

SELECTIVE SEARCH 151

THE COMPUTER CHESS MAGAZINE!

Est. 1985

Dec 2010- Jan 2011

Published by Eric Hallsworth

£3.95



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL EDITION

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Eric with his wife Chris and Connor. We wish you all a **VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS**, along with a cheery 'God bless you' for the **NEW YEAR**

## IN THIS ISSUE !

- 2 **COMPUTER CHESS BEST BUYS!**
- 3 **NEWS, RESULTS, INFO, RATINGS + NEW PRODUCTS**  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD, INCL.
  - **CHESBASE 11, THE 2ND. LONDON CHESS CLASSIC, THE SEDAT RATINGS, RESULTS FROM TCEC, ACCA 2010, JOE SHARP & ERIC HALLSWORTH**
- 7 **ROB VAN SON**
  - **ROB's SIMULTANEOUS - NOW WE HAVE THE FULL STORY!**
- 14 **CHRIS GOULDEN's REGULAR UCI AND WINBOARD PC ENGINE PAGES**
  - **ALL THE LATEST NEW ENGINES UPDATES FROM CHRIS**
- 16 **THE 2010 WORLD COMPUTER CHAMPIONSHIPS**
  - **THE MAIN EVENT, PLUS SPEED AND SOFTWARE TITLES, WITH ANALYSED GAMES AND LOTS OF PHOTOS**
- 31 **GRAHAM WHITE ANALYSES**
  - **BRONSTEIN v LARSEN, WITH RYBKA!**
- 34 **BILL REID's TOUGH POSITIONS**
  - **WE CATCH UP WITH BILL'S LATEST WONDERFUL TEASERS!**
- 35 **LATEST SELECTIVE SEARCH, CCRL & CEGT DEDICATED & PC RATINGS**

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- **PUBLICATION DATES:** early Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec.
- **ARTICLES, REVIEWS, or GAMES** sent in by Readers, Distributors, Programmers etc. are always welcome.

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**SELECTIVE SEARCH** is produced by **ERIC HALLSWORTH**

All **CORRESPONDENCE** and **SUBSCRIPTIONS** please to: **Eric Hallsworth, 45 Stretham Road, Wilburton, Cambs CB6 3RX.** Or E-MAIL: [eric@elhchess.demon.co.uk](mailto:eric@elhchess.demon.co.uk)

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Free **COLOUR CATALOGUE**. Readers can ring **ERIC** at **COUNTRYWIDE**, Mon-Fri, 10.15am-4.45pm

## CHESS COMPUTERS AND PC PROGRAMS... THE BEST BUYS!

The **RATINGS** for these computers and PC programs are on the back pages. This is not a complete product listing - they are what I think are the **BEST BUYS** bearing in mind price, playing strength, features and quality.

Further info/photos are on my website and in **Countrywide's** colour CATALOGUE, available **free** if you ring or write to the address/phone no. shown on the front page. Postage: portable £6, table-top £7.50, software £2.

### SPECIAL SUBSCRIBER'S OFFER:

**10% OFF** all **DEDICATED COMPUTERS** on this page and **5% OFF** all **SOFTWARE** prices shown here.

but please mention 'SS' when you order to remind our salesperson to do the discount for you!

### PORTABLE COMPUTERS [port]

**ADVANCED TRAVEL £37.50** - Saitek's smaller Club plug-in set 160 ECF. Scrolling info display. Great value!

**MAESTRO touch screen travel £55** - fine Saitek product, incl. Leatherette case. Backlight switch on side for ease of use. Decent chess, est'd 130 ECF

**NEW YORK de luxe touch chess £72.50** - best graphics of all the touch screens, with backlight, incl. stylus, quality carry pouch. Batteries only, est'd 125 ECF

**EXPERT £95** - top value! 4½"x4½" plug-in board, strong Morsch program. Multiple levels, good info display & coach system. From Saitek. 175 ECF

### TABLE-TOP PRESS SENSORY [ps]

where you see \*\* the price includes the adaptor!

**STAR AQUAMARINE £62.50** - lovely Novag chess computer with the Carnelian1 program in a very attractive press-sensory board. Nice 130 ECF program, display for moves, plenty of levels, low price

**EXPLORER PRO £75\*\*** - the 170 ECF Challenger program in very attractive Explorer board, and now with adaptor included. Excellent value, smart design. Mains or Batteries, with info display and 170 ECF program

**CHALLENGER £67.50\*\*** - Cougar '2100' program in standard design board, Staunton style pieces. A very good value-for-money buy and 170 ECF rated

**MASTER £145\*\*** - the Mephisto Milano Pro/Senator program and features, in attractive 13"x10" board with Staunton style pieces. Very strong at blitz and tournament or in analysis, with good info display, and incl. plastic carry case.

**CARNELIAN2 £79** - lovely Novag unit, with wood pieces - looks really good on the table. Nice 140 ECF program, display for moves, plenty of levels.

**OBSIDIAN £130** - 170 ECF with a nice carry case! Good looking Novag board with decent wood pieces. Plays good chess and has an excellent range of features and levels, info display etc

### TABLE-TOP AUTO SENSORY [as]

**CITRINE £230\*\*** - New 180 ECF all wood auto-sensory with improved, faster Obsidian program, and bigger 24,000+ opening book. Nice wood felted Staunton pieces, 64 leds, wide range of playing levels + separate info display system to access excellent range of features. With serial port cable for PC connection.

### PC PROGRAMS from CHESSBASE on CD

All run **INDEPENDENTLY** + will interact with other ChessBase engines + ChessBase9/10. Great graphics, big databases + opening books, analysis, top features.

For info.... **£42.50 less 5% = £40.25!**

and..... **£84.50 less 5% = £80!**

**FRITZ 12 dvd £42.50** - by Franz Morsch. 40 Elo stronger than Fritz11, with new search methods and extra chess knowledge - a marvellous program! Superb Interface, 'net connection, great Graphics incl. amazing 3D. Excellent new features for analysis, study and play. Game/diagram printing, good hobby levels, set your own Elo, many helpful features, includes big Games database, 13 hours of Chess Media video training excerpts, and Beginners Course!

**DEEP FRITZ 12 £84.50** for single/dual/multi PCs

**HIARCS 12 dvd £36.95** - Mark Uniacke's GREAT new program. Top opening theory, a very dangerous opponent and clever in quieter positions with knowledge improvements + faster searching. Excellent as always

**DEEP HIARCS 12 £70** for single/dual/multi PCs!

**SHREDDER 12 dvd £42.50** - Stefan Meyer-Kahlen's latest in its great, new ChessBase Interface. Feature-packed & knowledge-based, with new 'deeper search' routines to play fast, high power and stylish chess. 60/80 Elo stronger than Shredder 10!

**DEEP SHREDDER 12 £84.50** for single/dual/multi PCs.

**JUNIOR 10 £30** - the ChessBase version of the 2004 World Champion program by Ban & Bushinsky.

**DEEP JUNIOR 10 £65** - for single/dual/multi PCs

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**RYBKA 4...** IM Vasik Rajlich's RYBKA uci engine, the Computer Chess World Champion which tops every Rating List. Incredibly strong, a remarkable program.

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• **SP Rybka4 £42.50, MP Deep Rybka4 £84.50**

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## NEWS AND RESULTS

**KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE IN THE COMPUTER CHESS WORLD!**

Welcome to another new issue of *Selective Search*... no. 151. If your sub. is due for renewal, **please** subscribe again! There will be at least 6 more issues of the magazine!

The label on your envelope shows the number of the last issue you will receive of your current subscription, so it's easy to check that, as well as make sure it's been updated after you've made a renewal payment!

*If you renew by credit card, please note that I must have the **security code** (last 3 numbers on the back) as well as the card number and expiry date - thanks!*

THERE WAS NEARLY A PANIC for this issue - my Laptop with all the files, and the magazine 2/3rds done, crashed overnight in mid November while doing some Hiarcs testing. It appeared to be a fault with the adaptor - the second time a Dell of mine has gone down with this failing! As it was running an engine match at the time it switched to battery power for a couple of hours until that was nearly dead, and then closed itself down!

Fortunately the 'spare parts' company that saved me last time are still going strong, but it was a nervous wait for the new adaptor to arrive to see if the computer would boot-up again, then recharge the battery, and finally check if all my files had survived! Otherwise I'd have been sending refund cheques out for unused subs and calling it a day!

If you have a laptop and need spares, a laptop cooler or case, or whatever, try

• <http://www.portables.co.uk>

... they provided a fast service for me and all is running nicely again.

### **SELECTIVE SEARCH ARTICLES**

I'D ASKED IF ANYONE might have any ideas for new articles etc. and that I'd be pleased to think about them.

**Peter Bilson** wondered about an ADVERT SECTION where readers could

advertise unwanted books, sets, boards, magazine collections - anything Chess related but nothing that conflicts with the things I sell at Countrywide, so not Chess Computers or Software. It's a nice idea as long as I don't find myself with 20 or more people wanting to advertise things at the same time and ending up using too many pages. I suggested you could send a list of things you want to sell, with prices or 'open to offers' or whatever.

I wouldn't want to be an intermediary, you'd have to deal with each other direct. So you would need to show your name and either an address, phone number or e-mail info so that potential purchasers can contact you direct. For now there will be no charge, while we see how it goes.

However it's not off to the greatest of starts with only Peter himself sending something in so far!

**Peter Bilson, 188 Gracedieu Road,  
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### **CHESS: NEWS SECTION**

**CHESSBASE 11 IS OUT!**

THE NEW CHESSBASE 11 follows the Microsoft Office interface based direction of Fritz12 and Rybka4, so key information in any feature category appears quickly on screen.

One of the most interesting new Functions will be 'Fashionable Variation', getting users quickly to the newest popular lines. Also the games list will put the strongest players at the top, an excellent idea. There's a new commentary function 'Theoretical Innovation', and of course you can keep your Database right up-to-date by accessing the ChessBase OnLine Database.

I like the look of the new 'Try Out' moves - if you hold down the mouse button an arrow will indicate the best reply to your idea. The already excellent 'Opening Report' has also been improved.

There's lots more!

- **Starter Package** with Big Database. **£129.95**
- **Mega Package** with Mega Database (includes ChessBase magazine subscription). **£224.95**
- **Premium Package**, adds Endgame Turbo 9 DVDs, Correspondence database, and Premium membership on Playchess.com. **£299.95**
- **Upgrade ChessBase10->11**. **£89.95** (we need your CB10 registration number)

Please order from **Countrywide** of course!

## 2ND. LONDON CHESS CLASSIC

THE 2ND. LONDON CHESS CLASSIC, again to be held at **Olympia** and this year from **8th - 15th December**, will be the **UK's strongest Chess Tournament EVER**, surpassing even last year's list of entrants. Just look at this...

### *From the UK:*

- GM **Michael Adams**, the UK's #1
- GM **Nigel Short**, the UK's #2
- GM **Luke McShane**, the UK's #3
- GM **David Howell**, the UK's #4

### *From the Rest of the World*

- GM **Magnus Carlsen** (Nor), World #1
- GM **Vishy Anand** (Ind), World Champion
- GM **Vladimir Kramnik** (Rus), ex World Champ
- GM **Hikaru Nakamura** (USA), American's #1

The main Event will be a 7 round all-play-all, but there are LOTS of other things going on as well, especially for school activities and the 1st ever Chess Coaches Course!

You can get further information by ringing **020 7486 8222**,

or at **www.londonchessclassic.com**

or you can order tickets OnLine at **www.chess.co.uk/shop**

## Chess: RESULTS SECTION

### SEDATCHESS RATINGS

SEDAT CANBAZ RUNS fairly regular tournaments using two i7 920 PCs (Quad 3.3GHz boosted to 3.80). With using 2PCs Sedat is able to run all engines on full 4-Cores with Ponder=ON. The time control he uses is G/15+10secs. In the last issue we showed the result of his latest **Gladiators Tournament**, this time I'm showing his **Rating List** which comes directly out of his tournaments.

| Rank | Program                   | Author                 | Country | Score     | Elo  |
|------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|------|
| 01   | Deep Rybika 4 x64 T4      | Vasik Rajlich          |         | 668.5/800 | 3297 |
| 02   | Stockfish 1.9 JA x64 T4   | Tord Romstad           |         | 602.0/800 | 3212 |
| 03   | Naum 4.2 x64 T4           | Aleksandar Naumov      |         | 570.0/800 | 3178 |
| 04   | Critter 0.80 x64 T4       | Richard Vida           |         | 534.0/800 | 3143 |
| 05   | Deep Shredder 12 x64 T4   | Stefan Mayer Kahlen    |         | 467.5/800 | 3084 |
| 06   | Deep Fritz 12 T4          | F.Morsch & M.Feist     |         | 465.5/800 | 3083 |
| 07   | Spark 0.4 x64 T4          | Allard Siemelink       |         | 419.5/800 | 3044 |
| 08   | Zappa Mexico II x64 T4    | Anthony Cozzie         |         | 418.0/800 | 3043 |
| 09   | Protector 1.3.6 JA x64 T4 | Raimund Heid           |         | 413.5/800 | 3039 |
| 10   | Hiarcs 13.1 T4            | Mark Uniacke           |         | 410.0/800 | 3036 |
| 11   | Komodo 1.2 JA x64         | Don Dailey             |         | 383.5/800 | 3014 |
| 12   | Thinker 5.4D x64 T4       | Lance Perkins          |         | 373.5/800 | 3006 |
| 13   | Deep Onno 1.2.70 x64 T4   | Onno Garms             |         | 362.5/800 | 2997 |
| 14   | Deep Junior 11.2 x64 T4   | A.Ban & S.Bushinsky    |         | 360.5/800 | 2995 |
| 15   | Gull 1.0 x64              | Vadim Demichev         |         | 352.0/800 | 2988 |
| 16   | Deep Sjeng WC2008 x64 T4  | Gian-Carlo Pascutto    |         | 332.5/800 | 2971 |
| 17   | Jonny 4.00 T4             | Johannes Zwanzger      |         | 289.5/800 | 2934 |
| 18   | Loop 2007 x64 T4          | Fritz Reul             |         | 281.5/800 | 2927 |
| 19   | Hannibal 1.0a x64         | S.Hamilton & E.Apostol |         | 236.5/800 | 2884 |
| 20   | Umko 1.0 x64 T4           | Borko Boskovic         |         | 232.5/800 | 2880 |

### THE TCEC SITE OF MARTIN THORESEN

I FOUND SOME interesting scores on the TCEC site which was new to me at the time of SelS 150 - the link to it is so long it would

be much easier for Internet users to simply Google for 'TCEC'!

Martin uses a 40/2 20/1 G/15+30secs time control.

- **Rybka 4 v Houdini 1.02** **26½-21½**
- **Rybka 4 v Stockfish 1.8** **29-19**
- **Stockfish 1.8 v Houdini 1.03** **14½-17½**
- **Rybka 4 v Naum 4.2** **20½-11½**

Since then another match has been played, and that result was:

- **Rybka4 v Stockfish 1.9** **18-14**

I'll keep a watchful eye open for future matches as results with top engines using a full tournament time control are always of great interest.

### ACCA 2010

THE 'chess-engines-testing group' ran the ACCA 2010 tournament in early November. You'll know some of the name from Chris Gouden's and my coverage of the many engines, but some are new names!

| Pos | ENGINE                   | /6 |
|-----|--------------------------|----|
| 1   | THINKER                  | 6  |
| 2   | CRAFTY                   | 5  |
| 3=  | DAYDREAMER X<br>ARASAN X | 4  |
| 5   | TELEPATH                 | 3½ |
| 6=  | PLISK<br>SCARAMANGA      | 3  |
| 8   | REDQUEEN                 | 2½ |
| 9=  | GAVIOTA<br>TINKER FICS   | 2  |
| 11  | PARROT                   | 1  |
| 12  | RUENO                    | 0  |

### JOE SHARP

IT'S ALWAYS NICE to have a reader make his first contribution, so a warm welcome to **Joe Sharp**. Joe has sent me the results of testing he has done with a friend of his.

They are another set of testers willing to let the engines play at full Tournament time

control, 40/2, 20/1 +30mins for the rest! The PC power was Core2Duo/2.2GHz.

- **Rybka4 v Stockfish 1.8** **16½-13½**

Since this they have run a 4 engine all-play-all Tournament, 6 games v each opponent!

| Pos | ENGINE        | /18 |
|-----|---------------|-----|
| 1   | RYBKA 4       | 13  |
| 2   | STOCKFISH 1.8 | 9½  |
| 3   | SHREDDER 11   | 7   |
| 4   | FRITZ 12      | 6½  |

Rybka4 didn't lose a single game! Joe's pal is rather sceptical about PC engines and their performances, and shows Rybka4 on 2534 Elo in his database, and has Fritz12 on 2382?

