



## C O L U M N I S T S

*From the  
Archives*

Hosted by  
Mark Donlan



*Chess Mazes*  
by Bruce Alberston

## From the Archives...

Since it came online over eight years ago, **ChessCafe.com** has presented literally thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. The good news is that almost all of this high quality material remains available in the [Archives](#). The bad news is that this great collection of chess literature is now so large and extensive – and growing each week – that it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate it effectively. We decided that the occasional selection from the archives posted publicly online might be a welcomed addition to the regular fare.

Watch for an item to be posted online periodically throughout each month. We will update the **ChessCafe** home page whenever there has been a “new” item posted here. We hope you enjoy *From the Archives*...

## Dutch Treat by Hans Ree

## Vienna

In 1910 the famous “Wiener Schach-Klub” found new quarters, which were described in the no less famous *Wiener Schachzeitung* by editor Georg Marco: “On May 11 the Wiener Schach-Klub left its previous premises (on the corner of Wallnerstrasse and Kohlmarkt) and took possession of a new home in Palace Herberstein. The rooms are as spacious as they are distinguished, and with a degree of comfort befitting a society so prominent, both in character and composition, in our imperial capital. There are the large conversation and reading rooms, dining rooms for smokers and non-smokers, the ladies sitting room, the billiard room, likewise chess rooms (with sliding walls!), not to mention the sixteen huge playing rooms in addition to cloakrooms, kitchens and antechambers. All this takes up two whole stories, the entresol and the first floor of this magnificent building. The furnishings are sumptuous, but of a tastefully discreet restraint and all is a pleasure to behold. The loftiness of the rooms alone is enough to impress.” Ah, that was a chess club that deserved the name!

In Cafe Central, that advertized itself as the cultural and intellectual centre of Vienna and the meeting place of the world’s chess champions, gathered the socially less prominent chessplayers and the artists. One of the chessplayers was the revolutionary Lev Trotzky, who played some games there almost daily

between 1907 and 1914. Michael Ehn, the biographer of Ernst Grünfeld, relates the anecdote that when in 1917 news arrived of the Russian revolution, the Austrian minister of foreign affairs could not believe it and remarked: “Now come on, who is going to make a revolution there? Maybe Mr. Trotsky from Cafe Central?”

It was about time to reanimate the great Viennese chess tradition. The Bank Austria Millennium Chess Festival celebrates the fact that a thousand years ago the name Ostaricchi was mentioned for the first time in an official document. This can hardly be called the Birth of a Nation, but if the birth of a word is enough reason to organize a chess festival, we can only applaud. And a magnificent festival it is. Eight Open tournaments of which the strongest one has the startling average Elo rating of more than 2500. The main event, a closed tournament of ten players, is one of the strongest of this year.

As if the times of the Austrian-Hungarian double-monarchy had returned, the organisers invited three players from Budapest for the festive opening simul, Almasi, Leko and the veteran Lilienthal. One can suppose that they had asked Lilienthal to bring his good friend and fellow-townsmen Robert Fischer along with him to improve the festive mood, but such requests are notoriously difficult to fulfill.

Anatoly Karpov is really a Man of Steel. Hardly had he finished his exhausting match for the world championship, when he went to Biel in Switzerland to win (first equal with the Israeli Milov) a strong tournament. Less than a week passed before we saw him in Vienna for an even stronger tournament with young lions like Kramnik, Topalov, Shirov, Gelfand and Judit Polgar, and his old rival Victor Korchnoi.

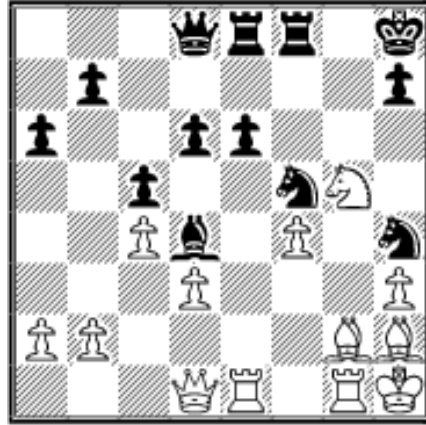
TV chess host Helmut Pfleger asked Karpov what he would desire if a fairy granted him three wishes. Karpov answered that he would wish for nothing, because he wanted to succeed by his own accomplishments. The good fairy, moved by this proud answer, saw to it that Vladimir Kramnik arrived for his second round game against Karpov fifty minutes late. Kramnik lost that game. He had also lost in the first round against Shirov, a rare setback for the man who is seen by many as the crown prince of chess. Later he recovered. When Kramnik had successfully repulsed a wild attack of Korchnoi, Korchnoi angrily swept the pieces off the board, something which I had seen him doing against Karpov some years ago. A few moments later Kramnik and Korchnoi were peacefully analysing their game.

For most of the tournament Karpov had been trailing the leaders by half a point, but in the final round he caught up by winning with black against Shirov. Karpov, Gelfand and Topalov shared first place with 5½ out of 9, Kramnik, Judit Polgar and Leko followed with 5 points. Karpov's 140th tournament victory, a record that will never be equaled.

