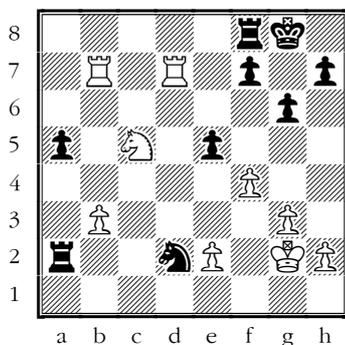


Test Yourself!

Ivanchuk (2729) – Aronian (2752)
Morelia/Linares MEX/ESP (2), 2006



World Chess News

Linares 2006, Morelia

Before yesterday's round the situation in the tournament was as follows:

- 1-2. Leko and Svidler – 2½;
- 3. Ivanchuk and – 2;
- 4-5. Aronian and Bacrot – 1½;
- 6. Topalov – 1;
- 7-8. Radjabov and Vallejo – ½.

Please note that in previous issues we mistakenly gave Bacrot "+1" instead of his 50%.

Round 4:

- Leko – Ivanchuk 1-0
- Topalov – Radjabov 0-1
- Vallejo – Aronian ½-½
- Svidler – Bacrot

At the time of writing the game Svidler–Bacrot was still in progress. There White had big advantage in a rook endgame.

[Official website](#)

Cappelle la Grande, 2006

This annual open tournament is in progress in the north of France.

Round 6 top results:

Moiseenko – Gashimov ½-½
Luther – Grigoriants ½-½

Standings after 6 rounds:

1. GM Moiseenko (UKR, 2657) – 5½;
11 GMs are on 5 out of 6.

Round 7 top pairings:

Azarov – Moiseenko
Gashimov – Vysochin
Goloshchapov – Luther
Grigoriants – Shengelia
Belikov – Kulaots
Drozdovskij – Malakhatko

[Official website](#)

Bunratty Chess Festival

This annual tournament took place last weekend in the west of Ireland, near Limerick. There were about 300 players competing in 4 different sections. The *Masters* tournament saw a five-way tie between IMs Sam Collins (Ireland), Craig Hanley (England) and Simon Williams (England), and GMs Jonathan Speelman (England) and Alex Baburin (Ireland). They scored 4½/6 and received 350 euro each. Simon Williams won the crystal trophy by defeating yours truly in the blitz final. The time control was 90 minutes per game; the event was not FIDE rated.

Bunratty Chess Festival always takes place in the middle of February and I am happy to recommend this event to anyone. The venue is good, the organisation is friendly and the neighbouring area includes the Bunratty Castle and folk park, as well as several good restaurants. See more details about both this and next year's festivals at

<http://members.aol.com/bunrattychess>

Ciudad de Sóller, Spain

This double-round closed tournament with 6 players is taking place in Majorca, Spain on 20–26 February.

Standings after 4 rounds:

- 1–2. GM Mirzoev (AZE, 2498) and IM Carlsson (SWE, 2430) – 3;
3. GM Berg (SWE, 2540) – 2½
4. IM Souleidis (GRE, 2433) – 1½
- 5–6. FM Pere Mascaró (ESP, 2359) and GM Campos (CHI, 2473) – 1.

[Official website](#)

On FIDE Elections

A major development took place recently, during the European Blitz [Championship](#) in Cannes, which was won by GM Zelcic, with GM Fressinet finishing second and Palac coming third (over 200 players, 36 rounds). There Leo Batesti pulled out of the race for FIDE President. He signed an [agreement](#) with Bessel Kok: if the latter is elected, Batesti will be vice-president together with Ali Nihat Yazici from Turkey.

This is certainly bad news for the current FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. The Right Move 2006 campaign already claims the support of over 20 national federations. Recently [Belgium](#), [Thailand](#) and [Switzerland](#) expressed their support for Bessel Kok. He also got endorsements from [Willy Ickicki](#) and GM [Mikhail Gurevich](#).

However, Ilyumzhinov has his supporters too: recently Azerbaijan gave him a vote of confidence. He has also received official support from the Russian Chess Federation, which decided to back him and not Anatoly Karpov, who is therefore out of the race (which he did not formally enter).