*"I rate them highly for tactics, of course, but still think they are relatively weak from a positional and strategic point of view".*

Joe points out that, if those ratings were true, many GMs would be able to beat them - but that doesn't appear to be the case! E.g. see little 600MHz Pocket Fritz4/Hiarcs in the Mercosur Cup (issue 145). But Joe does believe if Super GMs practised playing anti-computer chess (like our old friend David Wiekrykas!) then they should be able to achieve a plus score. Joe wonders whether David has tried his skill against Rybka and Stockfish yet?!

### ERIC HALLSWORTH

YES, I STILL DO SOME testing as well! Recently I ran a Tournament amongst the most recent **Stockfish** versions.

| Pos | ENGINE        | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.6 | /180 |
|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1   | STOCKFISH 1.9 | x   | 32  | 32  | 39  | 103  |
| 2   | STOCKFISH 1.8 | 28  | x   | 32  | 35½ | 95½  |
| 3   | STOCKFISH 1.7 | 28  | 28  | x   | 33½ | 89½  |
| 4   | STOCKFISH 1.6 | 21  | 24½ | 26½ | x   | 72   |

Perfect, they've come out in the exact order they are supposed to!



# The UK's Strongest Chess Tournament EVER



**GM Michael Adams (ENG)**  
2706 elo  
*The UK's Number 1*

**GM Nigel Short (ENG)**  
2690 elo  
*The UK's Number 2*

**GM Luke McShane (ENG)**  
2624 elo  
*The UK's Number 3*

**GM David Howell (ENG)**  
2616 elo  
*The UK's Number 4*

**GM Magnus Carlsen (NOR)**  
2826 elo  
*The World Number 1*

**GM Vishy Anand (IND)**  
2800 elo  
*The World Champion*

**GM Vladimir Kramnik (RUS)**  
2790 elo  
*Former World Champion*

**GM Hikaru Nakamura (USA)**  
2729 elo  
*The American Number 1*

## TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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| <i>The London Chess Classic Schedule</i> |          |         |
|------------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Wednesday 8th December                   | Round 1  | 2.00pm  |
| Thursday 9th December                    | Round 2  | 4.00pm  |
| Friday 10th December                     | Round 3  | 2.00pm  |
| Saturday 11th December                   | Round 4  | 2.00pm  |
| Sunday 12th December                     | Round 5  | 2.00pm  |
| Monday 13th December                     | REST DAY |         |
| Tuesday 14th December                    | Round 6  | 2.00pm  |
| Wednesday 15th December                  | Round 7  | 12.00pm |

|                                                            |                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Auditorium and GM Commentary<br>(per day)                  | <b>ADULT</b>              |
|                                                            | £10 weekday / £15 weekend |
| Auditorium and GM Commentary<br>Season Ticket (All 7 days) | <b>JUNIOR*</b>            |
|                                                            | FREE for all days         |
|                                                            | <b>ADULT</b>              |
|                                                            | £50                       |
|                                                            | <b>JUNIOR*</b>            |
|                                                            | N/A                       |

*\* Juniors must be under 16 on 08/12/2010 and accompanied by a paying adult. Proof of age may be required*

Purchasing an adult ticket gives you the following benefits:

- Admission to the London Chess Classic 2010 - Full access to the auditorium throughout the day's play. Moves will be displayed on a giant screen
- Access to the Grandmaster commentary room. Commentators will include: Former British champion GM Julian Hodgson, plus GM Stephen Gordon, IM Lawrence Trent and IM Malcolm Pein. *Commentary line-up subject to change.*

**FURTHER INFORMATION AT [WWW.LONDONCHESSCLASSIC.COM](http://WWW.LONDONCHESSCLASSIC.COM)**

# THE ROB VAN SON SIMULTANEOUS!

I am sure you will remember my introduction to "Rob's Simultaneous" in our last edition.....

I got a surprising e-mail from our regular contributor **Rob van Son** a few weeks ago - he'd been playing in a Simultaneous!

My first reaction was to wonder who the Simul was against - let me think - he lives in Holland err. so we're looking for Dutch Grandmasters... Jan Timman? Van Wely?

I got my 'Chess' magazine out and ran my finger down the World's top 80 - not a single one!

Aaagh, my mistake, not HOL for Holland, but NED for Nederland. There we go: Loek Van Wely 2677, Anish Giri 2672, Jan Smeets 2669. That's more like it.

But I was wasting my time! Rob wasn't part of a Simul playing alongside others against a top GM, it was Rob who was actually doing the Simul!

Here was his introduction...

*Hi Eric!*

*Just for fun, I played this week-end against eight of my museum pieces - maybe this is a better way to describe my very old dedicated chess computers!*

And so we completed the coverage in our last with a series of photos showing Rob playing an exciting and wonderful range of 'older' dedicated machines!

But then I got a big surprise with Rob's e-mail thanking me for posting his copy to him...

*Hi Eric,*

*Congratulations with Sel. Search no. 150!!*

*It's really a milestone to create 150 issues with all kind of interesting information from the world of computer chess!*



*I still have to read all of the magazine, but I was surprised that you published the photos of my own simultaneous against the museum pieces.*

*And your introduction is very funny too, because I can tell you that I had some years ago an actual clinic with good old GM Jan Timman. In the second part of this clinic, Jan played a simultaneous against me and 14 other participants! My game ended up in a draw and it was not me who made the proposal! I accepted it!*

*As I mentioned in my original e-mail I don't have the games of the simultaneous, but I do have the game against Jan Timman. You probably know that Jan was "the Best of the West" in the early eighties and reached the second place on the FIDE list.*

*I will write an article about this adventure and my game will be analysed by the engines (and hopefully also by you). At the time, I also took some pictures, so I will send them to you when I have finished it.*

Rob then shared the very sad news that his friend who had taken the photographs had since died in hospital, and then he closed with his usual greetings...

*All the best, regards..... Rob*

And of course in the due course of time Rob's event and game introduction, copy of the game with some analysis - and photos! - duly dropped into my e-mail InTray!

## **CHESS WITH THE GRANDMASTER!**

*by Rob van Son*

Late May 2006, I was alerted to an advertisement in the weekly Dutch door to door paper "De Echo" in which the administration of the province of North Holland was running a prize contest.

The contest question was, "Where will this year's Dutch chess championship be held?"

For such a complicated contest, I wanted to sit down and think hard about where it might be held this time. As a chess player you're used to meditating a lot, so it occurred to me that maybe the championship would take place in Hilversum.

I sent an e-mail with the correct answer to Ingrid Kooiker of the 'communications department' of the province. The advertisement stated that the winners would receive a written notice towards the end of June.

In the meantime I visited the championship twice and enjoyed the games, which were played in 'Studio 22' at the media park complex in Hilversum. Studio 22 is also called the Idols' studio, because of the popular talent scouting episodes on TV which are broadcast from this studio.

When you walk into the studio, the footpath is surrounded by demonstration chess boards on the left and chairs for the public on the right. I say chairs, because the times I was there, most of them were empty. It seemed that the interest of the public was very low.

Perhaps it was the holiday season or the hot weather, but in the spacious playing room there were absolutely no climate problems. A very effective air conditioning created a cool atmosphere which players at this level definitely needed, if only to keep a cool head to think deeper and to play better! The top Dutch chess players sat on an elevated stage. Next to the stage, on a turntable, was a shiny Cadillac. The audience could watch the

games at the stands on flat panel displays that hung on rods.

Keeping a cool head did not always work, because on one of my visits I witnessed a huge quarrel between the grandmasters Sergei Tiviakov and Friso Nijboer. After a long game that took it right up to the time control, Friso was in big time trouble and had only a few seconds on his clock. He offered Sergei a draw, which was not accepted. Friso went on and, after two seconds, almost lost the game on time and tried to convince the referees that the position was a draw and Sergei wanted to win on the clock. After much confusion among the individuals themselves, other participants and the press, who also interfered, the two arbiters came back on stage. They found that the position was still playable and a draw could not be claimed. Friso put his signature as a scratch with an aggressive gesture on the score sheet and was flushed away. I climbed onto the stage as well and amused myself. A press photographer told me that he found this situation very annoying.

Jan Timman was also back in action at the National Championship, but he certainly was not in good shape and finished near the bottom in the rankings. The worst game he played was against Friso Nijboer with black. On the 19th move, he made such a huge blunder that he resigned immediately.

Sergei Tiviakov, the new Dutch chess champion, was allowed to drive for four weeks in the Cadillac. There was only one problem: he had no drivers license! This was quickly resolved by the second on the ranking list, Ivan Sokolov. He was very happy that he could use the car together with his wife. Sergei received a bottle of champagne in return, which I also found to be a relatively paltry compensation.

At the end of June and in July I had still received no notice that I had won the contest. I expected no different, as I usually don't get lucky, and actually it would be better not do such things anymore.

To my surprise, at the beginning of August a letter rolled into my mailbox. The letter came



from the province of North Holland. I quickly grabbed the envelope and read the following: *"From the large number of correct answers, 15 prize winners were drawn. You're one of the lucky ones! You won a chess clinic with Jan Timman in the provincial house in Haarlem on Wednesday evening, 27 September at half past six. The clinic includes a sandwich buffet."*

I couldn't believe what I saw and immediately looked for my Van Dale, the great dictionary of Dutch language. It said that a clinic is a kind of intensive group training, mainly on the sporting field. I was very excited to win a prize and even more so at the prospect of going to be trained by Holland's most famous chess player!

I always admired Timman because of his many successes in recent decades, and now I had won a clinic with him.

I am eight years younger than Jan, but nevertheless belong to the generation for whom his games are considered to be a prime example. I would get the chance to train with the nine times chess champion of the Netherlands, the 'Best of the West' in 1982, the analyst par excellence, author of many works, winner of several tournaments ... even despite major setbacks such as his loss in the semi-finals at the 1986 World Cup against Arthur Yusupov or his loss in 1993 against Anatoly Karpov in the final of the FIDE World Championship.

It was Wednesday, 27 September and I hurried to catch the train to Haarlem in time. Packed in my backpack was Timman's short stories book *"A leap in the North Sea"* which I wanted to ask him a few questions about.

A sure habit of the Dutch Railways is that you can always count on it that, if you've missed the train, you can easily double your travel time waiting for the next train. And when the train finally comes, it's usually so crowded that you have to stand up against the door and use the door window to see where you are travelling to. To top up your misery you are

surrounded by tired-looking fellow passengers who, after a long day of working behind a desk, are staring blankly before them.

After having arrived in Haarlem, I proceeded on foot to the provincial government building, following the instructions of a small map that the provincial government had sent me.

It was a kind of sight seeing of Haarlem, because after a tight half hour of brisk walking the provincial house came into view. I hurried through the numerous gates of the building and eventually saw light burning somewhere. I crossed a square inside and in the maze of alleyways I was fortunate to almost bump into a catering assistant who sent me in the right direction.

On the door it said 'Committee Room 2.' I went inside and was immediately confronted with a room full of the other competition winners behind tables, with chess boards in front of them. I also saw some county officials and in the middle of the room stood Jan Timman himself.

I had arrived a bit late and found that the enumeration of Timman successes through the years was almost completed. Almost all of the prize winners were one by one photographed with the grandmaster. I say almost because I still had to move to the centre of the room to also be photographed. A great chess demonstration board served as a background decoration. I quickly took off my coat and wiped the sweat from the long evening walk off my forehead. Timman gave me a



firm hand and he did not let go until the photographer had done his job. Let's just hope that my shiny forehead doesn't stand out on the photo...

The clinic began. Timman took us through a few interesting endgame studies and showed us a game he recently played in England and won.

The prize winners, who were from different parts of the Netherlands - including some children, gave good suggestions following Timman's questions about which move could be played in each shown position. Every now and then, a chess piece fell on the floor and Timman picked it up with a sigh, from which I got the impression that he has to work some more on his overall fitness!

After a good hour the signal was given for the break. We proceeded to the hall where a table with nice-looking sandwiches and some bottles of soda was waiting for us. After having enjoyed the food and drinks, Timman and all his students were back at their positions in force to continue the further continuation of the clinic.

During the break I took Timman's book *"A Leap in the North Sea"* from my bag and asked him a few questions about the section from which the title of this book is derived. I wanted to know more about Norman Willem van Lennep, in the period 1893-1896 editor-in-chief of the Magazine of the Dutch Chess Federation, who put in a lot of effort for the creation of a great chess organisation, the current KNSB.

Norman Willem was a strong chess player, but he was not able to reach the absolute top in his time. As an editor he is best known for his long and excellent report of the famous chess tournament in the English town of Hastings in 1895.

He wanted to become a professional chess player, but his father preferred to have him in London to look for a really decent job. Unfortunately he did not succeed in finding anything suitable and sadly his struggle with his homosexuality made him decide in 1897



to jump off the ship during the boat trip from Harwich to Hoek van Holland, choosing a sailor's grave. He was still only 25 years old.

After the break, the organisation told us that Timman would play a simultaneous. One of my favorite openings with black after 1. e2-e4 is 1...c7-c6, the so-called Caro Kann defense.

Timman played a variation entirely as I had hoped, and so we played the main line of this opening. This resulted in no fewer than twenty moves of opening theory. On the thirtieth move, he offered me a draw, which I immediately accepted.

The position was equal, and subsequent analysis by the Resurrection engines Fruit and Rybka showed that in the game. Black has an active rook on g5 which threatens the weak h5 pawn, while Timman has to defend it with his rook on h1, but he has got a more active king. I was very satisfied with the result.

Sixteen players were participating in the simultaneous, the fifteen prize winners and an official from the provincial government. The latter sat next to me and was almost literally blown off the chess board.

After another game, which was very long, one of the other prize winners also managed to draw Timman, in an endgame with only one pawn less. The others all lost their games, but showed they knew how to keep the grandmaster occupied for a fairly long

time. So Timman won fourteen games and played two draws.

Finally we got a luxury pen in a wooden box. And since chess is the only sport which goes hand in hand with the drinking of alcoholic beverages, Timman also received a nice bottle of wine.

I thanked all of the organisers and Jan Timman for the very nice evening and readied myself for the long evening walk back to the station.

I finally got home in the early morning hours, helped by the Dutch Railways, but that didn't matter to me at all. A draw and my signed book guaranteed a good night's sleep.

And Timman? I wish him well and hope he can regain his strength to cross swords with the giants of the chess world once more.

As the Dutch grandmaster Jan Hein Donner once said to Jan: *"Chess is a narrow, thorny path full of hardship."* Timman himself wrote in his book *"Het smalle pad"* (The narrow path): *"Even if I have to defy a waterfall in a wooden tub, I am armed to the teeth for the natives who are waiting for me below."*

I hope that many chess players can draw courage from these words after a dramatic game of chess.

**Rob van Son, November 2010**

## THE GAME!

**J.H. TIMMAN - R. VAN SON**

Simultaan - Houdini, 27.09.2006

Opening B19: Classical Caro-Kann: 4...Bf5  
main line

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♙f5  
5.♘g3 ♙g6 6.h4 h6 7.♘f3 ♘d7 8.h5 ♙h7  
9.♙d3 ♙xd3 10.♙xd3 e6 11.♙f4 ♙a5+  
12.♙d2 ♙c7 13.0-0-0 ♘gf6



**14.♘e4**

We're still in theory here, and another well known line which perhaps demands a little more thought from the opponent is 14.♙e2 0-0-0 15.♘e5 after which 15...♘b6 is considered best, and the game is about equal

**14...♘xe4**

Theory frowns upon this slightly, but it is the variation Rob wanted to play and it looks okay to me as well as working out fine here. However 14...0-0-0 15.g3 (as Rob points out 15.♘xf6 is also possible but after 15...♘xf6 16.♙e2 ♙d5 Black has nothing to worry about) 15...♘xe4 16.♙xe4 ♙d6= is the more popular continuation

**15.♙xe4 ♘f6 16.♙e2**

Rob notes that Resurrection Fruit suggests that 16.♙h4 might be possible here, but Timman has stayed with theory. Anyway if 16.♙h4 then Black is okay after 16...♙e7 17.♘b1 and now either 17...♙d8 or 0-0 16...♙d6

Theory shows that 16...0-0-0 can be played here, but if so White usually continues with 17.g3 rather than 17.♘b1, so there's a good argument for Rob's move order

**17.♘b1 0-0-0 18.c4**

18.♘e5?! is Fruit's suggestion, but it leaves theory and allows some simplification with 18...♙xe5 19.dxe5 ♘d5= when the Grandmaster of course is more interested in getting a win!

