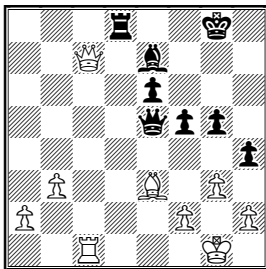


It is another weekend and again I would like to offer you numerous tests, as well as a new book review and many interesting positions – enjoy your weekend with *Chess Today!*



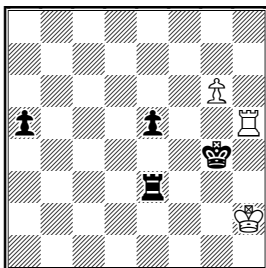
Chess Quiz – Tactics

Agaveva (2107) – Sachdev (2245)
 W Jun Girls Nakhchivan, 26.06.2003



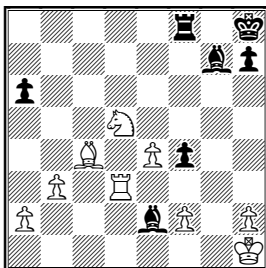
Black to play

Geirnaert (2289) – Rohit (2357)
 W Junior Ch, Nakhchivan, 26.06.2003



Black to play. White has just played 53.g6!? – what is going on?

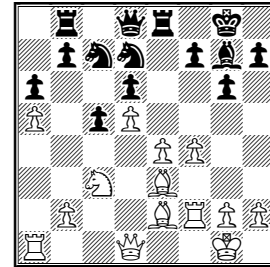
Medvegy (2385) – Dembo (2402)
 Hungarian Women Ch, Budapest, 2003



White to play – what is the best way to stop Black's counter-play?

Chess Quiz – Positional Play

Mamedjarova – Calotescu
 W Jun Girls Nakhchivan, 26.06.2003



White to play

This is not about finding a checkmate in 8 or winning a piece with a clever trick – it is about general knowledge and pattern recognition. Spend 10–15 minutes here and decide what you would play (and why!) for White. The answer is in this issue, along with two additional examples of this theme.

Chess News

The Category VIII closed [tournament](#) in Paris, organised by Chess Club NAO, is coming to its conclusion this weekend.

Results of round 8:

Schekachev–Maze ½:½
 J. Horvath – Kr. Georgiev ½:½
 Onkoud–Bellanche 1–0
 Vachier–Nguyen 1–0
 Brochet–Chabanon ½:½

Standings before the last round:

1–2. Maze (FRA 2418) and GM J. Horvath (HUN 2507) – 5½ pts;
3–4. IM Belaiche (FRA 2425) and GM Schekachev (RUS 2592) – 5 points; etc.

The GM-norm in this tournament is 6½ points, so by losing in round 8, IM Bellanche spoilt good chances to achieve it. But Sebastien Maze still has a chance to get the norm – if he beats, in the last round, his co-leader GM Joseph Horvath!

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
 Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to <http://www.chesstoday.net/>

Hungarian Women Championship

In round 6 WGM Dr. Nóra Medvegy beat the leader Yelena Dembo and caught up with her. Both leaders drew their games in round 7. See games from rounds 6 and 7 in our database.

Standings after 7 rounds:

1-2. WGMs Nóra Medvegy (2385) and Yelena Dembo (2402) - 5½ points;
3-4. WGMs Tícia Gara and Szidónia Vajda - 4½ points; etc.

The Dutch Championships

The Dutch men and women [Championships](#) are in progress in Leeuwarden. In the men's tournament after 2 rounds 16-year old Daniel Stellwagen is leading with 2 points. Personally, I think FIDE should not allow people under 21 to play in **any** tournaments other than junior - life would be so much better then! ☺

Maybe we should have a vote and turn it into a law from the next FIDE Congress?! Gens is certainly Una Sumus, but it almost makes me cry to see that half of the players at the World Junior Championships are higher rated than me! If you feel the way I do, let's write to Kirsan! ☺

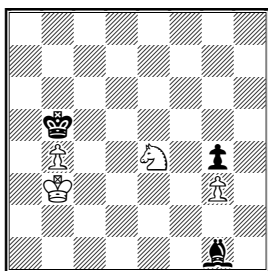
Standings after 2 rounds:

1. IM Daniel Stellwagen (2467) - 2 pts;
2-3. GMs Loek van Wely (2675) and Sergei Tiviakov (2623) - 1½ points;

Here is a curious game from round 1:

