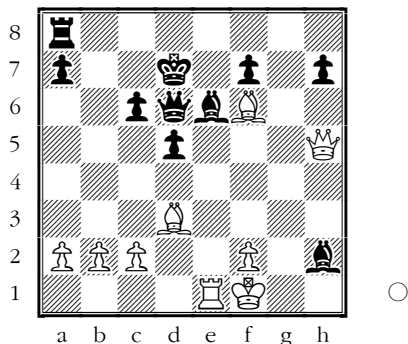
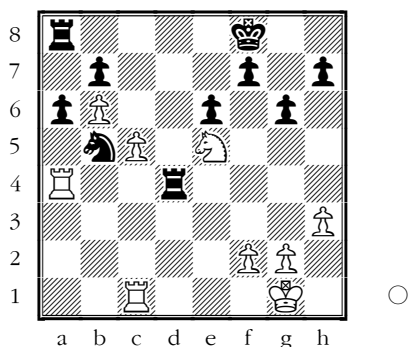


## Test Yourself!

**I. Saric (2566) – A. Leniart (2360)**  
 10th ch-EUR Budva MNT (6.60), 11.03.2009



**Y. Balashov – D. Bronstein**  
 Moscow-3teams Moscow URS (4.3), 1973



## On this Day...

Polish IM **Jacek Bednarski** was born on 12 March 1939 in Krakow. He passed away on 19 October 2008. An article about Bednarski was published by us in CT-2990, with a slight correction of the game source in CT-2991.

Russian GM **Yury Balashov** was born in Shadrinsk on 12 March 1949. He participated in the fourteen USSR championships. His best result was clear second place in 1976 (behind Karpov, ahead of Petrosian, Polugaevsky, Dorfman, Tal, Smyslov and many others). At the 24th Chess Olympiad in 1980 he played on the Soviet team and scored 7½/10 as the first board reserve.

He also played on the Soviet team at the 1970, 1973, 1977 and 1980 European team championships. According to the MEGA-09 database, Balashov has a positive score against such GMs as Beliavsky, Geller, Kholmov, Kupreichik, Psakhis, Razuvaev, Savon, Tsheskovsky, Tukmakov, Vaganian. He played many games against each of them. His highest rating of 2600, was achieved in 1979, 1980, 1981. It was the elite level then. Balashov's current ELO is 2378.



## World Chess News

### Amber 2009 Begins This Coming Saturday

The 18th Amber Blindfold and Rapid tournament takes place March 14th (first round) – March 26 (last round) at the five-star hotel Palais de la Mediterranee in Nice, France. The event is organised by the Association Max Euwe in Monaco. The prize-fund is 216,000 euros.

This year's field is exceptionally strong with most of the world's strongest players participating, including the top six players on the current FIDE rating list! The participants are: Topalov, Anand, Ivanchuk, Carlsen, Morozevich, Radjabov, Kramnik, Leko, Aronian, Wang Yue, Kamsky and Karjakin.

Every day four sessions will be played: two blindfold sessions and two rapid sessions. The first session starts at 14:30. The final round on March 26 starts at 12:30. March 18 and 23 are rest days. The official website is [www.amberchess2009.com](http://www.amberchess2009.com)

## European Ch. Budva, Montenegro

In the sixth round Ernesto Inarkiev, having White, outplayed his young compatriot Sanan Sjugirov in the clash of the co-leaders. There were not many other decisive games in the leading groups, but Andrei Volokitin won with Black an interesting Evans Gambit game against Tigran L. Petrosian.

### **Standings after 6 rounds:**

1. GM Inarkiev – 5½
  - 2–4. GMs Volokitin, Meier and Navara – 5.
- There are 25 players on 4½ points.

[Official website](#)

## Women's Grand Prix, Istanbul

GM Hou Yifan (CHN, 2571) and IM Fierro Baquero (ECU, 2403) are leading with 3½ points after 4 rounds. Yesterday was a first free day at the tournament.

[Official website](#)

## European Women's Ch. St Petersburg

The two remaining players with perfect scores, GM Hoang Thanh Trang (HUN, 2483) and GM Socko (POL, 2449) will face each other in the fifth round. There are nine players with 3½ points out of 4.

