

# **CHESS EVOLUTION**

*September 2011*

By

**Arkadij Naiditsch**



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# Contributors

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**Etienne Bacrot:** France, 28 years old, GM 2705, number 43 in the world. Became GM at the age of 14, a record at the time. Six times French Champion starting from 1999.

Winner of many international events including: 2005: 1st place in Poikovsky, 3rd in Dortmund and 3rd of the World Cup in Khanty-Mansiysk. 2009: 1st in Aeroflot Open, second in Montreal and Antwerp. 2010: First equal in Gibraltar, 3rd in Nanjing and winner of Geneva Open. 2011: First equal in Basel, Geneva (rapid) and Rabat (blitz).



**Baadur Jobava:** Georgia, 27 years old, GM 2704, number 36 in the world.

Georgian Champion. 2003 and 2007. Gold medal on 4th board the Calvia Olympiad 2004. Silver medal 2010 European Individual Ch. Rijeka, Croatia.

Winner of: 2003 Dubai Open; 2005 Samba Cup, Skanderborg, Denmark; 2006 Aeroflot Open, 2011 Bosna-Open, Sarajevo.

**Sebastien Maze:** France, 26 years old, GM 2575

Winner of 2008 Rabat blitz tournament, 1st equal in Marseille 2009 and Menton 2009.

Member of the French team in the Olympiad in Dresden 2008.

Was the second of Etienne Bacrot in FIDE Grand Prix Elista 2008, Dortmund 2009 and Nanjing 2010.



**Kamil Miton:** Poland, 27 years old, GM 2628.

World Junior U12 Champion in 1996. No 2 at the World Junior Champion (U 20).

Twice the winner (2002 and 2005) of one of the world's biggest tournaments, the World Open in Philadelphia, USA.

**Arkadij Naiditsch:** Germany, 25 years old, GM 2707, number 40 in the world. Became International Master at the age of 13, Grandmaster at 15.

Winner of 2005 Super-tournament in Dortmund and since 2006 the top-rated German player. In 2007 was German Champion and won the Baku Open. In 2010 Arkadij won a match against Efimenko in Mukachevo and was 1st equal in the European Rapid Championship in Warsaw.



**Borki Predojevic:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, 24 years old, GM 2643. Gained the GM title at the Calvia Olympiad in 2004 when he was 17. Best Elo was 2654 in September 2009. Joined the top 100 in 2007; highest place so far was 68th on the October 2007 list.

Winner of several international open tournaments including: Open Metalis in Bizovac, Croatia in 2006, Zagreb Open, Croatia in 2007, Hit Open in Nova Gorica, Slovenia in 2008, Acropolis Open in Greece 2009. in 2008, Acropolis Open in Greece 2009.

**Nikola Sedlak:** Serbia, 28 years old, GM 2589

Winner of the 3rd European Union Individual Chess Championship in 2007 and 2009 BH Telecom tournament in Sarajevo.



**Ivan Sokolov:** 43 years old, GM 2673, number 69 in the world. Best world ranking on the FIDE list of 12th (several times).

Winner of many top GM events of which the most important are: Hastings, Sarajevo, Selfoss, Reykjavik, Hoogeveen, Lost Boys, Staunton Memorial. Yugoslav Champion in 1988 and Dutch Champion in 1995 and 1998. Won team gold with the Dutch team at the 2005 European Championship in Gothenburg.



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### GAME 43

▷ **L. Fressinet (2698)**

▶ **E. Bacrot (2710)**

86th French Championship, Caen

Round 3, 16.08.2011 [E03]

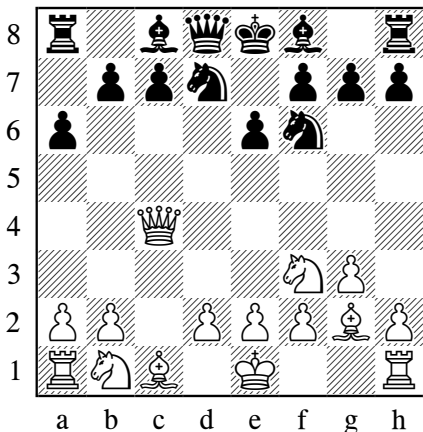
Annotated by Ivan Sokolov

The players debated a line of the Catalan which arose through an English/Reti move order. Bacrot unveiled an interesting novelty in 10...♖b4!?, instead of the usual 10...♖b7 as featured in the 2006 Kramnik – Fritz match, or the rare but interesting 10...♗e5!?. In the game White was unable to find anything convincing against his opponent's new tenth move. The critical direction looks to be 11.♙e4!? but according to my analysis Black is doing well there too.

