

Chess News in Brief

The 5th World Team Championship in [Yerevan](#) dominated chess news today. It saw a highly dramatic finish, with the two leaders clashing in the last round. Russia was half a point ahead of the Ukraine and would have been happy with a draw. However, the Russians lost and the Ukraine won the championship, thanks to Ponomariov's win over Dreev. This must be a huge disappointment for the Russian team. Other games in the match were drawn: **Ukraine-Russia 2½:1½**

Ivanchuk - Svidler ½ Ponomariov - Dreev 1:0
Baklan - Grischuk ½ Eingorn - Sakaev ½

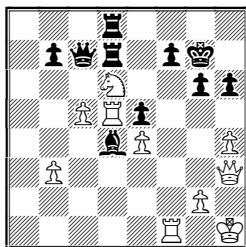
Other results: **Uzbekistan-Germany 1½:2½**
Kasimdzhanov - Jussupow 0:1 Iuldachev - Luts ½
Dzhumaev - Graf ½ Egin - Luther ½
Hungary-Armenia 2½:1½ Leko - Vaganian 0:1
Ruck - Lputian 1:0 Varga - Anastasian 1:0 Acs -
Minasian ½

Iran-FYROM 2½:1½ Ghaem Maghami - Mitkov
1:0 Ghorbani - Jacimovic ½ Darban - Stamenkov
0:1 Roghani - Stojanovski 1:0

The final standing: **1. Ukraine - 21½ points** 2. *Russia - 21* 3. *Armenia - 20* 4. *Germany - 18½* 5. *Hungary - 16½* 6. *Uzbekistan - 15½* 7. *Cuba - 14½* 8. *FYROM - 9½* 9. *Iran - 7*

Quiz Today

Z. Varga - A. Anastasian



White to play

In Prague Kasparov beat the Czech team 3-1 in the second round of his simultaneous match. He drew with Movsesian and Hracek and prevailed over Babula and Oral. Now Kasparov leads in the match 5½-2½.

Trainer's Corner - with GM Alex Baburin

For today's discussion I chose the following question from our reader **Doug Schwetke** from Texas, USA:

"Hello Alex,
I am interested in endgames with 2 rooks vs. 2 rooks. I think the timing of the exchange of one pair of rooks could be important (yes, this is pretty obvious)."

In my opinion this topic is a very interesting. I also had a few games illustrating it recently.

Alexander Baburin (2584) – Tiger Hillarp-Persson (2438) [D20]

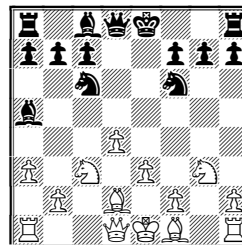
Monarch Assurance Open (1), 29.09.2001
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 e5 4.♘xc4 ♘c6 5.♗f3 e4 6.♗fd2 ♗g5 7.♗xe4 ♗xg2 8.♗g3 ♗f6 9.♙f1

This move is necessary sooner or later: **9.♗c3 ♙b4 10.♙f1.**

9...♗d5 10.♗c3 ♙b4 11.♙d2 ♗d8

11...♙xc3 12.bxc3 looks good for White.

12.a3 ♙a5 (D)



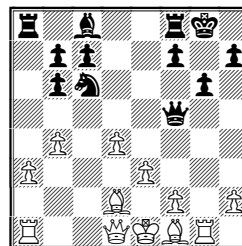
13.♗h5

This may not be the best, but was certainly interesting. Also tempting was 13.♙g2 or 13.♗c2!?

13...0-0 14.♗g1 g6 15.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 16.b4

16.♗d5 ♙xd2+ 17.♗xd2 ♗d6 18.♗f4 ♖e8 19.♙e2=.

16...♙b6 17.♗d5 ♗f5 18.♗xb6 axb6 (D)



19.b5?

This move is wrong – it pushes the knight where

it wants to go anyway. It also weakens White's queenside. Clearly the best was 19.♔c3!, putting the bishop to that crucial diagonal. White should be better here, playing h2-h4, etc.

