

Report to New in Chess, Bad Wiese, Germany, 2004:

In the spheres of fresh air and beautiful mountains

By Simen Agdestein

It's good being a chess player in Germany these days. They have the strongest league, almost the strongest national team (second in the Olympiad) and now they're setting for the biggest open too. I'm, at least, taking every opportunity to cross the ocean to play chess in enthusiastic German atmospheres. And I'm not alone.

The 4th Open International Bavarian Championship in Bad Wiessee from October 28 till November 5 counted 495 participants of which about 100 were foreigners from altogether 27 different countries. This is not bad considering it collided with the chess Olympiad in Istanbul. There was an open international in Krkonose in the Czech Republic at the same time as well.

We, that means me and my group of 13 students from the chess department at the Norwegian College for Top Athletes in Oslo, pondered a while before spending our scarce resources on Bad Wiessee. There were still a few doubts after the long travel the ordinary budget way – boat to Kiel, train to München and bus 60 kilometres to the place and then finally a bit of walk in the dark to find the guesthouse. The sight that met us the next morning, however, melted all our regrets like raindrops in the beautiful autumn sun that were long gone from Norway but still shining in South Germany. We even wore T-shirts the first days.

Bad Wiessee, situated beautifully at the lake Tegernsee, surrounded with mountains high, turned out to be a luxury tourist resort, perfect for trekking and meditating. Houses were huge and standard of living high. The girls were not bad either. Actually they were coming from far to attend the nudist saunas at the fabulous swimming park just hundred metres away from the playing hall. Wow, you should have been there Friday night... (Organisers: I want percentages if the number of participants next year exceed 1000!) No wonder Arthur Jusupov chose Bad Wiessee as his permanent location for many years.

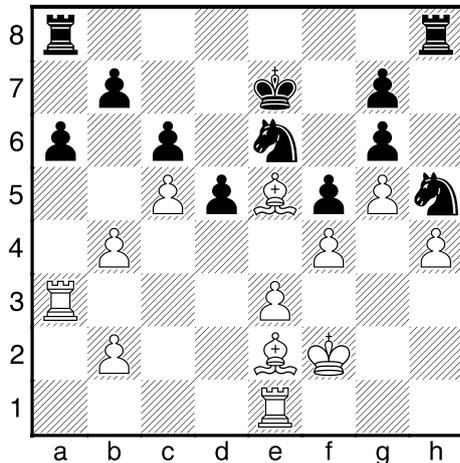
In the beginning Jusupov was involved in the establishing of this tournament. Now father and son Horst and Thomas Leckner are in perfect charge with Bank Hoffmann AG as main sponsor. The playing hall was excellent and ceremonies, I presume, were according to Bavarian Alps traditions.

Actually, it was all very nice. Even the opponents were not too cruel. There were 26 GMs, but I didn't play any of them. Actually I think there were very few GM-encounters. With all players in one big Monrad group, you have to be a bit relaxed. I made 7 points out 9, half a point less than the quartet at 7,5, but ended only 23rd, three places below price level. To win the 6000 DM first price, you naturally had to be a little lucky.

In the end, the top seed Alexander Nenashev (2642) could return with the greatest trophy, with Gerhard Hertneck and Konstantin Lerner receiving slightly smaller ones (but still very big). IM Roland Ekström was the fourth to make 7,5 points. Of the 20 that made 7 points, 15 were GMs. So it was in no way totally random. You just have to be very alert in a few crucial games in the end and not stumble in the beginning.

Both Nenashev and I drew a game early and sat a few rounds next to each other in “the crowd” some way from the top boards. I was impressed by the slow positional style of Nenashev. I tend to believe I have to go half crazy to avoid drawish positions against lower rated players, but Nenashev kept the same calm against everybody.

