

Chess Today Celebrates 3rd Anniversary!

by GM Alex Baburin

Today our paper turns 3 years old. We are not going to host a champagne reception, though as only recently we celebrated our 1000th issue. However, this might be a good occasion to look at the CT development – please come to our [website](#) and see [sample issues](#), including issues No. 1, 300, 500 and 1000! You can also read about [people](#) working in *Chess Today*.



Our paper was born during the Internet boom and it survived the tough years which followed, when many good websites hit the wall. I think most readers would agree that in recent months *Chess Today* improved both in terms of its design and content.

We currently have about 700 regular readers, while there are about 900 people in our 'Free Trial' list. Our readership includes 67 Grandmasters, including such leading players as Alexey Shirov, Peter Svidler, Judit Polgar, Boris Gelfand and Teimour Radjabov. I don't claim that they read every issue, but I got very positive feedback from many GMs.

Of course, *Chess Today* has primarily club players in mind and it seems that most readers love our publication. We often receive messages like this:

" I am enjoying your publication immensely. This is a wonderful value and a joy to see in your e-mail in my mailbox." — Glen Hart

We would certainly like to have more readers and I guess here we are overcome (or at least deal with) the following negative trends:

- *Chess Today* is still not known to the majority of chess players

- Daily chess fix could be too much for some chess fans
 - Language could be a problem for many, narrowing our readership
 - People might be unwilling to pay for chess information

We hope that you, dear reader, can help us to popularise *Chess Today* — why not forward either this issue or at least the www.chesstoday.net link to all chess-playing people in your mailbox? Word of mouth is often the best advertisement!

We plan to have a 2-issues-a-week option soon — this will not replace our daily delivery, but rather offer an additional choice for those who find it hard to cope with 7 issues a week.

If our readership goes up, we might consider editions in other languages (German, Russian and Spanish are obvious candidates), at least for the twice-a-week version.

As for paying for (chess) information, the trend might change at some point — people do pay for books, online lessons or for playing on chess servers. And here *Chess Today* offers really good value for chess fans!

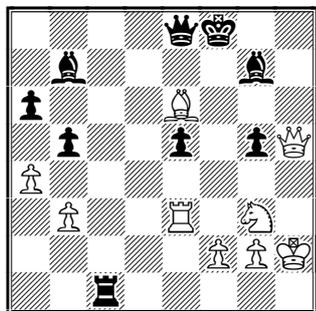
Chess Today still has a lot of room for improvement, particularly when it comes to promoting itself. I received many good ideas and suggestions from our readers and hope to act upon them very soon. Sometimes I can be slow – simply due to the fact that apart from publishing *Chess Today*, I give chess lessons, write articles, play chess in various leagues and teach chess in many schools around Dublin. I like to think of myself as a lazy man, but sometimes I look at my schedule and have severe doubts! ☺

Anyway, we look forward to the 4th year of paper with optimism and would like to thank all our readers for your continuous support!

Chess Quiz

Kulaots (2530) – Tallaksen (2327)

Classics II GM Gausdal NOR, 2003



White to play

Chess News

Sautron Open

It seems that France is experiencing a chess boom — it has a strong national team, French club NAO won the European Club Championship and there are many tournaments taking place in France every month. One such tournament took place in Sautron (FRA) on 25 October – 2 November.

Final Standings:

1–2. GMs Andrei Istratescu (ROM 2595) and Jiri Stoczek (CZE 2545) – 7 points out of 9;
3–7. GMs Fedorchuk (UKR 2561) and Makarov (RUS 2517); IMs Maze (FRA 2464), Prasad (IND 2409) and Dobrev (BUL 2389) – 6½ points, etc (143 participants).

Touquet Open

Another open tournament finished in France recently — Touquet Open (26 October – 1 November).

