

In this issue

J.J. VAN OOSTEROM SPECIAL.

Pages 2-52 including:

Early career.	Pages 2-19
Van Oosterom notes.	Pages 20-26
Paul Motwani notes.	Pages 27-38
New CC Rating toplist.	Page 45
Endgame Clinic.	Pages 50-52

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Herschel Memorial.	Pages 53-54
Theory: Najdorf Sicilian Poisoned Pawn (part 2).	Pages 55-57, 64
ICCF Results.	Pages 58-62
Book reviews.	Page 63
Champions League.	Page 64
ECO opening index.	Page 25
ICCF announcement.	Inside cover

We present a one-man show

THE majority of this issue is devoted to the career of the man who has just risen to the top of the ICCF rating list, Dutch billionaire and CC-grandmaster Joop J. van Oosterom. Readers have probably seen his name =but know little or nothing about him.

This is the first time since our special Hans Berliner issue in 1997 that we have devoted virtually an entire issue to one player but Van Oosterom's position in the correspondence chess world justifies this. Not only has he been the sponsor of some of the most important CC tournaments but also he has been one of the games most successful players, as you will see.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking all the contributors to this special issue, including Mr van Oosterom himself, although unfortunately he would not agree to an interview.

In order to get an outsider's view of his style and quality of play, I invited Scottish FIDE grandmaster Paul Motwani to make his own selection from a big database of Van Oosterom games and annotate his pick of them. His article shows that it is not only CC players who are impressed.

WITH this issue you will find an order form for my new book '50 Golden Chess Games', which I now expect to be available in June. We had originally said May but we don't want to compromise quality by rushed production.

We hope that you will all buy it early. Orders received from subscribers will be processed as soon as the book is available and you will be the first to receive copies. (Our Premium subscribers do not have to re-order; they receive the book automatically.)

As this issue goes to press, book typesetting has not been completed but the page format will be the same as 'Red Letters' and 'New In Chess'. The number of pages is not finalised yet but we did not wait until our next issue to begin our publicity and sales campaign for the book. Final information about it will be printed in our next issue.

Please tell your friends and opponents about '50 Golden Chess Games' too. I am sure this is a book that will interest all chess players.

Tim Harding, Editor

The chess start of Joop van Oosterom

by **Nol van 't Riet**

THE WINNER of the ICCF Jubilee Elite Grandmaster Tournament Joop van Oosterom was born on the twelfth of December 1937, five days after Max Euwe lost the world title, which he had captured in 1935, to his predecessor Alekhine in The Hague.

The first record of Joop's name in 'Het Tijdschrift van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Schaakbond' that I could find was in the issue of May 1953. In April of that year Hans Bouwmeester had won the yearly Spring Tournament in Bussum. This was a weekend tournament with groups of four players. Group 10 was won by 15-year-old Joop van Oosterom, with a score of 2½ out 3.

Glancing through the volumes of 'Het Tijdschrift' (later called 'Schakend Nederland') I have tried to restructure the chess history of Joop van Oosterom. Below you will find my report of this exercise. Of course it's not complete.

Magazines don't give an impression of the games and tournaments which somebody played in his local chess club. They only record his achievements on a higher level. I have also tried to mention those opponents who have later been active in the international CC scene.

A few months after the Spring Tournament in Bussum 1953, another weekend tournament took place in the nearby city of Hilversum. This National NSF Tournament was won by Theo D. van Scheltinga, who at the same time was playing his

last games in the Final of the first World Correspondence Chess Championship, in which he finally finished in ninth place. In the NSF Tournament there were seven Higher Class groups and group E was won by Joop van Oosterom, with the same score of 2½ out 3.

Junior Champion

It then takes until 1955 before his name appears again. But then it goes directly to his peak as an over-the-board player, at least in my opinion. In April he becomes Dutch Youth Champion in Enschede. Joop wins the preliminary group A with 5 out 6, and after that also the final with 4 out 5, before, amongst others, the later ICCF-IM Bram van der Tak.

The title of Dutch Youth Champion gives Joop the right to play in the Junior World Championship. This tournament was played in the summer of 1955 in Antwerp (Belgium).

The tournament starts with three preliminary groups. A nice surprise in Group A is that Joop van Oosterom qualifies for the Final. The final standing of Group A was: Spassky (USSR) 6 out 8, Hällström (Finland) 5½, Van Oosterom 5, Klages (Germany) 4, Purdy (Australia) 3, Jørgensen (Denmark) 3, Somers (Belgium) 1½, Deiseach (Ireland) 0. The name of Boris Spassky does not need to be clarified: on the 17th of June 1969 he became World Champion by beating Tigran Petrosian 12½-10½ in Moscow. John Purdy is the son of Cecil Purdy who became the first ICCF World Champion in 1953.



J.J. van Oosterom (centre) with ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov and grandmaster Lev Polugaevsky in 1994. Photo courtesy of New In Chess.

Then the Final starts, in which Spassky is lord and master. He only spares two draws to his most close opponents. The final standing can be seen in the cross-table. Three of the other finalists also became FIDE grandmasters, one of whom (Portisch) was a candidate for the world championship.

Chief editor Slavekoorde of 'Het Tijdschrift' wrote: "Our Youth Champion was almost exhausted at the end of the tournament. If he had had somewhat more tournament experience, he surely would have taken less risk in the last

rounds and he would have accepted some 'cheap' draws. But that's not according to his character."

"He continued playing for the win until the bitter end and that caused some serious mistakes which he absolutely would not have made at the start of the tournament. Finally he finished on the seventh place, although the sixth place or even the fifth could have been reached."

"But after all we can heartily congratulate Van Oosterom with this achievement. Honestly he has by far overstepped our expectations. He has not only played

World Junior Ch Final, 1955			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts
1	Spassky, B	URS		½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
2	Mednis, E	USA	½		1	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	7
3	Farré Mallofre, M	ESP	½	0		1	1	½	½	1	1	1	6½
4	Portisch, L	HUN	0	½	0		½	1	1	½	1	1	5½
5	Tringov, G	BUL	0	½	0	½		1	½	1	1	½	5
6	Keller, D	SUI	0	½	½	0	0		½	1	½	1	4
7	Van Oosterom, J	NED	0	0	½	0	½	½		1	1	0	3½
8	Hällström, L	FIN	0	0	0	½	0	0	0		1	1	2½
9	Johannessen, S	NOR	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0		1	1½
10	Schweber, S	ARG	0	0	0	0	½	0	1	0	0		1½

rather well; he has also been a good representative of our country. His simplicity and his quiet and pleasing behaviour gained the sympathy of all, which was shown during the prize-giving ceremony when our countryman not only got a special compliment but also the applause of the many people who were present.”

In ‘Het Tijdschrift’, Max Euwe analysed the victory of Van Oosterom against the Finnish player Hällström in the first round of the final. It must be considered here and in all following games, that I give the comments as they were published at that time. This means that it could very well be possible that nowadays some opening variations will be treated differently.

Open Spanish (C77)

Leo Hällstrom (FIN) – J.J. van Oosterom (NED)

Wch U20 final-A Antwerp, 1955

Comments by Max Euwe

1 e4 e5 2 f3 c6 3 a6 4 a4 f6 5 e2 b5 6 b3 e7

6...c5 is also possible. Now the closed variation with e2 arises, a continuation which Keres prefers to e1.

7 c4

Brand-new and with a very special meaning as will be shown in the game.

7...0-0

Taking on b5 is not a threat: 8 cxb5 axb5 9 xxb5 a6 and the white e will get into trouble.

8 0-0 b4

Black wants to play ...d6, but before that he has to remove the tension c4-b5. After 8...d6 directly White can indeed play 9 cxb5 axb5 10 xxb5 a6 11 xxc6. Another possibility was 8...bxc4.

9 d4

This is the real point of the White formation. Black can't take on d4 without bringing his king's e into trouble (9...xd4 10 xd4 exd4 11 e5); but after all this is not so important.

9...d6

Simple and sound; Black attacks d4.

10 d5 a5 11 a2 a4 12 bd2 (?)

Parries the threat 12...xf3 (13 xxf3 xc4), but simply 12 b3 would have been preferable.

12...♗h5!

Black profits immediately; now 13...♗f4 is an unpleasant threat.

13 h3(?)

White makes another mistake; this weakening of the kingside will be avenged. Better would have been 13 ♖e1 ♗f4 14 ♖f1 in order to restore order later on with 15 ♖b3.

13...♗f4 14 ♖e3

14 ♖e1 costs a pawn after 14...♗xf3.

14...♗h5 15 ♖h2

To drive away the awkward ♗ with g2-g3.

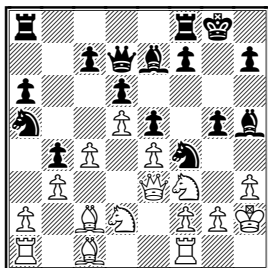
15...♗d7

Prevents White's intention.

16 b3

At last this move, which covers c4 and makes it possible for the d2-♗ to move.

16...g5!



The obvious way to profit from White's weakening h3, also using the active position of the black pieces on the kingside.

17 ♗g1 g4 18 f3

A nice little plan, but it fails against Black's strong counter-play.

18...gxf3 19 g3

That was White's intention. If the black ♗ withdraws, there is no longer any danger for White.

19...♗g5!

A heavy blow.

20 ♖f2 ♖h8!

Precisely calculated.

21 gxf4?

Leads to a quick defeat; better 21 ♖b1 (21...♖g8! 22 gxf4? ♗xf4+ 23 ♗xf4 ♖g2+).

21...♗xf4+ 22 ♖h1 ♖g8

With the threat 23...♖g2 & 24...♖h2#.

23 ♖h4 ♖g2 24 ♖f2

24 ♖xh3 would not have been followed by 24...♖h2+ but, much stronger, by 24...♖xh3+ 25 ♗xh3 ♖h2+ 26 ♖g1 ♖g8+ etc.

24...♖ag8 25 ♗xh3 ♖xh3+ 0-1.

It's mate next move; a pretty end.

More tournaments

Later on in that year, 1955, a weekend tournament for the Philips Plaquette is played in Eindhoven. There are four Honorary Groups. Joop van Oosterom wins Honorary Group C with a score of 2½ out of 3. Barthold Perfors, who was later the first President of the Dutch Correspondence Chess Federation (Nederlandse Bond van Correspondentieschakers, NBC), only scores ½ out of 3 in the same group.

Then we write 1956 and in the meantime Joop is 18 years old: an age at which it must become clear whether the successes of the last years will continue nationally and/or internationally, or not. In April 1956 he plays for the second time in the Dutch Youth Championship.

This time the tournament takes place in The Hague, in the staff-room of the Aloysius College and also in the botany and zoology class-room of the Christian Grammar school. A special atmosphere

is created by stuffed animals, skeletons, aquaria and collections of stones, minerals and insects. His game with Frits Roessel has already been played earlier.

King's Indian Defence (E76)

**J. J. van Oosterom (NED) –
F. E. Roessel (NED)**

Dutch Youth Ch. 1956, The Hague

**1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♗c3 ♙g7 4 e4 d6
5 f4 c5 6 dxc5 ♗a5 7 ♙d2 ♗xc5 8 b4
♗xb4** Black walks into a subtle drawing variation: White keeps pursuing the Black ♗. **9 ♖a4 ½–½.**

It's in the same tournament that a later "Angstgegner" of Joop seems to arise. In Spring 1955 Joop had already lost a game to Lex Jongsma on board one in a match between the youth teams of Amsterdam and the Stichts-Gooische Chess Federation. Now, in round four of the national Youth Championship he loses again against Jongsma.

In the end Roessel becomes Dutch Youth Champion with 7½ out of 9, just one point before Van Oosterom. For Roessel this is also the start of his career towards the Dutch senior team and even the Dutch Olympiad team.

Czech Benoni Defence (A44)

**A.K.P. Jongsma (NED) –
J.J. van Oosterom (NED)**

Dutch Youth Ch. 1956, The Hague

**1 d4 c5 2 d5 e5 3 c4 d6 4 e4 g6 5 f4
exf4 6 ♙xf4 ♙g7 7 ♗c3 a6 8 ♗f3
♗e7 9 ♙d3 ♗d7 10 0–0 ♗e5 11 ♗d2**

**♗f6 12 ♗xe5 dxe5 13 ♙e3 ♙d7 14
♙c2 ♗d6 15 b4 cxb4 16 ♖a4 ♗xe4
17 ♙xe4 ♙xa4 18 c5 ♗d7 19 ♗xb4
♙b5 20 c6 bxc6 21 dxc6 ♗c7 22 ♗fd1
♙f8 23 ♗c3 ♙d6 24 a4 ♙e2 25 ♗d2
♙g4 26 h3 ♙e6 27 ♗ad1 ♙e7 28 a5
♗b8 29 ♗d7 ♙xd7 30 ♗xd7 ♙b4 31
♗c4 ♗xd7 32 cxd7+ ♗xd7 33 ♗xf7+
♙e7 34 ♙c5 1–0.**

Two weeks later Joop plays in the Honorary Group B of the Spring Tournament in Bussum. The result is three defeats: against Kick Langeweg, against his later ICCF-GM colleague and Olympiad team mate Dick van Geet, and one against Frits Roessel because of no show.

Disappointments

During the summer of 1956 the so-called Match of the Second Category is played in Utrecht. This is a preliminary tournament of the Dutch Championship. 'Het Tijdschrift' noted: "In Group A the ex-Youth Champion Van Oosterom scored disappointingly with 3½ out of 7." Here also he played against a later ICCF-GM colleague, his present Olympiad team captain Ger van Perlo, "an absolute newcomer in this environment". Their mutual game ends in a draw.

At the end of the year, the weekend tournament for the Philips Plaque is again played in Eindhoven. In Honorary Group B and with a score of 1 out of 3 Joop van Oosterom is trumped for the third time that year with 2½ out of 3 by Roessel.

It seems that things are changing for Joop: in 1956 he is not able to repeat his successes of 1955. But around New Year he plays in a youth tournament in Plymouth: six Swiss rounds against eight

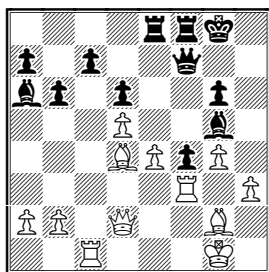
strong English youth players (amongst them Moore and Macdonald-Ross) and also the German Dieter Mohrlök, who later on also will become active within ICCF and also will achieve the GM title. After three draws and two wins, the game against Mohrlök must bring the final decision about the tournament victory.

Dutch Defence against English (A04)

**J.J. van Oosterom (NED) –
Dieter Mohrlök (GER)**

Youth tournament of the Devon County Chess Association 1956/57, Plymouth

1 ♖f3 f5 2 g3 e6 3 ♙g2 ♘f6 4 0-0
 ♗e7 5 d3 0-0 6 c4 d6 7 ♘c3 ♖e8 8 e4
 fxe4 9 dxe4 ♘c6 10 h3 ♖h5 11 ♗e3
 e5 12 ♘h2 ♖g6 13 ♘d5 ♗d8 14 ♖d3
 ♖h5 15 g4 ♖g6 16 ♖ac1 ♘e7 17 ♖fd1
 ♘fxd5 18 cxd5 ♖f7 19 ♖d2 ♘g6 20
 ♘f1 h5 21 f3 hxg4 22 fxg4 ♘f4 23 ♘g3
 g6 24 ♖f1 ♗g5 25 ♘e2 b6 26 ♘xf4
 exf4 27 ♗d4 ♗a6 28 ♖f3 ♖ae8



29 ♖a3 f3 30 ♖xg5 fxg2 31 ♖f3 ♖h7
 32 ♖cc3 ♖xe4 33 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 34
 ♖d8+ ♖e8 35 ♖f3+ 1-0.

During the Easter holidays 1957, Joop plays his last Dutch Youth Champion-

ship, due to his age, in Nijmegen. It is a disappointment. With four losses and only five wins, Van Oosterom finishes in fifth place, although half a point more could have brought him second prize.

In the seventh round, just at the moment that a win could have given him rather good title chances, he loses against Lex Jongsma.

Tournament Director De Graaf in his report in 'Het Tijdschrift' said: "After he (Van Oosterom) had played the opening rather wildly he sacrificed a rook for a piece in order to get an attack. Obviously he was trying to upset his opponent. But one should not do this against Jongsma. The game finished rather soon."

With 5½ points, the bronze medal in this tournament was won by Cor Jansen from the small Zealand village Waterlandkerkje. Cor later became Dutch Correspondence Chess Champion in 1964, qualified for the Final of World Championship VI at the end of the sixties, in which tournament he unfortunately finished on the last place with 3 out of 15 after the winner, the well-known Horst Rittner.

Two weekend tournaments follow each other after the summer of 1957. The first one is the Dom Tournament in Utrecht. With a score of 3 out of 3, Van Oosterom wins the Youth Invitation group. The tournament itself is won by the present NBC President, Tom de Ruiter.

The second weekend tournament is the Jubilee Tournament of Joop's own club HSG, the Hilversum Chess Society. National Youth Champion Lex Jongsma wins the Youth Group. With a score of 3 out of 3 he once again defeats Van Oos-

terom, who only scores one draw. One week later on board one of the Hutton Match (a team match for youth teams) Jongsma of the Rotterdam Chess Federation defeats his opponent Van Oosterom of the Stichts-Gooische Federation again (and for the fourth time in a row).

At the end of the year Joop ends on a tied second place in the Honorary Group B of the Philips' Plaquette in Eindhoven with 1½ out of 3. Roessel wins the tournament.

Around Easter 1958, Joop van Oosterom plays in Amsterdam in the Dutch Student Championship. Frits Roessel wins with 7 out of 7, Joop is second with 5 points, half a point before the later ICCF-IM Jaap Staal. It is remarkable that at the same moment his younger brother Henny van Oosterom ties for the first place in the Dutch Youth Championship in Rotterdam.

The second place of Joop in the Student Championship gives him an invitation to play in the Dutch team in the Student Olympiad in Varna (Bulgaria) later that year. The team is really not successful. In the preliminary group 3, only 4 board points out of 12 games are achieved. Even Mongolia is better than the Netherlands.

The performance in the second qualification group is better. A score of 17 out of 28 is good enough to finish in the third place of that group. Finally in September 1958 Joop scores with 1½ out of 3 an untied second place behind Kick Langeweg in Invitation Group A of the 11th NSF Tournament in Hilversum.

