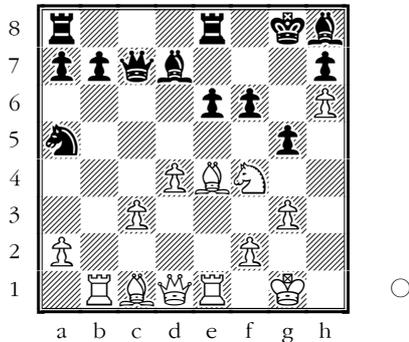


**Test Yourself!**

**Maiwald (2210) – Joecks (2355)**  
Krumbach open (9), 1991



**On This Day**

*by GM Alex Baburin*

German Grandmaster Jens-Uwe Maiwald turns 35 today. With his current [rating](#) of 2509, Maiwald is No 43 player in Germany. His best rating so far was 2543 (January 2004).



**World Chess News**

**Azerbaijan vs. the World**

In the past only the Soviet Union could afford to compete with the Rest of the World over the 64 squares, but the young Azerbaijan team is ranked No 5 in the world now and has reasonable chances in this scheveningen-format rapid chess match. The match is part of the President's Cup, which will start in Baku tomorrow. The players will have 25 minutes per game.

**Azerbaijan:**

Teimour Radjabov	2756
Vugar Gashimov	2730
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2725
Gadir Guseinov	2659

**The World:**

Vishwanathan Anand (India)	2783
Vladimir Kramnik (Russia)	2759
Alexey Shirov (Spain)	2745
Sergey Karjakin (Ukraine)	2721

[Official website](#)

**Four Nations Chess League**

The final three rounds in the 4NCL took place last weekend. It was my first appearance in the league this season, as my club Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher needed all the help it could get in order to maintain its lead in the tournament. The first two matches (on Saturday and Sunday) went well for us and we managed to keep a 2-point lead before the final match with our archrivals. Guildford-A&DC-1 had a stronger line up (their average rating in the match was 2537 against our 2509), but WGHK-1 was not going down without a fight – and in fact we drew the match after a very dramatic struggle.

**GUILDFORD A&DC 1 vs. WG HK 1**

Kurnosov (2658)	1–0	B. Lalic (2508)
N. Pert (2537)	½–½	Baburin (2541)
McShane (2596)	1–0	Gordon (2540)
Howell (2613)	½–½	Cramling (2528)
Plaskett (2491)	1–0	D. Berczes (2513)
Conquest (2549)	0–1	Arakhamia-Grant (2492)
Hebden (2510)	0–1	K. Szabo (2518)
S. Lalic (2342)	0–1	Greet (2431)

The match started well for us – after about 3.5 hours of playing we won on boards 7 and 8 and drew on board 4. We lost on board 6, so the score was 2½–1½ in our favour. And we only needed 4–4 to win the league. Though Bodgan Lalic was under pressure on board one, a draw there was likely. Stephen Gordon was under some pressure too, but it looked possible to hold. Meanwhile Ketevan Arakhamia and I both stood better in our games.

But then Stephen ran into trouble, I messed up a winning position and Bodgan lost what looked like a drawn rook and pawn ending. Luckily Ketevan saved the team! I will show a few fragments from that match in the next issue, while you can find my game vs. GM Nick Pert in our Annotated Game section today.

### Top division, final standings:

1. WG HK 1	13 points
2. Guildford-A&DC 1	11
3. Guildford-A&DC 2	9
4. White Rose	7
5. Barbican 4NCL 1	5
6. Pride and Prejudice	4
7. WG HK 2	4
8. The Gambit ADS	3

[Official website](#)

## Annotated Game

by GM Alex Baburin

I had not played serious chess for a good while and felt rusty before the final 4NCL weekend. While I can't be too unhappy with my result (+1 =2 against 3 GMs), I am not satisfied with my play, particularly in the last game, which I played well up to move 35.

