

Ukrainian Championship Report

Dear CT readers, the name of the your new reporter is *Mikhail Golubev*. Maybe some of you know me as a chess grandmaster, internet activist or as author of the opening book that was published in England two years ago.

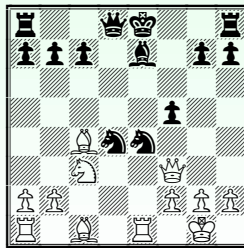
I'll start my CT contributions with an overview of the [Ukrainian Chess Championship](#) (in which I played) which took place from September 8-16.

It was already the 10th championship since Ukraine obtained its independence in 1991. This time the event was held in the small town of Ordzhonikidze (Eastern Ukraine), and, thanks to the great efforts of the main Championship sponsor, Open Joint-Stock Company ORGOK, we had a strong and interesting tournament.



As you know from the previous CT issue, it was GM Aleksandar Berelovich (left) who, quite unexpectedly, took clear first place. Unexpectedly, but not undeservingly: Aleksandar is well known as a dangerous fighter and this time he managed to show all the strongest sides of his style and approach. In Ordzhonikidze he won four games - and three of them in the different variations with an isolated white pawn on d4. This is Alexander's favourite structure, and I only wonder what he likes more: to play with White or with Black in these positions... Anyway, I can predict that the 2.c3 Sicilian will become more popular in Germany in the very near future, because the new Ukrainian Champion has lived already for some

Quiz Today:



White to play and Win

months in this country and visited the Ukraine especially to participate in the strongest Ukrainian Championship ever.

Ahead of 16 grandmasters, second and third places were shared by IM's Vladislav Borovikov and Andrey Volokitin. After a quick draw in the last round both scored a final GM norm. What about Vladislav? I'm not quite sure if he is really happy

with his achievement: at 2593 he was the ELO favourite in Ordzhonikidze, and he is probably one of the highest rated IM's in the world these days. Borovikov did not have one worse position in the tournament, something that I can hardly say about other participants. Andrey Volokitin, the youngest player, scored his third GM norm in a row. The previous two events were the European Championship in Ohrid and a strong robin tournament in Portoroz. Before that, he played in the Lausanne Young Master tournament. It was a knockout event and no chance for norm there, but he defeated none other than our compatriot Ruslan Ponomariov, number one in the "under-twenty" world rating.

Out of 30 players, eight teenagers participated in the tournament. Volokitin, Eljanov, Firman, Efimenko, Fedorchuk, Korobov, Areshchenko, Maximov. They are all extremely talented players and everybody in the Ukraine knew that. However, it was still good to organise such a chess meeting, even just to confirm that 15-16 years old guys already could compete with experienced grandmasters like Romanishin, Malaniuk, and so on.

Within the format of this small overview I can hardly say much about the players who are not so young, and, like myself, shared 9th-13th places. Because my own score was slightly special, I can say a few words. I lost games with Black in the rounds 3, 5, 7; made two draws, also with Black, in the rounds 1 and 9 and won all my games with White in the rounds 2, 4, 6, 8. Quite crazy results, and games too. One of them I have commented below...

On September 11 we played our 4th round. The news on TV arrived when all the players played their games. So, it was tournament arbiters who were informed first. They told us what had happened in USA after we finished our games...

Ukrainian Chess Federation published a open letter in the Ukrainian sport newspaper "Sportyvna Gazeta" to express our solidarity with the American people. Perhaps, it would be naive to think that the opinion of Ukrainian chess players could help to anybody now. Nevertheless, it was something everyone wanted to sign to show sympathy and support.

Finally, the latest available results of the two important current events. More about them in the forthcoming CT issues.

[Europe-Asia Intercontinental Match](#)

Round 3 (women) Ioseliani Xie Jun 1-0 Kovalevskaja Xu Yuhua 0-1 Chiburdanidze Zhu Chen 0-1 Gurieli Hoang 0-1 **Round 4 (women)** Xie Jun Ioseliani 1/2-1/2 Xu Yuhua Kovalevskaja 1-0 Zhu Chen Chiburdanidze 0-1 Hoang Gurieli 1-0 **Round 3 (men)** Sutovsky Kasimdzhanov 0-1 Bacrot Ye 1/2-1/2 Azmaiparashvili Vladimirov 1/2-1/2 Van Wely Adianto 1-0 Kasparov Dao 1-0 Gurevich Rogers 1-0 **Round 4 (men)** Kasimdzhanov Sutovsky 1/2-1/2 Ye Bacrot 0-1 Vladimirov Azmaiparashvili 0-1 Adianto Van Wely 1-0 Dao Kasparov 0-1 Rogers Gurevich 1/2-1/2

