 Kg8 32.Qf6+- Qf7 33.Qxf7+ Kxf7 34.Nxd6+ Kf6 35.Nxg7 Kxg7 36.Nxf5+ Winning easily.] **29...Nxg7 30.Ra1 Rxa1 31.Qxa1 h5 32.g3 h4 33.Kg2?** A terrible move and lazy calculation again, white is winning easily with just a simple combination. [33.Qa8+! Kh7 34.Qf8! hxg3 (34...e3 35.Nxd6 e2 36.Nf7!+-) 35.Nxd6 Nxf4 36.Nf7 Ne2+ 37.Kf1 Qxf7 38.Qxf7 Nxc3 39.Qf6+-] **33...Kh7 34.Bxg7 Qxg7 35.Qxg7+ Kxg7 36.Nxd6 Kf6 37.gxh4 Nxf4+ 38.Kf2?**

[38.Kf1! Ke5 39.Nb7 Nh5 40.Nxc5 f4 41.Kf2 Ng3 (41...e3+ 42.Kf3+-) 42.Ne6 Nh5 43.Ng5 Ng3 44.Kg2 Nh5 45.d6 Nf6 (45...Kxd6 46.Nxe4+-) 46.h5 f3+ 47.Kf1 Kxd6 48.h6+-; 38.Kg3 Nd3 39.h5 f4+ 40.Kg4 e3] **38...Ke5 39.Nf7+ Kf6 40.Nd6 Ke5 41.Nb7?** This tosses the game away now, should have taken the draw. [41.Nf7+=] **41...Nd3+-+ 42.Ke2 f4 43.d6 f3+ 44.Ke3 f2 45.Ke2 Ke6?** [45...e3! 46.d7 Nf4+ 47.Kf1 Ke4!! 48.d8Q Kf3-+] **46.h5 e3 47.h6??** The final blunder and poor calculating again, a draw was still possible, but not this way. [47.Kf1! Nf4 48.Nxc5+ Kf5 49.d7 Nxh5 50.Ke2! (50.Kg2? Ng3) 50...Ng3+ 51.Kxe3 f1Q 52.d8Q=] **47...Nf4+-+ 48.Kf1 Nh5 49.Nxc5+ Kf5 50.Ke2 Ng3+ 51.Kxe3 f1Q 52.d7 Qf4+ 0-1**

Round 2 had me Black against Petran Pal. This was a Classical Dutch where White had made the unusual Nh3 move, Black had a good game until I messed it up and then Petran returned the favour and I got to a position where I could save the opposite coloured Bishop ending.

Round 3 had me White against the highest rated To Nhat. I messed up a Slav, managed to recover, but was slightly worse in the endgame. He kept pressing and I missed all my chances and managed to lose, not a great start. But the three IMs were out of the way, I needed to recover now.

Round 4 had me White again against the Austrian Titz. Another f3 Nimzo, great opening when you need a win. The preparation was excellent, we had him worked out to a tee and he walked straight down the line and I duly wrapped up the

point.

Steadman,M (2309) - Titz,H (2225)
Budapest (4), 07.09.2010
[Steadman/Hazai]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 c5 5.d5 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6 7.e4 Qe7 8.Ne2 0-0 9.Ng3 Nbd7 10.Be2 Ne5 11.0-0 Ng6 12.Be3 Re8 13.a4 h6 14.Qd2 e5? Amazingly we had this position on the board during our preparation and we guessed that he would play this move, White's game plays itself from here and Black is in a bad way. [14...Bd7] **15.Nf5 Bxf5?! [15...Qd8] 16.exf5 Nf8 17.g4 e4 18.f4 N6h7 19.Qe1** No need to do this, just getting on with it was the way to go, haven't messed up the position though. [19.g5±] **19...Nd7 20.h4 f6? [20...Qf6] 21.Qg3 Kh8 22.Kf2 a6 23.Rab1 Rab8 24.g5 Rg8 25.Rg1 Qe8 26.Qh2 b5 27.axb5 axb5 28.cxb5 Nb6 29.c4 Qd7 30.Qg2 Qxf5 31.Bg4 Qg6 32.Be6 fxd5 33.hxd5 Rgf8 34.gxh6 Qxg2+ 35.Rxg2 g5 36.Bd2** The 2 Bishops are monsters and this endgame is winning. [36.f5] **36...Nxc4 37.Bc3+ Ne5 38.f5 Rf6 39.Bxe5 dxe5 40.Ke3** The King just goes forth and mows down all the pawns and the b and d pawns win the day. **40...Rxb6 41.Kxe4 Kg7 42.Kxe5 Kf8 43.Kd6 Nf6 44.b6 Rh7 45.Kc6 c4 46.b7 c3 47.d6 Ke8 48.Ra2 Nd7 49.Bxd7+ Rxd7 50.Re2+ 1-0**

Round 5 was a disappointing Classical French against Batte. I had a good position and then proceeded to mess it up, had chances to save the half point, but messed up again and the ending was lost. So that meant I had to win all my remaining games to get a norm, not impossible, but not easy

with the form I was showing.

Round 6 had me Black against Farago and a chance for revenge. He tried a Tarrasch against my French which surprised me as he was exclusively a Winawer man in the database, so I reeled out my Nc6 line, which is not bad. White needs to know what he is doing to ensure Black does not get the time to get a good game. Farago showed he did not know the lines and Black got a good game. Just at the time I needed to start pressing, I began to wander and White got great compensation for his pawn and then won it back. But Farago got into time trouble and missed a combination, allowing me to take the point.

Farago,S (2272) - Steadman,M (2309)

Budapest (6), 10.09.2010
[Steadman/Hazai]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd7 6.c3 f6 7.Bd3 [7.exf6 Qxf6] **7...fxe5 8.dxe5 8...g6!? 9.Qe2** [19.Bb5 Bg7 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Qa4 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Nf3 Bd6 14.Bh6!? (14.Qxc6+ Bd7 15.Qb7 0-0³) 14...Bd7 MS] **9...Bg7 10.h4?** [10.Bb5 0-0 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nb3 a5 MS(12...c5 13.Bg5 Qe8 14.Qe3÷)] **10...Ndx5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Bc2 Qf6** [12...0-0 13.h5] **13.Nb3 Nc4 14.h5 Bd7 15.Nc5 0-0-0 16.Nxd7 Rxd7 17.Rh3 e5 18.b3 Nd6 19.Bd2 e4 20.0-0-0 Rf8 21.f3 Re8** [21...gxh5! 22.fxe4 (22.Rxh5 exf3 23.gxf3 Qxf3 24.Qxf3 Rxf3 25.Rxd5 Bxc3) 22...Nxe4 23.Bxe4 dxe4 24.Rxh5 Rfd8-+] **22.hxg6 hxg6 23.fxe4 Nxe4 24.Be1 Qc6 25.Rhd3 Qc5?!** This was the start of a bad plan, I needed to protect by King and get it to a7 when needed, White almost has no moves then. [25...a6! 26.Qe3 Kb8-+]

