

Zagrebelny maintains lead in Abu Dhabi

As reported in yesterday's *CT*, **Sergei Zagrebelny** is still a point and a half ahead of his nearest rivals. After drawing in the 7th Round of the [Abu Dhabi Open](#) he has 6 points. 11 (!) players have 4½. *Some results of the 7th Round:* Safin – Zagrebelny ½:½, Bagirov – Kotsur ½:½, Vladimirov – Dizdar ½:½, S. Gouliev – Gleizerov ½:½, Magerramov – Arkhipov **1:0**. *Top boards for the 8th Round:* (6) Zagrebelny – Kotsur (4½); (4½) Bagirov – Magerramov (4½); (4½) Dizdar – S. Gouliev (4½), (4½) Barsov – Gleizerov (4½), (4½) Ulibin – Safin (4½), (4½) Mherramzade – Vladimirov (4½)

At the [European Youth Chess Championships](#) in Chalkidiki, Greece, two rounds have been played. we are now publishing lists of leaders in the groups under 18 and 16 (all of them have 2 points out of 2).

B18: 1-8. Izoria, Dziuba, Khismatullin, Werle, Gashimov, T. Kosintseva, Popovic, Zawadzki

B16: 1-9. Inarkiev, Bartel, Antal, Novikov, Palo, Erwich, Porat, Pakleza, Sitnikov

G18: 1-8. Charkhalashvili, Stiri, Kolganova, Makka, Rutherford, Raeva, Tidman, Van Weersel

G16: 1-7. Guseva, Vasilevich, Motoc, Muhren, Kineva, Papadopoulou, Koursova

The Icelandic Chess Championships, results of the 2nd Round: Gunnarsson – Bjornsson ½:½; Ptacnikova – Stefansson ½:½, Kristjansson – Gunnarsson **1:0**, Thorfinnsson – Vidarsson **1:0**

Thorhallsson – Thorfinnsson ½:½. *Standings after the 2nd Round:* **1-4.** Gunnarsson, Kristjansson, Thorhallsson, Stefansson – 1½ points out of 2

Sunday, (2 September) was a holiday in Moscow. It was called "A day of city". There were many holiday events, and one of them was the [Moscow Chess Lighting Championships](#), organised by the newspaper *Vechernjaja Moskva* (*Evening Moscow*) with a traditional main prize – the *Russian samovar*. Though the money prizes were

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not big, this tournament is a very prestigious tournament. Mikhail Tal had a huge collection of Moscow Lighting samovars. This prize was also won by Tigran Petrosian, David Bronstein, and Yury Averbah (this time he was the main arbiter). 8-time winner of the samovar, 68-years old **Evgeni Vasiukov**, was also among the participants.



Sergei Rublevsky, picture from www.kasparovchess

The Russian Olympic team was prepared for its match vs. China in Moscow region last week, and the members from another town (St-Petersburg - Sergei Rublevski – Kazan, and Peter Svidler also were invited. In total there were 20 participants in this round-robin system event).

Sergei Rublevsky lead almost the whole tournament and his win was highly deserved. **Alexander Morozevich** in the 3-5 rounds lost 3 games in a row, but managed to rebound and was in the chase as well. In the last round, the game Rublevski – Morozevich ended in a draw. Sergei, a half-point up going into the final, needing only the half and thus became the winner. I asked him and also Alexander Morozevich and **Vadim Zviagintsev** to show us their most interesting episodes of the struggle – see our annotated game section and tactical quiz.

Final standings: **1. Sergei Rublevsky** – 14 points out of 19, **2-3.** Svidler, Morozevich – 13½, **4-5.** Korotylev, Zviagintsev – 12½, **6.** Dreev – 11½, **7-8.** Bareev, Grischuk – 11, **9.** Lastin – 10, **10-12.** Dvalishvili, Riazantsev, Rychagov – 9½ etc.



Editorial Note:
by GM Alex Baburin

Today I would like to talk a bit about chess politics. I am sure that in the next few months we will see some struggle between FIDE and *Brain*

Games over what World Championship cycle is more legitimate. I think that it was not a mere coincidence that FIDE chose Moscow as the venue for its World Championships, when a tournament with Kramnik, Kasparov and Karpov was scheduled there as well. It looks like Kirsan

Quiz Today
1. Morozevich – Ivanenko
 Moscow Lighting, 02.09.2001



White to play and win

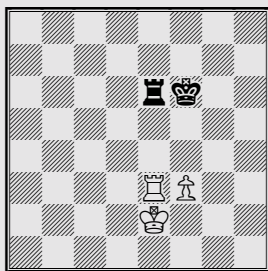
Illyumzhinov wants to shadow that event - something like his deputy in FIDE

Commerce Mr. Tarasov threatened to do with tournaments in Wijk aan

Zee, Dortmund and Linares. Personally, I hope that some agreement will be made, but I doubt that this is possible with the current management of FIDE. Despite its slogan, it has not been too responsive to various calls from the chess community, particularly from the professional one.

