

Chess around the Globe

THE 34th CHESS OLYMPIAD in Istanbul is certainly the main event of the moment, but there are quite a few other important tournaments, just finished or still in progress. In the men's Olympiad yesterday, the leaders - Germany - lost to Ukraine (1½-2½). Russia lost by the same score to Bulgaria, which is becoming a bit of a habit. Russia lost on the top two boards (Topalov-Khalifman 1-0, Svidler-Kiril Georgiev 0-1), but 17-year old Grischuk won on board 4.

After 9 rounds the standing is as follows:

- 1-2 Armenia and Germany - 25 points
- 3 Ukraine - 24½ points
- 4-5 Bulgaria and Russia - 24 points
- 6-7 Hungary and Romania - 23½ points
- 8-9 USA and Israel - 22½ points

Today the key matches are Armenia-Germany, Ukraine-Bulgaria, Russia-Romania, Hungary-USA and Israel-Denmark.

In the women's Olympiad the standing is:

- 1 China - 21 points
- 2 Georgia - 20½ points
- 3-4 Russia and Netherlands - 18½ points
- 5 Ukraine - 18 points

Today Ukraine plays against China, Georgia against Romania and Russia against Netherlands. There are 5 more rounds to play at the event.

You can find Alex Baburin's daily report from Istanbul at www.gmsquare.com, while the official site is at www.istanbulchessolympiad.com

The VIII Chigorin Memorial, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian player, is taking place in St. Petersburg now. It is a very strong open - with 50 GMs and 57 IMs among its 235 participants. The Elo favourites are GMs Lastin (2633), Dolmatov

(2600), Najer (2590) and Balashov (2590). After five rounds 6 players are sharing the lead on 4½ points: V. Filippov, A. Korotylev, M. Turov, E. Najer, Y. Ulko and R. Scherbakov. This 9-round tournament will finish on the 10th November. For more information please refer to <http://www.gmchess.com> (site of GM Khalifman) and <http://www.totalchess.spb.ru> (new site of St. Petersburg Chess Federation).

We have heard that a strong closed tournament might take place in St. Petersburg at the end of the year, as a part of Chigorin's anniversary celebrations.

In Bad Wiessee (Germany, near Munich) the *4th Bavarian Masters Open* finished recently. It saw a four-way tie between Alexander Nenashev (UZB), Gerard Hertneck (GER), Konstantin Lerner (UKR) and Roland Ekstroem, who scored 7½ out of 9 each. The title of the Bavarian Champion went on a tiebreak to Nenashev, who now lives in Germany. 20 players finished on 7 points. For more information please refer to <http://www.schach-am-tegernsee.de/oib2000>

It seems that matches are becoming increasingly popular nowadays. We have seen quite a few in recent months. For example, Oral - Alexandrov and M. Gurevich - Bologan.

A match between two young chess stars took place in France recently. French player Maxime Vachier-Lagrave beat David Howell of England 5½-2½.

France also staged two strong rapid chess tournaments. In the south of France the

4th Cap d'Agde Festival took place between 28th October and 4th November. This tournament, supported by the

French Chess Federation, has been running since 1994 and regularly attracts a very strong field. This year it clashed with the Chess Olympiad in Turkey, which made the event a bit weaker than usual. 16 players were divided into 2 groups. The four best players from each group continued using a knockout formula. In the final Mikhail Gurevich of Belgium defeated Anatoly Karpov of Russia 2½-1½, despite losing the first

game. Please refer to <http://www.asmeg.org/ehecs/frame.htm> for more information.

Another strong rapid chess tournament was held in **Bastia**, Corsica. There, 32 players first played 7 rounds and then 8 qualifiers continued in a knockout. In the final Vishy Anand beat Stefan Djuric 2-0. For more information see <http://www.ehecs.asso.fr>

Annotated Game

Stefan Djuric – Vishy Anand Rapid Chess, Bastia 2000

1 d4 d5 2 ♘g5

Against 1...d5 the Trompovsky is not so dangerous.

2...h6

The point of this move will become clear later. It is useful to make sure that White's bishop does not come back to the queenside.

