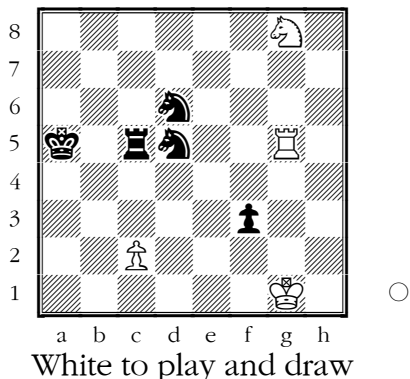


Test Yourself!

Tkachenko
End of a Study



**ACP World Cup Special
- A view from the
press-centre**

by Mikhail Golubev

Today I am finally able to add something to the Chess Today coverage of the ACP World Cup, which was done by my CT colleagues in our previous issues.

Quite a lot can be said about this event which was considered by everyone whose opinion I have heard as a successful one. It cannot be ignored that the **Bank Pivdenny** not only sponsored the World Cup but made the most of the organisational work. More than 40 (of 1750) bank employers worked at the tournament. Of course, involved also were the ACP Board members (four of whom were physically present in Odessa: the ACP President Pavel Tregubov, two qualified world cup participants, Alexei Shirov and Viorel Bologan, and also I as an Odessa inhabitant) and experts from third parties.

Instead of providing details which can be found elsewhere, below I will share some impressions from my own work in the large organisational team.

Before the tournament I was responsible mainly for the preparation of the basic content for the event website and, partly, for the website's navigation ideology. Later, during the tournament, I dealt with chess-related matters inside the press-centre, including the web coverage and the press-conferences after the matches. In these local areas at least two other people were also deeply involved. Webmaster **Andrey Kinyak** of Bank Pivdenny was responsible for the technical development of the event website. The invited chess journalist **Misha Savinov** (who was born in Odessa and now lives in St Petersburg) updated the website during the tournament. The operative publication of the games results, notation and photos was entirely his job, but not even nearly all of what Misha did. He also sent his reports to ChessBase.



The results of our efforts with all their pluses and minuses were visible enough. Still, I would not avoid the temptation to cite a funny comment from a visitor of the ChessNinja blog.

"The webmasters of the ACP Cup site really deserve plaudits for their excellent and timely coverage. Being used to whacky website programming, incomprehensible "English" and silly, irrelevant journalistic dross when it's a Russian [sic - CT Ed.] tournament, this comes as a welcome surprise. The gold standard is still Mig's reportage from the U.S. chess championships last year, but the ACP website comes close." Comment by H L M (January 8, 2007 10:13)

Many websites covered the event actively, for what, on behalf on the organisation team, I am thankful. A direct reference from TWIC provided us with especially many visitors. I

should also mention the NTV coverage with Marina Makaryceva reporting from Odessa. Marina, as she told me, initially had doubts whether it was a good idea to agree to come to the Odessa event, which is so close to Wijk aan Zee, but after she arrived in the Londonskaya Hotel all her doubts disappeared. I guess that three players who refused to play in the ACP Cup could also feel the same in case if they had arrived. But what is not done is not done, and that's all. The chess world is now looking forward to Wijk aan Zee, where the fight for the first place in the world ratings will continue.

I will briefly annotate two games from the ACP world cup semifinals.

Annotated Games

by GM Mikhail Golubev

The game Ivanchuk–Radjabov was of an extraordinary quality for rapid chess. Close to the very end, Radjabov started to make small inaccuracies, which eventually were used by Ivanchuk. The Ukrainian won this game, and also the second game of the semifinal versus Radjabov. Maybe the fact that Ivanchuk's semifinal was played after Leko's, gave an advantage to Hungarian (who had more time to rest) in the final. But we should not forget that the Leko vs Gelfand match was played until the sudden death game, so in the final Leko was hardly absolutely fresh as well.

White: V. Ivanchuk (2750)

Black: T. Radjabov (2729)

1st ACP World Rapid Cup Odessa UKR (3.1), 08.01.2007

King's Indian, Classical – [E92]

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟c3 ♟g7

We all have our personal preferences. For me, it was rather satisfying that at least 3 of the 16 Odessa event participants (Teimour Radjabov, Ilya Smirin and Viorel Bologan) are very active King's Indian players.

4.e4 d6 5.♟f3 0-0 6.♟e2 e5 7.♟e3 ♟g4 8.♟g5 f6 9.♟h4 g5 10.♟g3 ♟h6 11.dxe5

Other important options are 11.h3 and 11.d5.

11...dxe5!

11...fxe5 12.h4! g4 13.♟h2.

12.c5 A rare move.

12...♟c6 13.0-0 g4!?N



13...♟e6 13...♟f7.

14.♟h4 ♟e6 15.♟a4 ♟d4 16.♟b5 ♟b4 17.f4 gxf3 18.♟xf3 ♟g4 19.♟fd1 ♟h6 20.♟d5 ♟xd5

20...♟xe4?! 21.♟xc7 ♟f4 22.♟d3!? (22.♟xe6?! ♟xg3 23.hxg3 ♟e3+ 24.♟h1 ♟f2+ 25.♟h2 ♟g4+ 26.♟h3 ♟f2+ 27.♟h2 ♟g4+; 22.♟e1!?).

