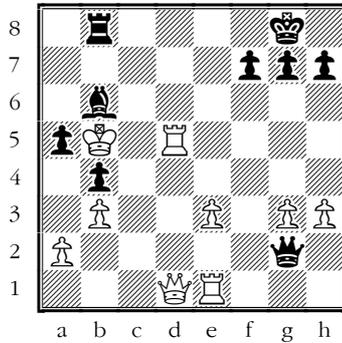


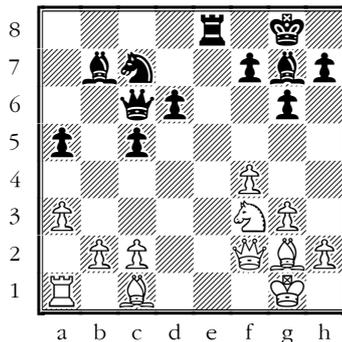
## Test Yourself!

**Carlsen (2776) – Wang Yue (2739)**  
 XXVI SuperGM Linares ESP (10), 2009



*Black missed a forced win here... by playing 33...♔d4+?*

**Baklan (2627) – Hammer (2532)**  
 25th Open Cappelle la Grande FRA (6), 2009



## On this Day...

Grandmaster **Anatoli Vaisser** was born in Alma-Ata (now Almaty, Kazakhstan) on 5 March 1949. Since 1991, Vaisser has represented France. He won the French Championship in 1997. Vaisser's highest ELO, 2595, was achieved in 1998. His current rating is 2513. Vaisser is known as the best expert in the Four Pawns Attack versus the King's Indian; he authored a book on this system.



## World Chess News

### Cappelle la Grande

#### Round 6 top results:

Yu.Vovk – Miroshnichenko ½–½  
 Iturrizaga – Gelashvili ½–½  
 Vorobiov – Zinchenko ½–½  
 Gordon – Arutinian 1–0  
 Olszewski – Gharamian ½–½  
 Solodovnichenko – O.Danielian 0–1  
 Gopal – A.Rychagov ½–½  
 Brodsky – Degraeve 0–1  
 Geo.Timoshenko – P.Jaracz ½–½  
 Dvoiryys – Friedel ½–½  
 I.Smirnov – Leon Hoyos 0–1  
 Sveshnikov – Ulibin ½–½  
 Dzhumaev – Kravtsiv 1–0

#### Round 7 top pairings:

Leon Hoyos (5) – Yu.Vovk (5½)  
 Degraeve (5) – Gordon (5)  
 O.Danielian (5) – Dzhumaev (5)  
[Official website](#)

### GM Kurnosov's Letter

[ChessBase](#) and [ChessDom](#) recently published translations of the letter by GM Igor Kurnosov who was publicly accused by GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of using computer assistance at the Aeroflot Open 2009. The letter was originally published in Russian at the e3e5.com website.

The final [press release](#) (MsWord file; in Russian) of the Aeroflot Open, published by the Russian Chess Federation, confirms that no proof of Kurnosov's wrongdoings was found by the arbiters.

## Linares

Yesterday was a free day in Linares. Round 12 will be played today.

### **Standings after 11 rounds:**

1. Grischuk - 7
2. Ivanchuk - 6
- 3-5. Anand, Carlsen, Aronian - 5½
- 6-7. Wang Yue and Radjabov - 5
8. Dominguez - 4½.

### **Round 12 pairings:**

Radjabov - Dominguez

Aronian - Wang Yue

Anand - Ivanchuk

Carlsen - Grischuk

[Official website](#)

## **Interview with GM Alexander Raetsky**

*by GM Mikhail Golubev*

*I met the Russian GM Alexander Raetsky at the Arcapita Open in Bahrain, where I played and reported on the event - and he assisted his pupils from the United Arab Emirates. In the mid-1990s Alex and I often played at the same tournaments in Switzerland. (Then, he only planned to organise the annual festivals in his town Voronezh, and I could not even dream about working in Chess Today). The 2009 Bahrain event ended in the beginning of February, but the interview was finalised only at the end of the month. The translation is by the CT team.*



**- Please, first of all, tell us about your work in UAE.**

- Over the last four months, I have been working as a club coach in Abu Dhabi, the capital of UAE. Our other two coaches are GM Dizdar from Croatia and IM Badjarani from Azerbaijan. My students are aged between 16 and 23, with ELO ratings from 1900-2150.

