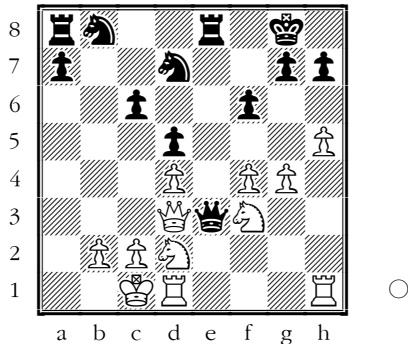


## Test Yourself!

## Naiditsch – Koneru

Wijk aan Zee NED (8), 20.01.2003



## On This Day...

*by GM Alex Baburin*

German GM **Arkady Naiditsch** celebrates his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. His biggest success so far was winning this year's edition of the Dortmund super-tournament – ahead of Topalov, Kramnik and many other world leading players. He has a very credible rating of 2641 and is No. 10 junior in the world.



# World Chess News

## Korneev wins in Guernsey

The 31st Guernsey International Chess Festival took place on 16–22 October. The Elo-favourite GM Oleg Korneev (RUS, 2601) won it with 6 points out of 7. GM Tiger Hillarp-Persson (SWE, 2534) and IM Robert Bellin (ENG, 2374) tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 5½ points. I'd like to thank Fred Hamperl for sending this information to us.

Official website



# Correspondence Chess Today

*by CC-SIM Junior Tay*

## ***Ivar Bern – the next CC World Champion?***

Mention Norwegian chess and one instantly thinks of the wonderkid GM Magnus Carlsen who has been widely regarded as a future world chess champion. However, there is a good chance that another Norwegian might emerge as the next ICCF World Champion. OTB IM and CC GM Ivar Bern is currently leading the 17th ICCF World Championship [Final](#) field by the slimmest of margins from CC-IM Wolfgang Rohde and CC-GM Joachim Neumann, both of Germany. All 3 of them have completed their games, scoring an identical 10.5/16. However, ties, according to the ICCF rules, will be broken first by the Sonneborn-Berger, then results of the tied players against each other. Ivar's SB is higher than that of his German opponents, and therefore, he has the greatest chance of winning the title. Perhaps Rohde and Neumann might feel hard done by SB deciding the eventual winner. In any case, Rohde should have the consolation of gaining a CC-GM title, which is entitled to the top 3 winners of the ICCF World Champion event.

Wait a second... there's GM Borislav Vukcevic of Yugoslavia still lurking at 5/9. In the event that Vukcevic gets 6 points out of his remaining 7 matches, he will clinch the title instead. Vukcevic has already lost two games to IM Gerhard Müller and GM Neumann for that matter. According to ICCF's excellent ELOQUERY program, Vukcevic has scored 67 points out of 114 ICCF games, hence it would be highly unlikely for him to reel off say, 6 wins out of 7 games against such a strong field. Well, stranger things have happened in chess.

*This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown*

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

## ***A bit about Bern and Norwegian Correspondence Chess.***

Bern won the 1998 Norwegian CC Championships with a perfect 8-0 score and he represented Norway in the 12th ICCF Olympiad on Board 1. This was followed by a 2nd place finish to CC-GM Alexander Lepikhov of Ukraine in the 7th ICCF World Cup event (1994-2001). In the 17th ICCF World Championships 3/4 Final, Bern finished 4th, taking the last slot from the group to the prestigious Final lineup.

In the ICCF GOLD 50th Jubilee Celebration Book, Øystein Sande wrote that CC in Norway had "never been a big power in chess" but "in the last two decades...things have changed" (ICCF Gold, page 175). As Sande noted, 4 Norwegians qualified for the 17th ICCF World Championship Final (Frank Hovde, Rune Djurhuus (the OTB GM), Ivar Bern and Arne Vinje but only Ivar participated in the event. Well, with Bern's impending 1st (or 2nd) placing, I'm sure Norway has made its presence strongly felt in International CC play.

