

Current Tournament

Events:

(Aeroflot in Moscow and 11th Aosta Open) by GM Mikhail Golubev

The [Aeroflot Open 2003](#) which started in Moscow on February 11th 2003 is certainly an extraordinary open tournament. This once again is confirmed by the results on the three first boards in the initial round (Zagrebelny-Grischuk, Svidler-Belov, Kozyrev-Dreev – **all draws**). What I personally dislike about the Aeroflot Open system is that grandmasters are required to pay a big start fee there. But this may also guarantee that they will be angry and aggressive and we'll see a lot of fighting chess. In comparison, the [11th Aosta Open](#) in Saint Vincent looks like rather a modest event, despite that it is very strong and interesting by all usual standards. The Top three results of Round 4: Efimov (3) – Gurevich (3) 0–1, Volkov (3) – Rotstein (3) 1–0, Arakamia-Grant (3) – Korchnoi (2,5) 0–1.

Decisive matches in two European Leagues: Bundesliga and Belgian Interclub Championship

Last weekend, the really critical matches took place in German Bundesliga and Belgian Interclub Championships.

In **Bundesliga (BL)**, two superclubs, **Köln Porz** and **Lübecker SV** had a perfect score before meeting each other. The battle between these two dream teams ended in a win for Lübecker, with the following board results:

SG Köln Porz 3 – 5 Lübecker SV

Lutz ½ : ½ Adams

Khalifman 0 : 1 Grischuk

Van Wely 0 : 1 Shirov

Sokolov ½ : ½ Lautier

Andersson ½ : ½ Epishin

Vaganian 0 : 1 Fressinet

Hansen 1 : 0 Speelman

Graf ½ : ½ Nunn

The nice win by Shirov over Van Wely in this match attracted wide attention in Germany:

Annotated Game 1

□ **A. Shirov (2699)**

■ **L. Van Wely (2681)**

Event: *BL 0203 SG Koln Porz – Lübecker SV Porz (10.3), 08.02.2003–[B30]*

Annotations by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6

After 3...e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗xd4 ♘f6 White can also avoid the Sveshnikov variation by 6.♗xc6 bxc6 7.e5

4.♗b5!

According to theory, White can fight for advantage in this variation.

4...♖c7 5.0-0 e6 6.♞e1 ♗g4

7.♗xc6 bxc6 8.e5 f6 9.d4 cxd4

10.♖xd4 ♘xe5 11.♘xe5 fxe5

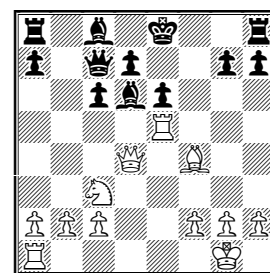
12.♞xe5 ♗e7

The immediate 12...♗d6 13.♗f4 could make the game one move shorter.

13.♗g5 ♗d6

13...d6 14.♗xe7 dxe5 15.♖c5!

14.♗f4! (D)



Shirov is in his element.

14...c5

14...♗xe5?! 15.♗xe5 ♖b6 16.♖g4!

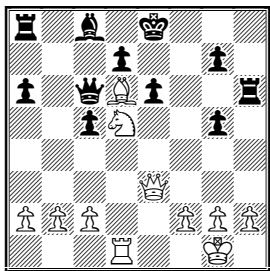
15.♖e3 a6?!

(Black can hardly survive this way, but he was worse in any event.

16.♘d5 ♖c6 17.♞g5 h6 18.♗xd6 hxg5

Or 18...♖xd6 19.♞d1 hxg5 20.♗f6++ , and if 20...♗e7 , then 21.♗g8+!? ♞xg8 22.♖xg5+

19. ♖d1 ♜h6 (D)



20. ♗e7! ♜a4 21. ♜f3

Now the game is completely over.

21... ♗b7 22. ♜xb7 ♜d8 23. ♗g8

(Of course, Shirov finds a most spectacular way to win.)

