

**Chess Today Celebrates
its 5th Birthday!**

by GM Alex Baburin

Five years ago the first issue of *Chess Today* came out. I remember it well – at the time I was playing at the Chess Olympiad in Istanbul. That day after the round I prepared my materials for the issue and went to an Internet café to e-mail it to Graham. The connection speed was pathetic and I was really worried that my e-mail was lost in the cyber space. It was not – and the first issue of *Chess Today* soon reached its readers. Then I knew that if I could produce CT in Istanbul in 2000, I could do it anywhere!

A lot of time has passed since that issue and I am happy that now our team is as strong as ever. Publishing a daily newsletter is not an easy task, but our journalists and editors not only manage to meet deadlines, they also produce a newsletter appreciated by club players and Grandmasters alike – all around the world!

Here is a little statistics, concerning the number of annotated games/fragments each journalist did so far:

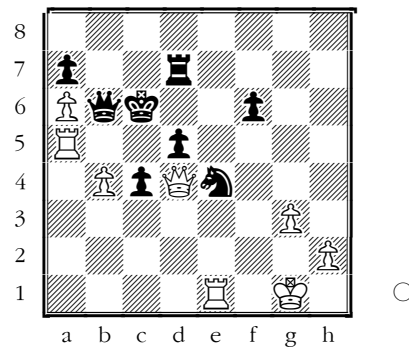
Maxim Notkin	705
Vladimir Barsky	679
Alex Baburin	659
Mikhail Golubev	507
Nikolai Vlassov	392
Ruslan Sherbakov	329

Many players send their contributions to CT now – article, combinations, annotated games. They are much appreciated. We also have a great team of reviewers, who devote a lot of their time. I also want to thank our readers – for your feedback and continuous support over the years!



Test Yourself!

Kritz (2545) – Burmakin (2508)
9th Open Bavarian Ch GER (8), 2005



**World Chess
News**

World Team Championship

Standings after 5 rounds:

1. China Men – 13½ (after 4 matches)
2. Russia – 13 points
3. Israel – 10
4. Armenia – 9½ (4)
5. Ukraine – 9 (4)
6. USA – 7½ (4),
7. Georgia – 6½
8. Cuba – 6 (4),
9. China Women – 5

Round 6 pairings (Monday):

Ukraine – China Men

Georgia – Cuba

Armenia – Russia

USA – China Women

Free: Israel

[Official website](#)

9th Bavarian Open

At press time the official website had not been updated so we cannot report to you the 9th round results at this time.

Last round key pairings:

Morawietz (7) – Delchev (7)

Postny (7) – Kritz (7)

[Official website](#)

Kasimdzhanov vs. Mamedyarov Match

by GM Mikhail Golubev

On 4th November GMs Rustam Kasimdzhanov (Uzbekistan) and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan) played a 10 game blitz match in Baku, Azerbaijan. The prize fund was 5,000 euro – of which the winner received 2,750 euro. The match was very close – Mamedyarov won 5½–4½. The eight available games can be found in today's game database.

The First International Chess Festival, dedicated to the State Independence Day of the Azerbaijan Republic will continue until 9th November. The Swiss open tournaments "D" and "C" are already finished. In the latter first place was shared by GMs Safin, Andreev, Gelashvili and Guseinov. For more details visit www.chessclub.az

Annotated Game

by IM Maxim Notkin

White: Bu Xiangzhi (2637)

Black: B. Jobava (2601)

World Team Ch Beer Sheva ISR (5),

05.11.2005

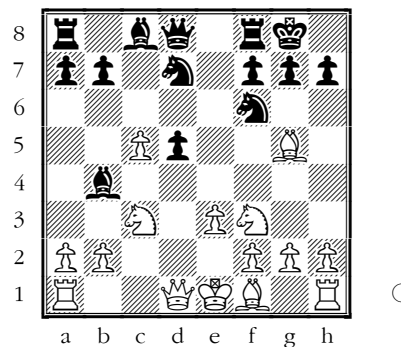
Queen's Gambit/Ragozin Sys. – [D38]