The rumour is that GM Bakhar Kouatly (France) might join the race for FIDE President too. ChessBase has published an extensive [interview](#) with Bessel Kok. We hope that his answers to the questions of CT readers will appear here soon.

Annotated Game

by GM Alex Baburin

Having lost in round 4 of the Bunratty Masters tournament, in round 5 I was paired against Dr John Nunn, who was half of point ahead of me. It was our fourth game and I was fairly certain that it would be another Fianchetto Gruenfeld – just like in the previous 3 encounters. Blind fortune somehow decided that I should always get White against Dr John Nunn – not that I would ever complain! ☺

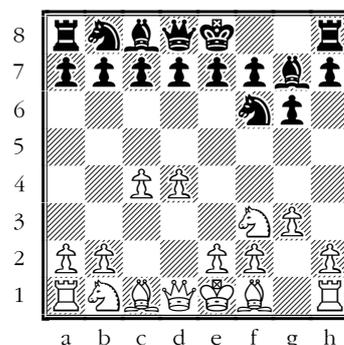
White: GM Alex Baburin (2511)

Black: GM John Nunn (2617)

Bunratty Masters (5), 19.02.2006

The Fianchetto Gruenfeld; D79

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗f3 ♘g7 4.g3 (D)



4...c6

Of course, there is nothing wrong with the King's Indian approach: 4...0–0 5.♘g2 d6. But I noticed that many KID players choose the Gruenfeld when facing the Fianchetto System. There are two possible explanations: either they don't line to play against this super solid line of the KID or they feel that the Fianchetto offers little against the Gruenfeld. Alas, the former might be true...

Here 4...d5 leads to a more interesting branch of the Gruenfeld. But that is riskier too.

5.♗c3 The most accurate move order. After 5.♘g2 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.0–0 0–0 8.♗c3 Black has 8...♗e4! (8...e6 9.♗f4 ♗c6 10.♖c1 ♔a5 11.♗e5 ♗xe5 12.♗xe5 ♗d7 13.♖d2 ½–½ Baburin–Nunn, Isle of Man 1994.)

5...d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.♗e5 0–0

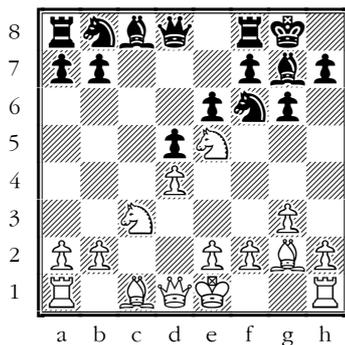
If Black tries to do the same – 7...♗e4, he has to reckon with 8.♖a4+.

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown

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

8. ♖g2 e6 (D)

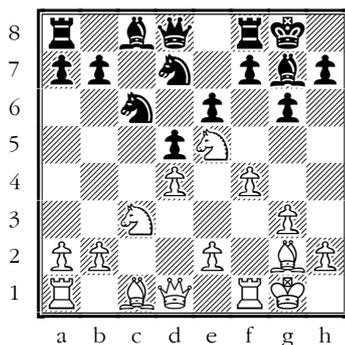
The old line 8... ♖c6 9.0-0 leaves White with a small, but durable advantage.



9.0-0

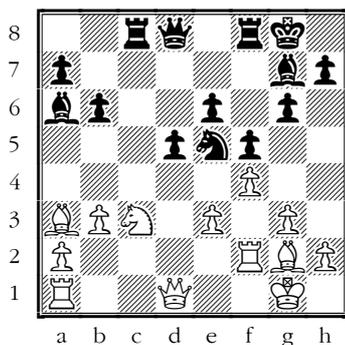
One of our previous games went 9. ♖g5 ♗b6 10. ♖d2 ♖bd7 11. ♖e3 ♖e8! 12. b3 ♖d6 13. ♖h3!? ♖d8 14. ♖f4 ♖e7 15.0-0 f6 16. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 17. ♖e3 ♖f7! 18. ♖h6 ♖fe8 19. ♖xg7 ½-½ Baburin-Nunn, 4NCL, Birmingham 2002.

9... ♖fd7 10.f4 ♖c6 (D)



This is the main tabia of the Symmetrical Fianchetto Gruenfeld.

