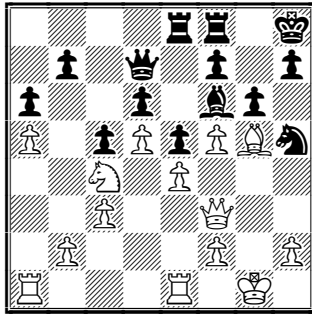


Kosintseva (2457) – Galliamova (2489)
 European Championship 2003


White to play

Chess News

The [4th European](#) Individual Chess Championship

The European Individual Championship is coming to an end, and the penultimate round brought some unexpected results. Van Wely had a burning desire to defeat Azmaiparashvili and that was the reason he missed a draw. Now nothing prevents Azmaiparashvili from offering a draw on the fifth move tomorrow and become the new Champion of Europe. Grischuk lost an equal position to Graf. Malakhov managed to win a wonderful game against Nielsen. We feature this game in our annotated section.

Results

Van Wely – Azmaiparashvili 0–1 Graf – Grischuk 1–0 Malakhov – Nielsen 1–0 Aronian – Sakaev ½ Kobalia – Sutovsky ½ Georgiev – Galkin ½ Kharlov – Ivanchuk ½

Leading Round 12 (of 13)

Standings:

1 Azmaiparashvili 9 2–3 Malakhov, Graf 8½ 4–12 Georgiev, Kharlov, Sakaev, Kobalia, Sulskis, Aronian, Sutovsky, Galkin, Moiseenko 8

Parings:

Azmaiparashvili – Graf, Sakaev –

Malakhov, Sutovsky – Aronian, Sulskis – Georgiev, Galkin – Kobalia Moiseenko – Kharlov.

Women

Two days ago it seemed that nobody and nothing would prevent Alisa Galliamova from becoming European Champion. However, having made an unbelievable blunder that allowed Kosintseva to implement a smart but not difficult combination, Galliamova resigned. She has lost twice in a row and now has no chances of obtaining the important title.

The last round will determine who is going to be Women's European Champion.

Kosintseva T – Galliamova 1–0 Cmilyte – Kachiani–Gersinska 1–0 Skripchenko – Sebag 0–1 Cramling – Peptan 1–0 Radziewicz – Matveeva ½ Stefanova – Polovnikova 1–0 Zimina – Socko 0–1

Women's Round 10 (of 11)

Standings:

1–2 Kosintseva T, Cmilyte 8 3–4 Cramling, Sebag 7½ 5–9 Galliamova, Stefanova, Kachiani–Gersinska, Radziewicz, Socko 7

Parings

Cramling – Kosintseva, T Sebag – Cmilyte, Kachiani–Gersinska – Stefanova Galliamova – Radziewicz Socko – Skripchenko

Letters to the Editor

by Alex Baburin

Dvoretsky's proposal to ban draw offers in chess prompted quite a few people to express their opinions. Many are in favour of what Dvoretsky (and GM Ashley) is suggesting, but some are not. We are happy to provide a platform for both camps. Recently Chess Today received the

following message from our US reader Brian D. Smith:

"Dear Sirs, I would like to voice a view contrary to that of the majority concerning last round 'quick draws'. A number of these players are (or are at least, trying to be) 'professionals' and as such depend on their winnings in part (sometimes large part) for their daily survival and that of their families. I do not think it fair of us to criticize them when the difference in a last round win of, say \$10,000 vs. a draw for maybe \$5,000 vs. a loss for \$500 is often the type of situation we are discussing in a big weekend Swiss opens.

Let us remember that, while winning \$10,000 I am sure would be nice to each, the \$5,000 they are each ASSURED with that draw, at least pays the rent and electricity for a few more months; while \$500 might mean hard times indeed for the unlucky soul who hangs a piece in a time scramble. In short, for the vast majority of us, chess is just a game that we delight in; for others, it may be that, but it is also their livelihood. As such, I believe that we have absolutely no right to project our desires upon these players. That is incredibly selfish.

