



COLUMNISTS

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## A Fine Old Gentleman is Back

Josip Asik

*Chess Informant 108* has just recently been published and will soon be available from our U.S. distributor, [ChessCafe.com](#). The publication has come a long way since 1966, which, by the way, was before I was born. My first memory of *Chess Informant* dates back to the late 1980s – when I began to play chess "seriously." It was not the book that first caught my attention, but a paper brochure. It was a surprisingly rich advertisement – one that holds your attention for some time. In my case, even months. Like a Russian matryoshka doll, you had to open it, then open other parts and so on. On these pages there were games and examples from Informants, Encyclopedias, and other publications, as well as advanced coverage of the famous *ECO* codes. I would swear that this flyer is still stored away in an old box of stuff.

I was infatuated with the clear structure of chess openings that was so beyond my knowledge at that time. Even though I grew up in the neighborhood where the Informant headquarters were located in Belgrade, the Informant books were not easily accessible. For us chess kids from the block, they were a distant *objet du désir*, an expensive entrance fee to world-class chess. Among those waiting for every new edition were the greatest chess players of the day, hoping to receive it before any others. Information is always power and the Internet was still in the future.

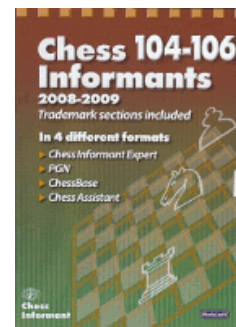
The first precious Informant I finally owned was No.47. I still have it and it still looks delicious. Big, fat, and tasty! OK, I never really wanted to eat it! Perhaps it is just nostalgia, but I fondly recall the first successful ideas that were gleaned from Informant pages. For example, the Scotch variation **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 ed4 4.Nd4 Bc5 5.Nc6 Qf6 6.Qd2 Qc6 7.Bd3 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.b4!N**, from the game Smagin – Hjartarson in 1991 (Informant 51/(301)), followed by many other of Smagin's games that opened a whole new world for me. I also remember some nice wins because of my better theoretical preparation: my own Informant secrets. One influential variation in the Queen's Indian Defense came from the game Brenninkmeijer – Van Der Wiel (Informant 51/529): **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Nc3 Ne4 7.Bd2 Bf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Rc1 c5 10.d5 ed5 11.cd5 Nd2 12.Nd2 d6 13. Nde4 Be5!?**N followed by annotations that make the whole idea so clear.

I guess that many readers have their own Informant stories. It is such stories that led to a loyal readership who stayed with us through thick and thin. As an amateur chess player who spent many tournament days with professionals, my story was crowned by one "whole" game published in *Informant 100*. When the Editorial board informed me that my win against Alexander Graf was chosen for publication, I felt that a circle had been completed. However, now a new Informant story has begun as I have been appointed the Director of Chess Informant. The burden of generations who loved this publication is now on my shoulders.

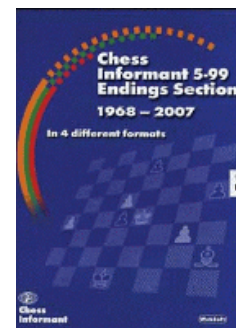
Behind the scenes, there is a brand new energy buzzing through the Informant offices like bees in a hive. There are many grandmaster-newcomers to challenge the ideas of the Informant "old school," and this is occurring in an atmosphere of great enthusiasm. A fine old gentlemen is preparing a comeback, so don't be surprised if you soon meet a youngster with grandpa's genes. We promise, "with a little help from our friends," to keep to tradition and present interesting instructive material for new generations as we prepare to broach new horizons.

*Informant 108* is dedicated to the memory of IM Zdenko Krnic. He tragically

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lost his life in a traffic accident while returning home from work. His unfinished papers, with games and variations from this current volume, were scattered across the crosswalk where the accident occurred.

The editorial board would like to present a selection of the best combinations, endings, and studies from *Informant 108*.

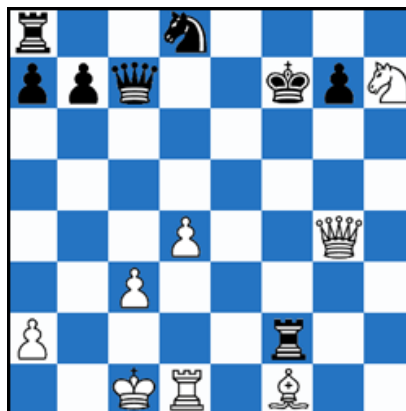
### *Combinations*

#### **1. P. MEISTER – F. BINDRICH**

Deutschland 2010

I d

*White to Play and Win*



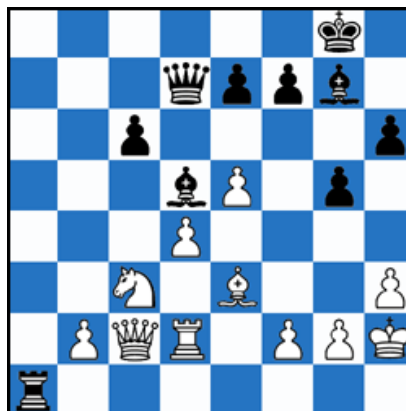
[FEN "r2n4/ppq2kpN/8/3P2Q1/  
2P5/P4r2/2KR1B2 w - - 0 1"]

