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Viswanathan Anand Annotates

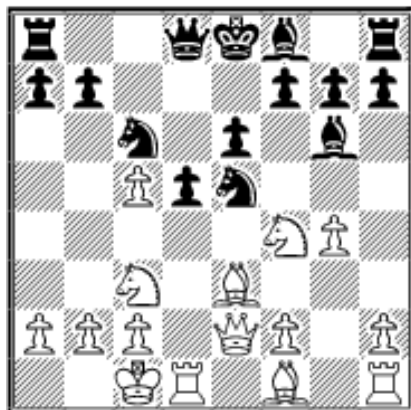
Ivan Markovic
Chess Informant Editor

In the high noon of recent media saturation in the world of chess, almost undivided attention has been focused on the series of “Man vs. Machine” clashes. Huge interest for the “Brains in Bahrain” has escalated into an overkill of the Kasparov – Deep Junior coverage culminating in what was once thought of as impossible: live broadcast of the final game on ESPN. Between the two showdowns that were given no less than epic proportions, Evgeny Bareev’s four-game match against HiarcX undeservedly went almost unnoticed by the mass media. Indeed, if ever there was a need to demythologize the existing computer frenzy, then never has it been felt as intensely as now. Human players had constantly been burdened with the enormous pressure and expectations, which invariably led to their underperformance in terms of the quality of play; in contrast to that, silicon monsters do not have a worry in the world, so it usually ends up in a nerve wrecking experience for the best humans. Even the greatest of all was in awe of the Junior’s brute calculating force – how else to explain the repetition of moves in game five? Given the normal circumstances (i. e. – any human opponent) it is highly unlikely that Black would survive more than 10-15 moves after the semi-correct bishop sacrifice on h2 (I would personally recommend studying the game between Van Wely and Acs from Hoogeveen 2002 as the most instructive prelude to the above-mentioned game).

So, can humans fight back? The most natural choice is to resort to the best human performance in 2003 so far: Viswanathan Anand’s triumph in the main group of the Wijk aan Zee chess festival. Unlike his stressed up colleagues, he shows no outward sign of mounting pressure to extend his long winning streak – only the quiet confidence and sobriety possessed by those who have mastered the art of winning. In his game versus the unpredictable genius Alexei Shirov he had to keep sifting hard facts from fantasy in order to tiptoe all over the mine field move by move. The former FIDE World Champion was masterfully deploying his pieces to successfully barricade his opponent’s blistering hits; Shirov kept trying, but undeterred Anand continued to produce the moves with unerring precision until his task was accomplished.

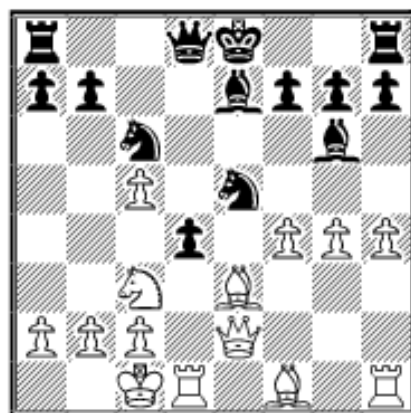
Shirov 2723 — Anand 2753
Wijk aan Zee 2003

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nc3 e6 5. g4 Bg6 6. Nge2 c5 7. Be3 Nc6 8. dc5 Ne5 9. Nf4 Ne7 10. Qe2 [10. Bb5 – 83/86] N7c6 11. 0-0-0



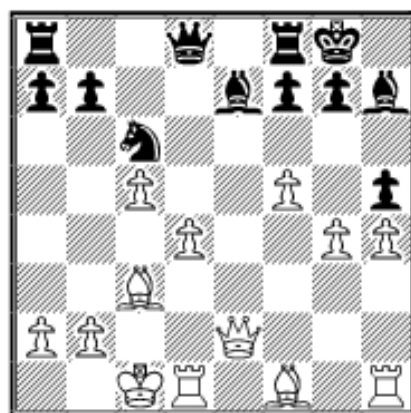
11...Be7 N [11...Qa5 a) 12. Bd4 Nd7! (12...Nd4 13. Rd4 Nc6 14. Ne6! fe6 15. Qe6 Be7 16. Bb5 and White is superior, with the attack) 13. Ne6 fe6 14. Qe6 Be7 15. Bg7 unclear, Lukacs; b) 12. Nfd5 ed5 13. Rd5 (13. f4 0-0-0) 13...f6 14. f4 Nd7; 12...0-0-0! and Black is slightly better] **12. Nfd5?! [12. h4 Qa5 13. h5 Be4 14. Ne4 de4 15. Kb1 Bc5 16. Bc5 Qc5 17. Bg2] 12...ed5 13. f4? [13. Rd5 Qc8 14. h3 f6 15. f4 Nd7 16. Bg2 0-0 and Black is slightly better] 13...d4! 14. h4! [14.**

