

(41) Smirnov,Alexey (2446) – Babarykin,Stanislav (2369)

2. WCCD Dresden (5.1), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.c4 e5 2.d3 Nc6 3.a3 [an interesting approach to the English]

3...a5 [3...g6 is also possible 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.h4 Nf6 6.g3 d5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bg2 Nxc3 9.bxc3 h6 10.Rb1 0-0 11.Nh3 Qd6 12.a4 Re8 13.Be3 Rb8 14.Qd2 Kh7 15.h5 g5 16.f3 f5 17.Bxg5 hxg5 18.f4 gxf4 19.Ng5+ Kg8 20.h6 Bf6 21.Qa2+ Be6 22.Nxe6 Rxe6 23.Bd5 Nd8 24.gxf4 Kh8 25.Bxe6 Nxe6 26.fxe5 Qxe5 27.Rb5 Qxc3+ 28.Kd1 Nd4 29.Rb1 Re8 30.Rc1 Qa5 31.Rh2 Rg8 32.Rh1 Qe5 33.Re1 Bh4 34.Rh1 Rg2 35.h7 Nxe2 36.Qa3 Be7 37.Qa1 Nd4 38.Re1 Qf4 0-1 (38) Getz,N (2354) –Elsness,F (2487) Sandefjord 2012; 3...f5 is another approach to this system as shown in the following game 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.e3 Qe8 8.Nd5 Bd8 9.Ne2 d6 10.0-0 Ne7 11.Nxf6+ Rxf6 12.b4 c6 13.Bb2 Rh6 14.f4 Bb6 15.Qd2 Ng6 16.Rae1 exf4 17.Nxf4 Nxf4 18.gxf4 Bd7 19.Kh1 Bd8 20.Bf3 Bf6 21.Rg1 Qe7 22.Rg3 Rg6 23.a4 Bh4 24.Rxg6 Bxe1 25.Rxg7+ Qxg7 26.Qc1 Qh6 27.Qxe1 Kf7 28.a5 a6 29.Qf2 Qh3 30.Bg2 Qh5 31.Bf3 Qh3 32.Bg2 Qh5 33.Bf3 Qh3 1/2-1/2 (33) Smirnov,A (2407)–Ibragimov,I (2557) Kazan 2014]

4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.e3 [white is playing a reversed Sicilian, Taimanov if I'm not mistaken]

7...g6 8.Be2 Bg7 9.Qc2 0-0 10.0-0 b6 [10...Nxc3 11.bxc3 a4 is interesting]

[but this idea is great as well]

11.Bd2 Bb7 12.Rac1 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 Qe7 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 15.Rb1 Re8 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 Rad8? [17...b5 black cannot allow white to play b5 18.Qb2 Red8 I prefer this rook as the other one is already on an opened file]

18.b5! Nd4?? [18...Na7 19.Rdc1 e4 20.Ne1 exd3 21.Bxd3 Rd7 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 white has a slight edge due to black's majority on the queen side being blocked, but it isn't much]

19.exd4 exd4 20.Bd2 Qxe2 21.Re1 Bxf3 22.Rxe2 Bxe2 23.f3 Re5 24.Re1 Ra8 [and here black resigned probably because]

[24...Ra8 25.Kf2 Rae8 26.Qxc7 Bxd3 27.Rxe5 Bxe5 28.Qd7 Rb8 29.Bh6]

1-0

(42) Kovalenko,Vladimir (2068) – Yarmonov,Igor (2375)

2. WCCD Dresden (5.2), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Be2 [an older line entering reversed Phillidor if black will play d5. These days GM Jobava has been implementing it a lot with good results against top players]

3...Nf6 4.d3 d5 5.Nbd2 a5 [I think 5...Bc5 is the best approach for black. In these type of positions with two vs one central pawns it is important to strengthen the center and try to restrict the opponent from getting the 2nd pawn in the center and gain advantage 6.0-0 0-0 7.c3 now 7...a5 8.b3 Re8 (8...d4 9.Bb2 Re8) 9.Bb2 (9.a3 dxe4 10.dxe4 Nh5) 9...Ba7]

6.a4 [6.0-0 Be7 7.b3]

6...Be7 7.c3 [7.0-0 seems more natural 1st]

7...0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.Re1 Ba6 10.Qc2 Qd7 [black's more passive approach was good as well]

11.Bf1 d4! 12.c4? [big positional mistake by white as without space and with the queen side blocked and no possibility of break for white it is like a suicide]

[12.cxd4 had to be played 12...exd4 13.Nc4 Bb4 14.Bd2 Bxd2 15.Qxd2[∞]]