**18...c5 19.♙c3 cxd4**

Interesting! Rob transposes from the usual move order again, as 19...♙he8 20.♘e5 (Fruit had the inferior 20.dxc5?! ♙xc5 and White has allowed Black's queen into an aggressive position) 20...cxd4 21.♙xd4 ♙xe5 22.♙xe5

♖c6 is the best known continuation, but I like the look of White's chance to play 23.g4 here, so again it seems that Rob has chosen wisely

## 20. ♖xd4



## 20...a6

Best. I note that 20...♖c5 has been tried, in a game that ended in a draw, but I doubt that the 21.♖a1 that was played then was best and think that 21.g4!? might have given Black more problems.

Also I found that 20...♗c5?! has also been played, but it doesn't stop the threatened knight move, and after 21.♖b5 ♖e7 22.♗e5 White's position looks strong. No, I think Black might be okay with 22...a6! Can White now leave the knight en pris and play 23.♖c1!?

Well the game itself is still in theory, and now White can choose from ♖c1 and g4, which are both rare but have 100% records, or the 'safe' move ♖b3 which is the most popular but 'only' scores 50%!

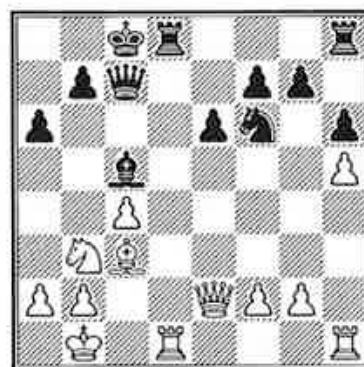
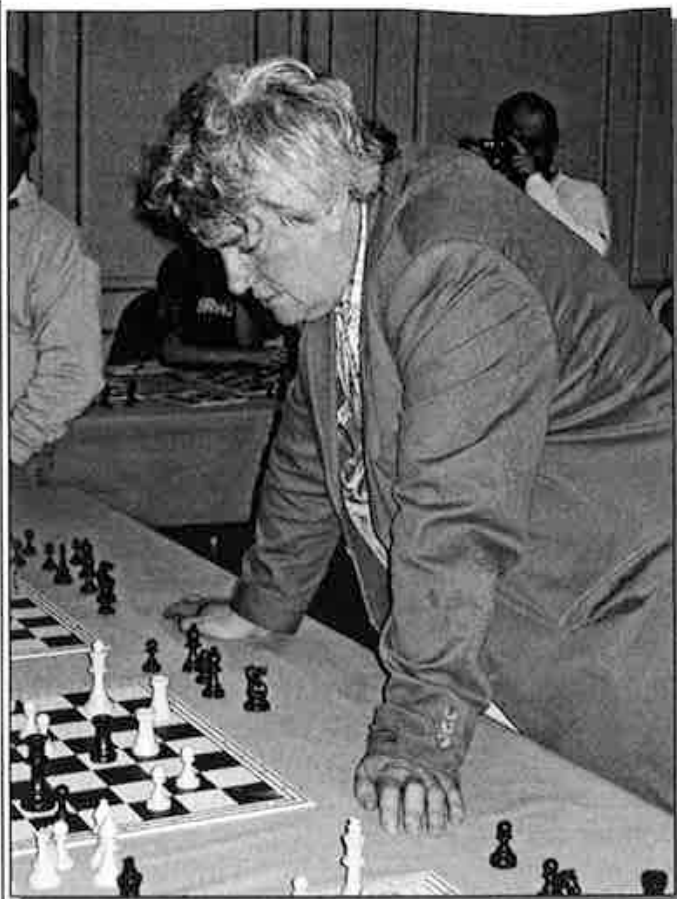
## 21. ♖b3

21.♖c1 ♗f4 22.♖c2; 21.g4 and instead of ♖d7 as Black I'd play 21...♗f4!=

Rob also told me that Resurrection Rybka2 came up with another idea in 21.b4 which looks very double-edged and slightly risky and against which I'd play 21...♗e7!

After the move played White has a promising position, and neither the main move ♖c6, nor the best alternative ♗e7 have good records for Black as the databases show just a few draws mixed in with wins for White. So Rob goes with...

## 21...♗c5N



Here are the theory lines:

[a]. 21...♗e7 22.g4 ♖xd1+ 23.♖xd1 ♖d8 24.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 25.♗e5 ♖c6 26.f3 ♖e8 1/2-1/2. Estrada Nieto, J (2351) – Mendez, D (2185), Santo Domingo 2005

[b]. 21...♖c6 22.c5 ♗c7 23.g3 ♖hg8 24.♗a5 ♗xa5 25.♖xa5 ♖e4+ 26.♖xe4 ♖xe4 27.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 28.♖b3 ♖xf2 29.♖h4 ♖d5 30.♖f4 ♖f5 1/2-1/2. Nicely, A – Udhayakumar, S, Parsipanny 2009

[c]. 21...♖d7 22.c5 ♗e7 23.c6 ♖xd1+ 24.♖xd1 ♖d8 25.♖c1 ♖f4 26.cxb7+ ♖xb7 27.♖a5+ ♖b6 28.♗xf6 1-0. Purgar, I (2023) – Tomulic, V (1954), Sibenik 2007

## 22. ♗e5

You'll not be surprised to know that the

move we'd like to have seen – or in Rob's case perhaps NOT want to see! – was 22.g4. I wonder what Rob would have chosen against that!?

I think Black's defence would be a little tricky, but 22...♙e7 probably followed by exchanges on d1 should be okay in the short term

**22...♙c6!**

Best, keeping the queen more active than she'd be on e7

**23.♘xc5**

Once again, and now along with Fruit, we found ourselves looking at 23.g4 but this time it seems that 23...♙d6 24.♙c3 ♙f4 leaves Black comfortably placed

**23...♙xc5**



**24.b3**

You could argue, along with Rybka2, that a3 preparing b4 was a more positive try for the GM, but it beginning to look as if Rob's accurate defence is going to get him a deserved draw

**24...a5**

Putting an end to any b4 thoughts Timman might still have held.

However it's possible that 24...♙xd1+ 25.♙xd1 ♘h5 26.♙h5 f6 was more accurate, as it gives Timman something to think about. However 27.f3 is about equal, or 27.♙e1 fxe5 28.♙xe5 ♙xf2 29.♙xe6+ ♖b8 30.♙e5+ which almost certainly draws

**25.♙xf6?!**



We must look at a line which might have put a '?!' against Rob's 24...a5.

I think Timman missed a small chance to keep our good friend on his toes for a while with 25.♙b2! ♙hg8! 26.♙d4 (or 26.f3 ♘h5 27.g4 ♘f6 28.♙c3). Though 26...♙g5 27.f3 ♙d7 ought to keep the draw, I don't think the defence was quite as easy to get right.

Another idea came from Fruit for which Rob sent some analysis, and that was 25.f4.

Fruit now wanted 25...♙xd1+ 26.♙xd1 ♙d8 27.♙xd8+ ♖xd8 and then 28.a4 might give White a slight edge

But instead, after 25.f4 I think 25...a4 might have been better and play could proceed 26.g4 ♙xd1+ 27.♙xd1 ♙d8 28.♙xd8+ ♖xd8. Even though White would now have 29.g5 nevertheless 29...hxg5 30.h6 gxf4 31.♙xf6+ gxf6 32.♙d2+ ♖e7 33.♙xf4 axb3 34.axb3 ♙g1+ still looks like a draw

**25...♙f5+**

The game should now be drawn, and indeed it was... well done Rob

**26.♙c2 ♙xc2+ 27.♖xc2 gxf6 28.♙d3 ♙xd3 29.♖xd3 ♙g8 30.g3 ♙g5 ½-½**

Rob says that, after he had played 30...♙g5, Timman offered him a draw, which Rob accepted immediately!

A very proud moment – thanks Rob for sharing all of this with *Selective Search*.



# CHRIS GOULDEN's UCI+WINBOARD ENGINES PAGES

## LAST TIME

We had the disappointing news that Chris was going to bring his regular column to an end with issue 151... this one! We gave a run down of Chris's work obtaining engines and playing tournaments to produce his valuable articles, in the hope that someone might be willing to take the work on in the same or a similar format! No takers so far :-)

DIVISION 1 was won by Stockfish 1.71 (13/18), with Critter 0.70 and Komodo 2= with 12. New versions of the winners have come out since.

The engines in DIVISION 2 were very evenly matched with strong newcomers and it was a close finish with Boot 4.15.0 winning by a  $\frac{1}{2}$ pt from Alaric, then Scorpio and Daydreamer only just behind.

## Hi Eric

Please find enclosed the CBVs for the special tournament, Division 3, and the two final tables embedded into this e-mail.

As this is my last article, please get in touch if you need anything off of me if somebody volunteers to continue the divisions in this format. Failing that the CEGT gives a very accurate quick snapshot of current engines. You publish one of the CEGT tables anyway so it is there for all to see. Here is the report:

## Hello again everybody

For my final article I thought I would start by following on from the editor's comments in the last issue about some of the engines I brought to your notice since I first started in Selective Search 106!

Eric did mention the beta version of Rybka



that created a bit of a stir and went private and commercial within 24 hours of being on the WBEC Ridderkerk site when we first found out about it.

The writing was on the wall however as early as Selective Search 109 in December 2003 with regard to the amateurs catching up the professional programmers when the freely available Ruffian 1.0.1 was already as strong as the commercial Shredder 6, Fritz 6, and Junior 6.

There were two engines of note that I can remember coming through the ranks to win my 1st Division before quickly going commercial, and they were SmarThink 17a and Ktulu 4.2 in April 2005, Selective Search 117. They are still commercial to this day but they cannot live with current freely available engines like Critter, Stockfish or Gull, which is an example of how much the standard of engines has moved on. Clones that have been discovered of course are a different and unfortunate issue.

## So on to my final divisions.

I will start with the **Special Table**. I chose

not to run a ProAm because I wanted to squeeze in some upgraded and new engines that were not in my final Division 1 table.

I left Deep Junior 11.2 in there as a commercial marker, but a later version of Junior is now available.

The other engines of interest here were Loop 2007 which was made freely available recently and is of a similar standard to the commercial Loop 13.6.

I also changed the version of Fruit for this test because the author of Grapefruit is also the author of Gull 0.12a, so Gull is a 30 to 40 Elo leap in strength on the original program. Loop and Grapefruit did struggle in this company however.

There was a good showing however from Hannibal 1.0 formerly known as Twisted Logic. Mid table was a good result in this company.

The scary bit for the professionals is that there are already newer versions of Stockfish, Gull and Critter and their progress can be seen at the CEGT.

At the bottom please note that I placed Protector ahead of Loop and Grapefruit due to more wins.

### CHRIS GOULDEN SPECIAL DIVISION

| Pos | ENGINE                                         | /18 |
|-----|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1   | STOCKFISH 1.8                                  | 13  |
| 2   | DEEP JUNIOR 11.2UCI                            | 12  |
| 3=  | KOMODO 1.2<br>CRITTER 0.8                      | 11  |
| 5   | HANNIBAL 1.0                                   | 8½  |
| 6   | GULL 0.12A                                     | 8   |
| 7   | THINKER 5.4D                                   | 7   |
| 8=  | PROTECTOR 1.3.5<br>GRAPEFRUIT 1.0<br>LOOP 2007 | 6½  |

In **Division 3**, if I had been continuing testing then Cyrano and Colossus would have been promoted to Division 2.

A new engine for readers known as N2 had a comfortable start in Division 3 having qualified via playoffs.

It was sad however to see this version of The Baron bottom of Division 3. It is one of the oldest engines along with Crafty to still be capable of cutting it at this level due to regular improvement.

### DIVISION 3

| Pos | ENGINE                          | /18 |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1   | CYRANO 0.6B17                   | 13½ |
| 2   | COLOSSUS 2008B                  | 12  |
| 3   | HAMSTERS 0.7.1                  | 11  |
| 4=  | SLOPPY 0.22 JA<br>CHRONOS 1.970 | 9   |
| 6   | N2                              | 8   |
| 7   | ALFIL 8.11                      | 7½  |
| 8=  | PSEUDO 0.7c<br>CRAFTY 23.1      | 7   |
| 10  | THE BARON 2.23                  | 6   |

Thanks Eric for letting me contribute to Selective Search since number 106. I will still take an interest in Selective Search to see what progress the chess engines make, as there appears to be no stopping them.

Cheers for now..... *Chris*

Eric: Well, what can I say?!

*Selective Search 106* is sooo long ago that I had to get a copy out to see when that was, and it was Jun-Jul 2003!! You've not been doing this for quite as long as I have, Chris, but it's been a terrific effort.

More than that I have looked forward every few weeks to your e-mails, partly because they've helped us all to keep up with 'what's new', but mainly because I have really enjoyed and appreciated them myself. So very many thanks to you Chris.

Now all we want to see is Altrincham getting themselves off the bottom of the Blue Square Premier!

# World COMPUTER CHESS Champs - 2010

The 18<sup>th</sup> ICGA World Computer Chess Championship was held at JAIST, Kanazawa, Japan from September 24 to October 2, with 10 participants. Five were from among the world's strongest programs, and 5 were comparative newcomers.

One 'new' program was called **Rondo**, but actually it is a successor to Anthony Cozzie's program Zappa which won the title in 2005. It was running on 32-core hardware. The author is Zach Wegner who has taken on the job of trying to improve on Cozzie's Zappa with new ideas, though this is somewhat surprising as Wegner has never done very well with his own program ZCT.

We were also told that Johannes Zwanzger had put a lot of effort into his program **Jonny**, and he was hoping for a top position, especially as his engine was running on an 8x 100 core cluster - how fast is that?!!

Of course all eyes were on **Rybka**, especially as it was running on a 200 Core Nehalem Cluster, the very latest rather remarkable work of Lukas Ciminiotti!

Against such mighty hardware **Shredder** and **Junior** were on 12 cores, **Thinker** and **Pandix** were on 4 cores, whilst **Darmenios**, **Fridolin** and **Hector** are SP only (1 core) code. Not a very even playing field at all.

To try and avoid too many complaints about the 'unequal hardware' a special **WCSC**

(Software) Championship ran alongside, with all participants on (I think) 4-core hardware. Disappointingly Vasik Rajlich decided not to enter Rybka in this, though at least this meant that others would have the chance to win a World Title, and then also boast that it was in an exactly equal competition!

Finally there was also the usual **Speed Championship**, and for this the competitors were allowed again to use their own greatly differing hardware.

However, for this issue, we are concentrating on the main **World Championship** Event. We will look at the Speed and equal Software titles more fully next time, but I will give you all three results at the end of this article!

## The Hardware Issue

I don't think the amateur programmers worry too much about the hardware differences, they are there more for the fun of competing. But is it clearly a problem for commercial programmers, as entering a commercial engine on perhaps 4-core or 8-core hardware puts them greatly at risk of getting a poor result which will certainly affect sales even though it may be nothing to do with the engine quality itself.

I am also told that commercial programmers have to pay a much higher entry fee than the amateurs do. I believe Pascutto (who had a very fast 128 cluster last time out) decided against entering Sjeng this year

| Name                | Origin  | Hardware             | Engine Author       | Opening Book         |
|---------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Darmenios           | Poland  | Xeon 4 Core          | D Czechowski        | D Czechowski         |
| Fridolin            | Germany | Xeon 4 Core          | C Sommerfield       | E Gunes (Turkey)     |
| Hector for Chess    | Hungary | Xeon 4 Core          | Csaba Jergler       | Csaba Jergler        |
| Jonny               | Germany | 8x100 Core Cluster   | Johannes Zwangler   | M Roberts (USA)      |
| Junior              | Israel  | 12 Core Intel        | Ban & Bushinsky     | A Greenfeld          |
| Pandix Breakthrough | Hungary | Xeon 4 Core          | Gyula Horvatch      | Gyula Horvatch       |
| Rondo               | USA     | 32 Core Beckton 7560 | Zach Wegner         | E Gunes (Turkey)     |
| Rybka               | Poland  | 200 Core Cluster     | Vasik Rajlich       | Jiri Dufek (CZ)      |
| Shredder            | Germany | 12 Core Intel Xeon   | Stefan Meyer-Kahlen | Sandro Necchi (It)   |
| Thinker             | USA     | Quad Core i7         | Kerwin Medina       | Williams & Hernandez |

because of this, and Mark Uniacke, being without especially fast hardware, would not enter the main event because of that, and decided against putting Hiarcs into the WCSC because of the cost of getting to Japan, staying there for a week, and only entering one tournament at a high price. There isn't much money at all in the computer chess business nowadays and, to be honest, it amazes me that there were actually ten entrants who could afford to do it!

