

Timman, J (2605) - Morozevich, A (2742)

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 a6 5 Qc2 e6 6 Bd2 c5!? A quick look in my Christmas present from the boys down at the ChessBase factory in Hamburg, the latest super-doper ChessBase MegaBase 2002 (with over 2 million games - plug, plug!), I find what you would expect on this move from Morozevich: zippity-do-dah. As early as move six from two of the most creative players in the tournament, and already we're in uncharted territory. **7 dxc5 Bxc5 8 cxd5 exd5 9 Nb5!** Now all the fun begins - the game soon takes the imagination of the spectators huddled into the Commentary Room as it begins to look as these two are simply making it up at the board. **9 ..Nbd7** [9 ..Ne4 was also worth a punt. But then again that might have been too sensible.] **10 b4 Bb6**

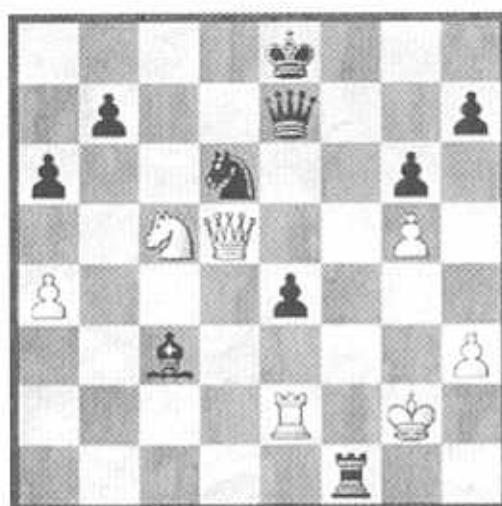


Danger? What danger? **11 Nd6+ Ke7 12 Nf5+ Kf8 13 Bc3 g6 14 Nd4 Ne4** Only Morozevich could have conceivably have come up with such a move. In the press room, we'd long given up trying to predict the moves - the spectators in the Commentary Room, however, were enjoying every minute of it! **15 Ne6+ fxe6 16 Bxh8 Qe7 17 Qb2** [Perhaps better is 17 Qb3 as it at least stops immediate ideas of ..e5.; On the other hand, 17 Bc3 Ndf6! and suddenly the black pieces are dangerously swarming around.] **17 ..e5 18 Nf3 Bc7 19 Qb3!** [A very strong move, according to Morozevich] **19 ..Nb6 20 Bd3 Bf5** Black's over the worst of it now - he has some active play and the centre as compensation. **21 Rc1 Bd6 22 h3 Kg8!** [Much better than 22 ..Bxb4+?! 23 Ke2! (23 Kf1? a5 24 Bxe5 Nc5

25 Rxc5! Bxd3+ 26 Qxd3 Qxc5 and black can't be worse here.) 23 ..a5 24 Bxe5 Nc5 25 Rxc5! Bxd3+ 26 Qxd3 Bxc5 (26 ..Qxc5? 27 a3! Bxa3 28 Bd4! wins a piece.) 27 Rc1 with a nice advantage due to the weak black pawns.] **23 g4?** [White's in a difficult position, and the post mortem suggestion of 23 Bxe5 Bxe5 24 g4! - due to the pin on the king, white's going to get the piece back with a ..Bxe4. However... - 24 ..Bg3! as suggested by Herr Fritzy, is strong for black 25 fxg3 (25 gxf5 Bxf2+ 26 Kf1 Bxe3 wins) 25 ..Nxg3 26 Bxf5 Nxh1] **23 ..Nxf2?**



[Looks flashy, but... 23 ..Ng5! looks winning! I think Morozevich even managed to confuse himself. 24 Nxg5 (24 gxf5 Nxf3+ 25 Ke2 Kxh8 26 Kxf3 e4+) 24 ..Bxd3 25 Qxd3 Qxg5 and black's turned the tables in dramatic style.] **24 Kxf2 Bxd3 25 Qxd3 Rf8** [25 ..e4?! 26 Qd4! Rf8 27 g5! Rxf3+ 28 Ke2 Nd7 29 Rc8+ Nf8 30 a3 Bg3 31 Rf1 Qf7 32 Bf6 - the reason for 27 g5! - 32 ..Rxf1 33 Kxf1 Qe6 34 Bh8 Qxh3+ 35 Ke2 Qg2+ 36 Kd1 Qf1+ 37 Kc2 and, much like the Brain Games Network, black's starting to run out of checks.] **26 e4 Kxh8 27 Rhe1 Bxb4** The dust has settled and remarkably Morozevich has the better position. **28 Re2 d4 29 Kg2 Na4 30 Rf1 Nc5** [30 ..b5! 31 Ref2 Rf4 32 Qc2 Bc5 with ..Nc3 to follow should win for black.] **31 Qc4 Bc3 32 a4 Kg7 33 Ref2 Nxe4 34 Re2 Nd6** [34 ..Rf4 35 Qd5 is awkward.] **35 Qd5 e4 36 Nxd4 Rxf1 37 Ne6+!** a nice little intermezzo - black is going to have some trouble securely defending his king. **37 ..Kf6?!** [Better was 37 ..Kh8 38 Kxf1 h6 39 Rc2 Qf6+ 40 Kg1 Qe5 41 Qxe5+ Bxe5 42 Rc5 but white's better in this ending as the black king is stuck on h8.] **38 g5+ Kf7 39 Nc5+ Ke8**



40 Kxf1 [With just 30 seconds left on Morozevich's clock, perhaps Timman should have opted for 40 Nxe4 as the defence for black isn't that

easy to find. Morozevich admitted after the game he would have had trouble finding the correct path: 40 ..Rf5! 41 Nxd6+ Kf8 42 Rxe7 Rxd5 43 Re8+ Kg7 44 Re7+ Kf8 45 Re8+=] **40 ..Qf7+ 41 Qxf7+ Kxf7 42 Nxe4 Nxe4 43 Rxe4 b5!** Black's only chance now is to exchange as many pawns as possible - particularly the a4 pawn. **44 Ke2 bxa4 45 Rxa4 a5 46 Rc4 Bg7!** The position is just a draw. There was an almost identical position reached in Leko-Beliavsky from the Istanbul Olympiad 2000, which ended in a draw after 112 moves. **47 Rc7+ Kg8 48 Ra7 h6! 49 gxh6** [49 h4 hxg5 50 hxg5 Bc3 easily holds - Black defends a5 and at the same time can attack, when needed, g5.] **49 ..Bxh6 50 Rxa5 Bg7 51 Kf3 Bc3 52 Ra7 Bb2 53 Ke4 Bc3 54 Kd5 Bb2** as long as black keeps the bishop on the a1-h8 diagonal, white can't make any progress. **55 Ke6 Bc3 56 Rd7 Bb2 57 Rd2 Bc3 58 Rg2 Kg7 59 Rg4 Bb2 ½-½**