 Romanishin Oleg (10.01.1952)



Born in Lviv. A chess pupil of **Viktor Kart**. USSR / Ukrainian Chess Grandmaster 1976, IM 1973.

Graduated in foreign languages. **European Junior Champion in 1972/73**, organised at Groningen. Member of the Soviet team which won the World Student Team Championship 1974, 1976, 1977.

*USSR Championship 1975 shared second* (half a point behind winner Petrosian, Romanishin the only player to beat Petrosian) and *clear third in 1981* (behind joint winners Psakhis and Kasparov).

**A participant in the Olympiad of 1978 for the USSR** (team silver) and **from 1992 to 2000 five times consecutively for Ukraine** (one silver and two bronze team medals). Oleg Romanishin won **six gold medals at the European Team Championship three times in a row (1977, 1980, 1983, both team and individual board gold, with the USSR)**, plus later a team silver with the Ukraine. In play for the Ukraine at the **World Team Championships 1993** (team silver), **1997**, and in **2001 with team gold** (plus individual silver). **Member of the team which won the match USSR vs. Rest of the World in London 1984** (as a Soviet substitute player in three different appearances).

“A player striving for original, not trite decisions” said GM Averbakh. With an aggressive style, GM Oleg Romanishin (**“draws make me angry”**), achieved several notable tournament victories:

Odessa (USSR-championship semifinal) 1974, **Novi Sad 1975**, **Yerevan International 1976** (ahead of joint Gulko and Savon, including Tukmakov, Vaganian, Vasiukov, Semjkal, or Csom), **Dortmund 1976** (ahead of Flesch, followed by Miles), **Hastings 1976-77** outright (two full points ahead of Kagan, followed by Tarjan, Smyslov, Adorjan, Miles), Costa Catalana 1977 (ten players), **Leningrad (October Revolution 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) 1977** (best on tie-break, tied with Tal, ahead of Smyslov, Vaganian and then reigning World Champion Karpov, 18 players): Oleg Romanishin’s biggest career success, Gausdal (Open) 1979 clear first, **Polanica Zdroj (Rubinstein Mem) 1980**, **Lvov 1981** (joint with Tal), **Jurmala 1983** (+9=4, incl. Tal), **Moscow International 1985** outright and unbeaten (above Vaganian, Tukmakov, Sveshnikov, Geller, Razuvaev, Polugaevsky, Dolmatov, Ivkov, Ftacnik, Speelman), **Reggio Emilia 1985-86** equal first (with Andersson as best on tie-break and Ljubojevic, 4. Portisch), **Yerevan (Petrosian Mem) 1986** (with Psakhis as best on tie-break, ahead of 3. Tal), **Berlin Summer (Open) 1988** shared (eleven players, incl. Balashov, tied for first place!), **Debrecen (Barcza Mem) 1990**, Gyor (HUN-ch Open) 1990 two points ahead of the rest, **Polanica Zdroj (Rubinstein Mem) 1992** as clear first (half a point above Korchnoi as runner-up, including also Adorjan, Chernin, Dorfman, Flear), **Altensteig GM 1992** clear first (ahead of 2.-4. Ribli, Kindermann, Schlosser), **Bonn (GSK) 1994** (ahead of 2. Kengis, 3. Dokhoian, ten players) **Reggio Emilia 2000-01** (above 2. Efimov), followed by further wins of some smaller events, i.e.: **Solin / Split GM 2004**, Calcutta (Open, Alekhine Chess Club) 2004 shared (Abhijit Kunte, India was first on tie-break, Romanishin alongside co-winners Aleksej Aleksandrov, Belarus, Ni, Hua, China, Ehsam, Ghaem Maghami, Iran, and Surya Sekhar Ganguly, India, a new generation of computer kids), Roma Hotel Petra (closed) 2005 clear first, **1<sup>st</sup> Roseto Internat. Chess Festival (Open) 2010** in Abruzzo, clear first, **Warsaw (MetLife Najdorf Mem, Open) 2012** clear first

At *Tilburg in 1979*, Romanishin was clear runner-up half a point only behind Karpov (and ahead of many great players of its time, namely Portisch, Sax, Larsen, Spassky, Timman, Sosonko, Hübner, Hort, Kavalek, and Smyslov on sole last place in this twelve player round robin super-tournament). At *Dortmund in 1982*, Romanishin took sole second (after winner Hort). Also sole second at the *Keres Memorial in Tallin in 1977* (after winner Tal, above Bronstein, Uhlmann, Unzicker, etc.)



