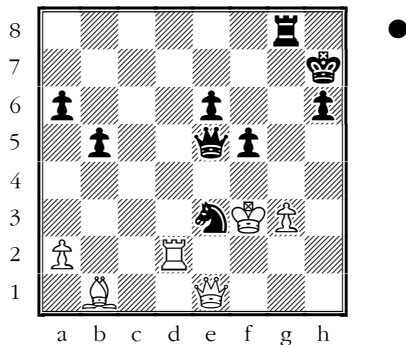


Chess Quiz

Ramirez (2542) - Gonzalez (2481)

Capablanca mem (5), 10.05.2004



Chess News

Kramnik-Leko Press-Conference

Yesterday a press-conference concerning the forthcoming World Championship match between Vladimir Kramnik and Peter Leko took place in Hamburg, Germany. Here is an extract from the press-release:

"The organiser, the Swiss **Centro Dannemann**, has made available prize money in the amount of one million Swiss francs. "The size of the amount underlines the global importance of this tournament", emphasises Hans Leusen, President of **Dannemann Brazil**. "Our commitment is intended to contribute to the further development and professionalisation of chess and we look forward to the competition with exited anticipation."

The tournament will take place from September 25 to October 18, 2004 at the **Centro Dannemann** in Brissago at Lago Maggiore (Ticino, Switzerland) over 14 games of chess with classical time controls. As referee, the organiser has appointed the internationally renowned Dr. Markus Angst (Switzerland), Dr. Andrzej Filipowicz

(Poland) und Albert Vasse (The Netherlands).

Joel Lautier, President of the Association of Chess Professionals (ACP) and the tournament director nominated by the organiser presented in Hamburg the rules for the World Championship, which according to ACP could also form the framework for future World Championship duels. The cornerstones of the set of rules are the game plan as well as the classical time for reflection, which are in harmony with the 118-year old tradition of the great World Championship duels.

Both protagonists expect an exciting course and a hard-fought outcome of the competition. Asked about his chances to defend the title, the Russian said: "Leko is the least attractive and most difficult opponent that I could meet. At the moment, he is a greater challenge than Kasparov. I estimate my chances at 55 percent, no more". Leko showed himself to be very self-confident: "Kramnik is a strong, very strong World Champion, but I have the ability, the will and the game to beat him." The young Hungarian must live with a handicap otherwise under absolutely the same conditions. While a 7:7 draw is sufficient for a defence of the title by the World Champion, Leko must win the competition to be able to replace Kramnik as the 15th World Champion in October.

The games will be broadcast by various international television channels. Anyone interested can however not only follow the tournament live in the internet under www.worldchesschampionship.info, but also can make predictions of the course of the play via interactive elements and win prizes. The visit to the World Championship is also attractive from a tourist point of view. The *Centro Dannemann*, together with Canton Ticino and the travel agent

Kuoni offers interesting packages at various price levels."

An Amateur's View

by Jan Matthies

Almost a year ago my message called "A poor chess player's dream for the World Championship" was published in the 'Letters to the Editor' section of *Chess Today*. There I wrote about chess politics and that players should arrange tournaments and matches themselves. So, I couldn't let the chance pass by to try (am only a chess enthusiast, not a journalist) to attend the press conference about the upcoming Kramnik vs. Leko World Chess Championship.

The press conference took place in one of the leading hotels of the world – The Hamburger "Vier Jahreszeiten" (Four Seasons), so they did it in style. As I had to work that day, I arrived a little late and to my surprise was let into the conference room; what nice asking can give you sometimes. I also got one of those nice press folders ☺ So I was sitting there with around 30 journalists asking their questions. All was very well organized and *Dannemann* did a good job in presenting the conference.

The players and officials answered very patiently every question, like "Will the ACP take over if FIDE is not going to do a proper job in the future?" Mr. Lautier (President of the ACP) answered "I'm glad you ask and I don't have to start by myself. Yes, if FIDE is continuing their current role we will jump in and take part in the reunification process...". Another answer was if there will be a re-match. Kramnik jumped in and said: "No matter who wins, the one who wins is the Champion, no re-match!".