[Official website](#)

## Dutch Team Championship *by Rene Olthof*

### **Round 6 results:**

Schrijvers Rotterdam – BSG 8–2  
Homburg Apeldoorn – Hotels.nl 4–6  
LSG – HMC Calder 2½–7½  
HSG – Utrecht 8½–1½  
Voerendaal – ESGOO 4½–5½

### **Standings after 6 rounds:**

1. HSG –12 (44½)
2. Hotels.nl –10 (39½)
3. HMC Calder – 8 (35)
4. Schrijvers Rotterdam – 8 (33½)
5. Utrecht – 6 (25)
6. ESGOO – 5 (24½)
7. Homburg Apeldoorn – 4 (29½)
8. Voerendaal – 4 (29)
9. LSG – 3 (27)
10. BSG – 0 1(12½)

### **Round 7 (March 28, 2009)**

#### **pairings:**

BSG – ESGOO  
Utrecht – Voerendaal  
HMC Calder – HSG  
Hotels.nl – LSG  
Schrijvers Rotterdam – Homburg  
Apeldoorn

Titleholders HSG Hilversum still have to play the numbers 2, 3 and 4 of the current standings, but there can be little doubt about their supremacy. Newcomer BSG Bussum will surely be relegated. The second casualty will probably be decided on the final day Sunday May 10. The other teams are fighting hard for tickets for the European Club Cup later this year in Struga, Macedonia.

## High Tension Expected at Chess Classic Mainz 2009

*Press release by Harry Schaack  
(English version Eric van Reem)*

From 27 July – 2 August 2009 once again the best players in the world will meet in the Rheingoldhalle in Mainz to play the most important rapid chess festival in the world, the Chess Classic. The world championships in rapid chess and Chess960 will be staged in a tried and trusted double round robin format with four players, after which the players battle it out in mini-matches to determine the top spot. The players for the main events have already been contracted.

During the Grenkeleasing Rapid World Championship the chess world champion and Chess Classic serial winner **Vishy Anand** will try to defend his title for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in a

row. However, with the leader of the successful Armenian Olympic Team, **Levon Aronian**, he faces a formidable opponent who already showed his strength in Mainz in the past. The winner of the Ordix Open 2008, **Ian Nepomniachtchi** from Russia and local hero **Arkadij Naiditsch** will try do their best to put a spoke in the favourite's wheel. Since the German number one showed an upturn in form in the last few months, he will certainly be the one to watch out for.

Last year the women played their Chess960 world championship, therefore the men are on schedule this year to determine the Chess960 world title. The "dominator" in this exciting discipline is **Levon Aronian**, who won the title twice. This year, the Chess960 world champion will meet some of the finest Chess960 experts in the world. **Victor Bologan** is the only player to date who managed to win both Open tournaments: in 2002 he won the Ordix Open, in 2007 he won the FiNet Open and herewith qualified for this years world championship. Rapid and speed chess fans all over the world will look forward to the appearance of the eccentric American ace **Hikaru Nakamura**, who won the FiNet Open last year and thrilled the spectators with unusual moves and games. Let us not forget the current number 10 in the world, **Sergei Movsesian**, who completes the field. He catapulted himself amongst the elite players in the last two years and will burn to show his strength in Chess960 as well.

Chesslovers may look forward to a top class chess event. Not only the top players in the world will be present in Mainz to play the main events, but off course there are more tournaments to look forward to: the gigantic ORDIX rapid chess Open, the FiNet Ches960 Open, the open tournaments for U14 talents, the 40 board simultaneous exhibition with Levon Aronian, the Livingston Chess960 Computer World Championship, etc., etc., etc...

Information can be found on the website: [www.chesstigers.de](http://www.chesstigers.de)

*This issue is prepared by GM Mikhail Golubev; technical editor: Ralph Marconi*  
 Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to <http://www.chesstoday.net>  
 CT-71 (3047) Page 3 of 5

## Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

**White: I. Kurnosov (2602)**

**Black: P. Anisimov (2488)**

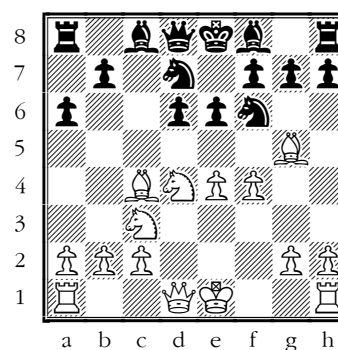
10th ch-EUR Budva MNT (4.19),  
09.03.2009

*Sicilian Defence - [B96]*

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♕g5**

Note that the variation 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 ♗bd7 8.♕g5 ♖a5 9.♗xf6 ♗xf6 is similar to the game, but there White usually castles short.

**6...e6 7.f4 ♗bd7 8.♕c4!? (D)**



We saw this line several days ago, but there are enough reasons to look at it again, because three new games were played.

