

Chess Quiz

Sadvakasov (2631) – Karpov (2682)

Match Astana (2), 05.11.2004



Chess News

Karpov – Sadvakasov Match

The third game, in which Karpov was White, ended in a draw. Sadvakasov leads 2:1.

8th Bavarian Open, Bad Wiessee

Sergey Volkov has traded places with Pawel Jaracz after defeating him in the penultimate round. Volkov is now sole leader with 7 points. 18 players are half a point behind!

Round 8 top results:

Volkov – Jaracz 1–0

Eingorn – Potkin ½–½

Siebrecht – Golod ½–½

Kurnosov – Bunzmann ½–½

Rotstein – Kindermann ½–½

Final round pairings:

Khenkin – Volkov

Jaracz – Miroshnichenko

Polzin – Eingorn

P. Horvath – Landa

Golod – Rotstein

Hertneck – Kurnosov

Bunzmann – Van der Weide

Potkin – Siebrecht

Kindermann – Bobras

Khmelniker – Ramesh

(Ramesh is on 6 points)

[Official website](#)

World Junior Championships Under 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18

This event is underway in Heraklio, Crete.

After 4 rounds Evgeny Tomashevsky of Russia is the sole leader with a perfect score in the Boys U18. Arik Brown of Germany and Valentin Iotov of Bulgaria are sharing first place in the Boys U16. Ildar Khairullin, a pupil of Vladimir Barsky is the only player with a perfect score in the Boys U14.

How to Spend It

If you have (loads of) spare cash, you might be interested in a new [chess set](#), designed by the Queen's nephew, David Linley, son of the late Princess Margaret. The Chess pieces are cast in solid Irish silver and each set weighs 52 kg. The limited edition including table costs a modest 84,000 euros. David Linley is in Dublin now promoting the set. We bet Alex is already queuing up for it! ☺

Chess Today: New GM Readers

by GM Alex Baburin

As you may know, Chess Today is free for Grandmasters. Our GM readership is growing steadily and it is always encouraging that professional players read and like our paper.

Before and during the chess Olympiad in Calvia several GMs expressed interest in receiving Chess Today and I signed them up. These new readers are: WGM Matveeva and Kiseleva, GMs Rowson, Parligras, Cebalo, Goldin, Roiz, Avrukh, Movsesian, Glek, Ganguly, Harikrishna, Alex Ivanov, Benjamin and Huzman. Bear in mind that Anand, Ivanchuk, Shirov, Gelfand and many other GMs are also our readers, and you'll see that *Chess Today* readers are indeed in good company!

European Internet Championship

by Mikhail
Golubev



The
Candidates
Tournament of
the Second
European Internet
[Championship](#)

took place at the Playchess.com server on Saturday, 6th November. The qualifiers from four preliminaries (two of these events were sponsored by Chess Today!), European GMs and players with ELO higher than 2500 all had the right to play. There were 88 participants, among them approximately two dozen GMs. The time control was 5 minutes + 1 second per move. In the end, all those who scored 10½ and more points (out of 17) have qualified to the final with a prize-fund of 6000 Euro. The first place in the Candidates was taken by **GM Cheparinov** (Chepche) who scored 12½ points. The second place was shared by IM Panarin and GM T.L. Petrosian. Among other happy qualifiers were GMs Bocharov, Kobalija, Jakovenko, Turov, Psakhis, Marin and Kharlov.

My own participation did not end with a bright success. Despite steady support from Graham Brown who watched the games from England, I scored only 9/17. But, having no time to play chess online in recent months, it was hard to deal with this control, when, in the end, you have to make every move in just 1 second. In fact, in many games I did not manage that at some point. After a loss because of a suddenly opened Explorer window with a (tempting) proposition to download Macromedia Flash (or something like that), I understood that it was not my day from a sports point of view ☺ Still, it is always nice to play some games against strong players. Thanks to Martin Fischer who sent us the games, we are able to include selected masterpieces from the Candidates event in today's game files. The KO final will be played today at 14:00 CET!

