

Scarborough Community of Toronto

Chess News & Views

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ITEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

Issue # 9 - 11 – February 1, 2007

Aronian/Carlsen Win 2008 Corus, Netherlands

This is the first major tournament of the year, and was a 14-player round robin with average rating of 2742 (FIDE Category 20) – Jan. 11 – 27. The players were:

Name	Country	Rating	Position	
GM Viswanathan Anand	IND	2799	1-2	Biography
GM Vladimir Kramnik	RUS	2799	1-2	Biography
GM Veselin Topalov	BUL	2780	3	Biography
GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	AZE	2760	6	Biography
GM Peter Leko	HUN	2753	8	Biography
GM Vassily Ivanchuk	UKR	2751	9	Biography
GM Levon Aronian	ARM	2739	10	Biography
GM Boris Gelfand	ISR	2737	11	Biography
GM Teimour Radjabov	AZE	2735	12	Biography
GM Magnus Carlsen	NOR	2733	13	Biography
GM Michael Adams	ENG	2726	15-16	Biography
GM Judit Polgar	HUN	2707	22	Biography
GM Pavel Eljanov	UKR	2692	27	Biography
GM Loek van Wely	NED	2681	35	Biography

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Magnus Carlsen, the 17-year old Norwegian sensation,



and Levon Aronian (Armenia)



finished tied for first with 8 pts.. Aronian took first on tie break. In 3rd./4th were Viswanathan Anand (India), 15th and current World Champion, and Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan) with 7.5 pts.

Upsets started occurring right in the first round as both the World Champion, Anand, and the 2006 World Championship Challenger, Topalov, went down to defeat (Carlsen won in the first round).

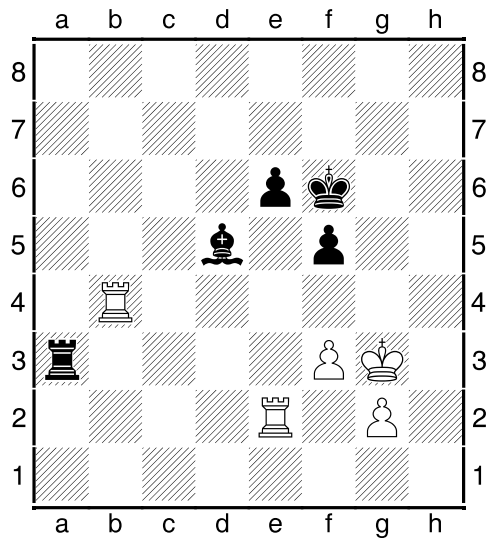
In Rd. 1 , Radjabov dominated in the game (Anand never got the advantage the whole game), eventually going up the exchange. Then on move 63 Radjabov made a terrible blunder – he set up a 3-fold repetition position. But Anand did not realize it and took his rook to the wrong square, missing his final chance for a draw. Radjabov then went on to win, though Anand put up strong resistance. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Radjabov, Teimour (2735) – Anand, Viswanathan (2799) [A00]

Corus Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (1), 12.01.2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 h6?!± [5...dxc4 6.e3 Qa5 7.Bxc4 Ne4 8.Bf4 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Qxc3+ 10.Nd2 Nd7=] **6.Bh4?!=** [6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 Bd6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8±] **6...dxc4** Anand goes up a P **7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5** Anand secures the gambitted P **9.Be2 Bb7?!±** [9...b4?! 10.Na4 Nxe4 11.Be5 Nf6±; 9...Bb4 10.Qc2 g4 11.Nd2 Qxd4 12.0-0-0 Qb6=] **10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Ne5 Bg7 12.Nxd7?!=** [12.Qc2?! 0-0 13.Rfd1 Qb6 14.b4 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 a5=; 12.b3 0-0 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.e5 Nd5±] **12...Nxd7 13.Bd6 a6?!±** [13...Qb6 14.e5 c5 15.a4 cxd4 16.a5 Qc6 17.Bf3 Qa6 18.Bxb7 Qxb7=] **14.Re1?!=** [14.Bh5 Bf8 15.Bxf8 Kxf8 16.f4 g4 17.Bxg4 Rg8±] **14...Bf8 15.Bg3** [15.Bxf8 Kxf8 16.Qc2 Qc7 17.b3 c5=] **15...Bg7 16.Bd6 Bf8 17.Bxf8 Rxf8?!±** [17...Kxf8 18.Qc2 Kg7 19.b3 c5=] **18.b3 b4 19.Na4 c3 20.a3 a5 21.d5 Qe7?!±** Radjabov gets a " clear " advantage [21...g4 22.axb4 axb4 23.Qd4 c5 24.Qe3 (24.Nxc5?? Rxa1 25.Rxa1 Qb6 26.dxe6 Nxc5 27.Bxg4 Ke7-+) 24...Qg5±] **22.d6** [22.dxe6 fxe6 23.Bh5+ Kd8±] **22...Qf6 23.e5 Qf4 24.Bd3 bxa3 25.Qe2 Qd2 26.Rxa3?!±** [26.Qf1 g4 27.Rac1 Qg5±] **26...Qxe2** [26...f6 27.exf6 Rxf6 28.Ra2 Qxe2 29.Raxe2 e5±] **27.Rxe2 g4?+-** Radjabov gets a " winning " advantage [27...f6 28.exf6 (28.Bc4 Nxe5 29.Nc5 Bc8 30.Bxe6 Kd8±) 28...Rxf6±] **28.Nxc3** material equality **28...Rg8 29.Ne4 Kd8 30.Nd2 c5 31.Bb5** [31.Nc4? Bd5 32.Nxa5 Rg5±; 31.Be4? Bd5 32.Re1 Rg5±] **31...Bd5 32.Nc4** [32.Ra4? Rg5 33.Bxd7 Kxd7=] **32...Rg5 33.Rea2 Nxe5 34.Nb6 Rb8 35.Rxa5 Be4** 2.26 [35...Rg6 36.Ra7 Bc6+- 2.71] **36.Ra7 f6** 3.11 [36...h5? 37.R2a4 c4 38.bxc4 f6+- 4.84; 36...Rf5?? 37.Re7 Bc6 38.Raa7 Bxb5 39.Reb7 Rc8 40.Rc7 Rb8 41.Rab7 Ra8 42.Nxa8 Nc6 43.Nb6 Ke8 44.Rc8+ Nd8 45.Rxd8+ Kxd8 46.Rb8#] **37.R2a6 Rg8 38.Rc7?+-** 1.94 Radjabov has a much stronger move [38.Ba4 h5 (38...f5? 39.Rc7 (39.Re7? f4 40.Nd7 Nxd7 41.Rxd7+ Kc8 42.Rc7+ Kd8 43.Rca7 Rh8+- 3.63) 39...f4 40.Rxc5 Nd3 41.Rc4 Bd5 42.Ra7 Ne5 43.Nxd5 exd5 44.Rc1 g3+- 8.17) 39.Rc7 Rh8+- 4.93] **38...Rf8 39.Rxc5?!+-** 1.52 again Radjabov misses his stronger move. Radjabov goes up a P [39.Re7 h5 40.Nd7 Nxd7 41.Rxd7+ Kc8 42.Rc7+ Kd8 43.Rxc5 Rh8+- 3.03] **39...Rf7 40.d7 Nxd7 41.Nxd7 Rxd7 42.Bxd7 Kxd7** 1.52 Radjabov is up the exchange **43.Rc3 f5 44.Ra7+ Kd6 45.Rh7?!±** [45.h3 Bd5 46.hxg4 fxg4 47.Rh7 Bxb3 48.Rxh6 Bd5+- 1.70] **45...Bd5 46.Rxh6** Radjabov is up the exchange + P **46...Bxb3** Radjabov is up the exchange **47.h3 gxh3 48.Rhxh3 Bd5 49.Rc2 Ke5 50.f3 Kf6 51.Kf2 Rb4 52.Re2 Kg6 53.Kg3 Ra4?!+-** [53...Rb8 54.f4 Kf6 55.Rh6+ Kg7 56.Rh1 Rb3+ 57.Kf2 Rb4 58.Rh4 Kf6±] **54.Rh4?!±** [54.Rh8 Rd4 55.Rb2 Kg5 56.Rg8+ Kf6 57.Re8 Kg5+-] **54...Ra7** [54...Ra8 55.Rb4 Kg5 56.Re1 Ra3±] **55.Rb2** [55.Rh8 Rb7 56.Rf8 Rb5 57.Re8 Kf6±] **55...Kf6 56.Rhb4 Ke5 57.Re2+ Kf6** first time for this position **58.Rd2 Ke5 59.Re2+ Kf6** 2nd time for this position **60.Kf4 Ra3 61.Rd2 Ra5 62.Re2 Ra3 63.Kg3??=** Radjabov makes a terrible blunder– he sets up a 3–fold repetition position

Position after 63.Kg3??



63...Ra8??± Anand misses a 3-fold repetition draw !! [63...Ra7= 3-fold repetition] **64.Rc2 Ke5 65.Rh4 Rg8+ 66.Kh2 Ra8 67.Re2+ Kf6 68.f4 Ke7 69.Rh7+ Kd6?!+-** [69...Kf6 70.Kg3 Rg8+ 71.Kh3 Ra8±] **70.Kg3 Rg8+ 71.Kh3 Rg4 72.g3 Rg8 73.Rd2 Rc8 74.Kh4 Rc3 75.Rg7 Ra3 76.Rc2 Bc6 77.Rc1 Rb3 78.Rg1 Bd5 79.Kg5 Kc5 80.Kf6 Kd4 81.Re1 Rb6 82.Rd7 Rc6 83.Ke7 Ra6 84.Rd6 Ra7+ 85.Kf6+-** 2.14 Anand resigned. Coming is **85...Kc5 86.Ke5 Bc4 87.Rd8 Ba2 88.Rb8 Kc4** 4.27 [88...Kc6? 89.Ra1 Ra5+ 90.Kf6 Ra6 91.Rb2 Bc4 92.Rc1 Kd5 93.Rd2+ Ke4 94.Rxc4+ Ke3 95.Rdc2 Kf3+- 5.96 Radjabov would be up a R] **89.Kxe6+-** 4.27 Radjabov would be up the exchange + P **1-0**

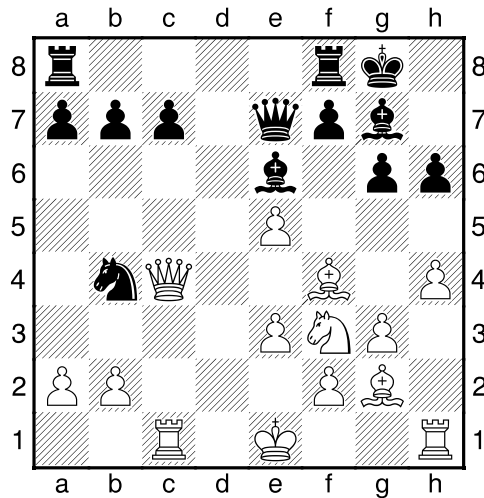
Also in Rd. 1, Aronian gave up the exchange against Topalov, 2005 FIDE World Champion and 2006 World Championship Challenger, for a pawn compensation. Then Topalov allowed his Bishop to be trapped (a complicated long line), but Aronian missed it. Aronian was then able to add a second pawn to his compensation pool, and eventually threatened to queen his last pawn and won. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Aronian, L (2739) – Topalov, V (2780) [A00]

Corus Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (1), 12.01.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3= [4.e4=] **4...d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bf4 0-0 9.e3 h6 10.h4 Bg4 11.Rc1** [11.Qb3 Be6 12.Qd1 Nb4 13.Ne5 N6d5=] **11...e5 12.dxe5** Aronian goes up a P **12...Qe7** [12...Nc4 13.Qd5 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 N6xe5 15.Be2 c6 16.Qxd8 Raxd8=] **13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 Nb4 15.Qc4** [15.Qb3=] **15...Be6**

Position after 15...Be6



16.Qxc7?!? Aronian wrongly decides to sac the exchange , with Aronian getting a P compensation. Topalov gets the advantage. [16.Qc3 Nxa2 17.Qc5 Rfe8=] **16...Nd3+ 17.Kd2 Qb4+?!=** [17...Qe8 18.Nd4 Nxc1 19.Rxc1 Qa4=] **18.Qc3 Qxc3+ 19.Rxc3??** Topalov gets a " clear " advantage [19.bxc3 Nxf2 20.Rhf1 Ne4+ 21.Kc2 Bxa2=] **19...Nxf2** material equality **20.Nd4 Nxh1 21.Bxh1** Topalov is up the exchange, but Aronian has a P compensation **21...Rfd8 22.Rc7 Rac8?=-** Topalov loses his advantage, and drops a P [22...Rd7 23.Rxd7 Bxd7 24.Bxb7 Rb8 25.Bd5 Rxb2+ 26.Kc3 Rb1=] **23.Rxb7** Aronian is down the exchange, but with 2 P's compensation. **23...Bxa2?!+-** capturing the aP is definitely a No-No. It loses the B. Aronian gets a " winning " advantage [23...Rd7 24.Rxd7 Bxd7 25.b4 g5 26.hxg5 hxg5 27.Bxg5 Bxe5=] **24.Rxa7?!?** Aronian misses the long manoeuvre to capture the B! a2B. Aronian now is down the exchange, but with 2 P's compensation. Topalov gets back the advantage. [24.b3! Rb8 25.Rxb8 Rxb8 26.e6 Rd8 27.Bc7 Rc8 28.e7 Re8 29.Bd8 Bf6 30.Bc6 Bxe7 31.Bxe8 Bxd8 32.Kc1 Bc7 33.g4 Bg3 34.h5 gxh5 35.gxh5 Bf2 36.Kb2 Bxe3 37.Nf5 Bxb3 38.Kxb3 Bd2+- 1.79 Aronian would be up N vs 2 P's, with opposite coloured B's.] **24...Be6?!=** after quite a roller coaster ride, the game settles into equality. [24...Bd5 25.Ra1 Bxh1 26.Rxh1 Re8 27.Nf3 f6=] **25.Rb7** [25.Be4 Rb8 26.Kc1 Rbc8+ 27.Kb1 Bd5 28.Bxd5 Rxd5=] **25...Bf5?!±** Aronian gets back the advantage [25...Rb8 26.Kc2 Rdc8+ 27.Kb1 Rxb7 28.Bxb7 Re8=] **26.Bf3 Rc2+?!±** Aronian gets a " clear " advantage [26...Rb8 27.b4 Rxb7 28.Bxb7 Rb8 29.Bd5 Rxb4 30.Nxf5 gxf5 31.e6 Rb2+ 32.Kd3 fxe6 33.Bxe6+ Kf8 34.Bxf5 Rh2±] **27.Ke1 Rc1+ 28.Kf2 Be6 29.g4 Bc8 30.Rb8 Rf8 31.h5 g5 32.Bg3 Ra1 33.Rb6 Re8 34.Be2?=-** [34.Bc6 Rd8 35.Kf3 Rf1+ 36.Kg2 Rc1±] **34...Bxe5 35.Bxe5 Rxe5 36.Rxh6 Re4?!±** [36...Be6 37.Nxe6 Rxe6 38.Rxe6 fxe6 39.b3 Ra2 40.Kf3 Rb2 41.Bc4 Kf7 42.Kg3 Kf6=] **37.Bf3 Re5 38.Rc6 Be6 39.Nxe6 fxe6 40.Be2 Rb1 41.Rb6 Rd5** [41...Rh1 42.Bf3 Rh2+ 43.Bg2 Kf7 44.Kg3 Rh4±] **42.Bc4 Rd2+ 43.Kf3 Rxb2 44.Rxe6 Rbc2 45.Rg6+ Kh8 46.Be6 Rc6** [46...Rd6±] **47.Ke4 Rd8?!+-** Aronian gets back a " winning " advantage [47...Re2 48.Rg8+ Kh7 49.Re8 Ra6 50.Bg8+ Kg7 51.Bd5 Rf2±] **48.Kf5 Rc5+ 49.Kf6 Rf8+ 50.Ke7 Rf3 51.Bf5 Re5+?+-** 3.47 an error – allows Aronian to threaten mate [51...Rc7+ 52.Kf8 Rc8+ 53.Ke7 Rc7+ 54.Ke8 Rb7+- 1.43; 51...Rxe3+? 52.Kf8 Rxf5+ 53.gxf5 Kh7+- 4.20] **52.Kf7 Rxf5+** Topalov must sac back the exchange, given the mate threat on g8 **53.gxf5 Rxf5+** Aronian is up a P **54.Ke6 Ra5 55.e4 Kh7 56.e5 Ra1 57.Rxg5** Aronian goes up 2 P's **57...Kh6 58.Rg2?+-** 2.21 [58.Rf5 Kg7 59.Rf6 Ra6+ 60.Kf5 Ra5 61.Rg6+ Kf7 62.Rg1 Ra6 63.Rb1 Rh6 64.Kg5 Rc6+- 5.32] **58...Kxh5** Aronian is up the sole last pawn **59.Kf6 Rf1+ 60.Ke7 Ra1 61.e6 Kh6 62.Kf7+-** 1-0

In Rd. 2, Carlsen, the 17-year-old Norwegian child prodigy, took a share of first place with Aronian, by showing his positional game strength. In a close evenly fought game with Eljanov, where material was equal, he patiently maneuvered his pieces, restricting the scope of the B1 pieces, and eventually forcing Eljanov to drop his 2 Q-side pawns. Here is that win (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2733) – Eljanov, P (2692) [A00]