Alexander Nenashev (2642) - Niels Christensen (2303)



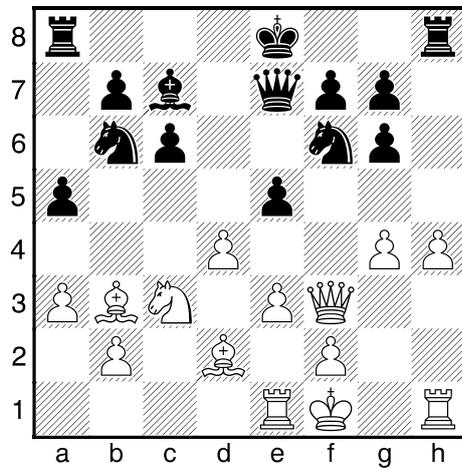
On the neighbouring board I had a winning position in less than 20 moves in a nice unbalanced Dutch opening. That gave me plenty of time to wonder how white should force a breakthrough in this position. After for instance 35...Rhd8 36.Rea1 Rac8 I could see no way for white to make progress. Any sacrifice on the queenside didn't seem to work and the break e3-e4 is very risky. A bishop on d6 can perhaps be taken. Black should have no worries. Instead happened: **35...Kd7? 36.Rea1 Rae8? 37.Bxa6!** It's very obvious, but Black seems to be caught totally unaware. **37...bxa6 38.Rxa6** The battery with the giant bishop and the two rooks penetrating is lethal. **38...Nd8 39.Ra7+ Ke6 40.b5!** White has suddenly everything. **Nf7 41.Bd4 Nxf4** This shortens the pain. **42.exf4 Rxh4 43.Re1+ 1-0**

I've read in Jonathan Tisdall's *Improve your Chess now* that it's good to have an inner speech going during a game. After having become a chess teacher, explaining games and positions every day, I feel I'm lecturing to myself all the time. This may be very dangerous. It may be so “instructive” that you simply forget that this is practical game. In the following game I remember thinking “if I ever will write a book on the middle game, this game should certainly be included in the chapter on prophylactics”.

Simen Agdestein (2590) – Roland Ekström (2487) [D25]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Nc3 e6 7.g4 Bg6 8.Ne5 All I know about this line is that Black's white square bishop shall be taken. **8...Nbd7 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.Bxc4 c6 11.Bb3** The prophylactic sequence begins. From b3 the bishop is less exposed. **Bb4 12.Qf3** This is to prevent Ne4 and is also directed against possible black pawn pushes in the centre. **12...a5 13.Kf1!** Now I was so pleased with myself, that already the red danger lights should be flashing. Black's last move was meant as an attacking move in case I intended to castle long, but is in fact only weakening. After my little sidestep, the move is pointless. My king is actually quite comfortable on f1. A more interesting question is where Black shall put his monarch. The kingside looks like stormy weather, and, after his last move, the queenside

is not tempting either. **13...Qe7 14.a3 Bd6 15.Bd2** Pointing at the newly created weakness at a5. **15...e5 16.h4** Preventing g5. **16...Nb6 17.Re1 Bc7**



18.Re2! And this is to protect the bishop on d2. I really felt like a genius here. Black barely has a sensible move. **18...0-0 19.h5** obviously is dangerous; **18...e4 19.Qg2** followed by **20.g5** wins the e-pawn; **18...a4** gives White the b4 square for the bishop; and **18...Rd8** solves nothing. Black is almost in *zugzwang*. What I would do next if Black did “nothing”, I’m not sure of, but I actually couldn’t see a “nothing move” for him. He chose **18...0-0-0** but after **19.g5** I’m winning a pawn. **Nfd5 19...Sh5 20.Bxf7** loses a pawn too. Not **20.Qxf7? Ng3+!** **21.fxg3? Rhf8**, however. **20.dxe5!** Black can’t take back without losing either the a-pawn or the f-pawn. **20...a4 21.Nxa4** Other moves are also good. **21...Nxa4 22.Bxa4 Qxe5 23.Be1** A pawn up and the pair of bishops should secure the win, but, as you may have understood, I thought I was God by now – and quickly blew it all. **23...Kb8 24.Bb3 f6 25.Bxd5? Rxd5 26.gxf6 gxf6 27.e4 Rd1 28.Kg2 Qe6 29.Rh3 Re8 30.Lc3 f5 31.Re3 Qd7 32.exf5 32.e5** is safer. **32...Rxe3 33.Qxe3 Qxf5** Suddenly my king is very exposed. **34.Qe8+ Ka7 35.Qe3+ b6 36.Qf3 Qb1** Now I’m dead. **37.Rg3 Kb7! 38.Rg4 Rg1+ 39.Kh3 Rh1+ 0-1** It’s mate next move.