

## BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #83

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Stephen Wright

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### IGOR VASILIEVICH IVANOV, 1947-2005

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Canadian GM Igor Ivanov, who died of cancer last Thursday (November 17) in St. George, Utah. Ivanov defected from the Soviet Union in 1980 and instantly became Canada's strongest player, winning the Closed Championship four times in the period 1981-1987, playing for his adopted country in the olympiads of 1982 and 1988, and representing Canada in the 1982 Toluca Interzonal, where he narrowly missed becoming a Candidate. Despite this, he made most of his living on the U.S. tournament circuit, where he won the annual Grand Prix nine(!) times, travelling from event to event with his mascot rubber chicken to collect "chicken" points (the Grand Prix was sponsored by Church's Fried

Chicken, who also sponsored the San Antonio 1972 tournament where Suttles obtained his GM title). During all of this Ivanov was only an IM (for a while he was considered the strongest IM in the world), but in spite of this he was able to fight successfully against all but the very strongest players in the world. Igor actually did not obtain the GM title until last year, awarded in recognition of his results from many years ago.

Much more information on Ivanov is available on the internet; I would recommend in particular the following two sites:

<http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html#news412> (article by John Donaldson)

<http://www.gmivanovchess.com/> (Ivanov's own site, including biography and photographs)

A personal note: I never met Ivanov, but I did participate in at least one tournament he won, the 1981 World Open. Traditionally held in Philadelphia, in that particular year it was held in the small university town of New Paltz, about sixty miles north of New York City. Ivanov held down board one throughout the nine-round Swiss; at the time I did not have the ability to really appreciate his play (I had only been playing in tournaments for just over a year), but was impressed with the apparent ease with which he dealt with his opponents - for Igor it was just "another day at the office." He won his first six games in a row, then coasted home with three draws, this in a field which included the likes of GMs Adam Kulikowski, Jon Speelman, and Pal Benko.

A selection of games - many more are available via the internet:

**Ivanov,I - Karpov,A [B43]** Spartakiad URS - Board 1 Moscow (1), 1979

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bd3 Bb7 7.0-0 Ne7 8.Kh1 Nec6  
9.Nxc6 Nxc6 10.Qg4 h5 11.Qe2 Ne5 12.f4 Ng4 13.Rf3 Qh4 14.h3 Bc5 15.Bd2 g6  
16.Raf1 Qe7 17.a3 f5 18.Re1 Qf8 19.b4 Bd4 20.a4 Rc8 21.Nd1 Qf6 22.c3 Ba7 23.axb5  
axb5 24.exf5 gxf5 25.Bxb5 Bxf3 26.Qxf3 Rc7 27.c4 Bd4 28.Qd5 Kd8 29.Qd6 Nf2+  
30.Nxf2 Bxf2 31.Be3 Bxe3 32.Rxe3 Qe7 33.Qd2 Ke8 34.Qd4 Rg8 35.Qb6 Qg7  
36.Qxe6+ Kd8 37.Qd5 Ra7 38.Rd3 Ra1+ 39.Kh2 Ra2 40.Bc6 Ra7 41.Qc5 Rc7 42.Qb6  
1-0

**Ivanov,I - Harper,B [A41]** CAN ch Montreal (9), 1981

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.e3 Nc6 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 Nce7 8.Qb3 Bc8 9.e4 Bh6  
10.c5 a6 11.0-0 Kf8 12.Qa3 Rb8 13.b4 Bxc1 14.Raxc1 Nf6 15.Nd2 Kg7 16.Nc4 Ne8  
17.cxd6 cxd6 18.b5 Ra8 19.Qb2 g5 20.a4 Ng6 21.a5 axb5 22.Nxb5 Nf4 23.Rfe1 Qf6  
24.Nb6 Bh3 25.Bf1 Bxg2 26.Bxg2 Rxa5 27.Rc3 h5 28.Nc4 Ra6 29.Ne3 Rb6 30.Rb3 Kg6  
31.Nf5 g4 32.Qc2 Qd8 33.Qc8 Nf6 34.Qxd8 Rxd8 35.Ng3 Ra8 36.Bf1 Ra2 37.Rbb1 h4  
38.Nf5 Nxe4 39.Ne7+ Kf6 40.Nc8 Nxf2 41.Re3 Rba6 42.Nc3 Rc2 43.Bxa6 N2h3+  
44.Kh1 Nf2+ 45.Kg1 N2h3+ ½-½ ["I can only say that I hope this game causes more  
people to take up chess than to quit the the game. Chess really can be fun!" - Bruce  
Harper, *Chess Canada Echecs* #49, August 1981]

