

## Remembering Tony Miles (1955 -2001)

by GM Alexander Baburin

I still cannot get over the news that Tony Miles has died. I heard about his death on Monday night, but it is going to take a while before this will go down with me. In 11 days my club *Wood Green* will play vs. his club *Slough* in Birmingham (Tony's home town) and he would have been my likely opponent (we played in a similar match last year). I already started to think what to play against Tony, but...

Unfortunately he was rather careless about his health and about a year ago was diagnosed with diabetes. Alas, I suspect that did not change his attitude much, which could be the reason for his premature death.

I first heard about Miles in 1979, when he played in the Riga Interzonal. In the late 70s and early 80s he was among the best players in the world and certainly was one of the most interesting characters! Miles had a very original style and sought his own ways in chess - just look at one of his games vs. Karpov: 1.e4 a6!?! So, for me to meet him in the early 90s was like meeting a chess legend. I was very curious not only about his play, but also about his personality. It was a very pleasant first contact - both over the board and away from it Tony was very friendly, once you got to know him a bit.

Later we met at numerous tournaments - St. Michel, Cappelle la Grande, Dublin, Biel, Isle of Man, Havana, Andorra, Cuba, Istanbul. We played a few times. He was a difficult opponent for me! And I could see that Tony simply loved chess - so he put so much into it, both during the game and in the analysis. Once he gave me a lift from Biel to Birmingham in his car (Tony was very fond of his Mercedes!) and I was a guest in his house for a night. Next morning Tony brought me to the airport, which was very nice of him. We had lots of time to talk, which was great. Tony had a terrific sense of humour, with a strong witty flavour. That

was evident in his writing too, whether in chess magazines or on the Net - I always read his article with joy!



Photo by John Hendersen

As far as I know, Tony liked travelling and probably visited more countries than any other chess player! He also liked and skiing. But his main passion was playing chess and thinking of it. He was constantly looking for new ideas in chess. They did not have to be 100% sound - just being playable was enough for him. I remember how once he showed me the line 1.e4 Nf6

2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 c6 and asked my opinion. I said that,

that the Alekhine Defence was risky enough without playing stuff like 4...c6, but he liked the line. Well, later I picked that system too - it is not 100% sound, but interesting and playable!

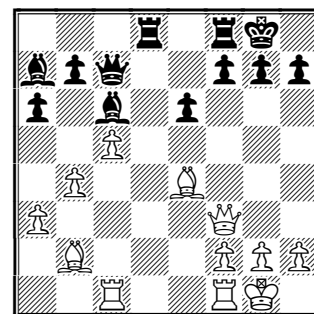
It is a pity Tony did not write a book on his career. I asked him once whether he considered writing a book and he replied that one day he would do that, but that day was still far ahead - he was too busy playing in tournaments! I guess Tony was happy - he did what he liked and what he was good at. This is how I will remember this man, and sadly without whom the chess world has become poorer...

### Special Quiz Today dedicated to the tactical prowess of GM Tony Miles.....

#### 1. A. Miles (2565) – W. Browne (2590)

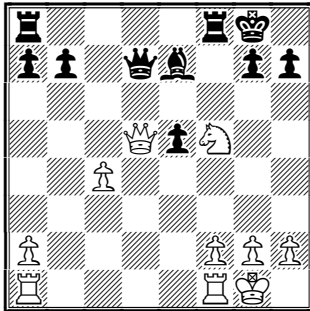
Luzern ol (Men) Luzern (11), 1982

The last move was 17. ...♖ad8?.



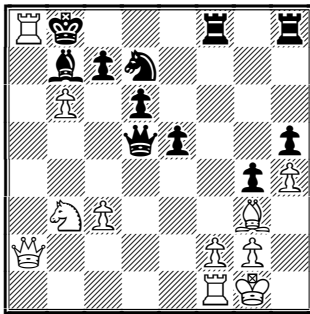
White to play

**2. A. Miles (2560) – J. Timman (2640)**  
OHRA Amsterdam (1), 1985



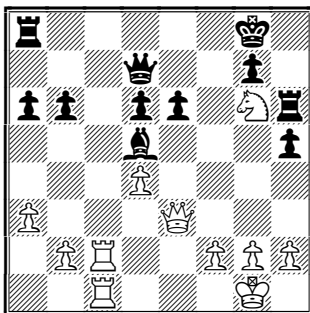
White to play

**3. A. Miles (2565) – E. Dizdarevic (2490)**  
Sarajevo Sarajevo, 1987  
Black has just played 26. ... ♖c4xd5.



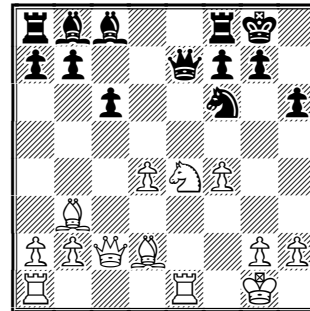
White to play

**4. A. Miles (2565) – A. Anastasian, A (2490)**  
EU–chT (Men) Debrecen (9), 1992  
The last move was 27. ... ♖h8–h6.



White to play

**5. A. Miles (2565) – A. Summerscale (2345)**  
Dublin (zt) Dublin, 1993  
Black just played 17. ... ♖d7–f6.



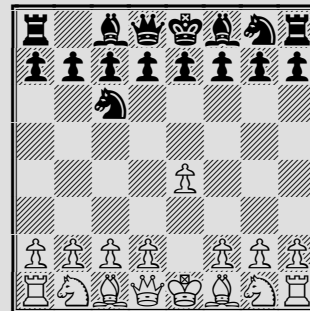
White to play

♖♗♘

### Annotated Game

**J. Howell (2525) – A. Miles (2600)**  
Isle of Man op Isle of Man (2), 1995 B00  
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 ♖c6 (D)



