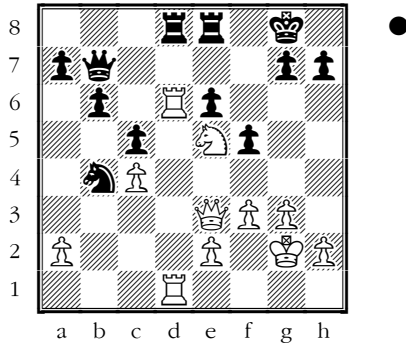


Test Yourself

Cacho Reigadas – Jobava

Honor Gp2 Torrelavega 01.07.2007



On this Day...

We are happy to congratulate our regular contributor IM Dejan Bojkov of Bulgaria on his 30th birthday. Dejan's current ELO is 2520, he shares 9th –10th places among Bulgarian players.



World Chess News

FIDE ratings updated

FIDE fixed number of errors in their July list. The Top 20 now looks as follow:

1. Anand (IND) 2792
2. Topalov (BUL) 2769
3. Kramnik (RUS) 2769
4. Ivanchuk (UKR) 2762
5. Morozevich (RUS) 2758
6. Mamedyarov (AZE) 2757
7. Leko (HUN) 2751
8. Aronian (ARM) 2750
9. Radjabov (AZE) 2746
10. Jakovenko (RUS) 2735
11. Shirov (ESP) 2735
12. Svidler (RUS) 2735
13. Gelfand (ISR) 2733
14. Grischuk (RUS) 2726
15. Adams (ENG) 2724
16. Kamsky (USA) 2718

17. Carlsen (NOR) 2710
18. Akopian (ARM) 2708
19. Polgar (HUN) 2707
20. Ponomariov (UKR) 2706

Once again this year, sensitive changes in the Top-3 were required. Is there any need for comments to this fact? Also, I noticed yesterday that Garry Kasparov with his 2812 figures in the [country's top ten ranking](#), making the (anyway highest) average ELO of the Russian top ten players 15 points higher. Well maybe it is in accordance with the rules, but who other than FIDE writes such rules? By the way, Anatoly Karpov with 2668 is ranked eleventh among the Russians if Kasparov is counted. –MG

Spanish League

The *Ceclub Division De Honor 2007 Grupo II* took place in Torrelavega from 27th June – 1st July 2007. Two teams, Cuna De Dragones – Ajoblanco and Intel-Tiendas UPI qualified for the playoff final, which will take place in October.

[Official website](#)

The Foros Highlights

by GM Mikhail Golubev



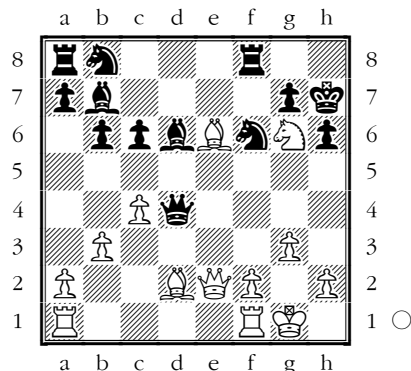
Using a short pause between my work at the 2nd Aerosvit tournament in Foros and the 3rd Pivdenny Bank Chess Cup,

which will be opened in Odessa today, I decided to provide a collection of memorable positions from the Foros-2007 games.

(I refer the reader to our previous issues and daily databases for more details about specific games).

The Best Attacks

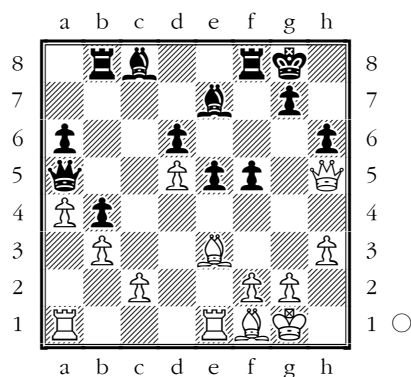
Van Wely – Jakovenko (4)



Quite a critical moment of the game, for which Van Wely was awarded The Best Attack prize (3000 USD). After a long think White played **18 Bf5!!** (Dismissing 18 Nxf8+?! Bxf8 19 Rad1 c5 20 Bf5+ Kh8 21 Bxh6 where Black has 21...Nc6!!) **18...Re8 19 Be3 Qc3 20 Rad1!** and later won.

