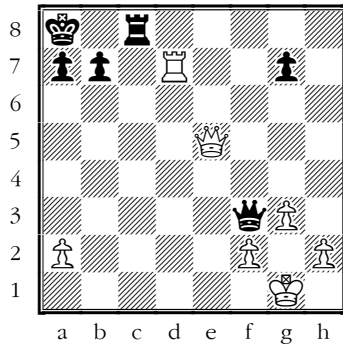
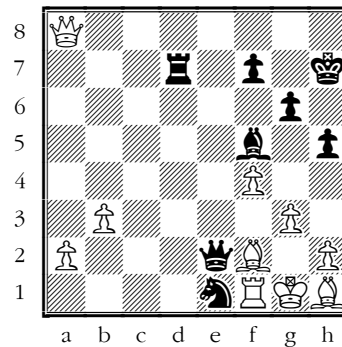


Test Yourself!

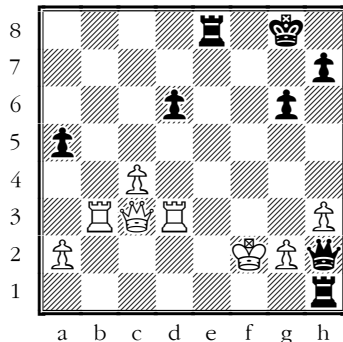
Vachier-Lagrave (2711) - Grigoryan (2513) Al Ain Classic (5), 26.12.2012



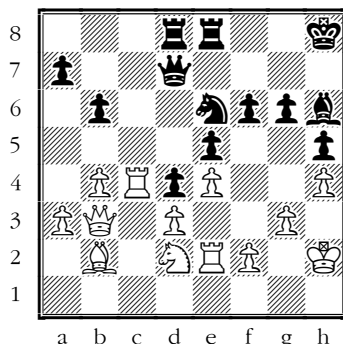
Bakre (2492) - Senador (2352)
Al Ain Classic (6), 27.12.2012



Van Kampen (2570) - Ernst (2562)
Groningen Open (6), 27.12.2012



Burg (2498) - Bok (2522)
Groningen Open (6), 27.12.2012



On This Day

by GM Alex Baburin

Argentinean GM Miguel Quinteros was born on the 28th of December 1947. [Quinteros](#) represented Argentina in six Chess Olympiads between 1970 and 1984.

World Chess News



World Cities Team Championship



This tournament has just finished in Al-Ain in the United Arab Emirates.

The final match:

Hoogeveen - Baku	2½-1½
Giri - Safarli	½-½
I. Sokolov - R. Mamedov	½-½
Tiviakov - N. Mamedov	1-0
Smeets - Durarbayli	½-½

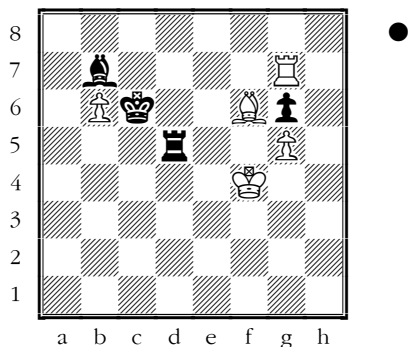
Match for the 3rd place:

Novi Sad - Tashkent	2-2
Ivanisevic - Dzhumayev	1-0
Markus - Kvon	½-½
Perunovic - Barsov	½-½
Sedlak - Iuldachev	0-1

The Serbian team probably finished third as it won on a higher board.

In the main match Tiviakov kept his opponent under pressure for a long time and finally Black blundered:

Tiviakov(2663) – N. Mamedov(2602)
World Cities TKO Al-Ain (4), 2012



After 87...♙xb6 88.♞xg6 ♞d1 the maximum what White can hope for would be the endgame ♞+♙ vs. ♞.

I am not sure what Black was trying to achieve when he "improved" on that line: **87...♞f5+ 88.♜g4 ♜xb6??** 88...♞b5 would be still OK for Black. **89.♙d4+! 1-0**

Two French GMs dominated the open tournament in Al-Ain:

Final standings:

1-2. GMs Edouard (FRA, 2686) and Vachier-Lagrave (FRA, 2711) – 7/9, 3-7. GMs Kotanjian (ARM, 2518), Golizadeh (IRI, 2476), Wang Yue (CHN, 2696), Ehlvest (USA, 2603) and Parligras (ROU, 2628) – 6½, etc (166 players)

[Official website](#)

The AICF-AAI Cup, New Delhi

Standings after 8 rounds:

1-2. Korobov (UKR, 2702) and Alekseev (RUS, 2691) – 4½, 3-4. Wojtaszek (POL, 2734) and Sasikiran (IND, 2676) – 4, 5-6. Gupta (IND, 2662) and Negi (IND, 2641) – 3½

[Official website](#)

Groningen Open

The 50th edition of the Groningen Chess Festival is in progress in the Netherlands.

