

# KHANTY-MANSIYSK 2014

## *THE TOURNAMENT BOOK*



Compiled By Scorpionchess





## PLAYERS

The winner of the Candidates Tournament will challenge Magnus Carlsen for the world championship title in the last quarter of 2014.



[Viswanathan Anand](#)  
IND, former world champion



[Vladimir Kramnik](#)  
RUS, world cup 2013 winner



[Dmitry Andreikin](#)  
RUS, world cup 2013 finalist



[Veselin Topalov](#)  
BUL, grand-prix 2012-13 winner



[Shakhriyar Mamedyarov](#)  
AZE, grand-prix 2012-13 runner-up



[Levon Aronian](#)  
ARM, rating list 2012-13



[Sergey Karjakin](#)  
RUS, rating list 2012-13



[Peter Svidler](#)  
RUS, host nominee

# Standings

Rank	SNo.		Name	Rtg	FED	Pts	Res.	vict	SB
1	6	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2770	IND	8½	0	3	57,25
2	2	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2766	RUS	7½	0	3	51,75
3	4	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	2787	RUS	7	2½	3	49,25
4	5	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	2757	AZE	7	2	3	48,00
5	1	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	2709	RUS	7	1½	2	48,50
6	7	GM	Aronian Levon	2830	ARM	6½	1½	3	45,00
7	3	GM	Svidler Peter	2758	RUS	6½	½	3	46,00
8	8	GM	Topalov Veselin	2785	BUL	6	0	2	42,25

## Round 1

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
1	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	½ - ½	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	4
2	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	½ - ½	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	3
5	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	½ - ½	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	8
6	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	1 - 0	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	7

## FIDE World Candidates Tournament 2014 – Round 1 Report

The FIDE World Candidates Tournament 2014 started Thursday at the beautiful playing venue in Ugra Chess Academy in Khanty-Mansiysk.

In the short ceremony Chief Arbiter Takis Nikolopoulos and President of Ugra Chess Federation Vassily Filipenko greeted the players and wished them luck. Filipenko made the honorary move in the game Anand-Aronian.

**Dmitry Andreikin** and **Vladimir Kramnik**, the World Cup 2013 finalists, were paired one against another in the first round of the Candidates Tournament.

They moved quickly through the opening, in the line of Nimzo-Indian defence which Kramnik used before with great success.



The position quickly simplified into an equal rook endgame and the competitors signed a draw on move 32.

Kramnik commented that as he played the first game with black pieces, he just wanted to avoid a defeat and get warmed up for the tournament. He didn't want to reveal how deep his preparation was, but he noted that he already had the position after 21...Qe4 in the game against fellow Candidate Shakhriyar Mamedyarov. On that occasion Mamedyarov took a draw with perpetual check.

Andreikin decided to play on because he thought that after 24.b6 maybe there are small problems for black. He showed some lines in which white could have obtained advantage, but Kramnik was up to the task and comfortably held the position.



In the other Russian derby, **Sergey Karjakin** and **Peter Svidler** fought in the Taimanov Sicilian. White quickly expanded in the center, while black looked for his chances on the queenside.

The black knight remained strained on the edge of the board, but it still performed an important function of defending the f5-square.

Apparently neither of the players saw a possibility to create winning chances and the game ended with moves repetition.

The pairings were known well in advance and all participants had more than enough time to prepare for specific opponents. Svidler said that he checked many lines and he thought there was a big probability that this setup will occur. This morning he spent three hours repeating all the variations, but somehow he forgot to look at 8.f4.



Karjakin said that he also expected this line but he forgot the preparation.

Svidler was pleased that he survived the initial assault but he just couldn't see how to develop the play. He felt stuck. There was an option to open the game with 23...fxe4 24.bxc4 bxc4 25.Ka1 where black would get some counterplay on the queenside, but his knight would still remain out of play. Karjakin suggested 24...Rxc4 as possible improvement and Svidler admitted that he didn't really look at this as "opening the b-file felt natural".



**Veselin Topalov** defended with Slav against **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** who already on the 4th move employed the rare 4.Nbd2.

Topalov proceeded to develop in Gruenfeld-like fashion and quickly struck in the center with c6-c5. The queens went off as early as on move 9, but the game nevertheless remained very interesting.

Black established the knight on a strong outpost on e4 and opened the a-file for the rooks. At the same time white was looking for a chance to invade the 7th rank and attack the opponent's exposed king.

Mamedyarov admitted that he didn't get anything from the opening, but after maneuvering the knight to d3 he thought he got some chances. Near the end of the game he thought that he was on the brink of winning, but he just couldn't finish black off, as there always was some only move that saves the day for Topalov.

In the end the Azeri was forced to drop the ambition and take a draw with perpetual check.



Before the tournament the experts were stating that former World Champion **Viswanathan Anand** got the most difficult pairing at the start – against the bookmakers’ favourite **Levon Aronian**.

Anand confidently opened with 1.e4 and soon an Anti-Marshall appeared on the board. After the short delay to insert preparatory moves, Anand snatched the e5-pawn.

Aronian treated the position as “very simple”, as he admitted afterwards, and underestimated the dangers within. After the very strong 19.Ne5 white returned the extra pawn but he kept the bishops’ pair and some positional pressure. At this point Aronian became worried.

Anand believed that he had a small pull thanks to the pair of bishops, but soon he realized that his advantage was much greater. He blasted black’s queenside and relentlessly pursued the black knight until finally closing the net on move 47.

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 1st round**

Dmitry Andreikin mentioned at the press-conference: “It is not easy to prepare for Kramnik”. Illustrating his point, one cannot help noticing that all reference games in this variation (and our game was essentially decided in the opening) are co-authored by Vladimir Borisovich.

**Dmitry Andreikin – Vladimir Kramnik**  
**Nimzo-Indian Defense E32**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0–0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 d5.** Statistically the official reaction to the Alekhine Variation (4.Qc2) – almost all recent games between 2750+ players

reach this position. Black intends to equalize with comfort and reserves the right to seize the initiative, if White gets carried away.

**7.Nf3.** This move is the main line right now, but it allows certain simplifications, as we'll see further. A totally different and very complicated game arises after 7.cxd5 Ne4 8.Qc2 exd5.



This kind of Carlsbad structure differs slightly from its QGD relative: Black has an excellent knight on e4 and develops with comfort, while White has two potentially powerful bishops, but faces temporary problems due to underdeveloped pieces. After 9.Bf4 (as White Kramnik played 9.e3 Bf5 10.Bd3 c5 11.dxc5 Nd7 12.Ne2 Ndx5 13.Bxe4 Nxe4 14.Nd4 Bg6 15.Qd1, and a draw was agreed in Kramnik-Anand, Nice 2009. Despite an isolated pawn, the final position is quite promising for Black, as White has problems with his c1-bishop) 9...Nc6 10.e3 Re8 (the immediate 10...g5 11.Bg3 f5 with serious initiative for Black might be even stronger) 11.Nf3 g5 12.Bg3 g4 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 c5 15.Bd3 Bf5 16.Qe2 f6 17.Bxe4 Bxe4 18.Bg3 Qa5+ Black solved all his opening problems and could even keep an extra pawn after 19.Qd2 Qxd2+ 20.Kxd2 cxd4!?, but it shouldn't be sufficient for a win after 21.exd4 Bxg2 22.Rhe1. Carlsen-Kramnik, Moscow 2009 continued 20...c4 21.f3 gxf3 22.gxf3 Bg6, and the game eventually ended in a draw.

7.Bg5!? may look subtler than the text, as after 7...dxc4 8.Qxc4 b6 White has an extra option 9.Rd1 (9.Nf3 transposes to the game). However, Black seems to do okay here as well: 9...Ba6 10.Qc2 h6 11.Bh4 Nbd7 12.e4 Bxf1 13.Kxf1 Qc8 14.Ne2 Qb7 (14...c5!?) 15.f3 c5 16.Kf2 Rac8 17.Qd2 cxd4 18.Nxd4 Nxe4+ 19.fxe4 Nc5 20.Qe3 Nxe4+ 21.Kg1 Qd5 22.h3 g5 23.Be1 f5 24.h4 g4 25.Qxh6 Rf6 26.Qe3 Rd8 27.Kh2 f4 28.Qe2 g3+ 29.Kg1 e5 30.Qg4+ Kf7 31.Qh5+ Kg8 32.Qg4+ Kf7 33.Qh5+ Kg8 34.Qg4+, draw, Ivanchuk-Kramnik, Monte Carlo 2011.

**7...dxc4 8.Qxc4 b6 9.Bg5 Ba6.**



**10.Qa4.** Clearly Kramnik was prepared for 10.Qc3, and I suspect Black would immediately deviate from Nakamura-Kramnik by 10...Nbd7!? In Antalya 2013 Vladimir proceeded by 10...h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.g3 Bb7 13.Bg2 Na6 14.0-0 c5 15.Rac1 Rac8 16.Ne5, and White maintained a slight edge.

**10...Qd7.** The most principled reply. Last year in June Kramnik defended this move twice against Mamedyarov and drew both games. More popular is 10...c5. A curious point: both players already participated in a theoretical dispute on the subject: 11.dxc5 bxc5 12.Rd1 Qb6 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Rd2 Nc6 15.Qg4+ Kh8 16.Qh4 Kg7 17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Qh4 Kg7 19.Qg4+ with a draw by repetition occurred in both Carlsen-Kramnik 2009 and Andreikin-Khairullin 2010.

**11.Qc2 c5 12.dxc5 Rc8 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Qe4 Qb5 15.b4 bxc5 16.e3 Qb7 17.Qg4+ Kf8 18.b5 Bxb5 19.Rb1 a6 20.a4 f5 21.Qf4.** Technically this is a new move. Mamedyarov-Kramnik, Moscow 2013 was drawn after 21.Qh4 Qe4 22.Qh6+ Ke7 23.Qg5+ Kf8 24.Qh6+ Ke7 25.Qg5+ Kf8 26.Qh6+ Ke7.

**21...Qe4.**





**22.Qxe4.** This is a real novelty, which is, however, an unrivaled first line of most chess engines and therefore cannot have any surprise value. 22.Qh6+ transposed to Mamedyarov-Kramnik.

**22...fxe4 23.axb5 exf3 24.b6 Rd8 25.gxf3.** Black made a sequence of forced moves and must concentrate now on destroying the b6-pawn.

**25...Nc6 26.f4 Nb4 27.Bg2 Rab8 28.b7 Nd5 29.0-0 Rd7 30.Rfc1 Rdx b7 31.Rxb7 Rxb7 32.Bxd5 exd5,** and a draw was agreed. After 33.Rxc5 the most human way to proceed is 33...d4 34.e4 (34.Ra5 dxe3 35.fxe3 Rb2 36.Rxa6 Re2=) 34...Rb5! 35.Rc4 a5 36.Rxd4 Rb4! 37.Rd8+ Ke7 with complete equality.

### **Sergey Karjakin – Peter Svidler Sicilian Defense B48**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.f4.** This weapon against the Paulsen (or Taimanov, whichever you prefer) Sicilian recently got into fashion thanks to Emil Sutovsky, Lenier Dominguez, and Ivan Popov. Now 8.f4 makes it to the super heavyweight.



**8...b5.** 8...Bb4 9.Bd3 Ne7!? seems like a good idea (White's point is revealed after 9...Na5 10.a3 Bxc3 11.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 12.bxc3 d5 13.e5 Ne4 14.Nb3 Nc4 15.Bxc4 dxc4 16.Na5 with an unpleasant endgame pressure, I.Popov-Oral, Yerevan 2014) 10.a3 (10.Nde2!? d6) 10...Bxc3 11.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 12.bxc3 d5 13.e5 (13.exd5 Nfxd5 14.Bd2 Nf5) 13...Ne4 with a slightly improved version compared to 9...Na5, yet White maintains certain initiative.

**9.e5 Ng4.** As Peter Svidler mentioned with his usual sarcasm: "I did remember this was my main line, but not much else". I can say the position after 8.f4 is extremely complicated and original, and during the express-analysis one cannot even hope to discover the truth about it.

**10.Bg1.** An attempt to utilize White's lead in development shouldn't trouble Black: 10.Nxc6 Nxe3 11.Qxe3 Qxc6 12.Be2 Qc7 13.Bf3 Rb8!? (after 13...Bb7 14.Bxb7 Qxb7 15.0-0-0 Black can face difficulties on the d-file). Now after 14.0-0-0 (14.Ne4) 14...d5 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Nd5 Qc5 Black is totally safe without queens, and if White avoids this trade, he takes certain risks upon himself: 17.Rhe1 Qxe3+ 18.Rxe3 Bb7 19.g3 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Kd7!, and Black should equalize gradually.

**10...Bb7 11.0-0-0 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Be7 13.Bd3.** Both players agreed at the press-conference that 13.h3 was a viable alternative, but after 13...Nh6 14.Bd3 Nf5 15.Bf2 Bb4 Black's knight is really comfortable on f5, while after 16.Bxf5 Bxc3 (also possible is 16...exf5 17.Bd4 0-0, and Black's light-squared bishop is very strong) 17.bxc3 exf5 18.Bc5!? Rc8 19.Bb4 a5! 20.Bxa5 Qxa5 21.Qxd7+ Kf8 22.Qxb7 Qxc3 Black is clearly not worse.



**13...f5?!** A typical idea – Black gains control over the e4-square and locks the d3-bishop. Yet he permanently cuts off his knight, which in my opinion outweighs any advantages of this move and shifts the assessment in White's favor. The cool-blooded computer sees nothing wrong about the provocative 13...0–0, however, after 14.Kb1 Black will have to move the f-pawn anyway. Another option is 13...d6 14.h3 (Black is in order after 14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Qe2 Bxf4+ 16.Kb1 Nf6 – having snatched a central pawn, he may even consider casting long; 14.Qe2!? deserves serious attention) 14...dxe5 15.fxe5 Nh6 (15...Nxe5 is also possible, as White fails to prove his advantage in 16.Bxb5+ axb5 17.Bxe5 Qxe5 18.Qd7+ Kf8 19.Qxb7 Rb8) 16.Rhf1! Nf5! (after 16...0–0? 17.g4 the offside knight is a key positional factor – White has a clear advantage) 17.Bxf5 exf5 18.Rxf5 b4 with a very sharp game, and perhaps in Black's favor.

**14.h3 Nh6 15.Rhg1 0–0 16.Qe3.** In this position Black has no promising plans – he has to defend stoically on the kingside by g6, and hardly has any real chances of creating his own play on the queenside. Any queenside offense, if it fails, leaves Black with a ton of weaknesses and a hopeless knight on h6.

**16...Rac8 17.Kb1 Bc6.**



**18.Ne2?!** An inaccuracy that allows Black to rearrange his pieces and create counterchances. Apparently, the straightforward 18.g4! is much stronger, intending to meet 18...g6 with 19.Rd2!, vacating the d1-square for the e3-knight. Svidler mentioned a similar idea at the press-conference, suggesting 19.Rdf1!? In this case after 19...b4 20.Nd1 Bb5 the knight goes to another central square – 21.Nf2 Bxd3 22.Nxd3 followed by b3 and Nb2-c4. It is hard for Black to match the opponent in the center and on the queenside due to his cut off knight.

**18...Bd5!** Peter Svidler: “Playing Black is certainly easier as he has very few reasonable moves”.

**19.g4 g6.** The computer is more happy about the insertion of 19...Qa5 20.Nc1 g6, but here White plays 21.c3, preventing 21...b4? in view of 22.Bb6 Qa4 23.c4!, and maintains his advantage.

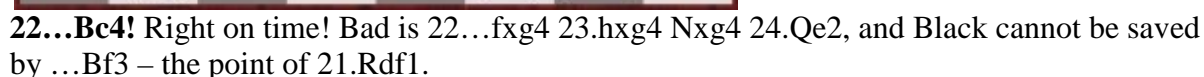
**20.b3.** Planning to take control over the c4-square. A direct attack by 20.Ng3? fxg4 21.f5 is overly optimistic – after 21...Nxf5 22.Nxf5 exf5 23.hxg4 f4 White is crushed.

**20...Qb7.** Renewing a positional threat of trading the light-squared bishops by Bc4.

**21.Rdf1.** White continues to prepare Ng3. There was an interesting idea of breaking Black’s defense on the h-file: 21.g5!? Nf7 22.h4. The computer suggests 22...d6 23.exd6 Bxd6 24.h5, which clearly fails to impress – Black is in real trouble.

**21...a5 22.Ng3.**





**23.Be4!?** After 23.gxf5 Bxd3 24.Qxd3 Nxf5 25.Nxf5 Rxf5 the worst is over for Black.

**24.Bd3.** Black is out of danger after 24.Bxd5 Qxd5, as he easily holds on f5 and in future can create some counterplay on the a-file.

## Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Veselin Topalov Gruenfeld Defense D70

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nbd2 g6 5.e3 Bg7 6.Bd3.** If I understood Shakh correctly at the press-conference, this move is lapsus manus. Shakhriyar employed this variation in three “live” blitz games in 2013 (and probably in hundreds games online), so Veselin could definitely anticipate it. However, today Mamedyarov planned to go for 6.b4, but mixed up the move order.

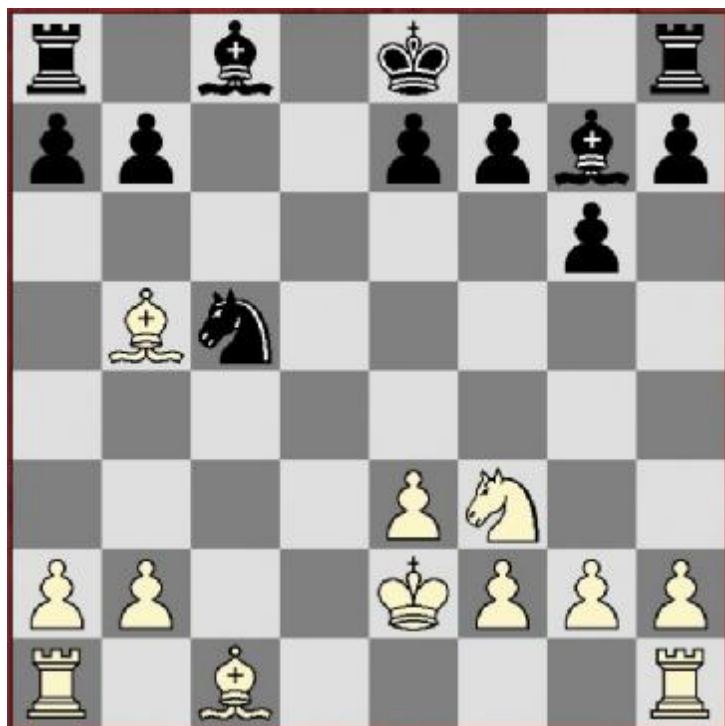


**6...c5!** The most concrete reaction that offers immediate equality. Surprisingly, this typical move appears to be a novelty – at least I failed to find it in a human database.

In one of the aforementioned blitz games Black continued 6...0–0 7.0–0 b6 8.b4 a5, and after 9.b5 cxb5 10.cxb5 Bb7 11.Ba3 White developed unpleasant pressure. It went on 11...Nbd7 12.Rc1 Re8 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Nd7 15.f4 e6 16.Nb3 Bf8 17.Bxf8 Rxf8 18.Nd4 Nc5 19.Bb1 Qe7 20.Qg4 Kh8 21.Rf3 f5 22.exf6 Rxf6 23.Rh3 Rg8 24.Qg5 Rf7 25.Qe5+ Qf6 26.Qd6 e5 27.Qxf6+ Rxf6 28.fxe5 Rf7 29.Rf3 Kg7 30.Rcf1 Re7 31.e6 Rge8 32.Rf7+ Kg8 33.R1f6 Bc8 34.Bxg6 hxg6 35.Rxg6+ Kh8 36.Rh6+ Kg8 37.Rhh7 Rxe6 38.Rfg7+ Kf8 39.Nf5 1–0, Mamedyarov-Wang Hao, Beijing 2013.

**7.dxc5 Na6 8.Nb3.** White wants to release tension, clearly not pleased with such an early opening surprise. Somehow this approach nearly gave him a win! Holding onto material after 8.Qa4+ Nd7 9.Nb3 can be quite dangerous – 9...b5! with strong initiative, e. g., 10.cxb6 0–0! 11.cxd5 Nac5 12.Nxc5 Nxc5 13.Qc2 Nxd3+ 14.Qxd3 Qxb6, and White's king is vulnerable in the center.

**8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Ne4 11.Ke2 Naxc5 12.Nxc5 Nxc5 13.Bb5+.**



**13...Bd7.** 13...Nd7!? is interesting, intending to keep the light-squared bishop and try to utilize awkward positioning of the enemy king. After 14.Rd1 a6 15.Ba4 b5 16.Bb3 e6 Black is perfectly fine and might even think about seizing the initiative.

**14.Bxd7+ Kxd7.** Both grandmasters said it was safer to take with a knight, but there is nothing wrong with this move. 14...Nxd7 15.Bd2 is a complete equality.