**Baburin (2541) – N. Pert (2534)**

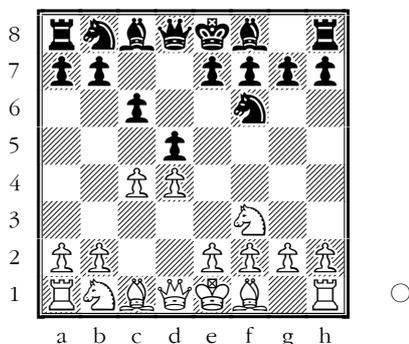
4NCL (11), 04.05.2009

*The Slav; D11*

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6**

The Slav Defence is one of the most popular openings nowadays.

**3.♟f3 ♞f6 (D)**



**4.e3** This move is so common these days that it can't be called a side line anymore. Anand, Topalov, Kramnik,

Ivanchuk, Morozevich and Gelfand – they all play this line.

The main line Slav arises after 4.♞c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♞f5. The Chebanenko Slav – 4...a6 – is also very popular.

Black can also go for the Semi-Slav with 4...e6, with further divisions possible on the next move:

**5.♞g5** h6 this is the very popular Moscow Variation. The Botvinnik Variation – 5...dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 – has not been refuted either.

**5.e3** ♞bd7 6.♞d3 dxc4 7.♞xc4 b5 is the (sharp) Meran Variation, which helped Vishy Anand to beat Vladimir Kramnik in Bonn last year.

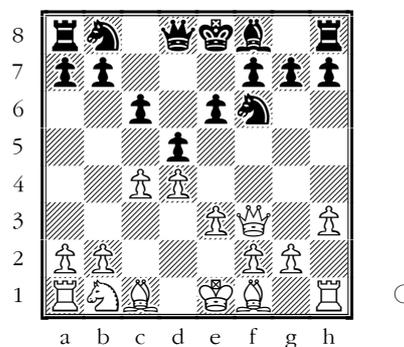
**5.cxd5** exd5 6.♞g5 ♞e7 7.♞c2 g6 is rather harmless for Black.

**5.g3** may lead to a Catalan type of positions.

Let's get back to our game.

**4...♞g4 5.h3 ♞xf3 5...♞h5** is also possible. Play might continue: 6.♞c3 e6 7.g4 ♞g6 8.♞e5 ♞bd7 9.h4 dxc4 10.♞xg6 hxg6 11.g5 ♞h7 12.♞g2 ♞b4 13.♞e2 ♞b6 14.a3 ♞a5 15.♞d2 ♞f8 16.♞e4 ♞xd2+ 17.♞xd2 ♞e7 18.♞b4 ♞xb4+ 19.axb4 ♞d7 20.b5 ♞c7 21.bxc6 bxc6 22.♞d2 ♞fd7∞ Kramnik – Nepomniachtchi, Dortmund 2008.

**6.♞xf3 e6 (D)**



Having brought out and exchanged his light-squared bishop, Black is now placing his pawns on light squares – this usually makes his remaining bishop a 'good' one.

**7.♞c3 ♞bd7** This is what I expected and looked at before the game. GM Nick Pert has played little chess in the past 2 years. His repertoire is very limited (the Slav), but he knows his stuff pretty well.

**8.♞d2 ♞b4**

8...♞d6 is another option.

**9.♞d3 0-0**

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

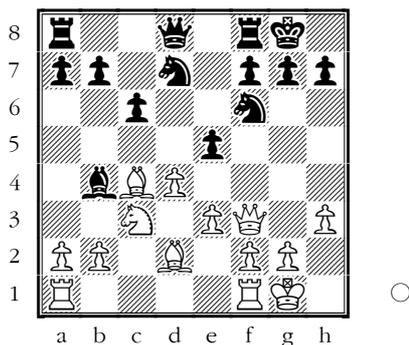
*Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to <http://www.chesstoday.net>*

9...♖e7 10.a3 ♘d6 11.0-0 0-0 12.e4 e5  
 13.c5 ♘b8 14.exd5 exd4 15.d6 ♖e5  
 16.b4 ♘xd6 17.cxd6 dxc3 18.♙xc3  
 ♖xd6 19.♞ad1 ♔d5 20.♙e4 ♖7b6  
 21.♙a1 ♖f4 22.♖d3 f5 23.♙f3 ♞ad8  
 24.♞fe1 ♖c4 25.♖d2 ♞d7 26.♖g5 ♞

Tregubov – N. Pert, Paris 2004.  
**10.0-0** Perhaps it was better to include 10.a3 – in case of 10...♙d6 White can think about 11.g4!?

