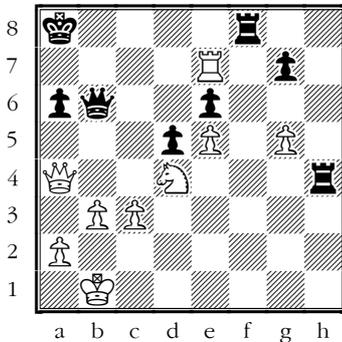


**Test Yourself!**

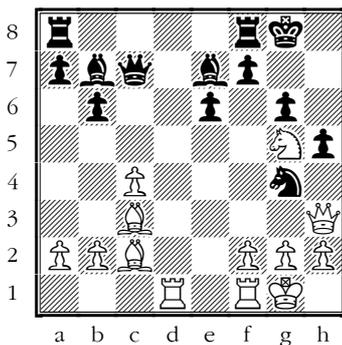
**Morariu (2461) – Muir (2325)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Sat GM, Budapest (10), 14.02.2006



○

**Menchik – Graf**

Wch, Semmering, 1937



○

**On This Day...**

*by IM Yochanan Afek*

**Vera Menchik** was born in Moscow exactly 100 years ago (15 February 1906) to a Czech father and an English mother. The family moved to England in 1921 and in 1937 she married the British chess organizer and secretary of the federation R.H.S. Stevenson. She was just 21 when she won the first world title (London 1927) with 10½ out of 11. She held the title consecutively until her premature tragic death in 1944, convincingly winning it seven times (!) representing Russia, Czechoslovakia and England. In



addition she won two matches against her closest rival Sonja Graf, of which one was later recognized as an official match for the world title.

Nevertheless she earned her fame thanks to her successful participation in men's international events. Among her "victims" were Euwe, Saemisch, Sultan Khan, Reshevsky and nearly all the British top masters. They all were members of what was known as the "Vera Menchik" club. She was killed with her mother and sister Olga (herself a capable chess player) by a German air attack on London when she was a mere 38 years old.



**World Chess News**

**On Topalov – Kramnik Match**

**Y**esterday at a [press-conference](#) in Moscow FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov again said that the match Kramnik–Topalov would take place in Elista, Kalmykia in September 2006. He said that agreement with the players and their managers has been reached and that a joint statement will be issued soon. The prize fund of this 12-game match will be \$1.2m. As before, there is no information about this at the FIDE [website](#). At the same conference Kirsan Ilyumzhinov said that he hoped that Fischer would come to live in Elista – where he will be given a cottage with 0.5 H of land.



## Linares 2006

The first half of this famous tournament will be held on 18–26 February at the Palacio de Clavijero in the city of Morelia, Mexico. Eight players will compete in this double round robin event with a prize fund of 380,000 euro. They are: Veselin Topalov, Peter Leko, Vassily Ivanchuk, Peter Svidler, Etienne Bacrot, Levon Aronian, Francisco Vallejo and Teimour Radjabov.

### Aeroflot Open, Moscow

The tournament is finishing and the price of every mistake is high – while the winner will get \$30,000, those finishing below 30th place will nurture financial losses. Thus some players exercise extreme caution (see the 14–move draw on top board), but some still play aggressively. For example, Akopian sacrificed a piece in the opening, but subsequently lost. Kiril Georgiev is a difficult opponent for him – to 2006 their score was 3½–2½ in the Bulgarian's favour and this year he has already beaten Akopian twice.

