

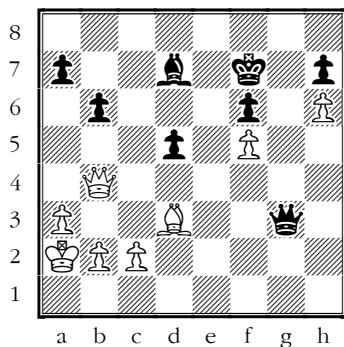
Chess News

Stellwagen wins Complete Chess Match

Dutch junior, **Daniel Stellwagen** won the decisive 4th game of his match against David Baramidze, with a final score of 2½-1½. In this match the opponents were allowed to use computer help during the play. In Game 4 the Petroff Defence was played. According to the [notes](#) from [official site](#), Baramidze made the final mistake on the 36th move:

Stellwagen - Baramidze

Complete Chess Match Maastricht (4), 13.02.2004



36...♙g5?

The annotator Jan van Reek suggests 36...♙f3!.

37.♙d6 ♘xf5 38.♙c7+ ♔g6
39.♙g7+ ♖h5 40.♙xa7 ♘xd3
41.cxd3 ♖xh6 42.♙xb6 ♙f5 43.a4
♙xd3 44.♙xf6+ ♖h5 45.♙c6 ♙d2
46.♙b5 ♔g5 47.a5 ♙d4 48.a6 h5
49.♙a5 1-0.

12th Open Valle d'Aosta

Romanian Grandmaster Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu defeated Michele Godena in Round 6 and is continuing to lead with a perfect score! In round 7 Nisipeanu will face Mikhail Gurevich, who is one of six players with 6 points.

[Official site](#)

Open International de Cannes

After seven rounds, Grandmasters Palac and Ivanov are on top with 6 points. GMs Agdestein and Lalic follow close behind with 5½ points.

[Official site](#)

France vs China match (Cannes)

Before the final round (8th) the Chinese team leads with the score 19-9.

Round 7 results:

Xu Yuanyuan – Guidarelli 1-0

Zhao Xue – Fontaine ½-½

Sebag – Ni Hua 0-1

Abergel – Bu Xiangzhi ½-½

[Official site](#)

AS04 100 Centenary 2004 (Copenhagen)

After 7 rounds, Nick De Firmian and Jonny Hector are leading with 6 points. On 13th February Hector made a present to himself for his 40th birthday – he won his game against Ruslan Pogorelov.

[Official site](#)

Top 10 chess countries

The official FIDE site has published an interesting statistic: The top chess countries by average rating of their 10 top players:

1. Russia – 2726
2. Ukraine – 2622
3. England – 2614
4. Hungary – 2613
5. France – 2612
6. USA – 2607
7. Israel – 2605
8. Germany – 2601
9. China – 2593
10. Netherlands – 2591

[Additional Information](#)

Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

White: M. Golubev

Black: R. Mantovani

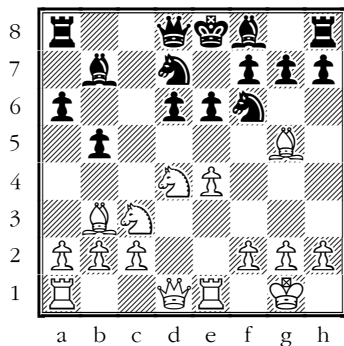
Biel open (7), 27.07.1992

Sicilian Defence/Scheven.V – [B87]

This game is one of my most memorable games, which was played more than 11 years ago. This version of the annotations is new.

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4 ♟f6 5.♞c3 a6 6.♞c4 e6 7.♞b3 b5 8.0-0 ♞b7

The main move 8...♞e7 is safer. **9.♞e1! ♞bd7!** 9...♞e7?! fails to 10.♞xe6!, so Black is urged to play with a king in centre. **10.♞g5! (D)**

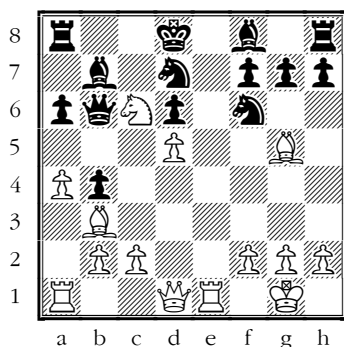


10...♞b6 This allows White to start a dangerous attack. 10...♞c7?! has not played often, but it can possibly be recommended.

