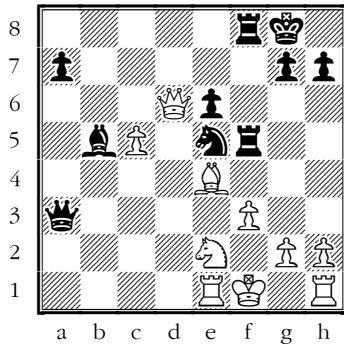


Test Yourself!

S.Volkov – Ki.Georgiev

Gibraltar Masters ENG (9.1) 01.02.2006



World Chess News

Kramnik agrees to play in Elista

According to [Sport-Express](#), Vladimir Kramnik in his conversation with Kirsan Ilyumzhinov agreed "in principle" to play the match against Veselin Topalov in September 2006 in Elista, Russia.

Gibtelecom Masters

In the penultimate Round 9 the leader, Kiril Georgiev convincingly defeated Sergey Volkov. The Bulgarian grandmaster shows an outstanding performance, but the clear first place is still not guaranteed to him! Emil Sutovsky will have the same number of points if he manages to beat Georgiev with Black in the last round.

Round 9 top results:

Volkov – Ki.Georgiev 0–1
M.Gurevich – Al-Modiahki ½–½
Sutovsky – Gyimesi 1–0
Al Sayed – Akopian ½–½
Short – Korchnoi 1–0
Areshchenko – Sandipan 1–0

Round 10 top pairings:

Ki.Georgiev (8) – Sutovsky (7)
Al-Modiahki (6½) – Short (6½)
Areshchenko (6½) – Volkov (6½)
Bologan (6) – M.Gurevich (6½)
Speelman (6) – Shirov (6)
Akopian (6) – Ganguly (6)
Efimenko (6) – Al Sayed (6)
Bellon Lopez (6) – Kobalia (6)
Gyimesi (6) – Kramling (6)
Zhu Chen (5½) – Arizmendi (6)

[Official site](#)

Moscow Open 2006

IM Konstantin Maslak is leading with 4/4. There are 10 players on 3½/4.

[Official site](#)

On FIDE President and Forthcoming Elections

by GM Alex Baburin

As many of our readers will know, elections for the FIDE President will take place during the Chess Olympiad in Turin in May. There, the FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov will compete for votes with several other candidates. Among them are Dutch businessman Bessel Kok and French chess organiser Leo Battesti. Former World Champion Anatoly Karpov also hinted that he might run for FIDE President. Today I'd like to look at this election.

First, a bit of history. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was elected in 1996. FIDE was practically bankrupt then and as Ilyumzhinov promised to pump millions into chess, his election was pretty much assured. Ilyumzhinov made his fortune in the muddy waters of Russian business in 1980s and 1990s. He later became President of Kalmykia, a small autonomous republic within the Russian Federation, located near the Caspian Sea. Both in politics and in chess Ilyumzhinov likes to shock. For

example, at some point he declared his intention to run for Russian President. He bought a soccer club. He wanted to stage a Karpov–Kamsky match in Baghdad. He wants to bring the body of Lenin to Elista. He claimed to have put aside \$50m for world chess championships. He started, together with infamous Russian businessman Artiom Tarasov, FIDE Commerce Ltd. Many of those projects failed. But it is true that Ilyumzhinov brought considerable sums into chess, enabling many chess pros to make a decent living from his knockout tournaments.

Professional players have mixed feelings about Ilyumzhinov and his reign. Many appreciate that fact that he spent his own money on chess. Many dislike his authoritarian rule. The latter manifested itself very clearly before the FIDE World Championship in Libya. Most are against his team in FIDE.

Personally, I feel that Ilyumzhinov has always been a part-time FIDE President. He obviously needs this title, if he was prepared to pay for it. Probably it gives him extra protection (head of a large international organisation!) in the turbulent and dangerous world of Russian business and politics. He tries to have an impact on chess, but his efforts are sporadic and usually short-lived. It seems that he chose a pretty poor team. When I was Morozevich's manager, I had to deal with some people in that team and was unimpressed, to put it mildly.

