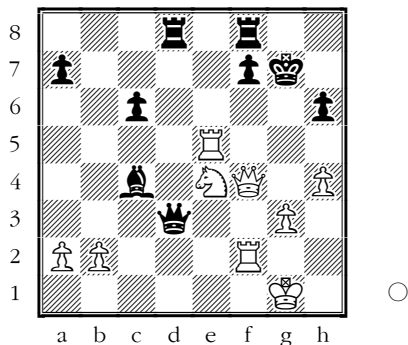


Test Yourself!

Stripunsky (2556) – Zaikov (2385)

National Chess Congress Phil, USA (5), 2009



World Chess News

Spassky vs. Korchnoi, Elista

The second game of the match was drawn. Korchnoi leads, 1½-½.

[Official website](#) (in Russian)

Russian Super-finals

The Russian Super-finals begin in Moscow today. Yesterday there was a [drawing of lots](#); the participants got the following numbers:

Super-final:

1. Khismatullin 2. Svidler 3. Grischuk
4. Sjugirov 5. Timofeev 6. Jakovenko
7. Alekseev 8. Tomashevsky 9.
Vitjugov 10. Riazantsev.

Women's Super-final:

1. Pogonina 2. Manakova 3.
Galliamova 4. N.Kosintseva 5.
Bodnaruk 6. T.Kosintseva 7. Gunina
8. Stepovaia 9. Zaiatz 10. Romanko.

[Official website](#)



European Rapid Championship

Standings after 8 (of 13) rounds:

1. Malakhov – 8
2–8. Stupak, Dreev, Krasenkow,
Rozenalis, Bartel, Zharebukh and
Aleksandrov – 7
(Gashimov, Ivanchuk, Movsesian,
Shirov and 18 more players are on
6½).

[Official website](#)

US Chess League

An [article](#) by Irina Krush on the US Chess League Final, [won](#) by The New York Knights, can be found at the USCF website.

Figueira da Foz, Portugal

The VI Figueira da Foz Festival ended on 6th December 2009.

Final standings:

1. GM Kovalyov (2601, ARG) – 7
2–3. GMs Petkov (2477, BUL) and
Spraggett (CAN, 2594) – 6½
4–10. GM Romanishin (UKR, 2510)
GM Paunovic (SRB, 2554), GM
S.Kasparov (BLR, 2483), GM
Dzhumaev (UZB, 2528), Padeiro
(POR, 2262), GM Rotstein (GER, 2550)
and GM Galego (POR, 2446) – 6, etc.
(46 players).

[Official website](#)



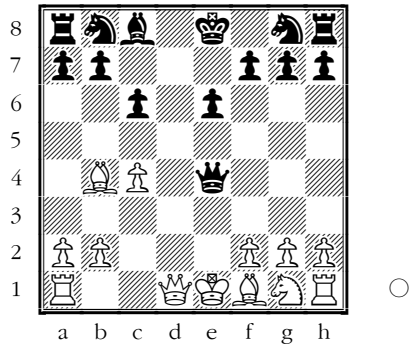
Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

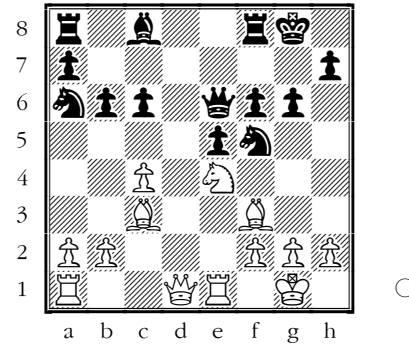
The Russian superfinal begins today; therefore it is suitable to show the game between two of the participants, played in the qualification tournament. This September game took second place in the "Game of the Month" contest at chesspro.ru.

White: A. Riazantsev (2646)
Black: S. Sjugirov (2585)
 ch-RUS HL Ulan Ude RUS (2.5),
 03.09.2009
QGD/Alatortsev System - [D31]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 4.e4 dxe4
 5.♗xe4 ♖b4+ 6.♙d2 ♜xd4
 7.♙xb4 ♜xe4+ (D)

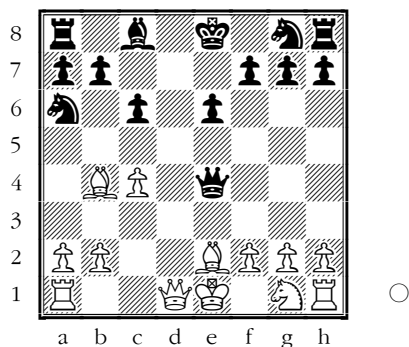


12.♙h5+ g6 13.♙f3 ♗e7 14.♙c3 e5
 15.0-0 0-0 16.♗e4N
 Deviating from Yakovich-Timofeev,
 Moscow Aeroflot 2006 where White
 preferred 16.♙e4.
 16...♜e6 17.♞e1
 Here Black could have tried 17...Bb7,
 but it hardly solves all problems.
 17...♗f5 (D)



