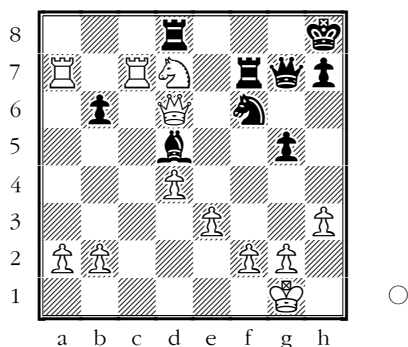


Test Yourself!

Tkachiev (2631) – Novita (2310)
Indonesian Open (1), Jakarta 2011



On This Day

by GM Alex Baburin



Today's issue is the 4000th of *Chess Today*! We would not be able to get that far without support and encouragement from our readers and contributors from around the world – and thus I would like to thank everyone!



World Chess News

Casino de Barcelona

This closed tournament concluded in Spain yesterday.

Final standings:

1–2. GMs Salgado Lopez (ESP, 2614) and Seirawan (USA, 2652) – 5½/8,
3. Spraggett (CAN, 2576) – 5,
4–5. GMs Smirin (ISR, 2678) and De La Riva (ESP, 2541) – 4, etc.

[Official website](#)

Indonesian Open

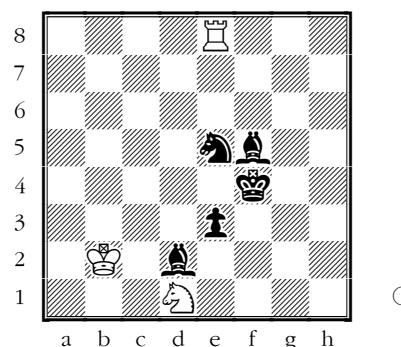
This very strong open tournament recently finished in Jakarta. The total prize fund was \$55,500.

Final standings:

1–2. GMs Li Chao (CHN, 2710) and Ganguly (IND, 2631) – 7/9,
3–7. GMs Barbosa (PHI, 2538), Tkachiev (FRA, 2631), Wang Yue (CHN, 2716), So (PHI, 2655) and Dreev (RUS, 2711) – 6½, etc (80 players)

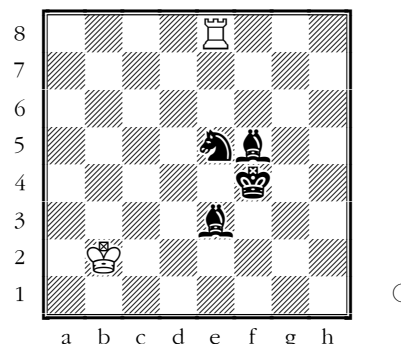
One endgame drew my attention:

Sonjaya (2313) – Ganguly (2631)
Indonesian Open, Jakarta (1), 2011



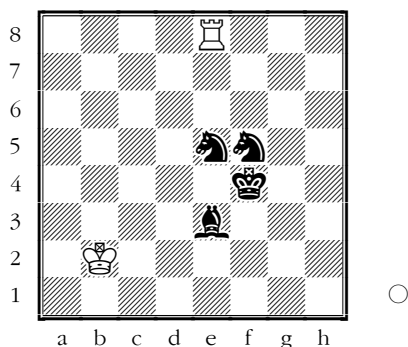
The game ended quickly after **69.♖c3? ♜d3+ 70.♜b3 ♜c5+ 71.♜c4 ♜xc3 0–1**

White could have created more problems for his opponent had he played 69.♜xe3! ♜xe3 (D)



reaching a very rare endgame. Here Black checkmates in 43 moves with best play.

Note that if we replace one of the black bishops with a knight, the resulting endgame will be drawn:



Of course, the difference is that now White will be happy to trade his rook for a bishop.

[Official website](#); [online blog](#)

Unive Tournament

Crown Group, round 5 results:

Kramnik – Vachier-Lagrave 1-0
Giri – Ju. Polgar 1-0

Standings before the last round:

1. Kramnik – 4,
2. Giri – 2½,
3. Vachier-Lagrave – 2,
4. Ju. Polgar – 1½

Open, last round top pairings:

Tiviakov (6) – Lenderman (6½)
Nyzhnyk (6½) – S. Ernst (6)
Van Kampen (6) – Haslinger (6)
Baklan (5½) – Grover (6)

[Official website](#)



Letters to the Editor

by GM Alex Baburin

Following my request for feedback, I received a great number of e-mails from our readers, some of which I will show here. E-mails came from chess professionals and amateurs alike. All messages were very complimentary, with the occasional constructive criticism. We'll take it onboard and try to make *Chess Today* even better in the future.

