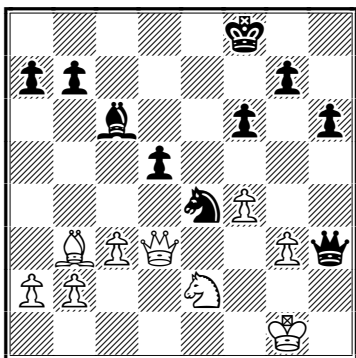


## Quiz Today

**Kersten (2331) – K. Mueller (2518)**

Germany 28.11.2002



Black to play

## News

 By **GM Alex Baburin**

The 17-year old Grandmaster **Arkadij Naiditsch** took sole lead at [The German Championship](#), after beating GM Luther in round 7. Luther employed the Alekhine Defence and Naiditsch responded with the exchange variation. Personally, I don't believe that it promises White much, but Luther made an unsound exchange of pawns when he played 10...Nxd4?!. I have had similar positions in my practice and have always refrained from giving up the h-pawn for the d4-pawn. The problem for Black is that his kingside is vulnerable and the b6-knight is not very useful. You can find this, as well as some other top games from round 7 in our database.

Key results of round 7:

**Naiditsch** (5) – Luther (5) 1-0  
 Slobodjan (4) – Hübner (4) ½-½  
 Graf (4) – Gustafsson (4) ½-½  
 Handke (4) – Jussupow (4) ½-½  
 Dautov (4) – **Gutman** (4) 0-1  
 Bischoff (4) – Kritz (4) ½ - ½  
 H. Schmidt (3½) – **Gisbrecht** (3½)  
 0-1  
 Holzhäuer (3½) – Becking (3½) ½-½

Standing after 7 rounds:

**1.** Naiditsch – 6 points;  
**2-3.** Luther and Gutman – 5 points;  
 4-12 Hübner, Graf, Jussupow,  
 Bischoff, Slobodjan, Gustafsson,  
 Handke, Kritz and Gisbrecht – 4½  
 points.



**Chess in  
 Belgium:**  
*and The Belgian  
 Interclub  
 Championships*  
 An Article by  
**GM Mikhail Golubev**

Even Belgium's neighbours in Germany sometimes aren't aware that Belgium is not just Dutch speaking Flanders in the North, French-speaking Wallonia in the South and bilingual Brussels in the centre. There is also a small German speaking community in Belgium, with approximately 60,000 inhabitants. Representatives of this community almost totally dominate the national scene in several kinds of human activity such as: 1) Handball 2) Chess.

From 1993 to 1998 I played almost two dozen games here for a team which, in inevitably winning the Belgian team championship, was stronger than the national team of Belgium. Now, almost five years later, I have started to play for a new, even stronger, club located 7 Kilometres closer to the border with Germany. Perhaps this is a good chance to remember, compare notes, and write a short article about chess in Belgium.

### Factbook:

The most basic facts about the Kingdom of Belgium: such as it being a very important member of NATO and the EU, are either well known or hardly suitable in a chess article. I can say that the Belgian political system

(federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarch) is quite complex. There are three levels of government (federal, regional, and linguistic community). The three regions are Flandres, Wallonia and Brussels. The three linguistic communities, that are not the same as regions, are the French, Dutch (Flemish), and German-speaking communities. The German-speaking community makes up less than 1% of Belgian citizens (but a much bigger percentage of chess-players, I believe!) and the biggest town in the German-speaking area is Eupen, situated between Liege and the German town of Aachen.

If one day there is to be a common language on Earth, then people will have much less need for such things as our *game of chess* to help them communicate. Belgium faces the same problems and paradoxes as probably any bilingual or multilingual country does. Similar to my poor Ukraine, the Belgian capital is almost the only area where a single dominating language can be indicated. It is quite normal for people here to speak three to five languages, and at the same time it is not an impossible task to find Belgian citizens who will not be able to find any common language.