In June 1959 Van Oosterom plays in the Dutch Military Championship in the barracks of 't Harde. Just ahead of

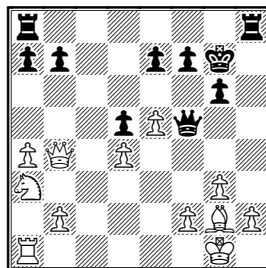
his HSG club-fellow H. Wichers, Joop achieves the second place, half a point behind Ir.J.H. van de Pol, who will later on participate in the Dutch Correspondence Chess Championship 1973/74. The game below was the decisive one.

King's Indian Attack (A04)

**J.J. van Oosterom (NED) –
Ir. J. H. van de Pol (NED)**

Dutch Military Championship 1959, 't Harde

**1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♗f6 3 d3 ♗c6 4 g3 d6
5 ♗g2 g6 6 0-0 ♗g7 7 a4 0-0 8 ♗a3
h6 9 c3 d5 10 e5 ♗e8 11 d4 cxd4 12
cxd4 ♗c7 13 ♗e3 ♗b4 14 ♖d2 ♗ca6
15 ♗xh6 ♗f5 16 ♗h4 ♗d3 17 ♖fc1
♖d7 18 ♖c3 ♗f5 19 ♗xf5 ♖xf5 20
♗xg7 ♖xg7 21 ♖b3 ♖h8 22 ♖xb4
♗xb4 23 ♖xb4**



**23...♖xh2 24 ♖xh2 ♖xf2 25 ♖xc7
♖h8+ 26 ♖h4 ♖xh4+ 27 gxh4 ♖xh4+
28 ♗h3 ♖f2+ 29 ♗g2 ♖h4+ 30 ♗h3
♖f4+ 31 ♖h1 ♖e4+ 32 ♖h2 ♖f4+ 33
♖g2 ♖xd4 34 ♖b1 ♖xc5 35 ♖h1 ♖h5
36 ♖h2 ♖e2+ 37 ♗g2 d4 38 ♖g1 d3
39 ♗b5 d2 40 ♗c3 ♖e1+ 0-1.**

At the end of the year 1959 Van Oost-

erom participates in the Jubilee Tournament of the Deventer Chess Society. Hans Bouwmeester (later ICCF-GM) wins the tournament with 4½ out of 5 ahead of Van Oosterom with 4.

Getting busier

Then his study and his profession more and more trespass on Van Oosterom's time. We hardly find any results in 'Het Tijdschrift' any longer. The accent on these other occupations could also have been caused by the fact that after the promising start of his chess career around 1955 the expected break-through to the Dutch top had not taken place.

After a move to The Hague, we see Van Oosterom just one more time in an over-the-board tournament in the summer of 1961: in Bussum in a tournament of the Dutch Federation. Dick van Geet finishes third in The Dutch Open, which is also played in Bussum, and the two Reserve Groups are won by Cor Jansen and Joop's brother Henny. Joop himself finishes second with 7 out of 9 in the lower Group B.

Now and then his club HSG plays in the (highest) Premier League of the KNSB Competition. Van Oosterom is always playing on one of the highest boards, along with his brother Henny. In the season 1957/58 Joop scores 4 out of 7 (among these points is a win against Dick van Geet) and in the next season 3 out of 4. Three years later, in the season 1961/62 he scores 3½ out of 7 and in the season 1963/64 only 1½ out of 7.

When Joop gives up playing OTB tournaments and when he starts playing correspondence chess, he still keeps

playing with his team HSG in the KNSB competition. I remember that we both were playing on the sixth of November 1976 in Wijkcentrum Overschie in Rotterdam. In Second Class B Joop's team HSG lost 7½-2½ against Overschie and in Second Class C my team MEMO 3 lost 6-4 against Overschie 2, while I made a draw against L. Engelfriet.

Four times before this date Van Oosterom played again for the Philips Plaqueette in Eindhoven. In 1966 he won Group B, in 1967 he even won the highest Group A with 2 out of 3, followed by a with Cor Jansen tied second place in 1968 with 1½ out of 3 and an untied second place in 1970 with 2 out of 3.

Start of CC with NBC

In the meantime, the Dutch Correspondence Chess Federation NBC was founded in November 1966 in Arnhem. Almost 200 members join the club, among them Joop van Oosterom and myself. The Board of the new federation consists of five well-known correspondence chess players and organisers: Barthold Perfors became President, J. Zaagman (Vice-President), Dick Smit (General Secretary and Treasurer), Henk Mostert (Tournament Director) and Henk Sarink (Editor).

The NBC implements the tournament structure of ICCF, and in the first Master Class Group M1 Van Oosterom starts directly. He wins this group with 5½ out of 6, before amongst others Wim Andriessen, who two years later founded 'Schaakbulletin', the magazine which has later been transformed into the world-famous 'New in Chess'. This win implied a qualifica-

♖xc1 36 ♖h7 and wins.

34 g7+ ♖d7 35 ♖g4+ ♖c6 36 ♖xd4
♖a5 37 ♖e6+ ♖d7 38 ♖xd5! ♖d8 If

38...c1♖ then 39 ♖c4+ ♖c7 40 ♖xe7+
♖c6 41 ♖e6+ ♖c7 42 ♖d6+ ♖c8 43
g8♖+.

39 ♖xe7+ 1-0.

After this tournament, Van Oosterom was no longer active as a correspondence player for quite a period, but halfway through the seventies he qualified for the Final of the Dutch Tournament King 54. This was a Silli system tournament with six games each. All games had to start with 1 e4 and one of the mandatory replies: 1...e5, 1...d5, 1...c6, 1...e6, 1...d6 or 1...♗f6.

Van Oosterom wins the Final with 5½ out of 6. So he is allowed to call himself "King 54". I also played in this Final and scored a shared fifth place with 3½ out of 6.

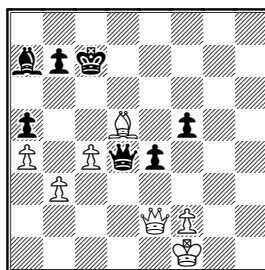
Caro-Kann Defence (B16)

A.A. van 't Riet (NED) –
J.J. van Oosterom (NED)

King 54 final, corr NBC, 1978-79

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗c3 dxe4 4 ♗xe4
♗f6 5 ♗xf6+ gxf6 6 c3 ♖f5 7 ♗f3 ♖c7
8 g3 ♗d7 9 ♖g2 0-0-0 10 0-0 ♖g4 11
♖b3 e6 12 a4 ♖d6 13 c4 c5 14 ♖e3
♖xf3 15 ♖xf3 h5 16 ♖ad1 h4 17 dxc5
♗xc5 18 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 19 ♖xd8+ ♖xd8
20 ♖g2 f5 21 ♖d1 ♖g8 22 ♖d3 ♖e7
23 ♖f1 hxg3 24 hxg3 a6 25 ♖g2 ♖c7
26 ♖f3 ♖b8 27 ♖d3 a5 28 ♖d1 ♖c8
29 ♖f3 ♖e8 30 ♖h5 ♖b4 31 ♖f3 ♖e7
32 b3 ♖e5 33 ♖d1 ♖d7 34 ♖e2 ♖xd1+
35 ♖xd1 f4 36 gxf4 ♖xf4 37 ♖f3 ♖c5
38 ♖e2 ♖d4 39 ♖g2 ♖a7 40 ♖f1 ♖c7

41 ♖g2 f5 42 ♖f1 e5 43 ♖d5 e4



44 ♖d2??

White thought that he already had a draw, so he carelessly put the position on the board without using his score sheet and his notes and then he put the black queen on e5 instead of on d4.

44...♖xd2 0-1.

Dutch CC Champion

Being "King 54", Van Oosterom is allowed to start in the Dutch Championship K9. He also wins this tournament, with a score of 12½ out of 14. The next five games are from this tournament. The game with Guido den Broeder was the most important, as he would come second with 11 out of 14.

Spanish Anti-Marshall (C88)

Prof. Dr. R. W. Jongman (NED) –
J. J. van Oosterom (NED)

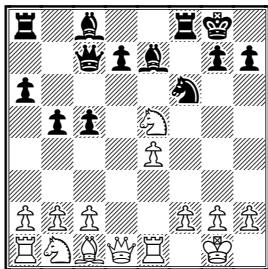
Dutch Corr. Ch. K9, 1980/81

Notes by Van Oosterom.

1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♖b5 a6 4 ♖a4
♗f6 5 0-0 ♖e7 6 ♖e1 b5 7 ♖b3 0-0
8 d4 ♗xd4

An old continuation, which is not bad when your opponent is trying to win.

9 ♖xf7+ ♜xf7 10 ♜xe5 ♜f8 11 ♜xd4 c5 12 ♜d1 ♜c7



13 ♜f3

A novelty. Theory is 13 ♜g4! ♜xg4 14 ♜xg4 d5 15 ♜h5 dxe4 16 ♜c3 ♜f5 17 ♜e8+ (17 ♜g4) 17...♜f8 18 ♜h5 and a draw. An idea would be: 17 ♜g4!?

13...♜b7 14 ♜g5

Very strong. White absolutely under-stands the position.

14...b4 15 c4 ♜ae8 16 ♜d3 ♜d6 17 ♜bd2 ♜g4 18 ♜f1

18 h3! would have been correct. Then White has a small advantage.

18...♜e5 19 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 20 ♜e2 ♜d4 21 ♜ae1 ♜xe4

Looks rather strong and pretty, but White calculated very well. Keeping the tension with 21...♜e5 seems to be stronger.

22 ♜d2 ♜c6 23 ♜g3 d5 24 ♜e3 ♜g6 25 ♜xd4 cxd4 26 cxd5 ♜xd5 27 ♜xe8 ♜xe8 28 ♜d1?

All the previous moves were forced. After 28 ♜xe8 ♜xe8 29 ♜xb4 the game is a draw. But this move loses without any chance.

28...a5 29 b3 d3 30 f3 h5 31 ♜f4 ♜c5+

32 ♜f1

Forced. If 32 ♜h1 ♜c2 33 ♜c4+ ♜xc4 34 bxc4 d2 35 ♜xd2 then 35...♜e1+ and checkmate next move.

32...a4!

Exactly calculated!

33 ♜c1?

A blunder in a lost position. Necessary was 33 ♜c4+ ♜xc4 34 bxc4 ♜c8 35 ♜e4 ♜xe4 36 fxe4 ♜xc4 37 ♜xd3 ♜c2 38 ♜d8+ ♜f7 39 ♜b8 ♜b2 and Black wins.

33...d2 0-1

A pretty finishing touch. If 34 ♜xd2 then 34...♜d3+ 35 ♜xd3 ♜xc1+ and checkmate. The game has some theoretical value.

French Defence (C06)

J. J. van Oosterom (NED) —
Jan de Wit (NED)

Dutch Corr. Ch. K9, 1980/81

Notes by Van Oosterom.

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♜d2 ♜f6 4 e5 ♜fd7 5 ♜d3 c5 6 c3 ♜c6 7 ♜e2 cxd4 8 cxd4 ♜b6 9 ♜f3 f6 10 exf6 ♜xf6 11 0-0 ♜d6 12 ♜c3 0-0 13 ♜e3 ♜d7 14 a3 ♜d8 15 h3

ICCF-IM Bram van der Tak writes: "Theory here gives 15...♜c8 16 ♜e1 ♜h8 17 ♜c1 ♜e8 18 ♜c2 a6 19 ♜ce2 ♜c7 20 ♜c1 with better play for White in Geller-Uhlmann, Skopje 1968."

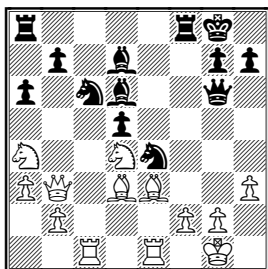
15...a6 16 ♜e1 ♜e8 17 ♜c1 ♜h5

Too early: now White takes the initiative.

18 ♜a4 e5 19 ♜e2 exd4 20 ♜xd4 ♜g6 21 ♜d3 ♜e4 22 ♜b3

Nol van 't Riet on Van Oosterom's early chess career

Dutch CC Ch K9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Pts
1 Van Oosterom, J.		½	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	12½
2 Den Broeder, G.	½		1	1	½	1	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	1	11
3 Sprenger, E.H.	0	0		1	½	1	½	1	1	½	1	1	½	1	1	10
4 Fiorito, M.V.	0	0	0		1	½	1	1	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	9½
5 Etmans, M.D.	0	½	½	0		1	½	½	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	9
6 Fitié, L.H.	½	0	0	½	0		½	1	0	½	1	1	1	1	1	8
7 Adriaanse, Tinus	0	0	½	0	½	½		½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	8
8 Spieringshoek, PJ	0	½	0	0	½	0	½		1	1	0	1	½	1	1	7
9 De Wit, Jan	0	½	0	½	0	1	½	0		½	½	0	1	1	1	6½
10 Mol, J.C.L	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	½		½	0	½	1	1	5½
11 De Vey, A.J.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	½	½		0	½	1	1	5½
12 Jongman, W	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	1	1	1		½	0	1	5
13 Holscher, H.G.J.	½	0	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	½		0	1	4
14 Schoemaker, ET	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		1	3½
15 Pannekoek, J	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0



The point.

22...♖f7 23 ♙xe4 dxe4 24 ♘b6 ♖ad8
 25 ♗xf7+ ♜xf7 26 ♘xd7 ♘xd4 27
 ♙xd4 ♜fxd7 28 ♙xe4 ♙xa3 29 ♙xg7
 ♜d1+ 30 ♜e1 ♜xe1+ 31 ♜xe1 ♙c5
 32 ♙c3 b5 33 ♜e4 ♜d1+ 34 ♗h2 ♜f1
 35 ♙e1

A nice confinement of the ♜.

35...h5 36 ♜e2 a5 37 g3 ♙b4 38 ♙xb4
 axb4 39 ♗g2 1-0.

Black resigned.

After 39...♖b1 40 ♜e4 ♜xb2 41 ♜h4
 ♜a2 42 ♜xb4 ♜a5 43 ♜h4 ♜a8 44 ♜xh5
 ♜b8 45 ♜e5 b4 46 ♜e2 b3 47 ♜b2 ♗f7 48
 ♗f3 White wins easily.

Alekhine's Defence (B05)

J. J. van Oosterom (NED) —
 A.J. de Vey (NED)

Dutch Corr. Ch. K9, 1980/81

Notes by Ger van Perlo.

1 e4 ♘f6 2 e5 ♘d5 3 d4 d6 4 ♘f3 ♙g4
 5 ♙e2 e6 6 0-0 ♙e7 7 c4 ♘b6 8 ♘c3
 0-0 9 h3 ♙h5 10 ♙e3 d5 11 c5 ♙xf3
 12 ♙xf3 ♘c4 13 ♙f4

Geller's move; in a correspondence
 game Van Perlo-Kahra, 1975-76, I tried
 13 b4 which was an idea of Gipslis.

13...b6 14 b3 ♘a5 15 b4

Known from the game Lukin-Bagirov,
 USSR 1975.

15...♘c4 16 ♜c1 c6 17 b5

A novelty which creates sharp play.
 In the mentioned game White played 17
 ♙e2, after which Black got full-fledged
 play with: 17...a5 18 ♙xc4 dxc4.

17...bxc5 18 dxc5 ♙xc5 19 bxc6
 ♘xc6

19...♘a6 would have been safer.

Spanish Marshall (C89)

Guido den Broeder (NED)

J. J. van Oosterom (NED)

Dutch Corr. Ch. K9, 1980/81

Notes by Guido den Broeder (dB) and Joop van Oosterom (vO)

dB: An explosive game in which much is at stake. But also a fight between two players who don't avoid a life-and-death struggle!

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 ♜b5 a6 4 ♙a4 ♗f6 5 0-0 ♙e7 6 ♚e1 b5 7 ♜b3 0-0 8 c3 d5 9 exd5 ♗xd5 10 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 11 ♜xe5 c6 12 d4 ♙d6 13 ♚e1 ♗h4 14 g3 ♗h3

dB: Black has a big potential for an attack on the (still) weakly protected kingside in exchange for the pawn. But White has the advantage that every developing move at once gives him control over important squares.

15 ♙e3 ♙g4 16 ♗d3 ♜ae8 17 ♗d2 f5

dB: This leads to the game Bole-slavsky-Tal, USSR 1962. The main variation (from Tal!) in the 'Encyclopaedia' with 17...♚e6 is not good.

18 ♗f1 ♗h5 19 f4 ♗h8 20 ♙xd5 cxd5 21 a4 bxa4

dB: Tal played 21...g5, which did not work out well after 22 axb5 axb5 23 fxg5 ♜xe3 24 ♜xe3 f4 25 gxf4 ♙xf4 26 ♜g3 ♗xg5 27 ♗h1 ♜g8 28 ♗f3 ♗f5 29 ♜xg4 But it is rather unclear. The game move is a suggestion of a club fellow of my opponent. After 22 ♜xa4 the e1-♜ can become exposed, but maybe this still would have been the best opportunity.

vO: Until 21 a4 all was theory and had been played often. Black's 21st move is new and in this game also almost successful. The strongest answer seems to be 22 ♜xa4 and back with 23 ♜a1.

22 ♗xa6 ♜e6 23 ♗b5?!

dB: This costs an important tempo in the variation which Black chooses now. But some other attack possibilities would have been less strong as d5 is en prise.

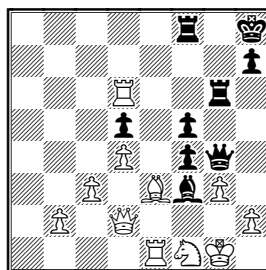
23...♜h6 24 ♗f1 ♙f3 25 ♗d3 ♗g4 26 ♗d2 g5

dB: There we go! White will be over-run, but he still has one piece that could help.

27 ♜xa4 ♜g6!

dB: Not 27...♜h3? 28 ♜a6 ♙b8 29 c4!, and after 29...h5 there follows 30 ♗b4! and at once White has the advantage!.