### ***CC Columns***

I would like to briefly mention some CC articles which are available online. I would highly recommend the ICCF Web Magazine, ICCF Amici, helmed by CC-GM Raymond Boger (also of Norway ... are we seeing a trend?) and FM Alex Dunne's *The Check is in the Mail* [column](#). IM Jeremy Silman's excellent [website](#) also features the start of a promising [new CC column](#). Going Postal, by Argentine IECG Email Master Dr. Manuel Gerardo Monasterio.

Have you heard of the Dead Man's Defence? If not? You are surely not a CC player. Imagine this ... you manage to get a decisive advantage in a CC game after some clever play or maybe your opponent just hangs a piece. Suddenly, the email/post/server reply from your opponent stops coming for days, weeks or months. After a long

while, a move is sent to you and the game continues, destined to be dragged out until one party dies of old age or extreme boredom/frustration. It is nevertheless within the rules for one to use all his available time to drag out an utterly lost game but it is surely bad manners to do so. In any case, there are interesting discussions on the dreaded "Dead Man's Defence" on The Correspondence Chess Message [Board](#) featuring all sorts of well known CC personalities such as CC-GM John Timm, CC-GM Peter Coleman, CC-SIM John Knudsen, CC-IM Eugen Demian, US CC champion Dave Taylor and CC webmaster Franklin Campbell.

## **Annotated Game**

*by CC-SIM Junior Tay*

In the following game, in a very well known variation of the King's Indian Classical, Bern unleashes a stunning novelty and pummelled the 14th ICCF World Championship Bronze medallist Michel Lecroq into submission.

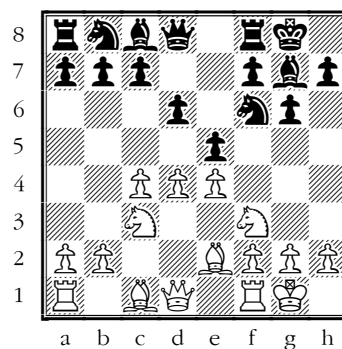
**White: I. Bern (2592)**

**Black: M. Lecroq (2595)**

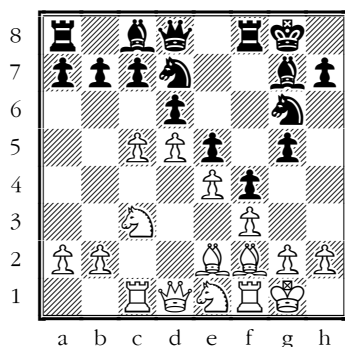
WC17F ICCF, 08.03.2002

*The King's Indian Defence; E99*

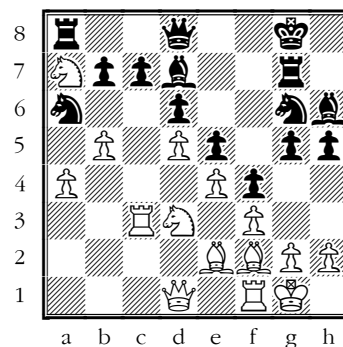
**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6 5.♗f3 0-0 6.♕e2 e5 7.0-0 (D)**



**7...♗c6 8.d5 ♗e7 9.♗e1 ♗d7 10.♕e3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.♕f2 g5 13.♖c1 ♗g6 14.c5 (D)**



20. ♖xa7 ♜g7 21. b5!! N (D)



Thanks to Croatian GM Zdenko Kozul and later the great Victor Korchnoi, this pawn sacrifice ensured the KID addict lots of headaches.

