

2004 Russian Super-Finals

ChessCafe is pleased to present its coverage of the incredible 2004 Russian Super-Finals. Mikhail (Misha) Savinov is our intrepid reporter in Moscow. We are sure you will enjoy his exclusive coverage of the 2004 Russian Super-Finals...

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Round Eleven

Grischuk – Kasparov, ½-½

Morozevich – Motylev, 1-0

Bareev – Korotylev, 1-0

Svidler – Dreev, 1-0

Timofeev – Epishin, ½-½

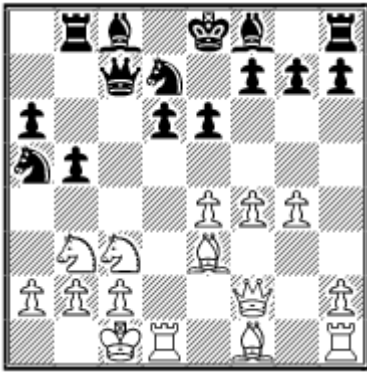
Contrary to all speculation there were no short draws in the final round of the 2004 Russian Championship. Garry Kasparov had expected that his encounter against Grischuk would decide the outcome of the event. Yet, things turned out better than he expected and today's game could not influence Kasparov's final result; whereas Grischuk was vying with Alexey Dreev for second place. The game began in White's favor with Grischuk attacking on the kingside attack and almost gaining a decisive advantage. However, once again Kasparov's opponent did not find the strongest moves and Black managed to consolidate at the cost of a pawn. The draw was agreed in a position where Black had sufficient compensation.



Grischuk – Kasparov

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (11) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bc1 Nf6 8.f3 b6 9.g4 Nc6 10.Nb3 e6 11.Qe2 Qc7 12.Be3 b5 13.O-O-O Nd7 14.Qf2 Rb8 15.f4 Na5



According to Kasparov, this plan with ...Na5 fails to impress, and White obtained the better game.

16.Ba7 Ra8 17.Bd4 Bb7 18.Nxa5 Qxa5 19.Kb1 Rc8

Grischuk offered a pawn sacrifice, but Kasparov's reply probably allowed Grischuk a choice of aggressive plans. Grandmasters Shipov and Nikitin, Kasparov's former trainer, suggested 19...b4 20.Ne2 e5 with typical Sicilian counterplay.

20.Bg2 b4 21.Ne2 Nf6 2.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Ng3 Qc5 24.Qe2 Be7 25.h4 h6 26.Nh5 Rc7 27.g5 fxg5 28.hxg5 Kd7 29.e5 Kc8 30.exd6 Bxd6 31.Nf6 Bxg2 32.Qxg2 Qc6 33.Qf2 h5 34.Rxh5 Rxh5 35.Nxh5 Kb7 36.Rf1 a5 37.Qf3 Qxf3 38.Rxf3 Rc5 39.c3 1/2-1/2

Following the game, Kasparov analyzed with Grischuk and then there was an improvised press conference. Garry said that the location of the championship helped him a lot, because some 20 years ago he entered the hotel "Rossija" with -5, so it was important to equalize "the angle of falling with the level of reflection." He said that there is no news about his upcoming FIDE championship match, but this is not his problem and he does not feel obliged to undertake any action. FIDE refused a Kasparov supported proposal by the Turkish Chess Federation, which came with a prize fund guarantee.



Kasparov said that he didn't feel a marked difference between his play against Bareev and, say, Dreev. The concept of a rusty Kasparov slowly sharpening his play during the course of the tournament was wrong in his opinion. He praised the play of Motylev and Timofeev and was also surprised by the poor results of Svidler and Morozevich. Overall, Garry was quite happy with the tournament and said that he would like to participate in such an event again. But it is impossible to plan one's calendar with the FIDE match looming, which already deprived Kasparov the opportunity of playing in the Corus tournament.

Morozevich improved his score by beating Motylev. He obtained the initiative very early in the game, built up an advantage, and then outplayed his opponent to record another win. Morozevich's final result is somewhat disappointing, while Motylev should be happy with his score after losing twice with White at the start of the tournament.

***Morozevich – Motylev***

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1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 O-O 5.O-O d6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.d4 Rb8 8.h3 a6 9.e4 b5 10.cxb5 axb5 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Be3 Na5 13.b3 c5 14.Rc1 c4 15.b4 Nc6 16.a3 e5 17.d5 Ne7 18.a4 bxa4 19.Qxa4 f5 20.Ng5 Nb6 21.Qa7 Rb7 22.Bxb6 Qxb6 23.Qxb6 Rxb6 24.b5 Bh6 25.h4 Bd7 26.Ra1 Bxg5 27.hxg5 Bxb5 28.Ra7 Nc8 29.Rc7 Ba6 30.Ra1 Rf7 31.Rc6 Bb7 32.Rxc4 Rb2 33.Nd1 Rb3 34.Ne3 Nb6 35.Rcc1 Kg7 36.Rab1 Rxb1 37.Rxb1 Na4 38.Nc4 Nc3 39.Rb6 Na4 40.Rb4 Nc5 41.Nxd6 Rd7 42.Ne8+ 1-0

Timofeev and Epishin drew in 29 moves after Epishin (below) responded to the Panov Attack in the Caro-Kann with an unusual setup. Timofeev did not get anything from the opening and a draw was the logical outcome. Epishin played very solidly, losing only to Motylev, and drawing the rest of his games. He was the only participant without any wins.

Timofeev – Epishin

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1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nf3 e6 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.O-O Bd6 9.d4 O-O 10.Re1 h6 11.Qe2 Nf6 12.Bd2 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 14.Bc1 Ne7 15.Ne5 Rc8 16.Bf4 Ned5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Bd2 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Qh4 20.b3 Rfd8 21.h3 Nf4 22.Bxf4 Qxf4 23.Qg4 Rxd1 24.Qxd1 Qg5 25.Qg4 Kf8 26.f4 Qxg4 27.hxg4 Ke7 28.Kf2 Rc5 29.g3 Bd5 ½-½

Svidler said he was happy that Dreev did not play the Caro-Kann. Naturally, Peter feels better in Sicilian. The players castled on opposite wings, but Black's only achievement was to get White to weaken his king with 17.b3. Svidler developed a strong attack utilizing Dreev's few mistakes and obtained a winning pawn endgame, twice missing a forced mate.

***Svidler – Dreev***

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1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Qd2 Rc8 8.Nxc6 Bxc6 9.f3 a6 10.O-O-O e6 11.Ne2 Be7 12.h4 Bb5



13.Nd4 Bxf1 14.Rhxf1 h6 15.Be3 Nd7 16.h5 Ne5 17.b3 d5 18.exd5 Qxd5 19.Kb1 b5 20.g4 Nc6 21.Qc1 O-O 22.Nf5 Qe5 23.Bf4 Qc3 24.Rd3 Qa5 25.Nxe7+ Nxe7 26.g5 Nd5 27.Bd2 Nc3+ 28.Rxc3 Rxc3 29.gxh6 b4 30.hxg7 Rd8 31.Bxc3 bxc3 32.h6 Qe5 33.Rd1 Rxd1 34.Qxd1 Qf6 35.Qh1 Kh7 36.Qg1 Qd8 37.g8=Q+ 1-0

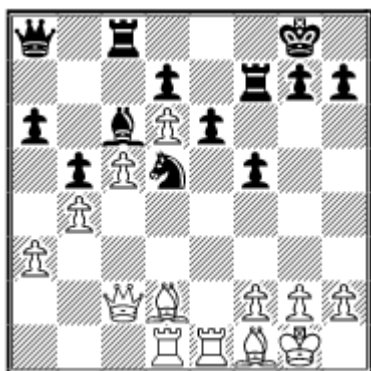
All the other games were finished and Bareev was still trying to convert his advantage against Korotylev. Korotylev is a creative and smart player, but his openings, as Alexey readily admits, need serious improvement. Bareev advanced his pawn to d6 early in the game and obtained a serious space advantage. Kotoylev defended correctly, but his position was very difficult if not strategically lost. Bareev methodically converted the advantage to finish at 50%.



Bareev – Korotylev

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1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5 5.dxc5 O-O 6.a3 Bxc5 7.Nf3 b6 8.Bf4 Bb7 9.Rd1 Nc6 10.b4 Be7 11.e4 Rc8 12.e5 Nh5 13.Be3 Qc7 14.Nb5 Qb8 15.Nd6 Bxd6 16.exd6 f5 17.Be2 Nf6 18.O-O Nd8 19.Ne5 Nf7 20.Nxf7 Rxf7 21.Bf4 b5 22.c5 Bc6 23.Rfe1 Qa8 24.Bf1 Nd5 25.Bd2 a6



26.Qd3 Re8 27.Re5 Qd8 28.Qd4 h6 29.f3 Qc8 30.Rde1 Ref8
 31.Bd3 Qb7 32.Bb1 Qc8 33.Ba2 Kh7 34.Bc1 Qd8 35.Bd2 Rf6
 36.h3 R6f7 37.Bb3 Rf6 38.Kh2 R6f7 39.Ra1 g5 40.Bc2 Kg8
 41.a4 Rg7 42.axb5 axb5 43.Bb3 Rg6 44.Bxd5 Bxd5 45.Rxd5
 exd5 46.Bc3 Rgf6 47.Qxd5+ R6f7 48.Qd3 h5 49.Qxb5 g4
 50.Qc4 Qh4 51.Qf4 Kh7 52.Kh1 Rg8 53.Rf1 Re8 54.b5 Kg6
 55.Bd2 Rh8 56.c6 dxc6 57.bxc6 Qf6 58.Rc1 1-0

Final Standings:

Garry Kasparov, 7½

Alexander Grischuk, 6.0

Alexey Dreev, 5½

Alexander Morozevich, Alexander Motylev, Peter Svidler, Evgeny Bareev, 5.0

Alexey Korotylev, Vladimir Epishin, Artyom Timofeev, 4½

Vitaly Tseshkovsky, 2½

Round Ten

Dreev – Tseshkovsky, 1-0

Epishin – Svidler, ½-½

Korotylev – Grischuk, 1-0

Motylev – Timofeev, ½-½

Kasparov – Morozevich, ½-½

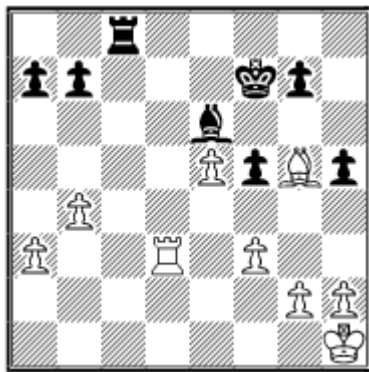
Garry Kasparov secured the title of 2004 Russian Champion with a round to spare and came close to winning his fifth game in a row. In yet another Slav Defense, he quickly obtained a big advantage against Morozevich. It seemed that White only needed to play a couple of precise moves to earn the full point, but Black defended resourcefully to balance on the edge between “bad” and “lost.” Unable to defeat his opponent in the middlegame, Kasparov entered the endgame with an extra pawn, but opposite colored bishops made his chances questionable. Garry pressed on and it is possible that his play could have been improved. However, it became known that a draw would make him the new Russian champion and the game was drawn on move 50. This is the only major chess title that was missing in Kasparov’s collection. He quipped after the game, “I have nothing else to dream about!”



Kasparov – Morozevich

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (10) 2004

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 Qb6 5.Qc2 Be6 6.Nf3 dxc4 7.Ng5 Bg4 8.Bxc4 e6 9.f3 Bh5
10.Qf2 c5 11.d5 exd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Nc6 14.O-O Nb4 15.Bc4 f6 16.Qh4 Bg6 17.Ne6
Bf5 18.Nxf8 Kxf8 19.a3 Nd3 20.Kh1 Rd8 21.b4 h5 22.e4 Be6 23.Bxd3 Rxd3 24.e5 f5 25.Bg5
c4 26.Rad1 Kf7 27.Rxd3 cxd3 28.Rd1 Qb5 29.Qd4 Qd5 30.Qxd3 Qxd3 31.Rxd3 Rc8



32.h4 Rc2 33.Kh2 Kg6 34.Kg3 Kf7 35.Be3 b6 36.Bg5 Rc4
37.Be3 Ke7 38.b5 Ra4 39.Bd2 Bc4 40.Bg5+ Ke6 41.Rd6+ Kf7
42.Rc6 Bxb5 43.e6+ Kg6 44.Rc3 f4+ 45.Bxf4 Kf5 46.Rc7 g6
47.Rg7 Kf6 48.Rb7 Kxe6 49.Bb8 Rxa3 50.Bxa7 Ra6 1/2-1/2

Alexey Korotylev arrived at the press center in a joyful mood after defeating Grischuk. Talking about his game, he was sarcastic as usual, often pretending that he saw nothing, understood nothing, and that his result was sheer luck. However, Korotylev's 50% score in such strong company speaks for itself. This championship

has definitely added to Alexey's reputation. Grandmaster Sergey Shipov posted the following message on one of the Russian bulletin boards: "Korotylev is da man! He looked like an ordinary guy, we often blitzed, chatted, and who could tell that he is so devilishly strong?!" Korotylev is not only strong, he plays creatively, and he plays for a win. He has played six decisive games in this championship – outmatched only by Tseshkovsky (+1-6).



Korotylev – Grischuk

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (10) 2004

Notes by Korotylev

I am very grateful to Morozovich for showing me the true meaning of motivation and fighting spirit yesterday.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3

This is already a brave decision. Normally, I play the Petrosian Variation of the Queen's Indian, but after two uneventful draws I decided to change my opening.

3...Bb4 4.e3

I don't see any benefit in 4.Qc2 – it is aimed at restricting the opportunities of both sides and 4.e3 leads to livelier play.

4...O-O 5.Bd3 c5 6.Nf3 d5 7.O-O Nc6 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Qc7

9...Qc7 is a relatively fresh idea. An old continuation is 9...dxc4 10.Bxc4 Qc7, which is fully playable. Although it has been played for more than 50 years, it is not yet exhausted.

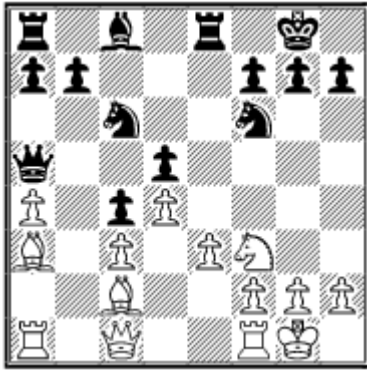
10.cxd5 exd5

Here White has various plans. GM Alexey Aleksandrov successfully employs Nh4, f3 and g4, but I decided to play in a more straightforward manner.

11.a4 Re8 12.Ba3 c4 13.Bc2 Qa5

Grischuk thought for a while before playing this. On 13...Bg4 White has 14.Qe1! White also gets the advantage after 13...Ne4 14.Bxe4 and 15.Nd2. 13...Qa5 is the most principled move.

14.Qc1



Here I set a trap, but my opponent discovered it, which was no surprise.

14...Ne4 15.Bxe4 Rxe4 16.Nd2 Re8 17.e4

I advanced my pawn to e5 because Alexander Alekhine once said that with a pawn on e5 White has good attacking chances against the black king. 17.Qc2!? deserved attention, but I completely ignored it during the game. Maybe this was the correct move; my sacrifice resembles coffeehouse play.

17...Be6 18.e5 Qxa4 19.f4

19.Qb2 Qa5! 20.Bd6 Qb6 does not help.

19...Bf5 20.Rf2 f6!

This is a critical position. I stopped calculating 21.Nf1 because I was afraid of 21...Na5. But it was an empty threat: 22.Ne3! Nb3 23.Qd1 looks like a good version of the famous Botvinnik – Capablanca game. The text led to a worse position and 20...Qc2? 21.Qxc2 Bxc2 22.Nc4 loses.

21.Qb2?! Nd8 22.Nf1 Qd7

Alexandra Kosteniuk: During the game I liked White here.

Alexey Korotylev: Really? I liked Black.

23.Ne3 Bd3 24.h3 b6 25.Qd2

Here I found the idea of advancing the f-pawn.

25...Kh8 26.f5!

Kosteniuk: And here I was sure White is winning!

Korotylev: Oh, Sasha ... I wish it was true.

26...fxe5 27.dxe5 Rxe5 28.f6

Regardless of the objective evaluation, it is very difficult to defend in chess. Your rating is irrelevant – when you're under attack, you get frustrated.

28...Ne6 29.Be7!

Grischuk had just three minutes left. I had more time and my moves are far more obvious.

29...h5 30.fxg7+ Nxg7 31.Bf6 Re6??



Black collapses; the situation required 31...Rae8! After this exchange sacrifice it is difficult to say who has the advantage.

32.Nxd5!

A simple shot that effectively ends the game.

32...Kg8 33.Qg5 Rf8 34.Bxg7 Qxg7 35.Rxf8+ Kxf8 36.Qd8+ Re8 37.Qd6+ Black resigns.

Motylev – Timofeev was the first game to finish today. White played an equal line of the Sveshnikov Sicilian and accepted a timely draw offer.

Motylev – Timofeev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (10) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 Rb8 13.a4 bxa4 14.Ncb4 Bd7 15.Bxa6 Nxb4 16.Nxb4 Qa5 17.Qxd6 Rb6 18.Qd3 Be7 19.Nd5 Rxb2 20.O-O Qc5 21.Rab1 Rxb1 22.Rxb1 O-O 23.Bb5 Be8 24.Bxe8 Rxe8 25.Rb7 Bd6 26.Qa6 a3 1/2-1/2

Once again the Grünfeld Defense served Svidler well and he equalized without any trouble against Epishin.



Epishin – Svidler

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (10) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4 6.Qxc4 O-O 7.e4 Na6 8.Be2 c5 9.d5 e6 10.O-O exd5 11.exd5 Nb4 12.Rd1 b6 13.h3 Ba6 14.Qb3 Bxe2 15.Nxe2 Nbxtd5 16.Nf4 c4 17.Qxc4 Qc7 18.Qxc7 Nxc7 19.Be3 Rfd8 20.Ne5 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Nfe8 22.Nc6 Bxb2 23.Rd7 Bg7 24.g4 Nb5 25.g5 Nc3 26.Nxa7 h6 27.h4 hxg5 28.hxg5 Nd6 29.Bxb6 Nc4 30.Rd8+ 1/2-1/2

In Dreev – Tseshkovsky White got a small edge in a Philidor's Defense. Dreev carefully avoided complications and ignored Tseshkovsky's efforts to stir things up. Black offered a piece for an attack, but it wasn't clear whether his compensation was adequate. Tseshkovsky lost energy as the time control approached and Dreev's precision brought him another win to be equal with

Grischuk. Tomorrow Grischuk faces Kasparov and Dreev plays Svidler.



