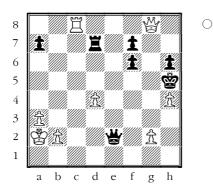
CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net CT-358(1873) Saturday, 24th December 2005

Test Yourself!

Golubev (2517) – A. Vajda (2421) Memorialul Revolutiei din decembrie'89

Bucharest, ROM 2005



On This Day... by GM Mikhail Golubev

The 1978 Polish Champion, GM Adam Kuligowski was born on 24 December 1955. He stopped playing in tournaments in 1989.



World Chess News

Russian Super-Final

Round five saw three decisive games. Kramnik, playing with Black, won against Tomashevsky. Morozevich, also with Black, defeated the tournament's outsider, Volkov. It was the second consecutive win by Morozevich after his unfortunate loss in Round 3.

Rublevsky, playing with White against Motylev's Petroff, managed to make a full point from what looked as a rather minimal advantage, at best. An impressive performance! After this victory, Rublevsky became sole leader.

Round 5 results:

Rublevsky – Motylev 1–0 Zvjaginsev – Bareev ½–½ Jakovenko – Svidler ½–½ Tomashevsky – Kramnik 0–1 Khalifman – Dreev ½–½ Volkov – Morozevich 0–1

Standings after 5 rounds:

Rublevsky - 4
2-3. Svidler and Zvjaginsev - 3¹/₂
4-6. Morozevich, Kramnik and Jakovenko - 3
7. Bareev - 2¹/₂
8-9. Motylev and Dreev - 2
10-11. Tomashevsky and Khalifman - 1¹/₂
12. Volkov - ¹/₂
Official website

XVIII Carlos Torre Memorial

Lazaro Bruzon defeated Michal Krasenkow in the final match after winning the third playoff game.

Final: Bruzon – Krasenkow 3–2 <u>Official website</u>

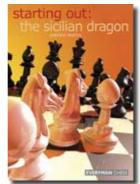


Chess Reviews by GM Mikhail Golubev

Starting Out: The Sicilian Dragon, by IM Andrew Martin. Everyman, 208 pages.

I did not know IM Andrew Martin was a Dragon expert, but I was still interested to get this new book. As the recent example of Edward Dearing taught me, it is not necessary to be a recognized expert in order to write an interesting book about the Sicilian Dragon. I can cite an even earlier example – the Dragon coverage by GM Paul Motwani in his book *STAR Chess.*

In comparison to the Dearing book, Martin's volume is smaller, thinner and has much less material. There are usually two diagrams per page, which take about 25% of all space. All of that is not а disadvantage, however, as the main target audience of this books are the club



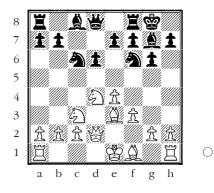
players who are new to the Dragon. Even a titled player sometimes might prefer a smaller book.

Martin's work has a clear concept behind it: coverage of the lines is based on the complete games. These games can be either spectacular or instructive in some specific way, or just involve great players such as Kasparov. The objective theoretical importance of those games was clearly not the author's priority. But there is nothing is wrong with such an approach, as this is not a theoretical manual. At the same time, it is obvious that Andrew Martin pays attention to all, without exceptions, fashionable theoretical trends. Thus, Botvinnik's line 6.2e3 2g7 7.f3 a6, that started to reappear recently, or the Chinese Dragon (6.2e3 2g7 7.f3 2c6 8. 2d2 0-0 9.2c4 2d7 10.0-0-0 Zb8) or the Topalov's Dragon (9.2c4 2d7 10.0-0-0 \(\existscript{c8} 11.\) \(\existscript{b3} \(\existscript{Axd4} 12.\) \(\existscript{Axd4} b5) - \) everything of this kind is discussed.

The Bibliography (which I think is hardly necessary for a book of this type), has several notable omissions such as Dearing's and Ward's books, and Rogozenko Dragon CD. The "Experts vs. the Sicilian" is not mentioned either. But several other important sources are there, such as the www.chesspublishing.com Dragon section by Chris Ward, whom Martin calls a Dragon guru. It is also obvious that the author, as it is almost always the case, used more sources than he listed in the bibliography. Sometimes Martin referred to the Chess Today notes, for example.

