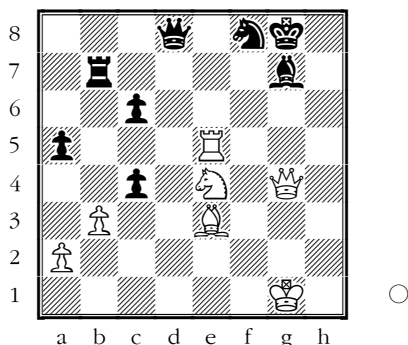
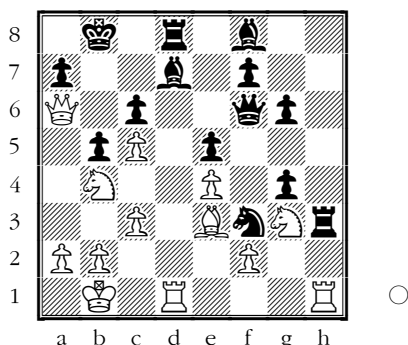


Test Yourself!

Jakovljevic (2440) – Vukic (2481)
8th GM Banja Luka (7), 28.07.2007



Socko (2479) – Velikhanli (2283)
2nd Women's Baku (1), 04.09.2007



World Chess News

The Tal Memorial

After the bloodshed on the previous day, the 4th round was totally peaceful. Thus the standings did not change.

Round 4 results:

Kamsky – Kramnik ½–½
Carlsen – Mamedyarov ½–½
Leko – Alekseev ½–½
Shirov – Ivanchuk ½–½
Gelfand – Jakovenko ½–½

Standings after 4 rounds:

1–3. Kramnik, Carlsen and Mamedyarov – 2
4–7. Leko, Alekseev, Shirov and Gelfand – 1½
8–10. Ivanchuk, Kamsky and Jakovenko – 1

Round 5 pairings:

Kramnik – Shirov
Mamedyarov – Shirov
Ivanchuk – Carlsen
Alekseev – Kamsky
Jakovenko – Leko

[Official website](#)

Chess Champions League

In the penultimate round Topalov beat Ponomarev to take over the sole lead.

Round 9 results:

Topalov – Ponomarev 1–0
Nisipeanu – Polgar ½–½
Kasimdzhanov – Karpov 1–0

Standings before the final round:

1. Topalov – 6
2. Ponomarev – 5½
3. Polgar – 5
4. Nisipeanu – 4½
5. Kasimdzhanov – 3½
6. Karpov – 2½

[Official website](#)

Leeuwarden, Netherlands

by Peter Boel

Last weekend an interesting event was held in Leeuwarden, Holland. GM **Yge Visser** won a round-robin tournament between 6 strong Frisian players with 3½/5, ahead of GM Werle, GM Ernst, FM De Jong, GM Van der Weide and IM Wiersma. A strong open, held there, ended in a tie between seven players: GM's Tiviakov, Kritz, Epishin, Ikonnikov, Degraeve, Gharamian and Dutch IM Brandenburg, all on 4½/6.

All information as well as games and analyses can be found on www.philidor160.nl

Leuven Open, Belgium

by Leander Laruelle

This traditional tournament finished last Sunday. The winner on tie-break was IM **Hovhanisian Mher** (2422), who is now living in Belgium. He and GM Sergey Fedorchuk (2618) both scored 6 points in 7 games. Five players, including Swedish GM Ralf Akesson (2477), finished on 5½ points.

In round 5 IM Mher defeated the Elo-favourite GM Fedorchuk in a spectacular game in the Nimzo-Indian. You can see that game with brief notes from the Schaakfabriek [website](#) in today's CT database.

[Official website](#); [reports](#) (in Dutch)

Russia's Cup

Results of the ¼ Final:

Zvjaginsev – B. Savchenko 1½–½

Lysyj – **Malakhov** 1½–2½

Timofeev – Bareev 4–2

Tomashevsky – Sakaev 2½–1½

Semi-finals, Game 1:

Malakhov – Timofeev ½–½

Zvjaginsev – Tomashevsky 1–0

[Official website](#)

OIBM Bad Wiessee

After 3 rounds 26 players have perfect scores, including GMs Postny, Halkias, Korneev and Baramidze. GMs Shabalov, Khenkin and Eingorn are on 2½. [Official website](#)

SPICE Cup, Texas

Standings after 5 rounds:

1. Perelshteyn – 4

2. G. Hernandez – 3

3. Beccerra – 2½/4

4–6. Leon Hoyos, Krush and D.Schneider – 2½

7. Hera – 2/4

8. Miton – 1½/3

9. Lugo – 1½

10. Gulko – 1

Online coverage: www.monroi.com and Susan Polgar's [blog](#).

