

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin CT-1(785) 1st January 2003

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ear friends, the *Chess Today* Team wishes you a Happy and Prosperous New Year – may all your dreams come true in 2003! Enjoy good health, enjoy life and, of course, play good chess!

The New Year Day is always special – people reflect on what happened in the past year and try to look into the future. This day has some magic and I would like to get some of that magic into this issue.

We will leave aside tournament news for a day or two and look at more global events. Let us start with a look back at the most important events of 2002!

January 2002.

Two rising Indian chess stars – Sasikiran (2569) and Harikrishna (2502) tied for 1st at Hastings, together with GM Barsov (2525, Uzbekistan) – on 6½ out of 9.

Viorel Bologan (2668) won a tournament in Pamplona with 7 out of 9, 1½ points clear of Radjabov (another rising star), Almasi and Andersson.

Nigel Short (2663) won his match against Hannes Stefansson (2604) in Reykjavik – 4½:1½!

Larry Christiansen and Nick De Firmian tied for first at the US Championship in Seattle. Christiansen won the tie-break match.

Evgeny Bareev won Corus tournament in Wijk aan Zee with 9 out of 13. Alexander Grischuk was second. Adams and Morozevich tied for third place.

Ukrainian Ruslan Ponomariov became the new FIDE World Champion after defeating his compatriot Vasily Ivanchuk in Moscow – 4½:2½.

Einstein Group plc took over the rights (contracts or arrangements) previously held by the troubled Brain Games Network for the Brains in Bahrain (Man v Machine), Dortmund qualifier and 2003 Chess Championship match against Vladimir Kramnik.

February 2002.

Five GMs - Gregory Kaidanov (USA), Alexander Grischuk (Russia), Aleksej Aleksandrov (Byelorussia), Alexander Shabalov (USA) and Vadim Milov (Switzerland) tied for first at superstrong Aeroflot Open in Moscow (with 6½ out of 9). Kaidanov was first on tiebreak.

GM Eduardas Rozentalis (2598, Lithuania) won the huge open (678 players!) in Capelle la Grande with 7½ out of 9.

Well-known chess author GM Edmar Mednis died (1937–2002).

Loek van Wely drew his match vs. *Rebel* – 2:2, all games were decisive and White won every game!

March 2002.

Veselin Topalov and Boris Gelfand tied for first at NAO Masters (cat. 18) in Cannes. The winners scored 6 out of 9. Elo-favourite Alexander Morozevich had probably the worst result in his career, finishing clear last.

Garry Kasparov won Linares (cat. 20) – with 8 out of 12. Ruslan Ponomariov competed with his most of the distance and finished clear second on 6½ points, proving that his result results were justified. Kasparov won their mini-match 1½:½.

GM Yasser Seirawan proposed a plan on unification of the chess world. The plan got support from Bessel Kok.

GMs Jaan Ehlvest and Oleg Korneev, won the strong Reykjavik Open with 7 points out of 9.

GM Alexander Morozevich won the Amber tournament in Monaco (blindfold and rapid chess) with combined score of 15 points out of 22, ahead of Shirov (14½) and Leko (13½). Morozevich was best in blindfold chess, while Gelfand was best in rapid tournament.

GM Sarunas Sulskis (Lithuania) won the strong Goodricke International Open in Calcutta.

April 2002.

Peter Leko beat Alexander Grischuk in the final of FIDE Grand Prix in Dubai. Alexei Shirov was third. WGM Zhu Chen knocked out Ruslan Ponomariov in the first round of the event.

GM Alexander Onischuk, who settled in USA, won a strong closed tournament in Siberia.

May 2002.

Vishy Anand won a Rapid Chess tournament in Prague, organised by Bessel Kok. In the final he beat Anatoly Karpov. Kasparov lost to Ivanchuk earlier in the tournament.

Prague Agreement was signed by Ilyumzhinov, Kramnik and Kasparov. There were immediate complaints from some top GMs, who claimed that the agreement left them outside of World Championship for 2 years.

Young Cuban GM Lazaro Bruzon won Capablanca Memorial in Havana.

Russian GM Vadim Zvjaginsev (2645) had the best result of his career so far, winning category 16 tournament in Essen (Germany) with 7½ points out of 9 – 2905 performance! Peter Leko was second with also a great result – 7 points.

GM Sergei Movsesian (Czech Republic, 2624) won a category 16 tournament in Sarajevo, ahead of Ivan Sokolov, Shirov, Dreev, etc.

June 2002.

Garry Kasparov won the FIDE Grand Prix tournament in Moscow. In the final he defeated Alexander Khalifman, while in the semi-final he beat Teimour Radjabov. However, both matches were not easy for Kasparov.

