

**A**t last we catch up with [TWIC](#)! Believe it or not, our issue today is number 365, exactly the same as the new TWIC (don't forget to take a look at it). And from now on we will be ahead, because we'll prepare CT-366 tomorrow while Mark Crowther makes TWIC-366 only next week! ☺



**Vladimir Barsky**  
Reports an anniversary

Of course it's only a funny coincidence that the first daily Internet newspaper *Chess Today* celebrates it's first year in existence the same time as the best weekly Internet Chess Magazine TWIC [www.chess.co.uk/twic/twic.html](http://www.chess.co.uk/twic/twic.html) celebrates it's 7<sup>th</sup>. But maybe it's a good sign for both of us?!

*Now some tournament news in brief.*

We have already written about Vishy Anand's victory in Bastia Open. As you remember after an initial Swiss there was a knock-out for the 16 best players. But others who didn't get in the 16 could also play in new 9-round Swiss. It was won by GM **Andrei Shchekachev**.

*Final standing:*

**1.** Shchekachev – 7½ points out of 9 **2-4.** Tregubov, Kozul, Agrest – 7 **5-9.** Riazantsev, Wojtkiewicz, Cebalo, Timoshenko, G. Kuzmin – 6½ etc. [www.opencorsica.com](http://www.opencorsica.com)

14 year-old Indian **Humpy Koneru** (who is World Junior champion among girls under 20) won the Third Saturday round-robin tournament in Belgrade (cat. VII, av. Elo 2415, 12 participants). She gathered 8½ points and scored a GM norm, like **Mihajlo Stojanovic**, who had a worse tie-break.

*Final standing:*

**1-2.** Koneru, Stojanovic – 8½ points out of 11 **3.** Lopez Martinez – 7 **4-5.** Kosanovic, Orlov – 6 **6-7.** Todorov, Boskovic – 5 etc. [www.beochem.org.yu](http://www.beochem.org.yu)

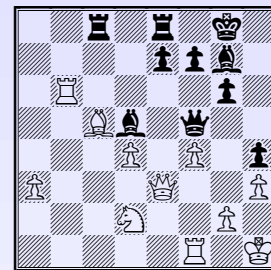
GM **Viktor Varavin** won the 4<sup>th</sup> Golden Autumn round-robin tournament (VIII category, av. Elo 2426, 14 participants) in Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine.

*Final standing:* **1.** Varavin – 8½ points out of 13 **2.** Arzumian – 8 **3-4.** Shtyrenkov, Gasanov – 7½ **5-8.** Andreev, Chuprikov, Sikula, Khurtsidze – 7 **9.** Alexandrova – 6½ etc. [chess-sector.odessa.ua/alu01oc2.htm](http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/alu01oc2.htm)

*Also see our annotated game section. Our congratulations to all the winners!*

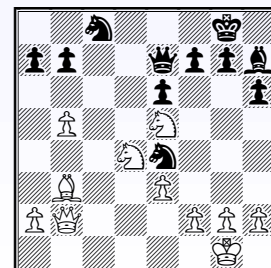
**Quiz today**

**(1) Tomczak (2300) – Bastys (2265)**  
4th WCh U20 Team, Rio de Janeiro BRA (4), 2001



Black to play

**(2) Vera (2090) – Falkenberg**  
4th WCh U20 Team, Rio de Janeiro BRA (4), 2001



White to play



Ralph Marconi, Graham Brown, Vladimir Barsky, Alex Baburin, Ruslan Scherbakov, Mikhail Golubev

At time of going to press we know only the pairing of the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the European Team Championships in Leon, Spain. There are 34 men's (4 boards each) team and 32 women's (2 boards). There will be 9-round Swiss.

1<sup>st</sup> round, men: Czech – Israel England – Latvia Slovakia – Netherlands France – Spain B Macedonia – Ukraine Spain A – Azerbaijan etc.

Women: Latvia – Yugoslavia Ukraine – Spain Croatia – Germany Moldova – Azerbaijan Italy – Hungary Georgia – Switzerland etc.