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor: GM Alex Baburin

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

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I would like to thank everyone who responded to me in the past two days – I really appreciate your comments!

"Dear Alex,

First of all, compliments for your hard labour to make *Chess Today* a success!

I 'only' use *Chess Today* games for updating my e-chess opening sbook, rather than to update my database. In this way I always have an up-to-date e-chess book which for me is very important as a correspondence chess grandmaster! It is the quality of the *Chess Today* games that will make this feature work. In addition, it's a reassurance that *Chess Today* is the only membership I need to update my games. You can count me in for a long membership!

With regards,

Hans van Unen, Netherlands ☐

"Dear Alex,

I've been receiving *Chess Today* for 10 months now. Normally I find CT in my email every morning, which is the best way to start my working day. ☺ I like the puzzles, which help my brain starting up in the morning. Also very welcome are small articles about strong players having anniversaries, etc. I like that and one doesn't find it elsewhere. You added some colour photos recently, very good!

Unfortunately the big guys never play my openings, so I cannot profit from that – clearly not your fault. Maybe the layout needs some small refreshing. The chessvibes team gives a good example in my opinion. But don't change too much!!

All the best,

Thomas Hoepfl (FM, 2341, Germany)"

"Hello Alex,

You're doing a great job. My only suggestion is to have guest annotators, e.g. the players. We don't need a lot of variations in such games, just a discussion of what they were thinking, their plans, etc., and a few short concrete variations.

Best regards,

Angelo Palma, Newton, USA"

"Dear Alex,

I've been receiving *Chess Today* for about 6 years now. For a chess trainer, CT provides excellent material to use in lessons. Endgame Kaleidoscope is great to for anyone wishing to learn more about endgames!

Regards,

Wim Maes, FM, Belgium"

"Dear Alex,

About two years ago I started to receive *Chess Today* and I want to tell you that it's really very interesting and helpful. I'm checking it almost every day, mostly paying attention to opening lines in the Annotated Game section. I wish there were even more annotated games, but I understand that it's really hard work to make it every day – I just want to say thank you to everyone working in *Chess Today*!

With best regards,

Lela Javakhishvili (WGM/IM, 2464, Georgia)

"Hi, Alex,

I am Carl Gorka, living now in Melbourne, Australia after emigrating from the UK about 6 years ago. I am about 2150 strength and I've been subscribing to *Chess Today* for about 2 years I think.

Chess Today is currently the only periodical I subscribe to, and therefore, I really appreciate the annotated games which tend to be full of depth of analysis. My favourite feature is probably the endgame sections – when they appear, I often learn a new technique.

In the annotations to games, I particularly like it when comments from Russian based websites are produced, as these are sites that I don't go to but they are packed full of important information. I think for a daily chess newspaper, it has more than sufficient material.

What could improve things? For me, not much. Perhaps a few more guest annotators.

Thanks,

Carl"

"Hello Alex,

I am a national master with US rating around 2300 (~2200 FIDE). I subscribed for *Chess Today* when it started. I like the Annotated Games section. I enjoy the issue very much if the annotated game matches the opening I play. I also like when you provide many examples of the same endgame (for example, ♖+♙ vs. ♖).

I like the monthly database and would like to have it stored somewhere so it can be easily retrieved (maybe have a yearly database is an even better idea).

Thank you very much for bringing a daily joy of chess to our everyday life.

Oleg Shalumov, USA"

"Dear Alex,

The lunatic rhythm of modern life is taking too much of our time and I'm conscious of reading less than I did before and than I would like to. *Chess Today* is an honourable exception.

I perhaps don't read newspapers every day any more, but I'll never miss *Chess Today*! Congratulation for reaching No 4000 and keep up doing your excellent work!

