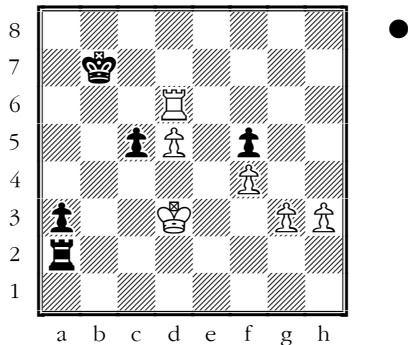


Test Yourself!

**Morchiashvili (2421) – Sta.
Novikov (2564)**
European Ch, Plovdiv (9), 30.04.2008



On This Day

by GM Alex Baburin

French Grandmaster **Igor Nataf** turns 30 today. His current [rating](#) of 2543 makes him No 13 player in France. His best rating so far has been 2596 (April 2007).



World Chess News

FIDE Grand Prix, Baku

There was a rest day at this tournament yesterday – round 10 will be played today. Let's recall the standings before the last 4 rounds:

1. Grischuk – 6/9;
- 2–3. Wang Yue and Gashimov – 5½;
- 4–7. Carlsen, Radjabov, Mamedyarov and Adams – 5;
- 8–9. Bacrot and Kamsky – 4½;
- 10–11. Svidler and Karjakin – 4;
12. Cheparinov – 3½;
13. Inarkiev – 3;
14. Navara – 2½.



Round 10 Pairings:

- Kamsky – Wang Yue
- Svidler – Bacrot
- Inarkiev – Adams
- Mamedyarov – Grischuk
- Carlsen – Navara
- Gashimov – Karjakin
- Radjabov – Cheparinov

[Official website](#)

**The 9th European
Championships, Plovdiv**



The [official website](#) of the tournament has not been updated for a while – obviously its webmaster was celebrating May 1st yesterday! There are no results of round 10 and no pairings for the last round. I gathered results on top boards from [TWIC](#) database:

Round 10 Top Results:

- Movsesian (7) – Volkov (7) ½–½
- Sutovsky (7) – Baklan (7) ½–½
- L'Ami (7) – Tiviakov (7) ½–½
- Tregubov (7) – Vachier-Lagrave (6½) ½–½

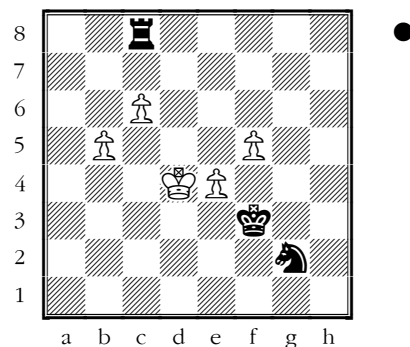
Ladies; Round 10 Top Results:

- Skripchenko (7) – Cramling (7) ½–½
- Ushenina (7) – Zhukova (7) ½–½
- Lahno (7) – Kovalevskaya (6½) 1–0

I collect unusual positions, so I could not pass on the following encounter:

Kozul (2583) – Mista (2537)

European Ch, Plovdiv (9), 30.04.2008



64...♟f4

White would face a bigger challenge after 64...♞f4 Still, he seems to be OK after 65.f6! (65.e5 ♟g4 66.♟e4 ♖e2 67.e6 ♗c3+ 68.♟e5 ♗xb5 69.f6 ♟g5-+) 65...♗e6+ 66.♟e5 ♗g5 67.♟d5 ♗xe4 (67...♞d8+ 68.♟e5) 68.f7=. **65.♟c5! ♗e1 66.b6 ♗d3+ 67.♟d6 ♗e5 68.c7 ♗c4+ 69.♟c6 ♗xb6 70.♟xb6 ♟xe4 71.♟b7 ♞xc7+ 72.♟xc7 ♟xf5 1/2-1/2**

Benidorm Open

Round 8 top pairings:

Chatalbashev (6) – Avrukh (6)

Burmakin (6) – Levin (6)

Maze (5½) – Iturrizaga (6)

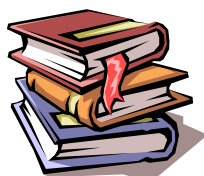
[Official website](#)

Italian Club Championship

by Adolivio Capece

This tournament started in Arvier (Aosta valley) yesterday. There are 10 teams in the main group, called 'Master' group. In the first round Judit Polgar lost against Palac.

