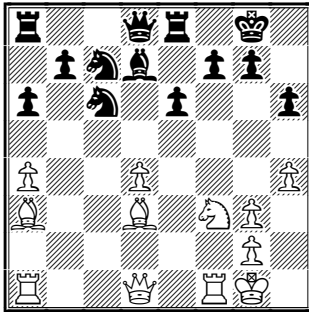


## Chess Quiz

Lisitsin – Ragozin  
Leningrad, 1934



White to play

## Chess News

### Kasparov X3D Fritz – 2:2

As *Chess Today* has already reported, the match was drawn after a rather boring 4<sup>th</sup> game. GM Alexander Khalifman has annotated that game [online](#) (in English). If you read Russian, I recommend checking the [commentary](#) by our colleague IM Nikolai Vlassov, as well as [notes](#) by GM Sergey Shipov (also in Russian).

### Ibragimov wins Kings Island Open

Ildar Ibragimov defeated fellow GM Igor Novikov in a blitz playoff to win the title of King's Island Open Champion this past weekend. GMs Shabalov, Goldin, Wojtkiewicz and Ehlvest also scored 4 out of 5 in the Continental Chess [Association](#) event, held just north of Cincinnati. The winners received \$893 for their efforts, with Ibragimov taking slightly more (\$1047). See [results online](#).

### On This Day...

In 1981 **Anatoly Karpov** defeated the Challenger Victor Korchnoi +6 –2 =10 in Merano, Italy.

*This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky; technical editor Graham Brown.*

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## Buenos Aires Open

### Final Standings:

**1–3.** Pablo Ricardi, Ruben Felgaer and Fernando Peralta – 7½ points out of 9;  
**4–9.** A. Rodriguez, Zarnicki, Sorin, Garcia Palermo, Flores and Labollita – 7 points, etc.

### Seniors' World Championship

This tournament is in progress in Bad Zwischenahn, Germany. There are 11 rounds, with the time control being 2h for 40 moves and then 1 hour each for the rest of the game.

### Standings after 3 rounds, Men:

**1–20.** Sanakoev, Donchenko, Boehnisch, Hermann, Karl, Chepukaitis, Arkhangelsky, Asmundsson, Hecht, Rahls, Litvinov, Zhelesny, Katalymov, Zakharchenko, Chernikov, Piankov, Fahnenschmidt, Klein, Reichenbach, Klovans – 3 points, etc (272 players)

### Standings after 3 rounds, Women:

**1–5.** Erenska, Khmiadashvili, Komysheva, Saunina and Fatalibekova – 2½, etc. (22 players)

[Official website](#)

### Women's Championship of India

**Humpy Koneru** has already won the tournament — before the last round she has 15½ points out of 16 (!), a point and a half ahead of Vijayalakshmi. Harika and Mohota have 10½ points. [Official website](#)

### Ciutat d' Alcudia

This tournament is taking place on 15–23 November in Spain.

### Standings after round 3:

**1.** S. Garcia – 3 points  
**2.** Gamundi – 2½, etc. [Official website](#)



## Belgian League

by GM Mikhail Golubev

In the third round of the Belgian Interclub Championship, played on 16th November, a key match between the two strongest clubs took place — *KSK47 Eynatten* clashed with *Rochade Eupen*. Two wins with Black on boards 4 and 8 allowed *Eynatten* to score a very important victory.

KSK47 Eynatten – Rochade Eupen

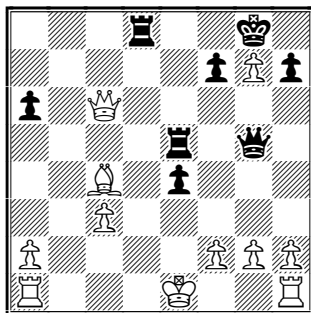
**5-3**

I. Sokolov – Van Wely ½-½  
 Van den Doel – Vaganian 0-1  
 Naiditsch – Chuchelov ½-½  
 Goloshchapov – Glek 1-0  
 Rogers – Kishnev 1-0  
 Golubev – Feygin ½-½  
 Roeder – Saltaev ½-½  
 Gulbas – Meesen 1-0

Here is an interesting fragment from that match:

### *Naiditsch (2578)– Chuchelov (2603)*

Belgian Interclub (3), 16.11.2003



*Black to play*

**23...♞e6**

This move leads to a draw.

Good for White would be **23...♞d2+?**  
 24.♞f1 e3 25.♞f3!.

But it seems that Black could have played for a win by **23...♞c5!?** 24.♞a4 (other lines: 24.♞xf7+ ♞xg7! 25.♞xa6 ♞d2+ 26.♞f1 ♞b2! 27.♞e1 ♞d2 28.♞e2 ♞xc3! 29.♞xd2 ♞xd2 30.g3 e3! or 24.♞xa6 ♞d2+ 25.♞f1 ♞f5 26.♞e2 ♞e3! 27.♞f3 ♞c5!) 24...♞d2+ 25.♞f1 ♞xc3 26.♞xf7+ ♞xf7 27.♞b3+ ♞xb3 28.axb3 ♞c2≠.

