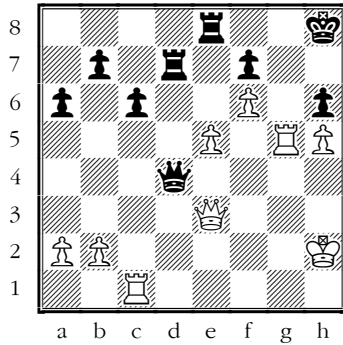


Test Yourself!

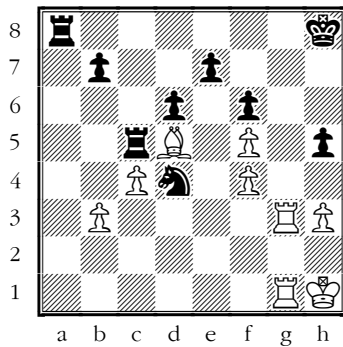


World Chess News

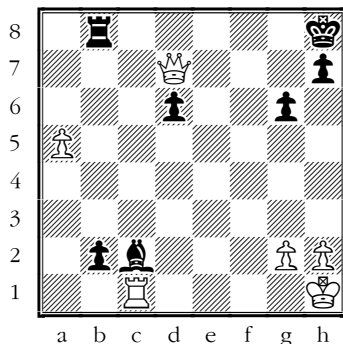
P. Iinuma – S. Leaver
Ch of Japan (1), May 2009



Kojima – Noguchi
Ch of Japan (6), May 2009



S. Kuwata – R. Nakamura
Ch of Japan (7), May 2009



Navara vs. Ivanchuk

An eight-game rapid match between David Navara (CZE, 2654) and Vassily Ivanchuk (UKR, 2746) is taking place from May 27th to 31st 2009 in Prague. It is part of the ČEZ Chess Trophy Festival. Two games per day are played on May 27, May 28, May 30 and May 31, with a free day on May 29, when there will be a simul by GM Lubomir Kavalek.



Day 1 results:

Navara–Ivanchuk ½–½
Ivanchuk – Navara 1–0

[Official website](#)

Chess in Japan

by GM Alex Baburin

I am currently visiting Japan and here I would like to share some impressions about this country and its chess culture. Japan won't be the first country which springs to mind when you think about chess – indeed our ('western') chess isn't very popular there yet, living in a long shadow of Shogi (Japanese chess) and Go. Still, like any other big country, Japan has several chess clubs and a number of reasonably strong players. It regularly sends both main and ladies' team to Chess Olympiads. Japan's top-10 active players list looks like this:

1. FM Watanabe	1972	2333
2. Uesugi Shinsaku	1991	2288
3. Kojima	1988	2277
4. Bibby	1974	2262
5. Baba	1984	2229
6. Matsuo	1975	2228
7. Nanjo	1988	2207
8. Gonda	1950	2146
9. Sano	1985	2140
10. Manabe	1966	2123

If you add 'inactive' players, the top-5 list will look like this:

1. FM Habu	1970	2404
2. FM Schmidt	1954	2340
3. FM Watanabe	1972	2333
4. Moriuchi	1970	2321
5. IM Ramos	1960	2306

The first player on this second list is considered to be a Shogi genius. On a few occasions when he played chess, he showed a very impressive talent in our game too. No. 1 active player, FM Akira Watanabe is an experienced player, who competed in several World Junior championships and three Olympiads (in Moscow, Yerevan and Istanbul). He has been a *Chess Today* reader for a very long time. But he is not the only CT reader in Japan – usually I have 2-3 subscribers from that country at any given time.

Last December IM Sam Collins, who contributes regularly to *Chess Today*, got a job in Tokyo. At the Chess Olympiad in Dresden he invited other members of the Irish squad to visit him in Japan and at some point in early 2009 I decided to take him up on that offer. When Akira heard about the planned visit, he contacted me and after a few e-mails the plan began to shape up. Akira has been immensely helpful in both organising my visit to Japan and helping me to get most out of the trip while here.

My first acquaintance with Japan's chess players was last December in Dresden, where I played against Shinya Kojima on board 1 in the match between our countries. I annotated that interesting game in CT-2953. Before my trip to Japan I got from Sam Collins a database with many games from the chess championship of Japan, which took place in early May. Sam won that tournament with 9/11. Kojima was second and Watanabe came third. Interestingly, that was Japan's chess championship of 2010 – Of course, I heard that Japan was ahead of the world in many areas, but it's scary to think that the gap is so big!
☺

Anyhow, when I saw those game the coach in me immediately woke up and started noticing some instructive mistakes, which many players committed there. You can see some fruits of my labour in this issue and one of the next issues of *Chess Today*. We will provide those games in our database tomorrow.

It seems to me that Japanese players are basically underrated – with more international experience and they will eventually catch up on that, of course. They are dangerous players, particularly when attacking. You can find an example of that in our Annotated Game section today.

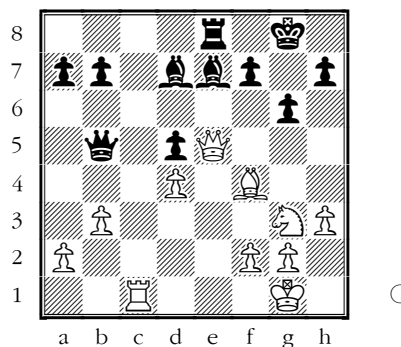
Their main weaknesses are:

- Unsteady play – a series of good moves is often followed by a gross mistake or a series of poor moves
- Poor endgame technique
- Frequent blunders

Here are two examples of typically unsteady play:

S. Kuwata – S. Collins (2429)

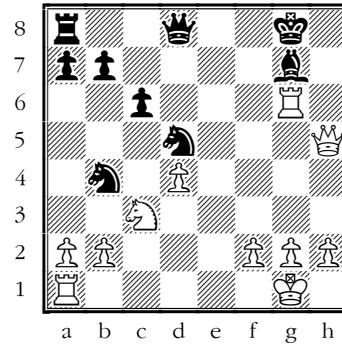
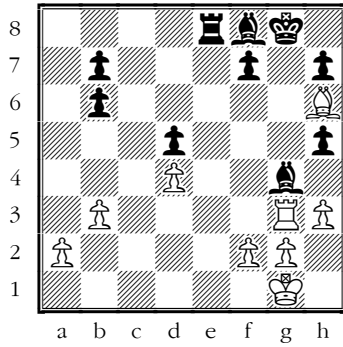
Ch of Japan (1), May 2009



The bishop pair might prove to be an asset later, so White's next decision is absolutely justified:

29. ♖h5! ♗xh5 30. ♕h6 ♖f8
31. ♖g5+ ♗h8 32. ♗f6+ ♖g8
33. ♖c3

It was more practical to fix a draw after 33. ♗g5+ ♗h8 34. ♗f6+ ♖g8.
33... ♗b6 34. ♖g3+ ♕g4 35. ♗xb6
axb6 (D)

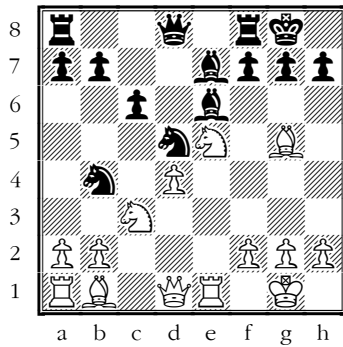


36. Qf4? This is a serious error of judgement. White would be fine after 36. Qxf8 Qxf8 37. hxg4 hxg4 38. Rxc4 Rxc4 39. Qh2 Rxe2 40. Rg5.

36... Re4 37. Qe5?! f6! 38. Qc7 Re7 0-1. Maybe White ran out of time here, as otherwise it's hard to explain the result - after 39. Qb8 the game could go on.

K. Sugimoto (2045) - D. Kurihara
Ch of Japan (3), May 2009

1. c4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. cxd5 Qf6 5. Qc3 Qxd5 6. Qc4 Qb6 7. Qb3 Qe7 8. Qf3 0-0 9. 0-0 Qd8 10. d4 c6 11. Qc2 Qf6 12. Qg5 Qbd5 13. Qe5 Qe6 14. Re1 Qb4 15. Qb1 Qfd5 (D)



23. Qg4

It was easier to win after 23. Qe4+-.
23... Qe7 24. Qxd5 Qxd5 25. Re6 Qf7 26. Qg6? Qxg6 27. Rxc6 Qf7 28. Rg4 Re8 29. Qf1 Qb4 30. g3 Qc2 31. d5?? Qxa1 0-1.

I think that it would be better to examine the two other main weaknesses of (most) Japanese players in our regular columns. You can expect to see my 'Endgame Kaleidoscope' in the next CT issue, while today let's consider gross tactical oversights.



Beware: Blunder

by GM Alex Baburin

In this column I'd like to show a few typical error committed in the last chess championship of Japan. Hopefully everyone can learn from them and will avoid similar misfortune in his or her own games!

S. Kojima - T. Tanaka
Ch of Japan (2), May 2009

1. Qf3 d5 2. d4 Qf6 3. c4 c6 4. e3 e6 5. b3 Qd6 6. Qb2 0-0 7. Qd3 Qbd7 8. 0-0 Re8?! 9. Qe5 Qc7?! 10. f4 c5 11. Qc3 (D)

In a typical IQP position White has succeeded in building up a strong attack.

16. Qh5 g6??

16...h6? 17. Qxh6 is also bad for Black. 16...f5 was the lesser evil - 17. Qxd5 Qxd5 18. Qf3 Qf7 19. Qh3↑.

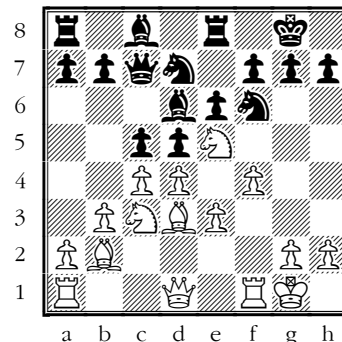
17. Qxg6! fxc6 18. Qxc6 Rf7 18...hxg6 19. Qxg6+ Qh8 20. Rxe6+-, 19. Rxe6 hxg6 20. Rxc6+ Rg7 21. Qh6

Here 21. Rf6! would win on the spot.

21... Qf6 22. Qxc7

Better was 22. Qe4!.

