

**Welcome to
CT-1000!
GM Alex Baburin ...**

Today is a very special day for the whole Chess Today team: it was hard to foresee that one day we would publish our 1000th issue! I would also like to congratulate and thank our readers - your financial support and moral encouragement made this day possible!

Today we will talk about the history of Chess Today, our future plans and people working in the paper. But even today we won't betray our format - chess comes first! ☺



Chess News

Victor Bologan is having the tournament of his life in Dortmund - in round 4 he beat Peter Leko with Black, fortifying his lead. Leko pressed most of the game, but erred towards the end. In the wild game between two juniors the older one prevailed:

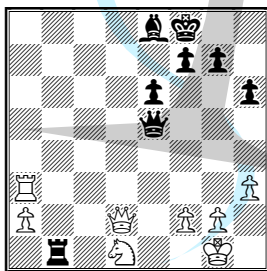
- Naiditsch - Radjabov 1-0
- Anand - Kramnik 1/2-1/2
- Leko - Bologan 0-1

You can see all the games in our database.

□ **Leko (2739)**
 ■ **Bologan (2650)**
 Dortmund (4), 03.08.2003
 Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

Chess Quiz

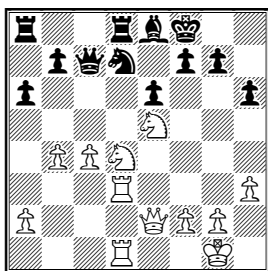
Leko (2739) - Bologan (2650)
 Dortmund (4), 03.08.2003



Black to play (see page 2)

- 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♘d7 5.♙c4 ♗gf6 6.♗g5 e6 7.♖e2 ♗b6 8.♙d3 h6 9.♗5f3 c5 10.♙e3 ♖c7 11.♗e5 a6 12.♗gf3 cxd4 13.♙xd4 ♗bd5 14.0-0 ♙c5 15.♙b5+ ♖f8 16.♙xc5+ ♖xc5 17.♙c4 ♖e7 18.♙xd5 ♗xd5 19.c4

♟f6 20.♞fd1 ♕d7 21.b4 ♖c7
 22.♜d4 ♞hd8 23.♞d3 ♜f8 24.♞ad1
 ♕e8 25.h3 ♜d7 (D)



White stays better and can keep the initiative with the simple 26.♜xd7+!? ♕xd7 27.c5. Instead Leko sacrificed a pawn, trying to exploit the pin on the d-file. He got a long-term initiative, but somehow let it fizzle out later:

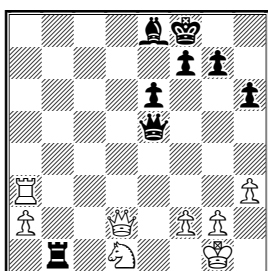
26.♜g4 ♖xc4 27.♖d2 ♞ac8
 28.♜b3 ♖c7 29.♞c1

Reducing material seems to be the wrong idea; here worth considering was 29.♞d6!?, planning ♜g4-e5 and ♜b3-c5.

29...♖b8 30.♞xc8 ♖xc8 31.b5 ♖c4
 32.bxa6 bxa6 33.♞d6 ♖b5 34.♜d4
 ♖b1+ 35.♜h2 ♞c8 36.♜b3 ♜c5
 37.♜xc5 ♞xc5 38.♞xa6 ♖b8+
 39.♜g1?

Better was 39.f4.

39...♞b5 40.♜e3 ♞b1+ 41.♜d1
 ♖e5 42.♞a3 (D)



42...♖g5! 43.♞e3 ♕a4 44.♜h2
 ♖f4+ 45.g3 ♞xd1 46.♖d8+ ♞xd8
 0-1

Standings after 4 round:

1. Bologan (2650) – 3½ points;
2. Kramnik (2785) – 2½ points;
3. Naiditsch (2674) – 2 points;
- 4-5. Leko (2739) and Radjabov (2648) – 1½ points;
6. Anand (2774) – 1 point.

In the match Vladimir Belikov (2499) vs. 14-year old David Baramidze

(2470) the Russian Grandmaster is leading 2½-1½.