**- What are your impressions of the country?**

- UAE is a very interesting country - ancient culture is mixed with modern life. The government is trying to develop all kind of sports in UAE. Unfortunately, chess is not popular on the Arabian Peninsula because of the immense popularity of soccer. There are, however, many ambitious people in the leadership of the UAE Chess Federation and clubs who are trying to put chess on a new, higher level. Many foreign coaches are working here. The national team coaches are GMs Edvins Kengis of Latvia and Sarkhan Guliev of Azerbaijan. UAE has one GM, Moussa Taleb, and several IMs. Two big international opens will be organised in Dubai in April and in Abu Dhabi in August. Now, the biggest UAE hope is Saleh Salem. He is 15 years old, has three GM norms (!), and he is the current Arab champion and has played on top board at last year's Olympiad in Dresden.

**- Is it true that there will be a building in UAE in the form of a chess knight?**

- Yes, such a project exists, but the financial crisis has slowed down the execution of this nice plan.

**- Please, tell us about your work writing chess books. I know that you have written many of them.**

- I have been writing chess books together with my friend IM Maxim Chetverik for more than 25 years already. Mainly, these are opening books: on the Catalan, the Russian Game (Petroff), the Queen's Gambit

*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 <http://www.chesstoday.net>*

Accepted and others. In England we are working with Everyman Chess. In Germany we worked for Kania (there were books on the Catalan and the Albin's Counter Gambit). We are already planning to prepare two new books in Russian. And, because our pet opening is the Catalan, we are planning to popularise this opening in other languages.

### **- The next question is about your Voronezh Opens...**

- For 12 years now I have been a director of the Voronezh International Chess [Festival](#). Voronezh is situated 500 km from Moscow (direction South). The population of the town is approximately 800,000. The weather in summer is quite nice (+25-30 C; and sunny). Traditionally, our program includes the Master and FIDE opens. The Master Open increases in strength from year to year. In 1997 just one GM played. And in 2008 our open was the third strongest in Russia (after the Moscow open and the Aeroflot open), with 33 GMs among 120 participants. The total prize fund in 2008 was about 22,000 euros. Another tradition of our festival is fixed dates. The Master Open begins on 12 June, which is the national day in Russia. Of course we are planning to organize the 13<sup>th</sup> edition (rapids on 10-11 June and the Master Open on 12-21 June) but this time the world financial crisis is making things more difficult for us. Each and every year finding sufficient funds is the festival's most vulnerable point.

### **- How was the matter with the infamous Mr. Afromeev's lawsuit against the Voronezh Chess Federation resolved?**

- In 2007-2008 I worked as the Executive Director of the regional Voronezh Chess Federation. In June 2007 after some behind-the-scenes fighting Afromeev became a Deputy President of the chess federation of the [Central Federal District](#) (17 regions around Moscow). De-facto, he headed the CFD federation afterwards. The leading regional chess federations were concerned with this situation.

It was not a secret to anyone in which way the all-play-all tournaments are organised in the Afromeev's "eparchy", the town of Tula - and how Afromeev, the businessman and the head of the Tula regional chess federation, after getting his first rating of 2400 at the age of 45, in a few years easily reached ELO 2648 by playing only in tournaments which he organised by himself.

The expansion of such methods of working on the whole CFD looked unacceptable to us. And in September 2007 the Voronezh Chess Federation wrote an open letter to the Russian chess Federation, requesting to clarify the situation with the organiser and player Afromeev, to exclude him from the Presidium of the Russian Chess Federation, and to disqualify him as a player.

Afromeev's answer to our open letter was a legal case for libel against the Voronezh Chess Federation and against me personally, as one, who signed the open letter. The criminal case against me was not launched by the court. But the case against the federation was opened. What Afromeev claimed was the public refutation of the open letter and, as compensation of the moral damage, 500,000 roubles (approximately ten thousand pounds).

From January till October 2008 there were eight court sessions in Voronezh. Afromeev attended these sessions in person (the distance between Voronezh and Tula is 300 km) and once he brought with him three witnesses. One of these witnesses was GM Igor Yagupov. The whole fight against Afromeev began in 2001 after Yagupov's [article](#) in the *64 Chess Review*. But, after the court process against Afromeev in 2002-2003, Yagupov made a peace pact with Afromeev and started to play in Afromeev's tournaments. Imagine they played 13 games and, surprisingly, all draws.