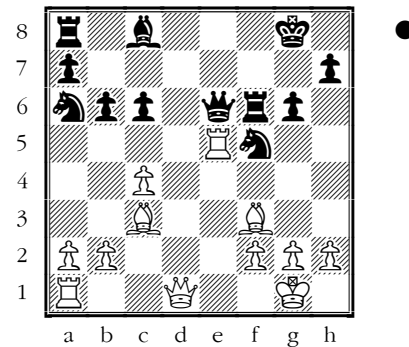
8.♙e2

Another remarkable September game
 went 8.♗e2 ♗a6 9.♙f8 ♗e7 10.♙xg7
 ♗b4 11.♙xh8 (a known alternative is
 11.♜d6) 11...e5 12.♜b3 (also here
 White plays 12.♜d6) 12...♗c2+ 13.♜d2
 ♗xa1N 14.♜d3 ♜h4 (14...♜xd3+!?
 15.♜xd3 ♙f5+ 16.♜c3 0-0-0∞)
 15.♙xe5 ♙f5 16.♙g3? (correct was
 16.g3!) 16...♜f6! 17.♜c3 0-0-0+
 18.♜c1 ♙c2! 19.b3 ♞d1+ 20.♜b2 ♞b1+
 21.♜a3 ♙xb3!! 22.axb3 ♞xb3+
 23.♜xb3 ♗xb3 24.♜xb3 ♜a1≠ and
 later Black gradually won in Fodor-
 K.Szabo, Budapest FS 2009.
 8...♗a6 (D)



18.♗xf6+! ♞xf6

White is better also after 18...♜xf6
 19.♞xe5↑ ♜d6 (19...♗h4? 20.♞e3!
 ♗xf3+ 21.♞xf3 ♜h4 22.♞xf8+ ♜xf8
 23.♜d6+ ♜e7 24.♜d4+-, 19...♗g7!?)
 20.♜xd6 ♗xd6 21.♞d1! ♗f7 22.♞e7
 though Black is able to resist after
 22...♙f5 23.g4 (curious is the calm
 23.♞de1!?) 23...♙e6! 24.♙xc6 (not
 24.♞xe6 ♗g5) 24...♙xg4 25.f3 ♙f5
 26.♙xa8 ♞xa8±.
 19.♞xe5 (D)



9.♙a5 f6 10.♗f3

Both sides have known alternatives on
 the previous moves.

10...b6 11.♗d2

A topical continuation.

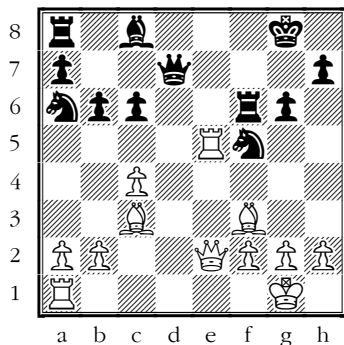
11...♜f5

Not 11...♜xg2? 12.♙f3. After 11...♜f4
 White also plays 12.♙h5+.

19...♜d7?

Much more stubborn would have
 been 19...♜d6!. A good answer to it
 seems to be 20.♜e1! (Other lines
 include 20.♜e2 ♗c7! 21.♞d1 ♜f8 and
 Black manages to consolidate, more or
 less. 20.♞e8+ ♞f8 21.♞xf8+ ♜xf8 22.g4
 ♜xd1+ 23.♞xd1 ♗e7 24.♞d8+ ♜f7
 25.♞h8∞) with the idea of 20...♗c7
 21.♙b4! (Or 21.♞d1 ♜f8 22.♙b4!)
 21...c5 22.♞d1 ♜f8 23.♙xc5 bxc5
 24.♙xa8 with better chances for
 White.

20. ♖e2!± (D)



20... ♖b7

Black is in trouble, one way or another: 20... ♖c7 21. ♖d1 ♖d6 22. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 23. ♖e8+! ♖f7 (23... ♖xe8 24. ♖xe8+ ♖f8 25. ♖xc6+-) 24. ♖e5! ♖c5 25. ♖xc7 ♖d4 26. ♖e1 ♖xf3+ 27. gxf3 ♖g5+ 28. ♖g3 ♖f6 29. ♖e3+-, or 20... ♖e6 21. ♖d1 ♖e8 22. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 23. ♖d8+ ♖f7 24. ♖xf5+ gxf5 25. ♖h5+ ♖e7 26. ♖g5+ ♖f6 27. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 28. ♖e8+ ♖xe8 29. ♖xf6+-, or 20... ♖c7 21. g4! ♖h4 22. ♖e8+ ♖f8 23. ♖h1 ♖xg4 (the lesser of evils) 24. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 25. ♖xg4± and Black is able to resist for a while but White's advantage is indisputable.

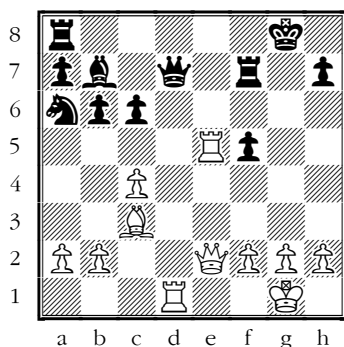
21. ♖g4 ♖f7

21...c5 does not help 22. ♖xf5 gxf5 23. ♖e7 ♖c6 24. f3 and Black gradually loses: 24... ♖f7 25. ♖e5 ♖xe7 26. ♖xe7 ♖c7 27. ♖f6+-.

22. ♖xf5 gxf5

Not 22... ♖xf5 23. ♖e7

23. ♖d1+- (D)



23... ♖c7

Or 23... ♖c8 24. ♖d3

24. ♖xf5! ♖f8 25. ♖g4 ♖xf5

26. ♖xf5+ ♖f7 27. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7

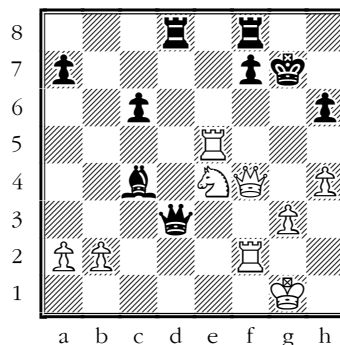
28. ♖d7+ ♖e6 29. ♖xb7 ♖c5

30. ♖xh7 1-0.

Solution to our Quiz:

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37. ♖g5+! 1-0.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) – 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>

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