**8...♖b6**

The position after 8...b5 9.♗xe6 fxe6 10.♗xe6 ♖a5 (10...♖b6?! B.Savchenko-Kuzubov, Baltic Sea Cup 2008 - CT-2832) 11.♗xf8 ♖xf8 12.♖xd6 ♖b6 13.0-0-0 ♗xd6 14.♗xd6 ♗c5 15.♖e1 ♖f7N, incredibly, occurred twice this week. In both cases Black faced problems and eventually lost: 16.b4!? (or 16.♖c6!? and Black defended unconvincingly in Lahno-Bodnaruk, St Petersburg Ech wom 2009, Rd 4: 16...♗e6 17.♗xf6 gxf6 18.f5 ♗d8 19.♖c7+ ♖g8 20.♖d1 ♗f7 21.♗d5±) 16...♗e6 17.♗xf6 gxf6 18.♗d5 ♖d8 19.♖b6 a5 20.f5 and White is better, Sjugirov-Van Wely, Budva Ech 2009, Rd 5

**9.♗xf6!?**

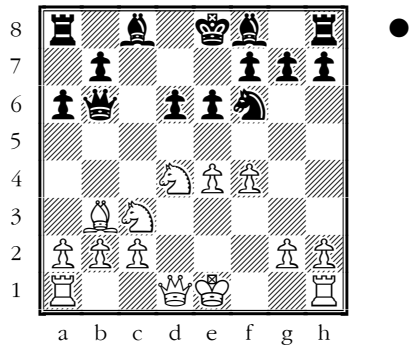
In CT-3045 we had the game B.Savchenko-Al.Kovacevic from the 2nd round of the Euro championship, which followed 9.♗b3 ♗e7 10.f5 ♗c5 11.♖f3 ♗xb3! 12.♗xb3 ♖c7 13.♗d4N, etc. with decent play for Black.

The third, very sharp, option is 9.♖d2 ♗xb2 as in Radjabov–Gelfand, Gothenburg 2005, CT–1732

### 9...♗xf6

9...♗xb2? is not good because of 10.♗xe6! (as given by Beliavsky in Chess Informant) 10...fxe6 11.♗d4± Grozspeter–Loeffler, Lenk 1997

### 10.♗b3 (D)



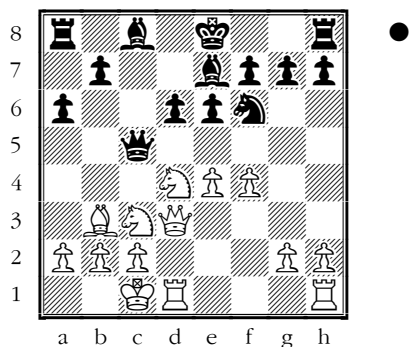
### 10...♖c5N

In Beliavsky–Gelfand, Linares 1994 there was 10...e5 11.♗de2 (a possible improvement is 11.♗a4+!? as in Naiditsch–Sjugirov, Aeroflot open 2009 – this complex game continued 11...♖e7 12.♗de2 exf4 13.♗b3 ♗e6 14.♗d4 g6 15.♖d2 h5 16.0–0–0 ♗xb3 17.axb3 ♗h6 18.♖b1 ♖f8 19.♗hf1 ♖g7 20.g3! with good attacking prospects for White) 11...exf4 12.♗xf4 (12.♗f1 g5! Beliavsky) 12...♖e3+ 13.♗fe2 ♗e7 (13...♗xe4? 14.♗xe4 ♖xe4 15.0–0±) 14.♖d4 ♖xd4 15.♗xd4 and White is marginally better in the endgame; 10...♗e7!? is also an option, though the black queen hardly can stay on b6 forever.

### 11.♖d3

Such a way to develop looks nicer than 11.♖d2

### 11...♗e7 12.0–0–0 (D)



### 12...e5?!

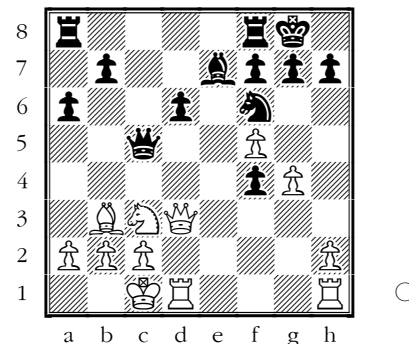
This advance leads Black into trouble.

One of the better ideas is 12...b5 13.f5 (13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 ♖xe5 is double edged) 13...e5 14.♗de2

### 13.♗f5 ♗xf5 14.exf5 0–0

After 14...exf4 15.♗he1± the black king remains in the centre.