22... Qxc7 (D)



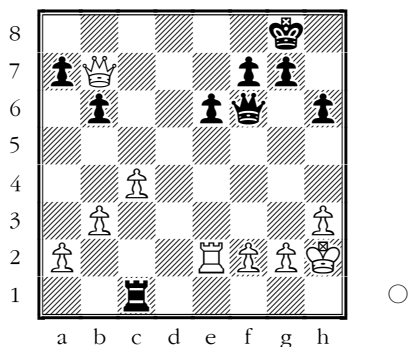
Here Black had to play 11...a6 12.cxd5 exd5 13.♖c1↑. Instead he erred badly and the game was over soon:

11...b6?? 12.♗b5 1-0.

Probably I would not have resigned here, as White would still have work to do after 12...♖b8 13.♗c6 ♖b7 14.♗xd6 ♖xc6 15.♗xe8 ♗xe8.

T. Fukuda – H. Manabe (2123)

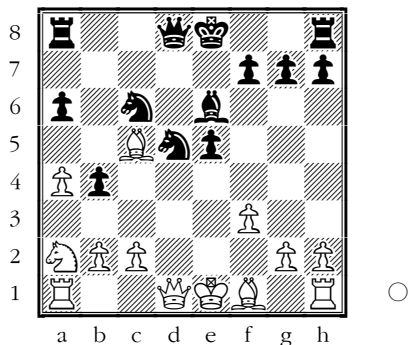
Ch of Japan (2), May 2009



White should be OK after 33.♖a8+ ♗h7 34.♖e4+ g6 35.♖d2. Instead he played the incredible **33.♖xa7?? ♖f4+! 34.g3 ♖f3 0-1.**

S. Kishi – R. Nanjyo (2207)

Ch of Japan (2), May 2009

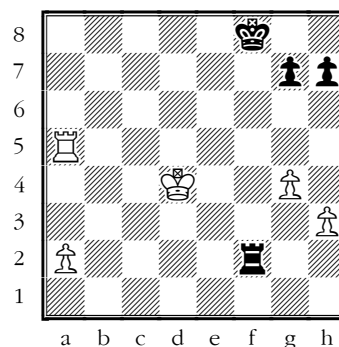


Black is doing fine, but White's next move must have come as a great (and a very pleasant!) surprise to him:

15.♗c4?? ♖h4+ 16.♗f2 ♖xc4 17.g3 ♗d4 18.b3 ♖xc2 19.♗xd4 ♖xd1+ 20.♖xd1 exd4 21.♖xd4 a5 22.♖f2 ♖c8 23.♖d2 0-0 24.♗c1 ♗c3 25.♖e1 ♖fd8 26.♖b2 ♗d1+ 0-1.

S. Kishi – K. Sugimoto (2045)

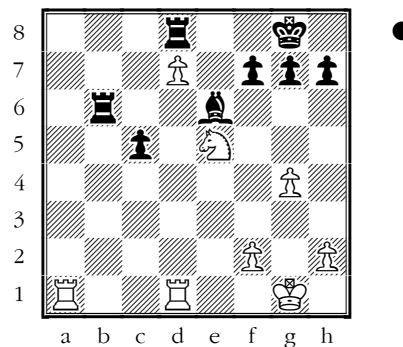
Ch of Japan (1), May 2009



Here Black should be able to draw after 42...♖h2, for example, 43.♖a3 ♖g8!? (preventing 44.♖f3+ and 45.a3). Instead he went down quickly: **42...♖f3?? 43.♖f5+ ♖xf5 44.gxf5 1-0.**

T. Kurihara – A. Kobayashi

Ch of Japan (4), May 2009



The d7-pawn can become a liability after 26...♖f8, but Black allowed it to show its great potential: **26...f6?? 27.♖a8! 1-0.**

What is the main lesson one can learn from these examples? Stay alert and check every move – your opponent isn't a dummy and has threats too!

Annotated Game

by GM Alex Baburin

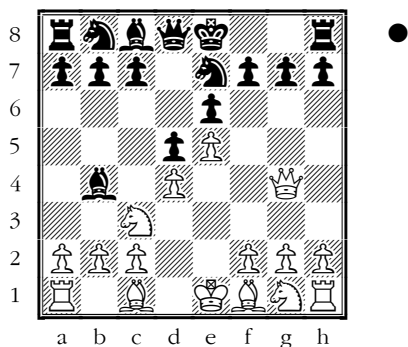
K. Yamada – A. Drakakis

Ch of Japan (4), May 2009

The French Defence – [C16]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 ♗b4 4.e5 ♗e7 Usually Black plays 4...c5 here, but this move is OK too.
5.♖g4 (D)

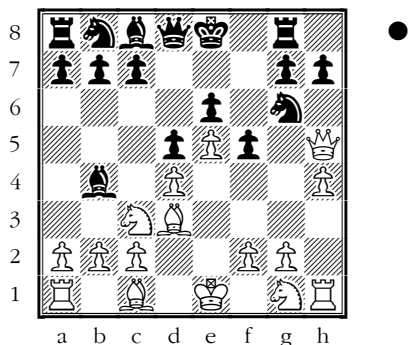
5.a3 is much more common, but the text move is popular as well.



5...Bg8? When I see such moves, the phrase "you can't be serious!" immediately springs to mind!

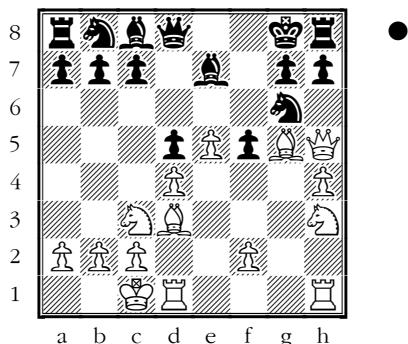
A normal move here is 5...c5, for example 6.d3 b6 7.a3 xc3+ 8.bxc3 a5 9.d2 0-0 10.d3 f5 11.exf6 xf6 12.h5 d5 13.c4 a4 14.g4 dxc4 15.e4 cxd4 16.dxd4 cxd4 17.gxf5 exf5 18.d5+ e6 19.xb7 f7 20.h4 e8+ 21.d1 d3+ Friedel - Shulman, Las Vegas 2003, or 6.xg7 g8 7.xh7 cxd4 8.a3 a5 9.f3? dxc3 10.b3 b6 11.g5 dxe5+ Manik-Jussupow, Warsaw 2005.

6.d3 g6 7.h4! f5 8.h5 (D)



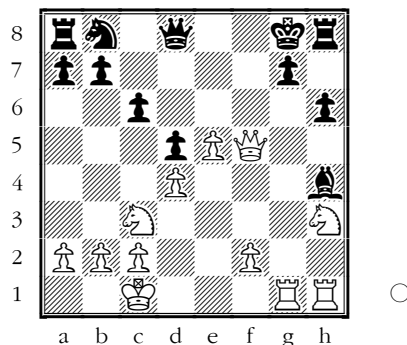
8...Bf7?! 8...Bh8 9.dge2!
9.dh3 Maybe 9.d3 was more precise, keeping an eye on the centre - 9...h6 10.g4+-.

9...e7 10.g5! Bh8 11.g4!
 White blows the position wide open while Black's queenside is still frozen.
11...g8 12.gxf5 exf5 13.0-0-0 (D)



White has developed all his pieces, while Black has just two chessmen out - and he has moved his king to g8! It's not surprising then that Black is already lost here.

13...e6 14.f3 dxh4 15.xh4 xh4 16.xf5 xf5 17.xf5 c6 18.dg1 h6 (D)

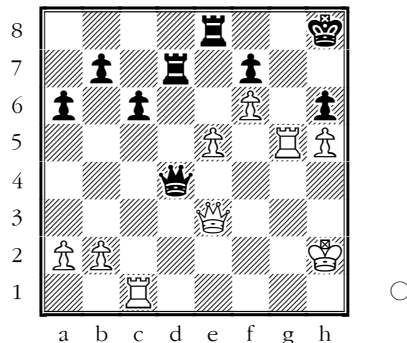


19.e6+ Even more energetic was 19.xg7+ xg7 20.g1+ g5+ 21.xg5+-.

19...f8 20.g4 g5 21.f4 h5 22.hxh4 gxf4 23.xh5 1-0.

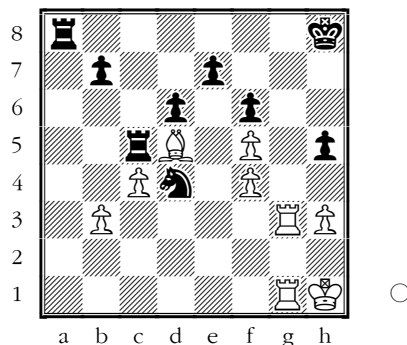
Solutions to our Quiz:

P. Iinuma - S. Leaver
 Ch of Japan (1), May 2009



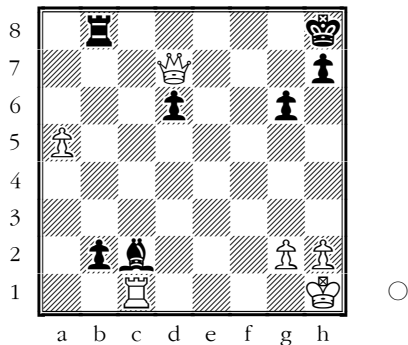
39.Bg8+! 1-0.

Kojima - Noguchi
 Ch of Japan (6), May 2009



33.♖g6! ♔h7 34.♖g7+ ♔h8
 35.♗g8! ♖xg8 36.♖xg8+ ♔h7
 37.♖8g7+ ♔h8 38.♖xe7 b5 39.♖a1
 ♖c8 40.cxb5 ♗xb5 41.♖ae1 ♗d4
 42.♖e8+ ♖xe8 43.♖xe8+ ♔g7
 44.b4 ♔f7 45.♖e1 ♗xf5 46.b5 ♗d4
 47.b6 ♗c6 48.b7 d5 49.♖c1 ♗b8
 50.♖c8 ♗a6 51.♖a8 1-0.

