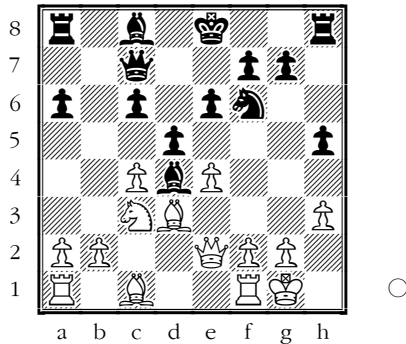


## Test Yourself!

**Nuri - Georgescu (1955)**  
 EU-ch U12 Budva (5), 2003



Choose between 13.exd5 and 13.♗e1



## World Chess News

### Polish Championship

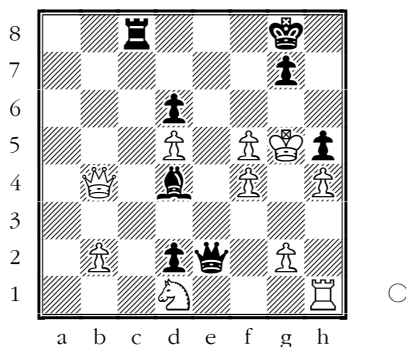
This 14-player all-play-all event is in progress in Lublin.

#### **Standings after 2 rounds:**

**1-5.** GMs Bartel (2613), Gajewski (2594), B. Socko (2635), Dziuba (2556) and Wojtaszek (2614) – 1½, etc.

In one game the king was White's most "developed" piece. No wonder he did not survive long:

**Moranda (2533) - Dziuba (2556)**  
 65th Ch of Poland (2), Lublin 2008



**0-1.** [Official website](#)

## Dutch Ch Semi-Finals

*by Frits Agterdenbos*

The 32-player knockout semi-finals of the Dutch Championship 2008 took place from 5-6 January, 23-24 February and 25-26 February in the Town Hall of media city Hilversum. The semi-finals saw four players qualifying for the 12-player round-robin Dutch Championship to be held 2-13 April 2008: Ruud Janssen, Yge Visser, Jan-Willem De Jong and Manuel Bosboom. Six players had already qualified for the Championship. They include the five best players of the Dutch Championship 2007, Sergei Tiviakov (champion), Daniel Stellwagen, Ivan Sokolov, Friso Nijboer, Erwin L'Ami and the best Dutchman in Dutch Open 2007 Erik Van Den Doel. You can find a photo report at [www.chessvista.com](http://www.chessvista.com)

## Chess Talk with IM Watson

*by John Henderson*

Tune-in for Chess Talk with IM John Watson on ICC Chess.FM. John's weekly 60+ minute show (members only) will feature an interview with leading chess personalities.

On Tuesday 26 February John's guest was National Master **Ron Gross** of Las Vegas. Ron has been playing chess in the United States for close to 50 years. He first met Bobby Fischer back in 1955 at the US Junior Championship in Nebraska, and the two had kept in regular touch over the years. He's remained one of Fischer's oldest chess-playing friends and has a wealth of unheard stories on the recently deceased former world champion – both from their days as junior contemporaries and throughout the years up to Fischer's world championship win and beyond.

# Annotated Game

by GM Alex Baburin

My opponent in the last round of the Bunratty Masters was Gawain Jones, a young GM living in Ireland. In the past few years he has made a lot of progress. I played him on many occasions, winning 2 or 3 games, with 4 or 5 games drawn. Last summer I also briefly worked with Gawain, so both of us knew each other's playing style pretty well. Only the winner of this game could hope to jointly win the tournament. As it happened, I got clear 2nd place behind Peter Svidler.