Corus Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (2), 13.01.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bg5?!= [5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5±] **5...Ne4 6.Bh4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 dxc4 8.Qa4+ Qd7?!±** [8...Nd7 9.e4 0-0 10.Qa3 Bf6 11.Bxf6 exf6 12.Bxc4 Re8 13.Bd3 Ne5=] **9.Qxc4 b6 10.e3?!=** [10.Bg3 c5 11.Ne5 Bxe5 12.Bxe5 Ba6 13.Qb3 0-0±] **10...Ba6 11.Qb3 Bxf1 12.Kxf1 0-0 13.Ke2 c5 14.dxc5** Carlsen temporarily goes up a P **14...Na6?!=** this loses a P [14...Qc8 15.cxb6 Qa6+ 16.c4 axb6 17.Rab1 Qxa2+ 18.Nd2 Nc6=] **15.Rhd1 Qb7?!±** [15...Qc7 16.cxb6 axb6 17.Kf1 Nc5 18.Qb4 Ra4 19.Bg3 Qa7 20.Qb2 Qa6+ 21.Kg1 Rc8=] **16.c6 Qxc6** material equality **17.Bxe7** Carlsen goes up a P **17...Rfe8 18.Ba3 Qxc3?!±** material equality again, but Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [18...Rad8 19.Rac1 Nc5 20.Bxc5 Qxc5±] **19.Qxc3 Bxc3 20.Rac1 Bb4 21.Bb2?!±** [21.Bxb4 Nxb4 22.a3 Na6 23.Nd4 Nc5±] **21...Bf8 22.Nd4 Nc5 23.g4 Re4 24.Kf3 Rae8 25.h3 f6 26.Ba3 Kf7 27.Rc2 Na6?!±** [27...R4e7 28.Nb5 Rb7 29.Rcd2 h6±] **28.Bxf8 Kxf8 29.Rc6 Kg7 30.Nb5 R4e7 31.Rdd6** [31.Nd6 Rh8 32.Nc8 Rb7 33.Rd2 h5 34.Nd6 Re7±] **31...Nc5 32.Nc7 Rf8 33.h4 Rff7** [33...f5 34.g5 Re4 35.h5 gxh5 36.Nd5 Nd3±] **34.Nd5 Rd7 35.Rxd7** [35.e4 Rxd6 36.Rxd6 Nb7 37.Re6 Nc5 38.Re8 b5±] **35...Nxd7** Eljanov recaptures with the right piece [35...Rxd7?! 36.Nxf6 Rf7 37.g5 Nd7 38.Ke4 Nxf6+ 39.gxf6+ Rxf6 40.Rxf6 Kxf6+–] **36.Kg3 Nc5 37.f3 h6 38.Nf4 g5?!+–** 1.75 Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [38...Rd7 39.h5 g5 40.Ne2 Nd3±] **39.Nh5+ Kg6 40.f4 gxf4+ 41.exf4 Kh7 42.f5 Kg8 43.Kf3 Nd7 44.Ke4 Kf8 45.Rc8+ Ke7 46.Kd5 b5 47.Rh8 Nb6+ 48.Kc6 Nc4 49.Ra8 Ne5+ 50.Kc5 Nd7+?+–** 3.12 [50...Nxcg4 51.Nf4 Ne5 52.Nd5+ Kd7 53.Rxa7+ Ke8 54.Nc7+ Kf8 55.Ne6+ Kg8 56.Ra8+ Kh7 57.Kxb5 h5+– 2.12] **51.Kxb5** Carlsen goes up a P **51...Kd6 52.Rxa7** Carlsen goes up 2 P **52...Rf8 53.Kb4 Nc5 54.Kc4+–** 3.61 Eljanov resigned **1-0**

In Rd. 4, Kramnik, 14th World Champion, and 2008 World Championship Challenger, managed a clean trade-mark win over Eljanov. The position was equal material, but Eljanov had the worse pawn structure. This is the kind of position Kramnik excels at. He incrementally improves his position with his subtle understanding of endings, exploits and creates weaknesses in his opponent's position, and eventually breaks through with a conversion of advantage to a win. Here he eventually won a pawn. Then with a K-side pawn majority of 3 to 2, he advanced and restricted Eljanov's play until he went up 2 pawns. Then he threatened to win Eljanov's pinned knight. A very nice win for the former champion, that moved him up into # 3/6, ½ pt. out of first. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kramnik, V (2799) – Eljanov, P (2692) [A16]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (4), 15.01.2008

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5± [3...Bg7=] **4.Qa4+ Bd7 5.Qb3 dxc4 6.Qxc4** [6.Qxb7?! Nc6 7.Nb5 Nd5 8.Na3 Rb8 9.Qa6 Nb6=] **6...c5?!±** Kramnik gets an early " clear " advantage [6...Bg7 7.d4 Na6 8.e4 0-0±] **7.g3?±** [7.Ne5 e6 8.d3 Bd6 9.Nxd7 Nbxg4 10.g3 Qb6±] **7...Nc6 8.Bg2 Qb6 9.0-0 Qb4 10.Qxb4 cxb4 11.Nb5 Rc8 12.b3?!±** Eljanov gets the advantage [12.Nbd4 Bg7 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.d4 0-0=] **12...e5?±** [12...h5 13.h4 Bg7 14.Bb2 a6 15.Nbd4 Ne4±] **13.Bb2 Be7 14.d4 e4 15.Ne5 Be6 16.d5 Bxd5** Eljanov goes up a P **17.Bh3?!=** Kramnik misses the winning of material [17.Ng4 Nxg4 18.Bxh8 f6 19.Rad1 Be6 20.h3 Nh6 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Nd6+ Kf8 23.Nxc8 Bxc8± Kramnik would be up 2 R vs 2 N + B] **17...Be6 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Rfc1 0-0 20.Nxc6 Rxc6 21.Rxc6**

bxc6 22.Nxa7 material equality **22...c5 23.Nc6 Nd5 24.a4 bxa3 25.Rxa3 Rc8?!±** [25...Bd6 26.Ra6 e3 27.f4 g5 28.fg5 Rf2 29.Be5 Bxe5 30.Nxe5 Nc3 31.Rxe6 Nxe2+ 32.Kh1 Nd4 33.Re8+ Rf8 34.Rxf8+ Kxf8=] **26.Ra6 Bf8 27.e3?!=** [27.Na5 Kf7 28.Be5 g5 29.h3 h5±] **27...Nc7 28.Ra7 Nd5 29.Ne5 Rb8?!±** [29...Bg7 30.f3 Bh8 31.fxe4 Nxe3 32.Nc6 Rxc6 33.Ra8+ Kf7 34.Rxh8 h5 35.Rh7+ Ke8=] **30.Nd7 Rxb3** Eljanov goes up a P **31.Ba3 Be7?!+/-** Kramnik gets back a ⊕ clear ⊕ advantage [31...Bh6 32.Ra8+ Kf7 33.Nxc5 Rb1+ 34.Kg2 Nc3±] **32.Bxc5** material equality The Kramnik pawn structure is much superior. **Bxc5** [32...Kf7 33.Ne5+ Kf8 34.Bxe7+ Nxe7 35.Ra4 Nf5 36.Rxe4 Ke7±] **33.Nxc5 Rb1+ 34.Kg2 Rb2 35.Ra3 Nf6 36.Ra8+ Kf7 37.Ra7+ Ke8 38.Ra6 Ng4 39.Nxe4 Nxe3+ 40.Kf3 Nd5 41.Rxe6+** Kramnik goes up a P. This ending type of position, up a P, is one of his great strengths. He wins these when many would accept a draw. **41...Kf8 42.Rd6 Ne7 43.Rd8+ Kg7 44.Rd7 Kf8 45.Nf6 h5 46.Ra7 Rb5 47.Ke4 Rb4+ 48.Ke3 Rb5 49.Ne4 Re5** [49...g5 50.h3 h4 51.Ra3 Nf5+ 52.Kf3 hxg3 53.fgx3 Nh6±] **50.f3 Rb5 51.h3 Nd5+ 52.Kd4 Ne7 53.Ra6 Rf5 54.Ke3 Nd5+** [54...h4 55.g4 Rb5 56.Kd4 Rd5+ 57.Kc4 Rd1±] **55.Kf2 Ne7 56.Ra8+ Kg7 57.Ra7 Kf8 58.Rb7 Ra5 59.g4 hxg4 60.hxg4 Rd5** [60...g5 61.Rc7 Ra2+ 62.Kg3 Ra5 63.Rd7 Kf7±] **61.Kg3** [61.f4 Ra5 62.Kg3 Nd5 63.Ng5 Ra6 64.Rd7 Nf6±] **61...Ra5?!+-** [61...g5 62.Rc7 Ra5 63.Rd7 Kf7 64.Kf2 Ke8 65.Rb7 Kf7±] **62.Kh4 Re5 63.Nf6 Kf7 64.f4 Ra5 65.Nd7 g5+ 66.fgx5 Ke6 67.Kh5 Rd5 5.22** [67...Kf7 68.Nf6 Re5 69.Kh6 Re6 70.Kh7 Re5 71.Ng8 Kf8 72.Rxe7 Rxg5 73.Rc7 Ke8 74.Nf6+ Kd8 75.Rd7+ Kc8+- 6.56] **68.Nf8++-** Eljanov resigned. Coming is **68...Kf7 69.Ng6 Rd2 70.Rxe7++-** Kramnik would be up N + 2 P **1-0**

In Rd. 5, Radjabov took a share of the three-way lead by defeating Eljanov. Here is that game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

In Rd. 6, Carlsen made it look easy, as , against Polgar, he went up one pawn, and then 2 pawns, to win, and take sole possession of first place. Here is that game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M – Polgar, J [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (6)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 Ne4 7.Qc2 c5 8.dxc5 Carlsen goes up a P **8...Nc6 9.cxd5 exd5 10.e3 Qf6?!±** Carlsen gets the advantage [10...Bf5 11.Bd3 Qg5 12.Kf1 Qf6=] **11.f3** [11.Bd3 Ne5 12.Nf3 (12.Bxe4? dxe4 13.Qxe4 Bf5 14.Qxb7 0-0-) 12...Nxf3+ 13.gxf3 Qxf3 14.Rg1 0-0±] **11...Qh4+ 12.g3 Nxd3** material equality **13.Qf2 Nf5 14.Qxh4 Nxh4 15.b4 a6?!±** Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [15...f6 16.Bb2 0-0 17.Kf2 Ne5 18.Rd1 Rd8±] **16.Kf2 Ne5 17.Bb2 f6 18.Rd1 Be6 19.Ne2 Bf7?!+-** Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [19...Nhxf3 20.Nf4 Bf7 21.Bg2 Nh4 22.Bxd5 Bxd5 23.Nxd5 0-0±] **20.Rg1 Nc4** [20...Nhxf3 21.Rxg7 Kf8 22.Rg3 Nxh2+-; 20...0-0 21.f4 Nc4 22.Bxf6 Nf5 23.e4 dxe4+-; 20...Rg8 21.f4 Nc4 22.Bc1 0-0-0 23.Nc3 f5+-] **21.Bc1** [21.Bc3 0-0 22.Nf4 Ne5 23.Be2 Rad8+-] **21...g5 22.Nc3** [22.Ng3?! 0-0-0 23.Bxc4 dxc4 24.Bb2 Bg6±] **22...0-0-0 23.e4 dxe4** [23...Ne5 24.Nxd5 Nhxf3 25.Bh3+ Kb8+-] **24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Nxe4** material equality **25...Kc7?+-** 2.54 [25...Ne5 26.f4 Nef3 27.Rg3 Nxh2 28.Nd6+ Rxd6 29.cxd6 Kd7+- 1.76 Carlsen would be up the exchange, with Polgar having 2 P compensation] **26.Nxf6** Carlsen goes up a P **26...h6 27.f4 Nd2 28.Be2 Nb3 29.Be3 Nd4 30.Bxd4?+-** 2.18 [30.fgx5 Nxe2 31.Kxe2 hxg5 32.Bxg5 Nf5+- 3.04] **30...Rxd4 31.fgx5 Rf4+ 32.Ke1 hxg5 33.Nh7 Bd5 34.Nxg5** Carlsen goes up 2 P **34...Kc6 35.Rf1 Rxf1+ 36.Bxf1 a5 37.Kd2 axb4 38.axb4 b6 39.cxb6 Kxb6 40.Bd3 Bc6 41.Kc3 Bd7 42.Be4 Bg4 43.Nf7 Bf3+-** 2.62 **1-0**

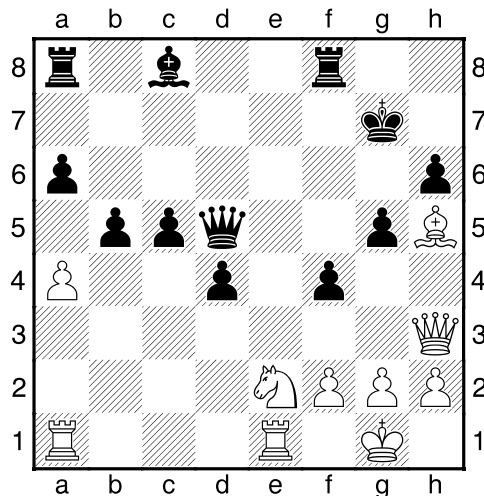
Also in Rd. 6, the dark horse in this tournament, Kramnik, stealthily climbed into #2/3 with a nice win over Aronian, then tied for first. It was an exciting game, where Aronian initially was up a pawn and had a “ winning “ advantage early on at move 22. But Kramnik came back and eventually went into an ending up 2 pawns. But the rook & pawn ending was still difficult and Aronian diligently defended. Then at move 100,

Kramnik faltered and allowed Aronian the chance for a draw. But on move 103, Aronian blundered and gave Kramnik back the win. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kramnik, V (2799) – Aronian, L (2739) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (6), 18.01.2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 dxc4 Aronian goes up the gambitted P **7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5 9.Be2 Bb7?!±** [9...b4 10.Nb1 Ba6 11.Nbd2 g4 12.Ne5 Qxd4 13.Ndxc4 Qxd1+ 14.Rxd1 Nxe4 15.Bxg4 Bg7=] **10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Ne5 Bg7** [11...h5 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.Be5 Rh6±] **12.Nxd7** [12.Qc2?! 0-0 13.Rfd1 Nb6 14.b3 b4 15.Na4 Nxa4 16.bxa4 c3=] **12...Nxd7 13.Bd6 a6 14.a4 e5 15.Bg4?!=** Kramnik wrongly decides to sac a P. Kramnik loses the advantage [15.d5 Nf6 16.dxc6 Bxc6 17.b4 g4±] **15...exd4** Aronian goes up 2 P **16.e5!** now Kramnik offers to sac his N **16...c5?!±** Aronian correctly refuses the sac from a practical point of view of not losing his Q. But theoretically, giving up the Q is better. [16...dxc3 17.e6 Ne5 18.e7 Qxe7 19.Bxe7 cxb2 20.Ra3 Kxe7= Kramnik would have Q vs B + N + 4 P] **17.Re1?±** [17.Bf3 Rb8 18.Bxb7 Rxb7 19.axb5 dxc3 20.bxa6 Ra7 21.bxc3 Bf8±] **17...Nxe5** Aronian decides he must sac his N to deal with the advancing eP. Aronian goes up 3 P [17...dxc3? 18.e6 Nf6 19.exf7+ Kxf7 20.Be6+ Kg6 21.Qc2+ Ne4 22.Rxe4 Bf6±] **18.Bxe5** Aronian has 3 P vs N **18...0-0 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Ne2?!±** Aronian gets a " clear " advantage [20.Nb1 Qf6 21.Nd2 d3 22.Rb1 Qf4±] **20...f5 21.Bh5 f4 22.b4?+-** Aronian gets a " winning " advantage [22.axb5 axb5 23.Rxa8 Bxa8 24.Kh1 f3 (24...g4? 25.Bxg4 f3 26.Ng3 f3 27.Kg1 Kh8=) 25.Ng3 f3 26.Kg1 Qf6±] **22...cxb3?=-** Aronian loses his advantage [22...f3 23.Bxf3 Bxf3 24.gxf3 d3 25.bxc5 b4 26.Nc1 Rc8-+] **23.Qxb3 Qd5 24.Qh3 Bc8**



25.Nc3! Kramnik decides to sac his N **25...dxc3 26.Qxc3+** Kramnik is down 2 P, but the position is equal. **26...Qd4 27.Qf3 Ra7 28.axb5 Qf6?±** Kramnik gets a " clear " advantage, though down a P [28...Rf6 29.Rad1 Qc4 30.Re4 Qxb5=] **29.Qa3 Qb6 30.Qc3+ Kg8** [30...Kh7 31.Re5 c4 32.Rae1 Qf6±] **31.Re5 Qf6** [31...Qxb5 32.Rxc5 Qb8±] **32.Qxc5** material equality **32...Rd7 33.h4 g4 34.Bg4?!±** [34.bxa6 Bxa6 35.Bg4 Rd6 36.Rae1 f3±] **34...Rdd8?+-** better here to sac the exchange [34...Qg7 35.Be6+ Kh8 36.Bxd7 Bxd7±] **35.Bxc8 Rxc8 36.Qd5+ Qf7 37.bxa6** material equality but Kramnik has the outside passed P **37...Qxd5 38.Rxd5 Rf7 39.a7 Ra8 40.Rda5 Kh7**