Book Reviews

by Don Aldrich



**Chess Exam and Training
Guide**, Igor Khmelnsky (Iamcoach
Press, 2004) 318pp, \$24.95

The last several years have seen a flood of 'test yourself' chess books. Most consist of a series of problems, one keeps score, and then at the end, one gets a 'rating'. Some seem accurate, some not, but when you are done, that is pretty much it. Khmelnsky takes on a broader task — he not professes to assess your strength by rating, but also to pinpoint areas that need work, such as strategy, tactics, endgames, opening, etc.

The question is, does it work? In a word, yes.

Khmelnsky is yet another trainer from the Ukraine and is 'only' an IM. So is Mark Dvoretzky. There is a school of thought that says people like them have spent more time learning how to teach than how to play. At any rate, he has a very nice website at www.iamcoach.com where you can read more about him.

The book is based on his long career as a trainer, with 'special problems'. Like most books of this ilk, it starts with a series of puzzles for the reader to solve. There are 100 total in 10 chapters. In a very nice layout decision, each puzzle is on the right hand page, with the solution on the overleaf. Included with the solution is an explanation of the correct answers, and why, along with a table showing how people of various classes of strength have answered the questions — e.g., what percentage of GMs, Experts, A players etc. answered A, B, C, D.

Each problem has two questions, usually an overall assessment of the position — White is winning, White is better, Black is better — and the second question is what is the best move, giving four possibilities. Now, multiple choice questions have definite drawbacks, but some of that is

addressed by penalties for really bad choices, and the use of multiple choice is what allows Khmelnitsky to give those percentages, and what allows him to proceed to the second part of the book, the scoring.

Again, like most books, one ends up with a raw score. The 100 problems are each worth 10 points, each of the two questions are worth 5 points, giving a total of 1000 points, so one's score is easily expressed as a percentage, and one can calculate one's rating. So far, so unremarkable.

But, here is the kicker — there are 12 categories of scoring. There is a second set of tables one uses to rate their performance in each of these 12 categories. Each of the 100 problems is classified in one to three categories. For instance, the score achieved in an endgame problem would count towards endings, but it also may count towards calculation, sacrifice, attack, etc., depending on what the problem required for solution. There is a worksheet where one fills in the blanks with his score for each problem, and then adds up his score in the twelve categories. You again receive a 'rating' for each category, but more importantly, you see where you are weakest, strongest, in the middle, and how you performed against others of different strengths.

This strikes me as a quite useful exercise. For it to have any value, the test must have been given to enough people to form a useful database of measurement, and according to Khmelnitsky, he has given it to hundreds of players over his twenty year coaching career.

In my case, it confirmed some of what I knew, and surprised me with other takes on my play. I have been playing tournament chess for over forty years. I have always been a very tactical player, considered myself good at tactics and calculation, and strong in the endgame. My current USCF is 1977, down from 2198; my FIDE 2188, down from 2222. Some of the drop is age, and the difference between USCF

and FIDE is mostly due to time controls — I play better at slower controls.

According to the book, I am 2150. Certainly in the ballpark. More interesting is that I scored over 2300 at attack and sacrifice, but only 1950 at calculation. This surprised me, and tells me I need to work at that. I also scored lower in strategy and openings, which I expected, but really low at counter-attack (!) which I certainly didn't expect. I did well in recognizing threats — but that is somewhat tactical. Oh, yeah, I almost broke the scale in endings and 'standard positions' which is a subset of endgame knowledge. ☺

The book concludes with about fifty pages of training tips. It mostly consists of a description of the area of knowledge, ways to work on improvement, and recommendations for further reading and work. There is nothing really deep or earth shattering here, and I heartily agree with the works he is recommending — mostly classics such as *My System*, *Zurich 1953* and the best of modern work such as books by Dvoretsky, *Fundamental Chess Endings* and the like. He also recommends playing positions against the computer, and technique I have only recently tumbled to. Finally, he of course recommends personal training, and offers to fill that void through courses on his website. In the overall context, this is not offensive in the least, and after going through the book, I am tempted to take him up on that.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that at the end of each chapter of problems, there is a 'take a break' problem which is more of a humorous logical exercise rather than a real chess puzzle. It neatly serves the purpose of giving you a 'break' and then you can score the prior ten puzzles and see how you are doing.