S. Kuwata – R. Nakamura
 Ch of Japan (7), May 2009



Here White could get great winning chances after 36.♖b1! ♗xb1 37.♖xd6 ♖e8 38.♖d4+ ♔g8 39.♔g1 ♗e4 40.♖xb2. Instead of that he played 36.♖g1? and was very lucky to survive after

36...b1♖ 37.♖xd6 ♖b2 38.♖f1 ♗f5
 39.a6 ♖b6 40.♖e5+ ♔g8 41.h4 ♖f8
 42.♖d5+ ♔g7 43.♖a1 ♖b2 44.♖e1
 ♖f7 45.♖c5 ♗e4 46.♖g5 ♗a8?
 47.h5! ♖xg2+ 48.♖xg2 ♗xg2+
 49.♔xg2 g5 50.♖b1 ♔g6 51.♖a1
 ♖a7 52.♔f3 ♔f6 53.♖a5 ♔e7
 54.♖xh5 ♖xa6 55.♖xh7+ 1/2-1/2.

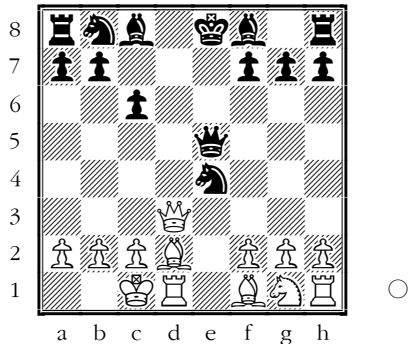
Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) – we appreciate your feedback! **Chess Today** is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ababurin@iol.ie Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net>

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

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Test Yourself!

R. Reti – S. Tartakower
Vienna Vienna AUT, 1910



On this Day...

The famous Austrian–Hungarian, later Czechoslovakian player **Richard Réti** was born on 28 May 1889. A contribution of a chess–player to the game in principle cannot be more fundamental than Réti's. He composed one of the most famous chess studies ever. (White: ♖h8, ♗c6, Black: ♕a6, ♗h5. 1. ♖g7!, etc. =). The Réti Opening (1. ♖f3 and if 1...d5 2.c4) is named after him. Réti died on 6 June 1929, aged forty. In the last 15 years of his life Réti constantly belonged to the group of the world's best players.



World Chess News

Chinese Championships

The Chinese Championship takes place in Xinghua Jiangsu from 26 May – 6 June 2009. [The Week in Chess](#) now has crosstables and basic links on its front page. The [men's](#) event is all–play–all with 12 participants (average ELO 2588, Category 14). The [women's](#) championship is also all–play–all with 12 participants (average ELO 2346, Category 4).

It is a very good trend that information from the main Chinese events lately started to reach the English–language chess sites...

In the April 2009 official FIDE [Top Countries](#) lists, China with 2652 points is in the third place by average rating of top 10 players (behind Russia, 2724 and Ukraine, 2692) and in the second place with 2468 points in the similar women's list (1.Russia 2469; 3.Georgia 2439).

Ukrainian events

by GM Mikhail Golubev

The [Ukrainian Team Championship](#) is taking place in Alushta. On May 27, there was the penultimate round in the final pool (for Places 1–6):

Law Academy – PVK 2½–3½

Moiseenko v Ponomariov ½–½

Korobov v A.Onischuk ½–½

Borovikov v Miroshnichenko ½–½

Firman v Areshchenko ½–½

Brodsky v Beliavsky 0–1

Kovchan v Baklan ½–½

PGMB – Stara Gvardiya 4½–1½

Rivnensky Zybry – Zakhid Resurs

3½–2½

The PGMB team (GM Andreikin, GM Azarov, IM Zubov, GM Kononenko...) will face PVK in the crucial match of the final round.

Standings before the final round:

1. PVK Kiev Chess – 8 (20)

2. PGMB Lugansk – 8 (17½)

3. Law Academy Kharkov – 4 (13½)

4. Rivnensky Zybry – 2 (7)

5. Stara Gvardiya Kiev – 2 (6½)

6. Zakhid Resurs – 0 (7½).

The [Ukrainian women's championship](#) is taking place in Evpatoria. After 5 rounds, Tatjana Vasilevich and Evgeniya Doluhanova are leading with 4½ points.

27th Liechtenstein Open

The 27th Liechtenstein Open took place on 15–23 May 2009 in Triesen. There were 107 participants, including five Grandmasters. GM Imre Hera Jr (HUN, 2533) and IM Sebastian Bogner (GER, 2511) scored 7/9.

[Official website](#); [Chess-Results](#)

Stuttgart Championship

The 14th International Stuttgart Championship took place on 21–24 May 2009. GM Sergei Ovsejevitch (UKR, 2580), IM Maxim Chetverik (RUS, 2323) and Dmitry Svetushkin (MDA, 2615) occupied the podium, scoring 6/7 each. There were 130 participants.

[Full results](#)

Cuban events

GM Lazaro Bruzon won the all-play-all MONCADA tournament in Santiago de Cuba:

Final standings:

1. GM Bruzon – 8 out of 11
2. GM Almeida – 7
- 3–4. GM Yu.González and FM Blanco – 6½, etc. (12 participants).

The Guillermo Garcia Memorial begins today in Santa Clara. Thanks to our Latin America correspondent, Luiz Roberto da Costa Jr. for this news.

Calgary, Canada

This swiss system event took place from May 14th–18th, 2009 in Calgary.

Final standings:

- 1–2. GM Ant.Kovalyov (ARG, 2557) and IM Porper (CAN, 2435) – 6½ out of 9
3. IM Castellanos Rodriguez (ESP, 2446) – 6, etc (20 players).

The [official website](#) by the Calgary Chess Club is a good example of what is needed most at the chess tournament website. All the key links are visible.

3rd ACP Cup (More Coverage in Russian)

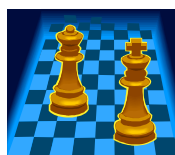
A large [report with photos](#) by the Odessa study composer Sergey Tkachenko has been published today at ChessPro.ru.

I posted at Youtube [TV reports](#) by the local channel, TRC Novaya Odessa, for whom I am grateful as they provided a file and permission to use it with necessary references.

Some [photos](#) by me are at the Odessa Chess Cruise site. Pictures are without captions, so the page is quite adopted for viewing. There are [amazed Odessa GMs](#), a minute after Peter Svidler blundered ♖a1+ in the decisive game (what we all saw from the commentary room), etc.

Honorary President of Turkish Fed. Passes Away

A sad message by Ali Nihat Yazici has just been published at [FIDE.com](#). The Honorary President of Turkish Chess Federation, International Arbiter Kahraman Olgac passed away on 27 May 2009.

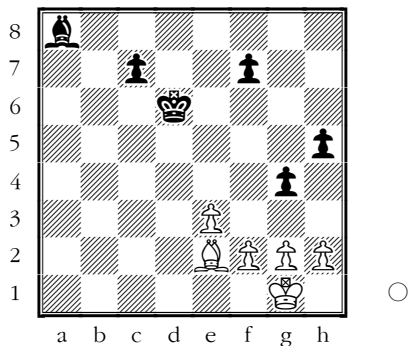


Endgame Kaleidoscope *by GM Alex Baburin*

In CT-3123 we looked at some attacking chess and blunders from the Japanese championship, so today I'd like to look at some instructive endgames from the same tournament.

I think that most Japanese players need to work hard on their endgame technique: study key endgame, analyse their own endings, etc.

H. Manabe – S. Ohtake
Ch of Japan (3), May 2009

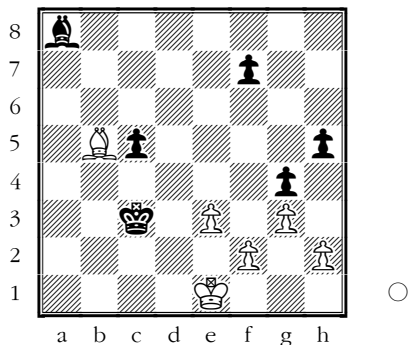


Black is better thanks to his passed pawn, but White should be able to hold this position.

29.g3??

Correct was 29.f3!, creating pawn tension on the kingside, seeking counter-play and getting ready to move his king to d2 or use it to attack the enemy pawns on the kingside. 29...gxf3 30.gxf3 (not 30.Qxf3?? Qxf3 31.gxf3 Qd5-+) 30...Qc5 (30...h4 31.Qg2 c5 32.Qh3 Qd5 33.Qxh4 c4 34.Qg3 c3 35.Qd1) 31.h4 Qb4 32.f4 c5 33.Qxh5 Qd5 34.e4=.

29...Qc5 30.Qf1 Qb4 31.Qe1 Qc3 32.Qb5 c5-+ (D)

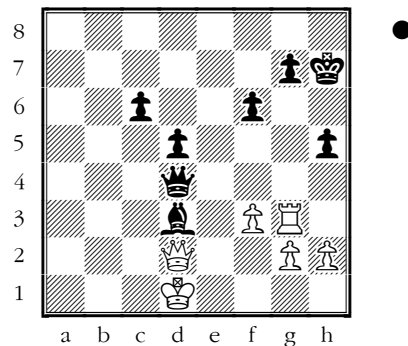


33.Qe8

Or 33.Qd1 Qd5 34.Qc1 c4.

33...Qd5 34.e4 Qe6 35.Qc6 c4 36.f4 Qb2 37.Qd1 c3 38.Qa4 Qc4 39.Qc2 Qe2+! 40.Qxe2 Qxc2 41.Qe3 Qd1 42.Qd4 c2 43.Qe5 c1Q 44.Qf6 Qc4 45.Qg5 Qxe4 46.Qxh5 Qg6+ 47.Qh4 f5 0-1.

R. Nanjyo – K. Yamada
Ch of Japan (1), May 2009

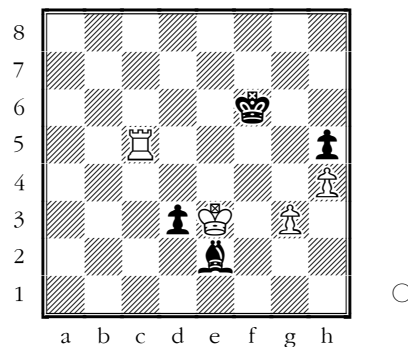


The black king is safe, while its white counterpart is very exposed. This means that White would love to exchange queens - and strangely enough, Black assisted him in that: **45...Qa1+**

If Black did not go for that exchange, winning this endgame should be rather trivial. A sample line runs like that: 45...c5 46.f4 c4 47.Qe3 Qa1+ 48.Qc1 Qa4+ 49.Qe1 Qa7 50.Qd1 Qh6 51.f5 Qg1+ 52.Qd2 Qd4 53.Qe1 Qe5+ 54.Qf2 Qxf5+ 55.Qf3 Qe4.