Final Standings:

1. GM Krum Georgiev (BUL 2452) – 6½ points out of 9;
2. GMs Goloshchapov (UKR 2574) Kveinys (LTU 2495) I. Farago (HUN 2485), Belkhodja (TUN 2439); IM Marholev (BUL 2407), FM Michiels (BEL 2390) and Harich (GER 2216) – 6

points, etc (8 GMs and 10 IMs amongst 103 players)

GM tournament in Tel Aviv

18-years old Israeli player Ilya Khmelniker won a closed GM tournament in Tel Aviv (19–28 October), making a GM-norm.

Final standings:

1. Ilya Khmelniker (ISR 2451) – 7 points out of 9
2. GM Savchenko (UKR 2563) – 6 pts;
3. GM Lerner (UKR 2524) – 5 points, etc.

Leuven Open

This traditional chess [open](#) is about to start in this Belgian city. *Chess Today* has two representatives playing there – our editor Graham Brown and GM Mikhail Golubev. On behalf of *Chess Today*, I would like to wish both of them interesting games and good results! On his website Graham wrote about last year's [edition](#) of the tournament.

The 2nd Selfoss Milk Tournament

The leaders Nikolic and Sokolov have consolidated their positions before the final round in which they play each other. I suppose this game will see a quick draw. In any case Malakhov does not have a chance for the first place not to mention all the others. As you will see from the annotated game in the penultimate round Sokolov was one step away from the loss but Vallejo stepped in a wrong direction.

Round 8 results:

Vallejo – Sokolov 0:1
Nikolic – Stefansson 1:0
Fressinet – Bologan 0:1
Thorhalsson – Rowson ½:½
De Firmian – Malakhov ½:½

Round 8 standings:

1–2. Nikolic, Sokolov – 6½
3. Malakhov – 5½
4. Vallejo – 4½
5–6. Fressinet, Rowson – 4
7. Bologan – 3½

8-9. Stefansson, Thorhallsen – 2
10. De Firmian – 1½

[Official site](#)

You can find games from rounds 7 and 8 in our database. We would like to thank Rod McShane and Manfred Rosenboom for sending them.

FIDE Congress

by GM Alex Baburin

FIDE has published a [report](#) on the 74th FIDE Congress, which concluded its work on 2nd November in Greece. I would like to quote a few of the decisions, with my brief comments (in italics).

"The Executive Board endorsed the decision of the President to cancel the Ponomarev-Kasparov 2003 World Chess Championship Match and to organize in its place the World Chess Championship (Knock Out) tournament."

What else to expect? Kirsan Ilyumzhinov controls FIDE and practically all his decisions get a stamp of approval.

"The Board therefore granted anticipatory powers to the FIDE President to decide on the details of the format, which will be submitted by the World Chess Championship Committee to enable the event to be split on the basis of two, three or four groups of 64 or 32 players each. The idea behind this proposal is to enable two, three or four possible bids for the entire knock out championship thereby spreading the costs of hosting the entire event."

This is something new – the tournament is going to be in different countries now? And isn't it supposed to start soon? Yet, instead of dates and venue, players hear about 'details of the format', which has to be yet decided!

"As part of its measures to address its financial problems, the Board approved the recommendation of the

Presidential Board to move the FIDE Secretariat from Lausanne to Athens in order to reduce the costs of running the Secretariat."

So, FIDE is in financial difficulties... But did not Ilyumzhinov give \$50,000,000 to FIDE a few years ago to keep World Championships running for 10 years? Or was it a bad joke?

"The Board was briefed by both the Spanish Chess Federation President Mr. Javier Ochoa and the representative of the city of Calvia, Mr. Antonio Rami on the preparations by the Organizing Committee to hold the 36th Chess Olympiad and the 75th FIDE Congress in the Spanish Island of Majorca from 21 to 31 October 2004. At the same time, the Executive Board confirmed the dates for the 37th Chess Olympiad and the 77th FIDE Congress to be held in the Italian city of Turin from 20 May to 4 June 2006. In view of the growing number of countries interested in hosting the Chess Olympiads and Congresses the Board established a deadline for the submission of bids to host the 2008 Chess Olympiad. The Board noted that Armenia, Germany, Sweden and Argentina had expressed interest to host the 2008 Olympiad and set a deadline of 15 April 2004 for the submission of bids by these countries as well as any other country that might be interested in hosting the event."