Also possible is 10...f6 11. ♖f3 ♖c6. White got an advantage after 12. b3 ♖a5 13. ♖d2 f5 14. e3 ♖d8 15. ♖e5 ♖dx5 16. dxe5 b6 17. ♖c1 ♖a6 18. ♖f2 ♖c8 19. ♖a3 ♖xe5? (D)



20. ♖xd5 ♖c6 21. ♖c1 ♖e8 22. ♖xc6 1-0 Baburin-Nunn, Kilkenny 1997.

11. ♖h1 Nimzowitsch used to talk about the "mysterious rook move". Here we have a no less mysterious case. This move looks like a waste of time, but it has its good points. First, it might be good to move the king away from the a7-g1 diagonal in case of ... ♖xe5, dxe5. Secondly, in this system White often goes for g3-g4, so vacating the g1-square for the rook can be beneficial.

Here the most popular move by far is 11. ♖e3. However, I feel that this bishop might be better off on a3, so I wanted to keep it on c1 for a while.

11... ♖b6

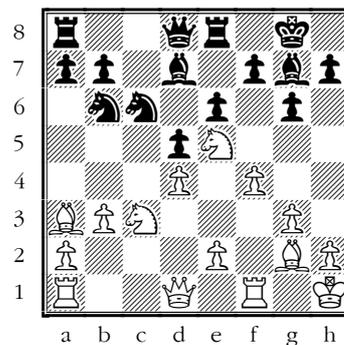
After 11... ♖xe5 12. dxe5 f6 13. e4 dxe4 14. ♖xe4 fxe5 15. fxe5 ♖xe5 16. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 17. ♖g5 ♖f8 18. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 19. ♖f1+ ♖g8 20. ♖f6+ ♖xf6 21. ♖xf6 ♖c6 22. ♖d1 ♖f7 23. ♖g5 White seized the initiative in Toshkov-Baldauf, West Berlin 1987.

Another example: 11...f6 12. ♖f3 ♖b6 13. b3 ♖d7 14. a4!? f5 15. ♖a3 ♖e8 16. ♖e5↑ Baburin-Braga, Saint Vincent 2000.

12. b3 ♖d7

This move looks logical as Black probably should not fancy positions after 12...f6 13. ♖xc6 bxc6 14. ♖a3 ♖f7 15. e4 or 12...f5 13. ♖xc6 bxc6 14. ♖a3.

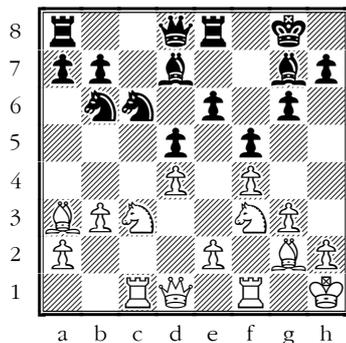
13. ♖a3 ♖e8 (D)



14. ♖c1

I now believe that White should have played 14. e4! dxe4 (or 14... ♖e7 15. ♖e2 ♖c6 16. ♖fd1 dxe4 17. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 18. ♖xe4 ♖bd5 19. ♖f3 ♖a5 20. ♖c4 ♖c7 21. ♖ac1± Bunzmann-Appel, Germany 1997. In this line White has a couple of possible improvements: 15. ♖c1!? and 15. ♖xd7!? ♖xd7 16. e5) 15. ♖xe4 ♖d5 16. ♖d2 ♖xe5 17. fxe5 ♖c6 18. ♖f2 ♖d7 19. ♖ac1 ♖b5 20. ♖fd1± Brkljaca-D.Pavlovic, Kladovo 1994.

14...f6! 15.♖f3 f5! (D)



Now the centre is blocked and White has to try his luck on the flanks. His chances are better because some of his pieces are better positioned. For example, White's queen's bishop is more active than Black's. Also, the f3-knight is better than his counterpart on b6. Still, White's advantage is not huge and it is easy to get carried away.

16.e3 ♘f8 17.♙xf8 ♞xf8 18.♗e5

During the game I was not sure about this move. On e5 the knight can be easily exchanged, so maybe it was better to keep it on f3.