1. $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}5$ 2. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}f6$ 3. $\text{c}4$ $\text{e}6$ 4. $\text{d}c3$
 $\text{a}b4$ 5. $\text{a}g5$ $\text{c}5$ 6. $\text{e}3$ 0–0 7. $\text{c}xd5$
 $\text{e}xd5$ 8. $\text{d}xc5$ $\text{d}bd7$ (D)

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; Technical editor: R. Marconi

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

CT-311(1826) Page 2 of 4

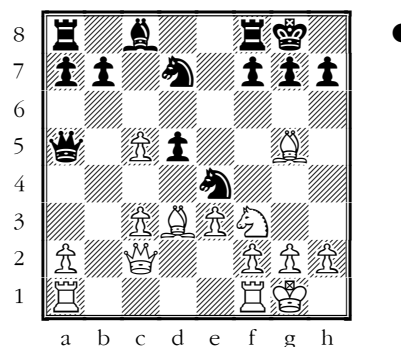


9. $\text{d}d3$ This simple move is a novelty but in fact it doesn't pose serious problems for Black. [About the critical line 9. $\text{d}c1$ $\text{a}a5$ 10. $\text{d}d2$ $\text{b}6$ see my notes to Moiseenko – Giorgadze in CT-1763

9... $\text{a}a5$ After this move Black is ready to exert more pressure on the $\text{d}c3$ by $\text{d}f6$ - $\text{e}4$

10.0–0 $\text{a}xc3$ 11. $\text{b}xc3$ $\text{d}e4$ This thrust is the strongest continuation. Inferior are 11... $\text{a}xc3$?! 12. $\text{d}c1$; or 11... $\text{d}xc5$? 12. $\text{a}xf6$ $\text{g}xf6$ 13. $\text{a}c2$; or 11... $\text{a}xc5$ 12. $\text{d}c1$ (intending $\text{c}3$ - $\text{c}4$) 12... $\text{b}5$ 13. $\text{a}4$

12. $\text{a}c2$ (D)



In case of 12. $\text{c}4$ $\text{d}xc5$ (or 12... $\text{d}xg5$ 13. $\text{d}xg5$ $\text{h}6$ 14. $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}xc4$ 15. $\text{a}xc4$ $\text{d}xc5$ 16. $\text{d}d4$ $\text{a}d7$ 17. $\text{a}h5$?) 13. $\text{c}xd5$ $\text{d}c3$ 14. $\text{a}c2$ $\text{d}xd3$ 15. $\text{a}xd3$ $\text{d}xd5$ White retains a small plus which would most likely disappear when Black completes his development. 12... $\text{d}xg5$ Of course not 12... $\text{a}xc3$? 13. $\text{a}xe4$; To 12... $\text{d}xc5$ Jobava might dislike 13. $\text{a}e7$ $\text{e}e8$ 14. $\text{a}xc5$ $\text{a}xc5$ 15. $\text{e}ab1$ followed by $\text{e}b5$ with an initiative for White.

13. $\text{d}xg5$ $\text{h}6$ 14. $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}xc5$

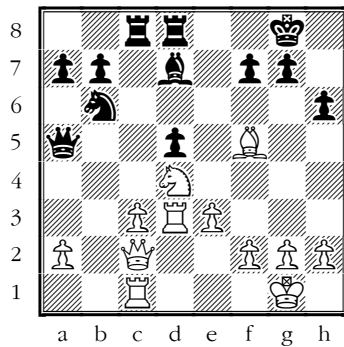
The position is equal. Black's isolated d- pawn is balanced by the weakness on c3.

15. $\text{d}d4$ $\text{a}d7$ 16. $\text{e}fd1$ $\text{e}ac8$

Each side aims a rook at his

opponent's weak pawn.

17. ♖f5 ♜fd8 18. ♜ac1 ♘a4 19. ♜d3 ♗b6 (D)



Black could force a draw by 19... ♗c5 but such an easy solution of opening problems inspired him to seek for more.