1.♗f3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 ♖f6 4.♙g2 dxc4  
5.♙a4† ♗bd7 6.♙xc4

6.0–0 a6 7.♙xc4 b5 8.♙c2 ♖b7 gives Black easy play.

6...a6



7.♙c2

Another option is 7.♙b3 although Black should be okay here: 7...♙b8 (But not 7...c5?! 8.a4! ♙b8 9.a5 when Black's queenside is fixed and sooner or later he will have to

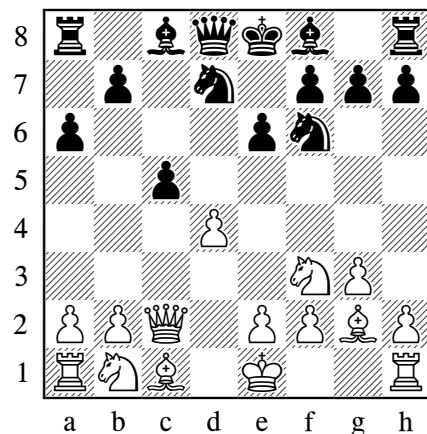
damage his pawn structure, for instance: 9...♙d6 10.d3 0–0 11.0–0 h6 12.♙d2 ♙e8 13.♗a3 e5 14.♗c4 ♙c7 15.♙fd1 ♙e7 16.♗h4 b5 17.axb6 ♗xb6 18.♗a5 ♗bd5 19.♙c2± Lputian – Piket, Sarajevo 1998.) 8.d4 b5 9.0–0 ♖b7 10.♙f4 ♙d6 11.♙c1 ♙xf4 12.gxf4 ♗d5 13.e3 c5 14.dxc5 ♙c8 15.c6 ♙xc6 16.♙a3 ♖b7= Ivanchuk – Naiditsch, Warsaw 2005.

7...c5 8.d4

This seems to be the most testing approach. Other moves are not dangerous for Black:

8.a4 works less well than in the analogous position after 7.♙b3 c5?! 8.a4! as noted above. The point is that with the queen on c2 instead of b3, Black can safely play 8...b6! as 9.♗e5?! can be met by 9...♗d5.

8.0–0 b6 (8...b5 9.a4 ♖b7 10.axb5 axb5 11.♙xa8 ♙xa8 12.♗a3 ♙c6 13.d3 ♙e7 14.♗e1 ♗d5 15.f4 0–0 16.f5 exf5 17.♙xf5 g6 18.♙f1 ♙b7= Zaichik – Beliavsky, Yaroslavl 1982) 9.b4 ♖b7 10.bxc5 ♙c8 11.♗c3 ♙xc5 12.♙b3 0–0 13.a4 ♙c7 14.♖b2 ♙xf3 15.♙xf3 ♗e5 16.♗e4 ♗xf3† 17.♙xf3 ♗xe4 18.♙xe4 ♙fd8 19.♙c3 ♙d5 20.♙fb1 ♙d7= Akopian – Piket, Madrid 1997.

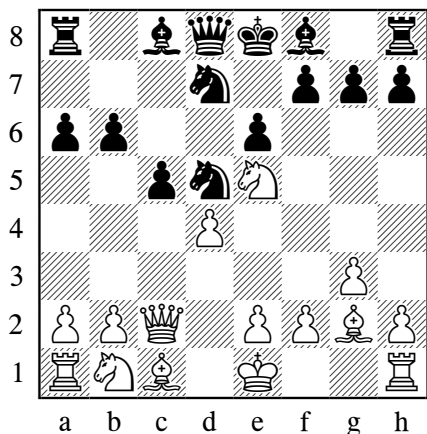


8...b6

After 8...cxd4?! 9.♘xd4 Black has problems developing his queenside, and his problems were demonstrated as far back as six decades ago: 9...♘c5 (9...♙c5 10.♘b3 ♙a7 11.0-0 12.♙d2 ♖e7 13.a3 ♗e8 14.♙b4 ♗d8 15.♘c3 ♗c7 16.♗ac1 ♖e5 17.♗d1 ♗g5 18.♘d2 ♗h6 19.♘de4↑ Smyslov – Kan, Leningrad 1947.) 10.♘b3 ♘xb3 11.♗xb3 ♗c7 12.0-0 ♙c5 13.♙f4 e5 14.♙g5 ♙e6 15.♗xb7 ♗xb7 16.♙xb7 ♗b8 17.♙xf6 gxf6 18.♙xa6 ♗xb2 19.♗c1 ♙b6 20.♘c3 ♙a5 21.♘d1 ♗d2 22.♘e3 ♖e7 23.♘c4 ♗d5 24.a4± Smyslov – Botvinnik, Moscow 1951.

