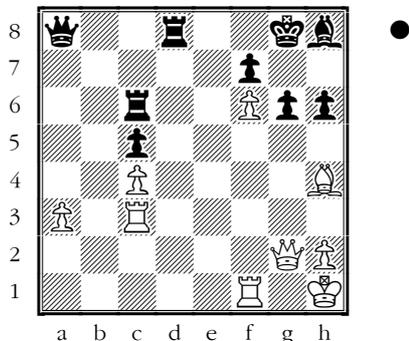


Test Yourself!

M. Oleksienko (2567) – M. Golubev (2472)
Geller Memorial, Odessa 2007



World Chess News

World Chess Championship

It was a day-off at the tournament yesterday. Round 5 will be played today.

Standings after 4 rounds:

1-2. Anand and Kramnik – 2½
3-6. Morozevich, Aronian, Gelfand and Grischuk – 2
7-8. Leko and Svidler – 1½.

Round 5 Pairings:

Anand – Svidler
Grischuk – Morozevich
Leko – Kramnik
Gelfand – Aronian

[Official website](#)

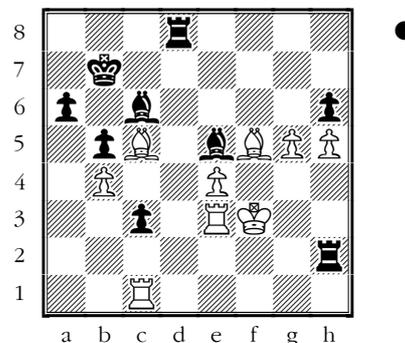
More on Round 4

by GM Mikhail Golubev

The 4th round of the World Championship was quite surprising, in my view – an Atypically bad loss for Leko to Aronian, and the leaders Kramnik and Anand both failed to convert the advantage in their favourite types of positions: Kramnik in the technical endgame against Grischuk and Anand in some concrete

dynamic position against Morozevich. Well, no doubt that there will be many other surprises in the tournament. Here is Anand's missed victory:

Morozevich (2758) – Anand (2792)



55...♞xh5?

55...♞dd2! was an easy win

56.♙e7! ♞e8 56...♞d2! was still winning though it is somewhat more messy than one move earlier.

57.♜g4! ♞h2 **58.♙f6!** ♞g2+ The tricky 58...♞g8! still would have offered some winning chances to Black.

59.♜h3 ♞h2+ **60.♜g4** ♞g2+ **61.♜h3** ½-½.

Geller Memorial, Odessa

by GM Mikhail Golubev

The 3rd Efim Geller Memorial finished in Odessa, Ukraine on 16 September 2007. With more than 20 GMs and WGMs in the Section 'A' it became the strongest open in Ukraine. Three players scored 7 points. **IM Alexander Zubov** from Crimea, who was leading or sharing first place during the whole tournament, became the winner due to the better tiebreak. As stated by the chief arbiter, the winner, with some reservations, scored the GM norm (the same applies to IM Denis Shilin). IM Mikhail Podgaets took the prize for the best result among the veterans. First place among women was taken by WGM Natalia Zhukova.

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>

Usually I write that the organisation of this chess event in my town is near-to-perfect, but this time there were problems with the sanatorium Belaya Akaziya which hosted the event. They failed to make the tournament room free on time on three days (when they had some other events in the same room, such as conferences of the railway workers and the real estate dealers), and as a result three of rounds started with approximately one hour delays. The Sponsors and organisers have something to learn for the future.

In the Annotated Game section I will show my game versus the tournament winner. There is also a selection of games from the tournament in today's database. One of the most interesting encounters is M.Brodsky-D.Kovalev, where White sacrificed a rook in the endgame.

Final Standings:

1-3. IM Zubov (2552), GM Korobov (2530) and GM Sumets (2529) – 7 out of 9,
4-6. GM Zubarev (2504), IM Firman (2517) and IM Shilin (2380) – 6,5,
7-19. GM Oleksienko (2567), GM Zinchenko (2497), GM Drozdovskij (2567), GM Brodsky (2595), GM Malaniuk (2522), GM Vysochin (2518), GM Solodovnichenko (2582), IM Smirnov (2423), IM Podgaets (2460), IM Lushenkov (2447), Korobkov (2423), GM Lutsko (2418) and Podolchenko (2458) – 6, etc (107 participants).

