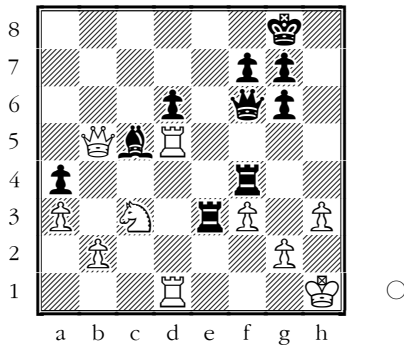


## Chess Quiz

**Korneev (2566) – Mikac (2358)**  
Nova Gorica SLO (1), 30.01.2004



## Chess News

### Linares Round 1

The Linares super tournament started (D)on 19<sup>th</sup> February. At the centre of attention is Garry Kasparov – after the previous Linares-2003 he has only played in two events (European Clubs Cup and the match vs Fritz).

After the first round Peter Leko, who beat Teimour Radjabov with Black, became sole leader. Still, the most exciting game of the round undoubtedly was Shirov-Kasparov, and we provide annotations to it in today's game section.

*Round 1 results:* Vallejo – Kramnik ½-½ Shirov – Kasparov ½-½ Radjabov – Leko 0-1 Free: Topalov

*Round 2 on 20<sup>th</sup> February:* Kasparov – Radjabov Kramnik – Shirov Topalov – Vallejo Free: Leko. [Official coverage](#) by the Spanish newspaper *Diario Marca*.

### Aeroflot Open 2004

by IM Maxim Notkin

*Round 3 top boards results:* Asrian – Bacrot ½:½ Sakaev – Dvoirys ½:½ Mamedyarov – Kulaots ½:½ Rustemov – Movsesian 1:0 Sulskis – Van Wely 0:1

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Postny – Filippov 0:1 Bluvshstein – Inarkiev ½:½ Malakhov – Markowski 1:0 Sorokin – Dreev 0:1 Lautier – Shaposhnikov ½:½

The trio of youngsters scored well in the third round. Karjakin drew with Zhang Zhong and Nepomnjaschij drew with Chekhov. The Chess Today favourite Magnus Carlsen won his second game in a row this time against the Ex-WCh Candidate Sergei Dolmatov!

It seems the organizers have solved the problems with the on-line translation. 30 top games are available and legible. I'm not fully confident about the other games, in fact I would suspect the organizers are not going to include them in the pgn-file. Maybe the next few days will see further improvement in the situation but to date I have to rely partly on gossip or to put it mildly on what people tell me. All this is a kind of preface to the information that Magnus won in 18 moves. I mean I was told so and if it's not true tomorrow I will deny it! ☺

Another curious story has come from the Ukrainian WGM Natalia Zhukova. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> round she defeated the coach of the Russian national team GM Nukhim Rashkovsky. Natalia told me it upset him so much that he decided to quit. In fact he has made an official announcement and in the 4<sup>th</sup> round he isn't included in the pairings. That's what women can do!

Working in the press center I will hear the 'inside' info ☺ and I will share it with CT readers. The opening ceremony was great, with the participation of Smyslov, Spassky, Karpov and Korchnoi. But the first playing days were a total mess and yet I don't feel myself ready to arrange my impressions. I'm unable to comprehend this disorder as the 'Aeroflot open' takes place for the third time at the same venue and in my humble opinion all the details should have been

adjusted. Probably it's just a Russian custom.

So let me go no further this time. Over the next few days I will add some information to my colleague's issues. Meanwhile you may read Misha Savinov's [reports](#) at the ChessCafe. We are working at the Aeroflot side by side, you can trust him ☺

After 3 rounds **Van Wely, Rustemov** and **Filippov** have perfect scores. 25 players are on 2½. Round 4 top pairings: Van Wely – Rustemov  
Filippov – Sakaev Ehlvest – Malakhov  
Dreev – Volokitin Bacrot – Yakovich  
Kotonias – Sasikiran Dvoirys –  
Mamedyarov Ulubin – Graf Tregubov –  
Shariyazdanov Jakovenko – Lastin  
Inarkiev – R. Mamedov Timofeev –  
Berkes Kulaots – Fedorov Bluvshstein –  
Asrian

### GM Tournament in Jakarta

Round 4 results: Zhu Chen – Megaranto 1:0  
Stefanova – Juswanto 1:0  
Adianto – Hoang Than Trang ½:½

Round 4 standings: **1. Zhu Chen** – 3  
2. Stefanova – 2½ 3–4. Adianto,  
Yuswanto – 2 5. Megaranto – 1½ 6.  
Hoang Than Trang – 1

### 10<sup>th</sup> Open Coria del Rio (Sevilla)

Round 7 standings: 1–4. **Paunovic,**  
**Korneev, Khamrakulov, Mata-**  
**moros** – 5½, etc.