One obvious area, where FIDE could do something constructive, is sorting out a mess with ratings and titles. We all know about the 'great' players from Burma and also about Grandmaster' Alexandru Crisan of Romania. The latter scored 1/2 point out of 9 (!) in the recent Vidmar Memorial, losing the following position along the way:

G. Mohr (2484) - A. Crisan (2635), Portoroz 2001

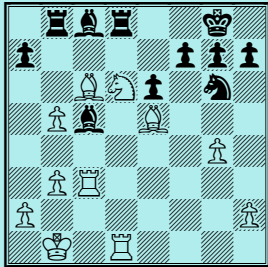


Correction: the black Rook is on e5 --- RPM

Here 57... ♖xe3+ 58. ♔xe3 ♕e5 is an easy draw, but of course after 57... ♖a5 Black has no problems either. Surely, GM with 2635 Elo should be able to hold such positions?! Yet, Crisan failed to do so and lost 38 moves later. I just wonder how many 1300 players will lose this ending...

At this moment this 'crafty' Romanian player enjoys the 46th position in World's rating list, just above GMs Mikhail Gurevich and Arthur Yusupov! One would be concerned about a sharp drop in his rating after the Vidmar Memorial, but don't worry - the guy bounced back with two 'fine' victories in tournaments in Yugoslavia. Both of them looked very suspicious (see IM Vladimir Barsky's material in CT-295). In one of them he showed demonstrated a 2846-performance - is this not amazing for a guy who does not know even elementary endings?!

2. Zvjagintsev – Dreev
 Moscow Lighting, 02.09.2001



Black to play

The problem is very serious - it is quite possible soon that people like Crisan will bring their ratings even higher, automatically gaining places in World FIDE Championships

. Then they will be getting money (OK, they probably have expenses when 'earning' their ratings), depriving some deserving players a chance to make a better living. Alas, the fact that FIDE did not take a hard stance against such abuse, has already tempted more people into inflating their ratings. For example, I recently received '64-Chess review' No.7 of 2001. There I read an interesting article by IM Igor Yagupov, who described how a local businessmen in his native Tula (city about 120 km from Moscow; GM Kotov was from there) last year decided first to get and then to raise his Elo. That guy - Mr. Vladimir Afromeev - has been so successful in his fraud, that he now has an international rating of 2520! I call it a fraud, because many know that the some of the tournaments, which he 'organised' never took place, while in some others certain players threw points at Mr. Afromeev. Now he is an FIDE Master and I bet that soon he will become Grandmaster. God, help our game! Sorry, I meant Kirsan! :-)

By the way, at some point Mr. Afromeev decided that his personal driver should have Elo rating too

(who wants un-rated drivers nowadays?!). Now that guy has a rating in excess of 2440. Mr. Afromeev is even claimed to have said that if he wanted, his cat would get a rating like that too! Now, that's something for FIDE to look at, if you ask me! Alas, as Yagupov's article indicates, the Russian Chess Federation is not going to do anything and I doubt that FIDE will do much either. Yet, this problem can be dealt with - for example by establishing a FIDE commission, which would examine all suspicious tournaments, demand score-sheets and warn people, who took part in them.

I often receive feedback from our readers and today I would like to quote a recent message from one of our reader in Canada:

"Dear friends at *CT*, I am taking this opportunity to offer a few comments. First of all, congratulations on a fine newsletter, with its many enjoyable features, including the tactical quizzes and the special training articles. I have become a dedicated *CT* follower, having renewed for a third time, the latest for a full year. I sometimes think that the daily list of results would be more interesting if I knew more about some of the players. One way that this might be done is to provide occasional player profiles prior or during an event. For example, there may be an open tournament with a dozen not so well known grandmasters and others. You might amuse readers with some speculations as to who might win the next day's encounters, or you might include some background information on one of the players, whose game you want to show. The more personal your descriptions, the better. One possibility you might contemplate for the future is to use an Internet chess site to meet your audience online (for an additional fee). I think that Coffee Break chess and *CT* have likely created a captive audience that might be willing to pay for online chess sessions. You might arrange this with an existing online chess site so as to avoid software development costs. Kind of like "going to the *CT* chess club" say weekly for a few hours. You could analyze, lecture, play blitz, or arrange for little tournaments among *CT* readers. Anyway, these are "brainstorming" thoughts. Best wishes, and keep up the great work at *CT*! *Jean-Francois Wen, Calgary*"