I recall overhearing a discussion between a couple of amateurs at a tournament a few years ago in Alabama. The final round pairing saw two GM's: Palatnik and Blatny (if I am not mistaken) on the top board. The two amateurs were going on and on about how this would be "the greatest game of chess the state of Alabama has ever seen!". Hearing this, I could not help but interject my opinion that "it will be a short draw". Indeed it was. I know it was a disappointment to these two amateurs...but the players on board one who had battled so hard to get to the situation they were fortunate to find themselves in of playing for a nice pay day, did not in any way, shape or form owe a show to these two amateurs. I do not know if these amateurs won any class money, but if they did, they would

more than likely consider it a 'prize'. I'll wager however that most players who endeavour to make their living at chess think of their winnings at a big weekend tournament more as a 'pay day' akin to what I get every two weeks from my work. There is a difference you know.

*Thank You, Brian D. Smith,
Murfreesboro, TN USA"*

I would like to add a few comments to this interesting message. I must admit that I am a bit biased, since I like Dvoretsky's proposal and I am also against quick last-round draws in most cases. But being a chess professional, whose income (at least in the past) depended on prize winnings, I am only too familiar with the dilemma, which our reader analysed. But I think that Brian's message has more to do with the status of the professional player in modern society in general than with banning draw offers in chess. Let me explain.

Spectators and amateurs expect a fight between chess pros and want to see interesting games. This is their right and if we treat chess as a sport, there is no escaping from this fact. So, when we come to watch Kramnik playing Kasparov, we expect a good fight. If one loses, his kids won't go to bed hungry – the players get paid handsomely just to appear! When we go down the rating ladder, we come to the situation that Brian describes: there are two professionals and neither wants to risk his prize winnings. But here two things are important. First, the split in big Swiss

Opens is never like \$10,000 for win, \$5,000 for a draw and \$500 in case of losing. It is more like \$10,000–\$3,000–\$500 – this is why playing to win in the last game makes sense, even if you lose more games than you win!

Secondly, professional players should not depend so heavily on making money in just one event – if one plays to win, but loses the game, he should be able to play another weekend

elsewhere and make money there. And if he cannot make money from another tournament, etc, then maybe he is not a good chess professional (player) and should seek different work? Then he can play in tournaments for fun – in his spare time.

I don't consider myself as a professional player anymore. I was one in the early 90s, but since then I got into teaching, writing, etc. And I know that it's hard to be a truly professional player, who depends mainly on prize money and appearance fees. There are simply too many very good players around and not enough tournaments with attractive prize funds to sustain all! Think of it, in the past 10–15 years, prize money in most tournaments did not increase, while inflation was at work for most of the time. I have no idea how to improve the situation. I guess we either need more prize money or more players should accept that they are not professional *players*, but rather chess pros in a broad sense. Not that that is a bad thing ...

If you would like to share your views on this or any other subject, please send your letters to ct@gmsquare.com

Annotated Game

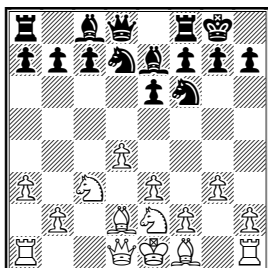
□ **Malakhov (2672)**

■ **Nielsen (2625)**

Event: The 4th European Individual Chess Championship 12.06.2003 – E46
11.06.2003 – B20

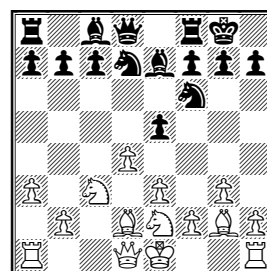
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♘b4 4.e3 0–0 5.♗ge2 d5 6.a3 ♗e7 7.cxd5 ♗xd5 8.♗d2 ♗d7 9.g3 ♗5f6



The opponents have started with the line that became popular due to Kramnik's notorious defeat: 9...b6 10.♗xd5 exd5 11.♗g2 ♗f6 12.0–0 ♗e4 13.♞c1 ♗b7 14.♞c2 ♞c8 15.♞fd1 ♗d6 16.♗b4 ♞f6 17.♗c3 ♗xc3 18.♞xc3 c6 19.♗xd6 ♞xd6 20.b4 ♞c7 21.a4 ♗c8 22.a5 ♗a6 23.♞a1 ♗b5 24.♞dc1 ♞e8 25.axb6 axb6 26.♗f1 ♗xf1 27.♞xf1 ♞b8 28.♞a6 ♞d7 29.♞g1 h6 30.♞a3 ♞cc8 31.h4 ♞f5 32.♞a7 g5 33.h5 ♞f3 34.♞d3 ♞h8 35.♞a6 ♞g7 36.b5 c5 37.dxc5 bxc5 38.♞g6+ 1–0 Ponomarev,R–Kramnik,V/Wijk aan Zee NED 2003

