



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 140

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Editorial Preface

All the attention of the week is clearly on the 2nd FIDE Grand Prix in Tashkent.

After 9 rounds we have quite a surprising situation:

With 6/9, the sole leader and is not Caruana, Karjakin or Gelfand, it is Dimitri Andreikin, who looks like he never wants to win a single game, but with his very solid style he collects the "free points" that opponents give to him. The 2nd-3rd places are shared by Nakamura and Mamedyarov and these two are playing both very fighting and entertaining chess.

Caruana seems to be too tired, as he has been missing good winning chances in a couple of games already and is on 50%. It is clearly a very disappointing tournament for Boris Gelfand, who shared 1st place with Caruana in the previous Grand Prix. The happiness was also very short for Vachier-Lagrave, who started so well with 2/2 but somehow couldn't win any more games and even lost one.

As expected, Jobava shows very exciting chess! He got lucky in a few games, but he has an unstoppable desire of creating some mess on the board. He outplayed a lot of his opponents very nicely, but the loss to Andreikin with the white pieces in the 9th round is clearly a hard blow in a tournament that was going so well.

In the last 2 rounds we are going to see a lot of tension, as both Nakamura and Mamedyarov need to fight for the tournament win to be able to get into the top 2 places and qualify for the Candidates 2015.

There are a few other big events currently under way:

The World Senior Championship is held in Greece and one of the biggest German Opens in Bad Wiesse, but without the participation of any 2700 rated players.

At the European Youth Championship we saw a domination of the Russian kids.

That's all for the current week and we can already be very excited about the upcoming World Championship match between the World Champion Magnus Carlsen and the challenger Vishy Anand, which starts on the 7th of November in Sochi, Russia.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Karjakin, Sergey(2767) - Jobava, Baadur(2717) [B10]

Tashkent FIDE GP 2014(5.1),
2014.10.26



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

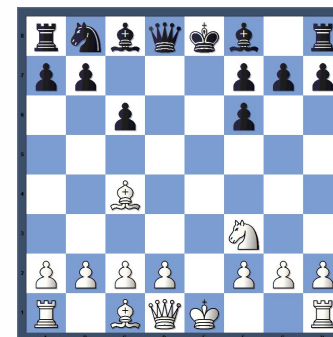
Jobava wins a very nice attacking game with the black pieces.

1.e4 c6 2.♘f3 Karjakin usually plays the very sharp Advance variation against the Caro-Kann (2.d4 d5 3.e5), but this time he chooses a rather calm setup to avoid Jobava's creativity in the middlegame.

2...d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 [3...♘g4 is the most common reaction.]

4.♘xe4 ♘f6 5.♘xf6+ exf6 White should have a very small, but longterm advantage due to the better pawn structure.

6.♘c4



6...♔e7+!? This clever check confuses the development of the white pieces. At such an early stage of the game, White should avoid trading queens, but then he should retreat with his bishop to a more passive position.

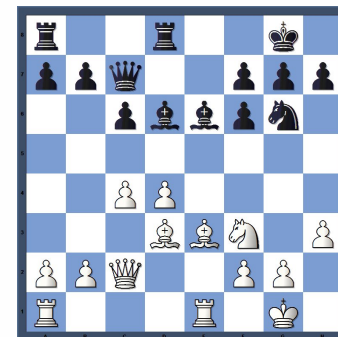
7. ♖e2 ♜c7! Black does not waste time with his queen moves, because it belongs to c7 anyway. White cannot make use of the delaying of the development, because Bd6 followed by 0-0 is coming in time.

8.d4 ♘d6 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 A useful move to avoid the bishop's development to g4.

10...♞d8 I like this move a lot! Black does not decide yet, where to develop his c8 bishop, he improves his other pieces first with Nd7-f8 and develops the bishop only afterwards, according to White's setup. It is not easy to assess the ideal arrangement of the white pieces. White should first decide whether he wants to build up his position with c4 or c3. Both are playable and both have their pluses and minuses. Karjakin chooses the more aggressive one with c4... [In case of 10...♘f5 White could head for a superior endgame with 11.♘d3! ♘xd3 12.♞xd3 followed by Bd2 and Rfe1. In all the endgames, Black will feel the drawback of his doubled pawns, as White will be able to create a passed pawn on the queenside, while Black cannot do the same on the kingside.]

11.♘e3 ♘d7 12.c4 ♘f8 13.♘d3 White activates his bishop. We can see the effect of the 6...Qe7 check here. The bishop was misplaced on e2, it had to be removed also from the e-file as White is going to occupy it with his rooks.

13...♘g6 14.♞c2 ♘e6 15.♞fe1?! was played too quickly and Karjakin probably missed Black's reaction! [15.♘f5! should have been played, although Black is only very slightly worse after 15...♞d7 16.♘xe6 fxe6 getting rid of the doubled pawns. Black is slightly worse because of the f7-f6 weakening of the e6 pawn, although it should not be adequate after Black regroups his pieces with Re8, Rad8 and Bb8, with a flexible position.]



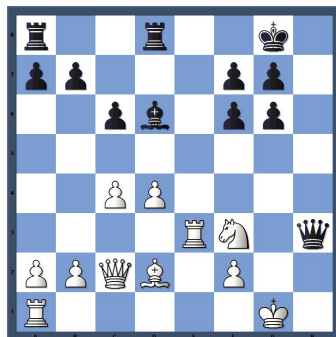
15...♞d7! An excellent move! Such tactical players like Jobava easily find such ideas. Black is willing to sacrifice on h3! It is actually very dangerous and from White's point of view it is not easy to prevent it at all.

16.♘d2 Karjakin is not afraid, he continues improving his position. [16.♘f1 was much safer, but very passive. Black could activate his pieces with 16...♘f5 immediately occupying the diagonal. 17.♞c3 a5 followed by Re8 and sometimes even Be4 and f5-f4 ideas could be dangerous.]

16...♘h3! Of course! Black is consequent. This sacrifice cannot be calculated, only intuition helps, but Black can easily foresee that a draw by perpetual check will always be in his hand and he can decide to give it or to play for more.

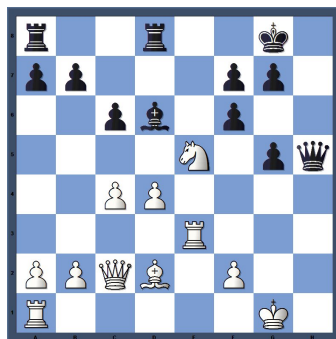
17.gxh3 ♞xh3 18.♘xg6 The only move, otherwise the knight joining the attack will prove decisive. [18.♞e3 is refuted by 18...♘h4! 19.♘h4 ♘h2+ 20.♞h1 ♘g3+ 21.♞g1 ♞h2+ 22.♞f1 ♞xf2#]

18...hxg6 19.♞e3



19...g5! Great play! Black wants to send away the knight with g4 to be able to give a check on h2. Objectively the game is drawn, but in a practical game White has a much harder task, because he must always choose between 2-3 seemingly equivalent moves, but some of them could be worse than the others.

20.c5 [20.♘e5 was a tricky alternative, Black should react precisely with 20...♙e6! (20...♙h5 looks more natural. The knight is under attack and then a check on h2 is possible. But suddenly White has the extremely strong

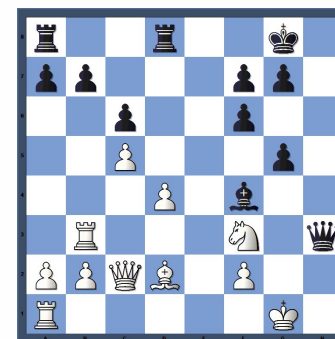


21.♔g2!! fxe5 22.♖h1 ♙g6 23.♗eh3! This is the point and Black can only avoid getting mated by losing big material... 23...♕f8 24.♗h8+ ♕e7 25.♙xg6 fxc6 26.♕xg5+-) 21.♔g2? is not strong anymore, as Black can neutralize the h-file with 21...fxe5 22.♗h1 f5 freeing the f7 square for the king.; From a

practical point of view, the best move seems to be 20.♗ae1 20...g4 21.♙f5! and the game ends in a draw after (21.♘e5 21...♙h5) 21...g6 22.♙xf6 gxf3 23.♙xf3 ♕h2+ The endgame after 23...Qxf3 Rxf3 is also just a draw. 24.♔h1 ♕g3+ 25.♔g1 ♕h2+= Karjakin had seen this line, but he was still hoping for something more...]

20...♕f4! [20...g4? did not work in view of 21.♘e5 and cxd6 next.]

21.♗b3



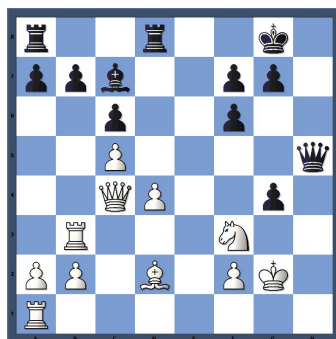
21...♕c7! Another great decision by Black! Jobava keeps his strong attacking bishop on the board and he creates the decisive threat of Rxd4! Nxd4 Bh2 Kh1 Bg3 and Qh2-f2 mate. [21...g4? did not work because of the nice defensive resource 22.♙f5! and suddenly White wins!; Black could have forced a draw with 21...♙g4+ 22.♔f1 ♙h3+ 23.♔g1 (23.♔e2? loses to 23...♗e8+ 24.♕e3 ♕xe3 25.♗xe3 ♗xe3+ 26.fxe3 ♙g2+ and the knight falls.) ; 21...♗xd4 also did not work immediately, because of 22.♕xf4 ♗xf4 23.♘h2! The only move, but it's good enough!]

22.♙c4 Karjakin parries the Rxd4 threat and intends to defend with Qf1. [22.♗e1? allows 22...♗xd4! 23.♘xd4 ♕h2+ 24.♔h1 ♕g3+ 25.♔g1 ♙h2+ 26.♔f1 ♙xf2#; 22.♗xb7? also loses to 22...♗xd4!]