Full final standings can be found at the website of the [Ukrainian chess federation](#).



John Watson's Chess & Books Show on ICC

by John Henderson



Tune-in for this [Show](#) on ICC Chess.FM every Tuesday at 21:00 EST. John's 90+ minute show will review the latest titles, followed by a discussion of books and other chess topics with his guests. This week (18th Sept), John's guest will be former World Championship challenger, coach and columnist GM Nigel Short MBE.

In 1979 at 19, Nigel was the world's youngest grandmaster. In 1993 in London, after defeating Boris Gelfand, Jon Speelman, Jan Timman and Anatoly Karpov in Candidates Matches, Short unsuccessfully challenged Garry Kasparov for the World Championship title. Along with his playing activities, Short is regarded as a witty, yet often controversial columnist on the game, notably for two of the UK's leading broadsheets, *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Guardian*.

He has gone on to coach young prodigies like Pentala Harikrishna, Sergey Karjakin, David Howell and Parimarjan Negi. In 1999 the Queen of Great Britain awarded him the honour of Member of the British Empire (MBE), in recognition of his chess accomplishments.



Letters to the Editor

by GM Alex Baburin

After we published in CT-2502 the review of Topalov's book by GM Jacob Aagaard, I got several e-mails from our readers. Some of them disagreed with what Jacob wrote in the review, but I don't see any problem here – reviewers just express their opinions – and those can't always coincide with all other views. By the way, I would like to stress out that all CT contributors express their views which are not necessary shared by yours truly or other members of the CT team. Now, to your e-mails:

"Greetings from Chessville, old friends!

I thoroughly enjoyed Jacob's review in CT-2502, but thought you should know that the facts in Elista have already been solidly established – with photos – by ace investigative reporter Robert Tuohey, who earlier this year sent us a report on the whole affair. Tuohey wrote, "Are these accusations true? What could the mysterious "signals" be? Let's go to the footage..." All the [sordid details](#) can be found at our website.

With best wishes,
David Surratt"

Yes, that webpage *is* funny – and well worth a visit. I never believed in the "signal" theory – many chess players gesticulate a lot or make faces, etc. Probably this is some compensation mechanist at work – for not being able to talk much!

On the other hand, signalling to the player is not a new problem in chess – remember the infamous glass of [yogurt](#) from 1978?! Naturally, some chess players are concerned or even slightly paranoid with this issue. I bet that we'll hear more about this in the future – this problem is here to stay.

"Dear Alex,

With the world championship in Mexico going on, there seems to be a lot of discussions why Ivanchuk is not playing there. In the latest *New in Chess* Kasparov suggests that Ivanchuk lacks power outside the chessboard and in CT-2502 he was called the world champion we deserve.

All these statements are very nice but these are the results of round 2 of the qualifying tournament, the World Chess Cup in Khanty-Mansiysk in 2005:

I. Cheparinov	1½
V. Ivanchuk	½

This looks quite clear to me,

Maarten Alink,
Munich, Germany"

Personally, I don't see much point in all these talks on who should be playing in Mexico and who should not. If we treat chess as a sport, all we need is a fair system, which gives anyone a chance to prove their ability. FIDE has been struggling to introduce such a system, but at least Ivanchuk had a chance to qualify from Khanty-Mansiysk. He has problems in short matches (remember Las Vegas 1999?), but this has little to do with our question. After 2000 I considered Kramnik to be the World Champion. I know that many GMs thought differently and I understand their point of view. I am glad that FIDE has brought clarity to this tricky situation, so, with all my respect to Ivanchuk and some other top players, I do not see any point in speculations on what World Champion we "deserve".



Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

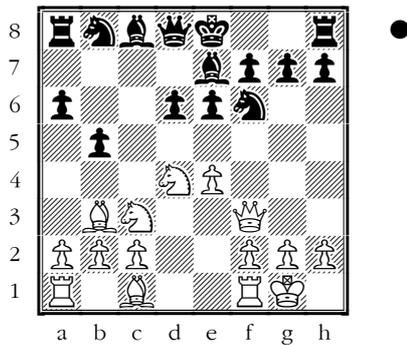
White: M. Golubev (2472)

Black: A. Zubov (2552)

3rd Geller Mem Open-A Odessa UKR
(5), 12.09.2007

Sicilian Defence [B87]

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4
♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♕c4 e6 7.♖b3 b5
8.0-0 ♕e7 9.♝f3 (D)**



This queen's move was invented by Fischer in 1960. Looking at how many games were played in this line since then, no one should be surprised that the American champion these days prefers his own chess.

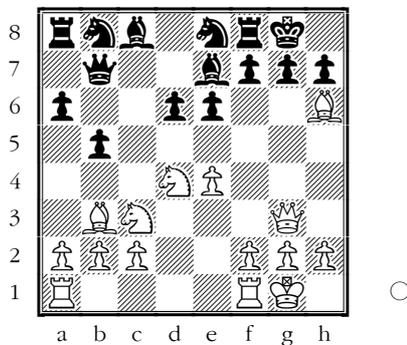
9...♝b6

Another main move is 9...♝c7

10.♕e3 ♝b7 11.♝g3 0-0!?

The text is playable but riskier than a solid main line 11...b4 12.♗a4 ♗bd7 13.f3 0-0 (as, for example, in Rublevsky-Ponomartiov, 4th game, Elista 2007); Clearly not the best of Black's options is 11...♕d7? 12.♗f5! , as in Ivanchuk-Shakhvorostov, Yurmala 1985.

12.♕h6 ♗e8 (D)



13.♞ad1!

13.♕g5?! ♕xg5 14.♝xg5 b4 15.♗a4
♝xe4 16.♞ad1 occurred in my ancient
game versus Boris Gelfand from

Klaipeda 1985, which ended in a draw.

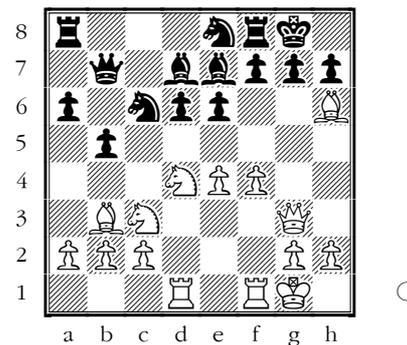
13...♕d7

After 13...♕f6 (threatening with 14...♕e5!) 14.♕e3!? White was I think a bit better in Golubev-Kempinski, Bundesliga 2001/2.

14.f4

An alternative is 14.♞fe1 where Black should abstain from 14...♗c6? 15.♗d5! ♕d8 (15...exd5 16.♗xc6!) 16.♗f5! exf5 17.exf5 ♗e5 18.♞xe5 dxe5 19.f6 g6 20.♗e7+- (Gurieli-Sakhatova, Erevan 1985) and play, most likely, 14...♞h8 instead.

14...♗c6!?! (D)



15.f5!?

In our post-mortem analysis Zubov suggested 15.♕g5 , but 15...b4! looks good for Black; Curious but no so clear is 15.♗xc6!? ♕xc6 16.f5 ♞h8 17.f6 ♕xf6 18.♞xf6 (Najer-Biriukov, St Petersburg 1998).

15...♗xd4 16.♞xd4

Hardly can work for White 16.f6?! ♕xf6 17.♞xf6 ♗xb3 18.axb3 ♞h8 ; still, I spent a few minutes for it.

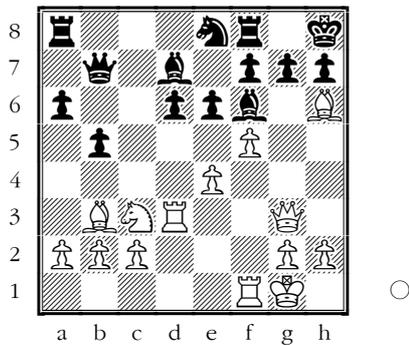
16...♕f6

The same position, but with a black queen on c7 instead of b7 is known in the 9...♝c7 line (Morozevich-Kasparov, Astana 2001, etc).