## The World Championship

### Round 1

The most interesting game was Thinker – Junior. After Black played the Sicilian opening with the Sveshnikov variation, Deep Junior looked for an original way to employ the power of its two bishops and sacrificed a pawn for open lines and diagonals. Thinker took the pawn and kept the position as closed as possible for some time but then unexpectedly sacrificed the exchange for a pawn, now having two pawns and a minor piece for Black's rook. The position was still closed, so in favour of Thinker's knight and the two pawns, so then Junior sacrificed a pawn, but it turned out not to give sufficient compensation. Thinker played a splendid game and won deservedly.

### Thinker - Deep Junior

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♘db5 d6 7.♙f4 e5 8.♙g5 a6 9.♙xf6 gxf6 10.♘a3 b5 11.♘d5 ♙g7 12.♙d3 ♘e7 13.♘xe7 ♙xe7 14.0-0 0-0 15.c3 f5 16.♘c2 ♙b8 17.♙e1



17...d5N [17...fxe4 18.♙xe4 f5= is usual] 18.exf5 ♙g5 19.♙xc1 ♙xc1 20.♙axc1 ♙d8 21.f3 ♙f6 22.♙f2 ♙g7 23.g3 h5 24.h4 ♙b6 25.a3 ♙bd6 26.♙e2 ♙g8 27.♙ce1 ♙e8 28.♘d4 ♙e7 29.♙b1 ♙b7 30.♘b3 ♙c7



Kerwin Medina, Thinker



31.♙xe5!! ♙xe5 32.♙xe5 ♙c6 33.g4 ♙f8 34.g5 ♙d7 35.f6 a5 36.♙e7 ♙e6 [36...b4 would have avoided losing a pawn, but after 37.♙f5! bxc3 38.bxc3 ♙b7 39.♘d4 Black is in worse trouble!] 37.♙xe6 ♙xe6 38.♘xa5 d4 39.cxd4 ♙d5 40.♙d3 ♙a7 41.b4 ♙c7 42.♙xb5 ♙c3 43.a4 ♙xf3+ 44.♙e2 ♙c3



45.♙c6! [This settles it] 45...♙xc6 [45...♙xc6 46.♙d2 ♙a3 was better, but 47.♘xc6 ♙xa4 48.b5 still wins] 46.♘xc6 ♙xc6 47.b5 1-0

- Darmenios 0-1 Rybka
- Thinker 1-0 Junior
- Hector 0-1 Shredder

- Fridolin 0-1 Rondo
- Pandix 0-1 Jonny

## Round 2

World Champion Rybka now faced the suddenly tough opposition of Thinker, and again Thinker sacrificed the exchange, not so unusual in a Sicilian, but it shows the engine has enterprise! The middle game that followed was a tough battle for squares and open lines, and Rybka is strong in these areas. It took some time, rearranging its pieces at least three or four times, but finally it arrived at the right idea, to exchange the g-pawns in order to free the h-pawn.

### Rybka - Thinker

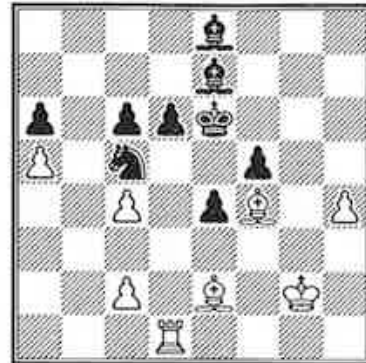
1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.♟de2 h5 8.g3 ♟e6 9.♟g2 ♟e7 10.0-0 ♟bd7 11.♟e3 ♟c8 12.a4 ♟c5 13.a5 0-0 14.♟d2 ♟c4 15.♟fd1 ♟e8 16.♟c1 ♟e6 17.♟1a2 ♟c7 18.♟b4 ♟c8 19.♟h2 ♟cd7 20.♟f1 ♟d8 21.♟ac1



21...♟xc3!? [21...h4 22.g4 ♟e8 isn't really going anywhere] 22.♟xc3 ♟xc3 23.bxc3 ♟xe4 24.c4 ♟dc5 25.♟a1 h4 26.♟d3 hxg3+ 27.fxg3 f5 28.♟xc5 ♟xc5 29.♟ab1 ♟c8 30.♟g2 e4 31.♟f1 g6 32.h4 ♟f7 33.♟b2 ♟d7 34.♟g2 ♟f6 35.♟bb1 ♟c5 36.♟b6 ♟e7 37.♟d5 ♟e6 38.♟d2 ♟c8 39.♟g5



39...♟c6?! [The subsequent exchange of rooks isn't to Thinker's advantage as now its pawns come under attack. 39...♟d8 was probably better] 40.♟xc6 bxc6 41.♟d1 ♟d7 42.♟f4! ♟e6 [And now comes the vital pawn push!] 43.g4! ♟e8 [43...♟xh4 44.♟xd6+ ♟e7 45.♟xg6 ♟e6 46.♟d2 f4 probably wouldn't have worked out any better, though a tense finish looks likely with Black's pair of connected passed pawns as compensation for the loss of the exchange] 44.gxf5+! gxf5 45.♟e2



45...♟f7 [Obviously we have to consider what might happen after 45...♟xh4?! Well 46.♟xd6+! ♟e7 47.♟h6 ♟f6 48.♟h7+ ♟d8 49.♟d6 ♟d7 50.c5 followed soon by ♟xa6 winning] 46.h5! ♟d7 47.♟e3 ♟e8 [47...♟e6 was the best defence, then 48.♟f1 ♟e8 49.♟g3! ♟f6 50.♟xf5 but of course White is still winning] 48.h6 ♟g6 49.♟h1 ♟h7 50.♟b1! ♟e6 51.♟h5+ ♟d7?! [51...♟d8 was better, but it doesn't really matter] 52.♟b7+ ♟c7 53.♟e8+ ♟xe8 54.♟xc7 [It's all over but you have to get these thing exactly right, so it is worth checking to see how it's done: 54...d5 55.♟xc6 f4 56.♟xf4 d4 57.♟xa6 e3 58.♟f3 ♟xc2 59.♟a8+ ♟d7 60.a6 ♟d1+ 61.♟e4 and if 61...e2 62.♟g3] 1-0



The Jonny – Rondo game was very even, Rondo just found a way to win in a long endgame. Pandix – Shredder was another long one, Shredder had the initiative for ages but Pandix defended superbly, created counter threats and Shredder had to give perpetual check to get the draw!

Junior played a dynamic Sicilian game against Fridolin, as we have seen so many times. "Pawns are only material and activity is more dynamic" is the Junior motto!

- Rybka 1-0 Thinker
- Hector 0-1 Darmenios
- Fridolin 0-1 Junior
- Pandix ½-½ Shredder
- Jonny 0-1 Rondo

### Round 3

The third round was interesting. Rybka had Black in this round against Pandix, and the Hungarian program, authored by Gyula Horvath, played some fine chess. From an English opening Pandix had two bishops against Black's rook and a pawn, sometimes two pawns. The pawns however weren't strong enough to ever threaten and despite the many ideas and threats each made, it ended in a draw, and so Rybka lost its 1= top spot!

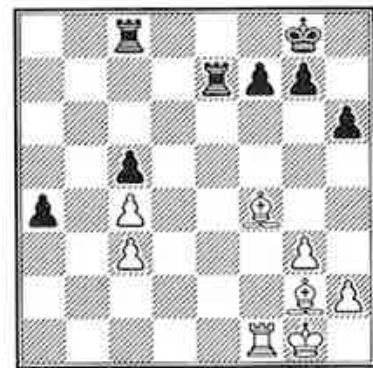
#### Pandix Breakthrough - Rybka

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.♙f3 ♙f6 4.g3 ♘b4 5.♙g2 0-0 6.0-0 ♙xc3 7.bxc3 d6 8.d3 h6 9.♙e1N [9.e4 or 9.♙b1 usually get played] 9...e4 10.♙c2 ♖e8 11.♙e3 ♖b8 12.♖b1 b6 13.dxe4 ♙a5 [Rybka sacs a pawn, obviously not liking the look of it's king's exposure after 13...♙xe4 14.♖c2 f5] 14.♖c2 ♙g4 15.c5 ♙xe3 16.♙xe3 ♙c4 17.cxb6 axb6 18.♙c1 ♙d7 19.a4 ♖a8 20.♖b4 ♙e5 21.f4 c5 22.♖b1 ♙xa4 23.♖d2 ♙c4 24.♖d3 b5 25.e5 ♖b8 26.♙c6 ♖e7 27.♖a1 ♖c8



Gyula Horvath, Pandix Breakthrough

28.♙g2?! [28.♙d5= would have avoided the unbalancing exchanges which now follow] 28...dxe5 29.♖xa4 ♖xd3 [29...♖d7!? 30.♖e4 ♙d6 31.♖c2 bxa4 32.fxe5 ♙c4+] 30.exd3 bxa4 31.dxc4 exf4 32.♙xf4



[After this there is no pawn strong enough to threaten and I believe the game is already drawn with best play] 32...♖e2 33.♖a1 g5 34.♙f3 ♖c2 35.♙c1 ♖b8 36.♙d5 ♖xc3 37.♙a3 ♖d8 38.♙f2 ♖c8 39.♖a2 h5 40.♙f1 g4 41.♙f2 ♖d8 42.♖a1 ♖c8 43.♙e2 ♖c2+ 44.♙d3 ♖xh2 45.♙c1 h4 46.gxh4 ♖e8 47.♙f4 ♖h3+ 48.♙d2 a3 49.♙d6 ♖ee3 50.♖g1 ♙h7 51.♖xg4 a2 52.♖g1 ♖a3 53.♖a1 f5 54.h5 ♖xh5 55.♙c1 ♖a5 56.♙c2 ♖h3 57.♙e5 ♖a6 58.♙b2 ♖e3 59.♖h1+ ♙g6 60.♖g1+ ♙h5 61.♙f4 ♖ea3 62.♙a1 ♖b6 63.♙e5 ♖b1+ 64.♖xb1 axb1♖+ 65.♙xb1 ♖a6 66.♙f3+ ♙g5 67.♙b2 f4 68.♙c3 ♖e6 69.♙c2 ♖a6 70.♙e1 ♖a2+ 71.♙b3 ♖a1 72.♙c3 ♖b1+ 73.♙c2 ♖f1 74.♙e4 ♙g4 75.♙d2 ♖f2+ 76.♙d3 f3 77.♙d2 ♖e2 78.♙e3 ♙g3 79.♙xc5 ♖e1 80.♙c6 ♖e6 81.♙e4 ♙g4 82.♙d5 ♖e8 83.♙d4 ♙g3 84.c5 f2 85.♙xf2+ ♙xf2 ½-½

Much more exciting was the contest between

Shredder and Thinker in which Shredder unexpectedly sacrificed its queen! It is to Shredder's credit that it found its way through a myriad of complicated variations to win.

### Shredder - Thinker

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.♙g2 ♘c6 6.0-0 ♖b8 7.e3 b5 8.♞e2 ♙d7 9.b3 ♙d6N [9...cxb3 10.axb3 ♙b4 11.♙b2 0-0 is the only line in my database] 10.bxc4 bxc4 11.e4 ♙b4 12.♞xc4 [This will have been played with the queen sac' already in view. If I'd not seen the 1-0 at the end of the game I'd have given it a '?!' The best 'normal' alternative would be 12.♞d1 0-0 13.♘e5=] 12...♘xe4 13.♘e5 ♘d6 14.♞xc6 ♙xc6 15.♘xc6 ♞c8 16.a3 ♙a5 17.♘xa5



[Would you rather be White or Black?!] 17...♞a6 18.♙d2 ♖b2 19.♘c6 0-0 20.♞c1 ♘f5 21.♙e1 ♞e8 22.♘d2 ♞a4 23.♘e4 ♞c2 24.♙b4! [White might have a slight advantage now. 24.♞xc2?! ♞xc2=] 24...♞b3 [Not 24...♞xc6? 25.♘f6+! winning the queen with 25...gxf6 26.♙xc6] 25.♞xc2 ♞xc2 26.♘c3 [A moment of respite for the harassed queen, but Thinker moves it again anyway] 26...♞b2 27.♖b1 ♞d2 28.♞d1 ♞b2



[In many situations you wouldn't want your opponent's queen on your second rank, but here it seems more that she's just stuck behind enemy lines] 29.♙e4 ♘h8 30.♞e1 a5 31.♖b1 ♞d2

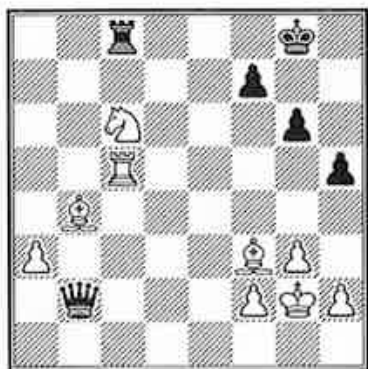


Stefan Meyer-Kahlen, Shredder

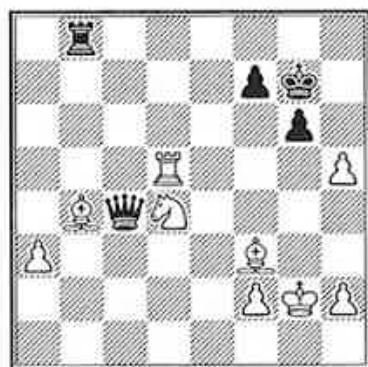
32.♙xa5 [The co-ordination of Shredder's pieces is very impressive] 32...♘d6 33.♙g2 ♘c4 34.♙b4 ♘b2 [34...♘xa3?! doesn't work because of 35.♘b5 putting the queen en pris, and best is 35...♘xb1 36.♙xd2 ♘xd2. After 37.♘xc7 White has the better chances in a difficult endgame] 35.♘e5 ♘d3 36.♘xd3 ♞xd3 37.♞d1 ♞c2 38.♙e4 ♞b3 39.d5! ♞d8 40.♞e1 ♞c4 41.♙f3 exd5 42.♙xd5



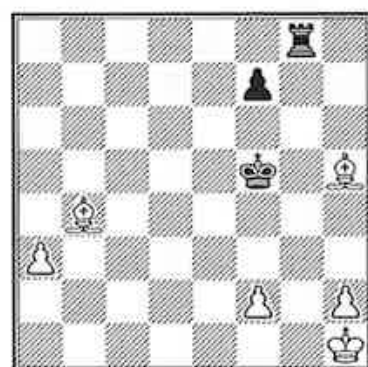
[As the board empties the chess engines start to show White as having an advantage. It is always going to have the chance to manoeuvre the ♖, ♘ and one of the ♙ pair to attack a Black pawn, and Black only has the 2 major pieces for any defence, and even that could lose it the exchange. So the Black f-♙ is in danger at the moment, and the isolated c-♙ will be a permanent target] 42...♞d4 43.♞e4 ♞d3 44.♙c4 ♞d2 45.♞e5 ♞c8 46.♞c5 ♞d7 47.♙g2 c6! [This makes the pawn easier to defend. On c7 meant the c8/♞ could be kicked off the c-file by ♙a6. Now it could move ♞c7 and remain in support of the pawn] 48.♙e2 ♙g8 49.♘a4 ♞d8 50.♘b2! [Heading for a5! As White reorganises Black can only wait to see where it will be attacked next, and if White can force a material breakthrough] 50...g6 51.♘c4 ♞d4 52.♘a5 ♞b2 53.♙f3 h5 54.♘xc6



54...♔h7 55.♙e4 ♖e2 56.♞e5! ♔g7 57.♙f3 ♜c2  
58.♞c5 ♜a4 59.♞a5 ♜b3 60.♞a7 ♜c2 61.♞d4  
♜c4 62.♞d7 h4?! [Almost humanlike impatience.  
Surely 62...♞e8 was better, and if 63.h3 then  
63...h4 64.gxh4 ♜c8 White still looks like  
winning after 65.♞d5 but it's still a work in  
progress] 63.gxh4 ♞e8 64.♞d5! ♞b8 65.h5!



65...gxh5?! [65...♞b6 was better, but 66.♙e4  
♜c8 67.f3 and Black hasn't got a move it wants to  
make! If 67...f5 68.♙c2 ♔h8 69.♙b3 ♔g7  
70.hxg6 ♞xg6+ 71.♔f2 and it's almost over for  
1-0] 66.♞f5+! ♔f6 67.♞e3 [67.♞g3!?!]  
67...♞g8+ 68.♔h1 ♜f4 [Or 68...♜c8 69.♞c5 ♜h3  
70.♙xh5 also winning] 69.♞f5+ ♜xf5 70.♞xf5  
♔xf5 71.♙xh5



[71...f6 72.♙e2 will win... in due course! As  
White's pawns are isolated Black's rook will have  
great nuisance value in delaying their progress

up the board, but the end is inevitable and  
Thinker's operator resigned] 1-0

- Pandix ½-½ Rybka
- Shredder 1-0 Thinker
- Junior 1-0 Darmenios
- Jonny 1-0 Fridolin
- Rondo 1-0 Hector

After three rounds **Rondo** leads with 3 pts  
followed by **Rybka** and **Shredder** each with  
2½, **Junior** has 2.