### Annotated Game

by IM Maxim Notkin

**White: J Lautier**

**Black: L Yurtaev**

Aeroflot (1), 17.02.2004 *E81*

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6**  
**5.f3 0–0 6.♕e3 ♗bd7**

The earliest game in Megabase on the subject belongs to the founder of the 5.f3 variation, Saemisch – Koltanowski, Spa 1926.

**7.♞d2 c5 8.♗ge2**

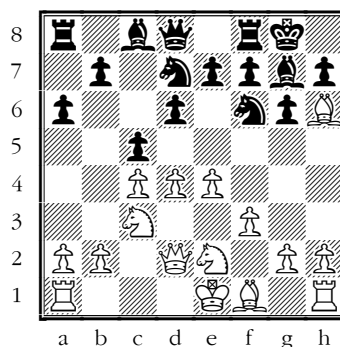
These two moves – Qd2 and Nge2 – were played by Saemisch and to this day they are still considered to be the

best for White. If 8.d5, then ♖e5 and the normal development of the white kingside pieces is hampered, while the f3–f4 advance has its drawbacks as it gives Black an opportunity to attack White's pawn centre. And at this precise moment 9.f4 is simply bad due to 9...♗eg4

**8...a6**

The most reasonable plan for Black, 8...cxd4 9.♗xd4, as Koltanowski played is dubious for in this situation the black knight at d7 is not properly placed for the fight in the centre.

**9.♕h6 (D)**



9.♗d1; and 9.0–0 are more common continuations. But the bishop move has been tried by Lautier against Kasparov himself.

**9...♕xh6 10.♞xh6 b5 11.h4**

The pawn captures aren't worth considering. With the remote queen White shouldn't undertake any action on the queenside. On the contrary the sooner he begins the kingside offensive the more dangerous it will be.

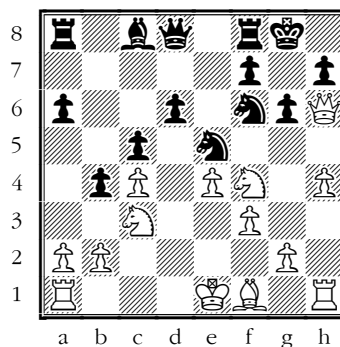
**11...e5**

The game Lautier – Kasparov went 11...b4 12.♗d5 e5?! (later they turned to 12...e6) and here according to Kasparov 13.h5! gives White a clear advantage

**12.dxe5 ♗xe5 13.♗f4**

White couldn't allow Nd3+

**13...b4 (D)**



With the centre closed, a flank attack has more chances to be successful. That's right, but in this position the centre is not completely closed. After 13...bxc4 14.0-0-0 ♖b8 15.♗e2 ♖h8 16.♗d2 White has got compensation for a pawn in Murey - Martinovic (Amsterdam 1986)

#### 14.♗d1

Very interesting lines arise in the event of 14.♗cd5 ♗fg4! 15.fxg4 ♗xg4 16.♖g5 f6 17.♗e7+ ♖xe7 18.♗d5+ ♖h8 19.h5! (19.♖xa8 ♗b7 20.♖a7 ♖xe4+ is extremely risky) 19...♖e5! with a good position to Black (but not 19...g5?? 20.♗g6+! hxg6 21.hxg6+ ♖g7 22.♖h7+ winning the queen)

#### 14...♖e8

Seems to me to be the root of Black's troubles. 14...♗e8! looks attractive with the idea f7-f5. For example: 15.♗d5 (to 15.h5 Black has a reply 15...g5 and the kingside files remain closed; in case of 15.♗e3 f5 the incautious 16.exf5? loses the queen after 16...♗f7) 15...f5 16.exf5 ♖xf5 17.♗f2 (17.♗1e3? ♗f7) 17...♗e6 (or 17...♗f7 18.♖d2 ♗b7 with sharp play)

#### 15.♗e3

Prophylaxis against black knight's thrust at g4. Moreover the white knight is approaching the enemy king.

