

## Chess Today Anniversary!

GM Alex Baburin celebrates our anniversary with a look at the history of CT.



**T**oday is a special day for the CT team, as we have reached issue No. 500. Perhaps in the future such anniversaries will become routine, but for now it brings a sense of excitement to me. Here I would like to look back and talk about the history of Chess Today – hopefully it will be of interest to our readers, particularly the new ones.

CT started in November 2000. That autumn I got an idea that there was enough news in the chess world to fill a good few pages every day, particularly if one presented annotated games, as well as news. In a way, I was inspired by the success of my *Coffee Break Chess* newsletter. Yet, CT was a much more ambitious project, which clearly required a dedicated team. Fortunately, I had good contacts and soon CT got a few members aboard – IM Vladimir Barsky and GM Ruslan Scherbakov started to write for it, while Graham Brown began to edit it. At the beginning Tim Harding, editor of Chess Mail, also helped.

While I had known Ruslan since we were kids, and met Vladimir when I was 17, with Graham it was a different and quite an amazing story. For more than a year we worked together, exchanged numerous e-mails practically every day, but never actually met. Only recently Graham and I met in Birmingham – there is the power of the Internet for you! Jimmy

Adams (editor of Chess Monthly) recommended Graham to me and I cannot thank Jimmy enough for that.

Ralph Marconi is our other editor, who puts a lot of effort into CT. I am yet to meet him (hopefully that day will come!), but it has been a pleasure to work together. The commitment of Ralph and Graham is the main reason that, despite living in different countries, we have not failed to deliver a single issue in 500 days!

## Aliens ...



Grandmaster Mikhail Golubev wrote for CT for a while and we stay in touch. He is quite busy playing, and writing books, but I hope to see him working for CT again. And who knows, perhaps the CT team will expand in the future – while we are not planning any IPO on NASDAQ, Chess Today has survived times that have proved very difficult for many Net companies. Our readership is growing (albeit slowly) and with more people turning to the Net, the only way is up!

500 days is a long period, during which we have discussed different ideas to make CT better. But it seems that our format suits most of our readers fine – daily news, with quality

annotated games and occasional interviews. This is what came across in the polls and in e-mails. We are going to stick to this format. I know that most readers would love to see more instructional stuff, and this is one area where we can improve, particularly if we can get other strong players to write for the paper.

Another area of possible improvement is marketing. Recently I went to Norway for 10 days and met perhaps over 100 players. I reckon that just 5% of them heard of Chess Today. I guess that situation is similar in other countries...

We do need more readers and I see it as my job to promote CT more effectively. I still have a lot to learn in this department, so if you have ideas and suggestions, please let me know – I may be slow implementing them, but I will get there eventually! Meanwhile please help us by spreading the word about Chess Today. We have close to 400 readers. It is fair to say that every chess player (on average) knows more than 10 chess players with e-mail address. If everyone mentions CT to his chess friends (perhaps forwarding to them one issue, be it news, middle game instructions or endgame stuff), that would allow over 4,000 people to learn about us! Please help us to promote Chess Today – bring a printed copy to your club or to a tournament where you play, post an announcement on newsgroups or on your club's Web site, tell your partners on ICC and other servers – the opportunities are limitless. We have re-designed and updated the CT site ([www.chesstoday.net](http://www.chesstoday.net)) – please advertise it too. Together we can make this publication even better!

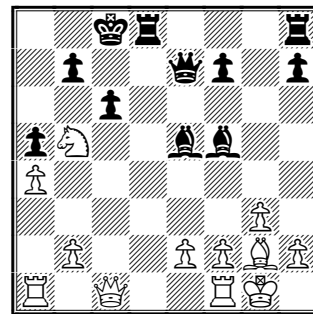
## Monaco 2002

Now to the chess news. The main story is still the tournament in Monaco, where round 5 was played on Thursday. There were two particularly interesting matches in that round:

**Kramnik–Morozevich** and **Shirov–Bareev**. Kramnik was not doing well in the tournament (50%), so obviously he was keen to fight one of the leaders. He managed to win in rapid chess (a pretty interesting game – check it out in our database).

## Quiz Today

### Kramnik – Morozevich Rapid, Monaco 2002

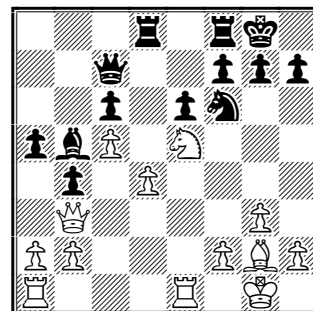


*White to play*

Their blindfold game was a rather uneventful draw, but Kramnik has become the first player to resist Morozevich in blindfold chess in Monaco.