41.R1a3 h3 Aronian sacs the hP to open up the g-file to the W K **42.gxh3** Kramnik goes up a P **42...f3 43.Kh2 Rg7 44.h4 Rg2+ 45.Kh3 Rg7 46.Ra6 Rf7 47.R3a5 Rg7 48.h5 Rf7 49.Kg4 Rg8+ 50.Kh3 Ra8 51.Kg4 Rg8+ 52.Rg6 Ra8 53.Raa6 Raxa7 54.Rxh6+ Kg8 55.Rag6+ Rg7 56.Kxf3** Kramnik goes up 2 P **56...Rxxg6 57.Rxxg6+** though up 2 P, the R & P ending is not so simple for W **57...Kf7 58.Rg4 Ra1 59.Kg3 Rh1?!+- 4.43 [59...Rg1+ 60.Kf4 Rh1 61.Kg5 Rh2 62.f4 Kg7+- 3.89] 60.Rh4 Ra1 61.Rb4?+- 3.11 [61.h6 Kg8 62.h7+ Kh8 63.Kg4 Rg1+ 64.Kf5 Ra1 65.Rh3 Ra7+- 4.94] 61...Kg7 62.Rb6 Rg1+ 63.Kf4 Rh1 64.Kg5 Rg1+ 65.Kf5 Rh1 66.h6+ Kh7 67.Ra6 Rf1 68.f4 Rb1 69.Re6 Ra1 70.Rf6 Re1 71.Kg4 Ra1 72.f5** steadily advancing the second P **72...Rg1+ 73.Kf4?+- 1.87 [73.Kh5 Rh1+ 74.Kg5 Kg8+- 3.92] 73...Rf1+ 2.91 [73...Rh1? 74.Rd6 Rh2 75.Kg5 Rg2+ 76.Kf6 Rc2 (76...Kxh6? 77.Ke7+ Kh7 78.f6 Rf2 79.Rd1 Kg6 80.Rg1+ Kf5 81.f7 Ke4 82.Rg6 Rxf7+ 83.Kxf7+- 7.00) 77.Ke7 Rc8+- 5.19] 74.Ke5 Re1+ 75.Kd6 Rf1 76.Ke7 Rf2 77.Rf8?!± [77.Kf7?! Rf1 78.Ke6 Re1+ 79.Kd5 Rd1+ 80.Ke4 Re1+ 81.Kd3 Rh1 82.Kd4 Rd1+ 83.Ke3 Rh1±; 77.Kf8 Rf3 78.Ke8 Rf4 79.Kd7 Ra4 80.Rg6 Ra7+ 81.Ke6 Ra6+ 82.Kf7 Ra7+ 83.Kf6 Ra1+-] 77...Re2+?!+-** time for Aronian to grab the hP [77...Kxh6 78.Kf6 Kh7 79.Rf7+ Kg8 80.Rg7+ Kf8 81.Rc7 Kg8±] **78.Kf7 Ra2 79.Rd8 Ra7+ 80.Kf6 Ra1 81.Rd2 Rb1 82.Ra2 82...Rb3 83.Rh2 Rb1 84.Rh4 Rb8 85.Kg5 Rg8+ 86.Kf4 Ra8 87.Kg5 Rg8+ 88.Kf6 [88.Kh5+-] 88...Ra8 89.Re4 Ra1 90.Re8?+- 3.50 [90.Re2 Ra3 91.Rd2 Rh3 92.Kf7 Ra3+- 5.59] 90...Ra2 91.Re1 Ra3 92.Rh1 Ra2 93.Kg5 Rg2+ 94.Kf4 Rf2+ 95.Ke4 Re2+ 96.Kf3 Ra2 97.Ke4 Re2+ 98.Kd4 Rd2+ 99.Ke3 Ra2 100.f6??=** Kramnik falters and allows a draw (Note: other commentators have stated that this rook and h & f pawn ending is drawn much earlier on) [100.Kf3 Rd2 101.Rh5 Ra2 102.Ke4 Re2+ 103.Kf4 Rf2+ 104.Kg5 Rf1+-] **100...Ra7 [100...Ra3+ 101.Kf4 Ra4+ 102.Ke5 Ra5+ 103.Ke6 Ra6+ 104.Kf7 Ra7+ 105.Kf8 Ra8+=] 101.Rf1 [101.Kd3 Ra3+ 102.Ke4 Ra4+=] 101...Kg6 102.Ke4 Ra4+ 103.Kd5 Kf7??+-** Aronian blunders, and loses his draw [103...Ra5+ 104.Ke6 Ra6+=] **104.Rh1 Ra5+ 105.Kc4 Ra4+ 6.00 106.Kb5 Ra8 107.h7 Rh8 108.Rh6 Rb8+ 109.Kc6 Rc8+ 110.Kd6+- 6.81** Aronian resigned. Coming is **110...Rd8+ 111.Ke5 Re8+ 112.Kf5 Ra8 113.Rh2 Ra5+ 114.Kf4 Ra4+ 115.Ke5 Ra5+ 116.Kd6 Ra6+ 117.Kc7 Ra8 118.h8Q Rxh8 119.Rxh8 Kxf6+- 1-0**

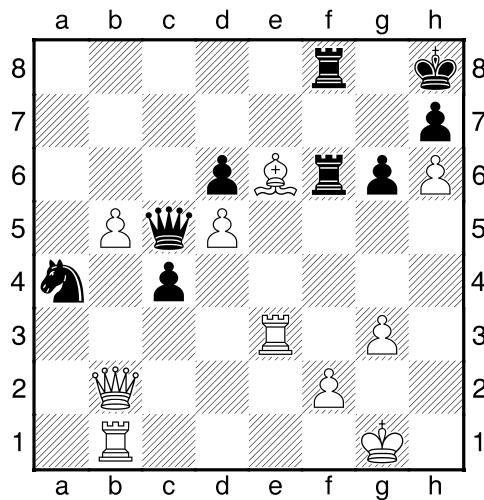
In Rd. 7, Aronian moved up into # 2/3 with a win over Radjabov, then tied for # 2/3, knocking him down to # 4. Aronian had the advantage for the whole game – near the end he won a knight, and had a passed bP, which won the day. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Aronian, L (2739) – Radjabov, T (2735) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (7), 19.01.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6± 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3= [4.e4±] 4...c5 5.d5 0-0 6.Bg2 d6 7.Nf3 e6?!± a weaker line of the Benoni. Aronian gets the advantage [7...Na6?! 8.e4 Nd7 9.0-0 h6 10.Re1 Re8±; 7...Qb6 8.0-0 Bf5 9.Qe1 Bc8 10.e4 Nbd7 11.Qe2 h6 12.Nd2 Ne8=] **8.0-0 exd5 9.cxd5 Re8 10.Nd2?!= [10.Bf4 Bf5 11.Qb3 Na6 12.Ng5 Nc7±] 10...b6?!± [10...Nbd7 11.a4 Rb8 12.e4 a6 13.Nc4 Ne5±] 11.Re1 [11.Nc4 Ba6 12.Qa4 Qe7±] 11...Nbd7 12.h3 Ba6 [12...a6 13.Nc4 Ne5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.e4 Qd6±] 13.Qa4 [13.Nde4 Qe7 14.Bf4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxb2 16.Rb1 Be5±] 13...Bd3 14.Nf1 b5 [14...a5 15.Bf4 Ba6 16.Bxd6 b5 17.Qc2 Nb6±] 15.Qd1 Bc4 16.Nd2 [16.Ne3 Nb6 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.Nxb5 Qa5 19.a4 Ne4±] 16...Nb6 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.Nxb5** Aronian goes up a P **18...Qa5 19.a4 [19.Nc3 Rab8 20.Qc2 Nd7±] 19...Nd7?!± [19...Ne4 20.Rb1 a6 21.Na3 Nxa3 22.bxa3 Rac8±] 20.Bf4 Bxb2** material equality **21.Rb1 Be5 22.Qc1 a6?!+- [22...Bxf4 23.gxf4 Nd2 24.Nxd6 Nxb1 25.Nxe8 Rxe8 26.Qxb1 Rb8 27.Qc1 Rb4 28.e4 Rxa4±] 23.Qxc4 axb5 24.axb5** Aronian goes up a P again **24...Nb6 25.Qc1 c4 26.Bxe5 Rxe5 27.e4 Ree8 28.Re3 Qa2 29.h4 Nd7 30.Rc3 Nb6 31.h5 Re5 32.h6 f5 33.exf5 Rxf5 34.Rc2 Qa3 35.Qd2 Qc5 36.Bh3 Rf3 37.Rc3 Rf6 38.Be6+ Kh8 39.Re3 Raf8 40.Qb2?+- 2.17** Aronian misses a long mating line [40.Ra1 Qxb5 41.Qd4 Qc5 42.Qc3 Qc7+- and it is mate in 11 moves.] **40...Na4**

Position after 40...Na4



41.Qa3! Aronian sacs the fP to get the bP moving **41...Rxf2** material equality **42.Qxc5 dxc5?+-** 4.04 [42...Nxc5 43.b6 R2f6 44.b7 Rb8 45.Bc8 Kg8+- 3.11] **43.Ra3?+-** 2.85 [43.b6 Nxb6 44.Rxb6 g5+- 4.77] **43...Nb6 44.Rd1 R2f6 45.Rda1 g5** 4.82 [45...Rb8 46.Rf1 Rxf1+ 47.Kxf1 Re8 48.Kf2 Rd8 49.Ke3 c3 50.Kd3 c2 51.Kxc2 Nc4 52.Ra7 Nd6+- 4.73] **46.Ra6 c3 47.Rxb6** Aronian is up a B **47...c2 48.Rc6+-** Radjabov resigned. Coming is **48...Rxh6 49.Rxc5 Rhf6 50.Rxc2 h5 51.Rc7 h4 52.gxh4 gxh4 53.b6+-** 17.83 Aronian would be up B + P, with a passed P on the 6th rank. **1-0**

In Rd. 8, Anand continued on his comeback trail, moving up into # 4/5, one point out of first, with a win over Veselin Topalov, 2005 FIDE World Champion, 2006 World Championship Challenger, and 2008 Candidates' Match player. He mounted a strong K-side attack, then picked up a pawn in the centre, and Topalov resigned in the face of a lost endgame. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Anand, V (2799) – Topalov, V (2780) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (8), 20.01.2008

1.e4 c5± dubious evaluation by Fritz **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** [5...e6±] **6.Be3 e5** [6...Ng4 7.Bg5 Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6±] **7.Nb3** [7.Nf3 Be7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bd3 Ng4 10.0-0 Nxe3 11.Qxe3 Be6±] **7...Be6 8.f3?!=** dubious evaluation by Fritz [8.Be2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Qxd5 Bxd5±] **8...h5?±** Anand gets a " clear " advantage [8...d5 9.exd5 Bxd5 10.Bd3 Bb4 11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qc7 13.c4 Bxc4 14.Bxc4 Qxc4=] **9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Nbd7 11.Qd2 g6 12.0-0 Nb6 13.Qa5 Bh6 14.Bxh6 Rxh6 15.Kb1** [15.Be2 h4 16.Kb1 g5 17.c4 Nbd7±] **15...Rc8** [15...Kf8 16.c4 Nbd7±] **16.Qb4?!±** [16.Qd2 Rh7 17.g3 h4 18.Bh3 Rc4 19.f4 Kf8±] **16...Kf8 17.c4 Kg7 18.g3 Rh8 19.Rc1 Qc7 20.Bh3 Rce8 21.Rhd1 Re7 22.a3 Rd8 23.Nd2 Nbd7 24.Qc3 a5?!±** [24...b5 25.cxb5 Qxc3 26.Rxc3 axb5±] **25.Bxd7 Nxd7 26.f4 Nf6 27.Rf1 b6 28.h3 Qd7?!+-** Anand gets a " winning " advantage [28...b5 29.fxe5 Rxe5 30.Rf4 b4 31.Qd4 Qc5±] **29.f5?!±** [29.fxe5 dxe5 30.Rce1 Nxd5 31.cxd5 Qxd5+-] **29...Rf8?!+-** [29...b5 30.g4 hxg4 31.hxg4 Nxg4 32.Qh3 Nf6 33.Qe3 Rh8±] **30.Qe3 e4 31.g4 hxg4 32.hxg4 Re5 33.Rf4 Qd8 34.g5 Nh5 35.f6+ Kg8 36.Rxe4** Anand goes up a P **36...Rfe8 37.Ka2 a4 38.Rc3 Qc7 39.Qd4 Qc5 40.Qxc5+-** 2.45 Topalov resigned. Coming is **40...bxc5 41.Rce3 Rxe4 42.Rxe4 Ra8 43.Re7 Ng3 44.Rd7 Nf5 45.Ne4 Ra6 46.Rd8+ Kh7 47.Rc8 Ra7 48.Rf8 Rb7 49.Ra8 Rb3 50.Ra6 Re3**

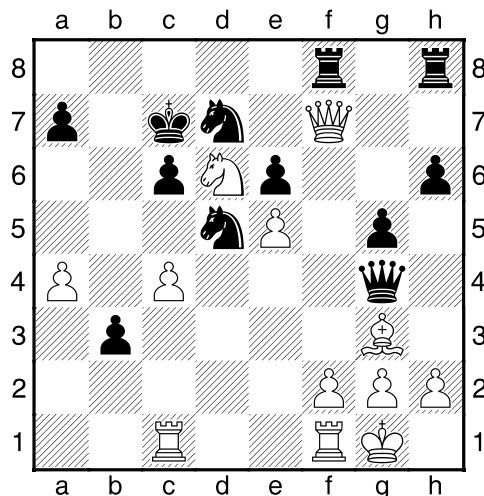
51.Nxd6 Nxd6 52.Rxd6 Re4 53.Rd7 Rxc4 54.Rxf7+ Kg8 55.Rg7+ Kf8 56.d6 Rd4 57.d7+-
10.39 1-0

In Rd. 9, Topalov woke up, and played a fantastic game against Kramnik. He first sacked his knight for an attack. Then he proceeded to get back the minor piece. Then he sacked his queen for rook plus bishop. Thereafter he won 1,2, and then 3 pawns. Finally he threatened a mate, and Kramnik resigned. Kramnik dropped to #3/6 (½ pt. out of first), and Topalov came up to #7/10 (1 pt. out of first). Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Topalov, V (2780) – Kramnik, V (2799) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (9), 22.01.2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 dxc4 Kramnik goes up the gambitted P 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5 9.Be2 Bb7 [9...Bb4 10.Qc2 g4 11.Nd2 Qxd4 12.0-0-0 Qb6=] 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Ne5 Bg7 [11...Nb6 12.f4 Bg7 13.f5 exf5 14.Rxf5 0-0=] 12.Nxf7!! Topalov attacks with an enterprising N-sac [12.Qc2 h5 13.Nf3 g4 14.Nd2 Qb6=; 12.Nxd7 Nxd7 13.Bd6 Qb6 14.e5 c5=] 12...Kxf7 Kramnik is up an N 13.e5 Nd5 14.Ne4 Ke7 15.Nd6 Qb6 16.Bg4 Raf8 17.Qc2 Qxd4?+- Kramnik goes up N + P, but this loses the b7B. Topalov gets a " winning " advantage [17...Rhg8 18.Rad1 Ba8 19.Qg6 Nc7=] 18.Qg6 Qxg4 19.Qxg7+ Kd8 20.Nxb7+ Kramnik is up a P 20...Kc8 21.a4?± Topalov is losing his advantage [21.Rfd1 b4 22.Nd6+ Kd8 23.Qg6 Rhg8 24.Qxh6 Rh8 25.Nf7+ Rxf7 26.Qxh8+ Rf8 27.Qg7 Qf5+-] 21...b4 22.Rac1 c3?+- Kramnik decides to sac a P to close the c-file – a dubious decision. Topalov gets a " winning " advantage again [22...Rfg8 23.Nd6+ Kc7 24.Qf7 Rf8 25.Qg6 Nf4 26.Bxf4 Rhg8 27.Qc2 gxf4±] 23.bxc3 material equality 23...b3 [23...Rfg8 24.Nd6+ Kc7 25.Qf7 Rf8 26.Qg6 Nf4 27.Qc2 Ne2+ 28.Kh1 bxc3 29.Rcd1 Nb6+-] 24.c4 Rfg8 25.Nd6+?!+- 1.89 Topalov misses a long mating line [25.Qf7 Nf4 26.Rb1 Rf8 27.Qe7 Ng6 28.Qg7 Rfg8 29.Qf7 Ngxe5 30.Nd6+ Kd8 31.Bxe5 Nxe5 32.Qf6+ Kc7 33.Ne8+ Rxe8 34.Qxe5+ Kb6 35.Rxb3+ Ka6+- and it is mate in 10 moves] 25...Kc7 26.Qf7 Rf8



27.cxd5!! Topalov amazingly decides to sac his Q for N + R 27...Rxf7 28.Rxc6+ Kb8 29.Nxf7 Topalov has R + B + P vs Q 29...Re8?+- 3.12 [29...Qe2 30.Rc3 Qb2 31.dxe6 (31.Rfc1? Nb6

32.Nxh8 Qd2±] 31...Nb6+- 2.05] **30.Nd6 Rh8 31.Rc4 Qe2 32.dxe6** Topalov is up R + B + 2 P vs Q **32...Nb6 33.Rb4 Ka8 34.e7 Nd5 35.Rxb3 Nxe7 36.Rfb1 Nd5 37.h3 h5 38.Nf7 Rc8 39.e6 a6 40.Nxg5** Topalov is up R + B + 3 P **40...h4 41.Bd6 Rg8?+-** 5.43 [41...Re8 42.a5 Ne7 43.Bxe7 Rxe7 44.R3b2 Qh5+- 4.19] **42.R3b2 Qd3 43.e7 Nf6?+-** 11.95 [43...Nxe7 44.Bxe7 Qd5 45.Nf3 Qd7 46.Rb6 Qxa4+- 9.59] **44.Be5 Nd7?+-** 13.43 [44...Qxb1+ 45.Rxb1 Nd5+- 11.95] **45.Ne6+-** Kramnik resigned. Coming is (to avoid mate) **45...Rxxg2+ 46.Kxxg2 Qd5+ 47.f3 Qxe6 48.Rb8+ Nxb8 49.Rxb8+ Ka7 50.e8Q Qxe8 51.Rxe8 Kb6+-** 22.98 Topalov would be up R + B + P **1-0**