28 ♜a6!! gxf4 29 ♙xd6



29...fxg3

dB: Gets the maximum out of the position. White cannot accept the piece sacrifice and therefore loses a ♜ for a piece: 30 ♜xg6? gxh2+ 31 ♗xh2 hxg6! 32 ♙f4 g5! 33 ♙xg5 ♗h5+ 34 ♗g3 ♜g8 (34...♗g4+ draws.) 35 ♗f2 ♜xg5 36 ♗f4 ♜g2+! 37 ♗e3 ♙d1!-+; a fantastic variation.

vO: Until move 29 White plays only almost forced moves and 29...fxg3 is a

beautiful Black sacrifice. Accepting the sacrifice with 30 ♖xg6 is winning for Black.

30 hxg3 ♖xd6

vO: With hxg3 White could just save himself for the moment, but now he is a ♖ for a piece down.

31 ♖f4 ♖g6 32 ♗h2 ♖h5 33 ♗xf3 ♖xf3 34 ♖g2 ♖xg2+!

dB: Now the 'bad' white ♖ is as strong as iron.

35 ♖xg2 ♖b6 36 ♖e7

dB: Even this gives a draw.

36...♖xb2+ 37 ♖f3 ♖g8 38 ♖e5 ♖f7 1/2-1/2.

vO: Black submits to perpetual check as 38...♖c8 39 ♖g7+ ♖f8 40 ♖xh7 ♖xc3+ 41 ♖f4 ♖f2+ 42 ♖g5 only gives chances for White. That's why Black offered a draw.

Last Dutch event

Van Oosterom also participated in K10. With 10 out of 14 he reaches the second place together with ICCF-IM Kier Nienhuis (after Joop lost their mutual game) behind the last World Champion Gert Timmerman, who won the tournament with 11½ points.

Number four in this tournament with 9½ points was Max Euwe, who unfortunately died during the event on the 26th of November 1981 at the age of 80 years. Then his remaining seven games had to be adjudicated.

One opponent resigned and Hans Bouwmeester was so kind as to adjudicate the remaining six games.

Van Oosterom was the only player who won against Euwe. The game was finished before Euwe died.

Catalan Opening (E05)

Pieter C. Seewald (NED)

J. J. van Oosterom (NED)

Dutch Corr. Ch. K10, 1981/82

Notes by Ger van Perlo

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 g3 ♖e7 5 ♖g2 0-0 6 0-0 dxc4 7 ♖c2 a6 8 ♖xc4 b5 9 ♖c2 ♖b7 10 ♖d2 ♖e4

Known as bad is 10...♗bd7 because of 11 ♖a5 (Suetin-Fuchs, 1965).

11 ♖c1 ♗bd7

Possible now!? Known so far was 11...♖c8 12 ♗c3 ♖b7=.

12 ♖a5 ♖a7 13 ♗bd2 ♖d5 14 b4 ♖a8 15 ♖c3 ♗b8 16 ♗b3 ♗c6 17 ♖fc1 ♗e4 18 ♖e1 ♖d6 19 ♖c2 f5 20 ♖ac1 ♖f7 21 ♗c5 h6 22 ♖d1 g5 23 e3 g4

Maybe rather over-hasty. White reacts well.

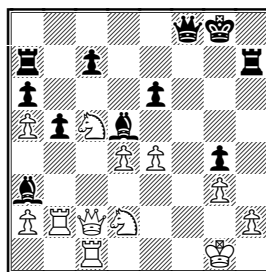
24 ♗d2 ♗xa5 25 ♖xe4 fxe4 26 bxa5 h5 27 ♖b2 ♖h7 28 ♖c2?

This proves to be not the right square for the ♖; and now it goes wrong rather quickly.

28...♖f8! 29 ♗cxe4? ♖a3!

Did White overlook this move?

30 ♗c5 h4 31 e4 hxg3 32 fxxg3



32...♖xb2 33 ♗xb2 ♜xh2! 34 ♖d3 ♗h6 35 ♖f4 ♖xe4 36 ♗c3 ♜h1+ 0-1.

White resigned: 37 ♖f2 ♗h2+ 38 ♖e3 ♜e1+ wins a piece.

Queen's Gambit, Semi-Slav (D45)

Kier H. Nienhuis (NED)

J. J. van Oosterom (NED)

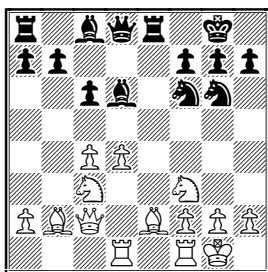
Dutch Corr. Ch. K10, 1981/82

Notes by Bram van der Tak

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♖f6 4 ♖f3 c6 5 e3 ♖bd7 6 ♗c2 ♖d6 7 b3 0-0 8 ♖e2 dxc4 9 bxc4 e5 10 0-0 ♜e8 11 ♖b2 exd4 12 exd4 ♖f8 13 ♜ad1

Or 13 h3 ♖g6 14 ♜fe1 with a slight preponderance for White. For instance: 14...♗a5 15 c5 ♖f4 16 ♖c4 Najdorf-Bisguier, New York 1951.

13...♖g6



Hübner thinks that 13...♗c7 is a better possibility. Black then prevents the next ♖ move.

14 ♖e5! ♗c7

Hübner analysed that 14...♖xe5 15 dxe5 ♜xe5 16 ♖b5 is good for White, e.g. 16...♜e6 17 ♖d4 ♜e8 18 c5 ♖b8 19

♖xc6 ♗c7 20 ♖xb8 ♜xb8 21 ♖xf6 gxf6 22 ♖d3.

15 f4 ♖e7?! 16 ♖d3 g6 17 c5! ♖xe5 18 fxe5 ♖fd5 19 ♗f2 ♖e6 20 ♖e4 ♗g7 21 ♖f6! ♜h8 22 ♖e4! ♜ad8 23 ♖c1 h6

23...♖c3 is not possible because of 24 ♗e3 with a checkmate threat.

24 ♜d3 ♗c8 25 ♜g3 1-0.

Black resigned. There could have followed 25...h5 26 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 27 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 28 ♗f6+ ♖h7 29 ♜xg6 fxe6 30 ♗e7+ ♖g8 31 ♜f6 and White wins.

Sicilian Defence, Richter-Rauzer (B64)

J. J. van Oosterom (NED) –

Prof. Dr. Max Euwe (NED)

Dutch Corr. Ch. K10, 1981/82

Notes by Ger van Perlo

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖f6 5 ♖c3 ♖c6 6 ♖g5 e6 7 ♗d2 ♖e7 8 0-0-0 0-0 9 f4 h6 10 ♖h4 ♖d7

A modern variation; in the Dutch chess world especially, Genna Sosonko and Jan Timman have experimented with this variation. Also Kupreichik from Russia has played this move several times.

11 ♖f3 ♗a5 12 ♗e1

The most important alternative is 12 ♗b1.

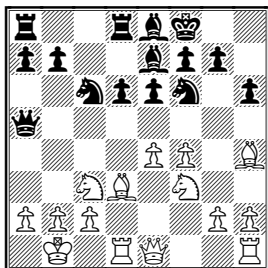
12...♜fd8

The most precise; after 12...♜fc8 13 e5! Black gets into trouble (Unzicker v. Ligterink, IBM Amsterdam 1980).

13 ♗b1

13 e5 does not give much result, as has been shown in Karpov–Timman, Buenos Aires 1980.

13...♖e8 14 ♖d3 ♗f8



This seems to be a novelty. The best answer is probably 15 ♖hg1.

Red Letters

The series of USSR CC Championships began in the late 1940s; many famous masters and GMs played in these almost unknown classics!

The book by Russian CC-GM Sergey Grodzensky & Tim Harding includes a database featuring hundreds of brilliant chess games.

“An outstanding production for which both authors deserve high praise. The book should be a must-have for fans of correspondence chess” - Carsten Hansen at www.chesscafe.com

“Both authors have done an admirable job in obtaining a very concise and highly interesting account of all the championships.” - Tim Runtig, Australian CC Quarterly

**168 pages including photographs.
£15.99/ 25 Euro + 4 Euro p&p.**

15 ♖f1? ♖ac8 16 h3 ♗b4 17 a3 ♗xd3
18 ♖xd3 b5 19 ♗d4 b4 20 ♗a2
♗b5?

It seems that Black lost the thread with his last moves. White is now getting an advantage.

21 axb4 ♖b6 22 ♗xb5 ♖xb5 23 e5
dxe5 24 fxe5 ♖xd3

Questionable too; stronger seems 24...♗f7.

25 exf6! ♗xf6 26 ♗xf6 ♖e3!

Yet another interesting resource, which maybe is the best chance for rescue.

27 ♖f2 gxf6 28 ♖xf6 ♖c7??

Loses directly. After 28...♗g8 the matter is less clear.

29 ♖d8+ ♗g7 30 ♖f4 1-0.

On to the world stage

Joop van Oosterom's win in K9 not only qualified him for K10, but it also gave him one of the free Dutch places in the semi-finals of the next World Championship. He started in Semi-Final 4 of World Championship XIV, which also was the start of his international correspondence chess career. (See the following article by Tim Harding, who carries on the story.)

In the autumn of 1987 Van Oosterom arranged a contact for me with Harry Vosseveld who was one of the programmers of his company Volmac. Within three months Harry rewrote my home-developed Apple programs for the ICCF Rating System and the European Tournament Office for my new MS-DOS computer.

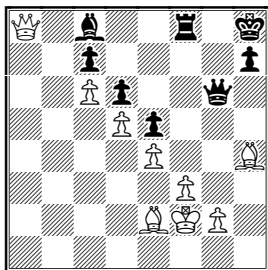
During our co-operation Harry confided in me: “Mr Van Oosterom's strong intention is to become World Champion”. By that time Van Oosterom already started



15th CC World Champion Gert Timmerman giving a lecture in which he demonstrates the crucial move 33...Bf5 which he found against Van Oosterom. Picture: Nol van 't Riet.

in the Three Quarter Final of World Championship XIV, as he had qualified from the semi-final.

His first attempt finally stranded on the second place in the Final of World Championship XV, one point behind Gert Timmerman. The diagram below shows the crucial position in this game.



Here Timmerman played **33...♞f5!**,

which was the decisive move in this game. If Timmerman had not found that move, the game would probably have ended in a draw and then Van Oosterom would have been World Champion on Sonneborn-Berger.

In the Final of World Championship XVIII, Joop van Oosterom has his second chance with strong opponents like the winner of the Dutch Millennium Email Chess Tournament Hans-Marcus Elwert (Germany), the strongest lady player in the world Olita Rause (Latvia), Achim Soltau (Germany), Guillermo Toro (Chile) and above all Mikhail Umansky (Russia), the outstanding winner of the 50 Years ICCF Jubilee Tournament of the World Champions with the unprecedented Tournament Performance Rating of 2974.

Three wins from the Elite tournament

Annotated by J.J. van Oosterom

AS SHOWN by the crosstable in Chess Mail 1/2004 page 21, Mr van Oosterom has won the ICCF 50th Jubilee Elite Grandmaster tournament with a score of 10/14. The only open question is whether GM Elwert can equal his total and tiebreak by winning the last game against new world champion Tunc Hamarat. You can judge the likelihood of this for yourself by looking at the games of the event on www.iccf.com.

Below you can see three of the best games from this tournament, annotated by the winner. The first two were supplied specially for this souvenir issue, for which we are most grateful, and Mr van Oosterom also gave permission to reprint his notes to the 'Bang game'.

Sicilian Defence (B27)

**J.J. van Oosterom (NED) –
Ove Ekebjærg (DEN)**

Elite 50JEGMT Email, 2002

Notes by Van Oosterom.

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 g6 3 d4 ♙g7 4 d5 ♘f6

Black intends to prevent c4 by forcing ♘c3, but this move has its risks.

5 e5 ♗g4 6 ♘fd2!?

These days it is unusual to encounter an innovation as early as move six.

6...f5

6...♗xe5 7 f4 costs a piece. 6...♗h6 7 ♘e4 0-0 8 h4 gives White a dangerous attack.

7 exf6 ♗xf6 8 ♘c3

8 c4 0-0 9 ♘c3 e6 is fine for Black.

8...0-0 9 ♙e2 b6

9...d6 10 0-0 e6 11 ♗de4 also gives White an edge.

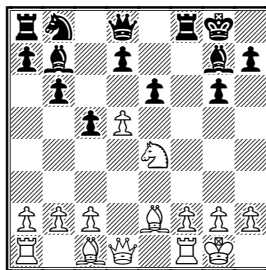
10 0-0 ♙b7 11 ♗de4

More dangerous than 11 ♙f3 d6 followed by ...♗a6 and ...♗c7, attacking d5 and covering e6.

11...♗xe4

11...♗a6 12 ♗xf6+ ♙xf6 (12...exf6 13 ♙f4 gives White a safe advantage) 13 ♗e4 ♙g7 14 ♖e1±.

12 ♗xe4 e6



The most critical move, as otherwise White plays c4 and ♖e1, shutting the b7-bishop out of play.

13 ♙g5!

Stronger than 13 c4 ♖c7 14 ♖e1 (14 ♙f3 ♗a6) 14...♗e5 15 h3 ♗a6 and Black's pieces are very active.

13...♖c7 14 ♙e7

14 d6? ♖c8 opens the diagonal of the b7-♗ and frees c6 for the ♗.

14...♖e8!?

After this, White secures a safe posi-

tional advantage.

a) 14...♙xd5 15 ♚xf8 ♜xf8 16 ♖c3 is very good for White, for example 16...♙c6 (or 16...♙b7 17 ♚f3 ♖c6 18 ♖b5) 17 ♗d2 d5 18 ♙g4 ♗f7 19 ♝ae1 ♙d7 20 ♞e3 with strong pressure.

b) 14...exd5 was the best chance. After 15 ♚xf8 ♜xf8 16 ♖c3 d4 17 ♖b5 ♗f4 18 ♗c1 ♗xc1 19 ♝axc1 ♖c6 20 ♖d6 ♝b8 White's small material advantage would probably not be enough to win.

c) 14...♞f5 15 c4 gives White a dangerous initiative, e.g. 15...exd5 (or 15...♙xb2 16 ♖d6 exd5 17 ♚f3!) 16 ♖d6 ♞e5 17 ♖b5 ♗c8 18 ♙d6 ♞f5 19 cxd5!±.

15 ♙d6

15 d6 ♗c8 16 ♖f6+ ♙xf6 17 ♚xf6 ♞f8 18 ♙e5 ♖c6 offers White little.

15...♗d8 16 ♙c4 b5

Black must remove the cramping d5-pawn.

17 ♙xb5 ♙xd5 18 ♗e2

White's blockade on d6 and the weak c5-pawn give him a clear positional advantage, so Black is more or less forced to take on b5.

18...♙xb2 19 ♞ad1

The ♞ belongs in the centre. 19 ♞ab1 ♙d4 20 c3 is less effective due to 20...♗h4!

19...♖c6 20 ♙xc5

20 c4 ♙xe4 21 ♗xb2 a6 22 ♙a4 ♗a5 is only slightly better for White.

20...a6

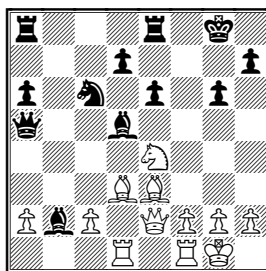
20...♗h4 is met by 21 f4±.

21 ♙d3 ♗a5

21...♖e5 22 c4 ♖xd3 23 ♞xd3 ♙xe4 (23...♙xc4 24 ♗xb2 ♙xd3 25 ♖f6+ ♗f7 26 ♖g4±) 24 ♗xe4 gives Black serious problems with his d-pawn.

22 ♙e3

Better than 22 ♙d6 ♖d4.



22...♗c7

In many lines Black suffers from his weakened ♗ position, for example 22...♙e5 23 ♖g5 ♖d4 24 ♙xd4 ♙xd4 25 ♖xh7! ♗xh7 26 ♗g4! ♙g7 27 ♗h5+ ♗g8 28 ♙xg6 ♞ec8 29 ♞d4 e5 30 ♞g4 ♗f8 31 ♗f5+ ♗e7 32 ♙e8!! ♙f6 33 ♗xd7+ ♗f8 34 ♗d6+ ♙e7 35 ♗xe5 ♗xe8 36 c4+-.

23 c4 ♙xe4 24 ♙xe4 ♞ab8 25 c5

Definitely fixing the backward d-pawn.

25...a5 26 ♞d2

Trying to double rooks.

26...♙c3 27 ♞d3 ♙e5?!

Makes life easier for White, as the extra move f4 is actually quite helpful to him.

28 f4 ♙g7 29 ♞fd1 ♙e7 30 ♞d6

Thanks to the move f4, which prevents ...♙e5, White can occupy this outpost. Now Black must always take into account the possibility of, for example, ♙xc6 followed by ♗a6.

30...♞b2

30...♙f8 31 ♗d3 ♗c8 (31...♞b2 32 ♙xc6 dxc6 33 ♙d4+-) 32 a3! (Preventing ...♖b4 and so threatening ♞xd7) 32...a4 33 ♙xc6 dxc6 34 ♗e4 is winning.

31 ♗c4

Exerting pressure on e6 and defending

a2. Black has no reasonable way to avoid losing a pawn.

31... ♖f8 32 a3

To stop ... ♖b4.

32... ♖f7

32... ♖b7 33 ♖xc6 dxc6 34 ♖xe6 ♖f7 transposes.

33 ♖xc6 dxc6 34 ♖xe6

White is a pawn up with strong pressure against Black's ♖.

34... ♖b7 35 ♖d8 ♖b3

Giving checks on b1 and b2 doesn't help as White's ♖ is always safe on g3. 35... ♖b5 36 ♖xb5 cxb5 37 c6 is a comfortable win.

36 ♖e4

The quickest win; White allows Black a couple of checks, but keeping the queens on means that he can go for Black's ♖.

36... ♖b1+

36... ♖c2 37 ♖xc2 ♖xc2 38 ♖xc6 is hopeless.

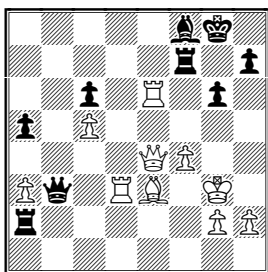
37 ♖f2 ♖b2+

Or 37... ♖a2+ 38 ♖g3 ♖b3 39 h3 threatening simply ♖h2 39... ♖xa3 40 ♖g4! and there is no good defence to the threat of 41 Rxf8+ followed by mate.

