

# BLINDFOLD CHESS

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What did the great players Philidor, Alekhine, Najdorf and Koltanowski have in common? They were all virtuoso blindfold exponents.

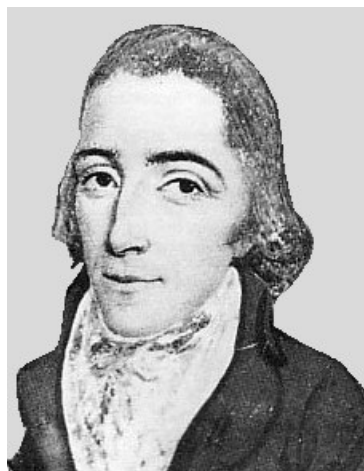
Though chess is not often thought of as a spectator sport, strong chess players, possess an innate talent that can often result in spectacular displays. Child prodigies getting the better of veterans, simultaneous displays, memory feats and blindfold chess are some of the demonstrations that can enthrall an audience.

Of these, Blindfold Chess, especially the playing of simultaneous blindfold games, is perhaps the most amazing and surely the most taxing to the player.

In blindfold chess, the master plays one or several games without sight of the board against opponent(s) who are playing without this handicap. (If both opponents do not have sight of the board, strictly speaking this is called mental chess, though many people use the term blindfold chess even for this variant).

Although the word *blindfold* immediately conjures up the vision of a person whose eyes are covered with a black cloth,

actual blindfolding is not a requirement – the master may simply have his back turned away from an opponent sitting at the board, or more usually, he is in a separate room with neither chess board, pen and paper or any electronic device. The moves are relayed by a neutral person.



**Philidor**

Correspondence chess players are, at some level, blindfold players, in that, the visualisation of the position takes place at once, as soon as the postman delivers the opponent's postcard. Indeed some CC players, especially in the opening stages even reply without setting up the pieces.

This is the case with postcard and even email play but changed with the advent of server play as the graphical board appears on the computer screen as soon as you access the opponents move.

Good OTB players too, are skilled visualisers as well. Indeed the process of playing a normal OTB game consists of looking far ahead of the current position albeit with the board in sight, but not moving the pieces.

As with the game of chess itself, blindfold chess is thought to have had its beginnings in India. However, the first performer of this feat to gain world wide prominence was the African judge Sa'id bin Jubair, around 700AD.

Players of the romantic era who excelled at blindfold chess include Philidor, Morphy, Paulsen, Pillsbury, Reti, Alekhine. In more modern times: Najdorf and the lesser known Janos Flesch and George Koltanowski both of whom bettered Najdorf's record for the maximum number of simultaneously played blindfold games.

Philidor, the French master and musician, contributed much to chess theory. He was also one of the earliest blindfold players – able to take on three games simultaneously. In 1858, Paul Morphy played a SB (simultaneous blindfold) exhibition match against the 8

strongest players in Paris and won with a resounding score of 6 wins and 2 draws.



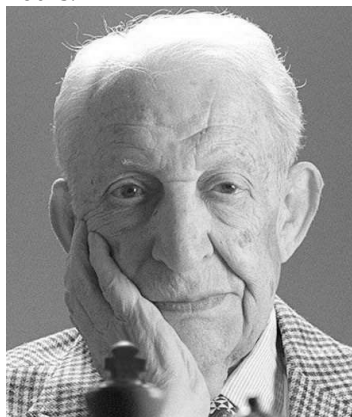
**Najdorf**

Harry Nelson Pillsbury (see *Forgotten Heroes: Harry Nelson Pillsbury*, by Anil K.Anand in the **AICCF Bulletin**, May 2005, p.19) is attributed with the memory feat of learning 29 difficult words/phrases before his usual exhibition of 20 SB games and then repeating these words, in both forward and backward order, after completing the blindfold games. He was able to repeat the words again the next day!

Alekhine toyed with blindfold play for a while and even wrote about the enormous exhaustion it produced. When he played 28 games in February 1925 (22 wins, 3 draws, 3 losses), one couldn't imagine that his record would be broken the

same year by Richard Reti's display of 29 games at Sao Paulo.

In 1947, the Argentine player, Miguel Najdorf created a lasting record of 45 SB games (39 wins, 4 draws and 2 losses). This record was broken in 1960 by Hungarian player Janos Flesch who played 52 SB games at Budapest (31 wins, 3 draws and 18 losses). But it is controversial because, according to observers, Flesch was allowed to verbally recount the scores of the ongoing games. The same year, George Koltanowski of USA played 56 opponents with a score of (+50, =0, -6). The exhibition lasted 9 hours.



**Koltanowski**

What is the record for the maximum number of simultaneous blindfold games? Not the 56-game performance of Koltanowski in 1960, for here he actually played the games consecutively at a rate of 10 seconds a move and not

simultaneously. Earlier, in 1937 Koltanowski had played 34 opponents in Edinburgh, Scotland, scoring +20, -0, =14. Some like to think of this as the official record as Najdorf's 45 SB games in 1947 did not have the strict monitoring that was imposed here and as already remarked, Janos Flesch's 52-game effort in 1960 was controversial.

George Koltanowski (1903 - 2000) will always be remembered for his prowess in blindfold chess and blindfold conduct of the knight's tour on boards of up to 192 squares. Our member and knight's tour specialist **Awani Kumar** (see 'Awani Kumar In The Limca Book Of Records', AICCF Bulletin, August 2006, p.14) would be pleased with this latter talent.

Blindfold chess is not a forgotten art. Today, several blindfold tournaments are held throughout the year, the best known among them being the annual Melody Amber Tournament at Monaco with a prize fund of \$288,000. Our members would be interested to know that the main financier of this event and billionaire chess aficionado is none other than Joop van Oosterom, World Correspondence Chess Champion 2003-2004. The dozen or so players who are invited, have to play one rapid and one blindfold game against the same

opponent. The winners/joint winners have been: Vladimir Kramnik (1996, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2007), Viswanathan Anand (1994, 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006), Alexander Morozovich (2002, 2004, 2006), Alexei Shirov (1998, 2000), Anatoly Karpov (1995), Ljubomir Ljubojević (1993) and Vassily Ivanchuk (1992). Not surprisingly, the kings are Vladimir Kramnik (6 times winner/joint winner) and Viswanathan Anand (5 times).



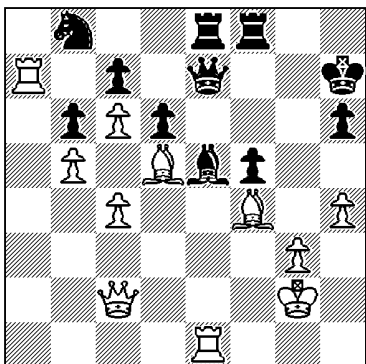
**Alexander Alekhine**

There are many blindfold games showing brilliant combinations. Of these, the game Alekhine - Schwartz (London, 1926) stands out for a combination lasting more than 10 moves that starts in the middle game and

culminates in the endgame. On the other hand there are more recent games from the Melody Amber blindfold such as Kramnik - Topalov (also Anand - Morozovich) which equally demonstrate the greatness of the human mind in conceptualising blindfold on the arena of 64-squares. We give below these two games and leave the reader to decide which game he considers better. Although Alekhine's opponent was an amateur he was playing with full sight of the board. Moreover Alekhine had several blindfold games going on simultaneously. Kramnik in his game against Topalov, Monte Carlo 2003, faced a super GM. But here both players were blindfold and it was a one-to-one game, not a simultaneous.

