

JOHN R. WILLIAMS – BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT, SUMMER 2000



[1]

In the summer of 2000, I arranged to meet John at the “Budapesti Nyar Agro Hotel Sakkfesztival” or the Budapest (Summer) Chess Festival at the AGRO hotel. The AGRO hotel is (was) located in the foothills just outside the Budapest city center. This hotel housed the tournament hall, the dining area, and of course, our sleeping quarters.

I had come from another European tournament, so I had arrived the day before John. I believe John arrived on Tuesday, July 18, 2000, the day before the tournament was to start. I recall John looking a bit disheveled and quite tired. This was John’s first visit to Europe. The train system in Europe takes a little getting used to, especially if you don’t speak the language of the country you’re in. John shared with me his travel adventures just to get to Budapest. His plane either landed in Prague, Czech Republic, or Vienna, Austria. He then traveled by train to Budapest, Hungary.



John may have dozed off a bit on the train, and when he awoke, he panicked and thought he had missed his train stop. John quickly gathered his belongings and literally hopped off the train at the next available stop. However, this was nowhere close to the upcoming intermediate train stop that he needed to have taken in order to eventually arrive in Budapest. John ended up walking a very long distance along the train tracks until he finally came to the next train stop. I would imagine this was quite disheartening for John, and probably a bit frightening. Of course, he also encountered rain while he was outside the train. Anyway, he arrived safe and sound, albeit a bit worn out, but in good spirits. I do recall going to grab something to eat that day and he literally fell asleep at the table, he was so exhausted (and a bit jet/train lagged). I'm not sure if John shared this story with many people.

John and I shared a room at the AGRO hotel where the tournament was being played. This hotel was located in a mountainous region just outside the Budapest city center. See the pictures of us standing on the balcony of our room. In one direction, the view was towards the mountains, and looking the other way gave us a view of the city. These were great accommodations, very peaceful.



[2]



I recall sitting on a bench just in front of the AGRO hotel studying some variations that I may have intended to play during the tournament. John actually liked doing this with me. Maybe this escape to Europe allowed John to view chess in a slightly different fashion - maybe he became more somewhat scientific in his approach[3]?



This picture is one of my favorites from the trip. It shows John surrounded by his newly acquired Hungarian chess playing friends. John sits at the dining table, beer in hand, feeling right at home with his fellow chess players. It didn't matter where John was, his sense of humor and wit were appreciated by many. Notice the genuine smiles at the table. Speaks volumes about John.



John was a big hit amongst these chess players. This is a great picture. Look closely and you can see what John is doing. (zoomed in below).



John's character and sense of humor attracted many of the club players that were competing in the tournament. John would often play blitz chess with these players.



Above is a picture of the player that John played many blitz games against. (I wish I knew the name of this player.)

John's pleasant banter during these blitz games was also appreciated and enjoyed by these players. Though English was not the native language for the majority of these opponents, I'm sure they found John's side comments during these blitz games quite humorous. I would usually not play very many blitz games, but I did thoroughly enjoy watching John battle against these players. John's unique personality and style of play were appreciated worldwide!



This is the view from the balcony outside the dining hall at the AGRO hotel. Quite spectacular!



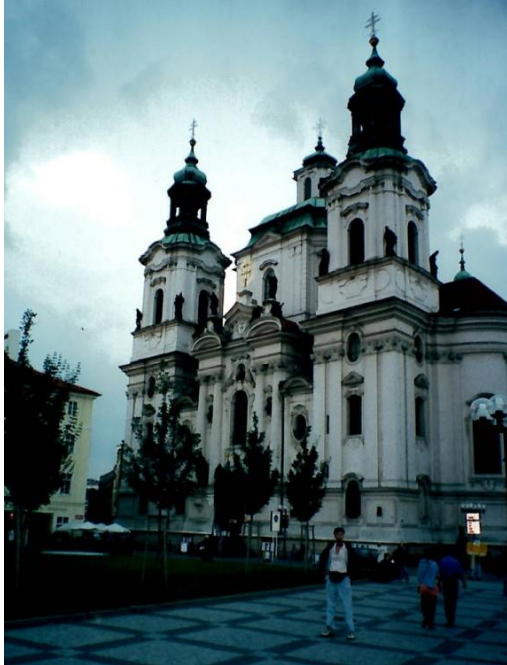
Budapest is famously known for its spa, the largest medicinal **bath** in Europe (**Széchenyi Medicinal Bath**). John and I visited this one on our day off. Note, I didn't have my camera with me, so these pictures are borrowed from various websites.