11.a4 b4 12.♞d5! exd5 13.exd5+ ♞d8

13...♞e5 14.a5 ♞c5 15.♞e3! with White's advantage, which occurred later in Adams-Sadler, Dublin Zt 1993.; 13...♞e7 has yet to be tested. A possible continuation is 14.♞f5 ♞e5 15.a5 ♞c5 16.♞xg7+ ♞d8 17.♞f5!? ♞g8 18.♞e3 ♞c8 19.♞b6+ ♞e8 20.♞xe7 ♞xe7 21.f4 ♞h3 22.♞e2!±

14.♞c6+ (D)

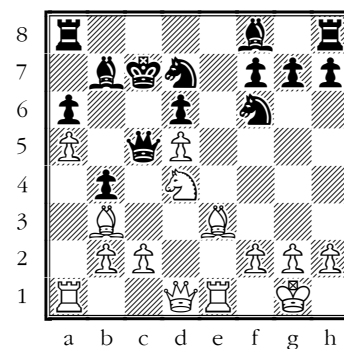


No less, or perhaps maybe even more dangerous for Black is 14.a5!? ♞c5 (or 14...♞c7 15.c3 with attack – Adams) 15.c4! (not 15.♞c6+?! ♞xc6 16.dxc6 ♞xg5), with the main idea of 15...bxc3 16.♞c1 ♞xd5 17.♞xc3 ♞xb3 18.♞xb3 ♞xd4 19.♞b7 ♞a7 20.♞c8+! **14...♞c7** There were two other moves to consider: After 14...♞xc6!? 15.dxc6 ♞xc6 one of the possible lines is 16.♞d5 ♞c8 17.♞xa8 (or 17.♞h5!? ♞e7 18.♞xf7, where Black should play 18...♞xd5) 17...♞xa8 18.♞h5 (18.♞e2 ♞c6!? with the idea of 19.♞e8+ ♞c7 20.♞xf7 ♞d5) 18...♞d5 19.♞ad1 with good compensation for White. He also could try c2-c3 at an earlier stage.; Another option is 14...♞c8!?, where after 15.a5 Black should play 15...♞b5! (Not 15...♞c7 16.♞g4!! ♞xg4 17.♞e8+ ♞d8 18.♞xd8±; also favours White 15...♞c5 16.c4! with the idea of 16...♞xc6 17.♞e3!), and now 16.c4! is possible. Caprano-Curtassi, Corr. 1993 followed 16...bxc3 17.♞c1!? cxb2!? 18.♞a7+ ♞b8 19.♞xb5 bxc1 ♞xc1 axb5 21.♞c3 with good chances for White.

15.a5 ♞b5 16.♞d4

Also here 16.c4! deserves serious attention: 16...bxc3 is forced, and White can continue with 17.♞c1 (or maybe 17.♞xf6!?)

16...♞c5 17.♞e3 (D)



The threats now are 18.♞e2 ♞b5 19.c4! and 18.♞e6+.

17...♞xd5?

Black is ready to play with three pieces for the queen. With the similar idea, stronger would be 17...♞xd5! 18.♞e6+ (18.c3 does not look convincing) 18...fxe6 19.♞xc5 ♞xc5. I planned to play 20.♞xe6! ♞xe6 21.♞xd5, but it's hard to say whether White's activity gives him an objective advantage. 21...♞c5 22.♞xb7 ♞xb7

This issue is prepared by GM Mikhail Golubev; technical editor: Ralph Marconi

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

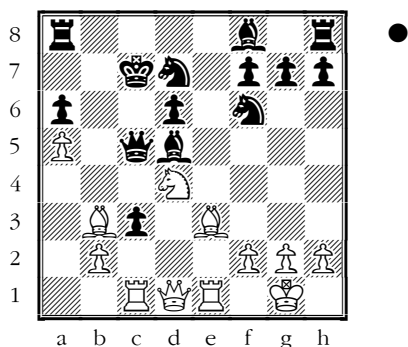
(after 22...♖xb7 23.♗d5+ ♕a7 24.♗f7+ ♖b7 White can try 25.♗d1!? ♗c8 26.c3) , and now 23.c3!? deserves attention (23.♗d5 ♗b8! looks good for Black); After 17...♖c8 White can try to attack by 18.♖c6 ♗b5 19.c4!? (instead, 19.♖d4 ♗c5 repeats the position.)

18.c4!

Starting a direct attack. It was also not bad to win the queen: 18.♖e6+ ♗xe6 19.♗xc5 ♖xc5 20.♗xe6 fxe6 , and now 21.b3!? (not 21.c3 b3!) 21...♗b8 22.♗c1 – and it's not easy for Black to defend his fortress.