W: **Alexander Alekhine**  
B: **N Schwartz**  
**London 1926**  
King's Indian Defence, E62

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7  
4.Bg2 O-O 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6  
7.d5 Na5 8.Qd3 b6 9.Nd4 Nb7  
10.Nc6 Qd7 11.O-O a5 12.b3  
Nc5 13.Qc2 Bb7 14.h3 Rae8  
15.a3 Bxc6 16.dxc6 Qc8 17.b4  
axb4 18.axb4 Na6 19.Ra4 Nb8  
20.b5 h6 21.Ra7 e5 22.Kh2 Kh7  
23.f4 Re7 24.fxe5 Rxe5 25.Bf4  
Ree8 26.Nd5 Nxd5 27.Bxd5  
Qd8 28.h4 Qe7 29.e3 Kh8  
30.Kg2 f5 31.Re1 Kh7 32.e4  
Be5 33.exf5 gxf5



Let us take a look at the position. White has a considerable space advantage, a rook on the 7<sup>th</sup> rank and a useful pin along the e-file. Black is cramped and his knight is still on its home square.

**34.c5!!**

The beginning of the combination... a pawn thrust breaking through for the c6-pawn to march towards the queening square

**bxc5 35.b6 Rc8 36.Qc3**

Computers tend to play 36.Bxe5 dxe5 37.Rf1. This does give white a winning advantage, but Alekhine's concept is more beautiful and logical as it makes use of the e-file pin.

**36...Rfe8 37.Bxe5 dxe5 38.Qxe5!!**

A stunning rook sacrifice! The blindfolded Alekhine has seen all the way to the end of the game probably from the time he played 34.c5!

**Qxe5 39.Rxe5 Rxe5 40.Rxc7+ Rxc7 41.bxc7 Re8 42.cxb8=Q Rxb8 43.Be6!**

Controlling the queening square **Kg6 44.c7 Rf8 45.c8=Q Rxc8 46.Bxc8 c4 47.Ba6 c3 48.Bd3**

**Kf6 49.Kf3 Ke5 50.Ke3 h5 51.Bc2 Kf6 52.Kf4 Kg7 53.Kxf5 Kh6 54.Kf4 1-0**

W: **Vladimir Kramnik**

B: **Veselin Topalov**

**Amber Blindfold 2003**

Sicilian Scheveningen, B54

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f4 a6 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.O-O Bd7 10.Nb3 Rc8 11.Kb1**

The balance between attack and defence is best seen in a game with opposite side castling. Here Kramnik prepares himself against black's Nb4 instead of going all out with 11.g4

**11...b5 12.Bd3 Nb4 13.g4 Bc6 14.g5 Nd7**

After 14...Nxe4!? 15.Bxe4 d5 Kramnik says he found after the game by computer analysis the "incredibly strong" move 16.g6!! 16.g6 dxe4 17.Qh3! and white has a good attack.

**15.Qf2 g6 16.Rhf1 Bg7 17.f5 Ne5 18.Bb6 Qd7 19.Be2!**

At last Kramnik moves the bishop away from a square where it had been subject to exchange by a black knight in the past few moves. However the intention is not so much the preservation of the bishop as the underlining of black's poorly placed queen by threatening 20.Nc5

**Qb7 20.Na5**

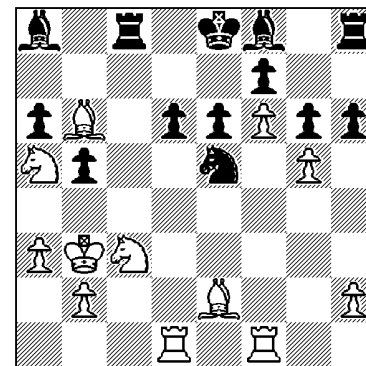
20.fxe6 would appear to be the most straight forward move as black is probably forced to castle after which 21.Na5 follows.

**20...Qb8 21.f6 Bf8 22.a3**

The knight is trapped. However, black picks up 2 pawns and there are complications

**Nxc2 23.Kxc2 Bxe4+ 24.Kb3 Ba8 25.Ba7 Qc7 26.Qb6**

Naturally, white ahead in material, forces simplification **Qxb6 27.Bxb6 h6**



**28.Nxb5!**

A player with a more pragmatic style might have just continued 28.h4 which Fritz evaluates as +-(1.44) for white. However Kramnik, even blindfolded, is ever alert to tactical shots like this!

**Kd7**

28...axb5 29.Bxb5+ Nd7 (29...Nc6 30.Rc1 Kd7 31.Rxc6 Bxc6 32.Nxc6 Rxc6 33.Rc1 wins) 30.Rc1 Bd5+ 31.Ka4 Rb8 32.Rc7 wins

**29.Bd4!?**

Instead 29.Rc1 would have been simple enough as 29...axb5 is still countered by 30.Bxb5+

**29...Bd5+ 30.Ka4 axb5+ 31.Bxb5+ Bc6**

31...Kc7 32.Rc1+ Kb8 33.Rxc8+ Kxc8 34.Rc1+ Kb8 35.Ba6 mating net!

31...Nc6 32.Rc1 e5 33.Nxc6 Bxc6 34.Rxc6 Rxc6 35.Bb6 followed by 36.Rc1 wins

**32.Bxe5 Bxb5+ 33.Kxb5 Rc5+ 34.Kb6**

White throws his king into the attack... a mating net is being woven

**Rxe5 35.Rc1 Rxa5**

Is this a saving resource?

35...Rxc5 36.Rc7+ Ke8 37.Nc6 and the coffin is sealed

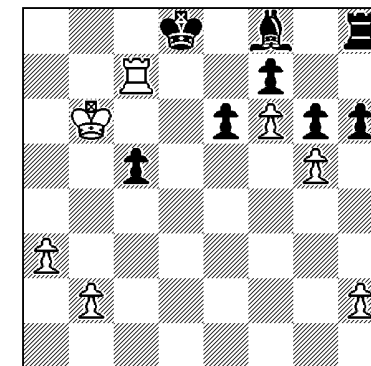
**36.Rc7+!**

36.Kxa5 hxg5 and black can fight on

**36...Kd8 37.Rfc1 Rc5**

Of course 37...Ra8 38.Kb7

**38.R1xc5 dxc5**



**39.Kc6!!**

This quiet endgame study like move compels instant resignation in view of the threatened 40.Ra7-a8 mate. Note the sealed-in position of black's surviving pieces (rook and bishop) and the c5 pawn blocking the bishop.

**1-0**

# VISHY ANAND IS UNDISPUTED WORLD CHESS CHAMPION

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007 Viswanathan Anand won the World Chess Championship held at Mexico City and became the Undisputed World Chess Champion.

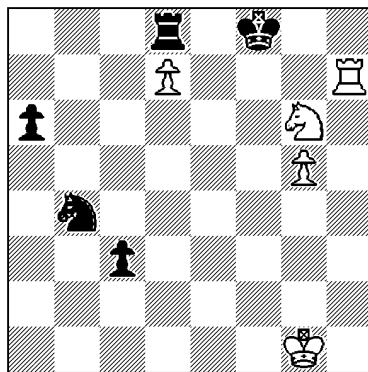
Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his congratulatory message said it is a great joy for all Indians: "It brings great joy to me personally and to all Indians that you have won the World Chess Championship. It is indeed a moment of pride for the nation. I wish you continued success in the years to come."

Anand also held the World Champion title during 2000-2002, but that was the FIDE title. Now he is Undisputed World Champion. What is not so savoury about FIDE's rules is that Anand will have to defend his title against Vladimir Kramnik within a few months time.