12...Qe8 [to liberate the d7 square for the knight]

[12...Qe6 could have been an alternative to keep the last rank more free and if 13.Ng5 Qd6 eventually Ng5 will have to retreat]

13.Nb1 Nd7 14.Na3 Bxa3 15.Rxa3 Nc5! 16.Ra1 Bc8 17.Bd2 Bd7 [17...f5 was already possible, but I like black's technique to make sure all of his pieces are ready for the opening of the position 18.exf5 Bxf5]

18.b3 [black didn't wait anymore]

18...f5 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.Nh4 [20.Ng5 Qg6 21.Ne4 Bxe4 22.dxe4 Rf3!-+]

20...Qf7 [20...Bd7]

21.Nxf5 Qxf5 22.f3 Kh8 23.Be2 Rad8 24.Rf1 Qg6 25.Rf2 Rd6 26.Raf1 Rdf6 27.g3 h6 28.Qb1 Qh7 29.Qc2 g5 30.h3 Qg6 31.Rg2 Rg8 32.Qb1 Qh7 33.Rd1 h5 34.b4 [white tried some conterplay, but the position on the queen side is very strong for black]

34...axb4 35.Bxb4 Nxb4 36.Qxb4 Ra8 [in fact now black has a new target – a4 pawn]

37.Qb5 Re6 [when having a better position it is important not to allow the opponent to any conterplay]

38.f4? [helps black to win the game faster]

[38.Ra1 would have kept the game going a little longer 38...Nxd3 39.Bxd3 Qxd3 40.Qd7 Rae8 41.Qxc7]

38...exf4 [after which black has a decisive advantage]

39.gxf4 gxf4 40.Bf3 Rg8 41.Rdd2 Reg6 42.Rxg6 Qxg6+ 43.Rg2 Qe6 44.Rxg8+ Qxg8+ 45.Kf1 Qe6 46.Kg2 Qe1 47.Qc6 Qg3+ 48.Kh1 Qxh3+ 49.Kg1 Qe6 50.Qxc7 Qe1+

0-1

(43) Eremin,Anatoly (2201) – Gurbanov,Andrei (2236)

2. WCCD Dresden (5.3), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nge7 [I've implemented myself a couple of times this line, it is quite interesting for black]

5.0-0 g6 6.c3 Bg7 7.d4 [this is the main approach for white to get the control of the center as soon as possible. Of course black will counter-attack in the center as well!]

7...exd4 8.cxd4 b5 9.Bb3 [main line]

[9.Bc2 is another continuation, but not better than the main line 9...0-0 10.Nc3 d6 11.h3 Na5 12.Bf4 Bb7 13.Re1 Rc8 14.Bd3 b4 15.Na4 Qd7 16.a3 bxa3 17.Rxa3 Nac6 18.Bc4 Kh8 19.Qd2 Ng8 20.d5 Nce7 21.Nc3 Rb8 22.Bxa6 Bxa6 23.Rxa6 Rb4 24.e5 dxe5 25.Bxe5 f6 26.Bg3 Nf5 27.Bh2 Rfb8 28.Ra2 Nd6]

29.Nd4 Bh6 30.f4 Nc4 31.Qe2 Qd6 32.Nc6 Qc5+ 33.Qf2 Qxf2+ 34.Kxf2 Rxb2+ 35.Re2 R8b3 36.Ne4 Rxe2+ 37.Rxe2 Bf8 38.Rc2 Ne3 39.Rd2 f5 40.Nd4 Ra3 41.Nb5 Rb3 42.Nd4 Ra3 43.Nb5 Ra5 44.d6 Nc4 45.dxc7 Nxd2 46.c8Q Nxe4+ 47.Kf1 Bc5 48.Nc7 Ra1+ 49.Ke2 Ra2+ 50.Kd1 Nc3+ 51.Ke1 Be3 0-1 (51) Zhigalko,A (2590)–Sokolov,I (2653) Plovdiv 2012]

9...Na5 [9...0-0 10.Nc3 d6 would have transposed to the game]