**10...dxc4** 10...e5 11.cxd5 cxd5  
 12.♖d1! ♞e8 13.♖b3 ♙a5 14.♞fd1  
 exd4 15.exd4 ♖b6± Laznicka – I.  
 Sokolov, Crete 2007.

**11.♙xc4 e5 (D)**



**12.♞ad1!**

I saw that after 12.♙b3?! Black could play 12...exd4 13.exd4 ♖c5!

**12...♖e7** Black could also go for 12...exd4 13.exd4 ♖b6 14.♙b3 ♖xd4 15.♙f4 (Rybka gives 15.♙e3 ♖e5 16.♙d4 ♖g5 17.♞fe1 as slightly better for White.) 15...♖c5 16.♙d6 ♖xd6 17.♞xd6 ♙xd6± – it won't be easy for White to win here, through few players would voluntarily settle for this line with Black.

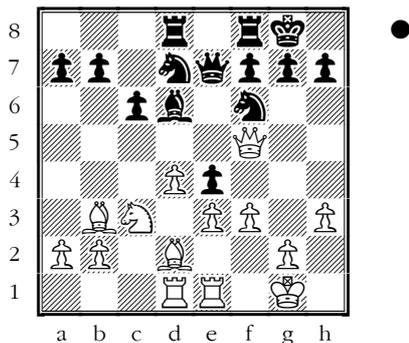
**13.♙b3 ♞ad8** I expected 13...♞ae8.

**14.♖f5!** This is a nice spot for the queen. 14.a3 would only push to bishop to a good square – 14...♙d6.

**14...♙d6 15.♞fe1 e4**

15...♞fe8!?

**16.f3! (D)**



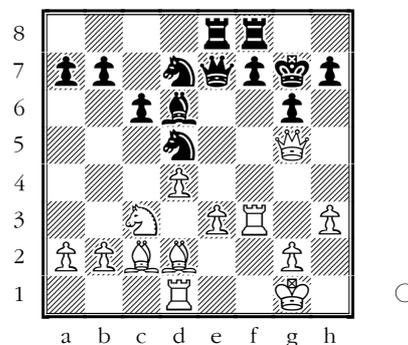
**16...g6**

In case of 16...exf3 I was going to play 17.e4! (17.♖xf3 is nice and simple – Black can't attack the centre yet – 17...c5 18.♖xb7) 17...♙g3 18.♞e3 f2+ 19.♞f1 ♙b8 20.♞f3±.

**17.♖g5 ♞de8 18.♞f1!** That was a difficult move to find and play – only 3 moves ago this rook went to e1 from f1! But position has changed and now the rook is needed on f1. I did not want to release the pawn tension with 18.f4.

**18...♖g7 19.♙c2!?** Rybka comes up with an interesting idea – 19.♖a5 a6 20.♙e1 – but Black is OK after 20...exf3 21.♞xf3 ♖e4 22.♖xe4 ♖xe4 23.♙c3 f6. White could also play 19.fxe4 ♖xe4 20.♖xe7 ♞xe7 21.♖xe4 ♞xe4 22.♙c2 ♞e7 23.e4±.

**19...exf3 20.♞xf3 ♔d5 (D)**

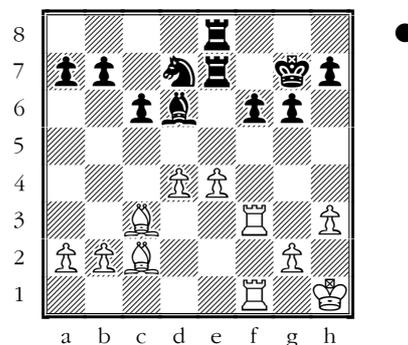


**21.♖xe7! ♞xe7 21...♖xe7 22.e4±.**

**22.e4 ♖xc3 23.♙xc3 f6 24.♖h1**

It was premature to push in the centre – 24.e5? fxe5 25.dxe5 ♙c5+ 26.♖h1 ♖xe5±. I also considered 24.g4, but I did not think that a tempo would matter here.