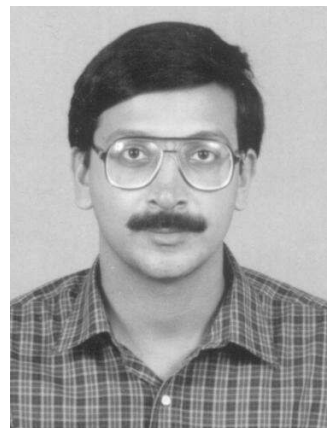
We give below one of Anand's decisive games from the tournament:

W: **ANAND**, Viswanathan (IND)      **Rff8 48.Rxf8+ Kxf8 49.Rxh7 c3**  
 B: **GRISCHUK**, Alexander (RUS)    **50.Ng6+ 1-0**  
 Ruy Lopez, C88

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6  
 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5  
 7.Bb3 O-O 8.a4 b4 9.d3 d6  
 10.Nbd2 Na5 11.Ba2 c5 12.c3  
 Nc6 13.d4 bxc3 14.bxc3 exd4  
 15.cxd4 Nb4 16.Bb1 Bg4 17.h3  
 Bh5 18.g4 Bg6 19.d5 Nd7  
 20.Nc4 Rb8 21.Bf4 Nb6  
 22.Nxb6 Rxb6 23.Nd2 Bg5  
 24.Bxg5 Qxg5 25.Nc4 Rbb8  
 26.Qd2 Qxd2 27.Nxd2 f6  
 28.Nc4 Rfd8 29.f4 Bf7 30.Ra3  
 g5 31.h4 gxf4 32.Rf3 Be8  
 33.Rxf4 Kg7 34.h5 Bxa4 35.h6+  
 Kxh6 36.Rxf6+ Kg7 37.g5 Rf8  
 38.Rxd6 Bc2 39.Ne5 Rf4 40.Rf6  
 Rh4 41.d6 Bxb1 42.Rxb1 Rxe4  
 43.Rf7+ Kg8 44.Re7 Rd8  
 45.Rd1 c4 46.d7 Rf4 47.Rf1



Position after 50.Ng6+



## AUTO-CHESS-O- GRAPHY 25

**Santhosh Paul**

*In this Auto-Chess-O-Graphy we asked Santhosh Paul to present his write-up in a free flowing style instead of the usual format. The article will be continued in the next issue.*

The reader will forgive me if it appears to him that I have been overcome by nostalgia in what follows. The words *chess* and *autography* were sufficient to take me down the long and winding memory lane. I leant back in my chair, and sighed. The lights in the room dimmed, and the lights inside my head brightened...

My introduction to chess was accidental, in the sense that nobody set out to teach me the game. Like most schoolboys, I was something of a sports fan and bought *Sportsweek* regularly. This magazine had a chess column by R.B. Sapre. I was intrigued by the cryptic symbols (which I later learnt was chess notation) in the column. They were mysterious and alluring. There were also some sentences in English that I used to make it a point to read. Again, my curiosity was aroused by words such as *attack*, *brilliant*, *beautiful*, etc. Evidently, this was a game that aroused great emotion. This was a world I wanted to become a part of!

Another early encounter with the game occurred during my summer vacations spent with grandparents in Kerala. My grandfather and a cousin often used to play chess; looking at them staring intently at the board, completely absorbed in the game, my curiosity was again stirred.

Finally, it was my mother who taught me the moves. After that, I played with my brother, but my moves were aimless. Why was one move better than another? I had not the slightest idea. So I played randomly, exploring the consequences of increasing entropy on the chessboard. The results were not very enlightening, as my brother was playing at about the same level. I was aware of the hierarchy of piece values, but refused to accept it; hence, I would frequently give away my queen for a mere pawn, challenging my opponent to win. These experiments with chess truth, with apologies to the father of our nation, did not continue for long. A fortunate event effected a course

correction that put me on the road to rapid progress.

My grandfather (the same person who played chess with my cousin) came to stay with us in Calcutta, and I used to accompany him on walks. One day, we were exploring the second-hand bookshops on Free School Street (an area renowned for second-hand books), and I chanced upon a chess primer. I now know that it was not one of the better-known chess books for beginners; it was *Chess: How to Play the Black and White Pieces*. The author was a certain Castlebrook, and the publisher was Kiran Publishers. I remember these details very well, because this book made a tremendous impression on me. It revolutionised my approach to the game. I still regret that I lost this book in the manner I lost many of the chess books purchased with great difficulty in school: by lending them to ‘friends’ in the interests of chess evangelism. Only a handful of books I acquired during my formative years survive.

What the book did for me was to place the principles of the game on a logical basis in a clear and lucid fashion. Opening principles such as ‘do not move a piece twice’ were underscored with simple illustrative games graphically depicting the catastrophe awaiting the player foolhardy enough to neglect the opening commandments. I made steady progress thereafter and did not look back. I acquired more famous books for beginners, including *The Game of Chess* by Harry Golombek. Although all these

books were useful, I liked Castlebrook’s book best. I’ve tried to get hold of this book for sentimental reasons, but I’ve not seen it anywhere. The book was like a fairy that appeared suddenly in my life, waved a magic wand, and vanished forever thereafter.

I sought out players during the lunch breaks at school, and was lucky to get a friend who was a strong player. His father was also a strong player, and evenings after school were usually spent in his house. In the beginning, this friend and his father both used to beat me regularly. The first clear indication that I was on the right track was when my grandfather came to stay with us next year. I thrashed him mercilessly in all the games, and soon he gave up playing with me. I have to say that he was a poor loser! Over a period of time, I also became equal in strength to my friend and his father. I became school chess champion easily, but in the late seventies, there were few outlets for chess activity in Calcutta. This was just before the emergence of interschool competitions, and I was too engrossed with chess in my own circle to enquire about Alekhine Chess Club at Gorky Sadan.

This is the place to acknowledge the central position chess has occupied for most of my life. When I use the word *central*, I refer to my internal emotional and intellectual life, not my external life. Yes, chess players live mostly inside their heads. My chess proficiency made me well known in school and boosted my confidence levels. Apart from these

external ‘fringe’ benefits, there was a much more important benefit: I knew I had discovered something beautiful; something intellectually, emotionally, and aesthetically challenging that would be my lifelong companion. How many people do you know who can say that? I knew I was blessed, and that feeling has never left me.

Books by Irving Chernev, such as *Logical Chess, Move by Move*, *The Most Instructive Games of Chess Ever Played*, and *1000 Best Short Games of Chess*, made a great impression on me. From the last-named book, I discovered blindfold chess games played by the great masters at exhibitions. (See preceding article on blindfold chess –Ed) These captured my imagination, and when I tried playing a blindfold game against my brother, I found it surprisingly easy. I even managed to beat my brother! Of course, concentration was required and good powers of visualisation as well, but I had these two qualities in ample measure. My brother refused to be drawn into further blindfold play, but when a cousin came to stay with us, I found a willing victim: he was crushed, and the spectators were suitably impressed. Another bachelor cousin used to drop in on Sundays, and he became my chess bunny. I took on him too in blindfold games, winning almost all of them. I also held my own against my chess friend, even beating him a few times, and began beating his father more often (in normal games, not blindfold).

I was hungry for chess knowledge, and used to haunt the bookshops of Park Street and Free School Street after school. I used to read chess books on the sly in the huge Oxford University bookstore on Park Street. I also found a bookshop in Gariahat that stocked chess books. (As I write these lines, I remember the name of a book that ‘got away’: *Point Count Chess* by Al Horowitz.) I fingered the pages lovingly, and stared at the contents, entranced. All the books were imported, and costly — way beyond the modest means of a schoolboy. I managed to induce my financially conservative father to buy me a couple of books, after which he put his foot down and met all further entreaties for purchases with an unstoppable argument: you already have x number of chess books, why do you need more? I pointed to his considerable mathematics book library in vain; mathematics was his bread and butter, not the plaything of an idle hour. At this point, I knew I was in a lost position and began looking around for a saving swindle.

The swindle I devised was simple: I used to have lunch in the school canteen. I began foregoing lunch, and accumulated my lunch pocket money. With this treasure trove, won by battling hunger pangs, I began purchasing chess books. I bought the books by Max Euwe and Walter Meiden that were published by Rupa: *Chess Master vs. Chess Amateur* and *The Road to Chess Mastery*. I bought *Modern Chess Brilliances* and *Chess Catechism* by Larry Evans. I bought *Epic Battles of the Chess Board* by R.N.