#### Round 8 top results:

Eljanov (5½) – Malakhov (5) ½–½  
Mamedyarov (5) – Naiditsch (5) ½–½  
Akopian (5) – Kir. Georgiev (5) 0–1  
Sasikiran (5) – Motylev (5) ½–½  
Jakovenko (4½) – Vachier-Lagrave (5) 1–0  
Bologan (4½) – Popov (4½) 1–0  
Timofeev (4½) – Sedlak (4½) ½–½  
Asrian (4½) – Yakovich (4½) ½–½  
Jobava (4½) – Alekseev (4½) 1–0  
Dreev (4) – T. Petrosian (4½) ½–½

#### Standings after 8 rounds:

1–2. Eljanov and Kir. Georgiev – 6;  
3–10. Mamedyarov, Malakhov, Sasikiran, Bologan, Naiditsch, Jakovenko, Jobava and Motylev – 5½;  
(93 players, 9 rounds)

#### Final Round, top boards:

Mamedyarov – Eljanov  
Kir. Georgiev – Sasikiran  
Malakhov – Jobava  
Naiditsch – Jakovenko  
Motylev – Bologan

In the A2 group before the last round 8 players share the lead with 6 points: Zhou Jianchao, IMs Hoffmann, Kostenko and Arutinian, GMs GM Drozdovski, Kurnosov, Sherbakov and Zakharevich.

[Official website](#)

[ChessBase Photo-report](#)

## Villa de Coria del Rio

This open tournament is taking place on 8–16 February in Spain.

#### Standings before the last round:

1–2. GMs Malakhatko (UKR, 2556) and Matamoros (ECU, 2510) –6½/8.  
Six players are on 6 points.

#### Last round, top boards:

Korneev – Malakhatko  
Matamoros – Epishin

[Official website](#)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sat Festival, Budapest

#### GM Tournament, after 11 rounds:

1. WGM Radziewicz (POL, 2421) – 7½;  
2–4. GM Ilincic (YUG, 2545), GM L. Vajda (ROM, 2526) and IM Jakob (HUN, 2412) – 6, etc. (13 players).

[Official website](#)

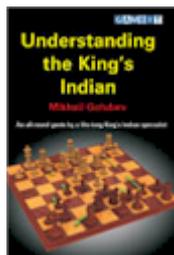
## B. Kok Wins More Support

In the race for FIDE President, it is the votes of the national chess federations that count. In the past few days the Right Move campaign got support from [Canada](#) and [Netherlands Antilles](#). It also received votes of confidence from Don [Schultz](#) and FIDE Vice President Steve [Doyle](#).



## New Book by GM Golubev

Mikhail's books on the Dragon and the Sozin Variation in the Sicilian were well received and not surprisingly he has written yet another book – this time on his beloved King's Indian defence. His new book, published by Gambit in February, is called **"Understanding the King's Indian"**.



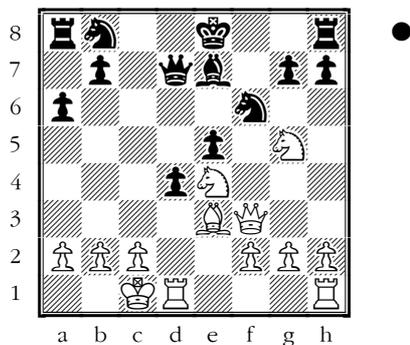
At the publisher's website you can see basic [information](#) about the book and a PDF [sample](#), which, incidentally, contains the annotated game Notkin-Golubev, Yalta 1996!

## Original Moves

Two games drew my attention in round 8 of the A1 Aeroflot Open:

**Bologan (2661) – Popov (2592)**  
Aeroflot Open, Moscow, 15.02.2006  
*The Najdorf Sicilian; B90*

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4  
♞f6 5.♞c3 a6 6.♞e3 e5 7.♞f3 ♞e7  
8.♞c4 ♞e6 9.♞xe6 fxe6 10.♞g5  
♞d7 11.♞f3 d5 12.exd5 exd5 13.0-0  
0-0 d4 14.♞ce4 (D)



Black is behind in development, so it's logical to expect something like 14...♞c6 or 14...0-0. If you think like me, you will never guess Black's next move! ☺

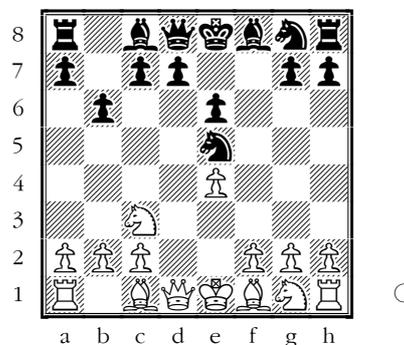
**14...a5?!** This is one of the most puzzling moves I've seen recently. Is Black trying to develop the a8-rook via a6? I don't know... Valery Popov is a strong GM and he certainly had something in mind, but not all our plans work out.