10.♗g2 e5N

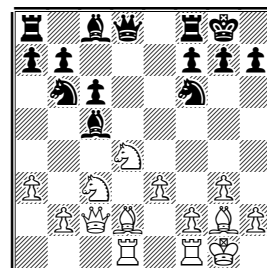


The following moves occurred before 10...c5 11.0–0 cxd4 12.exd4 ♗b6 13.♗f4 ♗fd5 14.♞d3 ♗d7 15.♗xd5 ♗xd5 16.♗xd5 exd5 ½–½ Kovacevic,B–Palac,M/Nova Gorica 2002; è 10...c6 11.♞c2 e5 12.♞d1 exd4 13.♗xd4 ♗b6 14.h3 ♗fd5 15.0–0 ♗f6 16.♗ce2 a5 17.e4 ♗e7 18.♗e3 ♗d7 19.f4 ♗xd4 20.♗xd4 a4 21.e5 ♞a5 22.♗f3 ♞e8 23.♗g5 ♗f8 24.♞f2 ♗d5 25.♗c5 ♗e6 26.♗xe6 ♗xe6 27.f5 ♗d7 28.♞de1 ♞c7 29.e6 ♗c8 30.exf7+ ♞xf7 31.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 32.♞e1 ♞d8 33.♗xd5+ cxd5 34.♞e7 ♞f8 35.♞d4 1–0 Graf,A–Xu Jun/Bled SLO 2002

11.0–0 c6 12.♞c2 exd4 13.♗xd4 ♗b6

13...♗e5

14.♞ad1 ♗c5?



White takes a masterly advantage of this miscalculation. An appropriate continuation – 14...♗g4 15.f3 ♗d7 and

the whole struggle is going to take place later.

15. ♖e4! ♗xd4

There is no other way: 15... ♗xe4
16. ♗xe4 ♗xd4 17. ♗xh7+ ♖h8
18. ♗c3+-

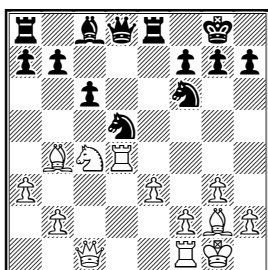
16. ♗b4!

Seemingly, this move escaped Nielsen's attention. White has the upper hand.

16... ♖e8 17. ♖xd4 ♗bd5 18. ♗d6 ♖e5 19. ♗c4!

White's knight does not want to stop here and keeps on trampling on Black's pieces.

19... ♖e8 20. ♖c1!



Having decently stepped back with his queen, White threatens the capture of the Black knight.

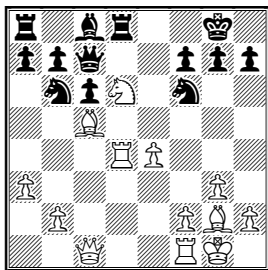
20... ♖c7 21. ♗d6 ♖d7

More stubborn is 21... ♖d8 and here White could get back 22. ♗b4 ♖c7 and give one more opportunity to his knight: 23. ♗d6 ♖e5 24. f4 ♖h5 25. f5 with a big advantage.

22. e4 ♗b6

The following can hardly be recommended 22... b5 23. exd5 cxd5 24. ♗e5 bxc4 25. ♗xf6 gxf6 26. ♖xd5 ♖g4 27. ♖c3± now White's victory is only a matter of time.

23. ♗c5 ♖c7 24. ♗d6 ♖d8



White's advantage can be seen with the naked eye but it is difficult to believe that Black has only one and a half moves "to exist":

25. ♗b5! cxb5 26. ♖f4!!

This is a combination, which draws

the queen away from the protection of the 8th rank. As soon as it had been implemented, everything would seem easy to understand. Black resigned.

1-0

Answer to Quiz today: **21. ♖xh5! 1-0**

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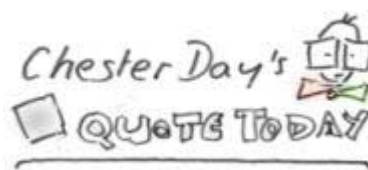
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A passed pawn
increases in
strength as the
number
of *pieces*
on the board
diminishes." ---

Capablanca