



GM Alex Baburin reports ...

Sunday seems to be ideally suited for doing light things - such as surfing the Web and writing about chess politics and gossip. This is exactly what I've done - hopefully you'll enjoy this issue!

World Chess News in Brief

A strong tournament concluded in Holland on Saturday in Hooge-veen. In the last round Judith Polgar drew against Victor Korchnoi, while **Loek van Wely**



beat Lazaro Bruzon. The final standing:
1-2. J. Polgar (2686, Hungary) and L. van Wely (2714, Netherlands) - 3½ points out of 6.
3. V. Korchnoi (2639, Switzerland) - 3 points
4. L. Bruzon (2564, Cuba) - 2 points.

You can find all games of the tournament in today's database.

In Brazil Argentinean GM Alejandro Hoffman is sole leader, going into the last round in the [Itaú Cup](#). The pairing for the last round: Zapata (2530, 6½ pts) - Hoffman (2506, 7 pts) Soppe (2466, 6½ pts) - Matsuura (2421, 6½ pts) Pelikian (2410, 6½ pts) - Leitão (2581, 6 pts)

Chess Today - Past and Future

Our newspaper is approaching its first anniversary. When I thought over the CT concept last October, I wanted to have a publication which would cover news much faster than printed chess magazines, and have more chess flavour than chess columns in ordinary papers. Creating a community of people seriously interested in chess was also on the agenda. Now I can look back and reflect on how those ideas worked out.

Working on the first chess daily has been a very interesting, though at times stressful, experience. Overall I am very happy that I embarked on such an ambitious project - during its first year CT won loyal readers and gained recognition in the chess world. The only problem is that so far CT has failed to break into the mass market - if such a thing as a mass market exists in chess! But I have heard opinions that there are probably about 100,000 people who seriously follow chess on the Net. This means that CT, with just over 300 subscribers, has reached only 0.3% of the market!

I would love to see our numbers go up soon and with a price of just over 10 cents per issue, this does not seem to be impossible. I believe that chess will steadily grow on the Net, with more and more people getting online - chess seems to be ideally suited for this medium. And the free-for-all culture of the Net may change too. Don't get me wrong: I am not against free stuff - after all I have a free web site and have been publishing a free newsletter for about 2 years. Chess enthusiasts do wonderful things on the Net, but the sites employing professional chess players and journalists, need to make money. Subscription fees seem to be the best way ahead and CT needs more subscribers to improve its service and go ahead - then we could have more feature writers, arrange online chats, simulms and lessons, etc. As Net connections get faster, this could bring some exciting possibilities.

I will again promote CT, but I am asking for your help too - your assistance could be invaluable! This is what **you can** do to **help Chess Today** to win more readers:

1. Forward 1-2 CT issues to your chess friends, who have e-mail. Since our attachments are not too large, most people won't mind receiving them.
2. Print out some a few issues and display them in your local chess club - somebody might like to join!
3. Bring CT printouts to the tournaments where you play, and display them there. People look for something to read between rounds and CT may just fit the bill! I do that at tournaments regularly and that has won us some new readers.

4. If you run a web site or have a newsletter, please provide links to CT web site (www.chesstoday.net) or mention it, encouraging others to join CT. When new subscribers mention your name, giving you the credit, you will receive a one-month subscription for each referral. And if you get hundreds of referrals, we will allow you to use the CT corporate yacht, moored in Bahamas! :-)

If you have ideas and suggestions regarding CT promotion, please do not hesitate to contact me at editor@chesstoday.net.

Web Watch

I guess that most CT readers are pretty familiar with chess on the Web, but since it changes so rapidly, perhaps some updates will be in order.

I recently heard about a new web site called [MasterMove](#). It offers weekly chess quizzes and is run by IM Erik Hoeksema, composer Bert van der Marel, IM Yge Visser and IM Karel van der Weide. Worth visiting!

[GM Square Shop](#) was recently updated: we added many new items - such as backgammon sets, wooden chess sets and chess books. Check out the following newly-added books: "The Chess Career of Richard Teichmann", "The Collected Games of Em. Lasker", "The Complete Games of Oldrich Duras", "Leo Forgacs", "Lajos Steiner", "Ratmir Holmov", "Vladimir Simagin" and many more! One interesting addition to the shop is a book by former USSR Champion and former Kasparov's second Iossif Dorfman - *'The Method in Chess'*, where he explains theory of critical positions. The latest YearBook (No. 60) from NiC is also in store. The site was recently re-designed, making shop's policies clearer. Shopping with [GM Square](#) is easy - come and see for yourself!