19...♘e7 20.h4 ♖f6 21.h5 ♜e8 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.♙e2 ♘f5

Tiger suggested 23...♗d6 here. I considered that too and was going to play 24.♞h1!? ♜xa3 25.♞xa3 ♗xa3 26.e4♞ with strong compensation for a pawn.

24.♞c1

Here I offered a draw. I did not think that I was worse, but I had less time than Black and the position was such that it was easier to play for Black.

24...c6 25.bxc6?

I had about 10 minutes left around here, so I played this move quickly. Better was 25.♞b1!?.

25...bxc6 26.♞c3 ♙a6 27.♙xa6 ♞xa6 28.♞c1?

28.♞h1! ♘xd4 29.♙f1 ♗f3 30.♞h2= – Black has no more than perpetual.

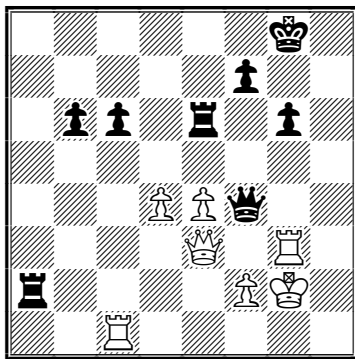
28...♘h4 29.♞g3?!

The computer suggests a clever idea: 29.♞g4 ♘f3+ 30.♙d1 ♘xd2 31.♞f4.

29...♘f3+ 30.♙f1

30.♞xf3 ♗xf3 31.♞xc6 was probably a better chance.

30...♘xd2+ 31.♞xd2 ♞xa3 32.♙g2 ♞a5 33.♞c3 ♞e6 34.e4 ♞a2 35.♞f3 ♗g5+ 36.♞g3 ♗f4 37.♞e3 (D)



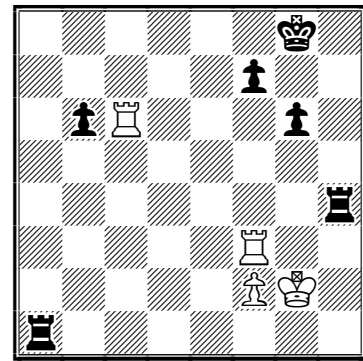
37...♞xe4

Here 37...♞xf2+! would have finished White off. I saw it, but could not avoid it... In mutual time-trouble Tiger missed that move.

38.♞xf4 ♞xf4 39.♞f3 ♞g4+

After the game Tiger suggested 39...♞xf3 40.♙xf3 ♞a8 41.♞xc6 ♞b8 but this does not look great: 42.d5! (42.♙e4 b5 43.♙d3 b4 44.♙c2 is too passive.) 42...♙f8 (42...♙g7 43.d6=; 42...b5 43.d6 ♙f8 44.d7=) 43.d6 ♙e8 44.♙e4 b5 45.♞c7 b4 46.♞e7+ ♙f8 47.♙d5 b3 48.♞e1 b2 49.d7.

40.♙f1 ♞xd4 41.♞xc6 ♞a1+ 42.♙g2 ♞g4+ 43.♙h2 ♞h4+ 44.♙g2 (D)



Black is going to lose the b-pawn, but should keep all rooks on the board – then he will have winning chances.

44...♞ah1 45.♞xb6 ♞4h2+ 46.♙g3 ♞h3+ 47.♙f4 g5+? 48.♙g4 ♞xf3

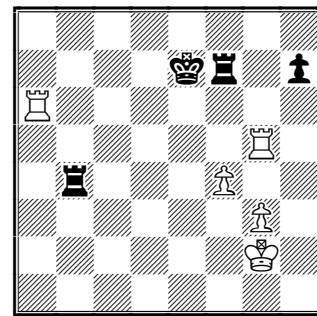
Time. 2.10 – 2.15

1/2-1/2

Black should have tried to find ways to play for a win. Maybe he won't win, but certainly he had to try!