On the other hand 8...b5!?! deserves attention: 9.dxc5 ♙xc5 10.♘d4 (10.♘e5 ♗b8 11.♘c6 ♗c7 12.♖f1 ♗b6 13.♙f4 e5 14.♘xe5 ♘xe5 15.♘d2 ♙b7 16.♘f3 ♙xf3 17.♙xf3 ♖e7+ Alburt – Speelman, Hastings 1983) 10...♘d5 11.♘b3 ♙b7 12.♘xc5 ♘xc5 13.0-0 ♗c8 14.♗d1 0-0 15.♘c3 ♘d7 16.♙xd5 ♙xd5 17.♗d3 ♙c6 18.♙f4 e5 19.♙e3 f5 20.f3 ♖e8= ½-½ Andersson – Korchnoi, Johannesburg 1981.

9.♘e5 ♘d5

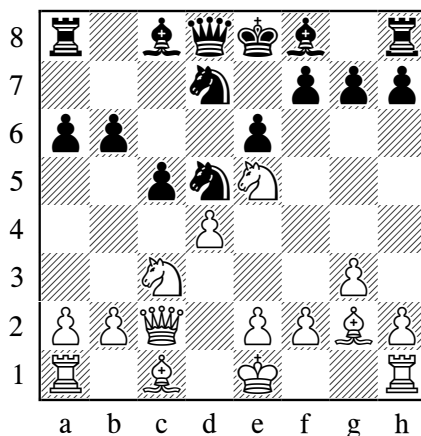


10.♘c3

10.♘c6 is not dangerous for Black: 10...♗c7 11.e4 ♘5f6! (After 11...♘e7?! 12.♘xe7 ♙xe7 13.♙f4 ♖a7 14.d5 e5 15.♙e3 0-0 16.♘d2

♗b8 17.a4 ♘f6 18.h3 b5 19.0-0 c4 20.b3 cxb3 21.♘xb3 ♙d7 22.♘a5↑ bxa4 23.♘c6 ♙xc6 24.dxc6± White's passed c-pawn went on to decide the battle in Tkachiev – A. Sokolov, Belfort 2010.) 12.d5 ♙b7 13.0-0 ♙d6 14.♘d2 0-0= 15.♘c4 exd5 16.exd5 ♘xd5 17.♙xd5 ♙xc6 18.♗d1 ♙xd5 19.♗xd5 ♙e7 20.♗xd7 ♗xd7 21.♘xb6 ♖e6 22.♘xa8 ♗xa8 23.♙e3 ♗c8 24.a3 ½-½ Landa – Meier, Copenhagen 2010.

10.♘xd7 ♙xd7! (10...♗xd7 11.dxc5 ♙xc5 12.0-0 ♙b7 13.♗d1 ♗c8 14.♘c3 ♘xc3 15.♗xc3 0-0 16.♙f4 ♙xg2 17.♖xg2 ♗d8 18.♗f3 ♗a7 19.♗ac1 ♗ad7 20.♗xd7 ♗xd7 21.♗c3± White had a microscopic advantage in Andersson – Lombard, Biel 1977) 11.dxc5 ♗c8 12.0-0 ♙xc5 13.♗b3 0-0 14.♘d2 ♙b5 15.♙f3 ♘b4 16.a4 ♘c2 17.♗xc2 ♙xf2† 18.♖xf2 ♗xc2 19.axb5 ♗d4† 20.♖g2 axb5 21.♘e4 f5 In this unbalanced position Black's chances were slightly higher in Postny – Naiditsch, Moscow 2005.



10...♘b4!?

Bacrot's novelty, and it seems to be a good one.