Coles. I bought several books by Irving Chernev: *Logical Chess, Move by Move*; *The Fireside Book of Chess*; and *Thousand Best Short Games of Chess*. I bought Harry Golombek's *The Game of Chess*. I bought Alexander's book on the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match. I bought Raymond Keene's book on the Baguio City match between Karpov and Korchnoi. I bought an anthology by Al Horowitz called *The Golden Treasury of Chess*. I bought a paperback of the best annotated games of Paul Keres, three books in one actually, annotated by the great man himself. All these books, and more, were purchased with lovingly collected one-rupee and two-rupee notes and fifty-paise coins. The shopkeepers' faces were a sight to behold when I began pulling the notes and coins out of my pocket to deposit them on the counter. I had to tackle the problem of how to account for the 'black books' to my parents; the books, by virtue of their size, were harder to hide than black money. I hit upon a simple solution worthy of a chess player's scheming brain: I inscribed my chess player's name on all these books. Officially, these were borrowed books! This has been my one and only brush with *hawala* operations, and is probably a world record in terms of the age of the operator and the monetary value of the transactions.

Going through these books made me aware of a parallel universe inhabited by grandmasters, and I marvelled over their conceptions. I had all along been a materialist, hoarding material like a miser. So,

the gay abandon with which Tal and Alekhine gave away material fascinated me. I developed a life-long appreciation for the power of the attack, the initiative, tactics, lead in development, and combinational play. However, my own play remained stolidly unimaginative, marked by a safety-first policy and a reluctance to take even the slightest risk. I played defensive, materialistic chess. A wide, seemingly unbridgeable, chasm yawned between my combinational aspirations and the sordid materialism of my play. I lacked the nerve to part with material. I just could not take the risk. In fact, I revelled in killing my opponent's combinations. It would take a few years to change my style of play. It changed of its own accord, without my being aware of it. However, I loved analysing combinations in others' games. Thus, I remember spending most of my summer holidays analysing what I felt to be a better move than the one recommended by the author in a position ripe with combinational possibilities.

I left Calcutta (now Kolkata) for engineering studies in REC (now NIT) Trichy. I could have got admission to an engineering college in Calcutta itself, but courses used to get delayed on account of frequent strikes. Of course, NIT Trichy is an excellent college in its own right, being ranked the tenth best engineering college in the country in the recent *India Today* survey, the only non-IIT to figure in the top ten. My chess friend got into IIT Kanpur. I met a fellow traveller

to the college during the counselling process, and learnt that he was a keen chess player. In fact, he was a regular at the Alekhine Chess Club, whereas I had not set foot there. I visited him at home, and we played an exciting game that considerably delayed lunch, ignoring the nonverbal messages his mother was sending us by her frequent appearances during play. We travelled together to the college, but did not play during the journey. The game we played earlier had been too nerve wracking, and we wanted a tension-free journey.

In college, it wasn't long before I unpacked my chess set and began playing against all comers. Word about my chess ability had spread throughout the campus, as my father casually told a group of senior students that I could play blindfold chess. That created a big impression, because to laypeople, blindfold chess is like magic. I played regularly against a few players, who kept coming back for sound thrashings. I also played the occasional blindfold game, and it always made a big impression on the spectators. (Of course, any strong player should be able to play a complete game blindfold. After all, during the game, most of the analysis we do is blindfold, but laypeople do not know that!) As we were in the first year and subject to ragging, we did not venture out of our hostel except for essentials, and so had plenty of time for chess.

I learnt one thing from these sessions: chess strength improves with practice, but only up to a point.

I could see my opponents improving rapidly before my eyes, but only up to a point. A plateau was reached, and a study of chess literature was required for a further boost. Also, tactical strength was the skill that improved most rapidly with practice. I sharpened my tactical ability in these skittles games with weaker players, as the fastest way to terminate a game is by tactical means. I used to play for checkmate, as the idea of grinding out long, positional wins against players who refused to resign and insisted on playing till checkmate was horrible to contemplate. Also, there were usually spectators, and I soon realized that a tactical slugfest was a good way of keeping the spectators interested. I first sacrificed only when I could regain the material or force checkmate, but slowly became increasingly bold. I even resorted to the unthinkable: material sacrifices for development and other transient advantages, secure in the knowledge that even if an experiment backfired, I was strong enough to overcome my opponent anyway. I realised that the risk element in sacrifices was minimal, if the position was assessed correctly. Thus, without even realising it, I became a tactician.

In the first year, an inter-hostel chess tournament (an annual affair) occurred. The first-year team (with myself on first board) had to go to the hosting hostel to play, and ragging was suspended for the duration of the event. We won the cup easily, but an incident occurred that I remember very well. After finishing a game, I was preparing to

return to my hostel when I was accosted by a senior, who challenged me to play him blindfold then and there, in public. I tried to wriggle out of it, but a small crowd soon collected. So, I played, and in spite of the hostile atmosphere, I managed to keep the position balanced till dinner time. At this point, my opponent (who played well) surrendered to hunger; he agreed that I could play blindfold chess, and let me go.

My college years broadened my chess experience. I was fortunate to be in Tamil Nadu, the Mecca of Indian chess. There was a strong annual open in Trichy, and several smaller events. Besides, it was possible to play for the university team if one was strong enough. I remember the first time I played in the aforementioned strong open (the Anna Memorial, if my memory serves me right) and did well in the early rounds to earn a game against the redoubtable O.L.V. Rajaram. The game was a tough fight, and I had a clear advantage, when clocks were introduced for sudden death. I had not played with clocks before, and that proved to be my undoing. I became nervous and started making my moves quickly; soon, I blundered and had to resign. I still remember what Rajaram said before leaving the table: "You killed me!" The arbiter was a friendly elderly person, a fixture in all the local tournaments. Unfortunately, I do not remember his name. He was very encouraging, and urged me to play in the inter-university championships, where I would meet

I did become Bharatidasan University champion later, and was told that a promising player called K. Murugan (!) was team captain. Unfortunately, the inter-university championships clashed with exams, and I missed the opportunity. I did win a few prizes in local opens, which whetted my appetite for more tournaments. I have to mention that on one of my trips back home to Calcutta, I played a game against my old chess friend. He was shell-shocked by the change in my style. I played the Evans gambit, sacrificed my white bishop on f7 in the opening itself, and forced a rapid capitulation. That one game showed how much I had progressed since my school days. Perhaps my most cherished achievement of my college years was the number of college mates to whom I introduced the game. I was a fundamentalist, evangelical chess missionary, and I made many converts. However, all too soon, the time came to pack up my bags and leave the oasis of peace and quiet that had been my sanctuary for four years.