17.♞d3

The rook looks active on d3 but in fact it can be more a target of attack (...♕b5! in further lines) than an attacking force. Perhaps 17.♞dd1!? is a serious alternative; Zubov opined that 17.♞d2 deserves attention too

17...♞h8!?!N (D)

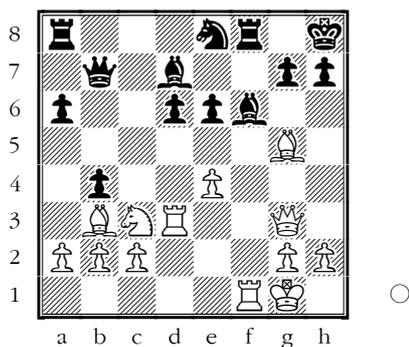


In fact I once played everything up to this point. The game Golubev-Lambert, Oberliga 1997/8 followed 17...b4 18.fxe6 (18.dxe2! was later seen in an email game) 18...fxe6 19.d5 ♖b5! 20.e5?! dxe5? (after 20...♗xd3! Black is better in the further complications) 21.dxf6+ ♗xf6 22.♗xe6+ ♖h8 23.♞d7! and White won.

18. ♗g5

I had a difficult choice between this move and 18.fxe6! fxe6 (here 18...♗xe6? is bad due to 19.♞xf6!) 19.e5 (19.♗g5 b4 leads to the game) 19...dxe5 20.♗g5 (20.♗e3!?) , which also gives important additional possibilities to Black: 20...b4 transposes to the game, but he has ideas such as 20...e4! (or 20...♗c6!?) 21.♞e3 (21.dxe4? ♖xe4 22.♞xd7 fails to 22...♗d4+) 21...♗c6

18...b4! 19.fxe6 fxe6! (D)



According to Zubov, 19...♗xe6! also could have been playable, but the text is probably preferable.

20.e5

I also spent some time on 20.dxe2 ♖b5 (Zubov in fact intended to go for 20...♖xe4! 21.♞e3 ♖g6 which could have been sufficient for equality) 21.dxf4! (Black has no problems after 21.♗xe6 ♗xd3 22.cxd3 ♖e7!), rightly dismissing it in view of 21...♗xd3 (engine suggests that the immediate

21...♗c7!?) can be even better) 22.cxd3 ♗c7! where I could see nothing good for White. An attempt is 23.♖h3 but after 23...♞f7! Black is better.

20...dxe5

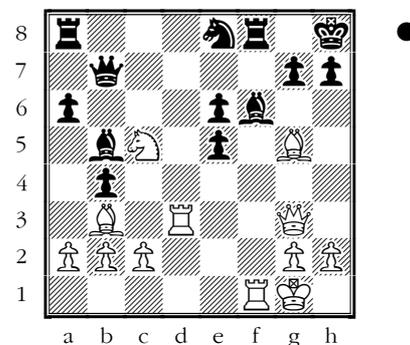
My opponent did not consider seriously the move 20...bxc3!?, but it was a very interesting possibility. After 21.exf6 Black is not obliged to capture the pawn on f6 and can try 21...cxb2! (or 21...♗b5! 22.bxc3 ♗xd3 23.cxd3∞) with double-edged play after 22.fxg7+ ♗xg7 23.♞b1 and then, say, 23...♗f5 24.♖f2 a5

21. ♗e4

A desperate 21.♖h4? leads White nowhere after 21...bxc3 22.♞h3 h6!-+

21...♗b5

Also possible was the less ambitious 21...♖xe4! 22.♞xd7 and now 22...♖c6! 22.♗c5! (D)



An important move, which secures White's compensation

22...♖e7!

Probably better than 22...♖b6 23.♗e3 ♗xd3 24.cxd3! (but not 24.dxe6? ♖xe6! 25.♗xe6 ♗xf1-+; after 24.dxd3 I disliked for White 24...♖c6! 25.dxe5 ♖d6); Also inferior to the text seems to be 22...♗xd3 23.dxb7 ♗xf1 24.dxc5!