This is good news, but it would be interesting to learn if players (Federations) will have to pay for their accommodation. Traditionally the host provides accommodation and food, while teams pay for their travel. In Bled in 2000 Ilyumzhinov backed a proposal from US oil company to host the chess Olympiad in 2004 in Texas, where the hosts would pay travel expenses as well. That bid was rejected, but I heard that the Spanish organisers are going to charge teams for everything, despite having government sponsorship for the event. If this will be the case, many teams won't make it to Majorca...

"Finally, the Executive Board resolved

*This issue is prepared by GM A. Baburin & IM M. Notkin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
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to declare the years 2004 and 2005 as the year of Tigran Petrossian and the year of Chess in Schools respectively."

Good decisions — Petrosian certainly deserves credit and scholastic chess needs support, even if it's already booming in many countries.

TWIC published [further information](#) on the FIDE plans:

"The FIDE Congress has decided that they will hold 2 KO qualifiers for a unified Men's World Championship, in April-May tentatively in Baku (Azerbaijan) and Tripoli (Libya). The winners of the two sections will play and the winner of that will play Garry Kasparov for the unified title. It seems from my reading of the proposals they will ignore the claims of Vladimir Kramnik (who defeated Kasparov, yet Kasparov is in the unification process in spite of neither having nor claiming any world title) and Peter Leko (who is due to play him)." — Mark Crowther

Annotated Game

by IM Maxim Notkin

□ **F. Vallejo Pons (2662)**

■ **I. Sokolov (2695)**

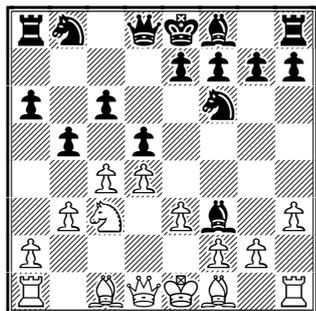
2nd Milk Tournament Selfoss, Iceland (8), 06.11.2003

Slav Defence – [D10]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6 5.♗f3 b5 6.b3 ♕g4 7.h3

Less committing is 7.♗e2 but it doesn't mean that the text move is worse.

7...♗xf3 (D)



8.gxf3

White is more or less obliged to agree to the damage of his pawn formation. On the other hand it helps him to get spatial advantage. [After 8.♗xf3 strong is 8...e5! and if 9.dxe5! ♗b4 10.♗d2 ♗xc3! 11.♗xc3 ♘e4 12.♗b4 (12.♗b2??? ♖a5+) 12...bxc4 13.bxc4 ♖b6 14.a3 a5 with a menacing initiative

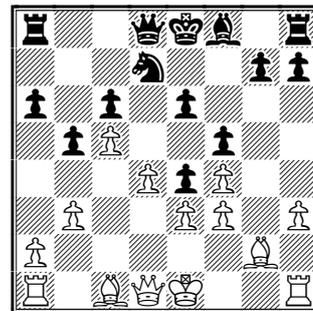
8...♗bd7 9.f4 e6 10.c5 ♘e4

Another plan is 10...g6 and in various games Black transposed his knight to f5 using all the thinkable routes – h5–g7–f5 or g8–e7–f5 or even (after h3–h4) g4–h6–f5.

11.♗xe4

11.♗b2 leads to a tedious positional play – 11...♗xc3 12.♗xc3 a5 13.♗d3 f5 14.♖e2 ♗e7 15.0–0–0 ♘f6= Svetushkin – Bacrot, Istanbul 2003.