(To be continued)

## GAMES SECTION

Anil Kumar Anand

Please send your games (preferably with notes) for publication to  
Email: anilanand\_2940@yahoo.com with copy to DrAmbar@gmail.com  
Post: A.Chatterjee, 11 Shriniketan, Anushakti Nagar, Mumbai 400094

W: **Chatterjee, Dr.A**

B: **Dhanish, P.B.**

**AICCF 7002**

French Winawer, C15

Notes by A.Chatterjee

*This game was played in 1993 against the current AICCF Champion. It was my first tournament in AICCF and indeed one of the first tournaments in AICCF itself. It was not my first encounter with Shri P.B.Dhanish, we had met before in CCAI. At the moment, Shri Dhanish is a formidable opponent and one cannot expect to win against him in the manner of this game.*

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nge2**

*French Defence, Alekhine Gambit. At the time this game was played there were no online databases or Fritz programs with built in book variations. I had recently studied a small book by Tony Dempsy devoted to this variation and had begun experimenting with it in my CC and OTB games.*

**4.Qd3 Ne7 5.Bd2 b6 6.Be2 O-O 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Bxc3 a5 (0-1) Anand-Short, Hoogovens Wijk aa Zee '90**

**4...dxe4 5.a3 Be7**

**5...Bxc3+ 6.Nxc3 Nc6 (6...f5? 7.f3 exf3 8.Qxf3 Qxd4 9.Qg3 +=) 7.Bb5 Nge7 8.Bg5 etc.**

**6.Nxe4 Nc6 7.Bf4**

*The other main line is 7.Be3 Nf6 8.N2c3 O-O 9.Ng3 b6 10.Be2 Bb7 11.O-O Qd7 12.Qd2 Rad8 13.Rfd1 Qc8 14.Qe1 e5 15.d5 Nd4 16.Bxd4*

**7...Nf6 8.Qd3 O-O 9.O-O-O b6**

*Not the best. Recommended is 9...Nxe4 10.Qxe4 Bd7 11.Ng1 Bd6 12.Nf3 Ne7 13.Ne5 Ng6 14.Nxg6 fxc6 15.Be3 Qe7 16.Bc4 Kh8 17.h4*

**10.Nxf6+ Bxf6 11.Qg3 Bh4 12.Qe3 Ne7 13.Nc3 Bb7 14.Bd3 Ng6 15.Bxg6 hxc6**

*A better option is 15...fxg6 16.Qxe6+ Kh8 17.Bg3 Bxg2 16.f3 Be7 17.Ne4 Bxe4? 18.fxe4 White is now definitely better. A strong kingside attack with h4-h5 is in the air.*

**18...Bd6 19.g3?**

*19.h4 Bxf4 20.Qxf4 f5 21.h5 fxe4 22.Qxe4 Qg5+ 23.Kb1 +- with a difficult game for Black: Games Ed.*

**19...Bxf4**

*An attempt to hold the position by simplifying*

**20.gxf4 Qh4!**

*An attempt to stifle the kingside attack at the cost of exposing the queen*

**21.Rdg1 Rfd8 22.h3 Qe7?**

*22...c5! 23.dxc5 bxc5 24.Rg5 c4 25.Rhg1 Rac8 26.R1g4 Qh6 27.h4 c3 unclear with a*

complicated game but white breathes easier -Games Ed.

**23.h4 c5 24.dxc5**

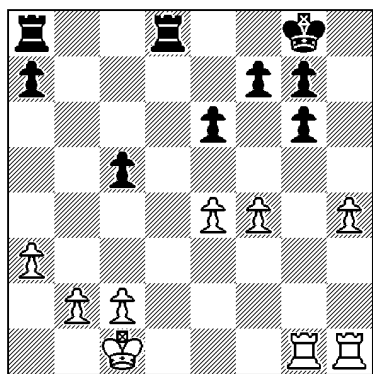
I had seen a simple simplifying endgame win. I suppose a player with a more aggressive style would choose to continue the attack by

24.h5 cxd4 25.Qf3 d3 26.hxg6 d2+ 27.Kb1 fxg6 28.Rxg6 +-

**24...Qxc5**

24...bxc5? 25.h5 gxh5 26.Rxh5 g6 27.e5! with a mating attack.

**25.Qxc5 bxc5**



Why did I evaluate this endgame as an easy win? White has a queenside majority, while Black is saddled with doubled pawns on the kingside. Moreover the rooks are likely to be exchanged along the d-file resulting in a pure king and pawn ending.

**26.Rd1 Kf8 27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.Rd1 Rxd1+ 29.Kxd1**

All according to plan

**29...f6**

Another possibility is 29...e5. I had spent a long time analysing this resource for black while simplifying to the endgame. I was convinced that white wins in all

the variations. 30.fxe5 Ke7 31.b4 cxb4 32.axb4 Ke6 33.Ke2 Kxe5 34.Ke3 a6 35.c4 and black king has to withdraw with an easy win for white -Games Ed.

**30.e5 g5 31.hxg5 fxg5 32.fxg5 Kf7 33.b4 1-0**

Black resigns early.

W: **Ravi Prakash, S.M.**

B: **Jayaraman, Mohan**

**AICCF Email 7288**

RetiOpening, D13

Notes by Mohan with annotations by the Games Ed

Mohan plays a neat game to remain on course to victory when a horrible blunder turns the tide. Perhaps his overseas travel to Nairobi was the main reason for this inexplicable blunder.

**1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6**

Reti opening. Reti and Alekhine (who adopted it faithfully) used this opening successfully against many then existing classical systems. Nowadays, following the revival of English opening, Reti's name is associated only with openings where Black replies d5 to White's 1.Nf3 and White follows up with c4, then fianchettoes at least his King's bishop, and doesn't transform to a Catalan or Neo-Grunfeld by playing an early d4.

**3.g3 Nf6**

3...dxc4 4.Bg2 b5 5.a4 Bb7 6.b3 cxb3 7.Qxb3 a6 8.axb5 axb5 (8...cxb5?? 9.Ne5) 9.Rxa8 Bxa8 10.Ne5 e6 11.Na3 +- Schmidt-Schaufelberger, Switzerland 1970

**4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.d4 Bf5 7.Nc3 e6 8.O-O Bd6 9.Qb3 a6 10.Nh4**

10.Qxb7 Na5 traps the Queen - Games Ed.

**10...Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Be3 O-O 13.a3**

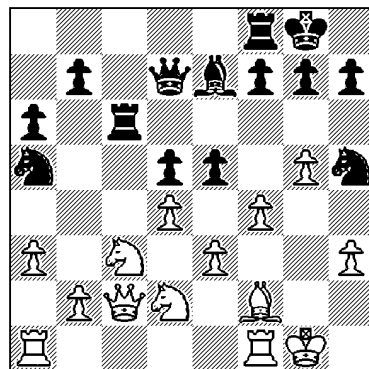
13.Qxb7?? Na5 still traps the Queen -Games Ed.

**13...Na5 14.Qc2 Rc8 15.f4 Be7 16.Bf2 Ne8 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Nxf3 Nf6 19.Nd2 Qd7 20.g4 Rc6 21.g5?**

21.e4 dxe4 22.Ndxe4 Nxe4

23.Qxe4 Nc4

**21...Nh5 22.e3 e5!**



**23.dxe5 d4! 24.exd4**

24.Qd3 Qxh3 25.Nd5 Bc5 26.b4 dxe3 27.Bxe3 Qg3+ 28.Kh1 Bxe3 29.Nxe3 Nxf4 30.Rxf4 Qxf4 31.bxa5 Qxg5 +- with several threats like Rh6+, Rd8, etc - Games Ed.

**24...Nxf4 25.Nde4 Nxb3+ 26.Kg2 Nxb3 27.Nxb3 Bxb3 28.Qd3 Nb3?**

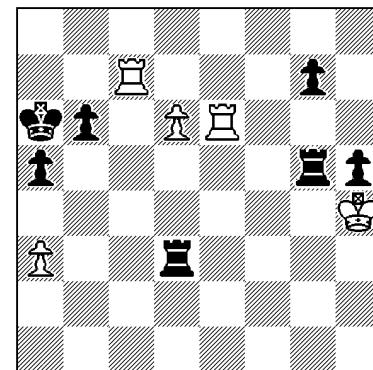
28...Nc4 threatening Nxb2 and Nd2 was preferable. Black actually returns to this move on move 36 but with loss of time - Games Ed.