This is a great letter to receive and I completely agree with Mr. Wen that we should cover the professional chess world better - most chess fans don't know many GMs, which makes it less interesting to follow tournaments. Personally, I believe that this is one of the main problems with modern chess. I also agree that communication with our readers should be more regular and meeting online is an exciting idea - I will investigate it. Meanwhile, **how about meeting online for a chat** next Saturday (8th September), say at 18-00 London time? Yahoo has chat facilities for *CT* members - check this out at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChessToday/chat>. If you are interested, please e-mail me at: ababurin@iol.ie. Perhaps Ruslan, Graham and Ralph will be able to take part in the chat too. Also, please keep on sending your suggestions - **we listen to you! And don't forget to send your questions for Trainer's Corner!**

Finally, a few technical issues:

- 1) When you want to change the address to which you receive *CT*, please do it yourself at the *CT* group at Yahoo - we simply have no authority to change that address for you! If for whatever reason you fail to change the address, please request to join the *CT* list with a different address, e-mail me at ababurin@iol.ie, providing your current address to which you get *CT*. Then I will approve your request, simultaneously deleting your first address from the list.
- 2) Please note that we cannot allow receiving *CT* to multiple e-mail addresses - it would be a logistic nightmare otherwise!
- 3) If you need to access our archives, but do not remember your Yahoo ID and password, you should be able to retrieve those at the Yahoo groups, if you use the e-mail address, which you used originally with the list - Yahoo should send password to that address.



Annotated Game

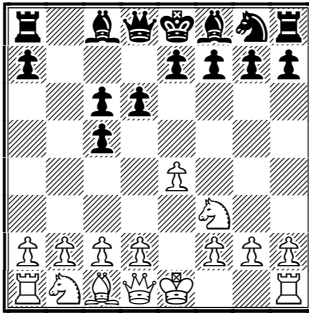
Rublevsky - Arbakov

Moscow Lighting, 02.09.2001 B51

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

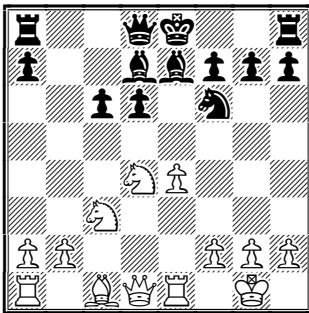
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 d6 4.♙xc6+ bxc6 (D)

18.♖ad1 ♕f6 (D)



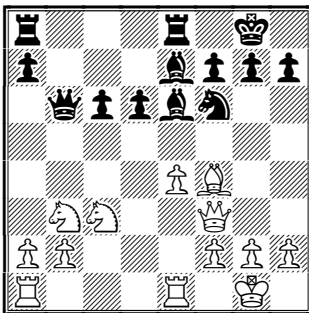
Sergei Rublevsky likes this, at first sight modest, but rather poisonous variation.

5.0-0 e5 6.c3 ♘f6 7.♖e1 ♕e7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 exd4 10.♘xd4 ♕d7 11.♘c3 (D)



This is a typical position for this line: White has more space. All of his pieces have good squares, while Black's bishops are quite passive. They have to defend the weak pawns on c6 and d6.

11...0-0 12.♕f4 ♖e8 13.♗f3 ♗b6 14.♘b3 ♕e6 (D)



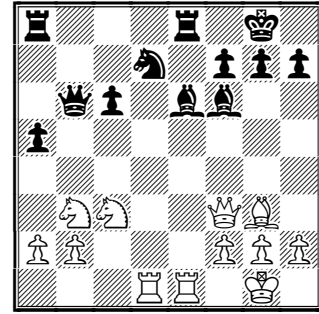
It appears at first sight Black has recognised his opening problems, but don't forget this is blitz, where the main thing is a 'fantasy eel' for victory!

15.e5!? dxe5 16.♕xe5 ♘d7

16...♕xb3 17.axb3 ♗xb3 18.♗xc6±

17.♕g3 a5?!

Black had a good opportunity here – 17...♕xb3 18.axb3 ♘c5±



18...a4? 19.♘d4±

19.♘e4!

Forward!

19...♕xb2!?

19...a4!?

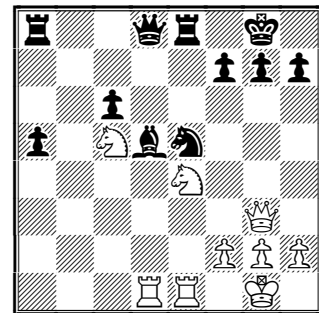
20.♖b1 ♕e5?!

