

1.Introduction

One of the interesting things about this event is that we get to meet new people and old friends. I got to meet Stewart Reuben from England who organised the first World Seniors in 2004. He tells me that SA played in that event with Eddie Price, Pieter Hangelbroek, Anton Heyns etc.



Dr Lyndon Bouah and Stewart Reuben

2. Stewart Reuben-International Correspondence

In 1986 and 1987, I very quickly devoured all the chess books at the West End Library. The local librarian decided to refer me to the Port Elizabeth Central Library. I had always driven past the library but never entered. With another intrepid chess player, Conrad Blignaut, I took the requisite taxi to the library. This was of course an adventure on its own. As my high school, Bethelsdorp, was next to the Windvogel taxi rank, we took a taxi to Norwich, which was the central bus and taxi depot. The procedure stayed the same for many a week. After disembarking we first went to eat at Lilwells. Next to the pie shop was Fogarty's Books, which was a veritable treasure trove of books, where we then checked all the latest books.

Then we were off to the library. An imposing building, it had prime space in the centre of town. A statue of Queen Victoria greeted us upon arrival. The entrance was on the side, but sometimes the front door was open. We would immediately head for the chess section. We then discovered that they had about 50 new books that we had not read before, but another discovery intrigued us even more. The library subscribed to the British Chess Magazine (BCM). As the authors of the various articles invited readers to write to them, we seized the opportunity and wrote to one

author called Stewart Reuben. The correspondence from us was well received and this started a lifetime of friendship. I met Stewart for the first time in 1992, after corresponding for five years!



Port Elizabeth Main Library

Stewart Reuben was very surprised when a group of chess players which included Ashley Schüller from Cape Town, Shane Bassett, Conrad Blignaut and I started writing to him. We shared the details of our lives, and he in turn told us about life in England and in Europe. I was the most conscientious and wrote to Stewart with analysis of my games. He then would play through the games and propose different ideas and moves and comment on our positions. He sent video tapes and some books and other material that I absorbed. These comments assisted me greatly, and decades later it dawned on me that he was my international chess coach.

In the September 1990 issue of the British Chess Magazine, on page 446 in his monthly column, Stewart Reuben wrote the following about our correspondence:

“About two years ago a number of South African schoolboys started writing to me. They did so after seeing one of my articles in this magazine about how to improve your results without increasing your actual chess ability. The boys asked me to comment on their games. However weak I may be, their access to formal instruction is extremely limited. One told me he had a published rating of 1382 (if Elo, about 100 BCF). I was quickly able to disabuse him of this idea. Relatively speaking in South Africa that might be accurate but internationally his games were more of a 2000 strength player. In fact I was able to send one of his combinations to Leonard Barden for consideration for publication in the London Evening Standard, where it duly appeared. Remembering my own pleasure at a similar age at having a position published in a national journal, it gives me

a warm glow that I was able to achieve this for the 14-year old so far away. (The player in question was Conrad Blignaut and the position was from Blignaut vs. Errol Ruiters, EP Prestige 1988 - the author.)

It started out with two correspondents and then suddenly it was four. I was gripped by a sudden fear. Were my days going to be filled by letters to and from teenagers intensely interested in politics, chess and music of which I have never heard - still less actually listened to? However I needn't have worried. In the main, they lost interest before me and their letters tailed off, so now I am in regular correspondence with only one of their number, Lyndon Bouah, who is probably the strongest player. Perhaps the others realised I just wasn't good enough to make constructive comments on a handful of games.

Normally the colour, race or religion of a fellow chess player isn't central to a relationship. In these cases, if nothing else, I was curious. In due course photographs answered the question. All four are 'coloured'. What a terrible term and how much worse a political system which makes the matter important.

SA has two chess organisations. The South African Chess Federation is accused of being white-dominated and racist. The youngsters play under the banner of the SA Council on Sport which considers itself non-racist and is affiliated to FIDE. My reservation is that I doubt they have many white members. SACOS does not believe SA should be represented internationally as they consider it impossible to have normal sport in an abnormal society. Thus, they do not want FIDE to permit SA to play in the Olympiads. All the boys were careful when they first wrote to impress on me the strength of their political feelings and how anti-apartheid they were. They feared that I would refuse to reply but I believe all youngsters are entitled to their youth and cannot be blamed for the political actions of their elders. But how can you expect a teenager not to be involved in such burning issues.