The author displays strong opinions about the comparable value of different alternatives in the most critical lines. He tends to be more opinionated than most of life-long Dragon experts, who had to change their opinions too often in the past and learned to be careful. Let's look at few notable examples of Martin's use of the evaluation marks in the Yugoslav Attack

1.e4 c5 2.分f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.分xd4 分f6 5.分c3 g6 6.鼻e3 鼻g7 7.f3 分c6 8.쌀d2 0-0 (D)



Here after 9.0-0-0 both 9... 2xd4?! (page 73) and 9... 2e6?! (page 80) are claimed to be dubious.

In the 9.0-0-0 d5 system, the move 10.當b1! (page 67) is preferred to the main line with 10.exd5.

After 9. ac4, 9... Axd4?! is called dubious (page 8).

In case of 9.皇c4 单d7 10.0-0-0 營b8, Martin advocates Leko's choice 11.全d5! (page 101).

After 9.@c4 @d7 10.0-0-0 \arrow c8 11.@b3 \arrow xd4 12.@xd4 b5, the most popular move 13.\arrow d5 is awarded with an exclamation mark.

Covering the variation 9.Qc4 Qd7 10.0-0-0 🖗a5 11.Qb3 Efc8, Martin suggests for White 12. 🖗b1! Qe5 13.Qg5! (this part of his work was available online).

After 9. ac4 ad7, an exclamation mark is given to 10.h4 (page 91), what in author's view is the most critical move order. Meanwhile other experts prefer 10.0–0–0 or even 10. ab3, avoiding the Soltis Variation with h4 and ...h5.

The most radical example of awarding exclamation marks in the book is that even 5...g6 (a starting move of the

Dragon) got one on page 28. One should not be surprised then to see 6.f4 (2)bd7! (page 183)!

So, what to say about this approach? In most cases (even where I somewhat disagree with his evaluations), it is just a matter of taste. Thus, personally, I think that after 9.0–0–0 d5, the move 10.exd5 is more critical than 10.2b1. But I also remember Ivanchuk telling me in 2002 that in his opinion, if White plays perfectly, he should be slightly better in the important endgame, which occurred in the game Adams–Ivanchuk, where the latter move was tested.

I don't feel that Martin is

fundamentally wrong anywhere in his suggestions. One of my relatively strong objections is about Martin's statement that in the line

7...2c6 8.2d2 2d7 9.0–0–0 Ξ c8 Black is holding up well (page 57). This sounds too good to be true! But, again, the correct answer cannot be mathematically proven here. Only the practice of top grandmasters can give us the idea what can be considered playable at the moment and what cannot.

Inevitably for such a thin book on a vast subject, a number of important possibilities are not considered. For example, 10.g4 2e5 11.2e2!? in the above-mentioned line with 9...邕c8. More significantly, when Martin very examines Soltis briefly Variation 7... 包c6 8. 曾d2 0-0 9. 鼻c4 鼻d7 10.0-0-0 Ec8 11. Db3 De5 12. h4 h5, after the topical 13. 鼻g5 邕c5 14. 當b1 he give a game with a rare 14...a5, but fails to mention 15.a4. But in my opinion, a2a4 can be called an almost automatic White's reaction to the early $\dots a7-a5$ in the Yugoslav Attack with 9.2c4.

Still, my general impression is that coverage of most lines is adequate. The author's textual explanations, which is the essential part of any book of this kind, are nicely balanced with variations.

I noticed a few typos, such as a game reference, twice repeated in the bottom of the page 106 and on the top of the page 107. But they are very rare and only prove that books are still written by humans!

Here is one possible factual mistake worth mentioning: the book claims that after 9.0–0–0, a pawn sacrifice 9...d5 was "recommended by Russian masters Konstantinopolsky" (page 59), while the common version is that 9...d5 was found by a little–known player Konstantinovsky. But I did not try to check that – the truth must be hidden in the Soviet chess publications of the 1930s, somewhere near the photos of Josef Stalin!

So, this book is good value for the Dragon novices, but does it offer anything to the experienced Dragon players? Does the book contain something really new, i.e. original analysis and new recommendations? My impression is that Martin indeed provides a significant number of "small" suggestions here and there – but the number of new ideas of theoretical importance is limited.

Conclusion: My overall impression is positive. This book is a suitable introduction to the Dragon for nonprofessional players. As for the serious Dragon devotees (such as myself), who already own the Dearing book and a lot of other Dragon stuff, they should make their own mind whether or not to buy this book. If they find a new idea or two there, it might already justify the purchase.