Ilyumzhinov won easily in 2002 in Bled. In fact, many people accused his opponent Ignatius Leong of selling out. In Bled he withdrew from the race, accepting the position of FIDE Vice President.

Let us have a look at other candidates. Vice President of the French Chess Federation and organiser of the popular Corsican Circuit **Leo Battesti** announced his [campaign](#) in October 2005. He explained his goals: "This new initiative will be directed towards

finding mainstream sponsors and partners who are attracted by the worldwide appeal of our sport. This will eventually, enable both professional and amateur chess players to be better served by an institution made by them and for them."

Dutch businessman **Bessel Kok** is a well-known figure in chess. He was involved in GMA and the Prague Agreement. His campaign is well organised, with regular updates on its [website](#). Kok commands a lot of respect among top professionals. Among those, who support him, are Judit Polgar, [Ivanchuk](#), [Gelfand](#), [Short](#), [Adams](#) and several other GMs. See the full list [here](#). Even more importantly, the Spanish, Andorran and German Chess Federations have expressed their support.

Another candidate might be **Anatoly Karpov**. He has been attacking Ilyumzhinov in the press for quite a while. In his recent [interview](#) he drew a very gloomy picture: "If we allow chess to continue for another four years in its present terrible state, it will simply disappear from the face of the earth."

However, Karpov has not decided yet whether or not to run FIDE President...

One would think that Kirsan Ilyumzhinov should be happy to see as many rivals as possible – after all, the main question is likely to be "are you pro-Kirsan" or anti-Kirsan"? However, FIDE seems to be determined to make it harder for others to challenge the FIDE President. Thus, FIDE recently amended its [electoral regulations](#). One of the new rules state: "A Federation is entitled to nominate only one candidate for one position". This seems to be aimed at Karpov – it looks like he and Ilyumzhinov can't run for FIDE President at the same time, as both are in the Russian Chess Federation. In another controversial development, Ilyumzhinov [suggested](#) that any candidate for FIDE President should put up \$1 million for the privilege of running! Not surprisingly, both Battesti and Kok protested.

Recently I saw both Bessel Kok and FIDE Vice President George Makropoulos in Birmingham, where they made their presentations to the Chess Federations of England, Scotland and Wales. As I was playing in the 4NCL, I could not attend the meeting, but the [discussions](#) seem to have been heated. I am sure we will see more in the next few months. I recall how in 1996 in Yerevan members of all teams were given a bottle of "Kirsan" vodka, a jar of "Kirsan" caviar and a "Kirsan" watch. What will be on offer in Turin?

GMs on 2005/2006

by GM Alex Baburin

In the end of 2005 I asked my colleagues about their impressions of chess in 2005 and their prognosis for 2006. Several GMs responded and we published their views in CT. This week I got the following e-mail from GM **Sergey Ivanov**, St Petersburg:

"Hi, Alex! Thanks for signing me up for Chess Today, which I receive and read regularly with much interest.

Here are my thoughts on 2005:

Main events: World Championship in Argentina and World Cup in Russia.

Main "anti-event": Kasparov's retirement.

Main hero: Topalov.

Main disappointment: Kramnik.

Triumph of the year: Russia's win over China in the World Team Ch in Israel.

Discovery of the year: Aronian and Carlsen.

Now about 2006:

Ilyumzhinov will be re-elected in Turin. A Match between Kramnik and Topalov will not take place for sure, but FIDE will successfully stage its Candidate matches. Chess will be popular among children and teenagers, but chess as a professional

sport will be still in ruins: with no corporate sponsors and minimal media attention.

We need new ideas, new managers and new leaders. Alas, there is little hope that the ACP (of which I am a member) can change anything...

All the best in 2006!"

Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

White: S. Karjakin (2660)

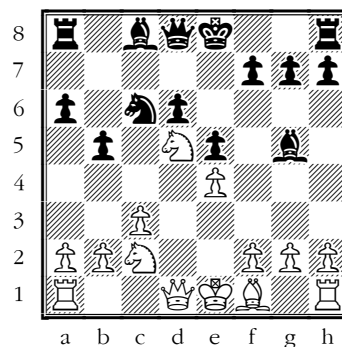
Black: V. Topalov (2801)

Corus A Wijk aan Zee NED (9),
24.01.2006

Sicilian defense - [B33]

During the Corus-2006 I played in a much more modest tournament in Bucharest and followed Wijk aan Zee events mainly in our newspaper. The main Corus brilliancies are already annotated by my colleagues, but there still remain some very interesting encounters. Such as this game, which was very important for the outcome of the tournament - and also moved the theory forward a bit.

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5 6.♗db5 d6
7.♕g5 a6 8.♗a3 b5 9.♗d5 ♕e7
10.♕xf6 ♕xf6 11.c3 ♕g5 12.♗c2
(D)**



12...0-0

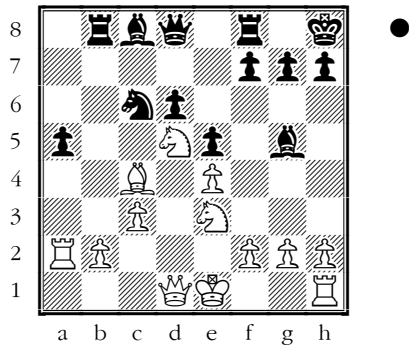
Another Round 9 game, Anand-Van Wely saw 12...♖b8!? (one of the most important deviations for Black from the main line) 13.a4 bxa4 14.♗cb4 ♕d7 15.♕xa6 ♗xb4 16.cxb4 0-0 17.0-0 ♕c6 (In Golubev - Rogozenko, Nikolaev Zonal 1995 the draw was agreed here. I did not know any theory of the early ...♕g5/...♖b8 then and spent a serious amount of time for the moves.)

This issue is prepared by GM Mikhail Golubev; technical editor Graham Brown

Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to <http://www.chesstoday.net>

18.♞xa4 ♕xa4 19.♖xa4 ♜e8?! (A dubious novelty. In his book "The Sveshnikov Reloaded" Rogozenko cites two games with 19...f5 and 19...g6.) 20.♖xe8 ♞fxe8 21.b5!. The endgame is better for White – later he won.

13.a4 bxa4 14.♞xa4 a5 15.♕c4 ♞b8 16.♞a2 ♖h8 17.♗ce3 (D)



After the game Ponomarev–Kramnik from Corus–2005, this position became trendy. The alternative for White is 17.0–0, but after 17...f5! Black has enjoyed good results in practice.

17...♕xe3

Solid! 17...g6 18.h4 (or 18.0–0 f5 19.♖a4! Anand–Kasparov, Linares 2005) and now 18...♕xh4 was Ponomarev–Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2005 – Kramnik stood rather unsafely in that game. In Kasimdzhanov–Ivanchuk, Tallinn (Keres mem) rpd 2006 Black instead tried 18...♕h6, but after 19.h5 ♖g7 20.♖d2 ♞h8 21.g3 ♕d7 22.f4 his position was dubious. 17...♗e7 18.0–0± (as in Tseshkovky–Vukic, Banja Luka 1981); and 17...♕e6 have also sometimes been tested.

18.♗xe3 ♗e7

"White is only marginally better", comments Rogozenko in the book.

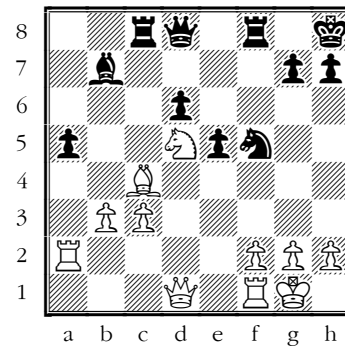
19.b3

The purpose of this novelty, as has been pointed out by ChessPro.ru commentator GM Shipov, is to avoid the exchange of knights. 19.b3 does not refute the "Sveshnikov", but it can be called a micro-improvement. Instead, 19.0–0 f5! 20.exf5 ♗xf5 was tested in a couple of games. There, 21.♗d5 can be met by 21...♗e7!=

19...f5 20.exf5 ♗xf5 21.♗d5 ♕b7

Now 21...♗e7? 22.♗xe7 ♖xe7 loses a pawn after 23.♞xa5.

