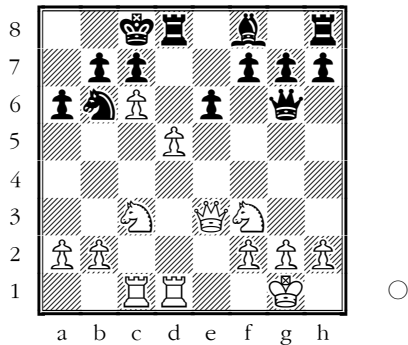
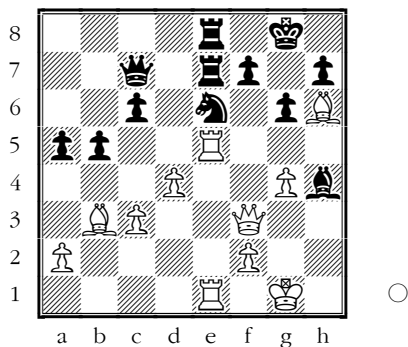


**Test Yourself!**

**Abrahamyan (2281) – Tanaka (2150)**  
45th American Open (6), LA, 2009



**Khachiyan (2530) – Sevillano (2515)**  
45th American Open (4), LA, 2009



**On This Day**

by GM Alex Baburin

Today Uzbek GM Rostam Kasimdzhanov celebrates his 30th birthday. He won the FIDE World Championship in 2004. With his current [rating](#) of 2705, [Kasimdzhanov](#) is the No 32 player in the world.



**World Chess News**

**World Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk**

Today Boris Gelfand and Ruslan Ponomariov both won tiebreak matches with a score 2½-½. Ponomariov was certainly lucky in his first rapid game versus Vugar Gashimov. In short, Ponomariov won, being a piece down.

In the semi-finals Gelfand will play against Sergey Karjakin and Ponomariov will play against Vladimir Malakhov.

**Round 5 full results:**

- Svidler v **Malakhov** ½-1½
- Karjakin** v Mamedyarov 1½-½
- Gelfand** v Jakovenko 3½-1½
- Ponomariov** v Gashimov 3½-1½

[Official website](#)

**Czech Coal Chess Match**

The team *Snowdrops* won the scheveningen match against the team *Old-Hands* with a final score 16½-15½.

**Round 7 results:**

- Lahno – Timman ½-½
- Jackova – Hort 0-1
- Koneru – Huebner ½-½
- A.Muzychuk – Korchnoi ½-½

**Round 8 results:**

- Timman – Jackova ½-½
- Hort – Lahno ½-½
- Korchnoi – Koneru 1-0
- Huebner – A.Muzychuk ½-½

**Individual results:**

**Snowdrops.**

Koneru – 5½ out of 8, A.Muzychuk – 4½, Lahno – 4, Jackova – 2½.

## Old-Hands.

Timman – 4½, Huebner – 4, Korchnoi and Hort – 3½.

[Official website](#)

## The 45th American Open

*by John Hillery*

This tournament, held at the LAX Renaissance Hotel November 26–29, attracted 200 players, along with another 199 in assorted side events. In the 37-player Open section, GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Andranik Matikozyan, and young master Julian Landaw tied for first with 6/8, with Khachiyan taking the first-place trophy on tiebreak. Next at 5½ were IMs Enrico Sevilano and Vladimir Mezentsev and masters Tatev Abrahamyan and Takashi Iwamoto. Randy Hough and Anthony Ong directed. Complete standings are available at tournament's [website](#).

## Podgaets Blitz Memorial

*by GM Mikhail Golubev*

On 3 December 2009 the Mikhail Podgaets blitz memorial took place in the Café Papashon in Odessa. Twelve local players participated.

IM Podgaets not only had potential of becoming a very strong GM, but was also, according to his tournament results not weaker in blitz than anyone in our town, sometimes winning events with many GMs participating. Playing blitz against Karpov was habitual for him during almost two decades.

As it happened, young players, especially IMs dominated the Podgaets Blitz Memorial.

I should be glad with my result, as I was also involved in the organisation. (In order to compensate this, nearly for the first time ever I made a special preparation for a blitz event, playing six [Gibtelecom ICC internet](#) qualifiers on 27–29 November).

My opinions on time controls are not as radical as GM Tkachiev's who [says](#) that less time is better, but blitz can be viewed as one of three main legitimate forms of chess competitions. (And I personally hope that rapid will prevail at the professional level sooner or later). I annotated for today's issue two games from the event.

The tournament was sponsored by [SHAPE Services](#). Its head IM Igor Berezovsky, one of Podgaets' pupils, abstained from playing himself. (Though he could: he is quite a strong amateur; several years ago he made a draw with Rustam Kasimdzhanov in the Bundesliga).