26.Qg4 Qa3+? 27.Kb1 Nf6?! [27...c6 28.Qxg6 Ree7] **28.Qxg6 Re6 29.R3d2 Ne4 30.Bxe4?** [30.Rxd5!! Rxg6 31.Rxd7 Rd6 (31...Bf6 32.Bxe4 Rg8 33.Bg3! Rxg3 34.Rd8+ Bxd8 35.Bf5+ Kb8 36.Rxd8#) 32.R1xd6 Nxd6 33.Rxg7 Qc5= The 2 Bishops and the g pawn make this a very difficult defence for Black, but the Queen and Knight should hold the game.] **30...Rxg6 31.Bxg6 Bxc3 32.Re2 Bf6** [32...Re7! 33.Bf5+ Kb8 34.Rxd5 a5 Bad calculation, I had forgotten that the e2 Rook couldn't move because of the mate on b2.] **33.Bf5 c6 34.Bg3 Kd8 35.Bxd7 Kxd7 36.Rf1??** [36.Rde1 The pawns may well win this for Black, but all is to play for, moving them opens Black up to checks from the Rooks.] **36...Qa6!** Now Black is winning and I swooped. **37.Rff2 Qd3+ 38.Rc2 Qd4 39.Rb2 Qd1# 0-1**

Round 7 had me White against Petran Pal again. It was another f3 Nimzo and he surprised me with the variation he played. It is the same line that Russell Dive plays, so I had worked on this line. White reached a great position, but I drifted, at one stage Black could have broken out and was much better, but he missed his chance and this time I calculated better and forced the win.

Steadman,M (2309) - Petran,P (2348)

Budapest (7), 11.09.2010
[Steadman/Hazai]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Be7 6.e4 dxe4 7.fxe4 e5 8.d5 Bc5 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 0-0 13.Rb1 a5 14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 Bd4 16.Ne2 Re8 [16...c5 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.c5 Qe7 (18...Qb8 19.g4² (19.Bc2 Qb5 HL

(19...Ra2 20.Qd3 Rd8 21.Qc4 Ra7 22.Rf1 Rf8 23.Rf3 Rb7 24.Rbb3 Qe8 25.Bd2 Qe6 26.Qxe6 fxe6± Gutman-Kruszynski, Muenster 1991) 20.Bd3 Qb7; ; 19.g4] **17.g4 h6 18.Bc2?! Another weak move, just getting on with it and attacking the poor move h6 by Black was required. [18.h4 Nh7 19.c5] 18...c6 19.dxc6 bxc6 20.c5 Nf8 21.Ng3? [21.h4 N6d7 22.g5 hxg5 23.hxg5 Ng6 24.Bb3 Re7 25.Ng3] 21...Ra2 22.Qb3 Qa8 23.Rf1 Ne6 24.Nf5 Rb8 25.Qc4 Bxc5 26.Bd2** Bad calculation again, looks bad, but should have taken the piece, but Petran was getting into time trouble and his game would be too easy to play. **26...Nd4 27.Nxd4 Bxd4 28.Bxh6 Ra1 [28...c5! 29.Rxf6 gxf6-+] 29.Bd2 Rxb1+ 30.Bxb1 c5??** Now he is too late, and White is now winning, I calculated correctly for a change. [30...Rf8! 31.g5 Qa1! 32.Ke2 Nh5] **31.g5 Nh7 32.Qxf7+ Kh8 33.Qh5 Qa1 34.Ke2 Qa6+ 35.Bd3 c4 36.g6 [36.g6 cxd3+ 37.Kf3+-** White's King is now safe and pieces are falling to stop mate.] 1-0

Round 8 I was Black against To Nhat. It was a Nc6 Tarrasch French again, I turned down a draw offer (as you do against 2450 IMs!), I then played passively and he crushed me.

Round 9 had me Black against Titz and it was a standard Stonewall Dutch, I got fancy but he missed his chance and Black stood well. The late Kingside attack had White struggling with his pieces all on the Queenside and Black broke through and won a nice game.

1.c4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 d5 5.d4 c6

6.0-0 Bd6 7.b3 Qe7 8.Bb2 b6 9.Nbd2 Bb7 10.Ne5 a5 11.Ndf3 0-0 12.Nd3 Na6 [12...c5!? 13.e3 Ne4 a) 13...Nc6? 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.Bxf6 Rxf6 (15...Qxf6 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Nxc5±) 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Ng5±; b) 13...Rd8 14.Nfe5 Nc6 15.cxd5 Nxd5; 14.Nfe5 Nc6 15.f3 (15.cxd5 exd5 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.dxc5 bxc5 18.Nf4 Bxf4 19.exf4 d4) 15...Ng5] **13.Nfe5 Ne4 [13...c5 14.e3 Nb4 15.a3 (15.Qe2 Nxd3 16.Qxd3 a4) 15...Nxd3 16.Nxd3 Ne4 17.f3 Nf6] 14.f3 [14.a3 c5 15.e3 Rfd8 16.Qe2 Rac8 17.Rfc1] 14...Nf6 15.Qd2 [15.a3; 15.e3] 15...Nb4 [15...c5 16.e3 Nb4] 16.a3 [16.Rfc1 c5 17.e3 Rfd8÷] 16...Na6 [16...Nxd3! 17.exd3 c5 18.Qe2 (18.Rfe1 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Bxa3; 18.dxc5 bxc5 19.f4 d4) 18...a4] 17.Rfc1 [17.e3 c5] 17...Rac8?! Black has messed around too long, c5 needed to be played and Black is equal and trending to better. [17...c5 18.e3] **18.Rc2? [18.b4!! axb4 19.axb4 c5 a) 19...Bxb4 20.Nxb4 Nxb4 (20...Qxb4 21.Qxb4 Nxb4 22.Ra7 Ba8 23.c5±) 21.c5 bxc5 22.Rxc5 - 19...axb4; b) 19...Nxb4 20.c5! bxc5 21.Nxc5 Bxc5 22.Rxc5 Na6 23.Rca5; 20.bxc5 bxc5 21.Ba3 Rc7 (21...cxd4 22.Bxd6 Qxd6 23.c5! Nxc5 24.Qb4+-) 22.Rab1] 18...Rfd8 [18...c5] 19.Qc1 [19.e3 c5 20.Qe2 Nd7 21.f4 Nf6÷] 19...c5 20.Kh1?! [20.e3 Nd7÷] 20...Qe8?! [20...cxd4! 21.Bxd4 Nc5 22.Qb2 dxc4 23.bxc4 Bxe5 24.Nxe5 Na4 25.Qb3 Rxd4 26.Qxa4 Qd6] 21.Qe1? [121.e3 a4 22.bxa4 Qxa4 23.Nf4] 21...a4 22.bxa4 Qxa4 23.Qc1 cxd4 24.Bxd4 Nc5 25.Bxc5 bxc5 26.Rb1 Qa7?! [26...Ba8 27.cxd5 exd5 28.Nxc5 Rxc5 29.Rxc5 Bxe5] 27.Rcb2 Ba8 28.Rb6 Qc7 29.Qb2 d4 30.f4 Ne4 31.Qc2 g5 32.a4 gxf4 33.gxf4 Kh8 34.Bf3 Rg8 35.Qd1 Bxe5 36.fxe5 Qxe5 37.Qe1 Qf6 38.Nf4 Qh6 39.Ng2 Qh3 [39...Nd2****

40.Bxa8 Rxa8-+] **40.R1b3** [40.Nf4 Qh6 (40...Ng3+? 41.Qxg3) 41.Ng2 , this would force Black to play Nd2 as above.] **40...Nc3 41.Qh4 Qxh4 42.Nxh4 Nxe2** This endgame is winning easily, the central pawns are monsters. **43.h3 Ng3+ 44.Kh2 Nf1+ 45.Kh1 Nd2 46.Bxa8 Nxb3 47.Bg2 Na5 48.Rxe6 Rce8 49.Ra6 Re1+ 50.Kh2 Nxc4 51.Bd5 Re2+ 52.Kh1 Rb8 53.Nf3 Ne3 0-1**

Round 10 gave me the opportunity to get my revenge on Battey. Another f3 Nimzo was played, he had played the Dutch through event and I was not prepared for this, but I have played against this line a few times and was not too concerned. He played a bad line and although I played OK, I could have got a great advantage with the right move. As it was I won a pawn, but Black got very active, a draw was the final result when we swapped into the Rook endgame.