Some years ago I was quite impressed to find that a car driver, who needs to reach Liège (I use here the French name of the town), must be strongly advised to know also the German ('Luttich') and Dutch ('Luik') names of this city – otherwise he will not find his road when entering another linguistic area.

Those who are not satisfied with my quick-info about Belgium can check out the Belgian [languages and dialects](#) site on the Internet. And anyone who wants to find more general information about the country could, for example, take a look at the [Belgian page](#) in the online World Factbook. By the way, the size of the country is described as '*about the size of*

*Maryland*', so even some Belgian people could learn something there. They, like me, could find out the size of Maryland!

## **Chess in Belgium**

Anyone who doesn't have a complete picture of how and why Belgium gained its independence from the Netherlands almost two hundred years ago may suspect that it was a different approach to chess that played a role.

In 1970, the Belgian Chess Federation gained the status of *Royal*, as any federation or club was able to do after 50 years in existence. Two well-known Grand Masters, Edgard Colle and Alberic O'Kelly de Galway, were Belgians. There were some great chess events organised in Belgium (such as the OHRA and SWIFT events in the 1980s), and great organisers (Bessel Kok must be noted) were involved. Still, professional chess is, up until now, an almost unknown phenomenon in Belgium, and this anti-professional tradition continues to exist. Three leading players have represented Belgian chess in the world in recent years. Grandmaster Mikhail Gurevich, clear leader and in the recent past one of the world elite players, moved to Belgium from the Ukraine more than ten years ago. Then there is Grandmaster Vladimir Chuchelov, an ex-Russian player, winner of some strong tournaments like the super-open in Capelle-la-Grande, who moved to Belgium a few years later than Gurevich. Finally, Grandmaster Luc Winants the only player in the trio of Belgian origin, who is also known for related activities such as his work on the first FIDE website ([chessweb.com](#)).

None of them usually participate in the two events that give a clear picture of the state of professional chess in a country: these being Chess Olympiads and National Championships. There have been some exceptions in the past, the latest example being the 2001 Belgian Championship, with all the

strongest players participating.

Gurevich won the event in Charleroi with an amazing 9 out of 9! Chuchelov shared second place with Belgian federation newcomers, Dgebuadze (6 points each), and Winants was fourth with 4½. Still, Charleroi even was no more than the exception that proves the rule, for better or worse, traditionally the federation doesn't care much about professionals participating in the national championship and the Olympic team. So professionals usually don't participate!

There are quite a few chess tournaments in Belgium, although I would hardly say there are enough. The traditional Antwerp Open was the most important of them in the 1990s. Graham Brown's nice report from the 14th Leuven Open was published in Chess Today 738. There is also a traditional open tournament in Eupen and some others.

More information about chess in Belgium can be found on the Internet. There is the [official site](#) of the national federation (KBSB - FRBE), the site of Fédération [Echiquéenne Francophone](#) de Belgique, and the Vlaamse [Schaak-Federatie](#) site. The chess federation of the German speaking community (SchachVerband des Deutschsprachigen Belgien), as far as I know, doesn't have a website for the moment, but the majority of its clubs have, and one can find web addresses amongst other links at the enthusiastic Andy Marechal's [chess site](#) (in French). Another Belgian chess links page, in Dutch, may be found at the [schaken.startinbelgie.com](#) site.

### **Interclub Championships**

The Belgian team championship (Interclub Championships) is an important part of chess life in the country. As in the other Western European countries, there are many clubs with quite a small number of members in each, so clubs badly need

to compete with each other. There are five levels of team Interclub competitions – quite a lot. The clubs usually have several teams in different divisions and, probably, every Belgian amateur player is able to find a team or club in accordance with his needs. Sometimes, however, it is possible to face stronger opponents that you expect – like Anatoly Karpov, who once played a game in the second division! Or Russian WGM Semina, who once played in one of the lowest divisions.

