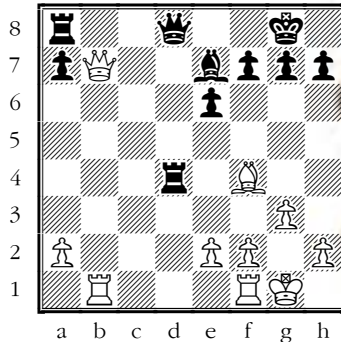
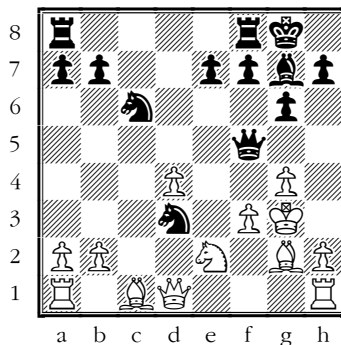


Test Yourself!

Smyslov - Tolush
 Moscow, 1961



Potemkin - Alekhine
 St Petersburg, 1912



On This Day...

by GM Alex Baburin

The 7th World Champion **Vassily Smyslov** was born on 24 March 1921 in Moscow. Today he celebrates his 85th birthday. Smyslov established himself as one of the most promising Soviet players in the late 1930s, when he tied for first place with Belavenets in the Moscow championship. In 1940 he finished third in the USSR championship, repeating the same result in 1941. In 1944 he was second.

After finishing third in the Groningen tournament of 1946, Smyslov got a

place in the world championship of 1948, where he came second. In 1954 he drew (12:12) a world championship match against Botvinnik. In 1957 he defeated Botvinnik +6 -3 =13. In 1958 he lost the revenge match.

Smyslov remained one of the world's best players up to the mid 1980s, when he went all the way to the final Candidates match vs. Kasparov.

Later declining eyesight forced Smyslov to stop playing in tournaments, but he remains very active, focusing on chess composition. We wish Vassily Vasilyevich good health and further creative achievements!

The 4th World Champion **Alexander Alekhine** died on 24 March 1946 in a small hotel in Estoril, Portugal. During his career Alekhine took part in 87 tournaments, of which he won 62. He played 23 matches, including 5 world championships. He won 17 of them, drew 4 and lost only 2 (to Nenarokov in 1909 and to Euwe in 1935).



World Chess News

Women World Championship

The final match between Xu Yuhua (2502, China) and Alisa Galliamova (2467, Russia), which consists of four games, has started in Ekaterinburg March 23rd. The first game was won by **Xu Yuhua**, who exploited careless play by Galliamova in an equal ending.

[Official website](#)

White: A. Galliamova (2467)

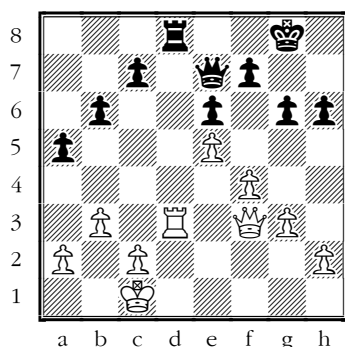
Black: Xu Yuhua (2502)

WWCC 2006 Ekaterinburg RUS (6.1),

23.03.2006

French Def/ -[C10]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙g5
dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♘bd7 6.♘xf6+ ♘xf6
7.♘f3 h6 8.♙e3 A curious, but
already well-known continuation for
White is I.Zaitsev's 8.♙xf6!? ♘xf6
9.♙b5+! c6 10.♙d3
8...♘d5 9.♙d2 ♙d6 10.0-0-0 ♖e7
11.♘e5 ♙d7 12.f4N This is hardly an
improvement over Leko-Bareev, Wijk
aan Zee 2004 which continued 12.♙c4
♙xe5 13.dxe5 ♙c6 14.♙d4 ♘xe3
15.♙xe3 ♙g5 16.f4 ♙xg2 17.♙hg1 ♖e4
18.♙xe4 ♙xe4 19.♙xg7 ½-½
12...♙xe5 13.dxe5 ♘xe3 14.♙xe3
♙c6 15.♙e2 0-0 16.♙f3 ♙xf3
17.♙xf3 b6 18.♙d3 ♙ad8 19.♙hd1
♙xd3 20.♙xd3 ♙d8 21.g3 a5 22.b3
g6= (D)



White wasn't able to set any opening problems for her opponent. The endgame is drawish.