So Budapest was over, I got to see another beautiful city and was heading down to Prague for a few days to recover before the Olympiad connection. I had booked a cheap train trip to Prague, all very easy to get between these cities. I definitely needed the break, was exhausted by the very long days with Lazslo. So I spent a few days looking around the city and working on combinations, my homework from Lazslo.

As for the two events, the norms would be far easier to obtain in Budapest. The titled players are paid a set fee to play and as such, they are not too concerned about easy draws as they won't earn any prize money. In Amsterdam, there was prize money on offer and everyone was fighting for every

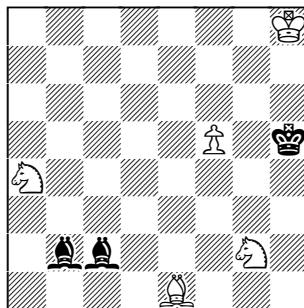
point. Both events were great tournaments to play in and I would recommend them both. Coming from NZ with our dollar being about 50 cents to the euro, the trip wasn't cheap – start saving those pennies.

You can read about how we all went at the Olympiad in Hilton's report, but my tour was well worth it and I have heaps of work to do to plug some of these holes in my game.

Chess Puzzles

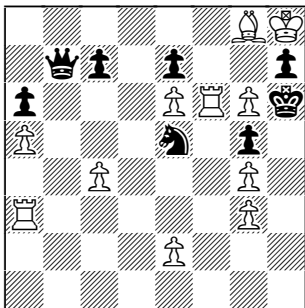
By Emil Melnichenko

Emil lives in Auckland and is an internationally recognised chess puzzle creator



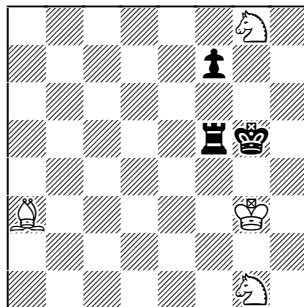
Kalyagin JT - 55 (2008), 3rd Prize. White to win. 3 minor pieces normally draw against 2 and White's pawn advantage is

precarious. **1.Kg7** [1.Bh4? Be4 2.Nc4 (2.Kg8 Bxg2 3.f7 Bd5=) 2...Bxf6+=; 1.Nf4+? Kg5=] **1...Be4** other alternatives fail, for instance, [1...Bc1 2.f7 Be4 3.Kf6 Bb2+ 4.Ke6 Ba3 (4...Bg7 5.Nf4+ Kg4 6.Bd2 Bb1 7.Ke7+-) 5.Nf4+ Kg5 6.Nc4 Bf5+ 7.Ke5 Be7 8.Ne6+++; 1...Kg5 2.Bd2+ Kh5 3.Nf4+ Kg4 4.Nc4 Bd4 5.Ne3+-] **2.Nf4+** [2.Ne3? Kg5=] **2...Kg5** **3.Ne6+** [3.Nh3+? Kf5 4.Bh4 Kg4 5.Nc4 Bxf6+=] **3...Kf5** Now White must lose the pawn. **4.Nc4!** [4.Kf7? Bd5=] **4...Bxf6+** [4...Ba1 5.Nd6+ Kxe6 6.Nxe4 Kf5 7.Bc3+-] **5.Kf7 Ba1** [5...Be5 6.Ne3#; 5...Bd5 6.Nd6+ Ke5 7.Bg3#] **6.Ne3+ Ke5** **7.Bg3#** A study featuring unexpected midboard mates, each with one or two self blocks. **1-0**



Avni-50 JT (2005) Commended. White to win. Exotic positions demand romantic play. **1.g7+!** White's rook is en prise but it dare not move! [1.Rf2? Nxg6#] **1...Ng6+** Black prepares a defence ... **2.Rxg6+ hxg6** ... by incarcerating his king. **3.Ra2!** Preventing 3... Qb2 and eyeing h2. **3...c5!** Now the queen is a desperado. **4.e4! Qb2!** **5.e5** [5.Rxb2?= Stalemate.] **5...Qd2** [5...Qxa2 6.Bf7 Qb2 7.g8N#] **6.Rc2** [6.Bf7? Qd8+ 7.g8Q Qxg8+ 8.Kxg8=;

6.Ra1? Qg2 7.Ra2 Qb2= and White is in Zugswang.] **6...Qg2!** [6...Qxc2 7.Bf7+-] **7.Rf2!** [7.Bf7? Qa8+=; 7.Ra2? Qb2=; 7.Rb2? Qxb2+-; 7.Rd2? Qxd2=; 7.Re2? Qxe2 8.Bf7 Qxe5+-; 7.Rc1? Qa8=] **7...Qxf2** [7...Qxg3 8.Bf7 Qxe5 9.Rh2+ Qxh2 10.g8N#; 7...Qh1 8.Rh2+-] **8.Bf7 Qxg3** **9.g8N#** [9.g8Q? Qxe5+-+] **1-0**



Nunn-50JT (2005), 10th Commendation. White to win. BNN versus R is usually a draw but Black's choices are limited **1.Nh3+ Kh5** [1...Kg6? 2.Ne7+] **2.Nf4+ Kg5** **3.Be7+ f6** **4.Nxf6 Re5** [4...Ra5 5.Ne4+ Kf5 (5...Kh6 6.Bf8+ Kh7 7.Nf6+ Kh8 8.Ng6#) 6.Nd6+ Ke5 7.Nc4+; 4...Rb5 5.Ne4+ Kf5 6.Nd6+; 4...Kh6 5.Bf8+ Kg5 6.Ne4#; 4...Rxf6 5.Nd5 Kf5 6.Nxf6+-] **5.Ne4+** Double check! **5...Kf5** [5...Kh6 **6.Bf8+ Kh7** 7.Nf6+ Kh8 8.Ng6#] **6.Nd6#** A mid board mate out of the blue! **1-0**

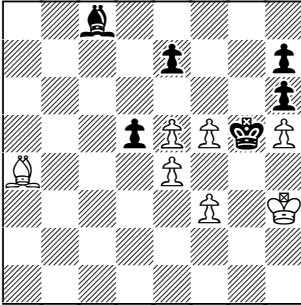
Book Review cont.