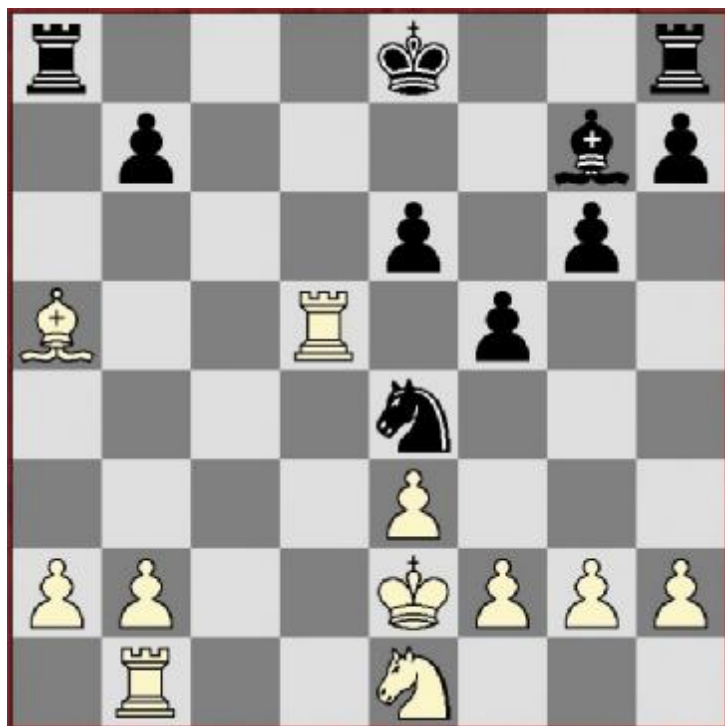
**15.Rd1+ Ke8 16.Rb1 Rc8 17.Bd2 Ne4.** Symmetrical structure makes the rest of the game almost risk-free for both sides, however, neither can afford recklessness.

**18.Bb4 f5 19.Ne1.**



**19...a5.** At the press-conference Veselin blamed this move (quite possibly, not the best one), saying that he blundered in the variation below. Actually the text is not a serious mistake at all.

**20.Bxa5 Ra8 21.Rd5** (perhaps 21.Bb4 Rxa2 22.Nd3 is stronger – White maintains a small plus). Now, instead of **21...b6?! Black** could force a draw at once by 21...e6!



Topalov noted that he saw it, but after 22.Rb5 Nd6 23.Rb6 calculated only 23...Nc4?? 24.Rxb7+-. The correct 23...Nc8! is easy to miss at the board, as it is based on a nice trick:



24.Rxb7 (24.Rb5 Nd6 25.Rc5 Ne4 is a move repetition) 24...Rxa5 25.Rxg7 Black has 25...Ne7, trapping the annoying rook. 26.Rc1 Kf8 27.Rxe7 Kxe7 28.a3 offers White some compensation, but no advantage.

**22.Bb4 Rxa2 23.Nd3 Kf7 24.Rc1 Rha8 25.Rc2 Nf6.** Shakhriyar considered his position almost winning (“Defending as Black is extremely difficult”), but the computer is totally unimpressed and evaluates the situation as balanced.

**26.Ne5+ Ke8?!** A bit odd 26...Kg8 is stronger – Black should hold after 27.Rb5 e6! 28.Nc6 Nd7.

**27.Rb5! R2a7.**



**28.Ba3?!** Mamedyarov pointed out a much stronger 28.Rc6 Nd7 29.Nc4, and Black’s task in a time trouble is really tough.

**28...Ra5!** A calculated response that saves Black from increasing positional pressure.

**29.Rc7 Rxb5 30.Rxe7+ Kd8 31.Nf7+.** Stronger is 31.Nc6+ Kc8 32.Rxg7, but 32...Rxb2+! 33.Bxb2 Ra2 offers Black good drawing chances.

**31...Kc8 32.Nd6+ Kd8 33.Rxg7.** Nothing is gained by 33.Nxb5 Rxa3 34.Rxg7 Ra2 with adequate counterplay.

**33...Rd5!** Another precise move. Due to Rxa3 threat White must give a perpetual.

**34.Nb7+ Kc8 35.Nd6+ Kd8 36.Nb7+ Kc8.** Draw.

## Vishy Anand – Levon Aronian Ruy Lopez C88

The only decisive game of the round looks very one-sided. It reminded us of the best years of Vishy's career.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.h3 Bb7 9.d3 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nbd2.** I am not a Marshall specialist, so all I can offer about it is statistics. This particular line is not very popular, but occurred in practice of both players.



**11...Qd7.** According to my database, this move is a novelty. Black insists on sacrificing a pawn and simply develops his pieces.

Anand already tested this position as White, and after 11...f6 12.c3 Kh8 13.Bc2 Qd7 14.Nb3 a5 15.a4 bxa4 16.Rxa4 Ncb4 17.Rxa5 Nxc2 18.Qxc2 Nb6 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Nbd2 g5 21.Nh2 Rd8 22.d4 exd4 23.cxd4 Bb4 24.Re2 Qxd4 25.Ndf1 Qc5 26.Qxc5 Bxc5 Black eventually took an upper hand in Anand-Caruana, Moscow 2013.

Aronian defended it from the opposite side: 11...Nf4 12.Ne4 Na5 13.Bxf4 exf4 14.d4 Qd7 15.c3 Nxb3 16.axb3 Rfe8 17.Qd3 f5 18.Ned2 Bf6 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8 20.Re1 g6 21.b4 Kg7 22.Kf1 Re6 23.Qb1 Bd5, draw, Adams-Aronian, Yerevan 2008 (rapid).

**12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Nf6 14.Re1 Rae8 15.Nf3 Bd6 16.Be3 Re7.** “A typical Marshall position, and I actually expected the opponent's move”, – said Anand at the press-conference.

One viable alternative is 16...Qf5. It contains no threats, but an active queen is often useful both objectively and psychologically. After 17.d4 Nd5 18.Nh4 Qf6 19.Qf3 Qd8!? I don't see how White can win material. Also 16...Nd5!? is interesting: White would prefer to keep the bishop, but after 17.Bd2 c5! Black piece activity at least compensates a missing pawn.

**17.d4 Rfe8 18.c3 h6.**



**19.Ne5!** The game-winning move! Instead of trying to hold an extra pawn and defend passively (as in 19.a4 Nd5 20.Bd2 Rxe1+ 21.Nxe1 c5!?) White trades queens, returns a pawn, but gains the mighty bishop pair and enjoys complete safety. Also he succeeds in lulling his opponent, as Levon admitted at the press-conference... The Armenian clearly underestimated dangers of the coming endgame.

**19...Bxe5 20.dxe5 Rxe5 21.Qxd7 Nxd7 22.Red1 Nf6.** Stronger is 22...Bc6, but in any case Black's task after 23.c4 (23.a3 Nc5 24.Ba2 is also playable) is very unpleasant. For example, 23...Nc5 is inadequate: 24.Bxc5 Rxc5 25.cxb5! Bxb5 26.a4! Be2 27.Rd7!, and White is nearly winning.

**23.c4 c6 24.Rac1 R5e7 25.a4.**



**25...bxc4?!** An attempt to build a fortress on d5. 25...Bc8 doesn't help, too: 26.Rd6! Re6 27.c5! Rxd6 28.cxd6 Bd7 29.axb5 axb5 30.Ra1, and Black is in deep trouble.

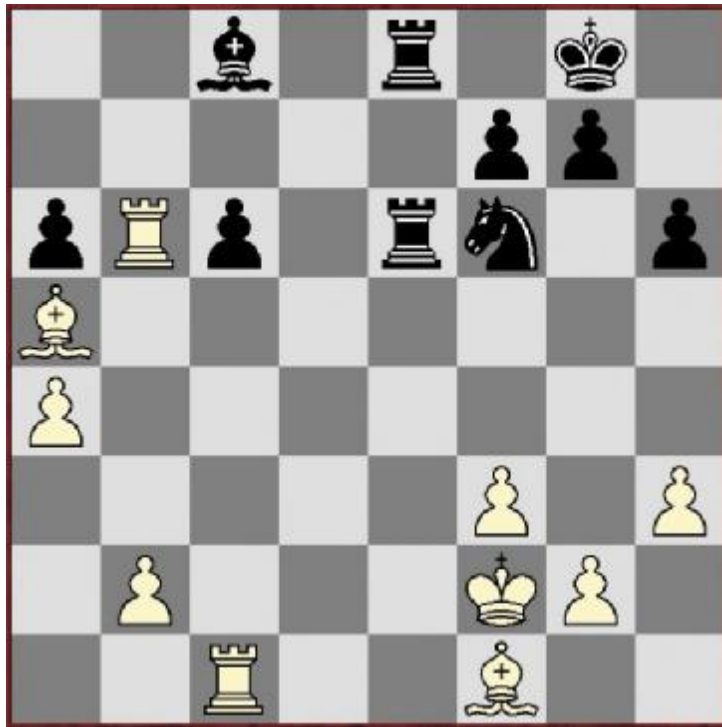
**26.Bxc4 Nd5 27.Bc5 Re4 28.f3 R4e5 29.Kf2.** Emphatically austere way of increasing the pressure! White does not want to determine his queenside structure yet, and just makes reasonable moves, which is exactly what Black is lacking.

**29...Bc8 30.Bf1.** Vacating the c-file and hiding the long-range bishop as safely as possible. White also threatens to win a pawn with Bd6.

**30...R5e6 31.Rd3 Nf4 32.Rb3 Rd8 33.Be3.** Vishy restricts any counterplay from his opponent. The natural 33.Rb8 allows 33...Ree8 34.Bb4 (34.Bb6 Rd2+) 34...Bf5 35.Rxd8 Rxd8 36.Rxc6 Nd3+, and White has to show very good technique.

**33...Nd5 34.Bd2 Nf6 35.Ba5 Rde8 36.Rb6.**





The c6-pawn is doomed, so Levon tries tactics.

**36...Re5 37.Bc3 Nd5 38.Bxe5.** Vishy criticized this move, pointing out that 38.Rxc6 Nxc3 39.R1xc3 would win much simpler. The text wins as well, although White will have to avoid some traps.

**38...Nxb6 39.Bd4 Nxa4.** The knight is trapped, but White has to solve a few tactical puzzles to finally catch it.

**40.Rxc6.** Of course not 40.b3? c5, and after 41.Be3 Nb6 White only has a large advantage.

**40...Rd8 41.Rc4! 41.b3** was bad once again, as Black has 41...Bb7 42.Rc4 Nb2! 43.Rb4 a5!, and the knight lives. White maintains a large advantage by 44.Rxb7 Rxd4 45.Ke3, but the victory is far from certain.

**41...Bd7.**



**42.b3!** Finally! Black ran out of tactical options, and the knight cannot be saved.

**42...Bb5. 42...a5 43.bxa4 Be6 44.Bb6 Rd2+ 45.Kg3 Bxc4 46.Bxc4**, and the bishop pair wins easily against a rook.

**43.Rb4 Nb2!?** The last desperate try.

**44.Bxb5 axb5 45.Ke3!** The only but sufficient move. Certainly not 45.Ke2?? Nc4, and Black is saved.

**45...Re8+ 46.Kd2 Rd8 47.Kc3.** It is symbolic that White wins the game with his king. Black resigns.

#### Round 2

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
4	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	1 – 0	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	2
3	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	1 – 0	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	1
8	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	½ – ½	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	6
7	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	1 – 0	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	5

## FIDE World Candidates Tournament 2014 – Round 2 Report

In the battle between two former World Champions, **Veselin Topalov** started his game with a flexible Reti setup, which is a kind of Bulgarian specialty as their Grandmasters achieve excellent results with white pieces.

It wasn't a great surprise that **Viswanathan Anand** responded by lining his favourite Slav structure.

White initiated an early skirmish in the center, but black didn't hesitate to sacrifice a pawn in order to complete the development.

Topalov's extra pawn was isolated and came under fire from the black rooks. Black's compensation appeared to be sufficient.

The queenside got cleared of pawns and white kept a 4P vs 3P advantage on the other side of the board. Anand immediately forced the exchange of the bishops and played the textbook 28...h5 to secure a draw.

Topalov played by the Sofia rules and the point was officially split on move 54.



**Levon Aronian** quickly bounced after the poor start to defeat **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** in round two of Candidates Tournament.

Mamedyarov defended with the Ragozin Queen's Gambit and Aronian avoided the sharpest lines by clarifying the central pawn structure early on.

The position resembled the Queen's Gambit Exchange Variation and appeared innocuous enough, but one careless knight move blocked the retreat route for black queen.

Aronian pounced on the opportunity to win the opponent's queen for a rook and minor piece.

However, converting the advantage was not that easy, as Aronian admitted in the press conference. If black consolidates the pieces he could even hold the game.

Aronian advanced his central pawn mass and then proceeded to maneuver in order to reach the time control.

As soon as the time was added to the clocks, Mamedyarov allowed the decisive d5-break and immediately resigned.



**Dmitry Andreikin** treated us with an old Sicilian defence, the Labourdonnais-Loewenthal variation. This opening was revived in the recent years as several top players used it with success and a number of opening manuals were published.

Black apparently achieved the strategical aims, he traded the dark-squared bishops and struck the white pawns with 16...b5. But **Svidler** got some action going with the beautiful sequence that included 17.Qg3 and 20.f4.

It didn't take long before black cracked under pressure and erred with 22...Bd3. A retort 24.Nf5 revealed the poor positioning of black pieces that allowed all kinds of geometrical motives.

Black threw his pawns forward in the one last desperate attempt. He could only get a rook endgame being two pawns down. After the precise 31.Rd5 Andreikin gave up.



Svidler said that the opponent's opening choice was a complete surprise. It's been a long time since he looked at the variations. He conceded that after 11...Qg5 white doesn't have a slightest advantage. Andreikin agreed and added that he was very happy with his position.

Andreikin disliked 13.b4, while Svidler believes that 16...b5 was rash and suggested 16...Rfd8 instead.



**Vladimir Kramnik** and **Sergey Karjakin** engaged in a popular sharp line of Queen's Gambit Accepted.

Black won a pawn but his advanced soldier on e4 was weak and a constant target of white's attack. A rook-lift to c5 ousted the black queen and Kramnik gave the c4-pawn to win the e6-pawn clearing the way for his strong passer.

With Karjakin being low on time, Kramnik sacrificed an exchange to install the knight on the strong outpost.

This was an excellent practical decision as Karjakin couldn't be precise in parrying all the threats with only minutes on clock. Black dropped the guard and 34.Rc5-35.Nc6 won the material back with interest. Faced with further losses Karjakin resigned.

Kramnik said that he prepared 9.a3 for the last year's Candidates Tournament, but he didn't have a chance to use it before. He sensed that Karjakin might play the QGA and he reviewed the lines this morning.

Karjakin thought about retreating the knight 9...N4d5 because he understood that Kramnik deeply analysed the position, but he decided to be principled and took the bishop on e4.



The FIDE World Candidates Tournament is taking place March 11th-April 1st, 2014 at the Ugra Chess Academy in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 2nd round**

Detailed analysis of the FIDE Candidates tournament second round games by GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko.

**Levon Aronian – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov**  
**Queen's Gambit D38**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Nd2.**



This move is not the most principled one, but definitely contains some poison.

**7...c6 8.e3 Nf8.** Black tries to be smart – transfer the knight to g6 before castling, thus saving a tempo on Re8. Much more popular is 8...0–0, and after 9.Bd3 Re8 10.0–0 (10.Qc2 Nf8 11.0–0–0 is interesting) 10...Nf8 11.a3 Bd6 White's extra tempo hardly matters – Black has a decent game.

**9.Bd3 Ng6 10.0–0 0–0 11.f4.** According to my database, this standard move was not tested in this position before.

**11...h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.f5.**



**13...Ne7??** Clearly this knight maneuver is a favorite for “blunder of the tournament” nomination! Shakhriyar said that he spotted White’s next move after touching the knight, but somehow did manage to force himself playing 13...Nh8.

The computer seems nothing fatal in 13...Nh4, too. After 14.Qh5 (on 14.g3 Nxf5 15.Bxf5 Bxf5 16.g4 Qg5 17.Rxf5 Qxe3+ 18.Kg2 Qxd4 White loses the entire center) 14...Bxf5 15.Rxf5 (after 15.Bxf5 g6 16.Bxg6 fxg6 17.Rxf6 gxh5 18.Rxh6 Nf5 White’s advantage is far from obvious, too) 15...Nxf5 16.Qxf5 Qxf5 17.Bxf5 White’s chances are higher, but Black is alive and kicking.

13...Nh8 looks hopeless indeed – it feels the knight will stay there forever. White continues 14.Qc2, and on 14...Qd6 plays the piercing 15.f6! with a huge advantage.

Deserves attention – before touching the knight, of course – 13...Qg5! (I am sure Shakhriyar could easily find this move), and after 14.Qe2 Nh4 there is everything to play for. According to the computer, White is not better here.

**14.Nde4!** One could pick either knight.

**14...dxe4 15.Nxe4 Qh4 16.g3 Qh3 17.Nf2.**



The mission is complete!

**17...Qxf1+ 18.Kxf1 Nxf5 19.Qf3 Nd6.** There is no doubt about the assessment of the situation, but Black maintains certain practical chances, especially if he manages to consolidate his pieces.

**20.e4 f6 21.Bc2 Be6 22.Nd3 Nc4 23.Kg1 Bd6 24.Nf4 Bxf4 25.gxf4 Rad8.** On blockade-setting 25...f5 White responds with 26.d5 cxd5 (26...fxe4 loses immediately to 27.Qxe4 Bxd5 28.Qh7+ Kf7 29.Re1) 27.exd5 Bd7 28.d6, and Black is hopeless.

**26.f5 Bf7 27.Qc3 Rfe8 28.Bd3 Nb6 29.a4 a6 30.a5 Nc8 31.e5!** White keeps gaining space. The end is near.

**31...Ne7 32.e6 Bh5 33.Be4 Nd5 34.Qh3 Be2 35.Kf2 Bb5 36.Rg1 Kh7.**



**37.Qa3.** At the press-conference Levon said that he just wanted to reach the time control and then look for a winning plan. The text-move does not spoil anything, but White had a rather brutal way of crushing the opponent's defense: 37.Rxg7+ Kxg7 38.Qh5! with a straightforward idea to trade on d5, pick up Black's f- and h-pawns with checks and carry out f5-f6.

**37...Bc4 38.Rg4 Bb5 39.Rg1 Bc4 40.Rc1.** The idea behind White's last moves is the same – making it to the time control. Taking on g7 was still possible.

**40...Bb5 41.Bf3 Nf4 42.Rd1 Kh8 43.d5! Nxd5** (43...cxd5 44.Rd4! Nh3+ 45.Ke3 followed by Bh5 and e7) **44.Bh5.** Black resigns.

**Veselin Topalov – Vishy Anand**  
**English Opening A11**

**1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7.**





A surprise on the move 4! Not a novelty, of course, but the main lines are e6 and g6, which lead to Meran-like and Schlechter-like positions. After some thought Topalov decides to allow Black carrying out e7-e5 at once.

**5.Qc2.** White could return to the Meran by 5.d4 e6, but that would be a small psychological victory for Black, as White's tricky move order would turn rather pointless.

**5...e5 6.cxd5 Nxd5.** Of course not 6...cxd5? 7.Nb5 Bc5 8.b4 Bb6 9.Nd6+ Ke7 10.Ng5!+-.

**7.d4.** White's ambitions are limited after the sleeky 7.Be2 – Black is fine after 7...Bd6 8.0–0 0–0 9.b3 N7f6 10.Bb2 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Rad1 Qe7, Fressinet-Kasimdzhanov, Nancy 2011.

**7...Bd6.** This natural move is a novelty, and the computer does not approve it at first. Black has to be prepared to sacrifice a pawn, and it seems Vishy was ready for it. Earlier Black played 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bd6 9.Bd3 h6 10.0–0 0–0 11.Bh7+ Kh8 12.Bf5 Qe7 13.Rb1 Nb6 14.Bxc8 Raxc8 15.c4, draw, Tal-Bagirov, Jurmala 1987.

**8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.Qe4.**

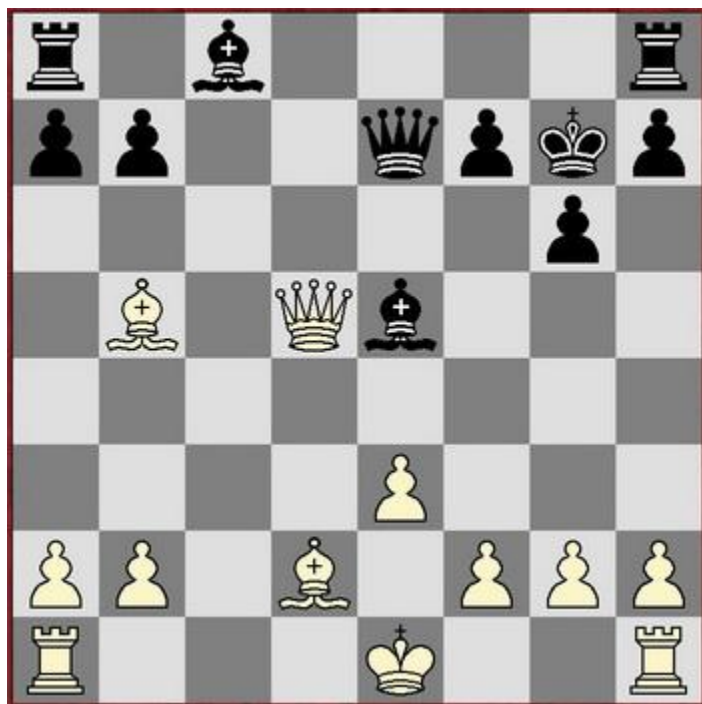


**10...Qe7!** The only defense, but it is sufficient. At the press-conference both grandmasters showed the refutation of 10...f6 – 11.f4 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bf5 13.Qxf5 Bxc3+ 14.Kf2 Bxa1 15.Ba3!, and White wins.