[The Chess Café](#) recently joined forces with *Inside Chess*, so such journalists as IMs John Donaldson and Nikolay Minev, as well as GM Yasser Seirawan, got aboard the already awesome panel of The Chess Café authors - do not miss this site! It also has a very good bulletin board too.

Another good site with a decent discussion board is [About Chess](#), run by David Dunbar.

Taking about online forums, one our readers from Australia recently brought my attention to the on-going discussion at the site of the [Australian Chess Federation](#), which by the way is a very decent site. There on the forum people are discussing results of a little-known Australian player Jose Escribano (rated about 1600) who had some good results in the recent FIDE Net Qualifier. For example, he drew with GM Bauer, raising concerns that he might be using outside help or getting computer assistance.

Indeed, there are no clear rules concerning such tournaments and I am surprised that FIDE (and now also Brain Games) rushed into introducing them. After all, we no longer live in the dot-com craze, so why does everything have to be online? The pool of players, who could realistically try to be in the World Championship, is not that large and we hardly need the Internet to define them. Personally, I refuse to play in such tournaments as long as there are no clear rules.

Some Grandmasters have their own web sites and one of them belongs to [Jonathan Levitt](#). Recently he added a [review](#) of GM Rowson's book, 'The Seven Deadly Chess Sins'

If you are interested in a UK or German Club Championships, you can follow their progress at [The Chess Oracle](#), which is ran by John Sharp.

Where to play chess

If you ask yourself this question, I can recommend a couple of tournaments. If you are looking for something soon, consider the [Bavarian Open](#) in Bad Wiessee, which runs from 27 October till 4 November near Munich. I played there a couple of years ago and it was a very enjoyable (and very strong!) tournament, held in a picturesque location.

Ireland is not a particularly chess country, but it has 2 international tournaments. The first is **Kilkenny Open**, which takes place on 30 November - 2 December, comprising 4 different sections. Usually there are good few GMs playing in the top section, although this is not FIDE rated event. But it is a great social gathering and I highly recommend it, particularly if you wish to visit Ireland. Kilkenny is its former capital and is a nice

town. For more details call Jack Lowry at 353-56-22221 or e-mail donalfennelly1@eircom.net
Another good tournament in Ireland is The Bunratty Open, which usually takes place in mid February near Limerick.

If you are interested in tournaments in Spain or Portugal, the site www.al-shatrandj.com has a tournament calendar. It also offers a lot of chess stuff for sale, with some special offers at the moment.

Trainer's Corner

For today's issue I chose the following message from Grandmaster Karsten Mueller from Hamburg, who is a keen CT reader:

"Hello, Alexander! CT is really a good magazine and I hope that it continues for a long time!

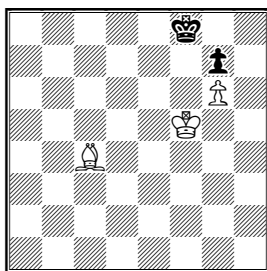
Teimour Radjabov played a lot of very good games at the Najdorf Memorial. His endgame against Mecking fascinated me. It looks winning for White, but it is not so easy to prove. I proved that 76...Nd6 (instead of 76...Nd8) loses as well - see attached ChessBase file). What do you think?

Best wishes, Karsten"

I think that the best man to answer that question is yet another keen CT reader - GM Radjabov himself! But meanwhile I would like to explain that complex ending to our readers, using my own and Karsten's (marked KM) notes.

But first I would like to start with one theoretical position, which is important for understanding of the Radjabov-Mecking game:

Theoretical endgame

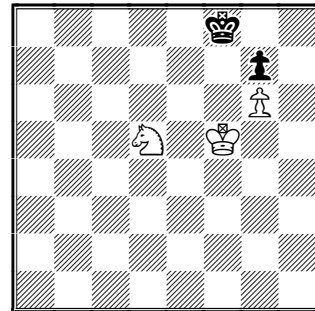


Here Black's king moves between e7 and f8 and

there is nothing White can do about it. Draw.

This is one of those exceptional positions where an extra piece does not give a win. Interestingly enough, changing the bishop into a knight here does not affect the outcome:

Theoretical endgame



Here White cannot force the enemy king to leave the pawn. Sacrificing the knight for a pawn does not help either. Draw. Now to the game:

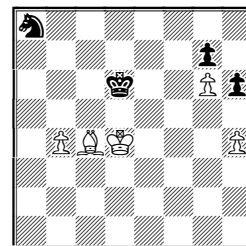
T. Radjabov (2558) - H. Mecking (2552)

Miguel Najdorf Memorial, Buenos Aires 2001
Notes by GMs Karsten Müller & Alex Baburin

T Radjabov (2558) – H Mecking (2552)

