



COLUMNISTS

*From the
Archives*

Hosted by
Mark Donlan



Chess Mazes
by Bruce Alberston

From the Archives...

Since it came online many 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.

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Dutch Treat by Hans Ree

Fortunate Anand

According to the report in Mark Crowther's Internet magazine *The Week in Chess*, Anand said he felt ecstatic after winning the PCA rapid chess tournament in Geneva. It had been some time since he had won one of these Grand Prix rapids; it had been some time since he had defeated Kasparov. “Now I can retire from chess,” Anand was quoted. One is reminded of Tartakower who apparently never showed such bliss as when he had won a lost game by a blunder of his opponent. Indeed, for every chessplayer it is just the normal state of affairs when he wins by his own merit, but winning completely undeservedly by plain luck reflects the benevolence of the gods. Anand had been lucky. In the final decisive blitz game he had been outplayed by Kasparov, who then, in a situation where almost every reasonable move would have been winning, made a blunder which cost him his queen.

I doubt if Anand really felt such strong emotions after winning the tournament. Games quickly played are quickly forgotten. For the players, one of the attractions of a rapid tournament is the shallowness of the emotions involved. When you lose a game in a traditional tournament, you lose at least a night's sleep. But then, at PCA events the players are contractually obliged to be economical with the truth. Kasparov was asked at a press conference if rapid chess could be a threat to traditional chess. Good question, now that the PCA

has completely dropped its infra-structure for the world championship but happily continues with the frivolous rapid events, which apparently are more attractive to its sponsors. No threat at all, said Kasparov. The real threat to long games, according to him, were the computers. One wonders why, but Kasparov never lets a chance pass by to emphasize the power and greatness of computers. Years ago, before he organized them, he fulminated against rapid chess events as the doom of real chess. His press conferences are not aimed at those with a memory span of more than one year. Such pedants would have raised an eyebrow when they heard at the same press conference that people like Karpov, Kamsky, Shirov and Salov are absent from these PCA events, not because their relations with Kasparov are not the best, but because they are not good enough in rapid chess. Pedants would remember that the only time when there were official FIDE rapid chess championships, it was Karpov who first became champion of Europe and then of the world.

I always feel somewhat guilty when I show rapid games. The chess lover expects a nutritious meal and what he gets is fast food. But I have to admit, I myself always feel curious to see these games. Don't take them too seriously. Think how they appear to the spectators on the spot. Pieces go by swiftly on big and bright computer screens. In the headphones commentators, like excited sports reporters, breathlessly stumble from one surprise to another. Quite attractive indeed.

The cheerful attacking play of Judit Polgar is tailor-made for such events. In Geneva she first eliminated Epishin and then Bareev. In the semi-finals she met Kasparov, who proved too much for her.

Polgar - Epishin, Game/25

1 e2-e4 c7-c6 2 d2-d4 d7-d5 3 Nb1-c3 d5xe4 4 Nc3xe4 Nb8-d7 5 Bf1-c4 Ng8-f6 6 Ne4-g5 e7-e6 7 Qd1-e2 Nd7-b6 8 Bc4-b3 h7-h6 9 Ng5-f3 c6-c5 10 Bc1-f4 Bf8-d6 11 Bf4-g3 Qd8-c7 12 d4xc5 Qc7xc5 13 0-0-0 Bd6xc3 14 h2xc3 Bc8-d7 15 Rh1-h4 Ra8-c8 16 Nf3-e5 Bd7-b5 17 Qe2-e1 0-0

Judit Polgar did not think much of black's last four moves and after the game she said that castling was the final and decisive mistake. Easily said, but it is difficult to indicate a good move for black at this stage. If castling is not satisfactory, he is in a bad state.

18 Ng1-f3 Nb6-d5 19 Kc1-b1 Bb5-c6 20 Qe1-d2 Rf8-e8 21 Rd1-h1 Qc5-f8 22 g3-g4

This plays itself. "One does not have such an easy game very often at this level," Judit happily said after the game. She had used only half of her time.

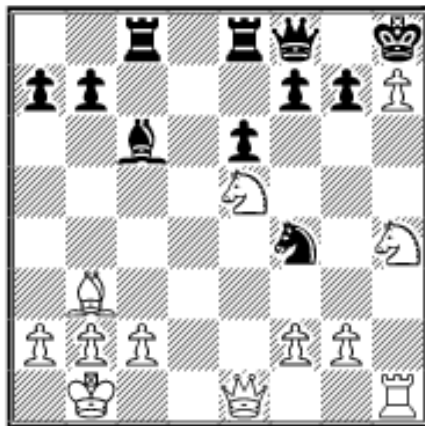
22...Nf6-e4 23 Qd2-e1 Ne4-d6 24 g4-g5 Nd6-f5 25 g5xh6 Nf5xh4 26 h6-h7+ Kg8-h8

After 26 Kxh7 27 Rxh4+ Kg8 28 Qh1 there will be mate.