From Page 13

Solution: 50. Ne8+ Kf7 51.Nf6! Kf6 52.g5+ Kf7 53.h6 and White can simply walk his king to the Queenside.

The Kiwi Women in Siberia

By Viv Smith



1.Kg3! [1.exd5? Kxf5 2.d6 **a)** 2.e6 Ke5 3.Bc6 Kd6 4.Ba8 (4.Kg4 Bxe6+ 5.dxe6 Kxc6 6.f4 (6.Kf5 Kd6 7.f4 Kd5=) 6...Kd5 7.Kf5 (7.f5 Ke5=) 7...Kd6=) 4...Ba6 5.f4 (5.Kg4 Bc4 6.f4 (6.Kf5 Bxd5 7.Bxd5 Kxd5 8.f4 Kd6=) 6...Bxd5 7.Bxd5 Kxd5 8.Kf5 Kd6=) 5...Bc4 6.Kg4 Bxd5 7.Bxd5 Kxd5 8.Kf5 Kd6 9.Ke4 Kxe6=; **b)** 2.f4 Kxf4+=; 2...exd6 3.exd6 Ke6 4.d7 Bxd7 5.Bxd7+ Kxd7 6.Kg4 Ke6 7.Kf4 Kf6=] **1...dxe4 2.f6!** [2.fxe4? Bxf5 3.exf5 Kxf5= White is left with a RP and the wrong coloured Bishop; 2.f4+? Kxf5 3.Bd1 e3 4.Bg4+ Ke4 5.Bxc8 e2 6.Kf2 e6 7.Bxe6 Kxf4= White is left with a RP and the wrong coloured Bishop] **2...exf6 3.e6!** [3.f4+? Kf5 4.Bd1 Ke6=] **3...Bxe6 4.f4+ Kf5** [4...Kxh5 5.Be8+-] **5.Bd1 e3** [5...Bc4 6.Bg4#] **6.Bc2# 1-0**

NZCF advise that FIDE ratification of Keong Ang as a FIDE arbiter is impending and Halim Shuhaimi has been awarded the FIDE National Instructor title. Both availed themselves of FIDE training courses when accompanying their children to World Youth events recently.

Having spent many years promoting female chess in New Zealand, it was strangely gratifying for me to miss out on selection for the women's team for the 2010 Olympiad. But as a consolation prize I was delighted to be appointed women's team captain. I hoped that with my experience of playing in 14 previous Olympiads, I could add value to the team.

My aim was to keep the players focused, grounded, up-to-date with information on their opponents, to be gopher, general mother hen, and to make sure everyone was happy and in a good state of mind to play.

With the exception of Judy Gao, all of our top players had made themselves available for the trip to Siberia, and the selected team of Helen Milligan, Sue Maroroa, Eachen Chen, Shirley Wu and Natasha Fairley looked to be the best we'd ever had. But then came a couple of hiccups. Firstly Shirley withdrew from the team for study reasons and was replaced by reserve Jennya Charamova. Then we then had a last minute panic with Jennya being unable to obtain a Russian visa. So it was not till I was in Dubai en route to Siberia that I found out I was in fact now also the reserve board 5 – a playing captain.

After some turmoil over the timing and



NZ Women's Team, from left to right, Viv Smith, Helen Mulligan, Eachen Chen, Sue Marorooa, Natasha Fairley

location of charter flights, the team all arrived safely in the Siberian town of Khanty-Mansiysk, one day before the first round. Everyone was in good health and good spirits, and while there was bound to be a bit of jetlag here and there, my expectation was that we'd play boards 1 to 4 every round, and I'd only play if someone needed a break.

Olympiad seedings are based on the average rating of the four highest players, and our individual ratings were Helen 2033, Sue 1981, Eachen 1966, Natasha 1777, and Viv 1827. This ranked us 72nd out of 115 teams. As host country Russia was allowed to enter 3 teams.

Here's how we fared over the 11 round tournament.

Round 1 – NZ vs Slovenia (13th seed)

We looked to be seriously outgunned here, with Slovenia's lowest player rated 2204.

We did go down 1-3, but could well have drawn the match from the positions reached on the board. Sue was a pawn up with a promising position against her 2300 WGM Darja Kaps. I'm sure Kaps was very relieved when Sue chose to take a draw by repetition.

Kaps,D (2300) - Marorooa,S (1981)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.b4 Bb6 7.a4 a5 8.b5 Ne7 9.Nbd2 Ng6 10.Nf1 0-0 11.Be3 c6 12.Rb1 Bxe3 13.Nxe3 Re8 14.Qb3 Re7 15.Ng5 Nh8 16.0-0 h6 17.Nf3 Ng6 18.bxc6 bxc6 19.Qb6 Qe8 20.Nf5 Bxf5 21.exf5 Nf4 22.Rfe1 d5 23.Ba6 Qd7 24.Qb7 Qe8 25.Qb6 Qd7 26.Rxe5 Rxe5 27.Nxe5 Qxf5 28.Re1 Re8 29.Kf1 Qh5 30.f3 Qxh2 31.Qg1 Qg3 32.Qf2 Qh2 33.Qg1 Qg3 34.Qf2 Qh2 ½-½

Natasha's game was entertaining to say the least. She looked to be in all sorts of trouble in the opening against Indira Bajt (2204). But Natasha kept coming up with defensive resources, and when Bajt tried too hard to win a drawn endgame she found herself in a lost position. Fortunately for her Natasha also suffered a melt down and blew away all her advantage. Both players eventually limped out with a draw.

Round 2 Puerto Rico (80th seed) vs NZ

This looked like our turn to rack up some points with our players all outrating their opponents. But perhaps jetlag was taking its toll, because instead it looked like a replay of the first round. We again managed only 2 draws – which both could

or should have been wins. Helen had her opponent on the ropes but could not find the winning plan and settled for a repetition. Sue's opponent Pacheco was obviously suffering jet lag – even occasionally dozing off between moves. I suspect she would have lost on time if Sue hadn't been kind enough to give her a gentle prod when she was quietly snoring on her move. The end game looked like a stone-cold draw with neither player making any headway, when Pacheco inexplicably moved her queen off somewhere leaving her knight en prise – with check even! Cunningly or innocently she also offered a draw. Sue sat there thinking while I was wondering why she wasn't pouncing on the knight. Next thing she's signing the scoresheet – draw agreed. 'And you didn't take the knight because?' I ask. 'Oh my God, I'm so sorry' is the reply. Poor Sue – I could only hope that wouldn't affect her sleep that night.

Meanwhile Eachen couldn't recover after blundering an exchange and Natasha got into a pawn endgame that even she couldn't salvage.

Round 3 NZ vs Ireland (108th seed)

This looked like a tasty morsel. All our opponents were unrated, but none should be taken lightly, of course. Yay, our first match victory – 3.5 - .5. Only Helen's opponent stubbornly refused to lie down and die and managed to maintain a blockade in a knight versus bishop endgame. This was after their game had to be postponed because the sun was shining right in Helen's eyes. But being Siberia, the sun went down pretty quickly.