### 15.g4!± exf4 (D)



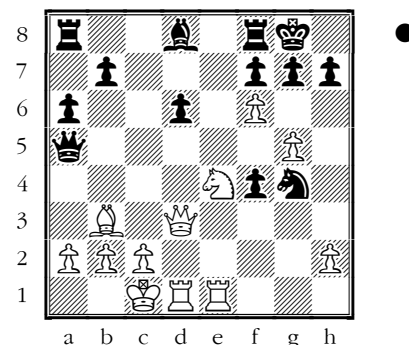
### 16.♗he1

At least, this is simpler than 16.g5 ♗g4 (Black has a number of ideas such as a check from e3, or the capture on g5 by the bishop) 17.f6 ♗f2, etc.

### 16...♗d8?!

This is too passive. But Black does not feel well in any case: 16...♗ae8 17.g5 ♗g4 18.♗e4±, one illustrative line is 18...♖c8 19.f6 gxf6 20.g6 hxg6? 21.♗xd6! and White wins: 21...♗xd6 22.♖xg6+ ♖h8 23.♖h5+ ♖g7 24.♗g1 f5 25.♗xd6 f6 26.h3 ♖c5 27.♗xg4+ fxg4 28.♖xc5, Or 16...d5 17.g5 ♗g4 18.f6± (there is also 18.♗xd5 ♗xg5 19.♗g1 with the idea of 19...♗f2 20.♖f3 ♗xd1 21.♗xg5 ♗e3 22.f6 ♗xd5 23.♗xg7+ ♖h8 24.♗xh7+!+-)

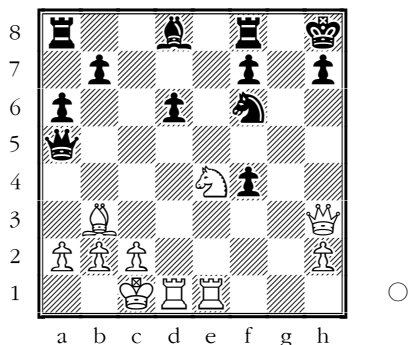
### 17.g5 ♗g4 18.♗e4 ♖a5 19.f6!+- (D)



### 19...gxf6

Or 19...♗e3 20.♗xd6! and White is winning; after 20...♗xd1 21.♗xf7+ ♖h8 22.fxg7+ ♖xg7 23.♖d4+ he mates. 19...g6 does not help either 20.♗xd6 ♗f2 and almost anything

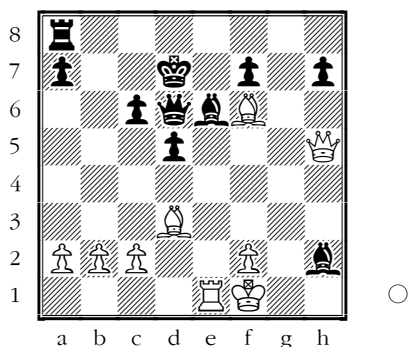
decides, for example: 21.♖c4 ♔c7  
 22.♖d4 ♚xd1 23.♚xf7  
 20.gxf6 ♜h8 21.♜h3 ♚xf6 (D)



22.♜h6!  
 Forcing the victory.  
 22...♚d7 23.♜g1 ♔e5 24.♜d5 1-0.

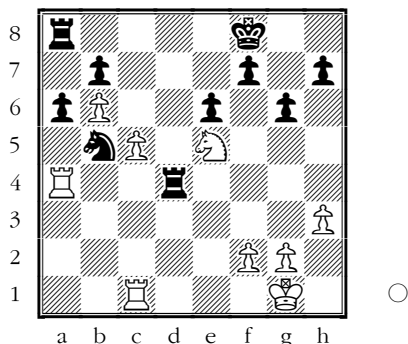
### Solutions to our Quiz:

**I. Saric (2566) – A. Leniart (2360)**  
 10th ch-EUR Budva MNT (6.60), 11.03.2009



20.♜xe6! 20.♜xe6 fxe6 (20...♔xe6  
 21.♚f5) 21.♜f7+ ♔c8 22.♚a6+ ♜b8  
 23.♜b7# 1-0.

**Y. Balashov – D. Bronstein**  
 Moscow-3teams Moscow URS (4.3), 1973



35.c6!!+- bxc6 35...♜xa4 36.cxb7 ♜e8  
 37.♜c8  
 36.♜xd4 Or 36.b7

36...♚xd4 37.b7 ♜d8 37...♜e8  
 38.♜c4+- (or 38.♜b1+-, but not  
 38.♚xc6? ♚e2+)  
 38.♚xc6 ♚xc6 39.♜xc6 ♜e7  
 40.♜c8 ♜d1+ 41.♜h2 1-0.

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Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev. IMs Barskij, Notkin and Deviatkin. Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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