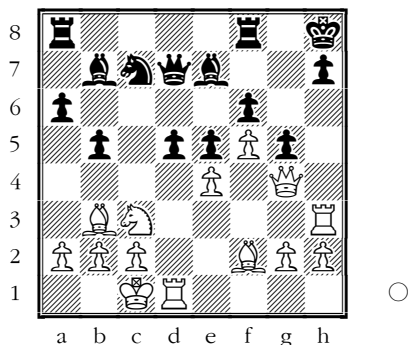


Chess Quiz

Volokitin (2594) – Savchenko (2543)
Bundesliga, 14.02.2004



Chess News

Chess in Indonesia

Yesterday we received an interesting update on chess in Indonesia from FIDE Vice-President Ignatius Leong: "The Adianto vs. Zhu blindfold exhibition was held in the presence of 1,500 spectators. It was held as the main event for the opening of a building of a chess sponsor (who had been backing Adianto in the 1990's). Invited guests came from Europe and Asia – the sponsor's business principals and dealers, etc ... with 250 rooms blocked at the Sheraton Hotel.

The 2 blindfold games were played using rapid rules; the first game was shown live on TV with running commentaries; there were about 3 dozen reporters from TV stations and newspaper companies.

GM tourney started on Monday – with Zhu, Adianto, Stefanova, Hoang Thanh Trang, Juswanto and rising star Megaranto. The entire production should have cost my friend easily \$500,000.

A major spectacle also took place in January in Jakarta – with 12,192 players who competed in a knock-out

blitz tourney – all playing at the same time. The organisers had to turn away entries because of the shortage of chess sets. The event was restricted to players with master titles. The winner won a car. All players received souvenirs and 2 meals, the 2nd round losers took home the chess sets. The event cost about \$450,000."

Mr. Leong sent us his response to the open letter from GM Macieja, which we will publish tomorrow.

GM tournament in Jakarta

This double-round closed tournament is taking place on 16–25 February.

Round 1:

Thanh Trang – Megaranto 0–1

Juswanto – Adianto ½–½

Zhu Chen – Stefanova ½–½

You can see all games of round 1 in our database. IM Megaranto was pretty much lost after the opening, but luck (force?!) was with him!

Round 2:

Megaranto – Stefanova 0 – 1

Thanh Trang – Juswanto 0 – 1

Adianto – Zhu Chen 0 – 1

It was clearly a black day for White!

Standings after round 2:

1–3. WGM Stefanova, GM Zhu Chen and IM Juswanto – 1½ points;

4. IM Megaranto – 1 point

5. GM Adianto – ½ points;

6. IM Thanh Trang – 0 points.

It is curious that the official site has a banner linking to KasparovChess.com – somebody should have told them that the site no longer exists...

[Official website](#)

2nd Breizh Masters, France

After 5 rounds GM Vladimir Baklan (UKR, 2606) is leading this 6-player double round robin with 4 points.

[Official website](#)

The Aeroflot Open

This prestigious tournament took off in Moscow yesterday. Looking at the results of round 1, I could not find Vladimir Akopian on the list. He probably pulled out at the last minute. But another high rated player – Vladimir Malakhov – entered the tournament instead.

Let's have a look at the results on the top 15 boards:

Malakhov – Grigoriants ½–½
Kruppa – Dreev ½–½
Aleksandrov – Makarov 0–1
Neverov – Bologan ½–½
Lautier – Yurtaev 1–0
Iljushin – Khalifman ½–½
Smirin – Belkhodja 1–0
Li Shilong – Bacrot 0–1
Sakaev – Kurnosov 1–0
Zhang Pengxiang – Rublevsky 0–1
Sasikiran – Kosyrev 1–0
Sandipan – Aronian ½–½
Mamedyarov – Zagrebelny 1–0
Rashkovsky – Zhang Zhong ½–½
Kobalia – Narciso Dublan 0–1

As you can see, the Elo favourites won +7–2=6. Usually higher rated players score much heavily in first rounds, so this is just another illustration how tough this tournament is!

