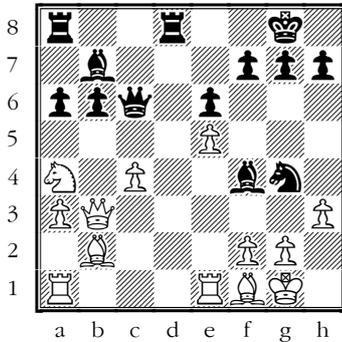


Chess Quiz

Gerasimov – Smyslov
Moscow, 1935



Chess News

McShane wins in Lausanne

Having won with White the second game of the final mini-match vs. Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan), English GM **Luke McShane** won the *Young Masters* tournament for the second time.

Final results:

For 1st place:

McShane – Mamedyarov 1½–½

For 3rd place:

Alekseev – Navara 3½–2½

For 5th place 5:

Lahno – Carlsen 4–2

For 7th place:

Papa – Kosteniuk 1½–½

[Official website](#)

Hungary–Germany Match

In round 5 Germany won 5–1, bringing the total score to 20:10 – a crashing defeat for Hungary! See games from round 5 in our database.

[Official website](#)



Letters to the Editor

by GM Alex Baburin

"Dear Alex,

I have mixed feelings about the USCF's latest FIDE initiative. As you know, I consider the current state of affairs a complete mess, but I am not confident that the problem has been correctly identified. My concern is that there will be posturing and chest thumping, but no real reform.

I am weary of empty rhetoric. Don Schultz once passed a motion that the USCF's website would be "second to none." However, there was never any intention of committing the resources necessary to make that happen. Fixing FIDE requires more than mere words.

The first question to ask is whether FIDE or something like FIDE is necessary. When Kasparov was unable to secure a return match against Kramnik, I believe his reluctant conclusion was that it is. Yet, FIDE as an organization is extremely complex.

I would submit that any international organization governed by a General Assembly, and Executive Board, a Presidential Board and a President is bound to experience some difficulties. If I told you that the organization's Treasurer was not a full time paid employee, you'd probably think I was joking. The real joke would be on us. FIDE's audit and verification processes cannot withstand scrutiny. One must question the independence and qualifications of those involved. Until these systemic problems are addressed there will be no real reform in FIDE.

Reform is needed, but a vote of no confidence in the President, is only for show. Demand a full time Chief Financial Office. Insist on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Engage an independent auditor. And,

oh by the way, tell me how these things will be paid for.

It is difficult to take these demonstrations seriously, however well intended they may be. Please feel free to refer to my [weblog](#).

All the best, Jim Eade"

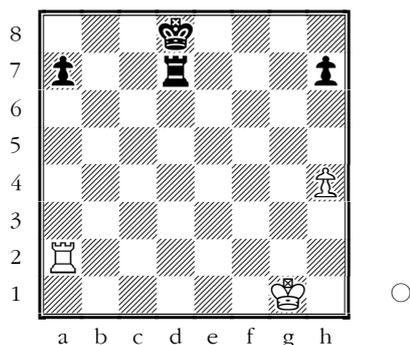
4NCL Fragments

by GM Alex Baburin

GM Bogdan Lalic sent us his two annotated games from the first 4NCL weekend (18-19 September). You can find them in our database today, while here I would like to show an instructive rook endgame from one of those games, with notes by Bogdan:

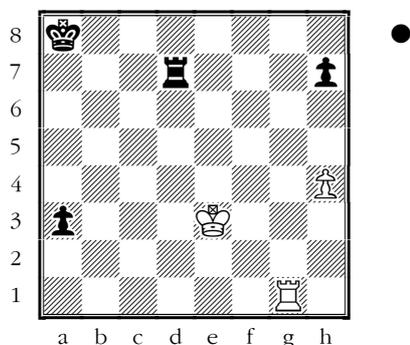
S. Buckley (2314) – B. Lalic (2527)

4NCL West Bromwich (1), 18.09.2004



Such endgames are often drawn even without the white h-pawn, so it's surprising that White did not hold it. (Alex Baburin):