22.0–0 ♞c8! (D)



Black prepares ...♞c5.

23.♖d3

Keeping central control. I suspect that there hardly was anything stronger.

23...♗h4!?

Avoiding simplifications. The alternative was 23...♞c5, provoking 24.b4!? axb4 25.cxb4. According to Steve Giddins (BCM Online), "Topalov assessed the position after 25...♞c8 26.♕a6 as unclear". Mark Crowther in TWIC continues with 26...♕xa6 27.♞xa6 ♗d4. What is most unclear in this line is how any side (especially Black) can hope for a win.

24.♞d1 24.♞fa1 ♞c5 and now 25.b4 is answered by 25...♞xc4! (not 25...axb4? 26.cxb4± ♞xc4 27.♖xc4 ♖g5 28.f4 exf4 and now 29.♖xf4! ♞xf4 30.♞a8+ with a mate makes the difference) 26.♖xc4 ♖g5± and if 27.f4, then 27...exf4!, attacking.

24...h6!

A strong move – useful and waiting. Shipov shows that worse was 24...♖g5 25.♖g3! ♖h5 26.♕e2 ♖h6 27.♞xa5!; as well as 24...♞c5 25.b4! axb4 26.cxb4 (± MG) 26...♖g5? 27.f4!+–

25.♖g3

The line 25.♞ad2? a4! 26.bxa4 ♖g5 (as I understand, first shown by Topalov) is given in the Round 9 report at Coruschess.com.

25...♗f5 26.♖g4

26.♖d3 would be a silent draw offer.

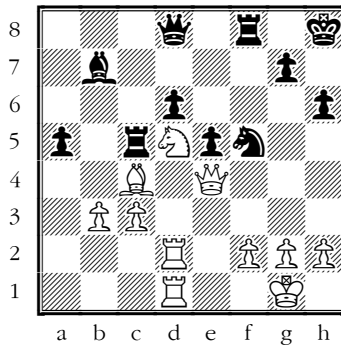
26...♞c5

Somewhat risky but probably playable for Black was 26...♕xd5!? 27.♞xd5 ♗e7 28.♞dxa5 (28.♞d1 d5 29.♞ad2? ♖b6! MG) 28...d5 29.♕f1 ♞xc3 "with unclear play" – Giddins.

27.♞ad2

27.b4!? axb4 28.cxb4 ♞c8 29.♞a7 ♕xd5 30.♕xd5 ♖f6 31.♞a2 ♗d4 and Shipov assesses it as a bit better for White. Not easy to judge: Black has his trumps: a strong d4–knight and hopes for activity.

27...♙c8! = 28.♚e4 ♙b7 (D)



29.h3

Refusing to repeat the position with 29.♙g4. After 29.♙d3 the weakness of White's first rank tells in the line 29...♙e7 30.♙e3 ♙xd5 31.♙xd5 ♙xd5 32.♙xd5 ♙xd5 33.♙xd5 ♙b8 34.c4 a4!, but 29.g3! was possible.

29...♙h4?

29...h5 ("aiming to deprive the white queen access to the g4 square" – Giddins) 30.♙d3! seems to be somewhat better for White. The calm 29...♙e7 was not bad, but Topalov hopes for an attack.

30.♙d3

On 30.♙g4, 30...a4! with the idea 31.bxa4 ♙xg2! 32.♙xg2 ♙f4= looks good for Black.