Spanish Championship

Semi-finals, Game 1:

San Segundo – Illescas ½–½

Khamrakulov – Lopez Martinez ½–½

[Official website](#)

Indian Women's Ch

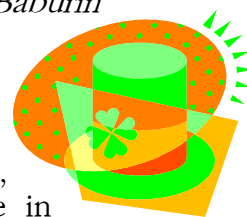
After 9 rounds WGM Swathi Ghate (2316), WGM Tania Sachdev (2413) and WIM Kiran Manisha Mohanty (2263) are leading with 6½ points. There are two rounds left.

[Official website](#)

Play Chess in Ireland!

by GM Alex Baburin

Ireland may be still lagging behind Spain or The Netherlands in the number of tournaments held every year, but it can certainly compete in their quality and enjoyment. Below is list of tournaments which I recommend. Please note that most Irish tournaments are held over 3 days (one round on Friday, 3 – on Saturday and 2 – on Sunday). They are not FIDE rated, with very few exceptions (when there are no more than 2 rounds per day). Usually there 2–4 sections, according to rating.



Kilkenny Chess Congress 23–25 November 2007

Kilkenny Congress is probably Ireland's best-known tournament. I first came to that medieval town in 1993 or 1994 – and I don't think I have ever missed a tournament in Kilkenny since! I have strong ties with the Kilkenny Chess Club (of which Boris Spassky is the Honorary President!) and play for it. In the past some famous players came to Kilkenny Congress – such as Michael Adams, Jan Timman, John Nunn, Sergei Tiviakov and many others. This year several England's internationals will compete in Kilkenny – GMs Mark Hebden, Stuart Conquest and Peter Wells. Yours truly will be there too. I heard that Kilkenny recently won "Best Town of Europe" award, so it is well-worth a visit! For more information or to enter e-mail Alan Dooley at ajdooley1@eircom.net or call him at 353-5677-637-21.

The Leinster Chess Ch 2007 28–30 December 2007

This is one of few tournaments held in Dublin. Entries to: Mick Germaine, 59 Russell Avenue East, East Wall, Dublin 3. Ireland. Phone (353-1) 855-6576, e-mail: mlgermaine@eircom.net

Bunratty Chess Congress 22–24 February 2008

This is Ireland's biggest chess event, with about 300 players competing every year. The playing venue is great, there is an ancient castle and a folk park nearby. Though Bunratty is about 20 km away from Limerick and it is a small village, there are several good restaurants there. Close proximity to Shannon airport helps too. Such dignitaries as GMs Nunn, Benjamin, Fedorowicz, Speelman and King attended this tournament in the past. Again, I plan to take part next year. For more information contact Gerry Graham at gerrygraham@eircom.net or visit the tournament's [website](#).

16th Cork Chess Congress 28–30 March 2008

Cork is the second largest city in the Republic and its annual chess tournament is very popular. In 2005 Cork held the EU Championship. I played in Cork many times and intend to come there again next March. Its venue, the Metropole Hotel, is close to the city centre. For more information visit tournament's [website](#) or send e-mail to corkchess@gmail.com

For more information on Irish chess tournaments, visit www.icu.ie – don't forget about the Galway Open (September) and Limerick Open (October), as well Bray Congress (June) and many others!

Annotated Game

by IM Max Notkin

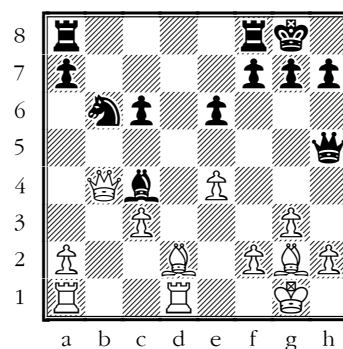
White: D. Jakovenko (2710)

Black: M. Carlsen (2714)

2nd Tal Memorial Moscow (3),
12.11.2007

Nimzo-Indian defense – [E20]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♙b4 4.♗f3
c5 5.g3 cxd4 6.♗xd4 0-0 7.♙g2 d5
8.cxd5 ♗xd5 9.♖b3 ♖a5 10.♙d2
♗c6 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.0-0 ♙xc3
13.bxc3 ♙a6 14.♙fd1 ♖c5 15.e4
♙c4 16.♖a4 ♗b6 17.♖b4 ♖h5 (D)



18.♙f4

A new fashion in this well-known theoretical position. Previously 18.♙e3 was tried when the games Van Wely – Short, Wijk aan Zee 2000 and Bacrot – Leko, Moscow 2004 have verified that after 18...♙e2 19.♙d2 ♖ab8 20.♙xb6 axb6 21.♖d6 ♖fc8 Black equalizes.

