

Korchnoi leads in Biel

Viktor Korchnoi became clear leader after the 2nd round of the traditional 35th Biel International [Chess Festival](#). He made a draw with Black against Yannick Pelletier while his co-leader Vlad Tkachiev lost to Paco Vallejo Pons (which is today's annotated game). The 3rd game was a rather short draw.

Results of the 2nd round:

Smirin – Dreev $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$ Vallejo Pons – Tkachiev **1:0** Pelletier – Korchnoi $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$

Round 2 standings:

1. Korchnoi – 1½ points **2–5.** Smirin, Vallejo Pons, Tkachiev, Pelletier – 1 **6.** Dreev – ½

♦ Only Ukrainian GM **Vladislav Borovikov** has a perfect score after the 4th round of the [Czech Open 2002](#). 18 players are in chase with 3½ points. They are: Neiksans, Acs, Haba, Sasikiran, Stocek, Teske, Jakovenko, Brynell, Ganguly, Berg, Vokac, Kunte, Shaposhnikov, Votava, Maciejka, Belov, Starostits and Potkin.

♦ [The Wismilak International Grandmaster Chess Tournament](#) (cat. VIII av. Elo 2446, 12 players) is in progress in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Round 2 Standings:

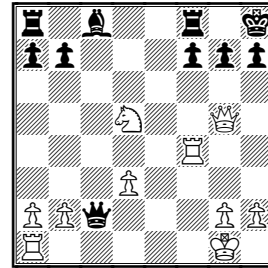
1–2. Handoko, Stefanova – 2 points
3–4. Barus, Irwanto – 1½ etc.

♦ Italian GM **Michele Godena** has won [the 2nd "Pentium 4 Chess Trophy"](#) (cat. VIII av. Elo 2437 round-robin event with 10 player) in Milan, Italy.

Final standings:

1. Godena – 6½ points out of 9 **2.** Cebalo – 5½ **3.** Drazic – 5 **4–6.** Bellia, Lazic, Borgo – 4½ etc.

Quiz Today:
Vorobiov – Belukhin
 Pardubice, KB Open (1.20), 2002



White to play

Not the first time we are getting information about Russian events from the excellent English site [TWIC](#). We hear that the 3rd stage of the Russian Cup has finished in Tomsk.

Final standing:

1. Pavel Smirnov – 7½ points out of 9 **2.** Pridorozhni – 7 **3–5.** Ovetchkin, Akselrod, Frolov – 6½ **6–10.** Belozеров, Khasin, Nepomniachtchi, Maletin, Yandemirov – 6 etc. (64 players in total).

Our congratulations to all the winners!

Annotated Game

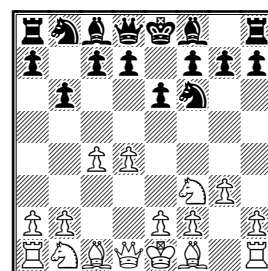
□ **F Vallejo Pons (2648)**

■ **V Tkachiev (2625)**

Biel Chess Festival Biel (2), 23.07.2002
 E15

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♗f3** b6 **4.g3**



This quiet line of the Queens Indian Defence was especially popular during the Kasparov-Karpov matches in the mid 1980s.

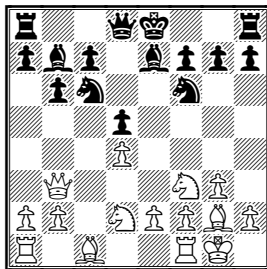
4...♖a6 5.♜b3

But then (and now) the main line runs after 5.b3 ♖b4+ 6.♗d2 ♖e7 7.♗g2 etc.

5...♘c6!?

Also Black could prepare c7-c5 (right now or after Ba6-b7) with Benoni or Hedgehog ideas. Now Black threatens to win the c4 pawn after Nc6-a5.

6.♘bd2 d5 7.♗g2 ♖b7 8.0-0 ♖e7 9.cxd5 exd5



Interesting position. Obviously with such a pawn structure the c6-square isn't the best place for the knight. On the other hand the d2 knight would look better somewhere like c3.

10.♘e5!?