27 Nf3xh4

Now a terrible check at g6 is threatened.

27...Nd5-f4



28 Qe1-b4

And this is the attractive culmination of white's attack. After 28...Qxb4 mate will follow by 29 Nhg6+ fxg6 30 Nf7.

28...g7-g5

His knight has to stay to protect g6, so black is forced to weaken the diagonal leading to his king.

29 Qb4-d4 Kh8-g7

Hoping for 30 Nd7+ e5.

30 Nh4-f5+ e6xf5 31 h7-h8Q+ Qf8xh8 32 Ne5xf7+ Black resigned.

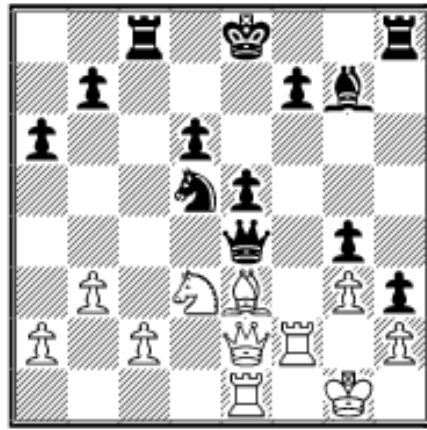
The final match was bitter for Kasparov. In the first game, having black, he strategically outplayed Anand. Work done, one thought, because it seemed unlikely that Kasparov would lose with white when a draw would be sufficient. But he did, mishandling an endgame which he could have drawn easily. So it was 1-1 and there had to be two blitz games (5 minutes each) to decide the winner. The first one was an exciting draw and then came the decisive gamelet.

Anand – Kasparov, Game/5

1 e2-e4 c7-c5 2 Ng1-f3 d7-d6 3 d2-d4 c5xd4 4 Nf3xd4 Ng8-f6 5 Nb1-c3 a7-a6 6 Bc1-e3 Nf6-g4 7 Be3-g5 h7-h6 8 Bg5-h4 g7-g5 9 Bh4-g3 Bf8-g7 10 Bf1-e2 h6-h5

Kasparov had already had this position twice in this tournament, against Topalov and against Anand.

11 Be2xg4 Bc8xg4 12 f2-f3 Bg4-d7 13 Bg3-f2 Nb8-c6 14 Qd1-d2 Nc6-e5 15 0-0 g5- g4 16 f3-f4 Ne5-c4 17 Qd2-e2 Ra8-c8 18 b2-b3 Nc4-a3 19 Nc3-d5 e7-e6 20 Nd5-b4 Qd8-a5 21 Qe2-e1 h5-h4 22 Bf2-e3 h4-h3 23 g2-g3 Na3-b5 24 Ra1-d1 Nb5-c3 25 Nb4-d3 Qa5-c7 26 Rd1-c1 Nc3xe4 27 f4-f5 e6-e5 28 f5-f6 Ne4xf6 29 Nd4-f5 Bd7xf5 30 Rf1xf5 Qc7-c6 31 Qe1-e2 Qc6-e4 32 Rf5-f2 Nf6-d5 33 Rc1-e1



Again Kasparov has outplayed Anand with black. He is two pawns up, has an iron grip on white's king's wing and finds himself in the comfortable position where practically every reasonable move, like for instance 33 0-0, wins the game. He strives for a winning endgame, which could have been reached with 33 Nxe3.

33...Qe4xe3?

But not this way.

34 Qe2xg4

Uh oh, horrible are the consequences of one moment's inattentiveness. Black's rook and queen are attacked. Gasping and grimacing Kasparov bravely went on to make the best of it.

34...0-0 35 Re1xe3 Nd5xe3 36 Qg4xh3 Ne3xc2 37 Qh3-d7 Nc2-d4 38 Qd7xb7 a6-a5 39 Kg1-g2 Rc8-c3 40 Nd3-b2 Nd4-c2 41 Nb2-c4 d6-d5 42 Nc4-d6 Nc4-e3+ 43 Kg2-h3 f7-f5

And after his downfall black has come a long way to almost recover. He is threatening 44 Rf6 and Rh6 mate, but it does not suffice.

44 Qb7-d7 f5-f4 45 Qd7-e6+ Kg8-h7 46 Nd6-f7 Rf8xf7 47 Qe6xf7 Rc3-c6

One last threat.

48 g3xf4 Rc6-f6 49 Qf7-c7 e5-e4 50 f4-f5 d5-d4 51 Qc7-e7 Rf6-h6+ 52 Kh3-g3 Ne3-d1 53 Rf2-f4 e4-e3 54 Rf4-g4 Black resigned.

All in all, an impressive blitz game.

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