23... ♜h8 24. ♜f3 ♜xg8 25. ♜h5+

25. ♜h5+ g6 26. ♜h7. 1-0.

After 11 rounds completed, the standings in the first half of the Bundesliga crosstable looks as follow:

1. Lübecker SV 22 (63½)
2. SG Köln Porz 20 (61)
3. SV Werder Bremen 18 (54½)
4. Hamburger SK 15 (49)
5. SC Baden Oos 14 (51½)
6. Solinger SG 14 (47)
7. TV Tegernsee 13 (47½)
8. SC Kreuzberg 12 (44½)

It is unlikely that anything will happen in the four remaining rounds (i.e. two BL weekends) that will derail **Lübecker** on their way to their third champion title in a row. Their opponents will, nevertheless, try to fight as hard they can, including my own team, Stuttgarter Schachfreunde.

For the second and last time in the season, on the last weekend **Stuttgart** was one of four BL weekend places. Four teams represented in Stuttgart were **Baden Oos** (headed by Vishy Anand), **SC Kreuzberg**, **SFR Neukölln** and our **SSF** team. Thanks to the firm [Dürr](#), Stuttgart has, possibly, the nicest [venue](#) in Bundesliga, and there is always many spectators. Photos by Thilo Gubler (SC Baden-Oos) from the last weekend are available at www.chessbase.de/bundesliga/nachrichten.asp?id=195.

As usual in BL, there were some

surprising results in Stuttgart:

Round 10 (Saturday, 8 Feb): Stuttgart-Kreuzberg 4-4, Baden Oos-Neukölln 3,5:4,5 (seven draws and one win for Neukölln!).

Round 11 (Sunday, 9 Feb): Kreuzberg-Baden Oos 3-5 (Anand won against Almasi), Neukölln-Stuttgart 2,5:5,5.

I played only on Saturday, my lucky win against Raj Tischbierek helped my team to save a match. I will comment on this game below in today's annotated game 2 section below.

The Bundesliga site is at: www.schachbundesliga.de; on 11 February all games from rounds 10 and 11 became available and of course reports (in German) and photos appeared there much earlier.

In the **Belgian Interclub Championship**, the a crucial match took place also - the current champion, **Liege**, played against the leaders, my team **Eynatten**. Nine grandmasters (6 for Eynatten, and 3 for Liege) participated in probably the strongest match in history in the Belgian League. **Eynatten** was the favourite, but our team even over-scored against **Liege**. (e.g. Golubev saved half point vs Chabanon, despite the fact that my position in mutual time trouble was totally lost).

Liege 1,5 - 6,5 Eynatten

Degraeve 0 - 1 Naiditsch
Winants 0 - 1 Goloshchapov
Chabanon ½ : ½ Golubev
Cekro 0 - 1 Nijboer
Kocsis 0 - 1 Horvath Csaba
Wuts 1 - 0 Horvath Adam
Hautot 0 - 1 Horvath Tamas
Gulbas 0 - 1 Baramidze

The current standings of the leaders speaks for itself, and can hardly make my team-mates unhappy:

1. Eynatten 49.5
2. Temse 39
3. Liege 37.5
4. Hoboken 36.5
5. Rochade 35.

There are three more rounds to go.

Note that in Belgium board points are important, not a match points.

A few more words about my other chess activities.

This Saturday I expect to be completely crushed in the traditional Dutch Open Blitz Championship in Dordrecht, see list of participants at: www.blitzchess.nl/eng/subscriptionlist.htm.

I continue to spent a lot of time, following the conflict between **GM Ruslan Ponomariov** and FIDE, which is backing GM **Garry Kasparov**. I collect materials at chess-sector.odessa.ua/crisis.htm.

It is unlikely now that unity will take place. Still, among chess journalists there are those who are familiar with the real situation and who try to propose some compromise solutions. See independent propositions by Mark Crowther and Franklin J. Campbell at the bottom of the above mentioned webpage.