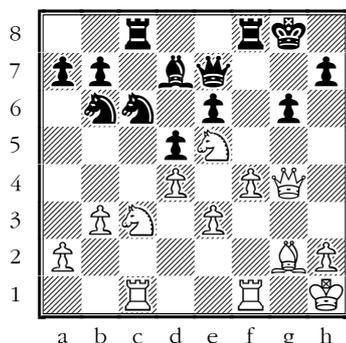
The computer favours 18.a4. This might limit the enemy bishop in the future (b5!), but I felt that it would weaken White's position on the queenside. Very interesting was 18.♙h3, intending g3-g4.

18...♞e7 19.g4

Played after a 10-minute think.

19...fxg4 20.♞xg4 ♞ac8 (D)

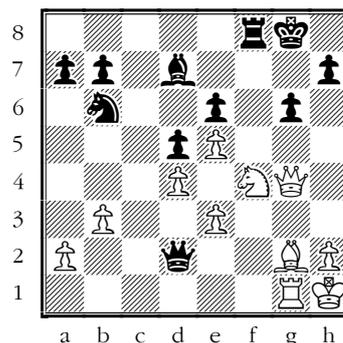
Probably better was the immediate exchange operation: 20...♗xe5 21.fxe5 ♞xf1+ 22.♞xf1 ♞f8. Maybe I would play 21.dxe5.



21.♗e2! A Further 13 minutes were spent on this move. I could not see any useful idea, so finally I decided to relocate that knight, anticipating ...♗xe5, fxe5, when the f4-square becomes available for my knight. 21...♗xe5 22.fxe5 ♞xc1 23.♞xc1 ♞b4

More critical was 23...♞a3, probing White's weaknesses on the queenside. I was going to play 24.♞g1 ♞xa2 25.♗f4.

24.♗f4 ♞d2 25.♞g1 (D)



25...♞f7 Black could not ignore the threat to the g6-pawn: 25...♞xe3 26.♗xg6! ♞f7 (not 26...hxg6 27.♞xg6+ ♞h8 28.♞h5+ ♞g7 29.♙h3+ ♞xg1+ 30.♞xg1+-) 27.♗f4+ ♞g7 (or 27...♞f8 28.♗xe6+ ♙xe6 29.♞xe6+-) 28.♞h4, winning.

26.♞g3

The immediate 26.♗h5 was possible too, but I did not see a reason to rush. At that point I still contemplated ♙g2-h3 or h2-h4-h5, where I need my knight on f4.

26...♞c2?!

For better or worse, Black had to grab the a2-pawn: 26...♞xa2. Then I would be choosing between 27.h4 and 27.♙f1 ♞xb3 28.♙d3.

27.♗h5! ♙c8? 28.♞h4! ♞f5?!

29.♗f6+ ♞h8 30.e4! 1-0

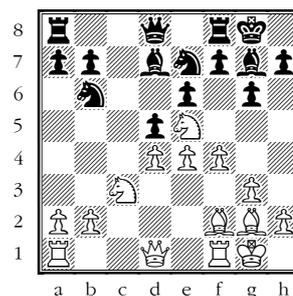
The line 30...g5 31.exf5 gxh4 32.♙xd5 ♞g7 33.♙xe6+- is clear enough.

Supplementary Games:

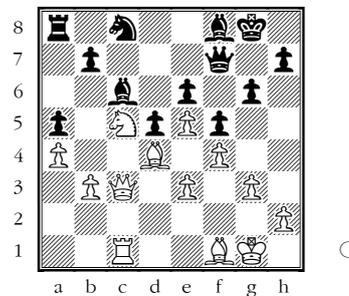
Karpov (2715) – Kamsky (2655)

Alekhine mem, Moscow, 1992

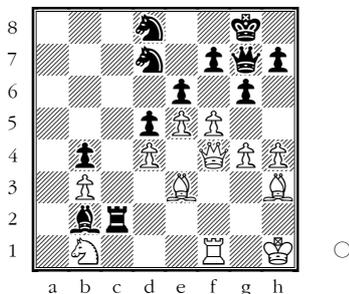
1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗f3 ♙g7 4.g3 c6 5.♙g2 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.♗c3 0-0 8.♗e5 e6 9.0-0 ♗fd7 10.f4 ♗c6 11.♙e3 ♗b6 12.♙f2 ♙d7 13.e4 ♗e7 (D)