The **Széchenyi Baths** are one of the largest bathing complexes in all Europe, and the only "old" medicinal baths to be found in the Pest side of the city. The indoor medicinal baths date from 1913 and the outdoor pools from 1927. There is an atmosphere of grandeur about the whole place with the bright, largest pools resembling aspects associated with Roman baths, the smaller bathtubs reminding one of the bathing culture of the Greeks, and the saunas and diving pools borrowed from traditions emanating from northern Europe. The three outdoor pools (one of which is a fun pool) are open all year, including winter. Indoors there are over ten separate pools, and a whole host of medical treatments is also available. The Széchenyi Baths are built in modern Renaissance style. (Wikipedia 2022)



Here is a great picture of John (and me?!) enjoying a beer. These pictures were taken with a cheap “instamatic” camera. Of course, there were no iPhones back then, so there are no “selfie” pics with the both of us! Only my beer is in the foreground. We are probably in a Budapest local pub/bar. These outside street patio areas are quite common in Europe. It’s a very nice environment to enjoy a drink with a friend. Hopefully this was after the game that we played that day, not before!!





John and I took various excursions throughout the city of Budapest.





Here is a picture of both John and me at the beginning of the 9th and last round of the tournament. Unfortunately, my opponent never showed up!

H-204

Budapest (8), 2000. július 19.

III. Budapesti Nyár Agro Hotel Sakkfesztivál
WFG július 19-29./3. Budapester Sommer Hotel Agro
Schachfestival
SS/SB/SK

Végeredmény/Endergebnis:

Nagymesterverseny/Großmeisterturnier:

I-II. Varga Zoltán (HUN) - Ruck Róbert (HUN), 8;

III-IV. Nguyen Anh Dung (VIE) – Cao Sang (VIE), 7^{1/2}

Mester „A” (FIDE 5):

I. Fehér Gyula (HUN), 7^{1/2}; II. Zao Hszüe (CHN), 7;

III-IV. Pálkövi József (HUN) – Stefan Gross (), 6^{1/2}

Mester „B” (FIDE 2):

I. Caposciutti (ITA) 7^{1/2}; II. Petrán Pál (HUN), 7;

III. Vadász László (HUN), 6

Nyílt verseny/Open:

I. Krivoshej (UKR), 7^{1/2}; II. Medvegy Zoltán (HUN), 7;

III-VIII. Vogt () – Cimmerman (RUS) – Vlagyimir Vujosevics (YUG) –

Seres Lajos (HUN) – Cioara (ROM) – Ju Ming Juan (CHN), 6^{1/2}



I had to do quite a bit of research to find the image above. I dug through the online archives of Hungarian Chess tournaments and eventually discovered this. The image contains the actual dates of the tournament, the location, a list of the top finishers, and the official seal of the tournament! The Grandmaster section was won by Zoltan Varga and Robert Ruck. The Open section, where John and I both competed, was won by Sergei Krivoshey from Ukraine.

Here are a few games played by John during this tournament. If I rely only on the ChessBase online database for John's games in this Hungarian tournament, unfortunately none of the games are dated and I don't recall which game was played in which round. I believe John finished on 4.5/9, a very respectable result! (I think I finished on 4/9). I've supplied a few light notes.

□ Williams, John R

■ Seres, Lajos

Budapest WFG op (1)

19.07.2000

[Robertson]

According to the FIDE website, John's first round opponent earned the IM title in 1995, and the GM title in 2003! **1.e4 c5 2.c3** John essays his favorite 2.c3 against the Sicilian. **2...a6?!**



Uncommon. However, today, this is played regularly by Brazilian GM Alexandr Fier. **3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5**

[5.exd5 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nxd5 7.Bc4 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Qc7 9.Qb3 e6 10.Ne2 Bd6 11.Bd3 0-0 12.Ba3 Bxa3 13.Qxa3 b5 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Qxf8 Bb7 16.0-0 Nc6 17.Qc5 Rh8 18.Rfe1 Kg8 19.Ng3 Qd8 20.d5 exd5 21.Rad1 Na5 22.Re7 Rh6 23.Nf5 Rf6 24.Rde1 Bc6 25.R7e5 Kh7 26.R1e3 g6 27.Rh3+ Kg8 28.Ne7+ Kg7 29.Qe3 1-0 (29) Peredy, F (2365)–Seres, L (2440) Hungary 1996]