I hear the editor calling: what about the title and have you forgotten that this is a chess magazine? Naturally the players are isolated. They cannot afford subscriptions to foreign magazines. Opportunities to play against strong players are extremely limited. There aren't many around and the cost of travel and accommodation is prohibitive. The common problem is alleviated by chess publications such as this one. It may not do the profitability of the BCM much good to know that it is stocked in a South African public library, but at least it is serving a useful social function...

The schoolteacher of these lads in SA has done an excellent job encouraging chess but this has had the effect that there are no school teams around that can give them a decent match...

My young correspondents teach chess to players weaker than themselves. You always learn a great deal when teaching. I don't do much chess tuition, so I haven't the full experience of helping somebody become a stronger player than me. Chess being so competitive, I wonder how people feel about that. The youngsters intend producing a chess magazine. They have been at it a year now and presumably have discovered that it is not as easy as it seems. Nonetheless this stimulates concrete analysis and it is better to have a definite objective when working at chess than just the airy-fairy idea that perhaps one day you make use of some study. I find it extremely hard to work at chess. It is far easier to do so as part of a cooperative. But even this has its negative side if members of your group are the only ones you compete against.

In the end, I doubt it is possible to sustain interest in the game if there is no prospect whatsoever of international contact. A player can only go so far before he hungers for opposition which will test him to the full."

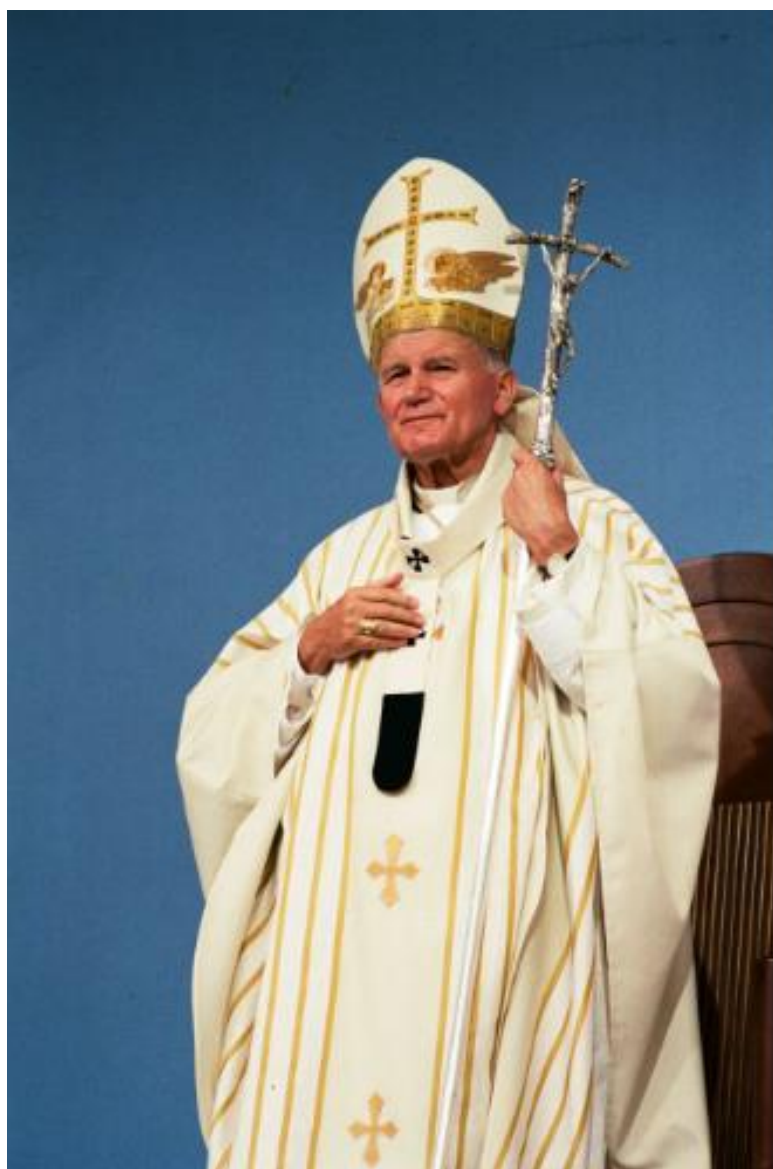
1. Poland

Poland has a long history and I will touch on that during the two weeks. Polish history is one of Europe's most dramatic narratives, an important source of national pride. Originating in the 10th century, the Polish state became one of Europe's great powers, before undergoing successive cycles of foreign occupation.