Before round 5 Shirov was leading with 6½ points out of 8, while Bareev was equal second on 6 points. This made their duel particularly important. Usually Shirov is a tough examiner for the Muscovite, but in rapid chess Bareev outplayed his opponent. Yet, the match was drawn as in blindfold chess Bareev blundered dramatically:

### Bareev – Shirov



*White to play*

Here White is probably a little better. One reasonable way to play would be 20.a4! bxa3 21.bxa3 a4 (21...Bxd4 22.a4 Bb4 23.Wc2 Qa6 24.Qxc6 Bc4 25.Wd3±) 22.We3±. Yet, the game went 20.Qxc6?? Qxc6 21.Qxc6 Wxc6 0-1

Ivanchuk beat Piket 1½:½, Ljubojevic with the same score defeated van Wely, Gelfand won 2-0 against Almasi (see our Annotated Game Section today), while Leko got the same result against Topalov. Overall, main results of the round are that Shirov fortified his leading position, while Gelfand and Leko improved their standings a lot. Combined (rapid and blindfold chess) standing after 5 rounds:

1. **Alexei Shirov** – 7½ points out of 10
2. *Evgeny Bareev* – 7 points. 3-5. Morozevich, Ivanchuk and Gelfand – 6½ points; 6. Kramnik – 5½ points; 7. Leko – 5 points; 8-9. Topalov and Piket – 4 points; 10. Ljubojevic – 3 points; 11. Almasi – 2½ points; 12. van Wely – 2 points.

## Expert Najdorf

□ **Z. Almasi (2633)**

■ **B. Gelfand (2736)**

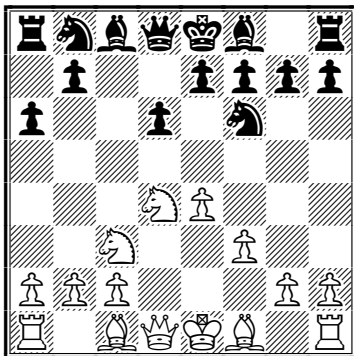
*Amber-2002, Blind, Monaco (5)*

Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

**1.e4 c5 2.Qf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Qf6 5.Qc3 a6**

Gelfand is one of world's leading experts on the Najdorf, which he has played since childhood.

**6.f3 (D)**

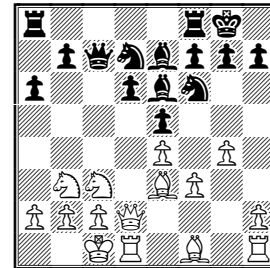


White plays this move when he wants to avoid 6.Qe3 Qg4!?

**6...e5 7.Qb3 Qe6 8.Qe3 Qe7 9.Wd2 0-0 10.0-0-0 Qbd7 11.g4**

This is not just a beginning of pawn storm, but also fights for the d5-square.

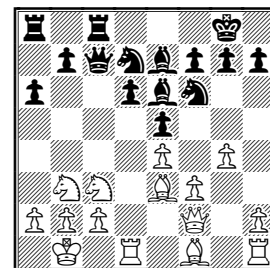
**11...Wc7 (D)**



**12.Wb1**

White has various options here, for example, **12.g5** is very popular. One recent game went 12...Qh5 13.Wb1 b5 14.Qd5 Qxd5 15.exd5 Qb6 16.Qa5 Qxd5 17.Wxd5 Wxa5 18.c4 Wb4 19.Bg1 Bb8 20.cxb5 axb5 21.a3 Wa4 22.Bg4 Qf4 23.Qxf4 exf4 24.Bd4 Wa5 25.Be4 Wd8 26.Qxb5 Qh8 27.Bexf4 Wb6 28.a4 Wc5 29.Bd4 f5 30.Bg2 Bfc8 31.Wxc5 Bxc5 32.f4 g6 33.b4 Bc3 34.Bc2 Bf3 35.Qc6 Bf1+ 36.Qa2 Qf8 37.b5 Qg7 38.Bcd2 Qxd4 39.Bxd4 Bc1 40.a5 1-0 Bologan-Fressinet, Pamplona 2002. One exemplary game in this line is **12.h4** b5 13.Qd5 Qxd5 14.exd5 Bfc8 15.Wb1 Qb6 16.Qxb6 Wxb6 17.We1 a5 18.g5 Qh5 19.a3 Qf4 20.Bh2 Bc7 21.Qc1 Wb7 22.Bhd2 Bc5 23.Qd3 Qxd3 24.Qxd3 g6 25.Bh2 Wd7 26.We4 Bxc8 27.Bdh1 h5 28.gxh6 f5 29.We1 Qh7 30.Bg2 Bg8 31.Wxa5 Bxd5 32.Qc4 Qd8 33.Wa8 bxc4 34.Wxd5 c3 35.Bhg1 Qf6 36.b3 We7 37.a4 g5 38.hxg5 Bxg5 39.Bxg5 Qxg5 40.f4 1-0 Adams-Kobalija, Moscow 2001.