22...♔h5 Black removes his queen from the pin and refreshes the g4 threat! [It was more forcing to start with 22...♔g4+ 23.♔f1 with a transposition to the game.]

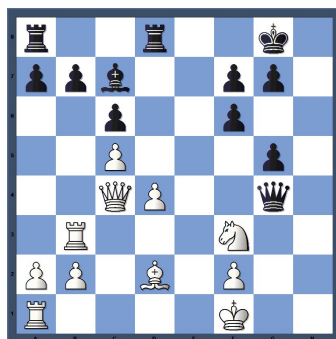
23.♔g2 Karjakin sets a devilish trap again, but Jobava does not fall into it. [23.♖xb7 is simply met by the cold-blooded 23...♖ac8 f3 is hanging and g4 is coming next.]

23...♔g4+! [23...g4? was seemingly decisive, but suddenly after



24.♘h4!! White is the one who wins the game as Rh1 is coming next and White preserves his extra piece. 24...♔xh4 25.♖h1 traps the queen.]

24.♔f1



24...♖e8! Logical and strong! Black cuts the king from his

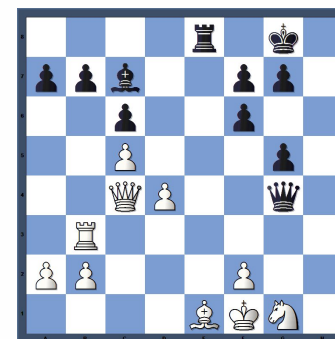
evacuating route along the e-file. Black is threatening Re4 and Qh3-Rg4 mate.

25.♖e1 ♔h3+! Jobava uses his queen extremely effectively in this game. He sends the king back to g1 to avoid the recapture with the king on e1 followed by running to the queenside.

26.♔g1 ♖xe1+ 27.♘xe1 ♔g4+! And he removes the queen from the pin again, before bringing the other rook to the attack. [27...♖e8 is met by 28.♘e5!]

28.♔f1 ♖e8! It is getting more and more unpleasant after each move.

29.♘g1 Trying to open the 3rd rank to bring the rook into the defense. [29.♘d2 does not help either. Black wins after 29...♔h5!—+ as there is no adequate defense for White.]



29...♘h2! Both players were already down on time, but Jobava continues with his perfect attacking moves.

30.♘e2? A blunder, but the position was bad anyway. [30.♘h3 was the only move, but Black gets a huge advantage after 30...♔e4! threatening on e1 and h1. The only move is 31.♖e3 ♔h1+ 32.♔e2 ♖xe3+ 33.fxe3 g4 and White must sacrifice one of his minor pieces to stop the g-pawn. 34.♘f2 (34.♘f4 34...g3—+) 34...♔f3+ 35.♔d2 g3—+]

30...♖xe2! Finishing the game in style!

31.♖xb7 [31.♙xe2 31...♙g1#]

31...♖e6 0-1

(2) Gelfand, Boris(2748)
- Vachier Lagrave, Maxime(2757)
[D83]

Tashkent FIDE GP 2014(6.1),
 2014.10.27

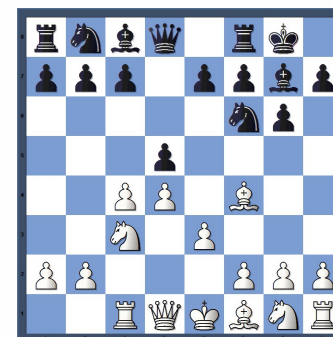


GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

A very exciting game, but not without mistakes.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 Vachier plays his favorite Gruenfeld defense and Gelfand chooses a slightly forgotten setup.

4.♗f4 ♗g7 5.e3 O-O 6.♖c1 White develops his queenside first and wants to get prepared for the standard c5 break.



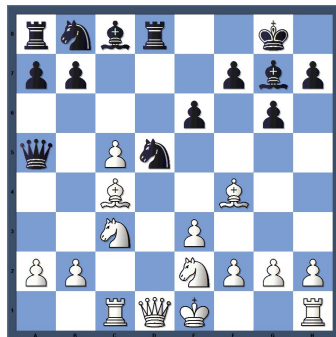
6...c5 Vachier follows the old main line and sacrifices a pawn for activity, in typical Gruenfeld style. [White's setup used to be popular some time ago, but it went out of fashion because of the reply 6...♗e6 7.♙b3 c5! 8.♙xb7 ♙b6! with some very sharp and long lines, which lead to a draw in the end. Perhaps Gelfand wanted to check his opponent's memory or he prepared some improvement at home...]

7.dxc5 ♖a5 This is the main move, when White plays 6.Nf3 instead of 6.Rc1. The difference is that White can simply capture one more pawn now, because he can safely defend his c3 knight against threats like Ne4. [7...♙e6 is more common and probably also better.]

8.cxd5 ♜d8 After sacrificing two pawns, Black must find the most active moves to generate some compensation against the undeveloped kingside. [8...♞e4 9.♞e2 is the key resource of playing 6.Rc1 instead of Nf3. White is considered to be fine here.]

9.♙c4 e6 This is the novelty. Hardly a prepared one, because Black does not equalize. [9...♜xc5 10.♙b3 is also better for White.]

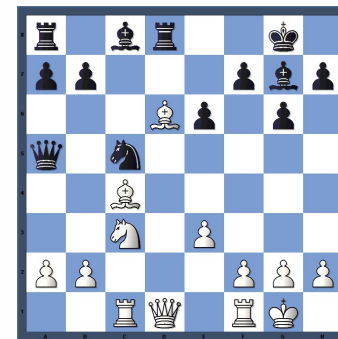
10.♞e2 ♞xd5 [Black could restore the material balance with 10...exd5 11.♙d3 ♜xc5 but he ends up with a positional disadvantage after 12.O-O ♞c6 13.♞b5 White has a very nice development of his pieces and an easy play against the isolated pawn on d5.]



11.♙d6! A very nice and unusual motif! White protects his extra c5 pawn and closes the d-file.

11...♞xc3 12.♞xc3 b5! Black may only try to compensate with such kind of active moves. Any Gruenfeld players must look for such opportunities. [12...b6 runs into the

unpleasant 13.♜f3!; A highly important point to confirm White's advantage is in the variation 12...♞a6 13.O-O ♞xc5



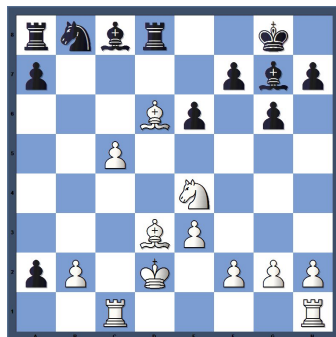
The pin on the d-file seems to be good for Black, but actually he is losing a piece after 14.b4!! ♜xb4 15.♙xc5+—]

13.♙d3! Unpinning the d-file again. [On 13.♜f3 Black has the strong reply 13...♙d7! 14.♜xa8 ♙c6 trapping the queen and the difference to the 12...b6 line is that after 15.♜xb8 ♜xb8 16.♙xb8 bxc4 the bishop was hanging and Black is fine.]

13...b4 14.♞e4 The human move. Gelfand strengthens his position by centralizing his knight. [The machine suggests 14.♞b5!? threatening to jump with both minor pieces to c7. It is not obvious what Vachier had in mind here.]

14...b3+! [14...♙xb2 turns out to be a bad alternative after White's great reply 15.O-O! Finally the king has found safety and White keeps a huge positional advantage. The fortress of the c5 pawn and d6 bishop completely paralyzes Black. 15...♙xc1 16.♜xc1 Black is going to end up in serious trouble on the dark squares. 16...♜xa2 is an attempt to prevent Qb2, but it fails to 17.c6!+— and c7 next wins the game.]

15.♜d2 ♜xd2+ 16.♞xd2 bxa2

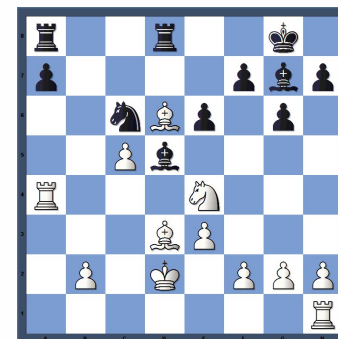


17.♖a1 After a couple of natural moves, Black still needs to solve some problems. His problem is the same as before, he could maintain the balance materially, but then he ends up in a positionally bad situation. Vachier rightly decides to keep the activity and tries to win back the material later at better circumstances.

17...♟b7 The idea is correct, but this is probably not the best execution. [17...♞c6 seems to be stronger. The idea is 18.♖xa2 f5 19.♞c3 ♞b4 20.♖a4 ♞xd3 21.♞xd3 ♟e5 winning back the material like this. Black is finally close to equality.; 17...♟xb2 18.♖xa2 ♟g7 leads to a too passive position after 19.♖b1 ♞c6 20.♟e2! is a strong prophylactic move to avoid any kind of danger on the d-file and Black faces serious difficulties in finishing the development. The bishop on d6 is just too strong. 20...♟d7 is strongly met by 21.♟a6!]

18.♖xa2 ♟d5 19.♖a4 ♞c6? This is the first clear mistake. It allows White to consolidate his position and create a very dangerous passed pawn with b4-b5. [19...♟xb2 leads to the usual problems with the passivity. 20.♖b1 ♟g7 21.f3 protecting the g2 pawn just in case and White is threatening Nc3. Black is in positional trouble. 21...♞c6 22.♞c3±; 19...a5! was the right move to prevent b4 and only next Nc6 and Nb4 if it is possible. Black has compensation, but it is unclear whether it is sufficient or not. However, this was definitely the

way to play. 20.f3 with the idea of Nc3, preventing Black from developing his knight to c6, but he could play 20...♞d7]



20.b4! This is the first moment when White could be sure that he had won the opening battle. Probably this led to Gelfand relaxing and he starts to make mistakes...

20...♞e5 Vachier still pins his compensation to active pieceplay.