With 4 rooks on the board winning chances of the superior side increase greatly. I experienced that myself in the following game:

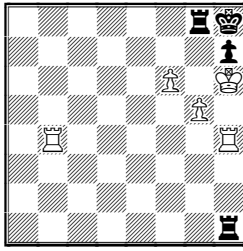
J. Rowson (2490) – A. Baburin (2593)
Monarch Assurance Open 1999



Black to play; +/-

With just one pair of rooks on the board it would be a relatively simple draw, but the presence of 4 rooks makes this position winning for White, who can now combine attack on the enemy pawn with attack on the enemy king.

52...♞b8 53.♙h3 ♙f8 54.♙h4 ♞g7 55.♞c5 ♙g8 56.g4 ♞gb7 57.♞cc6 ♙f7 58.f5 ♞d7 59.♞c3 ♞db7 60.♞cc6 ♞d7 61.♙g5 ♙g7 62.♞c3 ♞db7 63.♙h5 ♙f7 64.♞ac6 ♞a8 65.♙g5 ♞b8 66.♞3c5 ♞bf8 67.♞b6 ♞a7 68.f6+! ♙g8 69.♙h6 ♞a1 70.♞g5+ ♙h8 71.♞h5 ♙f1 72.g5 ♞g8 73.♞h4 ♙f5 74.♞g4 ♙f1 75.♞bb4 ♞h1+ 76.♞h4 (D)



White has made a lot of progress – his pawns are well advanced and his pieces are pretty active. Now he needs to get his king out of the h–file, so his rook could attack on the h–file, while the king will support the f–pawn.

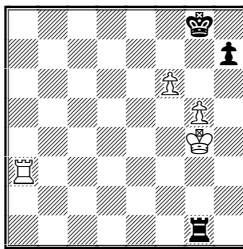
76...Rg1

Now exchanging rooks is hopeless for Black – his remaining pieces would be too passive. 76...Rhx4+ 77.Rhx4 Ra8 78.Re4 Qg8 79.Re7+-.

77.Rbg4 Rf1 78.Rf4 Rg1 79.Rf5 Rc1 80.Rh3 Rc7 81.Qh5 Rf7 82.Re3 Ra8 83.Rfe5 Rff8 84.Qh6 Ra1 85.Rh3 Rg8 86.Re7 Rg6+ 87.Qh5 Rg1 88.Re8+ Rg8 89.Rxg8+?

Around here White went wrong. I think that 89.Re5 was correct – then White would threaten f6–f7 and also Kh5–g4–f5. To White's excuse I can say that both of us were down to our last minute in the game.

89...Qxg8 90.Ra3 Rh1+ 91.Qg4 Rg1+ (D)



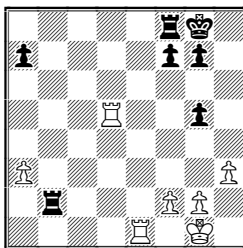
This position is OK for Black as far as I remember. **92.Qf4 Rf1+ 93.Qg4 Rg1+ 94.Qf4 Rf1+ 95.Rf3 Ra1**

95...Rxf3+ 96.Qxf3 Qf7 97.Qg4 h6=.
96.Rb3 Rf1+ 97.Qe5 Re1+ 98.Qf4 Rf1+ 99.Rf3 Rxf3+ 100.Qxf3 Qf7 101.Qf4 h6 102.gxh6 1/2-1/2

Another example of the same theme:

Evgeny Sveshnikov (2515) - Mikhail Tal (2620)

Notes by Alexander Baburin



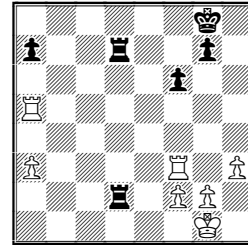
Black to play

Again, with only one rook each this position would be an easy draw, but here Black has serious problems.

28...Rc8

Maybe better was 28...f6 29.Re7 Rf7 30.Rxf7 Qxf7 31.Rd7+ Qg6 32.Rxa7 f5.