**11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.Bb5+ Kf8 13.Qxd5 g6.** White is a pawn up, Black's king cannot castle, but it is White who must play with care – the bishop on e5 is just too strong.

**14.Bd2.** White decides to simplify the game, which is probably correct. The following variation, given by Veselin at the press-conference, supports this conclusion: 14.e4 Kg7 15.f4? Bf6 (Anand mentioned that Black has sufficient counterplay after 15...Bc7, too) 16.e5 Bh4+ 17.g3 Qb4+ 18.Kf2 Be6, and Black seizes the initiative. The machine agrees with that – after 19.Qd3 Bd8 20.Be3 Bb6 21.Bxb6 axb6 Black puts his rooks to c- and d-file, and White faces difficulties.

**14...Kg7.**

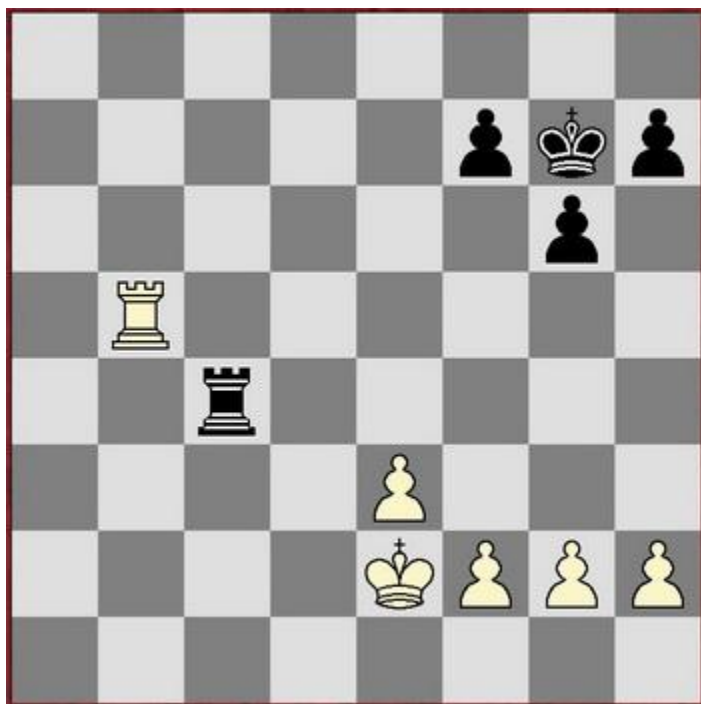


**15.Qxe5+!** Trading just bishops is not enough: after 15.Bc3 Bxc3+ 16.bxc3 Rd8! White suddenly fails to castle – 17.Qb3 (17.Qf3? Qe5!, attacking on b5 and c3) 17...Qg5!, and has to retreat – 18.Bf1 (18.g3 is bad due to 18...Bh3), which does not strike as fighting for an advantage.

**15...Qxe5 16.Bc3 Qxc3+ 17.bxc3 Be6.** White's extra pawn is negated by his queenside weaknesses. In addition, most endgames with 4 pawns against 3 on the same flank are drawn, and this fact was utilized by Anand in the game.

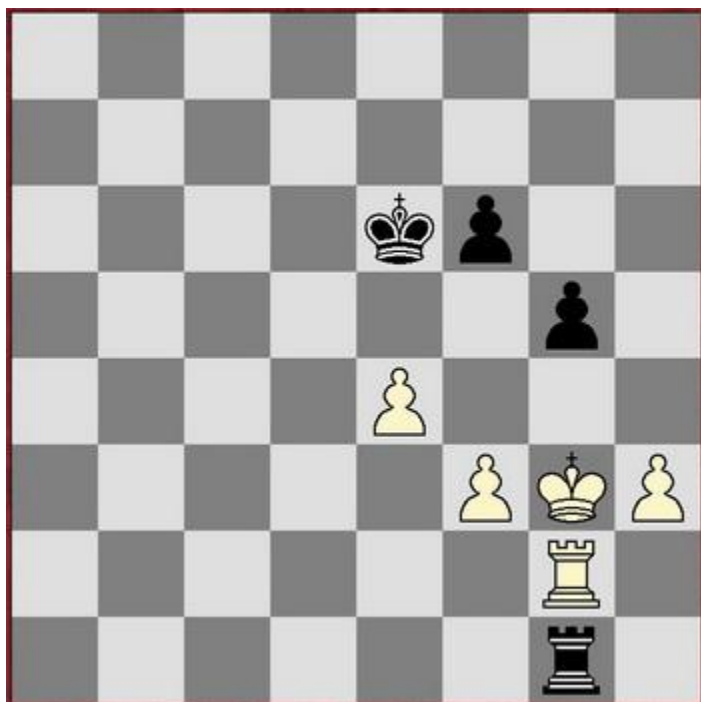
**18.Ke2 Rac8 19.Rhc1 Rc5 20.a4 Rhc8 21.Ra3 a6.** Anand decides to annihilate the queenside, which is enough for a draw, although Black has to suffer a bit more. The computer recommends 21...Rh5, however, after 22.h3 Rg5 23.g4 h5 24.f4 Rgc5 25.Kf3 Black has to return to the plan above.

**22.Bd3 b5 23.axb5 axb5 24.Rb1 Rxc3 25.Rxc3 Rxc3 26.Rxb5 Bc4 27.Bxc4 Rxc4.**



After forced simplifications the players arrived at the iconic endgame with 4 pawns against 3. A book draw, which, however, occasionally caused trouble even for top players. Frankly speaking, in this version of the endgame Black is completely out of danger, as White cannot even play the desired g2-g4.

**28.Kf3 h5 29.h3 Rc2 30.Rb1 Kf6 31.Re1 g5 32.Ra1 Kg6 33.Ra6+ f6 34.Ra4 h4 35.g3 hxg3 36.Kxg3 Rb2 37.e4 Rb1 38.f3 Rg1+ 39.Kf2 Rh1 40.Kg2 Rb1 41.Ra6 Kf7 42.Ra5 Kg6 43.Ra6 Kf7 44.Ra2 Ke6 45.Kg3 Rg1+ 46.Rg2.**



Black can just retreat with the rook, but Anand takes his time and finds a concrete way to force a draw.

**46...Rxc2+! 47.Kxc2 Ke5 48.Kf2 Kf4 49.Kg2 Ke5 50.Kg3 f5!** This is a position of mutual zugzwang: Black loses with his move and draws if it's White to move.

**51.exf5 Kxf5 52.h4 gxh4+ 53.Kxh4 Kf4 54.Kh3 Kxf3.** Draw.

### **Peter Svidler – Dmitry Andreikin Sicilian Defense B32**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6.** At the press-conference after the game Svidler confessed that he was struck by surprise by his opponent's opening choice, so he wisely decided to avoid the most principled 6.N1c3.

**6.c4.** This is also one of the main lines, however, according to Svidler, it hardly gives White any advantage.

**6...Be7 7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3 Be6 9.Be2 Bg5.**

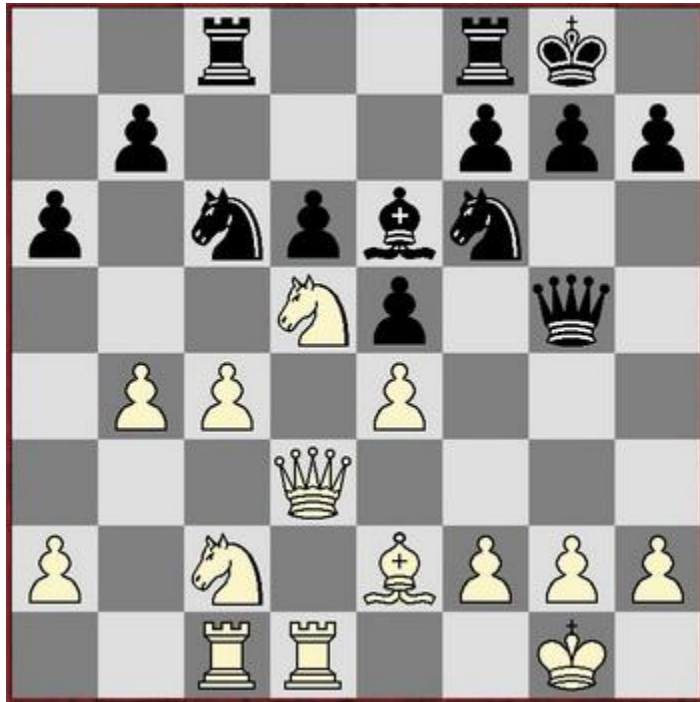


**10.Nc2.** 10.0–0 is more popular, but Black can still go for 10...Bxc1 11.Rxc1 Qg5 12.Nd5 (12.Qxd6? Bh3 13.Bf3 Rd8 followed by ...Nd4 is bad for White) 12...Rc8, and here the most energetic 13.c5 dxc5 14.f4!? (14.Nc4 Rd8 15.Nc7+ Ke7 16.Nxe6 fxe6 is not very promising) is calmly met by 14...Qd8 15.Nc4 b5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.fxe5 Ne7 18.Nf4 Ng6 19.Qxd8+ Kxd8 20.Nxe6+ fxe6, and Black should be able to hold.

**10...Bxc1 11.Rxc1 Qg5.** The active queen hampers White's typical development with Qd2.

**12.0–0 Rd8 13.b4 Nf6 14.Qd3 0–0 15.Rfd1 Rc8?!** Interesting is 15...Nh5!? 16.Bxh5 Qxh5 17.b5 axb5 18.cxb5 Ne7 with counterplay.

**16.Nd5.** Now Black faces a tough choice.



**16...b5?!** Perhaps this move is not as bad as its consequences – in the resulting sharp and dynamic struggle Svidler outplayed his opponent.

16...Bxd5 looks like a decent alternative, and the reply is forced – 17.exd5 (17.cxd5 is good structurally, but is refuted by 17...Nxb4–+) 17...Ne7 (17...e4 18.Qg3 Qxg3 19.hxg3 seems to favor White, who puts a knight on e3 and begins to prepare his queenside assault) 18.Ne3, and Black cannot prevent c4-c5, for example, 18...b6 19.c5! bxc5 20.bxc5 dxc5 21.d6 Rfd8 22.g3 with a big advantage.

**17.Qg3!? Qxg3.** Looks like Black can hold after 17...Nxe4 18.Qxg5 Nxe5 19.Nb6 Rb8 20.Rxd6 Rxb6 21.c5 Ne4 22.Rxe6 fxe6 23.cxb6 Nd6 – this line was demonstrated by Svidler after the game. Yet it is difficult to believe that the text-move is so wrong.

**18.Nxf6+ gxf6 19.hxg3 bxc4?!** This runs into a strong reply. Black's position is unenviable after 19...Bxc4 20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.Rxd6 Rfd8 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Ne3 Nxb4 24.Rxc4 Nxa2 25.Nd5 as well.



**20.f4!** The only way to make progress. 20.Rxd6 Rfd8 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 gives Black sufficient counterplay.

**20...f5.** Dmitry Andreikin confessed that he was quite optimistic about his position at this moment, however, neither during the post mortem nor at the press-conference was he able to cure Black's problems.

20...Ne7 is unlikely the answer – 21.Rxd6 Rfd8 22.Rcd1 Rxd6 23.Rxd6 f5 24.g4!, and White's advantage is decisive. Totally depressing is 20...Rcd8 21.f5 Bc8 22.Bxc4 Bb7 23.Bd5, although the resourceful machine defends here tenaciously.

An attempt to get some activity by 20...Na7 deserves attention. After 21.Rxd6 (maybe 21.f5 Bd7 22.Ne3 is more ruthless) 21...Nb5 22.Rxa6 Ra8 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.Ne3 Rxa2 25.Bxc4 Bxc4 26.Nxc4 Black at least creates serious technical difficulties.

**21.exf5.** A logical continuation of White's play aimed at creating and utilizing weaknesses around Black's camp. Andreikin considered 21.g4?, to which he planned building a powerful pawn phalanx in the center – 21...fxe4 22.f5 d5 23.fxe6 fxe6, and Black is better.

**21...Bxf5 22.Ne3.**

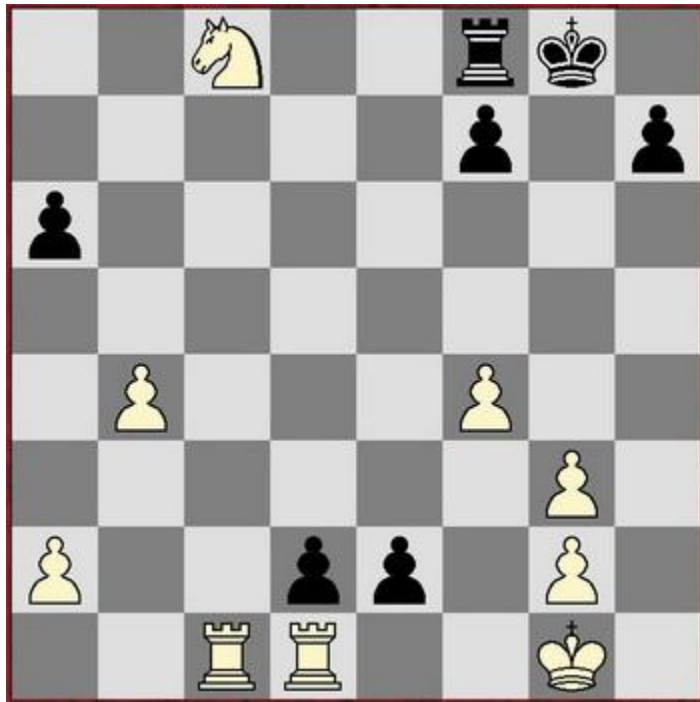


**22...Bd3?** A decisive mistake. After 22...Be4 23.Nxc4 Nxb4 24.Nxd6 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Nxa2! 26.Rc5! White retains an advantage, but the struggle goes on.

The way to victory after 22...Nd4!? is not obvious: 23.Rxd4! exd4 24.Nxf5 d3 25.Ne7+ Kg7 26.Nxc8 Rxc8 27.Bg4 d2 28.Rc2 c3 29.Kf2, and the king arrives to e3, effectively ending the game.

**23.Bxd3 cxd3 24.Nf5 e4 25.Nxd6 e3.** Someone at the press-center mentioned the famous McDonnell-Labourdonnais game, however, Black has three connected passed pawns then!

**26.Nxc8 d2 27.Rxc6 e2 28.Rcc1.** The intermediate 28.Ne7+ is stronger – after 28...Kh8 29.Rcc1 dxc1Q 30.Rxc1 Re8 31.Kf2 Rxe7 32.Re1 the resulting rook ending is even easier than in the game.



28...exd1R+ 29.Rxd1 Rxc8 30.Rxd2 Rc3 31.Rd5! Black resigns.

Vladimir Kramnik – Sergey Karjakin  
Queen's Gambit Accepted D20

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bxc4 Nb6 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Be3 Nb4 8.Be4 f5 9.a3!?



Earlier this move (by the way, highly approved by the computer) occurred just once and in a game between lesser known players, so one can consider it a novelty. Previously White preferred 9.exf6 exf6 10.Nc3, but Black once again goes 10...f5! and entrenches on d5 with a solid position. 11.Bb1 N4d5 12.Nf3 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Bd6 14.0–0 0–0 15.e4 c6 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Bxf5 Rxf5 18.Qb3+ Kh8 19.Rae1 Qd7 20.Ne4 Raf8 21.Nxd6 Qxd6 22.Re6 Qd7 23.Rfe1 Nd5 24.R6e5 Rxe5 25.dxe5 Qg4 26.Kh1 Nf4 27.Qc2 h5 28.Ng1 Ne6 29.Nf3 Nf4 30.Ng1 Re8 31.Qe4 Rxe5, Black wins, Ding Liren-Karjakin, Beijing 2012.

**9...fxe4.** The most principled reply. If 9...N4d5, White may go for 10.Bf3 (the aforementioned game continued 10.Bd3 Nxe3 11.fxe3 e6 12.Nf3 g5 13.Nc3 g4 14.Nd2 c5 with very sharp action, 15.Nc4 cxd4 16.Nxb6 Qxb6 17.Bb5+ Kf7 18.exd4 Bh6 19.Qd3 a6 20.Bc4 Qxb2 21.0–0 Kg7 22.Ra2 Qb6 23.Kh1 Rd8 24.d5 Qe3 25.Qxe3 Bxe3 26.dxe6 Bd4 27.e7 Re8 28.Nd5 Be6 29.Rd2 Bxe5 30.Re2, draw, Janczarski-Michal Bartel, Warsaw 2013) 10...Be6 (after 10...Nxe3 11.fxe3 e6 12.Ne2 Be7 13.0–0 0–0 14.Nbc3 White maintains pressure) 11.Ne2 g6 12.Nbc3 Nxe3 13.fxe3 c6 14.Nf4 Qd7 15.a4!? a5 16.Nxe6 Qxe6 17.Ra3 with a very unclear game.

**10.axb4 e6 11.Nc3.**



**11...Bxb4?!** It's hard to blame such a natural recapture, but after this move the computer gives White a big edge. Black should insert 11...Nd5 12.b5 (otherwise Black takes on b4 on the next move) 12...Bb4!, and White has no time to write a check from h5, as his c3 is weak. Black has nothing to worry about after 13.Nge2 Bd7 14.0–0 Bxc3 15.Nxc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bxb5.

**12.Qh5+ g6 13.Qg4.** 13.Qh6!? offers too little – after 13...Bf8 14.Qf4 Nd5 15.Qxe4 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Qd5 17.Qg4 Black transfers the queen closer to its White counterpart – 17...Qc4 18.Ne2 Qd3 and ...Qf5.

**13...Bxc3+.** An optimistic attempt to seize light squares while completely conceding dark squares should be criticized. 13...Nc4 is a decent alternative – 14.Nge2 Nxe3 15.fxe3 0–0, although White is still better after 16.Nf4 Rf5 17.0–0.

**14.bxc3 Qd5 15.Ne2 Bd7 16.0–0 Qc4 17.Ng3 Bc6.**

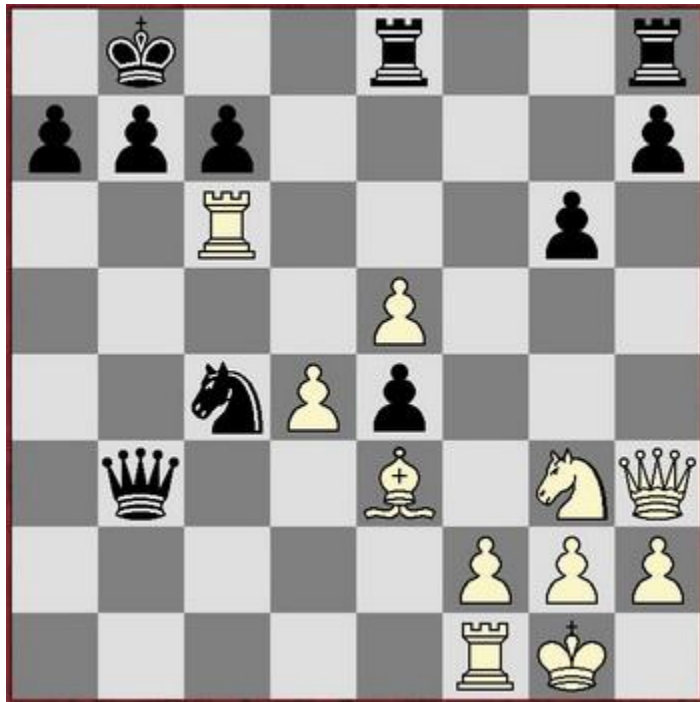


**18.Ra5!?** A strong practical solution! White plans sacrificing an exchange. In the case of 18.Nxe4 Bxe4 19.Qxe4 Nd5 Black may stand even better, at least in a human game.

Also deserved attention 18.Qh4!?, preventing long castling, which can be met with an exchange sacrifice: 18...0–0!? 19.Bh6 Na4 20.Bxf8 Rxf8 21.Nxe4 Bxe4 22.Qxe4 b5 with mutual chances.