In round 1 13-year old IM Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2484) lost to Lithuanian Grandmaster Sarunas Sulskis, but we hope that Magnus will catch up soon. You can read the second half of his interview in today's issue.

Top boards in round 2:

Sorokin – Lautier
Shaposhnikov – Smirin
Bacrot – Goloshchapov
Kotsur – Sakaev
Rublevsky – Karjakin
Ghaem Maghami – Sasikiran
Soko – Mamedyarov
Movsesian – Korobov
Volkov – Gershon
Tregubov – Vorobiov

At the time of this writing games from round 1 were not available yet.

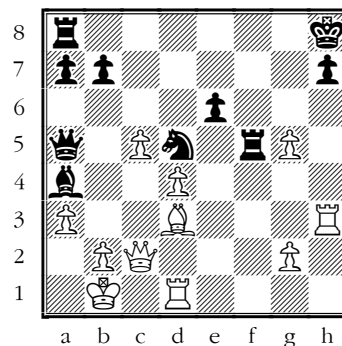
[Official website](#)

Mystery Solved!

Yesterday we published the following 'mystery' position, sent in by one of our readers:

XX – NN

ICC blitz, 01.2004



Eckhard Völcker challenged other readers to find the solution, which Fritz does not offer or favour. In the last issue I mentioned several possible moves (all considered by Fritz): 1.b3!, 1.♖xh7+!? and 1.♖e2!?. Fritz clearly thinks that 1.b3! is best and wins.

Today Eckhard sent me the following message:

"When I sent the position I didn't want to give you my thoughts – because I did not want to 'spoil' the discovery.

1.♖xh7+! is the solution. What amazed me (and I am just an 1800 Elo player) was how helpless Black is: 1...♖xh7 2.♖xf5+ exf5 3.♖xf5+ ♖g7 4.♖e5+ ♖g6 5.♖e6+! and the white rook comes into play where mate is just a matter of time.

My lesson and the reason I was so amazed: It can't be calculated (at least not by me – and not by Fritz), but it is fairly easy to see that the black king is alone after 1.♖xh7+! and ♖xf5 – no pieces to defend him! So: if you can strip the enemy king and a queen is there to chase him – go for it! Possibly this is only possible because the black pieces all line up on the a-file – without piece coordination. I am sure Tal would have automatically played 1.♖xh7+! – his intuition serving him.

Kind regards, Eckhard Völcker"

I agree with our reader – indeed 1.♖xh7+! seems to be the most energetic and intuitive way to proceed. I am sure that Mikhail Tal wouldn't have hesitated. Meanwhile 1.b3! is a typical computer move – most people won't think about it (the c3-square!), but objectively it is very strong too.

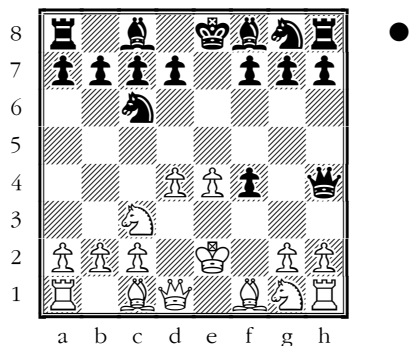
Readers' Choice

In this column we publish curious games sent by our readers. The following game we received from Luiz Roberto Da Costa Jr. (Brazil). It is not hard to see why it drew his attention – indeed, it is a spectacular game!

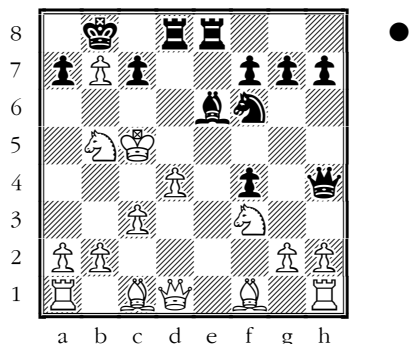
Steel – N. N.

