

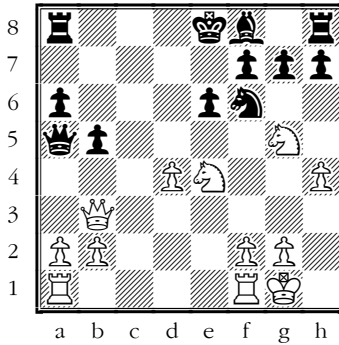
Test Yourself!



World Chess News

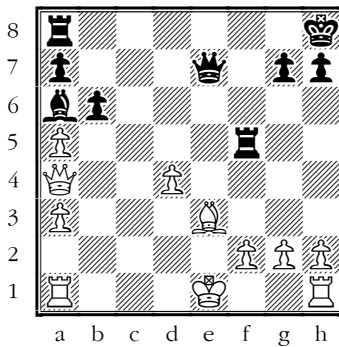
B. Lalic (2575) – Golubovic (2385)

Croatian Cup, Pula, 1996



Filipovic (2121) – Talla (2407)

European Ch, Budva (2), 07.03.2009



On This Day

by GM Alex Baburin

Croatian GM Bogdan Lalic celebrates his 45th birthday today. I've known Bogdan for many years now – we meet at tournaments and play for the same club in the 4NCL. Bogdan has encyclopaedic knowledge of chess, particularly in the openings. His best rating so far was 2600 (July 1997).

Former lady world champion Elizaveta Bykova (USSR) died 20 years ago.

Linares

Last round results:

Aronian – Grischuk ½–½

Dominguez – Ivanchuk ½–½

Anand – Carlsen ½–½

Radjabov – Wang Yue ½–½

Those who like to see 'blood' spilled on the chessboard, might be disappointed yesterday, but the round was pretty interesting.

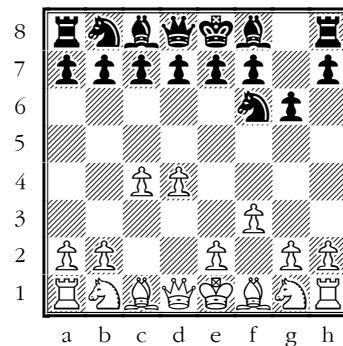
Ivanchuk never had serious problems with Black against Dominguez, gradually equalising the game. His main rival came under some pressure against Aronian – Grischuk went for the King's Indian Defence, which is a rare enough guest in his repertoire (he usually relies on the Nimzo/Queen's/Bogo Indians and the Slav). At some point in their game Grischuk had a knight slightly off-play on a5, but once he got it to c5 and later to f6, his problems were over.

One game saw a rare opening line:

Anand (2791) – Carlsen (2776)

Linares (14), 07.03.2009; *E60*

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 (D)



3...♗c6 After 3.f3 Black often seek ways to rock the boat, for example: 3...e5 4.dxe5 ♖h5 5.♖h3 ♗c6 6.♗g5 ♗e7 7.♗xe7 ♗xe7 8.♗c3 ♗xe5 ∞ Kramnik – Leko, Tilburg 1998.

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor: Ralph Marconi

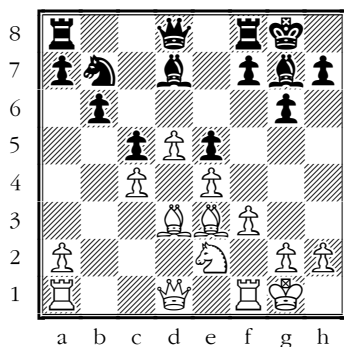
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4.♖c3 Black does well after 4.d5 ♖e5 5.e4 d6 6.♖c3 ♗g7 for example: 7.f4 ♖ed7 8.♖f3 0-0 9.♗d3 c6 10.0-0 ♖b6+ 11.♖h1 ♖c5↑ Ward - Conquest, Scarborough 1999.

4...d5 5.cxd5 ♖xd5 6.e4 ♖xc3 7.bxc3 e5 8.♗b5 ♗d7 9.♖e2 ♗g7 10.♗e3

10.♖b1 0-0 11.0-0 ♖e8 12.♗e3 ♖a5 13.♗d3 b6 14.♖d2 ♖e7 15.♖h1 ♖ad8 16.♖g3 ♗a4 17.d5 ♖b7 18.c4 ♗d7 19.♖f2 c5 20.♖e2 f5 21.♖c3 ♖f8 22.♗c2 ♖d6 23.♖e2 ½-½ Moiseenko - Huzman, Kitchener 2006.