[Armenian Championship](#)

Results of the 5th round Sargissian - Hachatrian 1/2-1/2, Art. Minasian - Asrian 1/2-1/2, Nalbandian - Aronian -1/2-1/2, Yegiazarian - Harutjunian 1-0, Anastasian - Ara Minasian -1/2-1/2, Lputian-free

Standings after the 5th Round: Lputian - 3,5 (4), Yegiazarian - 3 (4), Aronian - 3, Asrian - 2,5 (4), Anastasian - 2,5 (4), Art.Minasian - 2,5, Ara.Minasian - 2,5, Sargissian - 2, Nalbandian - 2, Hachatrian - 1 (4), Harutjunian - 0,5.

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

V Rogovski (2443) – M Golubev (2526)

Ukrainian Championship Ordzhonikidze (1), 08.09.2001 B76

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6

The Dragon.

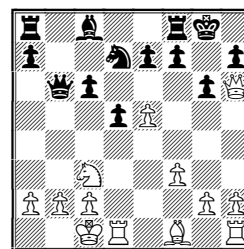
6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♖d2 ♘c6 9.0-0 d5 10.♘xc6 bxc6 11.♙h6

In the early 80s several strong grandmasters including Jan Timman used this idea for White. The main line after 9...d5 is 10.exd5.

11...♙xh6 12.♖xh6 ♖b6!? 13.e5!

Black should have sufficient resources after 13.exd5 ♖b8! (or 13...cxd5 14.♘xd5 ♘xd5 15.♖xd5 ♙e6, Staeger-Ward, Metz 1995)

13...♘d7



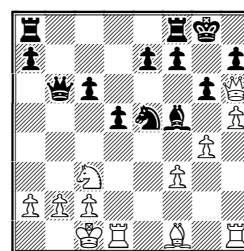
14.h4!

Of course, not 14.f4? ♖e3+ 15.♙b1 ♘xe5; or 14.♖f4? ♖b8 with possible continuation 15.b3 ♖c7 16.♖e1 f6

14...♘xe5!

There is nothing else: 14...♖d8? 15.h5 ♘f8 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.♙d3 ♖b8 18.b3 Bellini-Raeber, Swiss Team Championship 1996.; or 14...♖b8? 15.♘a4!, followed by 16.h5! with winning position.

15.h5 ♙f5 16.g4



After 16.hxg6 ♙xg6 it's not an easy task for White to prove that he has a real compensation for the pawn.

16...f6!

Again, this is the only move.

17.♖f4

After 17.gxf5? g5 White's queen is trapped and he could resign in view of the inevitable ♘f7

However, very interesting is 17.♖d2! with an extremely complicated situation. For example, 17...♗xf3 (or 17...♖ab8 18.b3 ♗xf3 19.♖f4) 18.♖f4! ♖ab8 19.b3, and now: **A)** 19...♙xc2 20.hxg6 (20.♙xc2! ♖f2+ 21.♙b1 e5 22.♖h6 g5 23.♗e4!) 20...♙xc6 (20...♙xd1? 21.♖xh7! ♗g5 22.♖h2!+-) 21.♖xf3 e5; **B)** 19...♖b4!?!; **C)** 19...♙xc4!?! 20.hxg6 (20.♖xc4!?! ♖e3+ 21.♙b2 ♗e5) 20...♖b4! (20...h5 21.♖h6! ♗g5 22.♙e2±)

17...♖ab8!

17...♙d7 18.hxg6 ♗xg6 19.♖h6 ♖f7 20.♙d3 ♗f8 (20...♖g7? 21.♙xc6 hxg6 22.♖h8+ ♙f7 23.♖xa8+-) 21.♖dg1=

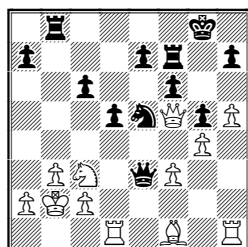
18.b3

Maybe 18.♗a4! promises good drawing chances for White: 18...♖b4! (18...♖a5 19.b3!) 19.♖d4! (19.♖xb4 ♖xb4 20.gxf5 ♖xa4 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.fxg6) 19...♖e1+ 20.♖d1 ♖b4 (20...♖b4 21.♖d4; 20...♖a5 21.b3) 21.♖xe1 ♖xf4 22.gxf5 ♖xa4 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.fxg6; 18.gxf5? ♖xb2+ 19.♙d2 ♖b4!

18...g5!