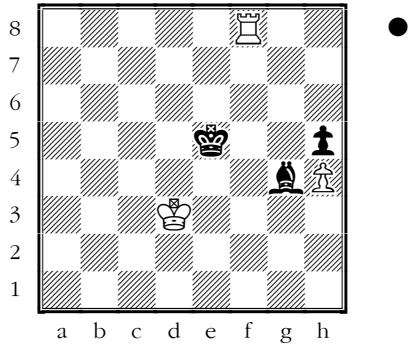
46.Qc1 Qxc1? 47.Qxc1 g5? Mistakes usually don't come alone!

48.f4 Qb5 49.fxg5 Qg6 50.h4 d4 51.gxf6+ Qxf6 52.Qg5 Qe2 53.Qc5 d3 54.Qd2 Qe6 55.Qxc6+ Qf5 56.Qc4 Qf1 57.g3 Qe2 58.Qe3 Qg6 59.Qc5 Qf6 (D)

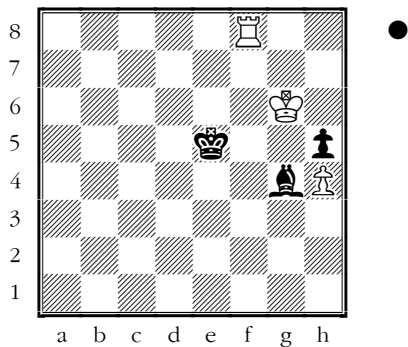


White is a clear exchange up now, but he probably can't win here: the d4-pawn ties him down, while he can't get a passed pawn.

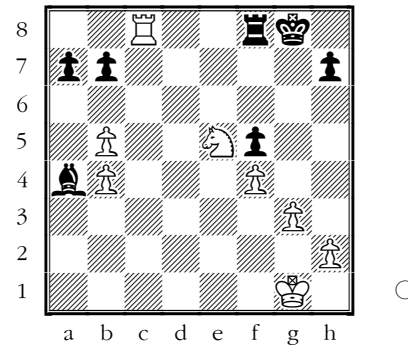
60.Qd5 Qe6 61.Qd8 Qf5 62.Qd4 Qe6 63.Qf4 Qe5 64.Qf7 Qe6 65.Qf8 Qe5 66.g4 Qxg4 67.Qxd3 (D)



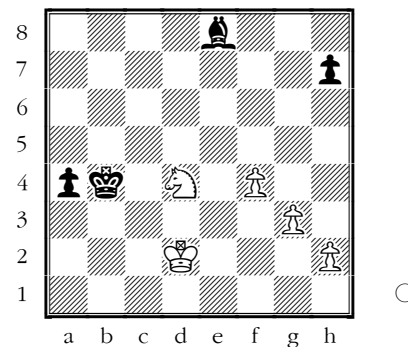
We examined such positions in *Chess Today* on a few occasions in the past. This endgame is drawn – Black must not allow his king to be pushed too close to the h–pawn – and White can't push it too far away from it!
67...♙d1 68.♚e3 ♘g4 69.♖a8 ♜f5 70.♗a5+ ♞g6 71.♜f4 ♜f6 72.♗a6+ ♞g7 73.♞g5 ♜f7 74.♗f6+ ♚e7! 75.♗f1 ♚e6 76.♞g6 ♚e5 77.♗f8 (D)



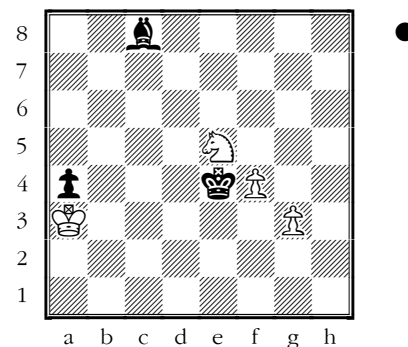
77...♙d1?? Correct was **77...♚e6**, not allowing White to push the black king to the kingside.
78.♞g5? **78.♗e8+ ♜f4+-.**
78...♚e6 79.♞g6 ♚e5 80.♗e8+ ♜f4 81.♜f6? **81.♗e7!.**
81...♙f3! 82.♖b8 ♙e2?
 Only **82...♚e4!** might allow Black to hold the balance.
83.♖b4+ ♚e3 84.♞g5 ♙d1 85.♖b8 ♙g4 86.♖b4 ♙d1 87.♜f5 ♜d3 88.♚e5 ♚e3 89.♗e4+ ♜f3 90.♙d4 ♙e2 91.♜f5 ♞g3 92.♗f4 ♙d1 93.♞g5 ♙e2 94.♗f8 ♙g4 95.♖h8 1-0.



The glorious e5–knight won't win the game alone, so White's next move was a big mistake:
35.♗xf8+?
 The line **35.♗c7 ♙xb5 36.♗xb7 a6 37.♞g2 ♗f6 38.♜f3 ♗d6 39.g4! ffg4+ 40.♞xg4** would have offered White much higher winning chances.
35...♜xf8 36.♙d7+ ♜f7 37.♙c5 ♙xb5 38.♙xb7 ♚e6 39.♜f2 ♜d5 40.♚e3 ♚c4 41.♙d6+ ♜xb4 42.♙xf5 a5 43.♙d4 ♙e8 44.♜d2 a4 (D)

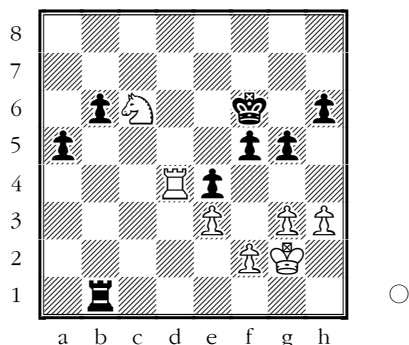


Active pieces and a dangerous passer give Black enough counter–play.
45.♜c2 ♚c4 46.♙e6 ♙d7 47.♙g5 ♜d4 48.♚b2 h5 49.♙h7 h4! 50.♙f6 hxg3 51.hxg3 ♙f5 52.♙e8 ♙g4 53.♙d6 ♜d5 54.♙f7 ♚e4 55.♙e5 ♙c8 56.♚a3 (D)



56...♙e3 57.♙xa4 ♖f2 58.g4 ♕g3
59.f5 ♙f4 60.f6 ♗e6 61.f7 ½-½.

K. Noguchi - R. Nakamura
Ch of Japan (3), May 2009

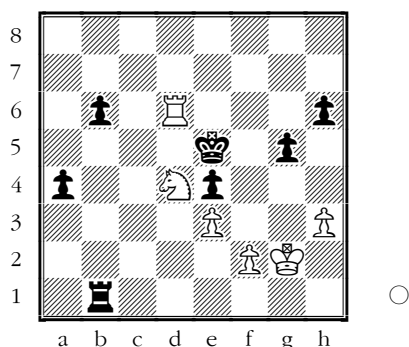


White should be winning here even though his knight is not a great piece when it comes fighting enemy pawns.

55.g4? Certain pawns should be won, not exchanged! Correct was 55.♗d6+! ♕g7 56.♗d4 a4 57.♗xf5+ ♕f7 58.♗d4 b5 59.♗a6+-.

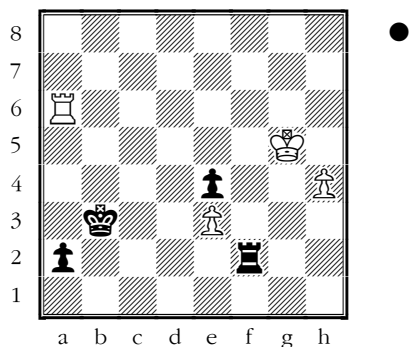
55...♙e6 56.gxf5+ ♙xf5 57.♗d6 ♭57.♗d8.

57...a4 58.♗d4+ ♙e5 (D)



59.♗xh6? Not winning a won endgame is bad enough, but losing it is even worse! White had to play 59.♗d8.

59...a3 60.♗c2 a2 61.♗c6 ♗c1 62.♗xb6 ♗xc2 63.♗a6 ♙d5+- 64.♙g3 ♙c4 65.♙g4 ♙b3 66.♙xg5 ♗xf2 67.h4 (D)



67...♙b2

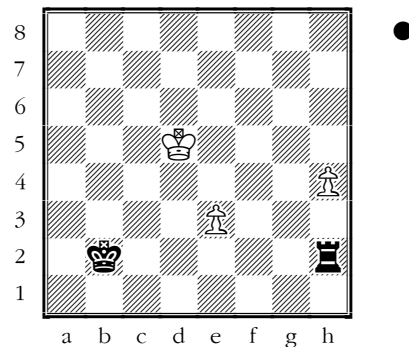
It was better to play 67...♗f1!.

68.♗b6+ ♙c1 69.♗a6 ♙b1

70.♗b6+!

Less resilient is 70.h5 a1♙ 71.♗xa1+ ♙xa1 72.h6 ♙b2 73.h7 ♗h2+-.

70...♗b2 71.♗a6 a1♙ 72.♗xa1+ ♙xa1 73.♙f4! ♗h2 74.♙xe4 ♙b2 75.♙d5 (D)



Black has messed things up a bit and now has to play precisely to win the game.

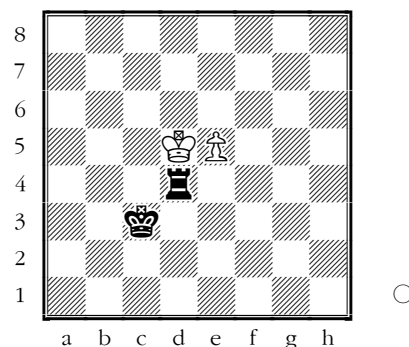
75...♗xh4??

Who needs this pawn yet? Black's main problem was his king, therefore he had to play 75...♙c3! 76.e4 ♗d2+! 77.♙e5 (or 77.♙e6 ♙d4 78.e5 ♗e2 79.♙f6 ♗f2+) 77...♙c4 78.h5 ♗h2 79.♙d6 ♗a2.

76.e4

Now it's a draw!

76...♙c3 77.e5 ♗d4+ (D)

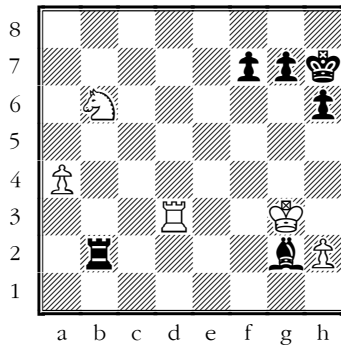


78.♙e6??

