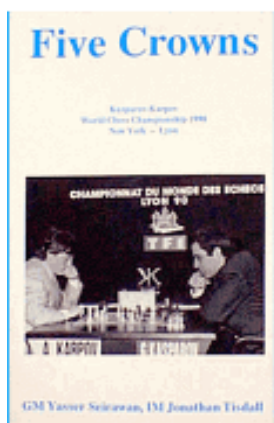


## Inside Chess

Yasser Seirawan



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## Yasser Annotates:

### Beliavsky - Karpov, Brussels 1988

*GM Alexander Beliavsky - GM Anatoly Karpov*

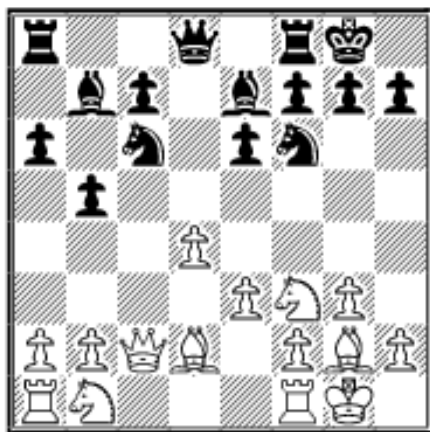
World Cup S.W.I.F.T. (5) 1988

Catalan [E05]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 O-O 6.O-O dxc4 7.Qc2 a6  
 8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bd2 c6?!**

Vaganian choose 10...Nbd7 as we've seen. I don't understand the text and how it fits in Black's plan of securing the break ...c7-c5.

**11.e3?**



A bad move that justifies Black's last. White had two distinctly better choices: 11.a3 and 11.Rd1. My preference is 11.a3, preventing ...Nb4 while preparing Bc3 and Nbd2. Also 11.a3 prepares a future b2-b4 if necessary. The threat to the d-pawn is illusory: 11.a3 Nxd4? 12.Nxd4 Bxg2 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Kxg2 Qd5+ 15.f3 yields White an advantage as his structure is superior while he's also going to pick up some tempi against

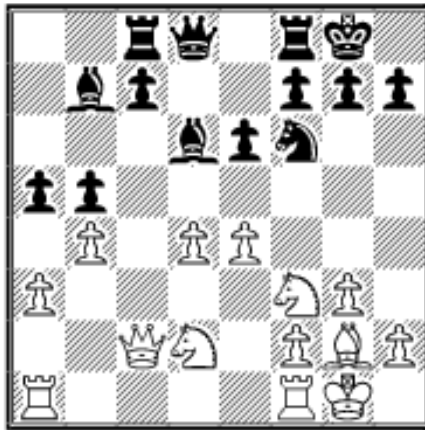
Black's queen. Because of this variation, it's easy to see why some players might prefer 11.Rd1. Whatever your choice it's important to note that 11.e3 is a waste.

**11...Nb4! 12.Bxb4 Bxb4 13.a3 Bd6 14.Nbd2 Rc8?!**

Misplacing the queen's rook. I prefer 14...Qe7! practically forcing 15.e4 e5 16.Rfe1 (16.dxe5 Bxe5 17.Rac1 c5=) c5 17.d5 c4 with a dynamic game in approximate balance. During these moves, if White throws in b4 then the benefits of leaving the rook on a8 are made immediately obvious by ...a5. When playing 14...Rc8, Karpov probably saw as far as move

twenty and felt the weakness of b4 to compensate for his loss of tempi.

### 15.b4 a5 16.e4



White could give the game a new twist by employing *the mongolian tactic*, coined by I believe RJF (right Paul or JD?). With 16.a4!? Black must choose whether or not he wants a b-pawn or an a-pawn, e.g. 16...Bxb4 17.axb5 c5 18.dxc6 e.p. or 16...axb4 17.axb5 c5 18.dxc6 the resulting positions are quite complex. If we trust Capablanca's logic of pawn islands, the positions should favor White.

Another twist is the surprising grab 16.bxa5!? c5 17.Qb2 Qxa5 18.a4 with interesting complications that should probably peter out to a draw.

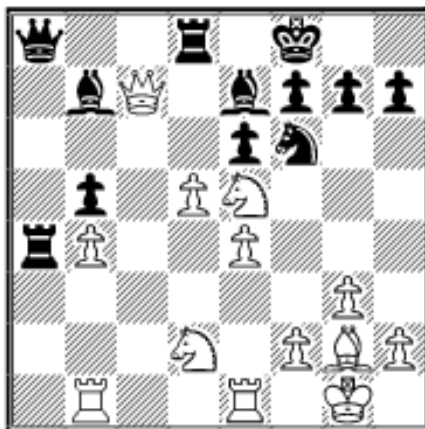
### 16...Be7 17.Rab1 axb4 18.axb4 Ra8 19.Rfe1!

White has succeeded in preventing ...c5. Because of his central superiority he holds the advantage. For Black's part he must scurry and force action or White will strangle him with the redeployment maneuver Ne5-d3-c5 covering the weak b-pawn.

### 19...Ra4 20.Qc3 Qa8 21.Ne5 Rd8!

In practical terms forced. Black cannot afford to sit idle and allow White to play Nd3, f2-f3, Nb3 etc. The c-pawn is jettisoned to force the position's resolution. Now White is prevented from 21.Nd3? Ra3 winning a pawn.