**18...0–0–0 19.Rc5 Qb3 20.c4.** One could play 20.Rxc6 bxc6 21.Nxe4 immediately, for example, 21...Kb8 22.Nc5 Qc4 23.Qf3 Qd5 24.Qe2 Qc4 25.Qb2, and White slowly, but surely gets to the enemy king.

**20...Kb8 21.Qxe6 Rde8 22.Qh3 Nxc4 23.Rxc6.**



**23...bxc6?** Black misses a sudden tactical chance: 23...Nxe3! 24.Nxe4 Qd5! (Kramnik said he only considered 24...Qb5 25.Rfc1 bxc6 26.Qxe3, transposing to the game) 25.Rc5 Qxe4 26.fxe3 Rhf8, and White is only slightly better.

**24.Nxe4 Nb6 25.Nc5 Qd5 26.Rc1.** Black's position is objectively very difficult, and defending it against Kramnik in a serious time trouble is just hopeless.

**26...Ka8 27.Na6 Kb7 28.Nb4 Qf7 29.Qg4?!** A slight inaccuracy, which doesn't change the big picture. 29.Bh6! wins at once, threatening to transfer the queen on the 3rd rank. Black is forced to play 29...a5 30.Nxc6 Ra8, and White wins by 31.Qc3! with the idea Na5.

**29...Nd5 30.Nxc6 Re6 31.Na5+ Ka8 32.Qe4 Rb6 33.g4 h5 34.Rc5.**





**34...Rd8.** After the game the players discussed 34...c6, but here White wins by 35.e6!, and Black cannot hold on d5 – 35...Qg7 36.Rxc6 Rb5 37.Rd6 Rxa5 38.Rd7!

**35.Nc6 Rxc6 36.Rxc6 hxg4.** Here White chooses one of many winning continuations, while Karjakin is almost lost on time.

**37.Rf6 Qh7 38.Bg5 Qg8 39.Rxg6.** Black resigns.

#### Round 3

SNo.	Name	FED	Res.	Name	FED	SNo.
1	GM Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	½ – ½	GM Karjakin Sergey	RUS	2
3	GM Svidler Peter	RUS	½ – ½	GM Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	4
8	GM Topalov Veselin	BUL	½ – ½	GM Aronian Levon	ARM	7
5	GM Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	0 – 1	GM Anand Viswanathan	IND	6

## Anand emerges leader after round 3

The former World Champion Viswanathan Anand moved into sole lead after defeating Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in round 3 of Candidates Tournament in Khanty-Mansiysk.

With the other three games, Dmitry Andreikin – Sergey Karjakin, Veselin Topalov – Levon Aronian and Peter Svidler – Vladimir Kramnik, being drawn, Anand is alone on the top of the crosstable with 2,5 points.

Svidler and Kramnik are sharing the second place with 2 points each. Topalov and Aronian are on 1,5 points, while Andreikin and Karjakin are on 1 point each. Mamedyarov remained on 0,5 points.

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** and **Viswanathan Anand** stuck to their guns, Vishy defended with the Slav while Shakh once again played knight on d2.

After the introductory moves white expanded in the center with e5 and f4. The former World Champion didn't lose time and immediately undermined the pawn chain. White's inability to bring the rooks to the central files, controlled by the beautifully placed black bishops, proved that his position was a little over-extended.

Mamedyarov was forced to make a concession and exchange the light-squared bishops. However, this maneuver left the squares around the white king horribly weak.

Anand jumped on the opportunity and quickly mobilized the heavy pieces to attack the opponent's king.

White didn't survive long and Mamedyarov resigned on move 31.

Anand suggested possible improvements in 24.Bc5 or 24.Bf2, instead of the game move. Mamedyarov replied that 24.Bc5 Rd8 is unpleasant. Anand agreed and said that probably 24.Bf2 was the best try.



**Dmitry Andreikin** is an unpleasant opponent for **Sergey Karjakin**, having eliminated him in the 4th round of 2013 World Chess Cup.

Karjakin defended with the Berlin Ruy Lopez, and Andreikin avoided the famous endgame by slowly expanding in the center with d3, c3 and d4.

Black traded on d4 and struck back with d6-d5. After the massive exchanges, black found the excellent move 17...Qd5 to hold the balance.

With the weakened pawn structure around his king, Andreikin couldn't find anything better than to trade all the rooks and force perpetual check.



Despite the loss in the first round, **Levon Aronian** didn't hesitate to repeat the Ruy Lopez Anti-Marshall. **Veselin Topalov** chose the line that was earlier seen in Grischuk's games.

Black conceded the bishop's pair to get a pawn on d4 and the position appeared to be equal. White decided to complicate the matters with the queen's excursion to h5.

Aronian thought for a long time but eventually decided not to take the pawn on e4. Soon-after he played 22...Ba6 allowing wild complications after 23.Bd6.

White captured the h7-pawn and set his f-pawn in motion. But black was just on time to create counterplay by pushing his d-pawn. White was eventually forced to take the perpetual check.



**Peter Svidler** didn't want to test **Vladimir Kramnik's** Nimzo-Indian or Ruy Lopez and decided to start with the English Opening.

It was a fairly normal position as black forced the trade of white's light-squared bishop, but then 15...e6 gave the signal for Svidler to amass his pieces on the d-file.

Kramnik clung onto his pawn, but Svidler managed to break through by getting e5 and c5 in. White got an imposing passer on d6 but it was very difficult to force its advance.

Already around move 30 the players run into zeitnot and for the final moves before the time control they were down to seconds.

When the smoke cleared, it looked like white will finally remove the blockading rook from d7, but black was very resourceful to find counterplay. The amazing 45...f5 and 46...Rf6 saved the day for Kramnik.





**Viswanathan Anand is leading the standings with 2,5 points.**

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 3rd round**

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Vishy Anand  
Slav Defense D11**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qc2 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bg4. 5...Bf5** is much more popular, and Anand also employed it, but the text-move creates more concrete problems for White. **6.Nbd2.** The most popular continuation, which, however, totally lacks ambition. Earlier Shakhriyar tested **6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.e4 Bxf3 8.gxf3 e5 9.Be3 exd4 10.Bxd4 Bd6 11.0-0-0 Qc7 12.Ne2 0-0 13.Qc2** with success, and perhaps such manner of play suits his creative style better (Mamedyarov-Inarkiev, Rogaska Slatina 2011).

**6...Nbd7 7.g3 e6 8.Bg2 Be7 9.Ne5 Bh5 10.Nxd7 Nxd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nb3 a5 13.a4 Bb4 14.e4.**







**18...f6! 19.exf6 Nxf6.** Black's bishops are preventing White's rooks from entering the game, and due to the ...Be2 threat White's next move is almost forced.

**20.Bf3 Bxf3 21.Rxf3 Re4?!** The only inaccuracy of the ex-World champion! Much more ruthless is 21...c5, and after 22.Bc3 even 22...Re4 works – 23.Bxf6 Rxc4 24.Bxd8 Rxd8 25.Rc1 Rxc1+ 26.Nxc1 c4, and White's defensive task is very difficult due to a horribly misplaced knight.

Also promising is the unexpected 22...Bxc3 23.bxc3 b6. White has problems with his horse on b3, for example, 24.Rd3 Qe7 25.Nd2 Rad8 26.Rxd8 Qe3+! 27.Kg2 Rxd8, forcing the ugly-looking 28.Nf1, and now 28...Qe7 solidifies Black's comfortable advantage.



**22.Re3?!** Mamedyarov misses 22.Qd3!? Of course, Black is better here as well: after 22...Qe8 23.Re3 Rxe3 24.Qxe3 Qh5 he threatens ...Ng4, and 25.Bxf6 gxf6 does not solve White's main problem with his poor fellow on b3, who cannot hope to become a real knight.

**22...Rxe3 23.Bxe3 Qe8 24.Bb6.** More tenacious is the immediate 24.Bd4, although White's position after 24...Rd8 remains difficult, because he cannot consolidate his pieces easily. On 25.Rc1 Black has 25...c5! 26.Nxc5 Bd2 27.Bxf6 (27.Rc2? Rxd4 28.Qxd4 Be3+) 27...gxf6, and White is helpless.

**24...Qh5!** A signal for action! White's pieces got stuck on the queenside, and Black launches a direct attack.

**25.Bd4 Re8 26.Rf1 Ng4 27.Qc2.**



**27...c5! 28.Nxc5.** Other moves allowed a fork on e3, e. g., 28.Bxc5 Bxc5+ 29.Nxc5 Ne3—+.

**28...Rc8 29.Rd1.** This attempt of indirectly protecting on c5 does not work because white pieces are seriously overloaded.

**29...Bxc5.** A very practical decision. One could “fall into the trap” – 29...b6 30.Bxg7+ Kxg7 31.Ne6+ Kf6!, and White can resign.

**30.Bxc5 h6.** White is helpless! Shakhriyar played **31.Kh1**, but realized that his last trap is way too naïve, resigned before Anand could reply. Almost all knight moves win for Black – 31...Nf2+, 31...Ne3, 31...Nxh2, 31...Nf6, but, of course, not 31...Qxc5?? 32.Rd8++-.

### Veselin Topalov – Levon Aronian Ruy Lopez C88

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0–0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0–0.** Despite losing to Anand in the first round, Aronian sticks to his guns, inviting White to the Marshall attack.

**8.a4.** The most popular way of avoiding 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 – even such a renowned theorist as Topalov recognizes Aronian’s superiority in the Marshall.

**8...b4 9.d4 d6 10.dxe5 dxe5.**



**11.Nbd2.** Levon never faced this rare move before. Here are the most recent examples from his practice:

11.Qxd8 Rxd8 12.Nbd2 h6 13.a5 Bc5 14.Bc4 Ng4 15.Re2 Be6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.h3 Nf6 18.Re1 Rab8 19.Nc4 Rb5 20.b3 Bd4 21.Bb2 Rc5 22.Ra2 Bxb2 23.Rxb2 Ne8 24.Ra2 Nd6, and Black is already slightly better, although the game ended in White's favor, Carlsen-Aronian, St. Louis 2013;

11.Bg5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Nxe4 13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Nxe5 Nc5 15.Nd2 Nxb3 16.Nxb3 f6 17.Nd7 Re8 18.Na5 Nf5 19.Nc5 Nd6 20.Nd3 with an advantage to White, Giri-Aronian, Antalya 2013.

**11...Bc5 12.h3 Bb7 13.Qe2 Nd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4.**



**15.Bc4.** This move is a novelty. Curiously, the only game that achieved the position above, Jansa-Razuvayev 1986, ended in a draw immediately after 15.Qf3 Kh8. White transfers the bishop to d3 in order to protect the e4-pawn, finally freeing the d2-knight.

**15...a5 16.Bd3 Nd7.** Levon's decision is very concrete – Black is ready to part with the dark-squared bishop, but wants to utilize the opponent's underdevelopment in return. On 16...Qe7 White probably planned 17.Nf3 Bb6 18.Nh4!?, and Black has to weaken his position by ...g6.

**17.Nf3 Nc5 18.Nxd4 exd4 19.Bf4 Re8.** Calling for trouble! Topalov was skeptical about this move at the press-conference and recommended capturing on d3. Indeed, after 19...Nxd3 20.cxd3 c5 21.Rac1 Rc8 followed by ...Ba6 Black is just fine, but Aronian's move is also quite good, according to the computer.



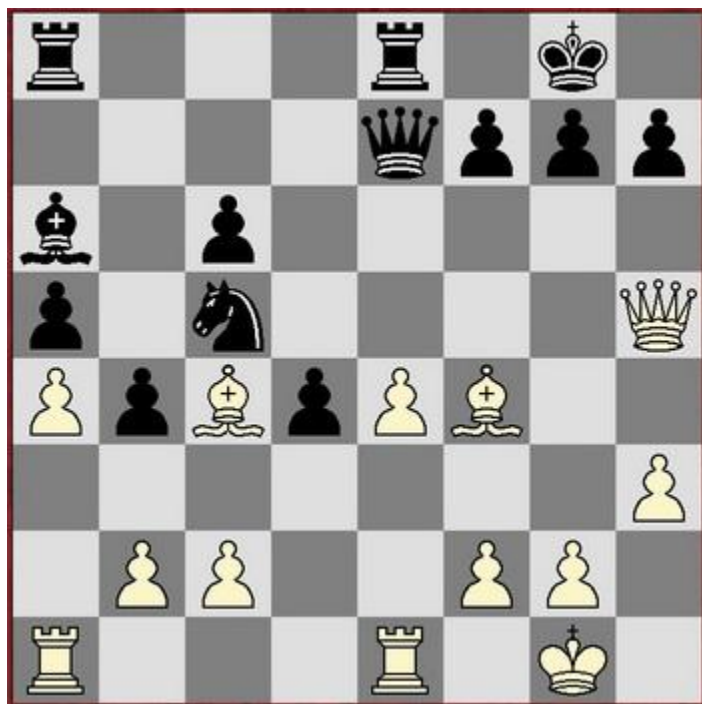


**20.Qh5!? Qe7.** Here 20...Nxd3 is wrong – 21.cxd3 Ba6 22.Qxa5 Bxd3 23.Qxb4, and White is much better.

An alternative to the text is a careless recapture on e4. Black can survive it, but it requires a lot of tightrope skill: 20...Nxe4 21.f3!? g6 (after 21...Nf6 22.Qc5 White regains a pawn and retains pressure) 22.Qh6 Nf6 (22...Nc5?! 23.Bg5 Qd6 24.Bc4! Ne6 25.Bf6 Qf8 26.Qh4, and Black is in a world of hurt) 23.Qh4!? Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Nd5 25.Bg5 f6 26.Bh6 – defending as Black is rather troublesome.

**21.Bb5.** Topalov decides to lure the pawn to c6, where it restricts the bishop, but it seems 21.Bc4 immediately is stronger. The path to equality for Black is very narrow – 21...Nxe4 22.f3 Qf6 23.Qg4 Nd6 (23...Bc8 is bad due to 24.Qg3! Ba6 25.Rxe4 Rxe4 26.fxe4 Bxc4 27.Bxc7, and White has a big advantage due to Be5 threat and Black's queenside pawn weaknesses) 24.Bd3 h6! 25.Qg3 Nf5 26.Bxf5 Qxf5 27.Bxc7 with equality.

**21...c6 22.Bc4 Ba6!?** It doesn't seem like Levon Aronian overlooked the opponent's reply, which leads me to believe that this was provocation. He could easily insert 22...g6, and after 23.Qf3 Ne6! 24.Bh2 Ba6 I don't see how White can utilize Black's kingside weaknesses.



**23.Bd6!?** Topalov accepts the challenge! The position after 23.Bxa6 Rxa6 seems promising for Black, who simply puts a knight to e6 and advances the c-pawn.

White can try 23.Ba2 d3 24.Bd6 Qxd6 25.Bxf7+ Kf8 26.Bxe8 Rxe8 27.cxd3, however, Black gets rid of the pin on d-file after 27...Re5 28.Qxh7 Bxd3 29.Rad1 by 29...Qh6!, and probably has better chances after 30.Qxh6 gxh6.

**23...Qxd6 24.Bxf7+ Kf8 25.e5 Qd7 26.e6 Nxe6 27.Bxe8 Rxe8.**



**28.Qxh7.** A draw looks logical after this move, with only one road bump (but more of it later). 28.Qxa5 is a serious alternative to the text-move. After the basically forced sequence 28...Bb7 29.Qxb4+ c5 it looks like Black has sufficient counterplay, but 30.Qb6! stops 30...Qd5 31.f3 Nf4 due to 32.Rxe8+ Kxe8 33.b4! Nxg2 34.Qxc5! Qxc5 35.bxc5, and White's advantage in the endgame is almost decisive.

The computer insists on 30...Qc6 31.Qxc6 Bxc6, but here White's chances are higher as well, at least in a game between humans.

Another move suggested by the machine – 30...Kg8, is hard to explain, but somehow it seems to be the best practical decision – after 31.a5 Bc6 32.a6 Qd5 33.f3 Rf8 Black's threats should not be treated lightly.

**28...Qd5! 29.f4! d3 30.f5 d2 31.Qh8+.**



**31...Kf7.** Black had an amazing way to continue playing: 31...Ke7 32.Qh4+ g5!! 33.Qxg5+ Kd7 34.Rxe6! (34.fxe6+ Kc8 35.Qe3 dxe1Q+ 36.Rxe1 Bb7 gives Black good winning chances) 34...d1Q+ 35.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 36.Kh2 Rxe6 37.fxe6+ Kxe6, and here White holds only by 38.Qg6+! Kd7 39.Qf5+, forcing the perpetual, as after 39...Kd6 40.Qxa5 White picks up a b4-pawn as well.

**32.Qh5+ Kf8 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.Qh5+ Kf8 35.Qh8+. Draw.**

**Dmitry Andreikin – Sergey Karjakin**  
**Ruy Lopez C65**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3.** This modest move quickly gains popularity, as White fails to show up with anything in the main line.

Andreikin's main Berlin triumph occurred in Nizhny Novgorod 2013: 4.0–0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.dxe5 Nxb5 7.a4 Nbd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Qe3+ Be6 12.Nc3 a6 13.Rd1 Qc6 14.Rd3 Rc8 15.Ne2 Bc5 16.Qg3 f6 17.Be3 Bd6 18.Bf4 Bxf4 19.Nxf4 0–0 20.Rc3 Qd6 21.Nxe6 Qxe6 22.Rxc7 Rxc7 23.Qxc7, and he won a pawn and then a game against Vladimir Kramnik.

**4...Bc5 5.c3 0–0 6.0–0 d6 7.Nbd2 Ne7 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 Bb6 10.h3.** Karjakin never faced this move before. Earlier he confronted 10.Re1 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Qb3 d5 13.e5 Nd7, and White is somewhat better, Svidler-Karjakin, Loo 2013, and 10.Bd3 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Nb3 d5 13.e5 Ne4 14.Qc2 Nc6 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qxe4 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Nxd4 18.Qxb7 with a very sharp game, Vallejo-Karjakin, Sao Paulo/Bilbao 2012.

**10...d5 11.e5 Ne4 12.Bd3 Bf5 13.Qe2 Nc6 14.Rd1.**



**14...Bxd4.** A novelty. Svidler-Carlsen, Gjovik 2009 saw 14...Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Nb3 c5 18.Be3 Qe7 19.Nxd4 cxd4 20.Bxd4 with a draw.

**15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Bxe4 Bxe4 17.Nxd4 Qd5 18.Nxc6 Qxc6.** Compared to the game above, this ending is slightly less drawish, but neither side managed to gain anything real.

**19.f3 Bd5 20.b3 a5 21.Ba3 Rfd8 22.Rac1 Qb6+.**



**23.Kh1.** The computer insists on 23.Qf2 Qxf2+ 24.Kxf2, with certain initiative for White, although after 24...Rd7 25.Bd6!? c6! followed by f6 Black should equalize.

**23...Be6.** A silent draw offer. Once can understand a peaceful mood of the players, recalling their results in the previous round.

**24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Rd1 Rxd1+ 26.Qxd1 h6 27.Qd8+ Kh7 28.Qd3+ Kg8 29.Qd8+ Kh7 30.Qd3+ Kg8.** Draw.

### **Peter Svidler – Vladimir Kramnik** **English opening A35**

A highly tense battle between the two Russian players! Peter Svidler missed a real chance to jump to the joint first place right before a day off. Let us skip the opening part, because the main events of this game took place around the 40th move.

**1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bg7 7.Bg2 0–0 8.0–0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.Qd3 Be6.** At least four World Champions preferred 10...a6 – Carlsen, Kasparov, Anand and Karpov.



**11.Bd2.** After 11.Bxb7 Rb8 12.Bg2 Black rejects the materialistic 12...Qa5 13.b3 Rxb3 14.axb3 Qxa1 (White's position after 15.Bd2 Qa6 16.Nb5 is much better – his bishop goes to c3, his knight – to d4) and chooses 12...Rc8 13.Nd5 Ng4!? with compensation instead.

**11...Qc8 12.b3 Bh3 13.Rac1 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Qc6+.** This natural move is a novelty. Earlier Black tested 14...e6, which also doesn't promise him an easy life after 15.Rfd1 Rd8 16.Bg5 Rd7 17.Qf3 Ne8 18.Rd3, and White exerts unpleasant pressure, Neverov-Dvoiryys, St. Petersburg 1995.

**15.f3 e6.** Black has to create himself a weakness on d6 in order to control the d5-square. The computer suggests waiting moves like 15...Rac8 16.Rfd1 Rfe8 17.Be3 Qa6, but White still has a lasting advantage due to his spatial gains.

**16.Rfd1 Rad8 17.Bf4 Rd7.**





**18.Qe3!** A very strong maneuver, vacating a square for the rook. One can already assess the position: Black has no counterplay and must defend stoically.

**18...b6 19.Rd3 Rc8 20.Qd2 Ne8.** Black has no other options. The desired 20...d5 fails here – on 21.cxd5 Black must recapture with a pawn, as 21...Nxd5 22.Nxd5 Qxc1 23.Ne7+! Rxe7 24.Qxc1 Rxc1 25.Rd8+ Bf8 26.Bh6 leads to a mate in three.