18...bxc3

After 18...♗b7? 19.♖b5+ White wins. 19.♗c1!± (D)

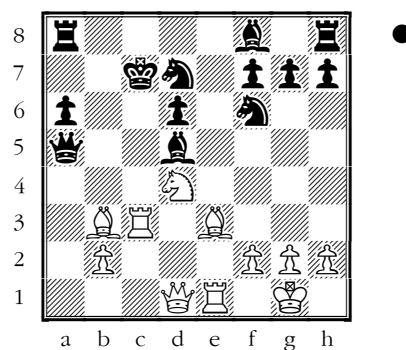


The Black's king is in danger, and his kingside is not developed – a nice position for White. But the intuition that helped me during the game was only of limited use when later in the same year I prepared the game annotations for *New in Chess* and *Chess Informant*. There are many options for Black and in several lines I couldn't find a clear advantage. Now, fortunately, playing programs can help a bit in such cases and I am quite sure that White is better.

19...♗xa5

Or: 19...♖e4? 20.♖b5+! ♗xb5 21.♗xd5 ♗e8 22.♗xe4 ♗xe4 23.♗b6+ ♖xb6 24.♗xb6+ ♖xb6 25.♗xe4 is hopeless for Black.; 19...♗b4? 20.♗xc3+ ♖c5 21.♗xd5 ♖xd5 22.♗f3 gives White a crushing attack: 22...♖xc3 (or 22...♗b7 23.♗xf7+ ♗e7 24.♗g5 , etc.) 23.bxc3! ♗b7 24.♗xf7+ ♖b8 (24...♖d7 25.♖e6+ ♖c6 26.♗b6) 25.♗e8+ ♗c8 (25...♖c7 26.♖e6+! ♖xe6 27.♗b6+) 26.♗b1+ ♖c7 27.♗c6+ ♖d8 28.♗g5+; 19...♗xb3!? 20.♗xb3 leads to very complicated lines, but the verdict is in White's favour: 20...♖d5 **a)**20...♗b8 21.♗xf7 ♖b7 **(a)**21...♗h5 22.♗c4+! ♖c5 23.♖e6+ with a winning attack.;

a)21...♗d5 22.♗xc3+ ♖b7 23.♖e6! gives White a great advantage: 23...♗c8 24.♗xc8!? ♖xc8 25.♗c1+ ♖b8 26.♗g5! ♗b7 27.♗xf6 ♖xf6 28.♗c7!+-) 22.♗xc3 ♗h5 **(a)**22...♗xa5 23.♗ec1 ♖a8 24.♗a3+-) , and now 23.♖e6! is very strong: 23...♗c8 24.♖d8+! ♖b8 **(a)**or 24...♗xd8 25.♗b3+!) 25.♗a7+!? ♖xa7 26.♗xc8±; **b)**After 20...♗d5 , the simplest is 21.♗xc3+! ♖c5 22.b4 with a big advantage; , and now White has the amazing 21.♗xc3!! ♖xc3 22.♗xf7 with more than sufficient compensation for a rook and knight: 22...♗xa5 (Or: 22...♖c8 23.♗e8+ ♖b7 24.♗xd7+ ♗c7 25.♗f5; 22...♗d5 23.♖e6+ ♖c6 24.♗c1) 23.♖e6+ ♖c6 24.♗c1! ♗b8 (24...♖c5 25.♖d4+ ♖b6 26.bxc3+-; 24...♗c8 25.♗xc3+ ♖c5 26.♖d4+ ♖b6 27.♗b3+ and White is much better.) 25.♗d2!! (one more nice move) 25...♗c8 (25...♗a4 26.♗xc3+ ♖b7 27.b3! ♗b5 28.♖d4+-) 26.♗xc3+ (26.♗xc3!? ♗a4 27.b3!) 26...♖c5 27.♗xc5+ with a clear advantage. 20.♗xc3+ (D)



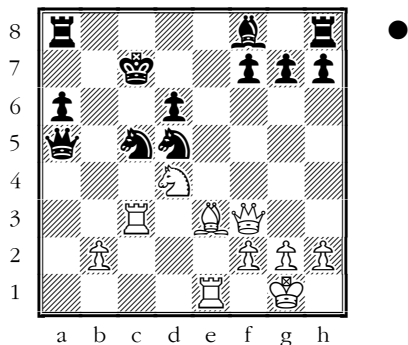
20...♖c5?!