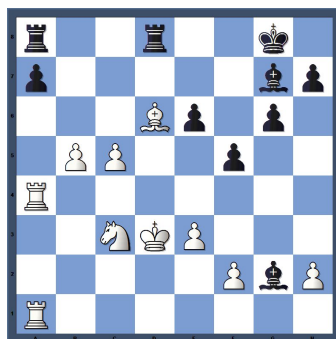
21.b5 The first inaccuracy. Gelfand wanted to improve his position by keeping all the advantages he had before, but this allows some counterplay... [White should have gotten rid of some active pieces with 21.♟xe5! Of course, it is a very difficult decision to give up that nice bishop on d6. 21...♟xe5 (21...♟xe4 is met by 22.♟d6 ♟xg2 23.♖g1 ♟b7 24.b5 with a positional win.) 22.♟e2 Leaving the d-file. White still keeps the extra pawn and the only way to win it back leads to a clearly worse position after 22...f5 23.♞g5! Keeping an eye on e6 and the knight is heading to f3. 23...♟xg2 24.♖c1 ♟d5 25.♟c4!± with serious problems.]

21...f5 22.♞c3 Another human move, sending away the strong bishop, but it is a mistake. [The machine shows that the only way to keep the advantage is 22.♞g5! 22...♟xg2 (22...h6 is met by 23.♟xe5 ♟xe5 24.♞f3 keeping the extra pawn.) 23.♖e1! Such moves are impossible to find for a

human. White seemingly just moves into Nf3, but the concrete lines still show a clear edge for him... 23...♙d5 (On 23...h6 24.♘xe6 ♘f3+ 25.♔e2 ♘xe1 26.♙c4!+- White first takes back one of the rooks and then the knight on e1.) 24.e4! This is the point of putting the rook to e4! 24...♘xd3 (24...fxe4 25.♙xe4±) 25.♔xd3 fxe4+ 26.♘xe4 The bishop on d6 controls the important f8 and b8 squares of the black rooks. The strong c5-b5 passers guarantee an edge.]

22...♙xg2 23.♖ha1 is the most natural move to attack the a7 weakness, but it is another mistake. Gelfand underestimates the pin on the long diagonal and Vachier makes use of it with some powerful moves. [23.♖d1 should have been played.]

23...♘xd3 24.♔xd3

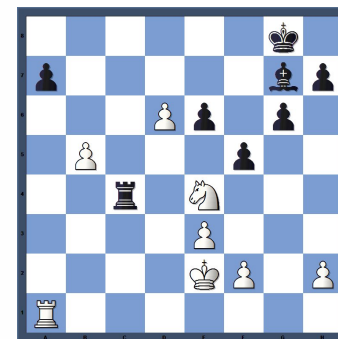


24...♖ac8! Suddenly things are becoming very unpleasant. Everything is hanging because of the pins. Rxc5 is a threat, Bxc3 Kxc3 Rxd6 is another one and the direct Rxd6 is also hanging in the air. What a turn of events! This could have led to a quick collapse, but Gelfand manages to stay cool and saves the game...

25.♖c4! The only move to cover as many things as possible.

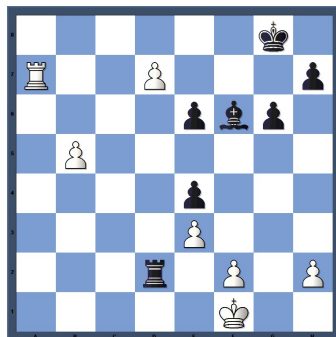
25...♙e4+! Vachier feels the moment, he must try to win material, otherwise the a1 rook leaves the pin.

26.♔e2 ♖xd6 27.cxd6 ♖xc4 28.♘xe4 [28.d7! was the accurate move order! Only after 28...♙f6 29.♘xe4! fxe4 30.♖xa7 transposes to the game.]



28...fxe4 [28...♖c2+!! would have given Black a big advantage. But of course, it is again a move which normally never comes to human mind... 29.♔f1 Black can choose between two very pleasant continuations here: (29.♔d1 is met by 29...♖c8! and Black wins the piece at much better circumstances than in the game.) 29...♖c8 (29...♙xa1 30.d7 ♖d2! 31.♘xd2 ♙f6 followed by winning the pawn with Kf7-e7. Black will end up with an extra pawn, but it is unclear whether a 4 against 3 on the kingside is sufficient for the win or not.) 30.♘c3!? A nice move, but it does not solve all the problems... (In the line 30.♖xa7 30...fxe4 Black has a better version compared to the game. Black manages to stop the passed pawns just in time. 31.b6 ♙e5! 32.b7 ♖b8 33.♖a8 (On 33.d7 33...♔f8 34.♖a8 ♔e7! Just in time!) 33...♙xd6+-) 30...♙xc3 31.♖c1 ♔f7 32.d7 ♖d8 33.♖xc3 ♖xd7 again with an extra pawn, but in rook endgames, the defensive side can always hope for survival. If White manages to trade the queenside pawns, the 4 against 3 should already be a draw.]

29.d7 ♙f6 30.♖xa7 ♖c2+ 31.♔f1 ♖d2 [31...♖b2 leads to a similar draw as in the game after 32.♖a8+ ♔g7 33.d8=♔ ♙xd8 34.♖xd8 ♖xb5 35.♖d4=]



32.b6 Black is forced to give up his bishop to stop the passed pawns and the arising rook endgame turns out to be a draw.

32...♔f8 33.♖a8+ ♔e7 34.b7 ♕e5 35.b8=♔ ♕xb8 36.♖xb8 ♖xd7 37.♖b4 ♔f6 A great fighting game! **1/2-1/2**

(3) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2764) - Karjakin, Sergey(2767) [E20]

Tashkent FIDE GP(8),
2014.10.29



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

A very interesting game with a lot of tactical ideas and interesting play from both sides is awaiting us. In the opening I guess it is easy to see that Black was very well prepared and equalized pretty quickly. Then instead of making a fast draw, Karjakin strangely played for a win in a position where he definitely couldn't be better, but luckily for him, the position was still about equal.

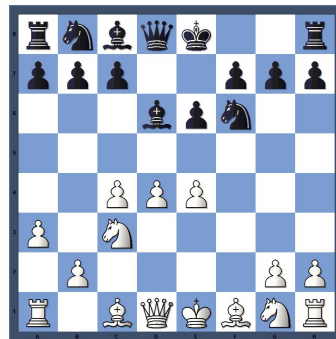
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♕b4 4.f3 Lately the Nimzo with 4.f3 is Mamedyarov's favourite. For a long time the 4.f3 move was very rarely played on the top level, but in the last 5 years it is getting more and more fashionable. Even in the WCC match Anand-Carlsen, White got very big advantage after the opening by playing 4. f3.

4...d5 Another popular move is 4...0-0 and White needs to play 5.a3 anyway, because in case of 5.e4 d5! Black seems to have good play, as in Mamedyarov-Aronian.

5.a3 ♕d6 is quite a rare move, but not a stupid one at all. Because of the f3 move, White's pawn structure is not that solid anymore and Black wants to launch quick play in the center. Of course Black's main reply is 5...Bxc3.

6.e4 Of course White tries to be fast in dominating the center.

6...dxe4 7.fxe4



7...e5! is of course a known move, but still a nice one to remember. Of course Black should stop White from playing e5 at any costs.

8.d5 O-O 9.♘f3 ♗g4 Actually this position looks quite strange to me. Black's play is clear, it is all about dominating the dark squares, but is it really an equal position? White's central pawns are so strong and Black sort of lost a tempo by playing Bb4-Bd6-e6 and then e5.

10.h3 ♗h5 Black giving up the bishop pair would be the same as to agree being worse.

11.♗d3 White is preparing to castle kingside.

11...♗c5! Another very important move. If White managed to castle kingside, then to play Be3 and maybe Ne2-Ng3 I can't imagine Black's position being OK. Karjakin loses another tempo just to stop White from castling kingside, but maybe now White can switch the plan to castling queenside?!

12.g4 It is time to get active!

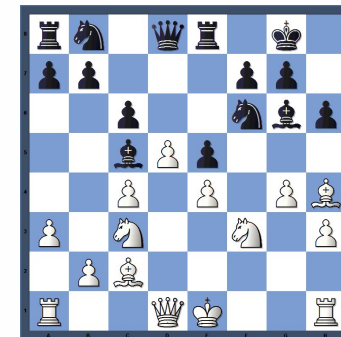
12...♗g6 13.♗c2 A strange looking move, but in fact a pretty logical one. White stops Black from playing Bd2 next and is preparing to play b4 next. [If White tried to castle queenside with 13.♔e2 13...♗d4 14.♗d2 ♘bd7 followed by Nc5 would

give Black excellent play.]

13...♔e8 Black is preparing to go for f8 in case of b4 and protecting the e5 pawn at the same time.

14.♗g5 h6 15.♗h4 So far the game was very logical and both players were playing quite quickly. We can see that the position is very complicated here and every move is very important.

15...c6 Black is starting his play against the white center, which is very typical.



16.b4 A very tempting move, but in hindsight we could say that it is maybe not the best try. [16.♔d2!? with the idea of castling queenside looks very interesting to me.]

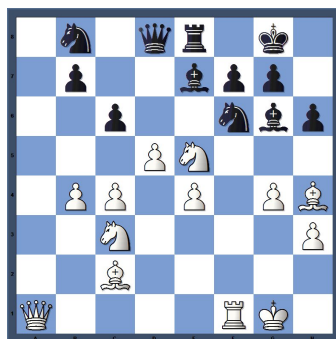
16...♗e7 A very strong move! The black bishop is taking a better place than on f8, because Black wants to keep the idea of playing Nxex4 and Nxd4 in mind. Otherwise it would of course be a hard move to make. The e5 pawn is hanging and now the answer to the question as to why Black played Re8 is that he just wanted to provoke the b4 move. All this is not very logical, but the computer is very happy with Black's play, so we can be quite sure that Karjakin was still in his preparation.

17.O-O [17.♘xe5? of course didn't work because of 17...♘xe4! and Black is doing very well.]