In the Prehistoric era, Poland was almost totally covered in forest. The earliest inhabitants were hunters and gathers living in loose tribal communities. Crop growers and animal herders began to appear in the 5th century BC. The Iron Age (9750BC) saw the emergence of fortified settlements, the most famous being Biskupin in Wielkopolska, a stockaded settlement from around 650BC. It is thought to have been a stop on the amber road, a trading route that Baltic amber southwards and brought Mediterranean jewellery north.

2. Famous Polish people

If you fly into Krakow, you will have arrived at the John Paul II Balice airport. Pope John Paul II was the first Non Italian pope in 455 years.



Pope John Paul II

3. Polish Chessplayers

According to Wikipedia the following players are Polish chess masters:

1950 : Akiba Rubinstein – Grandmaster

1950 – Ksawery Tartakower – Grandmaster

1950 – Mieczyslaw Najdorf – Grandmaster (Miguel after 1939)

1950- Kazimierz Plater

1953- Bogdan Solwa

1955- Paulin Frydman

All titles hereafter are grandmasters

1976 – Włodzimierz Schmidt-

1980 – Adam Kuligowski –

1990- Aleksander Wojtkiewicz –

1993- Robert Kuczynski-

1996 - Marcin Kaminski

1996- Robert Kempinski

1996- Michael Krasenkow

1997- Jacek Gdanski

1998- Bartłomiej Macieja

1998 – Tomasz Markowski

1999 – Bartosz Socko

2000- Pawel Jaracz

2001 – Pawel Blehm

2002- Arthur Jukubiec

2002- Kamil Miton

2002- Mirosław Grabarczyk

2003 - Lukasz Cyborowski

2003 – Aleksander Mista

2005- Mateusz Bartel

2005- Piotr Bobras
2005- Radoslaw Wojtaszek
2006- Pawel Czarnota
2006 – Grzegorz Gajewski
2006- Bartlomiej Heberia
2006 – Radoslaw Jedynak
2007 – Marcin Dziuba
2009- Wojciech Moranda
2009- Michal Olszewski
2009- Dariusz Swiercz
2010- Rafal Antoniewski
2010- Kacper Piorun
2012 – Krzysztof Bulski
2012- Jacek Tomczak
2013- Jan- Krzysztof Duda
2013- Kamil Dragun
2014- Zbigniew Pakleza
2015- Jacek Stopa
2016- Daniel Sadzikowski
2017- Tomasz Warakowski
2018- Grzegorz Nasuta
2019- Oskar Wieczorek
2020- Maciej Klekowski
2021- Arkadiusz Leniart
2021- Lukasz Jarmula
2021 – Szymon Gumularz
2022- Igor Janik
2023 Pawel Teclaf

In total : 50 grandmasters on this list



GM Jan- Krzysztof Duda

We shall add the women grandmasters in the next article.

4. South African Open

The first formal South African Open took place in 1962 in the Wilderness Hotel near George. Have a look at the illustrious list of winners! If you study the list closely you will see that in 1964 GM Lothar Schmid won the event with 11/11! In 1976 GM Miguel Najdorf and GM Micheal Stean both scored 9.5/11. So quite a list! Enjoy the walk down history.

Keith Rust from Kwazulu Natal has compiled a database of SA Open results which he has kindly allowed me to use in one of my books.

YEAR	No	VENUE	WINNERS	Score	Games	Perc	BEST SA PLAYER	SOURCE	COMMENTS
1962	1	Wilderness	IM Harry Golombek & GM Alberic O'Kelly	10	11	91%	J J Leicher	A	Tiebreaks not given, but I reckon HG had better Bucholtz.
1964	2	Wilderness	GM Lothar Schmid	11	11	100%	Melvin Hope	A	Ahead of GM Stahlberg & IM Czerniak.

1966	3	Durban	Bob Griffiths	9	11	82%	Bob Griffiths	A	
1968	4	Cape Town	Kurt Dreyer	9.5	11	86%	Kurt Dreyer	A	
1970	5	East London	Brian Donnelly	8.5	11	77%	Brian Donnelly	A	
1972	6	Port Elizabeth	Bob Griffiths	10	11	91%	Bob Griffiths	A	
1974	7	Durban	Albert Poneis & Eddie Price	9	11	82%	Albert Poneis	A, B	On tiebreak from Eddie Price.
1976	8	Cape Town	Miguel Najdorf & Michael Stean	9.5	11	86%	David Friedgood	A	Tiebreaks not known. Both IM Keene and Friedgood scored 9/11.