After 20...♖d8? White wins by 21.♗d2! (21.♗xd5 ♗xd5 22.♖c6+ is also good) ; Necessary was 20...♖b7 , and White's task would be more complicated than in the game. 21.♗xd5+ (also possible is 21.♗d2!? , preserving a very strong attack) 21...♖xd5 (21...♗xd5 22.♗c2 ♖c5 23.b4 ♗e4 24.♗c1 ♖d5 25.bxc5! with a big advantage) 22.♗a3!? (There could be something even stronger, but White should avoid 22.♖c6?! ♗b5 23.♗b3 ♖xc6 24.♗xb5 ♗xb5 25.♗f3 ♗a4! 26.b3 ♗b4! 27.♗c1+ ♖c5 28.♗d1 ♖e4! where it's not clear if he can win.) 22...♖xe3 (22...♗d8 23.♗b3+ ♖7b6 24.♗f3+-) 23.♗b3+ ♗b6 24.♗xf7 ♗c7 25.♗axe3 ♖b6 (there is nothing better) 26.♗e7 ♗xe7 27.♗xe7± , and this endgame should be favourable for White.

This issue is prepared by GM Mikhail Golubev; technical editor: Ralph Marconi

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

21. ♖xd5 ♜xd5 22. ♖f3!+- (D)



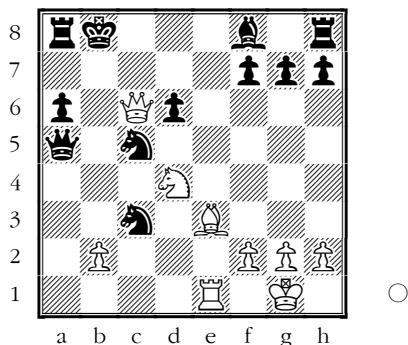
22... ♜xc3

22... ♜b6 23. ♖c6+ (or 23. ♖xf7+)
23... ♖b8 24. ♖f4 is easily winning for White.

23. ♖c6+!

Black hoped for 23. ♖xa8? ♜e2+!
24. ♖f1 (24. ♖xe2?? ♖a1+; 24. ♜xe2??
♖xe1#) 24... ♜xd4 , when he is out of danger.

23... ♖b8 (D)



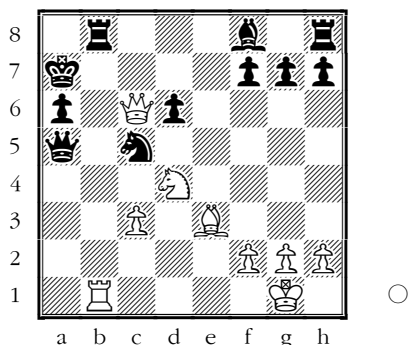
24. ♖xc3! ♖a7

Or 24... ♖a7 25. ♖e8+ ♖c7 26. ♖xf7+
and White wins: 26... ♖b6 (26... ♜d7
27. ♜e6+) 27. ♖e8!? ♖a2 28. ♖c6+ ♖a5
29. ♜b3+ , etc.; After 24... ♖a2 , the
simplest is 25. ♖f4 (or 25. ♖g5 ♜e7
26. ♖xe7) ; Finally, 24... ♖c7 loses to
25. ♖b1+! ♜b7 26. ♖e8+ ♖c8 27. ♜c6+
♖c7 28. ♖b6#.

25. ♖b1!

The threat now is 26. ♖b7+! ♜xb7
27. ♜c6#.

25... ♖b8 (D)



Or 25... ♖d8 26. ♖d5! ♖c8 27. ♜c6+

♖xc6 28. ♖xc6

26. ♖xc5+!!

An important resource – otherwise
White is lost.

26... ♖b6

26... ♖xc5 27. ♜c6+ ♖a8 28. ♖xb8#.

27. ♜c6+ ♖a8 28. ♖xb6

GM Alexey Shirov, who at the time
played in the Biel festival's main
tournament, liked this game. And my
opponent, Italian IM Renzo
Mantovani, who I met again few years
ago, also preserved not bad memories.
So I hope that it is really an interesting
game. I also remember that on the day
of the game my Chess Informant and
magnetic chessboard were
mysteriously stolen by someone in a
supermarket, so I was in a special
mood for playing. Unfortunately,
nothing similar has happened to me
since then, even in such a dangerous
country as Switzerland. **1-0.**

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

Chess Today is published by Alexander
Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin,
Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1)
283-6839. E-mail: ababurin@iol.ie
Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net>

Editors: GMs Baburin, Golubev and
Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov.

Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph
P. Marconi.

**Chess Today is copyright 2004 by
Alexander Baburin** and protected
intellectual property under the International
Copyright convention.

Subscribers are allowed to non-commercially
distribute copies of Chess Today at their chess
club, chess tournaments and via e-mail (on an
occasional basis). Any other use and
distribution (reproduction, via print, electronic
format, or in any form whatsoever), as well as
posting on the Web, is strictly prohibited
without express written permission.