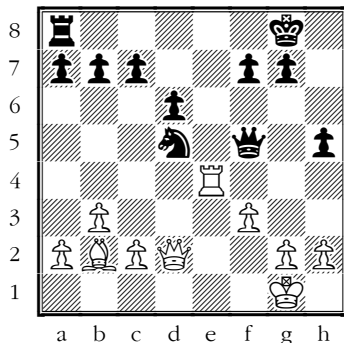


Chess Quiz

Shabanov – A. Kuzmin
Tashkent, USSR, 1987



Chess Today is 4 Years Old!

by GM Alex Baburin

Today our newspaper celebrates its 4th anniversary. Some people have been with us from the [first issue](#), but for most of our readers a brief recap of the Chess Today history might be in order.

It all started in the summer of 2000 when I was flying to Dublin after giving a chess seminar in Copenhagen. After a few drinks (back then airlines served free drinks!) I began to reflect on the explosion of chess information on the Net. I realised that there was so much happening in chess every day, that one could easily fill a few pages with chess material.

Since Mark Crowther was already doing a great job covering chess news in [TWIC](#), I decided to focus on annotated games and use an e-mail-based approach. My idea was that instead of searching for chess news on various Web sites, readers would get a ready-made digest right in their mail boxes. And they would also get annotated games, daily puzzles, book reviews and articles.

The idea took off in early November 2000. I could not have picked a more

difficult time, since I was playing at the chess Olympiad in Istanbul then. Net access was not easy to find and the connection was slow, but as I managed to produce issues every day from there, I knew I could do it anywhere!

Over time the *Chess Today* team grew to include more contributors and editors. We learnt to work together and now have a very capable team. I used to be a control freak, but working on *Chess Today* has taught me to delegate and trust other people to do their work diligently and creatively.

I would like *Chess Today* to become a main-stream chess publication, even though expanding the readership has proved difficult. We are now working on several projects:

- moving to our own mailing list
- producing a *Chess Today* CD
- offering a weekly digest

Finally, I would like to thank you, our readers and contributors for all your help and support! I hope Chess Today will live to see its 40th anniversary!

Chess News

Seniors' World Championships

by GM Mikhail Golubev

I cannot but apologise again for our mistake in CT-1458, where we wrongly reported on the end of the seniors' world championship. Later it turned out that the men played not 9 rounds (as we thought) but 11. A rather unfortunate error, but I certainly see chances to make our coverage better. Hopefully, in about 10 years each member of the CT team will learn what the word *Abschlußtafel* means.

And in 20-25 years we will be reporting from the championships directly! ☺ I already feel the need to

request the organisers of the 2030 Championship to limit the length of the event to 7 or 9 rounds. Otherwise I am not sure if I will play!

On a serious note, we would like to congratulate the winners of this Championship which ended in Halle yesterday. The Russian GM Yury Shabanov has repeated his [success](#) from last year, winning on tie-break. Latvian GM Janis Klovans was leading most of the tournament, but lost in the last two rounds.

Round 11 top results:

Kludt – Donchenko ½–½
L. Spassov – Klovans 1–0
Karasev – V. Bukal ½–½
Bakhmatov – Chernikov 1–0
Shabanov – Kraidman 1–0

Final standings:

1. Shabanov GM RUS – 8½ (53.5)
 2. Kludt IM GER – 8½ (52)
 3. L. Spassov GM BUL – 8½ (51.5)
 4. Bakhmatov GER – 8½ (51)
 5. Donchenko IM GER – 8½ (50.5)
 6. V. Bukal IM CRO – 8 (54)
 7. Jakobsen IM DEN – 8 (52)
 8. Böhnisch FM GER – 8 (50)
 9. Karasev IM RUS – 8 (47)
 10. Ivanets FM RUS – 8 (45.5)
- (205 players)

I was unable to find any games from the championship at the otherwise informative [official website](#). If the organisers wanted to keep journalists intrigued, they surely succeeded!

Here is a quick note from our reader IM Anthony Saily from Halle:

"The new champion is Shabanov, on tie break over 4 others, in a very well-organized event in the pleasant cultural town of Halle, which in 2006 will celebrate its 1200th anniversary. I won as many games as anyone in the tournament (7) and earned the Bent Larsen Prize for no draws – 11 decisive games. Unfortunately, they forgot to award it. My high point of the event was seeing Wagner's "Tristan & Isolde," my low point was the US election. I blame all my

blunders after November 2 on Bush and am considering emigration to Spain. Caramba!"

