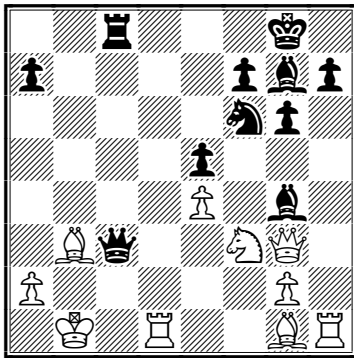


King Loek scores 8½/9 to win Lost Boys tournament again

*Four tournaments, one old chess piece and one new game to mention today. But first, from the notes in today's annotated game, this is a possible position from **Gallagher-Ward** if White had played 24.Rd1? instead of the game move.*

Quiz Today:



Black to play and win

Lost Boys Tournament

For the second time in a row, Loek van Wely has won this event – this year he scored an incredible 8½/9. Our congratulations to the Dutch Grandmaster on this great success, and I hope that my colleagues will return to his excellent performance and Lost Boys tournament in forthcoming CT issues!

Liepajas Rokade

In the Latvian chess festival several famous chess-players participated. *7th Round results:* Miezis – Azmaiparashvili 1:0, Ehlevest – Nikolajev 1/2, Sveshnikov – Khalifman 1:0, Kengis – Kveinys 1/2. *Rapid chess supertournament final standings:* **1.** Sveshnikov 4½ **2.** Khalifman 4½ **3.-5.** Azmaiparashvili 4 Ehlevest 4 Kengis 4

6. Miezis 3 **7.** Kveinys 2½ **8.** Nikolajev 1½ (the places as given at official site).

Smith & Williamson British Championship

The tournament standing after six rounds of the British Championship 2002 was commented at the [BCM Online](#) website in the following way:

"No less than ten players share the lead on 4½/6: five English players – Speelman, Wells, Turner, McShane and Nick Pert; one Anglo-Swiss – reigning champion Joe Gallagher (who is of course about as Swiss as Swiss Cottage underground station); one Scot – Jonathan Rowson; and three Indians – Barua, 16-year-old Harikrishna and 15-year-old girl Humpy Koneru, who maintains her challenge for the 'triple crown' (full championship, women's championship and under 21 championship)".

The fighting chess that is taking place in this tournament will be illustrated by today's annotated game.

Montreal International

Jean-Marc Degraeve leads with 7½ points after 9 rounds. His nearest rival, Vasilios Kotronias, has only 6 points, but it would nevertheless be premature to say that the French GM has the tournament sewn up because he still has to face Kotronias in one of the two remaining rounds.

The oldest European chess piece is discovered

This message first appeared at the end of July in the [BBC News](#), and now the [ChessBase](#) site shows us a photograph of the Albania chess piece, found by British archaeologists, which appears to be more than 500 years older than any piece previously discovered in Europe.

Dragon Debate

□ J Gallagher (2517)

■ C Ward (2498)

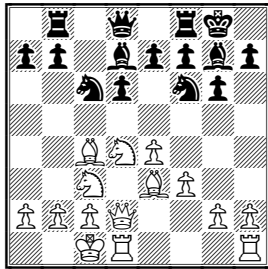
BCF-ch Torquay (5.9), 02.08.2002 B78
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4
♘f6 5.♘c3

This move almost forces Black to transpose into a 'normal' Dragon (2...d6/5...g6). A rare try is 5.f3 ; , and 5.e5? is impossible because of 5...♔a5+ 5...d6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♘c6 8.♖d2 0-0 9.♗c4 ♗d7 10.0-0-0!

This line (together with the 9.0-0-0 variation) creates a lot of headaches nowadays for the Sicilian Dragon players.

10...♞b8!?



A rarely seen idea from the past, which has become more popular this year. I know that in the "New in Chess Yearbook" (Issue 62) a long article about 10...♞b8 was published, but I have every chance of keeping a fresh view on the Gallagher-Ward game since my copy of Yearbook 62, as far as I can tell, has been intensively studied by one of the Ukraine's postmen!... The basic plan behind ...♞b8 is to play ...♘e5 (or ...♘a5), b5 and ♘c4 - if White allows this, the rook can certainly be more useful on b8 than on the usual square c8. In the latest edition of his enthusiastic book ("Winning with the Dragon 2"), Chris Ward recommended the old line for Black 10...♔a5 11.♖b1 ♞fc8 12.♗b3 ♘e5 13.h4 ♘c4 14.♗xc4 ♞xc4 15.♘b3 ♖c7 , where he provides some interesting analysis. However, it was quite uncertain what he recommends doing after the one of the most natural moves for White, 16.g4!? ; 10...♘e5 11.♗b3 ♞b8 transposes to the game;

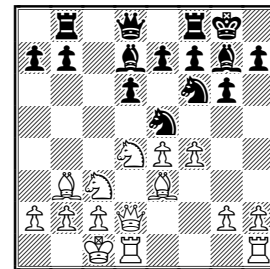
instead of 11.♗b3 White has a curious alternative 11.♗e2!?, as Svidler played against me in the Semifinal of the German Teams Cup 2001/2.