The most natural and common continuation has been 10...♙b7 11.♘xd5 when both candidate moves have been tried.

a) 11...exd5 does not equalize, although in the following game Black got the upper hand: 12.0-0 ♕e7 13.♞d1 0-0 14.♞f5 (14.♕f4!?± deserves attention) 14...♘xe5! 15.dxe5 ♞a7! 16.e6 d4 17.♕xb7 ♞xb7 18.e3 ♕f6 19.exd4 ♞e7 20.♕e3 fxe6 21.♞g4 h5 22.♞xh5 (22.♞e4 cxd4 23.♕xd4? loses to 23...♞d7 as the rook on d1 is no longer protected) 22...cxd4 23.♞e2 ♞d5 Black had the initiative and went on to win in Hübner – Smyslov, Tilburg 1982.

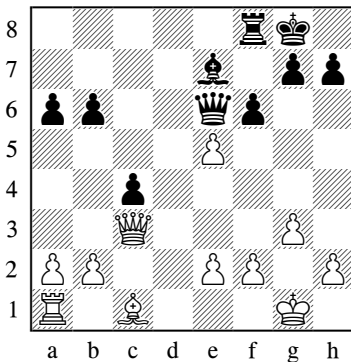
b) 11...♕xd5!

Exchanging the light-squared bishops is a more reliable approach for Black.

12.♕xd5 exd5 13.0-0

13.♘xd7 ♞xd7 14.dxc5 ♕xc5 15.0-0 0-0  
16.♞d3 ♞fe8 17.♕d2 ♞g4 18.e3 h5 19.♖g2  
♞ad8 20.♞ae1 h4† Rustemov – Landa,  
Germany 2006.

13...♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♞c8 15.♞d1 ♞e6 16.♞d3  
♕e7 17.♞xd5 ♞d8 18.♞b3 ♞xd1† 19.♞xd1  
0-0 20.♞b3 c4 21.♞c3 f6



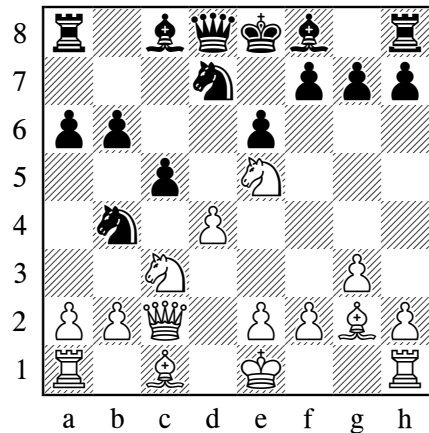
22.b3

A possible improvement for white is 22.♕f4!? b5 (after 22...♞d8 23.exf6 ♕xf6 24.♞c2 Black's compensation is rather questionable) 23.♞d1 b4 (23...g5 24.♕e3 fxe5 regains the pawn, but Black's loose kingside means he is not yet out of the woods) 24.♞e3 ♞c8 It is not easy to say if Black has enough compensation for the missing pawn.  
22...♞c8 23.♕b2 b5 24.♞e3 fxe5 25.bxc4

♞xc4 26.♕xe5 h6

Black had enough counterplay and game was eventually drawn in Kramnik – Fritz 10, Bonn (3) 2006.

Before moving on, let us note that the rare 10...♘xe5!? deserves attention, for instance 11.dxe5 ♕b7 12.0-0 ♞c7 13.♘xd5 ♕xd5 14.♕xd5 exd5 15.♕f4 ♞c6 16.♞fd1 ♕e7 17.♞d3 d4 18.♞ac1 ♞e6 and Black was at least okay in Burmakin – Heinz, Bad Wiessee 2009.



11.♞d1

Faced with a prepared novelty over the board, Fressinet goes for a safe reply. Two other moves deserve consideration.

Firstly, it should be noted that 11.♞b3 cxd4! 12.♕xa8 ♘xe5 13.a3 ♘bc6 is a promising exchange sacrifice for Black.

11.♞e4!?

It seems to me that this must be the critical path, although it is far from clear if White can make it work.

11...♞a7!

The safest continuation.

11...♘xe5 is playable although it enables White to develop a dangerous initiative:

# Miraculous Rook Endgames

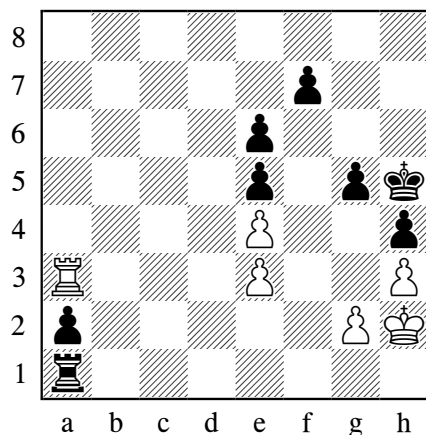
by GM Konstantin Landa

We are fortunate that chess requires not only good opening play and sharp tactical skills in the middlegame, but also knowledge of the final stage of chess – the endgame. In recent times many young players have not bothered to read any endgame books – the opening stage is taking too much of their time, in particular the search for deep novelties. The games of such players rarely reach an endgame; instead they end in a sharp tactical middlegame. When an endgame does appear, it is hard to watch without shedding a tear over how these youngsters are playing it – of course with the exception of a few top class players.