Nigel Short won a strong closed tournament in Malmo

Vladimir Kramnik won a match in advanced chess in Leon, Spain, against Vishy Anand – 3½:2½. Only one game was decisive.

Polish GM Bartlomiej Macieja won the European Championship in Batumi, Georgia.

July 2002.

Peter Leko won the Dortmund Qualifier. He beat Alexey Shirov (2½:½). in the semi-final and in the final defeated Veselin Topalov (2½:1½), thus gaining the right to challenge Vladimir Kramnik.

China-USA match took place in Shanghai. The hosts won 20½:19½.

GM Ilia Smirin (2676, Israel) won closed tournament in Biel (cat. 16).

GM Loek Van Wely won the Lost Boys Open in Amsterdam with 8½ points out of 9 – 2949 performance!

August 2002.

Etienne Bacrot won the French Championship, defeating Joel Lautier in the final match.

September 2002.

GM Alexander Lastin (2625) won the

Russian Championship in Krasnodar.

The New Match of the Century took place in Moscow on 8–11 September. It was a 10 round Scheveningen rapid play (25 minutes + 10 seconds per move) tournament between 10 players from Russia and 10 from the Rest of the World. To the surprise of many, ROW won 52–48! GM Yasser Seirawan was captain of the winning team.

Shirov was the top scorer – 7 out of 10!. 3Ks – Kasparov, Kramnik and Karpov had a negative result.

Humpy Koneru became the youngest girl to become a GM, beating the previous record of Judith Polgar.

BOSNA Sarajevo won the European Team Cup, ahead of "Norilsky Nikel" (Norilsk), Polonia Plus GSM (Warsaw) and NAO.

GM Eduard Gufeld (1936–2002) died in USA from a heart attack.

October 2002

Etienne Bacrot beat Boris Gelfand in a match in France – 3½:2½. Only the last game was decisive.

Anand and Xu Yuhua defended their World Cup titles won in Shenyang China in 2000 as they won again in the FIDE World Cup in Hyderabad, India. In the final Anand beat Rustam Kasimdzhanov 1½:½.

Vladimir Kramnik drew against DEEP FRITZ in Bahrain – 4:4. He had an early lead (3:1), but then lost two games.

Young Hungarian GM Peter Acs (2591) won category 17 closed tournament in Netherlands.

November 2002.

Boris Gelfand won rapid tournament in Cap d'Agde, defeating Anatoly Karpov in the final (2:0). Russia won gold in men's Olympiad in Bled (Slovenia), ahead of Hungary and Armenia.

In the women's event China won again, though Georgia led for most of the tournament. But that team collapsed on the finish. Russia took silver and Poland – bronze.

GMs Viktor Korchnoi and Yona Kosashvili won in Curação Open.

GM Thomas Luther (2538) won German Championship.

December 2002.

GM Igor Khenkin (2603, Germany) won strong open in Dominican Republic with 7½ points out of 9, ahead of peter Svidler, Sergei Volkov, Daniel Fridman and Hikaru Nakamura (7 points).

GM Ilya Smirin won Israeli Championship.

Russian GM Filippov won in the Torre Memorial in Mexico.

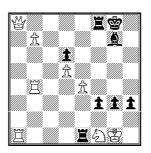
Anatoly Karpov defeated his old rival Garry Kasparov in rapid chess match in New York – 2½:1½.

GMs Kasimdzhanov and Bologan share first place at Pamplona.

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As I said, the New Year Day is somewhat magic and so today I want to show you some truly beautiful and simply bizarre and weird positions – enjoy our collection!

Kudriashov - I. Ivanov USSR, 1979



White to play

The last moves were 1.a8₩ h3!!.

Here White resigned despite being a queen up and able to get another one! As you can see here, his decision was quite reasonable:

2.b8曾 f2+ 3.當h1 g2+ 4.當h2 皇e5+ 5.當xh3 gxf1皆+ 6.當g4 皆g2+ 7.當h5 皆h3+ 8.當g6 莒g1+ 9.莒xg1 fxg1皆#.