10.Bc2 0-0 11.Nc3 d6 12.h3 h6 [12...c5 was implemented by Aronian; of course this move is not a winning move, but a little bit more aggressive approach by black, which eventually brought him the win 13.Re1 h6 14.Rb1 Nec6 15.d5 Nb4 16.a3 Nxc2 17.Qxc2 Re8 18.b4 Nc4 19.Nd2 Ne5 20.f4 Ng4 21.Nf3 cxb4 22.axb4 Qc7 23.Bd2 Qa7+ 24.Kh1 Nf2+ 25.Kh2 Nxb3 26.Be3 Qd7 27.Qd2 Qg4 28.Rf1 Nxf4 29.Bxf4 Bxc3 30.Qe3 Bg7 31.Rbe1 Bf5 32.e5 Rac8 33.Rf2 Rc4 34.Bg3 Re4 35.Qd2 Rxe1 36.Qxe1 dxe5 37.Nxe5 Qh5+ 38.Kg1 Bg4 39.d6 Bxe5 0-1 (39) Leko,P (2752) –Aronian,L (2786) Moscow 2009]

13.a4 [helps black in a way]

[13.Rb1 to be able to play b3 against any Nc4 13...Bb7 14.Ne2±]

13...b4 14.Ne2 Bd7 [I would have preferred 14...Bb7 with the same idea c5 15.Bd2 c5=]

15.b3 c5 16.Rb1 Rc8 17.Bf4 Bc6 18.Qd2 [18.d5 this is one of the moves I was worried about when I said I'd rather develop the bishop in b7 instead, now black wouldn't have to worry about d5 direct attack 18...Bb7 19.Bc1± now that d5 was played]

18...g5 19.Be3 Bb7 [19...f5 20.exf5 Bxf3 21.gxf3 c4 was a much better choice]

20.Rfd1 c4 [△20...f5 similar idea as before]

21.Qxb4 [21.d5!? cxb3 22.Bxb3 Nxb3 23.Qxb4 Bxd5 24.exd5 Nc5 25.Ng3=]

21...cxb3 22.Bd3 f5? [is is not the time to open up the king side anymore]

[22...Nec6 23.Qa3 d5 24.e5 still would have given white the edge]

23.d5 fxe4 24.Bxe4?? [ah big blunder by white, instead]

[24.Qxe4 would have given white winning chances now that black weakened his position a lot 24...Rf7 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Be4 to make sure d5 is defended followed by Ng3-h5]

24...Rc4+ [winning a piece and the game]

25.Qb6 Qxb6 26.Bxb6 Rxe4

0-1

(44) Miozga,Tomasz (1995) – Suder,Ryszard (2128)

2. WCCD Dresden (5.4), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 [not the best approach to the Alekhine as it allows black to equalize easily]

[2.e5 has to be played to maintain the advantage with white]

2...d5 3.exd5 Nxd5 4.Nxd5 Qxd5 [this game started out as Alekhine Defense, but it seems that it transposed to a Scandinavian, but a normal, but an enhanced Scandinavian for black because now Nc3 is not possible]

5.d4 Nc6 6.Be3 e5 7.Ne2 [too passive of an approach by white]

[7.Nf3 exd4 8.Nxd4=]

7...Be6 8.Nc3 [this idea would have been great if black didn't have]

8...Bb4 9.Qd2 exd4 [9...Qa5 looks great for black 10.dxe5 (10.d5 0-0-0 and d5 will fall) 10...Rd8 11.Bd3 Nxe5 12.0-0 0-0 keeping pieces on the board and maintaining tensions is really important when we have a better position]

10.Nxd5 Bxd2+ 11.Bxd2 Bxd5 12.0-0-0 0-0-0 [black has a pawn up, but it isn't as simple as it might look]

13.f3 Rhe8 [maybe 13...a6 not to allow the trade of bishop vs knight and remaining of opposite color bishops]

14.Bb5! [good resource of trying to save the position from white]

14...a6 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Rhe1 Bb5 17.Bf4 Re6 [17...c5 18.Rxe8 Rxe8 19.Bd6 b6 20.b4 cxb4 21.Bxb4 Rd8 22.Be1 d3 will possibly lead to a draw, but black would keep better chances than in the game]

18.Rxe6 fxe6 19.Be5 [19.Re1 Kd7 20.b4 o stop c5 and now white will want to put pressure in d4 20...b6 21.Be5 c5 22.bxc5 bxc5 23.c3]

19...c5 20.c3 Be2 21.Re1 d3 22.Kd2 Kd7 23.a4 Kc6 24.c4 g5 25.a5 Rf8 26.Ra1 Rf5 27.Bb8 h5 28.Ra3? [gives black some chances of improvement]

[28.Rg1 the rook needs to stay on the 1st rank not to allow Bf1. Now against any 28...g4 we have 29.f4= no entrance to winning chances for black]

28...Bf1 29.Ke1 Bxg2 30.Rxd3 b5 31.Rd6+ [now that white is active there shouldn't be any more worries that he could lose the game]

31...Kb7 32.Rb6+ Ka8 33.cxb5 axb5 34.Rxb5 c4 35.Rxf5 [now it's a draw]

