

Wilshire Chess Society Newsletter

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Vol. 9-5: May 2003



To Draw or Not to Draw

Quote of the Month: "Strategy requires thought; tactics requires observation." - Max Euwe (5th World Champ.)

An historic event recently took place in New York at the Marshall Chess Club April 23-May 2nd. In was the first chess tournament ever held that had a "no draw before move 50 rule." In years past at Linares, Senior Lius Rentero tried to enforce a "no early draws" rule with everything from bribes (cash filled envelopes) to the "threat" of not being invited back. While Rentero's tactics did apply some pressure on the players to go for the win, still 50-55% of the games were drawn. It wasn't until GM Maurice Ashley came up with his "Generations" tournament that a concrete rule was actually implemented: Draw offers could not be made before move 50 (The penalty for taking premature draws was 10% of the GM's appearance fee and 10% of prizes won.) This seems to have done the trick, as there were 45 games played, but only 16 were drawn. This is an astoundingly low 36% draws. I e-mailed GM Maurice Ashley and let him know how much I enjoyed his "Generations" tournament. Then I wrote:

"One final comment: I enjoyed watching you on ESPN2, (as well as Seirawan), and I know the two of you (along with the audience as well as many other players) thought Kasparov "chickened out" by not playing for the win. However, part of me understood why he did this. It was obvious to me that he was not comfortable at the board (for whatever reason, i.e., he was tired, nervous, his brain wasn't calculating at it's best, etc.) and rather than risk losing to another computer (and repeating the fiasco of Deep Blue 1997), he simply decided to bail out. Psychologically, I just don't think he could handle losing twice in a game six to a computer. So, he took the safe road and accepted the draw. (By the way, why is the Deep Junior Team not criticized for offering the draw??- I know that it had just turned down Garry's draw a move earlier!)"

And Maurice responded: "As far as Garry is concerned, it really is just too bad that the greatest player of all time, in my opinion, has had such difficulty against computers. But there is something I understand very deeply; opportunities sometimes come only once. Sure it would have hurt his feelings if he lost. But if he had won!! ESPN and all of America and the world would have seen a great champion defending humanity. That would have been a brilliant story, and who knows what that would have meant for chess. Maybe nothing, maybe something very very big. As it stands, we'll never know because no one cares now since there is no energy to use to make an argument for sponsors. Someone in his camp should have made it clear to Garry that winning was much more
(Con't on Back)

★ Free Chess Lecture May. 18! ★

Our next tourn. is May 18, at 10:30 am in Community Room "A." (See below for directions. Note: we will return to Comm. Rm. "C" in June.) We are pleased to announce that before the tmt. SM Mick Bighamian will be giving a lecture titled,



SM Mick Bighamian

"*Middle Game Pawn Structures.*" The lecture is free to all WCS members (\$5.00 to nonmembers). Please get there by 10:25 am, as the lecture will start at 10:30 am sharp, and go to 11:15 am. The tmt. will start immediately following the lecture. **Bonus: Free set of lecture notes (over 10 pages!) to the first 5 to arrive.**

Next W.C.S. G/45 Tournament May 18, 2003 - Sunday

Westside Pavilion, Community Room "A"
10850 W. Pico Blvd., West Los Angeles
(3rd Flr., east end of mall above Robinson's-
May, in hallway behind food court.)

Registration/lecture: 10:30 am

Games from: 11:15 am - 4:45 pm, 3-rounds
Round robin quads (groups of 4) by rating

Time control: G/45 mins. Entry fee: \$20.00
Prizes: \$50.00 per quad (35.00 1st, 15.00 2nd)
WCS Membership required (\$15.00/year) as
well as U.S.C.F. Membership (\$49.00/year).

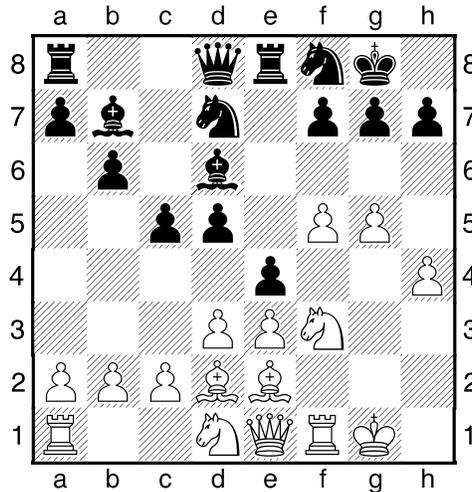
(Con't from Front) important than not losing." After giving it some thought, I realize that Maurice was right. That Kasparov was paid a huge appearance fee (\$500,000!) just for sitting down to play six games against the computer. The least he could do was go all out each game. Going for the win *was* more important than not losing.