11...dxe4 12.♗g2 f5 13.f3 (D)



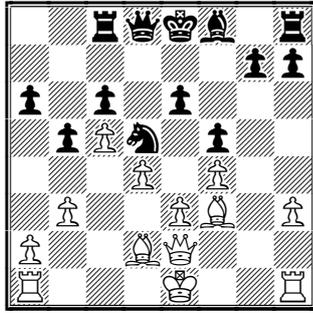
13...exf3

A few months ago the same opponents had the same position in Mainz. At that time Sokolov chose 13...♗f6 14.fxe4 fxe4 15.♖c2 ♖d5 16.a4 b4 and after 17.♗d2 (17.♗f1!) 17...g5! 18.♖f1 ♖g8 19.fxg5 ♖xg5 20.♗xb4 ♗e7 obtained a good counterplay thanks to the active rooks and finally won the game. But by means of 17.♗f1 with idea of the regrouping ♗c4, ♖g1, ♖g2, ♗d2, 0–0–0 White could have retained his advantage. Ivan didn't want to check Paco's preparation and deviated first but the Spaniard had explored another branches as well.

14.♗xf3 ♖c8 15.♖e2!

In the event of 15.a4 ♗f6 16.axb5 axb5 17.♖a6 ♖d7 18.♖d2 ♗e7 19.0–0 20.♖g2 ♘d5 21.♗d2 ♖a8 22.♖fa1 ♖b7 the game is even, Pelletier – Bacrot, Biel 2003

15...♗f6 16.♗d2 ♘d5 (D)



Vallejo could castle any side he wanted but he preferred the straight action.

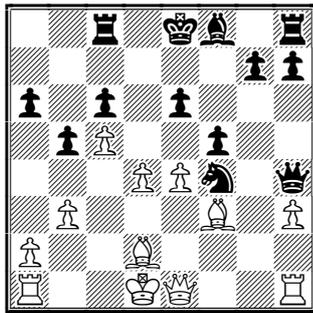
17.e4! ♖h4+

17...fxe4 18.♗xe4 ♖f6 19.0-0-0 with advantage to White due to the weakness of the e6 pawn.

18.♝d1!

In the ending after 18.♗f2 ♖xf2+ 19.♝xf2 fxe4 20.♗xe4 g6 the mighty knight allows Black to hold the position.

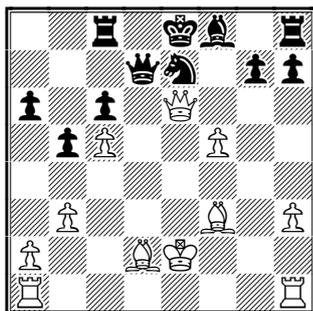
18...♜xf4 19.♖e1! (D)



If 19.♖e3 g5! (bad is 19...♜xh3? 20.exf5 ♜f2+ 21.♝c2 ♜xh1 22.♗xe6+ ♝d8 23.♗a5+ ♝c7 24.♝e1+-; after 19...♜g6 20.exf5 ♜e7 the precise move 21.♝e1! gives White a significant advantage) 20.exf5 ♗g7 21.fxe6 ♝e7! followed by Rhd8 and Black has sufficient counterplay

19...♜g6!?

19...♗xe1+ 20.♝xe1 ♜xh3 21.exf5± 20.exf5 ♗xd4 21.♗xe6+ ♜e7 22.♖e2 ♗d7 (D)



22...♗xc5 loses to 23.♝ac1 ♗xf5 24.♗xc6+ ♝xc6 25.♝xc6

23.♖e3

23.a4?! is met by 23...♗xe6+ 24.fxe6 ♜f5; the prophylactic move 23.♝hf1! promises White a very pleasant ending after 23...♗xe6+ 24.fxe6 g6 (24...♜f5 25.♗h5+ g6 26.♝xf5 gxh5 27.♝g1!) 25.♗e4; The queen's retreat creates the threat of Bh5+. The immediate 23.♗h5+ is harmless on account of 23...g6.

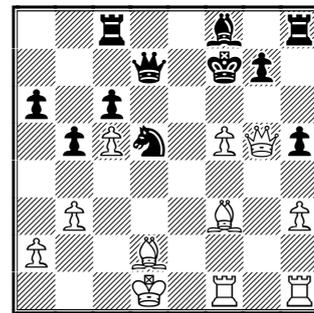
23...h5

23...♗xf5?? 24.♗g4

24.♝af1 ♝f7 25.♝d1

This move wasn't essential. 25.♗g5 looked better.