15.♞d2 *Junior 8* considers here 15.♞xf6+ ♞xf6 16.♞e4 and even 15.♞xd4 exd4 16.♞xf6+ ♞xf6 17.♞he1+ ♞d8.

15...a4 16.♞xf6+ ♞xf6 17.♞h5+ g6  
18.♞e4 0-0 19.♞xf6+ ♞xf6  
20.♞xe5 ♞xf2 21.♞hf1 ♞c6  
22.♞b5 ♞af8 23.♞xf2 ♞xf2  
24.♞xa4 ♞xg2 25.♞f1 ♞g7 26.♞a3  
♞e7 27.♞h6+ ♞xh6 28.♞h3+ ♞g7  
29.♞xg2 d3 30.cxd3 ♞b4 31.♞b1  
♞xd3 32.♞f3 ♞c5 33.♞c3+ ♞h6  
34.♞e1 ♞h4 35.♞e3+ ♞g7 1-0

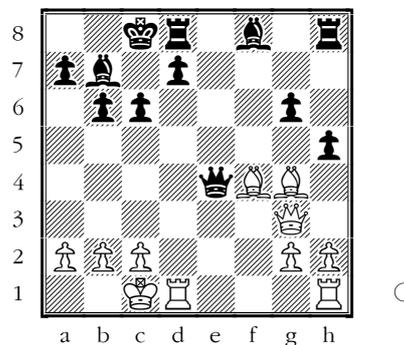
**Volkov (2629)–B. Savchenko(2569)**  
Aeroflot Open, Moscow, 15.02.2006

1.d4 ♞c6 2.d5 ♞e5 3.e4 e6 4.dxe6  
fxe6 5.♞c3 b6 (D)



I thought that it was an absolutely new position, but in fact I found no less than 4 games in Mega 2005!

6.♞f3 ♞xf3+ 7.♞xf3 ♞b7 8.♞h5+  
g6 9.♞e5 ♞f6 10.♞b5 c6 11.♞e2  
♞e7 12.♞g3 e5 13.f4 exf4 14.♞xf4  
♞xe4 15.♞xe4 ♞xe4 16.0-0-0 0-0  
0-0 17.♞g4! h5 (D)



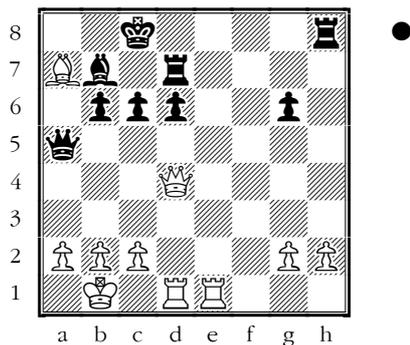
**18.♞b8!**

The beginning of a curious bishop dance. Also winning is 18.♞he1 ♞xf4+ 19.♞xf4 ♞h6 20.♞xd7+ ♞xd7 21.♞e8+ ♞xe8 22.♞xh6 ♞xd1+ 23.♞xd1.  
**18...♞h6+ 19.♞b1 ♞f4 20.♞xf4**

**hxg4 21. ♖he1 ♜f5 22. ♙b8!**

Back again!

**22...d6 23. ♙xa7 ♜a5 24. ♜xg4+  
♞d7 25. ♜d4 (D)**



**25... ♜h5 26. ♙xb6+- ♜xh2 27. ♜e4  
♞b8 28. ♜xg6 ♙c8 29. ♙g1 ♜h6  
30. ♜e4 c5 31. g4 ♜h1 32. ♜f4 ♜h6  
33. g5 ♜h4 34. ♙e3 ♜c7 35. g6 ♙b7  
36. g7 ♜xf4 37. gxh8 ♜ 1-0**

## Aeroflot Open Impressions

*by GM Mikhail Golubev*

I am not sure if I will have time or energy to write about this tournament later, so here are my impressions of the event in progress.