#### Round 4

In the fourth round most of the games went  
exactly as expected, though there was a slight  
surprise when Pandix drew with Rondo after  
a very lengthy endgame.

- Rybka 1-0 Jonny
- Shredder 1-0 Fridolin
- Junior 1-0 Hector
- Darmenios 0-1 Thinker
- Rondo ½-½ Pandix

After four rounds **Rondo**, **Rybka** and **Shred-**  
**der** are in the lead with 3½ pts, Deep **Junior**  
has 3.

#### Round 5

Two of the three leaders met in this round:  
Rondo v Rybka! The Sicilian opening with  
Larsen's b3 saw Rybka looking for the initia-  
tive and Rondo responding cautiously with a  
nice counter attack at the right moment. It  
might have been exciting at the time for the  
operators and spectators, but playing through  
the game with a strong engine analysing is  
much less so, as they show that a draw was  
always the likely outcome, and that's what it  
was. Despite obtaining a slight initiative  
Shredder was unable to take advantage of  
their draw in its game with Jonny, as a long  
series of exchanges left a drawish rook  
ending which it couldn't find a way to win.

- Rondo ½-½ Rybka
- Shredder ½-½ Jonny
- Junior ½-½ Pandix
- Darmenios 1-0 Fridolin
- Thinker 1-0 Hector

The same 3 leaders have 4/5: **Rondo**, **Rybka**,  
**Shredder**. **Junior** has 3½, and **Thinker** 3.

## Round 6

Round 6 would separate the men from the boys! Rybka overran Hector For Chess with 2 wonderful knight manoeuvres: Na5 – Nb3 – Nc5 – Na4 – Nc3, then with the other knight Ne7 – c6 – b4.

### Hector For Chess - Rybka

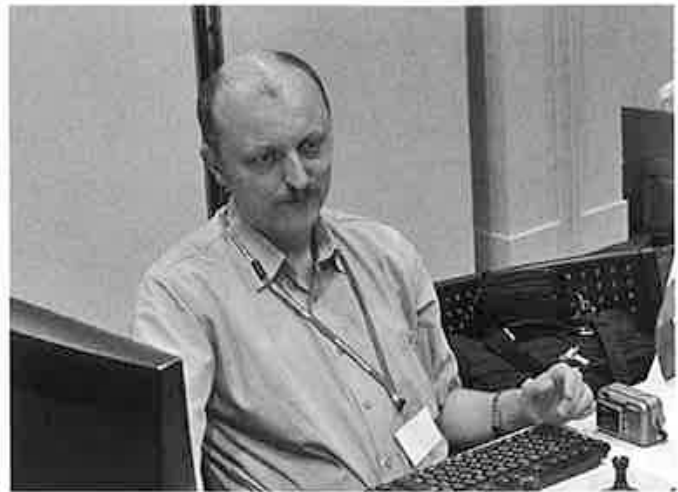
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.e5 ♙d7 5.a3 ♘xc3+ 6.bxc3 b6 7.♙g4 f5 8.♙g3 ♘a6 9.♘xa6 ♘xa6 10.♘e2 ♔f7 11.♘f4 ♘e7 12.♙f3 ♖hc8 13.♙e2 ♘b8 14.♘b2 c5 15.h4 ♘bc6 16.h5



16...♘a5! 17.h6 g6 18.♘h3 ♖c7 19.♘g5+ ♔g8 20.♘c1 ♖ac8 21.♖a2 cxd4 22.cxd4 ♖c4 23.♖h4? [23.♙d3 was needed, and if 23...f4 24.♖h4 f3 25.♘xf3 ♙a4 26.♙d1 might hold – well, perhaps not against 200-core Rybka, but it's better than the game move!] 23...♘b3 24.♘e3 ♘c5 25.f3 ♘a4 26.♙d3 ♙b5 27.♙b3 ♙a6 28.♙d3 ♘c3! 29.♖a1



[White's position is simply awful, so now Rybka starts to improve its other knight!] 29...♘c6! 30.♘xe6 ♘b4 31.♙d2 ♘e4 [Rybka leaves its second knight en pris!] 32.fxe4 ♖xc2! 33.axb4 [There was only one safe square for the queen: 33.♙d1 but 33...♘d3+ 34.♔f1 ♘f2+ 35.♔g1 ♘xd1 now wins the queen and the game] 33...♙xa1+ 34.♙d1 ♙c3+ [White could resign] 35.♘d2 ♙g3+ 36.♔f1 ♙xh4 37.♘f4 ♖b2 38.♔g1



Csaba Jergler, Hector for Chess

♖cc2 39.♙e1 ♙g5 [I have m/12 showing on my screen!] 40.♔h2 ♖xd2 41.♙g3 ♙xh6+ 42.♘h3 dxe4 43.♔g1 ♖d1+ 44.♔h2 ♙c1 45.♘f2 ♖xf2 46.♙b3+ ♔h8 47.♙xd1 0-1

Rondo also showed superior chess in this round against no less than former world champion Shredder. In a Sicilian defence Shredder saw its f-pawn doubled and decided to castle to the queenside, trying to develop pressure along the half-open g-file. However this got nowhere, the rooks on g7 and g8 couldn't breach White's pawn fortress h2 – g3 – f4.

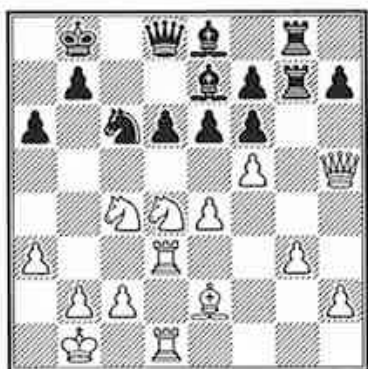
### Rondo - Shredder

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♙c7 6.♘g5 e6 7.♘xf6 gxf6 8.♙f3 ♘e7 9.0-0-0 a6 10.♙g3 ♘c6 11.♙g7 ♖f8 12.♘b3 ♙b6 13.♖d2 ♘d7 14.♔b1 0-0-0 15.♙h6 ♖h8 16.♙h5 ♖dg8 17.f4 ♖g7 18.g3 ♔b8 19.♘e2 ♖hg8

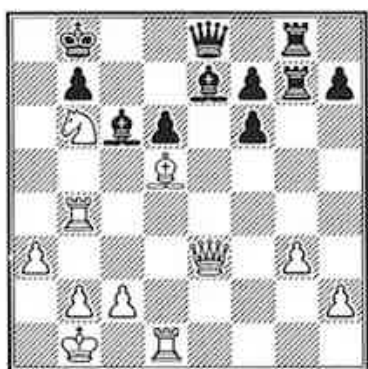


[The impotent 'attack'] 20.♖hd1 ♙c7 21.♖d3 ♘b4 22.♖d4 ♘c6 23.♖d2 ♘e8 [Black's position has no mobility. It might be slow progress but it is mostly a question of whether Rondo can press

forward and find a way to win] 24.a3 ♖d7 25.♙f3 ♜b6 26.♜d3 ♙e8 27.♞e2 ♞a7 28.♞ed4 ♖d7 29.♞d2 ♙e8 30.f5!? ♜d8 31.♙e2 ♞c6 32.♞c4



[The knights now look impressive] 32...♞e5 33.♜c3 ♖d7 34.♜b3 ♙a4 35.♜b4 ♖d7 36.♞b6! ♙e8 37.♙xa6! [37.fxe6 a5 38.♜b3 a4 39.♜b4 was probably also winning as sadly Black must play 39...d5 (39...fxe6? looks good but allows 40.♜h6 with the massive threat of ♞xe6. So 40...♙f7 41.♞xa4 ♜a5 42.♜d2!+-) 40.♞xd5 ♙xb4 41.♞xb4. Rondo's chosen game move is a sheer delight which few engines can find!] 37...♞c6 [37...d5 might have been better, but 38.♜b3! ♙c5 39.♞xd5 exd5 40.♜xb7+ ♞a8 41.♜e2!+-; 37...bxa6? would be very bad: 38.♜e2! and it's game over] 38.♞xc6+ ♙xc6 39.♙c4 ♜e8 [Or 39...d5!? 40.♜b3 ♜g5 41.♜e2 and White is still winning after 41...d4 42.fxe6 fxe6 43.♙xe6 ♜g7 44.♙d5+-] 40.♜f3 exf5 41.♙d5 fxe4 [41...f4?! would have been worse: 42.♜b3! ♜g5 43.♞c4! is just about terminal] 42.♜c3! e3 43.♜xe3



[White's attack is too much for Shredder, but just before you play through the final moves I wanted you to see those 2 rooks, still where they were at our diagram for move 19!] 43...♜g4 [Whoopie, I'm in the game] 44.♙xc6 ♜xc6 45.♜xe7 ♜xb4 46.♞d7+ ♞c8 47.♞xf6 ♜b6 [47...♜xb2+ 48.♞xb2 ♜b5+ 49.♞a1 and Black is down a ♞ but is struggling big time after 49...♜d8 50.♞d5 Qmoves 51.♜d3!] 48.♞xg8 ♜c3 49.♜e8+ ♞c7



Zach Wegner, Rondo (ex Zappa)

50.♜xf7+ ♞b8 51.b3 d5 52.♜xd5 [Now Black is down ♞+3♙. I expect Black played on because it had mate threats, but that hope is gone now] 52...♜c6 53.♜e4 ♜c8 54.♞e7 1-0

And surprisingly Jonny beat Junior in the well-known Sicilian Sveshnikov. For a long time both sides thought the position drawish, but White found Black's Achilles-heel.

### Jonny - Junior

1.e4 c5 2.♞f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4 ♞f6 5.♞c3 ♞c6 6.♞db5 d6 7.♙f4 e5 8.♙g5 a6 9.♞a3 b5 10.♞d5 ♙e7 11.♙xf6 ♙xf6 12.c3 ♙g5 13.♞c2 ♜b8 14.a4 bxa4 15.♞ce3 ♜xb2 16.♜xa4 ♖d7 17.♙xa6 ♜b8 18.0-0 ♞e7 19.♜a3 ♞xd5 20.♞xd5 0-0 21.♙d3 ♜b3 22.♜a6



[Can you see the Achilles heel referred to in the intro to this game?] 22...♙c8 [22...♙e6!? 23.♜ab1 ♙xd5 24.exd5 might have helped as, with the ♞d5 gone Black can protect the d6 pawn with ♙e7] 23.♜c4 ♙e6 24.♜fb1 ♜xb1+ 25.♜xb1



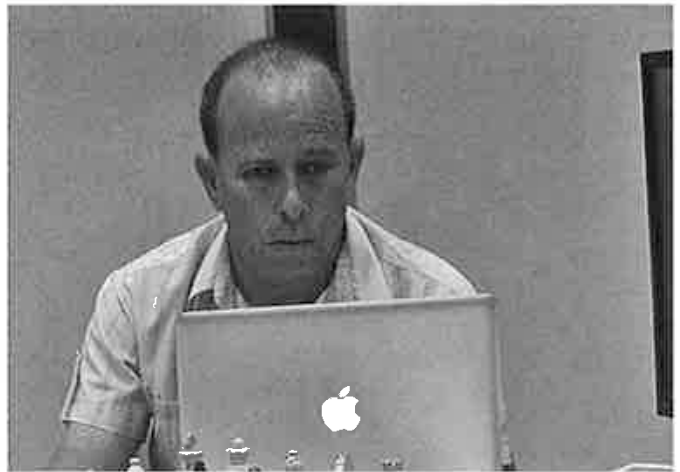
**♞a8 26.♞b6! ♞a1+ 27.♙f1 h6 28.♞b4 ♔h7?!**  
*[Perhaps 28...♙d5!? could have been played here, as suggested earlier, then 29.exd5 ♞e1=]*  
**29.♞xd6 ♙g4 30.♞b4 ♞a8 31.♞b1 ♞a5 32.♞b2 h5 33.♙c4 ♙d2 34.♙d3 ♞xb1+ 35.♙xb1 ♞a1 36.f3 ♙c1 37.♞b7 ♙c8 38.♞b8 ♙e6 39.♔f2 ♙a3 40.♔e2 ♙d6 41.♞b5 ♙d7 42.♞b2 ♙a3 43.♞b7 ♙c8 44.♞b8 ♙e6 45.h3 ♙d6 46.♞b6 ♙c5 47.♞b5 ♙g1 48.♞b2 ♔h6 49.♙c7 ♙c8 50.♙a2 ♔g5 51.♙d5**



**51...♞a7?!** *[This appears only to send the knight somewhere it wants to go, and with a gain of tempo! Better seems 51...♔g6 and if 52.♞b8 ♙d7 53.♞d8 ♙a4 54.♞f8 f6. I think Jonny would wear Black down with its extra pawn, but Junior could have made its opponent work harder for the full point] 52.♙b5! ♙d7 53.♞a2 g6?! [If I was still at school my report might say 'must try harder' for this move. A better effort would be 53...♔f4 when I think White's best response is 54.♞a8 ♙b7 55.♞g8 and Black, admittedly still in some difficulty, chooses between g6 or f6, probably the latter] 54.g3 h4 55.gxh4+ ♔xh4 56.♞a8 ♙b7 57.♞h8+! ♔g5 58.c4! ♔f6 59.h4 ♔g7 60.♞e8 ♔f6 61.♔d3 [61.h5!? gxh5 62.♞h8 looks stronger] 61...♙a6 62.♔c3*



**62...♙b6?** *[Every tempo is vital at this stage of the game, and this gives White a free pawn advance in a moment. Better therefore was 62...♙c5. Now the king can't advance which*



Amir Ban, Junior

*means neither can the c/♙. Therefore 63.♔b3 is best and Black is still just about hanging on with 63...♙e3] 63.♔b4! [Jonny has the win in sight now] 63...♙f2 64.c5! ♙xh4 65.c6 ♙e1+ 66.♔a4 ♙xb5+ [The only move. If 66...♞e7? 67.♞a8 ♙xb5+ 68.♔xb5 ♔g7 69.♞b8 ♙f2 70.♞c8 ♔f6 71.c7, and ♔b6 to follow, so 1-0] 67.♔xb5 ♞a7 68.♞f8 ♙a5 69.♞xf7+ ♞xf7 70.♔xa5 [The pawn soon queens, e.g. 70...♞f8 71.c7 ♔e7 72.♔b6 ♔d7 73.♔b7 g5 74.♙c4 ♞h8 75.♙b5+ ♔e7 76.c8♞] 1-0*

- Hector 0-1 Rybka
- Fridolin 0-1 Thinker
- Pandix 1-0 Darmenios
- Jonny 1-0 Junior
- Rondo 1-0 Shredder

After this round Rondo and Rybka are leading with 5 out of 6, followed by Shredder and Thinker with 4 out of 6.

### Round 7

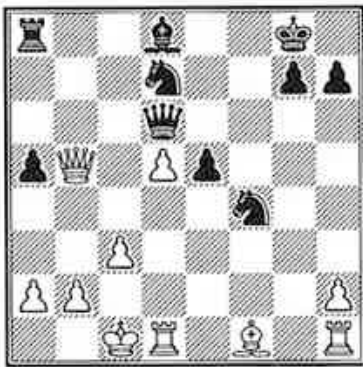
The first thing to mention is that Pandix opened with 1.a3 in this round! In fact it had been trying to overcome the many very heavily prepared opening books that all the top engines use by playing some early [N]ovelities, but this was the most extreme. As White against Jonny it had played the fairly rare 1.c4 e5 2.d3 Nf6 3.a3?! d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.e4?! and then as White against Darmenios 1.c4 e6 2.h3N, and then here as White against Hector it went 1.a3?! and after 1...d5 2.d4 c6 3.Nc3N

In the meantime both of the leaders had a straightforward day with Rybka winning easily in 35 moves against Fridolin, and

Rondo not taking much longer to beat Darmenios.

The game Jonny – Thinker was strange. In a Sicilian Sveshnikov both were in book up to move 23, then Thinker was out. But Jonny remained in its book for 7 more moves, a clear sign of some deep opening preparation. Yet when it came out of book with 32.a4 its evaluation was a big surprise... -0.85. Here are the moves. Did Thinker find an unexpected improvement at move 31, was it bad preparation.... or what?!

### Jonny - Thinker



[Thinker is now out of book, Jonny stays in a prepared line] 24.♖c6 ♜xc6 25.dxc6 ♘b6 26.♙a6 [Might 26.♙c2!? be better?] 26...♙c7 27.♙b5 [27.♙d3 is the alternative, same eval probably] 27...♙f7 28.♙c2 ♙e6 29.♞hg1 g6 30.♞ge1?! [Maybe 30.b3 or b5] 30...g5!