38 ♖g3 ♖a2

38... ♖c3 39 ♖e7 ♖b7 40 ♖ee8+-.

39 ♖d3 1-0.



Here the game was adjudicated as a win for White. His pieces occupy dominating positions in the centre of the board and there is no real answer to the threats against the king.

The judgment of the adjudicator (Mikhail Umansky) was: "I agree with this analysis: 39... ♖b2 (39... ♖c2 40 ♖e8+-; 39... ♖b1 40 ♖e8 ♖e1+ 41 ♖h3+-; 39... ♖b7 40 ♖e8 ♖e2 41 ♖e6+- ♖c7 42 ♖dd8+-) 40 ♖d4 and now:

a) 40... ♖b5 41 ♖e3 ♖f1 42 ♖f6 ♖c4 (42... ♖e7 43 ♖xg6+ forces mate) 43 ♖xg6+ hxg6 44 ♖xg6+ ♖g7 45 ♖xg7 ♖c2 46 ♖xc2 ♖xc2 47 ♖xf8 ♖xf8 48 ♖f3 ♖xc5 49 g4+-.

b) 40... ♖c2 41 h3 followed by ♖h2 (or 41 ♖h3+-).

c) 40... ♖b8 41 ♖e5 ♖c8 42 ♖d6 ♖c2 43 ♖b3+-.

d) 40... ♖b1 41 ♖h3 threat ♖e8 41... ♖f1 (41... ♖c2 42 ♖e8+- or 41... ♖b8 42 ♖e5 ♖c8 43 ♖xc6) 42 ♖g3 ♖xf4 43 ♖gxf6+ hxg6 44 ♖xg6+ ♖g7 45 ♖xg7 ♖f7 46 ♖xf8+ ♖xg6 47 ♖xg6+ ♖xf8 with two extra pawns in the ♖ ending."

Caro-Kann Defence by transposition (B14)

J.J. van Oosterom (NED) – Tunc Hamarat (AUT)

Elite 50JEGMT Email, 2002

Notes by Van Oosterom.

1 ♖f3 ♖f6 2 c4 c5 3 ♖c3 d5 4 cxd5 ♖xd5 5 e3 e6 6 d4 cxd4 7 exd4 ♖b4 8 ♖d2 ♖c6 9 ♖d3 0-0

9... ♖e7 is more precise.

10 ♖c2 ♖f6 11 a3 ♖e7 12 ♖e3 ♖d7 13 0-0 ♖c8 14 ♖fe1

The other option is to play 14 ♖fd1 a6 15 ♖a1.

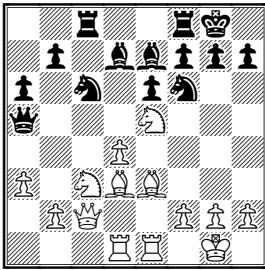
14...a6

14...♖a5 15 b4 is good for White.

15 ♖ad1 ♖a5

15...b5 can be met by the long variation 16 d5 exd5 17 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 18 ♖xh7+ ♖h8 19 ♖xd5 ♖b4 20 axb4 ♖xc2 21 ♖xc2 ♖c8 22 ♖c5 ♖xc5 23 ♖xc5 ♖d8 24 ♖d1 ♖g8 25 ♖e5 ♖e8 26 h3 with a considerable advantage for White.

16 ♖e5



16...♖cd8

A difficult decision for Black as none of the alternatives seems to give equality.

a) 16...♖xe5 17 dxe5 ♖xe5 18 ♖d4 ♖c7 (Not 18...♖h5 19 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 20 ♖e2 and wins material.) 19 ♖e5 and now:

a1) After 19...♖d8 20 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 21 ♖xh7+ ♖h8 22 ♖e3 ♖g5 23 ♖h3 ♖h6 24 ♖e4 ♖c7 25 ♖d2 f5 (25...♖f6 26 ♖d6 ♖fc8 27 ♖f3 wins and 26...♖d8 27 ♖f4 also favours White.) when:

a11) 26 ♖d5 ♖c4 27 ♖xh6+ g6 28 ♖xh6+ ♖g8 29 ♖g6+ ♖h8 30 ♖f3 ♖h4 31 ♖f4 White has an advantage.

a12) This is better than 26 ♖xh6+ which only leads to a draw after 26...g6 27 ♖xh6+ ♖g8 28 ♖g6+ ♖h8. Not now 29 ♖d3? because of 29...♖h4 30 ♖h3 ♖xh3

31 g6 ♖g8 and Black wins.

a2) 19...♖c6 20 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 21 ♖xh7+ ♖h8 22 ♖d3 (22 ♖e3 and 22 ♖e4 also give White some advantage.) 22...g6 (22...♖fd8? 23 ♖h3 ♖c7 24 ♖d5 wins) 23 ♖xg6 f6 24 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 25 ♖xd7 ♖xc3 26 bxc3 ♖xc3 27 ♖xb7 ♖xa3 28 f3 with an endgame advantage for White.

b) 16...♖fd8 17 ♖c4 ♖c7 18 d5 exd5 19 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 20 ♖xh7+ ♖h8 21 ♖xd5 ♖b4 22 axb4 ♖xc4 23 ♖xc4 ♖xc4 24 ♖d3 wins material.

17 ♖c4

Now White has a clear advantage.

17...♖h5

17...♖c7 is met by 18 d5 followed by ♖b6.

18 ♖e2 ♖h4

18...g6 19 ♖xg6 hxg6 20 ♖b6 with strong positional pressure for White.

19 ♖f3 ♖fe8

After 19...g4 20 ♖f4 ♖xf2 White wins material by 21 ♖g3.

20 ♖e2!

This reduces Black's counterplay by controlling g4 and puts his ♖ in trouble.

20...♖f8 21 g3 ♖h3 22 ♖e5 h5

22...h6 23 ♖g4 is very bad for Black. 22...♖xe5 is impossible as 23 dxe5 followed by ♖g4 traps the ♖.

23 ♖g5

This wins a pawn by force.

23...♖f5 24 h4 ♖e7 25 ♖xf6 gxf6

25...♖xf6 26 ♖e4 ♖h3 27 ♖xh5 wins.

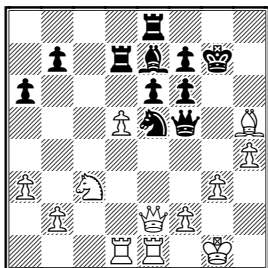
26 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 27 d5

The isolated pawn breaks through in the centre.

27...♖e5

27...exd5 28 ♖xh5 ♖dd8 29 ♖g4 ♖e5 30 ♖f3 with a decisive advantage.

28 ♖xh5 ♖g7



It took me a long time to realise that White had nothing better than liquidating to an endgame with an extra pawn. However, this is sufficient to win in the end. If 28...exd5 29 exd5 ♖c5 30 exf6+ ♗xf6 31 ♖xd7 ♜f3+ 32 ♗xf3 ♖xe1+ 33 ♖g2 ♗xf3+ 34 ♖xf3 with a winning endgame.

29 dxe6 ♖xd1 30 ♖xd1 ♖h8 31 ♖d5 ♗xh5 32 ♗xh5 ♖xh5 33 ♖xe7 fxe6 34 ♖c1

The most precise move, forcing a ♖ exchange. In the resulting ending, White's outside h-pawn proves decisive.

34...♖d3 35 ♖c7 ♖c5 36 ♖f5+ ♗g6
36...♗f8 37 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 38 ♖d6 ♖e7 39 h5 wins.

37 ♖xc5 ♖xc5 38 ♖d6 b5 39 ♖f1 f5 40 ♖e2 ♖a4 41 b3 ♖c5

After 41...♖c3+ 42 ♖d2 ♖b1+ 43 ♖c1 ♖xa3 44 b4 ♖f6 45 ♖b2 ♖e5 46 ♖f7+ ♖f6 47 ♖xa3 ♖xf7 the pawn ending is winning for White.

42 b4 ♖d7 43 ♖e3 1-0.

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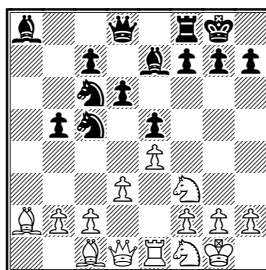
Spanish Anti-Marshall (C88)

J.J. van Oosterom (NED) – Erik Bang (DEN)

Elite 50JEGMT Email, 2002

Notes by Van Oosterom.

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♖b5 a6 4 ♖a4 ♖f6 5 0-0 ♖e7 6 ♖e1 b5 7 ♖b3 0-0 8 a4 ♖b7 9 d3 d6 10 ♖bd2 ♖d7 11 axb5 axb5 12 ♖xa8 ♖xa8 13 ♖f1 ♖c5 14 ♖a2!N



14 ♖d5 ♖b4 15 ♖xa8 ♗xa8 16 ♖e3 ♖f6 17 ♖d2 (17 b3!? ♖♗d2) 17...♖bxd3! 18 cxd3 ♖xd3∞.

14...♖b7

14...♖b4 15 ♖b1±; 14...♗d7 15 c3 ♖e6 16 ♖g3±; 14...♗c8 15 c3 ♗a6 16 ♖d5±.

15 c3 ♗a8 16 ♖d5

16 ♖b1?! ♗a1 17 ♖c2 ♖a4 18 ♗e2 ♖xb2 19 d4 ♖c4! 20 d5 ♗xc3 21 dxc6 ♖xc6∞.

16...♖d8

16...♖a4 17 ♖g3 ♖b6 18 ♖b3 ♖f6 19 ♖h5±.

17 ♖xb7 ♗xb7

a) 17...♖dxb7? 18 d4 ♖d7 19 dxe5 ♖xe5 20 ♖xe5 dxe5 21 ♗d7±.

b) 17...♖cxb7 18 ♖e3 ♖e6 19 d4±.

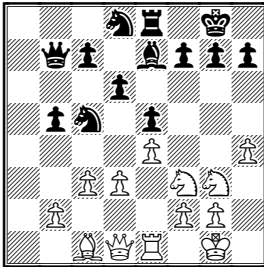
18 ♖g3± ♖e8

18...d7 19 f5 e8 20 g5 xg5 (20...h6 21 h3 f8 22 f4 g6 23 g4±) 21 xg5 e6 (21...g6 22 h6+ g7 23 g4±) 22 g4 xg5 23 xg5 g6 24 h4 a8 25 e7+ g7 26 d5 h6 27 g3 d8 28 a1±.

19 h4!

a) 19 d4 d7 20 dxe5 (20 d5 c6) 20...xe5 21 xe5 dxe5 22 f5 f8 23 g4 c6.

b) 19 f5 f8 20 g5 g6.



19...f8

a) 19...h6 20 d4 d7 21 dxe5 xe5 22 xe5 dxe5 23 f5 f8 24 g4 (d xh6+) 24...h8 25 d1±.

b) 19...d7 20 h5 e6 21 f5 d5 (21...f6 22 h2±) 22 d4 dxe4 23 xe5 xe5 24 dxe5 f8 25 g4±.

c) 19...d5 20 h5 (20 b4!?) 20...dxe4 (20...h6 21 xe5 d6 22 f4±) 21 xe4 xe4 22 xe4 d6 23 h6±.

20 h5

20 d4?! d7 21 d5 c6.

20...b4?!

20...d7 21 h2 d5 22 f5 e6 23 g4 b4 24 f3±.

21 d4! exd4

21...d7 22 a4 c5 23 d5±.

22 cxd4 d7

22...xe4 23 d5! and now:

a) 23...f6?! 24 g5! xe1+ 25 xe1 c6 (25...e7 26 e2! f8 27 f5 c6 28 h6 g6 29 xe7! xe7 30 xe7+ xe7 31 d3+-- or 25...xd5 26 xd5 xd5 27 xd8 f6 28 c2 f7 29 e3±) 26 xf6 gxf6 27 c2 cxd5 28 g4+ h8 29 xb4±.

b) 23... f5 24 xf5 b5 (24...c6 25 dxc6 xc6 26 b3+ d5 27 e3±) 25 h6! g6 26 g7 e7 (26...xg7 27 hxg7 c5 28 dxc6 xc6 29 b3+ xg7 30 xb4±) 27 e3 c5 28 dxc6 dxc6 29 b3+ d5 30 d1 c4 31 a4±.

23 d5

23 d2 c5 24 d5 b5 25 f4 b7∞.

23...c6

23...c5 24 f4±; 23...c5 24 h6 g6 25 g5 c6 26 d4±.

24 e3 cxd5

24...b6 25 xb6 xb6 26 a4±.

25 exd5 b5

ECO Openings Index

A04 7, 8	B97 55
A28 34	C06 12
A29 28, 31	C77 4
A44 6	C88 11, 14, 24
A87 10	C89 15
	C93 42
B05 13	D37 37
B14 22	D45 17
B16 11	D85 53
B27 20	E05 16
B64 17	E76 6

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25...xb6? 26 Qxb6 Rxe1+ 27 Qxe1 Qxb6 28 h6 g6 29 Qe4 Qxh6 30 Qf6+ Qg7 31 Qd7 Qc7 32 Qe7 g5 33 Qh2! Δ Q-d4-f5+ +-.
26 Qd4!±

- a) 26 h6?! g6 27 Qd4 f5..
- b) 26 Qe2 Qe5 27 Qxe5 dxe5! 28 Qg3 h6 29 Qf5 Qh8 30 Qd2±.

26...Qc5

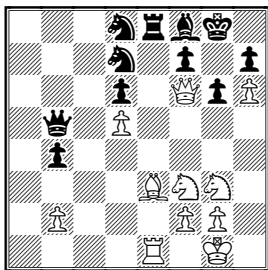
26...h6! 27 Bd1! Qb7 28 Qf5 Qbc5 29 Qg4 Qh8 30 Qd4 Qe5 31 Qxe5 dxe5 32 Qxc5 Qxc5 33 d6 Bd8 34 Qh4! f6 35 Qg4 b3 36 Bd3! Qc2 37 Bg3±.

27 h6 g6

27...Qd3 28 hxg7 Qxg7 29 Qg4+-.

28 Qf6 Qd7

28...Qb3 29 Qh5! Qc4 (29...gxh5 30 Qg5+ Qh8 31 Qd4+-) 30 Qh2! (Δ Qd4!) 30...Qxd5 31 Qxg6+ fxg6 32 Qf6+ Qh8 33 Qxd5± Δ Qxb4.



29 Qe4! Bc7

a) 29...Qxf6 30 Qxf6+ Qh8 31 Qxe8 Qe6 (31...f6 32 Qxf6+-) 32 Qf6 Qc7 33 Bc1 Qb8 34 Qg5 Qxh6 35 Qxf7+ Qg7 36 Bxc7 Qxe3 37 Qe5+! Qh6 38 Bxh7+ Qg5 39 Qfd7+-.

b) 29...Qxe4 30 Qxd8 Be7 (30...Qe5 31 Qg5 Qxe3 32 fxe3 Qd7 33 Qxd7 Qxd7 34 Qf2 Qxh6 35 Qe4+-) 31 Ba1 Qxd5 32 Ba8! Be4 (32...Qe6 33 Qg5 Qe5 34 Qf4

Qxf4 35 Qxe7 Qc1+ 36 Qh2 Qf4+ 37 Qh3 Qf5+ 38 Qg3+-) 33 Bc8 Qf5 34 Qd4 Qg4 35 f3 Qg3 36 Qf2 Be1+ 37 Qxe1 Qxe1+ 38 Qh2 Qe5+ 39 Qh3+-.

c) 29...Qxd5 30 Qd4 Qe5 31 Qxe5! Qxe5 32 Qxe5 Bxe5 33 Qf6+ Qh8 34 Qxe5 dxe5 35 Ba1+-.

d) 29...Qe6 30 dxe6 Qxf6 31 Qxf6+ Qh8 32 Qg5 Be7 33 Qxf7+ Bxf7 34 exf7+-.

30 Ba1!!+- Qb7

a) 30...Bxe4 31 Qxd8 Qb8 32 Ba7 Qe8 33 Qxe8 Bxe8 34 Ba8 Bd8 35 Qb6 Bc8 36 Qh2; 30...Qxf6 31 Qxf6+ Qh8 32 Ba8 Qxh6 (32...Bd7 33 Qd4 or 32...Bxe3 33 Bxd8 or 32...Be8 33 Qd4) 33 Bxd8+ Qg7 34 Qd4 Qg5 (34...Qc1 35 Qe8+ Qh6 36 Qg7+ Qh5 37 Qf6#) 35 Qxg5 Qe2 36 Bg8+ Qh6 37 Qxf7+ Bxf7 38 Qe3+ Qxe3 39 Qg4+.

b) 30...Qd3 31 Qd4! Qxf6 32 Qxf6+ Qh8 33 Ba8 Qc4 34 Bxd8 Qc1+ 35 Qh2 Qxh6+ 36 Qg3 Be5 37 Qg4.

c) 30...Qc4 31 Qfd2 Qxd5 32 Qd4 Qe5 33 Ba6! Qe6 34 Bxd6 Qxd4 35 Bxd4 Qxd4 36 Qb6.

d) 30...Qxd5 31 Qd4 Qe5 32 Qxe5!.

e) 30...Qb8 31 Qd4 Be5 32 Qxe5 dxe5 33 Qa6.

31 Qd4 f5

31...Qb8 32 Qf5 Qxh6 (32...f5 33 Qf6+ Qxf6 34 Qxf6 Qf7 35 Qxf7 Bxf7 36 Qe6) 33 Qxh7 Qxe3 (33...Qg7 34 Qef6+ Qxf6 35 Qxf6+ Qf8 36 Qh6! Qxh6 37 Qd7+ Bxd7 38 Qh8+ Qe7 39 Be1+) 34 Qhf6+ Qxf6 35 Qxf6+ Qf8 36 fxe3.

32 Qxd6 Qb8

32...Qc7 33 Ba8.

33 Qf4 Qb6 34 Qc8 1-0.

34...Qxd4 35 Qxe7+ Qxe7 36 Qxd4.

(These notes first appeared in 'Informator' 86, game 357.)

The style of Joop van Oosterom

IT WAS truly an honour and a pleasure for me to accept Tim Harding's proposal that I could analyse and annotate for Chess Mail some games from the colourful CC career of Holland's GM Joop van Oosterom. Although I have never actually met Mr van Oosterom, it has long been clear to me that we both share a passionate love of chess and the practically unlimited scope for creativity that this Royal Game offers.