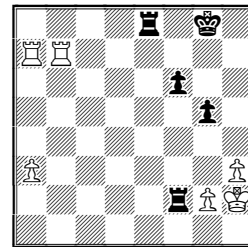
29.Rxg5 Ra2 30.Rg3 Rc7 31.Rf3 Rd2 32.Re5 f6?! 33.Ra5 Rcd7 (D)



Black wants to exchange a pair of rooks. **34.Rff5!**

White does not allow it! He can improve his position with h3–h4–h5, g2–g3 and Kg1–g2, so Black felt he had to do something:

34...Ra2 35.Rf4! Ra2 36.Rfa4 Re7 37.Rxa7 Re1+ 38.Qh2 Rxf2 39.Rg4 g5 40.Rb4 Re8 41.Rbb7 (D)



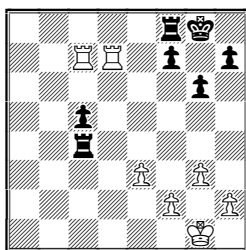
In positions like this one, 2 rooks are particularly dangerous – one of Black's rooks must watch the back rank, which makes resistance impossible. **1-0**

If you are interested in endgame, here is another and quite stunning example of the power of 2 rooks for you. I suggest that you analyse it carefully and perhaps play a training game from this position against somebody of a similar strength. It would be a certain benefit to your chess!

Tigran Petrosian (2645) - Yuri Balashov (2565)

[A17] USSR Championship, Leningrad, 1977. Notes by Alexander Baburin

1.c4 Qf6 2.Qc3 e6 3.Qf3 Qb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.b3 c5 6.Qb2 Qe7 7.e3 Qc6 8.Qe2 d6 9.0-0 Qxc3 10.Qxc3 e5 11.a3 Qg4 12.Rfe1 a5 13.d4 Qh5 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Qxe5 Qxe5 16.Qxh5 Qxh5 17.Qf5 Rfe8 18.Qxh5 a4 19.Rab1 axb3 20.Qxe5 Qxe5 21.Qxe5 Rxe5 22.Rxb3 Re4 23.Rc1 Ra4 24.Rxb7 g6 25.Rd1 Rxa3 26.g3 Ra8 27.Rdd7 Rf8 28.Rbc7 Rxc4 (D)



Once again, this position would be an easy draw with just 2 rooks on the board and that would be true even without the c-pawn. However, now White has good winning chances – just look at how passive the f8-rook is!

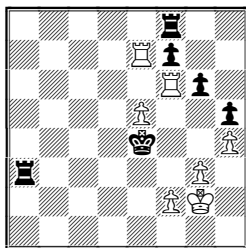
29.♔g2 h5 30.h3 ♔g7 31.♔f3 ♔f6

After 31...g5!? 32.♖d5 ♔g6 White should not get greedy with 33.♖xc5? ♖xc5 34.♖xc5± – instead he can play 33.♖c6+! f6 34.g4±.

32.h4 ♔g7 33.♖d5 ♖e8 34.♖dd7 ♖f8 35.♖e7 ♔f6 36.e4 ♖d4

Or 36...♖c2!? 37.♔e3, with the idea of f2–f4 and e4–e5+.

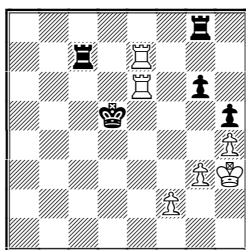
37.e5+ ♔f5 38.♖xc5 ♖d3+ 39.♔g2 ♖a3 40.♖c6 ♔e4 41.♖f6 (D)



41...♖aa8 42.e6 ♔e5 43.♖xf7 ♖g8 44.♖b7 ♔xe6

45.♖be7+ ♔d6 46.♖e2 ♖af8 47.♖a7 ♖a8 48.♖ae7

♖ac8 49.♖2e6+ ♔d5 50.♔h3 ♖c7? (D)



51.♖xg6! 1-0



I hope that you find this article useful. From now on some training materials will appear in Chess Today *every* weekend!

Solution to Quiz Today

46.♔e8+! 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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