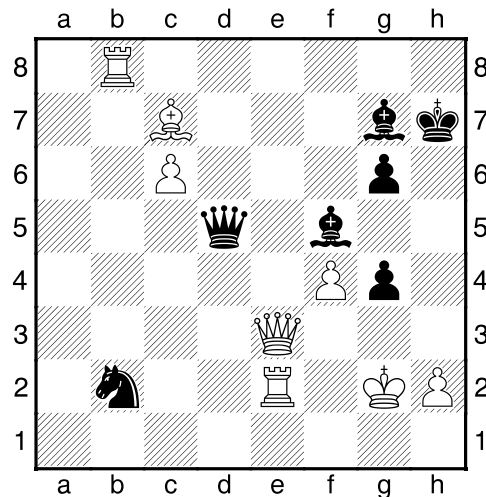
In Rd. 10, Carlsen showed his mettle in never giving up. He had a totally lost game against Van Wely, but in the time pressure, moved to complicate the position as much as possible. Van Wely's moves deteriorated as time control approached, and on the 40th move, he committed a fatal error moving his king to the wrong square, and ended up getting mated. The win moved Carlsen into sole possession of first place, ½ pt. ahead of Aronian. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Van Wely, L (2681) – Carlsen, M (2733) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (10), 23.01.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 Benoni Defence **3.d5 b5?!±** Benko Gambit – frowned upon by Fritz [3...g6=] **4.cxb5** Van Wely goes up the gambitted P **4...a6 5.bxa6 g6** [5...Bxa6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nh3 g6±] **6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.Nf3** [7.d6 Nc6 8.e4 Bxf1 9.Kxf1 Bg7±] **7...d6 8.g3 Bg7 9.Bg2 Nbd7 10.Rb1** [10.0-0 0-0 11.Bf4 h6 12.Qc1 g5 13.Bd2 Qb6±] **10...Qa5** [10...Nb6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 h6±; 10...0-0 11.0-0 h6 12.h3 Nb6±] **11.Bd2 Nb6 12.b3 Qa3 13.0-0 0-0 14.Ne1 Bb7 15.Nc2 Qa6 16.e4 Ne8?!±** Van Wely gets a " clear " advantage [16...e6 17.Ne3 exd5 18.exd5 Qd3±] **17.a4** Van Wely has successfully held onto the Benko Gambit P, and now is advancing the extra passed aP **17...Nc7 18.Re1 Rae8?!+-** Van Wely gets a " winning " advantage [18...Qa7 19.Qg4 Bc8 20.Qg5 Re8±] **19.b4 Nd7 20.Nb5 Rc8 21.Bh3 f5 22.Bg5** 1.80 [22.exf5 Nxd5 23.fxg6 Ne5 24.gxh7+ Kh8 25.Bxc8 Nf3+ 26.Qxf3 Rxf3 27.Bxb7 Qxb7 28.bxc5 Qc8+- 1.59] **22...Ne5** 2.54 [22...Bf6 23.bxc5 Nxc5 24.Bxf6 Rxf6+- 2..59] **23.bxc5 Qxa4 24.Nxc7 Rxc7 25.c6** 1.88 the gambitted extra P is now a passed cP on the 6th rank – Van Wely continues to make progress with the extra P **25...Bc8 26.exf5 Rxf5!** 2.58 Carlsen offers to sac the exchange [26...Bxf5 27.Bxf5 gxf5 28.Bf4 Qa5+- 2.45] **27.f4?+-** 2.58 Van Wely rejects the sac, when taking it is best after kicking the Q a bit [27.Ra1 Qb3 28.Re3 Qc4 29.Bxf5 Bxf5 30.Ra8+ Kf7+- 3.32; 27.Bxf5? Bxf5 28.Rb8+ Kf7 29.Rxe5 Bxe5+- 2.26] **27...Nc4?+-** 3.59 [27...Rxxg5 28.Bxc8 Rxc8 29.fxxg5 Qc4+- 2.87] **28.Rb4 Qa7+ 29.Kg2?+-** 2.88 Van Wely misses a stronger line [29.Kh1 Nb2 30.Qf3 Na4 31.Qa3 Rxd5 32.Rxa4 Qc5+- 4.56 Van Wely would be up an N] **29...Qc5 30.Rb8 Nb2** both players were now in time trouble **31.Qf3 Qxc2+?+-** 5.04 Carlsen is up N vs P, but is losing [31...Rf8 32.Bxc8 Rxc8 33.Rxc8 Rxc8+- 3.20] **32.Re2 Qb1** 5.80 Carlsen is totally lost at this point [32...Qd3? 33.Bxe7 Bf8 34.Bd8 Rxf4 35.Qxd3 Bxh3+ 36.Kxh3 Nxd3 37.Bxc7 Kg7+- 9.34] **33.Bxf5?+-** 2.95 this is no time to win the exchange [33.Bxe7 Bd4 34.Bxf5 Qxf5 35.Bxd6 Qh3+ 36.Kh1 Ra7 37.Re1 Nc4+- 4.35 Van Wely would be up R + 3 P vs B + N] **33...Qxf5** Van Wely is up R + P vs B + N **34.g4** 3.64 [an error would be 34.Bxe7? Qh3+ 35.Kh1 (35.Kg1? Ra7 36.Re1 Nd3 37.Rxc8+ Kf7+- - 2.29) 35...Ra7 36.Rxc8+ (36.Re1 Nd3 37.Rxc8+ Kf7 38.Qf1 (38.Bxd6? Nxe1 39.Rc7+ Rxc7 40.Qe2 Ra7+- -3.51) 38...Qf5 39.Re3 Qxd5+ 40.Kg1 Qc5±) 36...Kf7 37.Re1 Nd3 38.Qf1 Qf5±; also continuing to win is 34.Rbxb2 Bxb2 35.Rxb2 e6 36.Bd8 Ra7 37.g4 Qxd5 38.Qxd5 exd5+- 1.66] **34...Qf7?+-** 5.12 [34...Qf8 35.Rxe7 Rxe7 36.Bxe7 Qxe7 37.Rxc8+ Bf8+- 4.50] **35.Bxe7** Van Wely is up R + 2 P vs B + N **35...h5 36.Bxd6** 5.76 Van Wely is up R + 3 P vs B + N [36.Qe4 Nd1 37.Qe6 Qxe6 38.Rxe6 Kf7 39.Bxd6 Bxe6 40.dxe6+ Kxe6 41.Bxc7 Kd5+- 5.66] **36...hxxg4** 6.68 Van Wely is up R + 2 P vs B + N [36...Kh7 37.Rexb2 Bxxg4 38.Qb3 Bxb2 39.Bxc7 Qf5 40.Re8 Bd4+- 6.17] **37.Qe4** the time pressure was quite severe now **37...Kh7 38.Bxc7?+-** 4.75 not the strongest continuation. Van Wely is up 2 R + 2 P vs B + N [38.Rbxb2 Bf5 39.Qc4 Bxb2 40.Bxc7 Ba3 41.Be5 Qf8+- 7.09] **38...Bf5 39.Qe3?!±** again Van Wely falters in the time pressure [39.Qe7 Qxd5+ 40.Kg1 Qd1+ 41.Kf2 Qd4+ 42.Kf1 Qd1+ 43.Re1

Qd3+ 44.Kg1 Qd4+ 45.Qe3 Nd3 46.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 47.Kf1 Nxe1 48.Kxe1 Be4+- Van Wely would be up the exchange + P] **39...Qxd5+** Van Wely is up 2R + P vs B + N



40.Kg3??-+ on the last move of the first time control (does it not always happen ?), Van Wely now makes a fatal blunder and gives Carlsen the game [40.Kg1 Bd4 41.Rh8+ Kxh8 42.Be5+ Qxe5 43.fxe5 Bxe3+ 44.Rxe3 Nc4 45.e6 Nd6 (45...Nxe3?? 46.e7 Kg7 47.e8Q+-) 46.e7 Ne8 47.c7 Kg7±] **40...Nc4 41.Qf2** [41.Qb3 Qh1 42.Bd8 (42.Be5 Qg1+ 43.Kh4 Nxe5 44.fxe5 Qf1 45.Qe3 g5+ 46.Kh5-+) 42...Qg1+ 43.Kh4 Qf1 44.Re7 Qxf4-+; 41.Rd8 Qxc6 42.Qb3 Qxc7 43.Rd5 Nd6-+] **41...Qd3+ 42.Kg2 Be4+ 43.Rxe4 Qxe4+** Van Wely is up the exchange + P, but is lost **44.Kf1 Qd3+ 45.Qe2?+-** leads to mate in 12 moves [45.Kg2 Ne3+ 46.Qxe3 Qxe3 47.Be5 Qf3+ 48.Kg1 Qxc6-+ - 7.39] **45...Nd2+ 46.Ke1 Nf3+ 47.Kf1 Nxe2+ 48.Ke1 Bc3+ 49.Kf2 g3+-+** Van Wely resigns. It is mate **50.Kg2 Qxe2+ 51.Kh3 Qg4+ 52.Kg2 Qf3+ 53.Kh3 Ng4 54.Rh8+ Bxh8 55.Be5 Nf2+ 56.Kh4 Qg4# 0-1**

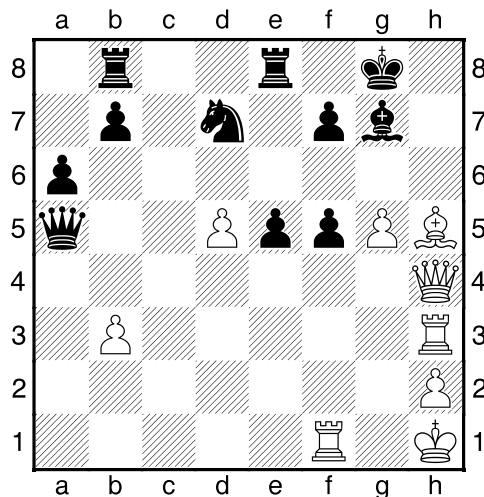
In Rd. 11, Carlsen tried to put it to the world champion Anand. He first sacked 2 pawns, setting up an attack. Then he sacked a bishop. The next move he sacked his other bishop. He regained one of the minor pieces in the attack, and ended up down a knight, but with a passed gP on the 6th rank. But Anand quickly asserted control over the situation, Carlsen had nothing left, and resigned. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Carlsen, M (2733) – Anand, V (2799) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (11), 25.01.2008

1.e4 c5± this Fritz' evaluation is not accepted generally **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** [5...g6±; 5...e6±] **6.Be2 e6 7.a4** [7.0-0 Nc6 8.Qd3 Qc7 9.Rd1 Bd7±; 7.Qd3 Nc6 8.0-0 Qc7±] **7...Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Be3 0-0 10.f4 Qc7 11.Kh1 Re8 12.Bf3?!=** [12.Qe1 Na5 13.Qg3 Nc4 14.Bxc4 Qxc4±] **12...Rb8** [12...Na5 13.Bg1 e5 14.Nf5 Bxf5 15.exf5 Rac8=] **13.Qd2** [13.Nb3 b6 14.Qd2 Bb7 15.Kg1 Nd7=; 13.Qe1 Na5 14.Rd1 b6 15.Qg3 Nc4 16.Bc1 Bb7=; 13.Qd3 e5 14.Nde2 Bd7 15.Rae1 Qa5=] **13...Bf8?!±** Carlsen gets the advantage [13...Na5 14.b3 b6 15.Rad1 Bb7=] **14.Qf2 Bd7 15.g4** Carlsen begins an attack; aggressive [15.Nb3?! e5 16.Bb6 Qc8 17.fxe5 Nxe5±; 15.Rad1?! Rbc8 16.Nde2 Nb4 17.Bb6 Qb8 18.Ng3 Be7±; 15.a5 Nxa5

16.Nxe6! Rxe6 17.Bb6 Qc4 18.Bxa5 Qc5 19.Qxc5 dxc5±] **15...e5?!±** Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [15...Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bc6 17.a5 Rbc8±] **16.Nf5** Carlsen moves his N into position **16...exf4 17.Bxf4** Carlsen now has control of the half-opened f-file, and his B trained on h6 **17...Be6** [17...Ne5 18.g5 Nfg4 19.Qg2 Nxf3 20.Rxf3 Ne5 21.Nd5 Qd8 22.Rh3 Ng6±; 17...h6 18.Qh4 Bxf5 19.gxf5 Qb6 20.Rab1 Nd4±] **18.Rad1?!±** Carlsen should continue with his attack [18.g5 Nd7 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Nce5 21.Bg2 Rbc8±] **18...Ne5 19.Bxe5** [still a more aggressive option is 19.g5 Nfd7 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.exd5 Nxf3 22.Qxf3 Ne5 23.Qf2 Qd7±] **19...dxe5 20.g5 Nd7 21.Nd5** [21.Bh5 Kh8 (21...g6 22.Be2 Qc6 (22...gxf5 23.exf5 Bc4 24.Bxc4 Qxc4 25.Rxd7 Qc6+ 26.Rd5 Bb4±) 23.Ne3 Nc5±) 22.Qh4 g6 23.Be2 Ba3±] **21...Qc6 22.Bg2?!=** [22.b4 a5 23.c3 Qxa4 24.Ra1 Qc6 25.Rxa5 Bxf5 26.exf5 e4 27.Be2 Re5 28.Qd4 Rbe8±] **22...Qc5?!±** [22...Rbc8 23.c3 Qxa4 24.Qh4 Qb5=] **23.Qh4?!=** Carlsen sacs a pawn to move his Q into attack position; aggressive but perhaps not theoretically best [23.Nfe3 Qc6 24.Qh4 Bc5 25.Nf5 Kh8±] **23...Qxc2** Anand grabs the free pawn – he obviously doesn't believe in Carlsen's attack set-up **24.Rc1?±** a risky strategy by Carlsen; he offers another pawn. Anand now gets a " clear " advantage [24.a5 b6 25.g6 fxg6 26.Nde7+ Bxe7 27.Nxe7+ Kh8 28.Nxg6+ Kg8 29.Ne7+ Kh8 30.axb6 Rxb6 31.Ng6+ Kg8 32.Rc1 (32.Ne7+=) 32...Qe2 33.Ne7+=] **24...Qxa4** Anand goes up 2 P **25.b3** Carlsen offers a third pawn, to be able to lift his R to c3 **25...Qa5?!±** Anand should accept the third pawn. Anand is losing his advantage [25...Qxb3 26.Rc3 Bxd5!! 27.Rh3 Qxh3 28.Bxh3 Bc4 29.Rf3 Nc5± Anand would be up R + B + 3 P vs Q] **26.Rc3 g6 27.Rh3?!±** wrong attacking strategy. Anand gets back his " clear " advantage [27.Nfe3 h6 28.gxh6 Qd8 29.h7+ Kh8 30.Qg3 Rc8±] **27...h5 28.Bf3?!-+** a losing attack strategy; Carlsen looks to sac his B on h5, instead of winning the hP. Anand gets a " winning " advantage [28.gxh6 Qd8 29.Qg3 Kh7 30.Nfe3 Bc5±] **28...Bxd5?!±** [28...Qb5 29.Bg2 Rbc8 30.Nfe3 a5-+] **29.exd5 Bg7** [29...Rbc8?? 30.Bxh5! gxh5 31.Ne3 Rc1 32.Rxc1 Qb4 33.Qxh5 Qe4+ 34.Kg1 Bg7+- 3.97; 29...Qb4?! 30.Nh6+ Kh8 31.Nxf7+ Kg7 32.Be4 Nc5±; 29...Qb5? 30.Bg2 (30.Bxh5?? Qxf1#) 30...Nb6 31.Nh6+ Bxh6 32.gxh6 Nd7=] **30.Bxh5?!-+** Carlsen enterprisingly sacs his B; though Anand gets a " winning " advantage again. Will the Carlsen attack be too much for Anand over-the-board? [30.Nxg7 Kxg7 31.Bg2 Qd2 32.Rhf3 Rf8±] **30...gxf5** Anand is up N + P



31.Bxf7+ now Carlsen sacs the other B [31.Rxf5 Qxd5+ 32.Rhf3 Rf8 33.Bxf7+ Rxf7 34.Rxf7 Nf8-+] **31...Kxf7** Anand is up B + N **32.g6+ Kg8 33.Qh7+?!-+** – 2.90 Carlsen misplays the attack. It looks like Anand can survive the onslaught [33.Rxf5 Qxd5+ 34.Rhf3 Qxf3+ 35.Rxf3 Nf8-+ – 1.63] **33...Kf8 34.Rxf5+** Anand is up B + N vs P **34...Ke7 35.Qxg7+** Anand is up an N (though Carlsen

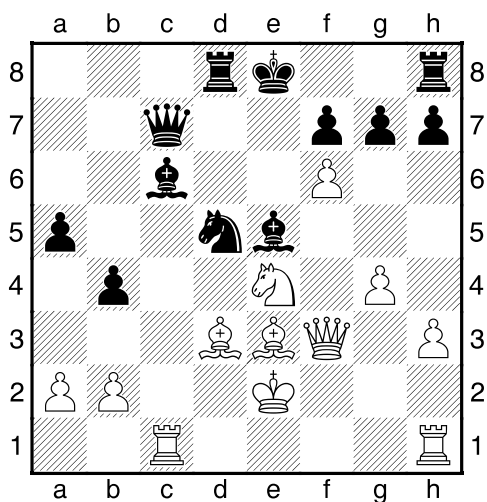
has a passed P on the 6th rank) **35...Kd6 36.Rf7 Qxd5+** Anand is up an N (though Carlsen has a passed P on the 6th rank) **37.Kg1 Rbd8 38.Rh7 Qd4+** – 4.80 **39.Kg2 Qg4+** Anand is starting to assert control over the situation **40.Kh1** –6.67 [40.Kf2? Kc6 41.Rh6 Nb6 42.Qf6+ Kb5-+ – 7.94] **40...Rg8 41.Rf6+ Kc7 42.Qe7 Qe4+-+ – 8.24** Carlsen resigns. Coming is **43.Kg1 Rxc6+ 44.Rxc6 Qxc6+ 45.Kh1 Qc6+ 46.Kg1 Kc8-** – 11.09 Anand is up an N + passed eP **0-1**

Also in Rd. 11, Levon Aronian took over sole possession of first place with a smashing win over Van Wely. He attacked on the K-side initially, and Van Wely didn't castle (Aronian's K was also in the middle). Then he sacked the exchange in the centre to open lines to the Black king. Next he forced Van Wely to sack his Q, so that Aronian ended up with queen vs rook + knight. Aronian went on to win the ending. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Aronian, L (2739) – Van Wely, L (2681) [D15]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (11), 25.01.2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 [4...e6=] **5.Nc3 b5?!±** Aronian gets the advantage [5...e6 6.Qc2 Nbd7 7.Be2 dxc4 8.0-0 (8.Bxc4 b5 9.Bd3 c5=) 8...b5 9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3 Bb7 11.Ne4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 Qc7=] **6.c5** [6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Bd3 Bg4±] **6...Nbd7 7.Bd3?±** Van Wely gets the advantage [7.Be2 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Bd3 0-0±] **7...e5! 8.Nxe5** Aronian goes up a P [8.dxe5?! Ng4 9.e4 Bxc5 10.0-0 d4 11.Ne2 Ndx5=; 8.Bc2?! Qc7 9.0-0 Be7=] **8...Nxe5 9.dxe5 Ng4 10.f4** [10.Be2 Nxe5 11.Qd4 Nd7±] **10...Bxc5** material equality **11.Qf3** [11.Qe2?! Qh4+ 12.g3 Qh3±] **11...Qb6 12.Ke2** Aronian eschews 0-0 to attack on the K-side [12.Nd1 0-0 13.h3 Nh6 14.g4 a5±] **12...Nh6** [12...0-0 13.h3 Nh6 14.Kf1 Nf5±] **13.h3 Nf5 14.g4** aggressive [14.Re1 0-0 15.Kf1 Be7±] **14...Ne7** [14...Nh4 15.Qg3 Qd8 16.f5 b4 17.Na4 Ba7±] **15.Rb1?!±** Van Wely gets a " clear " advantage [15.Kf1 0-0 16.h4 Be6 17.f5 f6! 18.exf6 (18.fxe6?? fxe5 19.Bf5 b4 20.Ne2 h5 21.e4 hxg4 22.Qxg4 dxe4 23.Kg2 Rxf5-+) 18...Rxf6 19.Kg2 Raf8±] **15...a5 16.e4** [16.f5 0-0 17.Kf1 Qc7±] **16...Bb7?!±** [16...d4 17.Nd1 a4 18.f5 Bb4±] **17.f5** [17.exd5?! cxd5 18.Rd1 0-0 19.Kf1 d4 20.Ne4 Nd5±; 17.Kf1 0-0 18.h4 a4±] **17...Bd4** [17...0-0 18.Bf4 a4 19.Kf1 b4 20.Ne2 Ba6±] **18.exd5 Bxe5 19.Be3 Qc7 20.Rbc1** [20.dxc6 Bxc6 21.Be4 0-0±] **20...b4 21.dxc6?+** Van Wely gets a " winning " advantage [21.Nb5! Qd7 22.dxc6 Bxc6 23.Rxc6 Nxc6 24.Rc1 Rc8±] **21...Bxc6 22.Ne4 Rd8?±** Van Wely not only loses his advantage, but gives Aronian a " clear " advantage for the first time in the game. [22...0-0 23.Rc5 Bxb2 24.Rb1 Bc3-+] **23.f6!** trying to open some lines to the Bl K **23...Nd5**