5...Bf5 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Be2

B22

[8.Bd3]

8...h6 9.0-0 Nge7 10.Be3 Nc8

11.Rc1

[11.Ne1 Nb6 12.Bd3 Bxd3 13.Nxd3 Nc4 14.Qg4±]

11...Be7 12.Nd2

[12.Ne1]

[12.Na4]

12...0-0 13.f4

[13.Na4]

13...Qd7 14.g4

[14.Na4 b5 15.Nc5 Bxc5 16.Rxc5 Nb6 17.b3±]

14...Bh7 15.Rf3

[15.Na4]

15...b5 16.f5 f6 17.Rg3?! fxe5

18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Bd4?

[19.Nb3! exf5 20.Nxd5]

19...Nc6 20.fxe6 Qxe6 21.Bf3 Rd8

22.Bf2 Bg5!-+



0-1

Hudecz,Viktor
 Williams,John R
 Budapest WFG op
 [Robertson]

C63
2165
0
 2000

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5



John plays his favorite defense to the Ruy Lopez, the Schliemann. **4.0-0**
 Not the most testing approach by white.
 When this game was played, 4.Nc3 was
 considered the mainline. Today, many
 top players play 4.d3 aiming for a
 simpler opening advantage.

[4.d3 fxe4 5.dxe4 Nf6 6.Qd3
 (6.0-0 Bc5 7.Nc3 d6 8.Na4 Bb6
 9.Bc4 Na5 10.Bd3 0-0 11.h3 Qe8
 12.b3 Nc6 13.Nxb6 axb6 14.c3 Kh8
 15.Nh4 Be6 16.Kh2 Nh5 17.g3 Nf6
 18.Bc2 Qd7 19.g4 d5 20.exd5 Nxd5
 21.Qd3 Bg8 22.Bg5 Qd6 23.Qg3 e4
 24.Qxd6 cxd6 25.Bd2 e3 26.Be1
 exf2 27.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 28.Bxf2 Nxc3
 29.Nf5 Nb4 30.Bd4 h5 31.Bxc3
 Nxc2 32.Rd1 Rxa2 33.Kg3 d5
 34.Rd2 Bh7 35.Bxg7+ Kg8 36.Bc3
 hxg4 37.hxg4 Bxf5 38.gxf5 d4
 39.Bxd4 Nb4 40.Rxa2 Nxa2

41.Bxb6 Nc1 42.b4 Kf7 43.Kf3 Na2
 44.Bc5 b6 45.Bd6 Nc3 46.Kf4 Nd5+
 47.Ke4 Nf6+ 48.Kd4 Ng4 49.Be5
 Nh6 50.Ke4 Ng4 51.Bd4 b5 52.Kd5
 Nh6 53.f6 Nf5 54.Kc5 Ke6 55.Ba1
 Nd6 56.Kc6 Nf7 57.Kxb5 Kd6
 58.Kc4 Kc6 59.b5+ Kd6 60.Bd4
 Nd8 61.Bc5+ Ke6 62.Be7 Nb7
 63.b6 1-0 (63) Caruana,F (2781)-
 Kamsky,G (2658) Chess.com INT
 2022) 6...Bc5 7.Nc3 d6 8.Bg5 0-0
 9.0-0-0 Be6 10.Bc4 Qe8 11.Bxf6
 Nb4 12.Qe2 Rxf6 13.a3 Nc6
 14.Bxe6+ Qxe6 15.Nd5 Rf7 16.Qc4
 Qh6+ 17.Kb1 Nd8 18.Nxc7 Rc8
 19.Nd5 Nc6 20.b4 b5 21.Qxb5 Bxf2
 22.Rhf1 Bb6 23.Qc4 1-0 (23)
 Caruana,F (2773)-Bravo,W (2291)
 Istanbul 2012]
 [4.Nc3 fxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Nxe5
 dxe4 7.Nxc6 Qg5 8.Qe2 Nf6 9.f4
 Qxf4 10.d4 Qd6 11.Ne5+ c6 12.Bc4
 Be6 13.c3 Bxc4 14.Nxc4 Qe6
 15.0-0 Be7 16.Bg5 0-0 17.Rae1
 Rae8 18.Nd2 Qxa2 19.Bxf6 Bxf6
 20.Nxe4 Re6 21.Qg4 h6 22.Rxf6
 Rxf6 23.Nxf6+ Rxf6 24.Qc8+ Kh7
 25.Qxb7 a5 26.h3 Rg6 27.Qb8 a4
 28.Re8 Re6 29.Rh8+ Kg6 30.Qg3+
 Kf7 31.Rb8 Qb1+ 32.Kh2 Re1
 33.Rb7+ Ke6 34.d5+ Kxd5 35.Rd7+
 Kc4 36.Rd4+ Kb3 37.c4+
 1-0 (37) Kamsky,G (2735)-Piket,J
 (2625) Groningen 1995]
4...fxe4 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nxe5 Qd4
7.Ng4 h5 8.Ne3 The Chessbase
 database indicates black does well from
 this position. **8...Nf6 9.d3 Bd7**
 [9...Bg4 10.Qe1 0-0-0 11.dxe4
 Qxe4 12.Nxg4 hxg4 13.Qxe4 Nxe4
 14.Be3 Rh5 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3
 Bd6 17.g3 Rdh8 18.h4 gxh3 19.Kh2