**29.Rad1 Bf4 30.Ne2 Rg6+ 31.Bg3 Bxg3 32.Nxg3 Qd5+ 33.Qf3 Rd8 34.Qxd5 Rxd5 35.Rf4 Na5 36.Kf2 Nc4 37.Nf5 Kf8 38.Ne3 Nxb2 39.Rd2 Rb5 40.d5 Rb3 41.Rfd4 Ke8 42.d6 Kd8 43.Nc4 Nxc4 44.Rxc4 Rb5 45.Re2 Rg5 46.Rc7 Rf5+ 47.Kg2 b6 48.Re7 a5 49.Re3 h5 50.e6 Rg5+ 51.Kh3 fxe6 52.R3xe6 Rb1 53.Kh2 Rd1 54.Re8+ Kd7 55.R8e7+ Kc6 56.Rc7+**

56.d7+? Kc7

**56...Kb5 57.Re4 Rd2+ 58.Kh3 Ka6**

58...Rg1 59.Ree7 Rh1+ 60.Kg3 h4+ 61.Kf3 Ra1 62.d7 h3 63.a4+ Rxa4 64.Rxg7 Rd3+ 59.Re6 Rd3+ 60.Kh4



**60...Rd1??**

Intended 60...Rg1 but wrongly Emailed as 60...Rd1?? putting my rook en prise. 61.d7 Rd4+ 62.Kh3 g5 63.Kh2 Ra1 64.Re3 Ra2+ 65.Kg3 Rad2 66.Rc6 Rg4+ 67.Kh3 Rxd7 68.Rb3 Rb7 +-

**61.Kxg5 1-0**



W: Khan, Shams  
B: Dhanish, P.B.  
AICCF Champ. 1507  
French Tarrasch, C03

*French Defence, Dhanish's patent.*

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2**

*The Tarrasch variation avoids the nasty pin due to the Winawer (3.Nc3 Bb4) and weakened doubled pawns at c2, c3. However, knight at d2 exerts no pressure on d5, so allows Black to play c5 freely.*

**3...Be7**

*Sidestepping the main lines after 3...c5.*

*3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bc4 = Ivanchuk-Anand, FIDE W.Ch.KO Moscow 2001.*

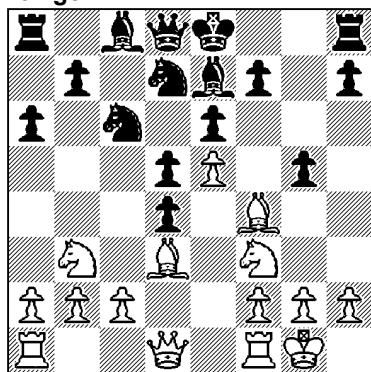
**4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bb5 c5 7.O-O a6 8.Bd3?**

*The early castling followed by this weak move loses valuable tempo. Surprising that it should come from an attacking player like Khan sahab. 8.Bxd7+ Nxd7 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Nd4 Qc7 11.f4 looks better.*

**8...cxd4 9.Nb3 Nc6 10.Bf4?**

*10.Qe2 was better.*

**10...g5!**



With the text move, Black seizes the initiative.

**11.Bc1**

*11.Bg3 h5 12.h3 g4 13.Nfxd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 gxh3 favours Black.*

**11...Ncxe5 12.Re1 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 Nf8 14.Qxd4 Ng6 15.Be3 O-O 16.c4 Bf6 17.Qg4 e5 18.Qh5 dxc4 19.Nbd2 Bf5 20.Nxc4 Nf4 21.Bxf4 Bg6 22.Qh3 exf4 23.Rad1 Qc7 24.Nce5 Rfe8 25.Nxg6 hxg6 26.b4 Rad8 27.Rxd8 Qxd8 28.Rc1 Kg7 29.a4**

*29.a3 Bb2 30.Rb1 Re2! 31.Rf1 f5 32.g4 fxg3! 33.Qxg3 g4 34.Ne1 Be5 35.Qd3 Qh4 with a winning attack for Black.*

**29...Re4 30.b5 a5 31.Qg4 Rxa4 32.h3 Ra2 33.h4 gxh4 34.Qxf4 Qb6 35.Ne5 g5 36.Nd7 gxf4 37.Nxb6**

*The ensuing endgame is lost for White. The rest of the game is a mere formality for the AICCF champ.*

**Bd4 38.Nd5 a4 39.Kh2 Rxf2 40.Rc4 Rd2 41.Kh3**

*41.Rxa4? f3! 42.Rxd4 Rxd4 43.Ne3 Re4! wins.*

**41...a3 42.Nb4 f5 43.Kxh4 Kg6 44.Kh3 Rd1 45.g4 Kg5 46.gxf5 f3 47.Rxd4 Rxd4 48.Nc2 Rf4 49.Kg3 f2 50.Ne3 a2 51.b6 a1=Q 0-1**

W: Ganapathi, Cdr. R.

B: Dhanish, P.B.

AICCF Champ. 1507

French Winawer, C18

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5**

**4...Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Bd3 c4 9.Be2 Nf5 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.Qh5 h6 12.Nh4 g6**

**13.Qg4 Qd8 14.Nf3 Bd7 15.Qf4 Qa5 16.Bd2 O-O-O -/+** Polgar, J-Anand, Roquebrune Rapid, '92 (0-1)

**5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Nc6**

Ne7, Qc7 or Qa5 is more usual.

**6...Qa5 7.Bd2 Qa4 8.Qg4 g6 9.Qd1 cxd4 10.Rb1 d3 11.Bxd3 Qxa3 (1-0) Anand-Nikolic, FIDE W.Ch.KO, '97.**

**7.Qg4 g6**

**7...Qa5!?**

(a) **8.Qxg7?** Qxc3+ 9.Kd1 (9.Bd2? Qxa1+ 10.Ke2 Nxd4+ 11.Kd3 Qxf1+ 12.Ne2 Qxe2+ 13.Kc3 Qc4+ 14.Kb2 Qxc2+ 15.Ka1 Nb3#) 9...Qxd4+ 10.Bd3 Qxe5 11.Bb2 d4 -+

(b) **8.Bd2!** Kf8!? 9.Nf3 Qa4 10.Kd1!? leads to a complicated game.

**8.Bb5 Qa5 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Ne2 Ba6 11.Qf3**

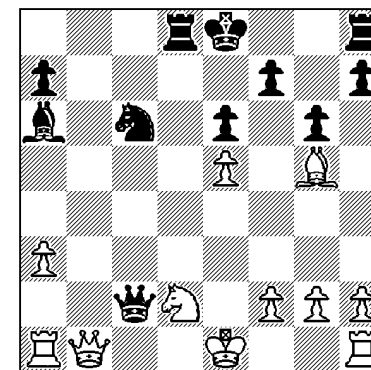
**11.Bd2 Qa4 12.O-O** was preferable.

**11...cxd4 12.Nxd4 Qc7 13.Qf4 Rb8 14.Nb3 c5 15.Be3 d4 16.cxd4 cxd4 17.Qxd4 17.Bxd4 Qxc2 18.Nd2**

(a) 18...Ne7 is unclear.

(b) 18...Rb3!? 19.Qe4 Rd3 20.Qa8+ Bc8 21.Be3 Ne7 22.Ne4 O-O 23.O-O Ba6?? (23...Qc6 24.Nf6+ Kg7 25.Qxa7 Bb7 26.f3 Ra8 27.Qc5 Nd5 28.Nxd5 exd5 with a slight plus for White.) 24.Nf6+ Kg7 25.Qxf8+ Kxf8 26.Bh6#)

**17...Qxc2 18.Nd2 Rd8 19.Qb4 Ne7 20.Bg5 Nc6 21.Qb1**



**21...Rxd2! 22.Bxd2 Qc4 23.Kd1 23.Qd1 Nxe5 24.Bb4! Qe4+ 25.Kd2 Bb5! 26.Rb1 a5** is no better.

**23...Qg4+ 24.Kc2**

**24.f3 Qxg2 25.Re1 Qxf3+ 26.Kc1 O-O -+**

**24...O-O 25.Qe1 Qc4+**

White resigns.