24.Rxc6! Aronian sacs the exchange [24.Bc2? Qb7 25.fxg7 Bxg7 26.Bc5 Ne7 27.Nf6+ Kf8 28.Be4 Bxe4 29.Nxe4 Bxb2 30.Rc2 Be5=] **24...Qxc6** Van Wely is up the exchange **25.Rc1 Qd7?+-** Aronian gets a " winning " advantage [25...Qe6? 26.Bb5+ Kf8 27.Rc6 Qd7 28.Nc5 Qe8 29.Rb6 Nxb6 30.Bxe8 Rxe8+- 3.29; 25...Qb7 26.fxg7 Bxg7 27.Bc5 h5±] **26.Nd6+ Qxd6** it is best for Van Wely to sac the Q [26...Kf8 27.Qxd5 Bxf6 28.Bb6 Qe6+ 29.Qxe6 fxe6 30.Bxd8 Bxd8+- 4.28] **27.Bb5+ Kf8 28.Bc5 Nf4+ 29.Ke1 gxf6 30.Bxd6+ Rxd6** Aronian is up Q vs R + N + P **31.Rc8+ Kg7 32.Rxh8 Kxh8 33.Qb7 Kg7** 1.46 [33...Rd8 34.Qxf7 Bxb2 35.Qc7 Bc3+ 36.Kf2 Rd4+- 1.83] **34.Be8 Kh6 35.Qxf7** Aronian is up Q vs R + N **35...Ng6 36.Qb3 Nf4 37.Qg8 Rd4?+-** 4.25 Van Wely seals his fate with this inaccuracy [37...Rd8 38.h4 Ng6 39.Ke2 Bd6 40.h5 Nf4+ 41.Kf3 Nh3+- 1.86] **38.h4 Ng2+ 39.Ke2 Nxh4** Aronian is up Q vs R + N + P **40.g5+ fxg5 41.Qe6+-** Van Wely resigned. He must now lose the B - **41...Ng6 42.Bxg6 Rd6 43.Qxe5 Rxg6 44.Qxa5+-** 5.11 Aronian would be up Q vs R + P **1-0**

In Rd. 12, Carlsen stormed back into a tie for first with Aronian, with a win over Kramnik, 14th World Champion and 2008 World Championship Challenger. Kramnik only had the advantage very early in the game. Then Carlsen had the advantage off and on and Kramnik never got the advantage again. Carlsen took control about a third of the way through the game, when Kramnik wrongly grabbed a hanging a-pawn. Carlsen punished him by then winning 3 consecutive pawns. He then pushed his passed b-pawn – when it threatened to queen, Kramnik resigned. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Kramnik, V (2799) – Carlsen, M (2733) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (12), 26.01.2008

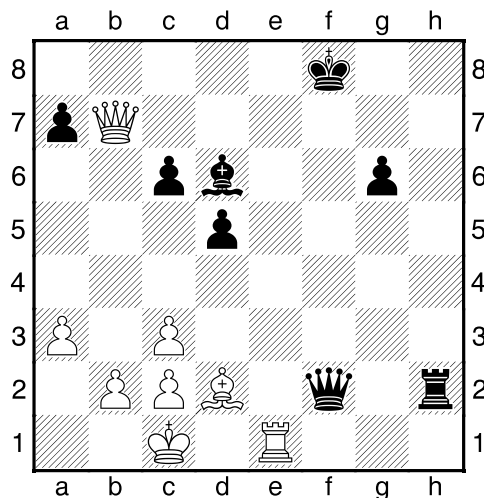
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.g3 b6?!± [4...Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d5=] **5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 d6 9.Rd1?!=** [9.Bg5 a6 10.Rfd1 Nbd7 11.Qd2 Rc8 12.Bf4 0-0 13.Bxd6 Bxd6 14.Qxd6 Rxc4±] **9...a6** [9...Nc6=] **10.Ng5?!±** right square; wrong piece. Carlsen takes the advantage [10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Qd2 Rc8 12.Bf4 Rxc4 13.Bxd6 Rc8=] **10...Bxg2 11.Kxg2 Nc6 12.Qf4 0-0 13.Nce4 Ne8?!=** [13...Ne5 14.b3 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Qc7±] **14.b3 Ra7 15.Bb2 Rd7 16.Rac1 Nc7 17.Nf3 f5 18.Nc3?!±** [18.Ned2 Bf6 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Qe3 Rb8=] **18...g5 19.Qd2 g4 20.Ne1 Bg5 21.e3 Rff7 22.Kg1 Ne8 23.Ne2 Nf6 24.Nf4 Qe8 25.Qc3 Rg7?!=** [25...Bh6 26.Nh5 e5 27.Nxf6+ Rxf6 28.Nd3 Bf8±] **26.b4 Ne4 27.Qb3?!±** [27.Qa3 Rge7 28.Qxa6 Ra7 29.Qb5 Rxa2 30.Ned3 Nd8=] **27...Rge7 28.Qa4** [28.Ned3 Ra7 29.a3 Bh6 30.Kf1 (30.h4 Rac7±; 30.h3 Bxf4 31.Nxf4 Ne5±) 30...Rad7±] **28...Ne5 29.Qxa6?!±** not a good idea for Kramnik to go pawn-grabbing. Carlsen gets a " clear " advantage [29.Qa3?! Bf6 30.Bxe5 dxe5 31.Nfd3 a5±; 29.Qb3?! Bf6 30.Bd4 Rb7±; 29.Bxe5 dxe5 30.Nfd3 Nxf2! 31.Nxf2 (31.Kxf2? Bxe3+ 32.Kf1 (32.Kxe3?? Rxd3+ 33.Nxd3 Qxa4-+) 32...Bxc1 33.Rxc1 Qa8-+) 31...Bxe3 32.Qa3 (32.Rb1 Bxf2+ 33.Kf1 Bd4-+) 32...Bxc1 33.Rxc1 Rd2±] **29...Ra7 30.Qb5 Qxb5 31.cxb5 Rxa2** material equality **32.Rc8+?!-+** Carlsen gets a " winning " advantage [32.Nfd3 Bf6 33.Nxe5 Rxb2 34.Rc8+ Kg7 35.N5d3 Ra2±] **32...Kf7 33.Nfd3 Bf6 34.Nxe5+** [34.Bxe5 dxe5 35.Rc6 Rb7 36.f4 exf4 37.Nxf4 e5 38.Nfd3 Re2-+] **34...dxe5 35.Rc2 Rea7 36.Kg2 Ng5 37.Rd6** [37.Rdd2 Kg6 38.Rd6 e4 39.Bxf6 Kxf6-+] **37...e4 38.Bxf6 Kxf6 39.Kf1 Ra1 40.Ke2 Rb1 41.Rd1 Rxb4** Carlsen goes up a P **42.Ng2 Rxb5** Carlsen goes up 2 P **43.Nf4 Rc5 44.Rb2 b5 45.Kf1 Rac7 46.Rbb1 Rb7 47.Rb4 Rc4 48.Rb2 b4 49.Rdb1 Nf3 50.Kg2 Rd7 51.h3 e5 52.Ne2 Rd2 53.hxg4 fxg4?+-** – 3.66 [53...Rxb2 54.Rxb2 Ne1+ 55.Kg1 Nd3 56.Ra2 b3 57.Ra6+ Kg5-+ – 5.57] **54.Rxd2 Nxd2 55.Rb2 Nf3 56.Kf1?** – 5.23 [56.Rb1 Kf5 57.Ng1 Ng5 58.Ra1 h5-+ – 4.15] **56...b3 57.Kg2 Rc2+** Kramnik resigned. Coming is **58.Rxc2 bxc2 59.Nc1 Ne1+ 60.Kg1 Nd3 61.Ne2 c1Q+ 62.Nxc1 Nxc1 63.Kh2 Ke7 64.Kg1 Kd6 65.Kh1 Kd5 66.Kg2 Kc4 67.Kf1 Kc3 68.Kg2 Kd2** and it is mate in 10 moves **0-1**

In the final round 13, Anand made a great run at getting a share of first in his game against Kramnik. He sacked a pawn on the K-side for an attack. In the early middle game, Kramnik refused to draw by repetition, being up a pawn. Anand eventually broke through, and was poised to go up a pawn with a "winning" advantage. Unfortunately he miscalculated his attack, and decided to sac his B as part of the attack – this brought the game back to equality. Kramnik had not had the advantage the whole game to here. Then Anand refused to draw, when down the B, playing for a win. In the end Anand had 2 pawns for the B, and they agreed to a draw. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Anand, V (2799) – Kramnik, V (2799) [A00]

Corus A Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (13), 27.01.2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6± [3...Qe7=] 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Bf4?!= [7.Bc4 0-0 8.0-0 Be6 9.Qe2 d5 10.Bd3 Nc6±] 7...0-0 8.Qd2 Nd7 9.0-0-0 Nc5 10.Be3 Re8 11.Bc4 Be6 12.Bxe6 Nxe6 13.h4 Qd7 14.Qd5 Qc6?!± [14...Bf6 15.Qf5 Nf8 16.Qxd7 Nxd7=] 15.Qf5 Qc4 16.Kb1 g6 [16...h6 17.Nd2 Qc6 18.Qg4 Kh8±] 17.Qh3 h5 18.Nd2?!= [18.Ng5 Ng7 19.Bd4 a5±] 18...Qe2?!± [18...Qg4] 19.Rde1 Qg4 20.Qh2 d5 [20...Bf6 21.f3 Qf5 22.Qg1 Qb5±] 21.f3 Qa4 22.g4! Anand sacs a P to start an attack 22...Bd6 23.Qf2?!= [23.Qg2 Nf4 24.Bxf4 Qxf4±] 23...hgxg4 24.fxg4 [24.h5 g3 25.Qg1 g5 26.h6 Kh7=] 24...Qxg4 Kramnik goes up a P 25.Reg1 Qh5 the placing of the queen stalls the Anand attack 26.Nf3 Re7 27.Bg5 [27.Nd4?! Nc5 28.Nf5 Rxe3 29.Nxe3 Ne4 30.Qg2 Bc5±] 27...Ree8 28.Be3 Re7 29.Bg5 Anand offers a repetition draw 29...Rd7 Kramnik declines to draw, playing for a win, up a P 30.Nd4 Nxd4?!± [30...Nc5 31.Qe3 Bf8 32.Qh3 Bg7=] 31.Qxd4 Bf8 32.Qe3 c6 33.Qh3 Rd6 34.Bf4 Re6 35.Rg5 Anand finally dislodges the Q, to continue his attack 35...Qh8 36.h5 Rae8 37.Bd2?!= [37.Qg3 Bc5 38.a3 b5±] 37...Bc5 38.Rg3 Re2 39.Kc1 [39.Rg2 R8e5 40.h6 Kh7=] 39...Qg7 40.a3 the first time control move – a waiting, safe move, to consider the attack 40...Bd6?!± [40...b5 41.hxg6 fxg6 42.Rg4 Bf2 43.Rg2 a5=] 41.Rgg1 [41.Rg4 R2e6 42.Kb1 Be5±] 41...Bc5 42.Rg3 Bd6 43.Rg4 R8e6?!± Anand gets a " clear " advantage [43...R2e6 44.Kb1 Be5 45.hxg6 Rxg6±] 44.hxg6 Rxg6 45.Rxg6 fxg6 46.Be3 Qe5 47.Qh7+ Kf8 Anand has broken through but has he got anything left now? 48.Bd2 Qf6 49.Qxb7 material equality 49...Rh2?!+- what should be a losing move by Kramnik. Anand gets a " winning " advantage [49...Bc5 50.Qc8+ Re8 51.Qd7 Re5 52.Kb1 Rh5±] 50.Re1 Qf2 [50...Bg3 51.Bh6+ Rxh6 52.Qc8+ Kg7 53.Qd7+ Qf7 54.Re7 Rh1+ 55.Kd2 Bf4+ 56.Ke2 Rh2+ 57.Kf3 Rh3+ 58.Kg2 Rh2+ 59.Kg1 Qxe7 60.Qxe7+ Kh6+-]



51.Kb1??= Vishy makes a bad attack miscalculation and wrongly decides to sac his B. The game comes back to equality [51.Rd1 Qg2 52.Qxc6 Be7 53.b4 Kf7+- 1.97 Anand would be up a P] 51...Qxd2 Kramnik goes up a B 52.Rf1+ Kg8 53.Qf7+ Kh8 54.Qxg6 Kramnik is up B vs P 54...Qg2 55.Qe8+ this time it is Anand who eschews the draw by repetition, still trying to win. [55.Qf6+ Kh7 56.Qf7+ (56.Qxd6?? Qxc2+ 57.Ka1 Qxb2#) 56...Kh8 57.Qf6+=] 55...Qg8 56.Qxc6 Anand has 2 P vs B 56...Bf8 57.Qa8 Bc5 58.Qxg8+?! For the first time in the entire game, Kramnik gets the advantage [58.Qc6 Be7 59.Qc7 Qg2 60.Qe5+ Kg8 61.Qe6+ Kh8 62.Qe5+=] 58...Kxg8 59.Rf5 Rd2 60.c4 Kg7 61.b4 Be7 ½-½

The final standings were:

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED 2008

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4		
1	Aronian,L	2739	+85	*	½	½	1	½	½	0	½	1	½	½	1	1	8.0 / 13	50.00
2	Carlsen,M	2733	+91	½	*	0	½	0	½	1	½	1	1	1	½	1	8.0 / 13	48.50
3	Anand,V	2799	-7	½	1	*	0	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	7.5 / 13	48.00
4	Radjabov,T	2735	+61	0	½	1	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	7.5 / 13	46.50
5	Leko,P	2753	+15	½	1	½	½	*	½	½	½	0	½	1	½	½	7.0 / 13	46.00
6	Ivanchuk,V	2751	+17	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	7.0 / 13	44.50
7	Kramnik,V	2799	-61	1	0	½	½	½	½	*	½	0	½	½	1	½	6.5 / 13	41.75
8	Adams,Mi	2726	+17	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	0	½	½	1	6.5 / 13	41.75
9	Topalov,V	2780	-67	0	½	0	½	1	½	1	½	*	½	½	0	1	6.0 / 13	39.00
10	Polgar,Ju	2707	+11	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	1	½	*	½	0	1	6.0 / 13	38.00
11	Mamedyarov,S	2760	-45	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	6.0 / 13	37.50
12	Eljanov,P	2692	-27	½	0	½	0	½	0	0	½	1	1	½	*	0	5.0 / 13	32.00
13	Gelfand,B	2737	-75	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	1	*	5.0 / 13	31.75
14	Van Wely,L	2681	-15	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	0	1	½	0	½	*	5.0 / 13	31.75

Former World Champion American GM Robert (Bobby) Fischer Dies

(By GUDJON HELGASON, Associated Press Writer Fri Jan 18, 9:48 AM ET)



REYKJAVIK, Iceland - Bobby Fischer, the reclusive chess genius who became a Cold War hero by dethroning the Soviet world champion in 1972 and later renounced his American citizenship, has died. He was 64.

Fischer died in a Reykjavik hospital on Thursday [January 17] of kidney failure after a long illness, his spokesman, Gardar Sverrisson, said Friday.

Born in Chicago and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Fischer faced criminal charges in the United States for playing a 1992 rematch against Boris Spassky in Yugoslavia in defiance of international sanctions. In 2005, he moved to Iceland, a chess-mad nation and site of his greatest triumph.

As a champion, he used his eccentricities to unsettle opponents, but Fischer's reputation as a genius of chess was soon eclipsed, in the eyes of many, by his idiosyncrasies.

"Chess is war on a board," he once said. "The object is to crush the other man's mind."

Garry Kasparov, the former world chess champion from Russia, said Fischer's ascent in the chess world in the 1960s and his promotion of chess worldwide was "a revolutionary breakthrough" for the game.

"The tragedy is that he left this world too early, and his extravagant life and scandalous statements did not contribute to the popularity of chess," Kasparov told The Associated Press.

Fischer lost his world title in 1975 after refusing to defend it against Anatoly Karpov. He dropped out of competitive chess and largely out of view, emerging occasionally to make erratic and often anti-Semitic comments, although his mother was Jewish.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, president of the World Chess Federation, called Fischer "a phenomenon and an epoch in chess history, and an intellectual giant I would rank next to Newton and Einstein."

Spassky, reached briefly at his home in France, said: "I am very sorry, but Bobby Fischer is dead. Goodbye."

An American chess champion at 14 and a grand master at 15, Fischer dethroned Spassky in 1972 in a series of games in Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, to become the first officially recognized world champion born in the United States.

The match, at the height of the Cold War, took on mythic dimensions as a clash between the world's two superpowers.

Fischer played — and won — an exhibition rematch against Spassky on the resort island of Sveti Stefan, but the game was in violation of U.S. sanctions imposed to punish then-President Slobodan Milosevic.

In July 2004, Fischer was arrested at Japan's Narita airport for traveling on a revoked U.S. passport and was threatened with extradition to the United States to face charges of violating sanctions.

He spent nine months in custody before the dispute was resolved when Iceland granted him citizenship and he moved there with his longtime companion, the Japanese chess player Miyoko Watai. She survives him.

In his final years, Fischer railed against the chess establishment, alleging that the outcomes of many top-level chess matches were decided in advance.

Instead, he championed his concept of random chess, in which pieces are shuffled at the beginning of each match in a bid to reinvigorate the game.