At the top of the Interclub system is the First Division – a round robin tournament where 12 teams play each other. In contrast with the German Bundesliga, here the *board points* are important, and not match points. Another important rule – the number of domestic and foreign players that can be included in the *team list*, is *not limited*. For example, there are approximately 50 GMs and IMs in the team lists of German-speaking community clubs playing in the first division now: Rochade Eupen (my club in 1993–1998), KSK Eupen 1947, and first division newcomers, my new club Turm Eynatten. (By the way there are no clubs from Brussels in the first division at the moment!) There are so many different titled players, and so many changes that it is almost impossible to predict the line-up of teams. Evidently, the Belgian system creates clubs that are not so dependent on specific players.

It would be correct to say that the professionalisation of the Belgian league was started in 1991/2 by Rochade Eupen when the club invited four ex-members of a chess team of Soviet Forces in Eastern Germany: Dautov, Kovaliov, Chuchelov and Aseev to play. Despite approx. 90% scores, showed by Dautov, Kovaliov and Chuchelov in the first season, Rochade waited two more seasons for their first title. The team line-up was modified, in the beginning and middle 90s with GMs Chuchelov, Kishnev, Cifuentes, playing regularly later

joined by Glek, Gurevich and Winants. At some point all three top Belgian players became involved with the club, leaving little need for foreign players.

I played for Rochade actively in their first three-four victorious seasons. Usually the team played with two or three grandmasters in the match. However in the 1996/7 season Rochade faced unexpected strong competition from Tessenderlo. The line-up for the decisive match was: Glek, Gurevich, Chuchelov, Golubev, Kishnev, IM Schnieder, and two good local players, Meesen and Ahn. Five GMs in a team – something surrealistic for Belgian chess! Marc Bils, then president of the Belgian federation, was of course present. The score was 6½-1½.

In 1994-2001 Rochade won the championship eight times in a row, and regularly represented Belgium in the European Club Cup. However, in recent years there have been some organisational problems. The Traditional open lost its permanent sponsor, Cera-Bank. Both Gurevich and Winants are not playing for Rochade anymore, and a large group of players, including chess organisers Bernard Loo and Victor Schleck and several International Masters from Germany, left the club, in favour of the Turm Eynatten. As a result, 2001/2 was the first season in many years that Rochade Eupen didn't win the league.

In the 2002/3 season there are four viable challengers for gold medals in Division 1: [Cercle Royal des Echecs de Liège et Echiquier Liégeois Réunis](#), who are the current champions, [Rochade Eupen](#), [Schaakclub Boey Temse](#), and S.K. [Turm Eynatten](#). The first three rounds showed that Eynatten are very probable winners. Eynatten1 21, Liège1 15, Rochade1 14, Temse1 13 is

the current standing in the [Division 1](#) crossable.

### **Eynatten, the place where people play chess**

Eynatten is located practically on the border with Germany; and has a population of approx. 4.000. The local handball team has won the Belgian championship three times in a row (2000-2002), and now the chess team gets its chance as well. The permanent club president, Werner Paulus, a retired schoolteacher, has already been doing a great job for many years, teaching children to play. I know that high achievements were never main the target ...



< **Werner Paulus** is working in a different direction. Just think about it: 150 children each year are learning the rules of the game; in such a small town. *The Majority of children in Eynatten can play chess!* And, of course, there were many Eynatten guys who won the Belgian champion titles in their age groups and represented Belgium at the recent World Youth Championship. Also, among those who haven't played at international level till now, there are some quite strong players too (*one curious draw that I made in a simul against these guys: 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Nc5 e5 6.Nxb7 Qe7 7.Na5 exd4+ 8.Be2 Qb4+ 9.Bd2 Qxb2 10.Bd3 Bb4 11.Nf3 Bxd2+ 12.Nxd2 Bxd3 13.cxd3 Qb4 14.Qe2+ Qe7 15.Ne4 Qb4+ 16.Nd2+ Qe7 17.Ne4*). There is certainly hope that the first team will include strong local players in the near future. Still, for the moment the club relies on 'guestarbeiters', thanks to the group of ex-Rochade players, who helped to organise permanent sponsorship. The power of the first team, that is currently scoring an average of 7/8 each match, is also the result of a partnership with the chess club of Wirtzfeld. The list of leading players in season 2002/3 includes: P. Svidler, Ch.