31.a4 [Jonny has come out of its long prepared book, but shows -85 and was now always under pressure and lost in 70 moves?!]

In Shredder – Junior the latter sacrificed a pawn hoping for counterplay that Shredder never allowed to happen, so that was 1-0.

- Rybka 1-0 Fridolin
- Pandix 1-0 Hector
- Jonny 0-1 Thinker
- Rondo 1-0 Darmenios
- Shredder 1-0 Junior

After this round we still have two leaders, **Rybka** and **Rondo** with 6/7. **Shredder** and **Thinker** follow them with 5/7.

### Round 8

Of course there was a lot of interest in the game Junior – Rybka as, last year, Junior had been forced into going all out for a win to have a chance of the title and, in doing so, had lost. Could it do better this year? After a conventional Sicilian opening there was an unexpected queen exchange which led to a complex middle game. White won a pawn - though some said Rybka sassed it to get a strong bishop against Junior's knight! - but at move 60 Junior still seemed to have some chances. Then suddenly its position started to collapse and Rybka finally won the rook ending with apparent ease.

The contest between the two American participants, Thinker - Rondo, would have great impact on the order of the top positions.

### Thinker - Rondo

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.d4 c6 5.♙g5 ♘bd7 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 ♞a5 8.♙d3 ♘e4 9.0-0 ♘xg5 10.♘g5 ♘f6 11.f4

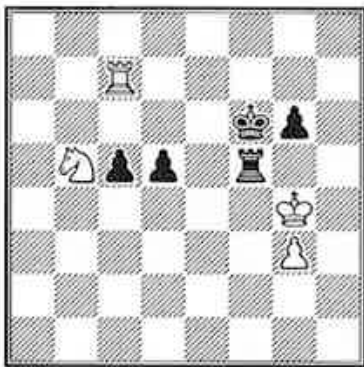


[A fairly aggressive, but known line. The alternative is 11.h3 ♙d6 12.e4=] 11...♙d6?! [In my view having the ♙ on d6 and the ♘ on f6 is the start of Black's troubles! I prefer 11...♙g4 myself. Watch how Thinker seizes on the positions of these 2 minor pieces] 12.e4 h6 13.♘xf7 [The sac' is only temporary and it has the effect of opening

up Black's king safety] 13...♔xf7 14.e5 ♕e7 15.exf6 ♕xf6 16.♖h5+ ♔e7 17.♔h1 ♕d7 [Or 17...♕xd4 18.♖b5 ♕f6 (not 18...cxb5? 19.♖xd5±) 19.♖ae1+ ♔d8] 18.♖ac1 ♖af8 19.♕g6 ♔d8 20.♖fd1 ♖b4 21.g3 ♖d6 22.♔g2 ♕e8 23.b4 ♕xg6 24.♖xg6 h5 25.b5 h4 26.♖g4 ♖e8 27.bxc6 bxc6 28.♖b1 hxg3 29.hxg3 ♖h6 30.♖a4 ♖e6 31.♖xe6 ♖xe6 32.♖c5 ♖e2+ [I'm not convinced that Rondo should be encouraging White's king to advance like this, even if it does win a pawn] 33.♔f3 ♖xa2 34.f5 ♖a3+ 35.♔f4 ♔c8 36.♖b7 ♖h2 37.♖db1 ♖f2+ 38.♔g4



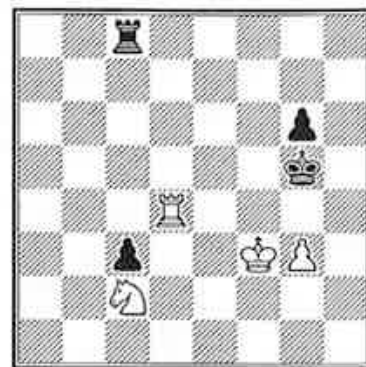
[This one diagram tells you how desperate Rondo's position is in danger of becoming. Try and see how many non-losing moves it has!] 38...♕xd4 [Just the one! The problem is the threat of mate in 3: 39.♖b8+ ♔c7 40.♖1b7+ ♔d6 41.♖d7#] 39.♖b8+ ♔c7 40.♖d6+ [With the ♖/c5 no longer protected 40.♖1b7+ doesn't lead to mate as, after 40...♔d6, the king will be able to play ♔xc5] 40...♔d6 41.♖xd4 [Thinker now has a ♖ for ♖+♖, but Rondo starts to make it hard for White to progress] 41...♖a4 42.♖1b4 ♖xb4 43.♖xb4 c5 44.♖b5+ ♔e5 45.♖a4 ♖xf5 46.♖xa7 g6 47.♖e7+ ♔f6 48.♖c7



48...c4 [48...♖g5+ was probably better, then 49.♔f3 ♖f5+ 50.♔g2 c4. I think the winning chances are with White, but am not sure if this is headed for 1-0 or not! The rejoinder 51.♖c6+ ♔g7 (or 51...♔g5?! 52.♖d4 ♖f7 53.♖d6+-)]



52.♖c7\*\* 52...♖e5 53.♖c5 might still be enough to win] 49.♖c6+ ♔g7? [Rondo had to find 49...♔e5 and after 50.♖xg6 best is 50...♖f8 but 51.♖g5+ ♔e4 52.♖c3+ ♔d4 53.♖xd5 still leaves Black in trouble] 50.♖c7 [The position is almost the same as where I \*\* it above] 50...♔h6 51.♖d6?! [I think 51.♖c5 was better than ♖d6... when you see Black's response to the game move it immediately casts a shadow of doubt about the outcome in one's mind!] 51...c3! 52.♖b5 [The only winning chance] 52...♖g5+ 53.♔f3 ♖f5+ 54.♔g2 d4! [54...c2 doesn't work because of 55.♖c6!] 55.♖xd4 ♖c5! 56.♖c2! ♔g5 57.♔f3 ♖c8 58.♖d4!



[Keeps the Black ♔ away from the ♖/g3 and might allow White to move its own king towards ♖/c3] 58...♖f8+?! [Encouraging White towards ♔f3-e3-d3] 59.♔e3 ♖c8 60.♔d3 ♖f8 61.♖e1! [The heroic ♖ is in exactly the right place again, stopping ♖f3!] 61...♖c8 62.♔c2 ♔h6 [62...♖c5!?] 63.♖f3 ♖f8 64.♖f4 ♖c8 65.g4! ♔g7 66.g5 ♖c6 [It was a bit silly to go to a square the knight can immediately knock you off with tempo! 66...♖c5 67.♖d4 and Black can move its king instead of the rook maybe] 67.♖d4 ♖d6 [The rook has to be on the 6th rank to protect the ♖/g6. Staying on the c-file to protect the ♖/c3 runs into 67...♖c8 68.♖e6+ ♔g8 there's a mate

announcement if you play  $\text{c}h7$  69.  $\text{f}f6$   $\text{c}c6$  (69...  $\text{c}h7?$  70.  $\text{f}f7+$  m/20) 70.  $\text{f}f6$   $\text{g}g6+$  and 1-0] 68.  $\text{c}c3$   $\text{g}g8$  69.  $\text{f}f3$   $\text{c}h8$  70.  $\text{f}f7$   $\text{a}a6$  [70...  $\text{c}c8$  71.  $\text{c}c7$   $\text{d}d5$  72.  $\text{d}d6$   $\text{c}h8$  73.  $\text{e}e7$   $\text{d}d1$ . (If a move seems strange at this point it's because tablebases know best! For example if 73...  $\text{a}a5$ , which seems logical, then 74.  $\text{c}c4$  m/23) 74.  $\text{c}c4$ . Aaah it shows m/24 for this anyway] 71.  $\text{c}c3$   $\text{g}g8$  72.  $\text{c}c7$   $\text{f}f8$  73.  $\text{c}c4$   $\text{a}a5$  74.  $\text{d}d6+$   $\text{c}c8$  75.  $\text{d}d5$   $\text{a}a1$  76.  $\text{c}c5$   $\text{d}d8$  77.  $\text{d}d6+$  [77...  $\text{c}c8$  78.  $\text{e}e7$  is now showing m/31 on my laptop. I expect Rondo resigned because mate announcements were on its display a move or two ago, but this has been a really interesting tussle] 1-0

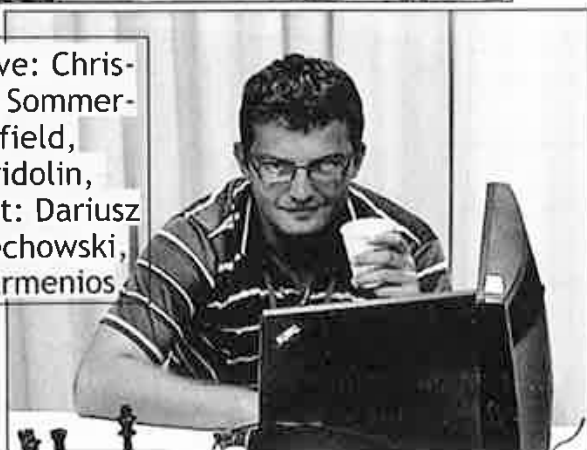
The game Hector – Jonny saw yet another Sicilian Sveshnikov. This time Jonny's deep opening preparation worked and it won!

- Junior 0-1 Rybka
- Darmenios 0-1 Shredder
- Thinker 1-0 Rondo
- Hector 0-1 Jonny
- Fridolin ½-½ Pandix

The situation is as follows: Rybka leads with 7/8 and is followed by **Rondo**, **Shredder** and **Thinker** with 6/8. Once again the force is with Rybka, and only 1 round to go!



Above: Christian Sommerfeld,  
Fridolin,  
Right: Dariusz Czechowski,  
Darmenios



## Round 9

The most important game of the final round was Rybka v Shredder. Rybka only needed a draw to win the Title again! But the book programmer encouraged it into an Open Catalan, going for more with a pawn sac'!

### Rybka - Shredder

1.  $\text{d}d4$   $\text{f}f6$  2.  $\text{c}c4$   $\text{e}e6$  3.  $\text{g}g3!$ ?  $\text{d}d5$  4.  $\text{f}f3$   $\text{d}dxc4$  5.  $\text{g}g2$   $\text{a}a6$  6.  $\text{0-0}$   $\text{c}c6$  7.  $\text{e}e3$   $\text{d}d7$  8.  $\text{e}e2$   $\text{b}b5$  9.  $\text{b}b3$   $\text{c}cxb3$  10.  $\text{axb3}$   $\text{c}c7$  11.  $\text{d}d3$  [Until computers got to grips with these openings the usual continuation was 11.  $\text{b}b2$   $\text{0-0}$  12.  $\text{d}d1$ ] 11...  $\text{d}d6$  12.  $\text{b}b2$   $\text{0-0}$  13.  $\text{f}f1$   $\text{d}d5$  [13...  $\text{e}e8$  14.  $\text{g}g5$   $\text{d}db4$  is also possible] 14.  $\text{d}de4$   $\text{e}e8$  15.  $\text{d}dc5$   $\text{c}c8$  16.  $\text{d}de1$   $\text{f}f8$  17.  $\text{d}ded3$   $\text{a}a7$  18.  $\text{e}ee1$   $\text{d}db8$



[A bit negative, White has plenty of activity for the pawn sac' and most engines would show +/- already] 19.  $\text{d}de5$   $\text{e}ee7$  20.  $\text{e}e4$   $\text{d}db6$  21.  $\text{f}ff1$   $\text{f}f6$  22.  $\text{d}ded3$   $\text{d}d8$  23.  $\text{g}g2$   $\text{e}ee8$  24.  $\text{e}e5$   $\text{f}f5$  [Or 24...  $\text{f}fxe5$  25.  $\text{d}dxe5$   $\text{d}d5$  26.  $\text{c}c2\pm$ ] 25.  $\text{h}h4?! [Rybka wants to stop Black replying to 25.  $\text{d}df4$  with 25...  $\text{g}g5$  but I'd have thought that would damage Black's king protection enough for it to be worthwhile?!] 25...  $\text{d}d5$  26.  $\text{g}gx5$   $\text{d}dx5$  27.  $\text{d}df4$   $\text{d}d8$  28.  $\text{d}d5$   $\text{exd5}$  29.  $\text{e}e6!$  [Rybka rates this pawn highly whilst most engines consider the plan from 25.  $\text{h}h4?! to be weak] 29...  $\text{d}d4$  30.  $\text{e}ee5$   $\text{c}ce7?! [I prefer 30...  $\text{d}dc6$  31.  $\text{e}exf5$   $\text{d}de7$  and if 32.  $\text{e}ee4$   $\text{d}dc6\pm$ ] 31.  $\text{d}dcd3$   $\text{d}d6$  32.  $\text{e}exd4$$$$



[It's worth a diagram when a mate threat ( $\text{♙g7}$ ) appears. This, the equally winning threat of  $\text{♙xa7}$  and White's piece activity alert us to just how well Rybka has played. I almost feel like going back and re-writing my doubtful note at move 25!]

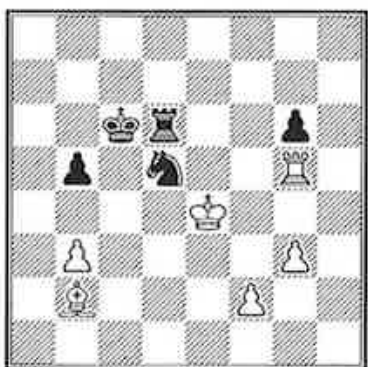
32...c5 33.♖xc5 ♖c6 34.♙e3 ♗xf4 35.♙xf4 ♖d5 36.♙f3 [This is a very interesting choice as 36.♙e3 would have saved the e/♖. It seems that Rybka4 has some excellent new understanding of dynamics!]

36...♗xe6 37.♖xe6 ♙xe6 38.♖e1 ♙f7 39.♖e8+ ♙xe8 40.♙xd5+ ♖f7 41.♖xa6



[Well, finally material is level but Rybka's ♗ is better than Shredder's ♖ and White also has an easy device to go a pawn up]

41...♖b4 42.♖a8 ♖xd5 43.♖xe8+ ♖f8 44.♖e5 ♖d8 45.♖xf5 g6 46.♖g5 ♖f7 47.h5 ♖d6 [47...gxh5? 48.♖g7+-] 48.♖f1 ♖e7 49.hxg6 hxg6 50.♖e2! ♖e8 51.♖f3 ♖d7 52.♖e4 ♖c6



[As the tournament notes say, there are some technical difficulties to winning an endgame like this, but engine quality, cluster power, and err tablebases, make it much more easy. Rybka has >+2.00 and expects to win!]

53.♗d4 ♖e6+ 54.♖e5 ♖d6 [Shredder must try to keep the rooks on] 55.♖e8 ♖f6+?! [I don't think this exchange is right either, Black needs to try and exchange pawns really. Of course it's not easy but perhaps 55...b4 56.f4 ♖d7 57.♖e5 ♖f6+ 58.♖d3 ♖g4 would offer more of a challenge, certainly to a human opponent, and after the likely 59.♖b5 I

think that ♖f6+- is best]

56.♗xf6 ♖xf6 57.f4 [The evaluations are now going up and up, and saying it's 1-0 and Rybka is World Champion]

57...♖c5 58.♖e5! ♖f7 59.♖b8 [59.♖g8!? looks like an instant win to me?! But Rybka's 200 cores plus 6 piece tablebases hit the shortest route much quicker than I can]

59...♖d7 60.♖g8! ♖d3 61.♖xg6 ♖xb3 62.♖g8 ♖e3+ 63.♖f6 ♖f3 64.f5 [And the rest is straightforward]

64...♖c6 65.g4 ♖a3 66.g5 ♖a6 67.♖g6 ♖d5+ 68.f6 ♖b6 69.♖f5 ♖b7 70.g6 ♖c5 71.f7 ♖b4 72.f8♙+ ♖b3 73.♖d6 ♖a7 74.♖e6+ ♖b4 75.♖e1+ ♖b3 76.♖h8 ♖c4 77.♖c1+ ♖b4 78.♖h3 ♖a5 79.♖a3+ ♖b6 80.♖d6+ ♖b7 81.♖h7+ ♖a8 82.♖d8# 1-0

So **Rybka** is confirmed as still the World Computer Chess Champion!

In one sense the remaining games didn't matter so much, but Junior, after playing a quiet Ruy Lopez with d3 against **Rondo** and sending everyone to sleep, suddenly sacrificed two pawns and developed an enormous attack on the queenside. In the end Rondo was pleased to find a saving perpetual check and came 2= with **Thinker**.



Above: programmer Vasik Rajlich  
Below: operator Hans van der Zijden





The regular Rybka operator did his usual "*Hans's Diary*" for the Hiarcs Forum, and has kindly given me permission to grab whatever I want from it, so that will make for some interesting reading next time.