**Ivanov,I - Miles,A [A30]** Luzern ol (Men) Luzern (7), 1982

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.d4 Ne4 8.Qd3 Nxc3 9.bxc3  
0-0 10.e4 cxd4 11.cxd4 d6 12.Bg5 Nc6 13.Rac1 Rc8 14.Rfd1 Rc7 15.Qe3 Qa8 16.Bh6  
Na5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.c5 Bxe4 19.d5 Bxf3 20.Bxf3 Qc8 21.c6 Qf5 22.Rd4 Qf6 23.Re1  
Re8 24.Qd3 Kg8 25.Rf4 Qb2 26.Bg4 f5 27.Bxf5 gxf5 28.Qxf5 Kh8 29.Qh5 Rcc8 30.Rh4  
Qg7 31.Re6 Rf8 32.Rh6 Qa1+ 33.Kg2 Rxf2+ 34.Kxf2 Rf8+ 35.Rf4 Rxf4+ 36.gxf4 Qd4+  
37.Kg2 Qd2+ 38.Kh3 Qd3+ 39.Kh4 Qe4 40.Rxh7+ 1-0

**Ivanov,I - Timman,J [A38]** Luzern ol (Men) Luzern (8), 1982

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 Qxd5 7.Bg2 g6 8.0-0 Bg7  
9.d3 0-0 10.Be3 Bd7 11.Nd4 Qd6 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Bxc6 Qxc6 14.Rc1 Qe6 15.Rxc5  
Qxa2 16.Rb5 b6 17.Qa1 Qe6 18.Qa6 Qd7 19.Ra1 h5 20.Rb4 Rfc8 21.Qa4 Qb7 22.h4 Be5  
23.Qb3 Rc6 24.d4 Bf6 25.Bf4 a5 26.Rba4 Qa6 27.e4 Rac8 28.e5 Bg7 29.d5 Rc2 30.Re4  
b5 31.d6 Qb7 32.Rae1 a4 33.Qd3 Rxb2 34.d7 Rd8 35.e6 Bf6 36.Bg5 Rb3 37.exf7+ Kf8  
38.Qe2 Bxg5 39.Rxe7 Qb6 40.hxg5 Rxg3+ 41.Kf1 1-0

**Ivanov,I - Zaltsman,V [D34]** New York Kavkasian New York, 1983

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.d4 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Be3  
c4 10.Ne5 Qa5 11.Bg5 Rd8 12.e3 h6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.f4 Bxe5 15.fxe5 Be6 16.Qh5 Rd7  
17.Rad1 Rf8 18.a3 Qd8 19.h4 a6 20.Rd2 b5 21.Rdf2 Qe7 22.g4 Qd8 23.g5 Ne7 24.Ne2  
g6 25.Qxh6 Nf5 26.Rxf5 Bxf5 27.Rxf5 gxf5 28.Ng3 f6 29.Nxf5 Rh7 30.Qg6+ Kh8  
31.gxf6 Rg8 32.h5 Rxg6 33.hxg6



33...Qd7 34.e4 dxe4 35.Bxe4 Kg8 36.Kg2 a5 37.d5 Qc7 38.d6 Qc5 39.gxh7+ Kxh7 40.f7 Qxe5 41.f8Q Qxe4+ 42.Kg3 Qd3+ 43.Kf4 Qd2+ 44.Ke4 1-0

**Seirawan, Y - Ivanov, I [E21]** USA-ch m Los Angeles (1.3), 1991

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qb3 Na6 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Qxc3 c5 8.b4 0-0 9.dxc5 bxc5 10.b5 Nc7 11.e3 Ne4 12.Qc2 f5 13.Be2 Bb7 14.Bb2 f4 15.exf4 Rxf4 16.0-0 d6 17.a4 Qe7 18.Bc1 Rg4 19.Ne1 Rg6 20.Bh5 Rf6 21.Bf3 Rxf3 22.Nxf3 Rf8 23.Ra3 e5 24.Re1 Nf6 25.Nh4 Ne6 26.Nf5 Qd7 27.Rh3 g6 28.Nh6+ Kg7 29.f3 Nd4 30.Qd3 Nh5 31.Rf1 Nf4 32.Bxf4 Rxf4 33.Ng4 e4 34.Qe3 h5 35.Nf2 exf3 36.g3 Ne2+ 37.Kh1 Qxh3 38.Rg1 Qg2+ 0-1