**14... ♖xc5 15. b4 ♖a6 16. ♖d3 h5 17. ♖b5 ♖d7 18. a4 ♖h6 19. ♖c3 ♖f7**

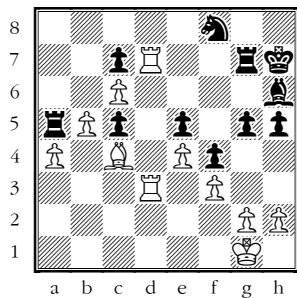
As a result of this game, perhaps Black has to play 19...b6 instead. 19...b6 20. ♖e1 ♖f7 21. ♖f2 ♖h4 (21... ♖g7 22. ♖c2 ♖h4 23. ♖d2 ♖h8 24. h3 ½-½ Knudsen, J–Rasmussen, E/ICCF Email 1999; 21... ♖c8 22. ♖c4 ♖h4 23. h3 ♖f6 24. ♖c2 g4 25. hxc4 hxc4 26. ♖xd6 gxf3 27. ♖xf7 ♖xg2 28. ♖xh6+ ♖xh6 29. ♖xf3 ♖e3 30. ♖e2 ♖xc4 31. ♖xc4 ♖g5+ 32. ♖g4 ♖xg4 33. ♖xg4 ♖xg4+ 34. ♖f2 ♖f7 35. ♖g1 ½-½ Bonatti, W–Monacell, J/IECG email 2000) 22. ♖xd6 cxd6 23. ♖xa6 ♖e8 24. ♖e2 ( 24. b5 ♖d8 25. h3 ♖g7 26. ♖c1 ♖f8 27. ♖c7 ♖xb5 28. ♖xf7 ♖xa6 29. ♖c7 ♖e8 30. ♖d7 ½-½ Bokar, J–Larsson, M/IECG email 2001) 24...g4 25. fxc4 ♖g7 (25... ♖xg2! If only White has done his homework! Kasparov had suggested this crushing move as indicated in NIC Yearbook 51 page 149! 26. ♖xg2 hxc4 27. ♖h1 (27. ♖c2 ♖h7 28. ♖h1 ♖h5 29. ♖g3 fxc3 30. ♖xg3 ∞ Piket) 27...f3 28. ♖d3 (28. ♖c2 g3 29. hxc3 ♖e3! with the idea of ♖h7, ♖h5 (Kasparov). 28... ♖f4 29. ♖g1 ♖g7 30. h3 ♖h5 31. ♖d1 ♖f8 0–1 Baranowski Filho–Tokmachev, IECG email 2001) 26. h3 ♖g6 27. ♖b5 ♖xb5 28. axb5 ♖f8 29. ♖d1 hxc4 30. ♖xh4 f3 31. ♖c2 gxc3 32. g3? According to Psakhis in Chessbase Magazine 57, Kasparov was in terrible time trouble when Piket made this howler, allowing the counterattacking (32. ♖xf3!+–; 32. ♖xf3!+–) 32... ♖f4!= 33. ♖e3 ♖xe4 34. ♖f5 and they split the point after more adventures. Piket–Kasparov, Linares 1997.

Instead of the typical 21. ♖b5, the recalcitrant ♖ is determined not to make a retreat. Instead, Bern engineers up a piece sacrifice to blast open the centre and pave the way for his Queenside pawn roller. 21. ♖b5 ♖f8 22. h3 ♖h7 23. ♖e1 ♖f6 24. ♖f2 ♖h8 (24... ♖xb4 25. ♖xc7 ♖a6 26. ♖xb7 ♖c5 27. ♖c7 g4 28. hxc4 hxc4 29. fxc4 ♖fxe4 30. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 31. ♖b3 ♖g3 32. ♖xg3 fxc3 33. ♖xg3 ♖xb5 34. ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 35. g5 ♖xg5 36. ♖xb5 ♖b6+ 37. ♖f2 ♖e3 38. ♖f3 ♖e1+ 39. ♖f1 Korchnoi–Cvitan, Pula 1997.

25. ♖b3 ♖h7 26. ♖b2 ♖c8 27. ♖h2 ♖g8 28. ♖h1 ♖f7 29. ♖g1 ♖e8 30. ♖h2 ♖d7 31. ♖d3 ♖c8 32. ♖a7 ♖a8 33. ♖b5 ♖g8 34. ♖f2 ♖g6 35. ♖c2 ♖g7 Johansen, T–Djurhuus, R/Oslo 1998/0–1 (68)]

**21... ♖c5 22. ♖xc5 dxc5 23. ♖xc5!** White committed himself to a piece sacrifice which Lecroq must have missed and what a terrific blow! See the beautiful variations after the Bishop trapping 23...b6.