Memorialul Revolutiei in Bucharest

by GM Mikhail Golubev

The **Memorialul Revolutiei din** decembrie'89 was organised by the Chess Club Juventus Bucharest on 14-22.December This is pre-Christmas time in Romania: the Orthodox Romanian Church is celebrating Christmas in December (as contrary, for example, to the Russian Orthodox Church, which celebrates Christmas in January, in accordance with the old calendar). I already participated in the 2003 edition of the

Memorialul Revolutiei Open and found not many changes in 2005. Is it good or bad?

Well, from one point of view, a group of at least 10-15 professional or semiprofessional players competed for relatively modest prizes. The first prize was 3500 RON (a bit more than one thousand euros). While, for example, the eighth place was already rewarded with 300 RON (approximately one hundred USD), and those who occupied places 11-13 received only 100 RON each. Also, taking in account the large number of players, the conditions for playing in the Juventus Club can hardly be called ideal. Even if they are, generally, acceptable by the Eastern European standards.

But, from a different point of view, the tradition of organising the Memorial of the Romanian December Revolution is continued. And this is, perhaps, the important and is certainly most positive. Several top players were provided full-board а accommodation. by the organisers The closing ceremony on December 22 took place in the Bucharest's la Primarie Sectorului 2, which is located in a very nice and modern building. It was attended by the press, as well as the local municipal officials. A talented girl, who sang the famous song in English from the Bodyguard movie, added a required international flavour to the ceremony. In the tournament itself, there were 17 foreigners among the total of 112 participants.

GM Dmitry Svetushkin of Moldova IM Constantin Lupulescu and showed very confident play in the course of the event. The Svetushkin vs Lupulescu clash in Round 8 became really crucial. Before this encounter, the adversaries were sharing the lead with 6 points out of 7. In the sensitive line of Sicilian Najdorf, White managed to find a hole in Black's preparation and obtained a technically winning position already by move 25. [This and several other selected games can be found in today's database.]

After his victory over Lupulescu, Svetushkin lead by himself with 7

points out of 8. This however, was still not sufficient to secure first place, because there were a number of followers with 6 points, against one of Dragos whom, IM Dumitrache, Svetushkin had to play in the final round with Black. Their game was quite curious. By move 17, White had an initiative for the sacrificed pawn, later his activity gradually but disappeared, and the Grandmaster from Moldova converted the extra pawn into a full point - reaching thereby the impressive final result of 8 points out of 9. Among those players who had 6/8 before the final round, only IM Gabriel Mateuta managed to win his last game, so he took clear second place.

Main prizes winners:

GM D.Svetushkin (MDA 2535) - 8
IM G.Mateuta (ROM 2465) - 7
IM C.Lupulescu (ROM 2528) - 6¹/₂
IM V.Shishkin (UKR 2527) - 6¹/₂
GM Co.Ionescu (ROM 2450) - 6¹/₂
GM M.Golubev (UKR 2517) - 6¹/₂
IM I.Cosma (ROM 2468) - 6¹/₂
IM V.Jianu (ROM 2487) - 6¹/₂
IM V.Sanduleac (MDA 2479) - 6¹/₂
IM N.Dobrev (BUL 2396) - 6
IM C.Nanu (ROM 2439) - 6
IM V.Slovineanu (MDA 2394) - 6

Women's prizes winners:

1. WIM C.Voicu ROM 2261 - 6 2. WGM A.Calotescu ROM 2298 - 5 3. WIM I.Ionica ROM 2229 - 5

What can I say about my own performance? After seven rounds I was going to lose approximately 12 ELO points! But, thanks to two wins in the final rounds, I finally managed to reduce that to a mere 4 points. In 2005, I played in three rated events and lost some rating points in each of them. Now I reasonably expect my ELO to drop under 2500 – for the first time since 1993. Remarkably, with the exception of the last round win (I played Caro Kann with White against IM Vajda), my other four victories were all achieved in the Sicilian Dragon: three times with Black and one with White. This is, perhaps, rather encouraging. My results in the Dragon were much less impressive the recent years.

I am thankful to the tournament arbiter, Radu–Catalin Chirila for providing photos and the tournament information.