**Ivanov, I - Shabalov, A [E61]** USA-ch Gr-A Denver (3), 02.11.1998

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 0-0 5.Bg5 d6 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 c6 8.Be2 a6 9.0-0 b5 10.b4 a5 11.a3 bxc4 12.Bxc4 Bg4 13.Be2 Nbd7 14.h3 Be6 15.b5 cxb5 16.d5 Bf5 17.Nd4 b4 18.Nc6 Qe8 19.axb4 g5 20.Bg3 Ne4 21.Nxe4 Bxa1 22.Qxa1 Bxe4 23.Qd4 Bg6 24.bxa5 Nc5 25.f4 Ne4 26.Be1 gxf4 27.exf4 e6 28.Bh4 f6 29.Bf3 e5 30.fxe5 fxe5 31.Qe3 Ng5 32.Bxg5 hxg5 33.Qxg5 Kh7 34.Re1 Rf5 35.Qh4+ Kg7 36.Nd4 Rf7 37.Ne6+ Kg8 38.Be4 Rb7 39.Qg5 1-0

## NOVEMBER SUNDAY OPEN/JUNIOR OPEN

The November version of this monthly tournament (unrated three-round Swiss at game/60) attracted seventeen players. This is down somewhat from previous editions, but being sandwiched between the B.C. Junior and the Jack Taylor Memorial/WA Class Championships on the preceding/following weekends probably didn't help. In the end there was a four-way tie for first between Lucas and Noam Davies, Michael Yip, and Clyde Chen, all on 2.5/3. Clyde took the top U1500 prize, and top U1300 went to a resurgent Edward Enns.

In the associated junior-only sections, Alexandra Botez and Donovan Zhao tied for first in the U1500 Section with 3/4 each, while Hafiz Dhanani and newcomer Kai Somers tied for the U1000 prize. In the Booster Section speed chess playoffs were the order of the day, as a first-place tie between Janak Awatramani and Dennis Wang was decided in favour of Janak, while the three-way tie for third between Michael Levine, Kyle Zheng, and Narek

Bobloyan went through two sets of tiebreaks before Michael eventually emerged the winner.

A total of thirty-five players took part in the three sections, held at the Vancouver Bridge Centre on November 20. Watch for the next event in early January!

## **B.C. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

This year's B.C. Junior (under 20) Champion is Lucas Davies. Although he only scored a half point better than second-place finisher Louie Jiang, Lucas had the best performance of the tournament, deservedly winning the title by scoring 4.5 against the next five finishers. Jiang had a solid result, keeping pace with Davies until a final-round draw with Bindi Cheng. With Fanhao Meng absent, it was expected that Lucas's main competition would be Cheng, who has won the Labour Day Open and Kalamalka Open since moving here from Hamilton, Ontario. However, Bindi had an indifferent event, losing to Davies and drawing with Jiang and Gaciu; he was fortunate to score as well as he did, since in two games he stood decidedly worse yet still managed to garner 1.5 points. Of the other players, mention should be made of Joshua Wild from Victoria; he fought determinedly in all his games, performed well above his rating, and the experience will stand him in good stead in the future.

The Reserve Section was won by Clyde Chen with 4.5/5; second was Jakab Tardos, a new player from Hungary, who finished with 4 points. The class prizes were split between Hafiz Dhanani and Foster Tom. A total of thirty juniors participated in the tournament, held at the Vancouver Bridge Centre on the Remembrance Day weekend. The tournament director was Stephen Wright, aided and abetted by Katherine Davies.

## **BACKTALK** by Dan Scoones

Chess Informant has just released the third edition of the *Anthology of Chess Combinations*. I'm looking forward to seeing this book, but having read the pre-publication blurb, I'm already having slight feelings of disappointment. It seems they have actually computer-checked all of the examples! This means it is highly unlikely I will be able to use it for my favourite pastime of busting published analysis. Oh well - there are still plenty of other books out there.

