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.

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.

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

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.

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
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.\(\text{\&}f3\) d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.\(\text{\&}xd4\) \(\text{\&}f6\) 5.\(\text{\&}c3\) a6 6.\(\text{\&}c4\) e6 7.\(\text{\&}b3\) b5 8.0–0 \(\text{\&}b7\)

The main move 8...\(\text{\&}e7\) is safer.

9.\(\text{\&}e1\) \(\text{\&}bd7!\) 9...\(\text{\&}e7?!\) fails to 10.\(\text{\&}xe6!\), so Black is urged to play with a king in centre. 10.\(\text{\&}g5!\) (D)

10...\(\text{\&}b6\) This allows White to start a dangerous attack. 10...\(\text{\&}c7?!\) has not played often, but it can possibly be recommended.

11.a4 b4 12.\(\text{\&}d5!\) exd5 13.exd5+ \(\text{\&}d8\)

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

14.\(\text{\&}c6+\) (D)

No less, or perhaps maybe even more dangerous for Black is 14.a5! \(\text{\&}c5\) (or 14...\(\text{\&}c7\) 15.\(\text{\&}c3\) with attack – Adams) 15.\(\text{\&}c4!\) (not 15.\(\text{\&}c6+?! \text{\&}xc6\) 16.\(\text{\&}xc6\) \(\text{\&}xg5\)), with the main idea of 15...\(\text{\&}xc3\) 16.\(\text{\&}c1\) \(\text{\&}xd5\) 17.\(\text{\&}xc3\) \(\text{\&}xb3\) 18.\(\text{\&}xb3\) \(\text{\&}xd4\) 19.\(\text{\&}b7\) \(\text{\&}a7\) 20.\(\text{\&}c8+!\)

14...\(\text{\&}c7\)

There were two other moves to consider: After 14...\(\text{\&}xc6?\) 15.\(\text{\&}xc6\) \(\text{\&}xc6\) one of the possible lines is 16.\(\text{\&}d5\) \(\text{\&}c8\) 17.\(\text{\&}xa8\) (or 17.\(\text{\&}h5?\) \(\text{\&}e7\) 18.\(\text{\&}xf7\) , where Black should play 18...\(\text{\&}xd5\) 17...\(\text{\&}xa8\) 18.\(\text{\&}h5\) (18.\(\text{\&}e2\) \(\text{\&}c6\) with the idea of 19.\(\text{\&}e8+\) \(\text{\&}c7\) 20.\(\text{\&}xf7\) \(\text{\&}d5\) 18...\(\text{\&}d5\) 19.\(\text{\&}ad1\) with good compensation for White. He also could try c2–c3 at an earlier stage.; Another option is 14...\(\text{\&}c8?!\) , where after 15.a5 Black should play 15...\(\text{\&}b5!\) (Not 15...\(\text{\&}c7\) 16.\(\text{\&}g4!\) \(\text{\&}xg4\) 17.\(\text{\&}e8+\) \(\text{\&}d8\) 18.\(\text{\&}xd8\)+; also favours White 15...\(\text{\&}c5\) 16.\(\text{\&}c4!\) with the idea of 16...\(\text{\&}xc6\) 17.\(\text{\&}e3!\)\), and now 16.c4?! is possible. Caprano–Curtassi, Corr. 1993 followed 16...\(\text{\&}xc3\) 17.\(\text{\&}c1\)\?\(\text{\&}xb2?\) 18.\(\text{\&}a7+\) \(\text{\&}b8\) 19.\(\text{\&}xb5\) \(\text{\&}xc1\) 20.\(\text{\&}xc1\) \(\text{\&}xb5\) 21.\(\text{\&}c3\) with good chances for White.

15.a5 \(\text{\&}b5\) 16.\(\text{\&}d4\)

Also here 16.c4? deserves serious attention: 16...\(\text{\&}xc3\) is forced, and White can continue with 17.\(\text{\&}c1\) (or maybe 17.\(\text{\&}xf6?!\) )

16...\(\text{\&}c5\) 17.\(\text{\&}e3\) (D)

The threats now are 18.\(\text{\&}e2\) \(\text{\&}b5\) 19.\(\text{\&}e4!\) and 18.\(\text{\&}e6+\).

17...\(\text{\&}xd5?\)

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

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after 22...xd5 23.xc3+ b7 23.e6! gives White a great advantage: 23...xc8 24.xc8 b7 25.d6+ b8 26.c5! b7 27.d6+ f6 28.c5+ x7--; 22.xc3 b7 (a) 22...xa5 23.xc1 b8 24.c3--; and now 23.e6! is very strong: 23...c8 24.d8+ b8 (a) or 24...xc8 25.b3+b7 25.a7+?? xa7 26.c8++; b) After 20...d5 , the simplest is 21.xc3+! c5 22.b4 with a big advantage; , and now White has the amazing 21.xc3!! c3 22.xf7 with more than sufficient compensation for a rook and knight: 22...xa5 (Or: 22...c8 23.e8+ b7 24.xd7+ f6+ 25.f6; 22...d6 23.xc6+ d6 24.c1) 23.e6+ d6 24.c1! b8 (24...c5 25.d4+ b6 26.bxc3--; 24...c8 25.xc3+ d5 26.d4+ b6 27.c3+ and White is much better.) 25.a2!! (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.d5! (21.xd5 cxd5 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.d5? , preserving a very strong attack) 21...c5 (21...c8 22.c2 c5 23.d4+ d4 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 c5 24.xb2 c5 25.a4! b6 26.c5+ c5 28.cd1 c4! where it's not clear if he can win.) 22.xc3 (22...c8 23.b3+ b6 24.c8++) 23.b3+ b6 24.xf7 c7 25.a3 c6 (there is nothing better) 26.c7 c5 27.e7+ , and this endgame should be favourable for White.

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...c5!± (D)
21.¥xd5 ²xd5 22.£f3!++ (D)

22...³xc3
22...¢b6 23.²c6+ (or 23.²xf7+ ) 23...³b8 24.²f4 is easily winning for White.
23.²c6+!
Black hoped for 23.²xa8? ³e2+! 24.³f1 (24.²xe2?? ²a1+; 24.²xe2?? ²xe1#) 24...²xd4 , when he is out of danger.
23...³b8 (D)

24.bxc3! ³a7
Or 24...³a7 25.²e8+ ³c7 26.²xf7+ and White wins: 26...³b6 (26...³d7 27.²e6+ ²a2 28.²c6+ ²a5 29.³b3+ , etc.; After 24...²a2 , the simplest is 25.²f4 (or 25.²g5 ²e7 26.²xe7) ; Finally, 24...²c7 loses to 25.²b1+! ²b7 26.²e8+ ²c8 27.²c6+ ²c7 28.²b6#.
25.³b1!
The threat now is 26.²b7+! ³xb7 27.²c6#.
25...³b8 (D)

Or 25...²d8 26.²d5! ²c8 27.²c6+ ²xc6 28.²xc6
26.²xc5++!
An important resource - otherwise White is lost.
26...³b6
26...²xc5 27.²c6+ ³a8 28.²xb8#.
27.²c6+ ³a8 28.²xb6
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.