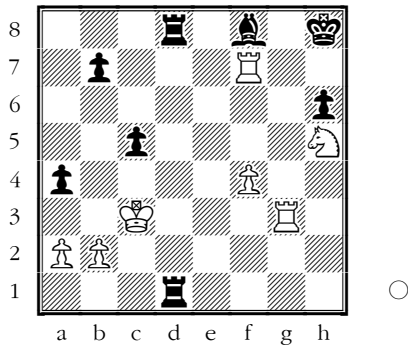
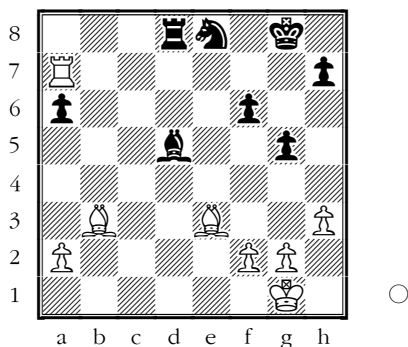


Test Yourself!

Kotronias (2603) - Vallejo (2702)
European Ch (5), Budva, 10.03.2009



Zawadzka - Stjzhkina
European w Ch St. Peterburg (2), 2009



On This Day

by GM Alex Baburin

American Grandmaster Joel Benjamin celebrates his 45th birthday today. He won the US championship on three occasions – in 1987, 1997 and 2000. His highest rating so far was 2620 (July 1993). [Benjamin](#) worked on the *Deep Blue* project.

Joel is also a well-known chess journalist and coach – among other things, he worked with the Irish team in Turin in 2006. In 2007 Everyman Chess published his book 'American Grandmaster. Four Decades of Chess Adventures'.

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor: Graham Brown

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



World Chess News

European Ch, Budva

Standings after 5 rounds:

1-3. GMs GM Inarkiev (RUS, 2656), Meier (GER, 2608) and Sjugirov (RUS, 2562) – 4½, etc (23 players are on 4 points)

[Official website.](#)

Women's Grand Prix, Istanbul

Standings after 4 rounds:

1-2. GM Hou Yifan (CHN, 2571) and IM Fierro (ECU, 2403) – 3½;
3-3. GMs Koneru (IND, 2621) and GM Zhao Xue (CHN, 2508) – 3;
5. IM Danielian (ARM, 2496) – 2½, etc.

[Official website](#)

European Women's Championship, St Petersburg

Round 4 top pairings:

C.A. Foisor (3) – Dzagnidze (3)
Gritsayeva(3)– Hoang Thanh Trang(3)
M. Socko (3) – Ovod (3)

[Official website](#)



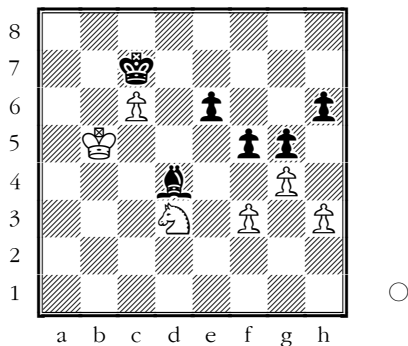
Endgame Kaleidoscope

by GM Alex Baburin

I did not plan to have this column in today's issue, but I came across so many interesting endings in today's database, that I simply could not leave them alone!

Our first two examples can nicely fit another regular CT column – "Beware: Blunder!"

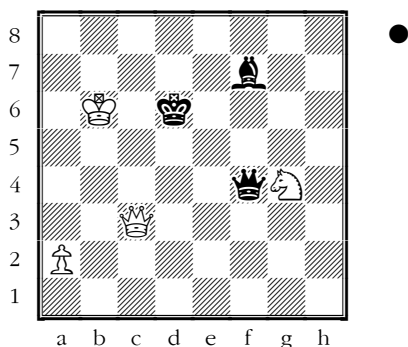
Gaponenko – Gritsayeva
European w Ch St. Peterburg (3), 2009



It looks like White is better, but objectively the game should end in a draw. Black has no threats whatsoever and this must have contributed to the false sense of security White suffered from:

61. ♖c5?? ♙xc5 62. gxf5
White is also lost after 62. ♖xc5 f4
63. ♖b5 e5 64. ♖c5 e4.
62... ♙e7 63. fxe6 ♙d6 64. f4 gxf4
65. ♖c4 ♖xc6 66. ♗d4 ♖c7 0-1

Navara (2638) – Grigoriants (2565)
European Ch (5), Budva, 10.03.2009



Black should be able to hold this position easily, but I suspect that he was short of time. Black should avoid playing 77... ♖xc4? 78. ♖c7+ ♗d5 79. ♖xf7+ ♗d4 80. a4 ♖c3 – this is a theoretical draw, but that won't be easy to prove over the board. The best move was 77... ♗e7!.