2.□xe1 f2+ 3.�h1 fxe1�-+;

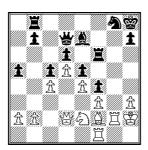
(from the book ⇔The Most Amazing Chess Moves of All Time's by GM Emms)

In the above position the White king did not survive the attack of Black's passed pawns. In our next few examples the king caught cold, walking too much on the board. Let us start with a classical example:

Averbakh-Kotov

Zurich 1953

1.d4 包f6 2.c4 d6 3.包f3 包bd7 4.包c3 e5 5.e4 Qe7 6.Qe2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.曾c2 莒e8 9.莒d1 Qf8 10.莒b1 a5 11.d5 包c5 12.Qe3 曾c7 13.h3 Qd7 14.罝bc1 g6 15.包d2 莒ab8 16.包b3 包xb3 17.皆xb3 c5 18.皆h2 皆h8 19.曾c2 包g8 20.Qg4 包h6 21.Qxd7 皆xd7 22.曾d2 包g8 23.g4 f5 24.f3 Qe7 25.莒g1 莒f8 26.莒cf1 莒f7 27.gxf5 gxf5 28.莒g2 f4 29.Qf2 莒f6 30.包e2 (D)



White has better bishop, etc. but the presence of the pawn on h3 allows Black to start beautiful attack:



33... 包d7 34. 直g5 直f8+ 35. 曾g4 包f6+ 36. 曾f5 包g8+ 37. 曾g4 包f6+ 38. 曾f5 包xd5+ 39. 曾g4 包f6+ 40. 曾f5 包g8+ 41. 曾g4 包f6+ 42. 曾f5 包g8+ 43. 曾g4 鱼xg5 44. 曾xg5 亘f7 45. 鱼h4 亘g6+ 46. 曾h5 亘fg7 47. 鱼g5 亘xg5+ 48. 曾h4 包f6 49. 包g3 亘xg3 50. 曾xd6 亘3g6 51. 曾b8+ 亘g8 0-1

Another classical example of a queen sacrifice:

Polugaevsky-Nezhmetdinov [A53] Sochi, 1958

1.d4 句f6 2.c4 d6 3.句c3 e5 4.e4 exd4 5.營xd4 句c6 6.營d2 g6 7.b3 負g7 8.負b2 0-0 9.負d3 句g4 10.句ge2 營h4 11.句g3 句ge5 12.0-0 f5 13.f3 負h6 14.營d1 f4 15.句ge2 g5 16.句d5 g4 17.g3 fxg3 18.hxg3 營h3 19.f4 具e6 20.具c2 買f7 21.營f2 營h2+ 22.營e3 具xd5 23.cxd5 句b4 24.買h1 (D)



24...\mode xf4!!

Black starts crushing attack. What makes it beautiful is that Black develops the attack with quiet moves,

being a queen down.

25. 其xh2 其f3+ 26. 當d4 真g7! (D)



27.a4

White could not save the game, as the following variations show. They are based on the analysis of Nezhmetdinov himself, which you can find in the book *Nezhmetdinov's Best Games of Chess* (available at the <u>GM Square online shop</u>).

27.②c3 包ed3+ 28.e5 **Q**xe5+ 29.**②**c4 **Q**xb2+ 30.**③**xb4 **Q**xc3+ 31.**④**a3 **Q**xd1 32.**冯**xd1 **Z**xg3-+

27.**日f2** c5+ (or 27...**日**xf2 28.**曾**e3 **日**f3+29.**當**d2 **L**h6+ 30.**日**f4 **L**xg3-+) 28.dxc6 **L**ed3+ 29.e5 **L**xe5+ 30.**L**c4 b5+31.**L**xb5 **L**b8+ 32.**L**a4 **L**xb2+ 33.**L**a3 **L**xd1-+.

27...c5+ 28.dxc6 bxc6 29. Qd3 ②exd3+ 30. 當c4 d5+ 31.exd5 cxd5+ 32. 當b5 買b8+ 33. 當a5 公c6+ (D)



0-1.

And finally, a modern example, played on the highest level – one of the best games of the past decade!

Kasparov-TopalovWijk aan Zee 1999 **1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♠ f6 3.♠ c3 g6 4.♠ e3**

量g7 5.營d2 c6 6.f3 b5 7.公ge2 ②bd7 8.負h6 具xh6 9.營xh6 負b7 10.a3 e5 11.0-0-0 營e7 12.營b1 a6 13.公c1 0-0-0 14.公b3 exd4 15.莒xd4 c5 16.莒d1 公b6 17.g3 營b8 18.公a5 具a8 19.負h3 d5 20.營f4+ 營a7 21.莒he1 d4 22.公d5 ②bxd5 23.exd5 營d6 (D)





Objectively stronger was 28.\mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}a7!, for example, with the following nice line possible: 28...\mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}xd5 \ 29.\mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}xa6+ \mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}xa6 \ 30.\mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}b2 \mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}c3+ \ 31.\mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}xc3 \ \mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}d5 \ 32.\mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}b2 \ \mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}e6 \ 33.\mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}xe6 \ fxe6 \ 34.\mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}b3+ \mathbb{\mathbb{Z}}xb3 \ 35.cxb3#.