So Miguel Najdorf was the joint winner of the SA Open in 1976. This is our first Polish connection. Let's have a look at some of his games.



Miguel Najdorf

David Friedgood is a multiple SA Champion and represented South Africa at Olympiads prior to the banning of SA in the 1970's

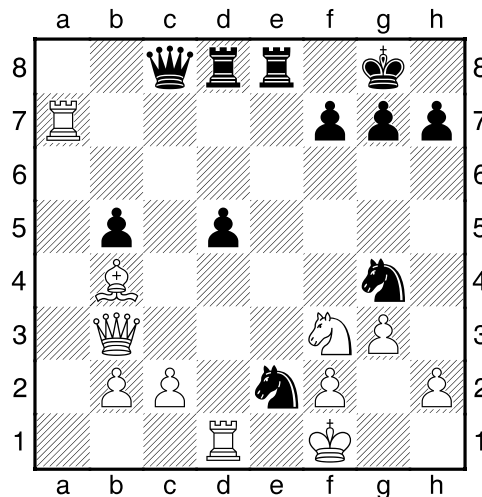
Friedgood, David - Najdorf, Miguel [C41]

RSA Open ch VIII Cape Town , 1976

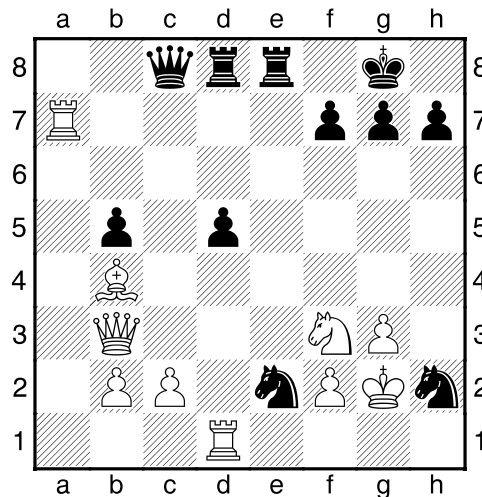
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Bb3 c6 8.a4 exd4 9.Qxd4 Nc5 10.Ba2 Be6 11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.Qc4 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Qb5 a6 15.Qe2 Re8 16.Rd1 Bb4 17.Qd3 Qc7 18.Bd2 Rad8 19.Nb5 axb5 20.Bxb4 bxa4 21.Rxa4 Nf4 22.Qb3 Ne2+ 23.Kf1 b5 24.Ra6 Ng4 25.g3 Qc8 26.Ra7

Najdorf now spots an interesting move. What did he play here?

(Leon please put a photo here of Miguel Najdorf)



Nxh2+! 27.Kg2 How did Black proceed with the attack?

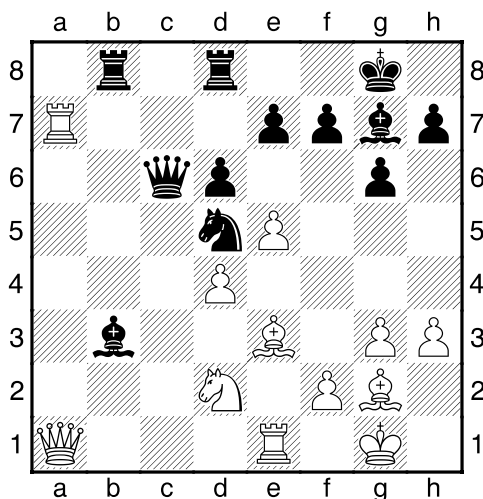


Nf4+! A lovely move. Najdorf is making good use of his knights. **28.gxf4 Qg4+ 29.Kxh2 Re6 30.Ng1 Rh6+ 31.Nh3 Qxd1 32.Be7 Re8 33.Rd7 Rh5 34.Qe3 Qxc2 35.Ba3 Rxh3+ 36.Qxh3 Qxf2+ 37.Qg2 Qh4+ 0-1**

Najdorf, Miguel (2500) - Glyn, Julian (2150) [A05]

RSA Open ch VIII Cape Town (11), 1976

1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.e4 d6 6.d3 Nf6 7.Nbd2 Rb8 8.c3 b5 9.Re1 0-0 10.d4 Nd7 11.Nb3 b4 12.Be3 bxc3 13.bxc3 Na5 14.Nfd2 Nxb3 15.axb3 Qc7 16.Ra2 Nf6 17.Qa1 a6 18.h3 Rd8 19.Ra4 cxd4 20.cxd4 Be6 21.Rxa6 Bxb3 22.Ra7 Qc6 23.e5 Nd5 What did GM Najdorf now play to secure the point?