35...exf5 36.Be5 Bxf3 37.Bf6 g4 38.Kf2 Kb7 39.Kg3 Ka6 40.Bc3 Bd1 41.Kf4 h4 42.Be1 g3 43.h3 g2 44.Bf2 Kxa5 45.Kxf5 Kb4 46.Kg5 Kb3 47.Bd4 Kc2 48.Kxh4 Kd3 49.Bg1 Ke2 50.Kg3 Kf1 51.Kh2

½-½

(45) Zimmer, Raphael (1985) – Mate, Balasz (2121)

2. WCCD (5.5), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 d5 [after f3 black should play 7...0-0 8.Qd2 and only now 8...d5 or else it allows Bb5 with a difficult position]

8.Nxc6 [8.Bb5 is the main line, and I found quite a fast win here in the following game 8...Bd7 (8...0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.e5 c5 11.Nc6 Qc7 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Qxd5 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Bb7 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Qg5±) 9.exd5 Nb4 (9...Nxd4 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7 11.Bxd4 0-0 12.0-0 Rfd8 13.Re1 b5 14.a3 a5 15.Qe2 b4 16.axb4 axb4 17.Rxa8 Rxa8 18.Ne4 Nxd5 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Qc4 Qa7+ 21.Nf2 e6 22.Qe4 Qc5 23.Kf1 Rc8 24.Re2 Nf6 25.Qf4 Qb5 26.Nd3 b3 27.Qb4 Qh5 28.Qxb3 Qxh2 29.Qb6 Nh5 30.Qd4+ Kg8 31.Kf2 Ng3 32.Qe5

Nh1+ 33.Ke1 Qh4+ 34.Kd2 Ng3 35.Re1 Qh2 36.Nf4 Rd8+ 37.Kc1 Qh6 38.Kb1 Nf5 39.g4 Nh4 40.Qf6 Rc8 41.Rh1 Rc4 42.Qd8+ Kg7 43.g5 Qh5 44.Nxh5+ gxh5 45.Qf6+ Kg8 46.Rd1 Rc8 1-0 (46) Bozinovic,B (2053)–Kokeza,M (2315) Novi Sad 2013) 10.Bc4 Rc8 11.Qe2 Qa5 12.0-0 Nbx5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Nb3 Qc7 15.Bxd5 Qxc2 16.Rf2 1-0 (16) Gdanski,J (2532)–Peretz,M (2256) Warsaw 2006]

8...bxc6 9.exd5 Nxd5 [I prefer 9...cxd5]

10.Nxd5 Qxd5 [10...cxd5 11.Bb5+ Kf8 12.Bc6 Rb8 13.Qxd5±]

11.Qxd5 cxd5 12.0-0-0 e6 13.Bc5 Bd7 14.f4 f6 15.g3 Kf7 16.Bg2 Rhc8 17.Ba3 Bf8 18.Bxf8 Kxf8 19.Rd2 Rab8 20.Re1 Kf7 21.Bh3 h5 22.Rde2 Re8 23.Re3 Rb7 24.R3e2 h4 25.b3 Rb6 26.Bg2 Bb5 27.Rd2 [until here, there doesn't seem to be any mistake by either side. Both players improved the position of their pieces. Black went for h5-h4 to open up the file and create a weakness]

27...Ra8? [as it allows Rxd5]

[27...hxg3 28.hxg3 Rh8 would have been the normal path]

28.g4 [missing the beautiful tactics]

[28.Rxd5±]

28...Ba6 [now again Rxd5 would have given white the pawn and most likely the win]

29.f5 [is nice as well]

[29.Rxd5+]

29...Bb7 30.fxe6+ [releases the pressure and black gets the chance to coordinate his pieces]

[30.c4± keeps the advantage]

30...Rxe6 31.Red1 Rd8 32.c4 Red6 33.cxd5 Bc8 34.Rd4 g5 35.Kb2 f5 36.gxf5 Bxf5 37.R1d2 Kf6 38.b4 [38.Rf2! last chance to keep the advantage for white]

38...g4 39.Rf2 Kg5 40.Rdf4 Bg6 41.Rd4 h3 42.Bh1 Re8 43.Rd1 Re3 44.Rfd2 Bf5 45.Rc1 Bd7 46.Rc4 Kf6 47.Rc3 [an interesting game by both players]

½-½

(46) Gerasimov,Aleksander (2189) – Myronenko,Natalya (1901)

2. WCCD (5.6), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 [Queen's Gambit with bf4]

6...0-0 7.Rc1 Nbd7 8.h3 [a typical move to insure the bishop]