Our journalistic jury (Anatoly Javorsky, Petr Marusenko and I) had a really hard choice because two other games also were serious contenders for the Best Attack prize:

Karjakin – Van Wely (7)



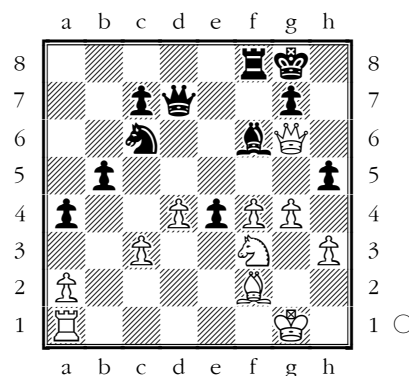
Black made a mistake on the 23rd move, and now the punishment begins.

26 Bxh6! gxh6

Playing without a pawn was a lesser evil.

27 Qg6+ Kh8 28 Qxh6+ Kg8 29 Qg6+ Kh8 30 Re3! f4 31 Rxe5! dxe5 32 Qh6+ Kg8 33 d6! and Black is helpless.

Shirov – Ivanchuk (10)



26 Nh2?

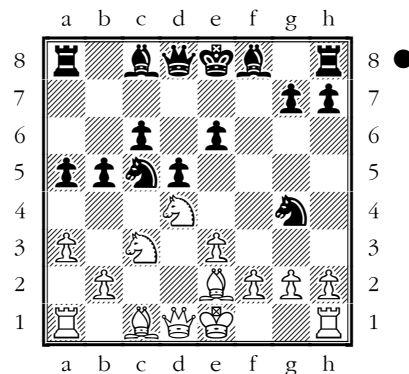
26 Ng5 Bxg5 27 Qxg5 was a bit better for Black, perhaps.

26...Nxd4!! 27 cxd4 Bxd4 28 Rb1 e3! 29 Bg3 h4! 30 Bxh4 Rxf4 31 Qd3 Qd5! and Black won.

More good games

There was no prize for the best game, but some other very good games were indeed played in Foros, even if there were no such spectacular attacks against the king as we have seen in the games above.

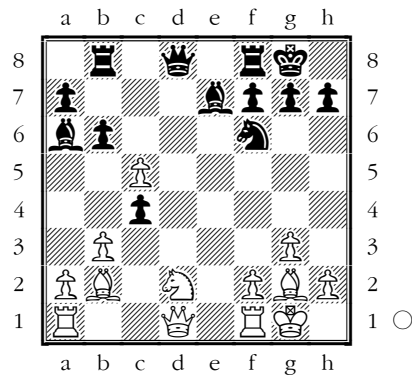
Eljanov – Karjakin (2)



12...Nxf2!N 13 Kxf2 Bd6

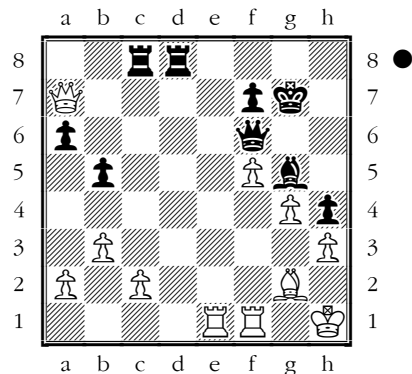
A good novelty gave plenty of chances to Karjakin, he won in 28 moves.

Sasikiran – Onischuk (1)



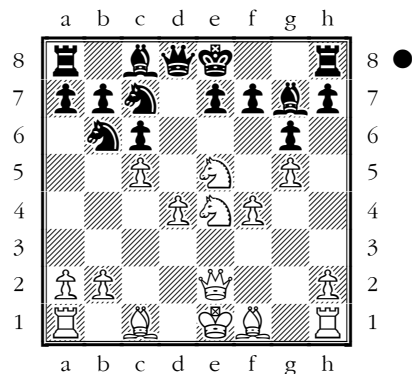
17 c6! c3 18 Bxc3 Bxf1 19 Qxf1
 After the (correct!) positional exchange sacrifice, White won in fine style.

Nisipeanu – Dominguez (5)



Here Black played **29...Kg8** and, despite being two pawns down, later saved the game. Very interesting was **29...Rxc2!?** **30 Re6 Qb2** where, as it seems, the wild complications should, normally, lead to a draw.