White had an easy draw after 78.♙c6= or 78.♙c5=.

78...♙c4 79.♙f7 ♙d5 80.e6 ♗f4+ 0-1.

A. Watanabe – S. Kojima
Ch of Japan (7), May 2009



37...♙c6?!

It was easy enough to win the rook endgame after 37...♞xb6! 38.♜xg2 ♞b2+ 39.♜g3 ♞a2 40.♞d4 g5.

38.a5 g5 39.♞d6 ♙e4 40.a6 ♞a2 41.♙d7 ♙h1?

41...♜g7!.

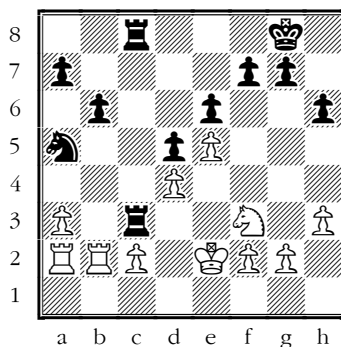
42.♙f6+ ♜g6

42...♜g7 43.♙h5+=.

43.♙g4+ ♜g7 44.♙xh6 ♙e4 45.h4 g4 46.♜xh4 ♞h2+ 47.♜g5 f6+ 48.♞xf6 ♞g2+ 49.♙g4 ♞xg4+ 1/2-1/2

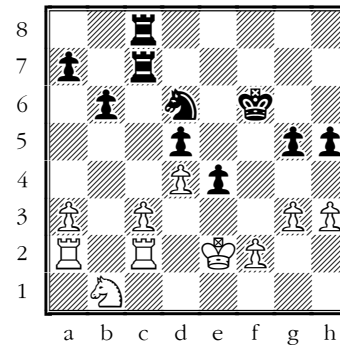
I don't want to give an impression that Japanese players always play the endgame badly – as I said earlier, I looked at games from the Japanese championship as a coach, picking out common mistakes, etc. Here are two examples of excellent endgame technique:

T. Tanaka – K. Yamada
Ch of Japan (3), May 2009



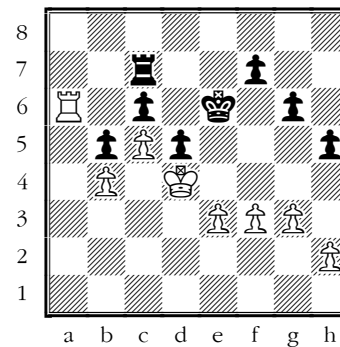
Black has a superior pawn structure, which enabled his rooks to get more active positions. In the game he converted his advantage in good style:
27...g5 28.g3 ♜g7 29.♙d2 h5 30.♙b1 ♞3c7 31.c3 f6! 32.exf6+ ♜xf6 33.♜d3 ♙c4 34.♞c2 e5! 35.♙d2

35.dxe5+ ♙xe5+ 36.♜d2 h4!
35...e4+ 36.♜e2 ♙d6! 37.♙b1 (D)



37...h4 38.g4 ♜e6 39.♞ab2 ♙c4 40.♞b3 ♞f8! 41.♙d2 ♞cf7 0-1.

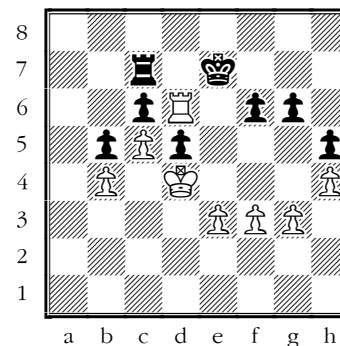
S. Kojima – Y. Nakamura
Ch of Japan (4), May 2009



White stands better, thanks to his active rook. Now he needs to create more targets to attack.

39.♞a8! ♜f6 40.h4 ♜e6 41.♞d8! ♜e7?

Black had to play 41...♜f5! 42.♞d6 ♞c8 43.♞d7 ♜e6 44.♞a7 ♜f6 and it's not easy for White to make progress.
42.♞d6 f6 (D)



43.g4! ♞c8

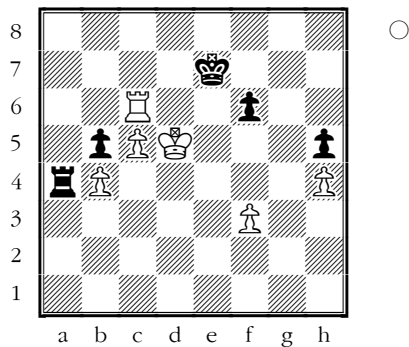
The line 43...hxg4 44.fxg4 ♞c8 also did not look appealing – 45.g5 fxg5 46.hxg5 ♞h8 47.♞xc6 ♞h4+ 48.♜xd5 ♞xb4 49.♞xg6+-.

44.gxh5 gxh5 45.e4! dxe4 46.♔xe4
 Black is now lost as the white king is about to invade via f5.

46...♖a8 47.♖xc6!

Rybka prefers 47.♖f5, but this isn't necessarily a better line, for example:
 47...♖a4 48.♖e6+ ♖f7 49.♖xf6+ ♖g7
 50.♖xc6 ♖xb4 51.f4 ♖c4 52.♖g5 b4
 53.f5 b3.

47...♖a4 48.♖d5 (D)

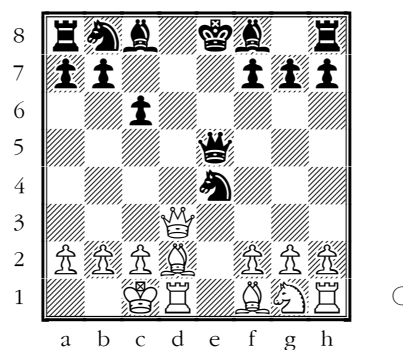


I think that Kojima made the right choice on the 47th move – the white king has to support its passed pawn!
 48...f5? This move expedites Black's demise, though the line 48...♖xb4 49.♖c7+ ♖d8 50.♖h7 ♖xh4 51.c6 was also bad for him.

49.♖e6+ ♖d7 50.c6+ ♖c7 51.♖c5 f4 52.♖e7+ ♖d8 53.♖d6 ♖a6 54.♖b7 ♖e8 55.♖b8+ ♖f7 56.♖d7 ♖a1 57.c7 ♖d1+ 58.♖c6 1-0.

Solution to our Quiz:

R. Reti – S. Tartakower
 Vienna Vienna AUT, 1910



9.♖d8+!! ♖xd8 10.♙g5+ ♖c7
 10...♖e8 11.♖d8# 11.♙d8# 1-0.

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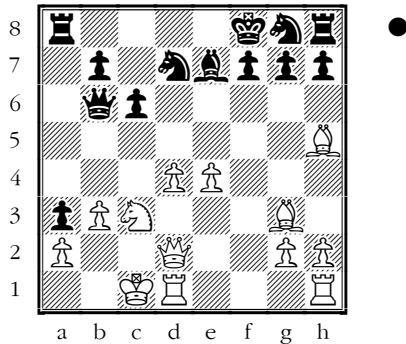
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This is a photo taken after a lecture and simul. in the Hamamatsu chess club.

Test Yourself!

Baburin (2541) – Collins (2429)
Nagoya Open, blitz, 24.05.2009



World Chess News

Chess in Japan, Part 2

by GM Alex Baburin

At this stage I have been in Japan for 10 days. I've done a lot of sightseeing and some chess stuff too. Last Friday I gave a lecture (kindly translated by Akira Watanabe) and a simul. in a small chess club in Hamamatsu, a city with about 800,000 people. While there, I was treated by the club members to famous local dumplings. I know a thing or two about dumplings myself and can testify that Hamamatsu deserves its fame for them!

On Saturday Akira and I went to Nagoya (a very nice city too!), where Sam Collins joined us for the traditional Nagoya Open. That small, but enjoyable event finished with the following results:

- 1-2.** IM Collins (2429) and GM Baburin (2541) – 4½/5
- 3.** Gonda (2146) – 3½, etc.

I played Mr. Gonda with White in round 3 and it was not easy to win that game. He was Japan's champion on many occasions.

Sam won the blitz tie-break (see our Quiz). In our Annotated Game section you can find one of the critical games of that tournament.

This weekend I will give another lecture and simul. near Tokyo and on Monday I will head back to rainy Dublin. So far the trip has been very enjoyable. Interestingly, I found Japan less exotic than I thought it would be. Of course, language is a major barrier, but other than that finding your way around here isn't too difficult: the metro system in Tokyo is excellent and very logical. The train system is superb – we used Shinkansen to get to Nagoya and back. Actually, I took Akira's advice (which again proved great!) and after the Nagoya Open went to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. The weather was very pleasant that day and I enjoyed Kyoto, walking in the city and visiting a few temples.

People in Japan dress very well and very formally – there are lots of men wearing suits and ties. And the Japanese are incredibly polite! Cities are very clean and there are lots of small shops, cafes and restaurants. I would say that the district of Akasaka (where I am staying) has 5-7 times more eateries than a similar size area in the Dublin city!

Till 2007 I was indifferent to Japanese food – any major Russian city has lots of sushi bars and I was (still am!) suspicious of what you might get there. However, two years ago a friend invited me to a sushi restaurant in San Francisco and I enjoyed the experience very much. After this trip I've become very fond of the Japanese cuisine. Eating out isn't expensive here – you can get a decent lunch for 5-10 euro. Food stores offer a great variety of sea products – they are very impressive! Food in shops is not too expensive either, but perhaps the fact that I live in one of the most expensive countries in Europe, affects my judgement.

Hotels aren't expensive either – a nice hotel in Nagoya, which was probably a three star hotel, charged 7,000 yen or about 55 euro per night.

To sum up, Japan is well-worth a visit! As for chess in Japan, I would like to mention a [website](#) of FM Akira Watanabe (in Japanese) which offers articles on endgames, great players, some results in Japanese tournaments, etc.

Annotated Game

by GM Alex Baburin

Before the last round of the Nagoya Open Sam Collins and I had 3½/4, while Akira Watanabe and Paul Iinuma had 3 points. I managed to defeat Paul in a tense game and the fate of the first prize was decided in the ending of this game. It should be noted that prior to this game Akira played chess 6 hours none-stop, as his games in rounds 3 and 4 were very long. In time control in that tournament was 1 hour each with 30 second increment from move 1.