**24...♞fe8 25.♞df1 (D)**



I felt that White had a considerable advantage here – I can play b2–b4 (to stop ...c5) and then g2–g3, ♖h1–g2, etc. Then I can think about g3–g4 (maybe h4 first). ♙c2–d3 and a2–a4 and b4–b5 is also possible.

**25...♙c7?**

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

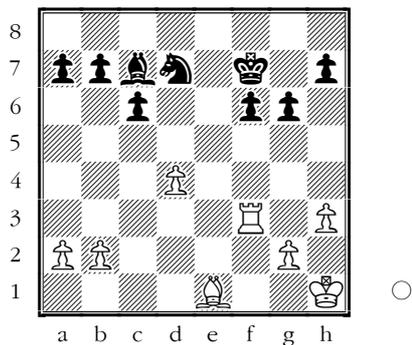
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Black could not yet attack the center – 25...c5? 26.dxc5 ♖xc5 27.♗a4±. But 25...a6!? was interesting – after 26.b4! Black can consider 26...♗xe4!? 27.♗xe4 ♖xe4 28.♖e1 ♖xe1+ 29.♗xe1 ♖b6.

**26.♗b4! ♖xe4**

Perhaps better was 26...c5 27.dxc5 a5 – after 28.♗a3 (28.♗c3 ♗e5 29.♗a4 ♗xc3 30.♖xc3 ♖c8 31.♗xd7 ♖xd7 32.♖f2±) 28...♖e5 29.♖xf6 ♖c4 30.♗b3 ♗e5 31.♖f6f3 (31.♖xg6+ hxg6 32.♗xc4 ♖c7±) 31...♖xa3 32.bxa3 ♖h6 33.♖d1 White is better though.

**27.♗xe4 ♖xe4 28.♖e1! ♖xe1+ 28...♖xd4 29.♗c3 ♖d5 30.♗xf6+! 29.♗xe1 ♖f7 (D)**



I considered this position to be won for White. I had about 10 minutes to make the remaining 11 moves before the time control – hardly time trouble! But somehow I went astray... **30.♖b3! ♗b6 31.a4 a5 32.♗g3** I spent some time on the line 32.♗xa5 ♗xa5 33.♖xb7 ♖e6 34.b4 ♗b6 35.a5 ♗xd4 36.a6, but I felt that it was not my best option. Indeed after 36...h5 37.g3 ♖e5 38.a7 ♗xa7 39.♖xa7 ♖d3 40.♖b7 ♖f5 41.♖g2 ♖e4 White has a lot of work to do winning this ending.; However, 32.d5! (something I did not even think of!) 32...♖e7 (32...cxd5 33.♖b5+-) 33.dxc6 bxc6 34.g4 should be easy enough.

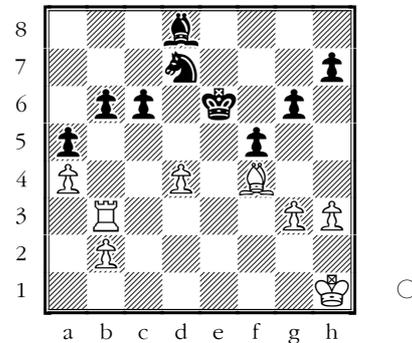
Why did I not see 32.d5? Probably the tension in the match got to me (if I had won the game, we would have stood really well in the match!), but most likely I was already pretty tired and could not think clearly. This is what happens when you play rarely – you lose confidence and then start questioning every decision you make – checking and re-checking. That usually leads to time trouble and makes one tired.