18...c5

This issue is prepared by IM Max Notkin; technical editor: Graham Brown

Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to <http://www.chesstoday.net>

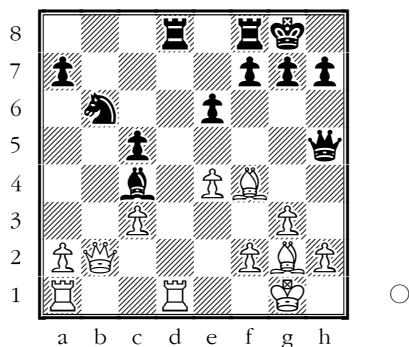
CT-318 (2563) Page 3 of 5

Jakovenko himself played 18...e5 here. This year his game against Wang Yue from Russia vs China match ended in a draw after 19.♖e3 ♗e2 20.♞d2 (Najer – Jakovenko, Russian Ch Superfinal, Moscow 2006 saw 20.♞e1 ♗c4 21.♞c5 ♞fd8 22.♞ab1 h6 23.h3 ♗xe3 24.♞xe3 ♗c4 25.a4 and Black went for a pawn sacrifice 25...a5 26.♞c5 ♗e6 27.h4 ♞d2 28.♞xc6 ♞c8 29.♞b5 ♞xc3 30.♞xa5 ♞cc2 with good counterplay) 20...♞ab8 21.♞c5 ♗f3 22.a4 ♗xa4 23.♞xc6 ♗b6 24.♗xb6 axb6 ½–½.. The most recent game on the subject Grischuk – Gelfand, Mexico City 2007 continued 18...♗e2 19.♞e1 c5 20.♞b3 e5 21.♗c1 ♞ac8 22.a4 ♗c4 23.♞b2 and White retained slight pressure due to the vulnerability of the black queenside pawns.

19.♞b2

In Van Wely – Karjakin, Wijk aan Zee 2007 White opted for 19.♞a5 and after 19...♞fc8 20.h3 f6 21.♗e3 e5 22.♗xc5 ♗e6 23.♗xb6 axb6 24.♞xb6 ♗xh3 25.♗xh3 ♞xh3 26.♞b7 h5 Black's counter attack proved to be sufficient for a draw. GM Konstantin Landa suggested 26.♞b3+ as a more subtle continuation for White and 22...♗e2 as a clear improvement for Black.

19...♞ad8 (D)



A new move. Grischuk against Bacrot in Poikovsky 2005 found himself in a difficult ending after 19...e5 20.♗e3 ♞fc8 21.f3 ♞g6 22.a4 a5 23.♗h3 ♗e6? (in case of the correct 23...♞cb8 Black should maintain equality as the analysis by Gavrikov and Ftacnik show) 24.♞xb6 ♗xh3 25.♞xg6 fxg6 26.♞f2±.

20.♞e1

During his preparation Carlsen should have examined 20.f3 when White refuses to cede the d-file to which he probably prepared 20...♗d3!? and if

21.♗c7 ♞d7 22.♗xb6 axb6 23.♞xb6 ♞dd8! followed by ...♞b8 and ...c5–c4 with compensation for a pawn. The position 20.♞xd8 ♞xd8 21.h3 ♞d1+ 22.♞xd1 ♞xd1+ 23.♞h2 ♗f1 is about even.

20...♞d7

The a7 pawn is safely protected now.

21.h3 h6 22.a4

According to Ian Nepomniachtchi this move may be dubious as it permits the following Black regrouping. White could consider 22.♗e3 or 22.♞a3 aiming at the c5 pawn and leaving the a-file free for the queen manoeuvres. In case of 22.g4 ♞g6 Black should be fine due to the ideas ...h5 or even ...f5.

22...♗a6!

The knight is coming to c4 to disturb White's dark-squared bishop.

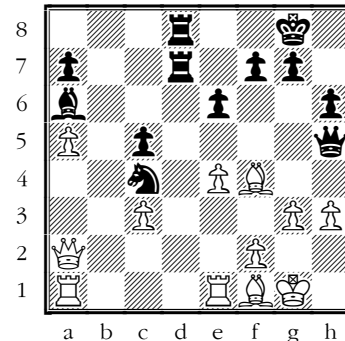
23.♞a2

After 23.a5 ♗c4 and 24...e5 Black seizes the initiative.

23...♞fd8

23...♗c4? is premature on account of 24.♗f1 e5 25.♗c1 ♞f3 26.♗xh6! (not 26.♗xc4 ♞xc3! and Black escapes) 26...gxh6 27.♗xc4 with an extra pawn for White.