"I don't play the old chess," he told reporters when he arrived in Iceland in 2005. "But obviously if I did, I would be the best."

Born in Chicago in March 9, 1943, Robert James Fischer was a child prodigy, playing competitively from the age of 8.

At 13, he became the youngest player to win the United States Junior Championship. At 14, he won the United States Open Championship for the first of eight times.

At 15, he gained the title of international grand master, the youngest person to hold the title.

Tall, charismatic and with striking looks, he was a chess star — but already gaining a reputation for volatile behavior.

He turned up late for tournaments, walked out of matches, refused to play unless the lighting suited him and was intolerant of photographers and cartoonists. He was convinced of his own superiority and called the Soviets "Commie cheats."

His behavior often unsettled opponents — to Fischer's advantage.

This was seen most famously in the showdown with Spassky in Reykjavik between July and September 1972. Having agreed to play Spassky in Yugoslavia, Fischer raised one objection after another to the arrangements and they wound up playing in Iceland.

When play got under way, days late, Fischer lost the first game with an elementary blunder after discovering that television cameras he had reluctantly accepted were not unseen and unheard, but right behind the players' chairs.

He boycotted the second game and the referee awarded the point to Spassky, putting the Russian ahead 2-0.

But then Spassky agreed to Fischer's demand that the games be played in a back room away from cameras. Fischer went on to beat Spassky, 12.5 points to 8.5 points in 21 games.

Millions of Americans, gripped by the contest, rejoiced in the victory over their Cold War adversary.

In the recent book "White King and Red Queen," the British author Daniel Johnson said the match was "an abstract antagonism on an abstract battleground using abstract weapons ... yet their struggle embraced all human life."

"In Spassky's submission to his fate and Fischer's fierce exultant triumph, the Cold War's denouement was already foreshadowed."

The victory made Fischer the first U.S.-born world champion. Paul Morphy, an American, was regarded as the world's best player from 1858 to 1862, and William Steinitz, an Austrian immigrant to the United States, was an official champion from 1886 to 1894.

Spraggett Third – Seville International, Spain



This large European swiss, attracting 232 players, was held Jan. 5 – 12. Canadian GM Kevin Spraggett, 5 times Canadian champion, who now plays out of Portugal, came 2nd/9th in a strong field of GM's, winning third on tie-break. Congratulations Kevin!

Here is the top standings:

*XXXIII Abierto Internacional "Ciudad de Sevilla"
Final Ranking*

Rank	SNo.		Name	Rtg	FED	Club	Pts	BH.	Fide
1	10	GM	MOVSZISZIAN Karen	2527	ARM	Armenia	7½	44	40½
2	3	GM	KHAMRAKULOV Ibragim S	2589	ESP	Uzbekistan	7	47½	38
3	4	GM	SPRAGGETT Kevin	2588	CAN	Canada	7	45½	36½
4	12	GM	MIRZOEV Azer	2518	AZE	Azerbaijan	7	45½	36½
5	6	GM	LOPEZ MARTINEZ Josep Manuel	2550	ESP	Spain	7	44½	39
6	5	GM	EPISHIN Vladimir	2577	RUS	Russia	7	44½	37
7	11	GM	PAUNOVIC Dragan	2522	SRB	Serbia	7	44	38
8	1	GM	KORNEEV Oleg	2645	RUS	Russia	7	42½	35
9	32	IM	IVANOV Jordan	2371	BUL	Bulgaria	7	37½	32½

Gibtelecom Masters, Gibraltar

This swiss tournament was held Jan. 22 – 31. It was won on tie-break by American GM Hikaru Nakamura, over Chinese GM Xiangzhi Bu (2007 Canadian Open Champion), winning both fast time control games. Both had finished with 8/10 pts.

Toronto Closed Championship Underway

On Tuesday, January 22, the Toronto Closed Chess Championship 2008 started at the Willowdale Chess Club.

18 players registered for this event - 10 for the Championship section and 8 for the Reserves section. Those participating are:

Championship Section:

.IM Nikolay Noritsyn, 2007 Canadian Champion

Nikolay Noritsyn



Michael Kimelman
FM Michael Barron
Irina Barron
WIM Nava Starr
Roman Sapozhnikov
Artem Samsonkin
Victor Plotkin
Yuanling Yuan (SCC Member)
Erwin Casareno (SCC Member)

Reserves Section:

Mickey Stein (Past SCC Member)

Max Kornmann

Robert Armstrong, your intrepid editor (SCC Member)

Oswald Barmasch

Ken Kurkowski (SCC Member)

Alex Ferreira (SCC Member)

Oscar Villalobos (SCC Member)

Boris Chudnovsky

GTCL Club Team (U 2000) League – SCC Defeated

On January 24, Willowdale visited SCC to play the 4-player team match. The result was 3-1 for Willowdale. Here are the individual results:

	SCC		Willowdale
Bd. 1	Oscar Villalobos (1932)	0 – 1	Boris Chudnovsky (1996)
Bd. 2	Aaron Wu (1724)	0 – 1	Mickey Stein (2009)
Bd. 3	Jim Roe (1603)	0 – 1	Gary Krasnosheky (1821)
Bd. 4	Maurice Smith (1544)	1 – 0	Max Kornmann (1799)

Here is Maurice's lone SCC win (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Smith (SCC), M (1544) – Kornmann (Willowdale), M (1799) [C41]

GTCL U 2000 League SCC, 24.01.2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6± [2...Nf6=] 3.Bc4 Be7 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3?!= [5.d4 exd4 6.Re1 0-0±] 5...0-0 6.h3 Nc6 7.Nc3 Na5 8.Bb3 Nxb3 9.axb3 c6 10.d4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Re8 12.Be3 a6 13.Re1 13...Nd7?!± [13...d5] 14.Nf5 this drops the dP 14...Bf8?!± Maurice gets a " clear " advantage [14...Ne5 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Qd2 f6±] 15.Nxd6 Maurice goes up a P 15...Bxd6?!+- Maurice gets a " winning " advantage [15...Re6 16.Bf4 Qe7 17.Nf5 Qf6±] 16.Qxd6 Re6 17.Qd2 Qe7 [17...b5 18.f4 b4 19.Na4 Qe7 20.e5 Rb8+-; 17...a5 18.b4 a4+-] 18.Rad1 Nf6 [18...b5 19.Bf4 Qe8+-] 19.Qd8+ Qf8 20.Qxf8+ Kxf8 21.f3 b5 22.Rd3 Re8 23.Bc5+ Kg8 24.Red1 Be6 25.Ne2 g5?!+- 3.16 [25...Rec8 26.Nd4 h5+- 2.79] 26.Rd6 Rac8 27.Nd4 Nd7??+- 6.55 Max misses the principle of " remove the defender " [27...h5 28.Ra1 g4 29.Rxa6 gxf3 30.gxf3 Nxe4! 31.fxe4 Bxh3 32.Raxc6 Rxc6 33.Rxc6 Rxe4+- 3.85] 28.Nxe6+- 6.63 Maurice will be up B + P. Max resigned 1-0

2007/8 SCC Club Championship

On Jan. 3 SCC started its 2007/8 Club Championship. It is in 2 sections again this year. 52 players registered.

The top section A is a 10-player 9-round round robin. It is composed of the top 8 rated players who registered, plus the first and second place winner in the 2006/7 Club Championship Reserves. Playing this year are a master, 4 experts and 5 A players (ratings as of start of the tournament): Master Bryan Lamb; junior girl expert Yuanling Yuan, expert John Hall; expert Alex Ferreira; expert Erwin Casareno; A player Rick

Garel; A player Randy Moysoski; A player Yibing Fan; A player Bob Armstrong (1st - Reserves); and A player Josh Sherman (2nd - Reserves).

The other 42 members play in a one section, 10 round swiss. The first and second place finishers earn the right to play in the Championship Section for the 2008/9 Club Championship.

After 5 rounds, the following players lead:

Championship Section : 1st – 3 ½ pts. – Erwin Casareno

[Note: John Hall has 3 pts., with 1 game outstanding, so he could theoretically be in first with 4 pts; Randy Moysoski has only 2 pts., but with 2 games outstanding, so he could theoretically take 1st also; Bryan Lamb and Rick Garel both have 2 ½ pts, with 1 game outstanding, so they could tie Erwin]

Reserves : 1st – 4 ½ pts. – Aaron Wu

2nd/3rd – 4 pts. – Linda Xia

Kevin Wu

In Rd. 3, two major upsets occurred in the Championship Group. Master Bryan Lamb was totally dominated by Rick Garel – Bryan was never able to get the advantage



Rick Garel

the whole game. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Lamb, B (2250) – Garel, R (1917) [B50]

SCC Club Championship SCC (3), 17.01.2008

1.e4 c5 2.**Nf3 d6** 3.**c3?!=** [3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.0-0 Be7±] **3...Nf6 4.Bd3** [4.Bb5+ Nc6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Qa4 Qb6=] **4...Nc6 5.Bc2 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.Qe2** [7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 d5 9.e5 Ne4 10.0-0 e6=] **7...Qa5** [7...e6 8.d3 Be7 9.0-0 d5=] **8.g4?!±** Rick gets an early advantage [8.0-0 g5 9.d3 g4 10.hxg4 Bxg4=] **8...Bg6 9.d3** [9.Na3 e6 10.d3 0-0-0±] **9...0-0-0 10.Nbd2** [10.Na3 d5 11.e5 Nd7±] **10...d5?!=** [10...e6 11.Nh4 Be7 12.Nxg6 hxg6 13.Nb3 Qa6±] **11.a3?!±** [11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nc4 Qc7=] **11...e6 12.b4 Qc7 13.Nb3?+** Rick gets a " winning " advantage [13.0-0 Kb8 14.Bb2 Bd6 15.Rfd1 Rhe8±] **13...c4 14.dxc4 Bxe4?!±** [14...dxe4 15.Nfd4 Ne5 16.Nd2 e3 17.Qxe3 Bxc2 18.Nxc2 Nd3+ 19.Ke2 a6-+] **15.Bxe4** [15.c5 Bxc2 16.Qxc2 Be7±] **15...dxe4** [15...Nxe4 16.cxd5 exd5 17.0-0 h5±] **16.Ng5?!+** [16.Nfd4 Ne5 17.Bf4 Nd3+ 18.Qxd3 Qxf4 19.Qe3 Qxe3+ 20.fxe3 e5 21.Ne2 Rd3±] **16...Ne5?!±** [16...h5 17.gxh5 Ne5 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Nxe4 Nd3+ 20.Qxd3 Bxf4-+] **17.Nxe4?!+ – 2.36** Bryan goes up a P [17.Bf4 Bd6 18.Nxe4 Nd3+ 19.Qxd3 Bxf4±] **17...Nd3+**

18.Kf1 Qxc4 material equality **19.Nbd2 Qc6 20.f3 Nxe4?!?** [20...Kb8 21.Rb1 Be7 22.b5 Qc8 23.Nxf6 gxf6+- - 2.30] **21.Nxe4 f5** [21...h5 22.Bg5 f6 23.Rd1 Qc4 24.Nxf6 Be7+] **22.Bg5** [22.gxf5?! exf5 23.Bg5 fxe4 24.Bxd8 Bxb4 25.Qxe4 Qxe4 26.fxe4 Bxc3 27.Bg5 Bxa1 28.Ke2 Nc5 29.Rxa1 Nxe4+; 22.Ng5?! Qxc3 23.Kg2 (23.Rb1? Nxc1-+) 23...Qxa1-+] **22...fxe4 23.Bxd8 Kxd8 24.Qxe4 Qxe4 25.fxe4** Rick is up B + N vs R + P **25...Ne5 26.Rd1+ Kc7 27.Ke2 Be7 28.Rhg1?!-+ [28.a4 g5 29.a5 h5 30.gxh5 Rxh5+]** **28...Nc4?=[28...g5 29.a4 h5 30.gxh5 Rxh5 31.Rg3 Ng6-+]** **29.a4?+ [29.Rgf1 g5= (29...Re8 30.Rf7 g5 31.Rxh7 Nxa3=)] 29...Bf6 30.g5?!-+ [30.Rg3 Nb2 31.Ra1 Rc8 32.Ra2 Nc4+]** **30...Be7?!?** [30...Be5 31.a5 b5 32.Rgf1 Nd6 33.Rd3 g6-+] **31.Rgf1?!-+ [31.h4 g6 32.a5 Ne5 33.Rh1 Kc6+; 31.Rdf1 Ne5 32.Rg3 g6 33.Rh1 h6+]** **31...Ne5 32.h4 [32.Rg1 a5 33.h4 axb4 34.cxb4 Ra8-+]** **32...h6 33.Rh1 hxg5 34.hxg5 Rxh1 35.Rxh1 Bxg5** Rick is up B + N vs R **36.Rh7 Bf6 37.Kd2 Kc6 38.Rh3 b6 39.Kc2 a5 40.Kb3 g5 41.Rg3 g4 42.c4?+- - 4.73 [42.Rg2 Bg5 43.Kc2 Kd6 44.Rg1 Bf4 45.Kd1 Bh2 46.Rf1 g3+- - 3.94]** **42...Bh4 43.Rg2 g3?+- - 4.32 [43...axb4 44.Kxb4 Be1+ 45.Ka3 g3+- - 6.29]** **44.c5 axb4?+- - 4.31 [44...bxc5 45.b5+ Kb6 46.Kc2 Ng6 47.Rg1 e5+- - 7.56]** **45.cxb6 Kxb6 46.Kxb4 Nd3+ 47.Kc4 Ne1 48.Rb2+ Kc6 49.a5 g2 50.Rxg2 Nxg2** Rick is up B + N vs P **51.a6 Bf2+- - 6.75 0-1**

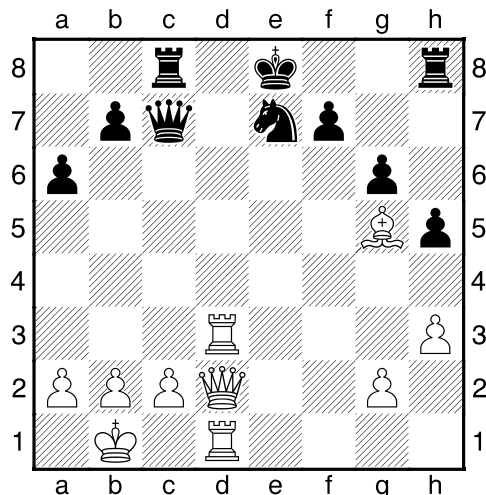
Another upset in the top group saw Josh Sherman defeat Yuanling Yuan.
Yuanling never got her king castled, and Josh piled on the pressure on d7 and e7, until her position collapsed. Here is their game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Sherman, J (1850) – Yuan, Y (2191) [B70]

SCC Club Championship , Toronto (3), 17.01.2008

1.e4 c5± 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bg5 Bg7 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Qe2 a6 9.Bxd7+ Nbx7?!± Josh gets the advantage [9...Nfxd7 10.Be3 Nc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.0-0 0-0=] **10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.f4 Qa5 [11...h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd5 Qa5 14.Kb1 Bg7±]** **12.Nb3 Qc7 13.Rhe1 Ng8?+-** Josh gets a " winning " advantage [13...h6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nd5 Qc6±] **14.Nd5?!± [14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 Nxe5 16.Nd5 Qc4 17.Qd2 f6 18.Nb6 Qc7 19.Nxc8 fxg5 20.Qc3 Qxc3 21.bxc3 Nc4+-]** **14...Qc6 [14...Qc4 15.Qxc4 Rxc4 16.e5 dxe5 17.Na5 Rc8 18.Nxb7 f6 19.Bh4 Rc6±]** **15.Rd3?!± [15.Kb1 h6 16.Bh4 g5 17.fxg5 hxg5 18.Bxg5 Be5±]** **15...Nb6?!± [15...h6 16.Bh4 Qa4 17.e5 dxe5 18.Kb1 g5 19.Bf2 e4 20.Re3 (20.Qxe4?! Qxe4 21.Rxe4 Ndf6 22.Nxf6+ Nxf6 23.Rb4 b5=) 20...Ngf6 21.fxg5 hxg5±]** **16.Nxb6 Qxb6 17.e5 dxe5 18.fxe5 Qe6** 1.46 [18...Bh6? 19.h4 Qe6 20.Qd2 Bxg5 21.hxg5 Qg4+- 2.52; 18...h6? 19.Be3 Qe6 20.Qd2 Bxe5 21.Bd4 f6 22.Bxe5 fxe5 23.Rd5 e4 24.Nc5 Rxc5 25.Rxc5 Nf6+- 2.18] **19.Kb1 Nh6 20.Qd2** Josh starts to pile up on the d-file **20...Ng4 21.Nc5 Qc6 22.Nd7?! 3.53 [22.Bxe7! Kxe7 23.Qg5+ Ke8 24.Red1 f6 25.Qxg4 f5 26.Qg5 Qb6+- 8.93 Josh would be up a P, with a devastating attack.] 22...h5 4.59 [22...a5? 23.Rd1 f6 24.Rc3 fxg5 25.Rxc6 Rxc6+- 5.84 Josh would be up Q vs R + B]** **23.h3 Nh6?+- 7.56 [23...Nxe5 24.Nxe5 Bxe5 25.Rxe5 f6 26.Rc3 Rd8 27.Rxe7+ Kxe7 28.Qe1+ Qe6 29.Re3 Rd6 30.Rxe6+ Rxe6 31.Qb4+ Ke8+- 5.41 Josh would be up Q + B vs R]** **24.Rd1?+- 7.66 [24.Bxe7! Qxc2+ (24...Kxe7?? 25.Qb4+ Qc5 (25...Kd8?? 26.Nb8+ Ke8 27.Nxc6 Rxc6 28.Qd4 f6 29.exf6+ Kf7 30.Re7+ Kg8 31.Rxg7+ Kf8 32.Qd8#) 26.Nxc5 Kf8 27.Qxb7 Re8+-) 25.Qxc2 Rxc2 26.Ba3 Kd8 27.Kxc2 Kc7+- 12.28 Josh would be up a R]** **24...Qc7?+- 11.84 [24...Qxc2+ 25.Qxc2 Rxc2 26.Kxc2 Nf5 27.Rc3 f6 28.e6 Nd6+- 10.89]** **25.Nf6?+- 6.52 [25.Rc3 Qxc3 26.bxc3 Nf5 27.Nf6+ Bxf6 28.Qd7+ Kf8 29.Qxc8+ Kg7 30.exf6+ exf6 31.Bxf6+ Kxf6 32.Qxh8+ Kg5+- 20.52 Josh would be up Q + R vs N]** **25...Bxf6?+- 8.65 [25...exf6 26.exf6 0-0 27.fxg7 Rfe8+- 6.67]** **26.exf6 Nf5 27.fxe7 Nxe7**