With that in mind it's time once again to dip into the pages of the first edition, which was published in 1980 under the title *Encyclopaedia of Chess Middlegames: Combinations*. Our first example shows the late lamented IM Simon Webb, author of the critically-acclaimed *Chess For Tigers*, on the attack:

Webb-Pahtz, Poland 1978: White to play

What's going on here? A quick glance is enough to see that all of White's pieces are aimed straight at Black's insecure king. The two candidates that spring to mind are



1.Qd8 and 1.Nxc6. Let's try the queen move first. The threat is 2.Ba6+! followed by mate: 2...Kxa6 3.Qb6+ or 2...Ka7 3.Qb6+ Ka8 4.Qb7#. How does Black defend against this? If 1...Nc7 White can force resignation with the simple 2.Qxg8, although there is a slightly more complicated win with 2.Qxd7!? Qe8 [if 2...Rxd4 3.Rxc6 Qc8 then 4.Rb6+ wins the queen] 3.Ba6+! Ka8 4.Rh8! followed by mate. We don't even have to look at 1.Nxc6, since it voluntarily eliminates a key attacker for benefits that are not at all clear, at least to me.

Did our friend Mr. Webb play 1.Qd8? Of course not -- otherwise we wouldn't be looking at this position. He preferred 1.Nxc6 Bxc6 2.Qe7+ Nc7 3.Ba6+ Kxa6 [3...Kb8 4.Rh7 Qxh7 5.Qxh7 Nxa6 6.Qh2! and wins -- DS] 4.Qxc7 Qe8 5.Rxc6+ Kb5 6.a4+ and Black resigned in view of the possible continuation 6...bxa3 7.Qb7+ Kc4 8.Qb3+ Kd4 9.Qc3+ Ke4 10.Qe3+, although there are small improvements for White here as well. Subtract ten points for unnecessary complexity if you wanted to play this way. Our next example, also from *ECM*, is rather striking:



Mamatov-Vaganian, USSR 1973: Black to play. As usual, let's try to solve this without looking at what Vaganian played. Those Black bishops pointed at White's king are highly suggestive. A bit of fantasy leads to the idea of ...Qxf3+ followed by clearing the long diagonal for a killer check from c6. Unfortunately, the immediate 1...Qxf3+ doesn't quite work: 2.Kxf3 Nd2+ 3.Kg2! [of course not 3.Bxd2? d4#!] d4+ 4.Kg1 dxe3 5.fxe3 and although Black has two minor pieces and strong pressure for the queen, White has staved off mate

and his chances of a successful defence are not all that bad.

Another idea that doesn't work is 1...d4, since after 2.Nxd4 the important bishop on c6 is under attack, which gives White even more chances to consolidate his position.

No, we want something stronger. The drawback of the immediate 1...Qxf3+ was that it gave White the option of retreating the king to g2 and g1 to escape the Black bishops. This leads to the idea of maintaining the attack on the bishop and clearing the knight out of the way before sacrificing the queen. With that in mind, have a look at 1...Nd2!! This is more like it. If White takes the Trojan Horse [2.Qxd2 or

2.Bxd2] his fortress is destroyed after 2...Qxf3+ because 3.Kg1 d4 is a total disaster and 3.Kxf3 d4 is an immediate mate. The only defence is 2.Nd4 but then the secondary idea of 1...Nd2 emerges. Black plays 2...Nxf3 3.Nxf3 d4! and wins a piece.

As I've said before, I enjoy problems whose solution involves a quiet move, that is, a move that strengthens the position in a fundamental way but which is not a check or capture. I found this example particularly satisfying, and I flipped to the solution just to confirm that our hero the Armenian was on form back in 1973. Well, another surprise: Vaganian missed 1...Nd2 completely, preferring the line I gave in the first paragraph! He did go on to win, but I haven't been able to locate the score of the game.

I can understand missing a move like 1...Nd2 in the heat of battle, but what does it say about grandmaster chess when it is missed during later analysis? Petrosian said it best: the books are full of mistakes, and one cannot take anything on trust.