Tony Miles' speciality (Nimzovich's Defense). This tricky and, objectively speaking, suspicious opening looked quite playable in his hands.

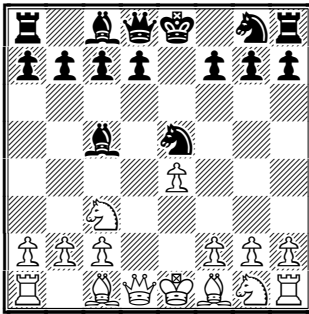
**2.d4 e5 3.dxe5**

3.d5 is an alternative. Possible play is 3... ♖ce7 4. ♖f3 (4. ♖e3 f5!? 5.f3 ♖f6 6. ♖c3 d6 7. ♖d2 g6 8.0-0-0 ♖g7 9.h3 f4! 10. ♖f2 0-0 11. ♖b1 a6 12. ♖ge2 ♖d7 13. ♖c1 b5 14.a3 ♖b8↑ Campora – Miles, Sevilla 1993) 4... ♖g6 5.h4 h5 6. ♖g5 ♖f6 7. ♖c3 ♖e7 8. ♖xf6!? ♖xf6 9.d6 c6 10.g3 ♖f8! 11. ♖d2 ♖e6 12. ♖h3 b6 13.0-0-0 a5♞ and Black is not without a counterplay, Hall – Miles, Reykjavik 1998

**3... ♖xe5 4. ♖c3**

There are some other possibilities: 4. ♖f3 ♖b4+!? **A)** 5. ♖bd2 ♖xf3+ 6. ♖xf3 ♖e7 7.a3 ♖a5 8.b4 ♖b6 9. ♖b2 0-0 10. ♖c4 ♖c6 11. ♖b3

(11.♖g3 ♘d4) 11...♗h4! 12.g3?! (12.0-0 d6 13.♖g3=) 12...♗h6! 13.♖d1 d6̄ G.Garcia – Miles, Matanzas 1995; **B**) 5.♘d2 ♘xd2+ 6.♗bxd2 ♗f6= Hecht – Miles, Germany BL 1983; **C**) 5.c3 5...♘d6!? 6.♗bd2 ♗xf3+ 7.♗xf3 ♗e7 8.e5 ♘c5 9.b4?! (9.♘f4!?) 9...♘b6 10.♘f4 0-0 11.♘c4 ♗g6 12.♘g3 d6! 13.exd6 ♖e8+ 14.♘e2 ♗f6 15.0-0 cxd6↗ Kudrin – Miles, ch-USA 1989; 4.f4 ♗c6 5.♘c4 ♘b4+ 6.♘d2 ♗h4+ 7.g3 ♗e7 8.♗e2 ♘xd2+ 9.♗xd2 d6 10.0-0-0 ♗f6 11.♗gf3 0-0 12.h3 d5 13.exd5 ♗xe2 14.♘xe2 ♗xd5= and Black has almost equalised, Milov – Miles, Isle of Man 1995. 4...♘c5 (D)

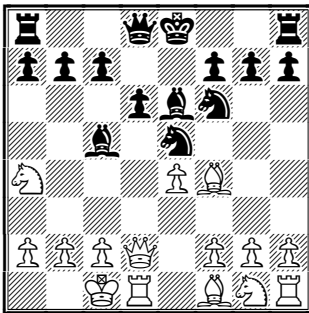


#### 5.♘f4

5.f4 can be met by 5...♗c6 6.♘c4!? d6 7.♗f3 ♘e6!? 8.♘xe6 fxe6 9.♗a4 ♘b6 10.♗xb6 axb6 11.0-0 ♗f6 12.♗g5 ♗e7 with acceptable play, Akopian – Miles, Moscow GMA 1990.

#### 5...d6 6.♗d2 ♗f6 7.0-0-0 ♘e6

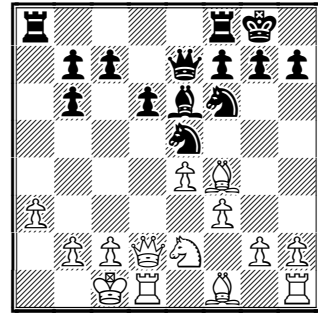
Black has no problems with development. 8.♗a4 (D)



#### 8...♘b6

Miles' tricky style didn't reject solid positional decisions. For example, here 8...♗xe4!? could have led to interesting complications but the simple bishop's retreat was preferred.