Instead Black played 77... ♖c4?? and after 78. ♖f6+ he resigned (1-0). After 78... ♗e6 79. ♗d8+ ♗d7 80. ♖xd7+ ♗xd7 81. ♗e5+ ♗e6 82. ♗xf7 Black is indeed lost.

The TWIC database claims that Black played 78... ♗d5 – and then resigned,

which is, of course, nonsense. It's just that the king was placed to d5 to indicate the 1-0 result – and the DGT board dully recorded that 'move' for all eternity... See more on that problem later in this issue.

The most common theme among the examples I selected for this issue, was stalemate. It's always a pleasure to see that idea in practice:

Fernandes (2422) – Susak (2229)
European Ch (5), Budva, 10.03.2009

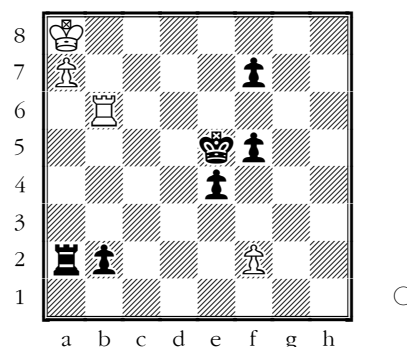


Black chose the wrong move:
69... ♖g1?? 70. ♖g4! ♖xg4 1/2-1/2

After the correct 69...h5 it may not be easy for Black to win the game (he can't exchange rooks), but I suspect that it can be done.

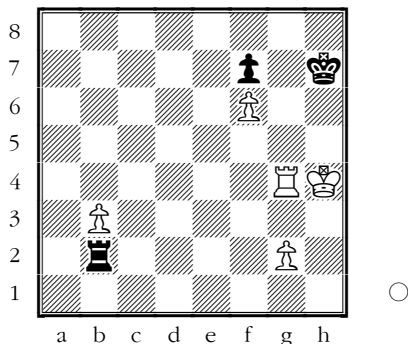
Here is a more complex implementation of the same stalemate idea:

Matsenko (2429) – Timman (2581)
European Ch (5), Budva, 10.03.2009



White can't fight the enemy pawns after 44. ♖b7? ♗d4 45. a8 ♖ ♖xa8 46. ♖xa8 ♖c3 47. ♖c6+ ♖b3 48. ♖b6+ ♖a2 49. ♖a6+ ♖b1 50. ♖b7 f4, but he found a clever resource – **44. ♖xb2!!** 1/2-1/2

E. Paecht – Tomilova
European w Ch St. Peterburg (3), 2009

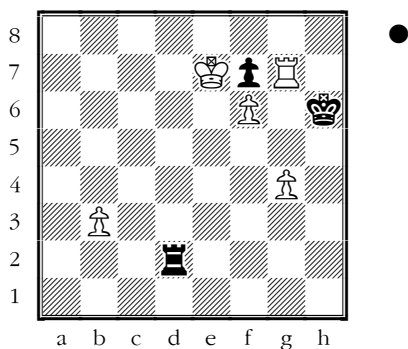


Two extra pawns should bring White an easy victory, right? Not necessarily – precision is still required! After 50.♖h5! Black would be doomed, but White went for a wrong idea:

50.♖g7+?? ♜h6 51.g4

After 51.♖xf7 ♜xb3 52.g4 ♜g6 53.♖f8 White can't make progress: 53...♖a3 54.g5 ♖a4+ 55.♜g3 ♜xg5 56.f7 ♜f6. IM/WGM Paecht probably counted on her move, but now the Black king is stalemated:

51...♖h2+ 52.♜g3 ♖g2+ 53.♜f4 ♖f2+ 54.♜e5 ♖e2+ 55.♜d6 ♖d2+ 56.♜e7 (D)

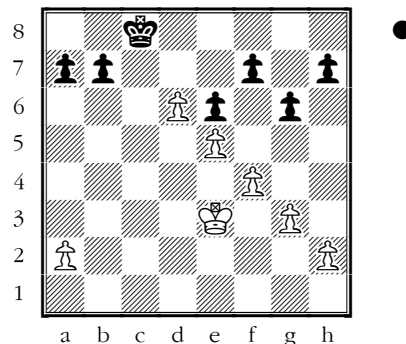


56...♖d7+! 57.♜e8 ♖d8+ 58.♜xf7 ♖d7+ 59.♜e6 ♖d6+ 60.♜e5 ♖d5+ 61.♜xd5 1/2-1/2

Endgame Home Work

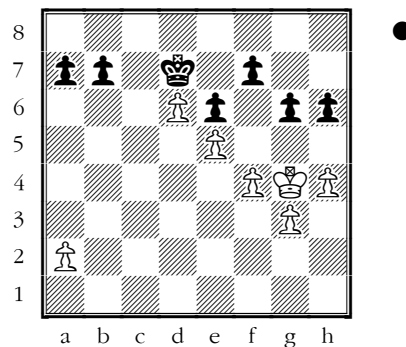
Finally, I would like to offer our readers a bit of homework – I feel that the following position requires detailed analysis, which I could not provide due to time constraints. Perhaps some of our readers would like to investigate this endgame further? If so, please send your opinions to baburin@gmail.com