#### **2. ZHAO XUE – CMILYTE**

Russia 2010

I h

*Black to Play and Win*



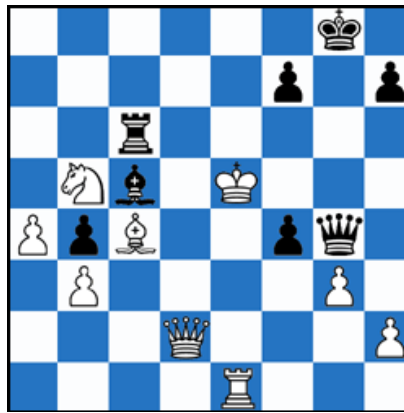
[FEN "6k1/3qppb1/2p4p/3bP1p1/3P4/  
2N1B2P/1PQR1PPK/r7 b - - 0 1"]

#### **3. BADEV – P. G. ARNAUDOV**

Bulgaria (ch) 2010

III h

*Black to Play and Win*



[FEN "6k1/5p1p/2r5/1Nb1K3/PpB2pq1/  
1P4P1/3Q3P/4R3 b - - 0 1"]

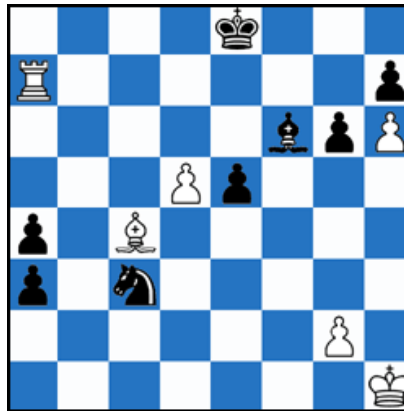
### *Endings*

#### **1. KRASENKOW – D. SWIERCZ**

Polska (ch) 2010

R 9/e

*White to Play and Win*



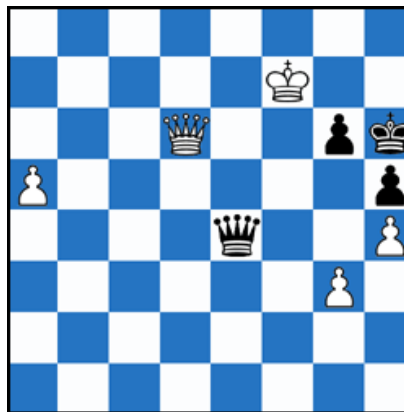
[FEN "4k3/R6p/5bpP/3Pp3/p1B5/  
p1n5/6P1/7K w - - 0 1"]

#### **2. T. GELASHVILI – ADAM HORVATH**

Rijeka 2010

Q 4/d

*Black to Play and Draw*



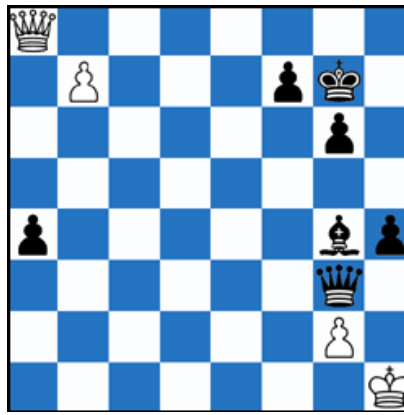
[FEN "8/5K2/3Q2pk/P6p/4q2P/6P1/8/8 b - - 0 1"]

#### **3. PIA CRAMLING – ARAKHAMIA-GRANT**

Rijeka 2010

Q 7/g

*Black to Play and Win*



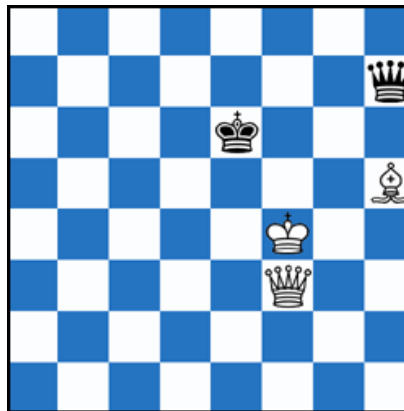
[FEN "Q7/1P3pk1/6p1/8/p5bp/6q1/6P1/7K b - - 0 1"]

### *Studies*

#### **1. V. ABERMAN**

5th Pl. World Cup 2010

*White to Play and Win*

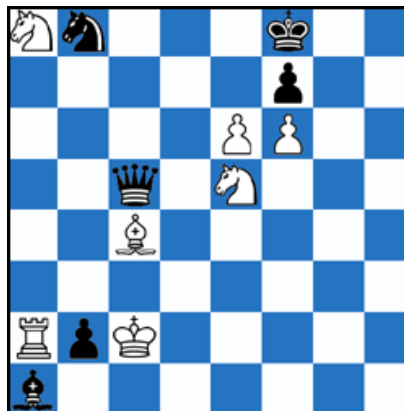


[FEN "8/7q/4k3/7B/5K2/5Q2/8/8 w - - 0 1"]

