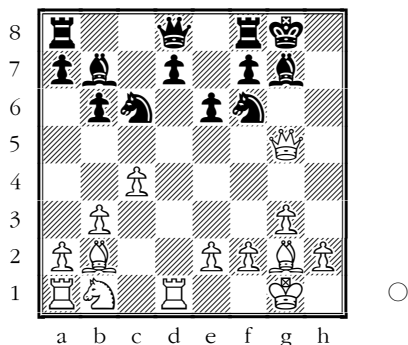
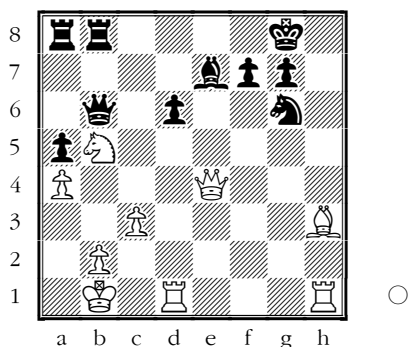


Chess Quiz

Romanishin – Plaskett
London, 1977



Pelletier (2587) – Kempinski (2577)
Bundesliga, 2004



Chess News

Chess fans can look forward to two exciting weeks as the Aeroflot Open starts in Moscow today, while the Linares super-tournament will commence later this week. We will cover both events extensively, but today I would like to use this small window to catch up on other issues, such as our readers' letters, etc.

Blindfold Chess in Cannes

Chess Base website recently [reported](#) on a blindfold simultaneous exhibition by GM Vladislav Tkachiev in Cannes. He played against twelve opponents – all well-known French personalities. After 2½ hours of play Vlad won 11½–

½, but chess was the main winner, as it got certain media boost in France!

Scholastic Chess in Chicago

We often hear how popular scholastic chess is in USA. Recently I read yet another [success story](#) – about a chess program run by Russian Valentina Lokhova in Illinois.

'du Carnaval' tournament, Quebec

Grandmaster Alexandre Lesiège (2558) won a small tournament in Quebec with 4½ points out of 5. IM Jean Hébert finished clear second on 4 points. [Official website](#)

The Aeroflot Open, Moscow

High prizes (\$25,000, \$15,000, \$10,000, \$5,000, \$5,000, etc) and a chance to qualify for the Dortmund super-tournament, have attracted many top players to Moscow. The top ten players on the starting list are:

1. Vladimir Akopian (ARM, 2693)
2. Alexey Dreev (RUS, 2682)
3. Alexey Aleksandrov (BLR, 2679)
4. Victor Bologan (MDA, 2679)
5. Joel Lautier (FRA, 2676)
6. Alexander Khalifman (RUS, 2674)
7. Ilia Smirin (ISR, 2670)
8. Etienne Bacrot (FRA, 2664)
9. Konstantin Sakaev (RUS, 2656)
10. Sergei Rublevsky (RUS, 2655).

While for many, high prizes would be the main attraction of this tournament, for some, chances of making GM norms and meeting with some of world's best players are more important. This certainly would be the case with 13-year old IM Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2484) who made his first GM norm in the Corus C tournament in January. A while back we invited our readers to send questions for Magnus and today we publish the first part of the interview with him below.

[Official website](#)

This issue is prepared by GM Alexander Baburin; technical editor: Ralph Marconi

Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to <http://www.chesstoday.net>



Letters to the Editor

A few days ago I got the following e-mail from the organiser of the St. Vincent Open in Italy:

"Dear Mr. Baburin,

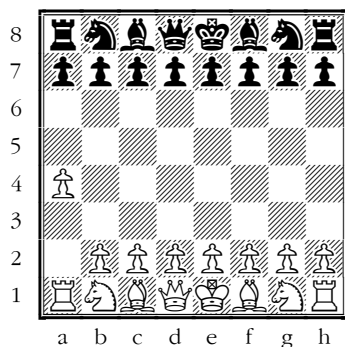
I am sending you the game that HGM Enrico Paoli won at Saint-Vincent open. Pay attention that the ratings are national.