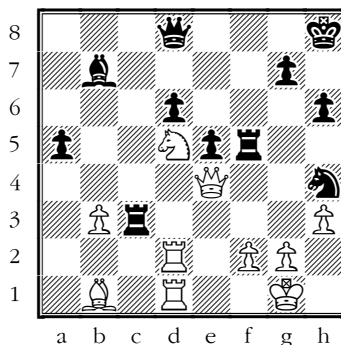
30...♙f5!?

More ambitious than 30...♙f5 31.♙b1 (31.♙c4 repeats) 31...♙xc3 32.♙g4 (32.g4! deserves checking – MG) 32...♙xd5 33.♙xd5 ♙f6= GM Sakaev, www.e3e5.com.

31.♙b1

Later Karjakin confessed that he simply blundered, overlooking Black's next. But, perhaps, his move is not really bad after all. White's other playable options were 31.c4! ♙xd5 32.cxd5∞ with mutual chances, and much more specific 31.♙c4 a4 32.♙d3!, equalising – Shipov (then 32...a3? fails to 33.g3! – MG)

31...♙xc3! (D)



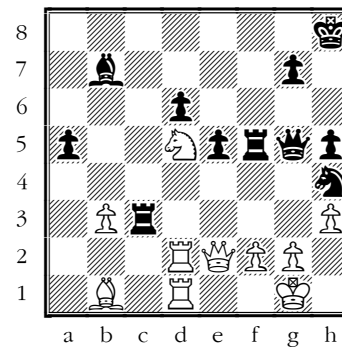
32.♙g4

32.♙xc3!? ♙xe4 33.♙xe4 ♙f8 34.♙xd6 ♙b8!≠ (with the idea 35.♙f7+ ♙g8! and the e5 pawn is protected) may be a bit better for Black. 32.♙a4! is very similar to the line 32.♙g4 h5 (as in the game) 33.♙a4!. The difference (possibly not too significant) is that here the Black pawn remains on h6. 32.♙xf5 ♙xf5 33.♙xc3 (suggested as "the lesser evil" at Coruschess.com) 33...♙d4= seems to be clearly better for Black.

32...h5 33.♙e2?

The turning point of the game. Necessary was 33.♙a4!∞ ♙c6 (the position after 33...♙f8!? 34.♙xc3!? ♙g5 35.♙e4 ♙xe4 36.♙xe4 ♙f3+ 37.♙xf3!? ♙xf3 38.♙e4 ♙g6 39.♙xd6 ♙xe4 40.gxf3 ♙xf3 41.♙d3 looks equal to me; dubious is 33...♙g5?! 34.♙xc3! ♙xg2+ 35.♙f1 ♙g1+ 36.♙e2! ♙f3+ 37.♙d3 and Black's attack fails – Shipov) 34.♙xc3 ♙xa4 35.♙xf5 (35.♙xd6 ♙g5 36.♙d8+ ♙h7 37.♙xf5+ is slightly better for Black after either capture on f5) 35...♙g5! (35...♙xf5 36.bxa4! with the idea of ♙b5 is likely to equalise – Shipov) 36.♙e4 ♙xb3 37.♙b2! and White is hardly worse in complications.

33...♙g5!≠ (D)



Starting from this moment, Topalov always retained the advantage (still, the play of both sides was not free from mistakes as we will see).

34.f4?!

After the better 34.♙e4 good enough is 34...♙cf3!≠

34...♙xf4! 35.♙h1

If 35.♙xf4, then 35...♙f3+! wins. As Shipov showed, the try 35.♙b5! is nicely refuted by 35...♙f8! 36.♙xb7 ♙c1!, winning.

35...♙xg2!

Another blow. And one more white pawn leaves the board.

36.♙xg2

After 36.♖xc3, either 36...♖h4 or 36...♗h4 are equally good.

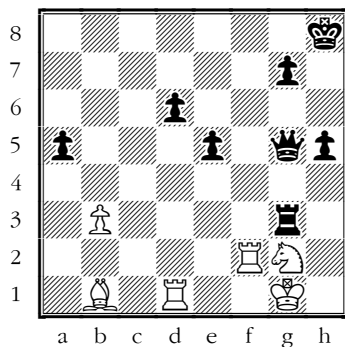
36...♖g3?