23.g4 Unnecessary activity. What is White intending to attack?

23...♙xd3 24.♙xd3 ♖h4! 25.h3 Maybe White could seek a draw in the pawn endgame after 25.♙g3 ♖xg3 26.hxg3

25...♙g7 26.♙b2?! Essential was 26.♙e3!, preventing further activation of the black queen.

26...♙f2! 27.♙c4 Possibly, 27.♙d8!? ♙xf4 28.♙xc7 deserved attention here. **27...c5!↑**

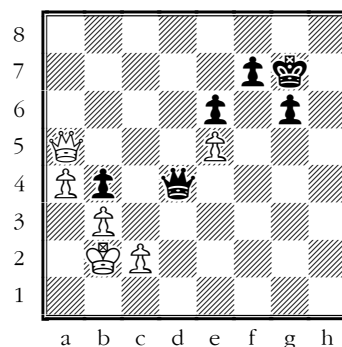
Black's hopes for a win gradually becomes realistic.

28.♙e4 b5 29.a4 b4 30.♙c4 h5!? There were other tempting options, related to the advance of the g-pawn.

31.♙b5 ♖d4+ 32.♙b1 ♙xf4 33.♙xc5 hxg4 Curiously, Black

refuses to play 33...♙f1+ and 34...♙xh3 - while White has refused to exchange the pawns on h5 few moves earlier (so, as it seems, both sides have tried to avoid the same position).

34.hxg4 ♙xg4 35.♙xa5 ♖d1+ 36.♙b2 ♖d4+↑ (D)

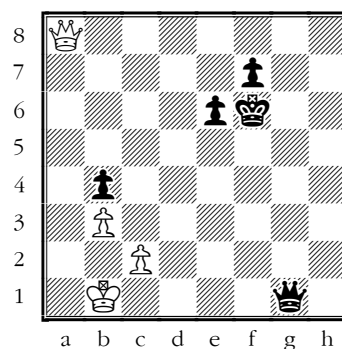


White's a-pawn is closer to the last rank than Black's g-pawn, but the obvious difference in the activity of queens, typically for the queen endgames, determines Black's advantage.

37.♙a2 ♖c3 38.♙b1 g5 39.♙d8 If 39.♙b6 g4 40.a5 g3 41.a6, then 41...♙e1+ 42.♙a2 ♖f2 43.♙xf2 gxf2 44.a7 f1♙ 45.a8♙ ♖e2!≠, winning a pawn.

39...♙xe5 40.a5 g4 41.a6 g3 42.♙d2 ♙g6!? **43.a7** Maybe White could try 43.♙g2!? ♖e1+ 44.♙b2 ♖f2 45.♙e4+

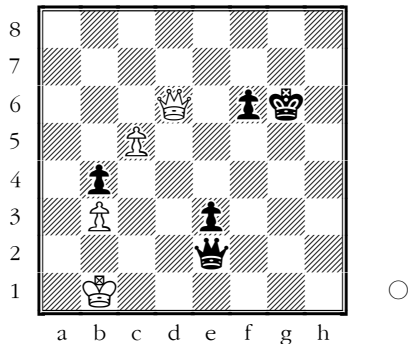
43...♙e4! 44.♙d8 g2 45.♙g8+ ♖f6 46.a8♙ ♙xa8 47.♙xa8 g1♙+≠ (D)



It is impossible to cover all the nuances of this not so simple game in such light notes. But, starting from this point, Black's win seems to be a clearly more likely outcome than a draw.