8...b6 9.Bd3 [9.cxd5 exd5 10.Bd3 would transpose to the game 10...Bb7]

9...Bb7 10.cxd5 exd5 11.0-0 c5 [11...Re8 is typical for these types of positions as well 12.Qc2 Nf8 13.Ne5 N6d7 14.Nf3 g6 15.Rcd1 Ne6 16.Bg3 Rc8 17.Qe2 Bf6 18.Ba6 Bxa6 19.Qxa6 Ra8 20.Rd2 Qc8 21.Qxc8 Raxc8 22.Rc1 b5 23.Rdc2 Nb6 24.Ne2 Nc4 25.b3 Na5 26.Bd6 Be7 27.Bxe7 Rxe7 28.Ne5 Rec7 29.Nd3 Nb7 30.Nb4 Nbd8 31.Na6 Rb7 32.g3 Kf8 33.Nb4 Rbc7 34.Na6 Rb7 35.Nf4 Nxf4 36.gxf4 Ke7

37.Nc5 Rbb8 38.f3 Rb6 39.Kf2 Ne6 40.h4 Nxc5 41.Rxc5 Kd6 42.e4 Re8 43.Ke3 Re7 44.Kd3 Re6 45.R5c2 Ra6 46.Rg1 Ra3 47.h5 Ra6 48.Rg5 b4 49.Rh2 Ra5 50.e5+ Kd7 51.hxg6 hxg6 52.f5 gxf5 53.Rxf5 Re7 54.Rf6 Kc7 55.Rc2 Ra6 56.f4 Rb6 57.f5 Rd7 58.Ke3 Kb7 59.Kf4 1-0 (59) Gustafsson,J (2628)–Walter,S (2343) Germany 2013]

12.dxc5 bxc5 13.Qa4 Qb6 [13...Nb6 would have forced the retreat 14.Qd1 Bd6=]

14.Rfd1 c4 15.Bf5 Nc5 16.Qb5 Bc6? [allowing trades that are in white's favor]

[16...Ne6 to threaten the bishop, control e5 free c5 for the bishop possibly]

17.Qxb6 axb6 18.Nd4 Bb7 19.Ndb5 [19.b3!? to destroy black's chain and create some weaknesses 19...cxb3 20.axb3±]

19...Na4 20.Nxa4 Rxa4 21.a3 [⊔21.b3 to play for a slight advantage of activity 21...Rxa2 (21...cxb3 would be a mistake as 22.axb3 Rb4 23.Rc7 Rxb5 24.Rxb7 Re8 25.Ra1±) 22.bxc4 dxc4 23.Rxc4±]

21...Bc6 22.Nd4 Bb7 23.Nb5 Bc6 24.Nd4 Bb7 25.Bc7 Bc5 26.Nb5 Bc6 27.Nc3 Ra5 28.Be5 Be7 29.Ne2 g6 [A nicely played game with a middle strategic battle.]

½-½

(47) Varezhkin, Viktor (2267) – Zabolotny, Volodymyr (2018)

2. WCCD (5.7), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 [I'm always happy to see direct and dynamic games, like this Scotch]

3...exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 [5...dxc6 is rarely played as the structure is in white's favor having a mobile majority on the king side, while black a blocked one on the queen side. In general white is able to convert his advantage into a victory as was in the following game 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8 7.f3 Be6 8.Be3 Nd7 9.Nd2 Bc5 10.Kf2 Ke7 11.Bc4 Rad8 12.Rad1 Bb6 13.Bxe6 Kxe6 14.Nb3 Ke7 15.f4 Nf6 16.Kf3 Rxd1 17.Rxd1 Rd8 18.Rxd8 Kxd8 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.Bxc5 Nd7 21.Bd4 f6 22.g4 c5 23.Bf2 Ke7 24.Bh4 Kf7 25.g5 Nb8 26.gxf6 gxf6 27.Bg3 Nd7 28.Kg4 Nb6 29.b3 c4 30.b4 Nc8 31.f5 c6 32.Bc7 b6 33.Kf4 Ne7 34.Ke3 Ke8 35.Kd4 Kd7 36.Bg3 b5 37.Bh4 Ng8 38.Kc5 Kc7 39.Kd4 Kd6 40.h3 Kc7 41.e5 Kd7 42.Bxf6 Nxf6 43.exf6 Ke8 44.Ke5 Kf7 45.h4 c3 46.Kd6 Kxf6 47.Kxc6 Kxf5 48.Kxb5 Kf4 49.Kc4 h5 50.b5 Kg4 51.a4 Kxh4 52.a5 Kg4 53.b6 axb6 54.axb6 h4 55.b7 1-0 (55) Zelcic,R (2585)–Tu,H (2300) Elista 1998]