24.Nxb3 Rxb3 25.Qa5 1-0

Najdorf, Miguel - Kroon, Piet [D88]

Cape Town Open ch Cape Town, 1976

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2 c5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 cxd4 11.cxd4 Na5 12.Rc1 Nxc4 13.Rxc4 b6 14.Qa4 Qd7 15.Qa3 b5 16.Rc5 a5 17.Qc1 b4 18.Rd1 Qa4 19.Qd2 Ba6 20.Nc1 Bb7 21.f3 Rfc8 22.Nb3 Rxc5 23.Nxc5 Qb5 24.d5 Rc8 25.Nxb7 Qxb7 26.Bd4 Bxd4+ 27.Qxd4 a4 28.e5 b3 29.axb3 axb3 30.d6 exd6 31.exd6 b2 32.d7 Rd8 33.Rb1 ½-½

5. Impressions of Round two

We lost to Hungary Women in this round. Allister Metcalfe who was in a bad position lost on time.

Andre Schutte exchanged all the pieces and settled for a draw.

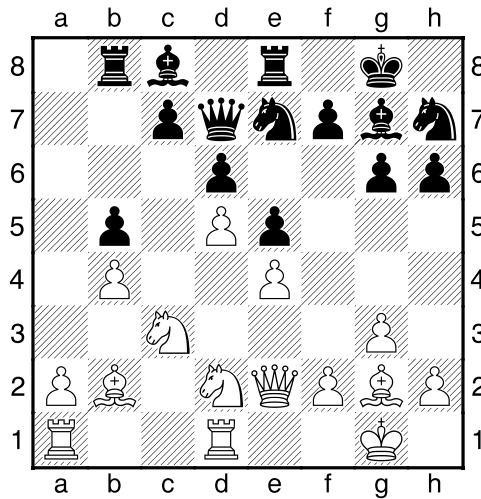
Dr Shabier Bhawoodien who was a piece up dropped a rook in a winning position. This was very unfortunate.

The game of the day again belonged to board one. I played a Woman Grandmaster. My wife Dr Denise told me that my opponent was a strong player who had obtained her title when it was still tough to do so. My opponent didn't speak much English and she told me that she speaks Hungarian, Russian and French. I had prepared in the morning and realised my opponent was a good positional player. I recalled IM Kobese in a recent Chess, Nonsense and Analysis saying that you must play creative chess and to mix it up.

(2) WGM Csonkicks, T (1993) – Bouah, L (2014) [E63]

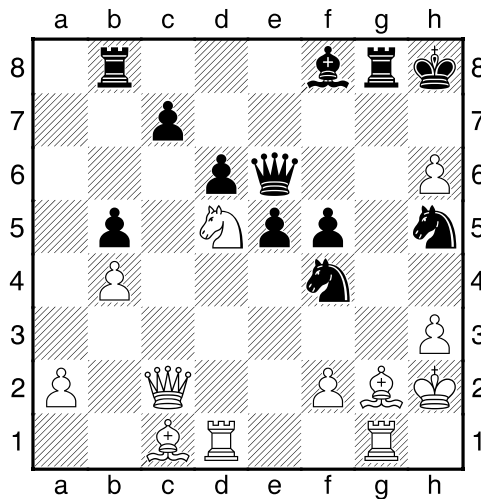
Vs Hungary (2), 03.07.2024

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.c4 Nc6 7.Nc3 a6 8.e3 Rb8 9.Qe2 b5 10.Nd2 Qd7 11.b3 Re8 12.Bb2 e5 13.d5 Ne7 14.Rfd1 h6 15.cxb5 axb5 16.b4 Nh7 17.e4 **The scene is set. Both players had developed their pieces. My Qd7 was an idea to mix it up as I didn't want to get stuck at the back. What should black play now?**

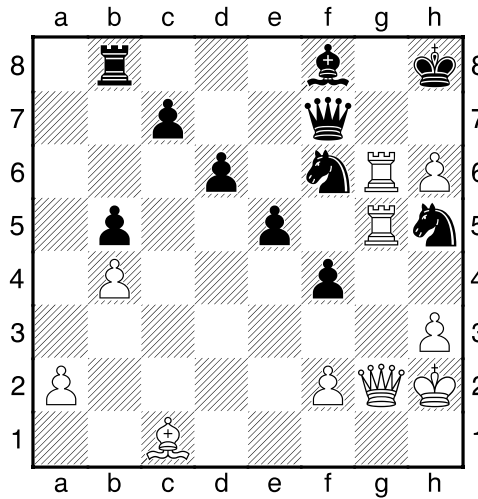


f5! Initiating action!