23. ♗xe6 ♞g8

After 23...♗xd3?! I intended to play 24.dxf8! where bad is 24...♗xg5? (and even more so 24...♗xf1?? 25.dg6+ hxg6 26.♖h4#; better but hardly sufficient for equality is 24...♗e4!) 25.♖xd3!+- ♗f6 and now 26.♖xh7+ ♗xh7 27.dg6#; A real alternative to the text was 23...♞f7! with messy play after, say, 24.♗e3! ♗xd3 25.cxd3 ♗d6 26.♗c5

24. ♗e3!?

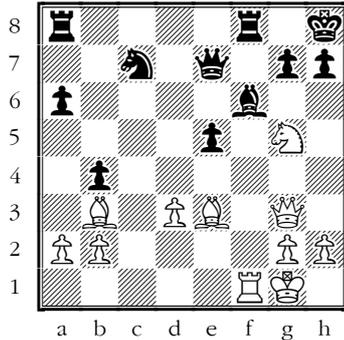
I am not sure whether there was a stronger move, though White had plenty of options.

24...♙xd3 25.cxd3 ♘c7!?

After 25...♘d6 Zubov disliked 26.♙c5! (the sacrifice 26.♘g5 ♖gf8 27.♘xh7 would, as contrary to the game, lead to a firm draw because the e4 square is under Black's control) and indeed White has compensation, but things are not too clear after 26...♖ac8 or 26...♙d7 (rather than 26...a5?! 27.d4!)

26.♘g5

White hardly has any advantage in the line 26.♘xc7 ♙xc7 27.♙xg8 ♖xg8= . Or at least so I thought.

26...♖gf8?! (D)

Black should have played 26...♙xg5 27.♙xg5 ♙d6 (rather than 27...♙c5+?! 28.♙e3 ♙d6 29.♙xg8 ♖xg8 30.d4!) 28.♙xg8 ♖xg8 . I intended to continue 29.♖e1 ♖e8 30.♙e3 , hoping to be marginally better.

27.♘xh7! ♙xh7

The simplest refutation of 27...♙h4? is 28.♘xf8 ♙xg3 29.♘g6+

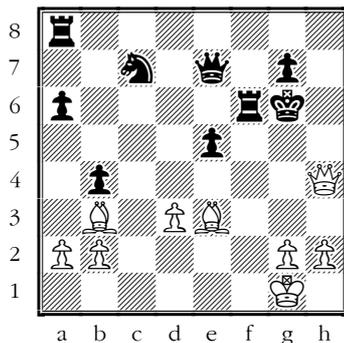
28.♖xf6!

The point. Clearly favours Black 28.♙h3+? ♙h4

28...♖xf6!

Otherwise Black loses: 28...♙xf6? 29.♙h3+ ♙g6 30.♙g4+ ♙h7 31.♙h5+; or 28...gxf6? 29.♙h4+ ♙g6 30.♙h6+ ♙f5 31.♙h5#

29.♙h4+ Now 29...♖h6? gives away a queen. So, Black's answer is forced.

29...♙g6 (D)**30.♙g4+**

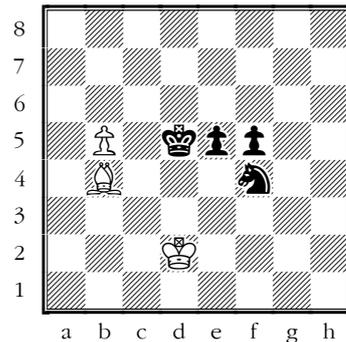
Having, as did my opponent, only a few minutes before the "eternal zeitnot" I decided to finish the game, underestimating my chances in the line 30.♙e4+! ♖f5 31.g4! . Zubov planned to play the correct 31...♙f6 (after 31...♙d7?! quite strong is 32.d4! – Zubov) , but even here White can play for a win and is objectively better: 32.h4! (what I saw is that grabbing the knight by 32.gxf5+? ♙xf5 33.♙c6+ ♙h7 34.♙xc7 makes no sense: after 34...♖f8 35.♙c1 ♙g4+ 36.♙h1 ♙f3+ 37.♙g1 Black has not only the perpetual check, but also the winning 37...♖f6!–+) 32...♙h7 33.gxf5 ♖f8 34.♙c5! . And now Black should probably play 34...♖e8 (the line 34...♖d8?! 35.♙e7! ♙b6+ 36.♙g2 ♖d4 37.♙f3 ♖f4 38.♙h5+ ♙h6 39.♙xh6+ gxf6 40.f6± looks grim for him)