17...a5 Wow! Black doesn't care about the e5 pawn and tries to destroy White from all sides. After his first very unhuman move, we could now be sure that Karjakin is still in his preparation. Now White has a lot to calculate... [It would be a bad idea for Black to get greedy with 17...♖xd5? 18.exd5 ♗xc2 19.♔xc2 ♗xh4 20.♖ad1 and all white pieces are actively participating in the game, which gives White clearly more than just compensation for the lost pawn.]

18.♗xe5 is a very tempting move and probably also the best. [If White tried to play directly in the center with 18.♗xf6 18...♗xf6 19.c5 Black would get excellent play with 19...♗a6! and although position is very unclear, I think only White can be in danger here.]

18...axb4 19.♗xg6 Once again White probably didn't have anything better. [In case of 19.axb4 19...♖xa1 20.♔xa1 Black has



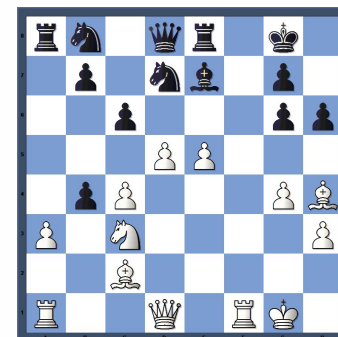
20...♗xd5! with a good position for him.]

19...fxg6 What a position! So many different moves are possible here!

20.e5 [Once again 20.axb4 doesn't bring White anything more than a more or less equal position. 20...♖xa1 21.♔xa1 ♗xd5 22.♗xe7 ♗xe7 and slowly Black will play Nd7 and get the knight to e5. White is maybe minimally better here, but the

game should most likely end in a draw.]

20...♗fd7 Black has to go back.



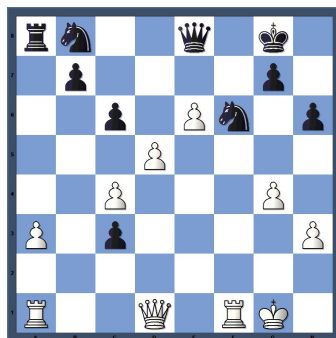
21.♗xe7 is clearly the most critical reply. At first sight White's position looks very promising, but in fact Black's play seems to be enough to hold the position on equal territory. [21.♗xg6? 21...♗xh4 22.♗xe8 ♔xe8 and Black is much better.; A nice position for practical chess could arise after 21.♗g3 21...bxc3 22.e6 White is a full piece down, but the very strong pawns and a possible future attack on the black king make things extremely complicated here. This is a nice position for deep analysis, which we are not going to enter. We are just going to judge this position as very unclear!]

21...♔xe7 22.♗xg6 White didn't have anything better as Black just wanted to play Qxe5.

22...bxc3?! A very strange move. Karjakin starts to play for a win in a position where it is very unlikely that he can be better. [22...♔xe5 would lead to an immediate draw after 23.♗xe8 ♔g3+ 24.♔h1 ♔xh3+ 25.♔g1 ♔g3+]

23.♗xe8 ♔xe8 White has a rook and a pawn against the black knights, which of course gives Black a slight material advantage, but the white central pawns remain very dangerous and I think only White can be better here.

24.e6 ♘f6



25. ♖d3! White is preparing to play Rae1 to support the central pawns in their movement. An easy move when we see it, but a hard move to play, as White also had a lot of other different ideas in the position.

25...cxd5 26.cxd5 ♘a6 Karjakin's idea is of course to bring the rook from a8 back into the game.

27. ♖ae1 ♘c7 Karjakin finds the only way! [27...♖d8 28.d6 and White would be winning on the spot.]

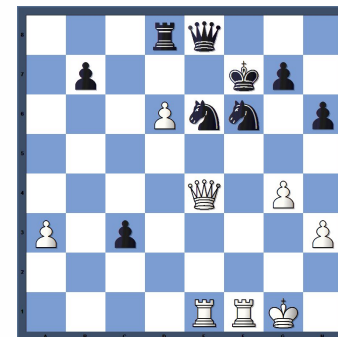
28.d6 White needs to give up one of the pawns, but puts Black in a dangerous pin.

28...♗xe6 29. ♖c4 is a good try. [Black is OK after 29. ♖xc3 29...♖d8]

29...♖f7 The only move to hold things together, but it is easy to see that Black's position is very dangerous.

30. ♖e4! An excellent move! White is attacking the b7 pawn and at the same time he wants to play Rxf6.

30...♖d8! Once again Karjakin plays the best move!



31. ♖xf6+ White didn't have anything better. [31. ♖xb7+ 31...♖d7 and the black pieces are joining the game.]

31...gxf6 32. ♖h7+ ♖f8 33. ♖h8+ ♖f7 34. ♖h7+ ♖f8 It seems like White doesn't have anything, but Mamedyarov finds another resource.

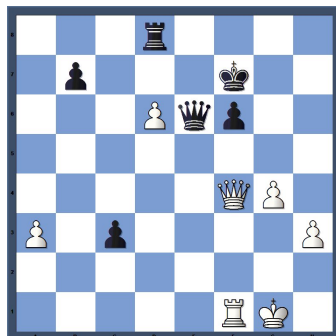
35. ♖f1!? This move leads to a draw anyway, but it puts Black in front of some more trouble first.

35...♗f4! is the only move that saves the game! There was no other defense to stop White from playing Rxf6.

36. ♖xh6+ ♖f7 The black king is better placed on f7 than on g8 because of the extra protection of the f6 pawn.

37. ♖h7+ ♖f8 38. ♖h6+ ♖f7 39. ♖xf4 White is a pawn up, but the strong c3 pawn and the open position of the white king gives Black enough play to keep the position equal.

39...♖e6 is the most logical move. Black wants to play Rxd6 next.



40. ♖f3 attacking c3 and b7.

40... ♕e5! is another very good move by Black. The queen always threatens to get to g3 from e5 and at the same time it protects the f6 and c3 pawns.

41. ♖xb7+ and in fact this position is a total draw. After 41.. . Kg6 White doesn't have anything better than to play 42.Qb1 Kg7 43.Qb7 with a draw. A very interesting and exciting game, but what is a bit strange is that the game was played perfectly by both players, with zero mistakes! What a high level game!
1/2-1/2

(4) Gelfand, Boris(2748) - Jobava, Baadur(2717) [A40]

Tashkent FIDE GP(8),
2014.10.29



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

When you play Jobava, you never know which opening will show up on the board and you must be ready for a hard fight. Of course Jobava is much more dangerous with White than with Black, but he can sacrifice something or start to play very aggressively in any position. Such an approach is very risky, but sometimes it brings great winning games and here we come to the current one. After the opening I think White's position should be clearly better, but Gelfand tries to destroy Black with 8.Qg4 and gets himself in big danger where Jobava finishes him off without any mercy.

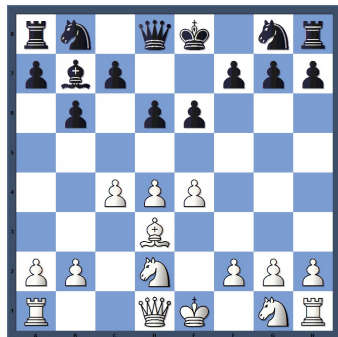
1.d4 e6 Sometimes Black starts with this move order against the 1.d4 players, knowing they are probably not going to enter the French defense after 2.e4.

2.c4 b6 Personally I could never understand this opening choice. White is immediately winning the control over the center and is just a bit better.

3.e4 ♘b7 4.♘d3 A very good move order for White, which shows again how well Gelfand is prepared in the opening phase of the game.

4... ♗b4+ Black needs to exchange the bishop to get a bit more space for the pieces.

5. ♖d2 ♗xd2+ 6. ♘xd2 d6 Black's idea is to play e5 or c5, but in both cases White will most probably react with d5, after which position of the black bishop on b7 will be very unlucky.



7. f4! looks like a very strong move to me! In chess space advantage is very important, so why not take it if you can!

7... ♗d7 Black continues preparing the c5 or e5 pushes, which needs to be done already during the next moves.

8. ♖g4? I can't explain this move of Gelfand. There was absolutely no need for White to enter very unclear complications. [White is just better after an easy move like 8. ♗gf3 8... ♗e7 9. O-O O-O and now White has a lot of different options, but maybe a solid move like 10. ♖c2 should clearly give White some advantage. Rael is coming next.]



8... ♗gf6! Of course! Black only had this move and you don't need to ask Jobava twice if he wants to enter complications...

9. ♖xg7 Maybe it was still better for White to just play 9. Qh3 but of course if you say A it is difficult to stop yourself from saying B...

9... ♖g8 10. ♖h6 ♖xg2 Now the position has changed a lot. White is still dominating in the center, but the disadvantage of the central pawns is that they could quickly start hanging when the black pieces are going to target them. The position is already very unclear now.

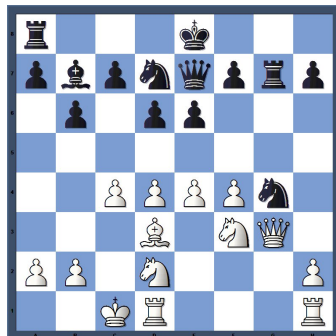
11. ♗gf3 ♖e7 Black is preparing to castle queenside and White also needs to pay attention to moves like d5 and e5, which could destroy the pawn center.

12. ♖h3 A good move. The rook has to be chased away from the 2nd rank.

12... ♖g7 is also very logical, leaving the g8 square for the a8 rook after O-O-O.

13. O-O-O ♗g4! A very strong move! [After 13... O-O-O 14. ♖hg1 ♖dg8 Black looks fine, but White has this fantastic move: 15. ♖g5! and the rook on g5 can never be taken because of fxg5, so White is better here.]

14. ♖g3?! Once again White chooses the wrong path... [A stronger reply was 14. ♖g2! 14... ♗df6 Black also had other options, but this seems to be the most logical one to me. 15. h3 White probably needs to enter this forced line, as in case Black was in time with Nh5, White's position could collapse. 15... ♗e5 16. ♖xg7 ♗xd3+ 17. ♖c2 ♗f2 Black is winning back the exchange and it is very hard to say who is better here.]