Sunday was a day off in both [Montreal](#) and [Malmo](#).

Letters from Our Colleagues



In the past few days Chess Today has received numerous letters from other chess publications, congratulating us on our coming anniversary. On behalf of the CT team I would like to thank all our chess friends around the world for their support!

"Congratulations on your 1000th issue. The only way to reach such a milestone is one at a time and I appreciate just how hard it is to keep going week after week, month after month, year after year and try and keep the standards the same. Chess coverage has reached its maturity on the Internet and there is a huge appetite for news about the great game and Chess Today offers a unique service to enthusiasts throughout the World. Good luck for the next 1000!
Mark Crowther, founder and editor of TWIC."

"One thousand issues is a great accomplishment! *Chess Today* has been a great addition to the chess community, filling its niche admirably. Congratulations to the people at *Chess Today*, particularly Alex Baburin, for keeping this excellent publication running!
Peter Kurzdorfer, Editor, Chess Life magazine"

"Congratulations to Alex Baburin and the entire staff of Chess Today on your 1,000th issue. I wish Chess Today continued success bringing chess news and articles to the chess world every day.
Hanon W. Russell, publisher ChessCafe.com"

This issue is prepared by GM Alexander Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown.

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

"Dear Alexander and the CT team,
When I started projecting my first magazine [IdeaScacchi](#), you've been a source of inspiration to me. I liked the way CT looked, and I liked the idea of providing a magazine that could be read, in most of the cases, even without a chessboard. Apart from my point of view as editor, I can tell you that I consider CT a precious training tool. Every morning I have the chance to test my tactical skills with your quiz section, and to learn GM ideas and plans reading through your annotated games. I really think that every player can improve his play by reading CT, and it takes a very small effort!! (ChessToday... all my troubles seem so far away... ;-))

Keep up with the great work, and congratulations for this first milestone!
Best regards,
Davide Cortese, Italy"

Dear Alexander,
Happy birthday to your brainchild Chess Today, which is enrichment for the chess world. I wish you and your staff all the best and am looking forward to see another thousands of issues!
With kind regards,
IM Otto Borik, Editor-in-chief of Schach Magazin 64"

"In the first days of August, the daily news-letter of GM Baburin reaches the first 1000 issues. More or less 3 years. Our best wishes, with the hope that the news and the games from Italy – for the moment very few – will increase! Best regards and best wishes!
Adolivio Capece, editor of L'Italia Scacchistica"

Chess Today: Past & Future

There are not many readers who saw all 1000 issues of Chess Today – people come and go – this is only natural. So, I hope that a short essay on the history of Chess Today will be of interest.

The idea to start a daily Net-based

chess newspaper came to me in the summer of 2000. I was on a plane to Copenhagen. When I am on a plane, ideas just come to my mind, I can't help it. It could be the altitude, it could be the idleness, but the most likely cause is free alcohol! ☺

Anyway, that day I thought that there was so much material in chess, that I could easily write a chess column every day. But I did not see a newspaper, which would possibly publish my chess stuff on a daily basis, so I decided to start my own paper! Pretty quickly I figured out the main ideas: the paper won't be free, it would be daily and not too long. Ideally it would inform, educate and entertain. As for the format, I settled on PDF, which allows people to see diagrams and figurines even if they don't have chess fonts on their computers. Most people use some chess software, so PGN and CBV were quickly added.

There was a lot of free and good chess stuff on the Net, so *Chess Today* had to offer something unique. It could not be just chess news – TWIC was perfect at doing that! But not many sites gave current annotated games, so that had to be our selling point. It seems that this format suits most people still, but I am open to new ideas.

The editorial team grew with the paper: Jimmy Adams (editor of *Chess Monthly*) recommended Graham Brown as an editor. Graham did the first issue and has done most of the editing since, but I was also fortunate to link with Ralph Marconi, our second editor. Tim Harding also helped with editing in the early days. Both editors, as well as all our journalists and I, learnt a lot as we went along.