### 22.Qxc7 Kf8 23.d5



### 23...Qb8?

Handing back the initiative; White's position looks convincing enough but, in fact, he has no advantage at all. Anatoly complained to me at lunch the following day that 23...Ra7 is dead equality, 24.Qb6 (26.dxe6? Rxd2! -+) exd5 25.exd5 Bxd5! (25...Nxd5 26.Qxb5) 26.Bxd5 Rxd5. I agreed. After 23...Qb8, Black regains material equality, but finds that White's passed

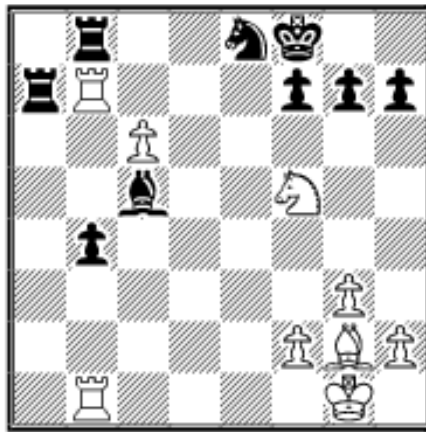
d-pawn is superior to his own passed b-pawn.

**24.Qxb8 Rxb8 25.Nb3 Bxb4 26.Rec1**

Interesting. When first analyzing the game I couldn't understand why Al didn't play the more direct 26.Red1. Later, I realized that he first wants to entice Black's bishop to a3 so that Black can't drop anchor with a possible ...Bc3 and ...b5-b4.

**26...exd5 27.exd5 Ba3 28.Rd1 Bd6 29.Nc6 Bxc6 30.dxc6 Ne8**

White enjoys a big advantage. The opposite colored bishops work in White's favor as Black can't challenge White, the aggressor, on the light squares.

**31.Nd4 b4 32.Nf5 Bc5 33.Rd7 Ra7! 34.Rb7!**

An excellent move. Beliavsky rightly avoids 34.Rc1 b3! 35.Be4 Nf6 36.c7 (36.Rxa7 Bxa7 37.c7 Rc8=) Rxc7 37.Rxc7 b2 38.R7xc5 bxc1=Q+ 39.Rxc1 Nxe4=

**34...Rd8?**

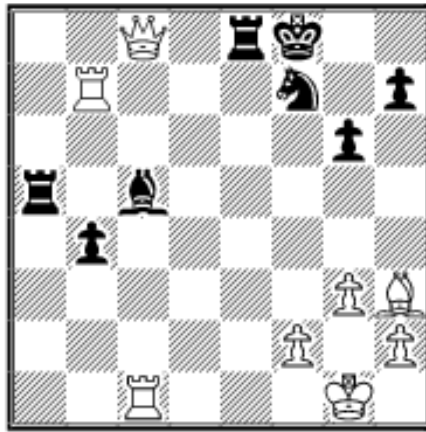
In severe time pressure Karpov misses his best chance. He had to try 34...Raxb7 35.cxb7 Nd6 White now has the choice of two very pleasant

positions, either an opposite colored bishops ending or a better pawn ending: 36.Nxd6 Bxd6 37.Rc1 Ke7 38.Bd5 Black is severely limited in activity. The question is if Black keeps his pawn on f7 is the position a win? If Black pushes his pawn, say, ...f7-f6 then when White plays Rc8 he can remain there unchallenged as ...Kd7, ...Rxc8 is never a threat because of Be6+. I like White's chances. Others might prefer 36.Rc1 Nxf5 37.Rxc5 Nd6 38.Rc7 b3 39.Rc3 Ke7 40.Rxb3 Kd7 41.Bd5 f6 42.Kg2 Kc7 43.Kf3 Nxb7. Now, should White exchange immediately or try 44.Be4? If Black pushes another pawn the pawn ending holds more chances for White. So, maybe Black keeps minors on by 44...Nd6. Readers are asked to comment on the pawn ending. In any case if Anatoly's intentions were to save himself from being tortured, he was successful. The text loses.

**35.Rc1 Ra5 36.Bh3!**

Controls the queening square and prevents the threatened ...Bxf2+ and ...Rxf5.

**36...g6 37.Nh6 Nd6 38.Nxf7! Nxf7 39.c7 Re8 40.c8Q?**



Al was in a bit of *Zeitnot* also, so we should forgive his eagerness. But, 40.Rb8 Nd6 41.Bd7 is immediately decisive. It is very surprising to see Karpov playing on so long.

**40.Rxc8 41.Bxc8 Nd6 42.Rb8 Ke7 43.Re1+ Kf6 44.Be6 Ra3 45.Kg2 Ra7 46.Bd5 Nf5 47.Re6+ Kg7 48.Rc6 Be7 49.h4 Ra5 50.Bc4 Ra7 51.h5 Nd6 52.hxg6 hxg6 53.Rxb4 Ra1 54.Bd3 g5 55.Rd4 Nf7 56.Rd7 Re1 57.Bc4 Kf8 58.Bxf7 Kxf7 59.Kf3 Ke8 60.Ra7 1-0**

Karpov was very annoyed with himself for this loss and went on a rampage for the rest of the tournament

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