14...d6! 15.g5?! White doesn't choose the best option again. After this move Black is getting all he wished for. White had to take extreme measures already: [15.♖dg1! looks like the right practical choice to me. 15...h5 The f4 pawn is falling. 16.♔e1 ♟xf4 17.♕c2! with the idea of playing h3 next and trying to use the fact that Black still did not castle. I think White's chances of creating a huge mess are very good here.]

15...h6 sending the white knight to a terrible position on h3.

16.h3 O-O-O So Black got all he wanted: all pieces are in the game, Rdg8 is coming soon to gain control over the g-file, White's central pawns became targets for the black pieces and the knight on h3 is in a terrible position. Black is already much better here and what is even worse is that it is very hard for White to find any decent idea of what to do next.

17.♔de1 White is trying to hold things together in the center, but he lets Black improve his position even more. [17.♔f3 would have been a better choice in hindsight...]

17...h5! Black is playing a perfect game! Jobava brings his queen to a very unpleasant position on h4.

18.♔f3 ♔h4 Whites position is very close to collapsing and still it is very hard to say what can be his next move?!

Black wants to play f5, d5, or maybe just Rdg8. At some moment tactical ideas with Nxh2 could also be possible, or even e5.

19.♔e2 defending from the direct Nxh2 threat.



19...b8 A good prophylactical move. [But why not just play 19...f5! with the idea to play Nh6 next. I think Black is already much better.]

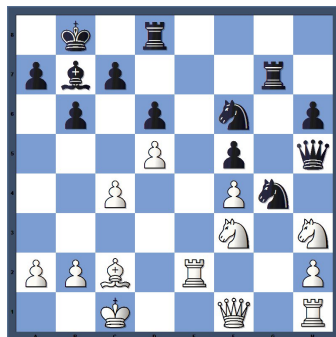
20.♕c2 This move is not really helping White, but it is very hard to give a better advice. Maybe a move like 20.Qf1 was already White's best option, but it is hard to play such moves during a game as they just look too ugly.

20...f5! 21.♔f1 freeing the f3 square for the knight.

21...hf6 and one more piece is attacking the e4 point.

22.h3 ♔h5 23.exf5 exf5 White's position is getting worse and worse. The strong white center is gone and all the minuses of his position are still there, especially the knight on h3 and the rook on h1, which are totally out of the game.

24.d5 at least closing the bishop on b7.



24...Re8! Another very strong positional move. All Black needs to do to win the game now is to win control over the e-file and Jobava is doing just that. [Black had another very unhuman way of going on with 24...a6 and the funny thing is that White can't do anything about Black's threat of playing Nxd5 next. 25.b3 exd5 26.d4 de3 27.c6+ Kc8 and Black is winning.]

25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 White can't stop Black from playing Re7 next.

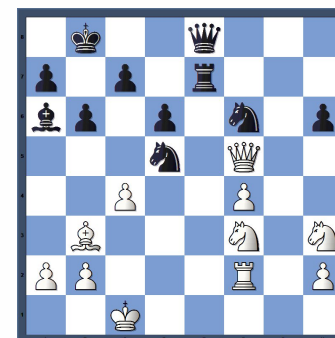
26.Kd3 Re7 27.Rf1 [After 27.Kxf5 27...Re2 Black has about 1000 different tactical threats and White's position is also just lost.]

27...e3 28.Rf2 [28.Re1 was also losing to 28...xc4! A nice tactical blow! 29.Rxe7 Kxe7 30.Kxc4 Ke3+ 31.d2 Kh3 leaving Black with a pawn up and an easily winning position.]

28...a6 The c4 and d5 pawns are now the targets.

29.b3 exd5 and Black is finally starting to take White's material...

30.Kxf5



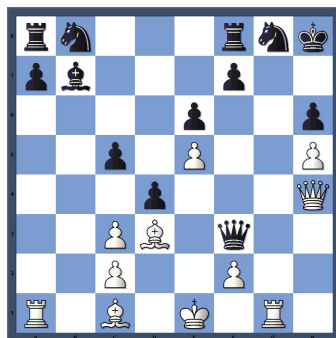
30...xc4 after 31.Bxc4 Re1 32.Nxe1 Qxe1 33.Kc2 Ne3 Black is winning the white queen. A really great game by Jobava, who combined tactical motives with very strong positional play against the white center and a great example on how dangerous it can be sometimes when pieces are playing against central pawns! **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Robson, R(2628)-Recuero Guerra, D(2424)

SPICE Cup Open, 2014.10.22

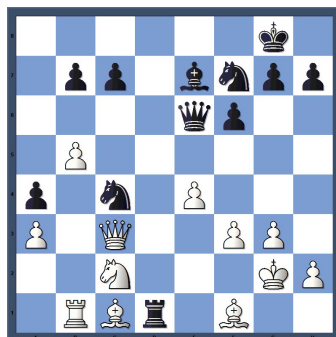
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(6) Le Quang Liem(2706)-Troff, K(2532)

SPICE Cup Open, 2014.10.24

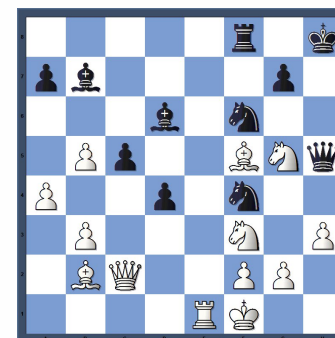
1... -+



(7) Vera, R(2449)-Leon Hoyos, M(2512)

SPICE Cup Open, 2014.10.25

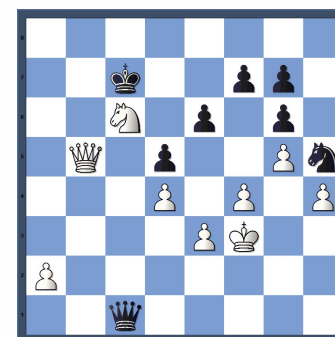
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(8) Matlakov, M(2692)-Iljiusheno, I(2433)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.21

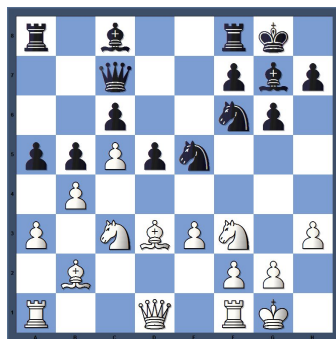
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(9) Rodshtein, M(2678)-Munguntuul, B(2433)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.21

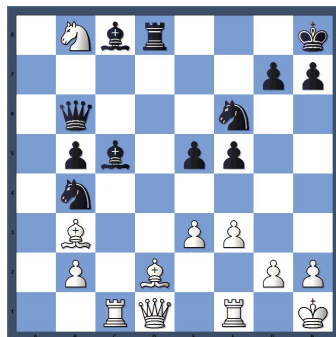
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(10) Ivanisevic, I(2623)-Prizant, J(2511)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.22

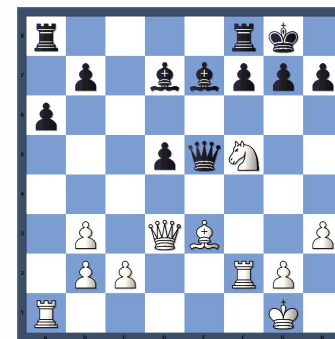
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(11) Timofeev, A(2598)-Bublei, P(2339)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.24

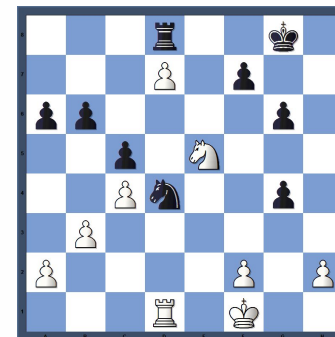
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(12) Shankland, S(2633)-Hernandez Guerrero, G(2531)

American Continental, 2014.10.24

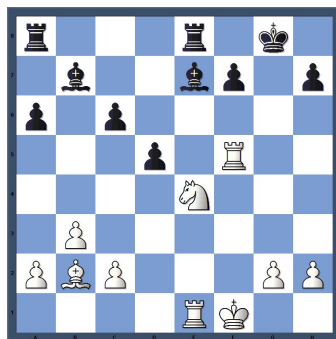
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(13) Hracek, Z(2646)-Antoniewski, R(2552)

Slovakian league, 2014.10.25

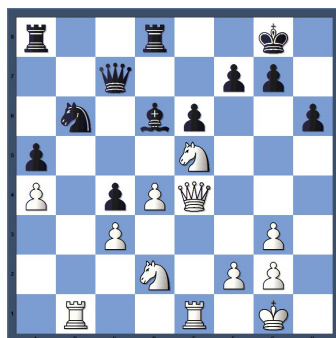
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(14) Kamsky, G(2706)-Bhat , V(2511)

US league, 2014.10.21

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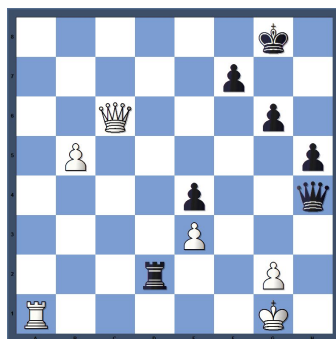
Endgame section

(15) Nakamura, Hikaru(2764)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2844)

Tashkent GP,
2014.10.27



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



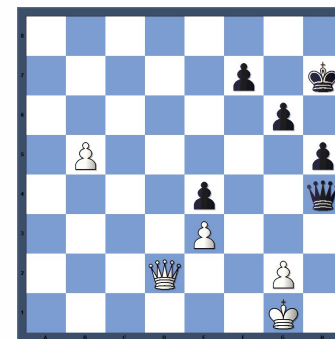
Black is a pawn up and he is threatening mate in two after Qf2, but Nakamura finds a very nice motif after which he turns to be the one who is playing for the win.