**0-1**

Another game from Dr. Surveyor's collection:

W: Surveyor, Dr. A.B

B: Venugopal, Dr. N

CCAI NCCC 1983-84

Kings Indian Defence, E73

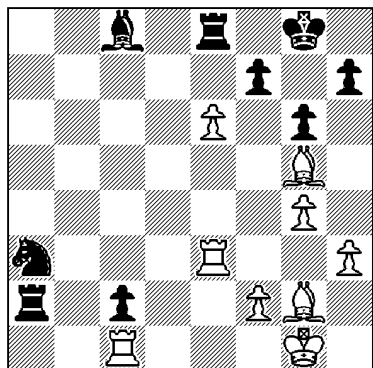
**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4**

An English opening transformed into a King's Indian Defence. The distinctive feature of the text is the delayed castling by White.

**Bg7 5.Be2 O-O 6.Bg5 a6 7.h3 Nbd7 8.Qd2 Re8 9.Bf3 c5 10.Nge2 Rb8 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.b3 b5 13.cxb5 axb5 14.dxc5 dxc5 15.g4 Ne5 16.Bg2 b4 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 c4 19.bxc4 Nxc4 20.Qc2 Bc3+?**

A weak continuation. Instead

20...Ba6 21.Bf4 Qa5 with advantage to Black.  
**21.Nxc3 Na3 22.Qb3 Qxc3+ 23.Qxc3 bxc3 24.Rc1 c2 25.O-O Rb2 26.Rfe1 e6 27.Re3 Rxa2 28.dxe6!**



A farsighted move, the consequences of which are too difficult to foresee.

**28...fxe6**  
 28...Bxe6 29.Bd5 Bxd5 30.Rxe8+ Kg7 31.Be7 Nc4 32.Bf8+ Kf6 33.Re2 offers better chances to black than the text.

or

28...Rxe6 29.Rc3! with several threats: Rxc8+, Bd5, Bh6, etc. If Bd7 30.Bd5 Nb5 31.Bxe6 Bxe6 32.R3xc2 +-.

**29.Bd5! Rb2 30.Bc6 Rb1 31.Rxa3 Rd8! 32.Ra8**

32.Kg2 is safer.

**32...h6**

32...Rd1+ 33.Kg2 Rbxc1 34.Rxc8+ Kg7 35.Rc7+ Kg8 36.Be8 Rg1+ 37.Kf3 Kf8 (37...Rg3+ 38.Kxg3 Rg1+ 39.Kh2 c1=Q 40.Bxc1 Rxc1 41.Rxc1 +-). 38.Bf7 with mate to follow soon.

**33.Be3! Kf7 34.Kh2 Rd1? 35.Rxc2 1-0**

W: **Anand, Anil**  
 B: **Khan, Shams**  
**T.No. 4305**

Queen's Gambit Accepted, D26

Playing a strong attacking player like Shams Khan always is a challenge. Here is a typical example of attack and counterattack where Black comes within an inch of success.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4**

Queen's gambit accepted. Despite appearances the modern strategy by black is not to hold on to the pawn but to play for free development and to saddle White with an isolated d-pawn after an exchange on d4. Black's *problem child* in the QGD-his light coloured bishop is free to find an active post at g4 or at b7.

**3.Nf3 Nf6**

3...c5 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 Nf6 6.O-O Nc6 7.Nc3 cxd4 8.exd4 Be7 9.Bf4 O-O 10.Rc1 (1-0) Pillsbury – Tarrasch, Nuremberg, 1896.

**4.e3**

4.Nc3 a6 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Qd5 9.g3 Bb7 10.Bg2 Qd7 11.Ba3 Bd5 12.O-O Nc6 13.Re1 = Van der Sterren-Hort, Amst.,1982

**4...e6 5.Bxc4 a6**

5...c5 6.Qe2 (6.Nc3 a6 7.O-O b5 8.Be2 Bb7 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.a3 Ke7 12.b4 Bd6 13.Bb2 Nbd7 = Capablanca-Rubinstein, Moscow, 1925) (6.O-O a6 7.Bb3 Nc6 8.Nc3 cxd4 9.exd4 Be7 10.Re1 O-O 11.Bf4 Na5 12.Bc2 b5 -/+ (0-1)Illescas-Anand,Leon,'97.) 6...a6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.O-O Qc7 9.Nbd2 O-O 10.a3 b5 11.Bd3 Bd6 12.b4 Bb7 13.Bb2 Nbd7 14.Rac1 Qb8 =

Christiansen – Dlugy, US Chmp, 1985

**6.Nc3 b5 7.Bd3 c5**

7...Bb7 8.a4 b4 9.Nb1 c5 10.O-O Nc6 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Qe2 Qd5 13.Rd1 Qh5 (0-1) Duras-Capablanca, New York, Rice, 1913.

**8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qe2 O-O 10.Ne4 Nbd7 11.O-O Bb7 12.Nxc5 Nxc5 13.Bb1**

White wants to keep the bishop pair.

**Qc7 14.Bd2 Rfd8 15.Rc1 Rac8 16.Nd4**

16.b4? Bxf3! 17.gxf3 Qd6 -/+

**16...Qd6 17.Ba5 Re8 18.f3**

18.Rd1 Qd5 19.f3 Qh5 20.e4 =

**18...Bd5 19.Qd2 Na4 20.Rd1 Qe5 21.b3 Nc5 22.Bc2 Qh5 23.Rac1?**

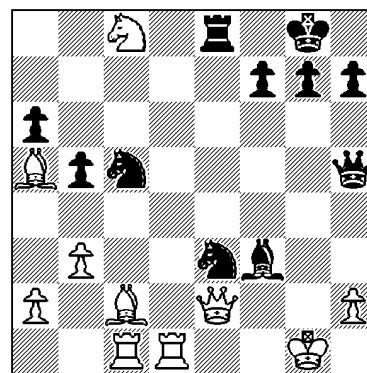
Better 23.e4!

**e5 24.Nf5 e4!**

The beginning of a strong attack.

**25.Nd6 exf3 26.Nxc8 Ng4!**

**27.gxf3 Nxe3 28.Qe2! Bxf3?**



Shams Khan ruefully regretted the blunder by White but he is painfully unaware of the lurking counterattack by White due to Black's back rank weakness.

28...Qg5+ 29.Kh1 Rxc8 30.Re1 Re8 (30...Qg4 31.Bd1! the advanced knight is a liability in many variations.) (30...Nf5? 31.Qe8+ wins) 31.Bd1! wins

**29.Ne7+!**

This intermezzo saves the day.

**29...Kf8**

29...Rxe7 30.Rd8+ Re8

31.Rxe8#

**30.Qxe3 Qg4+**

30...Rxe7 31.Rd8+ Re8

32.Qxe8#

**31.Kf2 Qg2+ 32.Ke1 Bxd1**

**33.Bb4! Bxc2**

33...Rxe7 34.Bxc5 Qg1+ 35.Kd2 Qxe3+ 36.Bxe3 Bxc2 37.Rxc2 +-.

**34.Bxc5 Be4 35.Bd6 Qh1+**

35...Rd8 36.Nf5+ Kg8 37.Qg3 Qxg3+ 38.Nxg3 Bb1 39.a3 Ba2 40.b4 Bc4 41.Bc7

**36.Kd2 Qg2+ 37.Kc3!**

White has managed to avoid the worst and now black is struggling hard to hold the position.

**Qf3?**

37...Rd8 38.Qd4 Ke8 39.Re1 Qc2+ 40.Kb4 a5+ 41.Ka3 is no better.

**38.Qxf3 Bxf3 39.Kd4 h5!**

The only idea for black is to try to promote the passed K-side pawns.

**40.Rc7 Rd8 41.Kc5 Ra8**

**42.Nc8+ Kg8 43.Nb6 Rd8**

**44.Ra7 f5 45.Rxa6 g5 46.Ra7**

**Re8 47.Kxb5 f4 48.a4 Re3 49.b4**

**Re6 50.Rd7 Re2 51.h4 gxh4**

**52.Bxf4 h3 53.Nd5!**

Devoid of pawn cover, black now falls into a mating trap.