As for journalists, I started writing CT during the Istanbul Chess Olympiad, where I was playing. That was a *really* crazy idea – I did not have much spare time, Net connection in Istanbul was slow, etc. But once I managed that, I knew I could produce *Chess Today!*

However, I needed help, as writing for it every day would be the shortest way to a mental asylum. So, I asked my friend IM Vladimir Barsky to join me. Then GM Ruslan Scherbakov, whom I knew from junior tournaments, joined us. Later GM Mikhail Golubev and IM Maxim Notkin joined the team. Max later brought in IM Nikolai Vlassov. Prior to that GM Kasrten Müller (Germany) and IM John Donaldson started sending their contributions. Also my former student Sam Collins (Ireland) began reviewing books in CT. Later Andy Ansel and Don Aldrich (both from USA) joined our list of reviewers. Recently I got a few reviews from other people too.

Now *Chess Today* has a very strong panel of journalists. It is likely that we will have more guest writers soon – the paper is growing and I want to diversify the content. What we really need is more readers! ☺ When CT first started, its readership quickly rose to 400, then members began to climb more steadily. I also began offering CT subs as prizes at ICC and Fritz server. GMs can receive our paper for free and currently we have about 40 such readers. Among them are such top players as Shirov, Gelfand, Svidler, Lautier, van Wely and Radjabov.

At the moment we have about 650 readers and the figure seems to have been frozen for quite some time. I even begin to suspect that there are only about 500 people on the whole Internet willing to pay for chess and that I found them all! ☺ But the experience of ICC tells otherwise, so I remain hopeful. The next year will be critical for the future of our paper – if the readership does not grow, I will have to think carefully about the vitality of the whole idea. But with more people coming to the Net, things should get better. And services charging for their stuff on the Net are becoming more accepted by the public too. The general chess public is notorious for not willing to pay for their hobby, but when CT succeeds, it

will be a piece of cake to start a daily paper on golf or tennis! ☺

As for our plans, we hope to finish a few things in the near future. First, we will have more standards in our issues – I guess that some readers already saw changes in the past 2 months. We will also do more planning in advance when it comes to content. Mikhail Golubev will soon become our Content Editor, so he will overlook our editorial portfolio, etc. Another idea is to finally produce CT CDs. There are two of them in the works – years 2000–2001 and 2002. Each CD will have all PDF files from that period, one large database with annotated games and tactical quizzes (Chess Base format and PGN), Index, Acrobat Reader and Chess Base Light programs. Each CD will retail for about \$20, but will be offered to the existing paying subscribers with a significant (perhaps 50%) discount.

Moving away from Yahoo is our other priority. This is not that easy as many web hosts do not allow the use of mailing software. But we have done some research and testing, so soon we might be able to depart from Yahoo, which has been quite unreliable.

Finally, I am still thinking about the best format for Chess Today. I reckon that there is a problem (mostly psychological, but no less important because of that!) with daily issues. I'd like to explain this in more detail. Imagine me, an ordinary customer, who buys a CT subscription. It is not too expensive and generally is a very good value for money. It comes to me every day, but I don't read it every day. Not a big deal – CT is still rather inexpensive. But after a while I get the impression that I am not getting full value – CT is not for me! And I terminate my subscription...

I bet that such thinking is quite common, particularly among those who do not sign up for CT in the first place because they cannot read it

every day! Of course, when I asked CT readers if they would prefer to receive CT twice a week, almost all voted for daily delivery! But I asked the audience, which already voted for that option. So, my idea is to offer a choice: we will produce daily CT (as before) **and** also special issues twice a week, for those who will prefer this option. Those issues will have **all** annotated games and quizzes in our database, some annotated games and tactical positions in PDF, all book reviews in PDF and a digest of chess news. I hope that offering this option will make CT more attractive to a wider chess audience! If you have a comment or suggestion regarding this idea, please [send me a note](#).

Summing up, I hope that in the next few months Chess Today will become an even better and more professional publication. We hope that our readers will stay with us and that new people will join us soon – your help in promoting Chess Today is always appreciated!