Dreev – Tseshkovsky

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (10) 2004

1.d4 d6 2.e4 e5 3.Nf3 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Nde2 O-O 7.g3 Re8 8.Bg2 Bf8 9.O-O Nbd7 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Bf4 Nc5 12.Nd4 c6 13.Nb3 Qf6 14.Nxc5 dxc5 15.Qe2 g5 16.Bd2 Qg6 17.h3 Nf6 18.Qe3 h6 19.Rad1 Bg7 20.Bc1 Nd7 21.Ne2 Nf6 22.f3 b6 23.b3 Nd5 24.Qd2 Nc7 25.f4 gxf4 26.Nxf4 Qg5 27.Qf2 Qe5 28.g4 Ba6 29.c4 Re7 30.Nh5 Ne6 31.Qh4 Rae8 32.Nxg7 Nxg7 33.Bxh6 Re6 34.Bg5 Rg6 35.Bf6 Qc7 36.e5 Bc8 37.Be4 Rxf6 38.Qh7+ Kf8 39.exf6 1-0

Standings after Round Ten:

Garry Kasparov, 7.0 / 9

Alexey Dreev, Alexander Grischuk, 5½ / 9

Alexander Motylev, 5.0 / 9

Alexey Korotylev, 4½ / 9

Alexander Morozovich, Vladimir Epishin, Artyom Timofeev, Evgeny Bareev, Peter Svidler, 4.0 / 9

Vitaly Tseshkovsky, 2½ / 10

Round Nine

Timofeev – Kasparov, 0-1

Svidler – Motylev, 0-1

Grischuk – Bareev, 1-0

Morozovich – Korotylev, 1-0

Tseshkovsky – Epishin, ½-½

Garry the Great celebrated his fourth consecutive win today by defeating Timofeev. However, Grischuk still only trails by one point after a fine technical effort against Bareev. We are going to have an exciting tournament finale, as Kasparov still has to play Grischuk and Morozevich, who also won today.

Timofeev – Kasparov

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (9) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Nc6 5.c3 g6 6.O-O Bg7 7.Bb3 O-O 8.Re1 b5

White chose such a harmless line that Black can play 8...b5 without preparation or punishment.

9.a3 a5 10.h3 Nd7 11.Be3 a4 12.Bc2 Nb6 13.Nbd2 e5 14.b4

This is inaccurate; 14.Nf1 is more consistent.

14...axb3 15.Bxb3 Bd7 16.Qc2 Ra6 17.Reb1 Qa8 18.Qc1 Na5 19.Ba2 Qc6 20.d4

Black's answer would be the same against any other move. Now the play is forced.

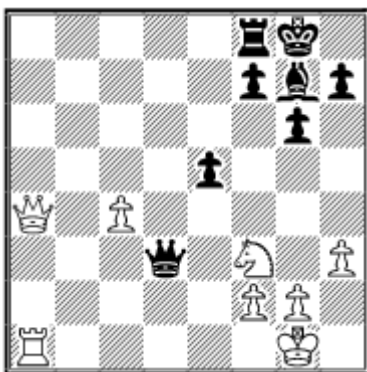
20...c4 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.Bxb6 Rxb6 23.a4

Kasparov wanted to first play 23...Qc5, but then decided that after 23...bxa4 Black is better.

23...bxa4 24.Rxb6 Qxb6 25.Nxc4 Nxc4 26.Bxc4 Qc5 27.Qd1

Kasparov intended 27...Bc6, but was confused by 27.Qd1.

27...Qxc4 28.Qxd7 Qxe4 29.Qxa4 Qd3 30.c4?



White had 30.Rc1 e4 31.Rd1! Now he is lost.

30...e4 31.Rd1 Qe2 32.Nh2 Bc3 33.Rf1 Bd4 34.Qc6

On 34.Ng4 f5 35.Nh6+ Kh8 the f-pawn marches on.

34...h5 35.Qd5 Qd3

It is impossible to save such a position in time trouble. Timofeev loses rather quickly.

36.g4

It is difficult to explain this move. White voluntarily opens the h-file to his detriment.

36...hxd4 37.hxd4 Kg7 38.Kg2 Rh8 39.Qd6 Qh3+



39...Qc3 wins, but Kasparov didn't see it yet.

40.Kg1 Qd3 41.Kg2 Qh3+ 42.Kg1 Qc3 White resigns

Peter Svidler dominated Motylev in an Open Spanish and achieved a typical position with a strong bind on d3. However, he blundered on move 27 and his position immediately became hopeless. Motylev (shown below) has now scored 3½ out of his last four games.

Svidler – Motylev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (9) 2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Nxe4

In his post-game presentation Motylev hesitated here; trying to recall his fifth move. He has never played the Open Spanish and his preparation proved insufficient as White obtained the better game.

6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7 11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1

Black missed this move in his preparation; relying on 13.Nc5. 13.Bc1 was considered the main line some 15 years ago.



13...Nxb3 14.axb3 Bf5 15.Be3 O-O 16.Re1 Qd5 17.Bd4!

If Black captures on d4, then White recaptures with the knight with tempo.

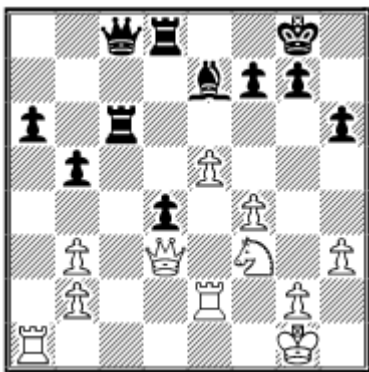
17...Rfd8 18.Re3 Nxd4 19.cxd4 c5 20.Bxd3 cxd4 21.Re2 Qe6 22.h3

Aimed against ...Bg4. Motylev expected 22.Qb1 Bg6 23.Bxg6 Qxg6!, but Svidler's move is probably better.

22...Rac8 23.Ne1 Rc6 24.Qb1 Bxd3 25.Qxd3 h6

25...Bg5!? deserved attention as it controls c1 and f4.

26.f4 Qc8! 27.Nf3??



An astonishing blunder; White loses control over d3 and Black's passer on the d-file gains enormous power.

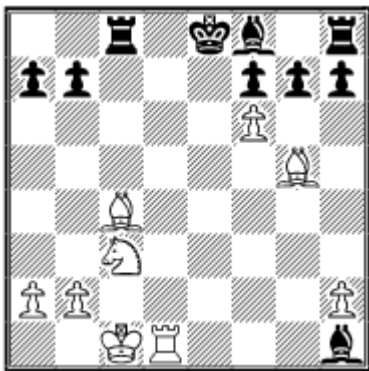
27...Rc1+ 28.Re1 Qc2 29.Qxc2 Rxc2 30.e6 fxe6 31.Rxe6 Bc5 32.Kh2 d3 33.Rd1 d2 34.Kg3 Rd3 35.Kg4 Bb4 36.Re8+ Kh7 37.f5 Rc1 38.Ne5 Re3 White resigns

Grischuk discovered a strong novelty that probably changes the evaluation of an old line in the Panov Attack. An intermediate check forced Bareev to search desperately for salvation. Grischuk went into a better endgame and slowly converted his advantage.

Grischuk – Bareev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (9) 2004

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 dxc4 7.Bxc4 Qxd4 8.Qxd4 Nxd4 9.O-O-O e5 10.f4 Bg4 11.Nf3 Nxf3 12.gxf3 Bxf3 13.fxe5 Bxh1 14.exf6 Rc8



15.Re1+ Kd7 16.Rd1+ Bd6 17.Be2 gxf6 18.Bxf6 Bg2 19.Be5 Ke6 20.Bxd6 Rhd8 21.Bg3 Rxd1+ 22.Kxd1 a6 23.Kd2 Kf5 24.Bd3+ Kg4 25.Nd1 Kg5 26.Bxh7 Rf8 27.Bd3 f5 28.h4+ Kh5 29.Be2+ Kg6 30.Bf4 Be4 31.Nc3 Bc6 32.a3 Re8 33.h5+ Kf6 34.h6 Kg6 35.Bd3 Re7 36.Bc2 Bf3 37.Bd3 Re8 38.Bc4 Bc6 39.Be2 Re7 40.Bd3 Re8 41.a4 Rd8 42.Ke3 Re8+ 43.Kd2 Rd8 44.Ke3 Re8+ 45.Kf2 Rd8 46.Bc2 Re8 47.Be3 Re7 48.Ne2 Be4 49.Bb3 Re8 50.Nd4 Kh7 51.Bf4 Rc8 52.Nf3 Bb1 53.Ne5 Rd8 54.Bf7 Rd6 55.Be8 1-0

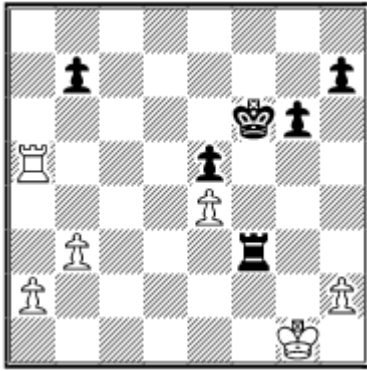
Morozevich (at right) finally won his first game by outsmarting Korotylev in a tricky endgame in which Black made many good defensive moves, but failed to find the final finesse to draw.

Morozevich – Korotylev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (9) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 O-O 9.Qd2 a5 10.Bb5 Be6 11.Rd1 Na7 12.Be2 Nc8 13.Qc1 Qc7 14.Nb5 Qc6 15.c4 Nb6 16.Nd2 Rfc8 17.O-O Nxc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4 Qxc4 20.Nxc4 Rxc4 21.Nxd6 Rc2 22.Nf5 Kf8 23.Rf2 Rac8 24.g4 g6 25.Nd6 Bxd6 26.Rxc2 Rxc2 27.Rxd6 Ne8 28.Rd5 f6 29.g5 Ke7 30.b3 Ke6 31.gxf6 Nxf6 32.Rxa5 Rc3 33.Bg5 Rxf3 34.Bxf6 Kxf6





35.Rb5 Rd3 36.a4 Rd7 37.Kf2 Kg5 38.Ke3 Re7 39.Ra5 b6
40.Rd5 Re6 41.b4 Kg4 42.Rd7 h5 43.Kd3 g5 44.Kc4 h4 45.Kd5
Re8 46.Rg7 h3 47.Rg6 Ra8 48.Kxe5 Rxa4 49.Kf6 Kf4 50.e5 Ra2
51.e6 Rxh2 52.Rxg5 Re2 53.Rg1 h2 54.Rd1 Rd2 55.Rf1+ Kg3
56.e7 Rf2+ 57.Rxf2 Kxf2 58.e8=Q h1=Q 59.b5 Qd5 60.Qc6
Qd4+ 61.Ke6 Ke1 62.Qd5 Qc5 63.Qxc5 bxc5 64.Kd5 1-0

Tseshkovsky – Epishin was the only game to share the point today. After a complicated middlegame Epishin, a pawn down in a rook endgame, managed to activate his pieces and force a draw.

Tseshkovsky told me that he had a sleepless night, analyzing the subtleties of his game against Kasparov, which he is going to annotate for the Russian press. During dinner Epishin commented to one of the organizers: “This is a bad hotel.” “Why?” responded the organizer. “Well, I won one game at the Aeroflot Open, and none in this tournament. It is definitely a bad hotel.”

Tseshkovsky – Epishin

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (9) 2004

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 e6 8.Ne5 Bh7 9.Bc4 Nf6
10.Qe2 Nd5 11.Bd2 Nd7 12.Bb3 Nxe5 13.dxe5 a5 14.a4 Qb6 15.O-O Bb4 16.Bxd5 cxd5 17.c3
Be7 18.Be3 Qc7 19.Qg4 g5 20.h5 Rg8 21.Bd4 Ra6 22.b3 Rc6 23.Rfc1 Bc5 24.Bxc5 Rxc5
25.Qd4 g4 26.Nf1 b6 27.Ne3 Be4 28.c4 Rg5 29.Re1 Qxe5 30.Qxe5 Rxe5 31.Nxg4 Rg5 32.Nf6+
Ke7 33.Nxe4 dxe4 34.Rxe4 Rxh5 35.Rd1 Rc7 36.Red4 Rhc5 37.Rd8 R5c6 38.Rh8 Rd6
39.Rxd6 Kxd6 40.Rxh6 Kc5 41.Kf1 Kb4 42.Rh3 f5 43.Ke2 e5 44.Rf3 f4 45.g3 fxg3 46.fxg3 e4
47.Re3 Rg7 48.Kf2 Rg4 49.Kg2 Kc5 50.Re1 Kd4 51.Rd1+ Kc3 52.Rd6 Kxb3 53.Rxb6+ Kxc4
54.Rb5 Rg8 55.Rxa5 Rf8 56.g4 e3 1/2-1/2

Standings after Round Nine:

Garry Kasparov, 6½ / 8

Alexander Grischuk, 5½ / 8

Alexey Dreev, Alexander Motylev, 4½ / 8

Evgeny Bareev, 4.0 / 9

Vladimir Epishin, Alexey Korotylev, Artyom Timofeev, Alexander Morozevich, Peter Svidler,
3½ / 8

Vitaly Tseshkovsky, 2½ / 9

Round Eight

Bareev – Morozevich, ½-½

Epishin – Dreev, ½-½

Korotylev – Timofeev, 1-0

Kasparov – Svidler, 1-0

Motylev – Tseshkovsky, 1-0

The Moscow winter is off to an aggressive start and the air temperature has fallen to -16 C in just two days. There is a football match currently being held between CSKA Moscow and Porto from Portugal, and I don't even want to imagine how the footballers feel playing in such conditions. In

this regard, chess grandmasters are privileged. Yet, who knows, maybe losing to Garry Kasparov after six straight hours of play is even worse than kicking a ball in the snow for ninety minutes. It was a long and tiring day with many long games played.

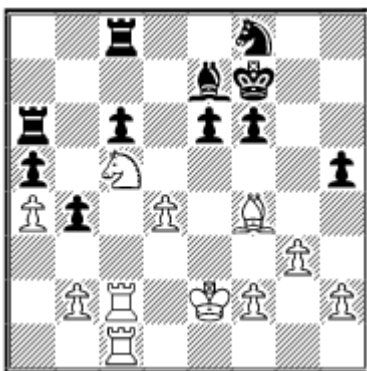
Garry Kasparov won his third game in a row and now leads the field by a full point. He looks set to secure the first place prize of \$50,000. For the first time in his career Svidler answered 1.d4 with 1...d5, and the result tempts me to give it a question mark. Perhaps Peter just caught a strain of the Slav-virus, which is common among the participants of the Russian championship. Anyway, Kasparov got a small, long-term advantage, and Svidler has never been fond of passive defense. After Kasparov won a pawn the evaluation fluctuated between “winning” and “a big advantage,” but it wasn’t completely clear until Svidler played 50...e5.



Kasparov – Svidler

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (8) 2004

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e4 b5 5.a4 b4 6.Na2 Nf6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Bxc4 e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.Bd2 a5 11.Nc1 Nd7 12.Nb3 h6 13.O-O Qb6 14.Qe2 Ba6 15.Rfc1 O-O 16.Bxa6 Qxa6 17.Qxa6 Rxa6 18.Kf1 Rc8 19.Ke2 Kf8 20.Rc2 Ke8 21.Be3 N5b6 22.Ne1 h5 23.Nd3 Nd5 24.g3 f6 25.Rac1 Kf7 26.exf6 gxf6 27.Nf4 Nxf4+ 28.Bxf4 Nf8 29.Nc5



Kasparov thought this was a weak move, because he simply forgot about 30...f5.

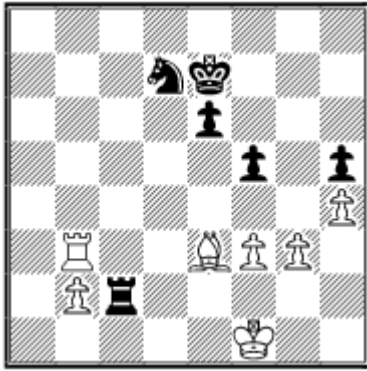
29...Bxc5 30.Rxc5 f5 31.Bg5

But it turned out that White had the strong pawn break 31.d5!

31...Nd7 32.R5c2 Kg6 33.h4 Kf7 34.f3 c5 35.dxc5 Rac6 36.Rd1?

The wrong rook! After 36.Rc2 White would win much quicker.

36...Nb6 37.Be3 Nxa4 38.Ra1 b3 39.Rd2 Nxc5 40.Rxa5 Na6 41.Rb5 Rb8 42.Rd7+ Ke8 43.Rxb8+ Nxb8 44.Rb7 Rc2+ 45.Kf1 Nd7 46.Rxb3 Ke7 (?)



This is bad as White is able to expose the black king.

47.Bg5+ Kd6 48.Rd3+ Kc6

49.Rc3 deserved calculation, but Kasparov had just a few seconds on the clock.

49.Rd2 Rc4 50.Ke2

Here 50.Be7 was much better. Kasparov called the text 'an ugly move.' Now 50...Nb6! provided stronger resistance.

50...e5 51.Be7 e4 52.Rd6+ Kc7 53.Rd5 Rc2+ 54.Ke3 Rxb2 55.Rxf5 exf3 56.Kxf3 Rb3+ 57.Kf4
Black resigns. Both players looked totally exhausted after the game and talked in low voices in the skittles room.



Svidler, Kasparov, and his second Dokhoian

The game between Bareev and Morozevich was a rather uneventful draw. Bareev was surprised by Moro's 6...Bd6 and Evgeny decided to avoid any possible complications, saying: "When playing against Morozevich, sometimes you think your position is OK, and then, suddenly, you find out the truth, but it's already too late..." This attitude caused Bareev to play 17.cxd5 instead of the stronger 17.Qf5, and after the players finished wood chopping they agreed to the draw.



Bareev – Morozevich

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (8) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 Bb7 6.a3 Bd6 7.Qd3 c5 8.e4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 O-O
10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be5 12.Be2 Na6 13.b4 Nc7 14.O-O d5 15.exd5 exd5 16.Rad1 Rc8



17.cxd5 Ncxd5 18.Nxd5 Qxd5 19.Bf3 Ne4 20.Rfe1 Qxd4
21.Qxd4 Bxd4 22.Rxd4 f5 23.g4 Rce8 24.Bxe4 Bxe4 25.gxf5
Bxf5 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Rd8 Kf7 28.Rxe8 Kxe8 29.a4 Kd7 ½-½

It seemed that Epishin once again let Black get the better game in a Slav Defense. Dreev came away with an extra pawn after White's unsound line-opening sacrifice, but he allowed White to create counterplay in time trouble and Epishin saved the half point.



