

2010-01-17

Three-round event at Wijk aan Zee

Pictorial report by Michael Negele



Wijk aan Zee in the winter sun

Certainly the second tournament weekend is the ideal time for members of the KWA to visit the Corus tournament in Wijk aan Zee. Till then the events have already stabilized and particularly the chess antiquarian bookseller from Zutphen www.boekenvreugd.nl/ is present with a wide variety of books. If you then fancy playing a game yourself, it would make sense to participate in the rapid tournament.

But 2010 all was different as our friend John Donaldson, coming from the team world championship at Bursa in Turkey, had announced himself for a flying visit at the beginning of the tournament. For me of course it was finally the opportunity to take part in one of the legendary three-round events in Wijk aan Zee.



My opponents in group 2C were Lorena Zepeda, Reinier Jaquet (standing, after our short draw on Sunday) and Han Schut.

So I arrived on Friday evening after a somewhat stressful journey at the tournament hall and on schedule at 6.30 pm I could make the first move (together with nearly 500 further chess friends) in my "group of four" 2C. I was not aware that my opponent, WIM Lorena Zepeda (ELO 2156, from El Salvador, more precisely Cuidad Merliot) seemed to be quite prominent in the Netherlands and my game even attracted attention of several grandmasters (and of the photographers). Certainly this was not attributed to my fine play but rather to my attractive counterpart. Moreover Lorena's sister Sonia who started in group 2B was seated next to me.



Han Schut (left) still waiting for his opponent Lorena Zepeda. Two boards next to him his strongly playing daughter Lisa had

already begun the last game.



I had just decided in favour of the "second-best" way to win against Han Schut and had queened the d-pawn after a strange curving around the black pawn d6. On the right Lorena Zepeda plays against Reinier Jaquet in order still to lose in the end from a good position.



The Zepeda sisters in the three-round event in the groups 2B and 2C. (Photo from Saturday, first Lorena sat down at the wrong board. So I had the pleasure to be placed between the two ladies.)

From a French Opening a complicated game developed where I could exploit small errors of my opponent and start in her time trouble the decisive attack at the queenside.

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