8th Bavarian Open, Bad Wiessee

Round 7 top results:

Jaracz (5½) – Landa (5½) 1–0
Golod (5½) – Kurnosov (5½) ½–½

In round 8 the leader, GM Pawel Jaracz from Poland, will play with Black against Sergey Volkov (Russia). Jaracz is on 6½/7 now. There are 9 players (including Volkov) in the chasing pack on 6 points.

[Official website](#)

Karpov – Sadvakasov Match

Anatoly Karpov and Dargen Sadvakasov are playing a match from 4–10 November in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. There will be four classical and four rapid encounters. The winner will get \$12,000. The first game ended in a draw. Sadvakasov won game 2 and now leads 1½–½.

[Official website](#)

Note that Karpov will also play in the Russian super-championship, starting in Moscow on 14th November.

Two articles by Dr. Mark Livshits

by GM Mikhail Golubev

The Israeli chess observer Dr Mark Livshits has published two quite remarkable articles recently. Both of them will stir up some controversy.

At the Bestsportnews site, Dr. Livshits [reviews](#) the results of the Olympiad and claims that the last round match between **Armenia** and **Georgia** (Armenia won, 3½–½) was fixed. Livshits also cites the Israeli team coach IM Alexander Kaspi who said that the result was "suspicious" and that the Israeli federation has already distributed a protest letter among the participants and the FIDE officials in Calvia. In my (MG) view, similar accusations should *always* be

supported by strong evidence. But it would be interesting to know the opinion of FIDE about all of that. FIDE, supposedly, received the official letter from the Israelis (the existence of the Israelis statement is confirmed in Ana Matnadze's [open letter](#)), and, therefore, should react in some way. The site [Olimpbase.org](#), meanwhile, says that there is "some claim the match had not been fair". So, as I understand it, FIDE should have enough reasons now to investigate the situation.

In another article, written for the Israeli Russian language paper *Vesti*, which was consequently [republished](#) at [chesspage.kiev.ua](#), Dr. Livshits expressed the opinion that non other than the Russian president **Putin** was responsible for cancellation of the Ponomariov–Kasparov match in 2003. Well, it is very likely that Putin has enough power to have influence on any of Ilyumzhinov's decisions. The probable anger of Putin with Kasparov's statements should be expected by anyone who knows at least a little about Russian politics. Still, the article of Dr. Livshits does not contain any firm proof of his theory.

Remark:

Dr. Mark Livshits, who is more known to Russian speaking readers, has a reputation of being a serious and well-informed chess observer.

Comment from GM Alex Baburin:

As long as there are big upsets in the round, there will always be some parties not happy about it. But I recall that in Bled 2002 Armenia beat Georgia 3-1 in the last round and nobody protested. If I remember correctly, then Georgians were ahead before the match, so no foul play could be suspected. These teams are similar in strength, but a big score between them is certainly possible.

Annotated Game

by GM Alex Baburin

I would not like to give the impression that I always lose in the

Alekhine, so here is another game from the recent Olympiad. It is extremely tactical. I don't claim that I saw all of the lines during the game – many were discovered together with my 'German' friend!

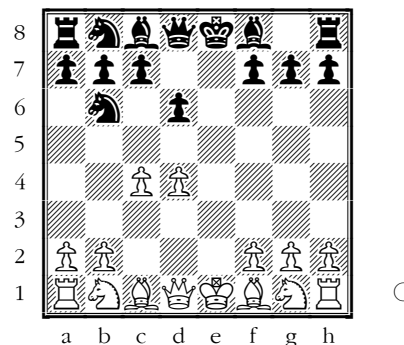
White: Leighton Williams (2355)

Black: Alex Baburin (2527)

36th Olympiad Calvia (7), 22.10.2004

The Alekhine Defence; B05

1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 ♘b6 5.exd6 exd6 (D)

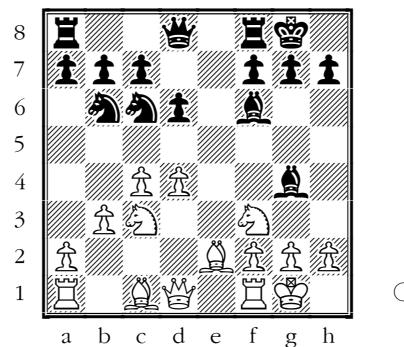


The Exchange Variation is currently very popular vs. the Alekhine Defence. White hopes to get a small, but stable advantage. 5...cxd6 is more interesting, but more risky from a strategic (structural) point of view – after the eventual d4–d5 the e7–pawn can become a backward one. And it is because White started to do well after 5...cxd6, that the Exchange variation became fashionable.

6.♘c3 ♘c6 7.♙e2

7.h3 is another way to play this line, but then the Black bishop might be happy enough on f5.