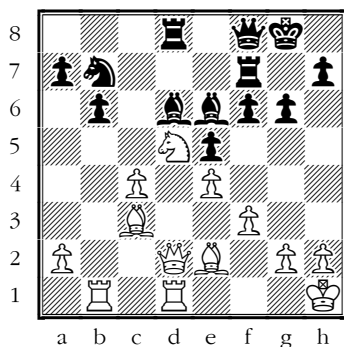
10...0-0 11.d5 ♖a5 12.♗d3 b6 13.0-0 ♖b7 14.c4 c5 (D)



15.dxc6 Interesting decision - White gets a nice outpost for his knight on d5. However, it only compensates for defects in his pawn structure. The standard plan 15.♖c3 ♖d6 16.a4 was probably better.

15...♗xc6 16.♖c3 ♗d7!? Interesting re-grouping - Black clears the c-file so he can put pressure on the c4-pawn.

17.♖d5 ♗e6 18.♖d2 ♖c8 19.♖fc1 f6 20.♖h1 ♖h8 21.♖ab1 ♖f7 22.♖e2 ♗f8 23.♗d2 ♗d6 24.♗c3 ♖g8 25.♖d2 ♖f8 26.♗e2 ♖d8 27.♖d1 (D)



Position is balanced and both players were happy to settle for a draw: 27...♖c8 28.♖dc1 ♖d8 29.♖d1 ½-½

Final Standings:

- 1-2. Grischuk and Ivanchuk - 8
3. Carlsen - 7½
4. Anand - 7
- 5-7. Radjabov, Aronian and Wang Yue - 6½
8. Dominguez - 6.

Grischuk won the tournament as he had better tiebreak. The first prize was 100,000 euro - players did not get appearance money. [Official website](#)

Cappelle la Grande

Final Standings:

1. GM Vovk (UKR, 2545) - 7½/9
- 2-4. GMs Zakhartsov (RUS, 2529), Dzhumayev (UZB, 2529), and Jaracz (POL, 2518) - 7, etc. (611 players).

[Official website](#)

26 players finished on 6½/9. Among those who finished on 6 points there were several 2600+ GMs.

In our database you can see some games from the last round. The high percentage of short (6-7 moves) draws must be disheartening for the organisers and fans. Sure, it is hard to resist the temptation of making a quick draw when it gives you a good prize, but why not fight when you have a chance to get higher in the standings?! Consider the following 'game':

Shneider (2539) - **Olszewski** (2517)

Cappelle la Grande (9), 07.03.2009

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♖f3 d5 4.♖c3 dxc4 5.e3 a6 6.a4 ½-½.

Both players finished on 6½ points and did not try to share 2nd place.

10th European Chess Championship, Budva 2009

by GM Misho Cebalo

The European Chess Union (ECU) - a family that now includes 55 members - introduced the individual championship in the year 2000 which means that here in Budva a small jubilee will be celebrated.

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor: Ralph Marconi

Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to <http://www.chesstoday.net>

Among 318 players from 35 countries who came this year there are not less than 114 GMs attracted by the 'heavy' prize fund but also by the possibility to qualify for the World Cup in 2010. On the other hand, a significant number of so-called 'amateurs' came here with quite different and much more modest ambitions to see and eventually meet over the board some of Europe's top players.

In the previous nine championships there were nine different winners and four of them are present in Budva: Bartolomej Macieja (Poland), Dieter Liviu Nisipeanu (Romania), Zdenko Kozul (Croatia) and Sergej Tiviakov (Netherlands) who will certainly try to repeat his last year success. One of the former world champions is here as well – Alexandar Khalifman (Russia).

Montenegro is a small country and the youngest member of the European chess family. However, Montenegro has a rich chess history and its Chess Federation celebrates this year 60 years of existence. It's not surprising that they have chosen the city of Budva, a famous tourist centre on Montenegro Riviera, where a couple of important events were organized in the past – Student Olympics in 1965, Zonal tournament in 1981 and two Yugoslav championships in 1986 and 1987 – to host this big event. High class hotels, excellent playing hall and a beautiful landscape will make this tournament an unforgettable memory for all the participants, regardless of their final result.



mention another problem with databases, which irritates me.