With great interest, I always follow the moves of the exciting rapid and 'blind-fold' encounters played by superstars at Monaco's annual 'Melody Amber' tournament which Mr van Oosterom named after his own daughter. But what do I know about games played by the gentleman himself?

Well, while studying a database of some 250 fascinating battles sent to me by Tim Harding, I soon realised that I was getting treated to an action-packed journey into the mind of one of the world's most original-thinking grandmasters, because Mr van Oosterom's games display a wonderfully wide, refreshing range of openings and versatility within.

I can say honestly that my own play, too, has broadened considerably in the last couple of years (since turning 40, in fact), and so I was intrigued to discover that a similar expansion seemed to occur in Mr Van Oosterom's openings, in particular, once his CC career really got going (after also breaking through the big 40 barrier!).

We have both opened most often



**by Grandmaster
Paul Motwani**

with 1 e4, but our scores when playing White enjoyed a dramatic improvement once we started to also employ 1 d4 and 1 ♘f3 quite regularly. In the case of the latter move, I know of just one solitary loss from our combined games, and I confess that Mr van Oosterom is NOT the 'guilty' one!

His track record with 1 d4 is also superb: from numerous CC games, I saw only one single defeat, and that was a long, extremely hard-fought duel with fellow Dutchman Gert Jan Timmerman in the final of the World Championship XV. Therefore, when making an ultimate selection of four games for analysing and annotating, I decided to include two fast and very potent attacking wins involving 1 d4.

Our featured star is no less dynamic in

his play as Black, and in those games I identified another curious similarity with my own repertoire. Mr van Oosterom almost always favours 1...e5 in response to the move 1 c4 which (like myself) he doesn't really play as White.

In the sample of CC games that I have, he chose 1 c4 only once, and won in the 2002 Elite 50 Jubilee Grandmaster Tournament against Austria's Harald Tarnowiecki.

Maybe that was some kind of revenge for a loss, two years earlier, against the same opponent in the NBC Millennium event, where Mr van Oosterom had answered 1 c4 with 1...f6 instead of his customary 1...e5.

He normally seems to be very comfortably 'at home' with the same sort of simple, strong, classical piece-play that I also look for when often playing a sequence of moves including ...e5, ...f6, ...c6 or ...c6, and ...d5 as Black.

An early ...b4 is appealing too, especially when one is seeking super-fast development and opportunities to wrest the initiative out of White's hands in the opening phase.

We will see these clear yet powerful ideas coming through in two of Mr van Oosterom's victories beginning with 1 c4 e5 that I chose to complete a total four-game selection. The standards that Tim Harding sets in his own magazine are so high that I always endeavour to aim for the same by really annotating in depth, sometimes right from move one!

To summarise, I have thoroughly enjoyed delving deeply into the games of a truly great champion with whom I now sincerely feel some sort of common bond

in terms of playing style and favoured openings.

I hope that my annotations to the following four gems – which all occurred in different CC tournaments–will give all readers a good representation and a really nice taste of Grandmaster van Oosterom's unique chess, with a very personal touch added from me too, wherever I spotted familiar ground from my own games and experiences. Please enjoy it all.

English Opening (A29)

**Vladimir Salceanu (ROM) –
J.J. van Oosterom (NED)**

Wch14 sf4, 1982

Notes by GM Paul Motwani.

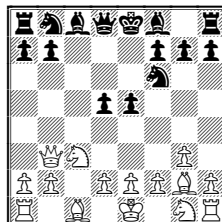
1 c4 e5 2 g3

The major alternative is 2 c3, but then White must be prepared to face the so-called "Kramnik-Shirov Counterattack", 2...b4!?, which has become quite popular nowadays.

2...f6 3 g2 d5

Personally, I also like the idea of preparing ...d5 with the Keres System, 3...c6, when the various interesting possibilities include:

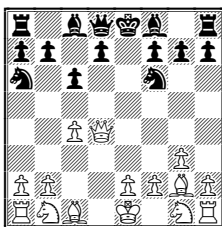
a) If 4 c3 d5 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 b3



then 6... c6! 7 dxd5 d4 8 xf6+ gxf6! 9 d1 c7! gives Black fantastic play for his sacrificed pawn, with one very high-level example being 10 f1 c2 11 b1 e6 12 b3 c8 13 b2 a3! 14 c3 b4! 15 xb4 (15 a1 d5! would complete a nice manoeuvre ... d4-c2-b4-d5 , begun on move 7, every part of which carried a direct threat to White.) 15... xb4 in Ju.Hodgson-M.Illescas, Wijk aan Zee 1993, where loss of castling rights contributed to White's eventual downfall, and of course Black's powerful bishop-pair and control of the c-file proved to be very important positional factors too.

b) After 4 f3 e4 5 d4 d5 6 cxd5 cxd5 7 c2 h5 8 h3 c5 9 c3 , I produced the novelty 9... f5! in E.Cekro-P.Motwani, Belgian Interclubs 1996/7, where the continuation 10 a4 (10 g4 may be answered by 10... g6 or 10... h4 .) 10... d6 11 e3 g6 12 wb3 b5 13 c3 bd7 gave Black a superbly active and harmonious position.

c) 4 d4 exd4 5 cxd4 a6! ?



carries ideas of ... c5 &/or ... d5 & ... b4 .

4 cxd5 dxd5 5 c3

Some players prefer 5 f3 because one may play for a quick d2-d4 , and, alter-

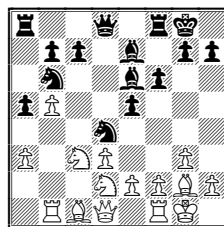
natively, White also retains other options such as a set-up involving d2-d3 , b2-b3 , b2 and bd2 .

5... b6 6 f3

6 d3 has some independent significance in the case of 6... c6 (6... e7 7 f3 c6 would transpose to the actual game) 7 $\text{xc6+!?$ bxc6 , where White parts with his precious fianchettoed b in order to inflict direct damage on Black's pawn structure.

6... c6 7 d3 e7 8 0-0 0-0 9 a3 a5

9... e6 10 b4 f6 11 b1 transposes to the game E.Mednis-P.Motwani, Luxembourg 1990, where after 11... a5 12 b5 d4 13 d2



I uncorked the novelty 13... d5! (it's important to be aware that 13... d5?? actually loses by force to 14 dxd5! dxd5 15 e3 e6 16 e4) and Black was very comfortable following 14 dxd5 dxd5 (menacing the fork... c3 , a key tactical ingredient supporting the whole concept of my 13... d5) 15 dxd5+ (15 b2 should be met by 15... a4! , but not 15... xb5?? because of 16 wb3 c6 17 e4 .) 15... cxd5 .

10 e3 e8 11 c1

If 11 a4 , then a noteworthy tactically-based response is 11... e4! ?, which practically forces 12 e1 on account of 12

♖xb6? (12 dxe4?? ♗xd1 13 ♖fxd1 ♕xa4) running into 12...exf3 13 ♕xa8 ffg2 14 ♖xg2 ♕e6 15 ♕xc7 ♗xc7 with a large advantage for Black, as his minor pieces are far more effective than White's units within the net material imbalance of ♖+♕ versus ♖+2P.

11...♖g4 12 ♕b5 ♕d5 13 ♖c5 ♖f6 14 h3 ♖e6 15 ♕d2 g6!

This move not only makes way for ...♖g7, but also marks the beginning of a plan to expand on the kingside by pushing the pawns forward there.

16 ♕e4 ♖g7 17 h4 h6!

A good prophylactic move, which prepares to play...f5 without allowing the reply ♕g5.

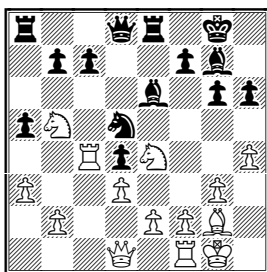
18 ♖e3

Hoping to soon obtain some activity with ♕c5.

18...♕d4

A key point in the strategic battle is the central d4 square, and so Black has no wish to let White assume control of it via 18...♕xe3 19 fxe3.

19 ♖xd4 exd4 20 ♖c4?!



This meets with an extremely vigorous reaction from GM van Oosterom, and in several tactical lines it becomes clear that White's rook at c4 is a very vulnerable

target for the black pieces to attack.

A complicated alternative was 20 ♕c5 c6 21 ♕xb7 (21 ♕xe6?? fxe6! 22 ♖xd5 exd5 leaves the white knight trapped at b5) 21...♗e7 22 ♕5d6 ♖eb8 23 ♖xc6 ♖xb7 24 ♕xb7 ♗xb7, when Fritz would tend to favour White because of the nominal material advantage of ♖+2P versus ♖+♕.

Personally, I would assess the position as being approximately 'equal' in this particular instance, which differs significantly in character from the situation that arose within the notes back at move 11 (since in the current case White's major pieces can enjoy active possibilities along the c-file).

20...f5! 21 ♕d2

White stands poorly after 21 ♕c5 ♖f7 22 ♕xd4 (or 22 ♕xb7 ♗b8 23 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 24 ♕xc7 ♗xb7 25 ♕xe8 ♖xe8) 22...♕b6 23 ♕xb7 ♗f6, and at that point it is worth recalling the final comments given in the first notes at move 20 regarding the precarious position of the c4-rook.

21...f4!

The '!' is awarded not only for Black's consistency in pressing on with his bold counterplay, but also for the admirable courage shown by his willingness to engage in tactical complications and to sacrifice material where necessary.

22 ♕xd4

22 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 23 ♕xc7 ffg3! 24 ffg3 ♖e3! puts White's monarch in grave danger, and the trouble would persist after 25 ♕xd5 ♖xg3+ 26 ♖f2 ♗xh4 27 ♕f3 ♖xf3+ 28 ♖xf3 ♕e5, keeping ...♖f8+ as one of many threats.

22...♖f7

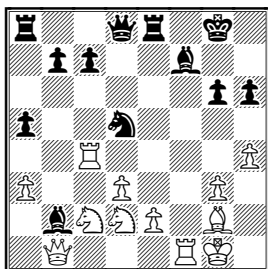
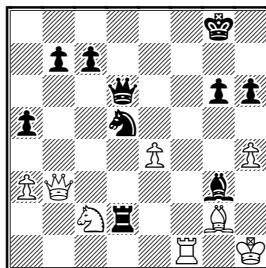
This simple, calm retreat now leaves

White facing multiple fresh threats including ...♖b6 or...fxg3 followed quickly by ...♗e3.

23 ♖c2 fxg3 24 fxg3 ♗xb2

Besides recouping an important pawn for Black, this capture also effectively adds ...♗c3 to White's list of worries.

25 ♖b1



25...♗xe2! 26 ♖xf7 ♗xd2!

Our hero was really switched on to 'super-tactics' mode in this game! Naturally, he avoided 26...♗xf7?? 27 ♖f1+.

27 ♖f1 ♖d6! 28 ♗h2 ♖e8!

With relentless power-play, Black keeps on making every move count in a big way.

29 ♖e4

29 ♖xb2 ♖ee2 30 ♖g1 ♗e3 is 'curtains' for White.

29...♗e5

Note the skill with which Black coordinates his pieces in an irresistible attack.

30 ♖b3

Hoping desperately to confuse his opponent, but in this game Mr van Oosterom is simply unstoppable.

30...♗xg3+ 31 ♗h1 ♖xe4

Deliberately falling into White's 'trap', because Black has again seen further.

32 dxe4

32...a4!

This is basically the final decisive point that ends all White's attempts to put up resistance.

33 ♖xa4

33 ♖a2 ♖e7! is another 'dead end' for White. The same is true of 33 ♖c4 b5.

33...♗f4 34 e5 ♖xg2! 0-1.

An elegant finishing touch to a beautiful game by Black; White now resigned in view of 35 exd6 ♖h2+ 36 ♖g1 ♗e2# or 36...♗h3#.

English Opening (A29)

**J.J. van Oosterom (NED) –
Francek Brglez (YUG)**

EU/MSM/III Final bd.1, 1988

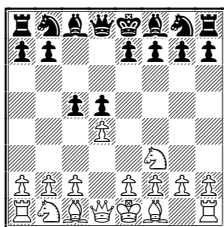
Notes by GM Paul Motwani.

1 d4

At home, I regularly update a special 'select' database that, for the past four years, I have been building up with games which particularly caught my attention for one reason or another. I have given one such 'goodie' in the following note, because it has considerable importance regarding move-order in the Queen's

Gambit Accepted (QGA).

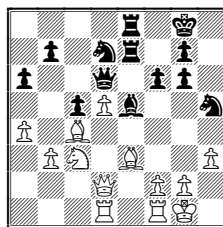
Many grandmasters like to open with **1 ♖f3** and only when Black has committed himself to **1...d5** does White then play **2 d4**. The usual intention is to continue with **3 c4**, thereby guaranteeing that the opening will be some sort of Queen's Gambit (either 'Accepted' with ...dxc4, or 'Declined' by one of many options such as with a ...c6 Slav, ...e6 Orthodox, ...♗c6 Chigorin, or...♗f5 Baltic Defence). However, it is important to be fully aware of an aggressive, counterattacking possibility that Black is about to play as early as move two... **2...c5**



Now White, too, must face a 'Black' version of the Queen's Gambit. **3 c4** (Instead, **3 dxc5** would give the game quite a different character, and of course numerous other options exist over the coming moves too, but we shall follow the GM clash P.San Segundo versus E.van Den Doel from the Mondariz Zonal Tournament, 2000.) **3...dxc4 4 d5 e6 5 e4** (If **5 ♗c3**, then GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, a renowned openings theoretician, likes to play **5...exd5 6 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 7 ♗xd5 ♗d6 8 ♗d2 ♗c6 9 ♗xc4 ♗b8** followed by ...♗e6 with an extremely respectable position for Black.) **5...exd5 6 exd5 ♗f6 7 ♗xc4 ♗d6 8 0-0 0-0 9 h3 a6 10 a4 ♗f5 11 ♗c3 ♗bd7**

12 ♗h4 ♗g6 13 ♗g5 ♗e8 14 ♗xg6 hxg6 15 ♗d2 ♗c7.

Black has obtained a very pleasant game with simple good moves. There followed: **16 ♗fe1 ♗e5 17 ♗ad1 ♗d6 18 ♗e3 ♗e7 19 b3** (White is struggling to find any constructive plan, whereas, in contrast, Black's position keeps on getting stronger as he constantly improves the harmony and co-ordination among his pieces.) **19...♗ae8 20 ♗f1 ♗h5 21 ♗g5? f6 22 ♗e3**



22...♗h2+! 0-1. White resigned in view of **23 ♗h1 ♗xe3! 24 fxe3 ♗g3+.**

1...d5 2 c4 dxc4

2...c5 3 cxd5 ♗f6!? was mentioned in my article on the late great GM Yakov Borisovich Estrin in Chess Mail 5/2003 (but note that Black should definitely avoid **3...♗xd5?** because **4 ♗f3 cxd4 5 ♗c3!** gives White an extremely dangerous lead in development.).

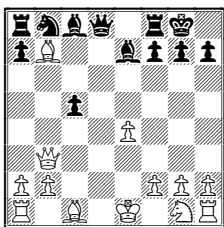
3 e4

Mr Van Oosterom chooses White's most direct and ambitious option in response to his opponent's QGA.

3...♗c6

Black, in turn, also plays quite aggressively here. An equally counterattacking alternative is **3...c5** which led to a speedy win for Black in the encounter A.Jakab-

Z.Nemeth at a 2001 'First Saturday' tournament in Budapest, where the continuation was 4 d5 e6 5 ♖xc4 (5 ♖f3 would transpose to the game San Segundo-Van Den Doel given above.) 5...♗f6 6 ♖c3 exd5 7 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 (7...♗xe4?? walks into 8 ♖e2.) 8 ♗xd5 ♗e7 9 ♖b3?! (Instead of making this misguided and risky excursion with his ♖, White should have concentrated on activating his ♗ that he has left 'sleeping' on the kingside, because very soon his monarch will be wishing that he had got castled to safety there...) 9...0-0 10 ♗xb7??



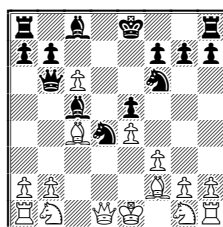
True, this capture is consistent with White's previous move, but unfortunately for him it actually loses by force! 10...c4 11 ♖b5 a6 12 ♖d5 ♗b4+! 0-1. White resigned in view of 13 ♗d2 ♗xd2+ 14 ♖xd2 ♗xb7 or 13 ♖e2 ♗xb7 14 ♖xb7 ♖d3#.

4 ♗e3 ♗f6 5 ♖c3

True to his style, Mr van Oosterom develops his pieces at lightning speed, not worrying about 5...♗g4 followed by...♗xe3 if his opponent wants to spend two precious tempi on moving the black king's ♗ again, early in the opening phase.

Instead, it was White who fell seriously behind in development in the GM clash A.Yermolinsky-D.Gurevich at the

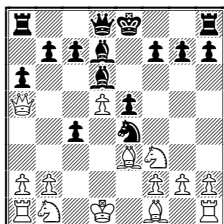
USA national championship 2000, where the path taken was 5 f3 e5 6 d5 ♗d4 7 ♗xc4?! (The powerful centralised black steed should have been eliminated by 7 ♗xd4, although after 7...exd4 8 ♖xd4 c6 Black still has pretty good play, according to 'theory'.) 7...♗c5 8 ♗f2 (8 ♗e2? loses immediately to 8...♗xf3+ 9 gxf3 ♗xe3.) 8...c6! (Suddenly White is in deep trouble, facing multiple threats including ...cxd5, ...b5, or ...♖b6.) 9 dxc6 ♖b6!



The move-count is not even into 'double figures' yet, and Black's lead in development (against a top-flight GM) is already virtually decisive. The end came quickly as follows: 10 cxb7 ♗xb7 11 ♗d2 0-0 12 ♗h3 ♗c8 13 ♗g5 h6 14 ♗xf7 ♖xf7 15 ♗xf7+ ♖xf7 16 ♗b3 ♖b4+ 0-1 because of 17 ♖f1 ♗a6+ or 17 ♖d2 ♗xb3 18 axb3 ♗xf2+.