Be5 20.Bd4 c5 21.Bxe5 Rxe5
 22.Rae1 Rhe8 23.Rxe5 Rxe5
 24.Kxh3 Re4 25.Rc1 b5 26.Rb1 a6
 27.Kg2 Ra4 28.Rb2 Ra3 29.c4 b4
 30.f4 a5 31.Kh3 Kd7 32.Kg4 Ke6
 33.Rb3 Rxa2 34.Re3+ Kd7 35.Re5
 Rxc2 36.Rxc5 a4 37.Rg5 b3
 38.Rxg7+ Kc6 0-1 (38) Fegan,C
 (2038)-Williams,J (2194) IECC email
 2013]

10.dxe4 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Nxe4 12.Nd2
Ng5 13.Ndc4 Nf7 14.b3 b5 15.Nd2
0-0-0 16.a4 Kb7 17.Bb2 Rh6 18.Nf3
 [18.Ne4±]
18...Rd6 19.Bd4? a6
 [19...Bg4!±]
20.Bc3 c5 21.axb5 axb5 22.Ne5
Nxe5 23.Bxe5 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Kc8
25.h3
 ½-½

Williams, John R
 Balogh, Viktor
 Budapest WFG op
 [Robertson]

B22
 2000

A very nice positional game by John. From a roughly equal position at move 15, he steadily outplays his opponent until the end of the game. **1.e4 c5 2.c3** John often preferred the Alapin, a popular mainline sideline, popular even today. **2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Nbd2** Today, 6.Be2 is preferred. Maybe John was following theory in 2000, or this could have been his own speciality. **6...e6 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.Bb5**

[8.Bc4 Qd6 9.Bb5 Bxf3 10.Nxf3 Nd7 11.Be3 Be7 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.Qc2 a6 15.Be2 Nd7 16.0-0 Nf6 17.Nd4 Nd5 18.Bc1 0-0 19.Bf3 Nxd4 20.Rxd4 Bf6 21.Rd2 Bg5 22.Rxd5 Bxc1 23.Rd3 Bg5 24.Rfd1 Rad8 25.Qa4 Rxd3 26.Rxd3 Bc1 27.Qc2 Bg5 28.Qa4 Bc1 29.Qc2 Bg5 30.Qd1 b6 31.Rd7 Qc4 32.a3 ½-½ (32) Palkovi, J (2480)-Horvath, C (2540) Paks 1996]

8...Bxf3 9.Nxf3 cxd4 Apparently a novelty at the time.
 [9...Qe4+ 10.Be3 Bd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.dxc5 Be7 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qxe4 Nxe4 15.Ne5 Rfc8 16.Rfd1 Nxc5 17.Bxc5 Bxc5 18.Rd7 f6 19.Nc4 a5 20.a4 h5 21.Rad1 Kh7 22.h4 Kh6 23.g3 e5 24.Kg2 e4 25.Re1 f5 26.Red1 g6 27.Ne5 Rcb8 28.Nf7+ Kg7 29.Ng5+ Kg8 30.R1d2 e3 31.fxe3 Bxe3 32.Re2 Bxg5 33.hxg5 Re8 34.Red2 Rab8 35.Kf3 Re6

36.Rc7 Rbe8 37.Rd3 1-0 (37) Chincholimath, H (1754)-Nechaeva, M (2372) Chess.com INT 2022]

10.0-0 Bc5 DF considers either 10...Bd6 or O-O-O here. **11.cxd4** [11.b4 Be7 12.c4 Qd6 13.c5 Qc7 14.Bf4 Qxf4 15.Bxc6+ Kf8±]
11...Bd6 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Be2 0-0 The position is roughly equal. **15.Be3 e5** [15...Rc7 16.Rac1 Rfc8 17.Rc3 might only be marginally better for white. The move 15...e5 definitely is sharper, and offers white more chances.]