30...♙h7 31.♙h4+

This game exhausted me – before it I had won four games in the row (three of them were quite tense), but after it I lost three – performing in the end accordingly to my current ELO level. There also was a curious ending in the 7th round. 1/2–1/2.

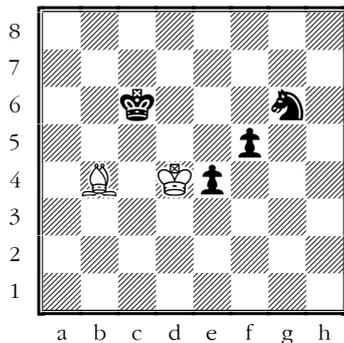
A Mutual Zugzwang

M. Golubev (2472) – A. Sumets (2529)
3rd Geller Mem Op–A Odessa UKR (7), 2007

**48.b6! ♙c6 49.b7 ♙xb7 50.♙d6! ♘g6 51.♙e3!**

(Threatening with 52.♙xe5! ♘xe5 53.♙f4).

51...e4! 52.♙d4! ♙c6 53.♙b4! (D)



Position after the text is mutual zugzwang. White can not allow the black king to reach f7, so he should preserve the bishop on the a3–f8 diagonal. But 53.♘a3? ♖d7 54.♘d5 loses to 54...♗f4+! 55.♙e5 ♘d3+ 56.♙xf5 e3–+

53...♙b5

Here 53...♖d7 54.♘d5! ♙e8 55.♙e6! is a draw. So Black is intending to go with his king to c2.

54.♘c5

Playing in the mode 30 seconds per move I failed to see the key method of defence: 54.♘a3 ♖a4 55.♘d6 ♗b3 56.♘c7! (or 56.♘c5! ♙c2 and now 57.♘b4!) 56...♙c2 and now 57.♘a5! ♖d1 58.♙e3! . The text gives Black additional possibilities, though it is still a draw.

54...♗e5!? 55.♘a3?

This loses. Correct was 55.♘d5!

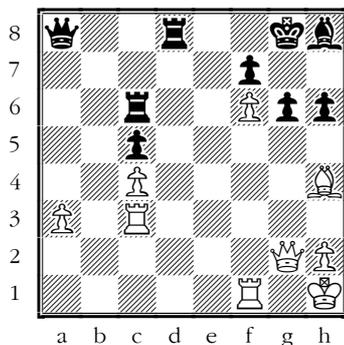
55...♗d3–+ 56.♘d5 ♖a4

Or 56...e3

57.♘d6 ♗b3! 58.♘g3 ♙c2 59.♙e6 f4 60.♘h4 e3 61.♙f5 ♖d2 62.♙e4 e2 0-1.

Solution to our quiz:

M. Oleksienko (2567) – M. Golubev (2472)
Geller Memorial, Odessa 2007



38...♘xf6! 39.♘xf6

39.♘xf6 ♖d1+ 40.♘f1 ♖xf1+ 41.♙xf1 ♖f6+ 42.♙g2 ♖f1 #

39...♘xf6? 40.♘a1

40.♘xf6? ♖d1+; 40.♙xa8 ♖xf1+ 41.♙g2 ♖xa8 42.♙xf1 f5!?

40...♙a5 41.♘f3 ♖xf3 42.♙xf3 ♙a4 43.♙e3 ♙xc4 44.♘c1 ♙d5+ 45.♙g1 ♙d4 0-1.

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