After the official part was over (Photo-shooting, Welcome and Introduction, History of the Classical World Chess Championship, Duration, Rules and Details for the match, Details of the organisation and the role of Centro Dannemann, Role of match in a global



context, Statement of both players, Details of participation opportunities and moderated discussion) there was time for a little chat and taking more pictures. To me, seeing those players for the first time in real life was incredible. I was surprised how nice and polite the players were – not really one sign of rivalry. Peter Leko was even excusing himself that the photographers started to take pictures alone with him, when Kramnik was taking a little "time out" right after the conference....

I finally would like to thank both players for giving me one of the "coolest" days in my life with even a little chat, photos and autographs! Please keep on promoting chess in this professional and friendly way. It seems that finally the chess world is on a good way to clean up FIDE's mess. Go ACP!!

Jan Matthies,
[Chess Visualisation Training](#)

(The photo of Kramnik, left, and Leko, right in this article was taken by Jan Matthies)

39th Capablanca Memorial

Elite, Standings after 5 rounds:

1. Dominguez – 4½ points
2. Bruzon – 3½
3. Ikonnikov – 3, etc.

Premier I, standings after 6 rounds:

- 1–2. Prasca and Bluvshtein – 4 points;
3. Perez – 3½, etc.

Premier II, standings after 6 rounds:

1. Nogueiras – 5 points
2. Borges – 4½/5
- 3–5. Almeida (out of 5 games), E. Rodriguez, Paz – 3½, etc.

[Official site](#)

Karadjorje–Serbia 1840–2004

This Grandmaster tournament is taking place on 4–14 May.

Standings after 8 rounds:

- 1–2. Mastrovasilis and Georgiev – 6 points;
- 3–4. Pavasovic and Ivanisevic – 5;
5. Ruck – 4, etc. [Official site](#)

Annotated Game

by IM Vladimir Barsky

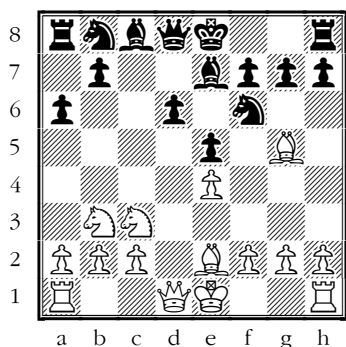
White: I. Bruzon (2602)

Black: Y. Quezada (2478)

Capablanca mem ELITE (5),
10.05.2004

Sicilian Defense/ Najdorf Var. – [B92]

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4
♞f6 5.♞c3 a6 6.♞e2 This was Efim
Geller's favourite move.
6...e5 7.♞b3 ♞e7 8.♞g5 (D)



A typical Sicilian idea – White would like to exchange the Knight on f6 and occupy the central square d5.

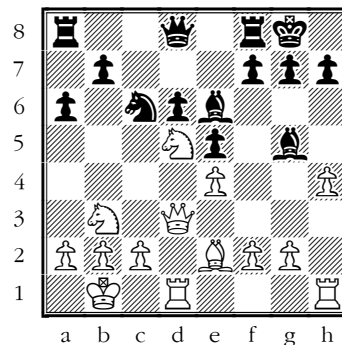
8...♞e6

An alternative is 8...♞bd7, for example: 9.a4 b6 10.♞c4 ♞b7 11.♞e2 0–0 12.0–0 ♞c7 13.♞fd1 h6 14.♞xf6 ♞xf6 15.♞d5 ♞xd5 16.♞xd5 ♞ac8 (16...♞xd5 was played in Kramnik,V–Gelfand,B/GpA, Cap D'Agde FRA 2003) 17.c3 ♞xd5 18.♞xd5 ♞c4 19.♞xc4 ♞xc4 20.♞d2 ♞c6 21.♞f1 g6 22.♞e2± Kramnik,V–Paehtz,E/DB Simul Bonn GER 2004

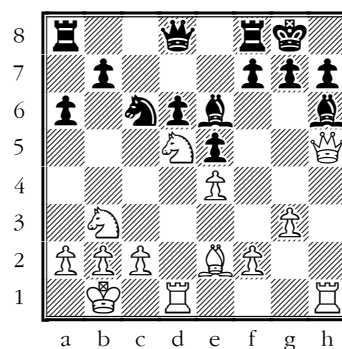
9.♞xf6 ♞xf6 10.♞d3 ♞c6

Another new example: 10...♞e7 11.0–0 0–0 12.♞d5 ♞xd5 13.♞xd5 ♞c7 14.♞d2 0–0 15.♞c4 ♞ac8⇒ Yemelin,V–Gelfand,B/TCh–RUS, Sochi RUS 2004.