The rest had relatively easy games. Sue's opponent Elizabeth Shaughnessy got into early opening difficulties and was hopelessly lost by move 15. Much to Sue's annoyance, Shaughnessy then chose to sit there for 45 minutes till her flag fell, so that she could stay in the playing area longer. Here is that very brief game:

Shaughnessy,E - Maroroa,S (1981)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.h3 h6 7.0-0 Bb6 8.Nbd2 g5 9.Nh2 g4 10.hxg4 Rg8 11.Ndf3 Nxg4 12.Nxg4 Bxg4 13.Bxh6 Qf6 14.Bxf7+ Qxf7 15.Be3 Bxf3 0-1

As Olympiad points are based on match play these days, we now had two points on the board.



Round 4 Egypt (73rd seed) vs NZ

72nd seed versus 73rd seed looked an equalish match. It was curious to note that Egypt's boards 1 and 2 were lower rated at 1751 and 1875 than their boards 3 and 4 – a

2103 WGM and a 2030 WIM. Under-rated juniors perhaps? Well, if they were deliberately loading their bottom boards to draw matches it didn't work this time. We notched up our second match victory – 2.5 – 1.5. During the match Egypt's team captain came over to me and offered a draw on boards 1 and 4. I was a bit stunned. I knew that sometimes captains make deals behind players' backs but never expected that I might be party to such things. Eachén had succumbed to her WGM, but I was already counting a point in the bag on board two where Sue was whipping up a virulent attack. Draws on 1 and 4 would safely tie the match. But I thought we would win it. Helen's opponent had a dangerous attack going, but she had sacrificed a piece for it and it looked defensible, while Natasha was a pawn up with every chance of winning. I had great pleasure in turning down the offer, explaining that I thought we were winning both those games, and my players would kill me if I accepted. Helen went on to win quite easily, and Natasha accepted a draw later on after missing a winning opportunity. Meanwhile Sue demolished her opponent Eman Elansary in fine style as predicted.

(1739) Fairley,N (1777) - Basta,S (2030)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 e5 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 e4 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Ne7 12.Qxd5 Nxd5 13.Bb5+ Bd7 14.Bxd7+ Kxd7 15.Bd4 Rhc8 16.0–0 Rc4 17.Rad1 Ke6 18.Rfe1 f5 19.exf6 Nxf6 20.a3 b6 21.b3 Rc7 22.Bxf6 Kxf6 23.Rxe4 Rac8 24.g3 Rc3 25.Rb1 R8c7 26.a4 Kf5 27.Ree1 Rc2 28.Re3 Kg4 29.Rbe1 Kf5

30.Re5+ Kf6 31.Re6+ Kf7 32.Kg2 R2c3 33.R6e3 Rc2 34.h4 (Rf3! and Black is toast) h6 35.R1e2 R2c6 36.f4 Rd6 37.Kf3 Rcd7 38.g4 Rd4 39.g5 h5 40.Rg2 g6 41.Rge2 Rb4 42.Kg3 Rbd4 43.Kf3 ½–½

Maroroa,S (1981) - Elansary,E (1836)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.c4 Be7 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.dxc3 0–0 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.Be3 Be6 10.Qc2 h6 11.0–0–0 Qc8 12.h3 Ne5 13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.f4 exf4 15.Bxf4 a5 16.Rhe1 Kh8 17.Qe2 Bd6 18.Bxd6 cxd6 19.Qe4 g6 20.Qd4+ Kh7 21.Qf6 Rg8 22.h4 Qd8 23.Qf4 h5 24.Be4 Qc7 25.Bd5 Bg4 26.Rd4 Kg7 27.Rde4 Rgf8 28.Re7 Qd8 29.Rxf7+ Rxf7 30.Qxf7+ Kh6 31.Re7 Qh8 32.Qf4+ 1–0

Round 5 NZ vs Australia (53rd seed)

Sue felt she needed a day off so it was my chance to front up and play. Our prospects did not look too good as we were well out rated on all boards apart from mine where Vanessa Reid was only about 10 points higher. But ratings are only a guide and anything can happen on the day. We lost the match 1.5 – 2.5 but this result could have been better. Natasha's opponent WIM Bilijana Dekic (2104) must have breathed a sigh of relief when Natasha accepted a draw a pawn up in a great position. Eachén was also a pawn up in an unclear position. My own game was a fairly solid draw though checking the game on the Olympiad website, it seems to show that that Vanessa left a piece en prise for 3 moves and I didn't take it for 3 moves. I don't know how electronic boards could get it so wrong.

Ah well, at least we had the long-standing Olympiad highlight – the Bermuda Party - to look forward to that night, and a free day to recover from it.

Round 6. Jordan (79th seed) vs NZ

We were now in the second half – the business end of the tournament where we could make up for any lost ground earlier on. We outrated Jordan on all boards and duly won the match 3 – 1. This time it was our turn for a bit of luck. Sue’s position against Lougain Dahdal (1885) had looked pretty bad by move 30 - 2 passed pawns down, with nothing much to show for it. But Sue is a wily opponent, forever creating problems, and Dahdal became a bit flustered under time pressure. She turned down Sue’s draw offer only to then blunder away her beautiful pawns for a lost endgame. Sad for Jordan but great for us.

Round 7 NZ vs Turkmenistan (44th seed)

We were now on the yo-yo upswing getting a tough opponent after a match win. We were considerably outrated on all boards – their lowest player being 2116. Nevertheless we drew the match 2-2. It was a great result, but I had visions for a while of a famous victory. Eachén had a quick smash when her opponent badly misplayed the opening, while Sue and Natasha were both a pawn up in their endgames with good winning chances. Draws were agreed when Sue’s extra pawn fell off, and Natasha felt unsure of how to

proceed. Maybe we could claim the moral victory then?

Chen,E (1966) - Ovezova,M (2117)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.f3 Bh5 5.Be3 Nbd7 6.Qd2 e5 7.0–0 c6 8.g4 Bg6 9.h4 h5 10.g5 Nh7 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Bh3 Nb6 13.Qh2 Bd6 14.Bc5 Nc4 15.Bxd6 Qa5 16.Qe2 Nxd6 17.Rxd6 0–0 18.Qc4 Kh8 19.Nge2 b5 20.Qc5 1–0

Round 8 NZ vs Bosnia & Herzegovina (43rd seed)

Outrated on all boards again and this time we went down 1 – 3. Eachén had good winning chances after winning a piece in the opening, but later gave it back to fend off an attack. Sue managed the other draw from a pawn down in a rook and pawn ending.

Round 9 IBCA (84th seed) vs NZ

The International Braille Chess Association team outrated us on boards 1 and 2, but we looked pretty safe on boards 3 and 4. I arrived early to make sure their team had people to call their moves if required, but they all seemed to be able to see the pieces well enough to play unaided.

It was a very exciting match. Helen’s opponent Lubov Zsiltzova-Lisenko 2282 looked to be in serious trouble – a pawn down in a king and pawn end game. When I saw them signing the scoresheet I thought she had resigned as Helen had a forced win. I was rather surprised when ½- ½ went up on the board. But I know from

experience how tough playing on board one is, and Helen had been taking a heavy shelling.