With best regards,
Lanfranco Bombelli"

Since Enrico Paoli (96) is the oldest active chess player in the world, I would like to show this game here – it's truly impressive how he plays at this grand age!

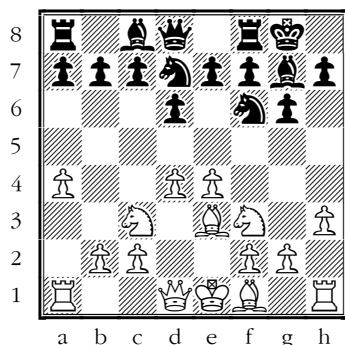
Chiodini (1591) – Paoli (1951) 12
Open Saint Vincent (3), 12.02.2004

1.a4?! (D)

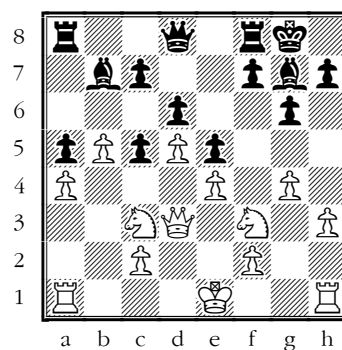


Certainly not the best move, but Black played the opening unambitiously and White got a position where a2-a4 looked like a useful move.

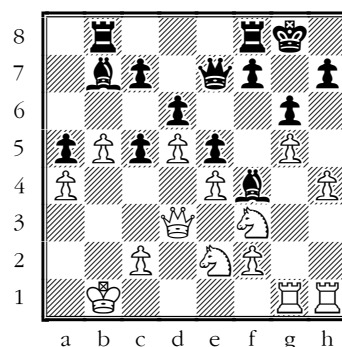
1...g6 2.e4 Qg7 3.d3 d6 4.h3 Qf6 5.Qc3 0-0 6.d4 Qbd7 7.Qe3 (D)



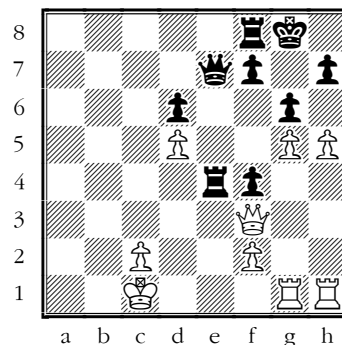
7...b6 8.Qd2 Qb7 9.Qd3 e5 10.d5 Qc5 11.b4 Qxd3+ 12.Qxd3 a5 13.b5 Qd7 14.g4 Qc5 15.Qxc5 bxc5 (D)



16.0-0-0 Qf6 17.Qe2 Qh6+ 18.Qb1 Qab8 19.h4 Qf4 20.g5 Qe7 21.Qdg1 (D)



21...c6! 22.Qxf4 22.dxc6!? Qxc6 23.h5. 22...exf4 23.h5 cxb5 24.axb5 c4! 25.Qxc4 Qa6 26.Qc1 Qxb5 27.Qd4? Qb4 28.Qa1 Qxe4 29.Qxa5 Qe2 30.Qc3 Qxf3 31.Qxf3 (D)



31...Qe5! 32.Qb3 Qa1+ 33.Qb1 Qc3 34.h6 Qe2 0-1

Even better was 34...Qa8!, but White's resignation does not look premature – the line 35.Qb2 Qc8 36.Qxc3 Qxc3 is not too comforting for him.

