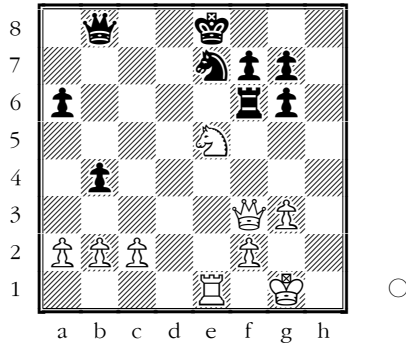


Test Yourself!

Brandenburg (2522) - Dambacher
 (2496) Meesterklasse, NED, 2011-12



On this Day...

Swedish Grandmaster, Emanuel Berg, was born on 28 December 1981 in Skövde. His current rating is 2566 and his highest ELO so far has been 2627, achieved on the November 2010 rating list.



World Chess News

Reggio Emilia

This double round robin category 20 event is underway in Italy.

GM Alexander Morozevich won two games with Black and is leading after two rounds with 6 points (the Bilbao System is being used). Please find games and some very light notes in today's game database file.

GM Anish Giri revealed on Twitter that his curious novelty (effectively, the exchange sacrifice) from the game against Vassily Ivanchuk was a preparation. The game turned out to be not particularly easy for Black, nevertheless.

Round 1 results:

Ivanchuk - Giri ½-½
 Vitiugov - Nakamura 0-1
 Caruana - Morozevich 0-1

Round 2 results:

Nakamura - Caruana ½-½
 Ivanchuk - Vitiugov ½-½
 Giri - Morozevich 0-1

Dutch Team Championship 2011/12

by René Olthof

For over three decades the Highest Division of the Dutch Team Championship called Meesterklasse has been dominated by sponsored clubs, first Rotterdam, then Breda (now defunct) and finally Groningen and HSG Hilversum. Now that maecenas Joop van Oosterom after 30 years of loyal financial support of HSG has stopped all his activities in the world of chess, the Dutch title is up for grabs for the first time and there was no clear pre-season favourite.

Almost halfway through we can take stock and we see that the club with the lowest team average (under 2300) is actually in the lead. Against all rating odds Stukkenjagers (from the city of Tilburg), headed by German IM Jan Sprenger and experienced trainer IM Herman Grooten, have won all their matches so far, and convincingly so. Some victories could in fact have been even higher.

The top scorers for Stukkenjagers have been teen brother and sister Mark (4) and Anne Haast (3½). The latter beat IGM Jan Werle and IM Martin Martens along the way, resulting in a performance rating of 2655.

It's the world upside down. The big question now is: how much longer will this fairy tale continue? In round 5 on January 7, 2012, Stukkenjagers will play next door neighbours

HMC Calder, the highest rated squad of the league who managed to lose their first three matches by the narrowest of margins.

[Crosstable](#)

GM Tseshkovsky's Last Game

Vitaly Tseshkovsky's (1944–2011) opponent, GM Mikhail Panarin, in his last game, [wrote](#) about this tragic encounter, in Russian, and provided the game itself, which was not completed.

The moves of Tseshkovsky's last game can be found in today's game database file.

San Sebastian

WGM and journalist Anastasia Karlovich has distributed the following news:

"Dear Friends!

A very special tournament will take place in San Sebastian from 28th of December till 6th of January. The program includes A, B, C tournaments and blitz competition. It is devoted to the famous chess tournament which was held one century ago in San Sebastian and won by José Raúl Capablanca. [The] A and B tournaments will be played by using a new "Basque System".

The prize fund of the event is 100,000 euro (the first prize is 20,000 euro + electric motorbike). The list of participants includes 10 players rated over 2700.

General information:

As you all know, the very first super tournaments, as we know them today, took place in the former casino of Donostia–San Sebastian in 1911 & 1912, the first winner being a certain rookie called Jose Raul Capablanca.

We wanted to celebrate this Centenary organizing a very special event, from Wednesday Dec 28th, to Thursday Jan 5th, right in between 2011 and 2012. It will be a knock-out tournament with some modifications, as the players who get eliminated will keep playing in a parallel group. And the main novelty is that, following David Bronstein's idea, matches will consist of two games of classical chess played simultaneously. So no one has the advantage of playing the first game with the white pieces.