Zsiltzova-Lisenko,L (2282) - Milligan,H (2033)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Bd6 6.d4 exd4 7.Qxd4 f6 8.Be3 Ne7 9.Nbd2 Ng6 10.Nc4 Be6 11.Rad1 Bxc4 12.Qxc4 Qe7 13.Rfe1 0-0-0 14.Bd4 c5 15.Be3 Rhe8 16.Qc3 Ne5 17.Nxe5 Qxe5 18.Qxe5 Bxe5 19.c3 b6 20.f3 h5 21.g3 c6 22.Kg2 Bc7 23.h4 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 f5 25.Bf4 fxe4 26.fxe4 Rxe4 27.Kf3 Re6 28.Rd2 Rf6 29.Rd3 Bxf4 30.gxf4 Kc7 31.Ke4 Rg6 32.Ke5 Rg4 33.f5 Rxh4 34.Rg3 Rg4 35.Rxg4 hxg4 36.Kf4 Kd6 37.Kxg4 Ke5 38.Kg5 c4 39.Kg4 a5 40.Kg5 a4 41.a3 c5 ½-½

But if we missed a win on board 1, they missed a win on board 2. Sue saced a piece for a speculative attack, but managed to bail out with a perpetual.

Maroroa,S (1981) - Stolarczyk,A (2071)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Bc4 e6 5.Nge2 g6 6.d3 Bg7 7.0-0 Ne7 8.Nxd4 cxd4 9.Ne2 0-0 10.Bg5 Re8 11.Qd2 a6 12.Bb3 Qc7 13.Bf4 Qc5 14.Bh6 Bh8 15.Qg5 d6 16.f4 f5 17.Ng3 b5 18.Rae1 Bd7 19.h4 d5 20.h5 Kf7 21.e5 a5 22.hxg6+ hxg6 23.Qh4 a4 24.Bg5 Bg7 25.Bf6 Rh8 26.Qg5 Ng8 27.Bxg7 Kxg7 28.Kf2 axb3 29.Rh1 Rxh1 30.Rxh1 bxa2 31.Nh5+ Kf8 32.Qxg6 Qe7 33.Nf6 Qf7 34.Nh7+ Ke8 35.Nf6+ Kf8 36.Nh7+ Ke8 37.Nf6+ Kf8 ½-½

Natasha's opponent stood slightly better

when they agreed a draw after 24 moves. This left the fate of the match in Eachen's hands. Fortunately she proved up to the task and chalked up the point after a long game with many adventures. A 2.5 – 1.5 victory for us.

Round 10 ICSC (51st seed) vs NZ

From the sight impaired to the hearing impaired. Next we faced the team from the International Committee of Silent Chess. Being deaf is clearly an advantage for playing chess; we lost this match 4 – 0 – our only whitewash.

Sue rang me in the morning to say she was feeling poorly so I had a second game. I think it's fair to say we simply got outplayed, apart from my own game where I outplayed myself. I got a wonderful opening but spent too long wondering how to take advantage of it. Then I stewed myself into time trouble, missed a winning tactic, and lost on time after only 30 moves. I was very disappointed with myself.

Round 11 NZ vs Guatemala (77th seed)

The last round. This looked like a team in our league. With a match win we could finish at least 10 places ahead of our seeding. Alas this was not to be - we were only able to salvage two draws. Sue's game looked promising after she won a pawn, but the endgame was difficult and a draw was agreed. Meanwhile Natasha managed to survive a savage attack, wriggling out with a drawn opposite coloured bishop endgame after her

opponent missed a winning manoeuvre.

So the NZ Women's team finished 79th = out of 115 teams (82nd on countback) – not a great result for us. I guess you could say we missed a few opportunities - an extra ½ point here and there can make a big difference between a good and not so good result.

Russia was the convincing winner of the Women's Olympiad, surprisingly for the first time. (The USSR last won it in Dubai 1986.) They won all their matches for a total score of 22 match points, four ahead of China on 18, with Cuba 3rd on tiebreak ahead of USA, Poland, Azerbaijan and Bulgaria all on 16.

The individual results of our team were:

		rating	perf
Helen Milligan	3.5/11		1925
Sue Maroroa	6/9		2052
Eachen Chen	4/11		1802
Natasha Fairley	5/11		1752
Viv Smith	0.5/2		

Playing in her 5th Olympiad, Sue was the standout performer, going through undefeated. Her experience, match fitness, and GM partner all contributed to a great result.

Despite a disappointing team result, we discovered that we could foot it with the opposition in most of our matches. A noticeable weakness for some of the team was the endgame. Hopefully the experience gained in Khanty-Mansiyk, combined with a bit more study and practice, will pay off at the next Olympiad – Istanbul 2012.

B2 or Not B2: That is The Question!

USA Correspondent Steve Willard begins a two part story on his experience playing correspondence chess.

My heartiest congratulations to Mark Noble, who recently attained the title of International Correspondence Chess Grandmaster—well done, sir!

Having, myself, played postal chess (off and on) these last 30 years, I can attest that yours is a colossal achievement. Though all of your countrymen surely brim with pride at what you've accomplished, the sad fact is that few of them possess a genuine understanding of this esoteric discipline.

Oh sure, they can analyze your games but as you and I (epistolary brothers in arms!) know all too well, much of the struggle is conducted in the shadows. Since you are no doubt reticent about revealing the exact nature of your highly honed techniques, I would like to take this opportunity to share my own humble offerings with the OTB masses so that they can develop a fuller appreciation for this art form and, via extrapolation, begin to grasp the magnitude of what it must have taken you to reach Mount Olympus.

The Golden Knights competition (the

annual U.S. correspondence chess championship, held since 1943) is played in three stages: preliminaries, semi-finals, and finals. Each stage features 7-player sections (single round robin) and in order to advance to the next rung you must score at least 4.5 out of the 6.0 possible points.

After a brief (court-mandated) hiatus I rejoined the fray in 2008, hoping to finally secure my national master title. The six opponents standing in my way (preliminary stage) could be broken down as such: two beginner-intermediates, two wily veterans, and two absolute wild cards. I shall not bore you with the details surrounding my games versus the first group, suffice to say that pure chess was enough; however, I believe you will find the other four encounters quite illuminating.

Through the exchange of pleasantries, I was swiftly able to ascertain that both “veterans” were octogenarians, and that each suffered, as might be expected, from a whole slew of physical maladies. In short order, I was then able to gain access to their medical records (I keep a private investigator on retainer for such purposes), which I used to develop tailored strategies (psychological warfare, if you will) to tilt the odds significantly in my favour.

Operation “Coffin Nail”: My opponent (hereafter: ‘old-timer’) lived in New England, cold weather was upon him, GoogleEarth showed that his mailbox was located some distance from his house, he lived alone, and photographic reconnaissance clearly showed tripod imprints (boots with walking cane) along the frozen mud path between said house

and aforementioned mailbox. After carefully calculating the expected systemic strain from such a trek—primarily the effects to heart rate (hr) and blood pressure (bp) after this exertion (x) given age, weight, temperature sensation (including wind chill), and overall physical conditioning I thusly concluded that old-timer would be able to regulate hr and bp by varying his walking speed as necessary. That being the case, clearly I was in need of a *zwischenzug*!