V. Popov (2561) – Nestorovic (2415)
European Ch (5), Budva, 10.03.2009



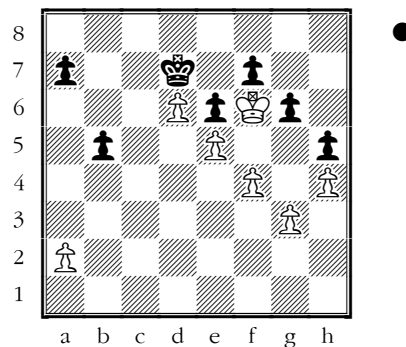
The protected d6-pawn is a great asset. White is going to try penetrating with his king on the kingside. Black must be careful not to advance his a- and b- pawns too soon, as it would allow the enemy king to attack them.

28...♜d7 29.♜f3 ♜e8 30.h3 ♜d7 31.♜g4 h6 32.h4 (D)



32...h5+? This weakening move fails. The question is: could Black stay passive? I am not sure – here is a sample line: 32...b6 33.h5 b5 34.hxg6 fxg6 35.♜f3 a5 36.♜e4 h5 37.♜d4 ♜c6 38.d7 ♜xd7 39.♜c5+-.

33.♜g5 b5 34.♜f6 (D)



34...♜e8

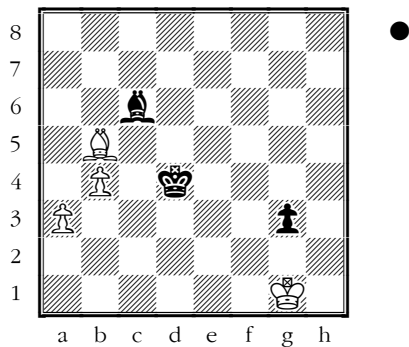
Or 34...b4 35.♜xf7 a5 36.g4 a4 37.f5+-
35.d7+ ♜xd7 36.♜xf7 a5 37.g4 hxg4 38.h5 1-0

More On DGT Boards

A few days ago I wrote about one irritating problem with DGT boards. Today I'd like to mention two more examples of that glitch – and rest my case. I hope that either DGT or chess arbiters (or both) will recognise this problem soon.

Shen Yang (2448) – Sebag (2529)

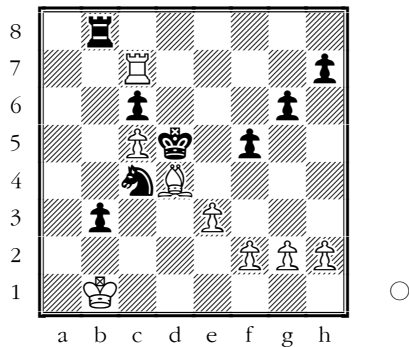
FIDE WGP (2), Istanbul, 08.03.2009



Do you believe that Black really played **62...♖e5** here before a draw was agreed?

Koneru (2621) – Shen Yang (2448)

FIDE WGP (4), Istanbul, 10.03.2009



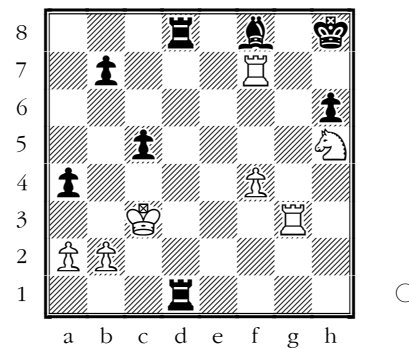
Do you believe that White really played **39.♕e5**, here before the players agreed a draw?



Solutions to our Quiz:

Kotronias (2603) – Vallejo (2702)

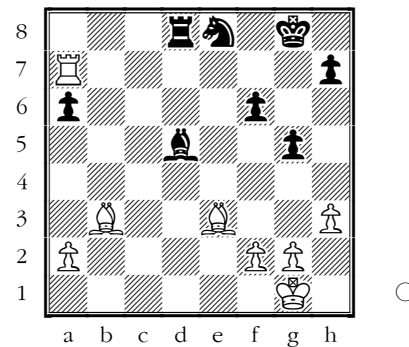
European Ch (5), Budva, 10.03.2009



42.♖h7+!! 1-0

Zawadzka – Stjazzhkina

European w Ch St Petersburg (2), 2009



30.♖a8! 1-0

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](#) – we appreciate your feedback! **Chess Today** is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ababurin@iol.ie Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net> Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev. IMs Barskij, Notkin and Deviatkin. Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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