Also for next time will be fuller coverage of the other World Champion Events. There have been 4 altogether. For now, here are all the results!

### The 2010 World Championship

| Pos | Name                | Score/9 |
|-----|---------------------|---------|
| 1   | RYBKA               | 8       |
| 2=  | RONDO               | 6½      |
|     | THINKER             |         |
| 4   | SHREDDER            | 6       |
| 5   | JONNY               | 5½      |
| 6   | PANDIX BREAKTHROUGH | 5       |
| 7   | JUNIOR              | 4       |
| 8   | DARMENIOS           | 2       |
| 9   | FRIDOLIN            | 1       |
| 10  | HECTOR FOR CHESS    | ½       |

This is the Tournament we've covered in this issue, and firm congratulations go to **Rybka** on yet another win, a fine performance and some excellent chess in its games.

**Rondo** entered the tournament highly rated and of course did well, but I was especially impressed with **Thinker's** result. Followers of Chris Goulden's UCI pages in this magazine will have seen its strong performances in his tournaments over the months, but this result was in World Championship company!

I expect the Junior team would be disappointed - their engine plays some marvellous chess, but probably just takes too many risks to get really high placings against strong engines on superfast hardware.

There are 3 more tournaments to look at, and we'll do that in SelSearch 152!

As I've already mentioned, the idea behind the **World Software Championship** was to let all the engines play on equal hardware. It was a pity that Rybka didn't enter this as we'd have seen what the actual commercial

Rybka4 engine could do as obviously there are major differences between what we buy and the 200-core Cluster prepared version that plays in the '*use your own hardware*' events. Never mind, it gave others the chance to become '**World Champion**'!

### The 2010 World Software Championship

| Pos | NAME                | SCORE/8 |
|-----|---------------------|---------|
| 1   | SHREDDER            | 7       |
| 2   | RONDO               | 6½      |
| 3   | THINKER             | 5½      |
| 4=  | PANDIX BREAKTHROUGH | 5       |
|     | JUNIOR              |         |
| 6   | JONNY               | 4       |
| 7   | DARMENIOS           | 2       |
| 8   | FRIDOLIN            | 1       |
| 9   | HECTOR FOR CHESS    | 0       |

Well done Stefan Meyer-Kahlen and **Shredder** - and I'll add 'yet again' as Shredder is an ex-World Champion that is almost always at or near the top. It had needed to beat Junior in the last round to win, Rondo having earlier drawn with Junior, and the Shredder-Rondo game was also a draw. More next time!

In the **Speed (G/45+15)** Event **Rybka** started with a loss in round 1 against Rondo - I believe on time with a mate announcement in its display, but still being searched. A chance for a shock?! No, it won all its other games!

### The 2010 World Speed Championship

| Pos | Name                | Score/9 |
|-----|---------------------|---------|
| 1   | RYBKA               | 8       |
| 2=  | JONNY               | 6½      |
|     | SHREDDER            |         |
| 4   | PANDIX BREAKTHROUGH | 6       |
| 5   | RONDO               | 4½      |
| 6   | JUNIOR              | 3½      |
| 7=  | DARMENIOS           | 3       |
|     | THINKER             |         |
| 9=  | HECTOR FOR CHESS    | 2       |
|     | FRIDOLIN            |         |

The engines used their own hardware in the

Speed tournament, so Rybka and Jonny were on multi-core Clusters again. Even so we have to admire the **Rybka** score, it really deserved to be 9/9! **Jonny's** 8x100-core hardware enabled it to get 2=, and another 'well done' is due to **Shredder**, I said it's always up there... and remember, it was only on a 12-core machine.

Rondo's low placing was a surprise, especially as it got a 'free' point against Rybka but lost to Jonny, Pandix, Shredder and Thinker.

But Thinker, after beating Rondo, disappointed even more by losing to Shredder, Rybka, Hector (!), Jonny, and Darmenios (!)

I haven't managed to get hold of the gamefile for this tournament, if anyone out there has a pgn or cbv file of the games, please let me know, or e-mail it to me please at

■ [eric@elhchess.demon.co.uk](mailto:eric@elhchess.demon.co.uk)

Finally here is the result of the World Rapid Championship, played on the ICC over the Internet as usual, with a G/25mins+4secs time control.

### The 2010 World Rapid Championship

| Pos | Name                         | Score/9 |
|-----|------------------------------|---------|
| 1   | RYBKA                        | 7½      |
| 2=  | SJENG<br>CRAFTY              | 7       |
| 4   | THINKER                      | 6½      |
| 5   | BUZZ                         | 5½      |
| 6=  | TORNADO-C<br>HANNIBAL X      | 5       |
| 8=  | THE BARON<br>ALMOND X        | 4½      |
|     | ARASAN X                     |         |
| 10= | PLISK<br>TELEPATH<br>JABBA C | 4       |
|     | DEUTERIUM 2009               |         |
| 14= | GAVIOTA<br>TINKER<br>HfC     | 3½      |
| 17= | DSHAWUL<br>NOONIAN CHESS     | 1       |

This tournament was played a couple of months ago and I got the result just too late to

squeeze it into SelS150. This time proper coverage has again been squashed out by other events! I must try harder!!

Anyway, I'll close with a few more photos....



# Bronstein, David I - Larsen, Bent

ANALYSED BY GRAHAM WHITE WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM RYBKA!

The sad recent passing of Danish GM Bent Larsen prompted me to take a look at his collection of games. I was especially attracted to this following amazing game versus David Bronstein at the Amsterdam Interzonal of 1964.

When two of the greatest and most combative players of the 20th Century meet, one is entitled to expect a fighting game... and in this spectacular case, the audience was certainly not disappointed.

As a background to this important game, Larsen went on to tie for first with Spassky, Smyslov and Tal, and thus qualify for the Candidates cycle. This game was crucial to Larsen's successful campaign and knocked Bronstein back in the running for qualification.

The purpose of the analysis of the following complicated position is to compare the annotations supplied by Larsen himself in his games collection, to the analysis of Rybka 3.

## BRONSTEIN, DAVID I - LARSEN, BENT

Amsterdam Interzonal Amsterdam (19), 1964

*Opening E75, King's Indian, Averbakh variation. Analysis by Graham White*

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Nf3 h6 9.Bf4 exd5 10.exd5 Re8 11.Nd2 Nh5 12.Bg3 Bg4 13.0-0 Nxd3 14.hxg3 Bxe2 15.Nxe2 Bxb2 16.Rb1 Bg7 17.Rxb7 Nd7 18.Nf4 Nb6 19.Re1 Bc3



A quite recent picture of Bent Larsen at home

We join the game at a critical juncture. At this point I left Rybka on (set to suggest the 3 best moves) to see if and how long it would take to suggest Bronstein's next sacrifice.

Amazingly it doesn't but it does suggest no less than 3 (albeit 2 transposing) completely different sacrifices which have never been suggested in analysis before!

### 20.Ne4!

Typical Bronstein, I believe even many Grandmasters would not even consider this possibility! Rybka suggests:

a). 20.Re6!? fxe6 (20...Bxd2 21.Qa1 Nd7 22.Nxg6 Kh7 23.Qb1 fxe6 24.Qxg6+ Kh8 25.Qf7 Rf8 26.Qxd7 Qxd7 27.Rxd7 Rad8 28.Rxa7 is another example of some insanely complicated analysis by Rybka. The resulting ending does seem to be better for White if anybody.) 21.Qc2 Re7 22.Nxe6 Qe8 23.Rxe7 Qxe7 24.Qxc3.

b). 20.Nxg6!? fxe6 21.Re6 Rxe6 22.dxe6

c). 20.Ne6!? fxe6 21.Rxe6 Rxe6 22.dxe6

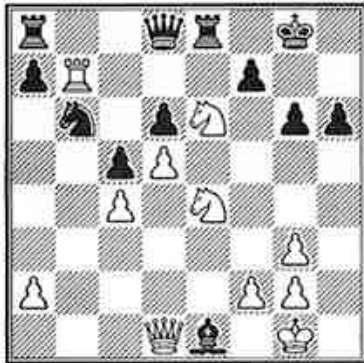
However, I don't believe any of Rybka's lines above is necessarily better than Bronstein's invention.

### 20...Bxe1

Larsen says he seriously considered rejecting the sacrifice and settling for a line which he thought would most likely draw... 20...Bg7 21.Nd2 Bc3 and repetition looms.

Instead Rybka thinks with 21...Re5 Black could even continue to play for a win with a slight advantage, but given a little longer sees 22.Rxe5 dxe5 23.Nxg6! fxg6 24.Ne4 and has Black settling for a draw with 24...Qc8.

## 21.Ne6!



There is no other logical follow up but it does take Rybka a few seconds to find it and then a few more to realise just how dangerous this is.

## 21...Bxf2+



Rybka first assesses this as 0.00, in other words it anticipates some sort of forced draw with best play. What has it seen....? But then it gives it as a small plus for White!

It does not take long for Rybka to refute 21...fxe6 ; 22.Qg4 g5 23.Qh5+-

## 22.Kxf2

22.Kh2. This is the possibility which Rybka suggests as White's best. Now 22...Bd4 (at first Rybka suggests 22...Rxe6 23.dxe6 Bd4 but then it sees the attack after 24.Qg4 is too strong.) 23.Nxd8 Raxd8. Larsen says this position is good for Black, Rybka thinks White is better.

Who to agree with here? Apparently

Bronstein, who spent 8 minutes on the bishop capture, agreed with Larsen's assessment.;

Equally interestingly Larsen summarily dismisses 22.Nxf2!? thus as "cannot be considered as after 22...fxe6 the attack is gone." Larsen's understanding of the position is wrong: although an attacking piece is withdrawn temporarily, White does save a tempo by not allowing Rf8+ followed by Rf6 in variations to set up a defence, as in the game.

However Rybka still assesses this as drawn by one of various methods after 23.Qg4 the most spectacular variation being 23...Qg5 24.Ne4 Qxg4 25.Nf6+.

Note 22.Kh1? is the last suggestion Larsen analyses as the worst alternative, and Rybka agrees 22...Bxg3! 23.Nxd8 Rxe4 24.Nxf7 Rh4+ 25.Kg1 Re8+-

## 22...fxe6 23.Qg4 Rf8+

23...g5 is complicated but gives White a convincing attacking opportunity. 24.Qh5 Rf8+ 25.Kg1 Rf6 26.dxe6±

## 24.Kg1 Rf6



## 25.Qh3?

Sadly this great game is ended unsatisfactorily, and rather promptly, with a decisive error.

But go back to the diagram and instead follow a line that apparently Bronstein had worked out as his initial defensive idea (that Larsen was actually intending!) but could not find a satisfactory continuation:

25.dxe6 Qf8.

Before we go any further let us briefly examine 2 further Larsen suggestions:

a) 25...h5!? 26.e7 Qxe7 27.Rxe7 hxc4 28.Nxf6+ and Larsen correctly assesses this

position as leading to a draw by perpetual check.

b) 25...Nxc4?! and this line Larsen suggests is an alternative good winning attempt. We shall see though that he is wrong. 26.e7 Rf1+ 27.Kh2 Qe8 28.Qe2 Rf5 29.g4 Qf7 (29...Qc6 30.gxf5 Qxb7 31.Nxc5+-) 30.gxf5 Re8 31.fxg6 Qe6. Larsen's analysis stops here - *"the winning chances are on Black's side"*.

Not so, as Rybka proves: 32.Qf1!! Rybka's brilliant retreating but at the same time attacking move is decisive. An example line; 32...Rxe7 33.Nf6+ Kg7 34.Nh5+ Kxg6 35.Nf4+. Simply sensational but the missed possibility Bronstein subsequently discovered in the 'main line' is hardly less remarkable!!

Now we return to the position after 25.dxe6 Qf8 to see how Bronstein's original idea, that he thought wouldn't work, might actually have turned out.



26.e7 Rf1+ 27.Kh2 Qf5

This was the position Bronstein foresaw and he thought he would be lost.

Apparently, it was only during that same night of lost sleep (we all know the feeling!) that he worked out that White has a good chance despite being a whole rook down here!

28.Qxf5 Rxf5 29.Rxa7!!

It is a shame computers were not around in 1964 and probably Bronstein would have not lost all that sleep. Rybka not only finds this line and gives it as a draw instantaneously from this position, it had also supplied it as one of the possible lines that lead to a draw right back at the position after 21... Bf2+!!!

29...Rb8 30.Rb7! Ra8 31.Ra7 looks like a remarkable draw!! Black may try to avoid this conclusion by playing 31...Rh5+ (Larsen gives 31...Re5?! 32.Nf6+ Kg7 33.e8Q+ Rxa7

34.Qb8 as good for White, but Rybka's intermezzo check Rh5+ is an improvement) 32.Kg1 Re5 33.Nf6+ Kg7 34.e8Q+ Rxa7 35.Qb8 and the ending is far from clear.

**25...Qf8**

It is surprising that Bronstein, who anticipated Qf8 as a defence after 25.dxe6, apparently did not anticipate the same response to the move he finally chose, indeed it is completely convincing.

**26.Ng5 Rf1+ 27.Kh2 Rf5 28.Nxe6 Rh5 29.Qxh5 gxh5 30.Nxf8 Rxf8 0-1**

Many thanks Graham, fascinating stuff and a really enjoyable read.

Here is one of my favourite Larsen games. Larsen himself preferred the positional game he played as Black against Petrosian at the very same tournament - the tactical master beats the positional genius at his own game! - but I like this one because, of course, of Larsen's highly dramatic 25th. move.

### LARSEN, BENT - PETROSIAN, TIGRAN V

Piatigorsky-Cup 2nd Santa Monica. Round 7

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.♙e3 ♙g7 6.c4 ♘f6 7.♘c3 ♘g4 8.♙xg4 ♘xd4 9.♙d1 ♘e6 10.♙d2 d6 11.♙e2 ♙d7 12.0-0 0-0 13.♙ad1 ♙c6 14.♘d5 ♙e8 15.f4 ♘c7 16.f5 ♘a6 17.♙g4 ♘c5 18.fxg6 hxg6 19.♙f2 ♙f8 20.e5 ♙xe5 21.♙h4 ♙xd5 22.♙xd5 ♘e6 23.♙f3



23...♙f6? [23...f5±] 24.♙h6 ♙g7 25.♙xg6!! ♘f4 26.♙xf4 fxg6 27.♙e6+ ♙f7 28.♙xf7 ♘h8 29.♙g5 b5 30.♙g3 1-0

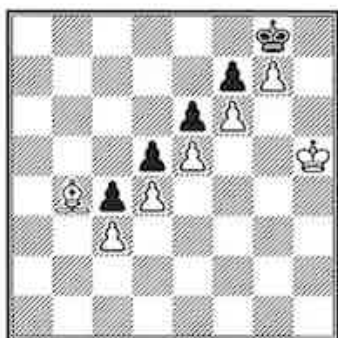


**BILL REID'S "TIME FOR ADJUDICATION" - TOUGH POSITIONS FOR COMPUTERS... AND SOMETIMES US!**

I am embarrassed to have only left myself 1 page for the latest of Bill's much appreciated articles. I thought I'd 4 pages left, 1 for the IPON ratings, 1 for some info from Peter Grayson, and 2 for Bill. But all I have is one page, so I've literally squeezed Bill into it!

Here was the new position we had in Se/S 150:

"Perhaps finding out how far down a line a program must be taken before it sees a solution might give us a way of comparing the strengths of programs?! It would save us all playing so many games - if it works! Let's look at a position that is nice and simple and requires no tactical finesse. **White to move.**



"Given this piece set-up, all a human needs to get the win is a knowledge of the rules of chess which here mean that Black's pawns have no moves and it's king can only shuffle between g8 and h7. Meanwhile the White king is free to advance to e7, capture the f-pawn and queen his g-pawn. Of course the 'advance' must be made by moving the king 'the wrong way' for a while, due south round the Cape of Good Hope before sailing north up the western side of the board!

"I'm not sure if there's a program strong enough to have the win within its horizon and I've not shown this position to Rybka4. Can it do it? What about the rest? How far does the king have to be along its journey before the solution is within their horizons? Could this be a simpler way of comparing program strengths than playing large numbers of games and saying '3113', or '2770'? Just say "King on f3", or "King on d1"?!

Readers who have tried this will know what happens. With a dedicated computer you have to move the king for it, and a long way south-west before it has any inkling of what to do. With the PC engines you'll know that some announce a mate within only a few seconds, while others are better than the dedicated machines, but will fiddle with Kh5-g5-h5-g4-f4, ooh that's dodgy, mustn't go too far - g5-h5 and here we go again! Help them around to e2 or d2 most then get it.

Here's a solution from Rybka4.