48.♙a2 ♙g4 49.♙d8+ ♙g7 50.♙d3 e5 51.c4 ♙g2+ 52.♙a1 ♙g1+ 53.♙a2 ♖f2+ 54.♙b1 ♖e1+

55.♔a2 e4 56.♚d4+ ♕g6 57.c5
♚e2+ 58.♚b1 e3 59.♚d6+ f6 (D)



60.c6 Or 60.♚g3+ ♕f5 61.♚h3+ ♕e5
62.♚g3+ ♕d4 63.♚d6+ ♕c3 64.♚xf6+
♚xb3 65.♚f7+ ♕c4+
60...♚e1+ 61.♚c2 ♚f2+! 62.♚c1 e2
63.♚d3+ f5 64.♚d6+ ♚h5 0-1.

Amber Tournaments

Round 5 results, blind:

Ivanchuk – Aronian ½-½
Topalov – Leko 0-1
Nielsen – Van Wely 1-0
Gelfand – Vallejo ½-½
Grischuk – Anand 1-0
Morozovich – Svidler 1-0

Round 5 results, rapid:

Aronian–Ivanchuk 0-1
Leko–Topalov ½-½
Van Wely – Nielsen 1-0
Vallejo – Gelfand 1-0
Anand – Grischuk ½-½
Svidler – Morozovich 1-0

[Official website](#)

7th Poikovsky Tournament

March 23rd was a day off.

Standings after 5 rounds:

1-4. Shirov, Zvjagintsev, Rublevsky
and Najer – 3
5-8. Ponomariov, Bareev, I.Sokolov
and Dreev – 2½
9. Onischuk – 2
10. Bologan – 1.

[Official website \(in Russian\)](#)

Beer–Sheva Rapid

by IM Yochanan Afek

The traditional Beer–Sheva tournament was held over 3 days and had a rapid–chess format (25 minutes + 10 seconds increment). Korchnoi started the tournament with 3 consecutive defeats, however did not lose a single game afterwards.

Final standings :

1–2. GMs Khuzman and Avrukh –8/11
3. GM Golod – 7
4. GM Roiz – 6½
5–6. GMs Korchnoi, A. Greenfeld – 6
7–8. IM Khmelniker, GM Ma.Tseitlin–5
9. GM Dvoiris – 4½
10. IM Vydeslaver – 4
11. IM Umarov – 3½
12. IM Klenburg – 2½.

ChessCafé Updates

by GM Mikhail Golubev

The ChessCafé.com website was massively updated this week. One of the new articles is an interview with **Garry Kasparov** by Hanon W. Russell. The interview is very interesting. For example, here's what Kasparov had to say about Anatoly Karpov:



"... he was always able to fight with these new generations and come up with his usual magic technique, and the moves that could be recognized as great moves only when it was too late. His style is not one you can learn from, but I think if you look at modern chess there is always an element of Karpov, who was a great expert in picking up positions where the general recognition of the patterns in the middlegame could be far more important than concrete moves."

I should confess now that after reading **Volume 5**, and final in the series, of Kasparov's "Predecessors" [according to the interview, he is planning to launch a new series tentatively called Modern Chess Series], I had real doubts that Kasparov was able to be so polite, when he writes about Karpov. But this excerpt of the interview with Russell convinced me that there was more direct efforts by Kasparov in Volume 5 than I used to think.

Another part of Kasparov's Volume 5 is about Viktor Korchnoi. I was more impressed, though, by Korchnoi's own fresh (and, in my view, simply outstanding) biographical book, the Russian edition of which is called *Shachmaty bez Poshchady*. But, well, these books are of a very different nature.

Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

White: M. Golubev (2499)

Black: I. Chirila (2339)

Ciocaltea Mem Bucharest ROM (12),

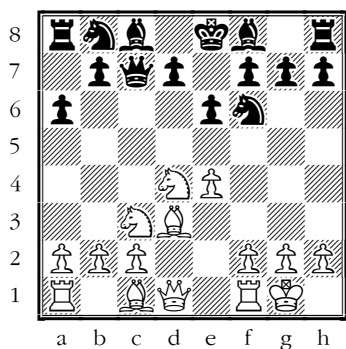
19.03.2006

Sicilian Defense - [B43]

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 e6 3.♞c3

This move (usually followed by d4) somewhat narrows White's options in the Kan and Taimanov systems, where he will not have lines with c2-c4 at his disposal. At the same time, several sidelines for Black after 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4 are now avoided. Specifically, 4...♞b6, 4...♞c5 and 4...♞f6 5.♞c3 ♞b4.