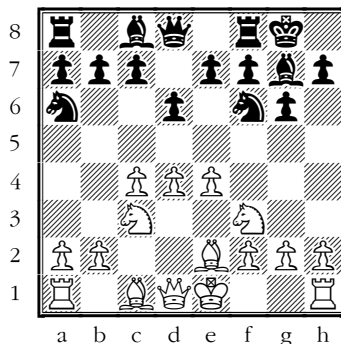
White: FM Akira Watanabe (2333)

Black: IM Sam Collins (2429)

Nagoya Open (5), 24.05.2009

The King's Indian Defence – [E94]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6 5.♖e2 0-0 6.♗f3 ♘a6 (D)

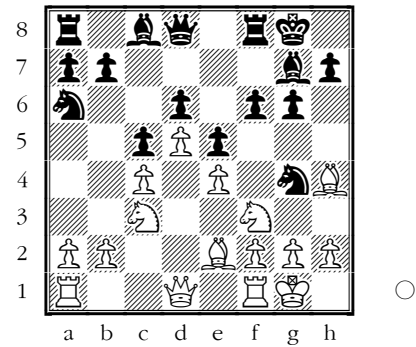


I guess that Sam only recently started playing the KID, so he is experimenting and avoiding the main lines.

7.0-0 e5 8.♖e3 This is the most popular move, although 8.♖e1, 8.♖g5 and 8.d5 are also very common.

8...c6 9.d5 ♗g4 10.♖g5 f6 11.♖h4

c5 (D)



Although ...♗a6 is a sideline, this position is well-known in the opening theory. As it's often the case in the KID, White will play on the queenside, while Black will try to get active on the opposite wing.

12.♗e1

Sometimes White prefers here 12.♗d2 or 12.a3.

12...♗h6

The alternative is 12...h5, for example: 13.a3 ♗h6 14.h3 ♗c7 15.♗d3 ♗e8 16.♖d2 g5 17.♖g3 f5 18.exf5 h4 19.♖h2 ♗xf5 20.♖ae1 ♗d4 21.♖g4 ♖h6 22.♗e4 ♗f6 23.♖xc8 ♖xc8 24.♗xd6 ♖xd6 25.♗xe5 ♖a6 26.♖d3 ♖g7 27.b4↑ M. Gurevich – Kozul, Tripoli 2004.

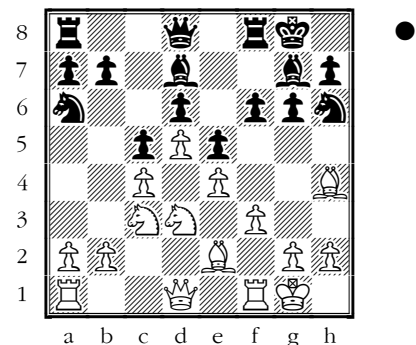
13.f3

13.♗d3 ♖e8 14.f3 ♗f7 15.♖b1 f5 16.b4 b6 17.bxc5 bxc5 18.♖a4 ♖xa4 19.♗xa4 ♖d7 20.♗c3 ♖fb8 21.♗b5± Gelfand – Sutovsky, Tilburg 1996.

13...♖d7

13...♗f7 14.♖b1 h5 15.♖h1 ♖h6 16.♗d3 b6 17.b4 ♖g7 18.a4 ♗xb4 19.♗xb4 cxb4 20.♖xb4 ♖e3 21.♖b1 ♖d7 22.♖f2 ♖xf2 23.♖xf2 ♖c7 24.♖f1 ♗d8 25.a5!∞ Watanabe – Spraggett, Cappelle la Grande 1999.

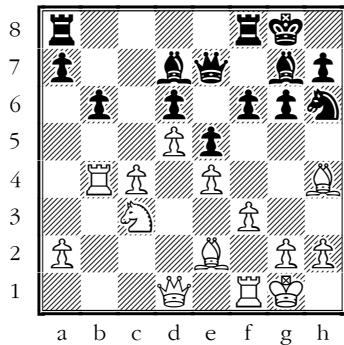
14.♗d3 (D)



14...♖e7 I don't like this move as it seems slow to me. Perhaps it was time

to start playing on the kingside with 14...g5 15.♘f2 f5, even if White should keep better chances here, for example: 16.♖b1 g4 17.fxf4 ♗xg4 18.exf5 ♗xf2 19.♗xf2 ♘xf5 20.♙d3 ♗c7 21.♘xf5 ♖xf5 22.♗b3 ♖b8 23.♗fe4 ♖xf1+ 24.♖xf1± Shabalov – Fishbein, Seattle 2003.

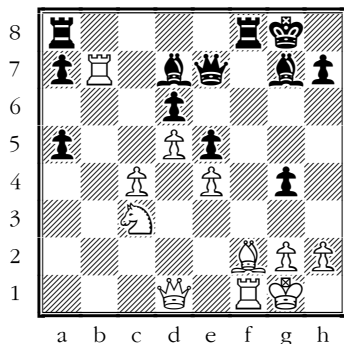
15.♖b1 b6 16.b4 ♗xb4 17.♗xb4 cxb4 18.♖xb4 (D)



18...g5 19.♘f2 f5 20.a4

The line 20.exf5 ♗xf5 21.♙d3 was a worthy alternative.

20...g4 21.a5! gxf3 22.♘xf3 ♗g4 23.♘g4 bxa5 24.♖b7 fxf4 (D)



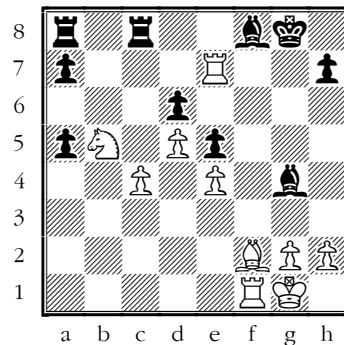
This is the first critical position in this game. When I saw this position during the game, I felt that White had to play 25.c5 dxc5 26.d6 ♖e6 27.♗d5. White is probably better here too, but it seems that Watanabe's choice was not bad either.

25.♗xg4!?

My objection to this move was that in the endgame Black's a- pawns would mean something.

25...♘g4 26.♖xe7 ♖fc8 27.♗b5?! Here White missed a good chance to seize the initiative: 27.c5 ♘f8 (or 27...dxc5 28.h3 ♘h5 29.d6±) 28.♖b7 dxc5 29.♘g3±.

27...♘f8 (D)



28.♖xa7

Rybka advocates an interesting exchange sacrifice: 28.♘h4 ♘xe7 29.♘xe7 ♖xc4 30.♗xd6 ♖c2 31.h3 ♘h5 32.♗f5 ♘g6 33.d6 ♘xf5 34.exf5 ♗f7 35.♖b1 ∞.

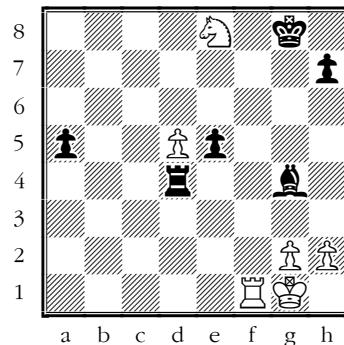
28...♖xa7 29.♘xa7 ♖xc4 30.♘b8! ♖xe4

30...♘e2!?

31.♘xd6 ♘xd6

∞31...♘h6!?

32.♗xd6 ♖d4 33.♗e8 (D)

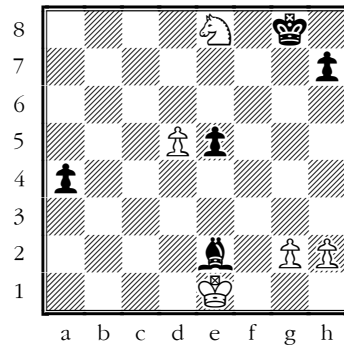


33...♘e2

The line 33...a4 34.♗f6+ ♖g7 35.♗xg4 ♖xg4 36.♖b1 should lead to a draw, but perhaps Black should have preferred 33...♘d1!?

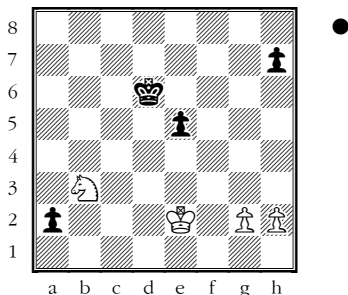
34.♖e1 ♖d1 35.♗f2 ♖xe1 36.♗xe1 a4? (D)

It was better to play 36...♘c4.



37.♗d2?

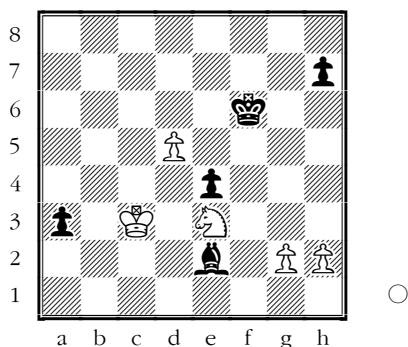
When I was watching this game, my gut feeling was that White could take the bishop and still stop the a-pawn somehow. Computer validates that feeling: after 37.♖xe2! a3 38.d6 ♖f7 39.d7 ♖e7 40.♗d6 a2 (40...♖xd7 leads to the same position after 41.♗e4! a2 42.♗c5+ ♖d6 43.♗b3) 41.♗b7 ♖xd7 42.♗c5+ ♖d6 43.♗b3 (D)



it's Black who will be fighting for a draw, even though it's the most likely outcome here.

37...a3?! Both players were rather short of time at this stage. Moving the a-pawn here wasn't a good idea as it just became more vulnerable.

38.♖c3 ♖f7 39.♗d6+ ♖e7 40.♗f5+ ♖f6 41.♗e3 e4 (D)

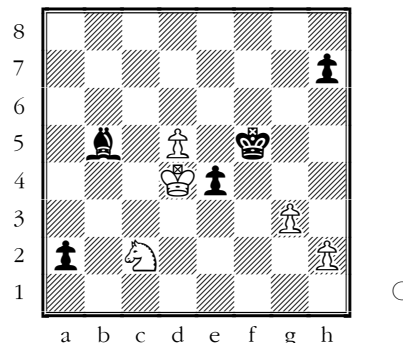


42.♗c2?? This is the final mistake in this game – White chose a wrong arrangement for his pieces: the king had to deal with the a-pawn, while the knight should fight against the e-pawn.