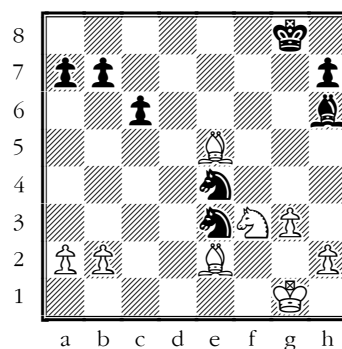
21.♟xd5 ♟ad8 22.♟ad1 ♟xb5

22...♟xe4?! 23.♟xd8 ♟xd8 24.♟xd8+ ♟xd8 25.h3 ♟b1+ 26.♟e1.

23.♟xb5 ♟e3 24.♟xd8 ♟xd8

25.♟xd8+ ♟xd8 26.♟h4 ♟e6

27.♟xf6 ♟xc5 28.♟xe5 c6 29.♟e2 ♟xe4 30.g3 (D)



30...♟g4

At the press conference Teimour said that he wanted to play for a win, but instead he could play for a draw by ...♟g7. Possibly he meant 30...♟g7 here.

31.♟b8 ♟e3+ 32.♟g2 ♟b6 33.♟e5 ♟e3+ 34.♟h3

34.♟f3!? was suggested by the Odessa IM Podgaets, the coach of Anatoly

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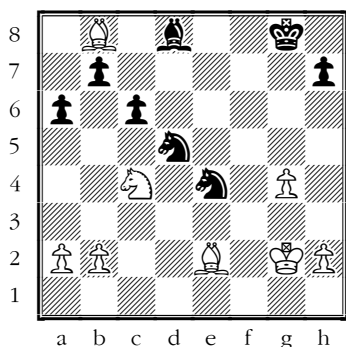
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Karpov. But this move is somewhat risky.

34...♖d8 35.g4 a6 36.♗c4 ♖d5
37.♙g2 (D)



Misha Savinov and Vassily Ivanchuk



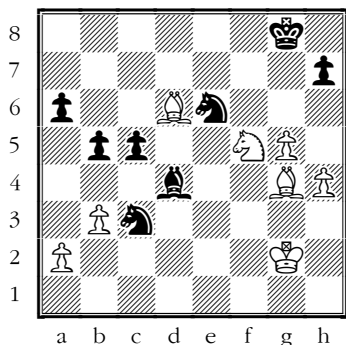
37...♗g5

Nearly the first of Radjabov's moves, which Fritz disliked to some extent. 37...♗c5; 37...b5; 37...♗ef6.

38.♗d6 b5

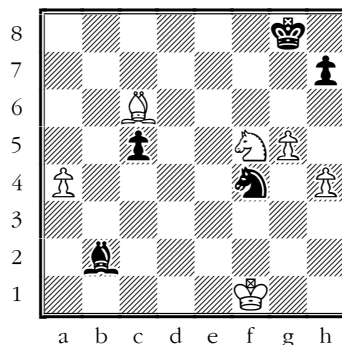
Already here Radjabov could use only 5 seconds increment: he had virtually no more seconds left.

39.♗f5 ♖f6 40.h4 ♗e6 41.b3 ♗c3
42.♖f3 c5 43.g5 ♖d4 44.♖d6 ♙f7
45.♖h5+ ♙g8 46.♖g4! (D)



White is clearly better now.

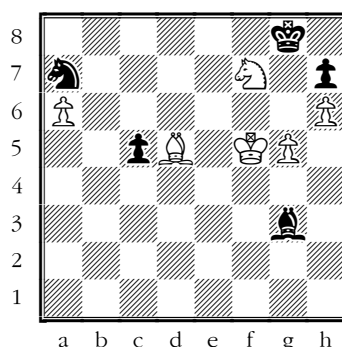
46...♗e4 47.♗h6+ ♙g7 48.♖b8
♗d8 49.♗f5+ ♙g8 50.♖f3 ♗c3
51.a3 51...♗xd4!? cxd4 52.♖e5.
51...a5?! Losing the pawn.
52.♖c7± ♗e6 53.♖xa5 ♖e5
54.♖xc3!? ♗f4+ 55.♙f1 ♖xc3
56.♖c6 ♖b2 57.a4! bxa4 58.bxa4
(D)



58...♖c3

Or 58...c4 59.a5 c3 60.♖e4.