20. e4!? dxe4

After 20... ♖c5 21. e5 White achieves superiority on the kingside; Perhaps better was 20... ♗xf5 21. exf5 ♗d7! followed by ♗f6 (or 21... ♜d6 ; but not 21... ♗c4 22. f6 and again the black king is in danger. With the text Black gets rid of his isolated pawn obtaining a healthier pawn formation but in return the white pieces acquire more activity.)

21. ♗xe4 ♜c7

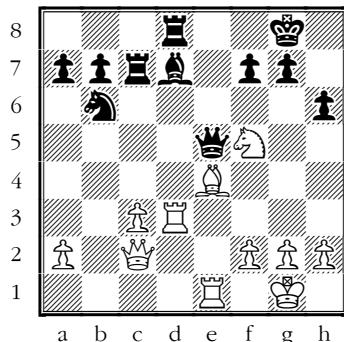
If 21... ♗a4 22. ♖e2 ♜e8 (22... ♖g5 23. ♜e1 with idea of ♜g3) 23. ♖f3 ♗c4 24. ♗f5 transferring the main body to the kingside

22. ♗f5

Exploiting the pin along the d-file Bu improves his position in the centre.

22... ♖e5 By 22... ♖a4 Black could win a tempo forcing the white queen to take a less favourable position – 23. ♖e2 (after 23. ♖xa4 ♗xa4 24. f3 ♖f8 Black is fine) 23... ♜e8 24. ♗d6 ♜e6 25. ♖f3 ♗c6 26. ♗xc6 ♖xc6 27. ♖xc6 bxc6 with an equal ending.

23. ♜e1 (D)



23... ♖f6

Taking the queen away from the stare of the white rook [23... ♜e8? loses to 24. ♗xh6+ (or 24. ♗d6) 24... ♖f8 (24... ♗xh6 25. ♗h7+) 25. ♗xf7! ♖xf7 26. ♗g6+

24. ♗d6 ♗a4 25. ♖d2 ♖g5

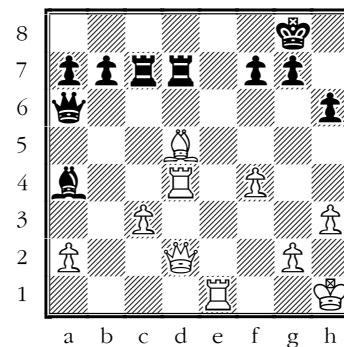
25... ♜cd7 26. ♗xb7; 25... ♜dd7? 26. ♗e8

26. f4 ♖c5+ 27. ♖h1 ♜dd7 From the dynamic standpoint White is slightly better thanks to a more active position of his minor pieces. Hence Black's strategy should involve attempts to swap them. In general the exchanges favour Black as with a lesser amount of pieces on the board the weakness of the ♗c3 becomes more noticeable.

28. h3 ♗c4 28... ♗c6 was another good option where 29. ♗xc6 ♖xc6 30. ♜e8+ ♖h7 wouldn't have yielded White any advantage.

29. ♗xc4 ♖xc4 30. ♗d5 ♖a6 Here the queen is out of reach of the white pieces. Less good is 30... ♖c5 31. ♜e5 ♖b6 32. ♜d4.

31. ♜d4 (D)



31... ♜c8

This move in itself isn't bad at all but it's a beginning of the manoeuvre that makes Black's position hopeless in just three moves. 31... ♜e7 was more to the point.

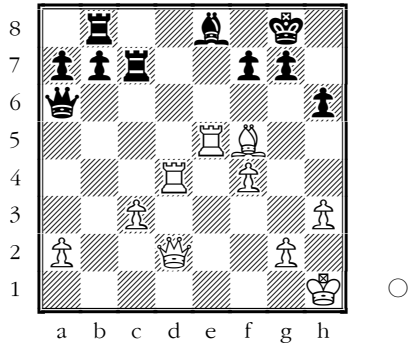
32. ♜e5 ♜dc7?!

Now White gets access to the back rank. 32... ♗c6

33. ♗e4! ♗e8?

Essential was 33... ♜f8 34. ♗d3 (34. ♜d8 ♜c8) 34... b5 35. ♖e1 ♖f6 (35... ♖c6 36. c4! a6□ 37. c5±) 36. ♗xb5 ♗xb5 37. ♜xb5 ♜fc8 and it would have been difficult for White to convert the extra pawn.