**23...g4 23...b6!?** 24. ♖c6 ♖xc6 25. dxc6 ♖xd1 26. ♖xd1 bxc5 27. ♖a3! ♖a5 (27... ♖e7 28. a5 ♖ee8 29. ♖d7 ♖e7 (29... ♖ec8 30. b6! cxb6 31. axb6 ♖xa3 32. b7+–) 30. b6!+–) When I emailed this article to Bern asking for his comments, he showed me a beautiful line which he had intended to play had his opponent played 23... b6. 28. ♖c4+ (the less fanciful 28. ♖d7 also wins after 28... ♖xd7 (28... ♖a8 29. a5 ♖xd7 30. cxd7 ♖f8 31. ♖c4+ ♖h8 32. ♖d3 ♖d8 33. a6 ♖xd7 34. b6!+–) 29. cxd7 ♖a8 30. a5 ♖f8 31. ♖c4+ ♖g7 32. ♖d3 ♖d8 33. a6+– Super pawns!) 28... ♖h7 29. ♖d7 ♖f8 30. ♖ad3! (D)



30...Rxa8 31.Rxg7+ Qxg7 32.a5! Rxc8  
33.a6 Qf6 34.a7 Qd8 35.Ra3 Ra8  
36.Qd5+- (analysis by Bern).

#### 24.fxg4

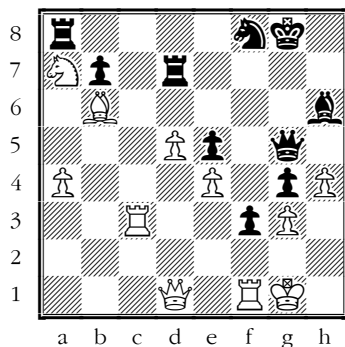
Bern also shows that the hasty 24.d6??  
g3 25.dxc7 Wh4 26.h3 Qxh3+- leads to  
a complete reversal. (analysis by  
Bern).

24...Wg5 25.b6 cxb6 26.Qxb6 hxg4

27.Qb5 f3 28.Qxd7 Rxd7 29.g3+-

Hence, Black's attack runs out of  
steam completely and the rest is a  
piece of cake for the Norwegian.

29...Qf8 30.h4! (D)



A cheeky way to remind Black that his  
attacking prospects are long gone.

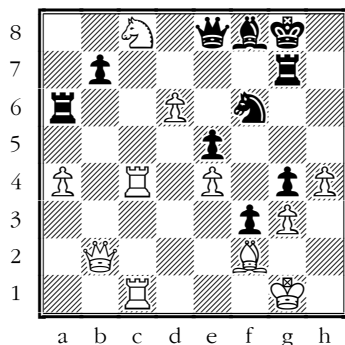
30...Wg6 30...gxh3 31.Wxf3+-.

31.Wb1 Qh7 32.Qc8 Qf6 33.Rc4

Qe8 34.Wc2 Qf8 35.Qf2 Rg7

36.Rc1 Wg6 37.d6 Qe8 38.Wb2

Qa6 (D)



39.Rc7! Rxc7 40.dxc7! Wxc8

41.Wxe5 Qg7 42.We7 Qe8 43.Wd8

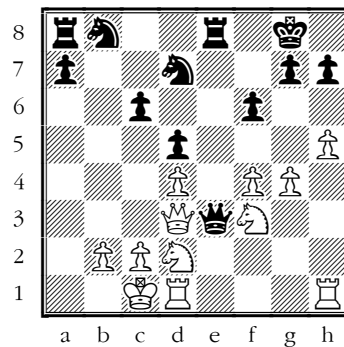
Qa8 44.Wd5+ Qh8 45.Rc5

and before White's heavy pieces can  
zoom in onto the Black King, the  
Frenchman lays down his arms. **1-0**

### Solutions to our quiz:

#### Naiditsch - Koneru

Wijk aan Zee NED (8), 20.01.2003



23.Rhe1! Wxd3 24.Rxe8+ Qf7

25.Rde1!! Qe4 26.Qxe4 Qxe8

27.Qxf6+ Qf7 28.Qg5+ 1-0

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