When the editors of *Chess Evolution* asked me to write a section about the endgame, for a long time I could not find the right topic. To cover elementary endgames, as provided by many other chess publications, would of course be sensible – refreshing our knowledge of rook endgame theory is always healthy, but this can easily be done by the dear reader himself by opening any endgame book.

I came up with the idea of my current endgame topic by remembering when I was watching live the last round of the French league, where the outcome of the following game decided the result of a match.

**M. Choisy (2207) – A. Muller (2152)**  
Mulhouse 2011, French League



**55...f5 56.♖a5 g4**

A good move, but to be honest almost any move should also lead to a win. Black played a great game and managed to get an absolutely winning position.

**57.hxg4† fxg4 58.g3**

If 58.♖xe5† then White is not in time to take the black pawns: 58...♔g6 59.♖xe6† ♔f7 60.♖a6 g3† 61.♔h3 ♖h1† 62.♔g4 a1=♚

**58...hxg3† 59.♔g2**

# 12 Puzzles

by GM Jacob Aagaard

In previous versions of *Chess Evolution* the puzzle section has been a repetition of positions that could be found elsewhere in the book. When we decided to make some small changes to the layout and structure of *Chess Evolution*, it was natural to stop this practice and have a small section with 12 combinations from the last two months.

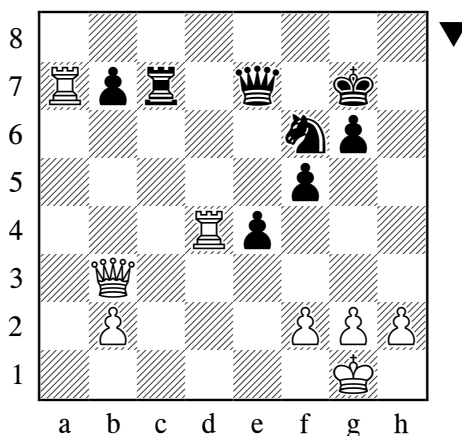
Of the twelve positions I have selected, most of them could be said to be difficult. The first six positions are probably within reach of most readers without too much effort, some more than others. But don't get too cocky; some top class players managed to misplay a majority of these positions!

The next six positions are harder. Even though Hou Yifan did manage to win one of them, she did not manage to do so in the most direct way. The other five positions all include mistakes and failures for the grandmasters included; not because they are not great players, but because chess is a brutally difficult game.

Still, our sympathy and respect for these players should not ruin the enjoyment of succeeding where they failed. It might be a cheap pleasure, but why pay overprice for happiness?

My own preference when it comes to combinations is a blend of logic and classical beauty. I like the surprise, but I also like the detail quite a lot. I have tried to annotate these positions based on their core ideas, the points you have to discover to solve the positions. But at the same time, combinations are as concrete as you get in chess; so there are plenty of variations to prove my point.

Finally, before we begin, here is a little warm-up position:



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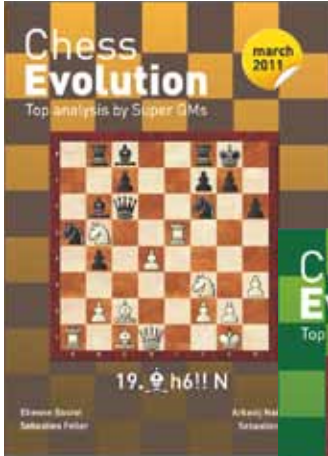
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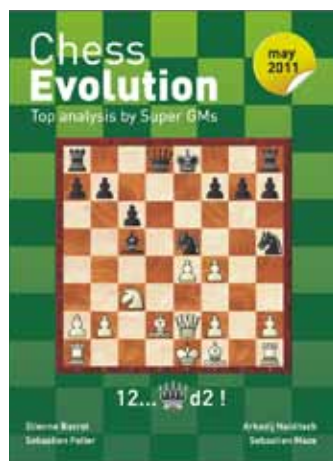
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