5...♗g4

A somewhat more 'modern' alternative is 5...e5 6 d5 ♗a5 7 ♗f3 ♗d6! 8 ♖a4+ ♗d7! 9 ♖xa5 a6 with the threat of trapping White's ♖ by 10...b6. In the super-GM encounter M.Illescas-M.Sadler, Linares Zonal Tournament 1995, the abrupt finish was 10 ♗b1? (10 ♗a4 ♗xe4 11 ♗xc4 b5 12 ♗d3 ♖e7 13 a3 is given as 'unclear' in 'Nunn's Chess Openings', 'NCO'.) 10...♗xe4 11 ♖d1



11...c3! 0-1 because White was helpless against the deadly dual threats of 12...cxb2 or 12...b6.

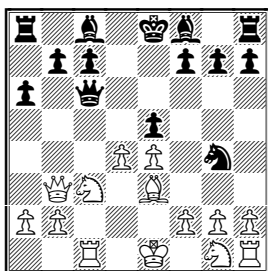
6 ♖xc4

A noteworthy suggestion in 'NCO' is 6 e5!?, simply preventing Black from playing...e5. Still, White gets a pretty good position even when he allows that advance in the actual game.

6...e5 7 ♖b3 ♗d7 8 ♖b5 a6

Natural in a way, but probably already a significant error. Black is understandably concerned about the threat of 9 d5, but he should simply eliminate the d-pawn with 8...exd4, after which 9 0-0-0 ♖d6 seems OK for both sides.

9 ♖xc6 ♗xc6 10 ♖c1!



Simple, strong, logical chess. The threat of 11 ♗d5 is huge.

10...♗xe3 11 ♖xe3 ♗g6

11...♖d6 12 ♗f3 is also extremely

unpleasant for Black, because if 12...exd4, then 13 exd4 threatens e5 followed by ♗d5.

12 ♗f3!

There's no stopping GM Van Oosterom when he's in that 'lightning speed development' mode.

12...♗xg2 13 ♖f1 ♖e7

After 13...♖h3 14 ♖f2 ♗h1+ 15 ♗d2 Black loses his ♗.

14 ♗d5 ♖d8 15 ♖f2 ♗h3 16 ♗xc7+ ♖xc7 17 ♖xc7 ♗h5

17...0-0 18 ♗g5 is also 'curtains' for Black.

18 ♗b4 1-0.

There's no answer to that. An incredibly fast and powerful win, especially in a top-level CC international event.

English Opening (A28)

Viggo Bove Quist (DEN) – J.J. van Oosterom (NED)

NBC-25, 1991

Notes by GM Paul Motwani.

1 c4 e5 2 e3

For a comment about 2 ♗c3 ♖b4, and lots more ideas in response to 2 g3, see the game Salceanu–Van Oosterom given before.

2...♗f6 3 ♗c3 ♗c6 4 ♗f3 ♖b4 5 ♗c2

In this line, White (if given the chance) normally plays ♗d5 next, at a moment when the response...e4 would simply lose a pawn to ♗xf6+ followed by ♗xe4.

After the immediate 5 ♗d5, White must reckon on the answer 5...e4. Then 6 ♗g1 is actually well-known, but not at all

to my liking, basically because White is already falling behind in development.

5...♙xc3

Mr van Oosterom ensures that White will definitely NOT be playing 6 ♖d5 in this game.

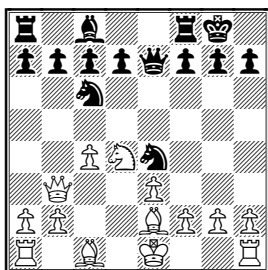
6 ♗xc3 ♜e7 7 ♙e2

7 a3 is well and simply met by 7...d5 instead of getting involved in the murky complications of 7...a5 8 b4 axb4 (8...e4 9 b5) 9 axb4 ♜xa1 10 ♗xa1 e4 (10...♗xb4 11 ♗xe5) 11 b5 exf3 (11...♗b4 12 ♖d4 followed by ♙a3.) 12 bxc6 fxg2 13 cxd7+ ♗xd7 14 ♙xg2 0-0 15 ♜g1.

7...0-0 8 d4 exd4 9 ♖xd4 ♗e4

Although White has potentially powerful bishops, they are not impressive at the moment, and Black's slight lead in development is an immediate problem that will only become more pronounced if it is not addressed very carefully by the first player.

10 ♗b3



10 ♗xc6 would merely serve to accelerate Black's development after 10...dxc6, instantly freeing the c8-bishop.

10...♗f6!

Putting White in double trouble at d4 & f2, and so the following reply is forced.

11 ♗f3

11 f3?? allows 11...♗h4+.

11...b6!

Black's ♙ will enjoy a bright future on the long a8-h1 diagonal.

12 0-0 ♗b7 13 ♗e1?!

This really looks too slow.

Perhaps White should have quickly connected his rooks by playing 13 ♙d2, although such a move (which would allow Black, if he so desired, to eliminate one of his opponent's prized bishops) is basically an admission of the fact that the opening phase has not been a success for White.

13...♗c5 14 ♗d1

If 14 ♗c2, then the threat of...♗b4 will always be a worry for White's ♗, but the lady finds no peace in the actual game either.

14...♜ad8 15 ♗f3

In our next issues

Our next issue (4/2004) should be out during May. This will be a general number, enabling us to catch up on news, games & results in the CC world, plus a theory article, endgame clinic etc. It will also include a special historical report on the little-documented 2nd CC Olympiad with several rediscovered games.

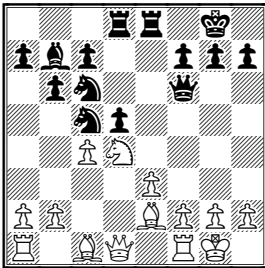
Our popular annual gambit issue (5/2004) is scheduled for the end of June or early July, with games and theoretical notes. This issue will also have an historical article with early CC games from India, to tie in with the forthcoming ICCF Congress in Mumbai.

This ♖ returns to where it has just moved from: a sure sign that things are far from well in White's camp. He probably noticed 15 ♖f3 ♖a6!, which is very unpleasant indeed for the c4-pawn (especially given that 16 b3 is not an option because of 16...♙xa1).

15...♖fe8

Black is about to blast open the position with...d5, but first he brings his final heavy piece into play.

16 ♖d4 d5



What a dream position!

17 cxd5 ♖xd5 18 ♖c4 ♖d6 19 ♖f3 ♙g6!

White would gladly have given up a pawn in the line 19...♖xd4 20 ♙xf6 gxf6 21 exd4 ♖xd4 22 b3 because at least he could then hope to fight on with ♖b2 or ♖e3 next. In contrast, his ♖ and ♙ both come under unbearably heavy fire in the actual game.

20 ♙g3 ♖xd4!

Now this capture is well-timed, for tactical reasons given in the next note.

21 exd4

21 ♙xg6 loses on the spot to 21...♖f3+! 22 gxf3 ♖xg6+ 23 ♖h1 ♖xf3#.

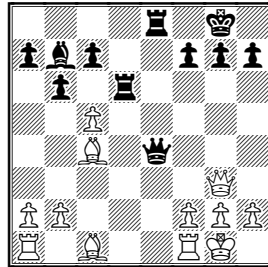
21...♙e4

With typically energetic and forceful

play, GM van Oosterom finds the move that subjects his opponent to maximum pressure.

Still, we should note that the simple 21...♖xd4 22 ♙xg6 hxg6 gives Black an extra pawn and a superior version of the line mentioned in the annotations back at move 19, because his kingside pawn structure suffered more damage there.

22 dxc5?



After having been under terrible pressure for many moves already, White finally cracks. He had to try 22 ♖xf7+! ♙xf7 23 dxc5, hoping for 23...♖g6 24 f3!.

22...♙xc4!!

22...♖g6 lets White largely off the hook because of the resource 23 ♖xf7+ ♙xf7 24 f3!, echoing the previous note.

23 ♖g5

The crucial tactical point (which our hero probably planned far in advance) is 23 cxd6 ♙xf1+! 24 ♙xf1 ♖a6+, mating.

23...♙xc5 24 ♖fe1

24 ♖ac1 ♖b5 25 ♖xc7 ♙xf1+! 26 ♙xf1 ♖a6+ reiterates the motif.

24...♖xe1+ 25 ♖xe1 h6!

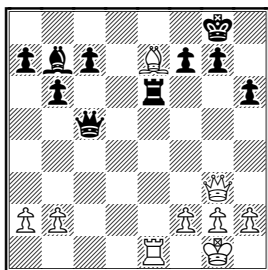
Very cleverly laying a well-hidden trap...

26 ♖e7

...and White falls straight in (but,

objectively, he was 'lost' anyway).

26...♖e6!! 0-1



A beautiful final position, certainly deserving a diagram; the recurring theme of 'back-rank mate' forces White's resignation.

Queen's Gambit Declined (D37)

J.J. van Oosterom (NED) –
Michiel Plomp (NED)

Korning Memorial, 1998

Notes by GM Paul Motwani.

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♗e7 4 ♗f3 ♗f6
5 ♗f4 0-0 6 e3 c5 7 dxc5 ♗xc5 8 a3
♗c6 9 ♖c2

Typically, GM van Oosterom makes a combative choice, consistent with his strong will to win.

9 cxd5 is one of the most common alternatives, but it has a much quieter reputation, and indeed (too) many games are quickly agreed drawn after, say, 9...♗xd5 10 ♗xd5 exd5 11 ♗d3 ♗b6 12 0-0 d4 13 exd4 ♗xd4.

9...♖a5 10 0-0-0 ♗e7

Although 10...♖d8 looks quite logical, it lands Black in tactical difficulties

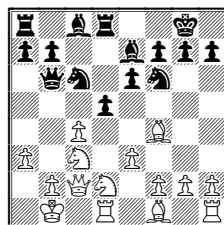
because of 11 ♗b5!, threatening ♗c7 or cxd5 followed by ♖xc5.

11 ♖b1

A major alternative is the immediate 11 ♗d2, planning ♗b3. Instead, White's chosen move keeps the ♗d2-b3 manoeuvre in reserve for the moment, and it can cause very sudden problems for the opponent if Black is not fully alert.

11...a6

For instance, 11...♖d8 12 ♗d2 ♖b6?



13 c5! ♖xc5 (or 13...♗xc5 14 ♗a4) 14 ♗b3 was already winning for White in the 1998 super-GM clash V.Topalov-A.Karpov at the 'Melody Amber' rapid tournament held in honour of Mr Van Oosterom's daughter.

12 ♗d2 ♖b6 13 ♗d3!?

A very noteworthy move, and all the more so because it is actually NOT mentioned in 'Nunn's Chess Openings'. 'NCO' gives only 13 ♗b3 ♗a5 there.

13...h6

13...♗xa3 should lose to 14 ♗a4 ♖b4 15 cxd5 exd5 16 ♖a2.

14 g4

With this case of g for 'go for it', White shows that he really means business.

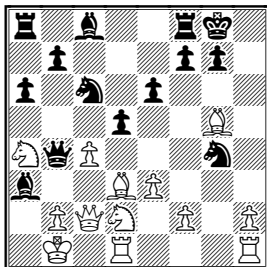
14...♗xa3

14...♗xg4 15 cxd5 also looks extremely good for White.

15 ♖a4 ♜b4 16 g5

White is not terribly interested in winning material on the left flank; he's going all out for a kill on the kingside.

16...hxg5 17 ♗xg5 ♘g4



18 ♗dg1! f5

Black is defenceless after 18...♗xf2 19 ♗f6.

19 ♗xg4!!

What a stunner. Our hero is conducting his kingside assault with awesome energy.

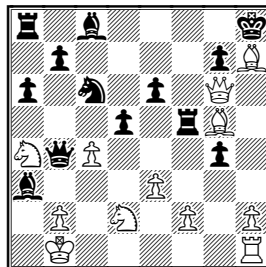
19...fxg4 20 ♗h7+ ♜h8

20...♞f7 21 ♜g6# was the quick way for Black to go.

21 ♜g6!

With the simple yet lethal threat of 22 ♜h5.

21...♞f5



Black perhaps believed that he now had all White's threats 'covered', as 22 ♜h5? is met by 22...♞xg5! [and 22 ♗h6? by 22...♞f8 - TH], but the following 'silent' and deadly move underlines the power of Mr van Oosterom's tactical ingenuity.

22 h4!! 1-0.

Renewing the main threat of ♜h5, and so, given that no satisfactory defence exists, Black now resigned.

The ICCF career record of J.J. van Oosterom

Including results in ongoing events as posted at the ICCF website up to March 17, 2004.

Date	Event	G	W	D	L	Pts	Pos	Unf
1982	Wch14 sf4	16	8	7	1	11.5	3-4	
1982	NBC Volmac A	14	5	3	6	6.5	8-10	
1985	Wch16 sf8	14	4	5	5	6.5	10	
1987	Wch14 3/4F-2	14	10	3	1	11.5	1	
1988	EU/MSM/III bd1	8	3	5	0	5.5	1-2	
1991	NBC-25	20	12	8	0	16	2	
1992	CCOL11 Final bd2	12	8	4	0	10	1	
1994	NPSF-50	14	6	8	0	12	3	
1996	Wch 15 Final	15	8	6	1	11	2	
1998	Korning Memorial	14	9	5	0	11.5	1	
2000	MECT	10	3	5	2	5.5	3	
2002	Jubilee Elite	14	6	8	0	10	1	
2003	CCOL15 S1B2	11	4	2	0			5
2003	Wch 18 Final	14	1	1				12
2004	Russia-World bd2	2						2

The international rise of Van Oosterom

by Tim Harding

ON THE latest ICCF Elo list (see page 45) a new name appeared for the first time at the head of the ratings. With 2748 points, Van Oosterom is well clear of his rivals.

However, I am sure he is not fully satisfied with this achievement and has eyes on the biggest prize — the world championship — to which he came so near, but yet so far, just a few years ago. In this article, I take up where Nol van 't Riet left off and survey the international career of this highly successful player.

According to the ICCF Eloquery database, J.J. van Oosterom completed 172 rated games by December 31, 2003. Only 142 of these can be ascertained from the tournament information in Eloquery, which goes back to the early/mid 1980s.

Previous tournaments were included in ICCF's original calculations (done by Nol van 't Riet) but are not available in the public program. World Championship XVI semifinal-8 (which began in 1985) is the earliest of Van Oosterom's tournaments that can be reviewed in Eloquery.

ICCF start in 1982

So far as I can tell, he played two international tournaments before that date, both of which began in 1982. One was an event that he sponsored through his software company, Volmac. This was the 15th anniversary of the Dutch correspondence chess federation NBC and there were two groups: a top section of 15 players (won

by Rittner) and a B-group of 13 players won by Dick van Geet.

Back in 1966 two ex-IBM employees (and both chess players!), J.J. van Oosterom and J.C.L. Mol had founded the Automation Centre Volmac, which was the first Dutch "software house". Information available on the internet shows that in the first year they worked on, among other things, the Shell (oil company) computer centre and the Gemeentelijk Rekencentrum of Rotterdam.

This was the origin of the great Van Oosterom fortune. He was 29 years old when Volmac started; the right man in the right place at the right time and no doubt he worked very hard in the first decades; little room for chess! By the early 1980s, all was secure and he could devote more time to the game.

In 1988 Volmac went public and Van Oosterom and Van Mol became multi-millionaires, obtaining cash and stock for their value in the company. If you are interested in reading more of this kind of information, please look at the Finance panel on pages 46-47.

In the Volmac event, Van Oosterom played 14 games and in World Championship XIV semifinal-4 he played 16 games. You can see the crosstables here. So this accounts for all the "missing" 30 games. Both these tournaments ended in 1986. Note that this corrected table for the semifinal appeared in 'Fernschach' August 1987 page 240; an incorrect version was printed in the January 1987 issue.

There is no doubt which event was of

Chess Mail

Wch XIV sf4		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Pts	
1	Jiri Podgorny	CSR		1	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
2	Gary Abram	USA	0		1	0	½	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12½
3	J.J. van Oosterom	NED	½	0		1	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	11½
4	Vladimir J. Doliner	URS	0	1	0		0	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	11½
5	Anatoly Isaev	URS	½	½	½	1		½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	½	1	1	10
6	Finn Gasseholm	DEN	0	½	½	0	½		½	½	1	1	1	½	½	0	1	1	1	10
7	Vladimir Salceanu	ROM	½	0	0	0	½	½		0	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
8	Helmut F. Glaser	SIN	0	0	½	½	½	0	1		0	1	0	½	1	½	1	½	1	8
9	Klaus Ahlers	GER	½	½	½	0	½	0	½	1		½	0	½	1	0	1	½	½	7½
10	G.Szewczyk	POL	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	½		1	1	0	1	½	1	1	7½
11	Günter Hesse	FIN	½	0	0	0	½	½	0	1	1	0		0	1	1	1	1	1	7
12	Guy Monaville	BEL	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	1		0	1	1	½	½	½	6
13	Al. Semenets	URS	0	0	½	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0		0	½	½	1	5½
14	H.P. Maia Vinagre	BRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	0	0	0	1		½	1	1	1	5
15	B.N. Postovsky	URS	0	0	½	0	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	½		½	½	4
16	C. Blanco Gramajo	GUA	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	½		0	3½
17	Winfried Zyla	GER	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	0	0	½	1		3½

greater importance to Mr van Oosterom. While he performed “below par” in the Volmac tournament, losing several games, he concentrated his energies on the event that lay on the path towards the world title. Losing only to the group runner-up and finishing in a tie for third place, the future Elo-leader qualified for the next stage of the hunt. From this tournament came the spectacular win against future

European champion V.Salceanu that GM Motwani has annotated for us.

It must be remembered that at this stage of his career, international CC was new to him: if not the technique (NBC always used numeric notation) then certainly the pace was much different to playing Dutch tournaments. In 1985 he started semifinal-6 of the 16th World Championship and had another failure.