Tiviakov - Janssen

Dutch Ch, Leeuwarden, 26.06.2003



Black to play

I don't really see how White can win this position, if Black does nothing. If White attacks the g-pawn, then his own g-pawn will fall. But moving White's king to the kingside will endanger the b-pawn. This is one of those positions where the defender should follow a simple strategy: **'Do nothing, but do it well!'**. Alas, in the game Black did 'something':
55...♙h2?? 56.♖c3+ ♜c6 57.♗e2 ♜b5 58.♜c3 ♜b6 59.♜c4 ♜c6 60.b5+ ♜b6 61.♜b4 ♜b7 62.♜a5 ♜a7 63.b6+ ♜b7 64.♜b5 ♜b8 65.♜a6 1-0

World under 20 Championships

Friday was a rest day at the World Junior [Championships](#) in Azerbaijan, so we can only remind you that GM Kadir Guseinov (AZE 2505) is leading the boys' section with 5½ points out of 7, while WIM Nana Dzagnidze (GEO 2376) was clear first with 5 points out of 5. Games can be downloaded from the tournament [site](#), but we recommend downloading them from [TWIC](#), where the database seems to be properly edited. We included round 7 (boys) and 5 (girls) in our database.

Letters to the Editor



In the column *Play Like Computer* in CT-958 I published an interesting game from my book *Winning Pawn Structures*. It seems that unexpected computer decisions are of interest to many readers, as I keep receiving replies to that material. Among them there was the following message from our US reader WGM Anjelina Belakovskaia:

"Hi, Alex!
Thanks for the Chess Quiz in CT-958. I did not see games of Mr. Zichichi before, so it was nice to be introduced to his chess. It is just sad that the reason was his death.

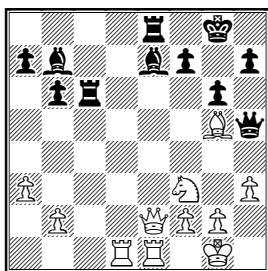
Meanwhile, in my opinion the position from 'Play Like Computer' should include a third solution as well -

1.♖d8!. If you like, you can call it *Play Like Women* – this is the solution that came into my mind. Regards, Anjelina"

At *Chess Today* we are always happy to receive your feedback, as well as your own examples of brilliant (or silly!) computer play. Today I would like to show that position again – with three solutions (in fact, Fritz 8 found some other winning moves too, but this is not the point).

de la Villa – Sion

Leon, 1995; Variation from the game



In this position White has at least three winning moves:

24.♖f1! This is an amazing computer move – it took me a while to understand the logic behind it! White protects the h3 pawn (!), which enables him to play g2–g4, winning the queen. Meanwhile the e7–bishop is attacked too.

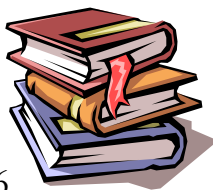
24.♖xe7! – this is the move I found during my analysis. It's brutal and it works: 24...♖xe7 25.♖xe7 h6 (or 25...♗a6 26.♖d8+ ♖g7 27.♖ee8) 26.♗e3+-.

24.♖d8! – clever move suggested by WGM Belakovskaia. It also wins nicely: 24...♖xd8 25.♖xe7 ♖b8 26.♗e5+-.

Book Review

by FM Sam Collins

The ...a6 Slav by
GM Glenn Flear,
Everyman Chess, 176
pages, R.R.P. £14.99



One of the primary motivators behind the sprawling and ever-increasing

catalogue of opening literature is the fickleness of chess fashion. Ten years ago, it was thought that there were two ways in which Black could handle the mainline Slav – chop a pawn on c4 or dump a pawn on e6.

Then the Moldavian trainer Viacheslav Chebanenko had an idea – why cede the centre (with ...dxc4) or lock in the light-squared bishop (with ...e6) when Black could conceal his intentions with ...a6? "Because it's stupid" seemed the natural response. Yet, after a decade or so of innovation and high-level interest (by many, including the rather selective Kasparov), this is one of the hottest lines in modern theory, justifying an entire volume dealing with just this line of the Slav.