Epishin – Dreev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (8) 2004

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Bg6 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.g3 Nbd7 9.Qe2 Bb4
10.Bg2 Nb6 11.cxd5 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 cxd5 13.a4 Rc8 14.O-O Nc4 15.Ba3 Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4
17.Rfb1 b6



18.a5 Nxa5 19.Bb4 Nc6 20.c4 Qg5 21.Bd6 Qh5 22.g4 Qh3
23.Bg3 O-O 24.Rb5 f5 25.d5 exd5 26.gxf5 gxf5 27.Rxd5 Rf7
28.Rad1 Nb4 29.Rd8+ Rxd8 30.Rxd8+ Kh7 31.c5 bxc5 32.Qb5
Nd3 33.Qe8 Qh5 ½-½

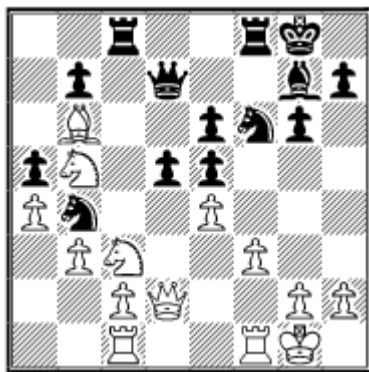
The game Korotylev – Timofeev progressed at a rather slow pace, both players maneuvered within their camps until Timofeev made a typical time trouble mistake and unjustly strove for activity with 28...e5. That gave Korotylev the initiative and he was able to create various threats that Black was unable to cope with in permanent time trouble. This was Timofeev's first loss and both players now have 50% which is above expectations.



Motylev – Tseshkovsky

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (8) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 O-O 8.Bb3 a5 9.O-O d6 10.Ndb5 Bd7 11.f3 Ne5 12.a4 Rc8 13.Qe2 Be6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.b3 Nc6 16.Qd2 Nb4 17.Nd4 Qd7 18.Rac1 e5 19.Ndb5 e6 20.Bb6 d5



21.Bxa5 Nc6 22.Bb6 dxe4 23.Nxe4 Qxd2 24.Nxd2 Bh6 25.Rcd1 Nd5 26.Bf2 Na5 27.Na3 Nc3 28.Bb6 Nc6 29.Ne4 Nxd1 30.Rxd1 Nd4 31.Bxd4 exd4 32.Kf1 Rfd8 33.Ke2 Bf8 34.Nc4 Be7 35.Kd3 Rc7 36.Re1 Rd5 37.Nb6 Rh5 38.h3 Rc6 39.Nc4 Rd5 40.f4 Rd8 41.g3 Kg7 42.h4 h6 43.Ne5 Rc7 44.Nc4 Rc6 45.Ne5 Rc7 46.Nc4 Rc6 47.Re2 Rd5 48.Ned2 g5 49.hxg5 hxg5 50.Nf3 gxf4 51.gxf4 Bf6 52.Nfe5 Bxe5 53.fxe5 Rc7 54.Re4 Kf8 55.Rxd4 Ke7 56.a5 Rcd7 57.c3 Rxd4+ 58.cxd4 Kd8 59.Nb6 Rc7 60.Na4 Re7 61.Kc4 Kc7 62.Kb5 Rh7 63.Nc5 Rh6 64.b4 Rg6 65.a6 bxa6+ 66.Kxa6 Kc6 67.b5+ Kd5 68.b6 Rg1 69.b7 Rb1 70.Ka7 Kxd4 71.Nd7

Ra1+ 72.Kb6 Rb1+ 73.Kc7 1-0



Spectators observe the action

Standings after Round Eight:

Garry Kasparov, 5½ / 7

Alexander Grischuk, 4½ / 7

Alexey Dreev, 4.0 / 8

Evgeny Bareev, 3½ / 7

Artyom Timofeev, Peter Svidler, Alexey Korotylev, Alexander Motylev, 3½ / 7

Vladimir Epishin, 3.0 / 7

Alexander Morozovich, 2½ / 6

Vitaly Tseshkovsky, 2.0 / 8

Round Seven

Tseshkovsky – Kasparov, 0-1

Morozovich – Grischuk, ½-½

Timofeev – Bareev, ½-½

Dreev – Motylev, ½-½

Svidler – Korotylev, 1-0

As predicted Garry Kasparov did indeed burn his bridges in search of a win today. He had a lost position at one stage, but still managed to take the point against Vitaly Tseshkovsky. Both players visited the press center to enlighten the spectators about their first encounter since 1981. It could be called a comedy of errors by an unfavorable observer, but it is easier to evaluate such wild complications with the computer running in the background.



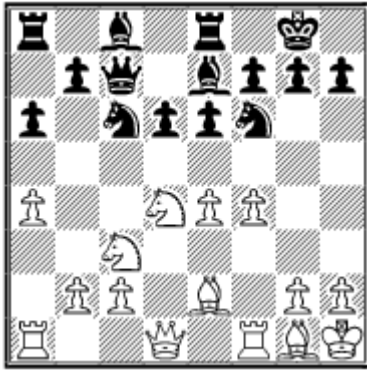
Tseshkovsky – Kasparov

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (7) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6

GK: Objectively 6...e5 leads to simpler play, but I had to play according to the tournament standings. The text is riskier.

7.O-O Be7 8.a4 Nc6 9.Be3 O-O 10.f4 Qc7 11.Kh1 Re8 12.Bg1



GK: After this move Black can simplify the game, but the most combative continuation is 12...Bd7.

12...Bd7 13.Nb3 b6 14.Bf3 Rab8

GK: Here I calculated a long line: 15.Qe2 Nb4 16.e5 Nfd5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Be4 g6 19.Qf3 (19.Nd4? Nf4) 19...dxe5 20.fxe5 Rf8, which must be quite safe for Black, with chances to recapture the initiative.

15.Qe2 Nb4 16.e5 Nfd5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Be4 b5

GK: What an awful move! Of course, much stronger was 18...g6. I decided to play b6-b5 and then 19...g6 on any reply by White. Yet it transpired that after 19.Nd4 Black's position is just hopeless.

Question: When did you notice that 18...b5 is a mistake?

GK: Immediately after I played it!

Q: How can you explain this move?

GK: Well, I just play badly!

19.Nd4 g6



20.f5

GK: Brilliant, but a weak move. It is much stronger to swap the a-pawns first. In this case the white rook joins the attack on the a-file.

Question to Tseshkovsky: Did you consider 20.axb5? Why you didn't play it first?

VT: 20.f5 is merely a more spectacular move! When would I have another chance to play such a move against Garry Kasparov? And my result in this tournament has deteriorated enough to allow me to just have some fun.

20...exf5

Here many grandmasters analyzed a lot of complicated lines following 20...dxe5! Kasparov disregarded this move on general grounds and did not even calculate it. He was ready to sacrifice a piece to get the initiative, even if it objectively favors White. Soon they found that 20...dxe5 refutes White's optimistic attack, and started to look at the same position without a-pawns (after 20.axb5 axb5 21.f5 dxe5), which increases White's attacking chances. Here is one of the lines: 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.fxg6 Nf6! 24.Rxf6 Bxf6 25.Ra7 Qd8 (25...Qd6 26.b4!) and White's resources are insufficient. Stronger is 24.Ra7! Qc4, and now 25.Bd3 Qd5 26.gxh7 Kh8 27.Bg6 with the idea Rd1, and Black is in serious trouble.

21.Bxd5 dxe5

GK: I was confident that Valery would sacrifice on f5 – he is naturally an attacking player and sacrifices with greater ease than other players. I was sure that I would be able to defend and hopefully I would have had counterplay after 22.Nf3.

22.Nxf5 Bxf5

GK: Maybe even 22...gxf5 is playable. 23.Qh5 Be6! might save Black, but it requires serious analysis.

23.Rxf5 gxf5 24.Qh5 Bf8 25.Qxf5 Bg7

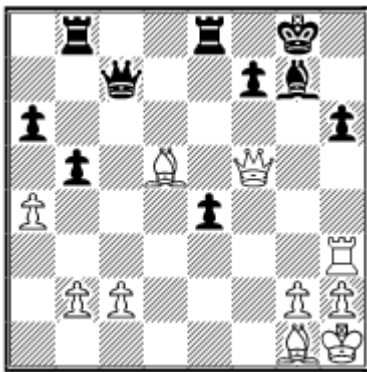
GK: I calculated until here. Black should be able to hold.

26.Ra3?

GK: A bad move! And I, in turn, made a mistake. 26...Rd8 was the correct approach! 27.Be4 Rd1 28.Qxh7+ Kf8 29.Rg3 f6. Black is ready to play ...Qa7, and his rook on d1 pretty much ensures better chances. If 26.axb5 Rxb5 27.c4 I wouldn't hesitate to play 27...Rxd5 28.cxd5 Qd6, and it's a draw. That would be a good conclusion to the game, considering the position after my 18th move.

Q: What about 26.Bxe4?

GK: Black has 26...Re6! and is at least not worse.

26...e4 27.Rh3 h6

GK: I saw 28.Qg6!! before playing 27...h6, but nevertheless decided to allow it. First of all, it is a hard move to find at the board after 3 hours of tense play. Yes, I had 27...Re5 28.Qxh7+ Kf8 29.Rg3 Rxd5 30.Rxg7, and maybe White does not achieve anything, but it all looks too scary. 28.Qg6 with idea of 29.Rg3 forces me to reply with 28...e3 29.Rg3 Qe5 30.Bxf7+ Kh8 31.Rxe3 Qxe3 32.Bxe3 Rxe3, and this ending is probably winning for White.

28.Rg3? Qe5

GK: Now Black must be winning. But the miracles are not over yet.

29.Bxf7+ Kh8 30.Qg6 Rf8

GK: 30...Re7 would win easier. I calculated two nice variations: 31.Rh3 Qf4 32.Bd5 Qc1 33.Bxe4 Qxg1!; and the trickier 31.Bd5 Rf1 32.Bxe4 Rxg1+ 33.Kxg1 Qd4+ 34.Kf1 Qd1+ 35.Kf2 Bd4+ 36.Re3 Qd2+ 37.Kf1 Rf8+ 38.Bf5 Qc1+ 39.Re1 Qf4+ 40.Ke2 Rxf5. Then suddenly I saw the much stronger...

31.axb5! axb5 32.Bd5 Rf1 33.c3!

GK: Once again the situation becomes problematic.

33...Rbf8 34.h3 Qf6 35.Bxe4 Qxg6 36.Rxg6 Re8 37.Bd3

GK: Here Tseshkovsky missed the more stubborn 37.Rg4 after which I would respond with 37...Rd1. The objective evaluation of this practical endgame does not matter much, as we play without an adjournment. I feel Black has good practical winning chances, but there is still a lot of play ahead.

37...Rd1 38.Rd6 Bf8 39.Bg6 Bxd6 White resigns.

GK: Great luck! Great luck...

One of the Russian journalists asked Garry to comment on yesterday's endgame vs. Dreev – did Black have a draw?

GK: Yes, but let's be consistent. First I missed clear win with 41.Ke4! instead of 41.Nf7? After that Black missed his chance: 43...Bd5! This leads to a true chess study; I couldn't believe my eyes when I found it at the board.

Q: Did you indeed find it at the board? Not in the post-mortem analysis?

GK: Post-mortem?!? I told Dreev about 43...Bd5 immediately after the game was over. Look: 44.Nd7+ Kd6 45.Nf6 Kc5 46.Ne4+ (or 46.Bg4 c3! 47.bxc3 bxc3 48.Nxd5 cxd5 49.Kd3 d4 50.Bd1 Kd5 51.Bc2 Kc5 52.Bb3 Kb4 53.Bd1 Kc5=) 46...Bxe4 47.Kxe4 b3 48.Ke3 Kb4 49.Kd2 c3+! 50.bxc3+ Kxa4 51.Kc1 Ka3 52.Kb1 a4 53.Bd3 c5 54.Bc4 b2



55.Bf7 (55.Kc2 b1Q+!) 55...c4 56.Bxc4 stalemate. Incredible!

With today's win Kasparov has caught up to Grischuk with a game to spare. Despite Kasparov's obvious problems with his questionable form, which can be seen in his continuous time troubles

and occasional unexplainable weak moves, he still scores more and sees more at the board than his opponents, at least in this tournament. Tomorrow is a free day and it will be especially difficult to stop Kasparov on Thursday when he has White against Grischuk.

After six rounds Grischuk and Morozevich were on opposite sides of the tournament crosstable. Grischuk was leading the event, while his teammate had suffered two heavy losses and failed to convert three superior positions that all ended in draws. Morozevich continued to vary his opening and began with 1.c4. An extremely dry, positional game developed and with 7...Ne4 Grischuk spurned a Hedgehog system and eventually equalized. Both sides had doubled pawns, White on queenside, and Black on the kingside, and these weaknesses neutralized each other.



Morozevich – Grischuk

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (7) 2004

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.O-O g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Re1 Ne4 8.Qc2 Nxc3 9.dxc3 d6 10.Bf4 Nd7 11.Rad1 Qc7 12.e4 Ne5 13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.Be3 O-O 15.b4 e6 16.bxc5 bxc5 17.Qa4 Rfc8 18.Rb1 Bf8 19.Qa3 Qc6 20.Rb3 Ba6 21.Bf1 Rcb8 22.Bg5 h6 23.Bf6 Bg7 24.Be7 Bf8 25.Bf6 Bg7 26.Be7 1/2-1/2



Svidler – Korotylev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (7) 2004

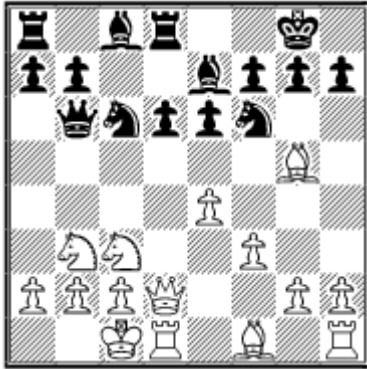
Notes by Svidler

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Qb6 8.O-O-O Be7

I didn't expect Korotylev to repeat the Rauzer, so I did not prepare anything; therefore it was wise

to play a less principled move.

9.Nb3 O-O 10.f3 Rd8



This is possibly one of the best Rauzer positions for Black.

11.Nb5 Rd7 12.Qe1 a6 13.N5d4 Rd8 14.Be3 Qc7 15.Nxc6 Qxc6

I believe 15...bxc6 should be played without any hesitation. After the text White's play develops by itself.

16.g4 b5 17.Nd4 Qc7

If 17...Qb7 then 18.g5 Nh5 19.Ne2 with the idea Ng3 and the initiative belongs to White.

18.Bd2 Nd7 19.Ba5

Entangling Black – it takes time for him to dispose of this annoying bishop; while White develops his initiative rather smoothly.

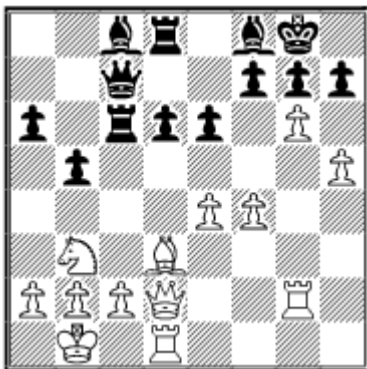
19...Nb6 20.h4 Bd7 21.g5 Rdc8 22.Kb1 Rab8 23.Bh3 Qb7 24.Bxb6 Qxb6 25.Qd2 Rc4 26.h5 Rbc8 27.f4 Qc7 28.Rh2

Here Black had a very interesting attempt at counterplay: 28...e5!? 29.Nf5 Bxf5 30.Bxf5 Rxd4 (I missed this move in my initial calculations) 31.Qe1 Rxd1 32.Qxd1 Rd8 33.g6 Bf6. This might have been the best line for Korotylev.

28...Rd8 29.Bf1 Rc5 30.Nb3 Rc6 31.Bd3 Bc8

I checked 32.f5 d5, but was unable to calculate it to the end, and decided not to allow any counterplay.

32.Rg2 Bf8 33.g6?



A mistake which allows Black to activate his pieces.

33...fxg6 34.hxg6 h6 35.Nd4 Rc5 36.c3 Qe7 37.Bc2 Kh8?

This is bad; 37...Qf6 looks better.

38.Nf3 Rh5 39.Ne5 Re8 40.Nf7+ Kg8 41.Qe2 Qh4 42.Rf2

42.a3 would win here, while 42.Rf2 disregards some back-rank mating threats, once again complicating my task.

42...d5 43.a3 dxe4 44.Bxe4 Rc5 45.Qe3 Rc4?

The final and decisive mistake; now White wins by force.

46.Rfd2 Bc5 47.Qf3 Be7 48.Ne5 Rc7 49.Rh1 Qf6 50.Ng4 Qf8 51.Nxh6+ gxh6 52.g7!

According to Master Shashin's method!

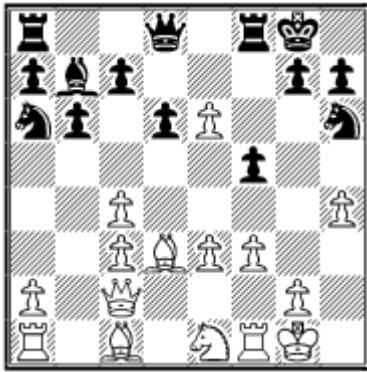
52...Qxg7 53.Rg2 Bf6 54.Rxh6 Kf8 55.Rxg7 Bxg7 56.Rh1 Rd8 57.Qe3 Rd6 58.Rg1 Bd7 59.f5 Be8 60.f6 Bxf6 61.Qh6+ Ke7 62.Rg8 Black resigns

Dreev – Motylev led to irrational complications as early as move 14 in a Nimzo-Indian Defense. Both players showed fighting spirit and imagination to survive the storm and emerge into an equal endgame that ended peacefully on move 78.