The idea came up to our mind when Professor Ignacio Palacios Huerta, from the London School of Economics (specialized in fields like Games Theory, Psychology applied to Economics, and Decision Taking), gave a speech during the Grand Slam Final, in Bilbao 2010. Ignacio shared with us the results of a very interesting research, in which he demonstrated the importance of having the white pieces during the first game in a chess match. According to his research, "when two players play a series of chess games against one another, alternating who plays with the white pieces, the player who plays with the white pieces in the first game – and so plays with the white pieces in the odd games – wins more matches than the player who plays with the white pieces in the even games". And, the more levelled these players are, the more relevance this phenomenon gains. ([More info](#))

This combination of Bronstein's old idea and Palacio's modern analysis, we have christened as [the] "Basque System".

27th of December

During the opening ceremony a friendly match between French and Basque players was held. Each team had 6 participants. [The] Basque team was represented by Felix Izeta, Unai Garbisu, Alex Franco, Mikel Huerga, Santi Gonzalez, Patrice Etchegaray and [the] French team consisted of Sebastien Maze, Fabien Libiszewski, Eric Prie, Alex Delorme, Christophe Philippe, Jean Baptiste Mullon.

Despite the tough struggle both matches were drawn. Results: www.grossake.com

The main organiser of the tournament in San Sebastian, GM Felix Izeta, was playing on the first board for [the] Basque team and won both games against French GM, Sebastien Maze.

28th of December

According to the rules only 64 players can participate in [the] A-group but 79 players showed their will to play there. Thus the last 15 participants of the A-group were decided during the preliminary round. The first round of A, B, C tournaments will start at 3 p.m. (local time) on the 29th of December".

Chess Today News on Twitter

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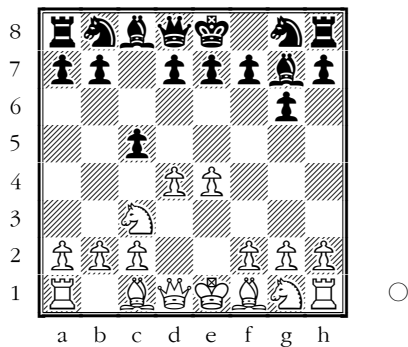
Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

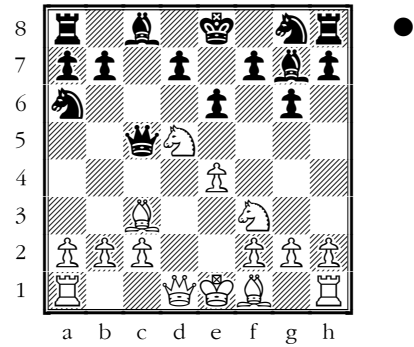
I. Ivanisevic (2636) – Z. Stanojoski (2470) 3rd Balkan GP, Podgorica (9), 2011, *Robatsch Defense – [B06]*

Today we will look at the nice win by GM Ivan Ivanisevic who won this year's Balkan Championship.

1.d4 g6 2.e4 ♘g7 3.♗c3 c5 (D)



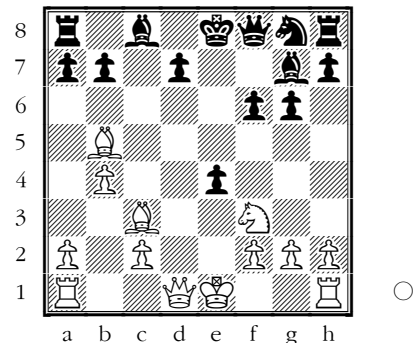
4.dxc5 ♖a5 5.♙d2 ♜xc5 6.♗d5!
This is a difficult line for Black.
6...♗a6 7.♗f3 e6 8.♙c3 (D)



8...f6

8...♙xc3+ most often occurs 9.♗xc3♠ where Black has problems. Somewhat better for White is 8...♜f8?! 9.♙xg7+ ♜xg7 10.♗c3.

9.b4! ♜f8 10.♙xa6 exd5 11.♙b5N dxe4 (D)



12.0-0! ♝ exf3?!

Black should have tried 12...f5.