In nine appearances in the USSR Championships between 1974 and 1983, as mentioned, his best place was second (+7=5-3) with Gulko, Tal, and Vaganian in 1975 half a point behind Petrosian, surpassing 6.-8. Polugaevsky, Geller, Balashov, 9.-10. Bronstein, Beliavsky, etc., 16 players.

**Participated in two Interzonals:** 1979 in Riga (Tal won incredible 2.5 points above Polugaevsky, Adorjan and Ribli (not advancing) as shared third, Romanishin joint fifth to sixth with Gheorghiu, just half a point behind a play-off place, still surpassing Larsen, Miles, or Ljubojevic, 18 players), and 1985 in Taxco (Timman won, 2. Nogueiras, 3. Tal; Romanishin placed in the lower midfield).

He thus never made it into the FIDE Candidates but was a **PCA Candidate 1993** (via swiss system qualifying in Groningen, *losing in New York 1994 at Trump Tower in Manhattan the quarter-final 2:5 to Anand*, who went on to win that PCA cycle to become the Challenger of Kasparov in 1995).

In 1977, he was third in the annual chess **Oscar** award (only behind Karpov 623 voting points, and Korchnoi 619; followed by Romanishin 433, above 4. Tal, 5. Miles, 6. Larsen, 7. Spassky, 8. Hort, 9. Portisch, and 10. Petrosian)

**Oleg Romanishin beat five World Champions!** In lifetime scores, **he has a substantial plus score against Tal** (+7 -3 =12), as well as a **plus score against Smyslov, Petrosian and Spassky!** **He also beat Kasparov** in 1981 and 1982, that means a plus score in classical chess, but did bad versus Karpov (no win, seven losses), and Korchnoi (one win, six losses). Data may be incomplete

**Best Elo rating:** 2615 in 1993 (FIDE), 2735 in 1975 (SONAS chessmetrics)

**Best Elo ranking:** 11<sup>th</sup>, January 1977 (FIDE yearly list), 5<sup>th</sup>, January 1975 (SONAS monthly list)

Famous game:

**Romanishin, Oleg M** (2485) vs. **Petrosian, Tigran V** (2645)

USSR, 43th Championship, played in Yerevan, 1975

(Petrosian eventually won the national title, but lost to Romanishin who shared second place)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.e4 Bb7 5.Bd3 d6 6.Bc2 c5 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Be7 9.O-O O-O 10.b3 Nc6 11.Bb2 a6 12.Kh1 Qc7 13.f4 Rad8 14.Rc1 Qb8 15.Rf3 g6 16.Nd5 exd5 17.exd5 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Rde8 19.f5 Bd8 20.Qh4 Re5 21.Qh6 Qc7 22.Rg3 Bc8 23.Bxe5 dxe5 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.Bxg6 Ng4 26.Bh5 Rf6 27.Qd2 Rf4 28.d6 Qg7 29.d7 Bb7 30.Qxf4 **1-0**

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1107067>

→ USSR Championship 1975 standings: [URS-ch43 Yerevan 1975 \(narod.ru\)](http://www.narod.ru/~ch43/URS-ch43/Yerevan1975.htm)

**Biggest success: Leningrad (October Revolution 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) 1977**, together with Tal (Romanishin best on tie-break), ahead of 3. Smyslov, 4./5. Vaganian and Karpov, then reigning World Chess Champion (18 players): <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=80489>





Romanishin, Oleg, winner at the European Junior Chess Championship held in Groningen 1972-73. Photo: Anefo. Romanishin at the Isle of Man IoM Open 2016. Photo Organizer. Others: Alchetron