Dreev – Motylev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (7) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.e3 O-O 6.Bd3 Bb7 7.O-O Bxc3 8.bxc3 Ne4 9.Ne1 f5 10.f3 Ng5 11.Qc2 d6 12.d5 Na6 13.h4 Nf7 14.dxe6 Nh6



15.e4 Qxh4 16.exf5 Nc5 17.Bxh6 Qxh6 18.g4 g6 19.Rf2 Rae8 20.Rh2 Qe3+ 21.Qf2 Qxf2+ 22.Kxf2 h5 23.Rg2 Kh8 24.Bc2 hxg4 25.Rxg4 gxf5 26.Rh4+ Kg7 27.Ng2 Nxe6 28.Ne3 Rh8 29.Nxf5+ Kf6 30.Rah1 Rxh4 31.Rxh4 Ng5 32.Rh6+ Kf7 33.Nd4 Rg8 34.f4 Ne4+ 35.Bxe4 Bxe4 36.Ne6 Rg2+ 37.Ke3 Bg6 38.Nxc7 Rxa2 39.Nb5 Kg7 40.Rh1 Rg2 41.Rd1 Rg3+ 42.Kf2 Rh3 43.Rxd6 a6 44.Rd7+ Kf6 45.Rd6+ Kg7 46.Nd4 Rxc3 47.f5 Bf7 48.Rxb6 Rxc4 49.Ke3 a5 50.Nf3 Rc7 51.Ra6 a4 52.Ne5 Bb3 53.Kf4 Rb7 54.Kg5 Rc7 55.Ra8 Rb7 56.Ng6 Rf7 57.Ra6 Rc7 58.Ne5 Rb7 59.Ra5 Rc7 60.Ra8 Rb7 61.Ng6 Rf7 62.Nf4 Rb7 63.Nh5+ Kh7 64.Ra6 Kg8 65.Ra8+ Kh7 66.Nf6+ Kg7 67.Ne8+ Kh7 68.Ra6 Kg8 69.Nd6 Rg7+ 70.Kf6 Kh7 71.Ra8 Rd7 72.Ne8 Bf7 73.Nd6 Rxd6+ 74.Kxf7 Rd7+ 75.Ke6 Rb7 76.Rxa4 Rb6+ 77.Ke7 Rb7+ 78.Kf6 Rb6+ 1/2-1/2

It seems that Artyom Timofeev is satisfied with his progress in this tournament as he did not try to create any opening problems for Bareev. Today's Panov Attack of the Caro-Kann Defense developed into a typical isolani position in which Timofeev immediately forced draw. Bareev remains at 50%, half a point behind Timofeev, and still has to meet Grischuk and Morozevich. It seems that Bareev's first round defeat to Kasparov has spoiled the tournament for him.



Timofeev – Bareev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (7) 2004

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 O-O 9.O-O b6 10.Bg5 Bb7 11.Ne5 Nbd7 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.d5 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Bxd5 16.Qg4+ Kh8 17.Qh4 Bxc4 1/2-1/2

Standings after Round Seven:

Garry Kasparov, 4½ / 6

Alexander Grischuk, 4½ / 7

Alexey Dreev, 4.0 / 5

Artyom Timofeev, Peter Svidler, 3½ / 6

Evgeny Bareev, 3½ / 7

Vladimir Epishin, Alexey Korotylev, Alexander Motylev, 3½ / 6

Alexander Morozevich, 2.0 / 6

Vitaly Tseshkovsky, 2.0 / 7

Round Six

Bareev – Svidler, ½-½

Kasparov – Dreev, 1-0

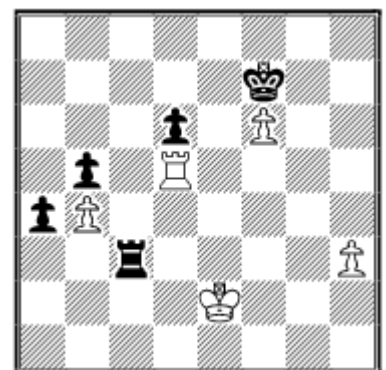
Grischuk – Timofeev, ½-½

Motylev – Epishin, 1-0

Korotylev – Tseshkovsky, ½-½

I would like to begin today's report by correcting yesterday's evaluation of Timofeev – Morozevich. Timofeev made some inaccuracies prior to the time control and Morozevich had a decisive advantage in the rook ending, but he blundered at move 49.

Morozevich played **49...a3?** Instead, as shown by GM Zagrebelny, 49...Rxb3! 50.Rxb5 (50.Rxd6 Rh4) 50...a3 51.Ra5 a2 52.Kd2 Rh1! 53.Rxa2 Rh2+ was winning.



Alexander Motylev celebrated his first win today. Epishin chose the wrong plan in the opening

and was forced to either defend an inferior position or to lose material and go down in flames against the former champion of Russia.



Motylev – Epishin

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (6) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Be7 7.Qg4 g6 8.Qe2 d6 9.O-O Nd7 10.Na3!?



This novel idea was discovered the night prior to the game by Motylev's second, GM Vokarev. The point is that White does not lose a tempo by moving the dark-squared bishop, because he is prepared to meet ...Nf6 with Bh6; followed by Nc4 with pressure against d6.

10...Kf8

After 15 minutes of thought, Epishin surprised his opponent with a move that was not considered by Motylev's team. 10...Ne5 11.f4 was considered the main line.

11.Nc4 Kg7

Here White looked at 12.f4 Ngf6 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5, but did not like the position after 14...Nd5, and decided not to force matters.



Motylev's team, Najer and Vokarev

12.Bd2 Ngf6 13.Bc3

Aimed against ...d5; 13.Qe3 could be interesting with the idea of Ba5, but Black's position is acceptable after 13...Rf8.

13...Re8 14.f4

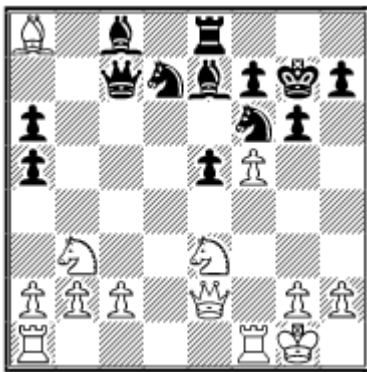
14.Rad1 Qc7 and it is unclear whether White can achieve anything concrete.

14...d5 15.Ne3 (15.Ncd2 also gives an edge) 15...dxe4 16.Bxe4 e5

On 16...Qc7 White has a strong plan beginning with g4, Bg2, g5 and Ng4, when his attack is dangerous.

17.Ba5 b6

17...Nb6 is bad: 18.Nc4 Bc5+ 19.Kh1! (19.Nxc5 Qd4+) and White's position is close to winning.

18.Bxa8 bxa5 19.f5 (to keep the e-file closed) 19...Qc7! (with the idea ...Nb6)

White has a number of possibilities. For example, 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.Nd5! Qa7 22.Qf2, and White develops his advantage in a number of sharp lines as well as in the endgame. Even stronger is 20.c4 Qa7 21.Bd5 a4 22.Nd2 Bc5 23.Rae1 Ng4, and now 24.Qg4! Be3+ 25.Kh1 Bxd2 26.fxg6 Nf6 27.Qh4, and White wins – 27...Qe7 28.gxf7 etc. Motylev went for a less decisive line and the struggle continued for more than 30 moves.

20.Kh1 Nb6 21.Bf3 gxf5

Motylev said he was relieved after this move. Stronger is 21...e4 22.Bg4 h5 23.Bh3 g5 24.g3 Rh8 with some compensation.

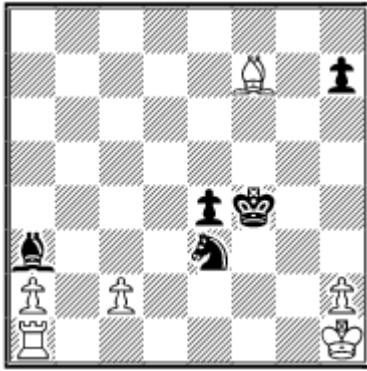
22.g3 a4 23.Nd2 Bc5 24.Ndc4

An alternative is 24.Rae1, giving White time to strengthen his position as Black has no reasonable moves. Motylev was already in time trouble so he preferred to exchange pieces.

24...Nxc4 25.Qxc4 Be6 26.Qc3 Qb6 27.Nc4 Bxc4 28.Qxc4 e4 29.Be2 Re5 30.Qxa6 Qxb2 31.Qxa4 Nd5 32.Qb3 Qa3 33.Qxa3 Bxa3 34.Rfb1 f4?

Motylev has a technically winning ending, but Epishin continues the struggle.

35.Rb5 Kf6 36.Bc4 Ne3 37.Rxe5 Kxe5 38.gxf4+ Kxf4 39.Bxf7



White needs only look after the e2-square to stop the black pawn and the win becomes easy.

39...Nxc2 40.Rf1+ Ke5 41.Rd1 Nd4 42.Bh5 e3 43.Kg2 Ke4 44.Kf1 Bb4 45.Be2 Bd2 46.Rb1 h5 47.Rb8 h4 48.Rg8 Kf5 49.a4 Ba5 50.Rh8 Nxe2 51.Kxe2 Kg4 52.Ra8 Bc7 53.a5 Kh3 54.a6 Bb6 55.Rh8 1-0

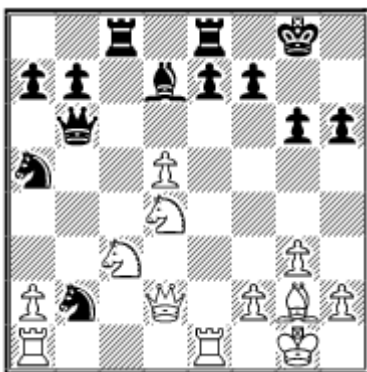
Timofeev's Grünfeld defense withstood White's pressure in his game against Grischuk. White gained space in the center and forced the exchange of dark-squared bishops to prepare a kingside attack. However, the shot 18...Nxb2 was completely unexpected by Grischuk. He thought for 50 minutes on his reply, getting into very serious time trouble, but did not find anything promising and decided to play "solidly, with a draw in hand." Incidentally, Grischuk's solid play was the 19.Ne6 sacrifice, followed by the rook sacrifice 22.Rxg5. Timofeev had to solve some problems, but passed the test and forced White to give a perpetual.



Grischuk – Timofeev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (6) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.e3 O-O 9.O-O Re8 10.d5 Na5 11.Nd4 Bd7 12.e4 c6 13.Re1 cxd5 14.exd5 Rc8 15.Bf4 h6 16.Be5 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 Nbc4 18.Re1 Nxb2 19.Qd2 Qb6



20.Ne6 g5 21.Re5 fxe6 22.Rxg5+ hxg5 23.Qxg5+ Kf7 24.Qh5+ Kg7 25.Qg5+ Kf7 26.Qf4+ Kg7 27.Qg5+ 1/2-1/2

Evgeny Bareev celebrated his birthday today and the organizers presented him with beautiful flowers, everybody applauded and his game ended in a quick peaceful draw. It is difficult to remain aggressive when playing on one's birthday against a friend. After the game Bareev lingered among the spectators, while Svidler visited the press room and got involved in a long discussion with IM Ilya Odessky and Andrei Kharlov about short draws and the methods to contend with them. Odessky voted for a draw ban until move 30 and Kharlov

supported a knock-out system, while Peter was more conservative and opined that the situation was far from tragic and nothing should be changed. Banning draw offers would just destroy one element of the game without providing any benefits. So why bother?

Bareev – Svidler

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (6) 2004

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qb3 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bg7 6.e4 O-O
7.Be2 Na6 8.Nf3 c5 9.d5 e6 10.O-O exd5 11.exd5 Nb4
12.Bg5 Nbx d5 13.Rad1 Nxc3 14.Rxd8 Nxe2+ 15.Qxe2
Rxd8 16.Qe7 Be6 17.Bxf6 Rd7 18.Qxc5 Bxf6 19.b3 b6
20.Qe3 Rd5 21.h3 Rad8 22.Re1 Kg7 ½-½**

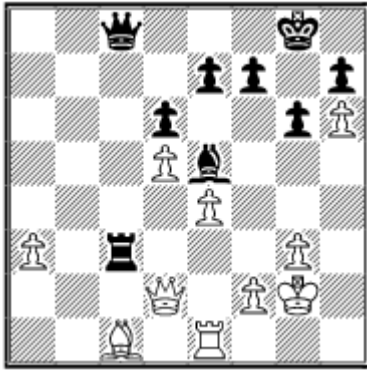
Vitaly Tseshkovsky remained loyal to lines of play that are usually disregarded at a high level, but Korotylev couldn't gain an advantage against the veteran's Volga Gambit. White simply defended his extra pawn without preparing any pawn breaks in the center and Tseshkovsky once again proved that exchanging pieces helps Black defend. Black obtained a material advantage in the queen ending, but White's passer on a-file, supported by queen, made the draw inevitable.



Korotylev – Tseshkovsky

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (6) 2004

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1 d6 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.g3
O-O 11.Kg2 Nbd7 12.Re1 Ra6 13.h3 Qa8 14.Bf4 Rb8 15.Qc2 Rb4 16.a3 Rb8 17.Rad1 Nb6
18.Bc1 Nfd7 19.b3 Ne5 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Nb1 Rc8 22.Nd2 Bg7 23.h4 c4 24.h5 cxb3 25.Qxb3
Nd7 26.Nf3 Rc3 27.Qb5 Qc8 28.h6 Rb6 29.Qe2 Rc2 30.Qe3 Rc3 31.Rd3 Rbb3 32.Rxc3 Rxc3
33.Qf4 Ne5 34.Nxe5 Bxe5 35.Qd2**



35...Bxg3 36.Bb2 Be5 37.Bxc3 Bxc3 38.Qe2 Bxe1 39.Qxe1 Qg4+ 40.Kh2 Qf4+ 41.Kg2 Qg5+ 42.Kh3 Qxh6+ 43.Kg2 Qg5+ 44.Kh3 Qh5+ 45.Kg2 Qg4+ 46.Kh2 Qf3 47.a4 Qa3 48.Qa5 Kg7 49.Qa7 Qb4 50.a5 Qxe4 51.a6 ½-½

All of today's events were overshadowed by what might become a key encounter of the championship: Kasparov – Dreev. For the first time in this tournament Garry Kasparov did not spend much time in the opening. Perhaps because it is easy to guess Dreev's opening choice – his repertoire is probably the narrowest among the top

grandmasters.

Kasparov played quickly and with confidence. Dreev consumed more time, but he was just double checking his preparation. After White's 15.Bxe5 a critical position occurred. Dreev's brisk reply 15...Nd7, offering a rook sacrifice, is formally a novelty, but not an unexpected one. Many of the grandmasters in the press center knew of this move and had analyzed it at home.

After careful consideration Garry accepted the sacrifice and then took about 20 minutes to choose between 21.Qe1 and 21.Qe2. The resulting endgame with knight for four pawns was clearly better for White. Kasparov missed or disregarded 31.Bxe6, winning back a pawn, but nevertheless converted his advantage and Dreev resigned on move 59.



Kasparov – Dreev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (6) 2004

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5 9.Be2 Bb7 10.h4 g4 11.Ne5 h5 12.f3 Nbd7 13.fxc4 hxc4 14.O-O Nxe5 15.Bxe5



15...Nd7 16.Bxh8 Qxh4 17.Bxg4 Qxh8 18.e5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Bc5+ 20.Rf2 Qxe5 21.Qe2 Qxe2 22.Bxe2 Rd8 23.Kf1 Bxf2 24.Kxf2 Ke7 25.Ke3 a6 26.Rd1 Rxd1 27.Bxd1 f5 28.g4 fxg4 29.Bxg4 Kd6 30.Ne4+ Kd5 31.Bf3 Bc8 32.Bh5 a5 33.Bf3 e5 34.Ng5+ Kc5 35.Ne4+ Kd5 36.a3 Ba6 37.Bh5 Bc8 38.Bf3 Ba6 39.Ng5+ Kc5 40.Be2 Bc8 41.Nf7 b4 42.Nxe5 Be6 43.a4 c3 44.Nd3+ Kb6 45.bxc3 Bb3 46.c4 Bxa4 47.Kd4 Bc2 48.c5+ Kc7 49.Bf3 Bb3 50.Be4 Ba4 51.Kc4 Bc2 52.Bf3 Ba4 53.Ne5 Kb7 54.Be4 Kc7 55.Nf3 Bd1 56.Nd4 Ba4 57.Bc2 Bxc2 58.Nxc2 Kd8 59.Nd4 1-0

Kasparov now trails Grischuk by half a point, but he has played one game less. Additionally, he faces Tseshkovsky tomorrow and is likely to burn his bridges searching for a win. Another motivating factor, if I am not mistaken, is that Kasparov has a negative score against Tseshkovsky.



Kasparov and Dreev after the game

Standings after Round Six:

Alexander Grischuk, 4.0/6

Garry Kasparov, 3½/5

Alexey Dreev, 3½/6

Artyom Timofeev, 3.0/5

Evgeny Bareev, 3.0/6

Alexey Korotylev, Peter Svidler, 2.5/5

Vladimir Epishin, 2.5/6

Alexander Motylev, 2.0/5

Vitaly Tseshkovsky, 2.0/6

Alexander Morozevich, 1½/5

Round Five

Epishin - Kasparov, ½-½

Dreev - Korotylev, 1-0

Svidler - Grischuk, ½-½

Timofeev - Morozevich, ½-½

Tseshkovsky - Bareev, 0-1



Moscow experienced its first serious snowfall over the last two days. The capital of Russia was beset with airport and traffic problems, but it did not affect Moscow chess life; the intercollegiate championships and regular rapid events went on as planned. Nor did the storm affect the course of events in the Vasilyevsky restaurant, the only difference today brought was Boris Spassky's rather brief visit to the event.



Four-time Russian champion Svidler had white against the tournament leader Grischuk, but as they are good friends, winning this particular game was definitely not a matter of life and death for them. Svidler obtained more comfortable play after the opening and a draw was agreed in a complex position with chances for both sides.

Svidler - Grischuk

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (5) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Nd7 8.Be3 e5 9.Qd2 h6 10.O-O Qe7 11.a3 Nf8 12.b4 Ne6 13.bxc5 Nxc5 14.Rfe1 Ne6 15.a4 Kf8 16.a5 Kg8 17.Na4 Kh7 18.Qc3 Rd8 19.Rab1 Nd4 20.Bxd4 exd4 21.Qc4 Qc7 22.Nc5 1/2-1/2

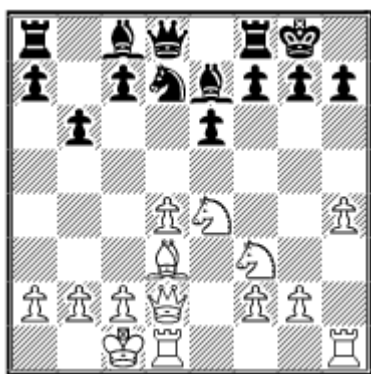
Evgeny Bareev got the upper hand against Vitaly Tseshkovsky, who followed Anand's spectacular idea against the Rubinstein Variation of the French. But Tseshkovsky declined a drawing continuation and Bareev was able to display his careful home preparation.