Standings after 7 rounds:

1. GM Andriasian (ARM, 2605) – 6, 2-5. GM Kovchan (UKR, 2579), GM Ernst (NED, 2562), IM Pancevski (MKD, 2512) and GM Michalik (SVK, 2508) – 5½, etc (91 players)

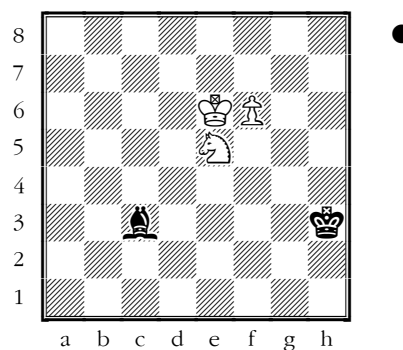
Round 8 top pairings:

Andriasian – Michalik
Kovchan – S. Ernst
Pancevski – van Kampen

One endgame from round 7 drew my attention:

Breder (2438) – E. Hansen (2539)

Groningen Open (7), 27.12.2012



Black can draw with best play, but finding the best move is easy only for the endgame tablebases!

72...♙d2?

Black had to play 72...♙b4! 73.♜g6 ♙c3 74.f7 ♙g7=.

73.f7 ♙h6 74.♜f6?

White could win using the f6-square for his knight – 74.♜f5! ♜h4 75.♜d7 ♜h5 76.♜f6+ ♜h4 77.♜h7 ♜h5 78.♜f6□.

74...♜h4 75.♜f3+ ♜h5 76.♜d4 ♙f8 77.♜e6 ♙a3 78.♜g7+ ♜h6 79.♜f5+ ♜h7 80.♜e6 ♜g6 81.♜d4 ♜g7 82.♜c6 ♙c5 83.♜e5 ♙a3 84.♜d7 ♙b4 85.♜f6 ♙a3 86.♜d5 ♙c5 87.♜e7 ♙a3 88.♜f5+ ♜g6 89.♜e3 ♜g7 90.♜g4 ♙b4 91.♜e5 ♙a3 92.♜c6 ♙c5 93.♜d8 ♙a3 94.♜d7 ♜f8 95.♜e6 ♜g7 96.♜c6 ♙c5 ½-½

[Official website](#)

Annotated Game

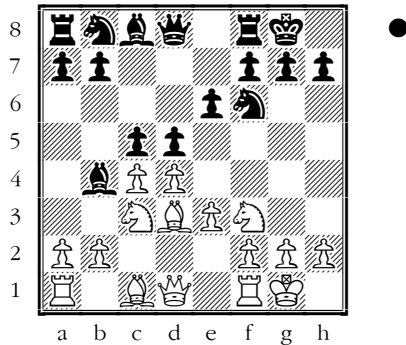
by GM Alex Baburin

Tabatabaei (2134) – Mammadov

(2459) Al Ain Classic (1), 22.12.2012

The Nimzo-Indian Defence; E53

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♖b4 4.e3
d5 5.♕d3 0-0 6.♗f3 c5 7.0-0 (D)



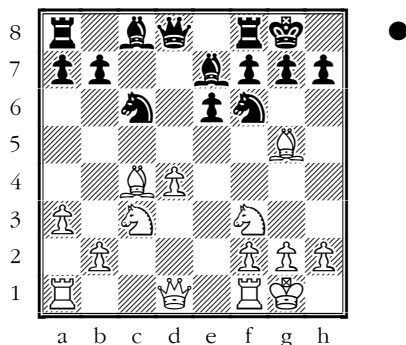
This is one of the main positions in the Nimzo-Indian Defence.

7...cxd4 Black has opted to play against the isolated d4-pawn. The more popular plans are 7...♗c6 8.a3 ♗xc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10.♗xc4 ♖c7 and 7...dxc4 8.♗xc4 ♗bd7, when Black keeps the tension in the centre.