48. ♖f2 ♜c8 49. ♞a1 ♜e3!
49... ♜b7 50. ♞b1+ ♜a8 51. ♞g1 a5
52. ♞g5 a4 53. ♜e3 a3 54. ♞g1 (D)

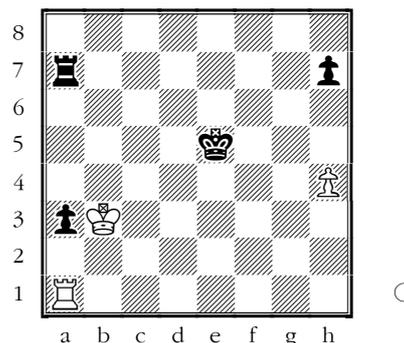


54... ♜b8!

Worse is 54... a2? 55. ♞a1 ♞a7 56. ♜d4 ♜b7 57. ♜c3 ♜c6 58. ♜b3 ♜d5 59. ♞xa2

♞xa2 60. ♜xa2 ♜e4 61. ♜b3 ♜f4 62. ♜c2 ♜g4 63. ♜d2 ♜xh4 64. ♜e2 ♜g3 65. ♜f1=.

55. ♞a1 ♞a7 56. ♜d3 ♜c7 57. ♜c3 ♜d6 58. ♜b3 ♜e5 (D)



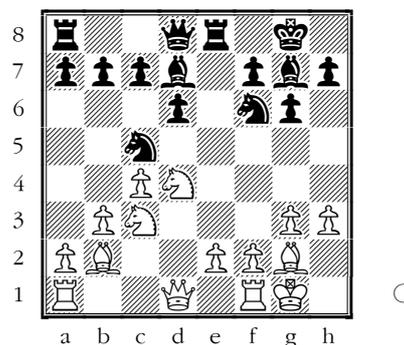
59. h5?? ⊕ White had to find 59. ♞e1+! ♜f4 60. ♜a2 ♜g4 61. ♞e4+ ♜g3 62. h5=.
59... ♜f5 60. h6 ♜g5 61. ♜a2 ♜xh6 62. ♞h1+ ♜g7 63. ♞g1+ ♜h8 64. ♞h1 Or 64. ♞g5 h6 65. ♞b5 ♜g7 66. ♞c5 ♞a6! 67. ♞b5 ♜g6 68. ♞b4 h5 69. ♞b5 h4 70. ♞c5 ♞a4! 71. ♞b5 h3-+.
64... ♞a5! 65. ♞h3 h5 66. ♞c3 ♜g7 67. ♞c4 ♜g6 68. ♞b4 ♜g5 69. ♞c4 h4-+ 70. ♞c3 ♞f5 71. ♞xa3 ♜g4 72. ♞a4+ ♞f4 73. ♞a3 h3 74. ♞a8 h2 0-1

Here is my first game in this 4NCL season, with my brief comments:

Baburin (2527) – Beaumont (2329)

West Bromwich (1), 18.09.2004

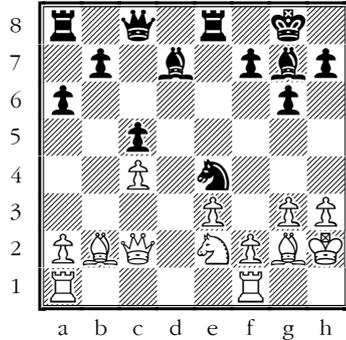
1. d4 d6 2. g3 g6 3. ♘g2 ♘g7 4. ♗f3 ♗f6 5. 0-0 0-0 6. c4 ♗bd7 7. ♗c3 e5 8. b3 ♞e8 9. h3?! exd4 10. ♗xd4 ♗c5 11. ♘b2 ♘d7!? (D)



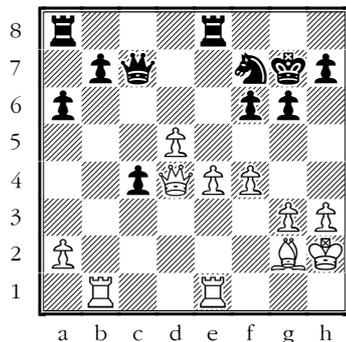
Black can be happy with results of the opening – White has not managed to play e2-e4 and cannot claim much of a spatial advantage.

