

Curacao to celebrate 40th anniversary of the 1962 World Championship Candidates tournament!

We recently received a letter from, Mr. Ger Jan Meijer. He writes:

"Dear editors of Chess Today:

We are happy to announce the Curacao 1962- 2002 chess tournament (Curacao is an island in the Caribbean and is part of the Netherlands Antilles). This is an open tournament that will be held from November 16 to November 28, 2002. The tournament is dedicated to the fact that it is 40 years ago that the World championship Candidates Tournament took place here. Victor Korchnoi and Yuri Averbakh [have] already confirmed that they will return after 40 years to celebrate this anniversary and we are also trying to get GM Pal Benko on board.

"The tournament will have 9 rounds and a maximum of 120 players including about 15 titled players. We already have confirmations from Jan Timman (NL), Bartek Macieja (Pol), Sofia Polgar (Israel/Hungary), Yona Kosashvili (Israel), Anjelina Belakovskaia (USA), Alonso Zapata (Colombia), Johann Alvarez (Venezuela) and Carlos Gallegos (Venezuela). We will announce the other names of titled players on short term.

"Our concept is that the tournament should also be very interesting for non professional club players who would like having the experience of a very international tournament with the opportunity to play against opponents from all directions (Europe, USA, Caribbean

and South America). In 2001 we already had participants of 17 countries and we are expecting more flags this year.

"More information (including a 1962 and a 2001 picture gallery and general information about Curacao) you can find on our website

www.curacao.com/chess. There is also a download of the electronic tournament book of the 2001 edition available. Jan Timman was the winner of this tournament.

Yours sincerely,

Ger Jan Meijer

Curacao 1962 - 2002 Chess Federation".

I would like to remind you that the winner of the 1962 Curacao Candidates Tournament was **Tigran**

Petrosian who challenged the then reigning World Champion, Mikhail Botvinnik, and defeated him in the World Championship Match, thus becoming the ninth World Chess Champion. The 13th of August, is the sad 18th anniversary of Petrosian's death in 1984. For this reason

I have decided to dedicate today's CT issue as a tribute to this great chessplayer.

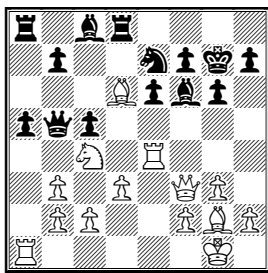
(photo taken from the curacao.com/chess gallery page. Petrosian is seated analyzing with Michail Tal to his left. I don't know the on-lookers --- RPM.)



Quiz Today - Petrosian's gems

1. T. Petrosian - L. Pachman

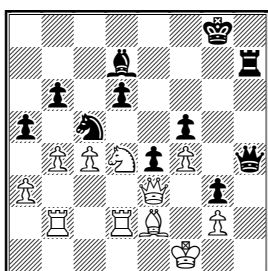
Bled Bled (6), 10.09.1961



White to play

2. P. Keres – T. Petrosian

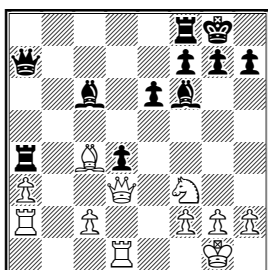
Candidates Tournament
Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade (4), 11.09.1959



Black to play

3. M. Tal – T. Petrosian

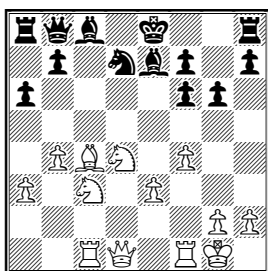
Candidates Tournament Curacao (8),
13.05.1962



Black to play

4. T. Petrosian – V. Korchnoi

Candidates Tournament Curacao (23),
16.06.1962



White to play

Links in a Chain

□ T. Petrosian

■ V. Jansa

Bar International Tournament
Yugoslavia, 1980 A48

Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

You may enjoy Petrosian's tactical skill in today's Quiz Today section while the annotated game features his famous positional style. This game is rather unknown. It isn't included in ChessBase Mega.

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♗f3 g6 3.♕g5

Petrosian liked this bishop's development and wrote a very instructive article about it. After 2...e6 he often opted for 3. Bg5 too.

3...♕g7 4.c3

The idea is to restrict his opponent's bishop on g7.

4...0-0 5.♗bd2 d6 6.e4 ♗bd7

The Czech GM is going to play e7-e5. There's nothing bad with this continuation but it doesn't help to solve the dark squared bishop's problems. [In my opinion the best plan for Black is 6...c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.♕c4 ♗c6 9.0-0 ♖c7 10.♖e2 (or 10.♗e1 ; or 10.♖c2 – Black's reaction is the same) 10...h6 11.♗h4 ♗h5

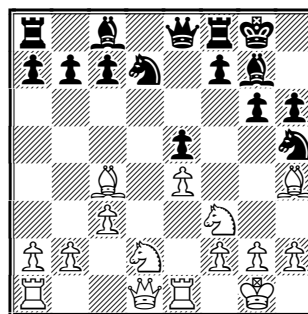
7.♕c4 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.0-0 h6

9...c6 10.a4 ♖c7 with the idea of Nñ5-e6 can also be recommended as Akopian once played.

10.♗h4 ♖e8

Setting the knight free. 10...g5 11.♗g3 ♗h5 12.♗e1 ♗xg3 13.hxg3 is in White's favour as the light squares in Black's camp are weakened.