#### 9.f3 0-0 10.a3 ♗e7 11.♗xb6 axb6 12.♗e2 (D)



White's king lacks defenders so the knight is going to become one. However, the next step will be never made.

#### 12...♗g6 13.♗b1?!

Any knight's move to c3 or d4 looked preferable.

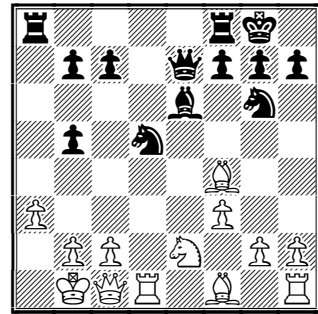
#### 13...d5! 14.exd5

14.e5!? ♗d7 15.♘g5 was worthy of consideration.

#### 14...♗xd5 15.♗c1?

Another dubious decision. 15.♘g5!? f6 16.♗d4! seemed to be the best.

#### 15...b5! (D)

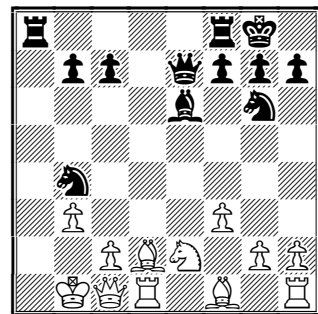


White already faces problems as the attack is fairly strong.

#### 16.♘d2 b4! 17.axb4

Perhaps 17.♗d4!? bxa3 18.bxa3 ♖xa3 19.♗xe6 ♖fa8 20.♗b2 fxe6 21.♘c4 was more stubborn.

#### 17...♗xb4 18.b3 (D)



**32. ♖g3#** checkmate! **1-0.**

**18... ♗xc2!**

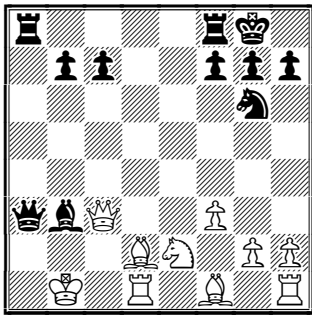
This crushing blow comes just in time! White is losing due to the unfortunate position of his pieces.

**19. ♖xc2**

19. ♖xc2 wasn't better: 19... ♖a2+! 20. ♖b1 (20. ♖d3 ♗f5+) 20... ♖fa8 and so on.

**19... ♖a3 20. ♖c3**

20. ♖b2 didn't help due to 20... ♗f5+ 21. ♖c1 ♖a1+! 22. ♖xa1 ♖xa1+ 23. ♖b2 ♖xd1+ 20... ♗xb3 (D)



White resigned. A glorious day for the

1. ... ♗c6!? opening. 20... ♗xb3 21. ♖e1 ♖a2+ 22. ♖c1 ♖fd8+ **0-1.**

#### Recommended websites:

[www.fide.com](http://www.fide.com)

[www.kasparovchess.com](http://www.kasparovchess.com)

<http://www.euroleon2001.com>

#### Solutions to Quiz Today:

**1. A. Miles (2565) – W. Browne (2590)**

**18. ♗xh7+!** ♖xh7 **19. ♖h5+ ♖g8 20. ♗xg7!** A typical combination completely destroying Black king's shield. **20... ♖xg7 21. ♖g5+ ♖h8 22. ♖f6+ ♖g8 23. ♖c4** The checkmate is unavoidable. Black resigned. **1-0.**

**2. A. Miles (2560) – J. Timman (2640)**

This simple queens exchange forced Black's resignation – suddenly he loses a piece!

**18. ♖d5+ ♖xd5 19. ♗xe7+!** **1-0.**

**3. A. Miles (2565) – E. Dizdarevic (2490)**

**27. ♖a8+! ♗xa8 28. ♖a7+ ♖c8 29. ♖xc7#** **1-0.**

**4. A. Miles (2565) – A. Anastasian, A (2490)**

**28. ♖c8+! ♖xc8 29. ♖xc8+ ♖f7 (29... ♖xc8 30. ♗e7+) 30. ♖f8+! ♖xg6 31. ♖d3+! ♖g5**

**5. A. Miles (2565) – A. Summerscale (2345)**

**18. ♗b4! ♖xb4 18... ♖d8 19. ♗xf6+ ♖xf6**

**20. ♗xf8 ♖xf8 21. ♖h7 19. ♗xf6+ gxf6**

**20. ♖g6+ ♖h8 21. ♖xh6+ ♖g8 22. ♖g6+ ♖h8**

**23. ♖xf6+ ♖g8 24. ♖e3 ♖e3-g3** comes next.

Black resigned. **1-0.**

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

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

#### Chess Today is published by:

Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

Tel: (353-1) 278-2276

Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.

E-mail: [ct@gmsquare.com](mailto:ct@gmsquare.com)

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

#### Editors:

GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

#### Technical editors:

Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

**Chess Today is copyright 2001 by Alexander Baburin** © and protected intellectual property under the International Copyright convention. Any unauthorised reproduction, via print, electronic format, or in any form whatsoever is strictly prohibited without express written permission.