While I was preparing today's CT database, I came across the following names:

Anisimov P2, Grigoriants SRUS, Kononenko Dmitry1, Novikov St1, Popov IvRUS, Ruck R1, Smirnov IUKR, Sokolov And1 and Sokolov IvNED.

But, as there is only one S. Grigoriants with a high rating, Sergey Grigoriants will do, particularly when rating is also given. There is only one well-known player called Ivan Sokolov, so there is no need for any nonsense like 'Sokolov IvNED'. True, there are two players called Andrei Sokolov – one is a former Candidate and one is a pretty strong IM from Latvia. But how on Earth giving the name as 'Sokolov And1' help us?! There is only one strong player called Robert Ruck, one strong player called Stanislav Novikov, etc. I really hope that at least some people in charge of entering games to databases are reading *Chess Today!*

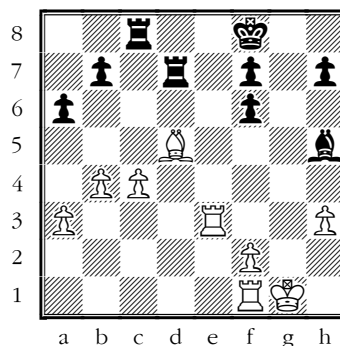
Beware: Blunder!

by GM Alex Baburin

Most big tournaments provide plenty of material for this column and the European Championship in Budva is no exception. Here are two examples from round 2:

Doric (2477) – Bocharov (2647)

European Ch Budva (2), 07.03.2009



After 2 round 38 players are on a perfect score. [Official website.](#)

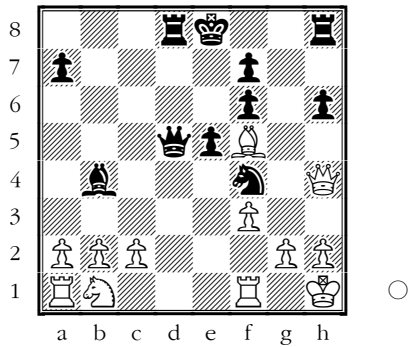
Names in databases

by GM Alex Baburin

A few days ago I wrote about one annoying problem with electronic boards, when arbiters fix the result by placing kings to d4-e4-e5-d5 – and the board sometimes enters nonsense moves like ...♔e5 – moves not actually played in the game. Today I'd like to

Position is roughly equal. Black is going to undermine the enemy bishop with ...b5!, but he must be really surprised to see White's next move: **27.♖c1?? ♜xd5! 0-1.**

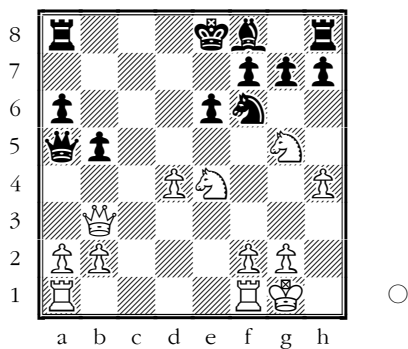
L. Petovic (2052) – Chudinovskikh (2379), European Ch Budva (2), 2009



White stands much better and after 20. ♖xf6 ♜g8 21. ♗e4 he should be able to win the game. But unfortunately for him, he decided to push away the enemy knight:
20.g3?? ♖xf3+! 0-1.

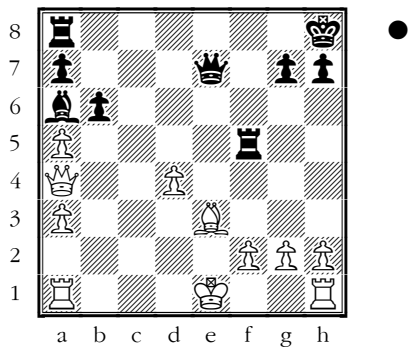
Solutions to our Quiz:

B. Lalic (2575) – Golubovic (2385)
 Croatian Cup, Pula, 1996



16. ♗xf7! ♖xf7 17. ♗g5+ ♜e8
18. ♖xe6+ 1-0.

Filipovic (2121) – Talla (2407)
 European Ch, Budva (2), 07.03.2009



20... ♗xf2! 21. ♖xf2 ♜f8+ 0-1.

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