8.exd4 dxc4 9.♗xc4 ♗c6

If Black fails to put sufficient pressure on the d4-pawn, the c6-knight might be misplaced – it blocks the a8-h1 diagonal (if Black later plays ...♗b7), blocks the file and "invites" the d4-d5 thrust. If Black wants to take on c3 later, this knight would be better off on d7, where it also protects the f6-knight. Having said that, Black's move isn't a mistake. Still, moves like 9...b6, 9...♗bd7 and 9...a6 are far more popular and give Black better results in practice.

10.♗g5 ♗e7 11.a3 (D)



11...h6 Black should be careful playing this move in the IQP positions as it weakens his kingside. He can also take care of the c8-bishop first by playing 11...a6 or 11...b6. Then White usually develops his pieces according to the following plan: ♖d1-d3, ♗a1-d1, ♗c4-a2-b1 and ♗f1-e1.

12.♗h4 One should not assume that this is an "automatic" retreat – White can also consider 12.♗e3!? or 12.♗f4.

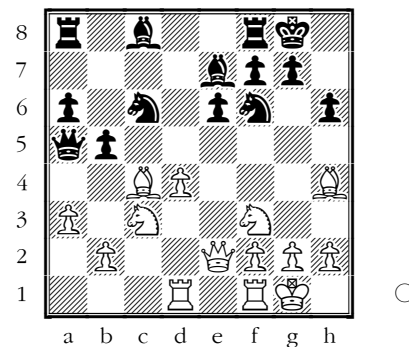
12...♗a5

White gets a pleasant position after 12...♗d5 13.♗xd5 exd5 14.♗xe7 ♗xe7 15.♗b3± S. Ernst – Kempinski, Hoogeveen 2010. I think that Black should try 12...♗h5!? as Karpov once played against Korchnoi in a similar position. After 13.♗xe7 ♗xe7 Black plays ...♗f6 and then ♗c8-d7-c6, with a solid enough position. Black can also try 12...♗e4 13.♗xe7 ♗xc3 14.bxc3 ♗xe7 15.♗e5 ♗c7 as in the game Benko-Lokvenc, Marianske Lazne 1951.

13.♗e2 a6

Playing 13...g5 14.♗g3 g4 15.♗e5 ♗xd4 requires a lot of optimism, even if this line is objectively OK. Still, it might be a more logical follow-up to 12...♗a5 – mixing that move with the plan ...a6 and ...b5 does not look right.

14.♗ad1 b5 (D)



15.♗b3 Fritz suggests the immediate action in the centre – 15.d5 exd5 16.♗xd5 bxc4 17.♗xe7+ ♗xe7 18.♗xf6 ♗g6 19.♗c3, but I prefer the way White played in the game.

15...b4 16.♗e4

16.axb4!? ♗xb4 17.d5!.

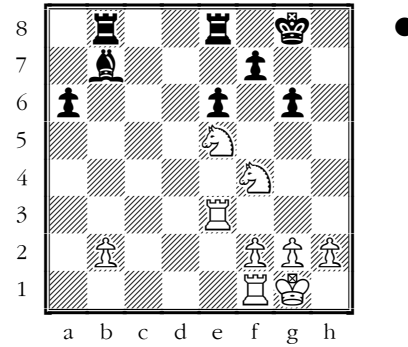
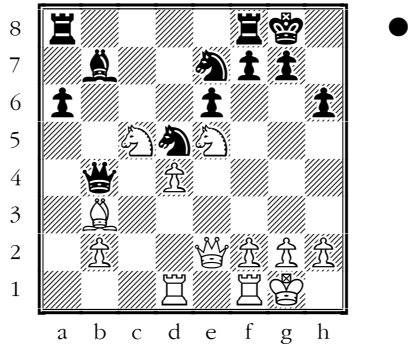
16...♗d5

16...♗xe4? 17.♗xe4 ♗xh4 18.♗c2!+-.

17.♗xe7 ♗cxe7 17...♗dxe7.

18.axb4 ♗xb4 19.♗c5 ♗b7

20.♗e5 (D)



The white knights have landed in nice positions but Black can't complain either – he has developed all his pieces and his controls the d5-square very well. The next few moves will be very important for the outcome of this game. Unfortunately for him, Black did not play well at that critical moment:

20...♟f4?!

It was better to play 20...♞ac8!?

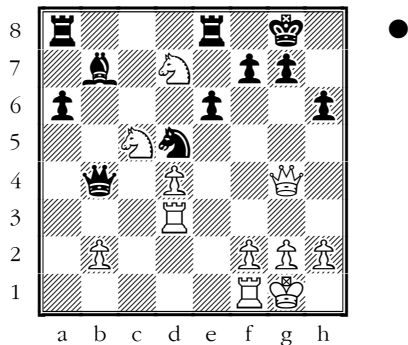
21.♞g4 ♟ed5?