Game of The Month

Rich LaVoice, (1838) – Julian Landau, (1992) [A03]

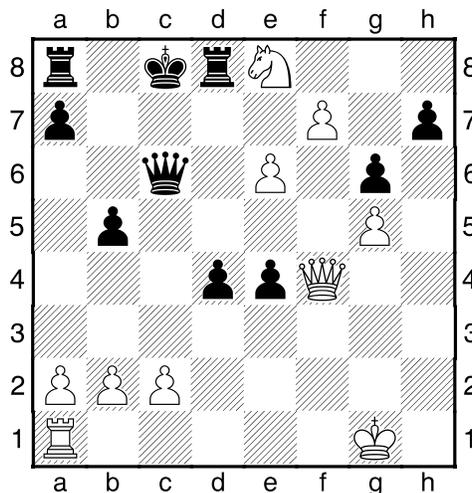
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1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Be2 b6 5.0-0 Bb7 6.d3 Nbd7 7.Qe1 e6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Bd2 0-0 10.h3 Re8 11.g4 Nf8 12.Nd1 Bd6 13.g5 N6d7 14.h4 e5 15.f5 e4 Diagram



16.dxe4 dxe4 17.Nh2 Qc7 18.Rf4 Bxf4 19.exf4 f6 20.Qg3 ffg5 21.hxg5 Bd5 22.Ng4 Nb8 23.Nde3 [23.Nf6+ gxf6 24.gxf6+ Ng6 (24...Kh8 25.f7 Bxf7 26.Bc3+ Re5 27.Bxe5+; 24...Ng6 25.fgg6 Rd8 26.f7+ Kf8 27.gxh7 Kxf7 28.Bh5+ Ke7 29.Qg5+ Kd6 30.Nc3 Qxh7 31.Qxd5+ Ke7 32.Qxa8 Rxd2 33.Nxe4 Qg7+ 34.Kf1 Qg2+ 35.Ke1 Rd4 36.Bf3 Qxf3 37.Qxa7+ Rd7 38.Qxb8)] **23...Bf7 24.Ne5** [24.f6 g6 25.Nh6+ Kh8 26.Nxf7+ Qxf7 27.Bc4 Ne6 28.Bd5 Nd7 29.f5] **24...Rd8 25.Bc3 Nc6 26.Nxf7 Kxf7 27.Bc4+ Ke8 28.Nd5 Qb7 29.f6 g6 30.f7+ [30.f7+] 30...Kd7 31.Qg4+ Kd6**

32.f5 [32.Be5+ Nxe5 33.fxe5+ Kxe5 (33...Kc6 34.Qxe4 b5 35.Rf1 Nd7 36.Nf6+ Kc7 37.Qxb7+ Kxb7 38.Bd5+ Kc7 39.Bxa8 Rxa8 40.Nxd7 Kxd7 41.f8Q) 34.Qf4+ Kd4 35.Rd1+ Kxc4 36.Qf1#] **32...b5 33.Qf4+ Kd7 34.Nf6+** [34.Bxb5 a6 35.Ba4 e3] **34...Kc8 35.Be6+ Nxe6 36.fxe6 Nd4** [36...Qc7 37.Qxc7+ Kxc7 38.Ba5+ Nxa5 39.e7 Rf8 40.e8Q Raxe8 41.fxe8Q Rxe8 42.Nxe8+] **37.Bxd4 cxd4 38.Ne8 Qc6** Diagram



39.f8Q Rxe8 40.Q8d6 [40.Q4d6] **40...Rxe6 41.Qxc6+ Rxc6 42.Qxe4 Kb7 43.Rf1 Rac8 44.Rf6 a5 45.Rxc6 Rxc6 46.Qxd4 Rxc2 47.Qe4+ Rc6 48.Kf2** [48.Qh1 Kb6 49.Qxh7 a4 50.Qd7 Rc1+ 51.Kf2 Rc6 52.Ke3 a3 53.Qd8+ Ka6 54.Qa8+ Kb6 55.Qxa3] **48...Kb6 49.Qd4+ Rc5 50.Kf3 Kc6 51.Qf6+ 1-0**