Mystery Position

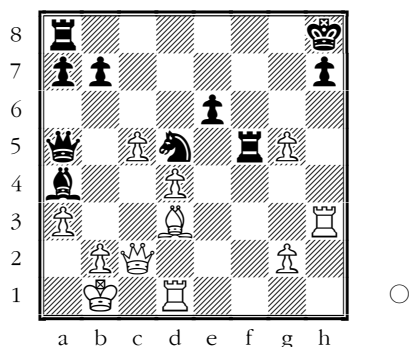
As I mentioned a few days ago, the address ct@gmsquare.com failed in January and some messages were sitting on the server for weeks. Today I would like to come back to one of them, sent on 13 January 2004:

"Hi, Chess Today Crew,

I've been Chess Today subscriber for a couple of weeks and I enjoy my daily game of chess. Keep up the good work!

Last night I watched two 3200 ICC-Blitz Players playing, when suddenly the following position appeared:

XX - NN
ICC blitz, 01.2004



White was thinking for nearly a minute (so was I). When he moved, I was disappointed because I saw a better move. So I saved the game as pgn and analysed it. My solution was correct and wins right away.

My move was not computer supported – you will see that Fritz does not see the solution – you have to work it out yourself! ☺ I think this position is very nice and the solution is highly instructive. Some feedback would be highly appreciated.

Kind regards from Berlin, Germany
Eckhard Völcker"

Well, this is a real puzzle – we might need Sherlock Holmes here! ☺
My Fritz sees several moves which are good for White, for example:
1.b3! ♖c3+ 2.♗c1 ♜xd1 3.♙xf5 exf5

4.♙xf5 ♖c7 5.g6+-;

1.♙xh7+!? ♖xh7 (1...♗g8 2.♗e2 ♜f4 3.♗e3 ♜xd1 4.♙xf5 ♙e2 5.♙xf4 ♗e1+ (5...exf5 6.♙h4+-) 6.♗c1 ♗xc1+ 7.♗xc1 exf5 8.♙xb7 and Black is in trouble.) 2.♙xf5+ ♗g7 (2...exf5 3.♙xf5+ ♗g7 4.♗e5+ ♗g6 5.♗e6+! with checkmate in 22 (!) moves.) 3.♗e4 exf5 4.♗e5+! ♗g6 5.♙h1+-;

1.♗e2!?

But since Eckhard wrote that Fritz does not see his solution, I am not sure what that is... Maybe he means the following line – **1.♙xf5** ♙xc2+ 2.♙xc2 – although I don't see how White can make it work after 2...♗g8! 3.♙dh1 ♗d2! 4.♙xh7 ♗xd4.

Any help from *Chess Today* readers?!
Please send your suggestions to ababurin@iol.ie – we will publish them in *Chess Today*!



Interview with IM Magnus Carlsen, Norway

The following interview was conducted via e-mail in February 2004. It is based on questions from *Chess Today* readers and journalists.

– *Congratulations on your fine work at Corus, doing a GM-norm and showing amazing play! How was your run to become an IM? I mean, when did you start it? When did you start to take chess seriously? And what did you work on before? What do you think about opening preparation and the other parts of the game, in matter of studying?* (Krikor Sevag Mekhitarian, Brazil)

– I took my first IM-norm at Gausdal Troll Masters January 2003 after winning the last two rounds. The second and third norms came in June and July (in Stockholm and Copenhagen). Having learned the moves at 5 or 6, I started playing chess at 8, and quickly starting working on my own moving the pieces around,

investigating the secrets of chess. I probably started reading chess books at 9. I like to read opening books on my own and try out new openings in every tournament. I also read strategic books benefiting my middle game play.

- *What are the chess training methods you have used so successfully?* (Jean-Francois Wen, Canada)

- I've never considered chess to be work - I just like to read chess books, play on ICC and in tournaments.

- *How often do you work on chess in a week?* (Lars Stark, Germany)

- It varies a lot, depending on what other activities I am occupied with. Sometimes I read for many hours, sometimes not at all. During tournaments I spend time both preparing for and analysing the games I've played.

- *Do you study chess theory, openings and game collections or play by instinct?* (Brian Coleman, USA)

- I read a lot of both opening theory and I like game collections like 'Kramnik: My life and Games' and Kasparov's 'My great Predecessors'.