In terms of time, I found that I was able to go through each section in 30–40 minutes, and spent a total of maybe six hours doing the exercises.

Conclusion: This book seems very well researched, and delivers on its promise. It will do a good job of judging your chess strength, and more importantly, pinpoint areas where you need improvement. **Recommended**

Comment from Alex Baburin:

As it happens, Andy Ansel has reviewed the same book – his review will be published in CT tomorrow.

Annotated Game

by IM Maxim Notkin

White: E. Miroschnichenko (2617)

Black: I. Khmelniker (2454)

8. OIBM Bad Wiessee (4), 02.11.2004

English Opening – [A16]

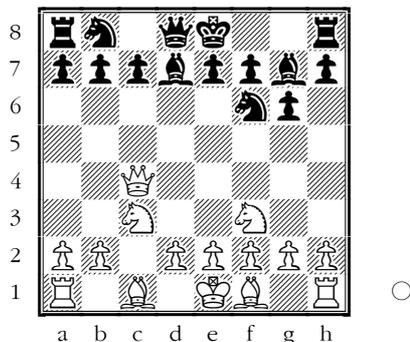
1. $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}f6$ 2. $\text{c}4$ $\text{g}6$ 3. $\text{d}c3$ $\text{d}5$
4. $\text{a}4+$

This way White avoids the normal Grunfeld.

4... $\text{d}7$ 5. $\text{b}3$ $\text{dxc}4$ 6. $\text{xc}4$

6. $\text{xb}7?$ has never been tested which is not surprising as after 6... $\text{c}6$ (not 6... $\text{c}6?$ 7. $\text{b}4$ and Black loses a pawn without compensation) 7. $\text{b}5$ (Black was threatening with 7... $\text{b}8$ and 8... $\text{b}4$) 7... $\text{d}5$ 8. $\text{bd}4$ $\text{cb}4$ the white queen is in danger

6... $\text{g}7$ (D)



Commenting for Chess Base on his game against Bacrot (Enghien les Bains 1999) Joel Lautier writes about the modern treatment of the Reti and the English Opening: "White aims to reach Queen Pawn openings without giving a definite shape to his pawn center... A wealth of strategic possibilities makes these "chameleon" move orders quite attractive to the White player and hard to handle for his opponent. In our case, White has obtained a favorable version of the

Russian variation of the Grunfeld (the line with 5. $\text{Qb}3$), since he now has a choice between a center with pawns on $\text{d}3/\text{e}4$ on $\text{d}4/\text{e}3$ ". With all this in mind 6... $\text{a}6$ played by Bacrot deserves attention since it confines White's choice as now 7. $\text{d}4$ is virtually forced or else Black plays $\text{b}7-\text{b}5$ and $\text{c}7-\text{c}5$ solving all the opening problems.

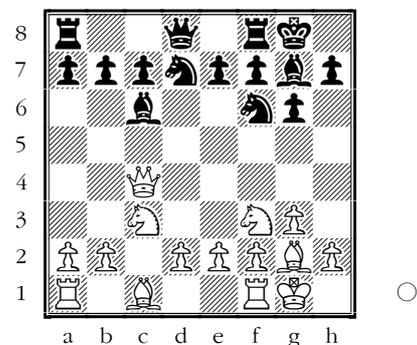
7.g3

Tougher is 7. $\text{e}4$ with the idea of gaining a space advantage in the event of 7... 0-0 8. $\text{e}5$ $\text{d}g4$ 9. $\text{d}4$

7... $\text{c}6$

Interesting is 7... 0-0 8. $\text{g}2$ $\text{e}8$ 9. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}6$ 10. $\text{d}3$ $\text{a}6$ intending $\text{c}7-\text{c}5$, Gavrikov – Tseshkovsky, USSR Ch Kiev 1986. On the whole 7... 0-0 looks more natural but apparently Black has determined to place the bishop at $\text{c}6$

8. $\text{g}2$ 0-0 9. 0-0 $\text{bd}7$ (D)



10.e4

A novelty. Only the d-pawn moves have been tried before.

10... $\text{e}5$ 11. $\text{b}4$

White develops his pieces so that he could get rid of his backward d-pawn.