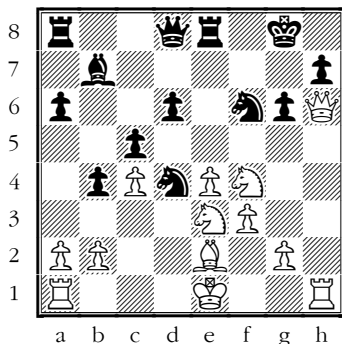
#### 15...♗b7 16.♗e2

For the safety of the white king it's useful to have as many pieces as possible between him and the rook on e8.

#### 16...♗c6?

Too slow 16...♖h8!? comes into consideration followed by Ng8. The mighty queen should have been disturbed. The line 17.h5? ♗g8 could have given an additional inspiration

#### 17.h5 ♗d4 18.hxg6 fxg6 (D)



#### 19.♗g4!

Perhaps Yurtaev hoped for 19.♗xg6

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♗xe4! 20.fxe4 ♖xe4 with active play for the sacrificed piece. The move made by Lautier is much stronger

#### 19...♗xe4

The only way to maintain the tension.

19...♗xg4?? 20.♖xh7+ ♖f8 21.♗xg6#

#### 20.♖h4!

In the event of 20.fxe4 ♖a7 21.♗xf6+ ♖xf6 22.♗d5 (22.0-0-0?? ♖xf4+ 23.♖xf4 ♗xe2+ and White loses two pieces) 22...♖e5 White probably stands better. But he can't castle and the threats to his king may be annoying.

#### 20...♗h5

What else has Black to protect the h7 pawn? The curious attempt 20...♖f7 is refuted by 21.fxe4 ♖xe4 (or 21...♗c2+ 22.♖d2 ♗xa1 23.♗xf6 ♖xf6 24.♖xh7+ ♖g7 25.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 26.♗d3! a clear edge in the ending) 22.♖g5! and the threat 23.Rxh7+! is impossible to parry

#### 21.♗xh5 ♖xh4+ 22.♖xh4 ♗d3

22...gxh5 23.♗f6+ ♖g7 24.♗xe8+ ♖xe8 25.fxe4 ♗c2+ 26.♖d2 ♗xa1 27.♖h1 winning the piece

#### 23.♗gf6+! ♖h8?

More stubborn was 23...♖f7 24.♗xe8 ♖xe8 25.♖d2! ♗xe2 26.♖f4+! ♗f5 (26...♖e7 27.♖e1) and here White may play 27.♖c1!? (to avoid the unnecessary complications after 27.♗g3 ♗xc4! 28.♗xf5 ♖e2+ 29.♖d1 gxf5 30.♖xc4 ♖xg2 etc.)

#### 24.♗g3 g5?!

Better is 24...♖e7 and after 25.♖xd4 cxd4 the rook isn't hanging

#### 25.♖xd4! 1-0

## Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

**White: A Shirov (2737)**

**Black: G Kasparov (2830)**

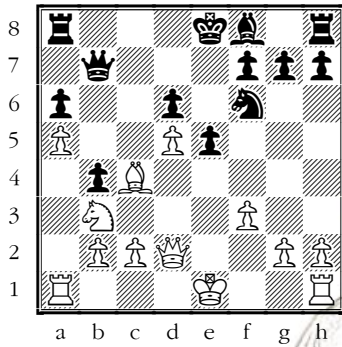
Linares (1), 19.02.2004

B90 Sicilian Najdorf

The titanic tactical struggle between Shirov and Kasparov turned into the highlight of the first round.

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗e3 e5 7.♗b3 ♗e6 8.f3 ♗bd7 9.♖d2 b5 10.a4 b4 11.♗d5 ♗xd5 12.exd5 ♗b6 13.♗xb6 ♖xb6 14.a5 ♖b7 15.♗c4 (D)

○



This is a really popular set-up in the Sicilian Najdorf: every year brings us new games at the highest level... White's idea is to win the weak b4 pawn and then either to crush Black's queenside completely, or simply to consolidate his advantage. Black's plan is to create dynamic play against the white king.

### 15...g6!

Kasparov's move, which he introduced in 2000 in a rapid game against Shirov! Earlier Black tried 15...e7

**16. Ra4 Bb8 17. Qd3 Ra8 18. Qd2 Bb8 (D) 19. c1**

Alexei shows "who is the boss" and plays on. Three and half years ago he took a draw by repetition, which Black is not able to avoid: 19. Qd3 Ra8 1/2-1/2 Shirov-Kasparov, Frankfurt rapid 2000.