16.Bc4 Qe4 17.Rfe1 Qf5 18.dxe5 Qxe5 19.g3 Qxb2 20.Qxa7 Qb4 21.Qd4 Rfd8 22.Rab1 c5 23.Qd3 Qa5 24.Bd2 Qc7 25.Qc2 Be5 26.Rb5 Rd7 27.a4 Bd4 28.Qf5 g6 29.Qf3 Nh5 30.Ba5 Qd6 31.Rb6 Qf8

(Diagram)

The conclusion of the game, at least as far as recorded in Chessbase. White does indeed have a tangible advantage



here, involving 32.Bd2 and 33.a5, but I don't think the position is resignable quite yet.
1-0

□ **Fordan, Tibor**
 ■ **Williams, John R**
 Budapest WFG op
 [Robertson, M; GM Roiz, M]

A81
2285
0
2000

John plays his favorite Dutch – Leningrad defense. This game features 5...Nh6, one of John's pet lines, which he played against me on at least one occasion. [Robertson] **1.d4 f5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 d6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.0-0 Nh6**



Roiz, M: '?!' Roiz, M: 'An original approach to playing Dutch defence. Black wants to play e7-e5 without any preparing move like Qe8. On the other hand, he may get some counterplay over the f-file in case of e2-e4. That idea seems to be a dubious one, because black is not fighting for a centre.' **6.c4** Roiz, M: 'This natural move is the most popular – white wants to seize more space on the queen side. Another plan here is to prepare e2-e4 without c2-c4.'

[6.Nc3!? c6 (6...0-0 7.e4 fxe4 8.Nxe4±) 7.e4 Nf7 8.Re1 e6 9.exf5 gxf5 10.h4 0-0 11.Ng5 Qf6 12.Qh5 h6 13.Nxf7 Qxf7 14.Qxf7+ Kxf7

15.Bf4± 1-0 Spassov, L–Knaak, R/ Rubinstein mem 1979]
 [6.Nbd2 0-0 7.e4 e6 8.Re1 Nc6 9.c3 Nf7 10.exf5 exf5 11.Nc4 Bd7 12.a4± Cvitan, O–Efimov, I/ Geneve op 1992]

6...0-0 7.Nc3 Nf7
 [7...c6

A) 8.d5 e5 9.dxe6 (9.Ng5!?) 9...Bxe6 10.b3! Nf7 11.Nd4 Bd7 12.Bb2± 1-0 Turna, S–Petran, P/ SVK–cht 2002;

B) 8.e4 The most aggressive plan. White wants to put pressure on e7.

B1) 8...fxe4 9.Nxe4 d5 10.Neg5! (10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Nc3 Bg4± 1-0 Vescovi, G–Pereira, S/ Sao Paulo–ch 1996) 10...Nf5 (10...dxc4 11.Qe2!) 11.g4 (11.Qe2!?) 11...Nd6 (11...Nh6 12.h3 dxc4 13.Qe2) 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Ne5± 1-0 Leitao, R–Pereira, S/ Itau Cup 6th 2001;

B2) 8...Na6 Too slowly. Now white has enough time to neutralize black's counterplay at all.

B2a) 9.Re1 Nf7 10.b3?! (10.exf5 Bxf5 11.Nh4 Bd7 12.Be3±) 10...e5 11.Bb2 exd4 12.Nxd4 fxe4 13.Rxe4 Nc5± 0-1 Prang, E–Bhend, E/ Pizol op 1997;