3...a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♞xd4 ♞c7 6.♞d3 ♞f6 7.0-0 (D)



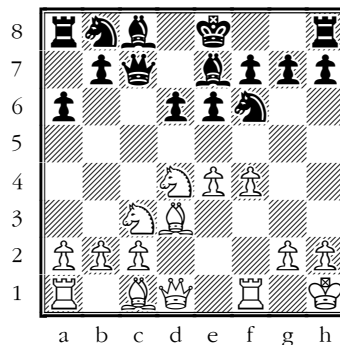
Typically in the Kan System, Black

has quite a wide choice here.

7...♞e7 After 7...♞c6 the move 8.♞e3 transposes to a line of the "Taimanov", which I played as White often. While 8.♞xc6!? is, possibly, more principled.; There is also, e.g. 7...♞c5 8.♞b3 ♞e7, which occurred in two Anand vs Rublevsky 2004 games. As I annotated both these games for CT, I could possibly remember something over the board.

8.♞h1 If 8.f4, then 8...♞c5!? must be taken into account.

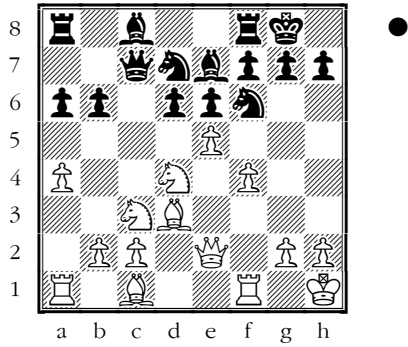
8...d6 9.f4 (D)



9...0-0 Now or on the next move 9...♞bd7 could have been somewhat more flexible.; 9...♞c6 can easily lead Black to inferior versions of the Scheveningen. 10.♞e3, and the recent game Golubev-Al.Alexeev, Alushta 2005 followed 10...0-0 11.♞f3 ♞d7 12.♞g3 ♞b4 (12...b5 13.e5!?) 13.♞e2!? ♞ac8 14.a3 ♞c6 (Now White has a full extra tempo a3 in comparison to the ♞e2 Scheveningen) 15.♞ad1!? ♞h8 16.♞f3!? ♞a5?! (16...♞h5 with the idea 17.♞e1 ♞f6 was a better way to defend against e5) 17.e5 ♞d5 18.♞d2 ♞b6 19.exd6 (stronger was 19.♞a4!±) 19...♞xd6 20.♞xd5 exd5 21.♞c3 f6 22.♞xd5 ♞e7! 23.♞xd6? (a dubious exchange sacrifice: it was necessary for White to accept that Black has some activity for the pawn, and to retreat the rook to d1 or d2) 23...♞xd6 24.♞b4 ♞e6 25.♞d3 ♞fe8

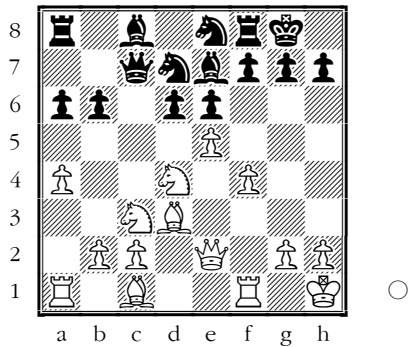
10.a4!? b6 11.♞e2 ♞bd7 11...♞b7 12.e5! dxe5 13.fxe5 ♞fd7 14.♞f4 ♞c5 and now 15.♞g4!?, as I correctly spotted during the game, transposes to Volokitin's games versus Rublevsky and Vescovi. What I forgot, however, is that position was reached via a totally different system, i.e. the ♞e2 Scheveningen!