After 21...exd5 22.Nxd5 Qxc1 23.Qxc1 Rxc1 24.Nxf6+ Bxf6 25.Rxd7 Rc2 26.Rd2 White is just a pawn up.

**21.e4 a6 22.e5! h6!? 23.h4!** White continues to ask tough questions. Also unpleasant for Black is 23.Bxh6 Bxe5 24.Bf4, however the text-move is more in Peter Svidler's style, who likes to add pressure and never shies away from complications.

**23...Rcd8 24.Rd1.** Due to Ne4 threat Black has to search for some counterplay.

**24...b5!?**



**25.c5!** Once again the best move. 25.cxb5 axb5 26.Ne4 (after 26.Bxh6 Bxe5 27.h5 Black trades queens 27...Rc8 28.Ne4 Qc2 with good drawing chances) 26...d5 27.Rc3 Qb6 28.Nc5 Rc7 29.b4 Ra8 gives White nothing.

**25...Qxc5.** 25...d5 doesn't deserve much attention – after 26.b4 a5 27.a3 axb4 28.axb4 Black's position is too passive, and seizing the a-file by 28...Ra8 does not make his life easier – 29.Bxh6 Bxe5 30.h5 Ng7 31.hxg6 fxg6 32.g4! with a significant advantage for White.

**26.Ne4 Qb6 27.Nxd6?!** Peter Svidler mentioned a stronger alternative – 27.Be3! White utilizes a pin on the d-file. After 27...Qb8 28.Nc5 Bxe5 29.Nxd7 Rxd7 30.Bxh6 the game enters the technical stage. White's victory may be far from obvious, but after the text-move the evaluation almost becomes unclear!

**27...Bf8.**



**28.h5?!** Not an optimal choice, but it's easy to notice that White has too many tempting opportunities.

One of the computer recommendations – 28.Nc4 Rxd3 29.Nxb6 Rxd2+ 30.Rxd2 Rxd2+ 31.Bxd2 – looks almost craven, however after the white knight arrives to d7, Black will have serious problems with regrouping his pieces, especially the king.

The crafty 28.Be3 Qb8 29.Bxh6 Nxd6 30.Bg5!! is almost impossible to find when there are any alternatives. White has an advantage after 30...Ne4 31.Rxd7 Nxd2 32.Rxd8 Qxe5 33.R8xd2, but the struggle continues.

After the immediate 28.Bxh6 Nxd6 29.Bg5 Ne4 Black suddenly wins!

**28...Nxd6!** At least getting rid of the passive e8-knight! Naturally, Black does not fall for 28...g5 29.Bxg5 hxg5 30.Qxg5+ Ng7 31.Ne4!! with an inevitable mate.

The next dozen of moves were made under growing time pressure.

**29.exd6 g5 30.Be5 Rc8.** The machine recommends passive approach: 30...Bg7!? 31.Bxg7 Kxg7, however, accepting a major-piece ending with passive rooks is something Black does not want, especially considering the time trouble.

**31.Rc1 Rxc1 32.Qxc1.** Exchanging a couple of rooks adds strength to the d-pawn – Black's blockade is not that firm.

**32...Qb7 33.g4 b4 34.Qc4 Bg7 35.Bg3 Qb5 36.Be1?!** White misses a greater part of his advantage, if not all of it. Black had no threats, therefore it was advisable to reach the time control by, for example, 36.Rd2, setting up small traps along the way (36...Bc3?? loses at once by 37.Qc8+ and a4).

Transposing to an endgame by 36.Qxb5 axb5 37.f4 is interesting. After 37...gxf4 38.Bxf4 Bf8 39.Be5! Black is completely paralyzed. Possibly Peter rejected it because he wanted more.



**36...Qe5!** The queen suddenly becomes very active. Now Black should not lose, if he doesn't make more mistakes.

**37.Bg3.** Of course not 37.Qc8+ Bf8 38.Qxd7? Qe2+ 39.Bf2 Qxd3, and White is a pawn down.

**37...Qe2+ 38.Bf2 Bf8 39.Qxa6 e5?** An attempt to compromise White's kingside structure by e5-e4 is objectively wrong. 39...Qe5 is stronger – Black wins the d6-pawn, while his b4-pawn negates White's queenside majority. After 40.Qa8 Rxd6 41.Qb8 Rd5 42.Qxe5 Rxe5 43.Rd8 Ra5 the game becomes even.

**40.Qc4 Qxa2 41.Qc6!?** It is hard to blame this move, especially since Black's spectacular defense is hard to spot, but the strongest move here is 41.Qxb4. After 41...Qa6 42.Rd5 Rxd6 43.Rxe5 White keeps an extra pawn and some winning chances.



**41...e4! 42.fxe4 Qe2.** Black finally begins to create threats to the enemy king, however, after 43.Rf3 Rxd6 44.Qe8 f6 45.e5 his position looks lost.



Having spent about 15 minutes, Vladimir Kramnik uncorked a phenomenal defense.

**45...f5!!** The naïve 45...Qxe5 loses nicely after 46.Qxe5 fxe5 47.Rxf8+ Kxf8 48.Bc5 Ke7 49.Bxb4, and the pawn ending is easily won for White.

**46.gxf5 Rf6!!** And it turns out that White cannot win!

**47.Kg3** (47.Qb8? Rxf5 48.Rxf5 Qg4+) **47...Qe4 48.Bc5 Qe1+ 49.Bf2**. After 49.Kg2 Qe4!? White has a choice: it' either move repetition or perpetual after 50.Bxf8 Qe2+ 51.Rf2 Qg4+.

**49...Qe4 50.Bc5 Qe1+ 51.Bf2**. Draw.

#### Round 4

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
5	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	1 – 0	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	1
2	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	½ – ½	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	8
7	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	1 - 0	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	3
6	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	½ – ½	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	4

### Anand draws Kramnik, maintains lead after round 4

Viswanathan Anand didn't get advantage from the opening against Vladimir Kramnik and the game was quickly drawn, but the Indian retained the lead after round 4 of FIDE World Candidates Tournament.

In the other matches **Levon Aronian** outplayed **Peter Svidler**, while Shakhriyar Mamedyarov won an exciting game against Dmitry Andreikin. Veselin Topalov forced perpetual check to hold Sergey Karjakin to a draw.

**Anand** is first with 3/4 points, while **Kramnik** and **Aronian** are close behind on 2,5 points each. Topalov and Svidler share the 4th place with 2 points each. Mamedyarov and Karjakin are on 1,5 points, while Andreikin sunk to the last place with 1 point.

The game between two old rivals, former World Champions **Viswanathan Anand** and **Vladimir Kramnik**, was eventful, sharp and quick.





Kramnik defended with the Vienna Queen's Gambit, which came as a surprise for Anand. Anand said he didn't expect this line, particularly since he himself played it against Kramnik (in 2003).

After black has infiltrated behind the opponent's ranks with the excellent 18...Qh2, the play became more forced. Black's inspired defence finally brought him reward when he caught the white king in perpetual check.

At the press conference Anand said that he was prepared up until 17.Qd2. He added that 18.Rd3 was forced and suggested that maybe 21.Nb3 was a better try.

Kramnik didn't want to discuss his preparation, he just said that after 4.Nc3 he plays many different moves, 4...Be7, 4...Bb4, 4...c5, and now obviously 4...dxc4. Previously he entered Vienna with black in a game against Grischuk three years ago.

The players didn't want to speculate on which score would be sufficient for the first place (+4 or +5). Kramnik said that the only sufficient score is to actually be just one step ahead of the rest of the field.

**Sergey Karjakin** started the round with 1.c4, which was only fourth such occasion from almost 1000 games with white. **Veselin Topalov** thought for a couple of minutes before responding with his favourite Reversed Dragon setup.

Later in the game, black played the relatively rare 10...Re8 and then traded the knights on d5. White briefly contemplated the position and decided to double the rooks on the c-file.

In a matter of couple of moves all minor pieces were exchanged. White decided to launch the usual minority attack on the queenside, to which black responded by giving two rooks for a queen and a pawn to unbalance the position.

Karjakin tried to redeploy his rooks to the open e-file, but Topalov was able to take advantage of the weakened light squares and deliver perpetual check.

At the press conference Karjakin noted that it is curious that he also plays Reversed Dragon with black pieces. He was unhappy about 14.Rc3, after which he didn't have advantage. Topalov added that no matter what white does instead of Rc3, he would still continue with the same plan as in the game.

After 21.e3 Qf6 Karjakin could not find anything convincing. Topalov said that 22...Qg6 was a strong threat. He suggested maybe to delay a4 for one move and play 26.Rb3 first, but it shouldn't change the overall evaluation of the game.

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** reversed the negative trend by defeating **Dmitry Andreikin** to leap ahead of the Russian player in the standings.

For third time in four rounds Mamedyarov faced with the Slav Defence. His start was modest, having moved e3 and a3, but soon-after he opened the center with e3-e4. Black naturally struck back with c6-c5.

White got some pressure after damaging black's queenside structure and pushing b4. From that point on black experienced problems with the weakened light squares and advanced passer on c6.

White's advantage was slowly increasing until he had missed the very strong 34.Qd6 and instead gave a check, because as Mamedyarov admitted, "when you are in time trouble you try to find some cheap tricks".

After 35...f5 white realized that the win might be slipping away from his hands. But Andreikin quickly returned the favour with the weak 37...Kf7 (instead of the correct 37...Kh7 38. Qd6 Qa6).

Mamedyarov soon wrapped up the game.

**Levon Aronian** and **Peter Svidler** did their homework and quickly banged the first 20 moves in one of the lines of the Gruenfeld Indian defence. Svidler prepared a novelty 21...Qa3 instead of the previously played 21...Qa6, which according to him loses by force.

Svidler spent some time to consider 27...Nxd4 and thought that this forced line would lead to a draw. He preferred to fight on and deviated from this move, which was a decision that he regretted later in the game.

After another inferior move, namely 32...Nf7, white started to gradually squeeze the black's position.

The endgame was quite unpleasant and black could only prolong the suffering until move 57.

## GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 4th round

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Dmitry Andreikin**  
**Slav Defense D45**

This game could become a turning point for either player. A disastrous start by Mamedyarov, somewhat confused chess by Andreikin – both clearly needed changes!

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Nf3 e6 6.a3.** One of the least popular continuations. Andreikin never confronted it before. Here is a recent example from his practice: 6.b3 c5 7.Bb2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bb4 9.Nc2 Ba5 10.Be2 0–0 11.0–0 dxc4 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Bxc4 Nc6 14.Rfd1 Bd7 15.Na4 b5 16.Nc5 bxc4 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Nxd7 Bc3 19.Rab1 Ra7 20.Nc5 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Nb4 22.Nxb4 Bxb4 23.Rd8+ Kg7 24.Rc8 Bxc5 25.Rxc5 cxb3 26.axb3 Rb7 27.Rc3. Draw, Kramnik-Andreikin, Tromso 2013.

**6...Nbd7 7.Qc2 Qc7.**



I hardly believe it, but this move is a novelty. Black tested many different moves, but the most popular is an unpretentious 7...dxc4, after which 8.Bxc4 b5 (8...c5 at once is good too) 9.Ba2 c5 White's Qc2 loses its purpose, because the queen will have to move again after 10.0–0 Bb7 and ...Rc8.

**8.e4!?** A concrete reaction in typical Mamedyarov style. After all, White's last two moves clearly prepared this pawn advance!

**8...dxe4 9.Nxe4 c5.** In case of the unhurried 9...Be7 White could consider 10.c5!? e5 11.Be3 0–0 12.Bd3 with a sharp game, which suited style and mood of Azerbaijani grandmaster.

**10.Nxf6+ Nxf6 11.dxc5 a5!?** Trying to hold White's pawn expansion on the queenside – 11...Bxc5 12.b4 Be7 13.Bb2 gives White an edge.

**12.g3 Bxc5 13.Bg2 0–0 14.0–0.**

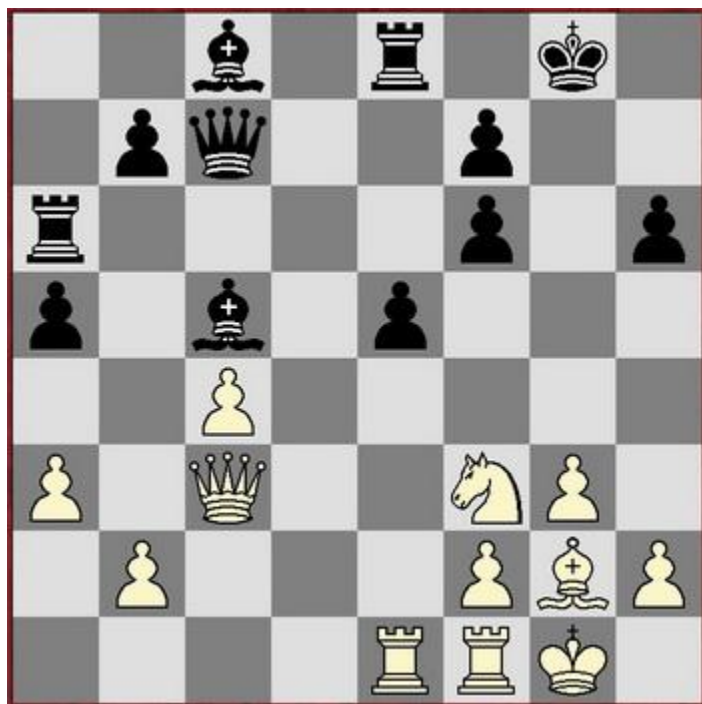


**14...e5.** This decision was supported by computer engines but criticized by Sergey Rublevsky during the online commentary. I don't dare to argue with computers, but this move indeed looked suspect for a human eye. Perhaps against such a forceful player as Mamedyarov one should play more solidly – 14...Bd7 15.Bf4 Bd6 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.Rfe1 Bc6, and Black should equalize.

**15.Bg5 Ra6.** Computers optimistically consider the following position equal: 15...Ng4 16.h3 Nxf2 17.Rxf2 f6 18.Bd2 Be6 19.Be1. Who knows, but White clearly plays it without the slightest risk.

**16.Rae1 Re8 17.Qc3 h6.** Quite a provocative move, especially considering other tempting ideas. 17...e4 18.Nd2 Rae6!? looks interesting, and if 19.Nb3 (on 19.Bxf6 Black has 19...e3!), once again following the machine's advice, then 19...Ba7 20.Nd4 Bxd4 21.Qxd4 Rd6 22.Qc3 Rd3 23.Qc2 Bf5, not worrying about simplifications after 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Bxe4 Bxe4 26.Rxe4 Rxe4 27.Qxd3 Rxc4. Black's small structural disadvantages do not influence the evaluation – dead equal. The immediate 17...Rae6 is viable as well.

**18.Bxf6 gxf6?!**



Although this move is widely supported by chess engines, messing up Black's pawn haircut seems impractical at best (especially against Mamedyarov, I insist!). Humans vote for 18...Rxf6, and after 19.Rxe5 Rxe5 20.Nxe5 Qb6 Black's compensation seems enough to draw.

**19.b4 Bf8 20.Nh4 axb4 21.axb4 Be6 22.c5.** Another curious observation – Black's position looks difficult to a human eye, while computers, even at a significant depth, see absolutely nothing wrong with it.

**22...b6 23.c6 Ra4 24.Rb1.** Only here the computer slowly begins to realize White's advantage.

**24...Rd8 25.Qf3.** Perhaps 25.Be4 Rd4 26.Qf3 followed by Nf5 is even stronger.

**25...Rd4 26.Nf5 Rdx4 27.Rxb4 Rxb4 28.Qh5 Kh7 29.Rd1 Qc8 30.Ne3.** Permanent weakness of the light squares around black king combined with the coming time trouble makes Black's task impracticable.



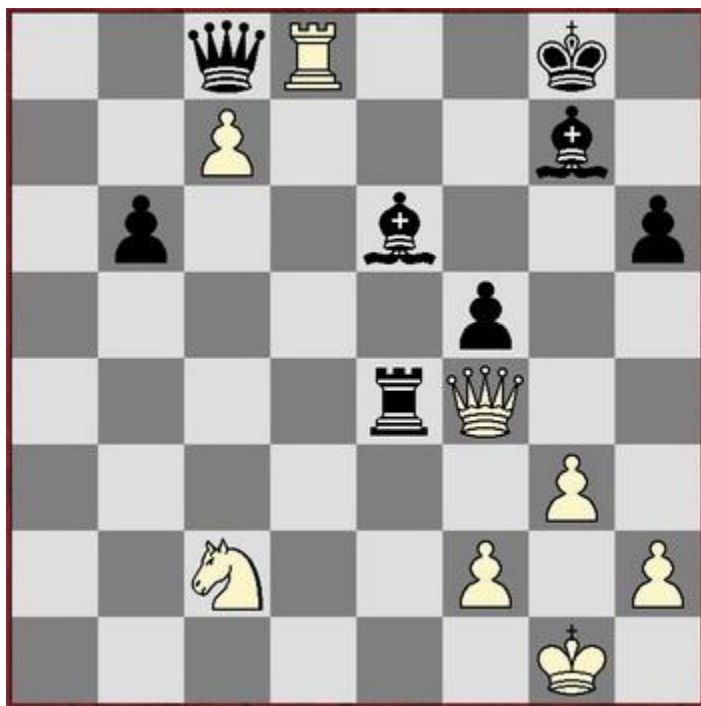
**30...f5?** An exchange sacrifice 30...e4! seems best practical chance. After 31.Nd5 Qxc6 32.Nxb4 Bxb4 Black continues to fight, and the computer recommendation 33.Bh3 seems to lead to a draw after 33...Qc5! 34.Qxc5 Bxc5 35.Bxe6 fxe6.

**31.Bd5!?** Removing one of a few defenders of the black king and creating more weaknesses for Black seems sensible. However, there was an even stronger move: 31.g4! fxg4 (after 31...f4 32.Nd5 White's attack quickly achieves its goal – 32...Rd4 33.Rxd4 exd4 34.Be4+ Kg8 35.g5!+-) 32.Qxe5 with a highly unpleasant threat c6-c7. After the most tenacious 32...Ra4 33.c7 Ra7 34.Rd8 Qxc7 35.Qxc7 Rxc7 36.Rxf8 White should win, but not without technical problems.

**31...f4 32.Nc2 Ra4 33.Qxe5 Bg7 34.Be4+?** This time trouble mistake could keep Shakhriyar on the last place for another round. White retained good winning chances after 34.Qd6 Bxd5 35.Qxd5 Qe6 36.Qd3+ Qg6 37.Na3! Qxd3 38.Rxd3 Be5 39.gxf4 Bxf4 40.Nb5 Kg6 41.Rc3.

**34...Kg8 35.Qxf4 f5! 36.c7 Rxe4 37.Rd8+.**





**37...Kf7??** Missing half a point! After 37...Kh7! 38.Qd6 Qb7 White has to accept a draw – 39.Qxe6 Rxe6 40.c8Q Qxc8 41.Rxc8, etc.

**38.Qd6 Qa6 39.Rd7+!** Andreikin blundered this check. Now the price for stopping the c7-pawn becomes too high...

**39...Kg6.** On 39...Kg8 White can either win a queen by c7-c8 or play for the attack: 40.Ne3!, threatening Qe7.

**40.Qc6 Qc8 41.Rd8 Rc4 42.Qxc4.** Black resigns.

### **Vishy Anand – Vladimir Kramnik Queen's Gambit D39**

This game did not exceed the span of Kramnik's opening preparation and was almost shorter than the press-conference afterwards. It looks like Anand was not in a mood to fight and simply tested Vladimir's knowledge of sharp and forced opening lines.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5.** In very sharp and often forced lines of the Vienna Variation there is a significant risk of tripping an opening mine.

Recently Kramnik employed 6...h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 a few times, but lost his last game after 8.Bxc4 c5 9.e5 Qd8 10.0-0 cxd4 11.Ne4 0-0 12.a3 Be7 13.Qe2 Nd7 14.Rfd1 Qc7 15.Ng3 Rd8 16.Rac1 Qb6 17.Rxd4 Nf8 18.Rg4 Bd7 19.Nh5 Ng6 20.h4 Bf8 21.Bd3 Be8 22.Bxg6 fxg6 23.Nf4 Kh7 24.Qe4 Qxb2 25.Rb1 Qxa3 26.Nxg6 Kg8 27.Rxb7 Qc1+ 28.Kh2 Qc6, Mamedyarov-Kramnik, Moscow 2010.

**7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Nbd7 11.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 13.h4 a6 14.Rh3 Qb4 15.Be2 Ne5 16.h5.** Avoiding 16.Rc1 Qd6 17.Rc2 Bd7 18.Rd2 Qc7 19.Rc2 Qd6 20.Rd2 Qc7 21.Rc2, draw, Grischuk-Kramnik, Moscow 2011.