Lutz, I. Sokolov, I. Dorfman, E. Van den Doel, F. Nijboer, T. Luther, I. Rogers, A. Naiditsch, Jo. Horvath, A. Goloshchapov, Cs. Horvath, H. Jonkman, M. Golubev, R. Ruck, M. Roeder, T. Paetz, E. Paetz, etc. Not one Belgian among the top players. Of course, after the example of the Lübeck team that won the German Bundesliga in 2001/2, playing without German players, it's not too surprising to see something similar in Belgium as well: Eynatten is aiming to win the championship with their first team, so local players are playing in the other four club teams in the lower divisions. Ironically, Rochade Eupen seems to be attacked with its own weapon. In the local newspaper in the German language, called [Grenz-Echo](#), each of the three clubs (Eynatten, Roshade, SK 47) publishes its own report after Interclub rounds and, ironically, the latest report by Rochade was called 'Kein Platz mehr für Hobbyspieler?' (i.e. 'No more place for hobby player?'). Certainly, Rochade people, having in their list Shirov and Vaganian, are not quite ready to congratulate their new players on their successes, but it means that there is now some intrigue in the Belgian team chess championships.

## Annotated Game

□ M Golubev

■ V Klyuner

Event: Belgium tt 2002/3 Eynatten1 vs Jaures1, 24.11.2002 -C41

Annotations: GM Mikhail Golubev

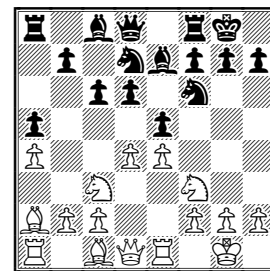
It just so happened that I met Viatcheslav Klyuner in Belgium, who is the former Junior Champion of The Ukraine. We had never played each other till then. Klyuner participates in tournaments very rarely now, but still he beats fairly decent Grandmasters from time to time. That is not surprising: it was not easy to win The Ukrainian Junior Championships in the 1980s, when there was only one U-18 tournament (and not U-10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 groups, as now). The

only player who won twice (1982, 1983) was Leonid Milov, and many strong guys, including Vasyl Ivanchuk, didn't manage to win even once!

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♖f6 3.♗c3 e5 4.♗f3 ♜bd7 5.♙c4 ♘e7 6.0-0 0-0 7.a4 a5 8.♞e1 c6

Quite a common system in the Philidor Defense, which also can occur via 1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 ♗d7, etc. The first player is somewhat better, but he should really have a lot of patience, it will be a long while until there is a chance to convert the space advantage into something tangible.

9.♙a2



9...♗e8?!

A strategically dubious idea (...♗f6-e8-c7-e6). I decided not to spend much time, trying to find a "radical" refutation of it.

10.♙e3 ♗c7 11.♗e2

My plan is to follow with ♗g3 and c3, supporting the pawn centre. It was also possible to play 10.♗e2 immediately after 9...♗e8.

11...♙f6 12.♗g3

12.c3!? was simpler.

12...g6

After 12...exd4 (which is a sensible move here) I could play 13.♗xd4? (13.♙xd4 ♗e5!) with idea 13...c5 14.♗df5 ♙xb2 15.♗xd6 ♙xa1 16.♙xa1 ♖.

13.c3 ♙e7 14.♙d2 ♞e8 15.♞ad1?!

Stronger was 15.♗g5! ♗e6 (15...♞f8 16.♞ad1) 16.♗xe6 fxe6 17.♞ad1± with a huge positional advantage.

15...♗f8

With the idea 16...Bg4

16.h3

Still, Black's position is not so pleasant. White has an advantage in both space and development.

16...♙e6 17.d5

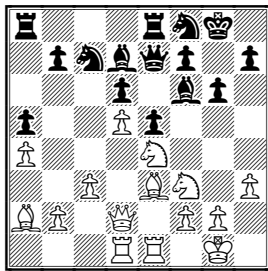
A responsible decision, but probably

a correct one.