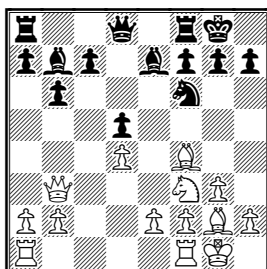
Vallejo Pons simply decides to exchange the knights (the d2 knight will go to e5 to replace his colleague).

10...0-0

10...♗xd4? 11.♜a4+

11.♘xc6 ♖xc6 12.♘f3 ♖b7

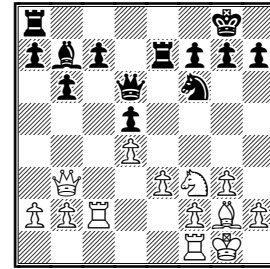
13.♗f4



In this type of position, Black usually tries to attack on the k-side (Ne4, f5, maybe g5 etc.) while White creates unpleasant pressure on the q-side (rooks doubling on the c-file, Bf4 - c7 pawn becomes very weak). Who will be first here?

13...♖e8 14.♖ac1 ♗d6 15.♗xd6

♜xd6 16.e3 ♖e7 17.♖c2

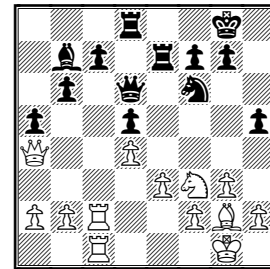


White has to be happy with the result of the opening. He has exchanged two pairs of minor pieces so Black's potential piece attack won't be too dangerous. And in 1 or 2 moves he begins to disturb the c7 pawn.

17...h5!?

This move only creates some new weak squares on the k-side.

18.♖fc1 ♖d8 19.♜a4 a5



20.♜a3!

Typical but very strong idea. Without queens black's task will be especially difficult, because the queen on d6 was maybe the only active black piece...

20...♜xa3 21.bxa3 ♘e8 22.♗f1 ♗a8 23.a4 f6?!

Black defends the e5-square but weakens all the light squares on the k-side (recall 17...h5?!).

24.♘h4!

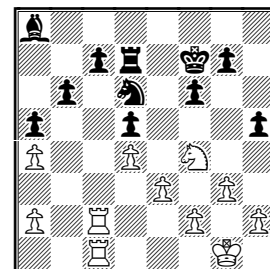
White immediately exploits it.

24...♘d6

This looks like desperation.

25.♘g6 ♖ed7 26.♗h3 ♖f7

27.♗xd7 ♖xd7 28.♘f4



Now White has an extra exchange and a better position.

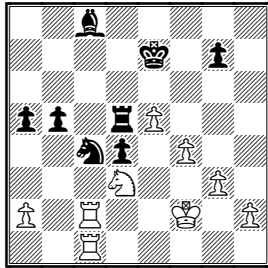
28...♖c4 29.e4! c6 30.♗xh5 b5
31.e5!? fxe5 32.dxe5 d4

32...♗xe5 33.axb5 cxb5 34.♞c8 ♗b7
35.♞8c7+-

33.♗f4 ♖e7

33...♗xe5 34.♞c5

34.♗d3+- ♞d5 35.f4 ♗b7 36.♖f2
♗c8 37.axb5 cxb5

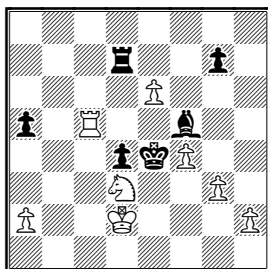


38.♞xc4!

As Capablanca said: if you have an extra exchange, just return it but win a pawn.

38...bxc4 39.♞xc4 ♗f5 40.♖e2
♞d7 41.♖d2 ♖e6 42.♞c6+ ♖d5

43.♞c5+ ♖e4 44.e6



It's hard to say if White's last move was a small combination a-la Capablanca or not. In any case Black resigned. 1-0



Solution to Quiz Today:

19.♞xf7! ♞g8 19...♞xf7 20.♖d8+;
19...♖c5+ 20.♗e3!+- 20.♗e7 1-0

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today. Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.

E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com

Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net/>

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin.

Technical editors:

Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

Chess Today is copyright 2002 by Alexander Baburin and protected intellectual property under the International Copyright convention. Any unauthorised reproduction, via print, electronic format, or in any form whatsoever is strictly prohibited without express written permission.