### Final standings:

- 1–2. IMs Fingerov and Bogdanovich – 8½ out of 11 (*Fingerov had more tiebreak points and was declared the winner*)
3. GM Sumets – 8
4. GM Drozdovskij – 7½
- 5–6. GMs Golubev and Tukmakov – 7
7. IM Pichugin – 5
8. GM Eingorn – 4
9. GM Legky – 3½
10. Galakhov – 3
- 11–12. WGM Zdebskaja and IM Bogdanov – 2.

[Photos](#) can be found at the official website.



## Annotated Games

*by GM Mikhail Golubev*

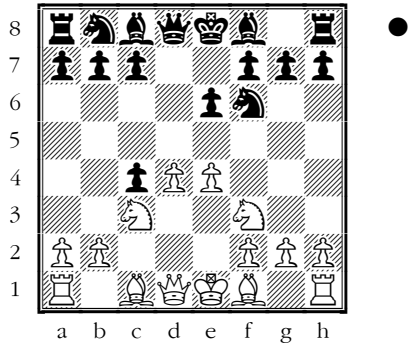
**White: A. Sumets (2604)**

**Black: D. Fingerov (2393)**

Podgaets Memorial Blitz Odessa UKR  
(4), 03.12.2009

*Queen's Gambit Accepted – [D24]*

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3  
dxc4 5.e4 (D)**



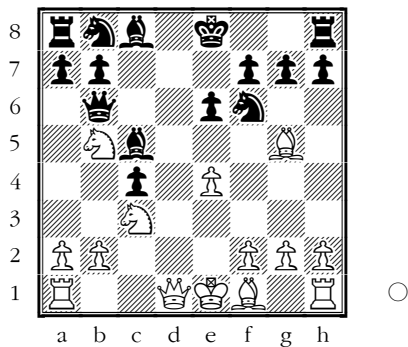
### 5...c5

A usual move is 5...b4

### 6. g5

Much safer is 6.xc4 as in Euwe-Flohr, Hastings 1934/5.

6...cxd4 7. dxd4 e5 8. ddb5 b6!N (D)



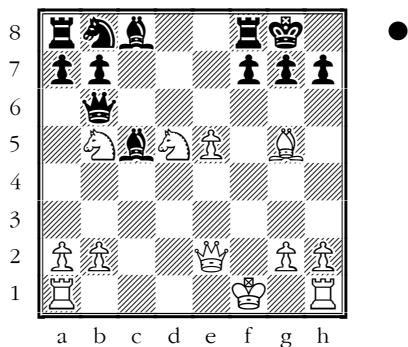
### 9.e5 d5!

Avoiding 9...xf2+ 10.e2 0-0 (10...d5 now allows 11.d6+) 11.exf6 gxf6 12.c1!

### 10. xc4 xf2+

Probably stronger than 10...xc3 11.bxc3 xf2+.

11.f1 0-0! 12. xd5 exd5 13. e2 e5 14. dxd5 (D)



### 14...g6?!

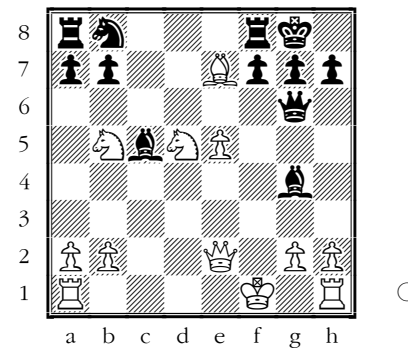
Black is better after 14...e6! with the basic idea of 15.b7 f5+ 16.f4 a6 17.xa8 e6 18.g4 (18.ac7 xc7 19.g4 g6 20.xc7 xg4+)

18...g6 and White's extra rook does not make him happy:

### 15. e7?

Correct was 15.e3! with crazy play. My engines are trying to convince me that White has a very slight advantage after 15...d8! (rather than 15...g4 16.c4! f5+ 17.g1! xe3+ 18.xe3; 15...f5+ 16.e1! d8 17.d1) 16.bc7 e6 (alternatively, 16...f8 17.f4 f5 18.d1 xe5! 19.xd8 xc7±) 17.xc5 xd5 18.d6! (rather than 18.xa8 d7!±) 18...e4 19.d1 c6 20.xa8 xa8! (if 20...xe5 21.xe5! xd1+ 22.xd1 xg2+ 23.e1 xh1+ 24.d2 g2+ 25.c3!±)

15...g4!-+ (D)



And White just loses.

16.d2 f5+ 17.f4 d3+ 0-1.