24.a5 ♗c4 25.♗f1? (D)



25.e5 was essential to stop ...e6–e5. After 25...g5 26.g4 ♞g6 27.♗g3 ♞d2 28.♞a4 White's position looks awkward but there's no direct danger to it.

25...e5 26.g4

26.♗c1 loses nicely to 26...♗d2! 27.♗xd2 (27.♗xa6 ♗f3+) 27...♞xd2 28.♞a3 ♞xf2! 29.♞xf2 ♞d2+ 30.♞g1 ♞f3! mating. To 26.♗xh6 Black also replies 26...♗d2! when after 27.♗xa6 ♞xh6 White should offer the exchange by 28.♗f1 (as in case of 28.♗e2 ♞xh3 with idea ...♞d6 Black has a decisive attack.) 26.♗xc4 is of no avail either as after 26...♗xc4 27.♞xc4 exf4 White's kingside collapses.

26...♖g6 27.♙xc4

In case of 27.♙g3 ♖d2 followed by ...♗b2 Black has a large advantage

27...exf4 28.♙d5

After 28.♙xa6 ♖xa6 the black heavy pieces will penetrate via the d-file.

28...f3 29.c4

The unsound attempt to cut off the black bishop from the f3 pawn. The best practical chance was 29.♖e3 ♙e2 30.♖xe2 fxe2 31.♖xe2 ♖b8±.

29...h5 30.♗h2 ♖f6

Simpler is 30...hxc4 31.♖g1 ♖f6 but anyway White has nothing better than to transpose to the game.

31.♖g1?! hxc4?!

Missing the first opportunity to strike 31...♙xc4!

32.♙ab1?

Once again underestimating the bishop sacrifice. Jakovenko noticed 32.♖xc4 ♙xc4! 33.♖xc4 (33.♙xc4 ♖d2 34.♙xf7+ ♖f8 and Black wins) 33...♖xa1 34.♖xc5 when White would be the exchange down and therefore he took the rook away from the attacked square. However White should have figured out that the d5 point needs extra protection. 32.♙ad1 allowed to prolong the game.

32...♙xc4! 33.♖xc4 ♖f4+ 34.♖g3 ♖xd5!

The rook is untouchable as the white queen is hanging.

35.♖xd5

After 35.hxc4 ♖d1! Black's attack is unstoppable.

35...♖xd5 36.exd5 c4 37.♖d1 c3 38.d6 c2 39.♖d3 ♖c4

The cool decision. Black could also win with many queens on the board after 39...c1♖ 40.d7 ♖c2 41.d8♖+ ♖h7 42.♖h4+ ♖h6

40.♖e3 ♖c6

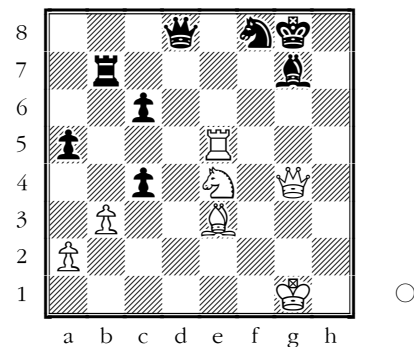
40...♖f1! would lead to checkmate.

41.♖d3 ♖c5 0-1

Solution to our Quiz:

Jakovljevic (2440) – Vukic (2481)

8th GM Banja Luka (7), 28.07.2007



45.♖e8! ♖d3

45...♖xe8 46.♗f6+, 45...♖c7 46.♙c5

46.♖xf8+! ♖xf8 47.♖c8+ ♖f7

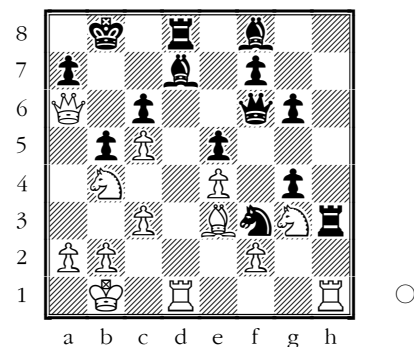
48.♖xb7+ ♖e6

48...♖g8 49.♖c8+ ♙f8 50.♖e6+ ♖h8

51.♗g5 49.♗c5+ 1-0

Socko (2479) – Velikhanli (2283)

2nd Women's Baku (1), 04.09.2007



29.♖xd7! ♖xh1+ 30.♗xh1 ♖xd7

31.♗xc6+ ♖c7

31...♖a8 32.♖c8#

32.♖xa7+!

32.♖xa7+ ♖xc6 (32...♖c8 33.♖b8#)

33.♖b6# 1-0

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](#) – 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: ababurin@iol.ie Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net> Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev. IMs Barskij, Notkin and Deviatkin. Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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