12.e5!? (D)



As contrary to my expectations, after the game I found that this position is practically new.

12...♖e8?! (D)



A hard, but not an optimal decision. Even if it is not so easy for White now to use the weakness of Black's e6, h7 pawns and the a8 rook, some solution must exist. Instead, correct was 12...dxe5 13.fxe5 ♖xe5! (but not 13...♖xe5 14.♖c6!± ♖c5 15.♖f3 ♖d6 where 16.♖e3!± ♖h5 17.♖xh5 ♖xh5 18.♖e4!± what I planned, seems to be good enough) 14.♖f4 ♖d6! (not 14...♖fd7 15.♖e4!±) and here White's advantage is not so easy to prove. For example, 15.♖e4 (15.♖db5!± axb5 16.♖xb5 allows White to regain the pawn, but after 16...♖c6∞ with the idea 17.♖xd6 ♖xd3 18.♖xd3 ♖d8!± Black has a decent counterplay) 15...♖xe4 16.♖xe4 (but not 16.♖xe4? ♖xd3 17.♖xd6 ♖xd6 18.♖xa8 which is refuted by 18...♖c5! 19.b4 ♖b7± with the point being 20.bxc5 ♖d5!) 16...♖b8 17.♖ad1 (another direction is 17.♖xe5 ♖xe5 18.♖c6 f5 19.♖xb8 ♖xb8 20.♖d3 ♖xh2± with the idea of 21.♖xa6 ♖xa6 22.♖xa6 ♖f6 23.♖f3 ♖g3) 17...♖c4! 18.♖c6 (18.♖xd6? ♖xd6 19.♖c6 ♖xe4! 20.♖xb8 ♖c5±; 18.♖c1!± might be over-optimistic) 18...♖xf4 19.♖xc4 g6 20.♖d4 ♖b7∞ . White is certainly not worse in all

these complications – but is he better? Hard to be sure.

13.exd6!± ↑

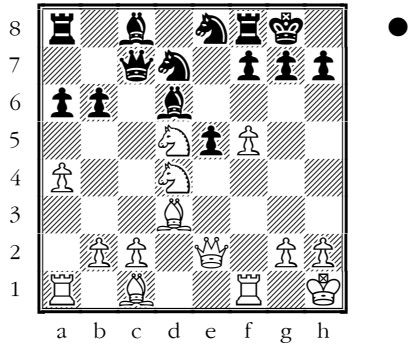
A result of 30 minutes of long reflection. After 13.♖e4 g6 (in the only preceding game with 12.e5, which was played in the Spanish league years ago, Black decided to resign here – according to the database) 14.♖xa8 (14.♖c6!± ♖h4! and White's previous move can be justified only by 15.f5! , with still not too clear consequences) 14...♖b7 White is forced to continue 15.♖d5∞ (15.♖a7? fails to 15...♖xg2+ 16.♖xg2 ♖xa7 17.♖c6 ♖b7 18.♖e4 ♖c5–+) with very complex play after 15...exd5 16.♖a7 or 15...♖xd5 16.♖xa6; The desperate 13.♖xh7+? ♖xh7 14.♖h5+ ♖g8 15.♖f3 can hardly be correct: 15...♖c4!± , protecting the e6 pawn and threatening with 16...♖f1 mate seems to be good enough for Black.; A serious alternative was 13.f5!± , and after 13...♖xe5 14.fxe6 fxe6 15.♖xh7+ ♖xh7 16.♖xf8 ♖xf8 17.♖e4+! White will capture the black rook on a8, gaining the exchange. It is difficult for Black to prove compensation. The most basic point is that after 17...♖g8 18.♖xa8 the white queen can not be caught: 18...♖b7?? (18...♖f7) 19.♖xe8; The problem with 13.♖f3!± is that it does not create a real threat, so Black can play 13...♖c5! (The idea behind ♖f3 can be seen in the line 13...♖b7? 14.♖h3 g6 15.♖xe6 fxe6 16.♖xe6+ ♖f7 17.♖c4+–)