6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.g3 [9.b3 is normally implemented by white, but it leads to complications as shown in the following game 9...g6 10.f4 g5 11.fxg5 0-0-0 12.h4 h6 13.gxh6 Bxh6 14.Bxh6 Rxh6 15.Nd2 Nb4 16.Nf3 c5 17.0-0-0 Bb7 18.a3 Nc6 19.Rh3 Re6 20.h5 Nxe5 21.Nxe5 Rxe5 22.Qd2 Qg5 23.h6 Rh8 24.Bd3 Bxg2 25.Qxg5 Rxg5 26.Rh2 Bf3 27.Rf1 Rh5 28.Rxh5 Bxh5 29.Rh1 Rxh6 30.Be2 Bxe2 31.Rxh6 Bg4 32.Kd2 Kb7 1/2-1/2 (32) Navara,D (2708)–Jakovenko,D (2730) Saint Quentin 2014]

9...g6 10.b3 Bg7 11.Bb2 0-0 12.Bg2 Rae8 13.0-0 f6?? [13...Bxe5 equalizes the position 14.Qxe5 Qxe5 15.Bxe5 Rxe5 16.cxd5 Bxf1 17.Kxf1 cxd5 18.Nc3 c6 19.Na4 Rfe8 20.Bf3 Kf8 21.Nc5 Ke7 22.Nd3 Re6 23.Nc5 Re5 24.Nd3 Re6 25.Nc5 1/2-1/2 (25) Rublevsky,S (2657)–Bologan,V (2676) Tomsk 2001]

14.Qd2 [now there's no good move for the knight and black cannot save material; he will lose at least a pawn]

14...Nb6 15.Qa5! Bc8 [15...Bxc4 could have been tried, but it wouldn't change much for black 16.bxc4 Nxc4 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Qc3±]

16.Ba3 [16.Qxa7± fxe5 17.Qxc7]

16...d6 [loses immediately]

[16...Qxe5 would have kept the position more alive, but still very unpleasant 17.Qxe5 fxe5 18.Bxf8 Rxf8 19.Nc3±]

17.exd6 cxd6 18.Bxc6+- Bh3 19.Nc3 f5 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.Rae1 Be5 22.Qxd5+ Kg7 23.f4

1-0

(48) Frink,Ferenc (2123) – Raibl,Zoltan (1987)

2. WCCD (5.8), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bc4 [a fast draw between two compatriots and most likely friends. I don't blame them, I would have done exactly the same despite some organizers being upset about fast draws (unless there is a 30 move rule), in the end chess is a game that given a good play by both players would lead to a draw!]

½-½

(49) Sponheim,Marko (2024) – Kononov,Viktor (2096)

2. WCCD (5.9), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 c5 [a dynamic Pirc, the lines with a6 and b5 are dangerous here for black unless very familiar with the new theory. Here however, dc is possible]

5.Nf3 [5.dxc5 I wonder what would have black continued here as most positions that arise are better for white 5...Qa5]

a) 5...Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Nf6 (6...dxc5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Nf3) 7.cxd6 Qxd6 8.Qxd6 exd6;

b) 5...dxc5 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8;

6.cxd6 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3]

5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 Qb6 [6...Nc6 would have entered the Dragon Sicilian]

7.Nb3 [7.Be3!? Nc6 (7...Qxb2 8.Nd5 Kf8) 8.Nd5∞]

7...Nf6 8.Be2 0-0 9.Bf3 a5 10.a4? [after this it is hard to imagine where white will castle anymore...]

[10.Qe2 white has to finish his development 10...Nc6 11.Be3 Qa6 12.Qxa6 Rxa6 13.0-0-0=]

10...Be6 11.Ra3 [11.Qe2 and now if 11...Bxb3 12.cxb3 Qxb3 13.0-0≅ white has almost finished development and has compensation for the lost pawn, the pair of bishops and potentially some attacking ideas with f5 or e5]

11...h5 [△11...Na6]

12.Qe2 Rc8 13.Qe3 [13.Be3 I would have kept the queens on the board a little more as endgames are definitely in black's favor, especially because white's badly placed Ra3 and black's ability to play Ng4 13...Qa6 14.Qd2 Ng4 15.Bd4]

13...Qxe3+ 14.Bxe3 Ng4 15.Bd2 Nc6 16.h3 Nb4! 17.Bd1 Nh6 [17...Nf6 seems more natural to keep the knight central and possibly bring it to d7-b6-c4 18.0-0 Nd7]