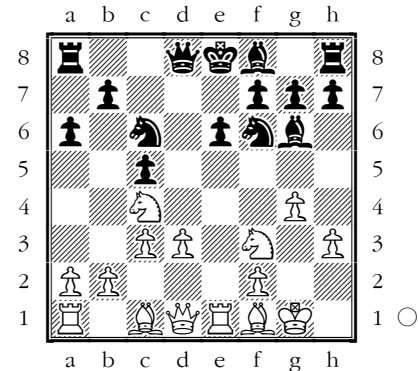
Shirov – Nisipeanu (6)



Now **13...Nbd5? 14.Nd6+** is just losing for Black, so he should give away a minor piece. **13...Ne6 14 cxb6 Nxd4 15 Qf2 Bxe5 16 fxe5 Qd5 17 Bg2**

Qc4 18 b3 Qd3 19 Qd2 Nc2+ 20 Kf2 Qxd2+ 21 Bxd2 Nxa1 22 Rxa1 axb6 was virtually forced. White is better, but he did not manage to win afterwards.

Svidler – Jakovenko (10)

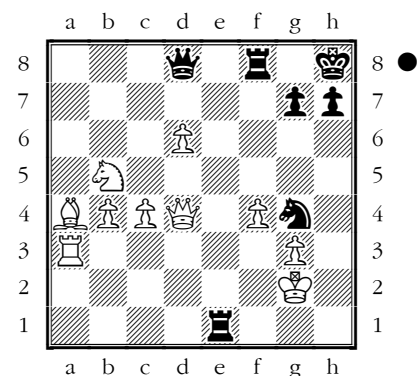


Svidler's only decisive game must be mentioned. **14 Bg2!?** **N Qc7?** (It was necessary to accept the sacrifice, even if White certainly has compensation after **14...Bxd3 15 Nce5**) **15 Nfe5 Nxe5 16 Bf4!** Black's position suddenly became extremely difficult and he lost without a big fight.

Wins with Black

Shirov was awarded the prize for the highest number of wins with Black (4000 USD). Alexei had three such wins, and here in the first of them:

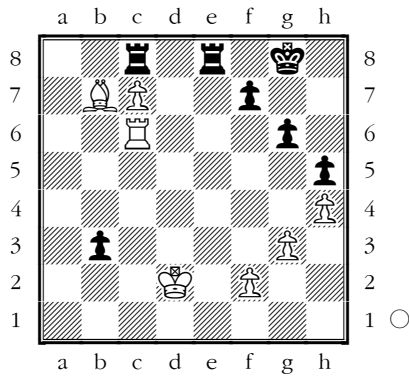
Dominguez – Shirov (2)



45...Qe8! 46 Bd1 Qh5 0-1.

Also quite good was Shirov's 'Black' victory over Jakovenko. But there was a piece of luck in his game versus Sasikiran.

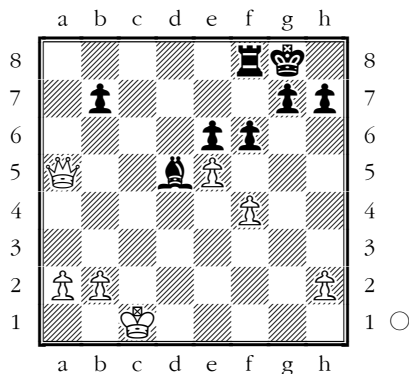
Sasikiran – Shirov (7)



36 Ba6?? Capture on c8 followed by c3 would lead by force to a winning pawn endgame for White. It was hard to understand the mechanism of Sasikiran's blunder for those who did not know that in a similar position from the Monaco game Ivanchuk–Aronian, Ba6 was the only winning move. **36...b2 37 Kc2 Re6! 38 Rxe6 Rxc7+** and Black won.

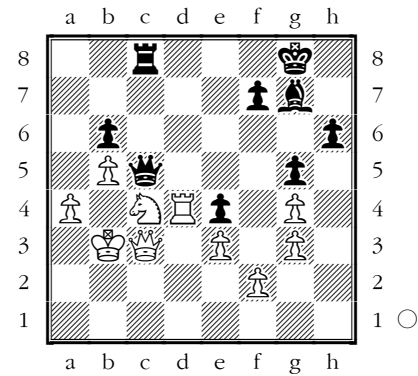
Endings

Ivanchuk – Nisipeanu (2)



Possibly Black could play...f6 earlier, because now followed **24 f5!** (highly evaluated by Nisipeanu after the game – the aim of the move is to disorganise Black) **24...fxe5 25 fxe6 Bxe6 26 b3** and White gradually converted his advantage. This game was awarded a prize for the Best Endgame (3000 USD), without serious competition. Only Van Wely's endgame win over Eljanov was at some point considered as another possible contender.

