

Perpendicular Worlds Discovered

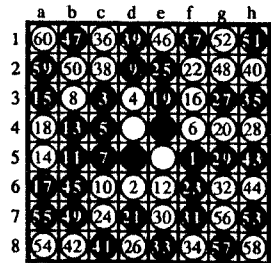
by David Shaman

This article is the second part of an analysis by opening of games played at the Barcelona World Championships. The first instalment, which appeared in *Killer Bees*, presented a set of games containing variations on the diagonal opening (1f5, 2f6).

The following is a collection of games from the tournament all beginning with the perpendicular opening (1f5, 2d6).

(Note: The games chosen here are from the Thor database-- 180 of the 204 games from Barcelona. The absent games had incorrect or missing transcripts.)

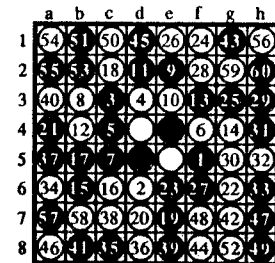
Tiger (f5, d6, c3, d3, c4): Tigers, as usual, were very popular. The sequence 6f4, 7c5, 8b3 occurred 10 times. Although 9c2 is the most common continuation, both 9d2 and 9e2 were also played. After 9d2, 10e3 (Jensen-Tastet, Tastet-Penloup) the most common move is 11b4. The Stepanov-Penloup game follows a standard line starting with 9d2, 10c6.



Stepanov 32-32 Penloup

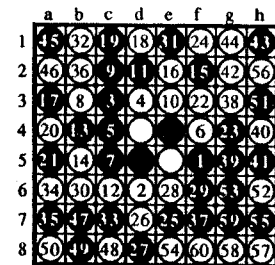
All three games starting with 9e2 were identical through move 12. Berner played 13f3 in two games. This leads to an interesting position with many seemingly reasonable choices at 14. The following games is from the

semifinals:



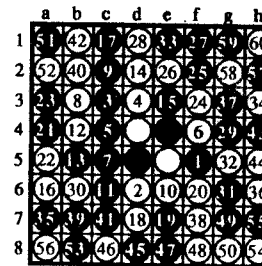
Berner 20-44 Shaman

After 9c2, there are many popular choices at 10. Juhem played 10e3 against Penloup. The game followed one of many lines heavily studied by the French.



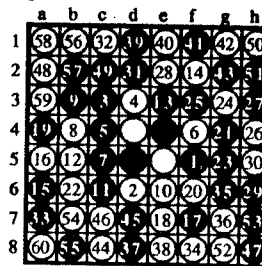
Penloup 20-44 Juhem

Two games featured 10e6, the move first introduced by Tamenori at the 1990 World Championship. The Juhem-Shaman game involves the French innovation of 17c1. (Previous theory held that 15e3 was weak and that 15f7 was better for black. Handel played 15f7 in his victory over Tastet.) 18d7 is a response suggested by Imre Leader during studying just before Barcelona. The position after move 18 is close.



Juhem 17-47 Shaman

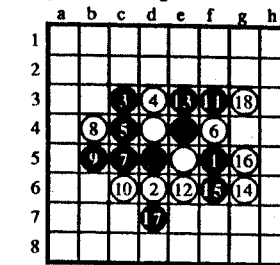
The sequence 6f4, 7c5, 8b4 was also popular. Several players were playing 9b3 in response. The Jensen-Stepanov game followed a fairly standard sequence.



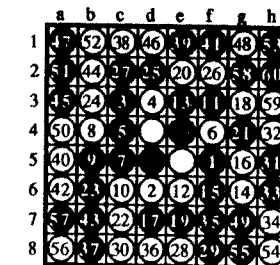
Jensen 22-42 Stepanov

The most common move 9 in this position is b5. It was played 11 times in this tournament. Seven of those games contained the following classic

sequence through 18:

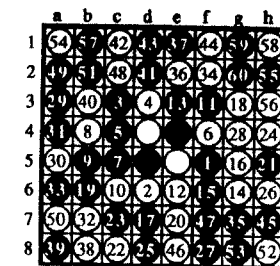


19e7 was played by Kierulf and Berner.