fe5? Bg5; 14. Bd4? Nd3!; 14. Bf2 Qa5! (14...Nd3 15. cd3 dc3 16. f5 Qd5 17. Rg1 Qa2 18. bc3 and Black is superior) 15. Nd5 (15. Bd4 Nd3! 16. Rd3 Bd3 17. Qd3 Rd8 and Black is winning) 15...Qa2 16. Ne7 Ke7! 17. fe5 (17. Bd4 Rhd8 and Black is winning) Qa1 18. Kd2 Qb2 and Black is winning]



14...Nd3! [14... Qa5 15. Bd4 (15. fe5 dc3) 15... Nd3 16. cd3 Nd4 17. Qe5 (17. Qe1 f5) 0-0-0 (17... Nc6 18. Qg7 0-0-0 19. f5) 18. f5 and Black is slightly better; 14...Bd3 15. cd3 Nd7 16. Ne4 de3 17. d4 with compensation; 14...d3 15. cd3 Nd3 16. Rd3 Bd3 17. Qd3 Qd3 18. Bd3 0-0 with compensation] **15. cd3 h5!** [15...f5 16. Bd2! dc3 17. Bc3 Bf7 (17...Qd5 18. Bg2 Qc5 19. d4) 18. g5 (18. d4 Bd5) 18... 0-0 19. d4 Bd5 20. Bg2 and Black is superior] **16. f5** [16. Bd2 dc3 17. Bc3

hg4] **Bh7 17. Bd2 dc3 18. Bc3 0-0 19. d4**



19...a5! and Black is winning [19...Re8 20. d5 Bg5 21. hg5 Re2 22. Be2 Qg5 23. Bd2 Qe7 24. dc6 bc6 25. Rde1 Qc5 26. Bc3 hg4 27. Bg4 and Black is slightly better] **20. a3** [20. Bg2 Re8 21. Be4 Bf6] **Re8 21. Qc4** [21. d5 Nb4! 22. Qc4 (22. ab4 ab4 23. Bb4 Bc5! 24. Qb5 Bb4 25. Qb4 Ra1 26. Kc2 Rd1 27. Kd1 Qd5) 22...b5! 23. Qb3 Bc5 24. ab4 ab4; 21. Qf3 hg4! (21...Bh4 22. Kb1 Qg5 23. Qh3) 22. Qg4 Bf6] **21...Bh4 22. Bd3 hg4 23. Kb1 Qg5 24. Ka1 Rad8** [24...g3 25.

d5 g2 26. Qh4 (26. dc6 gh1Q 27. Rh1 bc6 28. Qh4 Qh4 29. Rh4 and Black is superior) 26...gh1Q 27. Qh1 Ne5 28. Rg1 and Black is slightly better] **25. Bb1** [25. Qb5 g3; 25. d5 Ne5; 25. Bc2 Ne7 (25...g3? 26. d5 g2 27. Qh4 gh1Q? 28. Qg5! and White is superior) 26. Ba5 (26. Bb3 Nd5 27. Ba5 Bf5 28. Bd8 Rd8) 26...Bf5] **25...Ne7 26. Ba5 Bf5 27. Bd8 Rd8 28. Rhf1 g6 29. Qb3 Be6 30. Qb7 Qd5 31. Qd5** [31. Qb4 Nf5] **31...Nd5 32. Rh1 Bf2 33. c6 Rc8 34. Rc1 g3 35. Be4 Nf6 36. Bg2 Bd5 0-1** [Anand]



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