GM Glenn Flear is regarded in Britain as a Slav expert (though these days he normally opts for the Semi-Slav, he does have some experience with the ...a6 Slav), and is pretty crafty practitioner of his favourite lines. This is reflected in his current work, where almost 50 pages are devoted to what could be called 'move-order issues'; basically White's attempts to cross Black up by delaying or omitting Nc3, Nf3 or d4. As a Slav player myself, I can testify that these lines are incredibly annoying and must be prepared for, since otherwise Black can easily wind up in a prospect-less position. Flear does an excellent job on these lines and goes beyond the call of duty in the range of such with which he deals – for instance, 1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 (hardly an ...a6 Slav) is covered, and covered well. This being the case, the book represents something quite close to a complete repertoire against closed openings, though there are a few omissions (for which Flear cannot be blamed, since a repertoire book was not the thrust of his mandate).

The book is based around complete games and covers the opening for both colours, though of course 1.d4 players would be understandably reluctant to buy an entire book on a sub-variation of the Slav. But for Black players, this means that there exists a wide range of choice in each position

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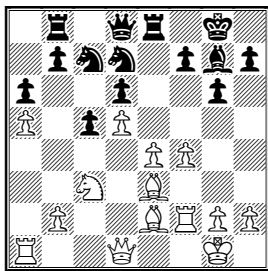
– most tastes are catered for by the lines covered. Even having played the line myself for several years, and knowing its popularity at GM level, I was still amazed by the general quality of the games included here – of the 82 illustrative games, it seemed like most were recent battles between 2650+ giants, a standard tough to match in most specialised opening works. Even if you never plan to play this opening, the book is almost worth buying for the games alone.

Many existing books have pretty good coverage of the ...a6 Slav. Sadler's classic 'The Slav' is now a little dated and rather thin on material, but is a truly excellent introduction to the opening. Burgess' more recent (and entirely different!) 'The Slav' is basically a combination of Sadler's work some more detailed theoretical coverage. Perhaps the most useful source is the Chess Base CD 'The Slav Defence' by GM Rogozenko. All these deal with the whole Slav, including the ...a6 Slav, but Flear's work has the benefit of both specialisation in one line and good coverage of the anti-Slav lines detailed above.

There are certain opening books I prefer to this one – the really exceptional ones packed full of novelties and pithy explanations of typical positions, in which I found this one slightly lacking. Nonetheless, *The ...a6 Slav* represents another excellent effort by Flear. **My Assessment:** ****

Positional Test

Mamedjarova – Calotescu, 2003



White to play

This position appears (and is!) rather unclear, but White seized the initiative

with a clever pawn sacrifice:

17.e5! dxe5

Fritz8, which eventually finds 17.e5! and rates it as the best move, does not like taking the pawn (computer does not grab pawns – what is going on in this world!?) and recommends 17...f5! instead – not a bad idea!

18.f5

This is a very typical for the Benoni Defence idea – White has sacrificed a pawn, but has great positional compensation for it: dangerous d-pawn and play on the f-file. Try playing f4–f5 a move earlier – that would give the e5–square to three different black pieces!

18...b6 19.d6 ♖b5 20.fxc6 fxc6 21.♗e4 h6 22.♜d5+ ♜h8 23.♙xb5 axb5 24.a6 ♖a8 25.a7 ♗f6 26.♗xf6 ♗xf6 27.♜f7 ♙h4 28.g3 ♜xd6 29.gxh4 ♜e6 30.♜xe6 ♖xe6 31.♙xh6 ♖ee8 32.♜f7 e4 33.♖b7 b4 34.♙f4 c4 35.♖b8 1-0.

I applaud the young Azerbaijani player, who probably new the following rather famous game:

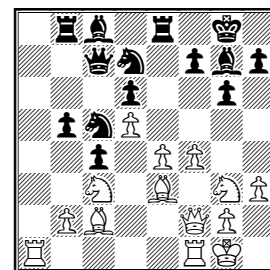
Penrose – Tal

Leipzig Olympiad, 1960

Benoni Defence, **A65**

Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 g6 6.e4 d6 7.♙d3 ♗g7 8.♗ge2 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.a4 ♜c7 11.h3 ♗bd7 12.f4 ♖e8 13.♗g3 c4 14.♙c2 ♗c5 15.♜f3 ♗fd7 16.♙e3 b5 17.axb5 ♖b8 18.♜f2 axb5 (D)



19.e5! This pawn sacrifice deprives Black of the e5–square – his pawn there will be just a dead body!