**32...♖e6** Not 32...f5? 33.♗c7!.

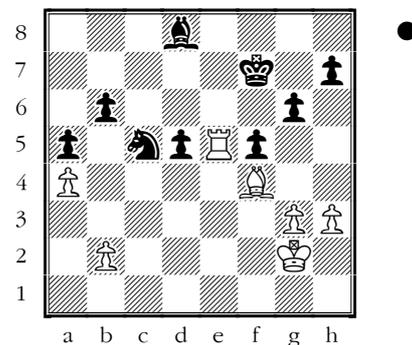
**33.♖e3+ ♖f7 34.♗d6 ♗d8 35.g3?**

My hand was going to play 35.g4! but my mind interfered... 35...♖b6 36.♖b3 (it's hard to win after 36.b3 ♖d5 37.♖e1 ♗b6 38.♗c5 ♗xc5 39.dxc5) 36...♖e6 37.♗g3 ♖d5 38.♖g2 ♖c4? 39.♖c3+.

**35...f5 36.♖b3 ♖e6 37.♗f4 b6 (D)**



**38.d5+??** Panic. White is still better after 38.♖e3+ ♖d5 39.♖e8 ♗f6 40.♗e3 c5 41.dxc5 ♖xc5 42.b3 ♖xb3 43.♗xb6. **38...cxd5 39.♖e3+ ♖f7 40.♖d3 ♖e6 41.♖e3+ ♖f7 42.♖g2** Objectively, 42.♖d3 was called for. **42...♖c5 43.♖e5 (D)**



**43...♗f6!**

This is better than 43...d4 44.♖d5 ♗f6 45.b3. Maybe Black did not like 45.b4 axb4 46.a5, though White only has a draw after 46...b3 47.♗c1 ♖e6 48.♖xc5 bxc5 49.a6 d3 50.a7 d2 51.♗xd2 b2 52.a8♖ b1♖ 53.♖c6+.

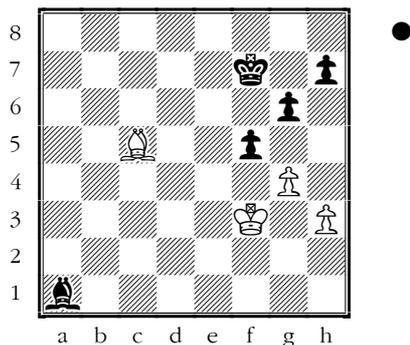
**44.♖xd5 ♗xb2 45.♖f3 ♖xa4 46.♗e3!**

I felt that after 46.♖d7+ ♖e6 47.♖xh7 ♖c5 it was only Black who could win.

**46...♖c5**

The line 46...♖e6 47.♖b5 ♖d6 48.♗xb6 ♖c6 49.♖b3 ♖xb6 50.♖xb2 is good for White, for example: 50...a4 51.♖f4! a3 52.♖a2 ♖c4 53.♖g5. **47.♖d6** This is more practical than 47.♗xc5 bxc5 48.♖xc5 a4.

47...a4 48.♖xb6 a3 49.♙xc5 a2  
 50.♖a6 a1♔ 51.♖xa1 ♙xa1 52.g4  
 (D)

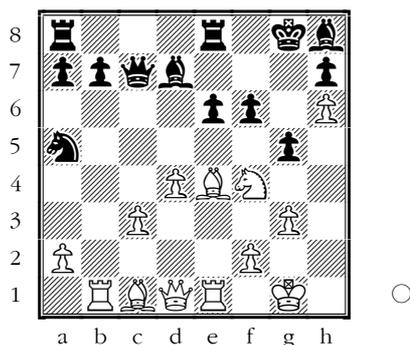


This is a dead draw – Black can't make any progress. 52...♗e6 53.gxf5+ ♗xf5 54.♙b6 h5 55.♙c5 Black offered a draw here. ½-½

### Solution to our Quiz:

#### Maiwald (2210) – Joecks (2355)

Krumbach open (9), 1991



20.♙xh7+! ♗xh7 21.♗h5 gxf4  
 22.♙xf4 ♗xf4 23.gxf4 ♖g8+  
 24.♗f1 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](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net> Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev, IMs Barskij and Notkin. Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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