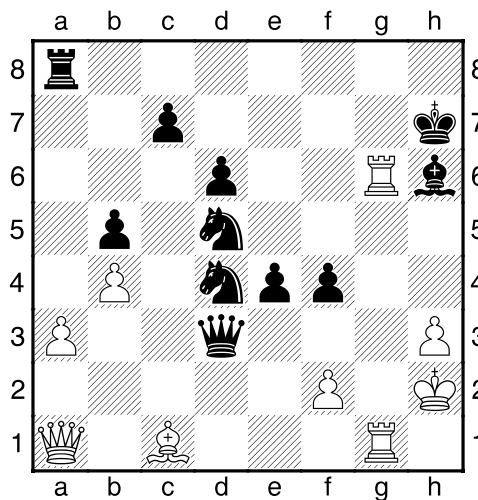
18.exf5 gxf5 19.Nf3 Ng6 20.Rac1 Nf6 21.Qc2 Qf7 22.Ne2 Re7 23.Nc3 Bf8 24.Re1 Bd7 25.Rcd1 Ng4 26.h3 Nf6 27.Kh2 Qe8 28.Bc1 Kh7 29.g4 Rg7 30.g5 Nh5 31.gxh6 Rg8 32.Ng5+ Kh8 33.Ne6 Bxe6 34.dxe6 Ngf4 35.Rg1 Qxe6 36.Nd5 **An interesting position has arisen after some complications. I decided to create an imbalance now. Can you see it?**



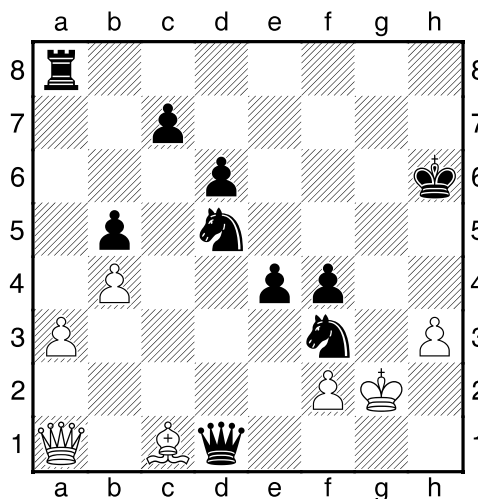
Rxg2+! 37.Rxg2 Nxd5 38.Rdg1 Be7 39.Rg6 Qf7 40.Qd1 Ndf6 41.Qf3 f4 42.R1g5 Bf8 43.Qg2 **A unique trebling on the g-file. However black has everything under control as every square is doubly protected!**





Kh7 44.Qc6 Bxh6 45.Qc2 e4 46.Rg1 Ra8 47.a3 Qc4 48.Qb2 Nd5 49.Re6 Qd3 50.Qa2 Ng7 51.Reg6 Nf5 52.Qa1 Nd4 53. **GM Planinc in his games stated that you must centralised as much as possible whenever you can. I parked my Nd5 and called her Rosa Parkes!(she shall not be moved!) she covers the weak c7 and also stops invasions on the seventh rank.**



Rxh6+ Kxh6 54.Rd1 Nf3+ 55.Kg2 Qxd1 0-1 (If Bxf4+ then Nxf4 is check)



Bo.	19		Hungary Women	Rtg	-	28		South Africa	Rtg	2½:1½	PGN
12.1	WGM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Csonkics, Tunde	1995	-	CM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bouah, Lyndon	1996	0 - 1	PGN
12.2	WIM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Horvath, Julia	2116	-	FM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bhawoodien, Shabir Hussain	1990	1 - 0	PGN
12.3	WIM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forgo, Eva	2060	-		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Metcalfe, Allister	1889	1 - 0	PGN
12.4		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Csom, Etelka	1996	-		<input type="checkbox"/>	Schutte, Andre	1832	½ - ½	PGN

Regards Dr Lyndon Bouah