**White: GM Alex Baburin (2542)**

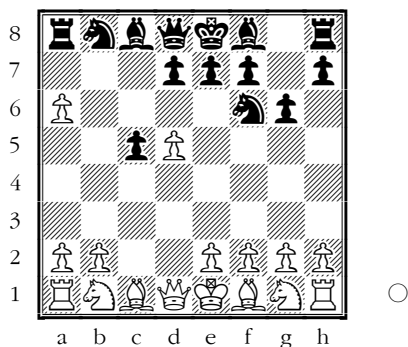
**Black: GM Gawain Jones (2562)**

Bunratty Masters (6), 24.02.2008

*The Benko Gambit – [A00]*

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5** I expected the King's Indian Defence, but I was aware that the Benko used to be Jones' main weapon against 1.d4.

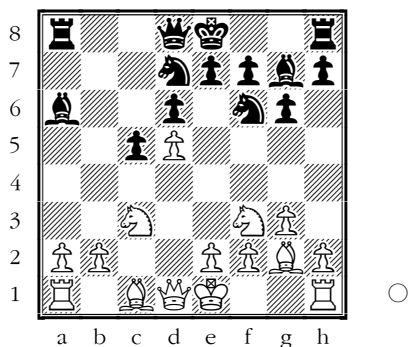
**3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 (D)**



The main idea of the Benko gambit is pressure on White's queenside along the a1–h8 diagonal and semi-open a- and b-files.

**6.♗c3 ♖xa6 7.g3 d6 8.♕g2 ♗g7 9.♗f3 ♗bd7 (D)**

This is considered to be the most accurate move order.



In case of 9...0–0 10.0–0 ♗bd7 White can play 11.♖c2 ♗b6 12.♞d1 – this setup (♖c2 and ♞d1) is considered the optimal for him.

**10.0–0**

Currently the move 10.♞b1 is very much in fashion. The idea is to prevent ...♗b6 and ...♗c4. Max Notkin covered this line in CT–1377 while annotating the game Rowson – G. Jones, British Ch, 2004. I was among the first explorers of this line, but for this game I decided to deviate from it – in case Gawain spent some time on this line before the game.

**10...♗b6 11.♞e1**

Now 11.♞b1?! isn't good because of 11...♗c4.

**11...0–0 12.♗g5**

12.h3 ♗fd7 13.♖c2 ♗c4 14.♗d2 ♗de5 15.b3 ♖a5 16.♗db1 ♗b6 17.♗d2 c4 18.♗a4 cxb3 19.axb3 ♖b5 20.♗a3 1–0 Baburin–Rovid, Budapest 1992.

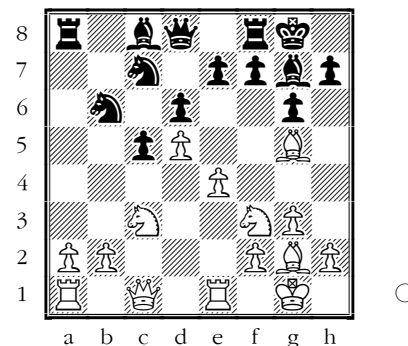
More common is 12.♗f4, for example: 12...♗c4 13.♖c1! (13.♖c2 ♗d7 14.♗d2 ♗de5 15.♗db1 ♗c8 16.b3 ♗a5 17.♗d2 ♗f5 18.e4 ♗g4 19.h3 ♗c8 20.♖h2 ♗a6 21.♗xe5 ♗xe5 22.♗f3 ♗g7 23.e5± Baburin–Dunnington, Scarborough 1999.) 13...♖a5 14.♗d2 ♖fb8 15.♗xc4 ♗xc4 16.♗d2 ♗d7 (16...♗a6 17.h3 ♗c8 18.♖c2 ♗f5 19.e4 ♗c8 20.a4± Miladinovic–Panagopoulos, Kavala 1999) 17.b3 ♗a6 18.♗a4 ♖d8 19.♗c3 ♖f8 20.♗h3 f5 21.♗g2 ♗f6 22.♗b2 c4 23.♗d4 ♗e4 24.♖e3 ♗xd4 25.♖xd4 ♖f6 26.♖e3± Nikolic–Vaganian, Sarajevo 1987.