More about the Championships and teams tomorrow [www.euroleon2001.com/results.htm](http://www.euroleon2001.com/results.htm)



## Chess Today is celebrating its first birthday!

By Alex Baburin

**T**ime really does fly - a year passed very quickly and all of a sudden we have a small case for celebration as our paper is one year old today. But perhaps this is not such a small reason to celebrate - if you consider what happened in that year.

One year ago dot-com ventures were flying high and I sometimes thought that perhaps I should be thinking big, dreaming up some colossal chess portal or something of that kind. But instead I wanted to start an electronic chess paper, which would provide a service to chess fans every day - news, games, stories, puzzles... Nothing glossy and certainly no IOP on NASDAQ was planned! Chess Today had no sponsor's money to burn and I hoped that the paper would make money by charging a subscription fee. While this is still not a very popular concept on the Net (well, it is *very* popular among content-providers!), it worked and I was able to run the paper without making my

kids hungry. Meanwhile Boo.com and Lastminute.com bit the dust, Amazon is still struggling to show any profit - but CT is alive and well. I would like to thank our readers for that - at Chess Today we are happy to have such a loyal audience!

I would also like to thank all and everyone in our team - our regular authors IM Vladimir Barsky and GM Ruslan Scherbakov, our editors Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi. Many thanks also to Mikhail Golubev, who did many CT issues and to Tim Harding, who edited some of the first issues. We have some very keen supporters between chess professionals. Some, like GMs Karsten Mueller and Lev Psakhis, sent their notes, while others (Speelman, Agdestein, Radjabov and many others) gave us moral support. Thank you all!

It may sound strange, but now we can talk about a **history of Chess Today** - on the Net time goes faster and here one year counts as many in ordinary life. So, here is a short introduction to the CT history:

I got the idea of a daily chess paper sometime in October 2000. At that time I wrote (I still do!) a weekly chess column in Irish newspaper 'Sunday Independent'. I saw that with so many things happening in chess, I could write about it every day. But there was no paper, which would publish it every day - so I decided to start my own! I spoke with a few people and got a rather positive response. The idea was to provide daily news and good commentary, so people could follow the chess world without spending too much time searching the Net. One of my main worries was (and still is) that Chess Today could be almost too

good - it's hard to digest so much chess stuff every day. And if the customer does not get 'full value' (i.e. does not read one or two issues), he might feel unhappy... This argument is hard to beat, but I always say that even I do not read every CT issue on the same day - I often come back to them later. And if we make CT a weekly magazine, then we compete with TWIC, while publishing 'Chess This Month' on the Net makes almost no sense...

As I chose a daily format, it was clear that it could not be a one-man show. Fortunately Vladimir and Ruslan agreed to join me. I had known them for many years, which obviously helped. It was harder to get an editor, but thanks to friends' recommendations I found Graham and Ralph. We still have not met in person, but we get on very well. Come to think of it - we live in Russia, England, Ireland, Ukraine and Canada, we have connections problems and computer breakdowns, but not even once have we failed to deliver you the latest chess news! Like most chess pros, I used to be very individualistic, but working on CT has taught me a lot about team work!

On our first birthday I do not only observe the past, but also **look into the future**. Many readers say that it is a surprise that CT does not have thousands of subscribers yet. Well, this is something I should work on. I would also appreciate help from you - please recommend CT to your chess friends, print and post a few issues at your chess club and at the tournaments which you attend - the more people who know about us, the better! If you have a web site, please give a link to [www.chesstoday.net](http://www.chesstoday.net).

Please send your feedback, suggestions and recommendations to [ababurin@iol.ie](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie). We appreciate your time and effort, so all such e-mails - when you tell us what you like or don't like in CT and suggest how to promote it, will enter our **special anniversary draw**. The main prize will be a 'Gambit' chess clock and the second prize will be a new book by GM Dorfman - 'The Method in Chess'. Please send your e-mails before Sunday. Those who have already sent us such feedback, will enter the draw automatically.

I enjoy writing for Chess Today myself and will continue with my 'Trainer's Corner'. I plan to

publish more thematic articles and games in 'training' format - sort of a 'Master Class'. As always you are welcome to send me questions about endgame, openings, etc. and suggest players you would like to learn more about. We also plan to offer new services to our readers such as opinion polls, chats with GMs and online lessons. Together we can make CT better - thank you for your support!