11.0–0–0 ♞e7 12.♞d5 ♞g5+
13.♞b1 0–0 14.h4 (D)



White sacrifices a pawn in order to open the h–file and create some threats against the black King. 14...♞xh4 15.g3 ♞f6 16.♞f3 ♞g5 17.♞h5 ♞h6!? (D)



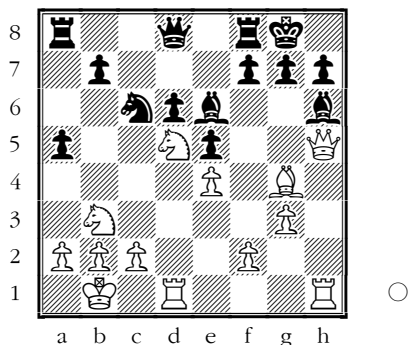
New idea. Anand drew his game vs. Kramnik after [17...h6 18.f4 ♞f6 19.♞d2 ♞d4 20.♞c4 ♞c8 21.c3 ♞b5 22.f5 ♞xd5 23.♞xd5 ♞xc3! 24.♞g6 ♞b6 25.♞xh6 ½–½ (Kramnik,V–Anand,V/GMA, Wijk aan Zee NED

2004), but his safe blow 23...Rxc3! looks like a "lucky escape". There's nothing strange about Black trying to improve his play.

18. Qg4!?

White begins the struggle for the light squares. Now in case of [18.f4 White doesn't win a tempo, so Black could immediately begin counterplay after, for example, 18...a5

18...a5 (D)



A very logical move: Black would like to drive Knight on b3 away and occupy the central post d4 with his Knight.

19. Qe3 a4

Black had rather interesting alternative attempt at counterplay - 19...Qg5!?, for example 20. Qxe6 (20. Bxd6!? Qxh5 21. Qxh5 Qxe3 22. fxe3) 20...Qxh5 21. Bxh5 Qxe3 22. fxe3 fxe6 23. Bxd6 Bf1+ 24. Qc1 Baf8↑

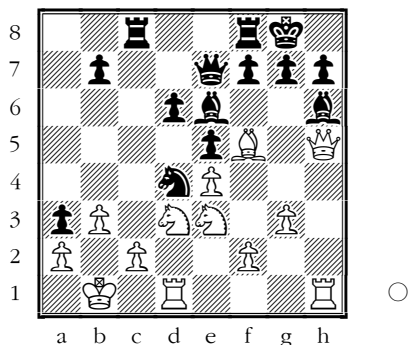
20. Qc5 Qe7

Black isn't afraid of the exchange on e6, because in this case he will strongly protect his weak points d5 and f5.

21. Qd3 a3

A very tempting move, and the computer likes it very much. But in my opinion better was the more flexible 21...Bfc8.

22. b3 Qd4 23. Qf5 Bxc8 (D)



On the first sight Black gains an initiative, but White has a very strong resource.

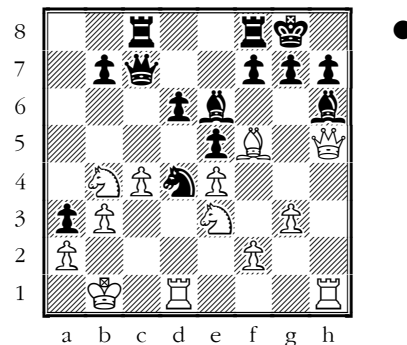
24. Qb4!

The d5 post is more important than d4.

24... Qc7

24...Qb5 25. Qbd5 Qxd5 26. Bxd5! (26. Qxd5 Qc3+ 27. Qxc3 Bxc3=) 26...Qc3+ 27. Qa1 Qxd5 28. Qxd5 Qg5 (28...Qd8 29. Qxc8+-) 29. Qxh7+!? Qh8 30. Qxg5 Qxg5 31. Qf5+ Qh6 32. Qxc8 Bxc8 33. c4±.