Tseshkovsky - Bareev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (5) 2004

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.Qd2 O-O 9.O-O-O Be7 10.Bd3 b6 11.h4



After the game Tseshkovsky said that his first mistake was to follow Anand. Before the game he wanted to play Judith Polgar's 11.Neg5, but he changed his mind at the board. Bareev mentioned that Anand is a superficial player and that his ideas are, too. In his opinion, it is better to follow Topalov's footsteps in this opening. And upon saying that, Evgeny smiled in his usual ironic way, so it was impossible to guess whether he was being sarcastic or not.

11...Bb7 12.Neg5 (one move too late) 12...h6 13.Bh7+ Kh8 14.Be4 Bxg5 15.Nxg5 Qb8

Black spent no time in reaching this position as he had everything on his computer at home. "No sane man would ever consider such move!," commented Bareev. And Tseshkovsky admitted that he does not use the computer as an analytical tool, to which Sveshnikov's loudly replied: "How dare you play such positions without the engine's help? They have a definite evaluation and those youngsters all know it!"

16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.d5 exd5

**18.Rde1?**

A critical moment; capturing on d5 gave an easy draw. White keeps playing for a win, but the position does not allow for that. From this moment on Black turns the tables – the white king is in greater danger than Black's.

18...Kg8 19.Re7 Nf6 20.Qc3 d4 21.Qg3 Qd5 (eyeing a2) 22.Kb1

After this forced loss of tempo Black's counterattack decides.

22...Rae8 23.Rxc7

Black is finally able to capture the knight and he wins by force.

23...hxc7 24.hxc7 Nh5 25.Qh4 g6 26.g4 Qe5

Attacking both c7 and e1.

27.c3 Qe4+ 28.Kc1 Qf4+ 29.Kb1 Re2 White resigns because mate is inevitable.

Tseshkovsky, like Dreev and unlike Kasparov, conserved enough energy to stand during his presentation to the journalists in the press area. "Get a chair," suggested Sveshnikov. "Thanks, I sat enough already," replied the 60-year-old veteran.

The games Epishin – Kasparov and Dreev – Korotylev developed similarly in that White gained space, opened the a- and b-files, and played against a weak pawn on c6. White maintained an initial opening advantage and pressed on queenside. The difference was in Black's play. Korotylev defended very passively, while Kasparov managed to create sufficient counterplay.

***Dreev - Korotylev***

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (5) 2004

Notes by Alexey Dreev

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Nc3 b5

An interesting and popular position; Epishin recently played 6.e3, but I used another idea.

6.c5

In the Russia – China match I defeated Ni Hua with this strange-looking move. The most natural-looking reply 6...Bg4 is probably not the best. Radjabov defeated Smirnov, playing 7.Qb3 with idea to break with a4 and use the b4-square for the knight.

6...Nbd7

This is a good move. Sakaev once uncorked a plan with h3-g4 and even won, but it doesn't look attractive to me. My next move could even be a novelty, although the plan is very natural.

7.b4 a5

White stands better. 7...Qc7 allows White to pursue his plan: 8.a4 Rb8 9.axb5 axb5 10.Bb2! It is important that I didn't play Bd2 earlier, as I need this square to transfer my knight from the kingside.

8.bxa5 e5

This was highly unexpected. Highly unexpected! I thought about 8...Qa5 9.Bd2! b4 10.Nb1! (threatening 11.a3) 10...Ne4 11.Be2 e5 12.0-0 Nxd2 13.Nbxd2, and if 13...e4, for example, then 14.Ne1 with the idea Nc2 and Rb1.

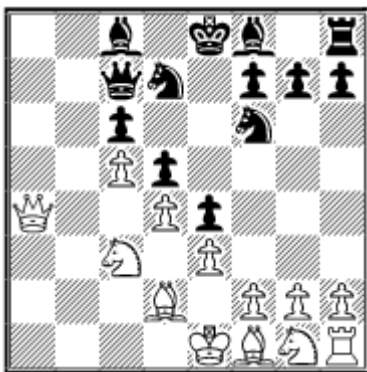
9.Bd2 (I did not consider 9.dxe5 at all.) 9...e4 10.Ng1

The knight has no business moving in another direction. The position has been defined. Black has a more aggressive pawn structure on the kingside, while I would play on the queenside against the weak c6-pawn.

10...Rxa5 11.a4 bxa4 12.Rxa4 Rxa4 13.Qxa4

Attacking c6; which wins an important tempo.

13...Qc7



Here the most important thing was to have faith in my position and to believe that it is possible to break black's defensive setup. I think I found a good plan; White transfers his knight to c3, where it seemingly has no future, but actually serves me well.

14.Na2 Be7 15.Nb4 Nb8 16.Ne2 O-O 17.Nc3

Better for Black was to try to create counterplay on the kingside with 17...h5. But, it is not too dangerous as I haven't castled yet, so 17...h5 18.h3 (18.Be2 Bg4!) 18...g5!? 19.Be2 or 19.g3. White still has the advantage, but Black is at least active. In the game his position was much too passive.

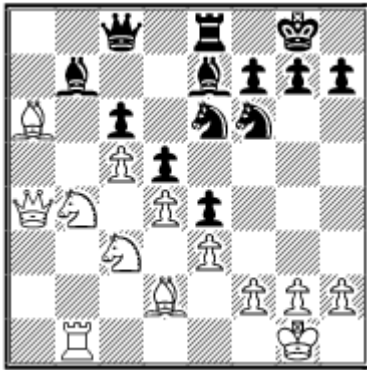
17...Bb7 18.Be2 Nbd7 19.Na6! Qc8 20.O-O

Planning Rb1, N-somewhere, and Qa7.

20...Re8 (preparing a clever, but not too fruitful knight maneuver) **21.Rb1 Nf8 22.Nb4 Ne6**

The correct approach; worse is 22...Qc7?! 23.Nbxd5! cxd5 24.Qa7 Rb8, and here, I think, 25.c6 wins. I misplayed my next move, which I realized during the game.

23.Ba6?!



Better is 23.Qa7! If 23...Nd8, 24.Na4 Nd7? 25.Bg4! White's position is better with the queens, but I decided to swap them. My advantage decreased, but my opponent no longer has winning chances.

23...Bxa6 24.Qxa6 Qxa6 25.Nxa6

Black could safely resign here if it was not for some back rank mating threats, but this tactical element extends the struggle.

25...Nd7 26.Nb4 Rc8 (the only move) **27.Ra1 Kf8**

Interesting is 28.Nxc6 Rxc6 29.Ra8+ Bd8 (29...Nd8? is bad) 30.Nxd5 Ndc5 31.dxc5 Ke8! I checked it, but was afraid that I would not be able to win.

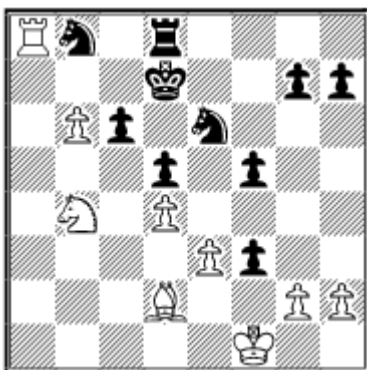
28.Ra7 Ke8 29.Na4 Bd8

Black position is unpleasant and White can safely try various plans.

30.Kf1 f5 31.Ra6 Nb8 (the only move) **32.Ra8 Kd7**

Here I made a mistake as well. I wanted to play f3 and Ke2. 33.Nb6+ is not the best move, but it has an important advantage – I know at least two of my following moves! With 30 seconds left on my clock that is very useful.

33.Nb6+ Bxb6 34.cxb6 Rd8 35.f3 exf3??



This awful move is the decisive mistake. I wanted to reposition my knight and Black just offers the d3-square! Better is 35...Kd6 36.Ra7, after 36...Nd7? 37.Na6! White wins, but after 36...Rd7 things are more complicated. Probably, White is still winning with 37.Be1, but I can't tell for sure in a quick analysis.

36.gxf3 g5 37.Nd3

I missed 37.Ra7+ and 38.Rxh7!

37...Kc8 38.Ba5 Re8

If 38...Rg8 39.Ra7! Rg7 40.Rxg7 Nxg7 41.Nc5 with the idea 42.b7#.

39.Ra7 Black resigns.



After each round Alexey Dreev has visited the press-center to present his games. His explanations are very clear and instructive and they reveal more about a grandmaster's thinking in practical play than many thick volumes of textbooks. This is a unique demonstration and it is filmed by Russian cable TV (NTV Plus), but unfortunately they only use short clips of it in their news programs.

The game with the highest expectations was Epishin – Kasparov. So far Kasparov has been very rusty, so careful positional play without much risk is beneficial for him. Later on, as his form improves, Garry will hopefully come out of hiding. We're waiting for a Grünfeld or even a KID here!



Epishin – Kasparov

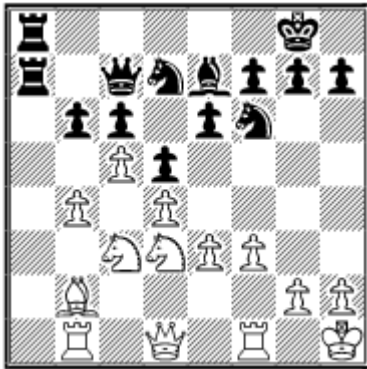
57th ch-RUS, Moscow (5) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 O-O 5.Ne2 d5 6.a3 Bd6 7.c5 Be7 8.b4 c6 9.Nf4 b6

This is all theory; White relies on his spatial advantage and plans to take advantage of the

weakness on c6.

10.Be2 a5 11.Rb1 axb4 12.axb4 Ba6 13.O-O Nbd7 14.Bxa6 Rxa6 15.Bb2 Qc7 16.Nd3 Rfa8 17.f3 R6a7 18.Kh1



Epishin considered this weak, as he loses time, which possibly allowed Kasparov to create counterplay. It looked rather dangerous shortly before time control. However, Kasparov probably misplayed it, as his initiative disappeared, and when Epishin offered a draw on move 42, it was accepted immediately.

18...bxc5 19.bxc5 Rb8 20.Rc1 Qc8 21.Qc2 Rab7 22.Ra1 e5 23.Bc1 e4 24.fxe4 Nxe4 25.Nxe4 dxe4 26.Nb2 Nf6 27.Nc4 Qe6 28.Bd2 Bd8 29.Ba5 Bxa5 30.Rxa5 Nd5 31.h3 Nb4 32.Qe2 Nd3 33.Nb6 g6 34.Qa2 Qxa2 35.Rxa2 f5 36.g4 f4 37.exf4 Rd8 38.f5 Rxd4 39.Ra8+ Kf7 40.fxg6+ Kxg6 41.Rg8+ Rg7 42.Rc8 1/2-1/2

The conclusion in the pressroom was that Alexander Morozovich is unable to play according to classical principles! He deviated from the main line by moving his bishop to a passive square and placed a knight on the rim. It seemed Timofeev got a huge plus, but Morozovich, playing Black, was able to create concrete threats against White's king. The game entered a rook endgame in which White had to make a draw, but Timofeev is a good endgame player, so he drew it effortlessly. Timofeev's trainer, grandmaster Andrei Kharlov, celebrated his birthday today. I discovered this on the [ChessCafe](#) homepage and my greeting surprised Kharlov! Andrei said that the date is often given incorrectly, so he is frequently congratulated in October.



Timofeev - Morozovich

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1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.d4 Bg4 10.Be3 Bh5 11.h3 Bg6 12.Nbd2 exd4 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Nh5 15.Bd5 Rc8 16.Bb7 Rb8 17.Bc6 Nf4 18.Nf3 Bh5 19.Ba7 Rc8 20.Be3 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Bg5 22.Kh2 Ng6 23.Rg1 h6 24.Qd5 Qf6 25.Qf5 Bxe3 26.fxe3 Qxf5 27.exf5 Ne5 28.Be4 c6 29.f6 g6 30.f4 Nc4 31.b3 Nb6 32.f5 Rfe8 33.Bh1 Rxe3 34.fxg6 Re2+ 35.Kg3 fxg6 36.Kf3 Rce8 37.Rxg6+ Kf7 38.Rxh6 Nd5 39.Rf1 Re1 40.Kf2 R8e2+ 41.Kg1 Rxf1+ 42.Kxf1 Rxa2 43.Bxd5+ cxd5 44.Rh5 Rd2 45.Rf5 a5 46.Ke1

Rd3 47.b4 a4 48.Ke2 Rxc3 49.Rxd5 a3 50.Rxd6 Rxh3 51.Rd1 Kxf6 52.Kd2 Ke5 53.Kc2 Ke4 54.Rd8 a2 55.Kb2 Ra3 56.Ka1 Ra4 57.Rd7 Ke5 1/2-1/2

Standings after 5 rounds:

Alexey Dreev, Alexander Grischuk, 3½/5

Garry Kasparov, 2½/4

Evgeny Bareev, Vladimir Epishin, 2½/5

Artyom Timofeev, 2.0/3

Alexey Korotylev, Peter Svidler, 2.0/4

Vitaly Tseshkovsky, 1½/5

Alexander Morozevich, Alexander Motylev, 1.0/4

Round Four

Kasparov – Motylev, ½-½

Morozevich – Svidler, ½-½

Grishuk – Tseshkovsky, 1-0

Korotylev – Epishin, ½-½

Bareev – Dreev, ½-½

After three rounds the tournament situation was complicated with three leaders at 2-1: Timofeev, Dreev, and Grischuk. Following hot on their heels was Kasparov and Korotylev, both at 1½-½. So there was a virtual team match between the Leaders and the Rest of the Field, with two whites and two blacks for each group. Unlike yesterday, the Leaders won today scoring 2½-1½. The game of the day was the epic struggle between Morozevich and Svidler. Morozevich had White and opened the game with the timid 1.g3, but he would soon sacrifice a pawn for active piece play, forcing Svidler to search for a draw.



Morozevich – Svidler

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Notes by Peter Svidler

1.g3

My understanding is that Morozevich was unhappy being White, so he decided to pass this privilege to me.

1...d5 2.Bg2 Nf6

2...e5 is the more principled move, but I decided to decline the invitation to play 'White.' Unfortunately, I was later inconsistent in the matter and started to advance my pawns, etc.

3.Nf3 g6 4.c4

Now it was time for me to play two unnecessary moves.

4...d4 5.d3 a5

I played ...a5 because I disliked 5...c5 6.b4 and Black has Volga without a tempo. I went backstage to drink some water and began to wonder what I should do after 6.Na3.

6.Na3! Nc6 7.Nb5!



Had Morozevich played 7.Bf4, I could choose between 7...Nd7 and 7...Nh5, and I would probably select the latter; forcing the bishop back and completing development. 7.Nb5 is stronger and it forces my next move.

7...e5

Otherwise Black loses material and maintaining the material balance was already my major concern.

8.O-O Bg7 9.e3 dxe3 10.Bxe3 O-O 11.Re1

On 11.d4!? Ng4 would be considered.

11...Be6

I had three candidate moves: 11...Re8 does not have any clear disadvantages, but for some mysterious reason I wanted to keep the e8-square for the knight; 11...Bf5 contains the idea 12.d4 e4 13.Nd2 Nb4, but I disliked the variation 13.Nh4 Bg4 14.Qd2 with an advantage; then I found the idea 11...Be6 with the ideal setup ...Qc8, ...Rd8, and ...Bh3. However, it transpired that it was not such a bright idea after all.

12.b3

12.Rc1 Nb4 is a tempting attempt at counterplay!

12...Qc8

This move is linked with a series of miscalculations: 13.d4 exd4 14.Nfxd4 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Rd8, but 16.Qf3 wins. So, I corrected my variation with 14...Bg4, but in both 15.Qd2 Rd8 or 15.Qc2

Nb4 White seems to keep the advantage.

13.d4 exd4 14.Bf4 Ne8



This position illustrates the defensive resources in chess. It is difficult to imagine that Black will not lose material because of his poor opening play, but Black holds nevertheless.

15.Qd2 (other moves are closer to a draw) **15...Qd7 16.Rad1**

I calculated 16.Ng5!? Bf5 17.Ne4 and prepared 17...Rd8 18.Nc5 Qc8 followed by ...Nd6. Maybe it is not all that tragic for Black.

16...Bg4 (it is a sin to ignore such a move) **17.Bh6 Rd8 18.Qf4 a4**

This was probably the only move in the game that contained a specific idea. I calculated a long line beginning with 18...Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Bxh6, etc similar to what happened in the game, but the resulting endgame was extremely unpleasant for Black. So I reasoned it makes sense to remove the a-pawns from the board. Their absence is useful to me in any endgame. Only I wasn't sure what to do on 19.bxa4, but it is likely that Black holds. After 19.h3 my position significantly improved and I got the chance to exchange most of the pieces.

19.h3 Bxf3 20.Bxf3 axb3 21.axb3 Bxh6 22.Qxh6 Ng7 23.Re4 Nf5 24.Qf4 Nd6 25.Nxd6 Draw agreed.

The shortest game of the day was Bareev – Dreev. Their encounters are usually bloodthirsty battles, however this time Bareev was in a quite peaceful mood. At each critical moment he chose the safest continuation, even making a “silent” draw offer with his 13.Nb1, which Dreev declined because he “did not understand that it was a draw offer!” The draw definitely wasn't prearranged, but both players methodically beat the life out of the position.



Bareev – Dreev

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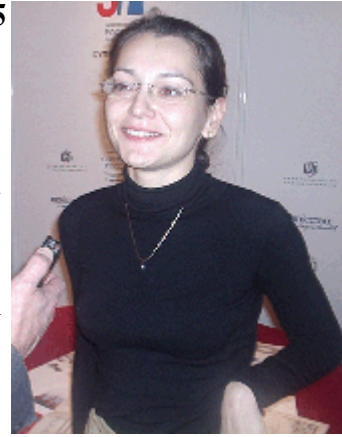
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Bg6 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.Bd2 Nbd7 9.Rc1 Bd6 10.g3 Qe7 11.c5 Bc7 12.f4 Ba5 13.Nb1 Bxd2+ 14.Nxd2 Ne4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.h4 f5 17.Kf2 Nf6 18.Be2 Kf7 19.a3 a5 20.Qd2 Rhb8 21.Rc2 b5 1/2-1/2

Alexey Korotylev once again played safe and solid chess as White, while Vladimir Epishin eventually equalized and accepted a draw offer.