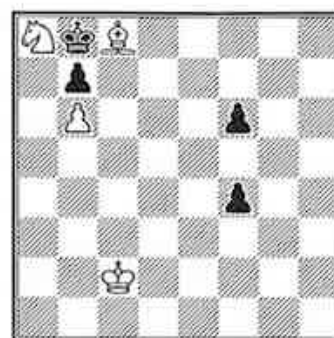
1.♔g5 ♚h7 2.♚f4 ♚g8 3.♚a5 ♚h7 4.♚e3 ♚g8 5.♚d2 ♚h7 6.♚c2 ♚g8 7.♚b2 ♚h7 8.♚a3 ♚g8 9.♚b4 ♚h7 10.♚c5 ♚g8 11.♚d6 ♚h7 12.♚d7 ♚g6 13.g8♖+ ♚f5

14.♖xf7 ♚f4 15.♖xe6 ♚e4 16.f7 #19/23

This was almost instant, as was Zap Mexico2, Houdini, Critter080, Stockfish1.9, Toga2, and Hiarcs13 on my dual2core but not on Peter Grayson's quad?! Other engines I tested (Fritz/Shredder) fuffed about and needed to be given 2 or more moves to get the idea!

Here is Bill's position for this, our 151st. issue. He says:

"In Jonathan Rowson's book 'The Seven Deadly Sins of Chess' he refers to the 'jovial but entirely serious notion of talking with your pieces', and quotes Nimzowitch "to me the chess pieces are living souls, they have wishes and desires". Let's chat to the pieces in this position, with **White to move.**



White has 3 possibilities. He has to lose a piece, so he could make a king move and leave it to Black to decide which one of them should be captured. Or he could make that decision himself and choose between a Bishop move or Nc7. If it is going to make a big difference to the outcome of the game, which piece must be saved, he must make the right choice. But how is that choice to be made? There are rather too many move sequences for it to be on the basis of exact calculation, so what other possibility is there? Well, we could go along with Rowson and try some 'talking to the pieces'?!

It's a bit tricky, for the knight and bishop it's personal! So how about talking to the king? Which piece would he prefer to accompany him into an ending like this?

"Well, your Majesty, as you can see, we are going to lose either the knight or the bishop, and it's hard to see which the best choice would be. Which piece would you prefer to keep?"

"I don't think that's such a hard choice. In this kind of position I like to work with a piece that moves around in a way similar to the one I employ: short moves to squares controlling others that are Black or White. That way we have lots of manoeuvres we can get into. That bishop can cover all the White squares on the board, but I don't see how I'm going to get into any close partnership with him."

"O.k. then, let's go for Nc7". Was that the right idea? And if so, would our computer programs agree?

# THE CCRL AND CEGT RATING LISTS!

The very interesting **CCRL & CEGT Website Groups** have **COMPLETE RATING LISTS** for a wide range of PC hardware, and include old, new, interim and free versions, though they don't always both test exactly the SAME engines! I extract from the lists their ratings for engines when they're running on a *Single* 32-bit Processor.

## CEGT 40/20 32-bit 1 cpu Rating List

The CEGT web address, worth visiting, is:

■ <http://www.husvankempen.de/nunn>

| Pos | ENGINE                     | RATING |
|-----|----------------------------|--------|
| 1   | RYBKA 4                    | 3107   |
| 2   | STOCKFISH 1.8              | 3080   |
| 3   | STOCKFISH 1.7.1            | 3061   |
| 4   | RYBKA 3                    | 3049   |
| 5   | NAUM 4.2                   | 3012   |
| 6   | SHREDDER 12                | 2989   |
| 7   | NAUM 4/4.1                 | 2985   |
| 8   | CRITTER 0.70               | 2981   |
| 9   | DEEP FRITZ 12              | 2963   |
| 10  | RYBKA 2.3.2A               | 2962   |
| 11  | KOMODO 1.2                 | 2942   |
| 12  | DEEP FRITZ 11              | 2932   |
| 13  | RYBKA 1.2F                 | 2928   |
| 14  | HIARCS 13.1                | 2925   |
| 15  | FRITZ 12                   | 2925   |
| 16  | FRITZ 11                   | 2915   |
| 17  | SHREDDER WM (BONN) EDITION | 2904   |
| 18  | THINKER 5.4D INERT         | 2892   |
| 19  | NAUM 3/3.1                 | 2891   |
| 20  | SHREDDER 11                | 2888   |
| 21  | CYCLONE 3.4                | 2875   |
| 22  | GRAPEFRUIT 1.0             | 2866   |
| 23  | DEEP SJENG WC2008          | 2862   |
| 24  | HIARCS 12/12.1             | 2861   |
| 25  | TOGA II 1.4 BETA5C         | 2857   |
| 26  | SPARK 0.4                  | 2855   |
| 27  | HIARCS PADERBORN 2007      | 2838   |
| 28  | DEEP SJENG 3.0             | 2838   |
| 29  | ZAPPA MEXICO 2             | 2836   |
| 30  | HIARCS 11.1/11.2           | 2835   |
| 31  | ONNO 1.1.1                 | 2831   |
| 32  | DOCH 09.980                | 2826   |
| 33  | BRIGHT 0.5c                | 2822   |
| 34  | FRITZ 10                   | 2821   |
| 35  | NAUM 2.2                   | 2820   |
| 36  | ZAPPA MEXICO I             | 2817   |
| 37  | LOOP 10.32F                | 2812   |
| 38  | SHREDDER 10/10.1           | 2804   |
| 39  | JONNY 4                    | 2801   |
| 40  | FRUIT 2.3.1                | 2796   |
| 41  | GLAURUNG 2.2               | 2793   |
| 42  | ZAP! ZANZIBAR              | 2787   |
| 43  | KTULU 9                    | 2787   |

## CCRL 40/40 32-bit 1 cpu Rating List

The CCRL web address, worth visiting, is:

■ <http://www.computerchess.org.uk/ccrl>

| Pos | ENGINE                | RATING |
|-----|-----------------------|--------|
| 1   | RYBKA 4               | 3116   |
| 2   | STOCKFISH 1.9.1       | 3108   |
| 3   | RYBKA 3               | 3096   |
| 4   | STOCKFISH 1.8         | 3086   |
| 5   | STOCKFISH 1.7.1       | 3072   |
| 6   | NAUM 4.2              | 3063   |
| 7   | NAUM 4/4.1            | 3047   |
| 8   | STOCKFISH 1.6.3       | 3032   |
| 9   | SHREDDER 12 OA=ON     | 3028   |
| 10  | CRITTER 0.80          | 3027   |
| 11  | RYBKA 2.3.2A          | 3019   |
| 12  | KOMODO 1.2            | 2996   |
| 13  | GULL 1.0A             | 2992   |
| 14  | FRITZ 12              | 2988   |
| 15  | CRITTER 0.70          | 2980   |
| 16  | HIARCS 13.1           | 2978   |
| 17  | RYBKA 1.2F            | 2977   |
| 18  | KOMODO 1.0            | 2965   |
| 19  | NAUM 3/3.1            | 2963   |
| 20  | FRITZ 11              | 2959   |
| 21  | THINKER 5.4D INERT    | 2955   |
| 22  | DOCH 1.3.4            | 2949   |
| 23  | SHREDDER 11           | 2936   |
| 24  | DEEP JUNIOR 11.1A/2   | 2934   |
| 25  | JONNY 4               | 2933   |
| 26  | GRAPEFRUIT 1.0        | 2932   |
| 27  | TOGA II 1.4.1 SE      | 2931   |
| 28  | PROTECTOR 1.3.5       | 2931   |
| 29  | BODOT 5.0.0           | 2930   |
| 30  | DEEP SJENG WC2008     | 2928   |
| 31  | SPARK 0.4             | 2927   |
| 32  | CYCLONE 3.4           | 2926   |
| 33  | HIARCS 12/12.1        | 2920   |
| 34  | DEEP SJENG 3.0        | 2917   |
| 35  | ZAPPA MEXICO 2        | 2914   |
| 36  | HANNIBAL 1.0A         | 2912   |
| 37  | ONNO 1.0/1.1          | 2905   |
| 38  | DOCH 09.980           | 2898   |
| 39  | HIARCS PADERBORN 2007 | 2897   |
| 40  | NAUM 2.2              | 2895   |
| 41  | HIARCS 11.1/11.2      | 2893   |
| 42  | ZAPPA MEXICO          | 2889   |
| 43  | FRUIT 2.3.1           | 2888   |

# **DEDICATED CHESS COMPUTER RATINGS**

|                             |      |                               |      |                                 |      |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|------|
| Tasc R30-1995               | 2331 | Novag EmldClassic+Zircon2     | 1952 | SciSys Turbostar 432            | 1762 |
| Mephisto London 68030       | 2302 | Mephisto Montreal+Roma68000   | 1952 | Mephisto MM2                    | 1757 |
| Tasc R30-1993               | 2299 | Mephisto Milano               | 1950 | Fidelity Excellence/3+Des2000   | 1754 |
| Mephisto Genius2 68030      | 2294 | Mephisto Amsterdam            | 1946 | Novag Jade1+Zircon1             | 1744 |
| Mephisto London Pro 68020   | 2267 | Mephisto Academy/5            | 1944 | Kasparov A/4 module             | 1740 |
| Mephisto Lyon 68030         | 2266 | Mephisto Mega4/5              | 1931 | Conchess/4                      | 1734 |
| Mephisto Portorose 68030    | 2260 | Fidelity 68000 Mach2B         | 1930 | Kasparov Renaissance basic      | 1729 |
| Mephisto RISC2              | 2251 | Novag SuperForte+Expert B/6   | 1923 | Kasparov Prisma+Blitz           | 1729 |
| Mephisto Vancouver 68030    | 2245 | Kasparov Barracuda+Centurion  | 1922 | Novag Super Constellation       | 1728 |
| Meph Lyon+Vanc 68020/20     | 2239 | Kasparov Maestro D/10 module  | 1921 | Mephisto Blitz module           | 1716 |
| Mephisto Berlin Pro 68020   | 2236 | Kasparov GK2000+Executive     | 1919 | Novag Super Nova                | 1701 |
| Kasparov RISC 2500-512      | 2232 | Fidelity 68000 Mach2C         | 1916 | Fidelity Prestige+Elite A       | 1688 |
| Meph RISC1                  | 2222 | Kasparov Explorer+TAdvTrainer | 1910 | Novag Supremo+SuperVIP          | 1684 |
| Mephisto Atlanta+Magellan   | 2211 | Kasparov AdvTravel+Bravo      | 1910 | Fidelity Sensory 12             | 1681 |
| Mephisto Montreux           | 2210 | Mephisto MM4                  | 1904 | SciSys Superstar 36K            | 1667 |
| Kasparov SPARC/20           | 2209 | Kasparov Talk Chess Academy   | 1900 | Mephisto Exclusive S/12         | 1665 |
| Kasparov RISC 2500-128      | 2192 | Mephisto Modena               | 1899 | Meph Chess School+Europa        | 1664 |
| Mephisto London 68020/12    | 2178 | Kasparov Maestro C/8 module   | 1891 | Conchess/2                      | 1658 |
| Novag Star Diamond/Sapphire | 2176 | Meph Supermondial2+College    | 1888 | Novag Quattro                   | 1650 |
| Fidelity Elite 68040v10     | 2168 | Mephisto Monte Carlo4         | 1888 | Novag Constellation/3.6         | 1646 |
| Mephisto Vancouver 68020/12 | 2157 | Novag Super Forte+Expert A/6  | 1883 | Fidelity Elite B                | 1637 |
| Mephisto Lyon 68020/12      | 2151 | Fidelity Travelmaster+Tiger   | 1882 | Novag Primo+VIP                 | 1631 |
| Mephisto Portorose 68020    | 2137 | Fidelity 68000 Mach2A         | 1882 | Mephisto Mondial2               | 1610 |
| Mephisto London 68000       | 2130 | Novag Ruby+Emerald            | 1879 | Fidelity Elite original         | 1609 |
| Novag Sapphire2+Diamond2    | 2122 | Kasparov Travel Champion      | 1867 | Mephisto Mondial1               | 1597 |
| Fidelity Elite 68030v9      | 2113 | CXG Sphinx Galaxy             | 1866 | Novag Constellation/2           | 1591 |
| Mephisto Vancouver 68000    | 2109 | Conchess Plymate Victoria/5.5 | 1865 | CXG Super Enterprise            | 1589 |
| Mephisto Lyon 68000         | 2108 | Mephisto Monte Carlo          | 1860 | CXG Advanced Star Chess         | 1589 |
| Mephisto Berlin 68000       | 2107 | Kasparov TurboKing2           | 1855 | Novag AgatePlus+OpalPlus        | 1575 |
| Mephisto Almeria 68020      | 2103 | Novag Expert/6                | 1854 | Kasparov Maestro+Cosmic         | 1550 |
| Meph Master+Senator+MilPro  | 2102 | Kasparov AdvTrainer+Capella   | 1848 | Excalibur New York touch        | 1530 |
| Novag Sapphire1+Diamond1    | 2082 | Conchess Plymate Roma/6       | 1844 | Fidelity Sensory9               | 1528 |
| Mephisto MM4/Turbo18        | 2080 | Fidelity Par Excellence/8     | 1843 | Kasparov Astral+Conquistador    | 1520 |
| Mephisto Portorose 68000    | 2078 | Fidelity 68000 Club B         | 1843 | Kasparov Cavalier               | 1520 |
| Fid Mach4+Des2325+68020v7   | 2070 | Novag Expert/5                | 1840 | Chess 2001                      | 1500 |
| Fidelity Elite 2x68000v5    | 2051 | Novag Super Forte+Expert A/5  | 1830 | Novag Mentor16+Amigo            | 1494 |
| Mephisto Mega4/Turbo18      | 2042 | Fidelity Par Excellence       | 1829 | GGM+Steinitz module             | 1490 |
| Mephisto Polgar/10          | 2038 | Fidelity Elite+Designer 2100  | 1829 | Excalibur Touch Screen          | 1485 |
| Mephisto Dallas 68020       | 2036 | Fidelity Chesster             | 1829 | Mephisto 3                      | 1479 |
| Mephisto Roma 68020         | 2029 | Novag Forte B                 | 1829 | Kasparov Turbo 24K              | 1476 |
| Kasparov Brute Force        | 2023 | Fidelity Avant Garde          | 1829 | SciSys Superstar original       | 1475 |
| Mephisto MM6+ExplorerPro    | 2022 | Mephisto Rebell               | 1825 | GGM+Morphy module               | 1472 |
| Kasparov GK2100+Cougar      | 2022 | Kasp Stratos+Corona+B/6mod    | 1824 | Kasparov Turbo 16K+Express      | 1470 |
| Kasparov Cosmos+Expert      | 2022 | Novag Forte A                 | 1819 | Mephisto 2                      | 1470 |
| Mephisto Almeria 68000      | 2018 | Fidelity 68000 Club A         | 1816 | SciSys C/C Mark6                | 1428 |
| Novag Citrine               | 2017 | Excalibur Grandmaster         | 1814 | Conchess A0                     | 1426 |
| Novag Scorpio+Diablo        | 2002 | Kasparov Maestro A/6 module   | 1810 | SciSys C/C Mark5                | 1419 |
| Kasp Challenger+President   | 1994 | Kasparov TurboKing1           | 1804 | CKing Philidor+Counter Gambit   | 1380 |
| Fid Mach3+Des2265+68000v2   | 1981 | Conchess/6                    | 1802 | Morphy Encore+Prodigy           | 1358 |
| Mephisto MM4/10             | 1979 | Mephisto Supermondial1        | 1801 | Sargon Auto Response Board      | 1320 |
| Meph Dallas 68000           | 1976 | Conchess Plymate/5.5          | 1794 | Novag Solo                      | 1270 |
| Mephisto Nigel Short        | 1969 | SciSys Turbo Kasparov/4       | 1791 | CXG Enterprise+Star Chess       | 1260 |
| Mephisto MM5                | 1963 | Novag Expert/4                | 1790 | Fidelity Chess Challenger Voice | 1260 |
| Mephisto Polgar/5           | 1963 | Kasparov Simultano            | 1790 | ChessKing Master                | 1200 |
| Novag Obsidian              | 1963 | Fidelity Excellence/4         | 1783 | Fidelity Chess Challenger 10    | 1175 |
| Mephisto Mondial 68000XL    | 1961 | Conchess Plymate/4            | 1778 | Boris Diplomat                  | 1150 |
| Nov SuperForte+Expert C/6   | 1957 | Fidelity Elite C              | 1777 | Novag Savant                    | 1100 |
| Novag Star Ruby+Amber+Jade2 | 1953 | Fidelity Elegance             | 1765 | Boris2.5                        | 1060 |