**17...cxd5 18.exd5 ♖d7**

After a rather boring opening, some rather brutal play starts, which provides some reason to show the game... White's pieces are placed much better, but the pawn structure is acceptable for Black, therefore I don't have a long-term advantage and must quickly find a way to attack Black's centre. By the way if 18...♗c8 19.c4 is good for White.

**19.♗e4!**



19.c4 ♗xa4!? 20.b3 ♗d7 21.c5 ♖b5

**19...♗g7**

19...♗ec8 was proposed after the game by Klyuner, but there White wins by 20.♗xe5!+-; Against 19...♗xa4 I planned 20.b3 ♗d7 (20...♗b5 21.c4 ♗a6 22.b4!? axb4 23.♗xb4±) 21.♗g5! ♗xg5 22.♗xg5±, winning the d6 pawn.

**20.♗c5!?**

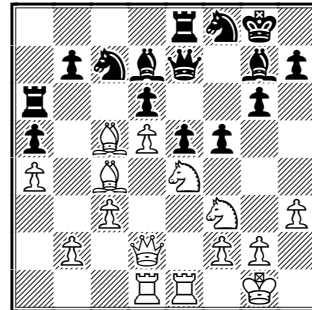
Already planning further sacrifices. I wanted to make a calmer move, like 20.c4, but I was not sure how to play after 20...♗f5, which refutes my idea of c4-c5.; The super-brutal 20.♗xe5! comes into consideration, with some incredible lines: 20...♗xe5 (20...♗xe5 21.♗g3!± ♗e7? 22.♗g5; 20...♗xa4 21.♗xf7! ♗xf7 22.♗f4) 21.♗g5 f6 22.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 23.♗xe7 ♗xe7 24.♗f4!, and White is possibly better. Losing for Black now is 24...♗xa4? 25.♗d4! ♗xd1 26.♗h6+- . Unfortunately, over the board I saw only a few of these motives.

**20...♗a6**

20...dxc5!?! 21.d6 ♗d8 22.dxc7 ♗xc7 was a serious alternative for Black. His position is dangerous, but it is not easy to prove White's advantage. 23.♗d6 (23.♗fg5!?! ♗e7 24.♗d6?! ♗xa4! 25.♗xf7 ♗xd1! 26.♗d8+ ♗h8 27.♗d5 c4 28.♗xc4 ♗xc4 29.♗f7+ ♗xf7 30.♗xc4

♗d7±) 23...♗e7 24.♗xf7+! (24.♗g5 ♗e8! 25.♗c2!?!∞) 24...♗xf7 25.♗xf7 ♗xf7 26.♗g5+♞ is, probably, an important line, when Black must play with the king in the center, because 26...♗g8? loses to 27.♗d5+ .

**21.♗c4! f5!**



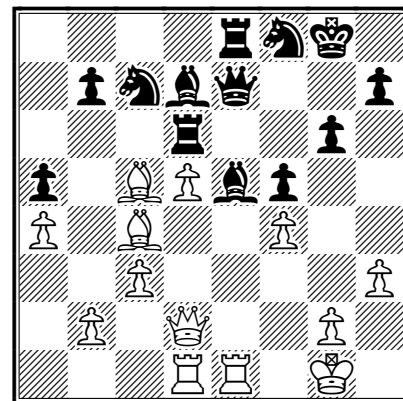
21...b5 22.axb5 ♗xb5 (22...♗xb5 23.♗xb5 ♗xb5 24.c4±) and White should be better after 23.♗e3± (or maybe 23.♗d4!?)