**Bxd5**

53...h2 54.Nf6+ Kf8 (54...Kh8 55.Rh7#) 55.Bh6#

**54.Rxd5 Rf2 55.Bd6 h2!**

**56.Rg5+!**

56.Rxh5? Rf5+! 57.Rxf5 h1=Q  
**56...Kf7 57.Rxh5 Rd2 58.Bxh2 Kg6 59.Rh6+ Kg7**  
 59...Kxh6 60.Bf4+  
**60.a5 Rf2 61.a6!**

Idea of faster pawn promotion!

**Kxh6 62.a7 Ra2 63.Bg1 Kg6 64.Bb6**

With the simple idea of 65.Ba5.

**Rxa7 65.Bxa7 Kf5 66.Kc6 Kf4 67.b5**

Black resigns.

1-0

W: **Neelakantan, N.**

B: **Nagaradjane, A.G.**

**AICCF Champ, 1507**

Sicilian Morra Gambit, B21

*Notes by N.Neelakantan*

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4**

The Morra gambit in the Sicilian by transposition.

**4.c3!? dxc3 5.Nxc3 d6**

5...e6 6.Bc4 Bb4 7.O-O Nge7 8.Qe2 O-O 9.Rd1 gives White a strong initiative in the centre.

5...g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.e5!? Qa5 8.O-O Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.Nd5 e6 11.Re1 f6 12.Bb3 Kf7 13.Rxe5 fxe5 14.Qf3+ Ke8 15.Bh6! +- Sokolov – Petek, Kikinda, 1954 - Games Ed.

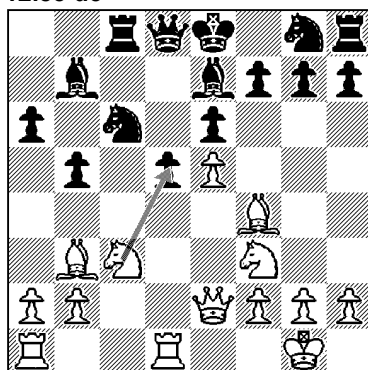
**6.Bc4 e6 7.O-O Be7**

7...Nf6 8.Qe2 a6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Rfd1 Qc7 11.Rac1 O-O 12.Bb3! threatening 13.Nd5! h6 13.Bf4 e5 14.Be3 with roughly equal chances, Fischer-Korchnoi, Buenos Aires, 1960 -Games Ed.

**8.Qe2 a6 9.Rd1 b5 10.Bb3 Bb7 11.Bf4 Rc8**

Here or earlier Black could have played ...b4 or ...Qc7 avoiding the imminent sacrifice which follows.

**12.e5 d5**



**13.Nxd5!**

After this promising and necessary sacrifice Black has a difficult defensive task.

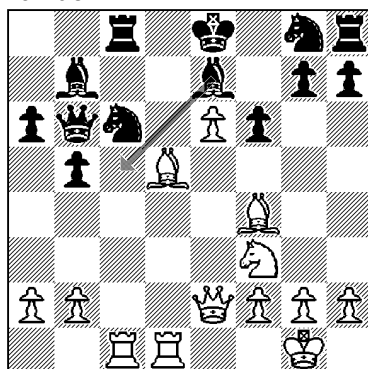
**13...exd5 14.Bxd5 Qb6 15.e6 f6**

15...f5 16.Nh4 Bxh4 (16...Nf6

17.Nxf5 Nxd5 18.Nxg7+ Kf8

19.Rxd5 with attack.) 17.Qh5+

**16.Rac1**



**16...Bc5!**

Not foreseen by me!

**17.Qd2 Nge7 18.Bxc6+ Bxc6**

**19.b4 Bxb4?**

19...Bxf2+ 20.Qxf2 Qxf2+

21.Kxf2 is only slightly better for White.

**20.Qxb4 Qb7 21.Bd6 Bxf3 22.gxf3 Rd8 23.Qb3!**

Black resigns. He has no satisfactory defence against the threatened Rc7 for example 23...

Nc6 24.Qd5 Na5 25.e7! Ra8 26.Qh5+ g6 27.Qh6 Kf7 28.Rc7

Games Ed.

1-0

W: **Ganapathi, Cdr.R**

B: **Chatterjee, Dr.A**

**AICCF Champ. 1507**

Sicilian Poisoned Pawn, B97

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4**

**4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6**

**7.f4 Qb6**

Sicilian Najdorf, the ultra-sharp Poisoned pawn variation, a favourite with Bobby Fischer.

**8.Qd2**

8.Nb3 Nbd7 9.Qf3 Be7 10.O-O-O Qc7 11.Bd3 h6 12.Bh4 g5 13.Bf2 gxf4 14.Qxf4 b5 -/+ (0-1) Leko-Anand, Advanced Chess 2001.

**8...Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5**

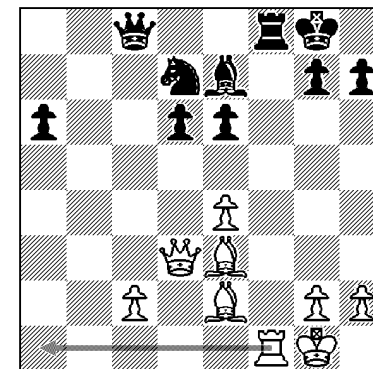
10.e5 dxe5 11.fxe5 Nfd7 12.Bc4 Bb4 13.Rb3 Qa5 14.O-O O-O 15.Nxe6!? fxe6 16.Bxe6+ Kh8 17.Rxf8+ Bxf8 18.Qf4 Nc6 19.Qf7 Qc5+ 20.Kh1 Nf6! 21.Bxc8 Nxe5! 22.Qe6 Neg4!! (0-1): Tringov – Fischer, 1965

**10...Nc6 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Be2**

12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Be2 (13.e5 Nd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Be2 dxe5 16.O-O Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Rf8! 18.c4 Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Bb7 20.Bg4 dxc4 21.Bxe6 Qd3! 22.Qe1 Be4! 23.Bg4 Rb8! 24.Bd1 Kd7 25.Rf7+ Ke6 0-1: Fischer-Geller, Monte Carlo, 1967) 13...Be7 14.O-O O-O 15.Rb3 Qc5+ 16.Be3 Qe5 17.Bf4 Qc5+ 18.Kh1 Ng4 19.h3 e5 20.Na4 Qa7 21.Bc4+ Kh8

22.hxg4 exf4 23.Nb6 Rb8 = Spragget-Sokolov match, 1988.

**12...Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Be7 14.O-O O-O 15.Be3 b5 16.Rb3 Qc5 17.Qd3 Qc7 18.a4 bxa4 19.Nxa4 Rb8 20.Nb6 Nd7 21.Rc3 Qd8 22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.Rxc8 Qxc8**



**24.Ra1?!**

The decisive mistake. Instead 24.Qc4! Nf6 25.Ra1 d5 26.Qxc8 Rxc8 27.e5 Nd7 28.Rxa6 Rxc2 29.Bg4 Nc5 30.Bxe6+ Nxe6 31.Rxe6 Kf7 32.Ra6 with better chances for Black.

**24...Bf6 25.Rxa6 Nc5 26.Qxd6?**

The text loses the exchange.

26.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 27.Kh1 -/+

**26...Nxa6 27.Bxa6 Qc3 28.Bf2 Qxc2 29.Qxe6+ Kh8 30.h3 Bg5 31.Qb6 Qxe4 32.Kh1 Bf4 33.Bb7 Qc4 34.Bf3 Qc1+ 35.Bg1 Re8 36.Qb5 Re1 37.Qb6 Bc7 38.Qf2 Bd6 39.Qb6 Qc5**

Black resigns because he cannot prevent the loss of a piece e.g.

40.Qd8+ Bf8 41.Kh2 Rxg1

0-1