28... 曾xd5 29. 萬a7 負b7 30. 萬xb7 曾c4 [30... 萬he8!] 31. 曾xf6 曾xa3 32. 曾xa6+ 曾xb4 33.c3+ 曾xc3 34. 曾a1+ 曾d2 35. 曾b2+ 曾d1 36. 負f1 (D)



Is not chess beautiful?! Just look at what a journey the black king had to take!

41.營a4+ 營e1 42.f4 f5 43.營c1 莒d2 44.營a7 1-0.

While all people enjoy attacks on the king, I also find pleasure in unusual positions. Like this one:

Smyslov-Pachman

Moscow Ol 1956 Queen's Gambit Declined

1.c4 公f6 2.公c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.鱼g5 c6 6.e3 h6 7.鱼h4 鱼f5 8.營f3 營b6 9.營xf5 營xb2 10.營c8+ 營e7 11.公xd5+ cxd5 12.營c1 營b4+ 13.營e2 營b5+ 14.營f3 營d7 15.鱼xf6+ 營xf6 (D)



What a weird position, with kings on f3 and f6, instead of knights! This is some kind of 'Improved Petroff'!:-)
White is better because he has

White is better because he has healthier pawn structure – the d5– and b7– pawns are somewhat weak.

16.g3 皆f5+ 17.皆g2 夏d6 18.皆d1 g6 19.夏d3 皆e6 20.莒b1 公c6 21.莒xb7 莒ab8 22.莒xb8 莒xb8 23.公e2 皆g7 24.皆a4 公e7 25.莒b1 莒xb1 26.夏xb1 夏b8 27.夏c2 h5 28.皆b5 夏c7 29.h4 a6 30.皆b7 1-0

Pawns chains can take various configurations and some are quite spectacular. Look at this game:

Epishin-Baburin

Vienna Open 1998

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 2c6 4.2e3 2f6 5.2c3 e5 6.d5 2a5 7.2f3 2d6 8.\(\psi a4+\) 2d7 9.\(\psi xa5\) a6 10.\(\pri c5\) b6 11.\(\pri xd6\) bxa5 12.\(\pri a3\) 2b5 13.b3 2xe4 14.\(\pri xe4\) cxb3 15.0-0-0 bxa2 (D)



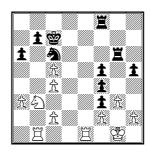
Black's d-pawn made a great career – it took three enemy pawns! Black has tripled pawns – formation, often called the Irish Pawn Centre! As here these pawns are hardly central, I call it the Irish Pawn Chain.

16.曾b2 f6 17.曾xa2 曾f7 18.闰d2 曾d7 19.夏xb5 axb5 20.豆c1 b4 21.夏b2 莒hd8 22.豆c6 曾g8 23.②c5 曾g4 24.刭e6 曾xg2 25.刭xd8 莒xd8 26.刭e1 曾e4 27.罝c1 a4 28.f3 曾e3 29.罝cd1 曾b3+ 30.曾a1 a3 31.ቧc1 曾c3+ 32.曾b1 莒a8 0-1

Want to learn more about the Irish Pawn Chain? Then the following game is for you!

Smyslov-Botvinnik,

Moscow, m (19), 1954



Both sides have tripled pawns – double Irish pawn centre!!

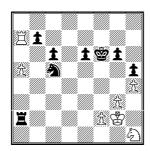
28. 公d2 fxg3 29. 公xf3 gxh2+30. 當xh2 買fg8 31. 當h3 買g4 32. 買e6 買xc4 33. 買f6 買g7 34. 買xf5 買xc2 35. 公g5 買e7 36. 當h4 公d4 37. 買f4

②b5 38.a4 公c3 39.臣c4 臣ee2 40.臣b6 公d5 41.臣xc2 臣xc2 42.公e6+ 當d7 43.臣d6+ 當e7 44.臣xd5 當xe6 45.臣d6+ ½-½

Pieces sometimes find most bizarre places to be in. Some positions are just hilarious (or sad, if you have such a piece!). One example, which I witnessed in Copenhagen in 1996:

Tseshkovsky-Nouro

Politiken Cup, Copenhagen 1996



Black to play

White is not only a pawn down, he also effectively has a piece less. 41... 点b2 42. 点a8 点a2 43. 含h3 分b3 44. 点f8+ 含g7 45. 点c8 公xa5 46. f3 b5 47. g4 含f6 48. 点b8 hxg4+49. fxg4 公c4 50. 公g3 点a3 51. h5 gxh5 52. gxh5 公e3 53. 点f8+含g7 54. 点f3 b4 55. h6+含g6 56. 含h4 分f5+0-1.