25...♜d5 26.♖g5 (D)



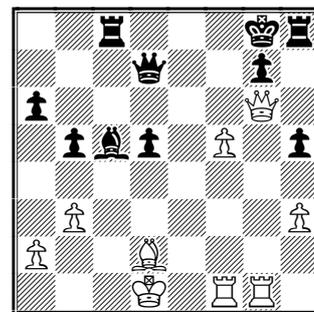
♗e7?

Leads to a lost position. Right was the simple capture 26...♗xc5 27.♖g6+ ♝g8 28.♗xd5+ ♗xd5 29.f6 ♝c7! parrying the direct threats

27.♖g6+ ♝g8 28.♝hg1

Another move order works fine as well - 28.♗xd5+ ♗xd5 (28...cxd5 29.f6) 29.♝hg1 (but not 29.f6? ♗xf6) 29...♖f7 (29...♝h7 30.f6 ♝d8 31.♝g2 ♗xc5 32.fxg7+-) 30.f6! ♖xg6 31.♝xg6 ♗xc5 32.fxg7 ♝h7 33.♗h6 and in view of Rf8+ Black should give up the exchange.

28...♗xc5 29.♗xd5+ cxd5 (D)



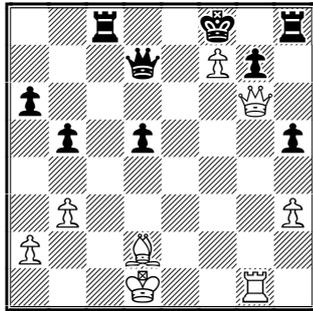
30.f6!

The winning blow.

30...♗xg1 31.f7+

Missing a very nice win after 31.fxg7!?

♖h7 (31...♗xg7 32.♖e6+ ♕h7 33.♟f7
 ♗d4 34.♖h6+ ♖g8 35.♟xg7+ ♗xg7
 36.♖e6+ ♕h7 (36...♜f8 37.♗b4+)
 37.♖f5+) 32.♟f8+! ♟xf8 33.♖xh7+!
 ♕xh7 34.gxf8♖+! But apart from this
 beauty White doesn't miss anything.
31...♜f8 32.♟xg1?? (D)



A terrible blunder. Maybe Vallejo
 counted on 32.♗b4+ and in the last
 second noticed 32...♗c5; The decision
 to eliminate the black bishop is right
 but it should have been taken by the
 queen - 32.♖xg1 ♖e7 33.♖d4 a5
 34.♗xa5 ♟h6 35.♗b4 ♟d6 36.♟g1+
32...♖xf7

Black is simply the exchange and
 two pawns up. White's position is lost
 anyway but he loses in one move.
33.♖xa6?! ♖f3+

33...♖f3+ 34.♖e1 ♟e8+ 0-1.

Solution to our quiz:

Kulaots (2530) – Tallaksen (2327)

Classics II GM Gausdal NOR, 2003

36.♟f3+! ♗xf3 37.♖xf3+ ♖e7
38.♖f5+ ♖d8 [38...♜xe6 39.♖xg7+;
38...♜f6 39.♖d6+] 39.♖a8+ 1-0.

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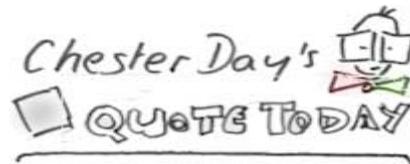
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Could we look
 into the
 head of a chess
 player,
 we would see
 there a
 whole world
 of feelings,
 images,
 ideas,
 emotion
 and passion.

- Alfred Binet

When chess masters err,
 ordinary
 wood
 pushers tend
 to derive
 a measure of
 satisfaction,
 if not actual glee.

- I. Horowitz