Van Wely – Eljanov (8)



54 Qd2!

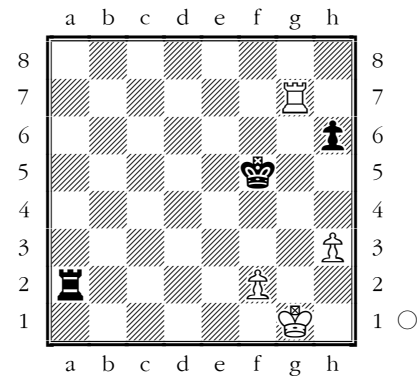
In order to make progress White should sacrifice the exchange and trade queens.

54...Bxd4 55 Qxd4 Qxd4 56 exd4 f5 (A curious practical chance was 56...h5!? 57 gxh5 f5 with the idea of 58 Nxb6 f4 59 gxf4 g4 60 Nxc8 e3 61 fxe3 g3.)

57 Nxb6 Re8 58 Nd5 and White soon won.

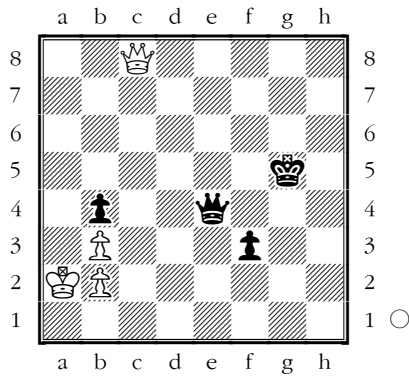
There were other curious endgames, which however, would be hard to call the best.

Jakovenko – Sasikiran (2)



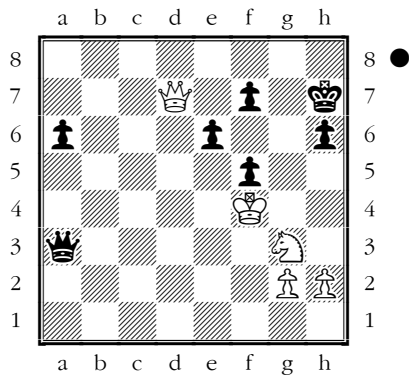
The endgame is 'completely drawn': in similar endgames rook's + bishop's pawns is the worst possible pair of pawns for the strongest side (with exception of the doubled pawns). But, using mistakes from his opponent, Jakovenko won on the 69th move.

Rublevsky – Ivanchuk (8)



The best chance for White probably was to try to use stalemate ideas. Rublevsky saw the motif, but still decided to capture Black's b4 pawn on the 49th move – and lost on the 66th.

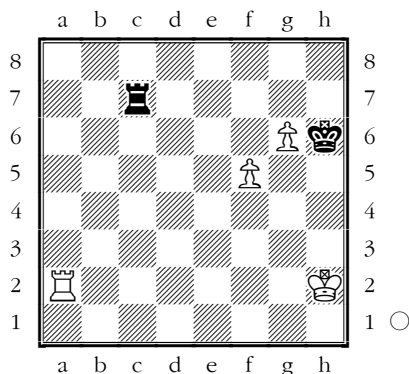
Eljanov – Rublevsky (9)



35...Qb4+

Curiously, the players thought that after 35...Kg6!? the sacrifice 36 Nxf5?! draws, missing the strongest 36...e5+! (which is easy to miss indeed, especially if one does not pay enough attention to checks) with the basic idea 37 Kxe5 Qc5+ 38 Ke4 Qc2+ 39 Kf4 Qf2+ 40 Ke4 Qxg2+ 41 Kf4 Qg5+ 42 Ke5 f6+ 43 Ke4 Qg4+ 44 Ke3 Qxf5. **36 Kf3** with a quick draw.

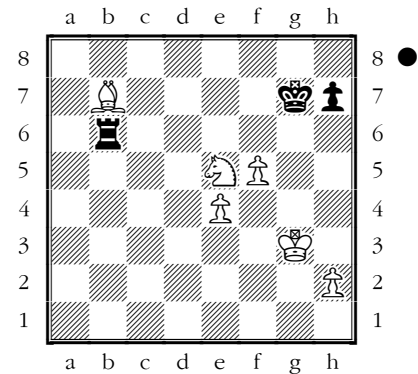
Onischuk – Nisipeanu (11)



One should remember that two connected extra pawns may not be enough to win a rook endgame when they are too advanced and the strongest side's pieces are passive. This particular position is winning for White, 50.Ra8! would have been the best. Later in the game, Black was given, but missed his chance for a draw.