NBC-15 Volmac A		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Pts	
1	Rittner,Horst	DDR		1	½	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	11
2	Wiersma,Tjalling	NED	0		1	½	1	0	½	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	10
3	Timmerman,Gert	NED	½	0		½	0	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
4	Bouwmeester,Hans	NED	½	½	½		½	½	½	1	1	1	½	1	½	½	1	9½
5	Marcussi,BJM	ARG	0	0	1	½		½	0	½	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	8½
6	Van Perlo,Ger	NED	½	1	½	½	½		½	½	½	0	½	1	1	½	½	8
7	Sorri,Juhani	FIN	0	½	½	½	1	½		1	0	0	1	½	1	1	½	8
8	Planta,Rudi J	NED	½	½	0	0	½	½	0		1	½	1	½	½	½	½	6½
9	Richardson,Keith	ENG	½	0	0	0	½	½	1	0		½	½	1	1	0	1	6½
10	Van Oosterom,JJ.	NED	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	½	½		0	1	½	1	1	6½
11	Bergraser,Volf	FRA	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	0	½	1		½	½	1	½	5
12	Quist,Viggo B	DEN	½	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	0	0	½		½	1	1	5
13	Boyd, Frank	ENG	0	½	0	½	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	½		½	½	4
14	Berta,Matyas	YUG	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	½	1	0	0	0	½		1	4
15	Backlund,Ake	FIN	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	0	½	0		2½

Tim Harding on Van Oosterom's international career

Wch XIV 3/4F-2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Pts	
1	Van Oosterom, J	NED		0	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	11½
2	Gefenas, Vladas	URS	1		½	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	1	½	½	½	1	10
3	Kristol, Luba	ISR	½	½		½	1	1	½	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	10
4	Sychev, Anatoly	URS	0	½	½		0	1	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	½	8½
5	Carleton, John	ENG	0	0	0	1		½	1	½	½	1	1	0	1	1	1	8½
6	Deuel, Alfred	URS	½	½	0	0	½		½	1	1	½	1	1	½	0	1	8
7	Krantz, Kjell	SWE	0	½	½	½	0	½		0	0	1	½	1	1	1	1	7½
8	Kristoffel, Nikolai	EST	0	0	½	½	½	0	1		½	1	½	½	½	½	1	7
9	Abram, Gary	USA	0	½	0	0	½	0	1	½		½	0	1	1	1	½	6½
10	Gruzman, Boris	URS	½	0	½	0	0	½	0	0	½		½	1	½	1	1	6
11	Yashelin, Petr	URS	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	½	1	½		½	½	½	1	5½
12	Doliner, Vladimir	URS	0	½	½	½	1	0	0	½	0	0	½		½	½	½	5
13	Groiss, Werner	AUT	0	½	½	0	0	½	0	½	0	½	½	½		½	½	4½
14	Marcussi, B	ARG	0	½	0	0	0	1	0	½	0	0	½	½	½		0	3½
15	Sokolowski, R	POL	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	½	1		3

Entering this was probably “insurance” in case the earlier semifinal did not work out, and when it became clear that he had a qualification for the Candidates, Van Oosterom apparently gave this event little attention.

Of course all these early losses held back his ICCF rating, but since that tournament he has only lost four correspondence games. The first list was published in 1987 but Van Oosterom did not appear in the top five until 1998 (see ‘ICCF Gold’, page 351) when he was joint fourth with Umansky on 2687. In the next list he dropped three points but 2684 was still enough for sole fourth place.

In 2000 he reached 2711, equal with Penrose who then dropped out through inactivity. However Timmerman, then Ulf Andersson (who at last finished enough games for a fixed rating) and Hans Berliner (returning from inactivity) kept him out of the number one spot until now. Andersson and Timmerman’s ratings have stayed fairly constant; Van Oosterom got to the top by surpassing them.

First big triumph

The first big success of Van Oosterom was the Three-Quarter-Final (Candidates) section 2 of the 14th World Championship, which began in November 1987. He won it by a clear point and a half and was awarded the CC-IM title in 1991 as a result. This tournament was a long haul, played at the worst time of the disintegration of the USSR/Russian political system (and hence postal service) but Van Oosterom’s dominance was such that by late 1993 he was assured of a world championship final place.

‘Fernschach’ for November 1993 shows that he had 10½ points by that stage and could not finish lower than second. A total of 11 games were still open, two of which involved him; only Gefenas could equal or overtake his score. His game with Yashelin was the very last game to end in the tournament, the result not being announced until late in 1996.

As the table shows, he was unable to avoid defeat in one game and the draws

too were all against opponents “educated” in the Soviet system.

The final of the 3rd European Team Championship began in October 1988; by now the Volmac flotation was completed and he doubtless had more time and energy for chess than previously. Van Oosterom tied first on top board with Igor Kopylov, drawing five games and winning three including the miniature against Brglez (see page 31).

The following game was also noteworthy; it is one of those where the comment “only a draw” is most inappropriate. Full annotations appeared in the BCCA magazine ‘Correspondence Chess’ (number 128); I give just a summary of the highlights.

Spanish, Zaitsev Variation (C93)

**Jan Przewoznik (POL) –
J.J. Van Oosterom (NED)**

EU/MSM/III/final bd.1, 1988

Comments by the players.

**1 e4 e5 2 d3 c6 3 b5 a6 4 a4
d6 5 0-0 e7 6 e1 b5 7 b3 0-0
8 c3 d6 9 h3 b7 10 d4 e8 11 b2
f8 12 a3 h6 13 c2 b8 14 b4 b2
15 b2 a5 16 bxa5**

16 d3 is usual, e.g. 16...c6 was played in Hjartarson–Karpov, Seattle 1989 (Informator 47/437).

16...e3a5

16...c5 17 dxe5 dxe5 18 e5 e5 19 c4 xa5 20 e2 ad8 21 f3 bxc4! 22 xe5 d7 23 f4± Kovalev, ‘Szachy’ 4/1989. White’s next move in the game was also a Kovalev suggestion.

17 d3 a8!

If 17...c6 (Van Oosterom) 18 c4± maybe (Przewoznik).

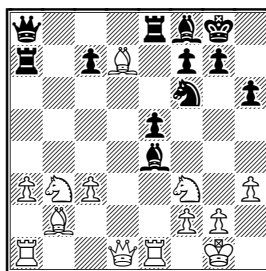
18 b3

18 c2 c5!? (Van Oosterom) 19 d5 (Przewoznik).

18...a7 19 xb5

On 19 dxe5 Van Oosterom intended 19...dxe5 20 xb5 e4 as in the game but Przewoznik feared 19...e5! 20 e5 dxe5 21 xb5 d8!

19...e4 20 dxe5 dxe5!↑ 21 xd7



21...d8?

21...xf3!± 22 xf3 xf3 23 gxf3 xd7 Przewoznik (or 23...b8!? Van Oosterom).

22 e5 xg2 23 e3!

a) 23 d4 xd7 24 g4 (24 xf7 xf7 25 b3+ d5) 24...xe5 25 xe5 a6!+;

b) 23 g4 xg4! 24 xg4 f3!+.

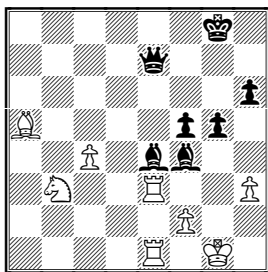
**23...xd7! 24 xd7 a6 25 g3 e4
26 c4 d6! 27 f6+! xf6 28 xf6
xd1+ 29 xd1 xa3 30 e5**

This position was planned when making the 27th move.

30...e7 31 f4 g5

31...b7!? 32 e3 f6 33 g3±.

**32 e1 g7 33 xc7 f5 34 a5 e5
35 g3 f4**



36 ♖d3!

White finds a saving plan based on protecting the vital d2-square.

36...g4

36...♖a3!? 37 ♖c3 ♖d6 is perhaps more dangerous but Black did not find a forced win, if White avoids 38 c5? ♗h2+ 39 ♖f1 ♖a6+.

37 ♗d2!

The key is to exchange one of the bishops for the ♗ and then try to establish a fortress with a rook on third rank against the queen (as in a 1917 study by Grigoriev where ♖+P draws v ♖+P although the queen has a passed pawn).

Not 37 hxg4 ♗h2+! 38 ♖xh2 ♖h4+ or 37 ♖d8+ ♖f7 38 ♖ed1 gxh3! 39 ♖1d7 h2+.

37...gxh3

37...♖g5 was the last winning try: 38 ♗xe4 fxe4 39 ♖d8+ ♖f7 40 ♖d7+ ♖e6 41 ♖d5 ♖g6 42 h4 g3 43 f3 e3 44 ♖e2 ♖f6 with definite chances (Van Oosterom).

38 ♗xe4 h2+

38...fxe4 39 ♖xh3 ♖g5+ 40 ♖f1 ♖xa5 41 ♖xe4 ♖f5 42 ♖ee3 ♗xe3 43 ♖xe3 draws with the Grigoriev idea.

39 ♖h1 fxe4 40 ♗d2! ♖f6 41 ♖d8+!

Przewoznik says that 41 ♖xe4?? (not 41 ♗xf4?? exd3) 41...♗xd2 42 ♖xd2 ♖f3+ 43

♖xh2 ♖xe4 also loses for White, because his ♖ has failed to reach the vital third rank; but is that correct? 44 ♖a2 does get via a3 to e3; how does Black stop this? 44...♖xc4 (Checking first doesn't make any difference; there is no fork to win the ♖ if White is careful.) 45 ♖a3 h5 46 ♖e3 seems to reach the Grigoriev draw.

Of course this only an academic point. Przewoznik's actual choice is simpler; as Van Oosterom comments: "The black ♖ cannot get away".

41...♖xd8 42 ♗xf4 h5 43 c5 1/2-1/2.

Sponsorship

From 1992, Van Oosterom became involved in chess sponsorship, through the Max Euwe Association which he founded. That year the first of the Ladies against Veterans matches was played. Later he was to sponsor several correspondence events also.

Early in 1992 the first of the innovative Melody Amber tournaments, involving leading GMs in rapid and "blindfold" games, was held in Monaco to celebrate the birth of Van Oosterom's first daughter by his second marriage around this time. (This has become an annual event; the 13th Melody Amber tournament is scheduled for March 20–April 1, 2004.) A second daughter followed and billiards tournaments were sponsored for her. I believe he also had at least one child by his first marriage but information about his private life is hard to come by; since 1988 he has never given any interviews.

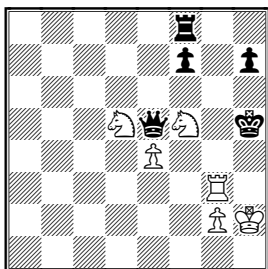
Anyway, along with the move from the Caribbean back to Europe, it's clear that a lot of momentous life-changes were occurring for Joop van Oosterom. At first

these did not seem to have any negative impact.

At the end of 1991, he began play in a giant tournament. 21 players were invited to the 25th jubilee of NBC but one of the favourites, Hans Bouwmeester, had to drop out early on doctor's orders. This still left a formidable range of domestic and foreign opposition. The following finish came from this event.

**J.J. van Oosterom (NED) –
Joop Kolenbrander (NED)**

NBC-25, 1991



Here, the tournament book states, 39 ...♙d8! is necessary: 40 ♖de7! ♜e8 41

♘g7+ ♝xg7 42 ♜xg7 ♜xe7 with a draw. Instead Black falls into a surprise mating net.

39...f6?? 40 ♖h3!!

Black finds that his intended move 40...♝xe4 is met with 41 ♖de3!! when 41...♜f7 is refuted by 42 ♜g8 and g4+.

40...♝xg3+ 41 ♖xg3 ♜g5 42 ♖d4 ♜a8 43 ♖e6+ ♜g6 44 ♖df4+ ♜h6? 45 ♖c7 ♜a4 46 ♜f3 ♜g5? 47 ♖ce6+ ♜h6 48 ♖d5 ♜a5 49 ♜g4 1-0.

Despite his other commitments, it is clear that Van Oosterom, who always knew how to win games, had also learned the art of avoiding defeat. He went through this mammoth test unbeaten, amassing 80% of the possible points to finish 2½ points clear of the next competitor. The win against Quist, annotated by Paul Motwani, comes from this event.

This was enough for the GM title, awarded to Van Oosterom in 1993, but it wasn't nearly enough to win the tournament because the reign of his great Dutch rival had begun. With no fewer than 15 wins, Gert Jan Timmerman finished a further 1½ points clear: 4 points ahead

CCOL13 Final bd.2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts
1	Van Oosterom, JJ	NED		½	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	½	10
2	Muir, Andrew	SCO	½		½	½	1	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	9
3	Andersson, Göran	SWE	½	½		½	½	0	1	1	½	1	1	1	8
4	Korolev, Sergey	RUS	0	½	½		½	½	½	1	0	1	1	1	7½
5	Matlak, Marek	POL	0	0	½	½		1	½	½	½	1	1	1	7½
6	Lanc, Alois	SVK	0	0	1	½	0		1	½	1	0	½	1	6
7	Palm, Hans	GER	0	0	0	½	½	0		½	1	1	½	1	6
8	Berry, F. Jonathan	CAN	½	½	0	0	½	½	½		½	0	1	½	5
9	Poulsen, Allan	DEN	0	0	½	1	½	0	0	½		½	1	0	4½
10	Abram, Gary	USA	0	½	0	0	0	1	0	1	½		1	0	4½
11	Rotariu, Gheorghe	ROM	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	0		½	3½
12	Meleghegyi, Csaba	HUN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	1	½		3½
13	Hollis, Adrian	ENG	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	0	½	3

of Soltau who took third prize!

Another successful tournament began late in 1992: the Final of the 11th Olympiad, in which Van Oosterom played board 2 and scored a convincing victory, but the Dutch team had many absentees and Abram Idema (on board 4) was the only other member to make a plus score. Looking back, these two must have thought their superb effort was wasted.

The setback

'Fernschach' 4/1994 announced the start of World Championship XIV Final on April 10th with Van Oosterom number 1 in the draw. This looked like his best chance to achieve his ambition – but to be the father of a toddler at the age of 56 is not easy, even for a very rich man.

Anyway, it seems he was trying to do too much. Around this time Joop van Oosterom fell seriously ill with a stroke, which apparently affects his speech even to this day. He couldn't start play, of course, and ICCF announced in the June issue of 'Fernschach' that he was replaced by Ove Ekebjærg, whose qualification had just been completed. Van Oosterom's place was deferred.

I already heard at the 1994 ICCF Congress in Perth (September) that Van Oosterom was making a swift recovery; of course he could afford the very best of health care and he is a very determined man. He was ready to begin a new tournament; probably very few games were still in progress from before his illness.

According to Eloquery, NPSF-50 began on July 1, 1995 but that is incorrect. Tournament director Roald Berthelsen's report in 'Chess Mail' 1/1997 states that play

Top of the new ICCF Rating List

Van Oosterom, Joop	NED	GM	2748	172
Andersson, Ulf	SWE	GM	2737	35
Timmerman, GJ	NED	GM	2734	159
Berliner, Hans	USA	GM	2726	49
Rause, Olita	LAT	GM	2710	185
Elwert, H-M	GER	GM	2709	220
Costa, Carlos E	BRA	GM	2689	112
Frey, Kenneth	MEX	SM	2688	80
Tarnowiecki, H	AUT	GM	2688	150
Anton, Volker-M	GER	GM	2683	240
Umansky, MM	RUS	GM	2671	106
Neumann, Joachim	GER	GM	2668	72
Gottardi, G	SUI	GM	2664	136
Schön, Wolfram	GER	SM	2659	46
Hertel, Peter	GER	GM	2655	110
Léotard, C	FRA	GM	2655	109
Nizynski, M	POL	GM	2654	82
Hansen, Curt	DEN	GM	2653	26
Ludwig, Ch	GER	-	2653	90
Hamarat, Tunc	AUT	GM	2650	250
Khasin, Abram	RUS	GM	2650	151
Van Geet, Dick	NED	GM	2649	55
Sprengelmeier, C	GER	IM	2646	42
Gaprindashvili, P	GEO	SM	2644	68
Gerhardt, Frank	GER	GM	2643	144
Voss, Maximilian	GER	GM	2641	157
Van der Hoeven, D	NED	SM	2640	53
Kujala, Auvo	FIN	GM	2640	46
Normantas, VP	LTU	GM	2640	156
Sakai, Kiyotaka	JPN	SM	2637	124
Bang, Erik	DEN	GM	2636	184
Álvarez, Roberto	ARG	GM	2635	104
Nimtz, Manfred	GER	GM	2634	183
Toro Solís, de O., G.	CHI	GM	2634	337
Sender, Christian	GER	GM	2633	139
Bachmann, A	GER	GM	2630	65
Poulsen, Allan	DEN	GM	2630	96
Soltau, Achim	GER	GM	2630	272
Kreuzer, Martin	GER	GM	2629	70
Nivlt, Zdenek	CZE	SM	2625	185
Pinkovetsky, S	RUS	GM	2625	177
Timm, John	USA	SM	2624	60
Branding, Gerd	GER	SM	2623	78
Raupp, Thomas	GER	GM	2621	109
Blokh, Maksim	RUS	GM	2620	140
Busemann, S	GER	GM	2620	124
Webb, Simon	ENG	GM	2619	173
Giuliani, Sante	ITA	-	2618	34
Zanetti, Vittorio	ITA	IM	2618	38
Geenen, Marc	BEL	GM	2617	166
João, Nevio	BRA	SM	2617	221
Hector, Jonny	SWE	GM	2616	28
Mehlhorn, Uwe	GER	-	2616	123
Meleghegyi, C	HUN	GM	2616	125
Voyna, Alexandr	UKR	GM	2615	147

Tenth richest Dutch person

THE software house Volmac was founded by J.J. van Oosterom and his colleague J.C.L. Mol in 1966 at the start of a big boom in information technology.

They ran it very profitably for 22 years until it became a public company in 1988.

According to the Dutch magazine 'Quote 500': "When they introduced Volmac at the stock exchange in 1988 both became the biggest Dutch IT-millionaires. They got about 800 million guilders cash and a bundle of shares with a value of 1800 million guilders."

The pair kept interests in IT-companies through their World Software Group, now closed. Eventually Volmac merged with the French corporation Cap Gemini. Although Van Oosterom remained a big shareholder, he was no longer in a position to influence the daily business.

After the flotation of Volmac, J.J. van Oosterom left the board and moved, fiscally and physically to the Antilles. At some point by the early 1990s, he changed his residence to Monaco, which is probably a more convenient location for conducting international postal chess.

'Quote 500' says that: "His finances have always been shrouded in mys-

began on October 15, 1994. See page 51 for the final phase of Van Oosterom's win against Bern in this tournament.