Calcutta, 1886

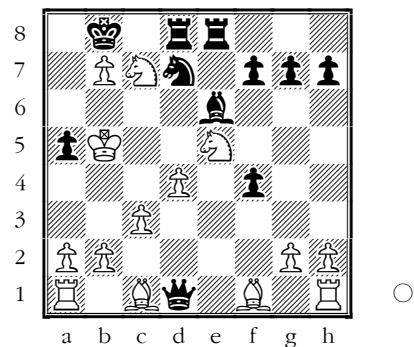
1.e4 e5 2.♖c3 ♖c6 3.f4 exf4 4.d4 ♖h4+ 5.♗e2 (D)



5...d5 6.exd5 ♖g4+ 7.♗f3 0-0-0 8.dxc6 ♖c5 9.cxb7+ ♗b8 10.♗b5 ♗f6 11.c3 ♖he8+ 12.♗d3 ♖f5+ 13.♗c4 ♖e6+ 14.♗xc5 (D)

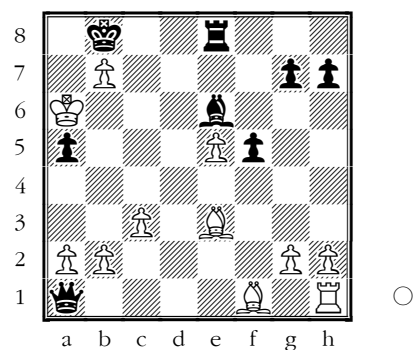


14...a5 15.♗xc7 ♖h5+ 16.♗e5 ♗d7+ Or 16...♗xd1 17.♗c6+ ♗xc7 18.♖xf4+ ♗xb7 19.♗xd8+ ♖xd8 20.♖xd1+-. 17.♗b5 ♗xd1 (D)

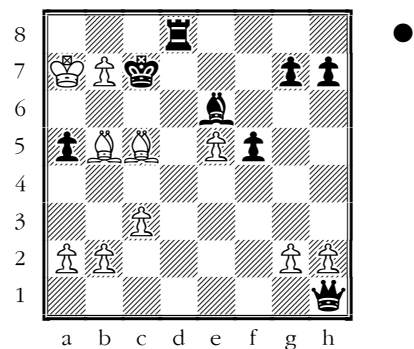


18.♖xf4 18.♗xd7+! ♗xb7 19.♗c5+ ♗a7 20.♗xe8 ♖xe8 21.♗xa5.

18...♗xa1 19.♗a6 ♗xe5 20.♗xe8 f6 21.dxe5 f5 22.♖e3 ♖xe8 (D)



23.♖b5 ♗xh1 24.♖a7+ ♗c7 25.♖c5 ♖d8?? 25...♖c8! 26.♖b6+ ♗b8 27.♖a7+=. 26.♗a7! (D)



1-0 Picturesque position!

Interview with IM Magnus Carlsen, Norway (concluded)

– What's your favourite time control?
Do you like playing blitz? (GM Mikhail Golubev, *Chess Today*)

– 3 0 on ICC, I do like playing blitz!
In tournaments I prefer 2h + 1h per player, total 6 hours.

*- Is it easy for you to play blindfold?
(IM Max Notkin, 64-Chess Review)*

- One game is no problem. Recently I tried for the first time to play more than one game blindfold. Actually, it was 5 games. The result was good, but it was quite hard.

- What do you like in chess most? Can studying chess be as much fun for you as playing? (GM Mikhail Golubev, Chess Today)

- Normally I prefer the excitement of playing, but sometimes I am really mesmerized by certain books.

- What do you like more in your games – nice combinations or good positional decisions? (IM Max Notkin, 64-Chess Review)

- It varies. I can be extremely happy about both types.

- What is your first thought after losing a game – that you played badly or that your opponent played better than you? (IM Max Notkin, 64-Chess Review)

- Usually that I played badly.

- You won against Dutch IM Sipke Ernst with one of the most dazzling attacks played in Wijk aan Zee this year. But was this smashing victory based on a marvellous imagination or did it represent homework well done? (GM Lubomir Kavalek, USA)

Well, Ernst left my preparation for him at move 1! During the game I knew that 17.♖e2 was theory, but I spent 25 minutes figuring out why. I had seen ♠g6 in Bologan–Anand, Dortmund 2003. Whether that was imagination or homework, decide for yourself!