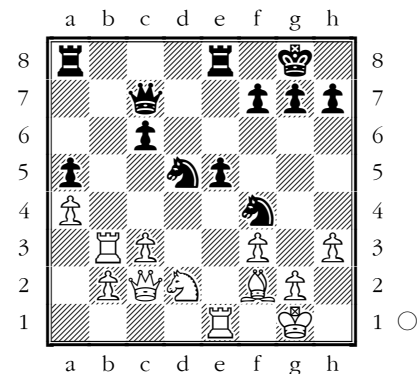
Dramatic games

Shirov – Rublevsky (1)



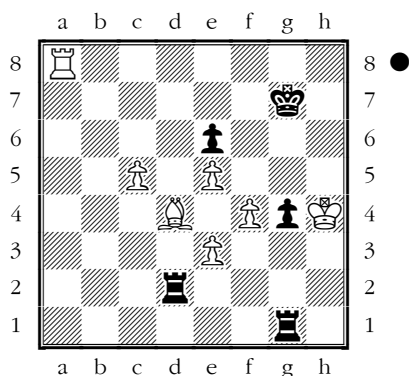
This position after 47.Bxb7 is probably drawish (though White in any case has practical chances for a win), but Rublevsky lost on time.

Karjakin – Shirov (5)



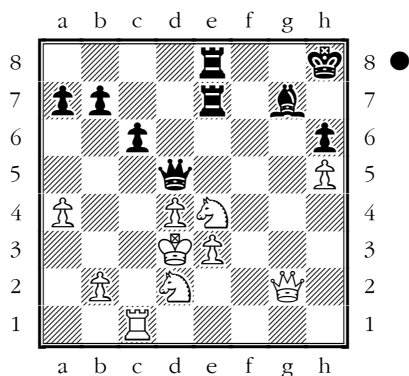
26 Kh2?! Courageous, at least. **26...Re6** (The natural 26...Nd3 27 Qxd3 e4+ 28 Bg3 Qxg3+ 29 Kxg3 exd3 gives an advantage in the endgame; Shirov missed the idea 30 Re4 f5 31 Rd4 g5!). **27 Bg3 Rg6?!** (27...Nh5! was still much better for Black – Karjakin) **28 Nf1**. Later White not only equalised but also won the game.

Onischuk – Eljanov (5)



72...Kh6? Agreeing to a threefold repetition and a draw. 72...g3 73 Kg5 Rh1 74 c6 Rxd4! would have won the game.

Sasikiran – Karjakin (9)



31...b6? A prize for this mistake, possibly, was the first place in the tournament. Karjakin was very much better, and now he intending just to destroy White completely by...c5. But what Sergey missed was **32 Qg6!! Rf8?!** (White's main idea was 32...Re6? 33 Nf6!! and wins. Black could hope for equality after 32...c5!? 33 Nf6 Bxf6) **33 Rxc6** White is somewhat better; in the further complex play Sasikiran missed at least three straight wins and only drew.

Also, a few words about some other games: Ivanchuk's experiments with the Dragon and Modern Benoni as Black should be mentioned, as well as Eljanov's "mouse slip" in the game versus Jakovenko, where White unintentionally entered the theoretically drawish forced line by capturing the black knight on f6, without giving the check on b5 first. Indeed there were comments on the

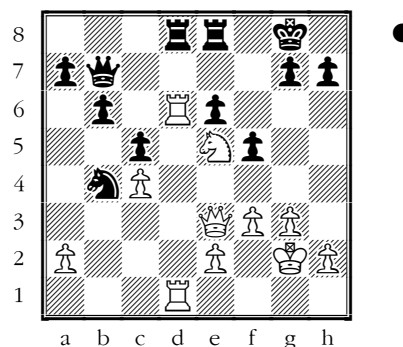
internet, suggesting that Eljanov did not really want to play that game. It is sometimes difficult to judge from a distance.

Shocking news about GM Maxim Sorokin's death in Kalmykia emerged on 30th June when many players had already departed from Foros. I saw Maxim for the last time in Elista, where we worked as assistants for opposing sides at the match between Ruslan Ponomarev and Sergey Rublevsky. We did not discuss the games of course. But no tension in relations was felt. I will remember Sorokin as a calm and friendly person, quite a rare combination of qualities for the professional player.

Solution to our quiz:

Cacho Reigadas – Jobava

Honor Gp2 Torrelavega 01.07.2007



22...♠d5!-+ 23.cxd5 ♖xd6 24.♠c4
24.♠c4 ♖xd5 25.♠d6 ♔e7! 26.♖xd5
exd5 0-1

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