18.0-0 f5 19.e5? [creating a weakness on e5. Instead]

[19.Re1 had to be played]

19...dxe5 20.fxe5 Nf7 21.Nd4 Bc4 22.Re1 Rd8 [22...Bxe5-+]

23.Nf3 e6 24.Bf4 Bf8 25.Ra1 Be7 26.h4 Kg7 27.g3 Nh6 28.b3 Nd5 29.Bxh6+ Kxh6 30.Be2 Bxe2 31.Nxe2 g5? [black gives away his bishop and white seems to get rid of all problems after this trade]

[why not 31...Rac8 to improve the position of the only piece that isn't doing much 32.c4 Ne3]

32.hxg5+ Bxg5 33.Nxg5 Kxg5 34.Nd4 Nc7?! [34...Re8 35.Nb5 Rec8]

35.Rad1 Kg6?! [35...Rac8 this rook has to be brought into play eventually]

36.Kf2 Re8 37.Ne2 Re7 38.Rh1 Rh8 39.Nf4+ Kg5 [after a series of inaccuracies, white could have gotten a winning opportunity]

40.Kf3 [40.Rd6+- would have been a game changer for white and he is now playing for a win keeping his pieces active and attacking black's weaknesses]

40...Nd5 41.Nxd5 exd5 42.Rxd5 [still keeps chances for win with this active rook and a pawn up]

42...Rhe8 43.c4?? [giving away the win]

[43.Re1 b6 now 44.c4 Re6 maybe not as clear as before but 45.c5 still keeps the game going in his favor]

43...Rc8? [43...Rxe5=]

44.Re1! Re6 45.Re3 [45.Rxa5 white must have feared something for not having captured this pawn]

45...Rh8 46.Rd4 Rhe8 47.Rd6 Rxe5 48.Rxe5 Rxe5 49.Rb6 Re1 50.Rxb7 Rc1 51.Rb8 [51.Rg7+! first to take the king away 51...Kf6 52.Ra7 now 52...Rc3+ 53.Kg2 Kg5=]

51...Rc3+ 52.Kg2 Rc2+ 53.Kh3 Rc3 54.Rg8+ Kf6 55.Ra8 Rxb3 56.Ra6+ [56.Kh4=]

56...Kg5 57.Rxa5 h4! 58.c5 Rxg3+ 59.Kh2 Rc3 60.Rb5 Kg4 61.a5 Rc2+ 62.Kg1 f4 63.Rb8? [63.Rb7 surprisingly there is a difference between the two moves that could have saved white half a point 63...Rxc5 64.Rg7+ Kf3 65.a6 Rc1+ 66.Kh2 Kf2 67.a7 Ra1 68.Kh3 f3 69.Kxh4 Kf1 70.Kg3 f2 71.Rf7=]

63...Rxc5 64.a6 Ra5 [now we cannot play check and a7, so have to lose a move with]

65.Ra8 Ra1+ 66.Kf2 Ra2+ 67.Kg1 h3 [67...Kf3 68.Ra7 (68.a7?? Ra1+ 69.Kh2 h3 zugswang) 68...Ra1+ 69.Kh2 Kf2 70.Rf7 f3 71.a7 Ke2 72.Kh3 f2 73.Re7+ Kf1 74.Kh2= saves the game (74.Kxh4?? this is Lasker's position which is lost for white, a very beautiful endgame! 74...Kg2 75.Rg7+ Kh2 76.Rf7 Ra4+ 77.Kh5 Kg2 78.Rg7+ Kh3 79.Rf7 Ra5+ 80.Kh6 Kg3 81.Rg7+ Kh4 82.Rf7 Ra6+ 83.Kh7 Rxa7-+)]

68.a7 Kf3 69.Rh8?? [69.Kh1=]

69...h2+? [69...Ra1+ 70.Kh2 Rxa7 71.Kxh3 Re7-+]

70.Kh1 Rxa7 71.Kxh2?? [last blunder after which white is lost; what an incredible turn around in this game! Very well fought by both players!]