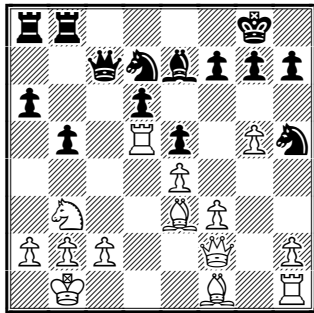
**12...Bfc8 13.Wf2! (D)**



A tricky move, typical for this

system. White gets control over the b6-square, which means that he is fighting over the critical d5-square. It also matters that ...b7-b5-b4xc3 will not come with tempo. [13.g5 ♖h5 14.♗d5 ♗xd5 15.exd5 ♗b6 16.♗a5 ♗f4 17.♗xf4 exf4 18.♗h3 ♖e8 19.♖xf4 ♗f8 20.♖d2 ♖e5 21.♖hd1 ♖ae8 22.♖h4 g6 23.♗f1 ♖f5 24.♖d3 ♗g7 25.♗b3 ♗c4] Tiviakov-Morozevich, Wijk aan Zee 2001. Gelfand lost to Shirov in 2000 in New Delhi in this line after 16.♖g1 a5 17.a3 a4 18.♗c5!, so he obviously had something up his sleeve as he went for this variation again.

13...b5 14.g5 ♖h5 15.♗d5 ♗xd5 16.♖xd5 ♖cb8! (D)



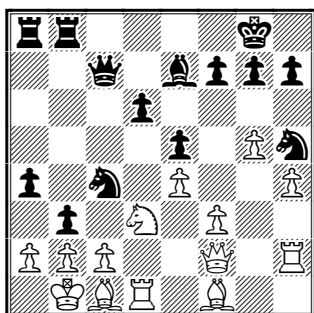
This is one reason why Black had played ♖fc8 and not ♖ac8 – now the a8-♖ is very useful where it is. 17.♗c1?!N

17.h4 ♗b6 18.♗xb6 ♖xb6 ½-½ Jenni-Forster, Zug 2001.

17...♗b6 18.♖d1 ♗c4 19.h4 a5 20.♖h2

White would like to get rid of the c4-knight, but after 20.♗xc4 bxc4 21.c3 a4 22.a3 Black has 22...d5!

20...a4 21.♗d3 b4 22.♗c1 b3 (D)



Something has gone wrong for White, as Black has all the play here. 23.cxb3 axb3 24.a3 d5!

This move in the Najdorf often spells doom for White.

## 25.exd5 ♗xa3 0-1

White resigned as 26.bxa3 b2! Is clearly hopeless for him. Nice play by Gelfand – it looks like White needs some repair work in the line with 12.♖b1.

More tournament news tomorrow – stay tuned!

## Solution to Quiz Today:- 19.♗a7+!

According to Fritz, 19.♖e1 cxb5 20.♖xa5 is another interesting possibility. But Kramnik chose an even more energetic way. 19...♖b8 20.♗xc6+ The point, now Black's king is too exposed. 20...bxc6 21.♖xc6 ♖a7 22.♖b5 ♗c8 23.♖xa5+ Four pawns and attack is too much for a piece, White is clearly winning. 23...♗a6 24.♖ac1 ♖c8 25.b4 ♗c7 26.♖f5 ♖he8 27.b5 ♗b7 28.♗xb7 ♖xb7 29.♖d5+ ♖b8 30.b6! ♗xb6 31.♖b1 ♖e6 32.♖xe6 ♖xe6 33.a5 ♖cc6 34.e3 1-0

**Contact information.** Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at [ct@gmsquare.com](mailto:ct@gmsquare.com). We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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