59.♙f2 ♖a5 60.♙e3 ♗g6 61.♙e4
♙f8 62.♖d5 ♗e7 63.♗d6 ♙g7
64.♗c4 ♖e1 65.a5 ♗c8 66.h5 ♗a7
67.♙f5 ♗b5 68.h6+ ♙h8 69.a6
♖g3 70.♗e5 ♗a7 71.♗f7+ ♙g8 (D)



72.g6 1-0

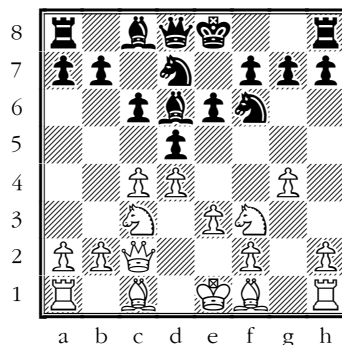
White: B. Gelfand (2733)

Black: P. Leko (2749)

1st ACP World Rapid Cup Odessa UKR
(3.1), 08.01.2007

QGD; Semi-Slav 5.e3 - [D45]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.♗f3
e6 5.e3 ♗bd7 6.♙c2 ♖d6 7.g4!?
(D)



A topical line, which has been discussed in Chess Today often.

7...h6!? 8.♖g1

We had annotated games with the move 8.♖d2 in the CT issues 2106 and 2173.

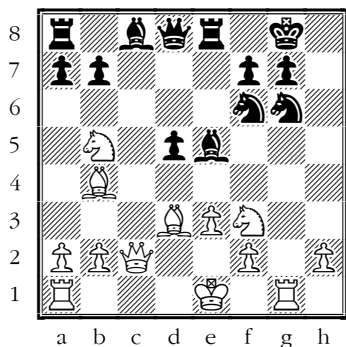
8...e5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.♗b5

10.g5 Gelfand-Lautier, Wijk aan Zee 2002.

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10...♖b8 11.♙d2 0-0N 12.♙b4 ♖e8
13.g5 hxg5 14.♗xg5 ♘f8 15.dxe5
♙xe5 16.♗f3 ♗g6 17.♙d3 (D)



17...♙g4

The alternative was 17...♗e4!? as Leko said at the press-conference.

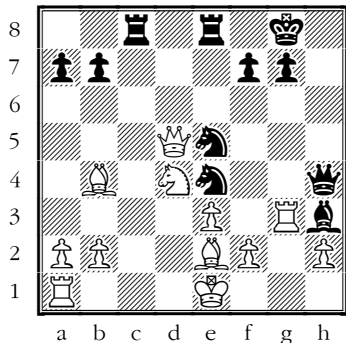
18.♗bd4?!

As Gelfand confessed at the press-conference, here he overestimated his chances. Both players during the game saw the line 18.♙xg6! ♙xf3 19.♙xf7+ ♖xf7 20.♖g6+ ♖e6 21.♖g5 with a probable draw by the perpetual check after 21...♙xb2.

18...♖c8 19.♖b3 ♙xd4 20.♗xd4
♗e5 21.♙b5 ♙d7

21...♗e4!?

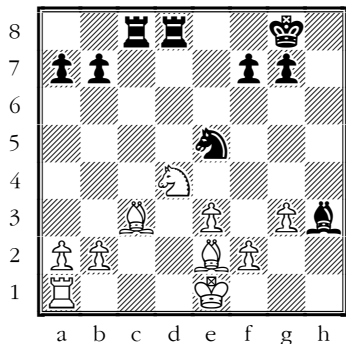
22.♙e2 ♗e4 23.♖xd5 ♖h4 24.♖g2
♙h3 25.♖g3 (D)



25...♗xg3?

Correct was 25...♖cd8!-+ as Leko said at the press-conference.

26.hxg3 ♖d8 27.♖xd8 ♖exd8
28.♙c3 (D)



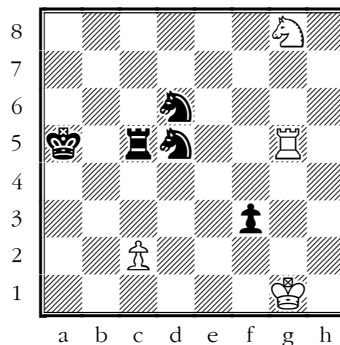
And, having the strong bishop on c3, White survived.

28...♗c6 29.♗xc6 ♖xc6 30.♙f3
♖c7 31.g4 f5 32.gxf5 ♙xf5 33.♖f1
b6 34.♖g2 ♖e7 35.♖h1 ♙e4
36.♙xe4 ♖xe4 37.♖f3 ♖e6 38.♖g1
♖d7 39.♖e2 ♖h7 40.♖g2 ♖g6
41.♖h2+ ♖h6 42.♖g2 ♖g6 43.♖h2+
♖h6 1/2-1/2

Solution to our quiz:

Tkachenko

End of a Study



White to play and draw

1.♗f6 f2+! 1...♗xf6 2.♖xc5+ ♖b6 3.♖e5= is a banal draw 2.♖xf2 ♗xf6 3.♖xc5+ ♖b6 4.♖d5!! ♗xd5 5.c4 ♗e4+ If Black instead plays with his d5 knight, then 6.c5+! draws.

6.♖f3 ♗df6 6...♗dc3 7.c5+ ♖c6 does not change anything 7.c5+ ♖c6 Black has managed to preserve White's c-pawn on the board: without it, ♖+2♗ vs ♖ is a simple draw. But anyway the position with a pawn on c5, which is blocked by the king, is drawn. One who wishes to check a classic Troitsky assessment with tablebases, can go to <http://www.k4it.de/index.php?topic=egtb&lang=en>

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