### Moscow

"In order to prevent the acts of terror..." – those were the first words I heard when arriving on 6th February at 'Kiev Railway Station' in Moscow. The radio announcement urged passengers to be careful and refuse taking any packages from strangers wishing to send something to their friends/relatives in other cities (quite a usual practice in the past). But Muscovites are used to living with a potential threat – and terrorism is the last thing they think about.

### The Venue

In many ways, the Izmailovo Gamma-Delta hotel is a very good place for such a big chess festival. The hotel is even large enough to stay here during the whole tournament without going out at all – and without getting bored. After the first round I bought drink and cigarettes (which are very

expensive in the hotel) in a local shop – and have stayed inside since!

## The Players and Visitors

Several hundred titled players are playing here. Most of them know each other. In such a situation it is not even possible to say "Hi" to everyone you know... The most convenient way to follow the situation on the top boards is to watch them on the big screens placed outside of the main tournament hall. The Internet visitors of Aeroflotchess.com can watch them live too.

The biggest discovery of the main A1 tournament is the 15-year old French junior **Maxime Vachier-Lagrave**. Journalist Eugeny Atarov (who is producing bulletins here) observed that Maxime never castled in the games, which he won against a couple of 2600+ guys!

Not everyone succeeds here. For example, Almira Skripchenko started with 1/2/6 in the A2 event. I spoke with GM Alexander Rustemov, who was then on 3/7 in A1 tournament. He has never won any prize money in Aeroflot opens, despite participating in several of them. Several GMs, such as Karpov, Morozevich, Tkachiev, Vasiukov, Vaissier, Bareev, Lastin and Razuvaev have visited the tournament. If they were afraid to play here, it is easy to understand why! ☺

## Players from Odessa

Most of the players from my town are playing in the A2 tournament: there are four guys from Odessa there (GM Drozdovskij is doing especially well), while there is only one other Ukrainian (from Donetsk) in the A2 tournament. At least two Odessites are playing in the C tournament (under 2200).

One of the them is **Pavel Makarov** whom I've known since 1978, when he headed the Odessa juniors team in my very first tournament outside of

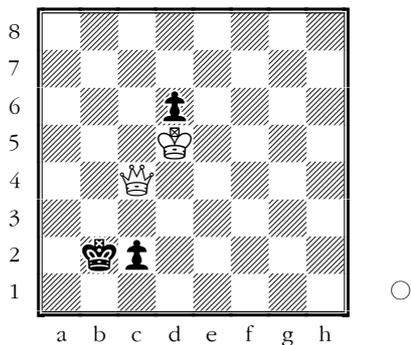
Odessa: the match against Simferopol Pioneers Palace. For a long he did not play chess, but came back to it in 2003 when the first good open was organized in Odessa.

Pavel told me a funny story: in one of his games here his opponent several times turned Makarov's knights in the way he liked them. Meanwhile Pavel had a completely different opinion on where his knights should be pointing. The prolonged "adjust" fight was stopped by the arbiter who prohibited Makarov's opponent touching Pavel's knights. But that was not the end of the story: his opponent then tried to exchange these (annoying) knights: he successfully captured the first one, but the second knight survived and played an important role in the decisive attack!

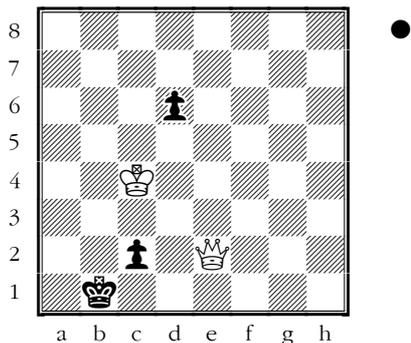
Another of Makarov's games ended in a curious draw:

### Artamonov – P. Makarov (2157)

Aeroflot C Moscow (7), 13.02.2006



White cannot win here as the d–pawn is blocked and Black has the same stalemate ideas as he would without it. **73. ♖b4+ ♔a2 74. ♖c3 ♚b1 75. ♖d3 ♚b2 76. ♖e2 ♚b1** Both 76...♔a1 and 76...♔c3 also draw, but not 76...♔b3?? **77. ♖d2 ♚b2 78. ♚c4+-.**  
**77. ♚c4 (D)**



**77...d5+!** 1/2–1/2 Black avoided the trap – 77...c1♖+? 78.♚b3+- . After 77...d5+ White cannot play 78.♚b3?? c1♖+!. If 78.♚c3, then after 78...c1♖+ 79.♚b3 Black has 79...♖c4+=.

### Press Centre

I obtained my accreditation and started visiting the press centre after my 1/2/3 performance in the first rounds. As usually in Moscow events, the editor of the 64 Chess Review magazine, Alexander Roshal is the chief of the press–centre. The winter Olympics is hugely important in Russia, so I did not see correspondents from the Russian mainstream media here. Even *Sport-Express* newspaper is practically silent about the Aeroflot Open and chess in general. By comparison, Ukrainian sport paper *Komanda* pays much more attention to the Aeroflot open (and I guess, less to Turin Olympics!).

But online chess journalists are very active. IM Odessky is interviewing people and reporting every day for [www.chesspro.ru](http://www.chesspro.ru). His colleague GM Shipov is sitting at home and annotating the Aeroflot games. As a result, the ChessPro coverage (alas, only in Russian!) is extremely good. Misha Savinov is reporting and taking photos for [www.e3e5.com](http://www.e3e5.com) and [www.chessbase.com](http://www.chessbase.com). I found his photo "Grandmaster Golubev does not suffer from loneliness" (which is true!) at the e3e5 site. Savinov also interviewed GM Naiditsch for ChessCafe. Also here is Georgui Castanieda, reporting for Chess Assistant's Spanish site, [www.planetadeajedrez.com](http://www.planetadeajedrez.com).

The Internet connection in the press–centre is excellent. It is easy to browse chess sites and I can correct information from my latest Web Watch column: the review by Cathy Forbes of Jennifer Shahade's book, in fact, can be found online at the BCM site now. Famous arbiter Dr Andrzej Filipowicz sometimes visits the press–centre to check his mail, etc. In our conversations we came to full

agreement on the European Championships – we both prefer the old system – with zonals, etc. He pointed out that even at the Aeroflot Open players with a low ELO cannot compete in the same tournament with top GMs. While at the European Championships almost everyone can take part – just play and play!

### The Chess Today Meeting

On 13 February five *Chess Today* authors got together – the entire "European continental team"! Only Alex Baburin (Ireland), Ralph Marconi (Canada) and Graham Brown (England) were absent.



Top: **Vladimir** and **Mikhail**  
Bottom: **Ruslan**, **Maxim**, and **Nikolai**



**Nikolai**, **Maxim** and **Mikhail**

On that day both Ruslan Scherbakov and I won our games. For me it was the first victory at Aeroflot: (I should have used the lucky orange pen starting from round 1!).

On 13 February in the A1 tournament GM Najer used Nikolai Vlassov's idea 23.Qb4, which Nikolai suggested in CT-1606. That was a clear improvement over a very recent game Karjakin–Anand, Corus 2006. Still, Najer did not manage to win – his game vs. Popov ended in a draw.