At that moment I had already won my game and I was watching my rivals with great interest. I felt that White should be OK after 42.♖b3! ♖e5 43.♖xa3 ♖d4 44.d6 ♖b5 45.♖b4. The computer analysis confirms this assessment: 45...♖d7 46.♗f1 e3 47.♗g3 ♖d3 48.♖c5 e2 49.♗xe2 ♖xe2 50.♖b6 ♖f2 51.♖c7 ♖f5 52.d7 ♖xd7 53.♖xd7 ♖xg2 54.♖e6=. Black can try a trickier move – 45...♖e8 (moving the

bishop away from ♖b6-c7), but White has other ideas too: 46.♗f5+ ♖d3 47.♖c5 e3 48.♗g3 e2 49.♗xe2 ♖xe2 50.♖d5 ♖f2 51.♖e6 ♖xg2 52.♖f6 ♖xh2 53.♖g5=.

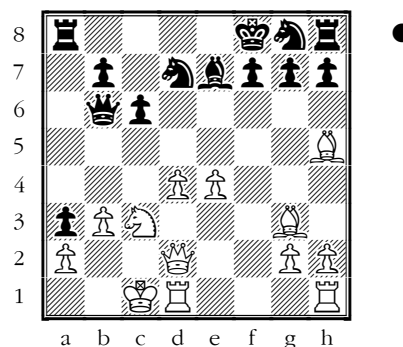
42...a2 43.♖d4 ♖f5 44.g3 ♖b5 (D)



0-1. Here White ran out of time, but he would have run out of moves soon anyway, for example: 45.♗a1 ♖a4 46.♖e3 ♖e5 47.d6 ♖c6 48.g4 ♖xd6 49.♖d4 ♖e6 50.♗c2 ♖f6 51.h4 ♖g6 52.♖c3 ♖a4 53.♗a1 ♖d1+.

Solution to our Quiz:

Baburin (2541) – Collins (2429)
Nagoya Open, blitz, 24.05.2009



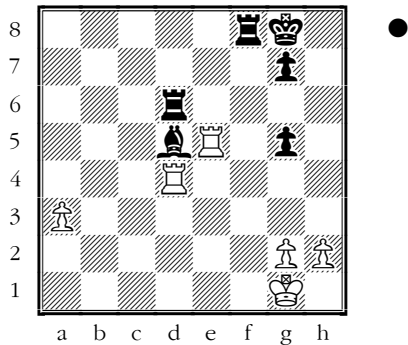
18...♖a5! 19.e5 ♖g5! 0-1.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) – 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 and Notkin. Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

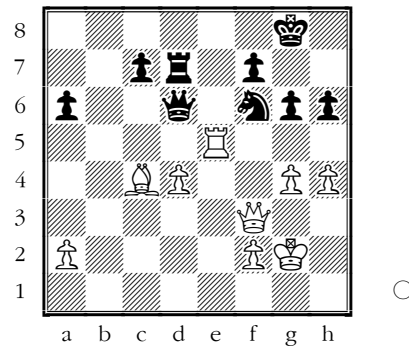
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Test Yourself!

Li Shilong (2557) – Wang Hao(2696)
China Ch Xinghua Jiangsu, 01.06.2009



Grandelius (2491) – Berg (2610)
Sigeman & Co (4), Malmo, 06.06.2009

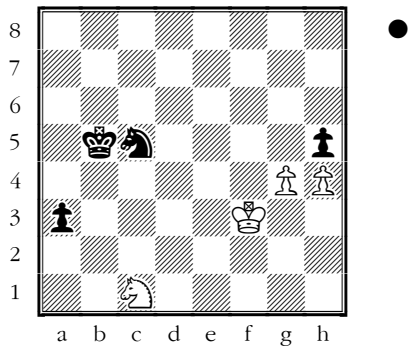


On This Day...

by GM Alex Baburin

Wang Hao (2696) – Liang Chong (2511), China Ch, Xinghua Jiangsu (11), 06.06.2009

Ukrainian GM Ruslan Pogorelov turns 50 today.



World Chess News

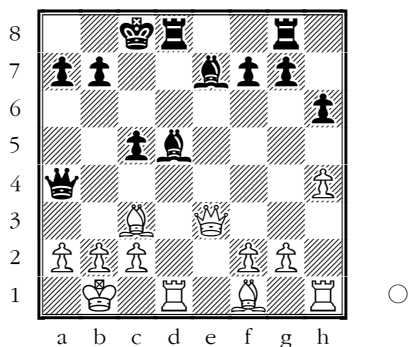
Chinese Championships

The Chinese Championships took place in Xinghua Jiangsu between the 26th May and the 6th of June 2009.

Li Chao (2643) – Bu Xiangzhi (2704)
China Ch Xinghua Jiangsu, 02.06.2009

Main Ch, final standings:

1. Ding Liren (2458)– 8½/11
2. GM Wang Hao (2696) – 8
3. GM Bu Xiangzhi (2704) – 7
4. GM Zhou Weiqi (2563) – 6½
- 5–6. GMs Li Chao (2643) and Ni Hua (2724) – 6, etc.



Assess 18. ♖xe7

I'd like to quote Mark Crowther of [TWIC](#): "Liren Ding won the championship after long time leader Wang Hao lost in the final round. However the story is more dramatic than that. Ding won his final round game by default after his opponent arrived late, I can't even imagine what impact this had on Wang's frame of mind. This follows the round 8 default where Hou Yifan arrived 5 seconds

late against Liang Chong. I can't begin to say how idiotic these new FIDE regulations are."

Ladies' Ch, final standings:

1. WGM Shen Yang (2420) – 9/11
2. GM Zhao Xue (2531) – 8½
3. Tan Zhongyi (2436) – 8
4. WIM Zhang Xiaowen (2340) – 7, etc

You can find all games from the Chinese championships in our database today. [Official website](#)

Lublin, Poland

This close tournament concluded yesterday. You can find all games from that event in our database today.

Final Standings:

1. GM Grachev (RUS, 2652) – 6/9
- 2–3. GMs Roiz (ISR, 2635) and Wojtaszek (POL, 2630) – 5½
4. GM B. Socko (POL, 2637) – 5
5. GM S. Zhigalko (BLR, 2622) – 4½
- 6–9. GMs Khenkin (GER, 2630), Dziuba (POL, 2535), Gajewski (POL, 2571) and Bartel (POL, 2601) – 4
10. GM Malakhatko (BEL, 2618) – 2½.

[Official website](#)

Guillermo Garcia Memorial

This closed [tournament](#) finished in Cuba yesterday.

Final Standings:

1. Fidel Corrales – 6/8
2. Emilio Cordova – 5
- 3–4. Holden Hernandez and Lazaro Bruzon – 4½, etc.

10th Karpov tournament in Poikovsky, Russia

Round 4 results:

Inarkiev – Naiditsch 1–0
Sutovsky – Motylev 0–1
Efimenko – Rublevsky 1–0
Onischuk – Bologan ½–½
Shirov – Gashimov 0–1

Standings after 4 rounds:

- 1–2. Gashimov (2730) and Motylev (2677) – 3½
3. Inarkiev (2676) – 3
4. Naiditsch (2700) – 2½
- 5–6. Bologan (2690) and Sutovsky (2660) – 2
7. Efimenko (2682) – 1½
- 8–9. Rublevsky (2702) and Onischuk (2684) – 1
10. Shirov (2745) – 0.

[Official website](#) (in Russian).

Sigeman & Co., Malmo

Round 4 results:

Short – Hillarp Persson ½–½
Grandelius – Berg 1–0
Nyback – I. Sokolov ½–½

Standings before the last round:

1. Short (ENG, 2674) – 3½/4
- 2–3. I. Sokolov (NED 2669) and IM Grandelius (SWE, 2491) – 2½
4. Nyback (FIN, 2655) – 1½
- 5–6. Hillarp Persson (SWE, 2618) and Berg (SWE, 2610) – 1

[Official website](#)

39th Capablanca Memorial

This category XVI tournament (average rating – 2657) starts at the Pan American Hotel in Havana today.

The players are:

- Leinier Dominguez (Cuba, 2721)
- Artyon Timofeev (Russia, 2677)
- Boris Savchenko (Russia, 2655)
- Geor Meier (Germany, 2641)
- Igor Khenkin (Germany, 2630)
- Lazaro Bruzon (Cuba, 2617)

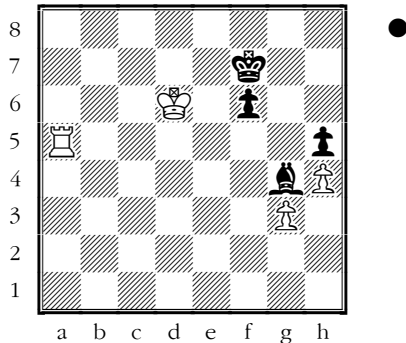
[Official website](#)

XXII Leon Tournament

In the second semi-final match Magnus Carlsen (Norway, 2770) beat Wang Yue (China, 2738) 3½–2½ and will now face Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine, 2751) in the final.

Wang Yue took an early lead after winning game 2, but Carlsen levelled the score in game 3 and finally prevailed in blitz. An endgame position from game 1 is worth mentioning:

Carlsen (2770) - Wang Yue (2738)
XXII Rapid KO Leon (1.1), 06.06.2009



This is a fortress – White can't get his king close to the f-pawn.

[Official website](#)

Leko vs. Anand

In game 5 Vishy Anand again opted for the Gruenfeld Defence. For a while the players repeated game 4, which my colleague GM Mikhail Golubev annotated in CT-3132, but Anand deviated from it on move 11. After interesting fight he scored a second victory in this match. Anand also stood better in game 6, but Leko saved the endgame. Anand is now leading 4-2.

[Official website](#)

Press-release

Elementary School Kids in North Carolina Play Live Match with Australian Kids

Chess eXpress Ratings (CXR) teamed up with *Chess Kids* (the biggest scholastic chess organization "down under") to organize a friendly chess match. What was unusual about the match was that half the players were in Rutherford County, North Carolina, and their opponents were in Melbourne, Australia! Students from

Ellenboro Elementary School in North Carolina used their school's computer lab to connect, via the world-wide web, with their counterparts across the globe for this live match

One of the oddities of the match was that the players were 14 time zones apart! The American children were playing on Wednesday evening, June 3, starting at 6:00 PM. But the Australian chess kids were playing on Thursday morning, June 4, at 8:00 AM, before school! Crikey!!