From left to right: A Bucharest municipal official; Gabriel Papa; WGM Margareta Muresan of the Romanian Chess Federation; veteran GM Theodor Ghitescu, coach of Sah Club Juventus

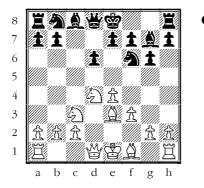
Annotated Games

by GM Mikhail Golubev

White: D. Nuta (2194) Black: M. Golubev (2517)

Memorialul Revolutiei din decembrie'89 Bucharest ROM (6), 18.12.2005 Sicilian Defence /Dragon – [B75]

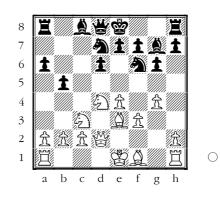
1.e4 c5 2.2f3 d6 3.d4 2f6 4.2c3 cxd4 5.2xd4 g6 6.2e3 2g7 7.f3 (D)



7...a6!? If this edition of the Sicilian Dragon deserves a specific name, I would call it "Botvinnik's Dragon". Probably Black is a bit worse here, but the line is almost unstudied in comparison to the usual Dragon stuff

with ... Dc6, which I have always played in the past.

8. ¹/₂ **4 bd7 9.g4!?** The very solid 9. ¹/₂ c4 is what I suggested for White in the "Experts vs. the Sicilian". **9...b5 (D)**



10.0-0-0 Ionica-Golubev from Round 2 continued 10.g5 2h5 11.0-0-0 (11.2c6?! ₩c7 12.2xe7? fails to 12... as suggested by Martin, deserves attention. Still, I was not sure what White would do with his king in this line) 11... 鱼b7 12. 當b1 (not especially impressive for White is 12.2ce2 2b6 13.2g3 2xg3 14.hxg3 d5! Shirov-Williams, 4NCL 2004/5) 12...0-0!? 13.@ce2 d5 14.@g3 e5 (probably strongest) 15. 2 de 2 (deserved 15.Db3!? attention d416.Dxh5 gxh5 17.**L**f2) 15... 幻xg3 (16.hxg3!?) 16...d4 17.h4 16. 2xg3 17...dxe3 18.曾xd7 曾b6) 18.皇f2 ②c5 19.@e1 f5!? 20.gxf6 \(\Box xf6 21.\Overline g2?!) (21.h5 \arrow xf3 22.hxg6) 21...h5! with a clear advantage for Black', which I spoiled entirely on the 29th move but White lost on time two moves later.; 10.2c6!? ₩c7 11.2xe7! forces Black to play 11... b7! as in Al Sayed-Cheparinov, Andorra 2004; After 10.h4!?, 10...h5 looks natural, but I would also think about 10... b7 11.h5 ∐g8

10....負b7 11.h4 ②e5

A new, objectively risky move. Earlier Black tried 11...2b6 and 11...h5. **12.g5?!** 12.h5! was certainly best. Hard to say how I would answer. Maybe even 12...\Bg8 (After 12...b4 13.2b1! it is not easy to find a playable way for Black)

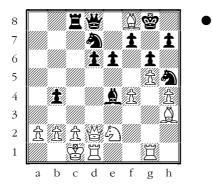
12...之h5 13. 百g1 White plays too slowly. More interesting was 13.f4!? . I tried to understand whether I can go for 13...b4 (13...之g3 14.fxe5!) 14. 公d5 公g3 15. 登xb4 Qxd5 16.exd5 公g4

This issue is prepared by GM Mikhail Golubev; technical editor Ralph Marconi Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to <u>http://www.chesstoday.net</u> CT-358(1873) Page 5 of 8 **13...0-0 14.f4 ②d7!?** Now White has some problems with his e4 pawn. **15.②de2!? 三c8 16.④h3** I expected 16.④g2 or 16.a3. In both cases Black could try 16...②b6!?.

16...b4! 17.②d5 e6 18.②xb4 실xe4! It gives more problems for White than 18...a5 19.②d3 실xe4

19. Qd4 Or 19. [@]xd6 a5! with a strong initiative; White could try to defend by 19. <u>Ag2</u>!?

19...a5 20. Qxg7 After 20. **2**d3 Black can win a pawn by 20... **Qx**d4 21. **4x**d4 **Qx**d3 22. **[⊕]**xd3 **2x**f4 but I would consider other options as well. **20...axb4** Less tempting but also good was 20... **2x**g7!? **21. Qx**f8 (D)



Despite White's inaccuracies, the clear advantage for Black is still not too easy to prove.