12. e3 12. b4?! ♗ce4 13. ♗xe4 ♗xe4 14. ♜c2 ♜e7=.
12... ♜c8 12... a6!?

13. ♖h2 a6 13... ♖e5 14. ♗de2! ♖h5?!
 15. ♗f4 ♖h6 16. ♗cd5↑.
 14. b4 Now, when the black queen can't come to e7, this move is OK.
 14... ♗ce4 15. ♗xe4 ♗xe4 16. ♖c2 c5!
 16... ♗g5 17. h4 ♗e6 18. ♗xe6 ♗xe6
 19. ♗xg7 ♖xg7 20. c5±.
 17. bxc5 dxc5 17... ♗xc5!?
 18. ♗e2 (D)

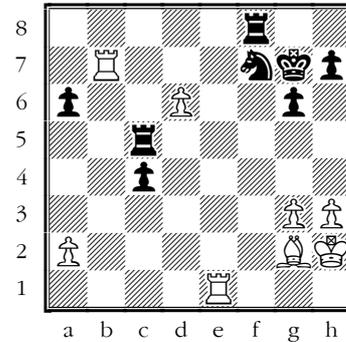


18... ♗c6 Better was 18... ♗xb2
 19. ♖xb2 ♗c6.
 19. ♗xg7 ♖xg7 20. ♗f4 ♖f5?! 21. f3!
 ♗d6 22. e4 ♖e5 23. ♗d5 (23. ♖ad1!?)
 23... ♗xd5 24. cxd5 ♖d4 25. ♖ad1
 ♖b4 Better was 25... ♖c4 26. ♖b2+ f6
 27. ♖fe1!?.
 26. ♖b1 ♖a5 27. f4
 The position has changed a lot in White's favour in the past 10 moves or so.
 27... f6 28. ♖fe1! 28. e5? fxe5
 29. fxe5 ♖xe5 30. ♖b2 ♖ae8 31. ♖be1
 ♖b4!
 28... ♗f7 29. ♖b2 29. e5!? fxe5 30. fxe5
 ♗xe5 (30... ♖xe5 31. ♖xe5 ♗xe5
 32. ♖xb7+ ♖g8 33. d6+-) 31. ♖xb7+
 ♖g8 32. ♖e3+-.
 29... c4 30. ♖d4!? ♖c7 (D)

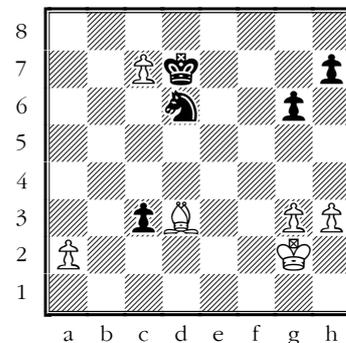


Around here I had about 11–12 minutes to make 10 moves. Not exactly time trouble, but I panicked a bit and went for a forced line, where White makes many moves quickly, but where his advantage evaporates! Such mistakes were common in my games

before, but with some work I kept them at minimum. Now, without much work done on my chess, my old chess sins are reappearing all over the place!
 31. e5? Much better was 31. ♖b6! ♗d6
 (31... ♖e7 32. e5 fxe5 33. fxe5 ♗xe5?
 34. ♖e6+-) 32. e5 ♗b5 33. ♖e3.
 31... fxe5 32. fxe5 ♖xe5 33. d6
 33. ♖xe5!? ♖xe5 34. ♖xc4.
 33... ♖c5 34. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 35. ♖xb7
 ♖f8 (D)