This Norwegian jubilee was the strongest CC event ever begun up to that date: Category XV, average rating 2608, stronger than any world championship, stronger even than the Axelson Memorial. Only one postal tournament with a higher rating average (2616) was ever contested: the H-W. von Massow Memorial. Six wins, eight draws, third prize behind FIDE GM Ulf Andersson (whose play in this event was a revelation) and Timmerman; nobody could be dissatisfied with that after what Van Oosterom had been through just previously.

Also starting at the 1994 ICCF Congress, Van Oosterom sponsored ICCF's first experimental fax tournaments, each of 15 players with grandmaster norms, and organised by CC-GM Dick Smit, head of ICCF's telechess commission. This was a forward-looking initiative which however became rapidly overtaken by the internet explosion. To each of the 30 players, Van Oosterom donated a fax machine for the sending and receipt of the moves. The B section finished in 15 months — amazingly fast for those days — but the A section took a year longer. However, Van Oosterom did not play in either of these events himself.

World Final at last

Finally, the fight for the World Championship began in earnest; the 15th Final started play in November 1996. On paper, all world championship finals are hard and both the 14th and 15th were of similar strength, Category XIII. Perhaps the most

importance difference was that the 15th Final was to include Timmerman while the 14th did not. Also, while the 14th Final included some famous names on their way down, the 15th saw two talented players (Maes and Poulsen) performing above expectations and of course Got-tardi, who went through unbeaten and might have contended for top honours if his marriage had not broken up during the event.

See the Endgame Clinic article for Van Oosterom's win against Kilgour in the world championship.

In the end, there was a three-way tie for second with Van Oosterom having the better SB tiebreak, small consolation. It all came down to one move in the end as Nol tells in his article. One move for his opponent which Joop did not foresee but which Gert Jan found.

Timmerman wrote to me recently: "I was very honoured that he sent me from Monaco a special congratulations-letter a few days after I became WC, in which he wrote that he tried to imagine the experience of the special feeling of fulfillment I should have then. A very sporting gesture from him!"

That was September 2001. Meanwhile, as early as March 1998, Van Oosterom began a new strong tournament: the Korning Memorial, organised by Denmark. This was his last "postal" tournament although maybe he played some games by fax or email. In this tournament, from which Paul Motwani has selected the game with Plomp, Van Oosterom was unbeaten and secured first place on tiebreak ahead of FIDE grandmaster Curt Hansen.

tery. Van Oosterom has always been able to hire the best tax experts of the Netherlands... As far as we know Van Oosterom does no longer have any essential interest in Dutch stock funds."

Joop van Van Oosterom employs a staff in Monaco and the Netherlands who look after his interests. Probably if you play him in a tournament, he doesn't even open his emails but has somebody to do this for him and print them out.

One of his key employees is FIDE grandmaster Jeroen Piket whose job is not, as rumour tells, to help Joop van Oosterom with his chess games, but who rather is in the process of taking over as Joop's right-hand-man for his business affairs. Van Oosterom's chief amanuensis will soon be retiring when Piket has learned each aspect of the work.

According to the Dutch magazine 'Quote 500', Van Oosterom sold his last block of shares of his life-work in 1999. It brought him 361 million guilders (about 163,814,658 Euro).

Joop van Oosterom was shown at number 10 last year in the list of the richest Dutch people (Van Mol was 105th). They estimated his wealth at 1.1 billion Euro (8% growth, after a fall and 11th place the previous year.)

When you notice that above him in the rich list are the Dutch royal family and several other families, he is probably in the top five or six richest Dutch individuals.

Korning Memorial		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Pts	
1	Van Oosterom, JJ	NED		½	1	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	½	1	1	11½
2	Hansen, Curt	DEN	½		½	1	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11½
3	Elwert, H-M.	GER	0	½		½	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	10
4	Hector, Jonny	SWE	½	0	½		½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	½	9
5	Plomp, Michiel	NED	0	½	½	½		½	1	1	1	½	½	½	½	½	1	8½
6	Trapl, Jindrich	CZE	0	½	0	½	½		½	0	½	1	½	1	1	½	1	7½
7	Knobel, Rolf	SUI	½	0	½	½	0	½		1	½	½	0	1	½	0	½	6
8	Tanggaard, H	DEN	0	½	0	½	0	1	0		1	½	½	0	1	1	0	6
9	Rüfenacht, M.	SUI	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	0		½	½	½	½	½	½	5½
10	Maliangkay, R	NED	0	0	½	0	½	0	½	½	½		1	0	½	½	1	5½
11	Nielsen, J. Hartung	DEN	0	0	0	0	½	½	1	½	½	0		½	½	½	1	5½
12	Borge, Nikolaj	DEN	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	½	1	½		0	1	1	5½
13	Read, Michael	ENG	½	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	1		½	½	5
14	Jardorf, Svend	DEN	0	0	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	½		1	5
15	Hyldkrog, Lars	DEN	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	1	½	0	0	0	½	0		3

Email tournaments

To celebrate the Millennium, Van Oosterom proposed to NBC during 1999 to sponsor a new fax invitational tournament. However, Nol van 't Riet was able to persuade him that an email event was now more appropriate and it was Alan Borwell's idea that it would make good publicity for the ICCF website to show the games as they were being played. After discussion with the players, they decided to show the games semi-live (an update once a month and with a delay of three moves, starting when all games were different).

So on January 1, 2000, the Millennium Email Chess Tournament (MECT) officially began. (Eloquy gives the start-date as November 3, 1999; that was only the date when the start documents were sent to the players.) Six top grandmasters played each other with both colours: ten

hard games in the public eye, and with most of those involved still grappling with the mechanics of email.

Under these conditions, the less fancied players prospered but Van Oosterom could be satisfied with his result. For the first time in his career, he beat Timmerman: twice! You can see the finish of one of these games in my Endgame Clinic article.

For ICCF's 50th jubilee celebrations, Van Oosterom put up prize money for two even more ambitious tournaments: the World Champions Jubilee and the Jubilee Elite Grandmaster Tournament (JEGMT). Both these events can be followed at the ICCF website. The latter was for the eight players (other than world champions) with the highest fixed ratings as of the autumn 2001 list. A few players declined their invitations but a very strong tournament could still begin in January 2002, including Van Oosterom himself. This

was a double-rounder like the MECT but with eight players.

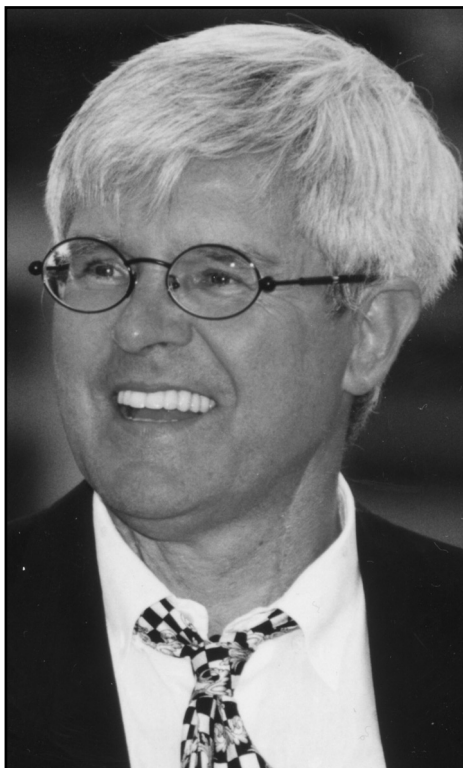
The tournament began cautiously, with quite a lot of draws, but it hotted up last year and Van Oosterom scored some important wins to clinch first. For 'Chess Mail' readers he has annotated his wins against Elwert and Hamarat from this tournament, and also given permission to reprint the notes to his win against Bang which first appeared in 'Informator'.

New ambitions

Of course Joop van Oosterom has not forgotten his desire to become Correspondence World Champion but he did not rush to play another final too soon. He has used his qualification as runner-up from the 15th Final to play in the 18th, which began last summer. This is a 15-player, Category 15 event, which includes dangerous opponents including Elwert, Rause and Umansky.

It is far too soon to predict a result but Van Oosterom has made a solid start. He is older than his main rivals but the mid-60s is not too old for great results in correspondence chess, especially for a man who can afford the best in health care and does not have to worry about earning a living or nursing his pension fund.

Also last January, the second email Olympiad (Olympiad XV) began. In the disappointment of Olympiad XI we can perhaps see the roots of the decision to sponsor a full-strength Dutch team even in the preliminaries. Up to now, the Dutch rarely if ever fielded their strongest squad but here they are playing five grandmasters: Timmerman, Van Oosterom, Van Geet, Maliangkay, Gouw



Van Oosterom ... still chasing the world title

plus Mooij, a former European champion! Qualification for the team now seems a virtual certainty but there are still many open games and the Final probably will not be starting until the second half of 2005.

From his career record table (on page 38), it can be noted that in his last nine international tournaments, Van Oosterom always finished in a medal place (1-3). So we can expect that for Joop van Oosterom, some new triumphs and many more splendid games still lie in the future.

Four endgames by Van Oosterom

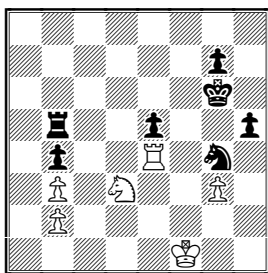
by **Tim Harding**

ENDGAME Clinic for this issue takes a different form. Instead of looking at one or two endgames of a certain type in detail, I will show you briefly a variety of endgames from J.J. van Oosterom's career, with light comments, which I do not claim to be authoritative.

Gert Jan Timmerman (NED) – J.J. van Oosterom (NED)

Millennium Email, 2000

Queens have just been exchanged on g6 and White's last move was 53 ♖e2-e4, to win the black b-pawn and restore material equality. However, the doubled b-pawn means that Black is virtually a pawn ahead. How to win against his redoubtable adversary?



53...♖a5 54 ♖xb4 ♜f5 55 ♖e1 ♖b5 56 ♖c6 ♜f6

The obvious move might seem to be 56...♖xb3 but after 57 ♖xe5+ ♖xe5 58 ♖d4+ ♜g4 59 ♖xb3 ♜xg3 we have a ♖ endgame where White has a passed pawn

and a race is in prospect. Van Oosterom sees no necessity to allow this transformation when the presence of rooks gives him a firm grip.

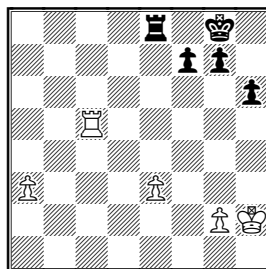
57 ♖b4 58 ♖c1 ♜e6 59 ♖c3 ♜d6 60 ♖a5 ♖xb4 61 ♖b3 ♜d5 62 ♜e2 ♖h6 63 ♖d3+ ♜e6 64 ♖c4 ♖f5 65 ♜f2 e4 66 ♖c3 ♜d5 67 ♖e3+ ♖xe3 68 ♜xe3 g5 69 ♜e2 ♜d4 70 ♜d2 g4 0-1.

Victory in tournaments is not only about winning games, brilliant attacks and sparkling combinations. No player, however strong, can avoid the occasional inferior position. Successful rearguard actions which result in half a point can be extremely valuable. Here is an example.

J.J. Van Oosterom (NED) – Hans-Marcus Elwert (GER)

ICCF Jubilee Elite Tournament, 2002

After 33 moves, White had to exchange queens into this tricky ♖ ending where all his pawns are split. If his e-pawn were instead on the f-file, White would have no problem securing a theoretical draw but here more care is required. The first step of course must be to safeguard the e-pawn.



Endgame Clinic: four Van Oosterom endings

34 ♖c3 ♖e4 35 ♜g3 ♖a4 36 ♜f3 f5

Many players might try to hold on to the weak outside passed pawn, but this could lead to Black obtaining a dominating ♜ position. The key to securing the draw is to play actively.

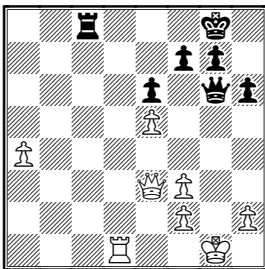
37 ♖c5 g6 38 ♖c7 ♖xa3 39 ♜f4 ♖a5 40 ♖c8+ ♜f7 41 ♖c7+ ♜f8 42 ♖h7 g5+ 43 ♜f3 ♖a6 44 g4 ♖f6 45 ♖xf5 ♜g8 46 ♖a7 ♖xf5+ 47 ♜g4 ♖f7 48 ♖a6 ♜g7 49 ♜h5 ♖f6 50 ♖a7+ ♖f7 51 ♖a6 ♖f6 52 ♖a7+ ♖f7 53 ♖a6 1/2-1/2.

In the NPSF-50 tournament, Van Oosterom won an instructive ♜ endgame.

**J.J. van Oosterom (NED) –
Ivar Bern (NOR)**

NPSF-50, 1994

Comments by Van Oosterom.



30 ♜f1 ♖c4?

This rook move that would have been very strong after 30 ♜h1 is misguided here. Correct was 30...♖c2 31 ♖d4 ♖b1+ 32 ♜g2 ♖c1 White can exchange queens but the rook endings are not a win.

31 a5

I considered for some time 31 ♖b3 until I found for Black 31...♖h4 32 a5 ♖xh2 33

♜e2 ♖h5!!.

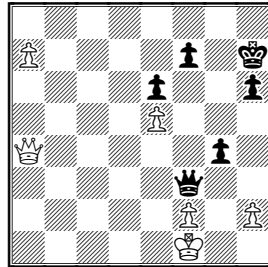
31...♖a4

Perhaps Black realised too late that 31...♖h4 loses to 32 a6 ♖xh2 33 a7 ♖h1+ 34 ♜e2 ♖c2+ 35 ♖d2 ♖c8 36 ♖d3.

32 ♖c3! ♜f5 33 a6! ♜h7

On 33...♖a2 the same answer would follow.

34 ♖a1! ♖xa1+ 35 ♖xa1 ♖xf3 36 ♖d4 g5 37 a7 g4 38 ♖a4



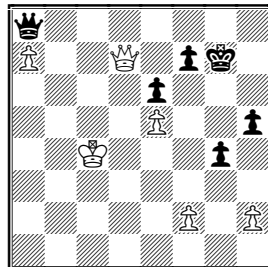
38...♖h1+

It is no use chasing the king to the queenside. He goes there willingly. More resistant was 38...♖a8.

39 ♜e2 ♜f3+ 40 ♜e1 ♜h1+ 41 ♜d2 ♜d5+ 42 ♜c2 ♖a8 43 ♜d7!

Guarantees the entry of the king. Black can bar the way for some time in case of 43 ♖d4 ♖b7 or 43 ♖b2 h5 44 ♖d4 ♜f3.

43...♜g7 44 ♜d3 h5 45 ♜c4 1-0.



a) Equally effective was 45 ♖c7 h4 46 ♖c4 ♖d5+ 47 ♖b4 h3 and now not 48 ♖b6? ♖xe5!! 49 a8 ♖ ♖b2+ 50 ♖c5 ♖xf2+ 51 ♖b5 ♖e2+ with a perpetual, but 48 ♖a4!. This elegant waiting move reveals a surprising zugzwang: 48...♙g6 49 ♖b8 ♖c4+ 50 ♖a5 ♖c5+ 51 ♖a6 ♖a3+ 52 ♖b7 and the white king finds a shelter at g8.

b) After 45 ♖c4 Black resigned. He overstepped for the second time the time-limit while his position was hopeless. The main variation is 45...♖e4+ 46 ♖c5 ♖xe5+ 47 ♖b6 ♖b2+ and now:

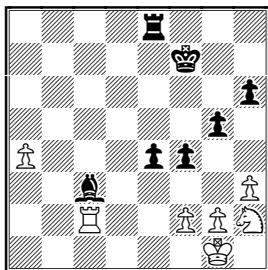
b1) 48 ♖b5! ♖xf2+ 49 ♖b7 ♖g2+ 50 ♖c6 and the four pawns that Black gets for the new queen will not save him.

b2) But still there was a way to go astray: 48 ♖c7 ♖a3 49 ♖c8 ♖c5+ 50 ♖c7 ♖f8+ 51 ♖d7 ♖a8 52 ♖e5+ ♙g6 53 ♖b8 ♖d5+ 54 ♖e7 ♖c5+ 55 ♖e8 ♖c6+ 56 ♖f8 ♖c5+ 57 ♙g8 (shelter at g8?) 57...♖d4 (no: draw!).

I conclude with my favourite Van Oosterom endgame.

David Kilgour (SCO) – J.J. van Oosterom (NED)

15th CC World Ch Final, 1996



Following an exchange of ♙ for ♘ on

c3, White has just played ♙e2-c2. The sequel has many surprising turns.

38...♙d4 39 ♙f1 ♙e6 40 ♙e2 ♖d5 41 ♘f1 ♙a8 42 ♙a2 ♙c3 43 ♘d2 ♙b4

Of course Black keeps his minor piece on the board.

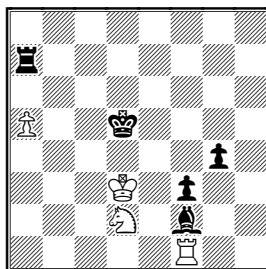
44 ♙a1 ♙a6 45 ♙a2 h5 46 ♙a1 g4

The fight to create a passed pawn begins in earnest.

47 hxc4 hxc4 48 ♙a2 ♙a7 49 ♙a1 ♙c5 50 a5 f3+! 51 gxf3 exf3+ 52 ♙d3

White abandons the f-pawn because 52 ♖f1 ♙h7 looks very painful; White can play 53 ♙g1 but the reply might be 53...g3 54 ♘xf3 gxf2+.

52...♙xf2 53 ♙f1



53...♙xa5!

Amazing; Black sacrifices his ♙ to win with two pawns against a ♘.

54 ♙xf2 ♙a3+

The white ♙ is driven further from the pawns.

55 ♙c2 ♙d4 56 ♙h2 ♙a2+ 57 ♙c1 ♙a1+ 58 ♙b2 ♙e1 59 ♙h8 ♙e3 60 ♙c2 ♙e2 61 ♙c3

Now Black reveals his piece de resistance: he gives up the ♙ also to win with the pawns.

61...♙xd2 62 ♙e8+ ♙f2 63 ♙xd2 g3 0-1.