- What are your best results in tournaments so far? (GM Mikhail Golubev, Chess Today)

- Winning the Corus C-group 2004. I'm also very happy about sharing first place (2nd on tie-break) in World Youth U12 in 2002.

- What tournaments are you going to play in 2004? (Gary Barker, USA)

- Aeroflot Open in February. Reykjavik Open in March. Sigeman closed GM tournament in Malmo/Copenhagen in April/May. Norwegian Championship in July. I'll probably play one tournament each month. The rest has not been decided yet.

- Will you be on the Norwegian team in the next chess Olympiad? (Gary Barker, USA)

- I assume so. I would like to play, and normally 2500 is enough to be on the team.

- Do you plan to win world junior champion title in your age group this year? (Jean-Pierre Mercier, France)

- Yes, but I am not sure that I am going to play there as I'll give priority to the chess Olympiad.

- Who do you mark among the players of your age? Whom do you consider your rivals? (IM Max Notkin, 64-Chess Review)

- As I started late, I've been behind a lot of young stars. Fortunately I am starting to catch up with them! It's hard to say who is going to excel most when we grow up.

- Being so young and having such a great victory (first GM norm), do you have any dreams of playing for the World Championship someday (assuming we are having one again)? (Brian Coleman, USA)

- I am not really thinking about it. If I can become a GM this year I'll be very satisfied!

- Can you please tell us something about the persons and organizations which help you in Norway? We heard that Microsoft is sponsoring you... (GM Mikhail Golubev, Chess Today)

- In addition to Microsoft, I was sponsored by the consultancy Computas in part of 2002. My former

club Asker Schackklubb has always been very helpful. My trainer GM Agdestein and former trainer T. Ringdal Hansen has always been helpful and positive. Various family members (especially my father) accompany me at chess tournaments. I am also encouraged by the interest in my chess career from a lot of people in the Norwegian chess life.

- Please tell us a bit about your family and friends (IM Max Notkin, 64-Chess Review)

- I have three sisters and I like to play football with friends at school though now I am away from school for a year.

- At what age did you start outplaying your dad and what was his reaction to that? (IM Max Notkin, 64-Chess Review)

- I probably beat him at 9, his reaction is not worth mentioning! ☺ (Just joking, I think he was rather proud!)

- Did you get any comments from your classmates, when they hear that you are playing chess (and playing well!)? (Henrik Mortensen, Denmark)

- Earlier on I was sometimes referred to as a chess nerd, but after being rather successful (and not talking about it) I think they are a bit proud.

- If we organised a 10 kilometres country-run with you and Alex Baburin, who would win? (Henrik Mortensen, Denmark)

- If you mean cross country skiing, I certainly think I would win. Running, I am not sure as I don't know his running capability.

- What are your favourite food, sports, films etc.? (IM Max Notkin, 64-Chess Review)

- Food: Pizza, Weetabix!
Sports: Football, skiing and mountaineering.
Films: Lillehammer94.

- What people do you admire in Norway – not necessarily sportsmen? (IM Max Notkin, 64-Chess Review)

- I don't know, haven't thought about it.

- How many countries have you been to? What made the strongest impression on you abroad? (IM Max Notkin, 64-Chess Review)

- 24, I think. Russia is going to be number 25. I really remember a lot of exciting events from the family trip to South Africa visiting my aunt and her family back in the 1999.

On behalf of Chess Today, I would like to wish Magnus great success in Moscow! He is safe when it comes to running, but I was pretty good at cross-country skiing, even if this was 22 years and 25 kilos ago! ☺

Solutions to our quiz:

Volokitin-Savchenko: **21.♖xh7+! 1-0**
Black resigned not waiting for 21...♗xh7 22.♕h5+ ♖g7 23.♕g6+ ♗h8 24.♖d3.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) - we appreciate your feedback!

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