## Annotated Game

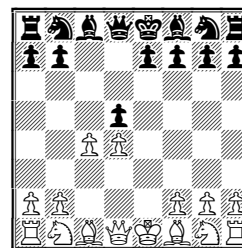
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

### V Varavin (2490) - A Bets (2375)

4th Golden Autumn, Alushta UKR, 2001 B14

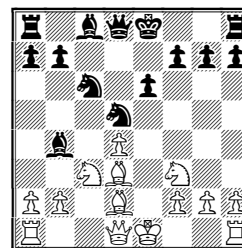
In our jubilee issue I decided to choose a game with our editor-in-chief's favourite pawn structure (he even calls it a "Winning Pawn Structure"). Maybe in the new edition of his book he will use this game and be thinking about his colleague who annotated it in CT! :-)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4



Some GMs regard the Panov's attack the strongest way against the Caro-Cann Defence.

4...♟f6 5.♟c3 e6 6.♟f3 ♟b4 7.cxd5 ♟xd5 8.♟d2 ♟c6 9.♟d3



This position can arise from quite a lot of openings: Caro-Cann Defence, Queen's Gambit Accepted, Nimzo Indian etc.

9...0-0 10.0-0 ♟e7

An alternative is 10...♟f6

11.a3 ♟f6 12.♟e2 g6

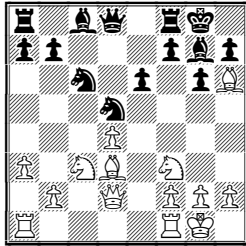
12.Qe2 isn't the most aggressive move, and very often after it games are quickly drawn, for example: 12...♟xd4 13.♟xd4 ♟xd4 14.♟xh7+ (14.♟e4 ♟f6) 14...♟xh7 15.♟d3+ ♟g8 16.♟xd4

♖b6 17.♙e3 ♜xd4 18.♙xd4 ♜d5 19.♜xd5 draw,  
Gdanski – Macieja, Warsaw 2001.

**13.♙h6 ♙g7**

13...♞e8 14.♞ad1 ♜xc3 15.bxc3 b6 16.♞e3 ♙b7  
17.♙g5 ♙xg5 18.♜xg5 ♞e7 19.♞fe1 ♜a5 20.♞f4  
♙d5 ♞ Grund – Dautov, Germany 1997.

**14.♞d2**

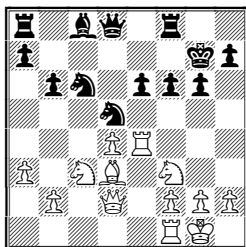


Formally speaking this move is a novelty maybe, but this idea – not to exchange on g7 but defend the h6 bishop with queen to d2 – was known at least from Botvinnik's games. White's idea is to increase control over the dark squares. Take a look at the following bright game: 14.♙xg7 ♜xg7 15.♙e4 ♜ce7 16.♞ac1 ♜f6 17.♞fd1 ♞b8 18.d5! exd5 19.♜xd5 ♜exd5 20.♙xd5 ♞b6 (20...♜xd5 21.♞e5+) 21.♞e5 ♙g4 22.♙xf7! ♞bc8 23.♙c4± Hebden – Andruet, France 1988.

**14...b6 15.♞ae1 f6?!**

A very dubious move. Obviously, black weakens a lot of squares in his camp.

**16.♙xg7 ♜xg7 17.♞e4!**



Alex Baburin in his book "Winning Pawn Structures" calls this manoeuvre a "Rook lift": The rook is ready to attack the king on g7 along the h-file. In this game black prevents this idea but the rook finds another good job, on the e-file.

**17...♜ce7**

The knight hastens to protect the h6-square (in case of Re4-h4).

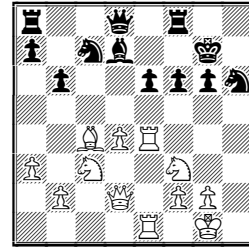
**18.♞fe1 ♜g8 19.h4 ♙d7 20.♙c4! ♜c7**

White has created such strong pressure on the point d5, that the knight has to leave it. Now the advance d4-d5 is on the cards.