Predicting that old-timer would no doubt want to examine my move at the mailbox, so he could then ponder the position as he made his way home, I decided to mail my cards sealed inside an envelope fabricated from a cloth-like paper, all but impossible to tear. Couple that casing with specially formulated glue and I think you can see where this is going. To further guarantee success, though, I added one, final finesse—the piece de resistance: when, after straining every fiber in his being, he did manage to open the envelope he would find, inside, an index card folded lengthwise in half. The writing would be small and so he would have to squint and narrow his vision to make out my penmanship. He would then have to unfold the card to discover my move, jaggedly written in huge block letters, crowned with exclamation points, in blood-red ink! His pupils, heretofore dilated to take in the small print, would now be over-stimulated to the extreme, causing a serious shock to his fragile nervous system.

My plan worked like magic and I recorded the win after just a couple months of play! [Willard vs Old-Timer, 2008 Golden

Knights, Blackmar-Diemer Gambit: 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e4 dxe4 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 e6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.Ne4! O-O 10.c3!! Nd7 11.Qc2!!! Be7 12.O-O-O!!!! f5 13.Ned2!!!! Nf6 14.Kb1!!!!!! Nd5 15. Rhe1!!!!!! Resigns, citing acute exhaustion... 1-0

Postscript: The following winter, on the advice of his physician, old-timer sold his house and moved to a retirement community in Boca Raton, Florida. He traded in his cane for a Segway Personal Transporter and soon became a fierce competitor on the senior circuit!

Operation “Beyond the Grave”: My opponent (hereafter: ‘codger’) lived in the Midwest with his daughter and her family, bed-ridden, recently widowed, religious, portable home oxygen therapy. Shortly after our game began, codger innocently mentioned that his favorite player was the legendary Cecil John Seddon (CJS for those of us in the know) Purdy. It was therefore perfectly reasonable that I should send him a framed portrait of the world champion and that the nurse would hang said picture on the wall near codger’s bed.

Unbeknownst to them, the frame contained a small receiver, a transmitter, and a dozen micro-speakers. After re-engineering the Hallmark “recordable” greeting cards, on which I sent my moves, I was thus able to broadcast a whole series of insidious messages aimed at weakening my opponent’s resolve (read: ‘will to live’).

Unfortunately, although my approach was theoretically sound, things would go

inexplicably awry and I found myself resigning after 37 moves. Although I do not wish to stray too far afield, I do feel a brief analysis of my approach and the unintended causal effects is called for, as GM Noble and other strong correspondence players may find this “lessons learned” of some use in the future.

Exact placement of framed portrait was accurately predicted by means of a mathematical model, which took into account: dimensions of room, target’s visual acuity, and cranial range of motion given patient’s age and presence of pinched nerves in the cervical plexus region. The angle between portrait and target was calculated and then directional speakers were calibrated and focused to ensure that even if the room were crowded, only codger would be able to hear the transmissions.

Messages were created using authentic audio (codger’s wife’s 90th birthday party) that had been uploaded to YouTube by the grandkids. Though only small snippets were available (about 100 different words) there was a nice recording of her preparing to blow out the candles. This wheezing sound had a ghostlike quality and made an excellent acoustical blanket on which to overlay (via cut and paste of individual words) my messages.

Fundamental failure: what I didn’t know at the time, was that codger’s wife had been an excellent chess player in life and that they had actually fallen in love at a tournament, during the postmortem as she explained how he could have saved the endgame. That being the case, he easily

mistook my primary message (delivered in breathless, languid cadence) “Pookiebear... head towards the light...” to mean that he should stake his fortunes on the white squares. Before I realized things weren’t working as planned, he had sacrificed the exchange (ridding me of my g2 bishop) and launched a wicked kingside pawn storm.

Sensing danger, but still not quite grasping my earlier error, I switched messages to “Winning this game means losing me forever...” He sank into a deep think, at this admonition, (getting my hopes up) but then realized his wife was telling him to sacrifice his queen, which he did. I was forced to accept and then he uncorked a masterful 12-move combination (equaling Akiba Rubinstein in originality and depth). When the dust settled, I didn’t have a prayer left.

Postscript: codger went on to score a perfect 6-0 to easily advance to the semi-finals. Then, in a truly surprising turn, according to Little Jimmy’s website, codger sprang out of bed one spring day, armed with the belief that his late-wife was urging him to begin life anew. In short order, given this newfound zest, he became quite the man about town. He successfully wooed an old high school sweetheart and then whisked her away to Las Vegas for wedding/honeymoon. And I? Well, these latest twists served as proof of concept and I was able to sell my idea to the Defense Department for a handsome sum. (hey my game was already lost, what did you expect me to do?)

And so it was that I found myself with just 3.0 points with 2 games

remaining; it would all come down to the wildcards. And I can’t wait to tell you about those adventures next time! (plus, I promise, that title is going to make perfect sense) **Until then, Happy Holidays!**

Letter from the Kingside- A Ukranian in Siberia

By Roger Nokes

Who is the greatest chess genius in the world today? How about, who is the most versatile chess player in world today? Or who is the most erratic super grandmaster?

I could pose more questions but hopefully you are coming up with the same name that I have in mind - Vassily Ivanchuk of the Ukraine. Ivanchuk has been at the top of world chess for 20 years and yet tends to have a rather low profile compared to his contemporaries such as Vladimir Kramnik, Vishwanathan Anand and Veselin Topalov. In how many super GM tournaments do you find Ivanchuk’s name? Despite being one of the most active players on the circuit, and almost always appearing in the world’s top 10 or 20 players, Ivanchuk seems to be relatively forgotten. I can’t understand why.

Ivanchuk has a number of attributes that I admire greatly. He loves playing chess and he plays lots of it. There is no sense that

chess is solely a profession for him. He plays to win. Yes he draws games but he would rarely be accused of not fighting for the full point in each game he plays. He is incredibly knowledgeable about the game. Most of the top players have limited and highly developed opening repertoires while Ivanchuk seems to play nearly every opening under the sun. How does he do this at the very highest level, and, more to the point, how does one prepare against him?

Ivanchuk has just returned from the 39th Chess Olympiad in Siberia as leader of the victorious Ukrainian team. After two consecutive victories by Armenia in the Torino and Dresden Olympiads the Ukrainian team has repeated its success of the 2004 event in Calvia, Mallorca. In each of these Olympiads, and many before them, Ivanchuk has led the Ukrainian team from the front. He leads his compatriots with huge energy and commitment. While many of his elite colleagues sit out rounds to conserve energy or avoid particular opponents Ivanchuk simply plays chess. In the last 3 Olympiads (a total of 35 rounds) Ivanchuk has missed only a single game. He played all 13 rounds in Torino, all 11 rounds in Dresden (where tragically the Ukrainian team, in the joint lead with a round to go, were crushed in the final round and dropped out of the medals - more on this later) and 10 from 11 games in Khanty-Mansiysk. You can imagine the tremendous boost this must provide the Ukrainian team having their star player playing every game, and playing to win.

Ivanchuk's performance in Siberia was outstanding. He started with a blistering 6 from 6 including wins over Beliavsky,

Sokolov, Leko and Jobava, and despite a loss to Mamedyarov he still finished with 8 from 10, a gold medal on board 1 and a rating performance of around 2900. The Ukrainians edged out the Russia 1 team by a single match point for the overall gold medals, and their victory must have been doubly sweet as Russia's top performer, Sergei Karjakin, had, until recently, been a very important member of the Ukrainian team before emigrating to Russia.