B2b) 9.h3N Nc7 (9...Nf7 10.exf5 Bxf5 11.g4 Bd7 12.Re1 e5 13.Be3±) 10.Re1 fxe4 There is no alternative for black – he has no useful moves. 11.Nxe4 d5 12.cxd5 Now white can immediately take on d5 without thinking too

much – black's knight is already on c7 and cannot be placed on c6. Nxd5 (12...cxd5 13.Nc3 Nf5 14.Bf4±) 13.Nc3! Changing the most active piece of black. Nf5 14.g4 Nd6 15.Bg5!± White's play is very energetic – black has no time to consolidate his position. (≤15.Qb3?! e6 16.Bg5 Bf6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6±) 15...Bf6 (15...Nf6 16.Qe2 Nf7 17.Bh4 Re8 18.Rad1+) 16.Rh6 Rg7 (16...Ke8 17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.Ne5 e6 19.Qf3±) 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nxd5 cxd5 19.Ne5 e6 20.Qe2

B2b1) 20...Qf6 21.Rac1 Nf7 22.Rc7 Kg8 23.Rc7 (23.Nxf7 Rxf7 24.Rxf7 Qxf7 25.Rc1±) 23...Nxe5 24.dxe5±;

B2b2) 20...Re8 21.Rac1 Bd7 22.Rc3 Bb5 A loss of time. The bishop has nothing to do here. (Δ22...Rc8 23.Rxc8 Bxc8±) 23.Qe3 Rc8 24.Rxc8 Nxc8 25.b3 Provoking black's next move. Re7?!

That is probably a decisive mistake – now white can start an immediate attack. (Δ25...Nd6 26.a4 Bd7 27.Rc1±) 26.h4! Be8 27.Qf4 Nd6 28.Re3 All white pieces are very active and black cannot stop white's attack. Rc7 (28...Nf7 29.h5 g5 30.h6+–) 29.Nd3!+–

Just in time! Black cannot avoid material losses. Bf7 30.Nc5 Rc6 (30...Kg8 31.Rxe6 Nb5 32.Re1 b6 33.Nd3+–) 31.Rxe6! Nb5 32.Nxb7 1-0 (32) Wojtkiewicz, A (2543)–Julia, E (2387) Buenos Aires 2003 CBM 097 [Roiz, M]

[7...Nc6 8.b3 (Δ8.d5 Ne5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.c5 e4 11.Qb3 Nf7 12.Rd1±) 8...Nf7 (8...e5!? 9.Bg5 Qd7 10.dxe5 Ng4) 9.Rh2 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Qxd8 Rxd8= 1-0 Espig, L–Knaak, R/ DSV–Turnier 1978]

8.Qc2

[8.d5 e5 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Nd4 Bc8±]
 [8.Ng5!? Nxd5 9.Bxg5 h6 10.Be3±]

8...c6 9.Rd1 Qc7 10.Be3

[10.d5 e5 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.b3 Na6 13.Be3 Qe7 14.Rac1 Nc7 15.Bd4 Ne5 16.Qd2 Bc8 17.Be3 Nf7 18.Ng5 Ne8 19.Nxf7 Rxf7 20.b4 Be6 21.b5 Rc8 22.Qd3 a6 23.bxa6 bxa6 24.Na4 g5 25.Qd2 Bh6 26.Nb6 Rc7 27.f4 Rg7 28.fgx5 Bxg5 29.a4 h5 30.Kh1 h4 31.gxh4 Bxe3 32.Qxe3 f4 33.Qxf4 Rg4 34.Qe3 Ng7 35.Rd4 Rxh4 36.Rg1 Kh8 37.Qf2 Rh5 38.Rf4 Nf5 39.Bf3 Rh7 40.Be4 Rh5 41.Bxf5 Bxf5 42.Rxf5 Qe4+ 43.Rf3 Rch7 44.Qd4+ 1-0 (44) Adla, D (2445)–Bosch Porta, D (2225) Nigran 1997]

10...Nd7 11.b4 e5 12.b5 e4 13.Ne1 Re8 14.Rac1 g5 15.Qd2 Nb6 16.Bxg5 Nxc4 17.Qf4 Nxd5 18.Qxg5 d5 19.e3 Qd6 20.Bf1 Be6 21.bxc6 bxc6 22.Ng2 Rab8 23.Nf4 h6 24.Qg6 Bf7 25.Qxf5 Qa3 26.Bxc4 dxc4

27.Nxe4 Rb5 28.Nf6+ Bxf6 29.Qxf6 Rxe3 30.Qxc6 Rb6 31.Qc8+ Re8 32.Qg4+ Kh8 33.d5 c3 34.Qf5 Kg8 35.Qd3 Rc8 36.Ne6 Rd6 37.Nf4 Rc7 38.Rc2 Rd8 39.Ne6 Bxe6 40.Qg6+ Rg7 41.Qxe6+ Kh7 42.Qf5+ Kg8 43.Qf6 Qa5 44.Qxc3



1-0

B22

□ Williams, John R
■ Metaxasz, Vaszilisz

Budapest WFG op
[Robertson]

2000

This, I believe, was the last round of the tournament. John ends the game rather quickly with a nice tactic. **1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 b6** Not the most popular response.