Berner 39-25 Barnaba

19b6 was played by Stepanov and Shaman.

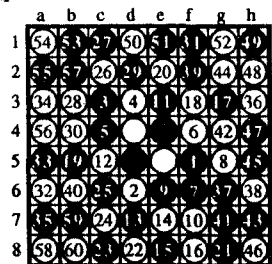


Shaman 41-23 Handel

Move 21 in the Shaman-Handel game has been popular in Britain over the last few years. It was also used by Kaneda in the finals of the 1991 World Championship. Move 25d8 (this line is documented enough for 25 to be

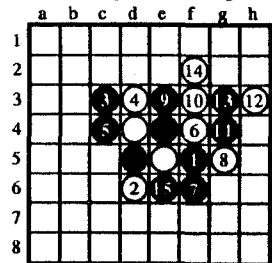
considered opening) is not very good. 25g4 would save a tempo.

The sequence 6f4, 7f6 was played 15 times. The Comp'oth line (8f3, 9e6) occurred in three games. The line 8g4, 9e6, 10f7 also showed up in three games. There does not seem to be any clear theory on what to do in this position. It is well worth further study.



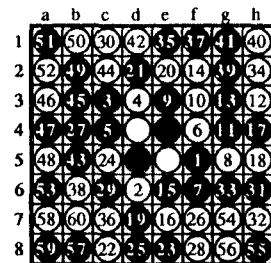
Feldborg 25-39 Berner

Four games contained the following common sequence through move 15:



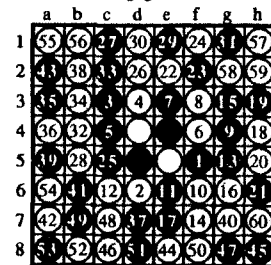
The above position is probably good for white. 16c6 is playable, even though it did not appear in this tournament. The Feldborg-Shaman game included the fairly established sequence 16f7, 17h5. The following game from the finals features Tastet's

1992 innovation-- 16e7.



Shaman 29-35 Tastet

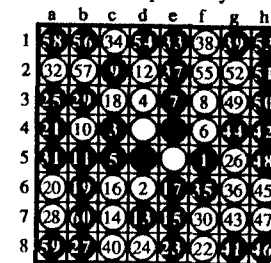
The sequence 6f4, 7e3 was played in six games. This opening (although favoured by Graham Brightwell for awhile) has never been very popular. None of the six games from this tournament followed any of the most common lines beyond move 10 or 11. The following game is interesting:



Sakaguchi 18-46 Juhem

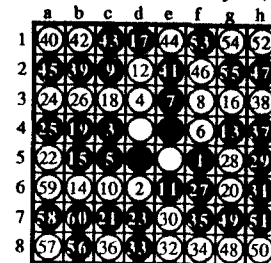
Cat (f5, d6, c4, d3, c5): There were eleven cats played in this tournament. Several followed the common line 6f4, 7e3, 8f3, 9c2, but only one involved the checkerboarding move 10b4. In the game below 16c6 is an unusual

move. 16f6 is probably better.



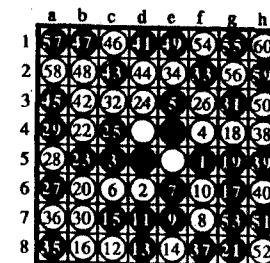
Brusca 51-13 Kierulf

The Feinstein-Juhem game features a classic sequence through move 16 and a rather interesting new innovation with 17d1. 17c7 was the only popular move until recently. (See elsewhere in this issue for a full analysis.)



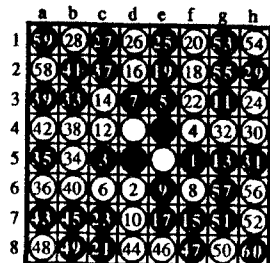
Feinstein 34-30 Juhem

Inoue (f5, d6, c5, f4, e3, c6, e6): Sakaguchi played this opening twice and beat both Johansen and Feinstein. Feinstein's move 12c8, although it looks perfectly good, is not nearly as common as 12d8. After that, the game quickly moved into unstudied territory.