25. c4 (D)

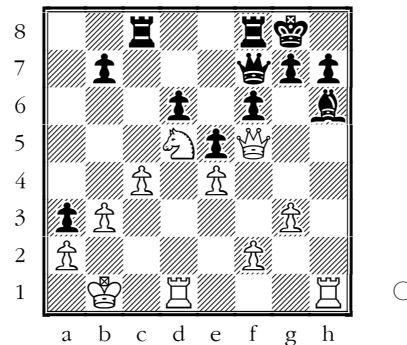


After this defensive move it will be very difficult for Black to create any threats on the queen side.

25... Qxf5!?

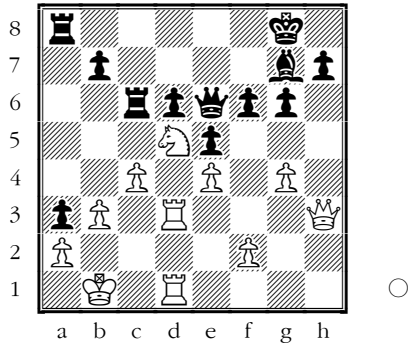
Sad decision: Black admits to totally losing the struggle for the d5-square.

26. Qxf5 Qxf5 27. Qxf5 f6 28. Qd5 Qf7 (D)



Black still has an extra pawn, but his position looks very unhappy - the Knight on d5 is much stronger than the poor Bishop on h6.

29. Bd3 Bc6 30. Qc3 Ba8 31. Bhd1 g6 32. Qh3 Qf8 33. g4 Qe6 34. Qd5 Qg7 (D)



35.g5!

A very unpleasant pawn break.

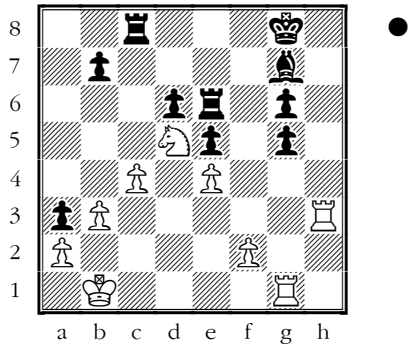
35...♖e8

35...♖xh3 36.♖xh3 ♖c5 (36...♗e8 37.gxf6 ♕f8 38.f7+ ♜xf7 39.♖xh7+) 37.♗e7+ ♜f7 38.gxf6 ♜xf6 39.♖xh7±.

36.♖h1 ♜xh3 37.♖dxh3 fxg5

38.♖xh7 ♖cc8 39.♖7h3 ♖e6

40.♖g1 (D)



Black's pawn structure is completely destroyed now, and White begins to attack and take the weak pawns.

40...♖f8 41.f3 ♕f6 42.♜c2 ♖ee8

43.♖h6 ♜f7

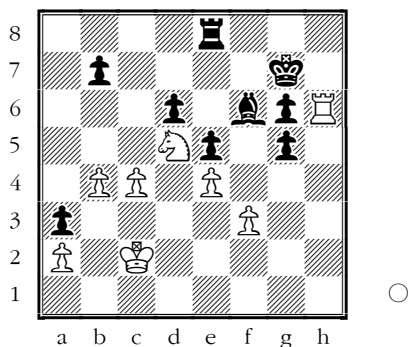
43...♜g7 44.♖gh1 and Black couldn't play 44...♖h8??

44.b4!

Reminding his opponent about another weak pawn - a3.

44...♖h8 45.♖gh1 ♖xh6 46.♖xh6

♜g7?? (D)



A blunder in an unpleasant position. Of course White is much better, but Black could struggle on for quite a long while yet.

47.♖h7+!

47.♖h7+! ♜xh7 48.♗xf6+ ♜h6 49.♗xe8+- 1-0.

Solutions to our quiz:

Ramirez-Gonzalez: 60...♖xg3+! 0-1

White resigned in view of 61.♖xg3 ♜xg3+ 62.♜xg3 ♗f1+.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) - we appreciate your feedback!

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Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev; IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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