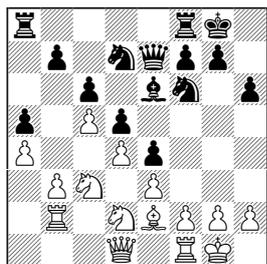
3 ♖h4 c6 4 e3 ♗b6 5 b3 e5!

Now the advantages of including 2...h6 are obvious, as 6 dxe5?? loses to 6...♗b4+.

6 ♗f3 e4 7 ♗fd2 ♖e7

7...♗e7 is also worth considering here.

8 ♖g3 ♖e6 9 ♖e2 ♗f6 10 0-0 0-0 11 c4 ♗d8 12 ♗c3 ♖d6 13 ♗xd6 ♗xd6 14 ♖b1 ♗bd7 15 a4 a5 16 c5 ♗e7 17 ♖b2 (D)



The plans of both side have become clear – White will play on the queenside, while Black will try to attack on the opposite wing. But first Anand decides to gain some space on the queenside too:

17...♖fb8 18 ♗b1 b6!?

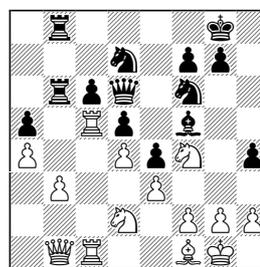
Otherwise Black might be tied down to the weak b7-pawn when White manages b3-b4.

19 cxb6 ♖xb6 20 ♖c1 ♖ab8 21 ♖f1 h5!

Black obviously decided that it was time to get active on 'his' flank.

22 ♗e2 h4 23 ♖bc2 ♗d6 24 ♗f4 ♖f5

25 ♖c5 (D)

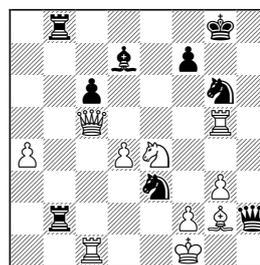


White is after the a5-pawn, but with so many pieces on the queenside his king is a bit lonely.

25...g5! 26 ♗e2 ♗f8 27 ♗c2 ♖d7 28 ♖xa5?

Better was 28 f3, as now Black's attack prevails

28...♗g4 29 g3 ♗f6! 30 ♗xe4 dxe4 31 ♗c3 hxg3 32 hxg3 ♗h6 33 ♖g2 ♖xb3 34 ♗xe4 ♖b2 35 ♖xg5+ ♗g6 36 ♗c5 ♗h2+ 37 ♖f1 ♗xe3+ (D)



0-1 Nice play by Anand!

Miscellaneous

As you probably already know, in London Vladimir Kramnik defeated Garry Kasparov 8½-6½.

The match got a lot of attention in the chess world, but how about the general public? *Chess Today* correspondent GM Ruslan Scherbakov decided to visit the match while in London. He knew the name of the tube station nearest to where the match was being played. But when he asked at the station information desk, nobody had heard of the names Kasparov or Kramnik. He asked many passers-by, but to no avail. The situation looked bad, but then Ruslan called his wife in Russia and asked her to find the exact address on the Internet. After the second call he finally made it to the Riverside Studios. So, does the future of chess rest only with the Internet?!

Kramnik's victory was received with enthusiasm by most of his colleagues. But Kasparov enjoyed the same, if not more, popularity 15 years ago. This changed later when he coined some cute phrases to describe his fellow Grandmasters - like, for example, 'tourists'. Congratulating Vladimir with his fine victory, *Chess Today* hopes that the title of World Champion will not change him and that he will remain as open and friendly to all chess players as he is now. Our newspaper will try to arrange an interview with the World Champion - please send in your questions. We will ask Vladimir which question he found the most interesting and we will publish the name of that reader.

Recommended links.

www.gmsquare.com
www.istanbulchessolympiad.com
www.gmchess.com
www.totalchess.spb.ru
www.schach-am-tegernsee.de/oib2000
www.asmeg.org/echechs/frame.htm
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Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning *Chess Today*? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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