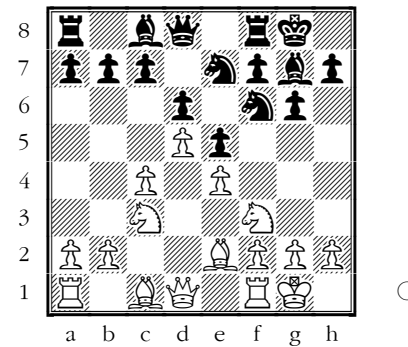
**White: V. Tukmakov (2547)**

**Black: M. Golubev (2492)**

Podgaets Memorial Blitz Odessa UKR (10), 03.12.2009

*King's Indian Defence - [E97]*

1.d4 f6 2.c4 g6 3.d3 g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.e2 e5 7.0-0 c6 8.d5 e7 (D)



### 9. c2

Not a complete surprise, as I briefly saw that Eljanov made this move recently, but I hardly knew even a

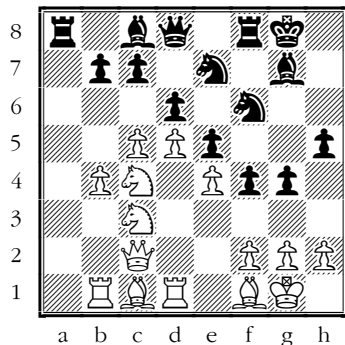
half-move further. White should have something concrete in mind versus 9...♖h5, so I played a less aggressive move.

9...♖d7 10.♞d1!N a5 11.a3 h6  
Avoiding 11...f5 12.♗g5

12.♞b1 f5 13.b4 axb4 14.axb4 f4  
15.c5 ♖f6

Grabbing the pawn favours White:  
15...dxc5?! 16.♗b5!?

16.♖d2 g5 17.♗c4 g4 18.♗f1 h5  
(D)

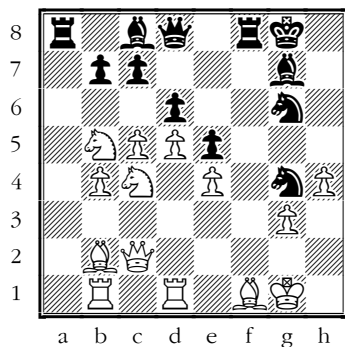


19.♗b2

After 19.cxd6 cxd6 20.♗b5 Black has  
20...♗xe4; Or 19.♗b5 ♗xe4.

19...g3

It was not necessary to attack in such a  
desperate way – possible was 19...h4  
20.fxxg3 fxxg3 21.hxxg3 h4 22.gxxh4  
♗g6 23.♗b5? ♗g4 24.g3 (D)



At this point I was happy with my  
position, which resulted in a big  
mistake on the next move.

24...♞f2? White hardly can be able to  
hold objectively after 24...♗hx4  
25.gxxh4 ♞hx4, one line is 26.♞d3 ♗f2  
27.♗g2 ♗xd3 28.♞xd3 ♞f2+ 29.♞h1  
♞f4 30.♞f1 ♞h4+ 31.♗h3 and now  
31...♗hx3! 32.♞xf2 ♗f1+–+.

25.♞d2 ♞f3 26.♞g2! ♗hx4 27.♗e2!  
Not 27.gxxh4 ♞hx4. But 27.♞e2 ♞xf1+  
28.♞xf1 ♗xg2 29.♞xg2± was also  
good, probably.

27...♗xg2

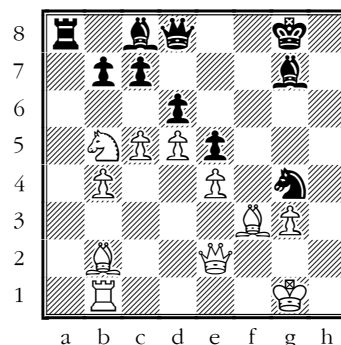
27...♞e3 fails to 28.♗xg4+–

28.♗xf3 ♗2e3 29.♗xe3 ♗xe3

30.♞f2 ♗g4

30...♗c4± is a better chance.

31.♞e2+– (D)



No compensation for Black and  
virtually no time left.

31...♞g5 32.♗c1! ♞g6 33.♗xc7  
1–0.

### Solutions to our Quiz:

**Abrahamyan** (2281) – **Tanaka** (2150)  
45th American Open (6), LA, 2009

17.♗a4! ♗xa4 18.♞a7 bxc6  
19.♗e5 1–0.

**Khachiyan** (2530) – **Sevillano** (2515)

45th American Open (4), LA, 2009  
30.♞xe6! fxe6 31.♞xe6 ♞xe6  
32.♗xe6+ ♞h8 33.♗f4! 1–0.

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