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In Voronezh all three witnesses confirmed that the tournaments took place, and even scoresheets and photos exist. Yagupov stated that Afromeev is an exceptionally talented and strong player...

At the last court session in October 2008 I was absent: I had already started to work in Abu Dhabi. The representative of the Voronezh Chess Federation made an offer to Afromeev: the federation dismisses the letter to the Russian Chess Federation, and also announces at its website that the information from the letter was partially wrong – and Afromeev in his turn gives up his financial claims. And it all ended that way. Afromeev, naturally, considered the outcome as his victory. Nevertheless, taking into account that, approximately after June 2008, he suspended his chess activity, ceased to organise tournaments and play, and was not active in the CFD matters, we may also speak about the positive results of our open letter.

**- And what was the position of the Russian Chess Federation?**

- The Russian Chess Federation for a long time was silent and tried not to wash the dirty linen in public. But after our open letter and the speech by the Voronezh's representative at the Presidium of the RCF, a special commission with five members was created. (Bareev as the head of the commission, Dolmatov, Dokhoyan, Dubov and Bykhovsky). The commission questioned Afromeev's results. In 2008, Afromeev organised two tournaments in Tula with his participation (he took the second and the first places there), but both tournaments were not sent in by the RCF for FIDE rating calculations, in spite of Afromeev's pressure.

**- Was there any coverage of the story in the media?**

- In the Tula local newspaper *Sloboda* and in the giant Moscow newspaper [Moskovskiy Komsomolets](#), letters and comments by the Voronezh federation were published. Afromeev immediately went to court.

At home in Tula he won, though he received compensation approximately a hundred times less to with what he wanted to get initially. It was a few thousand roubles after all. In Moscow, Afromeev [lost](#) the process.

On the Russian internet chess sites, the problem of Afromeev was the center of attention throughout 2008. For example, it was the most often viewed [topic](#) at the Crestbook.com forum. While, as of now, we can hardly eliminate the "*Afromeevshchina*" phenomenon completely in Russia and in Ukraine (as it is clear from the relevant [topic](#) at Crestbook forum), the periodic "public flogging" of the most frantic personalities should serve as a cold shower for the followers of Vladimir Ilyich (Afromeev).

**- Do you still have the habit of playing in Switzerland each and every summer?**

- Yes, Switzerland is my favourite country and I have many good friends there. This explain why I usually play four or five tournaments per year in Switzerland.

*February 2009, Manama (Bahrain) – Abu Dhabi (UAE).*



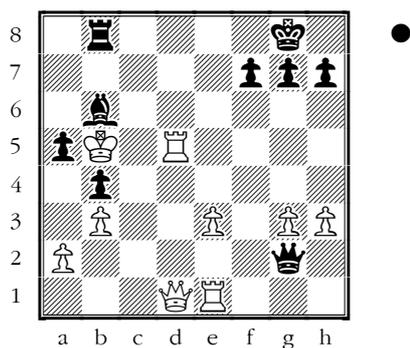
*(Raetsky with his pupils at the Bahrain 2009 tournament)*



## Solutions to our Quiz:

### Carlsen (2776) – Wang Yue (2739)

XXVI SuperGM Linares ESP (10), 2009

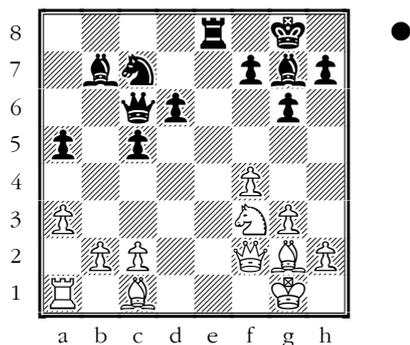


*Black missed a forced win here... by playing 33...♙d4+?*

Correct was 33...♙d8+!! 34.♖a6 ♙c7!!- + with threats of 35...♗e4 and 35...♗xh3!.

### Baklan (2627) – Hammer (2532)

25th Open Cappelle la Grande FRA (6), 2009



**22...♙d4!** 22...♙d4 23.♗xd4 ♖e1+ 24.♙f1 (24.♗xe1 ♗xg2#) 24...♗h1# **0-1.**

**Contact information.** Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) - 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, Notkin and Deviatkin. Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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CT-64 (3040) Page 5 of 5