19...dxe5 20.f5! ♙b7 21.♖ad1 ♙a8 22.♗ce4 ♗a4 23.♙xa4 bxa4 24.fxc6 fxc6 25.♜f7+ ♜h8 26.♗c5 ♜a7 27.♜xd7 ♜xd7 28.♗xd7 ♖xb2 29.♗b6 ♖b3 30.♗xc4 ♖d8

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31.d6 ♖c3 32.♖c1 ♖xc1 33.♖xc1
 ♗d5 34.♗b6 ♗b3 35.♗e4 h6 36.d7
 ♗f8 37.♖c8 ♗e7 38.♗c5 ♗h4
 39.g3 1-0

But maybe, just maybe, she also knew another not-so-famous game featured below? Well, I must be dreaming! ☺

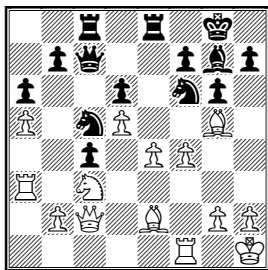
Baburin (2520) – Moiseev (2460)

Berlin Chess Festival, 1992

Benoni Defence, **A75**

Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.♗c3
 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.♗f3 g6 7.e4 a6
 8.a4 ♗g4 9.♗e2 ♗xf3 10.♗xf3
 ♗g7 11.0-0 0-0 12.♗g5 ♗bd7
 13.♗e2 ♖e8 14.♖c2 ♖c8 15.f4 c4
 16.♖h1 ♖a5 17.♖a3 ♖c7 18.a5
 ♗c5 (D)



19.e5! dxe5 20.f5! ♗cd7 21.♖a4 e4
 22.fxg6 hxg6 23.♗f4 ♖d8 24.d6 b5
 25.axb6 ♖xb6 26.♗xc4 a5 27.♖e2
 ♗c5 28.♖aa1 ♖f8 29.♖ad1 ♗cd7
 30.♗b5 ♖ce8 31.♗xd7 ♗xd7
 32.♗d5 ♖xb2 33.♗e7+ ♖h8
 34.♖g4 ♗f6 35.♖h4+ ♗h7 36.d7
 ♖a8 37.♗c7 ♗f6 38.♖xe4 1-0

Solutions to our Chess Quiz – Tactics

Agaeva–Sachdev: 35...♖d1+! 36.♖g2 h3+
 37.♖xh3 g4+ 0-1

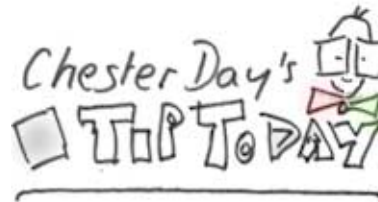
Geirnaert–Rohit: 53...♖e2+!
 Not 53...♖xh5?? 54.g7 ♖e2+ 55.♖g3+- 54.♖g1
 (or 54.♖h1 ♖xh5 55.g7 ♖e4 56.g8 ♖h4+
 57.♖g2 ♖g4+ 58.♖xg4+ ♖xg4+) 54...♖xh5
 55.g7 ♖e4 0-1

Conclusion: 53.g6!? was a nice try, but it did not save White...

Medvegy–Dembo: 31.♗xf4!
 Better than 31.♖d2 ♗f3+ 32.♖g1 ♗xe4
 33.♗xa6, where White's task would have been much harder.
 31...♖xf4 After 31...♗xd3 32.♗xd3 Black has

absolutely no counter-play – another example where opposite-squared bishops make defence harder.

32.♖d8+ ♗f8 33.♗xe2 ♖xf2 34.♗xa6 ♖g7
 35.a4+- ♗c5 36.♗c4 ♗e3 37.h3 h5 38.a5
 ♖a2 39.a6 ♖f6 40.♖d5 h4 41.♖f5+ ♖g6
 42.♖f3 ♗d4 43.♖f4 ♖a1+ 44.♖f1 ♖a2
 45.♖d1 ♗e5 46.b4 ♖h2+ 47.♖g1 ♖xh3
 48.b5 ♗c7 49.e5 ♖g3+ 50.♖h1 ♖h3+
 51.♖g2 ♖g3+ 52.♖f1 ♖a3 53.e6 ♖f6
 54.♖d7 ♖a1+ 55.♖g2 ♗b6 56.e7 1-0.



“Sometimes the best strategy is to do nothing, but do it really well”

– GM Alexander Baburin

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