**16...Qd6 17.Qd2 Nc6 18.Rd3 Qh2.** The only move. 18...Nxd4 is not satisfactory – 19.Rxd4 Qe7 20.Rd1 0–0 21.h6!+-.



**19.f4.** Only this move is a novelty, but everything is so forced that it hardly surprised anyone as theoretically enlightened as Kramnik. Earlier White tried 19.Nf3 Qh1+ 20.Ng1 Rg8 21.Rg3 Rxg3 22.fxg3, and Black got a good game in Froewis-Hoelzl, Austria 2012, although White eventually won after 22...e5?! 23.Kf2!

**19...Rg8.** The greedy 19...Qh1+ 20.Kf2 Qxa1 is not good – after 21.Nxc6 0–0 22.Ne7+ Kh8 23.Rd8 Black is forced to part with a bishop – 23...Bd7 24.Rxd7, and White should win.

**20.Bf3 Bd7!** This move allows Black to hold in all variations.

**21.Ne2.** Very practical – Vishy gained nothing in the opening, and he immediately ends the game. Indeed, 21.Nb3 Ne5! 22.fxe5 Bb5 23.Rd1 Rd8 24.Nc1 Qxe5 seems more promising for Black.

**21...Qh1+ 22.Ng1.**



**22...Nd4! 23.Rxd4 Bb5+ 24.Kf2 Qh4+ 25.Ke3 e5! White cannot avoid the perpetual.**

**26.fxe5 Qg5+ 27.Kf2 Qg3+ 28.Ke3 Qg5+ 29.Kf2 Qg3+ 30.Ke3 Qg5+. Draw.**

### **Sergey Karjakin-Veselin Topalov English Opening A29**

1.c4. At the press-conference Karjakin said that he already tested all sensible moves against Topalov, except for this one, so it was the time to experiment.

**1...e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0.** This position is very common, and its evaluation is critical for the entire line. White tries to prove importance of his extra tempo compared to the Dragon, Black objects. In my database I found that Topalov plays it for both sides, while Karjakin defended it a couple of times as Black.

**9.Be3 Be6.** Karjakin continued 9...Re8 10.Rc1 Bf8 11.a3 Bg4 and equalized completely after 12.Ne4 Nd4 13.Bxd4 exd4 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 c6 16.Kg2 a5, Wang Yue-Karjakin, Beijing 2013.

**10.Rc1 Re8.** Looks like Black mixes up plans, as Karjakin pointed out after the game. Usual moves are 10...f6 or 10...f5.

**11.a3 Nd5 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Qa4 a6.**



A critical moment after the opening. Later Karjakin was unhappy about his next move.

**14.Rc3.** I like the crafty 14.Rfe1!?, and Black has surprising problems with his next move – after 14...Bf6 (nothing is changed by 14...f6 15.Qg4) 15.Nd2 looks even stronger. I cannot say White has an advantage, but his position is somewhat more pleasant.

**14...Bf6 15.Rc5 Ne7 16.Rfc1 c6.** Black has successfully rearranged his forces, and the semi-open c-file yields White nothing.

**17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.Nxg5 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Nf5 20.Qg4 Nd6 21.e3 Qf6 22.Ne4 Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Rad8 24.R1c3 Re6 25.b4 g6 26.a4.** The Bulgarian grandmaster mentioned that his position would be worse without the tactical trick:



**26...Rd4!?** White doesn't have much after 26...Kg7 27.b5 cxb5 28.axb5 b6 29.R5c4 axb5 30.Rb4 Rdd6, but Veselin's continuation equalizes at once.

**27.exd4 exd4 28.Qxe6 Qxe6 29.R3c4 Qd6 30.a5 h5 31.h4 Kg7.** The computer gives slight preference to Black, but does not even try to make progress. The players follow its recommendation mostly because of the time control.

**32.Kg1 Kf8 33.Rc1 Qe6.** Just in case Black seizes the e-file. The machine considers it meaningless, suggesting **33...Kg8 34.Re1 f5**, and White cannot break anyway.

**34.R5c4 Qe5 35.Kf1 Qd5 36.Re1 Qh1+ 37.Ke2 Qd5 38.Kf1 Qh1+ 39.Ke2 Qd5 40.Kf1.** Draw.

### Levon Aronian – Peter Svidler Gruenfeld Defense D85

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5.** Seeing the Gruenfeld against d2-d4 is never surprising in Peter Svidler's games, but seeing him surprised in these lines is equally rare.

**4.Nf3 Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Rb1 0-0 9.Be2.** One of the mainstream lines since 80s. These days it occurs less often, but is still quite playable, as this game shows.

**9...cxd4.** Peter decided against repeating 9...b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd3 e6 12.Bg5 Qc7 13.Qe3 Nd7 as he played in a lost game against Aronian at the Alekhine Memorial last year.

9...Nc6 and 9...Qa5 are the major alternatives.

**10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Bd2 Qxa2 12.0–0 b6.** A lot more often Peter played 12...Bg4. For example, 13.Rxb7 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Bxd4 15.Bb4 Nc6 16.Bxe7 Rfe8 17.Bg5 Bb6 18.h4 Nd4 19.Bf6 Qc4 20.Bxd4 Qxd4 21.Qxd4 Bxd4 22.Rd1 Rad8 23.g3 Kf8 24.Kf1 Bb6 25.h5 Rxd1+ 26.Bxd1 Rxe4 27.hxg6 hxg6 28.Bb3 f5 29.Bf7 Re7 30.Rxe7 Kxe7 31.Bxg6 Kf6, draw, Radjabov-Svidler, Stavanger 2013.

**13.Qc1 Bb7 14.Bc4 Qa4 15.Bb5 Qa2 16.Re1 Rc8 17.Qd1 Qc2 18.Qe2 Nc6 19.Bd3.** Aronian also saw this position before – after 19.e5 Nd8 20.Bd7 Rcb8 21.h4 Bd5 22.Rbc1 Qa2 23.Ng5 h6 24.Nh3 Ne6 25.Qe3 Rd8 26.Bxe6 Bxe6 27.Nf4 Bc4 Black's passed pawns outweighed White's kingside threats, and Levon survived only with some help from his opponent, Aronian-Grischuk, Beijing 2013.

**19...Qa2 20.Bc4 Qa4 21.Bb3.**



**21...Qa3.** A novelty shown by the computer. Earlier Black played 21...Qa6 22.Qe3, and here after 22...Na5 White proceeded 23.Bxf7+ Kxf7 24.Ng5+ with highly unpleasant long-lasting initiative: 24...Kg8 25.Qh3 h6 26.Qe6+ Kh8 27.Nf7+ Kh7 28.Bxh6. Black could survive by 28...b5! (28...Qc4 29.d5 Qc3 30.Bxg7 Qxg7 31.Ng5+ Kh8 32.Re3 Qg8 1–0, Lobron-Konguvel, Linares 1996) 29.Ng5+ Kxh6, and I didn't find more than the perpetual.

**22.Bxf7+.** The principled and possibly strongest reply. After it the game continues almost by force and requires accurate defending from Black.

After 22.e5 e6 23.d5 exd5 24.Bxd5 Black reduces the opponent's attacking potential by 24...Nd8 25.Bxb7 Nxb7 and is not afraid of 26.e6 Nd8 27.e7 Ne6 28.Bb4 Qa4 29.Ne5 Qe8 – it is hard for White to make progress.

**22...Kxf7 23.Qc4+ e6 24.Ng5+ Ke8 25.Nxe6 Qe7 26.Nxg7+.** 26.d5 looks like a serious alternative, however, after 26...Nd4 27.Qa4+ b5 28.Rxb5 Nxb5 29.Qxb5+ Kf7 30.Ng5+ Kg8



31.d6 Qxd6 32.Qxb7 Rab8 (32...Qxd2?? 33.Qb3+ Kh8 34.Nf7+ Kg8 35.Nh6+ Kh8 36.Qg8+ Rxg8 37.Nf7#) 33.Qf7+ Kh8 White cannot prove his advantage.

**26...Qxg7 27.Bc3.**



The critical moment of the game. At the press-conference Svidler said he saw 27...Nxd4 28.Qxd4 Qxd4 29.Bxd4 with the draw being very likely, but decided to continue fighting. Such an optimistic decision deserves criticism – White's winning chances in a practical game are pretty high, while Black needs to be very accurate to hold.

**27...Nd8 28.Qb3 Rc7 29.Ba1 Rac8 30.d5 Qd7 31.Qb2 Qe7 32.Rbd1 Nf7 33.e5 Rc2 34.Qb5+.**



So far Svidler was up to the task...

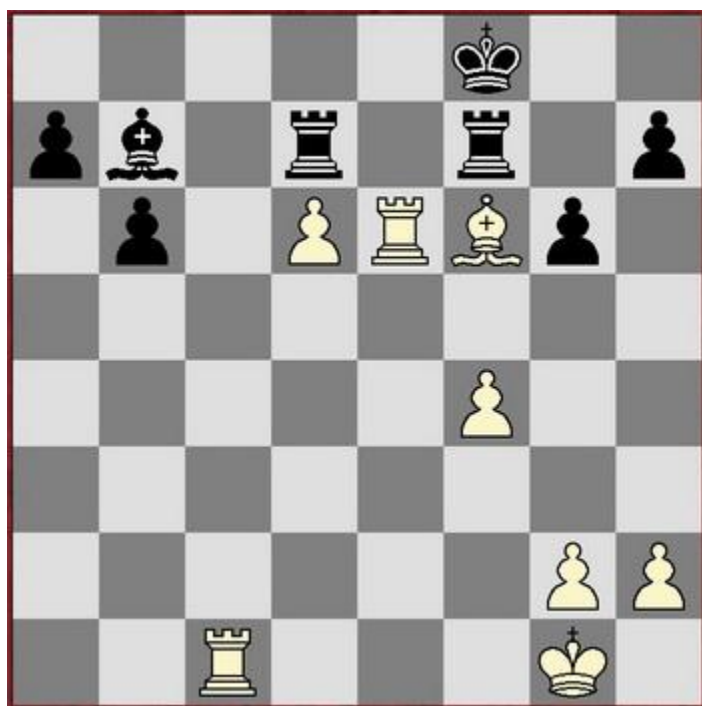
**34...Qd7?** A single mistake, and Black goes down. After the only 34...Kf8 35.e6 Nd6 Black keeps balancing on a brink – 36.Qb4 R8c4 37.Qa3 Nf5! 38.d6 Nxd6 39.Rxd6 Ke8!, still holding.

**35.Qxd7+ Kxd7 36.e6+.** White regains a piece in a much more favorable situation compared to 27...Nxd4 and retains good winning chances.

**36...Kd6 37.exf7 Rf8 38.Re6+ Kd7 39.Rf6 Re2 40.f4 Re7 41.Be5.** The time trouble is over, but Black's suffering just begins.

**41...Rexf7 42.Rd6+ Ke8?!** More tenacious is 42...Ke7, intending to trade a couple of rooks by ...Rd8, still fighting for a draw.

**43.Re1 Re7 44.Rc1 Rff7 45.Bf6! Rd7 46.Re6+ Kf8 47.d6.**



Black is completely chained, and his connected passed pawns on the queenside cannot move. White's advantage is almost decisive.

**47...Kg8 48.h4.** The h-pawn breaks through Black's kingside like a battering-ram.

**48...Rf8 49.Bg5 Kf7 50.Rce1 Bc6?** Offering White a chance to end the game at once. Black still fights for a draw after 50...Kg8 51.Re7 Rfd8 52.Rc1 Rxe7 53.dxe7 Re8.

**51.h5?!** Aronian could win by 51.Re7+ Kg8 52.Rc1 Rxd6 53.Rc7! followed by Be7.

**51...a5?** The worst possible moment to push this pawn! White gets another chance to end the game, and does not let it go this time. Black needed to play 51...gxh5, although it seems White wins after 52.Re7+ Kg8 53.Rc1 Rxd6 54.Rc7 Be4 55.Be7 Rd2 56.Bxf8 Kxf8 57.g3! anyway.

**52.Re7+ Kg8 53.hxg6.** 53.Rc1 Rxd6 54.Rc7 was quite good, but so is Levon's choice.

**53...hxg6 54.R1e6 Rf7 55.Rxg6+ Kh7 56.Rh6+ Kg7 57.Ree6.** Black resigns.

#### Round 5

SNo.	Name	FED	Res.	Name	FED	SNo.
1	GM Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	½ – ½	GM Anand Viswanathan	IND	6
2	GM Karjakin Sergey	RUS	½ – ½	GM Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	5
3	GM Svidler Peter	RUS	1 - 0	GM Topalov Veselin	BUL	8
4	GM Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	½ - ½	GM Aronian Levon	ARM	7

## Round 5: Svidler defeats Topalov, Anand still on top

Peter Svidler bounced back after yesterday's loss by winning against Veselin Topalov in round 5 of FIDE World Candidates Tournament. At the same time Viswanathan Anand preserved the lead after splitting the point with Dmitry Andreikin.

Kramnik and Aronian played a wild match that eventually settled in a draw after six hours of play. The first game to finish today was a peaceful draw between Sergey Karjakin and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov.

After five rounds Anand remains on top with 3,5 points. Kramnik, Aronian and Svidler share the second place with 3 points each. A full point behind are Topalov, Mamedyarov and Karjakin. **Andreikin** remains last with 1,5 points.

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** attempted to play the Naidorf Sicilian, which is not very common in his practice, but Sergey Karjakin circumvented with the Bb5 check and the Moscow variation.

White's 12.Nd5 allowed massive exchanges at black's convenience who was just on time to strike the pawn chain with 15...b5.

Black could even allow the luxury of giving up a pawn to activate his heavy pieces. Draw was signed on move 31.

At the press conference both players agreed that Mamedyarov's 21...a5 was very strong, practically securing a draw.

Despite the unpleasant experience with Berlin Ruy Lopez in the World Championship Match in Chennai, **Viswanathan Anand** himself adopted the opening with black in the game against **Dmitry Andreikin**.

Andreikin employed the system with early Bxc6 and Be3, championed by his compatriot Ian Nepomniachtchi. But Anand was already familiar with the plan, having earlier defended black against Topalov.

The main battle was on the queenside where white was attempting to break to the 7th rank. Anand, however, played quickly and confidently, while Andreikin was burning his clock.

Black constantly had a small pull, but white held the position together and the draw was signed on move 43.

**Veselin Topalov** revived a line in the Ruy Lopez Møller Defence that was previously considered dubious. His 10...exf3 appears to be better than the committal 10...Bxf2+.

The surprised **Peter Svidler** spent lots of time to accurately navigate the resulting sharp position. After move 14 he actually thought that he is losing. But he treated it well and even emerged with slight advantage.

A couple of imprecise moves by black, namely 26...Ka6 and 28...Ne5 were enough to get him in trouble. The combined force of rook and two bishops harassed the stranded black king until white was able to trade down to the winning endgame with the passed h-pawn.

The start of the game between **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Levon Aronian** was quiet as it can get, but it didn't take long before white started piling his pieces towards the black king.

Kramnik already has the experience of blasting the opponents off the board after a seemingly modest setup (for example against Van Wely). Aronian responded with counterplay in the center.

White forced the opening of the long diagonal, which looked immensely dangerous for black. Luckily for him, Aronian had a strong trump in the advanced e-pawn.

With the help of the temporary queen sacrifice black succeeded in simplifying the position down to an equal rook endgame.

Kramnik pressed on but to no avail as Aronian played precisely to hold a draw.

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 5th round**

**Dmitry Andreikin – Viswanathan Anand**  
**Ruy Lopez C65**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6.** A few days ago Andreikin tested 5.c3 against Karjakin.

**5...dxc6 6.Be3 Bxe3 7.fxe3 Qe7 8.0–0.** 8.Nbd2 0–0 9.Qe2 Nd7 10.0–0 a5 11.d4 c5 12.c3 b6 13.Qf2 Ba6 14.Rfe1 Rae8 15.Qg3 Kh8 16.Rad1 g6 17.h3, draw, Topalov – Anand, Monte Carlo 2003.

**8...0–0.** This natural move is a novelty. Earlier Black played 8...Bg4 and 8...Ng4.

**9.Qe1.**



**9...Ne8!? 10.Qc3 f6 11.b4 Nd6.** Vishy finds a very good place for a knight, where it controls the situation on both flanks.

**12.a4 Bd7 13.Nbd2 b6 14.a5 Kh8 15.Ra2.** White's position may look better, but it is hard to suggest a reasonable plan.

**15...Rab8 16.axb6 axb6 17.Qa1.**



**17...Nb7.** According to Andreikin, he missed this move in connection with the c6-c5 idea.



**18.Qc3 c5 19.bxc5 Nxc5 20.Ra7.** White cannot break in the center by 20.d4?! exd4 21.exd4 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Qxe4 23.Qxc7 Qe3+ 24.Kh1 Bg4, and he also managed to create problems for himself.

**20...Rfc8 21.Rfa1 b5 22.d4.** Beginning to play with fire! Opening the center favors Black, because his bishop may become stronger than the white knight. The natural 22.Qb4, to which Black must reply 22...Qd6, also does not promise White much – 23.Nb3 Nxb3 24.Qxd6 cxd6 25.cxb3 Be6 26.b4 Rc3 with enough counterplay.

**22...exd4 23.exd4?!** The computer condemns this automatic recapture, however Black does not experience any problems after the recommended 23.Qb4 Qd6 24.Qxd4 due to 24...Bc6! 25.e5!? (25.Qxd6 leads to complete equality – 25...cxd6 26.Nd4 Bxe4 27.Nxe4 Nxe4 28.Re7 Re8!) 25...Qe7, and renewing the pin is just a waste of time – 26.Qb4?! fxe5 27.Nb3? Bxf3 28.gxf3 Qg5+!

**23...Nxe4 24.Nxe4 Qxe4 25.Rxc7.**



**25...Bf5.** As Vishy explained after the game, this move is based on a slight miscalculation. The immediate 25...h6 seems stronger, and on 26.Raa7 Black continues 26...Bg4! with unpleasant pressure.

**26.Raa7 h6.** Initially Anand planned 26...Qxc2, but after 27.Qxc2 Bxc2 28.Rab7! White wins the b5-pawn.

**27.Qd2 Rxc7 28.Rxc7 Bg4 29.Rc3 b4 30.Re3 Qd5 31.h3 Bf5 32.Rb3 Qc4.** This position clearly favors Black, however, a weakness on b4 makes active operations less desirable.

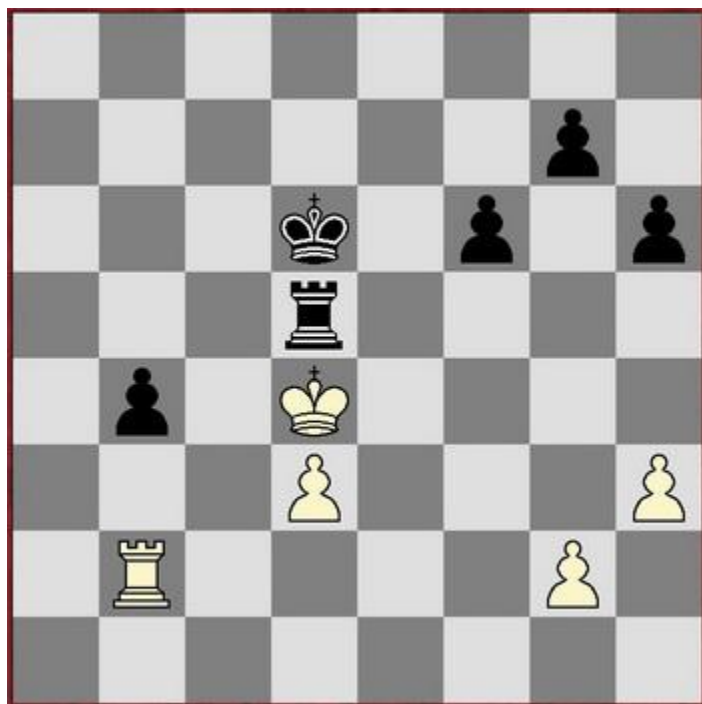
**33.Rb2.** Anand thought White would have kind of a fortress after 33.Ne1. However, the character of the game after 33...Kg8 34.Kf2 Kf7 35.Kg1 g5 is way to depressing for a young man.

**33...Be4 34.Kf2 Bxf3 35.Kxf3 Rb5.** Both players regarded it as the best practical chance. Another attempt to create threats – 35...Qf1+ 36.Kg3 Re8! looks a lot more dangerous. White must discover 37.c4!, and after 37...Re4 38.Kh2 b3 39.Qc3 Qf4+ 40.Qg3 Qxg3+ 41.Kxg3 Rxd4 42.Rxb3 Rxc4 Black's extra pawn cannot be converted into anything.



**36.Qd3!** Dmitry Andreikin was in a time trouble, but nevertheless made such an important decision. After the game the players analyzed 36.Kg3 Qc7+ 37.Kf2 Qh2 38.Qd3 Qf4+! 39.Kg1 Qc1+ 40.Kh2 Qxb2 41.Qxb5 Qxd4, and Black retains good practical winning chances.