The bishop will soon cause Black a lot of problems, so it was time to rid of it or at least relocate it by playing 21...♞d5.

22.♞xd5!? ♟xd5 23.♟ed7 ♞fe8?

♞23...♞fc8.

24.♞d3! (D)

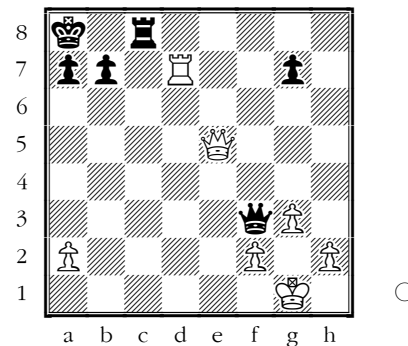


The rest was clear.

32...♞ed8 33.♞b3 ♞e4 34.♞xb8 ♞xb8 35.♟d7 ♞b4 36.♟f6+ ♞g7 37.♟xe4 ♞xe4 38.♟d3 ♞d4 39.♞d1 1-0

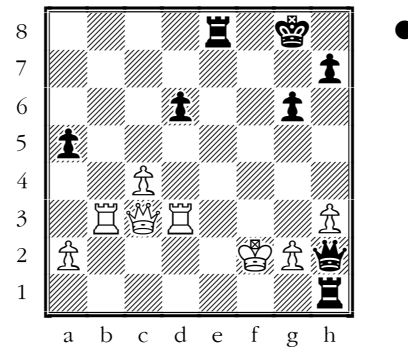
Solutions to our Quiz:

Vachier-Lagrave (2711) – Grigoryan (2513) Al Ain Classic (5), 26.12.2012



35.♞c7! 1-0

Van Kampen (2570) – Ernst (2562) Groningen Open (6), 27.12.2012



Here the rook lift, which is typical for the IQP positions, is particularly dangerous for Black as he has to deal not only with the threat of ♞g3, but also with the more direct threat of ♞b3.

24...♞c8 25.♞g3 g6 26.♟e5 h5

Black could not defend his kingside – after 26...♟e7 White can simply play 27.♞f3.

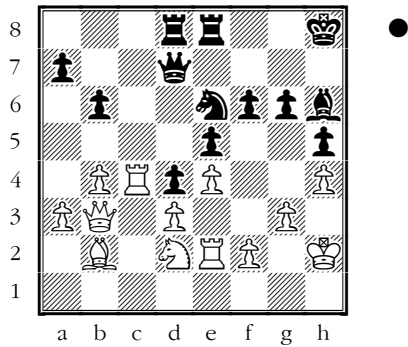
27.♞xh5 ♟f4 28.♞f3 ♞xd4

29.♟cd3 ♞b8 30.♟xf4 ♞b7

31.♞e3 ♞xe3 32.♞xe3 (D)

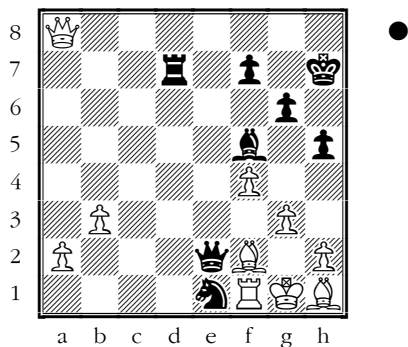
49...♞e2+! 50.♞xe2 ♞xg2+ 51.♞e3 ♞xh3+ 52.♞d4 ♞h4+ 53.♞e3 ♞e4# 0-1

Burg (2498) – Bok (2522)
Groningen Open (6), 27.12.2012



27...♘f4! 28.gxf4 ♖g4! 29.f3 ♕xf4+
30.♗h1 ♜h3+ 31.♗g1 ♕e3+
32.♞xe3 ♜g3+ 33.♗h1 dxe3
34.♞c7 e2 35.♗f7 e1♞+ 36.♘f1
♞xf1# 0-1

Bakre (2492) – Senador (2352)
Al Ain Classic (6), 27.12.2012



39...♕h3! 40.♞xe1 ♞d1! 0-1
(40...♞d1 41.♖a5 ♜f1+ 42.♞xf1
♞xf1#)

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. E-mail: ababurin@iol.ie Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net> Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev. Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ivan Baburin and Ralph Marconi.

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