**24.♞xe6**

Of course, not 24.♞c7? ♞d2+ 25.♞f1 e3 26.♞e2 exf2 27.♞c4 ♞de8 or 24.♞b7? ♞d2+ 25.♞f1 e3 26.♞e2 exf2 27.♞f3 ♞de8.

**24...♞d2+ 25.♞f1 ♞d3+ ½-½**

White must allow perpetual check: 26.♞e1 ♞d2+ =, as 26.♞g1?? loses after 26...♞d1+ 27.♞xd1 ♞xd1#.

## Attila Schneider Memorial Announcement

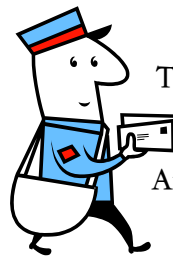
*Statisztika Chess Club* organizes a tournament in memory of a former member, 2-times Hungarian Champion and author of numerous chess books IM Attila Schneider. The memorial will take place on 1-12 December 2003 in Budapest, with FIDE rating and norms. There will be two groups: GM group (Category 7-8) and IM group (Category 3-4). There will be 11 rounds in both groups, with the 7th of December being a day off.

The purpose of the tournament is to commemorate our team-mate and a very good friend Attila, as well as to give the possibility for players to achieve GM and IM norms. Time control: 2 hours each + 30 seconds per move increment.

For more information please contact GM Emil Anka — tel/fax: (36) 1-221-2328. Email: [emilanka@freemail.hu](mailto:emilanka@freemail.hu) & [emilanka@axelero.hu](mailto:emilanka@axelero.hu)

## Letters to the Editor

by GM Alex Baburin



Two days ago we received the following e-mail from our US reader IM Anthony Saidy:

"Dear Chess Today, I just checked the [website](#) for the World Senior Championships and found no results. An incredible 309 men and women are taking part! My score vs. the participants is 4½ of 5; last year it was 5½ of 7 – the difference is only thanks to the fact that my comrade GM Ivkov withdrew.

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If they held it in Berlin, I'd be there. But Bad Zwischenahn?! Poland, Sweden also preferred spots."

I can see that now results are on the site. *Chess Today* will follow this tournament. I have personal interest in it, as my former coach GM Oleg Chernikov is playing there.

On the same day we got another letter from USA, concerning CT-1106. It was from Dennis Monokroussos, who runs a very interesting [column](#) *Great Games in Chess History* on [ChessFM](#).

"Hi guys!

Like just about all chess fans, I'm aware that in locked up positions, computer chess programs will sometimes become utterly clueless and play moves that are just silly. And I also think that Vlassov generally does a really excellent job with his CT work!

On this occasion, though, I think that Vlassov's annotations to the first 22 moves of Kasparov's game 3 win over X3D Fritz are both unfair and inconsistent. In particular, severely criticising 7...a5, when it was the choice of all-time great Paul Keres, and when the computer probably didn't even have a choice about playing it, as it's in its (and Fritz 8's!) book, strikes me as unfair and uncharitable.

And I don't understand how Kasparov, with White, can make two '!' moves and none receiving criticism, while the computer makes one '?' move and one '??' move and yet the position is objectively drawn at this point, according to Vlassov (see his notes to 22... ♖f6?)!

It's amazing the way we humans are affected in the context of computer chess, isn't it?  
*Regards, Dennis"*

Yes, I agree that Nikolai's comments to Black's 22nd move raise some questions. I guess it might be bad translation – possibly he meant "it

might be still a draw". But he well explained the need to generate counter-play — something the computer failed to get in the game!

As for move 7...a5?, it is still a mistake, even if Keres played it against Reshevsky in 1948. I guess Fritz 'saw' in its opening book that Keres won and it wanted to follow his example. Never mind that Reshevsky was winning at some point!

But then Fritz also clearly knew about the other 6 games (in Mega 2003) where 7...a5 was played and where White scored +4=2! One of those games is Euwe–Alekhine, 1935, where Black lost. All in all, that was a strange choice by the computer and one which will surely make conspiracy theory fans *very* suspicious! By the way, my Fritz 8 does not like 7...a5, preferring 7...b6 or 7...♖c7. Maybe Kasparov should demand that printouts of X3D Fritz 'thinking' are made public?! ☺

## **Annotated Game**

*by IM Vladimir Barsky*

□ **M Labollita, M (2445)**

■ **R Claverie (2305)**

1st Chesspangenberg Open, Buenos Aires, 2003 – C05

The nice game that follows was found by IM Maxim Notkin when he prepared "The best 10 games of the week" for the site [www.wcr.ru](http://www.wcr.ru)

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2**

A Tarrasch move. White retains the opportunity to defend the d4 pawn after Black plays c7–c5 with c2–c3.