**36...Qxd3+ 37.cxd3 Kg8 38.d5 Kf7 39.Ke4 Ke7 40.Kd4 Kd6 41.Kc4 Rc5+ 42.Kd4 Rxd5+.**



The sequence above is almost forced, however, Black's draw offer raises eyebrows. After 42...Rxd5+ 43.Kc4 Rc5+ 44.Kd4 he can try 44...Rg5 (the pawn ending after 44...Rb5 45.Kc4 Rb8 46.Rxb4 Rxb4+ 47.Kxb4 Kd5 48.Kc3 f5 is drawn in many ways, here is the most straightforward one: 49.d4 f4 50.Kd3 g5 51.Ke2! Kxd4 52.Kf3! Ke5 53.Kg4! Ke4 54.h4=) 45.Kc4 Rg3 46.Rd2 f5 47.Kxb4 Kd5. Black clearly wasted a chance to play for a win without the slightest risk, and I am not sure Vishy will not regret it in the end of the tournament.

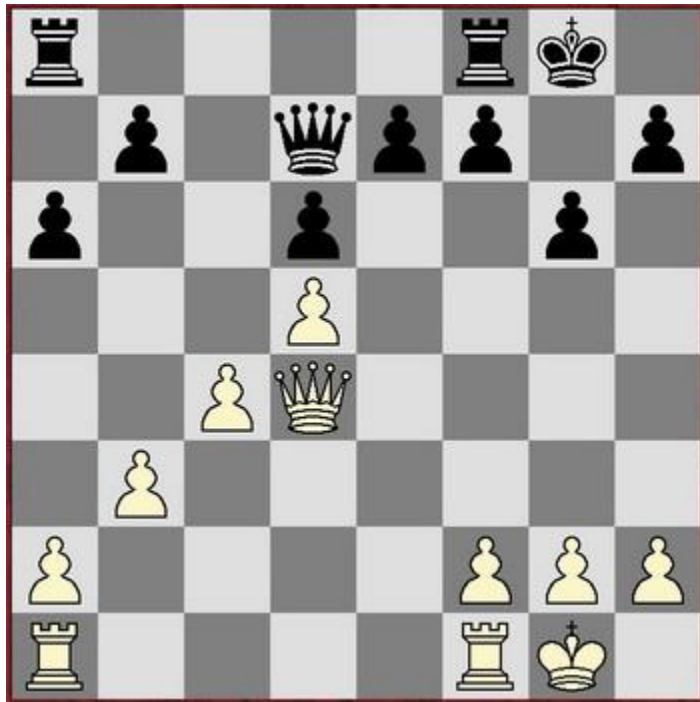
### **Sergey Karjakin – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov Sicilian Defense B52**

Facing an early surprise, Karjakin avoided the discussion in the main Sicilian, so we can only guess about Mamedyarov's intentions.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.b3.** A rare move that recently became popular.

**10...Nc6 11.Bb2 a6 12.Nd5.** Adams-Areschenko, 2013 (quoted by Karjakin at the press-conference) went 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Qc5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Re1 e5 17.dxe6 fxe6 18.Qd2 (18.Rxe6 Qxf2+ 19.Kh1 Rae8 20.Rxd6, and Black's activity gives him sufficient counterplay) 18...Rf6 19.Rad1 Raf8 with a good counterplay for Black.

**12...Nxd5 13.exd5 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.Qxd4.**



It was a bit surprising that Sergey considered his position more pleasant. It is usually very hard to shake the balance in such endings.

**15...b5 16.Rfe1 Rfc8 17.h4 bxc4 18.bxc4 h5.** The weakness on e7 is sufficiently compensated by the weakness on c4, so Black just needs to be careful.

**19.Re4 Rc7 20.Rae1 Rac8 21.Qb6.**



**21...a5!?** Shakhriyar is true to his style! With this pawn sacrifice Black activates his pieces and makes an easy draw. It looks like he can also hold after 21...Rxc4 22.Rxe7 Qf5 23.Qxd6 Rc2, for example, 24.f3 Rxa2 25.Re8+ Rxe8 26.Rxe8+ Kh7 27.Qf8 Qf6! with equality.

**22.Qxa5 Rxc4 23.Rxe7 Qf5 24.Qd2 Qf4! 25.Qxf4 Rxf4 26.g3.** Accepting the inevitability of a draw. After the careless 26.Rd7 Rc2 27.f3 Rxa2 28.Rxd6 Rd4 followed by ...Rdd2 White may run into difficulties.

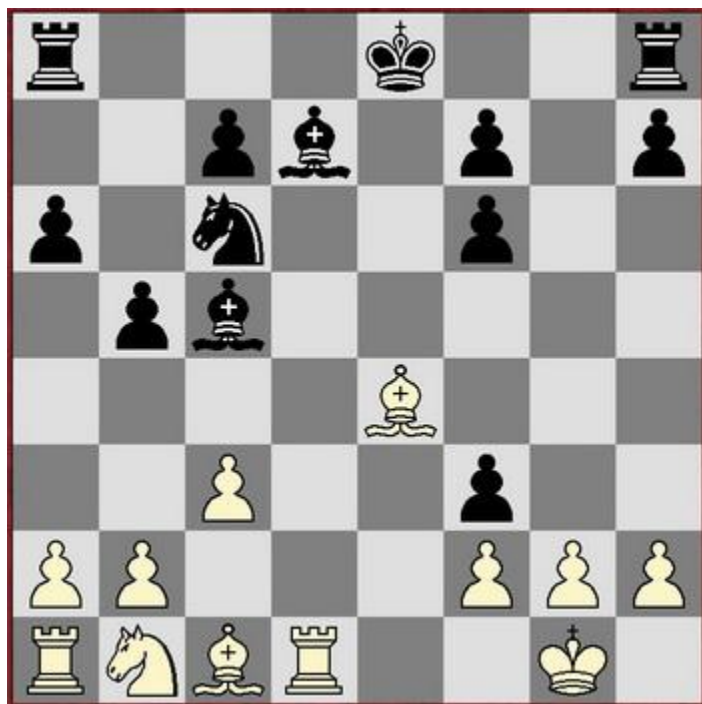
**26...Rf5 27.a4 Rxd5 28.Re8+ Rxe8 29.Rxe8+ Kg7 30.Ra8 Rd3 31.a5.** Draw. The final position is drawn even without black d6-pawn.

### Peter Svidler – Veselin Topalov Ruy Lopez C78

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0–0 Bc5 6.c3 b5 7.Bc2 d5.** The Ukrainian-American Alexander Onischuk is one of the main experts of this variation. Topalov never played it as Black and faced it a few times as White.

**8.d4 dxe4 9.dxe5 Qxd1!? 9...exf3 10.exf6 Qxf6 11.Nd2 0–0 12.Ne4 Qg6 13.Ng3 Qf6 14.Qd3 g6 15.Ne4 Qf5 16.Nxc5 fxg2 17.Re1 Qxc5 18.Qf3 Kg7 19.Be3 Qc4 20.Bb3 Ne5 21.Qg3 Qh4 22.Qxe5+,** Svidler-Stefanova, Gibraltar 2009.

**10.Rxd1 exf3 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Be4 Bd7.**



**13.a4?!** Based on a miscalculation, as Svidler explained at the press-conference. The only preceding game continued 13.Bxf3 0–0–0 14.Bf4 Ne5 15.Be4 Bg4 16.Rxd8+ Rxd8 17.Nd2 Nd3 18.Bxd3 Rxd3 19.Ne4 Be7 20.h3 Be6 21.a4 b4 22.cxb4 Rd4 23.f3 f5 24.Be5 Rxb4 25.Nf6 Bxf6 26.Bxf6 Bd7 27.a5 Ra4, draw, Filev-Vlashki, Kula 2009.

**13...0-0-0 14.axb5 Ne5 15.Bf4.** Seemingly the lesser of evils. Initially Svidler planned 15.Rxa6, but Black has an amazing reply – 15...Bc6!! 16.Bf5+ Kb8, and White is in big trouble.

Computer also recommends 15.Rxd7!?, but after the correct 15...Nxd7! 16.Bf4 Rhe8 17.Nd2 axb5 18.Bxf3 White has no compensation for an exchange.

**15...Bxb5 16.Na3.**



**16...Rxd1+?!** Sergey Shipov and Sergey Rublevsky condemned this move during the online relay. Indeed, the trade looks illogical, as it allows White to activate his rook on the d-file.

**17.Rxd1 Be2?!** Simply 17...Bxa3 18.bxa3 fxg2, and Black surely will not lose.

**18.Rd5 Rg8?** This intermediate move gives Black more trouble. 18...Bxa3 19.bxa3 fxg2 was still on the agenda, although here Black would have to play very carefully after 20.Bxe5 fxe5 21.Rxe5.

**19.g3 Bxa3 20.bxa3?** Missing a chance to take on h7 in between – 20.Bxh7 c6!? (the only sensible reply, 20...Re8 21.Bf5+ Kb8 22.bxa3 is clearly bad) 21.Rd2 Rd8 22.Bf5+ Kc7 23.Bxe5+! fxe5 24.Rxd8 Kxd8 25.bxa3, and it seems White should win.

**20...Ng6 21.Be3 Re8 22.Bf5+.** 22.Bc2 Re5 23.Rxe5 fxe5 24.h4!? deserves attention, and Black will suffer in the endgame.

**22...Kb7 23.Rd4 Re5 24.g4 a5 25.h3 h5 26.Be4+ Ka6 27.gxh5 Rxh5.**





**28.Rd8.** In the case of 28.Rd7 Re5 29.Bc6 (29.Bc2 followed by the h-pawn march might be stronger) 29...Ne7! (after 29...Rxe3 30.fxe3 Ne5 31.Ba4 the bishop ending should be won for White) 30.Rxc7 Nxc6 31.Rxc6+ Kb5 32.Rxf6 Ka4 Black has serious counterplay compared to the game due to the a-pawn.

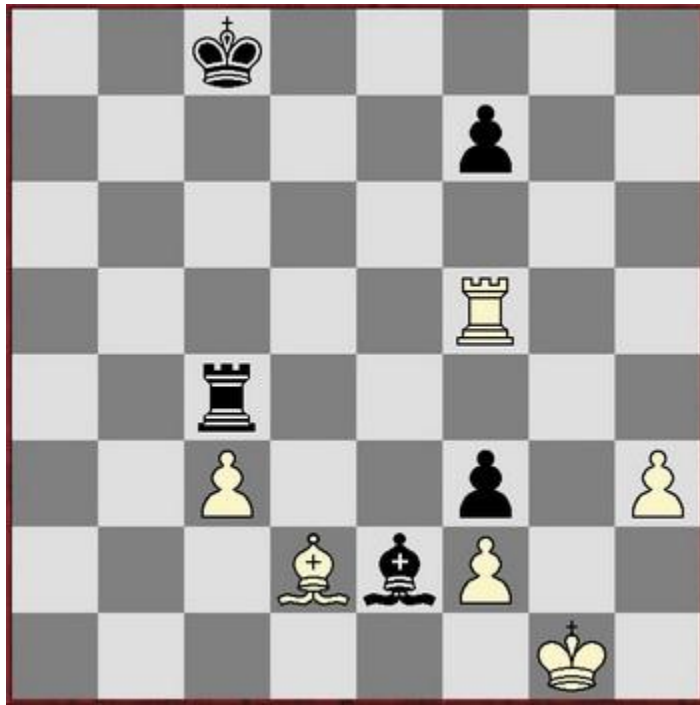
**28...Ne5.** Probably the most tenacious. Peter thought Black must play 28...Rhx3, but it is refuted by 29.Rb8 Rh8 30.Rb2, and the black king cannot survive – 30...a4 31.Bb7+ Ka5 32.c4 with an inevitable mating threat from d2 or b5.

Also interesting is 28...c5 29.a4 Rh4, but after 30.Rd6+ Ka7 31.Bf5 Rxa4 32.Bxc5+ Kb8 33.Rxf6 Black's position remains very difficult.

**29.a4!** White begins to hunt the enemy king. Black's next moves are forced.

**29...c6 30.Rb8 Nc4 31.Bd4 c5 32.Bxf6 Nb6 33.Bd8 Nd5 34.Ra8+.** 34.Rc8 Re5 35.Rxc5 Rxe4 36.Rxa5+ Kb7 37.Rxd5 Rxa4 transposes to the game.

**34...Kb7 35.Rxa5 Re5 36.Rxc5 Rxe4 37.Rxd5 Rxa4 38.Rf5 Kc8 39.Bg5 Rc4 40.Bd2.**

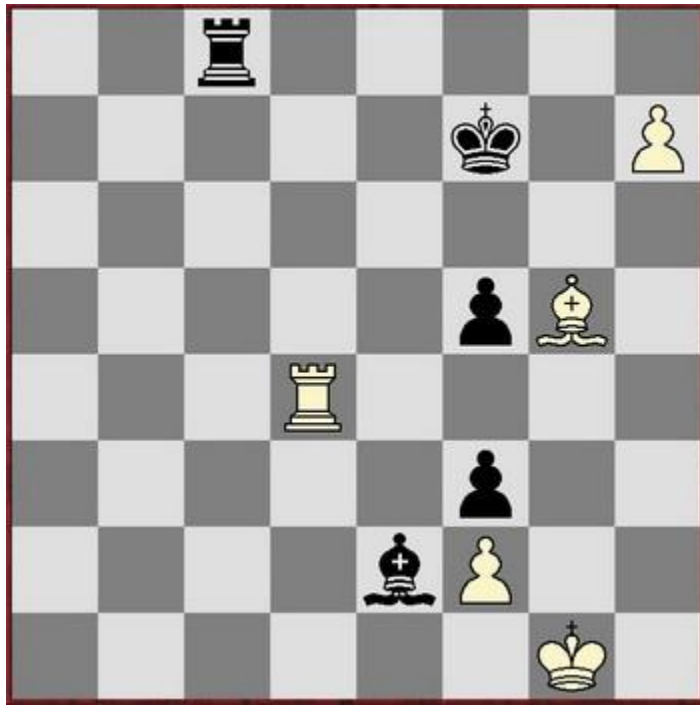


This endgame is won for White, because the opposite-colored bishop ending is won as well.

**40...Rc7?!** This game cannot be saved by defending passively. The computer suggests an interesting idea: 40...Rh4 41.Kh2 Bf1 42.Rxf3 Rh5!, and if Black plays f7-f5, it is hard for White to make progress, while on 43.Rxf7 Rxh3+ 44.Kg1 there is 44...Be2! 45.f4 Bc4, and White faces serious technical obstacles.

**41.h4 Kd8 42.Bg5+ Ke8 43.Rd5!?** The board is almost empty, but Svidler manages to create mating threats even here.

**43...f5 44.h5 Rc4 45.Rd4 Rxc3 46.h6 Rc8 47.h7 Kf7.**



**48.Bd8!** Black resigns. An amusing fact: White managed to win this endgame without a single move of his king!

### **Vladimir Kramnik – Levon Aronian Queen's Indian Defense E14**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e3.** Vladimir rejects his favorite Catalan (4.g3) and opts for a very modest approach. On 4.Nc3 Black could play the Ragozin or 4...c6.

**4...b6.** Aronian goes for the Queen's Indian.

**5.Nc3 Bb7 6.cxd5.** Keeping the central tension by 6.Bd3 is also possible.

**6...exd5 7.Bb5+ c6 8.Bd3.** Black's c-pawn usually goes to c5 anyway, but luring it to c6 actually makes sense because of e3-e4 possibilities in some lines.

**8...Be7.** Another direction is 8...Bd6 9.0-0 0-0, where White has not only the plan executed in the game, but also the aforementioned 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 Nd7 13.Bg5 Qc7 14.Qc2 h6 15.Bh4 with some hope for an advantage.

**9.0-0 0-0 10.b3 Nbd7 11.Bb2 Re8 12.Ne5.**



**12...Bd6.** The immediate 12...Bb4 deserves attention. This move occurred in the only preceding game, and after 13.f4 Black can try 13...Bxc3!? (the game in question continued 13...a6 14.Bf5 Nf8 15.Rc1 b5 16.Ne2 Qb6 17.Ng3 Bd6 18.Qc2 a5 19.Rf3 a4 20.Bd3 axb3 21.axb3 Ng6 22.Nf5 Bf8 23.Rff1 Rac8 24.Qe2 b4 25.h4 Red8 26.h5 Ne7 27.Ng3 h6 28.Rc2 Ra8 29.Rfc1 Rd6 30.Qd2 Bc8 31.Ra1 Rb8 32.Rcc1 Ne8 33.Qc2 Rf6 34.Nh1 Qb7 35.Nf2 Kh8 36.Nfg4 Bxg4 37.Nxg4 Rd6 38.Ne5 Rf6 39.Ra4 Ng8 40.Rca1 1–0, Lukacs-Votava, Budapest 1995) 14.Bxc3 Ne4 15.Rc1!? (15.Bb2 Ndf6, establishing control over e4) 15...Qe7 (15...Nxc3? loses to 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Qxf7+ Kh8 19.Rf3 or 18...Kh7 19.Rf3 Qh4 20.Nxd7) 16.Be1 Rac8, and White is still better.

**13.f4.** Strengthening on e5 and preparing the kingside attack.

**13...c5 14.Qf3 cxd4 15.exd4 Bb4.** Black is ready to part with the bishop in order to put his knight on e4 – a typical idea with this pawn structure.

**16.Ne2.** Playing by the plan. The knight goes to g3 to support the attack. Black's control over the c-file is irrelevant, because the invasion squares are controlled by white bishops.

**16...Ne4 17.a3 Bf8.**



**18.Rad1!?** The idea behind this move is not just defending against ...Nd2 (to which White always has at least Qh3). This is more of a useful waiting move – White's setup is flexible, and the rook is likely to be very useful on d1.

The position is not ready yet for the straightforward 18.Qh3 Ndf6 19.g4?!, as after 19...Bc8 20.Qg2 Nd6 21.g5 Nfe4 Black rearranges his forces, and his future is bright.

**18...a6.** Preparing b6-b5 to vacate the b6-square for a queen. Black cannot push the white knight away: 18...f6? 19.Qxe4! However, there was an interesting alternative to the text – 18...Ndf6 19.g4 Nd6 20.g5 Nfe4 21.Ng3 Rc8, and Black seems in order.

**19.a4.** As for 19.b4, Kramnik didn't want to weaken the c4-square after 19...Ndf6 and ...Nd6.

**19...Rc8 20.Qh5 g6.** The ideas behind a3-a4 are revealed in 20...Qe7 21.Ba3! Ndf6 22.Bxe7 Nxe5 23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.Nd7 Rfe8 25.Nxb6 Rc7 26.a5!, and White is a pawn up for nothing.

**21.Qh3.**



**21...Ndf6.** A rather provocative decision. At the press-conference Vladimir said 21...f5 22.g4 fxg4 23.Qxg4 Ndf6 24.Qg2 Rc7 25.f5 Rg7 is best for Black, however, both players missed that after 26.fxg6 Black can play 26...Rxe5! (after 26...hxg6 27.Bc1 White has a clear advantage) 27.dxe5 Rxe6 28.exf6 Bc5+! 29.Bd4 Rxe2+ 30.Kxe2 Kf7!



One of many crazy positions I saw analyzing this game. For a human eye White is almost winning, but the computer keeps kicking: 31.Bxe4 (after 31.Bxc5 Nxc5 32.Nd4 Qg8+ 33.Kh1 Nxd3 34.Rxd3 Qg4 White cannot improve his position because he must block the d-pawn) 31...dxe4 32.Bxc5 e3+! 33.Kg3 Qc7+ 34.Bd6 Qc2! 35.Rc1 Qg6+ 36.Kh4! Qh6+ 37.Kg4, and, as always with lengthy computer lines, the game ends in a draw by perpetual.

**22.f5 g5?!** Levon decides against opening the f-file. The text-move has its drawbacks as well. The safest alternative is 22...Rc7! 23.fxg6 fxg6 24.Bc1 Bg7.

**23.Ng3.** The white knight immediately goes to h5.



**23...b5?!** Played after extended thought and is not approved by the machine.

**24.axb5 Qb6.** This was the point of the pawn sacrifice: e5 is attacked, and black pieces are getting active...

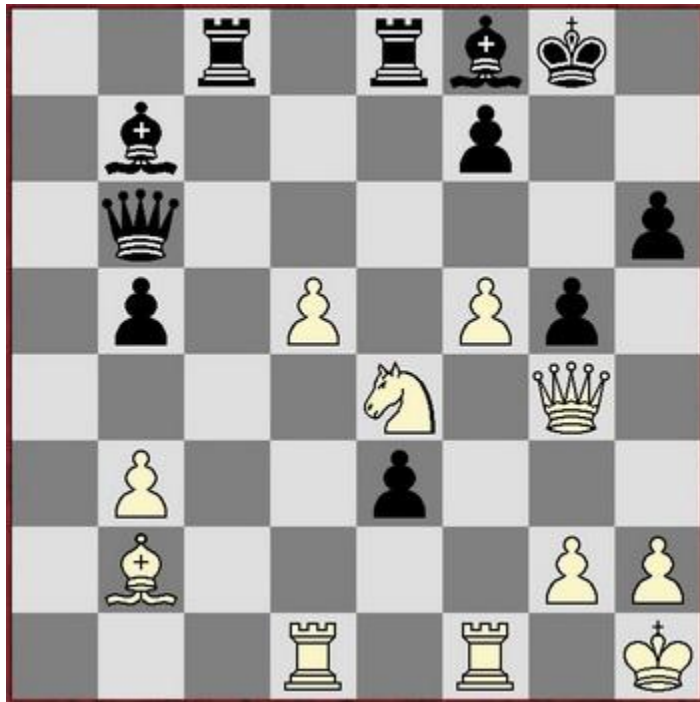


**25.Kh1!?** White decides to avoid small skirmishes and implements his strategic plan of a full-scale kingside attack. The computer suggest 25.bxa6!? Bxa6 26.Nxe4 dxe4 27.Bxa6 Qxa6 28.Qg3 h6 29.h4, and it looks very promising for White.