People behind Chess Today

When you receive our issues, you see some text and 3 attached files – PDF, PGN and CBV. But we hope that you also see people behind this work – those who prepare chess news and annotated games for you every day! We have a small 'Who is Who' [section](#) on our website, but today I would like to use this opportunity and tell you more about our team. In some cases I will talk about them, while in others I'll use their own words. Let's start with our editors.

Graham Brown (43)

I'm British and I live in Stroud, which is a town in the west of England. I moved from London 3 years ago. Chess in London is very exciting but it is here also, with a competitive league. I still run the Kings Head [website](#) (a great London



chess club!) and also the Stroud Chess Club [website](#). I run a UK specific webzine and directory called www.easytorecall.com and am a self-employed web-designer.

When I edited CT-1 my BCF grade was 139. Now I am 169 (about 1950 Elo, I guess). I really enjoy editing CT and I'm sure my jump in grade is down to having to regularly prepare an annotated game from our experts for sending out to the CT group. When I click that send button I often think about all the homes CT is being read in. I can just imagine people reading it over their breakfast (or coffee break, depending on time zone!) in say, Japan or America or Russia and all the many other places where we have subscribers. The thing I've most enjoyed about the evolution of CT-1 to CT-1000 is seeing more and more letters – with games, encouragement, comments, errors exposed, etc, from more and more of those breakfast tables! Here's to the next 1000!

Ralph Marconi (49)

I am originally from the USA (Bronx, NYC; born in 1954), but I have been living and working in Joliette, Québec, Canada since 1981. Joliette, is a medium size town of about 50,000 and about 50 miles northeast of Montréal. My wife, Thérèse, is from Québec and is a radiologist. We have two daughters, Elaine (20) and Jennifer (19), sadly neither of whom have an interest in chess.



I am primarily a CC player and have been playing for 28 years in both USA and Canadian events and in ICCF (International Correspondence Chess Federation) international events. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially meeting many interesting people over the years, some of whom I have become good friends with. I haven't had much

success in OTB chess, but my Junior High School teammates and I did win the 1968 NYC Junior HS team Championship. And I came in 3rd in my class at the 1988 US Open.

I am now the NAPZ (the North American/Pacific Zone) Director. I have also directed a number of CC tournaments. I am also currently team captain for the Canada-A team in 8th Pan-American CC Team Tournament, which started in March of this year. I am also a Vice-President of the Canadian Correspondence Chess Association (CCCA).

In December of 2000, GM Alexander Baburin approached me with an offer to be one of CT's technical editors, since he was looking for a backup TE for Graham Brown. At first I was hesitant to accept his offer because I wasn't sure I was up to such a challenge. I finally decided to give it a try and I have never regretted the decision. I am especially grateful to Graham and Alex who gave me a lot of help getting me started. I have always tried to do the job best I could, and will continue to do so. I also feel by editing CT I have gained a greater understanding and appreciation of chess. It's my hope that our readers have also had a similar experience, and have enjoyed the chess content we deliver to you each day.

Our editors do a great job, not least putting up with not-so-disciplined journalists like myself. I often think that sometimes Graham (who lives in the same time zone as me) must hate me when I keep on working on CT issue deep into the night! As far as I know, our 'Moscow office' is guilty of that sin too - chess players are night creatures! ☺

Now to our journalists:

**Vladimir Barsky
(34), IM**

I have known Vladimir since I was 17. He was doing well in



junior chess, but soon took an interest in chess journalism. For years he was a deputy editor of the excellent 64-Chess Review magazine. About a year ago Vladimir became chief-editor of Russia's new publication Chess Week.

Apart from work in chess magazines, Vladimir has edited about 20 chess books and helped to compile one (*How to become GM in 14 years* by Alexandra Kosteniuk). Several of his students have become champions of Moscow in different age groups, but according to Vladimir his biggest achievement as a coach is that he taught GMs Morozevich and Bologan to ski! ☺

Vladimir lives in Moscow, is divorced, and has a daughter (6).

**Ruslan
Scherbakov
(33), GM**

During the first 2 years of our paper, Ruslan was one of the main Chess Today contributors. In the past year he has appeared in CT only occasionally, but we expect that he will be back soon. A strong GM (best rating 2580), Ruslan does not play much nowadays, working mostly as a chess journalist (he also writes for the Chess Publishing) and coach. He worked with India's women team in Bled in 2002 and spent many months in that country. Married with two children, lives in Cheliabinsk, Russia.