**12...♗e8?!**

I do not like this move – the plan with ...♗e8–c7–b5 is rather slow.

12...h6 13.♗f4 ♗h5 14.♗c1 ♗f6 15.♞b1 ♗c4 16.e4 ♗fd7 17.a3± Baburin–Rogers, Birmingham 2001.

**13.♖c1! ♗c7 14.e4 ♗c8?!** (D)



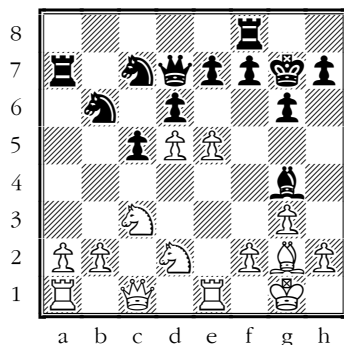
Another dubious idea.

*This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor: Ralph Marconi*

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

**15. Qh6** Exchanging the g7-bishop usually benefits White in the Benko. Also possible was 15.h3.

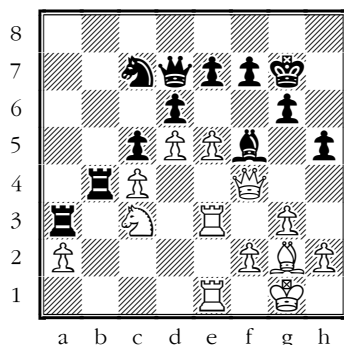
**15... Qg4 16. Qxg7 Qxg7 17. Nd2!?**  
I felt that it was good to keep the knight alive, though White is also better after 17.a4 Qxf3 18.Qxf3.  
**17... Qd7 18.e5 Ra7 (D)**



**19.b3!**

White wants to play Nc4 - after the exchange of knights on that square the remaining black knight will be rather limited in its movements.

**19... Qf5 20. Nc4 Bb8 21. Qf4 Qxc4 22. bxc4 Bb4 23. Re3! h5 24. Rae1 Ra3 (D)**



This is one of those examples in the Benko when Black is just a pawn down...

**25.h3!** White creates a threat of g3-g4 - Black won't be able to take on g4 twice as then e5-e6! would win the bishop.

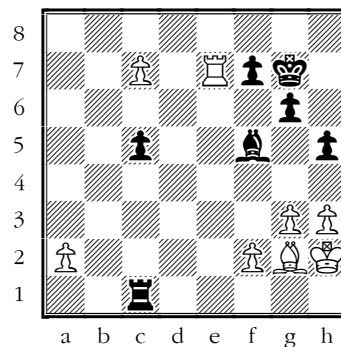
**25... dxe5** This is capitulation, but Black was lost anyway.

**26. Qxe5+ Qg8 27. Qxe7 Rxc4 28.d6!**

During the game I also considered 28.Qf6 Ra6 29.d6 Rxd6 30.Nd5+-.

**28... Rxc3 29. Rxc3 Qxe7 30. Rxe7 Rxc3 31. dxc7 Rc1+ 32. Qh2** This is where the move h2-h3 comes in handy!

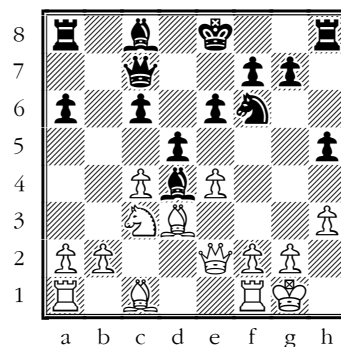
**32... Qg7 (D)**



**33. Qd5! Qf6 34. Rxf7+ Qe5 35. Rxf5+ 1-0.**

**Solution to our Quiz:**

**Nuri - Georgescu (1955)**  
EU-ch U12 Budva (5), 2003



Choose between 13.exd5 and 13.Re1

Correct was 13.Re1, but White made the wrong choice: **13.exd5?? Ng4! 0-1.**

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