7...♙e7 8.♘f3 0-0 9.0-0 ♙g4 10.b3 ♙f6 (D)



The b6–knight is not a great piece, I agree, but at least the black bishop is now well placed.

11. ♕e3 d5

Time to fight for some presence in the centre.

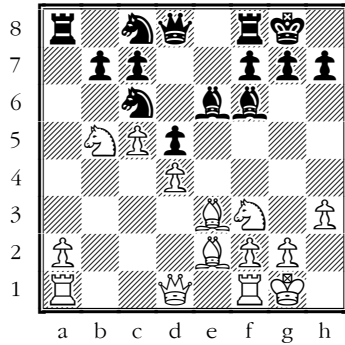
12. c5 ♖c8 13. h3 ♗e6

According to GM Bagirov, much worse is 13... ♗xf3 14. ♗xf3 ♖8e7 15. g4.

14. b4 a6 15. b5

15. ♖b1.

15... axb5 16. ♖xb5 (D)

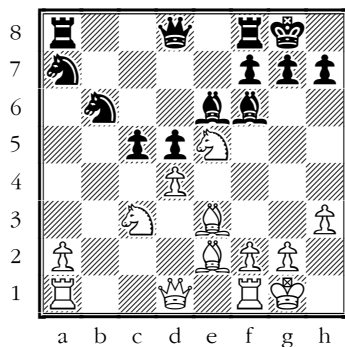


White played all of this almost instantly, so he obviously had prepared this line. Not a bad idea in general and particularly good when it comes to the new time control. I had never faced 15. b5, but I doubt it should be too dangerous. White's idea is to play ♗f4 and put pressure on c7.

16... ♖6a7

This is a bit artificial. Both 16... ♖8e7 17. ♗f4 ♖c8 and 16... ♖8a7 17. a4 b6 are safer options.

17. ♖c3 b6 18. cxb6 ♖xb6 19. ♖e5 c5! (D)

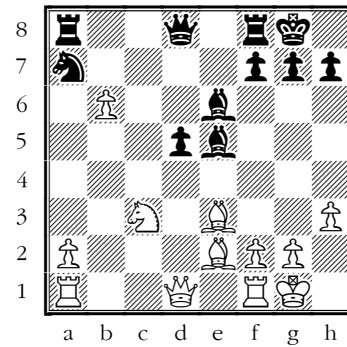


20. dxc5

A very tactical approach. I expected 20. f4, which I was going to meet with 20... ♖d7 even though I did not see everything after 21. f5. But it seems that Black is OK: 21... cxd4 22. ♖xd7 (22. fxe6 ♖xe5 23. exf7+ ♖xf7 24. ♗xd4 ♖ac6 is OK for Black too.) 22... ♗xd7 23. ♗xd4 ♗xd4+ 24. ♖xd4 ♖c6 25. ♖xd5 ♖e7 and Black has no problems: 26. ♖e5 ♖xf5 27. ♖xf5? ♗xf5

28. ♖xf5 ♖d4+.

20... ♗xe5 21. cxb6 (D)



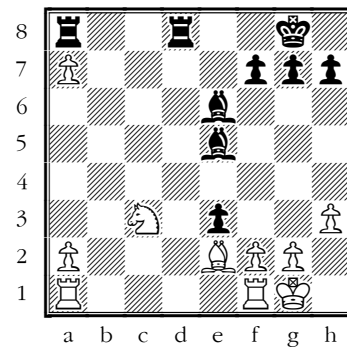
21... d4

An ambitious move, which simply felt right to me! Also good was 21... ♗xc3! 22. ♖c1 (22. bxa7 d4!. [White would be happy enough after 22... ♗xa1 23. ♖xa1] 23. ♖c1 leads to the same position) 22... d4 23. bxa7 with roughly equal chances.

22. bxa7

Better was 22. f4! ♖xb6 23. ♗f2 ♗xf4 24. ♖xd4 (24. ♗xd4?? ♗e3+).

22... dxe3 23. ♖xd8 ♖fxd8 (D)



24. ♖ad1!

Great move! I counted only on 24. ♖b5 when Black can play 24... ♗xa1 25. ♖xa1 ♖d2! - the e-pawn might come handy, so it is too soon to exchange it (25... exf2+ 26. ♖xf2 ♖d2 27. ♖e3 ♖xe2+ 28. ♖xe2 ♗c4+ 29. ♖d1? (29. ♖f2! ♗xb5 30. ♖b1 ♖xa7 31. ♖xb5 ♖xa2+ 32. ♖f3 and White should draw easily.) 29... ♖d8+ 30. ♖c1 ♗xb5 31. ♖b1 ♗c6 32. ♖b8 ♖f8) 26. ♖f1 (or 26. ♗f3 exf2+ 27. ♖h2 ♖xa7! 28. ♖xa7 ♖xa2! and Black is on top) 26... ♖f8! (26... ♖xe2 27. ♖xe2 ♗c4+ 28. ♖e1 ♗xb5 29. ♖b1 exf2+ 30. ♖xf2 ♖xa7 31. ♖xb5 ♖xa2+ 32. ♖f3?) 27. a4 exf2 28. ♖c1 ♗d5 and White has to fight for a draw.