Korotylev – Epishin

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (4) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 Bb7 5.Nc3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5
7.Bd2 Be7 8.Qc2 O-O 9.e4 Nxc3 10.Bxc3 c5 11.dxc5
bxc5 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.Bd3 Nd7 14.O-O Rfd8 15.Rfe1 h6
16.h3 Bf6 17.e5 Be7 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Be4 Rab8 20.Qa4
Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Nb6 22.Nd2 Qb7 23.Qg4 Bf8 24.Ne4 Rxd1
25.Rxd1 Nd5 26.Nd6 Qc7 27.Nc4 ½-½



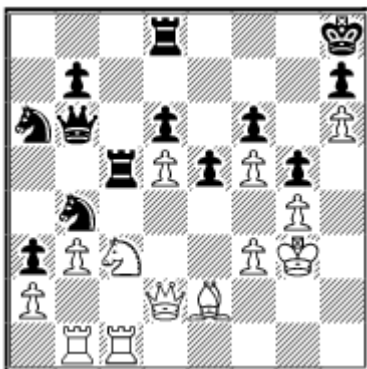
VIP Alexandra Kosteniuk

Grischuk won against Tseshkovsky. The players reached an unbalanced position with mutual chances. Black played very enterprisingly, but made several inaccuracies in a position rife with opportunities; he finally sacrificed an exchange, which was definitely the wrong decision. The cool-headed Grischuk did not miss his chance and became the sole leader.

Grischuk – Tseshkovsky

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (4) 2004

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.f3 e5 4.d5 Be7 5.Be3 O-O 6.c4 c6 7.Nc3 Na6 8.Bd3 cxd5 9.cxd5 Nh5
10.Nge2 Bh4+ 11.g3 Bg5 12.Bxg5 Qxg5 13.Qd2 Qd8 14.g4 Nf6 15.Ng3 Nd7 16.Be2 Ndc5
17.O-O Bd7 18.Kh1 Rc8 19.Rac1 g6 20.Qh6 f6 21.Rg1 Qe7 22.Qe3 Qd8 23.Kg2 Kh8 24.Kh1
Rf7 25.Rb1 Qb6 26.Rgc1 Qb4 27.Rd1 Rff8 28.h4 Qb6 29.h5 g5 30.Kg2 Nb4 31.Qd2 Rc7
32.h6 Na4 33.Nh5 Rcc8 34.Rdc1 Qd4 35.Rd1 Qb6 36.Ng7 Nc5 37.Rdc1 a5 38.Qd1 a4 39.Qd2
Qa5 40.Rd1 Qb6 41.Kg3 Rg8 42.Bc4 Qa5 43.Nf5 Bxf5 44.exf5 Qb6 45.Rdc1 Rgd8 46.b3 a3
47.Nb5 Nca6 48.Be2 Rc5 49.Nc3



49...Rxc3 50.Rxc3 Qd4 51.Qc1 Qf4+ 52.Kg2 Qxc1 53.Rbxc1
Nc5 54.Rc4 Nxd5 55.Kf2 b5 56.Rxc5 dxc5 57.Rd1 1-0

Garry Kasparov was terribly disappointed after his 76 move draw versus Motylev. Kasparov played excellently in the opening and middlegame. As usual he spent a lot of time, but Garry had total control throughout the game. After the time control Black sacrificed an exchange for nebulous drawing chances, which somehow broke Kasparov's concentration, as he erred immediately with 43.Kf4 instead of 43.Kh4, which would have lead to an easier

victory. Now things had definitely become more complicated and Motylev did everything within his power to make Kasparov's life difficult in the endgame. He defended stubbornly and resourcefully and only overnight analysis will decide where White lost half a point. "Kakoj nefart!" exclaimed Garry's second, GM Yuri Dokhoyan, after the draw was agreed, which could be translated as "What bad luck!" But has a broader meaning in Russian chess slang. After the players had signed the scoresheets, Kasparov paled, stood up, and shook his head in dismay.

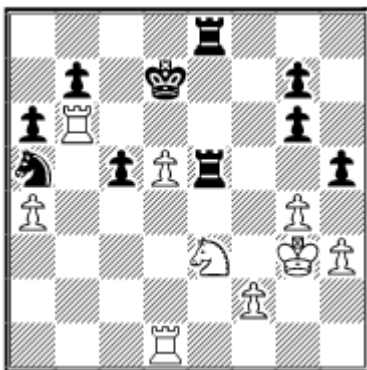
Missing a win was extremely disheartening for him.



Kasparov – Motylev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (4) 2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.O-O Be7 8.c4 Nb4 9.Be2 O-O
10.a3 Nc6 11.cxd5 Qxd5 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Bf5 14.Re1 Rfe8 15.Bf4 Rac8 16.h3 h6 17.Nd2
Qd7 18.Nc4 Bd6 19.Qd2 Bxf4 20.Qxf4 Re4 21.Qg3 Rce8 22.Ne3 R4e7 23.Bb5 a6 24.Bc4 Na5
25.Ba2 Be6 26.d5 Bf5 27.Red1 Re5 28.Rd4 Qd6 29.Kh2 Bg6 30.a4 Re4 31.Qxd6 cxd6 32.Rb4
Rc8 33.c4 Kf8 34.Rd1 Ke7 35.g4 Kd7 36.Kg3 Rce8 37.Rb2 h5 38.Bb1 R4e5 39.Bxg6 fxg6
40.c5 dxc5 41.Rb6



41...Rxe3+ 42.fxe3 Rxe3+ 43.Kf4 Rxh3 44.Rxg6 Rh4 45.Rxg7+
Kd6 46.Rg6+ Kd7 47.Rc1 b6 48.Rxb6 Rxg4+ 49.Kf3 c4 50.Rh1
Rg5 51.Rxa6 Nb3 52.Kf4 Rg4+ 53.Ke3 c3 54.Rc6 h4 55.Rb1
Rg3+ 56.Kf4 Nd4 57.Rb7+ Kd8 58.Ra6 Kc8 59.Rh7 Kb8
60.Rb6+ Ka8 61.Ra6+ Kb8 62.Rb6+ Ka8 63.Rf6 Rg8 64.Ke4 c2
65.Rc7 Kb8 66.d6 Rc8 67.Kxd4 c1=Q 68.Rxc1 Rxc1 69.Kd5
Kc8 70.Rf8+ Kd7 71.Rf7+ Kd8 72.a5 Rd1+ 73.Kc6 Rc1+
74.Kb7 Rb1+ 75.Ka7 h3 76.Rh7 Rb3 1/2-1/2

Standings after Round Four:

Alexander Grischuk, 3.0/4

Alexey Dreev, 2½/4

Artyom Timofeev, Alexey Korotylev, Garry Kasparov, 2.0/3

Vladimir Epishin, 2.0/4

Peter Svidler, 1½/3

Evgeny Bareev, Vitaly Tseshkovsky, 1½/4

Alexander Morozovich, Alexander Motylev, 1.0/4



Timofeev enjoying his rest day with his trainer GM Kharlov

Round Three

Svidler – Timofeev, 0-1

Dreev – Grischuk, ½-½

Epishin – Bareev, ½-½

Tseshkovsky – Morozevich, 1-0

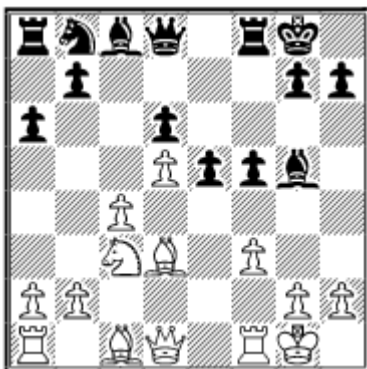
Motylev – Korotylev, 0-1

Artyom Timofeev won the psychological battle by surprising Peter Svidler with the Sveshnikov Sicilian. White avoided the most principle lines and got nothing from the opening. According to Evgeny Sveshnikov, White simply stood badly. The position after move 13 was no secret to the originator of this popular modern system and he questioned if Svidler would be able to hold. He did not and the youngest participant of the tournament slowly utilized his advantage to defeat a strong favorite!

Svidler – Timofeev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (3) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.c4 a6 10.Nc3 Be7 11.Bd3 O-O 12.O-O f5 13.f3 Bg5



14.Kh1 Nd7 15.b4 a5 16.a3 axb4 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.axb4 Rxa1 19.Qxa1 Qe3 20.Be2 Nb8 21.Qb2 Na6 22.Rb1 Bd7 23.Nd1 Qd4 24.Qxd4 exd4 25.Kg1 Rb8 26.b5 Nc5 27.Nf2 Ra8 28.Rd1 Ra4 29.Nh3 h6 30.Rxd4 Bxb5 31.g4 Bd7 32.Rd2 fxg4 33.fxg4 Nb3 34.Rb2 Nd4 35.Bf1 Bxg4 36.Nf2 Bf3 37.Nh3 Bg4 38.Nf2 Bf3 39.Nh3 g5 40.Kf2 Bg4 41.Ke3 Nf5+ 42.Kd2 Ra1 43.Bg2 Rd1+ 44.Kc3 Rc1+ 45.Kd3 Re1 46.Nf2 Re3+ 47.Kd2 Re2+ 48.Kc3 Rxb2 49.Kxb2 Ne3 50.Kc3 Bf5 51.Be4 Bd7 52.Kd4 Nf5+ 53.Bxf5 Bxf5 54.c5 dxc5+ 55.Kxc5 Kf7 56.Kb6 Ke7 57.Kc7 b5 58.d6+ Ke8 59.Nd3 h5 60.Ne1 g4 61.Ng2 b4 62.Ne3 Be6 63.Nc2

h4 0-1

After yesterday's fine win Alexey Dreev faced Grischuk in today's game. Grischuk arrived five minutes late and stopped in confusion upon encountering a row of chairs that divides the playing area and the restaurant hall with the spectators. Without hesitation, Alexander simply jumped over them and proceeded to his board. Some grandmaster spectators correctly predicted a short peaceful draw. For the first time in his career Alexander played the combative Grünfeld Defense. Dreev selected the Taimanov variation (4.Bg5), and Grischuk deviated from Dreev's game versus Timofeev with 7...Be6; temporary holding the extra pawn. Dreev uncorked 8.Qb1 instead of 8.Rb1 which is strongly favored by theory. Both players then spent a lot of time on their next moves and agreed to a draw after move 10, which coincidentally, was a novelty.



Dreev – Grischuk

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (3) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Bh4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 dxc4 7.e3 Be6 8.Qb1 Qd5 9.Ne2 Bc8 10.a4 1/2-1/2

Both Epishin and Bareev were rock-solid today. Bareev uncorked a fine novelty to reach equality in a Slav Defense and the game proceeded until move 26, when a completely symmetrical pawn structure emerged that called for a peaceful resolution.

Epishin – Bareev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (3) 2004

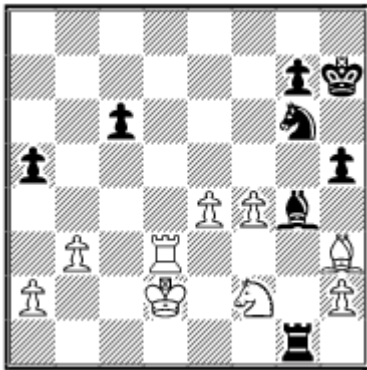
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Nf3 b5 6.b3 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.h3 Bh5 9.O-O Nbd7 10.Ne5 Bxe2 11.Nxe2 Bd6 12.Bb2 bxc4 13.bxc4 O-O 14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Qa4 Rfb8 17.Bc3 Qc8 18.Rfc1 Rxb1 19.Rxb1 Rb8 20.Rb3 dxc4 21.Qxc4 Rxb3 22.Qxb3 Nd5 23.g3 c5 24.dxc5 Qxc5 25.Bd4 Qc6 26.Nc3 Nxc3 1/2-1/2

A seemingly harmless endgame was actually full of poison for Black in Tseshkovsky – Morozevich. Morozevich has not been himself in this tournament, suffering his second consecutive defeat and playing without his usual creativity. However, this does not minimize Tseshkovsky's effort. The old master scored a crystal clear victory.

Tseshkovsky – Morozevich

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (3) 2004

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qf6 6.Qf3 Qxf3 7.gxf3 bxc6 8.Rg1 Ne7 9.Be3 Bb6 10.c4 Bxe3 11.fxe3 O-O 12.f4 Rb8 13.b3 d6 14.Nc3 f6 15.c5 Be6 16.O-O-O Rfd8 17.Rd4 a5 18.Be2 f5 19.cxd6 cxd6 20.Rgd1 fxe4 21.Rxd6 Bd5 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Bg4 Rd6 24.Nxe4 Rg6 25.Nf2 h5 26.Bh3 Bf3 27.Rd8+ Kh7 28.e4 Rg1+ 29.Kd2 Bg4 30.Rd3 Ng6



31.Rg3 Ra1 32.Nxg4 hxg4 33.Bxg4 Rxa2+ 34.Ke3 Nf8 35.e5 Rb2 36.Kd4 Kg8 37.h4 a4 38.bxa4 Rb4+ 39.Ke3 Rxa4 40.h5 Ra3+ 41.Kf2 Ra2+ 42.Kf3 Ra3+ 43.Kg2 Ra4 44.f5 Ra5 45.Re3 Nd7 46.e6 Nf6 47.e7 Ra8 48.Bf3 Rc8 49.Re6 c5 50.h6 c4 51.Rd6 Re8 52.Rd8 Kh7 53.Rxe8 Nxe8 54.Bh5 Nf6 55.e8=Q Nxe8 56.Bxe8 Kxh6 57.Ba4 g6 58.f6 Kh7 59.Kg3 g5 60.Bc2+ Kh6 61.Kg4 c3 62.Kf5 g4 63.Kf4 1-0

Alexey Korotylev (AK), the second lowest-rated player, slowly converted an equal endgame into favorable one and then to a winning one. The winner provided brief annotations, with additional commentary by Dmitry Jakovenko (DJ).

Motylev – Korotylev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (3) 2004

1.e4 c5

I have three standard replies to 1.e4: the solid 1...e5, the complicated 1...d6, and the sharp 1...c5. But, after all the nonsense I read about my game with Kasparov I had no choice.

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6

Nothing new so far; on the elite level this position is considered inferior for Black, but I don't believe we should give a definite evaluation so early in the game. There is still a lot of play ahead!

6.Bg5

I paid more attention to 6.f3, but was prepared for the text as well.

6...e6 7.Qd2 Qb6 8.O-O-O Be7



I did not want to rush exchanging on d4, because I was less familiar with it. On the other hand, I am familiar with the situation after Nb3.

DJ: Evgeny Sveshnikov suggested here “the winning” 9.Be3. What would you have done?

AK: Yes, I saw this opportunity, but after some thought I decided to respond with 9...Ng4. Boris Avrukh often plays 8...Be7, but unlike me he really works on his openings. Then 10.Nxc6 Nxe3

11.Nxe7 Nxd1 and now what?

DJ: 12.Na4! is the main line.

AK: Oh, is this theory? Black has problems known only to literate people?

DJ: No-no, it is a draw by force.

AK: OK, I think I would have found it at the board.

9.f3

Motylev began his career as sharp attacking player, but his style has mutated and he enjoys dry positional play, therefore he does not hesitate to trade queens.

9...Qxd4

I was really reluctant to play this, but there was no choice.

10.Qxd4 Nxd4 11.Rxd4

I did not prepare this position at home. The only game I could remember was Kramnik – Svidler, in which Black resigned in a drawn endgame with bishops of opposite color. I stared at position and could not understand how on earth I could achieve anything. Maybe I recalled it incorrectly?

11...a6 12.Na4 Nd7 13.Bxe7

On 13.Be3 b5 14.Nc3 (with the idea a4) Ne5 15.a4 b4 16.Nb1!? with the idea Nd2-c4, and I don't like Black. So, 13.Be3 deserved attention.

13...Kxe7 14.c4

The only way to play for a win, otherwise Black is OK after ...b5 and ...Ne5. This is one of the critical moments, so I started to think about avoiding White's pressure and creating my own play.

14...Rb8 15.Be2 Nc5

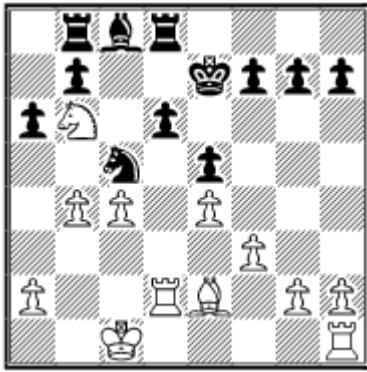
I also considered 15...b5, but rejected it. This might be good in the middlegame, but it is not an endgame plan.

16.Nb6

White's main idea is to advance on the queenside. This clear plan is easy to conduct, while it is not so obvious how Black should proceed. I didn't want to remain passive – this would be just hopeless.

16...Rd8

My idea is ...e5 and ...Ne6-d4. Upon 16...e5 White has the annoying 17.Nd5+, and 17...Kf8 blocks my rook, so I first bring it into play.

17.b4 e5 18.Rd2

DJ: I considered 18.Rdd1!? to bring the white king to e3 without losing time on Rb2.

AK: This is an original idea. However, it is very difficult to find and execute such a move at the board. And 18.Rd2 is optically a nice move, which is one of the main methods for grandmasters to make decisions at the board.

18...Ne6 19.Rb2 Nd4 20.Kd2 Be6 21.Ke3

White thinks he has improved the position of his king, but it suddenly transpires that it is vulnerable to tactical threats. It was quite unexpected for me as well; I had started to mentally prepare for a long and boring defense.

21...g6 22.Bd3

Mikhail Ulibin: It was possible to play 22.Rd1 with idea of capturing on d4 with a draw.

AK: We both thought that White was better here and at least had the initiative.

22...f5 23.a4?

Clearly a mistake; 23.f4 was the correct move. First I planned 23...g5 24.fxe5 f4+, but afterwards found the refutation 25.Kxd4. My calculation abilities were unimpressive today...

23...f4+

I was very happy to give this check. The worse is probably over for Black.

24.Kf2 g5 25.h3

Is 25.h3 necessary at all? Say, 25.a5 h5 26.b5 etc. (pause) Hmm, 26...g4, and Black is still much better.

25...h5 26.a5 Rh8

Now I want to play 27...g4 28.hxg4 hxg4 29.Rxh8 g3+! and 30...Rxh8 with a big advantage.

27.b5

DJ: Maybe it is worth trying to move the rook off of h1 to prevent your idea?