52. ♖a8+ [Actually, White could also play 52. ♖f1 covering the f2 square and threatening the f7 pawn with Qe8. Black has nothing better than forcing a draw by perpetual check: 52... ♖xg2+ 53. ♔xg2 ♕g4+ 54. ♔f2 ♕f3+ 55. ♔e1 ♕xe3+ 56. ♔d1 ♕d3+ and the king must protect the rook... 57. ♔e1 ♕e3+=]

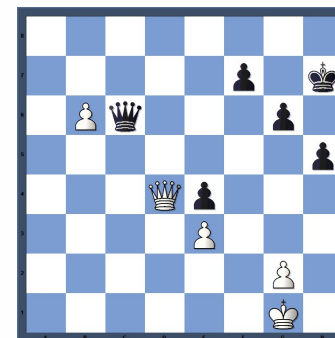
52... ♔h7 53. ♖h8+! This is the point! Nakamura simplifies to a queen endgame.

53... ♔xh8 54. ♕c3+ ♔h7 55. ♕xd2 In queen endgames, there is the general rule that the quality of the pawns is more important than the quantity! Black is a pawn up, but it costs a lot of time for him to create a passed pawn, while White

already has a very dangerous one on b5. Suddenly Caruana must be very careful to not lose the game...



55... ♕g5 56. b6 h4! Caruana finds a very clever idea. He wants to sacrifice his h-pawn in order to expose the white king. The g2 pawn gives a safe shelter against the checks, but after removing it, Black can always hope for a perpetual. [Some careless moves like 56... ♕c5 57. ♕d4 ♕c6 might lead to quick defeat after

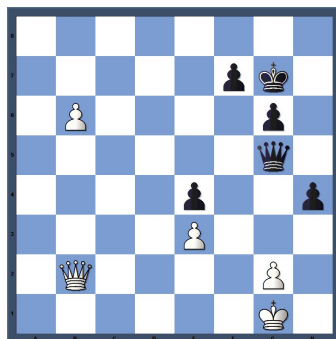


58. ♕b2! ♕b7 59. ♕b5! followed by Qc5-c7 and the b-pawn promotes.; 56... ♕b5 57. ♕d6 is also suspicious.]

57. ♕f2 The best try. White improves his queen by attacking the f7 pawn. [Black's point was that 57. b7? does not work immediately because of 57... ♕b5! and White cannot protect his main triumph.; 57. ♔h1 is met by 57... h3! 58. gxh3 ♕b5=

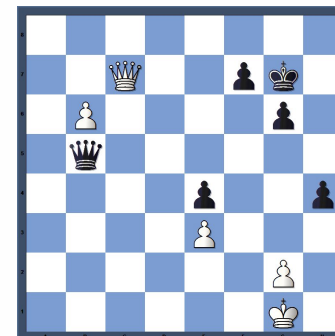
and White is forced to allow perpetual check on f1-f2 after protecting the b-pawn with either Qd6 or Qd4.]

57...♔g7 58.♚f4 [58.♚b2+ would have been a more tricky attempt.]



58...♔g8! It is quite difficult to find this move, since it is very illogical to move into the b8Q check. (The most natural 58...♔h7 is strongly met by 59.♚b3! protecting the e3 pawn and attacking f7 with check. This causes Black some real problems, because after Kg8 the b-pawn promotes with check, while Kg7 loses to b7 h2 and Qb2, protecting the g2 pawn with check and White queens next.) 59.b7 (Now on 59.♚b3 Black is in time to play 59...h3) 59...♚xe3+ and Black gives perpetual. 60.♔f1 If the king moves to the h-file, Black holds the draw with checks on g3 and e1. 60...♚d3+ 61.♔e1 ♚g3+ White cannot escape from the checks... 62.♔d1 ♚d3+ 63.♔c1 ♚f1+ 64.♔c2 ♚d3+=]

58...♚b5 59.♚c7 White is ready to advance his pawn. His queen safely covers the h2-b8 diagonal from the checks after the king moves to h2. But here comes the whole point of Caruana's defensive idea:



59...h3! 60.gxh3 [60.b7 also leads to a draw after 60...hxg2 Black is threatening with Qf1, therefore the next moves are forced: 61.♔xg2 ♚e2+ 62.♔g3 ♚f3+ with a draw.]

60...♚b1+ 61.♔g2 ♚b2+ 62.♔g3 ♚f6! Black cannot stop the b-pawn, but he can successfully play on perpetual check.

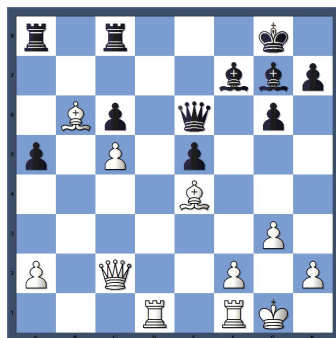
63.b7 ♚f3+ 64.♔h2 ♚f2+ 65.♔h1 An instructive endgame! **1/2-1/2**

(16) Jakovenko, Dmitry(2747)
- Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2764)

Tashkent FIDE GP(9),
2014.10.31



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



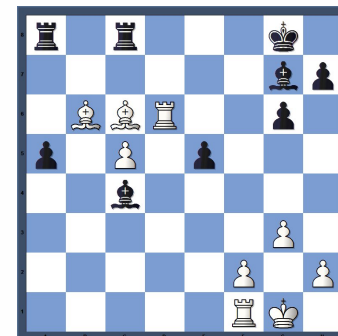
White had a huge opening advantage, but step by step Black recovered and with the last move 26.c5? White made a serious mistake, going for the upcoming endgame.

26...♔xa2! Of course Black needs to enter the endgame. White wanted to play Rd6 next.

27.♔xa2 ♕xa2 28.♖d6 White is trying to get the c6 pawn. How to judge such a position?! It is not that simple, because the position is pretty tactical, but from general point of view we can see a few things: Black's a-pawn is at least as strong as White's c-pawn. White's advantage is that the bishop on e4 is stopping the black bishop from g7 to get activated.

28...♕c4! A strong move. Black is attacking the f1 rook and at the same time he wants to protect the c6 pawn with Bb5.

29.♖b1?! After this logical move, White's position is already very dangerous, maybe almost lost! [29.♕xc6? was also a big mistake because of

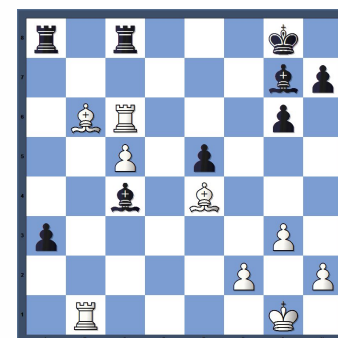


29...♖xc6! 30.♖xc6 ♕xf1 31.♔xf1 a4 and nothing can stop the a-pawn!; The following exchange sacrifice is also clearly bad for White: 29.♖xc6 29...♕xf1 30.♔xf1 a4 31.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 32.♕b7 This try to win the exchange back ends in nothing: 32...♖e8 33.c6 a3 34.c7 and now the important 34...♔h8! leaves Black with excellent winning chances.; I think White should have gone for 29.♖a1 29...♕b5 (29...a4 is not good because of 30.♖xc6) 30.♖xa5 ♖xa5 31.♕xa5 ♕f8 Black is winning the c5 pawn. 32.♖d7 ♕xc5 33.♕c3 and I think White's chances to make a draw are promising here.]

29...a4 How to stop Black's a-pawn now?!

30.♖xc6 [30.♕xc6? was immediately losing to 30...♖xc6! 31.♖xc6 a3]

30...a3



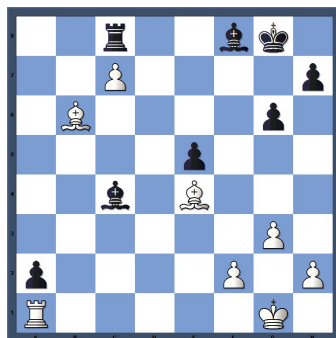
31.♖xc8+? This was clearly not the day of Jakovenko, who

is usually playing so solidly. White misses his only chance to continue the fight. [It was not very difficult for White to find that it was time for a passive defense: 31.♖d6 31...a2 32.♖a1 ♖a4 33.♖d2 and of course Black is better here, but White's chances to survive the game are not that bad.]

31...♖xc8 Black now wants to bring the bishop back into the game by playing Bd8 next. White's problem is that the bishop from e4 can't move because Black would immediately play e4 himself and the a-pawn would become a queen.

32.c6 a2 33.♖a1 ♖f8 The black bishop finally joins the game.

34.c7 Black wanted to play Bb4-Bc3.



34...♗d6! The last important move! The c7 pawn will be taken now, after which White can't do anything better than to give the rook for the a2 pawn, which would just leave Black with a clear piece up.

35.♗b7 ♗xc7 Mamedyarov is precise until the end.

36.♗xc8 ♗xb6 What a sad end for White, who was close to winning already after 20 moves of the game and then totally collapsed in the endgame. **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine, Alexander
- Saemisch, Fritz[A31]

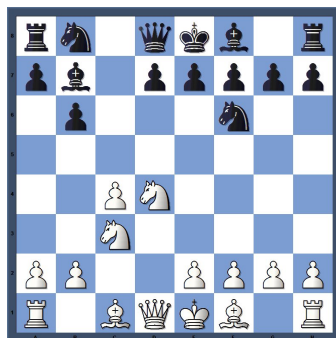
Baden-Baden(11),
1925.04.29



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 b6 A rare move. Black has a few other ways to play, for example: [4...♘c6 5.♘c3 e6 leads to the main position where White has a few plans.; 4...e5 5.♘b5 d5 6.cxd5 ♘c5 gives Black an interesting initiative for the pawn.; 4...g6 5.♘c3 ♘g7 6.e4 transposes to a position from the Maroczy System.]