Miguel Najdorf Memorial Buenos Aires (6), 09.09 D10.2001

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♙g4 5.♖b3 ♖b6
6.♗xb6 axb6 7.f3 ♙f5 8.g4 ♙e6 9.g5 ♘fd7
10.cxd5 ♙xd5 11.♙d3 ♘a6 12.♘xd5 cxd5
13.♙d2 e6 14.♘e2 ♘b4 15.♙xb4 ♙xb4+ 16.♔f2
h6 17.g6 f5 18.♘f4 ♘f8 19.e4 dxe4 20.fxe4 fxe4
21.♙xe4 ♖d8 22.♔e3 ♙e7 23.h4 ♙f6 24.♖ad1
♔e7 25.♙xb7 ♘d7 26.♙c6 ♘b8 27.♙e4 ♘a6
28.♘h5 ♖hf8 29.♘xf6 ♖xf6 30.♖hf1 ♖xf1 31.♖xf1
♖d7 32.♖f7+ ♔d6 33.♖xd7+ ♔xd7 34.a3 ♔d6
35.b4 b5 36.♙c2 ♘c7 37.♙b3 ♘e8 38.a4 bxa4
39.♙xa4 ♘c7 40.♙b3 e5 41.♙c4 exd4+ 42.♔xd4
♘a8

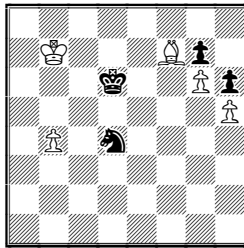


Is this ending won for White? (K.M.)The point of the endgame is that Black would be only too happy to give up the knight for the b-pawn,

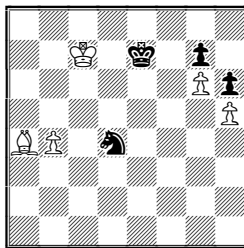
provided his king can then reach f8. Thus, White has to try to win the knight for free or let it be exchanged for the pawn, but not allow Black's king to f8. (A.B.)

43.♖b3 ♗b6 44.♙f7 ♖d7 45.♙d5 ♗b6 46.♙e4 ♖d7 47.♗c4! ♗f6 48.♙f3 ♖d7 49.♗b5 ♗e5 50.♙e4 ♖d7 51.♙b1 ♗f6 52.♙a2 ♖d7 53.♙f7 ♗e5 54.♗b6 ♗f3 55.h5

55...♖d4 56.♗b7!



56...♗d7 57.♙d5 ♗d6 58.♙e4 ♗d7 59.♙d3 ♗d8 60.♗b6! ♗d7 61.♙b5+ ♗d6 62.♙a4 ♗e6 63.♗b7 ♖d4 64.♗c8 ♗e7 65.♗c7



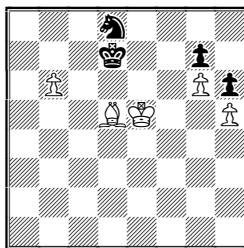
Reaching this position was a big achievement for White – now, when the king has been pushed to e7, it is much harder for the knight to fight the b-pawn.

65...♗e6+ 66.♗c6 ♖d4+ 67.♗d5 ♗e6 68.♗e5 ♖c7 69.♙c6 ♗e6 69...♗d8 70.♗d6

70.b5

Finally!

70...♖d8 71.♙d5 ♗d7 72.b6



Black is losing the battle...

72...♗e7 73.♙e4 ♗d7 74.♙g2 ♗e7 75.♙h3 ♗b7 76.♗d5 ♖d8

I can prove, that White wins after 76...♖d6 : 77.♙e6 ♗b7 78.♙c8

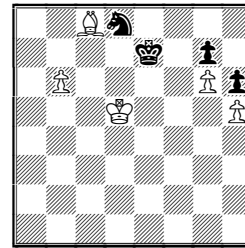
A)

78...♖a5 79.♗c5 ♗d8 (79...♗b3+ 80.♗c4 ♖d2+ 81.♗d5 ♗d8 82.♙e6 ♗b3 83.♗d6 ♖a5 84.♙d5+-) 80.♙e6 ♗b7+ 81.♗c6 ♖a5+ 82.♗b5 ♗b7 83.♙d6+ 84.♗c6 ♗e7 85.♙a2+-;

B)

78...♖d6 79.♗c5 ♗e4+ 80.♗c6 ♖d6 81.♙a6 ♗e6 82.♙f1 ♗e7 83.♙d3 ♗e6 84.♙e4 ♗e7 85.♙d5+- K.M.

77.♙c8



Black is doomed: 77.♙c8 ♗f8 78.♗d6 ♗e8 79.♙d7+ ♗f8 80.♙c6 ♗g8 81.♗d7 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. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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