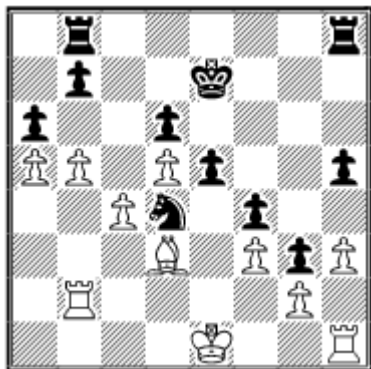
AK: I don't know: 27.Rhb1 g4 28.hxg4 hxg4 29.fxg4 looks scary for White.

27...g4

Now 28.hxg4 hxg4 29.Rxh8 g3+ 30.Kg1 Rxh8 31.Nd5+ Bxd5 32.exd5 Ra8!! is very strong. For

example, 33.bxa6 Rxa6 34.Rxb7+ Kf6 35.Rb6 Ra5 is hopeless. It seems that White is already lost. After 27...g4 even I had few doubts about the evaluation of the game and this is something I try not to think about during play.

28.Nd5+?! Bxd5 29.exd5 g3+ 30.Ke1



I was prepared to consider this position carefully, but glanced at the clock and quickly played what happened to be the best move.

30...Ra8! 31.Kd2 axb5 32.Ra1 b6

I did not find 32...b6 instantly and chastised myself for my inability to calculate two ply ahead. Fortunately, time trouble motivated me to find the correct move rather quickly.

33.cxb5 Rxa5 34.Rxa5 bxa5

With just seconds on the clock, it is impossible to play the best defensive moves, especially in a lost position.

35.h4 Rb8 36.b6 a4 37.Rb4 a3 38.Bc4 e4

Black breaks.

39.fxe4 f3 40.Rb1 fxg2 41.Ke3 (the only way to prevent f3) **41...Rxb6**



42.Rg1 Nc2+ (the most precise move) **43.Kf4 Rb4 44.Bd3 Rb2 45.Bc4 Nd4** and White resigns.

Standings after Round 3:

Timofeev, Dreev, Grischuk – 2.0

Kasparov, Epishin, Tseshkovsky, Korotylev – 1½

Svidler, Bareev – 1.0

Morozevich, Motylev – ½

Round Two

Timofeev – Tseshkovsky, ½-½

Morozevich – Dreev, 0-1

Grischuk – Epishin, ½-½

Bareev – Motylev, ½-½

Korotylev – Kasparov, ½-½

The key game of the day was Morozevich - Dreev. You don't often see Dreev playing the Rauzer Sicilian – he is better known as a Caro-Kann devotee. However, Alexey was in the mood for an unbalanced game. Both players avoided the well-trodden modern paths and followed an old game Romanishin - Stein, Odessa, 1970 until the twelfth move. Dreev delayed castling in order to create queenside counterplay against the white king...



Morozevich – Dreev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (2) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6

A harmless move transposition.

4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bg5

This is the main move against the Rauzer, but Morozevich had never played it before and perhaps expected to surprise his opponent. However, if Black plays the Rauzer, he is obviously prepared for the main lines.

6...Bd7

This is a rare, but playable, move favored by Salov.

7.Be2

This is not the main line, but it also contains some venom.

7...Qa5

This forces an exchange on f6.

8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Nb3 Qg5 10.g3

10.0-0 is bad in view of 10...Bh3.

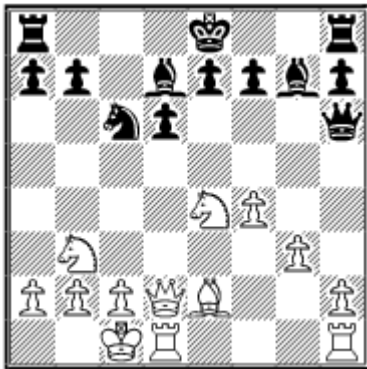
10...f5 11.f4 Qh6

According to Dreev, this is a novelty. His preparation resulted in a fresh position with mutual chances – an ideal situation, but how good would this be against Morozevich?

12.Qd2

This looks logical as White prepares for castling long.

12...Bg7 13.O-O-O fxe4 14.Nxe4



Dreev first considered 14...Bf5, thinking that position was dynamically equal. However, he found a much stronger maneuver and calmed down completely – Black obtains a dangerous initiative.

14...a5! 15.Qe3

In Dreev's opinion, White could try 15.Nc5 instead of 15.Qe3 with interesting complications that would lead to complex positions very suitable for Morozevich.

15...O-O

White is worse here, but Dreev nearly blundered with 15...Qe6? with the idea 16.f5? Bh6, but White had 16.Bc4! So, Black simply castles.

16.a3

Weaker is 16.Nbc5, which is refuted by 16...dxc5 17.Rxd7 Qe6.

16...Qe6 17.Qd3 h6!

This is a good prophylactic move that does not allow the white knight to jump to g5 and keeps attacking chances. Alexey calculated 17...a4 18.Nbc5 dxc5 19.Ng5! Bxb2!? 20.Kb1 Qg6 or Qh6, but declined the idea because after 17...h6 Black's position is both better and safer.

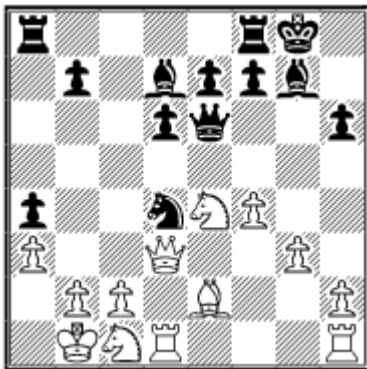
18.Kb1

18.Qc4! is the best move, trying to exchange queens. Black would still have the advantage, but at least his attack would be over.

18...a4! 19.Nc1

19.Nc5 dxc5 20.Nxc5 Qf6! wins. On 19.Nd2 d5! is very strong.

19...Nd4!



Dreev's position is superior and he begins decisive action.

20.Nc3

On 20.Rhe1, Dreev prepared 20...Bb5.

20...Rfc8

Threatening Rxc3 and forcing White's reply.

21.N1a2 Nxe2 22.Qxe2

Not 22.Nxe2 in view of 22...Bc6! and 23...Be4.

22...Qf6 23.Qe3 Be6! 24.Nb4?

Perhaps 24.Rhe1 is trickier. After 24...Rc4 Black is probably still winning, but the situation would be more complicated.

24...Rc4! (with the idea ...Rxb4 and ...a3) **25.Nbd5 Bxd5 26.Rxd5 Rac8**

During the post-game analysis Dreev showed the nice variation: 27.Re1 Rxc3 28.bxc3 Rxc3 29.Qxe7 Rb3+! 30.Kc1 Qb2+ etc, and GM Mikhail Ulibin improved upon it with 30...Rb1+!

27.Rd3

White finds a defense, but after...

27...b5

...Black brings reinforcements into play and the fate of White's king is sealed.

28.Qc1 e6 29.Re1 d5 30.Re2 b4 31.Nxa4 bxa3 32.Rxa3 Ra8! (a precise move) **33.Nb6 Rxa3 34.Nxc4 dxc4 35.Re4 Ra4 36.c3 Qf5** and White resigns. Strong play by Dreev!

Alexey Korotylev didn't allow any complications against Garry Kasparov's Queen's Indian and Black had no desire to voluntarily destroy his position to avoid a draw, so the players eventually shared the point. Vitaly Tseshkovsky commented: "Well done, Korotylev! You dried Kasparov out completely... I never play like that. I always give my opponents an opportunity to express themselves." Indeed, Tseshkovsky is definitely one of the most exciting players of the event.



Korotylev – Kasparov

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (2) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 Bb7 5.Nc3 d5 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Qa4+ Bc6 8.Qb3 dxc4 9.Qxc4 O-O 10.e3 Bb7 11.Be2 Nbd7 12.Rd1 h6 13.Bh4 Qc8 14.O-O c5 15.Qa2 a6 16.Rc1 Qe8 17.Rfd1 Rc8 18.dxc5 Nxc5 19.Nd4 Nd5 20.Bxe7 Nxc3 21.Rxc3 Qxe7 22.Rdc1 Bd5 23.Qb1 Be4 24.Qa2 Bd5 25.Qb1 Be4 26.Qa2 ½-½

Tseshkovsky has often defended with the Benoni, King's Indian, or Pirc during his long chess career. So when Timofeev opened the game with 1.e4, Tseshkovsky went for the Pirc. White's opening strategy with 9.d5 was unimpressive (better was 9.dxe5 with an even game) and Tseshkovsky had the superior game. Timofeev got into time trouble early, but Black acted indecisively, missed several ways to win, and White finally consolidated his position and escaped with a draw.

Timofeev – Tseshkovsky

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (2) 2004

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 a6 5.a4 Bg7 6.Qd2 O-O 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.h3 e5 9.d5 Ne7 10.Bc4 Bd7 11.a5 Bb5 12.Bxb5 axb5 13.b4 c5 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.O-O d5 16.Bb6 Qb8 17.Bc5 Re8 18.exd5 Nexd5 19.Ra3 Qb7 20.Re1 Nd7 21.Ne4 Red8 22.Nd6 Qb8 23.Ng5 Nxc5 24.bxc5 Ra7 25.Rf3 Rdd7 26.a6 b4 27.Qd3 f5 28.Qc4 e4 29.Rfe3 Bf8 30.f3 Bxd6 31.cxd6 Qb5 32.Qxb5 cxb5 33.Rb3 e3 34.Rd3 Rxd6 35.Ne4 fxe4 36.fxe4 Rxa6 37.exd5 Ra2 38.Re2 Kg7 39.Kh2 h5 40.Kg3 Ra3 41.Rex3 Rxd5 42.Rxa3 bxa3 43.Rxa3 Rc5 44.Rb3 ½-½

Epishin's pre-tournament vacation obviously helped him accumulate some energy. Yesterday he held Morozovich for seven hours straight and saved a half-point. Today he set up a Hedgehog against Grischuk, which usually means that the outcome of the game will be decided in mutual time-trouble. The players maneuvered through the whole middlegame before agreeing to a draw. From a spectator's point of view it was a rather disappointing game, but both Epishin and Grischuk seemed satisfied with their overall results thus far.



Grischuk – Epishin

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (2) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Bc5 6.Nb3 Be7 7.Nc3 d6 8.Be2 Nf6 9.O-O b6 10.Be3 O-O 11.Qd2 Nc6 12.Rac1 Bd7 13.f3 h6 14.Rfd1 Ne5 15.Nd4 Qb8 16.Kh1 Re8 17.Bf1 Ra7 18.b3 Rb7 19.a4 Rc7 20.Ra1 Rec8 21.Rdc1 Rb7 22.Qa2 Be8 23.Rab1 Rbc7 24.Qa1 Bd8 25.Rb2 Nfd7 26.Rd1 Bf6 27.Qa3 Be7 28.Rbd2 Nf6 29.Qa2 Rb7 30.Bg1 Qc7 31.Nc2 Ra8 32.Rc1 Rbb8 33.Qb2 Rc8 34.Rdd1 Qb7 35.Nd4 Rab8 36.Qa2 Bd8 37.Re1 Nh5 38.Qf2 Nf6 39.Be2 Qe7 40.Qf1 Nc6 41.Nxc6 Rxc6 42.b4 a5 43.bxa5 bxa5 44.c5 1/2-1/2

Alexander Motylev has quite an unusual opening repertoire. He counters 1.e4 with the Russian (Petrov) defense, and on 1.d4 he prefers the King's Indian! Evgeny Bareev decided to test the latter with the Averbakh variation; an essentially prophylactic line in which White restrains Black's counterattacking opportunities. Bareev (shown below) conducted the opening splendidly and by move 25 had a much better, if not winning, position. However, approaching the time control, he lost the greater part of his advantage. The players reached a queen endgame with an extra pawn for Black, but White had the draw in hand. This was the longest game of the tournament.



Bareev – Motylev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (2) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 c6 7.Nf3 Na6 8.Qd2 Nc7 9.d5 Na6 10.Nd4 Bd7 11.0-0 Nc5 12.f3 a5 13.Kh1 a4 14.Rab1 Qb8 15.Rfd1 Re8 16.Bf1 Rc8 17.b4 axb3 18.axb3 Na6 19.Nc2 c5 20.Re1 Re8 21.f4 Nb4 22.Nxb4 cxb4 23.Na2 e5 24.dxe6 Rxe6 25.Bxf6 Rxa2 26.Qxa2 Bxf6 27.c5 Bc3 28.Red1 Rxe4 29.Rxd6 Bc6 30.Rbd1 Kg7 31.Qf2 Qe8 32.Bc4 Qe7 33.Bd5 Re2 34.Qg1 Bb5 35.Rb6 Ba6 36.Bf3 Re3 37.c6 Rxf3 38.Rxa6 bxa6 39.gxf3 Qc7 40.Qc5 Qxf4 41.Qd5 Be5 42.Rd2 h5 43.Rc2 Bc7 44.Qe4 Qd6 45.Qe2 a5 46.Rc4 Kh7 47.Kg1 Qd5 48.Kg2 Qg5+ 49.Kh1 Qd5 50.Kg2 Qg5+ 51.Kh1 Qd5 52.Rc1 Qxb3 53.Rd1 Qc3 54.Rd7 Qc1+ 55.Kg2 Qg5+ 56.Kf1 Qc1+ 57.Kg2 Qf4 58.Qe4 Qxh2+ 59.Kf1 Bb6 60.Rxf7+ Kh6 61.Ke1 Qf2+ 62.Kd1 Be3 63.Qd3 b3 64.Rf6 Qg1+ 65.Ke2 Qf2+ 66.Kd1 Qg1+ 67.Ke2 b2 68.Rxg6+ Qxg6 69.Qxe3+ Kg7 70.Qe5+ Qf6 71.Qxf6+ Kxf6 72.c7 b1Q 73.c8Q Qa2+ 74.Kf1 Qd5 75.Qh8+ Kg5 76.Kg2 Kh4 77.Qb2 Qg5+ 78.Kh1 Qf4 79.Qf2+ Kg5 80.Qc5+ Qf5 81.Qe3+ Kg6 82.Qb6+ Kf7 83.Qb7+ Ke8 84.Qb8+ Kd7 1/2-1/2

Standings after Round Two:

Dreev, Grischuk and Kasparov – 1½–½

Svidler – 1-0

Epishin and Timofeev – 1-1

Korotylev – ½–½

Bareev, Morozevich, Motylev and Tseshkovsky – ½–1½

Round One

The first round started at 4 p.m. without any delays. The venue was besieged by camera flashes and attentive TV crews, and even the most illustrious participants felt somewhat uncomfortable. Most of the cameras, obviously focused on Kasparov; and his opponent, Bareev, even preferred to leave the table at one point. Fortunately, the photo session ended after ten minutes and the media people dispersed to the noticeable relief of the players.

In Kasparov - Bareev, the world's number one played 1.e4, and Bareev unhesitatingly executed eleven prepared moves of a modern line in the Caro-Kann. Garry spent more time in the opening, achieved a small plus, and sunk into deep thought on his 17th move. White had chances to create a daring attack, but Bareev's position was defendable at all times. Bareev's provocative opening forced Kasparov into time trouble by his 22nd move, add this to an inferior position and you can understand Kasparov's predicament...



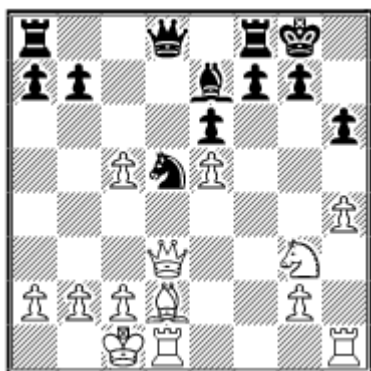
Kasparov - Bareev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (1) 2004

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 e6

This is an uncommon move in Bareev's repertoire, but definitely not a bad one. GM Yevseev has successfully defended Black's position for years.

8.Ne5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Nd7 11.f4 Ngf6 12.Bd2 c5 13.O-O-O Be7 14.Bc3 O-O 15.dxc5 Nxe5 16.fxe5 Nd5 17.Bd2



The first critical moment of the game; Kasparov briefly mentioned that on 17.Ne4 he didn't like 17...Qc7.

17...Qc7 18.c4 Qxc5 19.Ne4 Qc6 20.Kb1 Nb6 21.b3 Rad8 22.Qf3 Rd4

Here Garry evaluated his position as inferior.

23.Nd6 f6?

But this move turns the tables! "I don't like this move structurally," said Kasparov. Black should have played 23...Bxd6! After the exchange of queens he would block White's passed pawn and start playing for a win. White's chances for survival were considerable, but a draw was not guaranteed.

24.Nb5

Also interesting was 24.Be3.

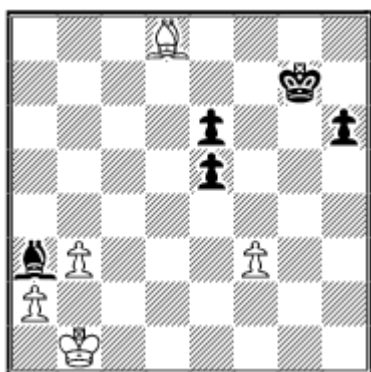
24...Qxf3 25.gxf3 Rd3 26.Ba5 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Nc8

Garry noted the good stubborn defense by Bareev.

28.Rd7 fxe5 29.Rxb7 Bxh4

The position is close to being equal, but is obviously quite sharp.

30.Bb4 Rd8 31.Ba5 Rf8 32.Bb4 Rd8 33.c5 Be7 34.Nxa7 Nxa7 35.Rxa7 Bf8 36.Ba5 Bxc5 37.Rxg7+ Kxg7 38.Bxd8 Ba3?



The losing move; after 38...Kg6! a fine problem-like game would ensue leading to a queen endgame with an extra pawn for White, which would offer certain practical chances. Now it's pure technique.

39.Kc2 Kg6 40.Kc3 h5 41.b4 Kf5 42.Kb3 Bc1 43.b5 Kf4 44.a4 Kxf3 45.a5 e4 46.a6 Be3 47.b6 h4 48.a7 Black resigns.

Epishin produced a creative idea against Morozevich's Slav defense, but perhaps it was too original as Morozevich obtained the better play. Morozevich piled on the pressure, but Epishin stubbornly defended and the game concluded peacefully on the 71st move.