[3...cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5 Bg7 6.Nf3 Nh6 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 f6 10.exf6 exf6 11.Nc3 g5 12.Re1 Qd6 13.Ba4 Kh8 14.Bb3 Ne7 15.Qe2 Nhg8 16.Qb5 Rd8 17.Bd2 b6 18.Ne2 a5 19.Bc2 Ba6 20.Qb3 Rdc8 21.Rac1 Rc6 22.Bb1 Rac8 23.Rxc6 Rxc6 24.Nc3 Bc8 25.Bd3 Qd8 26.Qc2 h6 27.Qd1 Be6 28.Qe2 Bf7 29.Nb5 Ng6 30.Qd1 N8e7 31.Qb1 Qd7 32.b4 axb4 33.Bxb4 h5 34.Nc3 Rc7 35.Ne2 h4 36.Bxe7 Nxe7 37.Qxb6 Bh5 38.Nh2 f5 39.Bb5 Qc8 40.Qd6 Ng8 41.Nf3 Bxf3 42.gxf3 Nf6 43.a4 Ra7 ½-½ (43) Carlsen, M (2847)- Nakamura, H (2736) chess24.com INT 2021]

4.Be3 d6

[4...Bg7 5.Bc4 Ba6 6.Bxa6 Nxa6 7.d5 is still good for white, but not as overwhelming as the game.]

5.Bc4 Bb7?

[5...Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Na3±]
[5...e6 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.dxc5 bxc5 8.e5 Ng4 9.Bg5±]

6.dxc5 bxc5

[6...Nf6 7.Nf3±]