Web Watch

Among internet chess news I can mention the fact that the *fide.com* site is now unavailable. This pause in their web service was previously announced at the FIDE site, so it's disappearance is no surprise this time. At the same time I recently become familiar with two Yugoslav chess sites. On *chess.vrsac.com* with its impressive FIDE rating database, I wrote a [short piece at my site](#), and another resource is at: www.geocities.com/jovanpetronic – IM Petronic's personal page with interesting links.



Annotated Game 2

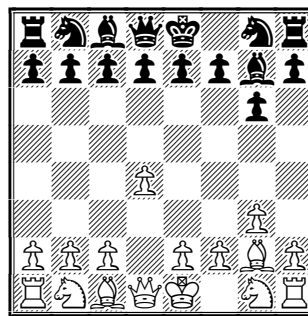
□ **R. Tischbierek (2523)**

■ **M. Golubev (2528)**

Event: *BL 0203 Stuttgarter Sfr – SC Kreuzberg Stuttgart (10.3), 08.02.2003 – [B07]*

Annotations by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.g3 g6 2.♘g2 ♘g7 3.d4 (D)



White's setup can be unpleasant for King's Indian players.

3...♘f6

I decided to play a Pirc Defence.

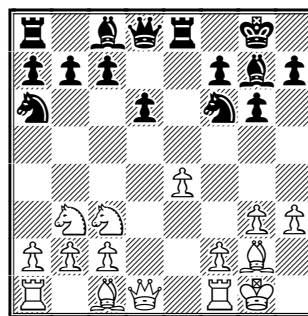
4.e4 d6 5.♘c3 0-0 6.♘ge2 e5 7.h3 exd4

Usually Black plays 7...♗c6, 7...c6 or 7...♗bd7.

8.♘xd4 ♞e8 9.0-0 ♘a6

White, perhaps, is slightly better, but it's not easy to stop Black's counterplay completely.

10.♘b3!? (D)



This prevents ...♗c5, and also sometimes White will have e4-e5 if Black will play with his c8 bishop.

10...♘b4

An interesting move, but of course there were alternatives.

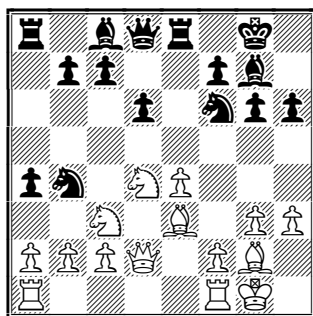
11.♙g5 h6 12.♙e3 a5 13.♖d2

The safest continuation for White was 13.a3 ♗c6

13...a4!N

Later I discovered that our play was not new up to this point, despite the fact that 9...♘a6 is a very rare move. 13...♖h7?! occurred in Ljubojevic-Jhunjhnuwal, Luceren OL 1982.

14.♘d4 (D)



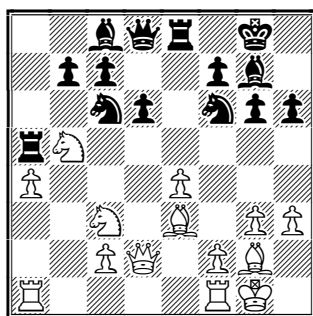
14...a3 15.bxa3

15.b3 was a serious alternative, but Black still has many chances. I could play 15...g7 then (but would also think of 15...d5 16.exd5 fxd5 17.fxd5 fxd5 18.fhx6 fhx6 19.fhx6 c3)

15...fxa3 16.fdb5 f5! 17.a3?!

GM Tischbierek missed the possibility of ...f5! after further fhx6. Otherwise he probably would play 17.a4! , with mutual chances.

17...fxc6 18.a4 (D)



The point was 18.fhx6 fhx6 19.fhx6 f5! , returning a pawn after 20.fab1 (or 20.a4) 20...f5 and 21...f3 (or even 20...f3! at once)

18...f5

18...g7 19.f4?!

