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Loek van Wely Annotates

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There is no doubt that Holland traditionally holds a prominent place among the European organizers of top chess events. When we reminisce about the great days of old, Tilburg's heydays immediately spring to mind. However, Wijk aan Zee is the only Dutch tournament that can nowadays proudly claim the longest tradition of hosting the chess world's elite.

Speaking of jubilees, Amsterdam hosted the tenth edition of the chess festival; the organizers have shied away from no burden for ten years, traditionally carrying a series of tournaments in addition to the main event. Unfortunately, they can no longer resort to the financial resources from their main sponsor – The Lost Boys – and it seems that this year it was the last time.

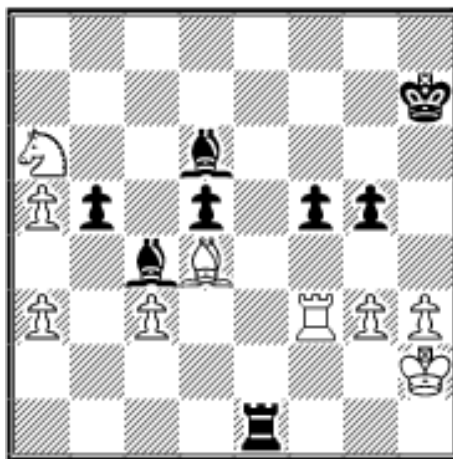
Among the players who will surely miss it, one name certainly stands out, Loek Van Wely, Holland's board one in the forthcoming Olympiad, played as if he knew there would be no more pushing wood under the auspices of the longtime sponsor. Armed with his usual preparation and optimism he was outplaying his opponents with a truly masterful hand. Despite securing first place before the last round, we saw that his game with Emil Sutovsky revealed the Dutchman's flying colors. White was nagging Van Wely's weak queenside pawns, but at a cost of the misplacement of his knight. Black eventually made several inaccuracies that could have cost him dearly had the Israeli grandmaster not allowed a tactical blow much in a spirit of his own superb combinative mastery. Van Wely did not need a second invitation – hungry for the kill he struck mercilessly, leaving his opponent's position in ruins from which he could no longer save himself. His final score was 8 ½ out of 9 – a fantastic achievement leaving very little doubt



about who was the number one on the scene.

SUTOVSKY 2658 — VAN WELY 2645 Amsterdam 2002

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 e6 4. 0-0 Nge7 5. Re1 a6 6. Bf1 d5
7. d3 [7. ed5 – 23/(342)] h6 8. Nbd2 g6 N [8... b6] 9. ed5 ed5
10. d4 cd4 11. Nb3 Bg7 12. Nfd4 0-0 13. Be3 Re8 [13... Ne5?
14. Bh6!; 13... Kh7!?] 14. Qd2 Kh7 [with the idea Ne5-c4] 15.
Nc6 Nc6 16. c3 Ne5 17. Bd4 Bf5 18. Qf4 [18. f4 Nc4 19. Bc4
dc4 20. Re8 Qe8 21. Bg7 cb3 22. Bd4 ba2=] Qg5 [18... Qc7
19. Qg3 with initiative] 19. Qg5 hg5 20. Na5 b5 21. Nb7 Nc4
22. b3 Nd2 23. f3 [23. Nd6 Re1 24. Re1 Nf1 25. Kf1 Be6 weak
point Nd6; 23. Re8 Re8 24. Nd6 Re7 25. Nf5 gf5 26. Bd3 Ne4
27. f3 Nc3=] Nf1 24. Kf1 g4 25. fg4 Bg4 26. h3 Bf5 27. Nd6
Re1 28. Re1 Be6 29. Nb7 Bf8 [29... a5 30. Nc5 Re8 and Black
is slightly better] 30. b4 [weak points a5 and c5] Bf5 31. Re5
Bd3? [31... Be4! a) 32. Nc5? Bd6 33. Ne4 Be5 34. Ng5 Kg8!!
(34... Kg7 35. Be5 f6 36. Ne6 Kf7 37. Nc7 and White is
winning; 34... Kh6 35. Nf7 Kg7 36. Ne5 and White is winning)
35. Be5 f6 36. Bf6 Rf8 and Black is superior; b) 32. g4 Kg8 33.
h4 (zugzwang) Rc8 34. h5=; 34. Ke2=] 32. Kf2 Bc4 33. a3
Rc8 34. Re3 g5 35. Rf3 Rc7 36. Nc5 a5 37. Na6 Re7 38. ba5
Re2 39. Kg1 Re1 40. Kh2 Bd6 41. g3 f5?!



42. Bc5?? [42. Nb4!? f4 43. gf4 gf4 44. a6 a) 44... Be2?
45. Kg2! Ra1 (45... Bf3 46. Kf3 Bb4 47. ab4 and White is winning) 46. Nc2; b) 44... Ra1? 45. Nc2 Ra2 46. a7 Rc2 47. Kg1 and White is winning; c) 44... Re8! c1) 45. Kg2 Kg6 46. a7 Kf5 47. Nc6 Be2 48. Rf2 Rg8 49. Kh1 Bd3 (49... f3 50. Bb6 and White is winning, with the idea 51. Bd8, 51. Nd4) 50. Be5 Be4 51. Kh2 Be5 52. Ne7 Ke6 53. Ng8 f3 54. Kg1 d4 with counterplay; 47... Ke4 with initiative; c2) 45. a7 Kg6 (45... Rg8 46. Nd3) 46. Nc6 (46. Nd3 Kf5) Kf5 47. Nb8 Rb8 48. ab8Q Bb8 with compensation; 42. Rf5! Bd3 43. Rf7 Kg8 44. Rg7 Kf8 45. Kg2! Be4 46. Kf2 Ra1 47. Rg5 Ra2 48. Ke3 Ba3 49. Bc5 and White is winning] d4!!
43. Kg2 [43. Bd6 Bd5 44. g4 Bf3 45. cd4 (45. gf5 d3) f4] Bd5?! [43... d3 44. Rd3 Bd3 45. Bd6 Re6 and Black is winning] 44. Kf2 Bf3 45. Ke1 Bg3 46. Kd2 dc3 47. Kc3 Be1

48. Kd4 Ba5 (and Black is winning) **49. Bb4 Bd8** [better is 49... Bb6] **50. Kc5 Be2** [better is 50... Bg2 51. Kb5? Bf1] **51. Nb8 Be7** **52. Kd4 Bf6** **53. Ke3 Bf1** **54. Nd7 Bb2** **55. Nf8 Kh6** **56. h4 gh4** **57. Bd6 Kg5** **58. Kf3 Bc4** **59. Be7 Kh5** **60. Nd7 Bc1** **61. Ne5 Bd5** **62. Kf2 h3 0-1** [*Van Wely*]



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