Fritz suggests two alternatives: 20...a4 21.♖xb2 axb3 22.axb3 ♕d5±; or 20...♕d5!? 21.♖xb2 ♗b4! 22.♖be2 ♕xe4 23.♖xe4?? ♗xe1+! I think the second is too difficult to find in blitz.

21.♘bc5 ♗d8 22.♕xe5 ♘xe5 23.♗g3 ♕xa2!?

Valentin Arbakov is extremely experienced Moscow blitz player and he knows very well one of the main blitz rules: first of all take all that you can – here pawns run to queening very fast!

24.♖bd1 ♕d5? (D)



This very natural move turns out to be a mistake.

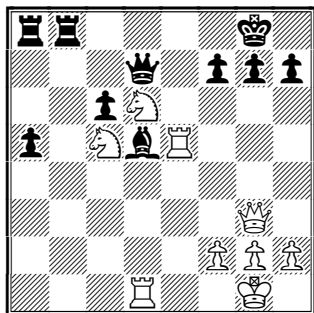
25.♘b7! ♗e7 26.♘ed6!

What brave knights! But Fritz doesn't sleep, it suggests

26...♖eb8?

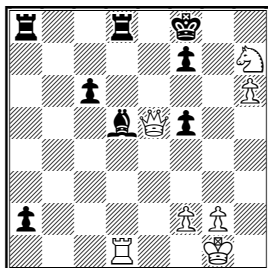
26...♘f3+! 27.gxf3 ♗xe1+ 28.♖e1 ♖e1+ 29.♔g2 a4 and, like I said, pawns run very fast. But Black missed this chance.

27.♖xe5 ♗d7 28.♘c5! (D)



Now White is winning. The remainder isn't very interesting but Sergei was very proud that he remembered his game till the end.
28...♖c7

28...♖xd6? 29.♖e8+-
**29.♗f5 g6 30.♖e8+ ♖xe8 31.♖xc7 gxf5
32.♖g3+ ♗h8 33.♖c3+ ♗g8 34.♗d7 ♖ed8
35.♗f6+ ♗f8 36.♗xh7+ ♗g8 37.♗f6+ ♗f8
38.♖g3 ♗e7 39.♖e5+ ♗f8 40.h4 a4 41.h5 a3
42.h6 a2 43.♗h7+ (D)**



1-0.

Solutions to Quiz Today:

1.♗e6+! ♖xe6 2.♖exf7+ ♗g8 3.♖f8+ 1-0.

2. Here Alexei Dreev, who played the first half of the game very energetically, decided to win a piece. **1...♗b4 2.♖c4 ♗xe5 3.♖xb4 ♗xc6 4.bxc6!** An now all of a sudden he realises that he can't take the rook after all: **4...♖a8 4...♖xb4 5.c7 ♖d7 (5...♖f8 6.♗xc8 ♖xc8 7.♖d8+-) 6.♗xc8! ♖xd1+ A)** The following variations shows why not on c2: **7.♗c2?! ♖bd4 8.♗e7+ ♗f8 9.♗c6? (9.c8♖+ ♗xe7 10.♖c5+±) 9...♖4d2+ 10.♗c3 ♖c1+ 11.♗xd2 ♖xc6-+; B) 7.♗b2!!** A fantastic position: even two rooks are not able stop the pawn on c7: **7...♖bd4 (7...♖dd4 8.♗e7+ ♗f8 9.♗c6!+-; 7...♖d7 8.♗e7+ ♗f8 9.c8♖+ ♗xe7 10.♖c5+-; 7...♖xg4!?** (maybe this provides the most resistance.) **8.♗e7+ ♗f8 9.♗c6 ♖g2+ 10.♗a3 g5 11.c8♖+ ♗g7±) 8.♗e7+ ♗f8 9.♗c6 ♖4d2+ 10.♗a3!+-** now the King has the a3 square for

Recommended Web sites:

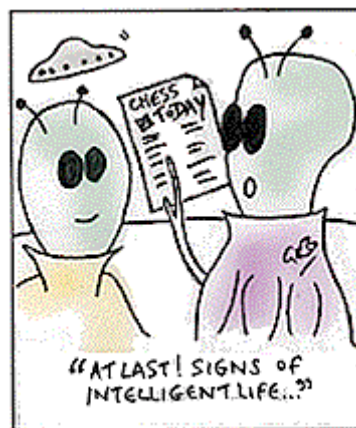
- <http://www.skak.is/si/sthi2001.htm>
- <http://www.chess.at/>
- <http://www.sportmeeting.org/chessen.htm>
- www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
- <http://www.abudhabichess.com/>

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