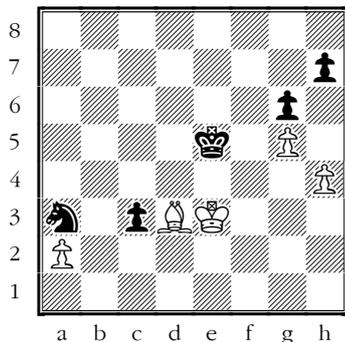
The forced line is over and I could not find anything particularly good. I realised that I had blown away my advantage (in fact, I felt it when playing 31. e5?). So I went for another forced line: 36. ♖c7 ♖xc7 37. dxc7
 ♖c8 38. ♖e7 ♖f6 39. ♗b7 ♖xe7
 40. ♗xc8 c3 41. ♗xa6 ♗d6 42. ♗d3
 ♖d7 43. ♖g2 (D)



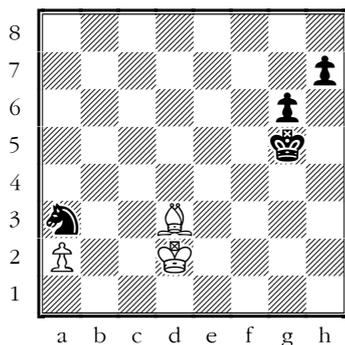
Interesting endgame. Black has a strong pawn on c3, while White has an outside passed pawn and better minor piece.

43... ♗c4?!
 I thought that Black should play
 43... ♖xc7 44. ♖f2 ♖c6 45. ♖e3 ♖c5.
 44. ♖f3 ♗a3
 44... ♖xc7 45. ♖e4 ♗a3 46. ♖e3.
 45. ♖e3 ♖xc7 46. h4?
 I found one (wrong) idea and got totally carried away with it! Better was 46. ♗f1!, winning the c-pawn, with excellent winning chances. 46... ♖d6

(46...♖c2+?! 47.♔d3 ♖b4+ 48.♗xc3 ♖xa2+ 49.♗b3) 47.♔d3 c2 48.♔d2. **46...♗d6 47.g4?** White should have tried 47.h5 gxh5 48.♖xh7, though Black hold the equality easily now, for example: 48...♖c4+ 49.♔d3 ♖d2=. **47...♗d5 48.g5 ♗e5 (D)**



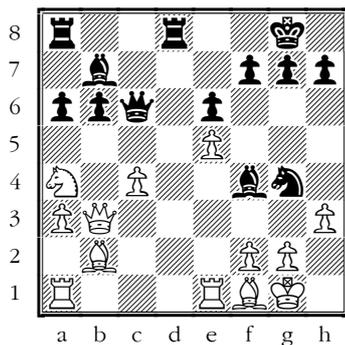
Rude awakening... White should be careful not to get into trouble – he weekend his pawns on the kingside so much that they are now falling. **49.♖a6 ♗f5 49...♖c2+!? 50.♔e2. 50.♗d3 c2 51.♗d2 ♗g4 52.♖d3 ♗xh4 53.♖xc2 ♗xg5 54.♖d3 (D)**



White is OK here – as long as he does not get tempted to win the enemy knight! **54...♗f4 55.♗e2 ♗e5 56.♗e3 ♗d5 57.♗f4 ♗d4 58.♖xg6 1/2-1/2**

Solution to our quiz:

Gerasimov – Smyslov
Moscow, 1935



1...♖d3! 2.♗xb6 (2.♖xd3 ♗xg2# or 2.♗xd3 ♖h2+ 3.♗h1 ♖xf2+ 4.♗xh2 ♖xd3-+) **2...♖xh3! 3.♖d4 ♖h2+ 4.♗h1 ♖xe5+ 0-1** White resigned in view of 5.♗g1 ♖h2+ 6.♗h1 ♖c7+.

Correction:

Due to a technical mistake yesterday one of Hans Ree's answers was not included in the interview. We would like to publish it now:

- When did you decide that you should be a Grandmaster? And to what extent have you fulfilled your goals in chess?

- I never had any long-time goals in chess. I was studying mathematics and I expected to become a professional mathematician, but then when I had finished my studies I realized that the life of a chess-player was much more attractive. No alarm clock waking you up, but freedom and travel. I never really decided to become a chess professional, I just decided not to take a job.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) - we appreciate your feedback!

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