11.♗b3

The natural prophylactic move, in view of all of the possible Black ideas, related with ...b5.

11...♘e5

An alternative is 11...♘a5. Then I was quite happy with 12.g4 b5! (Cacorin-Golubev, Odessa 1986), but after 12.♗h6!? Black faces more problems.



12.f4

A new move that can hardly cast doubt on Black's setup. Usually at such an early stage, the move f4 can't be good for White in the Yugoslav Attack, because he should have really strong reasons to destroy his own fundamental pawn formation (f3-e4). One of the alternatives, 12.♗h6!? has already occurred once in Gallagher's practice (Gallagher-Lahav, Tel-Aviv 1988). In comparison with the usual variations (10...♞c8), here Black can't reply with the typical 12...♗xh6 and 13...♞xc3!, but it is not clear how successfully 12.♗h6 works against Black's main idea with ...b5..

12...♘eg4 13.♗g1 b5!

Ward makes use of the rook on b8. A typical move would be 13...e5 , and 14.fxe5? is bad because of 14...Bh6. However, as well as knight retreats, the following deserves White's attention 14.h3!? exd4 15.♗xd4 ♘h6 16.g4

14.h3 b4!

Let me to finish the coverage of the opening phase of the game here: Black has strong counterplay, and I would be surprised if Gallagher's play will find too many disciples.

15.hxg4 bxc3 16.♖xc3 ♞c8 17.♖g3

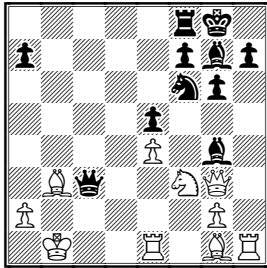
Qxg4 18. R e1 Q a5 19. c3

After 19.e5 h5!, White can't play 20.Qxg4?? because his e1 rook is attacked.

19...e5 20.fxe5 dxe5 21. h f3

White allows a dangerous rook sacrifice but I can imagine how much he wanted to create at least some illusory threat, like Qxe5.

21... Rxc3+ 22. bxc3 Qxc3+ 23. Qb1

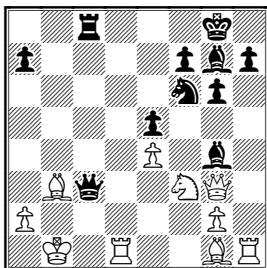


23... R c8

Black is playing for a win (and creates a very nice trap!). I suppose that both players saw that Black had the possibility to force a draw by 23... Qxf3 24.gxf3 Qd3+ 25.Qb2 (25. Qc2? Bb8+ 26. Qc1 Qa3+ 27. Qd1 Bd8+ 28. Qe2 Qa6+) 25... Qd2+=

24. Qxa7

In such a situation, when an opponent gives up a rook for an attack, probably only two kind of players can calmly take a pawn that looks almost irrelevant. A beginner, unaware of the danger to his exposed king on the chess board, or a "Deadly Tactician" Grandmaster like the 2001 British Champion Joe Gallagher, whose moves in acute positions can be based on very comprehensive calculations. The tempting idea for White was 24. R d1?



(preventing ...Qd3+ and preparing moves like Qe1). There, however, Black wins beautifully: 24... hxe4! 25.Qxg4 (Simpler is 25. Qe1 h d2+!, followed by 26... Qf5+, and Black

wins) 25... h d2+!! (the point) 26. hxd2 (26. Bxd2 Qc1#) 26... Qd3+! 27. Qb2 e4+ 28. Qa3 Qd6+ 29. Qa4 Qa6+ 30. Qb4 Qc3# - checkmate and, perhaps, a diagram for "Winning with the Dragon 3". After 24.Bxa7, Black hardly has anything better than perpetual check, and the game ended peacefully after

24... Qd3+ 25. Qb2 Qc3+ 26. Qb1 Qd3+ 27. Qb2 Qc3+ 1/2-1/2

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

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