11.♗e1 ♗h5 (D)



12.a4! ♕f6?!

Black underestimates White's a-pawn advance. 12...a5 was certainly

better. Jansa's fellow countryman GM Jan Smejkal (a player of exquisite positional understanding) played a7-a5 even before a2-a4 had been made.

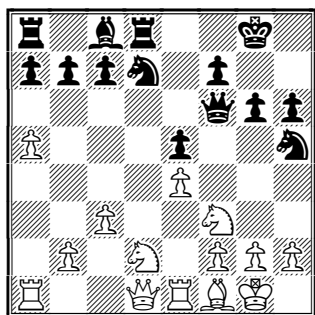
13.a5! ♖e7

After 13...♗xh4 14.♘xh4 ♘f4 15.g3 ♚e6 16.♖b3 ♙dc5 17.♗a2! White has an edge.

14.♗xf6 ♗xf6 15.♗f1!

Nimzowitch's "My System" was Petrosian's favourite book. This prophylactic move is influenced by Nimzowitch's ideas. It's obvious that Black is going to play Nf4 so White prepares to meet it with g2-g3. Besides the c4 square may be useful for the knight.

15...♗d8 (D)



16.♗e2!

Such moves are hard to find. Maybe harder than crushing combinations. It looks as if the queen asks the enemy knight to go where it wants to, "winning a tempo". In fact, this attack is completely inoffensive while the queen takes the e3 square from where it looks at both flanks at the same time.

16...♘f4 17.♗e3

18.g3 is threatened..

17...g5 18.♗ed1

Now 19.Nc4 is unpleasant and Black gets problems with protecting the e5 pawn. Jansa cedes the d-file. Another little victory for White.

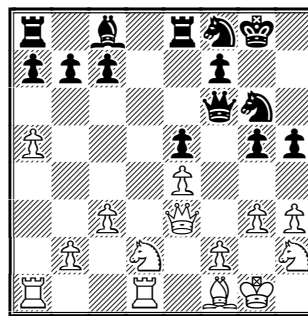
18...♗e8

18...♘f8 19.♗c5! lost a pawn.

19.g3 ♘g6 20.h3!

Max Euwe once said that Petrosian handled his pawns with the highest mastery.

20...♘df8 21.♘h2 h5 (D)



Black covers the g4 square but it will not last for long.

22.♗e2! h4

22...♗xh3 23.♗xh5 doesn't make much difference.

23.♗g4 ♗g7 24.♘df1!

Next stop is e3.

24...♘h7

If 24...♚e6 then 25.♗f5 followed by Ng4.

25.♗d3

It appears that White's previous move implied the rook doubling along the open file. It's hard for Black to fight for it as the rook a8 has to watch over the a7 pawn.

25...♗e6 26.♗xe6 ♗xe6 27.♘g4 ♘f6

It's not easy to recommend something better.

28.♗xg5 ♘xe4 29.♗h6+ ♗g8

30.♗ad1

White has total control over the central line.

30...♘f6 31.♘fe3 ♘xg4

31...e4 32.♗d5! ♘xd5? 33.♘xd5 with a dreadful check on f6.

32.♘xg4 hxg3 33.♗xg3

Remember 25.Rd3!

33...♗ad8 34.♗e1!

Now White may give up the d-file since the attack on the kingside tips the balance.

34...♗f5 35.h4 ♗e6?!

35...♗f4 36.h5 ♗xh6 37.♘xh6+ ♗g7 38.hxg6 ♗xh6 39.gxf7 ♗e6 40.♗g2! ♗g6 41.♗xe5 didn't save. Now Black loses a piece.

36.h5 ♗f4 37.hxg6

Black resigned. The game without visual effects, but all of White's moves were the links in one chain. **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. T. Petrosian – L. Pachman

Bled Bled (6), 10.09.1961

19. ♖xf6+!! ♜xf6 **20.** ♗e5+ ♜g5
21. ♗g7! and mate is inevitable **1-0.**

2. P. Keres – T. Petrosian

Candidates Tournament

Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade (4), 11.09.1959

51... ♖xf4+! **0-1.**

3. M. Tal – T. Petrosian

Candidates Tournament Curacao (8),

13.05.1962

20... ♖xc4! [20... ♖xc4 21. ♖xc4 ♗d5-
+] **0-1.**

4. T. Petrosian – V. Korchnoi

Candidates Tournament Curacao (23),

16.06.1962

15. ♗xf7+! ♜xf7 **16.** ♖b3+ ♜e8
[16... ♜g7 17. ♗e6+ ♖h6 18. ♖f3+-]
17. ♗d5 ♗d6 **18.** ♗e6 b5 **19.** ♗dc7+
♜e7 [19... ♗xc7 20. ♗xc7+ ♗d8 21. ♖e6
♖xc7 22. ♖fd1!! (22. ♖xc7 ♜xc7
23. ♖c1+ ♗d8!)] **20.** ♗d4! ♜f8
[20... ♗xc7 21. ♗c6+-; 20... ♖xc7
21. ♖xc7 ♗xc7 22. ♖e6+ ♜f8 (22... ♗d8
23. ♗c6#) 23. ♖c6 ♖a7 24. ♗e6+-]
21. ♗xa8 [21. ♗xa8 ♖xa8 22. ♖e6 ♖b8
23. ♗c6 ♖c7 24. ♗e7!] **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. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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