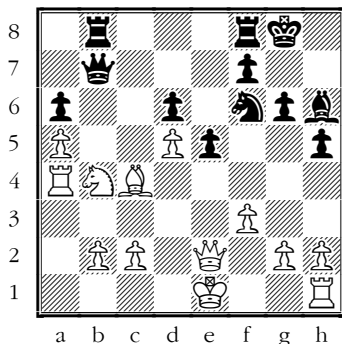
### 19...h5 20. d3

More often White preferred 20. a2. The last word there was 20...h6 21. e2 Qd7!? (21...0-0) 22. b3 0-0 23. 0-0 e4 Anand-Topalov, Corsica rapid 2003 (CT-1093).

### 20...h6 21. e2

After 21. Qxb4 Qc7 22. Qa3 0-0 23. f2 c1 24. d3 (Polgar-Shirov, Linares 2001) Black could have repeated the position by 24...h6!?

### 21...0-0 22. Qxb4 (D)



With transposition of moves, the opponents have reached a position which earlier occurred via 18. a2

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move order. Now Kasparov finally deviates from the previous games:

### 22...Qd7N

22...e4 23. 0-0 Qd7!? 24. c6 Bxb2 25. fxe4 g4 with certain compensation for Black occurred in Gelfand-Topalov, Rapid Wch 2003 (CT-1085).

### 23. c6!?

Who knows what Kasparov had for the natural 23. b3. Possibly he would sacrifice a queen 23...Qxa4!? (23...e4 is another option) 24. bxa4 Bxb4 25. Ab3 Ba8 26. 0-0 d7 followed by 27...c5.

### 23...Bxb2 24. 0-0

The material is balanced now, but even here Black must play for maximum activity. His a6 pawn and also rook on b2 are in danger.

### 24...h4!?

Kasparov plans ...h3, or maybe ...h5-f4, preserving the idea of ...e5-e4 as well. An immediate 24...e4 would transpose to Gelfand-Topalov game.

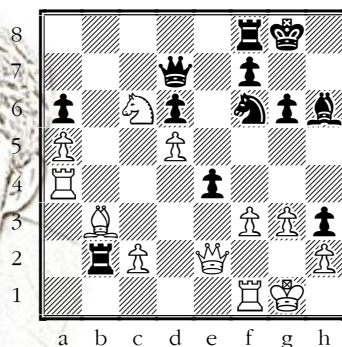
### 25. Ab3

25. Qd3 was one of alternatives. Then curious, (even if incorrect?) is 25...e4!? 26. Qc3 exf3 27. h3 (27. gxf3 Qh3!) 27...Qe8 28. Ba3 h5 (28...Qe4? 29. Qxb2 Qe3+ 30. Bxe3 Qxe3+ 31. Bf2!) 29. Qxb2 Qe3+ 30. Bf2 f4!

### 25...h3 26. g3

Shirov doesn't like to have too many weaknesses on his kingside.

### 26...e4 (D)



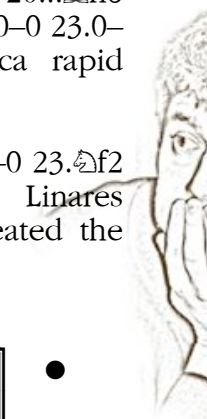
Black's play may look doubtful, but it's not easy to refute. White's king is an almost permanent problem.

### 27. fxe4

27. f4!? makes sense, but is not too clear as well.

### 27...Qg4!?

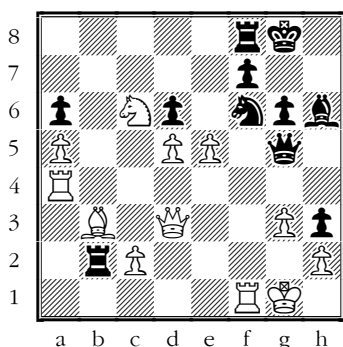
Kasparov uses the opportunity to activate his queen. After 27...g4 White could have tried to find something stronger than 28. e5 Qe3+ 29. Qh1 f2+ 30. Qg1 d1+ with a draw.



## 28. ♖d3

After 28. ♖xg4 ♕e3+! 29. ♖h1 ♖xg4 Black is out of danger.