Position after 27...Nxe7



28.Bxe7?+- 9.08 Josh goes up a B. Yuanling resigned, as she cannot recapture the B and must lose more material. [better is 28.Bf4 Qb6 29.Rd6 Nc6 30.Re6+ fxe6 31.Qd7+ Kf8 32.Qxc8+ Kf7 33.Qxh8 Nd4 34.Rxd4+-] The game could have continued **28...f6** [28...Kxe7 29.Rd7+ Kf8 30.Rxc7 Rxc7 31.Qd8+ Kg7 32.Qxc7 b5+-; 28...Qxe7 29.Re3 Qxe3 30.Qxe3+ Kf8 31.Rd7 Re8 32.Qf2 Rh7+-] **29.Rc3 Kf7 30.Rxc7 Rxc7 31.Qd5+ Kg7 32.Bxf6+ Kh6+-** and mate in 10 moves **1-0**

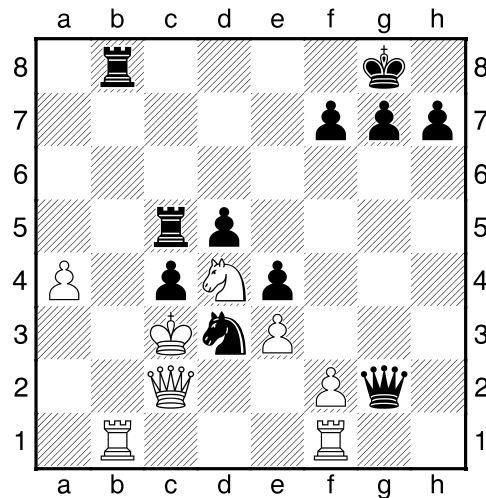
In the Reserves Section in Rd.3, one of our junior girls, Linda Xia, dominated in her game with Tom Muir. She went up 1,2 and then 3 pawns. Then she harassed Tom's hapless King caught in the centre, until there was a mate. Here is their game
(Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Muir, T (1672) – Xia, L (1401) [D45]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) Toronto (3), 17.01.2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.c5 [6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5=] **6...b6 7.b4 a5 8.Ba3?+-** this is a miscalculation. Tom loses a P. Linda gets a " winning " advantage. [8.b5 Bb7 9.cxb6 Bb4 10.Bd2 0-0=] **8...axb4 9.Bxb4 bxc5 10.dxc5 Bxc5** Linda goes up a P **11.Bxc5 Nxc5 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 Qa5** [13...Ba6 14.Qc2 Nce4 15.Bxa6 Rxa6+-] **14.Qc2 Ba6 15.Bxa6 Rxa6** [15...Nxa6 16.Qd2 Rfb8 17.Rfc1 Qa3+-] **16.Ne5 Qc7 17.Nd3 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Rfa8 19.a4 Nd7 20.Ra3 c5 21.Rfa1 c4 22.Qc2 Nc5 23.Kf1?+-** – 4.79 Leaving the hP unprotected [23.Rb1 Qe5 24.Rb5 Ra5 25.Qb2 Nd3 26.Rxa5 Rxa5 27.Qb6 Ra8+- – 2.18] **23...Qxh2** Linda goes up 2 P. But what is disastrous is the potential for Linda's Q & N to attack Tom's K. **24.Nb5?+-** – 6.76 [24.Ne2 Ne4 25.Rd1 Rb8+- – 5.37] **24...Ra5 25.Nd4 Nd3?+-** – 4.65 [25...Qh1+ 26.Ke2 Qxg2 27.Qb1 e5 28.Nc6 d4! – 7.04 (28...R5a6 29.Nxe5 Rf6+- – 6.69) 29.Nxe5 (29.Nxa5?? d3+ 30.Ke1 Qg1+ 31.Kd2 Qxf2+ 32.Kd1 Qe2+ 33.Kc1 d2+ 34.Kb2 d1Q+ 35.Kc3 Qdd2#) 29...d3+ 30.Rxd3 cxd3+ 31.Nxd3 Qg4+ 32.f3 Qg2+ 33.Nf2 Rxa4 34.Rxa4 Nxa4+- – 8.20 Linda would be up R + P] **26.Nc6?+-** – 6.59 [26.Nf3 Qh1+ 27.Ng1 f5+- – 4.54] **26...Rc5?+-** – 5.34 [26...R5a6 27.Nd4 e5 28.Nf3 Qh1+ 29.Ng1 e4+- – 7.52] **27.Nd4 Qh1+ 28.Ke2 Qxg2** Linda goes up 3 P's **29.Rf1?+-** – 10.45 more drastic measures are called for. Time to sac the exchange to relieve the pressure. [29.Rxd3 cxd3+ 30.Qxd3 Rac8+- – 6.14] **29...e5 30.Nf3** – 10.45 [30.Rxd3? cxd3+ 31.Qxd3 exd4 32.exd4 Qg4+ 33.Kd2 Rc4+- – 23.34] **30...e4?+-** – 9.09 there is a

long mate here [30...Rb8 31.a5 Rcb5 (31...Rb2? 32.Qxb2 Nxb2 33.Rg1 Qh3 34.a6 Qc8 35.a7 Qa8 36.Rb1 c3 37.Nxe5 Rc7+- - 7.85) 32.Ne1 Nxe1 33.Rxe1 Rb2 34.Rc3 d4 35.exd4 exd4 36.Rxc4 Rxc2+ 37.Rxc2 Re8+ 38.Kd3 Qf3+ 39.Kc4 Rc8+ 40.Kb4 Rb8+ 41.Kc5 Qf5+ 42.Kc4 Qxc2+ 43.Kd5 Rb5+ 44.Kxd4 Qd2+ 45.Ke4 Rb4+ 46.Kf3 Rf4+ 47.Kg2 Qxf2+ 48.Kh3 Rh4#] **31.Nd4 Qg4+?-+ - 6.86** [31...Rb8 32.a5 Rb2 33.Qxb2 Nxb2 34.a6 Qg4+ 35.Kd2 c3+ 36.Rxc3 Nc4+ 37.Rxc4 Rxc4 38.a7 Rxd4+ 39.exd4 Qf4+ 40.Ke1 Qc1+ 41.Ke2 Qb2+ 42.Ke3 Qa3+ 43.Ke2 Qa2+ 44.Ke3 Qxa7+- - 15.61] **32.Kd2 Rac8 33.Kc3 Qg2?+- - 6.16** [33...Rb8 34.Nb5 Qg5+- - 8.37] **34.Raa1 Rb8 35.Rab1 - 8.05** [35.Qa2? Qh2 36.Rfb1 Rb3+ 37.Rxb3 cxb3+ 38.Kxb3 Rc4+- - 12.72; 35.Qe2? Qg6 36.Rab1 Rb3+ 37.Nxb3 cxb3+ 38.Kxb3 Qb6+ 39.Ka2 Qa7 40.Qd1 Rc4+- - 10.24]



35...Rb3+! Linda offers an exchange sac, in exchange for winning the Q for her R **36.Kd2?+- - 20.41** [36.Nxb3 cxb3+ 37.Kxb3 Rxc2 38.Kxc2 h5+- - 9.02] **36...c3+** keeping up a relentless attack **37.Ke2?+-** leads to a quick mate [37.Qxc3 Rbxc3 38.a5 Nb4 39.Rb3 Rc2+ 40.Ke1 Rc1+ 41.Kd2 Qxf1 42.Rxb4 Qd3#] **37...Qg4+ 38.f3 Qg2+** Tom resigned. It is mate: **39.Rf2 Qxf2+ 40.Kd1 Qe1# 0-1**

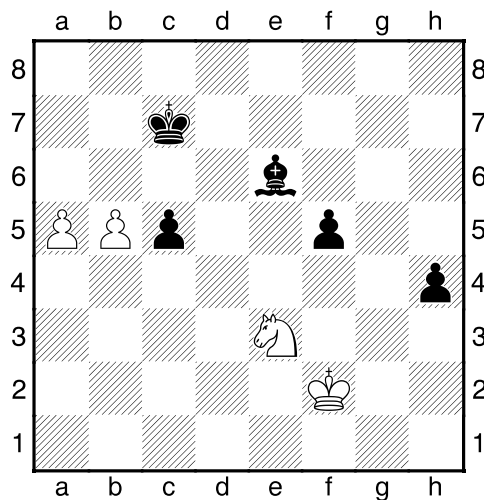
In Rd. 4, in the Championship section, Josh Sherman became co-leader with Erwin Casareno, when he drew with Yibing Fan in a back and forth game. Yibing had the advantage for much of the first part of the game (even missing winning a minor piece). But in the time pressure at the end, he failed to win Josh's knight, which Josh had left hanging, and this gave Josh the advantage, which he then augmented into a " winning " advantage, but he had almost no time left. Then he went wrong, and gave Yibing a draw. Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Fan, Y (1804) – Sherman, J (1850) [A44]

SCC Club Championship . SCC (4), 24.01.2008

1.d4 c5± 2.d5 [2.dxc5 e6 3.Nc3 Bxc5 4.Ne4 Qc7 5.Nxc5 Qxc5±] **2...e5?!±** Yibing gets an early " clear " advantage [2...Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nbd7±] **3.c4?!±** [3.e4 d6 4.Bb5+ Nd7 5.Ne2 Ngf6±] **3...d6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.e4 a6 6.Bd3 Bg5 7.Nge2 Bxc1 8.Rxc1 Bg4 9.Qd2 Nf6 10.Ng3 h5 11.h3 Bc8 12.Qg5?!=** [12.0-0 h4 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Nbd7±] **12...Kf8?!±** [12...h4 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Nh5=] **13.Be2 h4?!±** [13...Qe7 14.h4 Rh6 15.Nf5 Bxf5 16.exf5 Qc7±; 13...Qb6?! 14.0-0 Rh6 15.f4 Rg6 16.Qh4 Qxb2±] **14.Nh5 Nbd7** [14...Rh7 15.Nxf6 Qxf6 16.Qxf6 gxf6 17.Bg4 Bxg4

18.hxg4 Nd7] **15.Qxg7+** Yibing goes up a P **15...Ke7 16.Nxf6 Nxf6 17.Qg5 Bd7 18.f4?** [18.Qe3 Qg8 19.Bf3 b5 20.Kd1 Rb8 21.Kc2 Qg7] **18...exf4?+-** 5.95 this should lose the N. Yibing gets a " winning " advantage [18...Qg8 19.Rb1 Qxg5 20.fxg5 Nh7=] **19.Qxf4?+-** 2.68 Yibing fails to see the win of the N [19.e5 dxe5 20.Ne4 Kf8 21.Nxf6 Qe7+- 7.66 Yibing would be up N vs P] **19...Qg8 20.Rf1** [20.e5 Ne8 21.exd6+ Kd8 22.Ne4 Qxg2 23.Kd2 Qg7+- 2.73] **20...Qg3+ 21.Kd2 Qxf4+ 22.Rxf4 Rag8 23.Rcf1 Rh6 24.R1f2 Rg7 25.a3 Ne8 26.b4 b6 27.b5 axb5 28.cxb5 Rf6 29.Rxf6?!±** [29.Bf1 Rxf4 30.Rxf4 Rh7+-] **29...Nxf6 30.e5?**= Yibing has lost his advantage [30.Bf1 Nh5 31.Kc1 Kd8±] **30...Ne8 31.exd6+ Nxd6 32.a4** [32.Bf1 Rg6 33.a4 Bc8±] **32...Rg3?!±** [32...f5 33.Rf4 Rxd2 34.Rxh4 Kf6 35.Kd3 Rg3+ 36.Kd2 Rg2 37.Kd3 Rg3+=] **33.Bf3?**= [33.Bf1 Rg8 34.Rf4 Nf5 35.Rf3 Nd4 36.Re3+ Kd8±] **33...Nc4+ 34.Ke1 Ne5?±** [34...Bf5? 35.Re2+ Kd6 36.Re8 Bxh3 37.Ne4+ Kd7 38.Rf8 Ke7 39.Rb8 Bxg2 40.Nxg3 Bxf3 41.Nf5+ Kf6 42.d6 Ke6 43.Re8+ Kd7 44.Re7+ Kd8±; 34...f5 35.Ne2 Rg8 36.Nf4 Kd6 37.Rc2 Ne5=] **35.Re2 f6 36.d6+ Kd8?!+-** Yibing gets back a " winning " advantage [36...Ke6 37.Kd1 f5 38.Kc2 Kxd6 39.Rd2+ Kc7 40.Nd5+ Kb7 41.Nf6+ Kc8 42.Rd6 Kc7 43.Rd5 Rg6 44.Nxd7 Nxd7 45.Rxf5 Rf6 46.Rxf6 Nxf6±] **37.Nd5 Nxf3+ 1.66** [37...Bxh3? 38.Nxf6 Rg5 39.a5 bxa5 40.b6 Bc8 41.b7 Bxb7 42.Bxb7 c4+- 2.50] **38.gxf3 Rxf3 39.Nxb6 Rxh3 3.16** material equality, but Josh is lost **40.Re7 Rd3??+-** 7.03 in the time pressure, Josh blunders his B [40...Bf5 41.Ra7 Ke8 42.Ra8+ Kf7 43.d7 Bxd7 44.Nxd7 c4+- 4.65] **41.Nc4??** likewise, Yibing then fails to capture the B, and gives Josh a " slight " advantage for the first time in the game. [41.Rxd7+ Ke8 42.Re7+ Kd8 43.Re6 c4+-] **41...Rxd6?!=** Josh goes up a P, but he should have kicked the N first [41...Rd4 42.Na5 Rxd6 43.Re4 Kc7] **42.Re4** [42.Rh7? Rd4 43.Na5 Kc7 44.Nc6 Rxa4-; 42.Rf7? Rd4 43.Nb6 Be8 44.Rxf6 c4 45.Ke2 c3 46.Rf1 c2 47.Rc1 Bg6-; 42.Rg7?! Rd4 43.Nb6 Be8 44.Ra7 c4 45.Ra8+ Ke7 46.Kf2 c3 47.Rc8 Rd6 48.a5 Bxb5 49.Rxc3 Ke6 50.Rc5 Rd2+ 51.Ke3 Re2+ 52.Kd4 Be8] **42...Re6 43.Rxe6?+-** Josh gets a " winning " advantage, but is in desperate time trouble. [43.Re3 Rxe3+ 44.Nxe3 Kc8 45.Nd5 f5 46.Kf2 Kb7 47.Kg2 Be6 48.Nf4 Bc4 49.Kh3 Kb6 50.Kxh4 Bb3 51.Kg5 Bxa4 52.Kxf5 Bb3=] **43...Bxe6 44.Ne3 Kc7 45.a5 f5 46.Kf2**



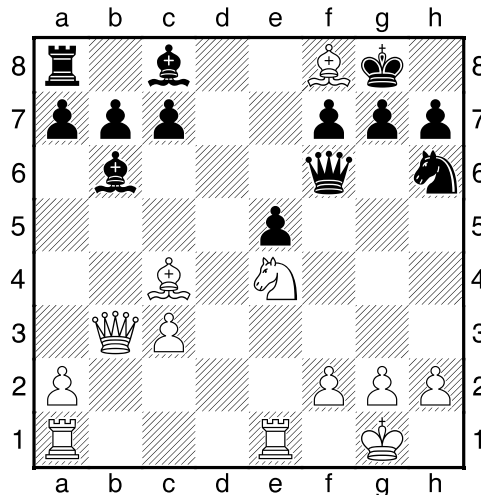
f4?? Josh, in the time pressure, gives Yibing back the draw [46...h3 47.Nd1 f4 48.Kg1 Bd7 49.Nc3 f3 50.b6+ Kc6-] **47.Ng2 Bc4?!=** Score sheet problem due to time pressure. A few more moves were played but then draw was agreed.[47...c4] ½-½

In the Reserves section in Rd. 4, Michael Perez won a tactic-filled game against Jeff Seedhouse, to place # 5/8, ½ point off the lead. Here is that game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Perez, M (1728) – Seedhouse, J (1519) [C21]
 SCC Club Championship (Reserves) SCC (4), 24.01.2008

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 Jeff goes up the gambitted P **3.Bc4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bb4+ 5.c3 dxc3 6.bxc3 Ba5 7.Qb3 Qe7 8.0-0 d6?!±** [8...Qxe4?? 9.Bxf7+ Kf8 10.Re1 Qxe1+ 11.Nxe1+-; 8...Bb6 9.Ba3 d6 10.Re1 Qf6=] **9.Ba3?±** Jeff gets the advantage [9.Nbd2 Bb6 10.Ba3 Kf8 11.Rae1 f6±] **9...Nh6 10.Nbd2?!±** Jeff gets a " clear " advantage [10.Bd5?! 0-0 11.Nbd2 Qf6±; 10.Bc1 0-0 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12.Nbd2 Qf6±] **10...0-0 11.Rfe1** [11.Rae1 Ne5 12.Nxe5 Qxe5 13.Bb2 Bb6±] **11...Qf6?±** Jeff loses his advantage [11...Ne5 12.Nxe5 Qxe5±] **12.e5 Nxe5?±** This will lose the exchange, because of the pin on the dP. Michael gets a " clear " advantage [12...Qg6 13.Bd5 Bb6 14.exd6 Ng4 15.Re2 cxd6 16.Nc4 Nf6 17.Nxb6 axb6 18.Bxd6 Nxd5 19.Qxd5 Be6 20.Qg5 Rfc8= material equality] **13.Nxe5 dxe5?!+-** Michael gets a " winning " advantage [13...Bf5 14.Nef3 Qxc3 15.Qa4 Rfd8 16.Bb3 Bb6± Michael would be up N vs 3 P's] **14.Bxf8 Bb6 15.Ne4** protecting f2 and attacking the Q, so the Bl K cannot capture the f8B.