[Results and news; games online](#)



Chess Reviews

by IM John Donaldson

Chess on the Edge, Volumes 1-3: The Collected Games of Canadian Grandmaster Duncan Suttles, (Chess and Math Association 2008, www.suttlesbook.com, figurine algebraic notation, hardback with dust jacket, Vol. 1, 314 pp., Vol. 2, 330 pp., Vol. 3, 346 pp., each \$39.95) by FM Bruce Harper and GM Yasser Seirawan, with contributions by IM Gerard Welling, has been a long time coming. Vancouver lawyer Bruce Harper has spent the past thirty years working on this tribute to an icon of Canadian chess assisted by fellow Pacific Northwesterner Yasser Seirawan. Their joint effort has created a game collection of lasting value.

For those unfamiliar with the exploits of Duncan Suttles, who last played tournament chess more than twenty years ago, the thought of spending close to 1000 pages on a player who was never a Candidate, much less World Champion, might seem a bit puzzling. This will not be the case for those who played in the late 1960s and early 1970s, particularly Canadians and residents of the states of Washington and Oregon. Suttles' creative and uncompromising play, which found him constantly challenging the established rules of chess strategy, won him many fans. For his admirers the three volumes of *Chess on the Edge*, containing all of Suttles available games, is a treasure trove of riches.

The three volumes are distinct. Volume 1 features 100 heavily annotated selected games grouped by theme. The aim is to introduce the reader to Suttles' unique style. Some of the themes such as Space and The Centre are common to many chess books, but later sections on Rook Pawns, King Walks and Weird Manoeuvres start to get the point across – Suttles was always stretching the fabric of the chess universe looking for ways to take his opponents out of their comfort zone.

The second and third volumes are arranged by ECO code with the second covering A00 to A43 (219 games) and the third B00–E99 (294 games). This enables the reader to examine certain systems that Suttles favoured, like the Closed Sicilian, in great depth, watching how he developed his pet lines and refined them after tournament battles.

Almost all the games in *Chess on the Edge* are annotated unlike many other comprehensive game collections where only the player's best efforts are commented followed by pages and pages of raw game scores. Harper and Seirawan have not only annotated almost every game – they have done a very thorough job with extensive prose commentary and concrete variations where needed. There is also

a fair amount of humour – not a staple of chess books, but appropriate to Suttles' games that often have a comedic element to them.

Since all of Suttles games are given you get to see the good, the bad and the ugly. Lots of players before Suttles experimented, but without nearly the amount of practical success he enjoyed, still things did not always go his way. The authors' make sure you get a balanced picture even at the cost of showing some embarrassing losses. Several time Canadian Champion, an eight-time Olympiad team member, two-time Interzonalist and Correspondence GM, Suttles did not alter his play when facing the world's best. Games versus Fischer, Spassky, Botvinnik, Petrosian and Karpov can be found among the more than 600 in this trilogy.

Chess on the Edge lets Suttles games do the talking. There is a very short biography in volume one, which provides some historical information on him, supplemented by a foreword by Lawrence Day and preface by Yasser Seirawan, but many unanswered questions remain. The principle one is what caused Suttles to play the way he did. Day mentions that "Duncan always played 1...g6". That's not actually true. Suttles chess career began in 1958 and until the start of 1965 he was still playing Open Sicilians as White and defending the Ruy Lopez. What caused the switch to the Closed Sicilian and 1...g6?

Suttles was studying mathematics at the University of Nevada at Reno in 1964–65 (I believe one or both parents were professors there) and he played in many Swiss tournaments in the US, particularly in California, doing well enough that he qualified for and participated in the 1965–66 US Championship. In so doing he became one of only three players to play in both US and Canadian Closed Championships. *Chess on the Edge* has some games from these years that were published in the California Chess Reporter, Washington Chess Letter/Northwest Chess Letter (later

Northwest Chess), Chess Review, Chess Life and other publications but just a sample – regrettably Suttles was a poor record keeper. It would be very interesting to see exactly when the switch was made. By the US Championship at the end of 1965 Suttles was almost transformed but did essay a King's Gambit against William Addison.

Chess on the Edge is a fitting tribute to a player who went his own way (for example the Suttles system – g3, d3, Nc3, Bg2, Bd2 and Qc1) well before modern chess saw top players routinely putting knights on the rim and advancing g4 early (incidentally Suttles toyed with 1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.d3 g6 4.g4 in the mid 1960s). Going through the games in *Chess on the Edge* one quickly discovers that Suttles not only had a novel style but he was a fine calculator, excellent tactician and good endgame player. While their openings had nothing in common, a similarity in spirit can be seen between Emanuel Lasker and Suttles. Both were great fighters who were willing to take risks to provoke their opponents.

The publisher, Chess 'n' Math Association, has done a first rate production job. All three volumes of *Chess on the Edge* are beautifully produced with a clean layout and crisp diagrams on good paper, sturdy hardback binding and handsome dust jackets. There are numerous indexes and a selection of sharp black and white photos of Suttles and contemporaries that are of good enough quality to frame.