14. ♖xd7 ♜xd7 15. e5 ♞ac8 16. ♞c1 a6
 17. b3 ♞c7 18. ♜d2 ♞fc8 19. g4 ♜f8
 20. ♜e3 ♖c6 21. f5 ♜a3 22. ♞cd1 ♖b4
 23. ♜h6 ♜e8 24. ♖b1 ♜b2 25. ♜d2 ♖c2
 26. ♜h1 ♜e7 27. ♜g1 ♖d7 28. ♞f3 ♜b4
 29. ♜h6 ♜f8 30. ♜g5 ♜g7 31. ♜d2 b6
 32. ♞df1 a5 33. h4 ♖b4 34. a3 ♞c2
 35. ♜f4 ♖c6 36. ♜h3 ♖d8 37. ♜e3 b5
 38. ♞3f2 b4 39. axb4 axb4 40. ♞xc2
 ♞xc2 (D)



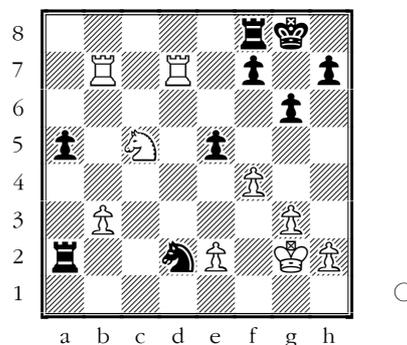
31. ♜b5 ♜xb5 32. axb5 h6 33. ♖a4 ♜a3
 34. ♜xc8+ ♞xc8 35. ♞xc8+ ♜h7 36. b6
 1-0



41. ♞f2 ♞xf2 42. ♜xf2 ♜a3 43. ♜c2
 ♖xe5 44. dxe5 ♜xe5 45. ♜c8 ♜e4+
 46. ♜g2 ♜xb1+ 47. ♜h2 ♜b2 48. ♜xd8+
 ♜g7 49. f6+ ♜xf6 50. ♜h6+ ♜xh6
 51. ♜xf6 ♜c2 52. g5+ ♜h5 53. ♜g3 ♜c7+
 54. ♜h3 1-0

Solution to our quiz:

Ivanchuk (2729) – Aronian (2752)
 Morelia/Linares MEX/ESP (2), 2006

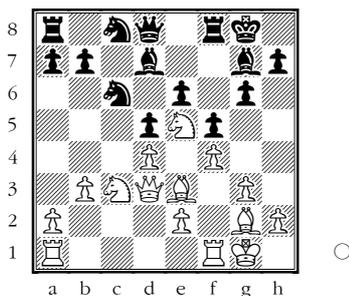


44. ♖e6! exf4 (44...fxe6 45. ♞g7+ ♜h8
 46. ♞xh7+ ♜g8 47. ♞bg7# or 44...♞e8
 45. ♞e7! ♞a8 46. ♞xf7) 45. ♞xf7! 1-0

Kasparov (2825) – Topalov (2740)

Leon Man+Comp m Leon (2), 1998

1. d4 ♖f6 2. ♖f3 g6 3. c4 ♜g7 4. g3 0-0
 5. ♜g2 c6 6. ♖c3 d5 7. cxd5 cxd5 8. ♖e5
 e6 9. 0-0 ♖fd7 10. f4 ♖c6 11. ♜e3 f6
 12. ♖f3 f5 13. ♖e5 ♖b6 14. b3 ♜d7
 15. ♜d3 ♖c8 (D)



16. ♜c1 ♖xe5 17. dxe5 ♞f7 18. ♜e3 ♜c6
 19. ♞fc1 ♜a5 20. a3 a6 21. ♜d4 ♜f8
 22. e3 ♜e8 23. ♜d2 ♜d8 24. ♜f1 ♞c7
 25. ♜b2 ♞c6 26. ♖a4 ♞xc1 27. ♞xc1
 ♜c6 28. ♖c5 ♜e8 29. a4 a5 30. ♜c3 ♜f7
 (D)



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