13...♖xd6 13...♖xd6!± runs into 14.f5! (after 14.♖d5!± exd5 15.♖xe7 ♖e8± White does not have anything special; , while the sacrifice 14.♖xe6? fxe6 15.♖xe6+ ♖f7 16.♖d5 ♖d8± is just incorrect) 14...♖c5 15.f6 ♖xf6 16.♖xf6 gxf6 17.♖h6 f5 18.♖e3!±–; After 13...♖xd6!± 14.♖e4 ♖ef6 15.♖xa8 ♖xd4± Black hardly has any compensation for the exchange.

14.f5 e5!±

After 14...♖c5 I planned 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 17.♖c4↑ with the better chances.

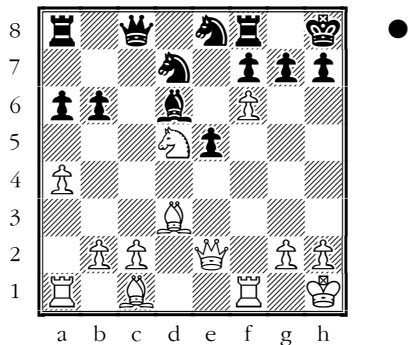
15.♖d5!± (D)



15...♖b8 By making his previous move, Black missed that after 15...♖b7 there is 16.♙e4! exd4 17.♗e7+ ♗xe7 18.♙xb7 ♗xb7 19.♖xe7+-; After 15...♖c5 very strong is 16.♗b3! (simpler than 16.♙e4 ♗b7) 16...♖xd5 17.♙e4 and the black queen is trapped.; Finally, 15...♖d8 16.♗c6 ♖h4 17.g3 ♖h3 18.♙e4 is also objectively lost for Black. E.g.: 18...♗ef6 19.♙g2 ♖g4 20.♖xg4 ♗xg4 21.h3 ♗gf6 22.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 23.♙d1+-

16.♗c6! ♖b7 17.♗ce7+ ♖h8 18.♗xc8 ♖xc8 Otherwise Black loses material: 18...♖xd5 19.♙e4+-; or 18...♙xc8 19.♙xa6+-

19.f6! (D)



Not giving Black the possibility to consolidate by ...♗ef6.

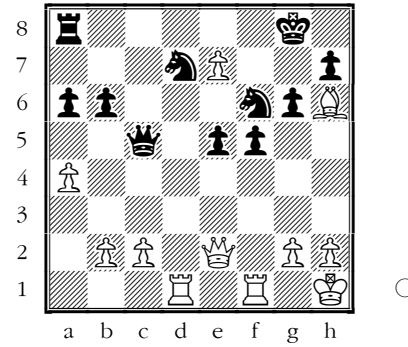
19...g6 19...♗exf6 loses to 20.♗xf6 ♗xf6 21.♙xf6! gxf6 22.♖h5+-

20.♙h6 ♙g8 21.♗e7 ♗xe7 22.fxe7 f5?! After 22...♗d6 I planned to continue 23.♙ad1± . White has the dangerous e7 pawn and all his pieces are active – the advantage is huge.

23.♙c4+- Now Black simply loses the exchange.

23...♖c5 24.♙ad1!? ♗ef6 24...♖xe7 25.♙xg8 ♖xg8 26.♖c4+ ♖h8 27.♖c6 (or maybe 27.♙g5) and White should be technically winning.

25.♙xg8 ♖xg8 (D)



26.♙g5
26.♖f3! with the idea of 26...♙e8
27.♖b3+ ♖h8 28.♖f7
26...♖g7?! A blunder in a hopeless position.
27.♙xf6+ ♗xf6 28.♙d8 1-0.

Solutions to our quiz:

Potemkin – Alekhine

16...♗xd4! 17.gxf5 ♗xf5+ 0-1.
White resigned in view of 18.♖g4 h5+ 19.♖g5 ♗h6#.

Smyslov – Tolush Moscow, 1961

17.♙b8!! 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>

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