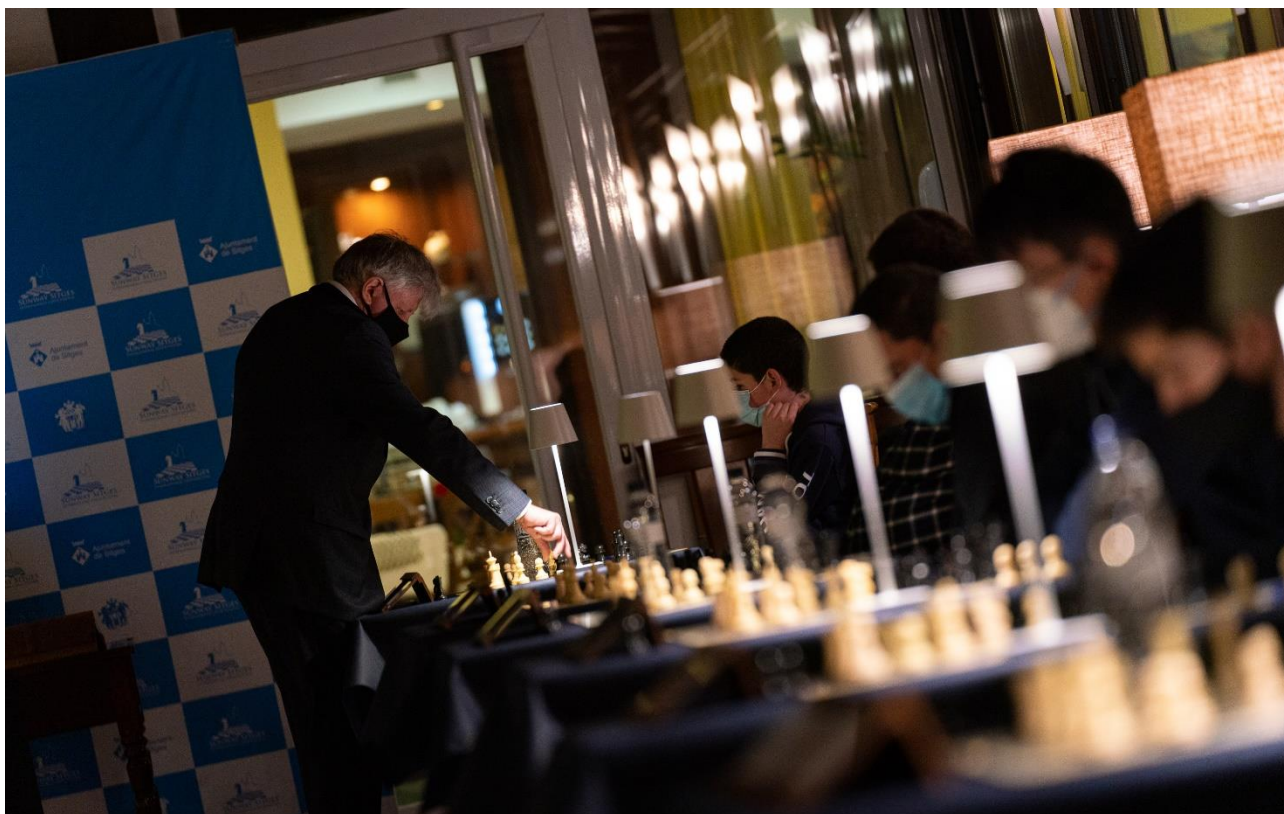


With face protection mask at the Sunway Sitges Open Festival in December 2020. Photo from the Official Website, by Lennart Ootes



GM Oleg Romanishin remains a strong and busy player in Open Festivals throughout the world, and a renowned chess coach.

Romanishin is a regular participant at the **Sunway Sitges International Chess Festival near Barcelona**, since its first edition in 2014, he played seven times at the Sitges Sunway. He also gave lectures and simuls there:



Grandmaster Oleg Romanishin during a simultaneous exhibition in December 2020, Sunway Sitges (near Barcelona). Photos: Official Website, Lennart Ootes



**Lviv – the chess capital of Ukraine:** young Mikhalchishin, Romanishin, and Beliavsky in good mood.  
Source: Vladimir Grabinsky

**Remember, in the year 1973,** Oleg Romanishin won the Youth European Chess Championship, meanwhile Alexander Beliavsky won the Junior World Chess Championship in Teesside, England.

In both contests, legendary Tony Miles got then the silver medal (Miles went on to be crowned as Junior World Champion a year later, in 1974 in Manila). To replay: Two fine wins of Romanishin in games with Miles and Beliavsky: [Oleg M Romanishin vs Anthony Miles \(Hastings 1976/77\) 1-0](#), and [Alexander G Beliavsky vs Oleg M Romanishin \(Groningen PCA-qual 1993\) 0-1](#) (Chessgames)

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oleg\\_Romanishin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oleg_Romanishin) (Wikipedia)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=14173> (Chessgames)

<https://lichess.org/coach/OlegRomanishin> (**Oleg Romanishin** as coach on Lichess)

[Grandcoach.com | Chess site of Lviv grandmasters: Coach: Blog](#)

(insightful interview on the website of IM **Vladimir Grabinsky**, famous chess trainer)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0zHI9J24L4> (“A sit down with **Oleg Romanishin**”,

video interview recorded at the Univé Chess Open in 2014 by [www.Chess.com](http://www.Chess.com)),

[2nd European Junior Chess Championship, Groningen 1972/1973](#) (Olimpbase)

Portrait of **Viktor Kart** from 2009: [ChessPro | Юбилей. Виктору Карту – 80!](#)

Biography of **Alexander Beliavsky**: [GM Beliavsky - www.chessdiagonals.ch](http://www.chessdiagonals.ch)