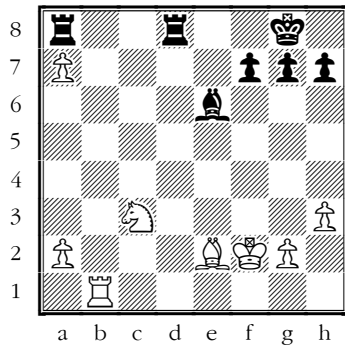
24... exf2+! I spent 29 minutes on this move. My first intention was to play

24...♙xc3, but after 25.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 White has a good choice between 26.♙f3 e2 27.♙xe2 ♞a8 28.♞b1 e5 29.♞b7 and White is OK, for example: 29...♞f8 30.♙f3 and 26.fxe3 ♞a8 27.♞b1 ♙e5 28.♞b7.

25.♞xf2 ♙d4+

25...♙xc3? 26.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 27.♞d1 ♞e8 28.♙f3 g6 29.a4!

26.♞xd4 ♞xd4 27.♞b1 ♞dd8 (D)



28.♞b7?!

Better was 28.♙b5! ♞f8 29.♞d1! (after 29.♙f3 ♙d5 30.♙xd5 ♞xd5 White cannot play 31.♙c7 because of 31...♞f5+) and now it is Black who has to be careful! A draw is a logical outcome here: 29...♞xd1 30.♙xd1 ♙d5 31.♙f3 (31.♙c7 ♞xa7 32.♙xd5 ♞xa2+=) 31...♙xf3 32.♞xf3 ♞e7 33.♞e4 ♞d7 34.♞d5 ♞c8!= (34...f5?? 35.♞c5+-).

28...♙c8!

White obviously missed this move, as he spent 9 minutes on his reply.

29.♞e7 Or 29.♞b8 ♞xa7.

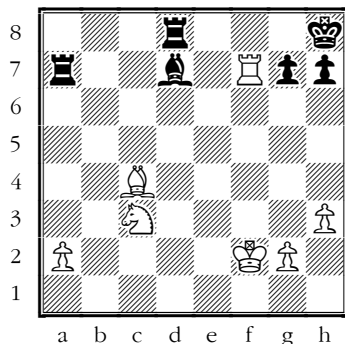
29...♙d7!

Finally Black is able to eliminate the annoying a7-pawn.

30.♙c4

Of course, not 30.♙b5 ♙xb5 (30...♞f8!?) 31.♙xb5 ♞d2+ 32.♞f3 ♞xa2 33.♙c4 ♞2xa7 34.♙xf7+ ♞f8 35.♞xa7 ♞xa7 36.♙d5 g5!-+.

30...♞xa7 31.♞xf7 ♞h8 (D)



32.♙b3?

Better was 32.♙e4 or 32.♙e6! ♞a3 33.♞xd7 ♞xd7 34.♙xd7 ♞xc3 35.h4!! and White will be able to build a fortress – g2–g3, bishop to the long diagonal, etc. I believe that 35.a4? g5! just loses. Interestingly enough, the move 35.h4!! was a real revelation for my opponent when I showed it in the post-mortem. He is a talented player, but must do some work on the endgame.

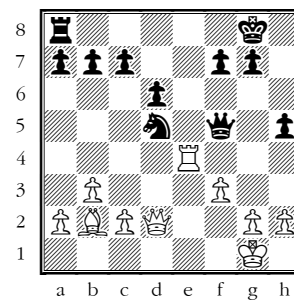
32...♞aa8

During the game I felt that Black must be winning here. White was short of time and his position collapsed quickly.

33.g4 ♞f8 34.♞g3 ♞xf7 35.♙xf7 ♙c6 36.g5 ♞f8 37.♙h5 ♞f5 38.h4 h6 39.♙g6 ♞f3+ 0-1

Solution to our quiz:

Shabanov – A. Kuzmin



20.♙d3! 1-0 Black resigned in view of 20...g6 21.g4 hxg4 22.fxg4 ♞g5 23.♙d4 f6 24.h4! c5 25.♙d3+-.

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 Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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