Some of the parameters of the match were:

- each team fielded 10 boards (plus alternates)
- time control was game in 20 minutes (sudden death)
- tournament officials on each side ensured proper conduct of the match
- Video hook-up via Skype connected the two locations allowing the kids to greet each other
- Games will be CXR-rated and all players will receive 1 year of premium CXR service

CXR founder Russ Mollot stated that *Chess Kids* and *CXR* hope to hold several additional intercontinental matches in the near future "to bring this synergy of chess and computer technology to more youngsters in more states. We are looking for more candidates to participate in this ground-breaking project."

June 4, 2009. For any additional information, email: info@cxrchess.com

Annotated Game

by GM Alex Baburin

Today I'd like to show a short draw I made against my friend Sam Collins in the Nagoya Open. This game may appear boring, but there was something hidden beneath the surface...

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

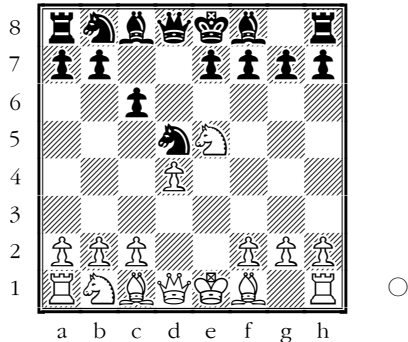
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to <http://www.chesstoday.net>

Collins (2429) – Baburin (2541)

Nagoya Open (2), 23.05.2009

The Alekhine Defence – [B04]

1.e4 Δ f6 2.e5 Δ d5 3.d4 d6 4. Δ f3
dxe5 5. Δ xe5 c6 (D)

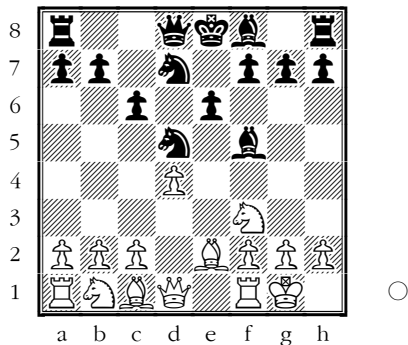


Currently this is Black's most popular system against the Main Variation (4. Δ f3). It makes sense to support the d5-knight as White has ♞f3 ideas, etc. One important point about this line is that the hasty 6.c4? gives Black an easy game: 6... Δ b4 7. Δ e3 Δ f5 8. Δ d3? (8. Δ a3) 8...e5!. I won three games with Black from this position. Try to be in such a great shape after 8 moves in the Najdorf! ☺

6. Δ e2 Δ f5 7.0-0

The principled line here is probably 7.g4, for example: 7... Δ e6 8.c4 Δ b6 9.b3 f6 10. Δ d3 ♞xd4 11. Δ b2 ♞d8 12. Δ c3 Δ a6∞ Kasparov – Short, Moscow 2002.

7... Δ d7 8. Δ f3 e6 (D)



9.c4

White can prepare c2-c4 with 9.a3. After 9... Δ e7 10.c4 Δ 5f6 11. Δ c3 h6 12. Δ f4 0-0 13.d5 exd5 14.cxd5 Δ xd5 15. Δ xd5 cxd5 16. ♞xd5 Δ e6 17. ♞xb7 ± White eventually won in the game Rublevsky – Carlsen, Moscow 2007. But I think that Black should be fine after the standard move 9...b5!?

9... Δ b4

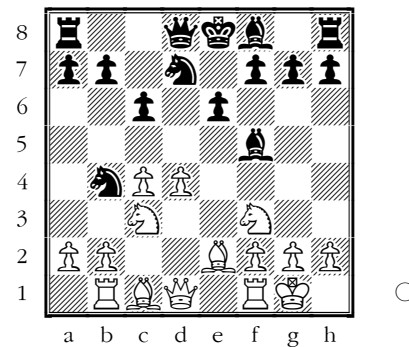
Black can opt for 9... Δ 5f6, but to me this looks like a concession. White should be better here. One example: 10. Δ c3 Δ b4 11. Δ f4 Δ xc3 12.bxc3 0-0 13. ♞b3 ♞c8 14. Δ h4 Δ g4 15.f3 Δ h5 16.g4 Δ g6 17. Δ d6 ♞d8 18. Δ xg6 hxg6 19.g5 Δ e8 20. Δ e7 ♞c7 21. Δ xd8 ♞xd8 22.f4± Shashikant – Short, Nagpur 2008.

10. Δ c3

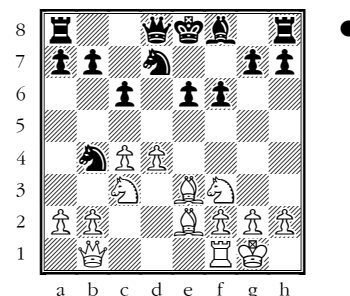
Black was absolutely fine after 10. Δ a3 Δ e7 11. Δ d2 0-0 12. Δ c3 a5 13. ♞b3 ?! b6 in the game Kostenko – Dergilev, Tomsk 2006.

Things get really heated after 10.a3!? Δ c2 11. ♞a2 c5! (Black should avoid 11... Δ xd4? 12. ♞xd4 c5 13. ♞c3 Δ xb1 14. Δ g5 f6 15. ♞xb1 fvg5 16. ♞e3 ± Carlsen – Madsen, Trondheim 2004.) 12.d5 e5 (12... Δ d4 13. Δ xd4 cxd4 14.dxe6 fxe6 15. Δ d3 Δ xd3 16. ♞xd3 Δ c5 17. ♞e2 ∞ Ramesh – Grunberg, Olomouc 2004.) 13. Δ g5 Δ e7 14. Δ xe7 ♞xe7 15. Δ d3 Δ xd3 16. ♞xd3 Δ d4∞ Vogt – Loeffler, Austria 2002.

10... Δ c2 11. ♞b1 Δ b4 (D)



Can White avoid a draw here? I had a feeling that he should be able to do so – after all, he did not do anything wrong (Δ e2, 0-0, Δ f3, c2-c4, Δ c3), did he? But I could not see any reasonable way for White to fight on – and neither could Sam. Curiously, both Fritz 11 and Rybka see it! White had to play 12. Δ g5 f6 13. Δ e3 Δ xb1 14. ♞xb1 (D)

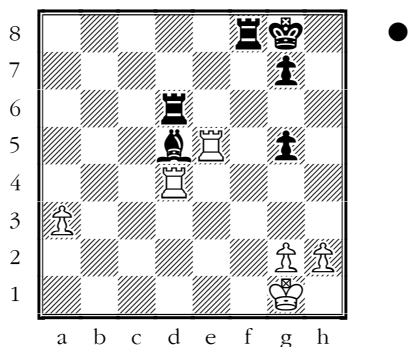


OK, White is an exchange down, but all his pieces are mobilized, while Black still need to play ...♙e7 and castle. The e6-pawn is weak and so is Black's kingside. White is going to play a2-a3 and after ...♗b4-a6 he can choose between b2-b4 and d4-d5!. All in all, White has great compensation for the exchange, but what really impressed me is that computers found this idea - clearly they are no longer just 'bean counters'!

12.♙a1 ♗c2 13.♙b1 ♗b4 1/2-1/2.

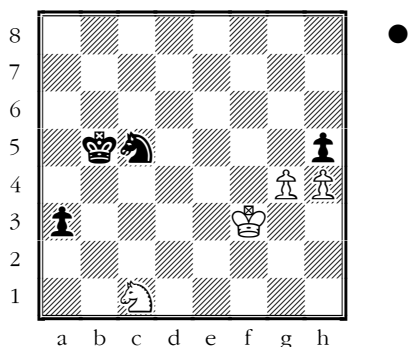
Solutions to our Quiz:

Li Shilong (2557) - Wang Hao(2696)
China Ch Xinghua Jiangsu, 01.06.2009



35...♙c4! 0-1.

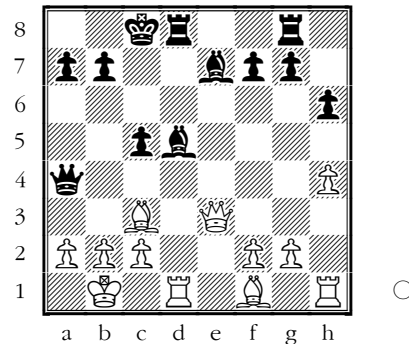
Wang Hao (2696) - Liang Chong (2511), China Ch, Xinghua Jiangsu (11), 06.06.2009



63...♗d3!+- 64.♗a2 ♗e5+ 65.♙f4 ♗xg4 66.♙g5 ♙c4 67.♙xh5 ♗e5 68.♙h6 ♙b3 0-1.

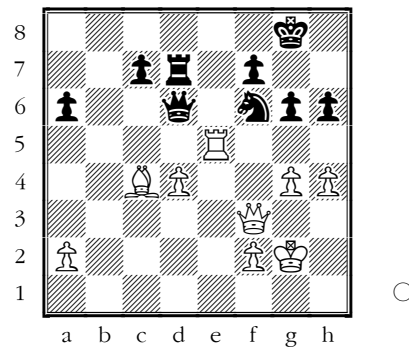


Li Chao (2643) - Bu Xiangzhi (2704)
China Ch Xinghua Jiangsu, 02.06.2009



White had to play 18.b3 ♙c6 19.♙d3±. The game went **18.♙xe7?? ♙xa2+ 19.♙c1 ♙a1+ 20.♙d2 ♙xd1+ 0-1.**

Grandelius (2491) - Berg (2610)
Sigeman & Co (4), Malmo, 06.06.2009



26.♙e6! ♙e7□ 27.♙xf6 ♙xe6 28.♙xe6 ♙xe6 29.♙xe6 ♙xe6 30.♙f3 ♙f7 31.♙f4+- ♙f6 32.a3 a5 33.g5+ hxg5+ 34.hxg5+ ♙e7 35.♙e5 a4 36.d5 exd5 37.♙xd5 ♙d7 38.♙c5 ♙e6 39.♙b4 ♙d5 40.♙xa4 ♙e4 (or 40...♙c4 41.f4+-) 41.♙b5 ♙d5 42.a4 c6+ 43.♙b6 1-0.

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