**22.♗xd6!**

Not 22.♗xa6? fxe4

**22...♗xd6 23.♗xe5! ♗xe5**

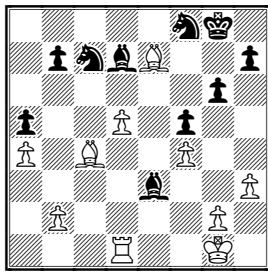
He hardly had anything better: 23...♗f6 24.♗c6!±; 23...♗xa4 24.♗xg6?! (24.b3! ♗xe5 25.f4±) 24...♗f6 25.♗xd6 ♗xd6 26.♗xe8 (26.♗e6? ♗fxe6 27.dxe6 ♗c5!) 26...hxg6 27.♗e6 ♗fxe6 28.dxe6 ♗xd2 29.e7+ (29.♗xd2 ♗f8) 29...♗d5± 24.f4♞



So, I have given two pieces for his two central pawns, but Black will lose a lot of material in the next few moves.

**24...♗h4?!**

24...♗xc3 was the only move to put White's advantage into question. Still, I like 25.♗xc3! (25.♗xe7 ♗xd2 26.♗xd6 ♗xe7 27.♗xe7 ♗e3+!



28. ♖f1 ♗a8; 25. bxc3 ♜f6∞) 25... ♜f6  
26. ♜xa5, with a powerful position:  
26... b6 27. ♗xb6 ♖a8 28. ♜c5± ♗e8 (or  
28... ♗a6 29. ♜d4) 29. a5! (29. ♜f2!? ♖xa4  
30. ♗d4 ♜d8 31. b3)

### 25. ♖xe5

Objectively, even stronger would be  
25. fxe5 ♜xc4 26. ♗xd6 ♗xa4 27. ♖a1±  
**25... ♖xe5?!**

Leads to a quick defeat. It was  
necessary to play 25... ♜f6!±, and  
White still should win.

### 26. fxe5 ♜xc4 27. ♗xd6+- ♗e8

27... ♗xa4 28. ♜h6!+- (but not  
28. ♜g5? ♗ce6! 29. dxe6 ♗xe6 and  
♗xd1. Beforehand I saw only ♜g5,  
that loses, and not ♜h6, that wins.  
Still, the idea is the same – to attack  
the Black king. This is all about  
"understanding of chess", and how it  
works. If you have the time and  
opportunity, it is always safer to  
calculate, than to understand :-))

### 28. ♗xf8 ♜xf8 29. e6 ♗xa4 30. d6

Victory is only a matter of time now.

### 30... ♜xe6

Or 30... ♗xd1 31. d7

### 31. ♖e1!?

31. d7 ♗xd7 32. ♜xd7 ♜e2, and I  
didn't see how to trade queens  
quickly.

### 31... ♜b3

Curious is 31... ♜f7!? 32. ♖e7? (32. ♜d4  
♗c6 33. ♖e7+- is correct) 32... ♜f6  
33. ♜h6+ (33. d7? ♜b6+!+- would be  
not too pleasant for White) 33... ♜g8  
34. ♜xh7+ ♜f8 35. ♖xb7 ♗xd6, and  
White hardly can win.; 31... ♜xd6,  
obviously, loses to 32. ♖xe8+-

### 32. ♜d4

Or 32. d7 ♜b6+ 33. ♜h1 ♗d6  
34. ♜h6+-

### 32... ♗b5

Or 32... ♗d7 33. ♖e7+-

### 33. d7 ♗xd7 34. ♜xd7 ♜b6+

### 35. ♜h1 ♗f6 36. ♜e7+ ♜g8 37. ♖e6

### ♜xb2 38. ♜d8+ 1-0

## Solution to Quiz Today

30... ♜h1+! 31. ♜xh1 ♗f2+ 32. ♜g1  
♗xd3 33. ♗d4 ♗xb2 34. ♗e6+ ♜f7  
35. ♗c7 ♗c4 0-1

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**Chess Today is published by:**  
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,  
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel:  
(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-  
1) 283-6839. E-mail: [ct@gmsquare.com](mailto:ct@gmsquare.com)

**Website:** <http://www.chesstoday.net/>

**Editors:** GM Alexander Baburin, GM  
Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir  
Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM  
Maxim Notkin.

**Technical editors:** Graham Brown  
and Ralph P. Marconi.

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