21...b3!? The most natural is 21...\(\Box\) xc2+ 22.\(\Box\) xc2 (23.\(\Box\) xc2 (23.\(\

22.axb3 營a5! 23.公c3?! The best was 23. b1! (preserving the knight on e2) 23...Qxc2+ 24.\arepsixc2 \Box xc2 \cong xc2 \Box 25.\arepsixc2 \$\Box\$xf8 . Hard to judge whether it is more attractive for Black than 21...Rxc2 line.; After 23. [™]xa5?? Black mates by 23... 三xc2+ 24. 當b1 三c5+! 23...皆a1+ 24.勾b1 勾xf8 25.莒ge1 Somewhat more stubborn was 25.\Bigf1?!, but White probably wished to force the capture on c2.

25...買xc2+ 26.營xc2 鼻xc2 27.當xc2 營a7 28.買f1 d5 29.買d3? The only move was 29. 소강 but then 29.... 생c7 30. 프 d4 e5!? as it seems gives Black a huge advantage.

29....公xf4 30. Ic3 d4 31. Ic8?

Another blunder in time-trouble, which does not change anything. White resigned. **0–1.**

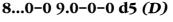
White: M. Petrov (2418) Black:: M. Golubev (2517)

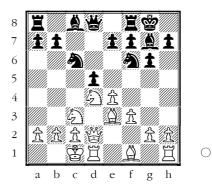
Memorialul Revolutiei din decembrie'89 Bucharest ROM (8), 20.12.2005 Sicilian Defence – [B76]

1.e4 c5 2. (a) c3 (c) Note! – after this the "Botvinnik's Dragon" can not be reached! But, in any case, before the game I decided to play the usual Dragon.

3.②f3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.②xd4 鱼g7 6.鱼e3 d6 The main move 6...④f6 allows 7.③xc6!? with different kind of play.

7. ¹/₂ **∂f6 8.f3!** After 8.0–0–0 there is 8... **∂**g4! (stronger than 8...0–0 9. **∂**xc6 bxc6 10.e5 **∂**g4) with the idea of 9. **∂**xc6 bxc6 10. **≜**d4 **≜**h6! 8.0–0.9.0–0.45 (D)





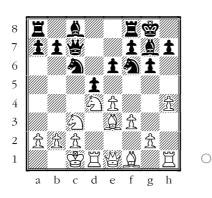
10. "e1!? Golubev-T.Georgescu

(Round 1) saw 10.exd5 2xd5 11.2xc6 bxc6 12.2d4 e5 13.2c5 2e6 14.2e4 \[e8 15.h4 h6 16.g4 \] C7 17.g5 h5 18.এc4 \(\existsel{eq:absolution} 19.\(\existsel{eq:absolution} f2\), which is the very main line of 9.0-0-0 d5 Dragon. After 19...a5 20.a4 \arrow ab8 21.\arrow he1 \begin{arrow}{l} b7 \end{arrow} b7 22.b3 Sh7N both my memory and confidence a bit failed. Actually, I this considered position in the "Experts vs. the Sicilian" (2004), where I wrote: "Two possible waiting moves are 22... h8 (Marin) and 22... h7. In either case quite a logical continuation seems to be 23.²d2 (22.²a3 is also an option) 23....2f4 24. axe6 ⁽²⁾xe6 25.4d6!?. Now either version of Black's exchange sacrifice (25... \alpha xd6 and 25.... (a) would hardly work well

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for him, while after 25... Ebc8 White will at least have 26. 2c5!? a with positional advantage." What I instead decided to play was weaker: 23.2d2 ②f4 24. Ixd8 Ixd8 25. Qxe6 ④xe6 29. De4 c4! and Black had full compensation for the pawn; White's win in this game is explained by mistakes which Black made later. 10...e6 A move, which I suggested in New In Chess back in 1988, and sometimes analysed later - but never played. 10...e5 is a bit more promising, but it is not possible to play the same things all the time.

11.h4 In 1997, my opponent once played 11.g4?! but there Black has 11...e5!! 12.2xc6 bxc6 13.exd5 cxd5 14.2g5 2b7!, which is well known since Savchenko, with whom we analysed this line, defeated Morozevich in 1991. **11...2c7 (D)**



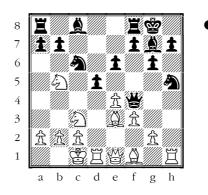
The main move, about which I told in Bela Crkva, to Boris Alterman in 1990, who a bit later introduced it in the game against Kramnik. 12.h5 Kramnik-Alterman, Sochi 1990 saw 12.exd5 ②xd5 13. 2xd5 exd5 14.\d2 . The main word there is



12...2xh5 13.2db5 A rare move. Instead, 13.g4 has been tested often,

but with decent results for Black. In 1990, my idea was 13.exd5 exd5 14.ᡚxd5 ₩e5 15.Qc4 Qe6!, but perhaps things there are less bright for Black that I thought then. This line is discussed in Dearing's book, which, alas, I do not have in hand at the moment. One serious idea for White is 16.f4!? (calmer is 16.£f2) 16...2xf4 17.\"h4 ②h5 (17....€e2+!? is remarkable) 18. Af4 where Black must 18...\[⊕]xd4.