**21.h5 ♜h6**

Not much better is 21...g5 in view of 22.d5! e5 23.♜xe5!? fxe5 24.♞xe5 with very strong attack. Of course white doesn't have to sacrifice a piece – he has another good ways to improve his position also.

**22.hxg6 hxg6**



**23.d5!**

Here it is!

**23...e5**

After 23...exd5 white receives too many open files for his pieces, i.e.: 24.♜xd5 ♜xd5 25.♞xd5 ♞f7 26.♜g5! fxg5 27.♞d4+ ♞f6 (27...♜h7 28.♙xf7 ♜xf7 29.♞e7 ♙e8 30.♞xd8 ♞xd8 31.♞xe8+-; 27...♞f6 28.♞e7+ ♜f7 29.♞xf6+! ♜xf6 30.♞xf7#) 28.♙xf7+-

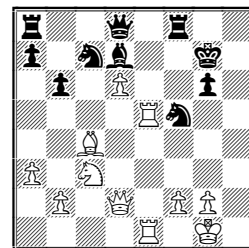
**24.♜xe5!**

Now white has to pay for his open files, but to tell the truth the price isn't very high! :-)

**24...fxe5 25.♞xe5 ♜f5**

Black can't defend this position, i.e. 25...♞e8 26.d6+-; 25...♙f5 26.d6 ♜e8 27.♞e7+ ♜f7 28.♙xf7 ♞xf7 29.♞xf7+ ♜xf7 30.♞e7+ ♜g8 31.♞d5+ ♜h8 32.♞d4+ ♜g8 33.♞c4+-

**26.d6!**



Now white threatens a deadly check with rook e7.

**26...♜e6 27.♙xe6 ♙xe6 28.♞xe6 ♞f6 1-0**



## Chess Today, Chess Tomorrow

By Graham Brown



In late 2000 I received an email from GM Alex Baburin. I knew him from *Coffee Break Chess* but as far as I knew he didn't know me so I was somewhat intrigued. It turned out that a friend had recommended me to help edit a new daily web chess newspaper he was thinking of setting up. I jumped at the chance! I would be helping with the technical aspects not the Chess he said.

Thank God I'm not doing the Chess I thought. I was a reasonable club standard player - BCF 137 (approx. Elo 1696) but wouldn't fancy doing the writing! A year on my grade has gone up to BCF 158 (approx. Elo 1864) and I've won the trophy you see me holding in the picture! A good jump which I attribute to having to edit so many superbly annotated games! I think I will still leave the actual writing of the annotations to the

titled players!!! Unless I can jump another few hundred Elo places :-)

And I (in England) still haven't met Alex (in Ireland) or Ruslan and Vladimir (in Russia) or Mikhail (in Ukraine) or Ralph (in Canada)! Alex is talking about online lectures ... In that case I hope to meet them and you all online ... in Chess Tomorrow!

### Solution to our tactical puzzles:

(1) 43...♖xc5! 44.dxc5 ♕d4! 44...♕d4 45.♗xd4 ♖xh3+ 46.♔g1 ♗xg2# 0-1

(2) 25.♘xf7! ♖b4 25...♔xf7 26.♕xe6+ ♔f8 27.♕xc8+- 26.♘h6+! ♔h8 27.♘f3 ♖xb5 28.♘f7+ ♔g8 29.♘7g5 ♕f5 30.♕xe6+ 1-0



I've enjoyed being a part of the CT team and that I believe my editing skills have improved. I can't say if my chess has improved any though :-). But, I believe that the annotated games and quizzes we offer in the magazine can help one's chess. I would like the magazine to have a very long life and be the best on the net in what we offer.

**Ralph Marconi**

In my view, Chess Today is the first really professional project in the electronic chess journalism. I wish a lot of success to CT team and to Alex personally. He goes in the correct direction **GM Mikhail Golubev**



**Contact information.** Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at [ct@gmsquare.com](mailto:ct@gmsquare.com). We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

**Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today.** Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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