I like this idea. Unsafe for Black is 18...♙d7 19.hxg6 ♗xg6 20.♖h6 ♖f7 21.♙d3 ♖g7 (Shabalov) 22.♙xc6 hxg6 23.♗a4 ♖b4 24.♗c5!; or 18...♖c5? 19.gxf5! ♖xc3 20.hxg6, and I saw that after 20...♖b4 21.♖h6 ♖a1+ 22.♙d2 White wins.

19.♖xf5 ♖e3+ 20.♙b2 ♖f7!



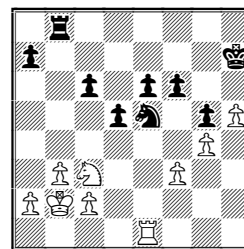
Unexpectedly, White can't avoid 21...e6! 22.♖xe6 Nc4+ without material concessions.

21.♙d3

This results in a clearly better endgame for Black. 21.♖d3 ♗c4+! 22.♙b1 (22.♙a1? ♖c1+ 23.♙b1 ♖b2#) 22...♖e1+! (22...♗a3+= and, as I found after the game, here a draw was agreed in Lutsko-Shabalov, Riga 1983) 23.♖d1 (23.♗d1? e6+) 23...♖xc3, and after 24.♙xc4 White hardly has full compensation.; during the game I saw also 21.♖h3 (or first 21.f4 e6, and now 22.Rh3) 21...e6 22.f4 ♖xh3 (22...♗c4+? 23.♙xc4! ♖xh3 24.♖xe6 dxc4 25.♖d7 ♖bf8 26.♗e4+-; 22...exf5!?) 23.♙xh3 (23.♖xe6 ♖xg4 24.♖d6 ♗d7±; 23.fxe5 ♖xc3+ 24.♙xc3 exf5+; 23.♖xe5 fxe5 24.♙xh3 exf4!?) 23...exf5 (23...♗c4+?! 24.♙c1 exf5 25.bxc4) 24.fxe5 fxg4! 25.♙xc4 (25.e6 gxh3! 26.exf7+ ♙xf7) 25...f5! with better chances for Black; Another solution is 21.♗e4! and maybe

it's not as bad as it looks.

21...e6 22.♖he1 ♖xe1 23.♖xh7+ ♖xh7 24.♙xh7+ ♙xh7 25.♖xe1



In this position Black should have better chances, mainly because the white rook has no clear prospects. One of the good possible ideas is associated with ...c5! now or on the next move. Unfortunately, in a certain amount of time trouble Black didn't manage to find the correct way.

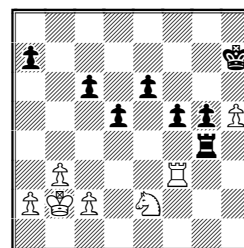
25...♖b4 26.♗e2

I expected only 26.♗a4 ♖f4 27.♗c5 ♖xf3 28.♗xe6

26...♗xf3 27.♖f1 ♖xg4

Possibly, 27...♗e5! 28.♖xf6 ♖e4 was still better for Black.

28.♖xf3 f5



This position is quite dangerous for White – Black wants to queen one of his pawns after some 6 or 7 moves. However, Rogovski shows an interesting way to equality...

29.♖e3

The good illustration of the Black's possibilities is 29.♖c3? ♖e4! 30.♗g3 ♖e1 31.♖xc6 f4

29...f4

29...♖e4? 30.♖xe4

30.♗xf4!

This beautiful possibility allows White to stay on his ground. 30.♖xe6 f3

30...♖xf4!

30...gxh4 31.♖xe6 f3 32.♖f6 ♖g3 33.♖xc6!

31.♖xe6 ♖f7!?

White's idea was not only Rxc6, but rather ...Rg6! which stops the 'g' pawn completely. Another way (31...♖h4 32.♖xc6 ♖xh5) looks risky for Black.

32.♙c3!

Worse was 32.♖xc6 g4!; or 32.♖g6? ♖g7

32...g4 33.♙d3!

33.♔d4? ♖g7 34.♕e3? g3
33...g3
33...♖g7 34.♕e2! g3 35.♕f1!
34.♖g6 ♖g7 35.♖xg7+ ♕xg7 36.♕e3 ♕h6 37.♕f3
♕xh5 38.♕xg3 ♕g5 ½-½

Solution to Quiz Today:

13.♖h5+! g6 14.♗xe4! gxh5 14...fxe4 15.♖e5
♖f8 16.♖xe4+- 15.♗f6+ ♕f8 16.♗h6# +-

Recommended websites:

<http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/ukr01ch.htm>

<http://www.armchess.am>

<http://chess.batumi.net>

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Chess Today is published by:

Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.

E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors:

GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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