### ***Korchnoi-Topalov***

Vienna Millenium, 1996 [B50]

1. Ng1-f3 d7-d6 2. c2-c4 Bc8-g4 3. e2-e4 c7-c5 4. Nb1-c3 Bg4xf3 5. Qd1xf3 Nb8-c6 6. d2-d3 g7-g6 7. g2-g3 Bf8-g7 8. Bf1-g2 e7-e6 9. 0-0 Ng8- e7 10. Bc1-e3 0-0 11. Qf3-e2 Ra8-b8 12. Qe2-d2 Nc6-d4 13. Kg1-h1 Ne7-c6 14. f2-f4 f7-f5 15. Ra1-e1 Qd8-a5 16. Be3-g1 Kg8-h8 17. h2-h3 a7-a6 18. g3-g4 Rb8-e8 19. Bg1-h2 Qa5-d8 20. e4xf5 g6xf5 21. g4xf5 Nd4xf5 22. Nc3-e4 Nc6-d4 23. Qd2-d1 Nf5-h4 24. Rf1-g1 Nd4-f5 25. Ne4-g5 Bg7-d4



It is difficult to say if Black's last move was incautious (as reported on the Internet site [www.tasc.nl](http://www.tasc.nl) by the man on the spot Eric van der Schilden) or a farsighted provocation. Probably the first. Topalov is a player who sees a lot, but Korchnoi's next sacrifices were difficult to foresee. Korchnoi will remain a rook down with no apparent follow-up to his attack.

**26. Ng5xh7 Kh8xh7**

He will need his bishop for the defence, therefore 26...Bxg1 27. Rxxg1 is bad for Black.

**27. Qd1-h5+ Kh7-g8 28. Bg2-e4+ Bd4-g7**

After 28...Ng7 29. Bh7+ Kh8 30. Qh6 Rf7 31. Bg6+ Kg8 32. Qh7+ Kf8 33. Qh8+ White wins a piece back and keeps a decisive attack.

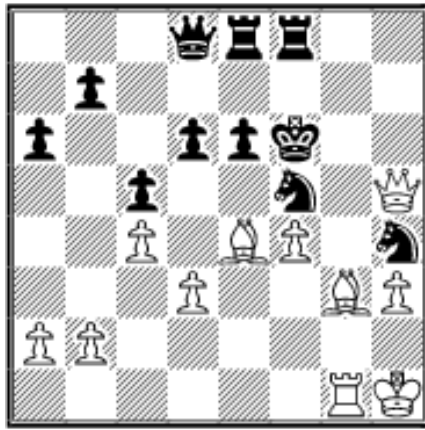
**29. Rg1xg7+ Kg8xg7**

Or 29...Nxg7 30. Bh7+, more or less like in the previous variation.

**30. Re1-g1+ Kg7-f6**

Black has steered clear of some dangerous rocks and now he is a rook up while white's attack seems to have petered out.

**31. Bh2-g3!**



But it has not. Both 31...Nxb3+ 32. Rxb3 and 31...Rh8 32. Bxh4+ are unacceptable for Black.

**31...Nh4-g6 32 Bg3-e1**

This seems to threaten 33. Bc3+, but a more relevant line is 32...Rg8 33. Bxf5 exf5 34. Rxb6+ Rxb6 35. Bh4+.

**32...Kf6-e7 33. Rg1xb6 Ke7-d7 34. Qh5-g4 Kd7-c8**

Safety at last. Korchnoi's fantastic action has brought him two bishops and pawn against rook and knight. Material equivalence more or less, though I think that Black has slightly the better chances because of the weakness of White's king's wing. Unfortunately the game comes to a premature end because Korchnoi now blunders.

**35. Rg6xe6 Re8xe6 36. Be4xf5 Rf8xf5 37. Qg4xf5 Qd8-d7**

White resigned; he loses a piece or his queen.

Topalov has been winning one tournament after another this year, but even he seems to take a nap sometimes. Look how roughly he was handled by young Peter Leko.

### *Topalov-Leko*

Vienna Millennium, 1996 [B13]

**1. e2-e4 c7-c6 2. d2-d4 d7-d5 3. e4xd5 c6xd5 4. c2-c4 Ng8-f6 5. Nb1-c3 Nb8-c6 6. Bc1-g5 Bc8-e6 7. a2-a3 Qd8-d7 8. Bg5xf6 g7xf6 9. g2-g3 0-0-0 10. Bf1-g2 Be6-g4 11. f2-f3 Bg4-e6 12. c4-c5 Be6-f5 13. b2-b4 e7-e5 14. Ng1-e2 Qd7-e6 15. d4xe5**



**15...d5-d4 16. Nc3-e4 d4-d3 17. Ne2-f4 d3-d2+ 18. Ke1-f2 Qe6-c4 19. Bg2-h3 Bf5xh3 20. Nf4xh3 Qc4-d4+ 21. Kf2-g2 Nc6xe5 22. Qd1-b3 Ne5-c4 23. Rh1-d1 f6-f5 24. Ne4-g5 Rd8-d7 25. f3-f4 Bf8-g7 26. Nh3-f2 Qd4-d5+ 27. Ng5-f3 Bg7xa1 28. Rd1xa1 Rh8-e8 White resigned.**



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