While the white knight was a very sad piece in the above game, sometimes putting your knights to an edge can be interesting. I was pretty impressed with this game:

Psakhis-Speelman

Hastings 1987/1988

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.分f3 c5 4.d5 e6 5.分c3 exd5 6.營xd5 營xd5 7.分xd5 及d6 8.分d2 分e7 9.分xc4 分xd5 10.分xd6+ 營e7 11.分xc8+ 莒xc8 12.g3 分c6 13.负g2 莒d8 14.负g5+ f6 15.负d2 莒d6 16.0-0 莒ad8 17.莒fc1 b6 18.貸f1 a5 19.负e1 g6 20.莒ab1 分db4 21.a3 分a2 (D)



Speelman himself gave this move '?!' in his book, for objectively it is not sound. But it is very creative and for that deserves '!!'. 22. 章c4 公d4 23.b3 公b5 24. 章b2 公ac3 25.a4 公d1 26. 章b1 公a3 27. 章cc1 公xb1

Again, this game is another good reason to visit <u>GM Square shop</u> in 2003! :-) There you can find excellent the book *'Jon Speelman's Best Games'*.

I once had ventured with my knight to a similar square too:

Baburin - J. Horvath

Budapest 1992

1.d4 勾f6 2.c4 g6 3.勾f3 Qg7 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 公xd5 6.Qg2 公b6 7.0-0 公c6 8.e3 0-0 9.公c3 莒e8 10.公e1 e5 11.d5 公a5 12.e4 c6 13.公c2 cxd5 14.exd5 f5 15.營e2 Qd7 16.ቯd1 公ac4 17.b3 公d6 18.Qd2 莒c8 19.딜ac1 e4 20.公a3 Qe5 21.Qf1 營f6 22.公ab5 公xb5 23.公xb5 a6 24.딜xc8 莒xc8 25.公a7 (D)



Not that I was happy to make that move... But everything else was even worse! Strangely, I survived in the game.

25... 🖺 e8 26. 🗓 e3 f4 27. 🗓 c5 🗓 f5

bxc6 29. Axb6 cxd5 30.骨xa6 e3 31.骨b5 罩b8 32.骨xd5+ **Qe6** 33.\(\text{\text{\text{d}}}\) c6 fxg3 34.\(\text{\te}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{ 36. Axf2 Axh2+ 35.\degree e4 gxf2+ 37.曾xh2 ₩xf2+ 38. Ag2 **Af7** 39. 耳f1 ₩xa2 **Pxf7** 41. \$\displays b7 + \$\displays f6 42. \$\display xc8 \$\displays xb3 \langle -\langle \langle\$

Finally, let us look at some strange bishops:

Porreca-Bronstein

Belgrade 1954

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.බc3 dxe4 4.බxe4 ቧf5 5.බg3 ቧg6 6.h4 h6 7.බh3 ቧh7 8.ቧc4 ፭f6 9.፭f4 ፭bd7 10.0-0 쌀c7 11.ቯe1 ቧg8!? (D)



Again, very creative thinking! Black wants to play ...e6, but he does not want to allow any sacrifices on that square. So, his move is pretty logical! 12. 2d3 e6 13. 2f4 2d6 14. 2xd6 **營xd6** 15.公f5 營f8 16.營f3 0-0-0 17.4)g3 Ah7 18.a4 Axd3 19.Axd3 曾d6 20.a5 a6 21. Za3 g5 22.h5 曾f4 23.曾e2 曾c7 24.c3 閏he8 25.**a** e4 ②xe4 26.₩xe4 ₩xe4 27.Дxe4 ②f6 28. 真f3 g4 29. 真d1 買g8 30. 買e5 買d5 31.\二a4 買g5 32. Ab3 33.dxe5 幻d7 34. Qd1 幻xe5 35. 其e4 **\(\mathbb{Z}\xh\)** 36.\(\mathbb{Q}\xg\)4 \(\mathbb{Q}\xg\)4 37.\(\mathbb{Z}\xg\)4 38.**∐g**7 買**f**5 買**xa**5 39.g4 **♯f**6 40.\dog2 \dd6 41.\dog3 e5 42.\dog8 當d5 0-1

If you come across unusual or bizarre positions, please send them in PGN or Chess Base format to ababurin@iol.ie. We will publish them in Chess Today!

Stay tuned - *Chess Today* will get even better in 2003!

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