13...皆g3 14.鼻f2 皆f4+ 15.鼻e3 (D)



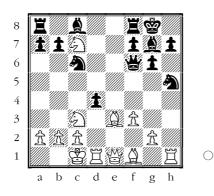
15...¹⁵**f6** Objectively dubious, but how else to play for a win? Topalov once made the same choice in a position with exd5, ...exd5 included. I remembered that game a bit, but somehow thought that it ended in a repetition!

16.exd5 16. Cr?? is of interest too. 16...exd5 Now we have suddenly

> transposed to Adams-Topalov. **17.②c7** 17.邕xd5!? as in Adams-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 1996 is possibly critical. Maybe White's chances are better, but the position is quite incalculable. 17...@f5 18.@d6 **≜**xc2 19.**≜**g5 \u00e9e6 20.鼻c4 包e5

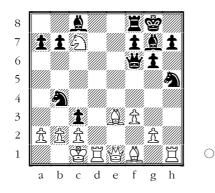
21. ♣xc2 ♠xc4 22. ♠xc4 ♣xc3 23. ♣xe6 fxe6 ± is one of hundreds possible lines. 17...d4! (D)

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18. (a) xa8 White could have tried to find the luck in the messy lines after 18. **(a)** 3d5!?

18...dxc3! Now Black is doing well. 19.公c7!? After 19.營xc3 營xc3 20.bxc3 Black certainly has sufficient compensation for the exchange, but I was not sure whether White is significantly worse. For example, 20...公g3 21.罝g1 罝e8 22.鼻f4! 19...公b4 (D)



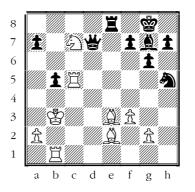
20. 臣d4? But this is a big mistake. I tried to understand what is Black's best option after 20. 包d5! 包xd5 21. 臣xd5 and would probably choose between 21...臣e8, 21...曾e6 and 21...曾e7. The only thing I was sure about is that 21...包g3? is unplayable due to 22.曾xg3 曾e6 23.臣d3 曾xa2 24.bxc3

20...cxb2+ 21.當b1 公xc2! 22.當xc2 쌀c6+!-+ A decisive check.

23.□C4 ③f5+ 24.③b3 ⑤d7! Stronger than 24...b1[⊗]+?! 25. **⑥**xb1 **④**xb1 26.**□**xc6 bxc6 27.**④**xa7

25. @e2 b5!? A "humanistic" move. I wished to avoid 25...b1\[⊕]+ 26.[⊕]xb1 **@**xb1 27.[□]xb1 b5 28.[□]C2 where White is objectively lost, but Black still has some work.

26.Ξc5 b1螢+ 27.螢xb1 এxb1 28.Ξxb1 Not better is 28.Ξd1 쌀e7 29.ዲd5 쌀e6 30.Ξxb1 ዲf6 **28...Ξe8!** (D)

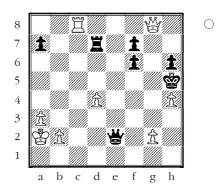


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29. ④d5 After 29. ⑤xe8 營xe8 White loses one of his bishops. 29....莨xe3+ 30. ⑤xe3 But now Black wins a piece anyway. 30....營e6+ 0-1.

Solutions to our quiz:

Golubev (2517) – Vajda (2421) Memorialul Revolutiei din decembrie'89 Bucharest, ROM 2005



50.□c5+! **ⓑxh4** 50...f5 51.**□x**f5+ **ⓑxh4** 52.**□***f***4**+ **ⓑh**5 53.**ⓑ***g*3!+- **51.□c1 ⓑe6**+ **52.ⓑ***a***1** 52.**ⓑ***a*1 **ⓑ***g***4** 53.*g*3+!+-(or *53.***□***h*1+ **ⓑ***g*3 *54.***□***h*3+ **ⓑ***f*4 *55.***□***f*3+) **1-0.**

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