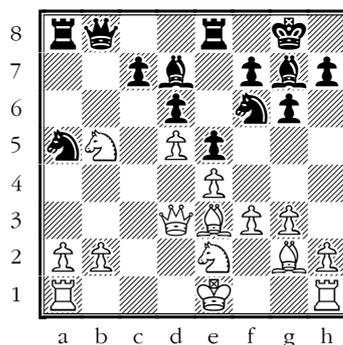
### My Play

In such a strong event one should play the first round like the last. Alas, this is something I did not manage here. Well, at least my victory in round 7 will be a better advertisement for my new book on the King's Indian:

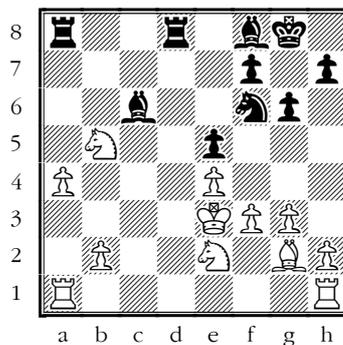
#### Esen (2417) – Golubev (2499)

Aeroflot A2 Moscow (7), 14.02.2006  
*King's Indian; E83*

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♘g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♙e3 ♗c6 7.♗ge2 a6 8.♚d2 ♜e8 9.g3 ♙d7N 10.♙g2 e5 11.d5 ♗a5 12.♚d3! b5 13.cxb5 axb5 14.♗xb5 ♚b8 (D)



15.a4 c6 16.dxc6 ♙xc6 17.♚xd6∞ [ 17.0-0 d5; 17.♗ec3!?.  
17...♚xd6!? 18.♗xd6 ♜ed8 19.♗b5 ♗c4 20.♜f2 ♗xe3 21.♜xe3 ♙f8! (D)



22.♗ec3□ ♙h6+ 23.f4

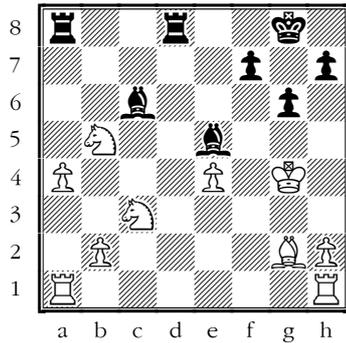
23. ♖f2 ♜d2+.

23...exf4+ 24.gxf4 ♘g4+ 25.♖e2

♙xf4 26.♖f3?!

26.♘d5!∞

26...♙e5 27.♖xg4 (D)



27...♜d3!→ 28.♜af1 ♜f6!? 29.♙f3

♙d7+ 30.♖h4 ♜h5 31.♜hg1 ♜g5+

32.♜xg5+□

32.♖xh5 ♖f7 and ...♜h8#.

32...fxg5+ 33.♖xg5

33.♖xh5±.

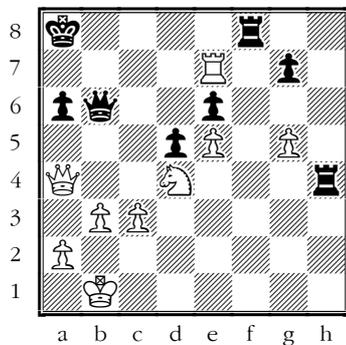
33...♖h7!-+ 34.♘d5 ♜g8+ 35.♖h4

♜xd5 0-1

### Solutions to our quiz:

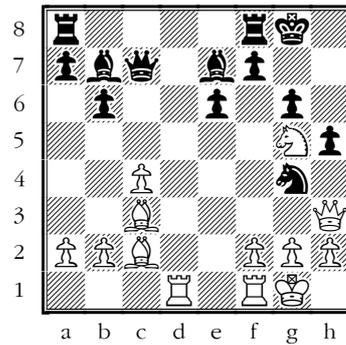
#### Morariu (2461) – Muir (2325)

1<sup>st</sup> Sat GM, Budapest (10), 14.02.2006



37.♖c6+! ♖xc6 38.♘xc6 1-0

### Menchik – Graf Wch, Semmering, 1937



21.♜d7!! 1-0 Black resigned in view of 21...♖xd7 22.♖xh5! gxh5 23. ♙h7#. Note that the line 21.♖xh5 ♖xh2+ 22.♖xh2 ♘xh2 23.♘xe6 ♘xf1 24.♘xf8 is not nearly as good as 21.♜d7!!.

**Contact information.** Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](#) – we appreciate your feedback! **Chess Today** is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: [ababurin@iol.ie](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net> Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev; IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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