36...♗h4! could have finished the game very quickly.

37.♖xf4 ♕xg2+

When making his 36th move Topalov overlooked that after 37...exf4?? 38.♗xb7 there is no mate: 38...♖xh3+ 39.♖h2.

38.♖xg2 ♖xh3+ 39.♗g1 ♖g3 40.♖f2! (D)



White is much worse but he is still in the game. At the moment he even threatens mate in one.

40...♗g8 41.♖xd6

Sakaev opined that 41.♕a2 was a better practical chance.

41...h4!

At first glance, 41...♗c1+ (or 41...♖xg2+ and 42...♗c1+, it does not matter) 42.♗h2 ♖xg2+ 43.♖xg2 ♗xb1 may seem to be easily winning. But then 44.♖dg6! (but not 44.♖d7? ♗h7!, MG) 44...♗xb3 (Black was unable to protect his g7-pawn) 45.♖xg7+ ♗f8 (45...♗h8?! 46.♖7g6!= MG) 46.♖a7! gives Black masses of problems, as pointed out by Shipov.

42.♖c6! ♗g4!

Not 42...♗d8 43.♕f5! and White gets counterchances.

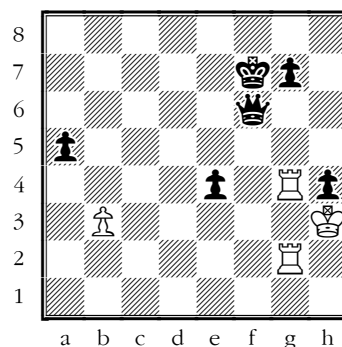
43.♕f5?

It is hard to say what Karjakin counted on. His only chance was 43.♖d6! e4! (If 43...♗c8 44.♕f5! - MG) 44.♖d4 (possibly, more stubborn than 44.♖d8+ ♗h7 45.♖d4 h3! 46.♕xe4+ g6, etc.) 44...h3 (Black could have considered also 44...♖e3!? - MG) 45.♕xe4 ♗g5 (defending against ♖d8 mate) and now 46.♖d5 ♗e7 47.♖e2 (Shipov) could have preserved for White the hope of building a fortress.

43...♖xg2+ 44.♖xg2 ♗xf5

Basically, the fight is over, but some accuracy from Black is still required.

45.♖cg6 ♗f7 46.♖6g4 ♗f6 47.♗h2 ♗f7 48.♗h3 e4! (D)



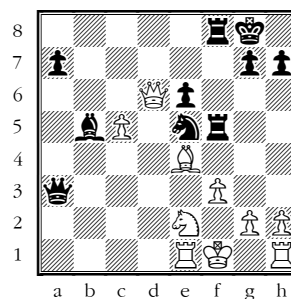
49.♖g5 Or 49.♖xh4 g5 50.♖hg4 e3 51.♗g3 ♗f1! **49...e3! 50.♗xh4 g6**

The black e-pawn will cost White a rook, so he resigned. **0-1**

Solution to our quiz:

Gibraltar Masters ENG (9.1) 01.02.2006

S.Volkov - Ki.Georgiev



27...♖xf3!-+ 28.♕xf5

28.♗xe6+ ♗h8! 29.♕xf5 ♖d4!; 28.gxf3 ♖xf3+ 29.♗g2 ♖f2+ 30.♗g1 ♗e3

28...♖xf5 or 28...♖xe1 29.♗xe6+ ♗h8

29.♗xe6+ ♖f7 30.♗c8+ ♖f8

31.♗e6+ ♗h8 32.♗e7 ♖e8!

33.♗xe8+ ♕xe8 34.♖d1 34.gxf3

♗xf3+ 35.♗g1 ♕c6 34...♗g8 35.h4

♖d2+ 36.♗e1 ♖e4 37.♖h3 ♗xc5

38.♖d4 ♕h5 0-1

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