5.♘c3 ♘b7

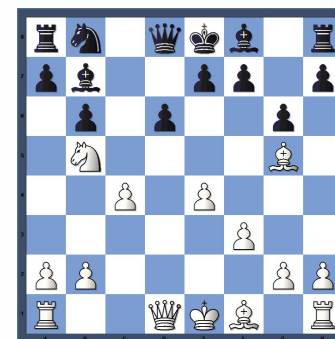


6.♙g5 The main move is [6.f3 White is preparing e4 to take the center and limit the black bishop on d7. 6...d6 7.e4 e6 The position transposed to a very complex hedgehog structure.

8.♙e2 ♙e7 9.♙e3 O-O 10.O-O a6 11.♖d2 ♘bd7 12.♗fd1 ♖c7 13.♗ac1 ♗ac8 14.♙f1 ♖b8 Both sides have some plans, White usually tries to prove his advantage after a4-b4-Nb3-a5 and Black should wait for the right moment to break in the center after d5 or play Bd8-Bc7 and Kh8-Rg8-g5 etc...]

6...♘e4 It looks logical for Black to exchange pieces.

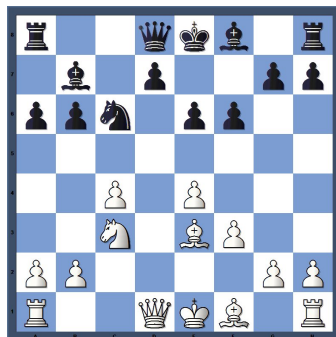
7.♘xe4 ♙xe4 8.f3 ♙b7 9.e4 f6 looks ugly, let's check more natural moves, for example: [9...g6 10.♘b5 threatening Nd6. 10...d6 (10...♖c8 11.♖d4 forcing f6 or Rg8.)



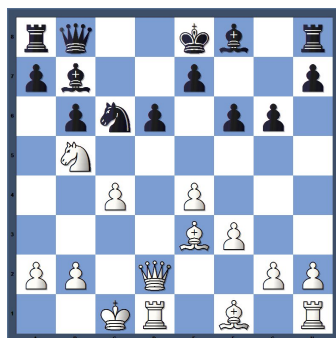
11.c5!! A fantastic break! Thanks to this sacrifice White will activate the next pieces and get a decisive initiative. 11...bxc5 (11...dxc5 12.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 13.♘d6!+-) 12.e5! dxe5 (12...♖a5+ 13.♙d2 ♖b6 14.exd6 exd6 15.♙c3 ♗g8 16.♖d2 with the threat Ba5 or simply 0-0-0.) 13.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 14.♙c4 f6 15.O-O-O ♘d7 16.♙e6! ♙c6 17.♗xd7+ ♙xd7 18.♗d1 fxg5 19.♗xd7+ ♖c8 20.♘c7 ♗b8 21.♘a6+-; 9...♘c6!?]

10.♙e3 ♘c6 [10...e5 with the idea to take control of the dark squares after the bishops exchange. 11.♘b5 ♘a6 (11...♙b4+ 12.♙f2 d6 is not on time because of 13.c5!) 12.♘d6+ ♙xd6 13.♖xd6 ♖e7 14.♖d2 ♘c5 15.♙e2 O-O 16.O-O+=]

11.♘b5 ♖b8 [11...a6 12.♘c3 e6

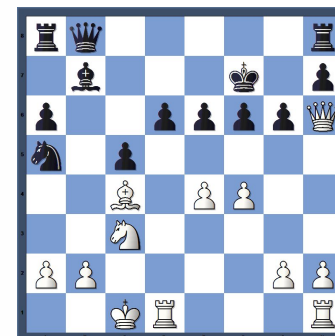


12. ♔d2 g6 13. 0-0-0 d6

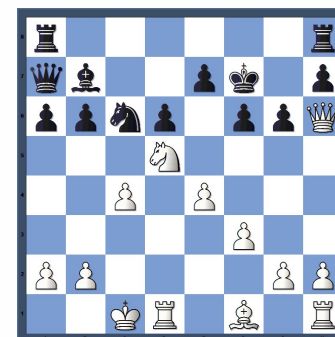


15. ♖c3 ♜xh6 **16.** ♔xh6 ♚a7 with the idea that after 17.Qg7 the king escapes thanks to 0-0-0! [16... ♖f7 with the idea Qf8, but White has the thematic 17.c5! We don't need to calculate this kind of sacrifice, it is just obligatory to keep the pressure and initiative! 17...bxc5 18. ♜c4+ e6 19.f4 with the idea f5.

19...♞a5

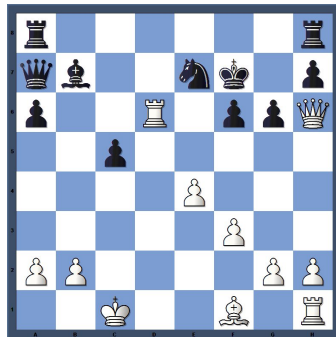


17. **d5** **f7** [17...0-0-0 18. e3+-]



19...♞xe7 [19...♔xe7 20.♚g7+ +-]

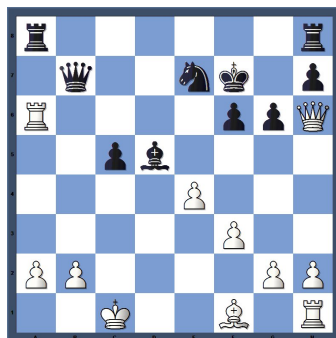
20. ♖xd6?! It is clear that Alekhine didn't see Black's next move. More accurate was [20. ♖c4+ 20... ♔e8 21. ♖xd6+-] 21. exd5 ♘f5 22. d6+ ♔e8 23. ♖f4+- with g4 or Re1 next and White's attack is too strong.]



20... ♖d5! An amazing defensive idea! Black prevents the check on c4 and the bishop is untouchable because of Nf5!

21. ♖xa6? It is typical that after a missed move the next reaction is not the correct one. White could still keep the initiative after [21. ♖xd5 21... ♘xd5 22. ♖c4 ♔e8 23. ♖xd5 ♖c8 24. ♖d1↑]

21... ♖b7!



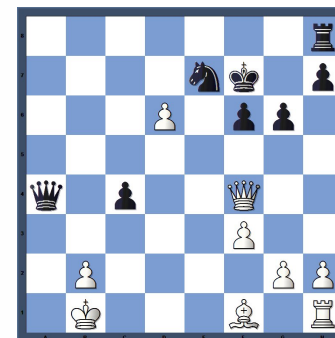
22. ♖xa8 ♖xa8? Black had a big chance to get final counterplay after [22... ♖xa8 Why not activate the next

pieces? After a few moves the white king will be very weak compared to the black one! 23. ♖xh7+ The pawn on h7 has no meaning. 23... ♔f8! 24. exd5 ♖xa2 25. ♖h6+ ♔g8 26. ♖d2 White managed to defend the b2 pawn but it is not enough. 26... ♖a1+ 27. ♔c2 ♔g7! An easy but nice move. Black prepares the knight activation after Nb4 and he is winning thanks to his strong attack.]

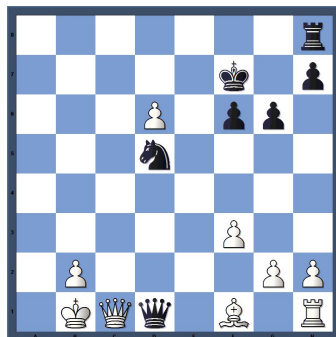
23. exd5 ♖xa2 24. ♖f4 White's idea is to consolidate the position, but more accurate was [24. ♖d3 just developing the pieces and keeping the possibility of playing Bb1 after the check on a1. 24... ♖b8 25. ♖xh7+ ♔f8 26. ♖h6+ ♔g8 27. ♖d2 ♘xd5↑XKb1]

24... c4!? Black could also try [24... ♖a1+ just pinning the white pieces on the first rank. 25. ♔c2 ♖d8↑26. d6 ♘d5 27. ♖c4 ♖xh1 28. ♖xd5+ ♔g7 29. ♖e3 ♖xg2+ 30. ♔c3 ♖b8+ and Black is on time.]

25. d6 ♖a1+ 26. ♔c2 ♖a4+ 27. ♔b1 [27. ♔c1 27... ♖a1+=]



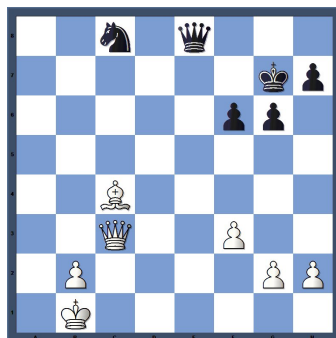
27... ♖d1+? A big mistake! Black could develop an initiative after [27... ♘d5!! 28. ♖xc4 (28. ♖xc4 28... ♔g7! with many ideas like Nc3, Nb4 or Ra8.) 28... ♖d1+ 29. ♖c1



29...♘c3+!! 30.bxc3 ♖b8+—+]

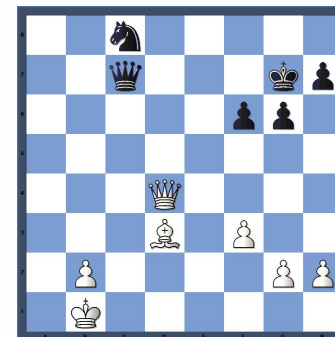
28. ♖c1 ♜xd6 29. ♙xc4+ ♔g7 30. ♖d1± Now White remains a pawn up and most important is the fact that the white pieces are consolidated.

30... ♜c6 31. ♖e1 ♘c8 32. ♜c3 ♖e8 33. ♖xe8 ♜xe8



34. ♜d4! An easy but technical move. On a central square the queen controls a lot of squares. This sounds easy, but this kind of move shows technical skills!

34... ♜e7 35. ♙d3 ♜c7



36.g4! Another strong move! Because the advantage of the b-pawn is not enough, White is going to create some weaknesses.

36... ♙f7 [36... ♜xh2? 37. ♜d7+—+]

37.h4 ♘b6 38.h5 gxh5 39.gxh5 ♜c6 40. ♙e4 ♜b5 41.h6 ♜b3 42. ♙c2 ♜b5 43. ♜d3! +— is the most practical move.

