

# The new wave

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**T**HE FIELD that played in this year's championship in Lvov shows, quite vividly, the emergence of a new generation in Soviet chess. Yuri Balashov (no doubt hobbling in with a walking stick) was the oldest participant — at 35. There was also a marked absence of famous names. World titleholder Anatoly Karpov and Lev Polugayevsky had commitments in London, and of course Garry Kasparov was resting, but otherwise it seems many of the "old guard" failed to qualify. There was no Efim Geller, no Mikhail Tal, no David Bronshtein. A more distressing absentee was Tigran Petrosian, who is reportedly seriously ill with cancer. It is to be fervently hoped that some recovery is possible by the legendary ex-world champion, himself a Soviet titleholder on three occasions.

This latest championship, the 52nd, was fittingly won by one of the youngest entrants, 21-year-old Andrei Sokolov from Moscow. Two years ago Sokolov gained his international master title by winning the world junior championship in Copenhagen, and this current result confirms he is easily of grandmaster strength now. It will be interesting to see the selection of the six-man Soviet Olympic squad for Greece later this year. Up to now the cautious Soviet selectors have relied heavily on established names. Now the rising mass of young talent, all of whom had to qualify for the national championships, will be making its claim heard. It is worth giving the full result of this 18-man competition, which may prove an important point for the USSR: 1, Sokolov 12½ points; 2, Lerner 12; 3, Eingorn 10½; 4, A. Mikhailchishin 9½; 5-8, Belyavsky, Lputian, Novikov, Tukmakov 9; 9, Vishmanivin 8½; 10, Elvest 8; 11-13, Dorfman, Psakhis, Chernin 7½; 14-16, Aseev, Salov, Chekhov 7; 17, Balashov 6½; and 18, Kharitonov 6.

As national champion, Sokolov now sits at the top of a pyramid of several million registered players. The progress of a talented youngster through the internal Soviet organisation is gruelling; millions of roubles are poured into staging constant local and nationwide competitions. Naturally, all professionals receive a regular stipend. Moscow can even afford to decline prestigious international invitations on behalf of its players; no Soviet player was sent to a top-notch junior international in England this year. Incidentally, no New Zealander was even invited — an inexplicable lapse by the British organisers, as our juniors have, if anything, a superior record to the Austrians.

How well we could really challenge the Soviet Union, under perfect conditions, remains an exercise in fantasy. What say we taught chess in every school, had frequent sponsored master tournaments and towed New Zealand to the centre of the North Sea? Personally I think we would soon have a dozen international masters, and perhaps another one or two grandmasters! We have a long way to go to approach this ideal, but there are promising signs. More New Zea-

land players are spending time on the overseas circuits, coaching material is available through a new chess supplies operation, and there are hopes of a fully-fledged GM tournament in Auckland this October. Meanwhile the Soviet production line relentlessly sifts for its next Andrei Sokolov...

## SICILIAN DEFENCE

A. SOKOLOV	A. VISHMANIVIN
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	e6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nxd4	Nc6
5. Nc3	a6
6. Be2	Nge7

*An idea patronised particularly by Oleg Romanishin — another non-starter in Lvov, although he lives there.*

7. 0-0	Nxd4
8. Qxd4	Nc6
9. Qd3	Qc7
10. Bg5!	Bd6
11. Qh3	0-0
12. Rad1	Be5
13. Kh1	f6
14. Bc1	b5
15. f4	Bd4
16. Rd3	b4
17. Nd1	d5
18. exd5	exd5
19. f5	Qe5
20. Bg4	a5
21. Qh4!	

*A neat finesse, ignoring the threatened skewer on his rooks.*

21. ...	Ba6
22. Re1	Qc7
23. Rh3	h6



24. Bxh6!  
*A sacrifice to rip open the Black kingside. Black has little option but to take the bishop, but probably still hoped to beat off the attack after 24...g×h6 25.Q×h6 Qg7.*

24. ...	g×h6
25. Bf3!	Rad8
26. Q×h6	Qg7
27. Rg3	Q×g3
28. h×g3	Rd7

*Black's idea of giving up his queen was a clever defensive try; now he threatens 29...Rh7 either mating or winning back White's queen. Note that 28...Rf7 fails to 29.B×d5 R×d5 30.Re8 ch Rf8 31.R×f8 mate.*

29. B×d5 ch Resigns  
*After 29...R×d5 White has decoyed Black's rook away long enough to mate with 30.Qg6 ch Kh8 31.Re4 followed by Rh4.*