[71.Rh3+!= Kf2 72.Rxh2+ Kf1 73.Rh3 Ke2 74.Rb3 f3 75.Rb2+ Ke3 76.Kh2=]

71...Kf2 72.Kh3 f3 73.Kh2 Re7 74.Rh6 Ke1 75.Ra6 f2 76.Ra1+ Ke2 77.Ra2+ Kf3 78.Ra3+ Re3 79.Ra4 f1Q

0-1

(50) Grigorchuk,Sergey (2278) – Stachanczyk,Jacek (2240)

2. WCCD (5.10), 22.10.2015

[WGM Sabina Foisor]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 g6 6.Nf3 d6 7.e4 Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.a4 Bg4 11.Bf4 [11.Nd2 is another option here for white 11...Bxe2 12.Qxe2 Nbd7 13.Nc4 Nb6=]

11...Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Qe7 13.Re1 Nbd7 14.h3 [this Bf4 and h3 plan has become fashionable nowadays]

[14.Qc2 the following game gives another possible idea white could have chosen as well 14...Rfe8 15.h3 h5 16.Rab1 Rac8 17.Be2 c4 18.Bf1 Ne5 19.Bd2 Nfd7 20.f4 Nd3 21.Bxd3 cxd3 22.Qxd3 Nc5 23.Qf3 Bxc3 24.Bxc3 Nxe4 25.f5 Qh4 26.fxg6 fxg6 27.Rf1 Rf8 28.Qe3 Nxc3 29.bxc3 Rxf1+ 30.Rxf1 Kg7 31.Qe6 Rc7 32.Qxd6 Qe7 33.Qf4 Qc5+ 34.Kh1 Kh7 35.d6 Rd7 36.Qf8 Qc4 37.Re1 Rf7 38.Qe7 Kh6 39.Qe3+ Kh7 40.Qe7 Kh6 41.Qe5 Qxa4 42.Qh8+ Rh7 43.Qf6 Rd7 44.Re6 Rg7 45.Re7 Rg8 46.d7 1-0 (46) Inarkiev,E (2667)–Panarin,M (2532) Dagomys 2010]

14...Rab8 15.Be2 Ne8 16.Qd2 Nc7 17.Bf1 b5 [black doesn't seem ready for this yet]

[♞17...Rfe8]

18.axb5 axb5 19.Bg5 Bf6 20.Bxf6 Nxf6 21.Ra7 [21.e5! a very typical idea for Benoni 21...dxe5 22.d6 Qd8 23.Rxe5 b4 24.Ne4 Nxe4 25.Rxe4 Rb6 26.d7±]

21...Qd8 22.b4 [22.Qg5 looking to a kingside attack]

22...Re8 23.bxc5 dxc5?? [23...b4 intermediate had to be played 1st 24.Na4 Nxe4]

24.Qf4 [24.d6 wins on the spot 24...Ne6 (24...b4 25.Rxc7 bxc3 26.Qa2! this move is amazing 26...Nd7 27.e5 e6 is a threat, or f4 and black has no defensive ideas) 25.Bxb5+-]

24...b4 25.Rxc7 bxc3 26.Rxc5 Rb4 27.f3 Qb6 28.Qe3 c2 29.Rxc2 Qxe3+ 30.Rxe3 Nxd5 31.Rd3 Nf6± [it is not easy for white to convert this position, but white did a tremendous job slowly pushing the pawns and getting close to the win]

32.Rd6 Kg7 33.Rc7 Rb1 34.Rdc6 Rd8 35.Rc1 Rb2 36.R7c2 Rb7 37.Kh2 Rdd7 38.Be2 h5 39.h4 Re7 40.Rc5 Ra7 41.R1c2 Rab7 42.Bb5 Ra7 43.Kg3 Rab7 44.Kf4 Ra7 45.g3 Rab7 46.R2c3 Ra7 47.Rc8 Rab7 48.R3c5 Ra7 49.Bc4 Ne8 50.Bd5 Nc7 51.Bc4 Ne6+ 52.Bxe6 Rxe6 53.R8c7 Rf6+ 54.Ke3 Ra3+ 55.Rc3 Ra5 56.Rd7 Ra1 57.f4 Rfa6 58.e5 Ra7 59.e6 Kf6?? [which loses the game]

[59...Re1+ 60.Kd2 Rea1 61.Rcc7 Rxc7 62.Rxc7 Kf6 63.exf7 Kg7=]

60.f5? [this was the moment to take the chance afterwards it is a draw]

[60.exf7! Ra8 61.g4+- (61.f8Q+ Rxf8 62.Rc6+ Kf5 63.Rd5+ Kg4 64.Rxg6+ Kh3 65.Re5 Ra3+ 66.Kf2 Rb8 67.Re3 Rb2+ 68.Kf3)]

60...fxe6 61.Rxa7 Rxa7 62.fxg6 Ra4 63.Rc5 Kxg6 64.Rg5+ Kh6 65.Re5 Ra6 66.Kd4 Ra4+ 67.Kc5 Ra3 68.Rxe6+ Kh7 69.Re5

1/2-1/2