Sample pages of *Chess on the Edge* can be seen at www.suttlesbook.com

Highly Recommended (***)**



Annotated Game

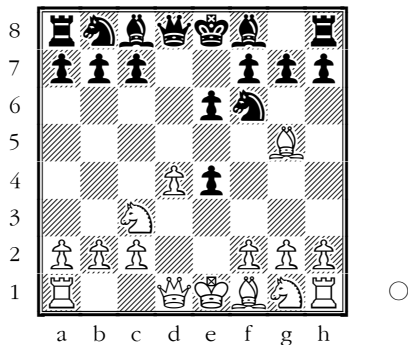
by GM Alex Baburin

Young Italian GM **Fabiano Caruana** (born in 1992) is fast becoming one of the world's leading players. His current [rating](#) of 2620 makes him No 7 on the top 20 Juniors [list](#), where he is the youngest. Today we look at one of his recent games.

Caruana (2620) – D. Berczes (2453)

European Ch, Plovdiv (1), 21.04.2008
The Rubinstein French; C13

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♖c3 ♗f6 4.♙g5
dxe4 (D)

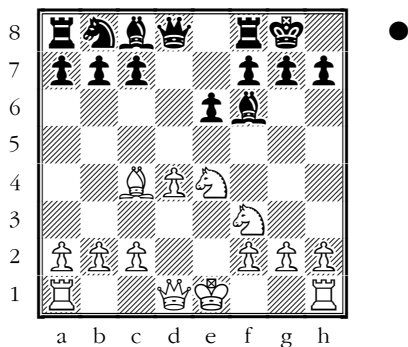


This is the Rubinstein French. Black gets a slightly passive position, but he hopes to neutralise White's advantage in the centre with a timely ...c5 or ...e5.

Another version of the Rubinstein arises after 3...dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♗d7 5.♗f3 ♗g6 6.♗xf6+ ♗xf6. Playing this way Black avoids 4.e5, but in return White does not have to commit the bishop to g5 so early.

5.♗xe4 ♙e7 6.♙xf6 ♙xf6
Morozevich used to play the more adventurous here, but also the riskier line 6...gxf6 7.♗f3 a6.

7.♗f3 0-0 8.♙c4 (D)



In such positions it is always a difficult question – where to develop the bishop – to c4 or d3? White often

delays answering that question by playing 8.♙d2 first.

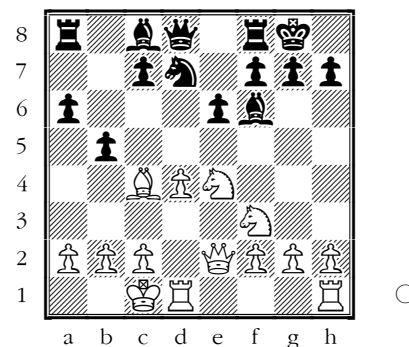
8...♗d7

Statistically 8...♗c6 is the main move here, but it has not been played at the highest level since 2002 – after this game: 9.c3 e5 10.d5 ♗e7 (10...♗b8 11.♙e2 ♗f5 12.♗g3 ♗g4 13.h3 ♗xf3 14.♙xf3 ♗d7 15.♗e4 ♙e7 16.0-0-0 ♗d6 17.g4↑ Leko–Shirov, Frankfurt 2000.) 11.♗xf6+ gxf6 12.♗h4 (12.♙d2 ♗h8 13.0-0-0 ♗g4 14.♙e2 ♙d6 15.♗h4 ♗g8 16.g3 ♗ad8 17.♗xg4 ♗xg4 18.♙e2 ♗a4 19.♗b1 ♗xd5 20.♗f5 ♙e6 21.♗e3 ♗d6= Anand–Shirov, Sydney 2000.) 12...♗g6 13.♙h5 ♙d7 14.h3 ♙a4 15.b3 ♙a5 16.0-0 ♙xc3 17.d6 ♗g7 18.dxc7 ♙d4 19.g3 ♙d7 20.♗ac1 ♙xh3 21.♗d3 ♙e6 22.♙e4 ♙b6 23.♗fd1 1-0 Shirov–Akopian, Chalkidiki 2002.

9.♙e2 a6

After 9...♙e7 10.0-0-0 c6 11.h4 b5 12.♗d3 ♙c7 13.♗b1 ♗f6 14.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 15.♙e4 g6 16.h5 ♗b7 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.♗e5 White got the advantage in the game Topalov–Kramnik, Monte Carlo 1997.