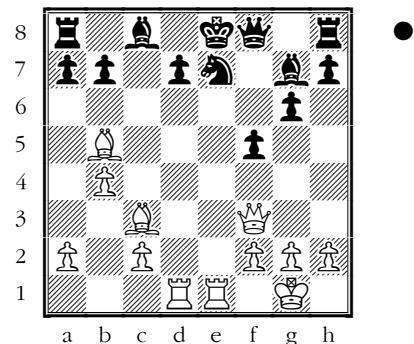
13.♙e1+ ♗e7 14.♜xf3

Here a good alternative was 14.♜d4!±

14...f5?

A more stubborn continuation was 14...♜f7 15.♜e3 ♜d8

15.♙ad1 (D)



15...h5

After 15...a6 good enough is 16.♙c4.

16.♙xd7+!

Using... the weakening of the Black's g6 pawn.

16...♙xd7

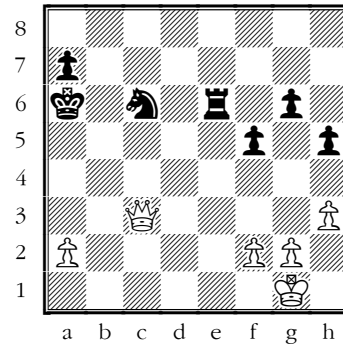
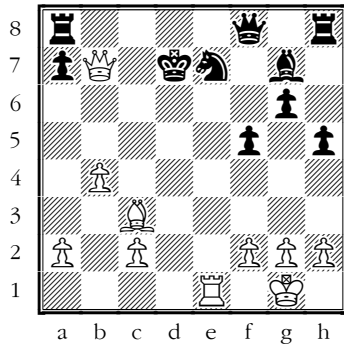
17.♙xd7

♜xd7

18.♜xb7+ (D)

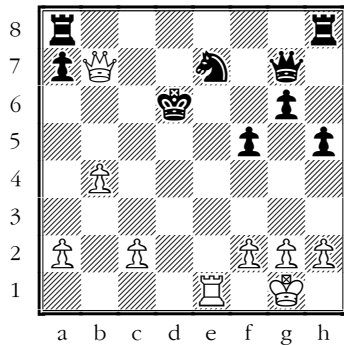
This issue is prepared by GM Mikhail Golubev; technical editor: Ralph Marconi

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18...♙d6

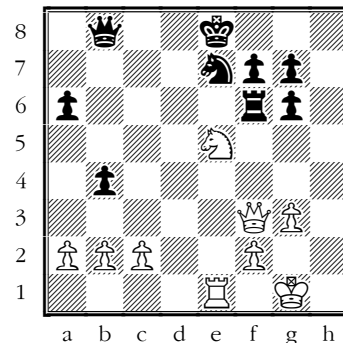
Or 18...♙e8 19.♚c6+ ♖f7 20.♚e6+ ♙e8 21.♚xg6+ ♙d7 22.♞d1+ ♙c7 23.♚d6+ ♙b7 24.♚d7+ ♙b8 25.♚b5+! ♙c8 26.♚c4+ ♙b8 27.♞d7 ♚d8□ 28.♚f4+ ♙c8 29.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 30.♚f3! ♙xc3 31.♚xa8+ ♙d7 32.♚xa7+ and White should win step by step.
19.♙xg7 ♚xg7 (D)



Black cannot avoid further material losses. **1-0.**

Solution to Our Quiz:

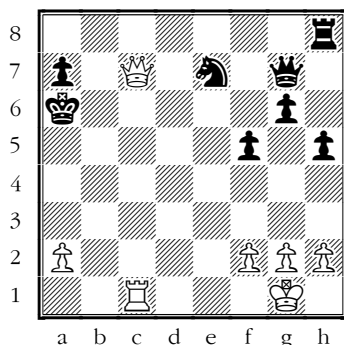
Brandenburg (2522) - Dambacher (2496) Meesterklasse, NED, 2011-12



20.c4!!+-

And Black is helpless.

20...♞ac8 21.c5+ ♞xc5 22.bxc5+ ♙xc5 23.♚c7+ ♙d5 24.♚d7+ ♙c5 25.♞c1+ ♙b6 26.♚c7+ ♙a6 (D)



26.♚h1! 1-0.

27.♞c6+

Here White could have played for the checkmate: 27.♞b1!
27...♙xc6 28.♚xg7 ♞e8 29.h3 ♞e6 30.♚c3! (D)

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