43... ♜xd3 44. ♙xd3 ♘c8 45. ♙xh7 ♘e7 46. ♙c1 [46. ♙d3 46...f5 47.b4 ♙g6 48.b5 ♙xh6 49.b6 ♙g5 50. ♙b5+—]

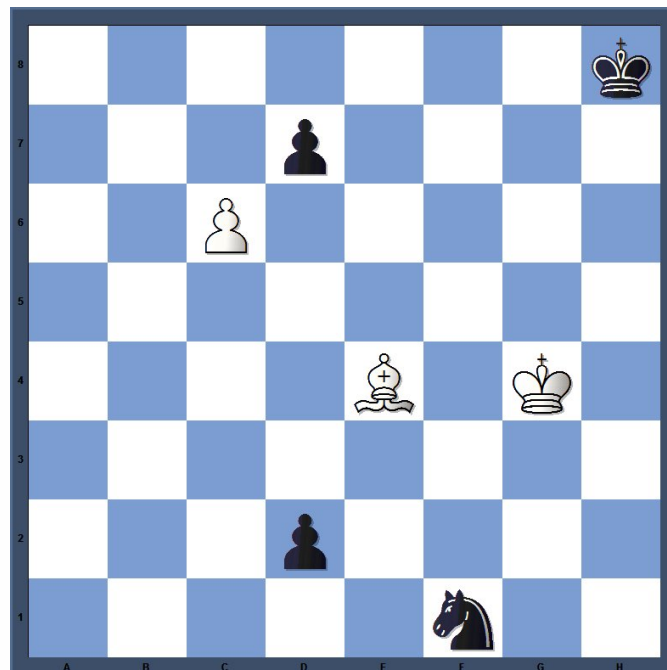
46...f5 47.b4 ♘d5 48.b5 [48. ♙xf5?! 48... ♘xb4 with some hope to sacrifice the knight for the f-pawn.]

48... ♙e6 49. ♙d1 ♙d6 50.f4 ♘xf4 51. ♙xf5 ♘d5 52. ♙e4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Selezhnev

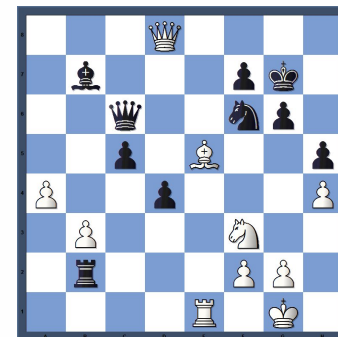
1. =



Solutions

(19) Bachmann, A(2645)-Parente, R(2071)

American Continental, 2014.10.18

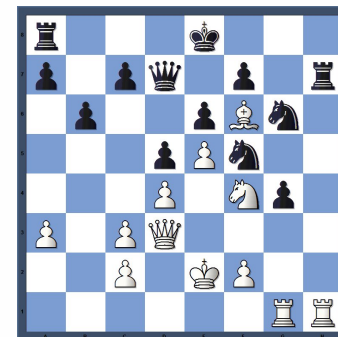


28. ♖e4! g5 [28... ♙xe4 29. ♗xf6+ ♔h7 30. ♙h8#]

29. hxg5+—

(20) Anand, V(2785)-Skomorokhin, R(2364)

Corsica, 2014.10.19



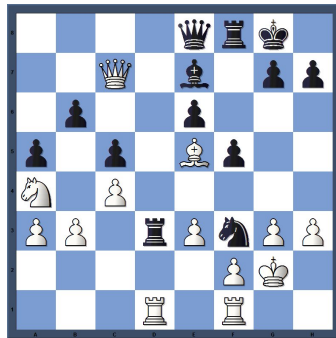
21. ♖xh7! [21. ♗xg6? 21... fxg6]

21... ♗xf4+ 22. ♔d1 ♙a4 [22... ♗xd3 23. ♖h8#]

23. ♙d2+—

(21) Dimitrov, R(2445)-Hou Yifan(2673)

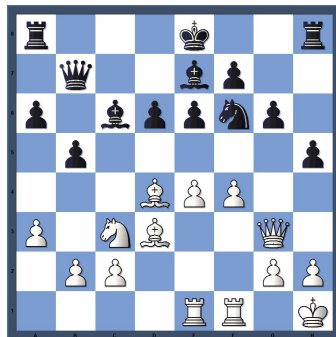
Corsica, 2014.10.19



25... ♖a8! 0-1 [25... ♖a8 26. ♖xd3 ♘h4+ 27. ♔g1 ♜g2#]

(22) Kravtsiv, M(2563)-Edouard, R(2659)

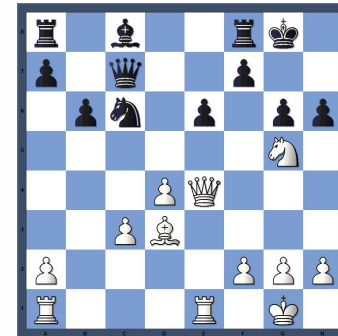
Corsica, 2014.10.19



17. ♘d5!! ♔h4 18. ♜h3 exd5 19. exd5 ♘xd5 [19... ♘xd5 20. ♘xf6+-; 19... ♘d7 20. f5! +- ♔d8 21. ♖xe7! ♔xe7 22. ♘xf6+ ♔xf6 23. fxg6+ ♔e7 24. ♖xf7+ ♔d8 25. ♘f5! ♘xf5 26. ♜xf5+-] **20. ♘xh8+-**

(23) Hou Yifan(2673)-Dimitrov, R(2445)

Corsica, 2014.10.19



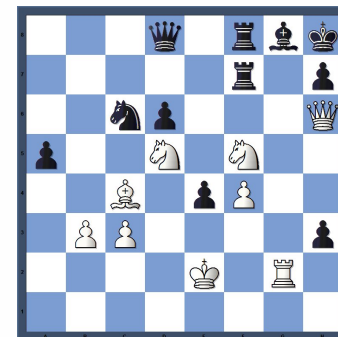
17. ♘xf7! ♜xf7 [17... ♖xf7 18. ♜xg6+ ♔f8 (18... ♖g7 19. ♜e8#) 19. ♜xh6+ ♔e7 20. d5+-; 17... ♔xf7 18. ♜xg6+ ♔e7 19. d5+-]

18. ♜xc6 ♘d7 [18... ♘b7 19. ♜xe6+-]

19. ♜e4 [19. ♜b7 19... ♜xf2+ 20. ♔h1 ♜f7 21. ♖f1 ♜g7 22. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 23. ♜xa7+-] **19... ♜xf2+ 20. ♔h1±**

(24) Giri, A(2768)-Shirov, A(2691)

Unive match, 2014.10.18

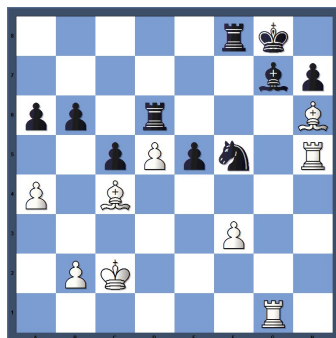


31. ♘h4!! ♜xh4 [31... hxg2 32. ♘g6#]

32. ♖xg8+! ♖xg8 33. ♜xh4+-

(25) Dubov, D(2627)-Szlag, M(2456)

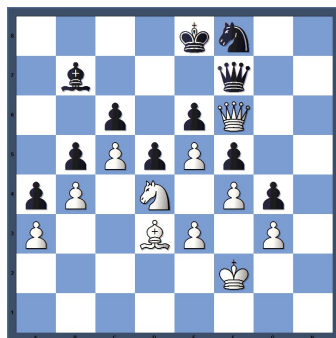
German league, 2014.10.18



33. ♖xf5! ♜xf5 34. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 35. ♖g5! ♜f7 36. ♖h5!+—

(26) Baramidze, D(2605)-Korpa, B(2426)

German league, 2014.10.18

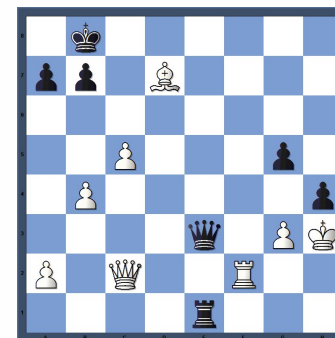


39. ♘xb5 ♜xf6 [39...cxb5 40. ♙xb5+ ♘d7 41. ♜xf7+ ♔xf7 42. ♙xd7+—]

40. ♘d6+ ♔d7 41. exf6+—

(27) Schenk, A(2491)-Motylev, A(2682)

German league, 2014.10.19

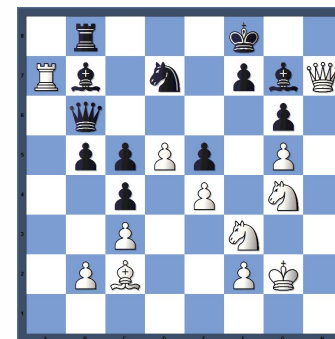


36. ♔g4? [36. ♜b3!! 36... ♜xf2 37. ♜g8+ ♔c7 38. ♜c8#]

36... ♜d4+ 37. ♔xg5

(28) Firman, N(2458)-Baramidze, D(2605)

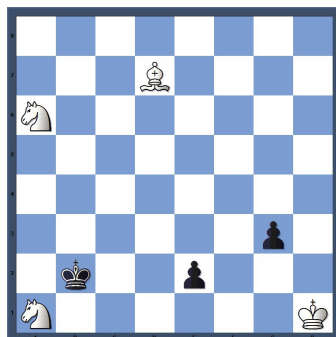
German league, 2014.10.18



35. ♘h6!! ♙xh6 [35... ♜xa7 36. d6! ♔e8 37. ♜xg7+—]

36. ♘xe5!! 1-0 [36. ♘xe5 36... ♘xe5 37. ♜h8+ ♔e7 38. ♜xe5+ ♔d7 39. ♜xb8+—]

(29) Gorgiev



1. Nc2! 2. Nxb4+ 3. Nd3! 4. Bb5+ 5. Bxe2 6. Bf1!