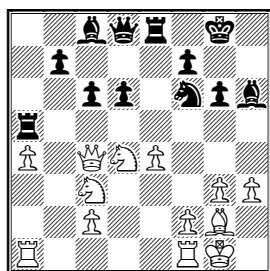
19.fhx6 c4

This is probably better than 19...f3 20.fxg7 f7

20.f4

20.f1 fhx6 21.fhx6 c6 22.f3 fxa3 23.fxa3 fhx3 24.fhx3 f5.

20...fhx6 21.fxc4 c6 22.f4 (D)



Black has extremely good compensation for the pawn: two bishops, and White's queenside structure is still bad.

22...f5!?

Fritz proposes 22...f4!

23.f4?!

23.f4! was probably correct. Then I could play 23...fxg4! (or the calmer: 23...f5 24.f3) 24.fxg4 f4 , what is very unclear.

23...f4

23...f4!?

24.f3

24.f2! was a better way to defend this already dubious position.

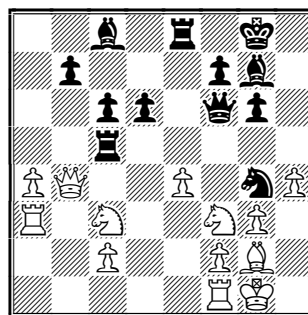
24...f5

24...f7!?

25.f4

25.f3 f6!?

25...f7 26.f3 f6 (D)



27.f2

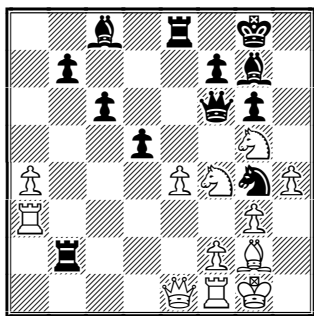
I expected some waiting move, because after 27...f3 White will have 28.e5, and not everything is clear. 27.f1! f3 28.e5 29.fxc3 f7 (29...f5) 30.f5 e4 31.f3; 27.a5!?

27...f3 28.f4

Black should be better also after 28.f4! f5 (28...c5?! 29.f5 cxd4 30.f8+ f7 31.f4) 29.f3 f5 f4.

28...f2 29.f1

29.f3 f3 30.f3 f4; 29.f4 fx2! f2 31.f2 f2+ 29...d5 30.f5 (D)



30...dxe4

There should be various ways to convert Black's advantage. Taking into account further time trouble, I tried to play simpler.

31. ♖xe4 ♜e7 32. ♞a1 ♕f5 33. ♘d6 ♜xe1

33...♞xf2! (Fritz) - I didn't consider this move during the game.

34. ♞axe1 ♞xe1 35. ♞xe1 ♕d4!

36. ♘h3! ♘xf2

36...♕e6!?

37. ♞e8+ ♜h7 38. ♘g5+

38. ♘xf5!? gxf5 (38...♞b1+ 39. ♕f1 ♘h3+ 40. ♜h2 gxf5 41. ♕xh3) 39. ♘xf2 ♕xf2+ 40. ♜h2 ♞b3=

38...♜g7 39. ♘xf5+ gxf5 40. ♜f1

40. ♜h2? ♘g4+ 41. ♜h3 ♕g1! 42. h5 ♖f2+ 43. ♜h4 ♞b4+-+

40...♘g4

40...♘d3! 41. ♞d8

41. ♕f3 ♘e3+

White resigned, despite the fact that he could have played on for some time. Possibly the correct decision by Raj Tischbierék (the Editor of German chess magazine 'Schach') - on Sunday he won a game against Rustem Dautov! 41...♘e3+ 42. ♜g1 (42. ♜e1? ♕c3#) 42...♘g4+ (42...♞a2!?) 43. ♜f1 ♘h2+ 44. ♜e1 ♕f2+ 45. ♜d1 ♘xf3 (45...♕xg3!?) 46. ♘xf3 ♕xg3, and so on. **0-1.**

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