7.Qb3!+-



1-0

Budapest WFG op 2000

		Perf.	+/-					
1		Zimmerman, Yuri	2375	2464	+13	6.5 / 9		
2		Vujosevic, Vladimir	2410	2461	+8	6.5 / 9		
3		Seres, Lajos	2440	2455	+2	6.5 / 9		
4		Medvegy, Zoltan	2425	2532	+12	6.5 / 8		
5		Krivoshay, Sergei	2425	2674	+21	6.5 / 7		
6		Cioara, Andrei Nestor	2350	2423	+11	6.5 / 9		
7		Yu, Mingyuan	2315	2391	+9	6.5 / 9		
8		Peter, Ambrus	2440	2457	+4	6.0 / 9		
9		Vogt, Lothar	2465	2515	+7	6.0 / 8		
10		Vajda, Levente	2445	2412	-3	6.0 / 9		
11		Jakab, Attila	2295	2351	+8	6.0 / 9		
12		Szeberenyi, Adam	2355	2388	+5	6.0 / 9		
13		Dobos, Jozsef	2335	2336	+1	6.0 / 9		
14		Szabo, Zsolt	2395	2328	-8	5.5 / 9		
15		Orso, Miklos	2345	2323	-2	5.5 / 9		
16		Szuk, Balazs	2355	2265	-10	5.5 / 9		
17		Lahiri, Atanu	2385	2389	+2	5.0 / 8		
18		Sikula, Vaszilij	2395	2448	+6	5.0 / 8		
19		Erdelyi, Zombor	2205	2316	+12	4.5 / 8		
20		Sinkovics, Peter	2335	2245	-10	4.5 / 9		
21		Biro, David	2230	2219	-2	4.0 / 8		
22		Fordan, Tibor	2285	2246	-3	4.0 / 7		
23		Serrer, Christoph	2240	2284	+5	4.0 / 7		
24		Hudecz, Viktor	2165	2281	+11	3.5 / 8		
25		Khechumyan, Gagik	2255	2261	+1	3.5 / 7		
26		Szitas, Gabor	2190	2272	+7	3.5 / 6		
27		Hirzel, Andre				3.0 / 5		
28		Schwalen, Peter	2180	2234	+3	2.5 / 5		
29		Williams, John R				2.5 / 6		
30		Csapo, Zoltan	2270	2126	-14	2.0 / 6		
38		Xu, Hanbing	2325	2179	-8	1.0 / 4		
39		Csom, Etelka	2120	2006	-4	1.0 / 3		
40		Naiditsch, Evgenija	2140	2183	+2	1.0 / 3		
41		Schneider, Martin	2140	2200	+3	1.0 / 2		
42		Klanert, Karsten	2135	2035	-6	0.5 / 4		
43		Babos, Csaba	2220	2163	-3	0.5 / 3		
44		Pasztorcsik, Janos	2110	2007	-6	0.5 / 4		
45		Mueller, Frank	2100	2028	-4	0.5 / 3		
46		Kopisch, Martin	2165	2033	-7	0.5 / 3		
47		Sepetavc, Walter	2020	2031	0	0.5 / 2		
48		Bjarnehag, Peter	2230	2030	-11	0.5 / 3		
49		Vass, Viktor	2115	2136	-6	0.5 / 2		
50		Richter, Rainer	2175	2143	-1	0.5 / 1		
51		Weclawski, Doris	2100	1877	-10	0.0 / 4		
52		Metaxasz, Vaszilisz	2150	2003	-5	0.0 / 3		
53		Szonyi, Kata	2120	1989	-5	0.0 / 2		
54		Bednay, Dezso	2065	1911	-5	0.0 / 2		
55		Balogh, Viktor	2180	2112	-2	0.0 / 2		
56		Prohaszka, Peter	2103	2049	-2	0.0 / 1		
57		Szirmai, Eduard	2120	2082	-1	0.0 / 1		
58		Zilahi, Gabor	2080	2025	-2	0.0 / 1		
59		Lacaze, Patrick				0.0 / 1		
60		Obran, Harald	2130	2107	-1	0.0 / 1		
61		Berczes, David	2050	1982	-2	0.0 / 1		
62		Binder, Csaba				0.0 / 1		
63		Nagy, Laszlo	2070	2012	-2	0.0 / 1		
64		Fehér, Laszlo				0.0 / 1		
65		Naiditsch, Irina	2070	2022	-2	0.0 / 1		
66		Hoang, Thi Bao Tram				0.0 / 1		
67		Lang, Gusztav	2073	2014	-2	0.0 / 1		
68		Simon, Peter	2085	1972	-3	0.0 / 1		
69		Gal, Janos	2005	1940	-2	0.0 / 1		
70		Heinicke, Wenke				0.0 / 1		
71		Robertson, Matthew				0.0 / 1		

(168 Games)

Here is a list of most of the competitors from the OPEN section of the Hungarian Summer Chess Festival 2000 held at the AGRO hotel. The score contains only submitted games to ChessBase. (I really didn't finish in last place!!)

Magnus Carlsen (World Chess Champion, 2013-present) on the meaning of life: "I think we are here by accident. There is no meaning, it ends at some point, but it's still a great thing. You can still have fun, you can try to pursue your goals whatever they may be, but I'm pretty sure there's no special meaning and trying to find it does not make a whole lot of sense to me. For me, life is both meaningless and meaningful, for just being here trying to make not necessarily the most of it, the things to make you happy, both the short term and the long term. It certainly does (to be full of cool stuff to enjoy)."

- Lex Fridman Podcast #315, August, 2022

[1] This is one of my favorite pictures of John. In the background it is the Danube river, which flows through Budapest. This river actually separates the “Buda” section from the “Pest” section of Budapest. (These two sections were united in 1873 to become “Budapest”.) The picture of course shows John wearing one of his hats!

[2] Since the tournament location was nicely nestled in this mountainous region of Budapest, John and I would go on short hikes through the mountains between rounds to clear our heads. I think at one point we may have hiked to that tower that you see in the distance in the picture.



[3] This reminds me of a game that I played in Los Angeles in the last round of a tournament. I had been doing very well and I was playing Harry Akopyan, a young Los Angeles master. Just out of the opening I had an opportunity to sacrifice the exchange for what apparently became an overwhelming advantage. After the game John came to my house and analyzed this position with me for quite some time and we came to the conclusion essentially that I had a forced win after the exchange sacrifice. This, I recall, was quite a bit of wonderful analysis by John. I later showed the analysis to international Master Jack Peters and he agreed with our assessment. Unfortunately, I was not brave enough in the game to play the exchange sacrifice and I went on to lose.

Matthew G. Robertson

September 12, 2022

Edited by Larry Smith