**Mikhail
Golubev (33),
GM**

Mikhail lives in Odessa, Ukraine, but plays a lot in Romania and Germany. His highest rating was 2570. He has written one book (on the Dragon) and is working on another book. This is what he had to say about his work in CT:

"I am not the most active writer in our team, but I enjoy working in CT



very much. This is a unique project, which should have a great future – we already have great past! ☺

It's quite amazing to prepare a thousand chess newsletters, day by day, and the most amazing people behind that are our technical editors Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi, who work on CT much more than any of the writers: every other day on average!"

**Maxim Notkin
(39), IM**

Max is a very strong IM (best Elo 2535) and has achieved one or two GM norms.

He has done many things in chess: worked as a coach in Venezuela, wrote for KasparovChess, now he works in *Chess Week*.

When it comes to domestic pets, I bet that not many CT readers can compete with Maxim: at present he has 2 cats and 2 dogs (bullmastiff and a small dog, mops in German), as well as 7 puppies from his bullmastiff! CT readers can get a good discount on those puppies! ☺

**Nikolai Vlassov
(37), IM**

Nikolai is a very original person. In chess he is best known as a very strong blitz player.

If you speak/read Russian, I suggest that you visit his [website](#). For example, there I found his favourite slogans, like this one: "Alcohol in small dozes is harmless in any quantities!"

This is what he said about his work in CT: "I started writing for CT on the recommendation of Maxim Notkin in December 2002 and found this job very interesting. I particularly enjoy annotating games. I am not so fond of compiling the news section, especially

if players can't decide the outcome of their games till late at night – when I am falling asleep! ☺ Recently I have taken up bookmaking. It is not just for pleasure because I manage to win some money."

**Alexander
Baburin
(36), GM**

What to say about me? This is a great subject, but I will try to manage it in just one sentence!

Lazy, like to read, have two kids (Ivan, 13, and Anastasia, 8), they play chess, but not too seriously, used to study physics, play the Alekhine Defence, quit university after 3.5 year (see beginning of this sentence!), play basketball (quite well!), undisciplined, good swimmer, lazy, listen to music when working, like chess, do drink, but not excessively, have a lousy opening repertoire, like Bulgakov, always take on c4, hate spammers, work as a chess coach, expensive but good, love Montagne, fianchetto the f1-bishop, married to Elena, like the Exchange Variation of the QGD, was born in Nizhniy Novgorod, used to be good at endings, have a young cat called Vas'ka, often go to Russia, play mostly in leagues, live in Dublin, publish Chess Today, wrote for more chess magazines than can possibly remember, tall (192 cm), love Internet, want to get rich, used to grab pawns, have many friends, believe that in the long run we are all dead, don't have a bike, wrote one major chess book, never played the King's Gambit, never will!, holiday in Turkey, teach chess in schools, love big wild cats, learnt chess at 7, have 2 cars, prefer game collections, don't play Lotto, believed in the Prague Agreement, don't play much chess now, rent my house, sell chess books, hate the cost of living in Dublin, use WIN2000 on my desktop, like travelling the world, want to try

the French Defence, lazy, but happy –
I do what I like in life!



The Baburins in 2001

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ct@gmsquare.com) – 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: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net>

Editors: GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov.

Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

Chess Today is copyright 2003 by Alexander Baburin and protected intellectual property under the International Copyright convention.

Subscribers are allowed to non-commercially distribute copies of Chess Today at their chess club, chess tournaments and via e-mail (on an occasional basis). Any other use and distribution (reproduction, via print, electronic format, or in any form whatsoever), as well as posting on the Web, is strictly prohibited without express written permission

Literature is
the art of
writing
something
that will be
read twice;
journalism
what will
be read once.

– Cyril Connolly

A thousand
cups of
wine do
not suffice
when true
friends meet,
but half a
sentence is
too much when
there is no
meeting of
minds.

– Old Chinese
proverb