10.0-0-0 b5 (D)



11.♗d3

This is a relatively new idea. White used to play here 11.♗b3, but after 11...♗b7 12.d5 (otherwise the b3-bishop will be just looking at the wall!) 12...exd5 13.♗xd5 c6 14.♗b3 ♙c7 15.♗he1 c5 Black did really well, for example: 16.♗d5 ♗xd5 17.♗xd5 ♙e7 18.♗b1 ♗ae8 19.♗d3 ♗d8 20.♗e3 ♙c6 21.♙d3 ♗c7 22.♗c3 ♗xe3 23.♙xe3 ♗a5 24.♗e2 c4 25.♙e4 ♙xe4 26.♗xe4 ♗e8 27.c3 ♗b6 28.♗d2 ♗xe4 29.♗xd7 h6 30.♗d2 g5= Zelic–Bareev, Gothenburg 2005.

11...♗b7 12.h4!

This is a standard idea – White's best chance is speedy attack on the kingside.

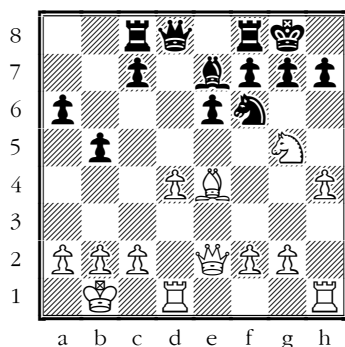
This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor: Graham Brown

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

12...♙e7 13.♖b1 ♘f6 14.♗fg5
♙xe4

Another option was to play 14...h6
15.♗xf6+ ♙xf6 16.♙h7+ ♖h8 17.♙e4
♙d5 18.g4!↑, though usually one does
not like to create targets like the h6-
pawn in his position.

15.♙xe4 ♖c8 (D)



White is also better after 15...♗xe4
16.♖xe4 g6 17.d5!.

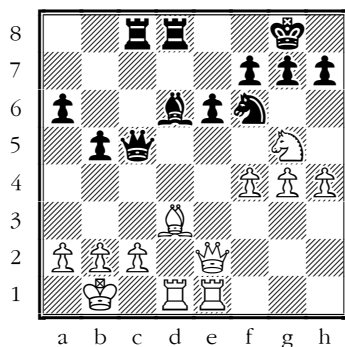
16.♙d3

White wants to keep the bishop –
usually the presence of opposite
squared bishops helps the attacking
side.

16...♖d6 17.g4! c5 18.dxc5 ♖xc5
19.f4 ♖fd8 20.♖he1!?

Now sacrifices on e6 and f7 are in the
air. Meanwhile Black can't attack the
enemy king and can't relieve the
pressure by exchanging pieces.
Probably he had to play something
like 20...♖c6, fortifying the e6-pawn.

20...♙d6? (D)

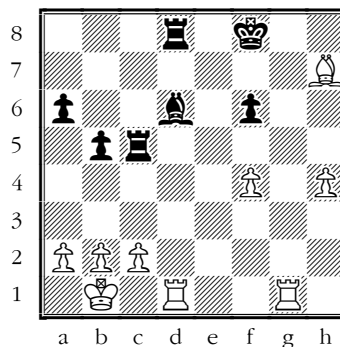


21.♗xf7! ♖xf7 22.g5 ♗d5

Black is also doomed after 22...♗g8
23.♖xe6+ ♖f8 24.♙xh7 ♗e7 25.h5.

23.♖xe6+ ♖f8 24.♖f5+?

Here White missed a shorter path to
victory – 24.g6! hxg6 25.♙xg6.
24...♗f6 25.gxf6 ♖xf5 26.♙xf5
♖c5 27.♙xh7 gxf6 28.♖g1 (D)



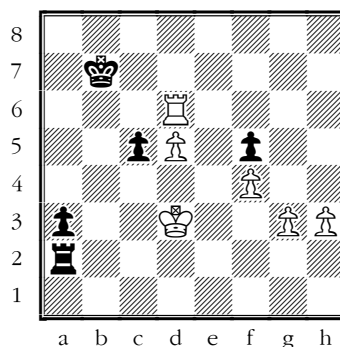
Two extra pawns ensure White's win –
despite his young age Caruana is a
good chess technician!

28...♖f7 29.h5 ♙c7 30.♖xd8 ♙xd8
31.h6 f5 32.♙g8+ ♖f8 33.h7 ♙f6
34.♙b3 1-0

Solution to our Quiz:

Morchiashvili (2421) – Sta.
Novikov (2564)

European Ch, Plovdiv (9), 30.04.2008



45...♖d2+! (White is OK after 45...♖g2
46.♖d7+ ♖b6 47.♖d8) 46.♖xd2 a2
47.g4 a1♖ 48.gxf5 ♖d4+ 49.♖c2
c4 50.f6 ♖d3+ 51.♖b2 0-1

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