**3...♗f6**

There are a lot of alternatives here, for example: 3...c5 ; 3...a6; 3...♗e7; even 3...b6! etc.

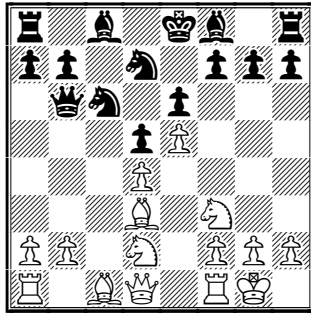
**4.e5 ♗fd7 5.♗d3 c5 6.c3 ♗c6 7.♗gf3**

White is ready to sacrifice the d4 pawn. A less ambitious line runs after 7.♗e2 ♖b6 8.♗f3 etc.

**7...♖b6 8.0–0 cxd4 9.cxd4**

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### 9...a5!?

A rare, but interesting move. According to previous games, the pawn capture on d4 is rather dangerous for black, for example: 9... $\text{exd4}$  10. $\text{exd4}$   $\text{exd4}$  11. $\text{xf3}$   $\text{xb6}$  12. $\text{xa4}$  (12. $\text{a3}$   $\text{c5}$  13. $\text{dc2}$   $\text{a5}$  14. $\text{wd4}$   $\text{a4}$  15. $\text{de3}$   $\text{d7}$  16. $\text{bac1}$   $\text{db5}$  17. $\text{ffe1}$   $\text{wd8}$  18. $\text{wb4}$   $\text{wb6}$  19. $\text{ed4}$   $\text{ea5}$  20. $\text{exb5}$   $\text{exb5}$  21. $\text{dxa4}$   $\text{dxa4}$  22. $\text{wxa4}$  1-0 Iordachescu-Gendre, Vins du Medoc 2002.) 12... $\text{wb4}$  13. $\text{wc2}$   $\text{wc5}$  (13... $\text{h6}$  14. $\text{d2}$   $\text{wb6}$  15. $\text{wa4}$   $\text{de7}$  16. $\text{da5}$   $\text{wxb2}$  17. $\text{a3}$  Romanov-Huang, Budva 2003.) 14. $\text{we2}$   $\text{de7}$  15. $\text{de3}$   $\text{wc7}$  16. $\text{bac1}$   $\text{wd8}$  17. $\text{ec2}$   $\text{db8}$  18. $\text{ed4}$   $\text{d7}$  19. $\text{f4}$   $\text{dc6}$  20. $\text{f5}$  Degraeve-Lukov, Cappelle la Grande 2002.

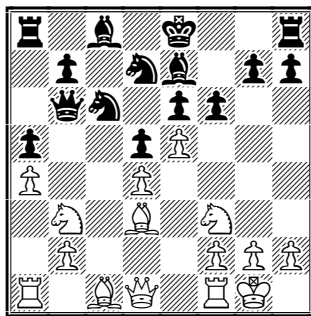
### 10.a4

10. $\text{wa4}$   $\text{de7}$  11. $\text{a3}$   $\text{ef8}$  12. $\text{b4}$   $\text{d7}$  13. $\text{b5}$   $\text{a7}$  14. $\text{wb1}$   $\text{g6}$  15. $\text{ed1}$  0-0  $\rightleftharpoons$  Gipslis-Kaplun, Katowice 1993.

### 10...de7

Black didn't dare to take a pawn, as happened in the following game: 10... $\text{exd4}$  11. $\text{exd4}$   $\text{exd4}$  12. $\text{xf3}$   $\text{xb6}$  13. $\text{wc2}$   $\text{h6}$  14. $\text{db5}$   $\text{dc5}$  15. $\text{df4}$   $\text{wa7}$  16. $\text{efc1}$   $\text{b6}$  Schumi-Kovacevic, Bled 1995. I believe White could play better, but in any case 10... $\text{Nxd4}$  is more critical.

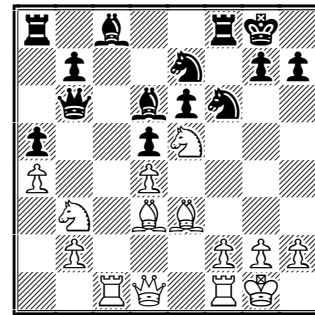
### 11.edb3 f6



Black has to attack his opponent's pawn centre, because otherwise White

will simply be better, thanks to a space advantage and superior development.

12. $\text{exf6}$   $\text{exf6}$  13. $\text{de3}$  0-0 14. $\text{de5!}$   $\text{dd6}$  15. $\text{ec1}$   $\text{de7}$



Now White has almost all he could dream of in the French defence: good development, more space, control over b5 and c5, a knight on e5... Meanwhile Black hasn't got any real counterplay.