Position after 15.Ne4



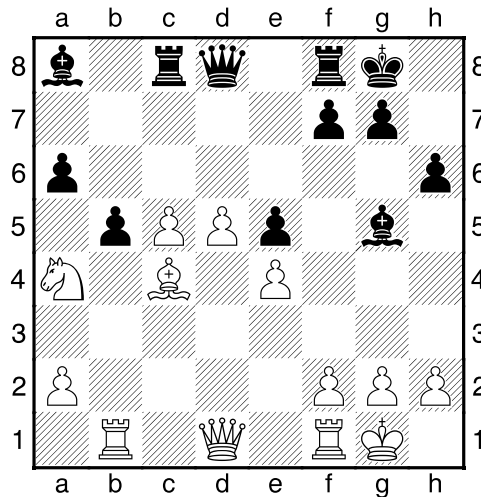
15...Bxf2+?+- 4.17 one would think that getting a P while exchanging B's would be reasonable, but not here [15...Qh4 16.g3 Qh3 17.Bf1 Qh5 18.Bc5 Be6 19.Bc4 Bh3+- 3.26 Michael would be up R vs 2 P] **16.Nxf2 Kxf8** Michael is up R vs 3 P's **17.Ne4?+-** 3.08 [17.Qb4+ Qd6 18.Rxe5 Qxb4 19.cxb4 f6 20.Rc5 c6+- 4.34] **17...Qf4?+-** 6.07 [17...Qb6+ 18.Kh1 Qxb3 19.axb3 a5+- 3.04] **18.Bxf7?+-** 2.28 a sacrifice that just wins a P; there is a better move – Michael is up R vs 2 P's [the best line is 18.Rad1 threatens mate after Qb4+ 18...Bg4 19.Qxb7 Rc8 20.Ba6 Ng8 21.g3 Qf5 22.Rd3 Nf6 23.Qxc8+! Qxc8 24.Bxc8 Bxc8 25.Nxf6 gxf6 26.Rd8+ Ke7 27.Rxc8+- Michael would be up 2 R's vs 2 P's] **18...Ng4??+-** 8.16 Jeff goes wrong in the tactical complications, trying to counter-attack – just taking the B is best [18...Qxf7 19.Rf1 Nf5 20.Qxf7+ Kxf7 21.g4 g6 22.Ng3 Kf6 23.Rae1 Bd7 24.Ne4+ Kg7 25.gxf5 Bxf5+- 2.79 Michael would be up R vs 3 P's] **19.Qb4+ Kxf7** Michael sacs his B; he is up the exchange, with Jeff having 2 P's compensation. But Jeff's Q is lost. **20.Rf1+-** Jeff resigned. Coming is **20...Ke8 21.Rxf4 exf4+-** 12.89 Michael would be up Q vs B + 2 P's **1-0**

Also in the Reserves in Rd. 4, junior girl, Linda Xia, continued her winning ways, knocking off veteran Joe Bellomo (over 300 rating point difference). She went up a pawn, then sacked her B for 2 more pawns. To stop the advancing pawns, Joe sacked back the B. Joe then had an attack against Linda's K, and had a perpetual, but misplayed it. Suddenly it was Joe who was being mated. This win lifted Linda into a 4-way tie for first ! Here is the game (Annotations by Bob Armstrong, using Fritz):

Xia, L (1401) – Bellomo, J (1733) [A45]

SCC Club Championship (Reserves) SCC (4), 24.01.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 h6 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.c4 b6?!± [4...d5?! 5.e3 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Qb3 Qe7±; 4...Bb4+ 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.e3 d5 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 0-0=] **5.Nf3 Bb7 6.e3 d5?!±** Linda gets a " clear " advantage [6...f5 7.Bd3 g6 8.0-0 Bg7±] **7.Nc3 Be7** [7...Bb4 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.Bd3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qh5±] **8.Bd3** [8.cxd5 Bxd5 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.Qa4+ Qd7 11.Bb5 c6 12.Bd3 0-0±] **8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 0-0 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Rc1 c5 12.d5?!±** [12.Nh4 cxd4 13.exd4 Rc8 14.Qb3 Nb8±] **12...Ne5 13.Nxe5 fxe5 14.e4?!=** Linda loses her advantage [14.Qh5 Bd6 15.Rfd1 a6±] **14...Bg5 15.Rb1 a6 16.b4?±** leaves the c3N floating and on same file as the floating B; for the first time in the game, Joe gets the advantage, a " clear " advantage [16.a4 Qf6 17.b4 cxb4 18.Rxb4 Rfd8=] **16...b5?±** Joe fails to win a P, and loses one [16...cxb4 17.Rxb4 Rc8 18.d6 b5 19.Bd5 Bxd5 20.Nxd5 Qxd6 21.Qd3 Rc5± Joe would be up a P] **17.bxc5!** Linda goes up a P **17...Rc8?!±** [17...bxc4?? 18.Rxb7 Qa5 19.Na4 Rab8 20.Rxb8 Rxb8 21.c6 Bd8+; 17...Qc7 18.Bxb5! (18.Be2?! Qxc5 19.Qd3 Rab8±) 18...axb5 19.c6 Bxc6 20.dxc6 Qxc6 21.Nd5 Ra4=] **18.Na4** [18.Nxb5 Rxc5 (18...axb5?! 19.Rxb5 Qc7±) 19.Na3 Bc8±] **18...Ba8?!±** Linda gets back a " clear " advantage [18...Be7 19.Be2 Bxc5 20.Nxc5 Rxc5±; 18...bxa4? 19.Rxb7 Rxc5 20.Qxa4 a5+; 18...bxc4? 19.Rxb7 Rxc5 20.Nxc5 Qc8 21.Rb6 Qxc5+;]




19.Bxb5! Linda correctly sacs her B for 2 P's, and ends up with passed, connected c & d Pawns **19...axb5 20.Rxb5** Linda has 3 P's vs B **20...Qe8?!+–** Linda gets a " winning " advantage [20...f5 21.c6 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Qxd1 23.Rxd1 fxe4 24.Rc5 Rf6 25.c7 Rf7 26.Rxe5 Rfxc7±] **21.c6?±** this push is premature. Linda must do some preparatory development first [21.Qb3 Qe7 22.Rb1 Rfd8 23.Qa3 Qa7 24.Qb4 Be7 25.d6 Bxd6 26.cxd6 Rc2+–] **21...Bxc6!** Joe correctly decides to sac his B for 2 P's **22.dxc6 Qxc6** Linda is up a P **23.Qd5 Qc2 24.Nb6?!=** Linda loses her advantage

again [24.Rb4 Rcd8 25.Qxe5 Bd2 26.Qb2 Qc6±] **24...Rfd8 25.Qxe5** Linda goes up 2 P **25...Rd1 26.g3 Rxf1+ 27.Kxf1 Qd1+ 28.Kg2 Rc1 29.Qe8+ Kh7 30.Nd7 Qf1+ 31.Kf3 Rc3+ 32.Kg4 f5+??+-** Joe blunders, trying to harass Linda's K [32...Qe2+ 33.Kh3 Qf1+ 34.Kg4 Qe2+=] **33.Rxf5** Linda goes up 3 P's, but the lethal element is her counterattack when Joe runs out of steam **33...Qd1+** 20.36 [33...Be7? 34.Qxe7 Rc8 35.Nf6+ Kh8 36.Ne8 Qa1 37.Rf7 and it is mate in 9 moves] **34.f3 Qd6** and it is mate in 10 moves **35.Nf8+ Kg8 36.Ne6+ Kh7 37.Rf8+-** Joe resigns. It is mate **37...Qxf8 38.Nxf8+ Kg8 39.Ne6+ Kh7 40.Kh5 Rc2 41.Nf8+ Kg8 42.Ng6+ Kh7 43.Qh8# 1-0**

Why Do You Play Over-The-Board Tournament Chess??

Rick Garel, an SCC member, recently posted on ChessTalk as follows:

Why we play

Posted by **Rick Garel**  on January 26, 2008, 10:59:01
Orillia Ontario

I was talking to my wife this morning and the subject of chess came up and she was curious about why I play tournament chess. After all, as we who play in tournaments are well aware, chess is hard. It involves mental, emotional and physical strain. What are the rewards? What draws us back to the board despite the undeniable hardships? I'd be very interested in knowing what motivates other players to play. Would anyone like to share their reasons for playing tournament chess?

I posted my views on this as follows:

“ What attracts me about chess is " personal best ". It is the challenge of rising above the level you may find yourself at at any particular time. We all strive to improve, regardless of the level of our play, and the understanding we have of the game.

And I am attracted when it is done under tournament conditions, where there is serious opposition to you finding the best moves, and playing a game you are proud of. It gets the adrenalin going.

Finally there is the great element of " surprise ". Some tactics are truly beautiful to behold. Best if you find them. But much appreciated even when played against you, and you didn't see it coming.”

What are the reasons you expend effort, and time, on this hobby?? We'll publish responses next Issue.

Our Readers Write !: SCC Club Championship Format Criticized !

SCC member Will **Rutherford** came out initially to put his name forward for the Club Championship. But he did not make the Championship section with his 1820 rating. He then withdrew his name and said he wouldn't play. He wrote he was uncomfortable with the current format [Ed. the top section is a round robin of the 8 highest rated players

registering, plus the two winners of the prior year's Reserves Championship; the rest of the members play in a 10-round, one-section swiss, the two winners earning entry into next year's championship section], one reason being that it was elitist, having a top section, and that the Champion was therefore not a " club " champion.

Jim **Roe**, an SCC member, wrote in response as follows:

Jim, at centre



“ Any club championship format can be criticized for 'good' reasons. The true test is how successful the club is. And due to good management no one can argue the club is not successful.

Growth, finances, site quality, co-operation, communications to members, and member support can only be rated from good to excellent.

Let the executive run the club and lets play chess. “

A past member who played in the season-opening Howard Ridout Swiss, John **Brown**, also had some ideas on this topic. He wrote:

“ Only comment I have is . Why is the Club Championship in middle of Club Year? Unless you are a year behind on the Club Championship years it would seem more logical to have the club championship as the last tournament of the year and limit it to only Club Members that are paid up for the year. This would give a more accurate rating of players who have played most of the year at Scarborough.

Also, don't allow a tournament fee to be paid for this tournament. That way a fly by night guy could not just jump in and play and potentially take the title or bump a legal player by rating out of the top group . This would stop comments like the last post from I think Will on your Bulletin. “

As well, a new member, Erwin **Casareno**, a provisional master who is in the Championship section, had a few opinions/recommendations, as follows

Erwin Casareno



“ My [Erwin’s] Analysis:

1. "The first problem is that the structure of the tournament comes across as elitist"
 2. "resulting title of Club Champion is dubious".
 3. "no requirement of previous participation in club tournaments [Ed. : this is true – to play, a new member only has to take out a 6-month membership"
- [Ed. – the above were comments from Will’s initial letter]

The current format of the SCC club championship, where the 8 highest rated players (including the club champion) is seeded directly into an "elite" group plus the top 2 qualifiers from the Reserve group of the previous year, gave me the following impressions:

- a. The defending club champion, in this case, is the highest rated player, is rightfully seeded to the "elite" group to defend his title.
- b. The 7 other players are determined by their ratings. This rating criteria was meant to attract strong players (on paper) to play in the club as well as to ensure that the games played are of high quality. This measure was perhaps made when the club has a smaller club membership and there was a campaign to increase memberships.

- c. The top 2 qualifiers from the Reserves section is rewarded of their efforts and is given the chance to play and sharpen their skills.

My opinion:

1. In my opinion, the current format of the club championship is 70 % elitist (7/10 highest rated players), not 100 % as Mr. Will Rutherford implies.
2. However, I agree 100 % with Mr. Rutherford that the title of Club Champion should be bestowed to the player who prove to be the best player from the entire club= meaning he/she should win the tournament from all members.
3. If the club championship is open to all players in 1 big Swiss tournament, say 10 rounds, then it is not required to play in previous tournaments. The main requirement should be to be a 1 year member of the club.

My Back ground:

I used to play 11 years of serious chess in the Netherlands, where I have met chess players who play the same position for 22 years. Each club use different formats for the club championship but have one thing in common – the Club Championship is open to all members.

My recommendation:

1. The club should initiate a referendum for all members to decide whether we change the current format to an open format, or not.
2. The club should decide what system to use.
3. Draft the rules and regulations for the club championship, especially in dealing with no shows and forfeitures.

I am in favor of giving all members a chance to be club champion. “

Maurice **Smith**, SCC member and Vice-president of the club, weighed in with his



comments supporting the current club championship format as follows:

“ This is in answer to the comments Will Rutherford made in the previous edition of the Newsletter concerning the format of the Scarborough Chess Club Championship. Will claims it is "elitist" and offers two alternatives. One alternative was to have round robin sections for all players with a trophy for each section winner, as Will says just like the good old days at Porter Collegiate. Well during that time I was President and I was the organizer and TD for many of these events. The round robins gave me the biggest headaches. Players were missing every week due to sickness, weather, and other things to do. Subsequently there were always games to make up. Arguments erupted between players about when they could get together to make up the games. Sometimes players quit after playing just a few games. So the questions arose about which games would be rated and what to do with the other players games. The answers never satisfied everybody. During these times the "Friendliest Chess Club" did not live up to its name. Many round robins were not completed. It was not the best way to go although many players initially said they liked playing in their own score group.

The second alternative from Will was to have a one section swiss for everyone. Well until this year all the tournaments throughout the year {except for the Championship} were one section swisses. So having another one does not distinguish itself as a Championship. The way we are doing it now with one top section, and a swiss for everyone else seems fair when the top two players in the reserve can advance to the top section next year. So lower rated players do have a chance to play for the Championship. There is no perfect solution for everyone and I am regret that Will does not see the present format in a positive light. Will is certainly welcome back to the Club at any time to resume playing against the SCC members.”

2008

Stephen Leacock

Grades 1 – 12 Challenge

Chess Tournament

Saturday, February 23rd, 2008

Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute

2450 Birchmount Rd Toronto, Ontario MIT 2M5

Advance Registration Only: \$15 per player.
Pay at site.

Sections:	<u>Beginner</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Championship</u>
	Players rated < 1100 CFC or unrated, with less than 2 years of tournament experience	Players rated < 1500 or unrated, who have played on school teams or tournaments for 2+ years	Players rated 1500+ or unrated, who have tournament experience and compete with stronger

players

Prizes: For every 5 participants, 1 player will receive a fully paid entry to the **Ontario High School Chess Championship**, a thirty-five dollar value.

Automatic free ribbon / chess champion button prizes for all

participants.

Schedule:

Check In	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Round 3	1:35 pm – 3:05 pm
Round 1	9:30 am – 11:00 am	Round 4	3:10 pm – 4:40 pm
Round 2	11:05 am – 12:35 pm	Round 5	4:45 pm – 6:15 pm
	Lunch 12:35 pm – 1:35 pm	Closing	6:15 pm – 6:30 pm

Equipment: SETS, BOARDS, AND CLOCKS ARE PROVIDED! Many thanks to the **Ontario Chess Association!**

We'll be selling **chess sets** and **clocks**, and other **merchandise** at location.

There will also be **pizza** and **pop** on sale for lunch at 12:15 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Chris Field, Organiser

chris.field@tel.tdsb.on.ca

edward.w.phung@gmail.com

Edward Phung

Tournament Director

The **Ontario High School Chess Championship 2008** (Fri May 9 – Sun May 11) will be held at University of Toronto, Mississauga. A highway coach service will be available from Toronto.

Students in Grades 7 and 8 ("Junior High School") are most welcome.

Students in Grades 1 through 6, who can compete with older players, are also welcome.

Students may stay in the university residence; some students and parents stay in nearby hotels.

In addition to **Individual Prizes**, the tournament offers **Team Prizes** and **Combined Team Prizes**:

A **team** consists of the top 3 players from a school in one section;

A **combined team** consists of 3 players: the top player in each section from the same school.

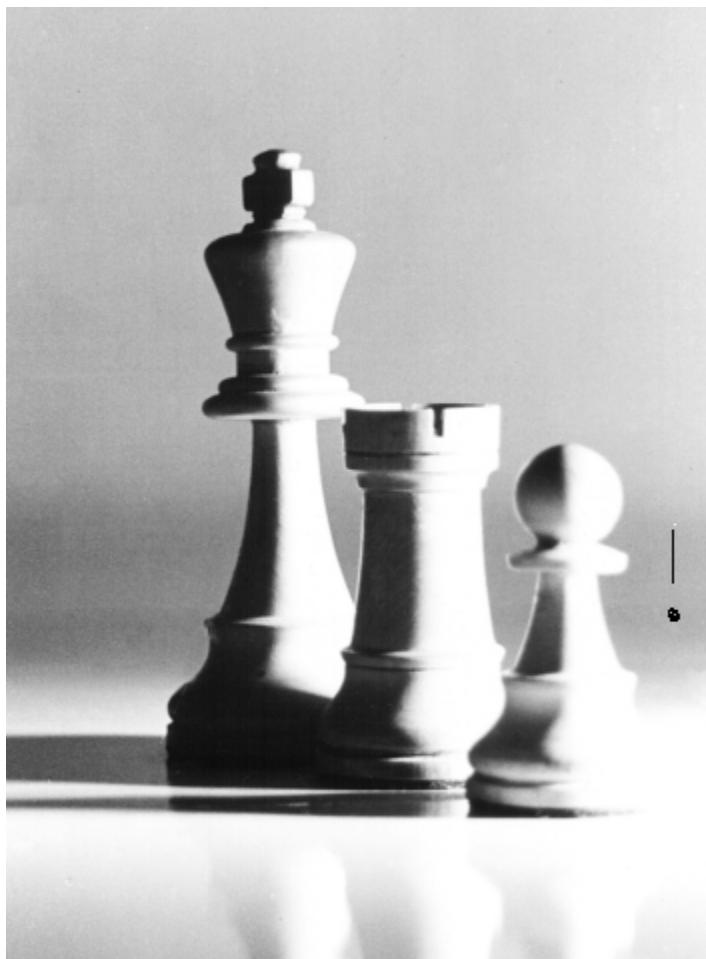
For more information, please visit <http://ohsca.on.ca>

or contact Wilson Chan, President: wilachan@hotmail.com



Check box if desired; include fee in cheque, or pay in cash with entry fee at site (email / fax entry)

An Impressive Trio !



A - Members/ non-members may contact Bob Armstrong, ed. , directly, at bobarm@sympatico.ca or through SCC e-mail, to :

1. Be added to the free e-mail list; 2. Submit content (fact, opinion, criticism, recommendations!).
- B – An item in any language may be submitted for publication, if accompanied by an English translation.
C – The opinions expressed here are those of the editor, and not necessarily those of the Scarborough CC.
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