Ivanchuk's passion and commitment to the game were starkly highlighted at the climax of the Olympiad in Dresden. Entering the final round the Ukrainian team were neck and neck with Armenia in their fight for the gold medals. Armenia were facing the very strong Chinese team while the Ukraine had the theoretically slightly easier job of confronting the United States. Armenia, all professional, eeked out a 2.5 - 1.5 victory and the gold medal, while the Ukrainians, perhaps overawed by the occasion, collapsed and were severely defeated leaving them empty-handed in 4th place. I was watching the match as Ivanchuk's game with Kamsky came to an end. Ivanchuk was clearly very upset, no doubt feeling the pressure of responsibility in leading his young team. He literally stormed from the playing hall clearly seeking solitude. Incredibly an official attempted to intercept him with the mission of extracting a urine sample from the Ukrainian in order to execute a dope test. I would have thought requesting a sample well before a game began would be more prudent plan. Certainly the last thing on Ivanchuk's mind was to stop for a urine sample and he brushed past the official and away from the venue.

If you were following the chess media at the time this incident led to major ructions in the chess world. Because of his refusal to provide the sample Ivanchuk was considered guilty of doping and was threatened with a two year ban from chess. As you will know the ban never eventuated and fortunately the chess world was not deprived of Ivanchuk's chess genius for the following two years.

There is no doubt that Ivanchuk is an eccentric character as evidenced by this quote from a slightly tongue-in-cheek Chessbase article from December 2008 following the doping scandal:

“Professional chess player Vassily Ivanchuk, born in Berezhany, Ukraine in 1969, has been a grandmaster for the past 20 years and is currently ranked third in the world. The man with black hair and bedroom eyes is known as "Big Chucky" by his fellow chess players. Why? Because, after losing a game, he goes into the forest at night and howls at the moon to drive out the demons. Because he walks around in shorts in freezing temperatures. Because he likes to sit in dark rooms. Because he usually looks at the ceiling instead of the board during a chess match. Because he tries to fold the oversized winner's check handed out after a tournament down to pocket size. And because he, as World Champion Visvanathan Anand says, lives on "Planet Ivanchuk."

Despite this, Ivanchuk is one of the real entertainers of the chess world, and a chess fighter that many of us would love to emulate. Of the games in the recent

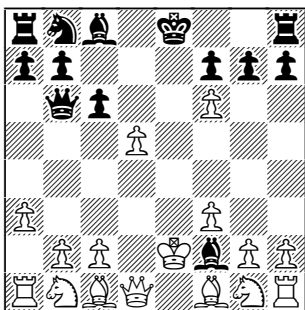
Olympiad the following one stood out to me. It is one of the strangest games I have witnessed recently (at least amongst the best players in the world) and as Vishwanathan Anand might say, it comes straight from “Planet Ivanchuk”!

Vassily Ivanchuk (2754) - Baadur Jobava (2710) [B12]

Chess Olympiad Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (7), 28.09.2010

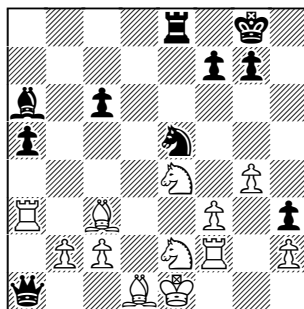
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 Going into this game both Ivanchuk and Jobava were having very good tournaments. Ivanchuk had 5 wins from 5 games while Jobava, despite an upset loss against Mexico, had 4.5/6 including most significantly a victory over the world number 1 Magnus Carlsen and a draw with Lev Aronian. The choice of opening by Jobava might indicate that he was looking for a quiet time against the rampant Ivanchuk. I suspect what actually eventuated was the absolute last thing he expected! **3.f3 Qb6 4.a3?!** The 3 f3 line against the Caro Kann is provocative enough, but what on earth justifies the move a3? White's opening advantage of a tempo is squandered and Black is immediately offered an opportunity to seize the initiative. And Jobava needs no second invitation. **4...e5 5.exd5** Not possible is 5.dxe5? Bc5 6.Nh3 Bxh3 7.gxh3 Bf2+ when White's position is a complete mess due to the weakness caused by the f3 move. **5...Nf6!?** Now things get rather interesting! Jobava chooses one of the sharpest continuations. Instead he could have steered for calmer waters with 5...exd4 6.Qe2+ Kd8 7.dxc6 Nxc6 8.Qb5 Be7 9.Qxb6+ axb6 10.Bd3 Nb4 where there isn't much in it. Black's weakened pawn structure is compensated by his lead in

development and bishop pair. Another potential route through this obscure position would be 5...cxd5 6.Nc3 exd4 7.Nb5 Bc5 8.b4 d3 9.bxc5 Qxb5 which is better for Black due to the extra pawn and White's uncomfortable king. The bishop pair provide some compensation but maybe not enough. **6.dxe5 Bc5?!** You would have to say that this is tempting as White's position seems precarious. But according to the computer the sacrifice is not correct and Black's compensation is illusory. Apparently Ivanchuk concluded the same thing. The complications that now eventuate are worth the admission fee! 6...Nxd5 is perhaps the safest plan. White retains an extra pawn and has the potential for the control of considerable space while Black is ahead in development and hopes to probe the weaknesses left behind White's pawns as they advance. White's position seems precarious but after 7.b4 it is not clear how Black should proceed. **7.exf6 Bf2+ 8.Ke2**



8.Kd2?? Qe3# isn't a good alternative! 8...0-0 9.Qd2 Re8+?! This is a big decision for Black. He could continue more circumspectly with 9...Bxg1 10.Kd1 Bf5 11.Nc3 Re8 12.Bc4 but even here White's displaced king is difficult to harass and

White's material and spatial advantages are growing. Certainly White is better. 10.Kd1 Re1+ 11.Qxe1 Bxe1 12.Kxe1 Time to take stock. Black has given up quite a bit of material to get this position and the problem is he really is not in a position to take advantage of the king on e1 as he too is undeveloped. The way Ivanchuk reorganises his pieces without giving Black any chances is instructive. 12...Bf5 13.Be2 Nd7 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.Bd1 Re8+ 16.Ne2 Nxf6 17.Nbc3 Bc8 Black is finding the lack of central pawns to break open the position difficult. He decides to redeploy the bishop to the f1-a6 diagonal in order to apply additional pressure on e2. 18.a4 a5 19.Rf1 Ba6 20.Rf2 h5 21.Ra3 h4 22.g3 h3 23.g4 Rd8 24.Nf4 Nd7 25.Rb3 Qd4 26.Nfe2 Re8 27.Ne4 White seems to have more than enough pieces to cover his weakness along the d and e files. In the last 5 moves Black has made no real progress while White has been able to gradually coordinate his pieces and in particular to activate his rooks. 27...Qxa4 28.Bd2 Qa1 29.Bc3 Ne5 30.Ra3



30...Qb1 31.Nd2 Qc1 32.Rxa5] 32...Ng6 33.Rxa6 Nf4 34.Ra8 there is no hope in 34..Ng2+ 35. Rxg2 hxg2 36.Rxe8+ Kh7 37. Ra8 1-0

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