Epishin- Morozevich

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (1) 2004

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Be4 7.f3 Bg6 8.Qb3 Qc7 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Bd2 Nc6 11.Rc1 a6 12.Ne2 Bd6 13.g3 Qe7 14.Nxg6 hxg6 15.Bg2 g5 16.e4 Bb4 17.e5 Nd7

18.Qe3 Bxd2+ 19.Qxd2 Qb4 20.Rc3 a5 21.O-O a4 22.f4 gxf4 23.Rxf4 Nb6 24.b3 axb3 25.axb3 Ra1+ 26.Bf1 O-O 27.Qd3 Nd7 28.Rh4 f5 29.Qf3 Rfa8 30.Qh5 Nf8 31.Rf3 Qd2 32.Rf2 Qe3 33.Kg2 R8a2 34.Qh8+ Kf7 35.Rhf4 Ne7 36.Qh5+ Nfg6 37.h4 Kg8 38.R4f3 Qe4 39.Qg5 Qg4 40.Qxg4 fxg4 41.Rc3 Nf5 42.Rd3 Rb1 43.h5 Nge7 44.Nf4 Rbb2 45.Rxb2 Rxb2+ 46.Kg1 Kf7 47.Be2 Nc6 48.Bxg4 Nfxd4 49.Re3 b5 50.Re1 Rxb3 51.Kg2 Rb2+ 52.Kh3 Rf2 53.Nd3 Nf3 54.Rh1 Rd2 55.Nf4 Nxe5 56.Bxe6+ Kf6 57.Bxd5 Kf5 58.Be6+ Kg5 59.Bd5 b4 60.Ne6+ Kxh5 61.Nxg7+ Kh6 62.Bxf3 Kxg7 63.Be4 b3 64.g4 b2 65.Kg3 Nf7 66.Kf4 Rd4 67.Ke3 Rb4 68.Bb1 Rxg4 69.Kd3 Rg2 70.Kc3 Ne5 ½-½

Peter Svidler's early advance of his a-pawn gave him an easy game as Black against Tseshkovsky, who was unaware of this modern plan in the Najdorf. Svidler soon had the better pawn structure and more active pieces. Tseshkovsky played for a win, but lost two pieces for rook during the middlegame complications that arose and Svidler comfortably converted his advantage into a full point.



Tseshkovsky - Svidler

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (1) 2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.O-O O-O 9.Kh1 Nc6 10.f3 Be6 11.Nd5 a5 12.c3 a4 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Nd2 Ne7 15.a3 h6 16.Bc4 d5 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.Ne4 Be7 19.Qe2 Qc8 20.Ba2 Nb6 21.Bxe6 Qxe6 22.Be3 Qc4 23.Qf2 Nd7 24.Rfd1 Rfd8 25.Nd6 Qe6 26.Nb5 Nf6 27.Re1 Qc4 28.Qf1 Rd3 29.f4 Qxb5 30.fxe5 Ng4 31.Bd4 Qd5 32.Qf5 Rxd4 33.cxd4 Qxd4 34.h3 Nf2+ 35.Kh2 g6 36.Qf3 Nd3 37.Qxb7 Re8 38.Re4 Qc5 39.Qd7 Rd8 40.Qxa4 Nxe5 41.Rf1 Kg7 42.Re2 h5 43.Qf4 Rd4 44.Qe3 Qd5 45.Kh1 Bd6 46.Qg5 f5 47.Rfe1 Nf7 48.Qc1 f4 49.Rf2 Rd3 50.Qc8 f3 51.Rxf3 Rxf3 52.gxf3 Qxf3+ 53.Kg1 Bh2+ and Black won.

In Motylev – Grischuk, a sharp Sicilian led to a complicated and unusual position. On the 15th move Grischuk conducted a typical Sicilian exchange sacrifice and achieved full equality.

Motylev - Grischuk

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (1) 2004

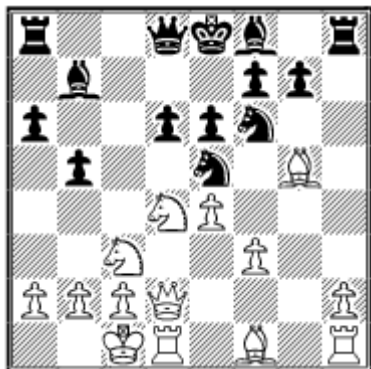
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e6 7.Be3 b5 8.g4 h6 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 Ne5

A rare move; more typical for the English attack is 10...Bb7.

11.g5 hxg5 12.Bg5

An interesting move; White wants to play a killing f4.

12...Bb7!



13.Rg1

13.f4 b4! with wild complications and a seemingly unbalanced position.

13...Qa5 (with various threats) **14.a3 Rc8 15.Kb1 Rxc3**

Black reasoned that without this move his whole setup was pointless.

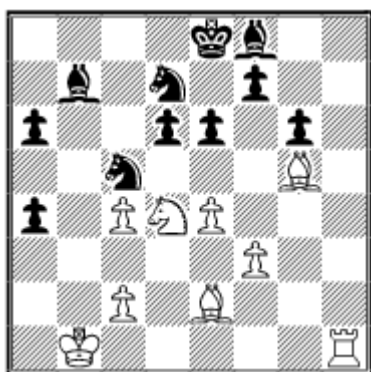
16.Qxc3 Qxc3 17.bxc3 Rxh2

Grischuk was unsure about this move. In his opinion 17...d5 left Black with a better game and provided certain winning chances.

18.Bf4 Rh5 19.Rxg5 Rxg5 20.Bxg5 Nfd7 21.a4 bxa4 22.Be2 Nc5 23.c4 g6

23...Be7!? 24.Bxe7 Kxe7 is probably even, but the text is no worse and sets a trap.

24.Rh1 Ned7



25.Rh8??

Here Motylev was in time trouble, and in view of the e5 threat he just collapsed, missing the saving 25.Bd3 Bg7 = Now the evaluation turns to -+.

25...e5 26.c3 exd4 27.cxd4 Bxe4+!?

Definitely better is 27...Ne6, keeping the piece, but the text simplifies and is good enough to win, although not without technical difficulties.

28. fxe4 Nxe4 29.c5

More stubborn resistance could be provided by 29.Bd1!, although Black must still win.

29...Nxg5 30.c6 Nb6 31.Bxa6 Ne6 32.Ka2 d5 33.Rh1 Bd6 34.Rh8+ Ke7, etc and Black won.

Alexey Dreev quickly exchanged queens against Artyom Timofeev and probably expected to play on for another 40 moves to test the youngster's endgame skill. However, Black found a way to

further simplify the position and a draw was agreed. Alexey was obviously disappointed after the game. He thought his position was promising, as his opponent chose an inferior continuation in the line that occurred during the game. However, Timofeev found an improvement at the board with 12...Re8! compared to Black's play in Radjabov - Shirov. Dreev presented a short post-mortem analysis in the press room.



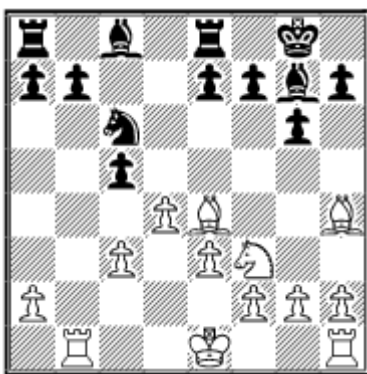
Dreev - Timofeev

57th ch-RUS, Moscow (1) 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5

Not the most critical continuation, but Dreev said he defeated Huzman with it.

4...Ne4 5.Bh4 Bg7 6.cxd5 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Qxd5 8.e3 c5 9.Qf3 Qxf3 (more popular is 9...Qd8) 10.Nxf3 Nc6 11.Rb1 O-O 12.Bd3 Re8 (!) 13.Be4



13.Nd2 is not fruitful in view of 13...cxd5 and 14...b6. As Alexey said, "if 13.Be4 doesn't work, this position is completely equal."

13...cxd4 14.cxd4 e5

A critical position arose. Here White had in mind 15.d5, but reconsidered upon finding 15...Na5 16.d6 Bf8 17.Rb5 (?) Bxd6! After 15.d5, Black would also have the interesting idea 15...Nd4!?, which deserves deeper analysis. Dreev entertained various ideas of prolonging the game, but he felt Black was at least equal in all lines. The text move 15.Bxc6 is equivalent to a draw offer.

15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Nxe5 c5 17.O-O cxd4 18.exd4 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Rxe5 20.Rfe1 ½-½

After the analysis demonstration a skeptical Sveshnikov enquired, "So, what was White's mistake?" Dreev replied, "Probably White's fourth move. Naturally, I did not intend to play a quick draw, but it just happened – my opponent found very precise moves during the game!"

Round 1 Results:

Garry Kasparov - Evgeny Bareev, 1-0

Alexey Dreev - Artyom Timofeev, ½-½

Vladimir Epishin - Alexander Morozevich, ½-½

Vitaly Tseshkovsky - Peter Svidler, 0-1

Alexander Motylev - Alexander Grischuk, 0-1

Opening Ceremony

When I made my prognosis for the superfinal, I was not yet aware of further changes to the starting lineup. On Sunday, another player decided to withdraw; this time it was Anatoly Karpov.

Officially Karpov withdrew because of the heavy burden of his business commitments. Kramnik's decision was understandable, as poor health is an adequate reason to quit any tournament; it was the form of his withdrawal that was harshly criticized. But Karpov's departure was taken more seriously. Karpov has not played classical chess in over a year and lost his recent training match to Sadvakasov. It was only his enormous experience that prevented my colleagues from calling him a long-shot at the event. Naturally, nobody wants to produce bad results in an important tournament, but doesn't it matter to keep one's word?

In the absence of Karpov and Kramnik we only have one world champion remaining – Garry Kasparov. The organizers tried to renew Khalifman's invitation, but the Las Vegas champion had already accepted another offer and was reluctant to cancel his obligation; even in view of the more attractive conditions.



Epishin draws for colors

Hopefully, the situation of participants decreasing daily will cease. At least, each of remaining eleven competitors took part in the opening ceremony and the small hall of the “Vasilyevsky” restaurant was full of chess VIPs. During the first part of the ceremony the Russian chess federation recognized our national team members who won medals at the Chess Olympiad. The second part consisted of the drawing of lots. The participants, in alphabetic order, picked white pawns with a number affixed to the bottom. Here is the final list.

- 1 Korotylev

- 2 Kasparov
- 3 Motylev
- 4 Epishin
- 5 Dreev
- 6 Tseshkovsky
- 7 Svidler
- 8 Timofeev
- 9 Morozevich
- 10 Grischuk
- 11 Bareev

There were many representatives from the media, including all of the major Russian TV channels. The players were constantly giving interviews, and Peter Svidler artfully rolled his eyes after receiving yet another version of the “what-do-you-think-of-chess-reunification” question. Morozevich and Grischuk were also quite popular among the journalists and Kasparov surprisingly received relatively less attention. Kasparov attended with his wife and son Vadim and seemingly enjoyed the company of his colleagues and friends. He looked like a happy family man and it will be interesting to see if he'll be in a fighting mood in round one.

The tournament hall is rather small, so the number of spectators will be limited by setting a relatively high entry ticket price of 500 rubles (about \$18 USD). There was a rumor that the Russian superfinal would be the last tournament in the hotel “Russia” prior to its demolition for renovation, but it has been announced that the 2005 Aeroflot Open will also take place there and no demolition is planned until 2008.

Preview

The Russian championship takes place November 14 - November 30, 2004 at the Hotel Russia in Moscow. This is the strongest Russian championship in modern history. Garry Kasparov, the world's number one player, is playing for the first time since 1988 when he tied for first with Anatoly Karpov at 11½-5½. Karpov is playing too, as well as all of Russia's 2700-rated players with the exception of Kramnik, who withdrew from the championship prior to the start of the tournament because he “had been under too much stress” following his match against Peter Leko.



Alexander Grischuk

Seven grandmasters received invitations to the superfinal: Kasparov, Karpov, Kramnik, Morozevich, Svidler, Grischuk, and Bareev. While Dreev, Epishin, and Tseshkovsky won a qualification tournament in St. Petersburg and Motylev, Timofeev, and Korotylev won a qualification tournament in Tomsk.

•	1 Garry Kasparov		
•	2 Alexander Morozevich		
•	3 Peter Svidler		
•	4 Alexander Grischuk	41	2813
•	5 Evgeny Bareev	27	2758
•	6 Alexey Dreev	28	2735
•	7 Anatoly Karpov	21	2704
•	8 Alexander Motylev	38	2715
•	9 Vladimir Epishin	35	2698
•	10 Artyom Timofeev	53	2682
•	11 Alexey Korotylev	25	2651
•	12 Vitaly Tseshkovsky	39	2635
		19	2611
		27	2596
		60	2577

Alexander Khalifman was invited to round off the number of original participants to fourteen. He did not qualify for the tournament directly, but he is a former FIDE world champion and a solid member of the Russian national team, so it was somewhat surprising that he was not on the initial list of invitees. However, when Vladimir Kramnik withdrew the organizers injudiciously cancelled their invitation to Khalifman, causing great disappointment within the chess public.

Kramnik had no desire to participate following his drawn championship match. In a post-match interview he said that he did not have the motivation to play for a win in the Russian championship, but planned to participate because he did not want to disappoint the organizers. However, he changed his mind and sent the organizers a withdrawal letter written in French and signed by a doctor. Chess is a stressful sport by nature, but top grandmasters are professionals and this controversy will affect public opinion about Kramnik for years to come.

Yet, even without the classical world champion this is a real super-tournament. The participants can be divided into four categories.

1. The world's super elite players. Objective – winning the event

Kasparov: This tournament is the ultimate test for Garry. The 41-year-old world's number one failed to prove his dominance in 2004, but the classical format of a round-robin championship

well suits his aggressive and scientific style of play. Kasparov has had time to recharge his batteries after a poor 50% result in Turkey, but a weak result here would undermine the legitimacy of a FIDE championship match between him and Kasimdzhanov.

Morozevich: He was one of the most successful players in 2004 and certainly one of the most popular because of his uncompromising and creative style. He is capable of producing marvelous games, yet he experienced some painful losses at the Calvià Olympiad to Anand and Ivanchuk. Will this affect his confidence? Morozevich won the Russian championship once before, but all former titles will fade in comparison to winning the 2004 superfinal.

Svidler: The 28-year-old 4-time Russian champion is undoubtedly a brilliant and consistent player. In 2004 Svidler defeated Leko at Dortmund, played well at the Olympiad, and was successful in various speed events. His only failure was his “minus one” score at Corus. Svidler is only one of three players who have defeated Kasparov in a classical game (Karpov and Tsherkovsky being the other two). But how much energy does Peter have after assisting Kramnik in Brissago and playing for the Russian national team in Calvià?

2. The world’s elite players. Objective – strong performance, finishing in top six

Grischuk: A well-schooled tactician who plays sound chess and always remains calm during play. He is regarded as one of the most talented Russian players, but he has less experience than Svidler and Morozevich. The 21-year-old still has plenty of time to improve and with some good fortune he may be able to surprise us in Moscow, but I don’t think he has reasonable chances to become champion.

Bareev: A smart and tricky player who is a great fighter and able to take risks to obtain winning chances. Using his good technique he often collects more points than his positions promise. Evgeny hasn’t played since April, but was one of Kramnik’s seconds in Brissago. He has good chances to finish with a “plus” score.

Dreev: A very solid player who does not garner much attention despite his great talent. Alexey became a Master when he was 13-years-old (a feat Kasparov achieved at fifteen) and it is not easy to find weaknesses in his play. He is superb positional player, yet does not shy away from head-spinning tactical complications on occasion. His black opening repertoire is extremely narrow, but exceptionally deep. Dreev is capable of finishing undefeated in Moscow, but he will not win enough games to become champion.

3. Old lions. Objective – to finish above 50%

Karpov: More a political figure than an active grandmaster these days, Karpov is hardly regarded as a favorite. He senses positional factors with his fingertips and habitually squeezes full points from equal position, however; it is not easy to obtain those equal positions without doing some opening preparation! Karpov did not play any serious chess in 2004 and had rather disappointing results in some training games.

Epishin: Vladimir constantly travels, collecting the prize money in one Open tournament after another, and plays brave and creative chess. His absence from play since August suggests special preparation for the superfinal. Epishin’s disadvantage is his lack of stability and limited experience in supertournaments.

Tseshkovsky: His qualifying for the superfinal at the age of 60 is an enormous achievement, yet he also had a 2700+ performance at the 2003 Russian championship in Krasnoyarsk. He is creative and has a deep understanding of dynamic factors, but can be prone to major blunders. This 2-time USSR champion was in superb condition during the St. Petersburg qualifier and played many long, tense games; despite somewhat recently having suffered a heart attack and undergoing an operation. He is probably the world strongest player in his age group.

4. Youth from Tomsk. Objective – reasonable result, acquiring top-level experience

Motylev: Alexander Motylev won the Tomsk qualifier; he is a former Russian champion and occasionally plays on the national team. He is a sharp player who is dangerously strong with the white pieces. Motylev's rating is 2651, but he rarely meets top players and has never played against Kasparov or Karpov. Without such experience it might be difficult to show what he is capable of in Moscow.

Timofeev: The 19-year-old GM from Kazan recently had a performance rating of 2752 in Izmir, Turkey so do not expect him to lose games without a fight. But as the youngest participant, without any experience against 2700+ players, even a 50% result would be surprising.

Korotylev: The 27-year-old trainer of Alexandra Kosteniuk celebrated his highest success by qualifying into the superfinal. Korotylev's main advantage is his fighting spirit and imagination, especially in difficult positions. However, he too has never faced the world's top players, so it is hard to predict whether he is capable of holding his own.

Based on the statistics of the encounters between the participants I prepared the following prognosis table. Of course, statistics are not the most reliable indicator of future results, but it gives some impression about the players expected performance. In those cases where two players had never met, I based my prediction on their respective ratings.

Kasparov		1	=	1	1	=	=	1	1	1	1	=	9	1
Morozevich	0		=	=	0	=	=	1	1	1	1	1	7	2.4
Svidler	=	=		=	=	=	=	=	1	1	1	1	7	2.4
Grischuk	0	=	=		=	=	=	1	1	1	1	=	7	2.4
Bareev	0	1	=	=		=	=	=	=	=	=	0	5	7.8
Dreev	=	=	=	=	=		=	0	=	=	=	0	4S	9
Karpov	=	=	=	=	=	=		=	=	=	=	=	3S	5.6
Motylev	0	0	=	0	=	1	=		=	=	1	1	3S	5.6
Epishin	0	0	=	0	=	=	=	=		=	0	=	3S	11
Timofeev	0	0	0	0	=	=	=	=	=		0	=	3	12
Korotylev	0	0	0	0	=	=	=	0	1	1		=	4	10
Tseshkovsky	=	0	0	=	1	1	=	0	=	=	=	=	5	7.8

We'll learn the actual results at the end of month, but I can already tell you – this is going to be a very exciting tournament!