34. ♗f5 ♜b8 (D)



35. ♖h2! 35. ♖d8?? would be a blunder owing to 35... ♜xd8 36. ♗xd8 ♖f1+ 37. ♖h2 ♗xf4+ but after the quiet preparatory king's move the threat of ♖d8 becomes decisive. The miserably placed black pieces are unable to prevent white rook's penetration neither diminish its effect.

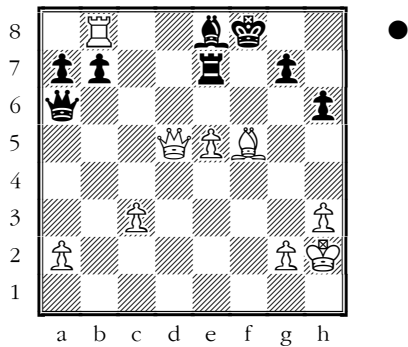
35... f6 35... ♖f1 36. ♞e1 ♗b5 37. ♖d8 ♞xd8 38. ♗xd8 ♖xf5 39. ♞xe8+ ♖h7 40. ♗xc7+-; 35... ♗f6 36. ♞d6 ♗h4 37. g3 and the queen is lost.

36. ♞d8 fxe5 36... ♞xd8 37. ♗xd8 fxe5 38. ♗xe8#.

37. ♞xb8 ♞e7 Equally hopeless is 37... ♗c6 38. ♗d8 ♖f8 39. fxe5.

38. ♗d5+ ♖f8 In case of 38... ♖h8 the most spectacular way to win – 39. ♖f7! is the fastest at the same time.

39. fxe5 (D)

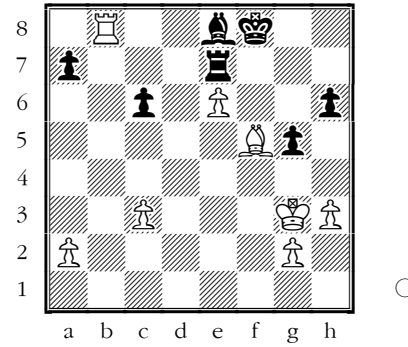


White is a pawn up and the only thing he needs is to suppress the black queen's activity.

39... ♖f1 40. ♗e4 ♗b5 41. e6 ♖f1 42. ♗e5 ♗c4

The only way to avoid a nice finale e.g. 42... b5 43. ♗d6! ♗xf5 44. ♞xe8+! ♗xe8 45. ♗b8#

43. ♗d6 ♗c6 44. ♗xc6 bxc6 45. ♖g3 g5 (D)



From here all roads lead to Peking. Bu calculated a simple win in the pawn ending.

46. ♖g6!? ♞xe6 47. ♞xe8+ ♞xe8 48. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 49. ♖g4 ♖f8 50. ♖f5 ♖f7 51. c4 ♖e7 [51... a6 52. c5 a5 53. a4

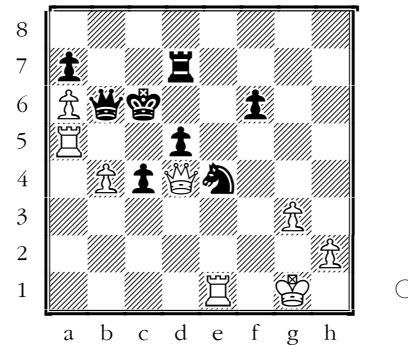
52. c5 The immediate 52. ♖g6 wins too.

52... ♖f7 53. ♖e5 ♖e7 54. a4 h5 55. a5 g4 56. h4 g3 57. a6 Black's to move therefore he resigned. **1-0.**

Solution to our quiz:

Kritz (2545) – Burmakin (2508)

9th Open Bavarian Ch GER (8), 2005



51. ♞xe4! 51. ♞xe4 dxe4 52. ♞c5+ 1-0.

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.

Chess Today is copyright 2000-2005 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.

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; Technical editor: R. Marconi

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