## 28... ♖g5 29. e5 (D)



As a result of this sacrifice, White gets an advanced pawn and opens the way to the kingside for his rook. In case of 29. ♖h1 ♖d7! with the idea 30... ♖c5 he could face problems.

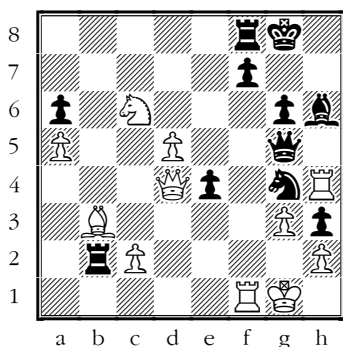
## 29... dxe5 30. ♖h4!?

After 30. d6 e4 31. ♖d4 ♖e3+! 32. ♖xe3 ♕xe3+ 33. ♖h1 ♖g4 34. ♖aa1 ♖f2+ 35. ♖xf2 ♕xf2 an unclear endgame arises. White must continue with 36. ♖c1 in order to meet 36... e3 with 37. ♕c4.

## 30... e4!

Worse 30... ♖d7 31. ♖h1!? with idea 31... ♖c5 32. ♖f3 ♖xb3 33. cxb3 ♖d2 34. ♖xh3

## 31. ♖d4 ♖g4!?



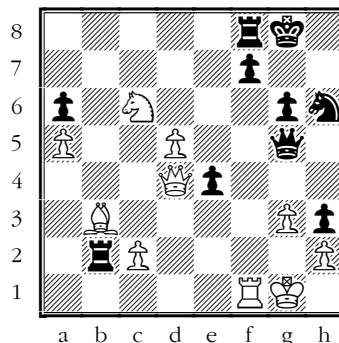
31... ♖e3+ 32. ♖xe3 ♕xe3+ 33. ♖h1 ♕d2! would also have led to quite a messy situation.

## 32. ♖xh6

It's not easy to find anything better among the alternatives: 32. ♖e7+ ♖h7! and, amazingly, the line 33. ♖xe4? (33. ♖e1!?) 33... ♖xh4!! 34. ♖xf7+ (34. gxf4 ♕e3+ 35. ♖h1? ♖f2+ 36. ♖xf2 ♖b1+) 34... ♖h8! 35. ♖xg6+ ♖g8 36. d6 ♖b1+ 37. ♖f1+ ♖g7 38. ♖xb1 ♖g5 is winning for Black. The immediate 32. ♖e1? fails to 32... ♖e3+!; 32. ♖xh3 ♖e3+ 33. ♖xe3 ♕xe3+ looks not bad for Black; Finally, 32. ♖h1 ♕g7!? 33. ♖d2 e3

(33... ♖xd2? 34. ♖e7#) 34. ♖e2 (34. ♖b4? e2 35. ♖e1 ♖e8 36. ♖xg4 ♖e3!) 34... ♖xb3 35. cxb3 ♖xd5+ 36. ♖g1 ♖xc6 37. ♖xg4 ♖d8 38. ♖c4 ♖b7 is rather in Black's favour

## 32... ♖xh6! (D)



Not 32... ♖xh6? 33. d6!± ♖e3 34. ♖e7+ ♖h7 35. ♕xf7 ♖xc2 36. ♕xg6+ ♖xg6 37. ♖xf8 ♖c1+ 38. ♖f2 ♖d1+ 39. ♖xd1, and doesn't work 39... e3+? 40. ♖f3! ♖h5+ 41. g4!

## 33. ♖xb2

Shirov decides to finish the fight, and goes for a clear draw. Probably a good decision. After 33. d6 Black has 33... ♖f5! 33... ♖e3+ 34. ♖f2 Not 34. ♖h1?? ♖e2+ 34... ♖e1+ If 34... ♖g4, White can force a draw by 35. ♖d4 (35. c3!?) 35... ♖e1+ 36. ♖f1 ♖e2 37. ♖f2

35. ♖f1 ♖e3+ A game of incredible complexity. My analysis certainly will be improved by other annotators, but most intriguing would be to hear at which point Kasparov and Shirov were out of their home preparation! 1/2-1/2

**Solutions to our quiz:** Korneev - Mikac :  
39. ♖xc5! dxc5 40. ♖b8+ ♖h7 41. ♖d5 1-0

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