#### **2. V. NEISHTADT**

1st HM World Cup 2010

*White to Play and Draw*

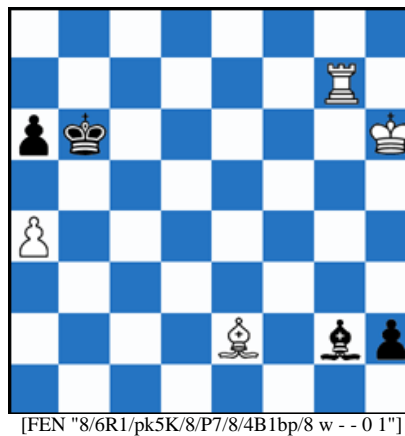


[FEN "Nn3k2/5p2/4PP2/2q1N3/2B5/8/RpK5/b7 w - - 0 1"]

#### **3. V. VLASENKO**

2nd HM World Cup 2010

*White to Play and Draw*



### Combinations Solutions

#### 1. P. MEISTER – F. BINDRICH

**1.Bc4! Qc4** [1...Ke7 2.Re1 Kd6 3.Re6 and White is winning] **2.Qd7 Kg8** [2...Kg6 3.Rg1 Kh7 (3...Kh5 4.Qh3 mate) 4.Qg7 mate] **3.Qe8 Rf8** [3...Kh7 4.Rh1 and White is winning] **4.Nf6** [4.Qf8 Kh7 5.Rh1 and White is winning] **1-0** [Perun]

#### 2. ZHAO XUE – CMILYTE

**1...Rh1!! 2.Kg3 Bg2!! 0-1** [RR]

#### 3. BADEV – P. G. ARNAUDOV

**1...Re6!! 2.Be6 Qe6 3.Kf4 Qh6 0-1** [RR]

### Endings Solutions

#### 1. KRASENKOW – D. SWIERCZ

**1.d6! a2 2.Bf7! Kf8 3.Be6! a1Q 4.Kh2 Ke8 5.Rg7!! Bg7 6.hg7 Qf1 7.g8Q Qf8 8.d7 1-0** [RR]

#### 2. T. GELASHVILI – ADAM HORVATH

**1...Qf5! 2.Kg8 Qe6! ½-½** [RR]

#### 3. PIA CRAMLING – ARAKHAMIA-GRANT

**1...Bf3! 0-1** [RR]

### Studies Solutions

#### 1. V. ABERMAN

**1.Bg4!** [1.Qc6? Ke7 2.Qc7 Kf8! 3.Qh7 equal] **Ke7!** [1...Kd6 2.Qa3 Kc6 3.Qa6 Kc5 4.Qa5 Kd6 5.Qb6 Kd5 6.Be6] **2.Qa3!** [2.Qb7? Kf6 3.Qb2 Kf7 4.Qb7 Kf6 5.Qh7 equal] **Ke8 3.Qa8 Kf7 4.Qa7! Kf6! 5.Qd4 Kf7 6.Qd7 Kf6 7.Qd6! Kg7 8.Kg5! Kh8 9.Bf5! Qg8 10.Bg6** and White is winning

#### 2. V. NEISHTADT

**1.Nd7! Nd7 2.e7 Ke8 3.Nc7! Qc7 4.Ra8 Nb8 5.Kb1! Qb6!** [5...Qb7 6.Bd5 equal; 5...Kd7 6.Bb5 Kd6 7.e8N and White is winning] **6.Rb8! Qb8 7.Bb3! Qb5** [7...Qb3 equal] **8.Ba4! Qd7!** [8...Qa4 equal] **9.Bc2! Qa7 10.Ba4 Qd7 11.Bc2** equal

#### 3. V. VLASENKO

**1.a5!** [1.Rg6? Kc7 2.Rg7 Kd8 3.Rg8 Ke7 4.Rg7 Kf8 5.Bh5 Bd5! 6.Rf7 Bf7 7.

Bf3 Ke7 8.Kg5 Kd6 9.Kf4 Bd5 10.Kg3 Bf3 11.Kh2 Kc5 and Black is winning] **Kc6** [1...Ka5 2.Rg5 equal] **2.Rg6 Kc7 3.Rg7 Kd8 4.Rg8 Ke7 5.Rg7 Kf8 6.Bh5! Bd5!** [6...h1Q 7.Rf7 Ke8 8.Rf1 Qh5 9.Kh5 Bf1 10.Kg4 equal] **7. Rf7! Bf7 8.Bf3 Ke7 9.Kg5 Kd6 10.Kf4 Bd5 11.Kg3 Bf3 12.Kh2 Kc5 13. Kg3!** equal

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