Our final position today is another example of a post-mortem lapse:



Rogers-Shirov, Groningen 1990: Black to play

Black is obviously struggling to save the game. He is a rook down, but has an advanced passed pawn in compensation. At first glance the draw looks fairly simple: 1...Kg2 2.Kxf4 h1Q 3.Rxh1 Kxh1 4.Kf5 Kg2 5.f4 Kg3 and White cannot make progress. However, even simple-looking pawn endings often conceal important finesses, and this one is no exception. Instead of 4.Kf5?! Rogers found the winning move 4.Kg3!! The idea is to get

White's pawn out of range of Black's king before attacking Black's pawn. If Black's king tries to prevent this he is shouldered away by White's king. In his analysis in *Informant 50*, Rogers gave the continuation 4...Kg1 5.f4 Kf1 6.Kf3 Ke1 7.f5 Kd2 8.Ke4 Kc3 9.Kd5 Kb4 10.f6 and wins. Shirov in fact resigned after 4.Kg3, but it seems he should have played on because there was a huge error in his opponent's analysis.

After 6.Kf3? Black has the much stronger move 6...f5!, which is completely unremarked by Rogers. In fact, the boot is now squarely on the other foot since White must lose his remaining pawn and is saved from defeat only through maintaining the opposition: 7.Ke3 Kg2 8.Ke2! [definitely not 8.Kd4? Kg3 9.Ke5 Kg4 and Black wins] 8...Kg3 9.Kf1! Kxf4 10.Kf2! with a well-known drawing position.

Instead of 6.Kf3?, White can thread his way to a win with 6.f5! Ke2 7.Kf4! Kd3 [or 7...f6 8.Ke4 Kf2 9.Kd5 and wins] 8.Ke5! Ke3 9.f6! By shouldering off Black's king at crucial moments, White has finally got his pawn out of range and can round up Black's pawn with an easy win to follow.

Black can in fact achieve a draw from the diagrammed position, but a different idea is required, that of promoting the advanced f-pawn rather than the h-pawn. After 1...Kg3! 2.Rh7 f5+! 3.Kxf5 Kxf3 4.Rxh2 Kg3! the hit on the rook gains Black just enough time to stop White from winning his remaining pawn. The result is a trivial draw, as the reader can verify.

Well, what is so unusual about this example, one may be thinking. Rogers saw the key idea but faltered slightly in the execution. My point is that he failed to correct his error later on at home, analysing in the quiet of his study with no clock ticking. The Editorial Board of Chess Informant also let this one slip away.

That is surprising enough, but there's more. The entire flawed analysis by Rogers was republished verbatim by GM Andrew Soltis in his book *The Inner Game* with no mention of Black's drawing resource. So this position fooled not one but two grandmasters, and not one but two editors. Shirov must still be kicking himself!

### **JACK TAYLOR MEMORIAL - THIS WEEKEND!**

Date: November 26-27

Site: Room 108, Clearihue Building, University of Victoria

Format: 4 Rounds, 10:00 and 4:00 with the last Round ASAP

Entry Fee: \$30.00 and \$20.00 for Juniors. TC 40/2, game/1

Contact: Lynn Stringer at 250 658-5207 or [lynnstringer@shaw.ca](mailto:lynnstringer@shaw.ca)

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Junior Events**

Dec. 10 BC -WA Scholastic Match, BCIT

Dec. 11 Greater Victoria City Championship

See <http://www.chess.bc.ca/juniorevents.html>

### **UBC Tuesday Night Swiss**

Date: Tuesdays

Location: Room 211, Student Union Building, UBC

Format: 5-round Swiss

Time control: 2 hours sudden death

Time: 6:30 sharp

Entry fees: \$15 for adults, \$12 for juniors and UBC club members, \$10 under 1100 (excluding unrated)

TD info.: Aaron Cosenza, 604 327-4714, [xramis1@yahoo.ca](mailto:xramis1@yahoo.ca)

### **Jack Taylor Memorial**

Date: November 26-27

Site: Room 108, Clearihue Building, University of Victoria

Format: 4 Rounds, 10:00 and 4:00 with the last Round ASAP

Entry Fee: \$30.00 and \$20.00 for Juniors. TC 40/2, game/1

Contact: Lynn Stringer at 250 658-5207 or [lynnstringer@shaw.ca](mailto:lynnstringer@shaw.ca)

### **WA Class Championships and Chess Festival, Bellevue**

Date: November 26-27

[http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/WA\\_Class\\_flyer\\_2005.pdf](http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/WA_Class_flyer_2005.pdf)