Herman Claudius van Riemsdijk, IM and IA, São Paulo, Brazil"

"Hi Alex,

I've been receiving *Chess Today* for three years now. It gives me the opportunity to keep me up to date with games and openings. Therefore I don't need to search the whole Internet to keep track. Besides I like the different chess columns as well, such as the Endgame Kaleidoscope. Last time I was studying the rook-endings section, which really made a deep impression on the difficulty of rook endings. I guess that Tarrasch saying that 'all rook endings should be drawn' is often true, but now I understand the 'should be' part. I hope that those columns will appear more often!

Also I like the blunder-section, especially when I have blundered in one of my own games. It makes me think I'm not the only soul on the planet making horrible stuff happen.

Best regards,

Tom Meurs, Netherlands (Elo 2217)"

"Dear Alex,

It is always a pleasure to read CT. Congratulations for your efforts – just to mention that in all FIDE Trainers Seminars that I contact, CT is the primary source of information that I propose to my audience. Keep on the good work!

GM Efstratios Grivas, Secretary of the FIDE Trainers Commission, Head Trainer of the Turkish National Men Team"

"Dear Alex,

Congratulations to you and the team on a wonderful daily chess newsletter, which I have read almost since the very beginning. I am sure it has taken great persistence and perseverance and lots of enthusiasm to come this far. Hats off to you and the team for the quality and variety of the contents of the newsletter. I have always felt completely up to date on what is going on in the chess world.

Kind regards,

Bill Lockwood (1890, France)

PS I have even gone over to the dark side and now play the Alekhine Defence – inspired by you-know-who!"

"Hello Alex,

I am an average club player (USCF 1400) and my son is an expert (USCF 2100). We both enjoy *Chess Today*, particularly exceptionally well-annotated games that show the thought processes of the players in addition to the best moves. Little touches like the occasional sketch of a player or venue may not be strictly speaking valuable for chess preparation, but they make the publication more appealing. We have no criticisms. Good job!

Thanks,

Dave Herron"

"Congratulations *Chess Today*!

I'm 48 years young Dane from Copenhagen. My ELO is normally slightly over 2000. I learned about *Chess Today* about seven years ago (thank you, Palle Bratholm!).

I'm an old-fashioned guy who actually prints CT out and goes through the games/endgame at the board. I am usually six centimetres behind...

I like Golubev's comments, but unfortunately his favourite openings aren't very similar to mine... I especially like the readers' comments. I like Jacob Aagaard as "guest editor"... In short, *Chess Today* inspires me and I think it postpones my chessic decline... I dislike the numbers with only few pages, but I guess sometimes they are inevitable.

Cheers,

Henrik Mortensen"

"Hello Alex,

Congratulations on this achievement! I've been a subscriber since CT-2791, and even though I am merely a club player (USCF 1564), I find each issue to contain something of value for me. Sometimes, it is the quiz(zes) and often it is the annotated game. The combination of pdf, pgn, and cbv files makes it really easy for me to utilize the paper in whichever way seems best for that day. Often, I just wish to read it, but on other occasions it is nice to be able to play through the annotated game using Chessbase.

I also really appreciate the monthly database of all games. This is very helpful in keeping my Big Database reasonably updated. All this for 45 euros a year is a very good purchase.

Best wishes!

Greg Delaney, Wisconsin, USA"

"Dear Alex,

I enjoy receiving *Chess Today* very much. I've developed the habit of reading the news and solving the puzzle every day, and I usually find time to replay the annotated game. You make me feel connected to the world of international chess!

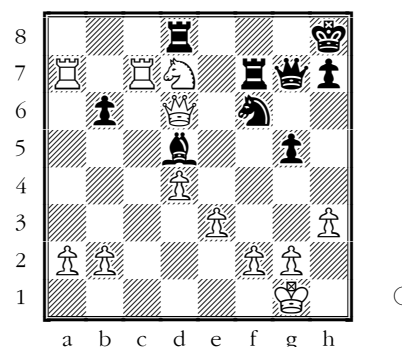
Yours,

IM Jack Peters, Los Angeles, USA"

Solution to our Quiz:

Tkachiev (2631) – Novita (2310)

Indonesian Open (1), Jakarta 2011



36. ♖xf6! ♜xd6 37. ♜c8+ ♜f8
38. ♜xf8+ 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. E-mail: ababurin@iol.ie Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net> Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev. Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ivan Baburin and Ralph Marconi.

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