Sakaguchi 35-29 Feinstein

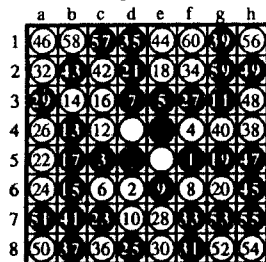
Rose (f5, d6, c5, f4, e3, c6, d3, f6, e6, d7): The Standard Rose (11g3) appeared seven times. Interestingly, none of these games followed the lines that have been most popular recently. Waser played down a common rotating sequence (12c4, 13g5, 14c3, 15f7, 16d2, 17e7, 18f2) three times.



Waser 24-40 Penloup

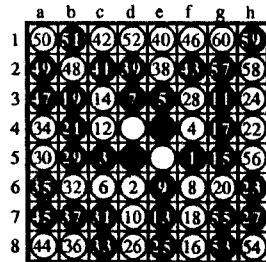
The following game is fairly classical. However, Barnaba's decision to play 18e2 is unusual. The common choices

at 18 are a6, g4 and a3.



Alard 16-48 Barnaba

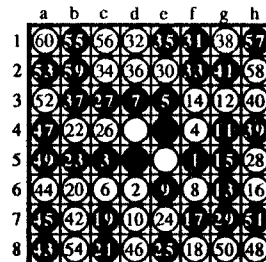
Brusca, as black, played the sequence 12c4, 13e7, 14c3, 15g5. This line has been popular among the Italians over the last few years. Shaman's 16f8 is slightly less common than the alternative 16g6.



Brusca 22-42 Shaman

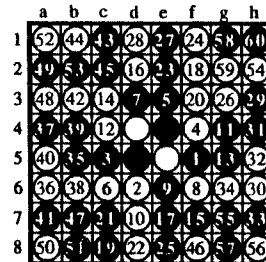
Feinstein and Johnson each played the Flat (11g4) a couple of times. The Feinstein-Berner game started with the standard response 12g3 and then followed a recent common sequence through 18. Feinstein's move 19c7 is

less popular than 19e7.



Feinstein 29-35 Berner

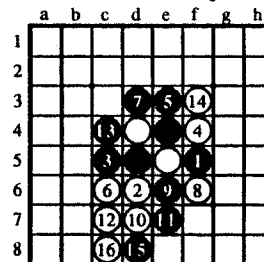
The other three games were Rotating Flats- identical and classical through move 18. Feinstein played 19c2 while Johnson opted for the equally popular 19c8. Johnson's 23e2 against Stepanov is less common than 23e8. Stepanov's response 24f1 is also unusual. The more typical move is 24g3.



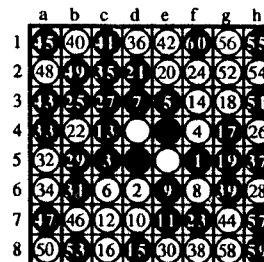
Johnson 31-33 Stepanov

The biggest opening surprise of the tournament was the popularity (and success) of the Greenberg (11e7). It was played 12 times, with black winning 10 of the games. The classic sequence through 16 shown below appeared nine times. (Note that moves

12 and 14 can be transposed.)



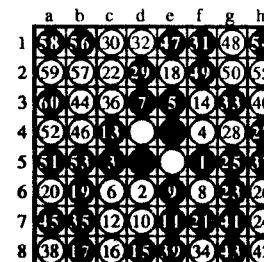
The traditional move for black in this position is 17f7. Generally, the feeling has been that the resulting position is not very good for black. However, at this tournament two other moves were being tested. The first of these, 17g4, probably deserves further study. The Marconi-Stepanov game is a good example. 22h4 (Marconi-Tastet) might be better.



Marconi 45-19 Stepanov

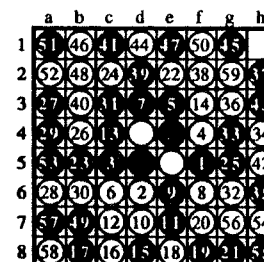
The move 17b8 earned Tastet four victories and the World Championship title. The following games show what can go wrong with either of the two obvious lines of response for white.

From Round 7:



Tastet 41-23 Shaman

From the final:



Tastet 35-29 Shaman