### 16.g4!

Signal to attack!

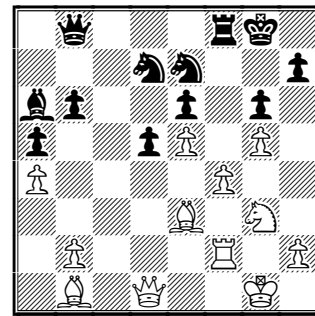
### 16...wd8 17.db1 b6 18.f3

Defending the g4-pawn and the e4-square.

### 18...we8 19.ed2 da6 20.ef2 ec8 21.ecxc8 wxc8 22.ef1

The knight has finished its work on the queenside and now it is joining the attack.

### 22...we8 23.dg3 wb8 24.g5 dxex5 25.dxe5 ed7 26.f4 g6?!



White is almost winning, but what is the best way to convert his advantage into a full point?

### 27.de4!

Here it is: the knight is going to land on f6.

### 27...df5

27... $\text{dxe4}$  28. $\text{wxd7+}$ -

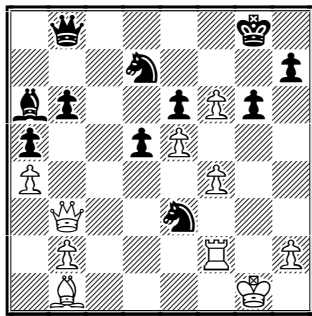
### 28.dxf6+!

Well calculated move.

### 28...exf6!

28... $\text{exf6}$  29. $\text{dxf5+}$ -

29.gxf6 ♖xe3 30.♖b3!

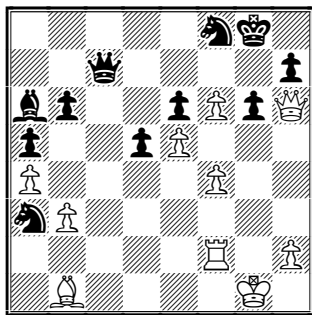


30...♗c4

30...♗f5 31.♗xf5 gxf5 (31...exf5 32.♖xd5+-) 32.♖g3+; 30...♗g4 31.♖h3 ♗xf2 (31...♗dxe5 32.fxe5 ♗xe5 33.♖xe6+ ♗f7 34.♖xd5+-) 32.♖xe6+ ♗h8 33.♖xd7+- **31.♖h3 ♗f8**

Maybe a bit better was 31...♖e8 though after 32.b3! ♗a3 33.♗d3 the a3-knight is off-side.

**32.b3 ♗a3 33.♖h6 ♖c7**



34.f5!

Energetic attack.

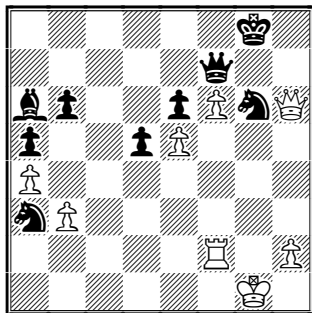
34...♖f7

34...gxf5 35.♗g2+ ♗g6 36.♗xf5 exf5 37.e6+-; 34...exf5 35.♗xf5 ♖f7 36.♗h3+-

**35.fxg6 hxg6**

35...♗xg6 36.♗xg6 hxg6 37.♗f3!

**36.♗xg6! ♗xg6**



36...♖xg6+ 37.♗g2+-

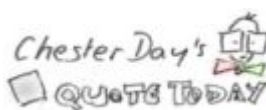
**37.♗f3!!**

The point of White's combination.

Black had to resign because he did not have any defence vs. Rg3.37.♗g2?? ♗d3 **1-0**

### Solution to our quiz:

Lisitsin-Ragozin: **20.♗h7+!!** (20.♗g5? f5!) **20...♖xh7** (20...♖h8 21.♗g5! hxg5 22.♖h5+-) **21.♗g5+! ♖g8** (21...hxg5 22.♖h5+ ♖g8 23.♖xf7+ ♖h8 24.♖h5+ ♖g8 25.hxg5!+- (Δ 26.g6) or 21...♖g6? 22.h5+ ♖xg5 23.♗c1#) **22.♗xf7 ♖b8 23.♗xh6+! gxh6 24.♖g4+ ♖h8 25.♗f7 1-0**



"The game of Chess is not merely an idle amusement; several very valuable qualities of the mind are to be acquired and strengthened by it, so as to become habits ready on all occasions; for life is kind of Chess"

**Benjamin Franklin**

**Contact information.** Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ct@gmsquare.com) - 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: [ct@gmsquare.com](mailto:ct@gmsquare.com) Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net>

**Editors:** GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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