11... $\text{a}6$ 12. $\text{b}2$ $\text{b}6$ 13. $\text{e}2$ $\text{e}8$

13... $\text{e}8$ was possible as well placing the rook in opposition to the white queen but Black prefers to increase his dark-squared bishop's influence upon the centre.; To 13... $\text{d}6$ White would have replied 14. $\text{a}4!$ with sharp play

14. $\text{fd}1$

White is ready to meet 14... $\text{d}6$ with 15. $\text{d}4$

14... $\text{a}4$

Forcing the white rook to leave the d-file

15. $\text{xa}4$ $\text{xa}4$ 16. $\text{dc}1$

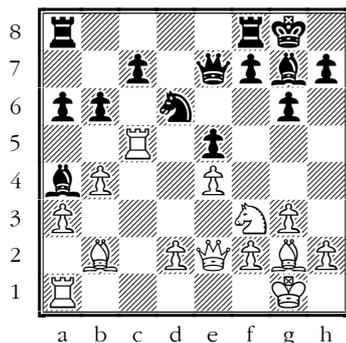
$\text{c}3$ is gone and the $\text{e}5$ pawn needs protection now

16... $\text{e}7$ 17. $\text{a}3$ $\text{d}6$

Finally Black makes this logical move but White's excellent idea would have

been far less effective in the event of
17...♖d8

18.♖c5 b6 (D)



19.♖xe5! ♗xe5 20.♗xe5

The strong centre and the threats along the main black diagonal compensate White for the sacrificed exchange

20...♗b5?

The interposition of this move favours White. After 20...♖ae8 21.♗g4 f6 22.♗f3 ♗xe4 23.d3 h5 24.dxe4 hxg4 25.♗xg4 White has an initiative but the defensive resources are not exhausted yet.; Also playable is 20...f6 21.♗g4 h5 and the combination carried out in the game doesn't work though the weakening of the kingside may cause Black troubles after the simple 22.♗e3

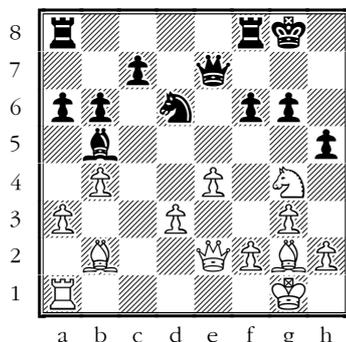
21.d3

21.♗f3 was a good alternative e.g.

A) 21...f6 loses to 22.♗g4 ♖g7 (22...♗e8 23.e5) 23.♗xf6+ ♖xf6 24.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 25.♗xf6 ♗xf6 26.e5+ ♗xe5 27.♗xa8;

B) 21...♗e8 22.a4 ♗d7 23.♗xd7 ♗xd7 24.d4±

21...f6 22.♗g4 h5? (D)



Now this loses on the spot. Black could go on after 22...♖ad8 23.♗f3 ♗e8 24.d4

23.♗xf6+! ♖xf6 24.♗xf6 ♗xf6 25.e5 ♖e8 26.♗a2+!

That's the difference created by

20...♗b5 21.d3

26...♗f7

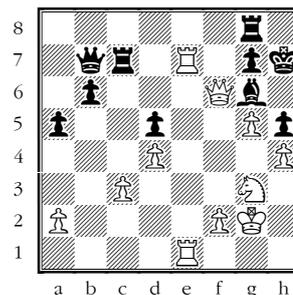
Or 26...♗c4 27.♗xc4+ ♗xc4 28.exf6 and the ending is easily winning for White

27.♗d5+- ♖xe5 28.♗xf7+ ♗xf7 29.♗c2 ♖e7 30.a4 ♗e8 31.♗c3 ♗d6 32.♖e1 ♖xe1+ 33.♗xe1 ♗f7 34.♗c1 1-0

Solution to our quiz:

Sadvakasov (2631) - Karpov (2682)

Match Astana (2), 05.11.2004



39.♗xg6+!

39.♗xg6+ ♗xg6 40.♖1e6+ ♗h7 41.♖h6#

1-0

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](#) – we appreciate your feedback!

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