- *Young chess players like you - are they using chess books (like 'we' did) - or are you solely working with computers when you are studying chess?* (Henrik Mortensen, Denmark)

- I mainly read chess books, although I use *Chess Base* to prepare for the games during tournaments on my own.

- *How did you acquire such depth in your opening knowledge at such a young age?* (Lars Stark (Germany)

- I've been interested in reading about new openings for the last 3 or 4 years and played a lot of tournaments where I could try it out.

- *What opening books do you use to prepare for your games?* (Malcolm Peskoff)

- *New in Chess Yearbooks* as well as books on specific openings, like those from *Everyman* and *Gambit*.

- *Which openings do you consider advantageous for White?* (Malcolm Peskoff)

- It's a secret! ☺

- *Which Defences do you consider good for Black in response to 1.e4 and 1.d4?* (Malcolm Peskoff)

- It varies as I learn more and more.

- *What do you consider the maximum number of games one should play a year for good quality chess?* (Malcolm Peskoff)

- I don't know, it depends on the person in question. Myself, I played about 150 games last year which was probably on the high side (although it proved to be excellent preparation for the Corus tournament).

- *How much time (on average) do you devote to the analysis of each of your games?* (Malcolm Peskoff)

- Maybe an hour after the game, and another hour with my trainer Simen Agdestein. In addition I think about the games from time to time especially now that I annotate some of them for magazines.

- *Who has had the biggest impact on getting you to play chess?* (Brian Coleman, USA)

When I started playing at 8 my father told me I could participate in the Norwegian under 11 championship if I practiced. I was also motivated by trying to beat my older sister!

- *Who is your favourite player?* (Fred Wilson, USA)

- No one in particular.

- *Who are your favourite players from the past and the present, and why?* (Jean-Francois Wen, Canada)

- No one in special.

- *Are you studying games of old Champions (like Lasker, Capablanca and Alekhine)? (Spyridon Ilandzis, Greece)*

- I read about them occasionally, but I do not really study or analyse their games.

- *Whom you consider to be your chess idol? (Spyridon Ilandzis, Greece)*

- No one.

- *What is your favourite chess book, so far? (Fred Wilson, USA)*

- Hard choice! Probably 'Kramnik: My life and Games'.

- *I read that you enjoy chess books. What are some of your favourites? Are you interested in chess history? (Brian Karen, USA)*

- Most of all I like chess magazines like *New In Chess*. Books: 'Kramnik: My life and Games', Kasparov - 'My Great Predecessors'. Then the Watson series - 'Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy' & 'Chess Strategy in Action'. I also read about chess history in the above-mentioned Kasparov book.

- *Who are the coaches/advisors who have helped you become so good? And please describe the training regimen you have gone through. (Tom Banks, USA)*

- I played two of the Norwegian chess school students in January 2000. After seeing the games Simen Agdestein contacted my father to offer lessons with his assistant Thorbjorn Ringdal Hansen. TRH, who just made his first GM-norm in the Rilton Cup in December-January, was my trainer for about 2 years, and thereafter Simen himself has coached me. During tournaments I am on my own.

- *You seemed to assimilate a great deal of knowledge. At what age do you begin to systematise your training with GM Adgestein and how many*

hours a day? (Jean-Pierre Mercier, France)

- GM Agdesteins assistant T. Ringdal Hansen was my trainer in 2000 and 2001, Simen Agdestein himself in 2002 onwards. As I'm out travelling a lot, I probably train with Simen about 2 times per month, typically for 2 or 3 hours each time. We try to, as a minimum, to briefly analyse my games.

To be continued in CT-1198

Solutions to our quiz:

Romanishin-Plaskett: **1.♖xd7! 1-0**

Pelletier-Kempinski: **30.♜xg6! 1-0**
Black resigned in view of 30...fxg6
31.♗e6+ ♜f8 32.♞h8#.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:us@chesstoday.net) - we appreciate your feedback!

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