**25...axb5 26.Bxe4 dxe4 27.d5.** Kramnik considered his position nearly winning – it all looks very scary for the black king. However, Levon found an amazing counterplay idea!

**27...e3! 28.Ng4 Nxg4 29.Qxg4 h6!** Not 29...f6 30.Nh5! Bg7 31.Nxg7 e2 32.Nh5 exf1Q+ 33.Rxf1, and White wins.

**30.Ne4.** 30.Nh5 changes nothing.



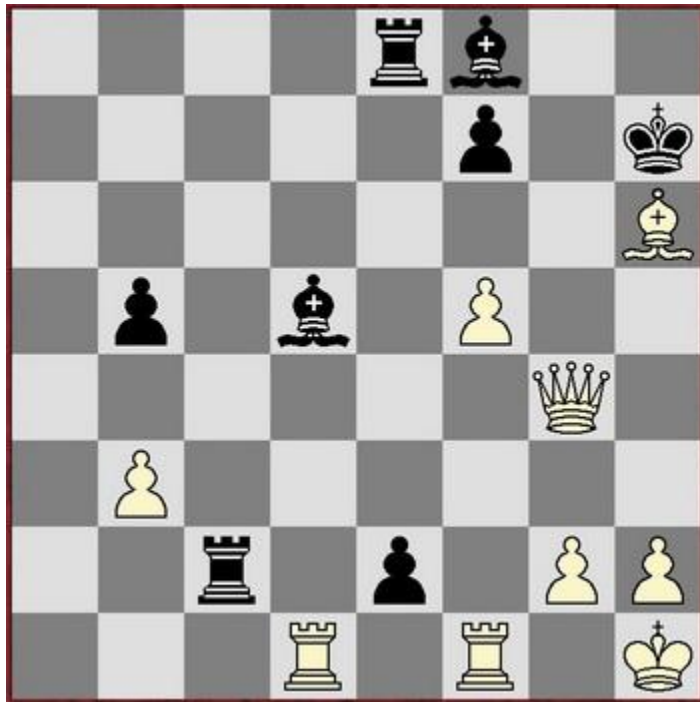
**30...Rc2! 31.Nf6+ Qxf6 32.Bxf6 e2.** A fantastic position! White has numerous options, but cannot achieve any significant gains.

**33.Bxg5!?** A strong practical decision – safety comes first, and after the time control White can keep playing for a win without much risk. After 33.Qf3 exf1Q+ 34.Qxf1 Black holds only by 34...Rce2! If 34.Rxf1? then 34...Rd2 and ...Bd5, and Black wins.

**33...Bxd5?** Black oversteps boundaries of reasonable risk, trying to complicate the game as much as he can. The greedy 33...exf1Q+ 34.Rxf1 hxd5 35.Qxd5+ Kh7 36.f6 Re2! 37.Rg1 Rcd2 would force White to give the perpetual.

**34.Bxh6+.** White probably wins after 34.Be7+ Bg7 (34...Kh7? 35.f6! exf1Q+ 36.Rxf1+-; 34...Kh8 35.Qd4+ Kh7 36.Qxd5) 35.Rg1 exd1Q 36.Qxd1 Rxd1 37.Qxd5 Rxd5+ 38.Kxg1 Rxe7 39.Qxb5, etc.

**34...Kh7.**

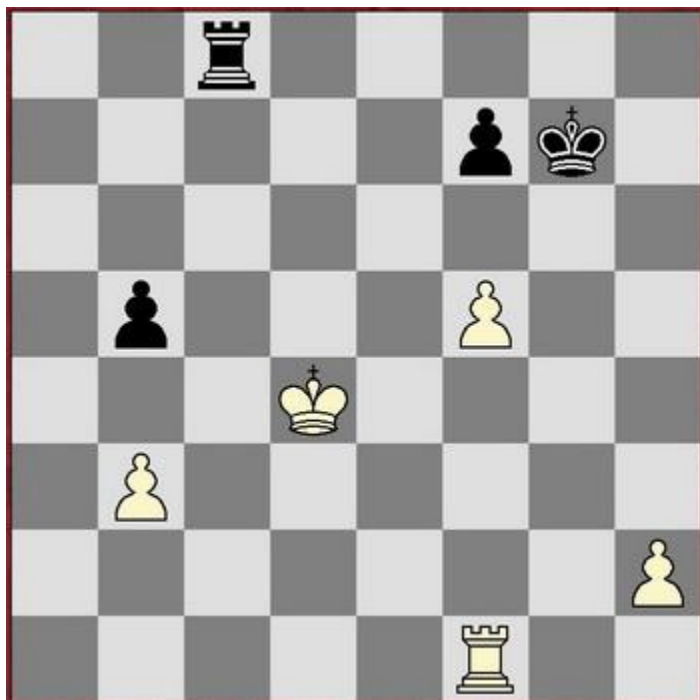


**35.Bxf8?!** Being under time pressure, Kramnik didn't dare to try the head-spinning 35.Rg1 Bxh6 36.Rde1, and it seems White should win: 36...Bxb3 37.f6! Re5 38.Qd4 Re3 39.g4!, etc.

**35...exf1Q+ 36.Rxf1 Rxc2 37.Qxc2.** Keeping the queen by 37.Qh5+ Kg8 38.Rf3 Rf2 39.Qg4+ Kxf8 40.Qb4+ Kg8 41.Qg4+ only leads to the perpetual.

**37...Bxc2+ 38.Kxc2 Rxf8 39.Kf3.** At the press-conference Kramnik regretted this endgame emerged before the move 40, therefore he had no time to dig deeper.

**39...Kg7 40.Ke4 Rh8 41.Kd4 Rc8.**



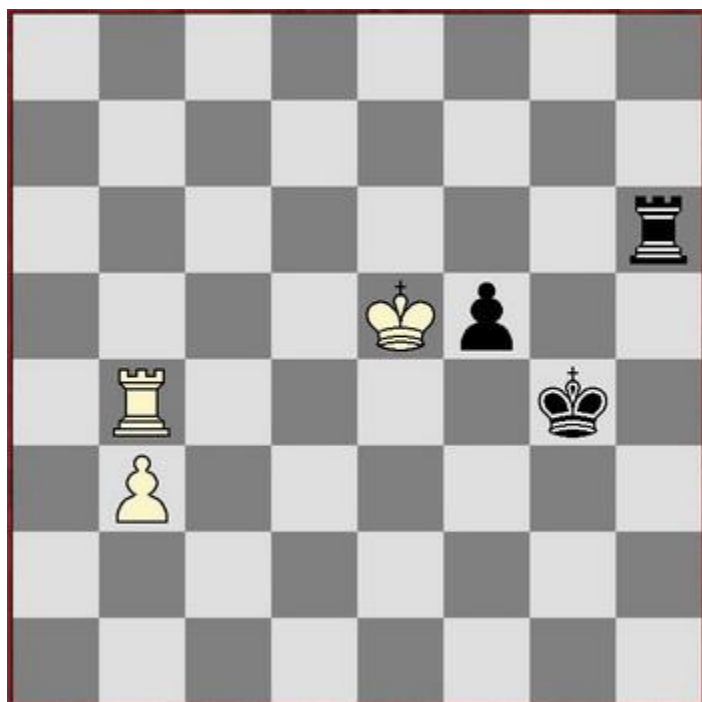
**42.Rf4.** After 42.f6+ Kg6 43.h4 Black is saved by 43...b4! 44.Rf3 Rc2 45.Kd5 Rc3, and White cannot make progress.

**42...Kf6 43.h4 Re8?!** Keeping the rook on the c-file is simpler.

**44.Kc5 Re5+ 45.Kd6 Re3!** Not 45...Rxf5 46.Rxf5+ Kxf5 47.Ke7! Kg6 48.h5+ Kg7 49.h6+ Kg8 50.h7+ Kg7 51.h8Q+ Kxh8 52.Kxf7, and White wins (given by Kramnik).

**46.Rb4!?** One of the last attempts to create problems. Black holds after 46.b4 Rc3! 47.Kd5 Rc1 48.h5 Kg5 49.Rf2 Rc4 50.Ke5 Rxb4 51.Rg2+ Kxh5 52.Rg7 Rb1, etc.

**46...Kxf5 47.Rxb5+ Kg4 48.h5 f5 49.h6 Rh3 50.Ke5 Rxb6 51.Rb4+.**



**51...Kf3!** The simplest. Kramnik also showed 51...Kg5 52.Rb8!? f4 53.Rg8+ Rg6! 54.Rxg6+ Kxg6 55.Kxf4 Kf6=.

**52.Kxf5.** The next sequence was played with smiling faces...

**52...Ke3 53.Ke5 Kd3 54.Rb8 Kc3 55.b4 Kc4 56.Rb7 Rh5+ 57.Kd6 Rh6+ 58.Kd7 Rh7+ 59.Kc6 Rxb7 60.Kxb7 Kxb4.** Draw.

#### Round 6

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
7	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	½ - ½	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	1
6	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	½ - ½	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	2
5	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	1 - 0	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	3
8	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	1 - 0	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	4

## Mamedyarov and Topalov victorious in round 6

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Veselin Topalov won their respective games against Peter Svidler and Vladimir Kramnik in round 6 of Candidates Tournament.

The other two matches, Viswanathan Anand – Sergey Karjakin and Levon Aronian – Dmitry Andreikin, were drawn. Anand must feel happier as Aronian missed to win and catch him on the shared first place.

After six rounds of play Anand stays on the top with 4 points, while Aronian is close behind on 3,5. Four players are on 3 points each: Kramnik, Svidler, Mamedyarov and Topalov. Karjakin is on 2,5 points and Andreikin has 2 points.

Thursday 20th March is rest day.

Another Berlin Ruy Lopez in **Viswanathan Anand's** game, this time playing white against **Sergey Karjakin**. Anand confidently entered the famous endgame, blitzing out the first 20 moves.

Karjakin also analysed the line up to 21.Rh1, but his moving was slower as he tried to recollect the exact preparation. He planned to make 23...Nb4 but then he understood that 24.f4 gxf4 25.Bh4+ with next Bf6 would be very unpleasant.

Anand tried to prepare f4 but Karjakin placed his pieces on optimal squares and white soon realized that there is no way to make progress. Draw was signed on move 33.

Huge tension was felt in the air ahead of the game between **Veselin Topalov** and **Vladimir Kramnik**, their first classical since 2008. Somehow they kept missing each other in the past six years, with exception of the quick games in Melodi Amber events. Even the other participants recognized the importance of the moment and kept glancing at the board on far left.

The game started as a Queen's Gambit Declined where Topalov entered the Bf4 variation and then introduced a novel idea with 8.Be5 and 9.Bd3.

Kramnik responded by pushing his pawn twice to f4 before starting the logical process of undermining white's queenside. However, he probably missed the strength of the tactical blow 19.Nxd5, which allowed white to trade down to the practically winning endgame.

Topalov duly converted the advantage.

**Peter Svidler** started with the Dutch defence, an opening that he had planned to introduce during this event. **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** was not confused, he didn't take more than two minutes to answer with 2.g3.

Mamedyarov criticized his 8.b4, but he had already tried many different moves in this position and it was time for something new.

Svidler believed that black emerged with a good position from the opening, having achieved everything that he hoped for. But then, as he said at the press conference, "his brain stopped working for about 20 minutes", when he made a couple of mistakes in succession.

Mamedyarov didn't take long to elegantly conclude the game.

The game between **Levon Aronian** and **Dmitry Andreikin** started with Reti opening where the first fight revolved around the black pawn on c4. But then white unbalanced the play by sacrificing two pieces for a rook and a pawn.

Black tried to improve on the earlier games of Dutch Grandmaster Smeets, but white was able to trade a couple of pawns and emerge with an outside passer.

Cracking under pressure, black was forced to give the material back and transpose into an endgame where white had an extra pawn – exactly that passer on the a-file.

But then Aronian rushed to exchange a strong bishop for opponent's knight, probably considering the rook endgame easily winning. However, it turned out that the outcome was unclear, thanks to the black pawn on e6. White was not able to anchor the rook on f4 as there was always e6-e5. Game drawn on move 48.

The key story of the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the candidates tournament was the encounter between the World Chess Championship 2006 rivals Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov. After the notorious "Tioletgate" they don't shake hands with each other, and, naturally, every game between them (the latest classical control game occurred in 2008) draws a lot of attention. The most popular question prior to the game was about their handshake.



Kramnik came to the table.





And there was no handshake.

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 6th round**

**Veselin Topalov – Vladimir Kramnik**  
**Queen's Gambit D37**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0–0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.c5 Nh5.** This variation was very popular during the 2011 candidates matches, attended by both players.



**8.Be5.** A rare move. It seems like avoiding the main lines in favor of tactical-oriented sidelines is the cornerstone of Topalov's opening preparation to his tournament – just recall what he did against Svidler yesterday. In a majority of games White continued by 8.Bd3, but not very successfully – the number of draws in this variation is very high.

**8...c6 9.Bd3 g6.** A novelty at an early stage. Once Topalov faced 9...f5, and got a big advantage after 10.b4 a6 11.h3 Nxe5 12.dxe5 f4 13.e4 a5 14.a3 g6 15.0-0 b6 16.Na4 axb4 17.axb4 bxc5 18.Nxc5 Rxa1 19.Qxa1 – Black not only has the usual problems with the c8-bishop, but also a sidelined knight on h5. Topalov-Campora, Barcelona 2000 continued 19...Qb6 20.Qd4 Qb8 21.Rc1 Rd8 22.Qc3 Ng7 23.Bc2 Bd7 24.Qd4 Be8 25.exd5 cxd5 26.Qxf4 Qb6 27.Bd3 Ra8 28.g4 Bb5 29.Kg2 Rb8 30.Nd4 Bxd3 31.Nxd3 Bg5 32.Qxg5 Qxd4 33.Qe3 Qe4+ 34.Kg3 h5 35.Qxe4 dxe4 36.Nf4 hxg4 37.hxg4 g5 38.Nh3 Rxb4 39.Nxg5 Rb8 40.Nxe4, and White won.

**10.h4.** A very ambitious move – White wants to retreat the bishop to h2, and if Black takes on e5, White will go for a pawn storm with g4 и h5.

**10...f5.**



**11.Bh2!?** Offering a pawn, which Kramnik did not take, suspecting his opponent analyzed everything with the computer.

**11...b6.** An attempt to divide the opponent's attention with some queenside activity. 11...Bxh4 12.Nxh4 Qxh4 looks dangerous for Black after, for example, 13.Qd2 e5 14.0-0-0 exd4 15.exd4, and now 15...Qxd4 is bad due to 16.Bd6 Qg7 17.Rde1! with the strong initiative.

**12.b4 f4.** Shutting down the h2-bishop. The more consistent 12...a5 is met by 13.b5 (but not 13.a3 axb4 14.axb4 Rxa1 15.Qxa1 f4, and Black is fine) 13...Bb7 14.cxb6 Nxb6 15.0-0 with queenside pressure, e. g., 15...c5 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Na4 Nxa4 18.Qxa4.

**13.0-0!** The rook leaves the h-file, but there is a lot of work to do in the center.

**13...a5?!** Black's position is already suspicious, and Kramnik's decision to sharpen the game makes it even worse. After 13...Bxh4 White continues 14.Bxf4 Nxf4 15.exf4 Rxf4 16.g3 Rxf3 (16...Rg4 is weaker in view of 17.Qe2 Kg7 18.Nxh4 Qxh4 19.Qxe6, and after 19...Rxc3+ 20.fxc3 Qxc3+ 21.Kh1 Qh4+ 22.Kg2 Qg5+ 23.Kf2 Nxc5 24.Qe3 Qxe3+ 25.Kxe3 Nxd3 26.Kxd3 Ba6+ 27.b5! cxb5 28.Ne2! the rook is stronger than Black's numerous pawns) 17.Qxf3 Bf6, and Black should have decent compensation due to his strong dark-squared bishop.



**14.b5! bxc5.** The patient 14...Bb7 does not work – after 15.bxc6 Bxc6 16.cxb6 Nxb6 (16...Qxb6 17.Rb1 Qd8 18.Qe2) 17.Ne5! White's advantage is overwhelming.

**15.bxc6 Nb8 16.Bb5 Ba6?!** It seems Black's best chance to defend is 16...c4. White has a decent advantage after 17.Ne5 Bb4 18.Ne2 Bd6 19.Nxf4 Bxe5 20.dxe5 Nxf4 21.Bxf4, but there is a lot of struggle ahead. 16...Qb6?! is strongly met by 17.Ne5, and the c6-pawn lives. 16...cxd4 17.Qxd4 Qc7 18.Rac1 Bf6 19.Bxf4 Nxf4 20.Qxf4+-.

**17.a4 Qc8?!** This leads to a hopeless ending. 17...Nxc6 18.Bxc6 Bxf1 19.Bxa8 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Qxa8 is also insufficient, but at least Black has some dynamic chances, although White should win after the energetic 21.Bxf4! Nxf4+ 22.exf4 Rxf4 23.Qe2.

**18.dxc5 Nxc6.**

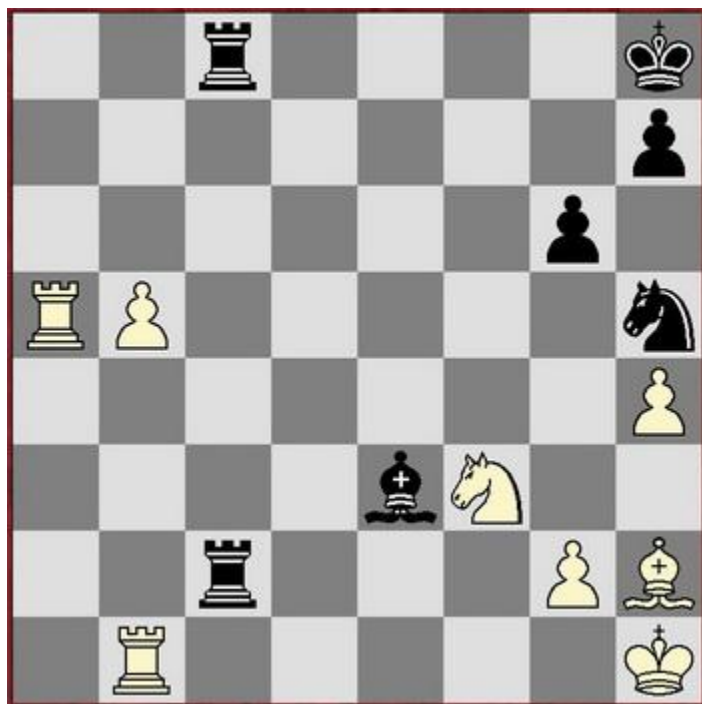


**19.Nxd5! exd5.** Bad is 19...Bxc5 20.Rc1+-.

**20.Qxd5+ Kh8 21.Qxc6 Qxc6 22.Bxc6 Rac8.** Maybe Black should try 22...Bxf1 23.Bxa8 Ba6 – at least White doesn't have a dangerous passed pawn on the queenside here. Still he has good winning chances after 24.Bc6 Bxc5 25.Nd4.

**23.Bb5 Bxb5 24.axb5 Bxc5 25.Rxa5 fxe3 26.fxe3 Bxe3+ 27.Kh1 Rc2?** This counterplay attempt made under the time pressure is easily refuted – Black fails to create any serious threats, and White's passer becomes unstoppable. The computer recommends 27...Nf4 intending to take on g2 after the careless 28.Rb1?! (much stronger is 28.Ra6! and b6), but after 28...Nxc2 29.b6 Bxb6 30.Rxb6 Ne3 31.Be5+ Kg8 32.Rf6! Rxf6 33.Bxf6 Rc1+ 34.Ng1 White retains serious winning chances.

**28.Rb1 Rfc8.**



**29.Raa1!** This prophylactic move is necessary! 29.b6?? Rc1+ 30.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 31.Bg1 Bxb6=.

**29...Bb6 30.Be5+ Kg8 31.Ra6!** Breaking through the blockade on b6. Now white passed pawn cannot be stopped.

**31...Be3 32.b6 Rc1+ 33.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 34.Kh2 Rb1 35.g4!** Topalov is ruthless, once again he chooses the absolute best move. After 35.Ng5 Kf8 36.g4 Black could keep fighting for a while – 36...Bf4+ 37.Bxf4 Nxf4, although 38.Nxh7+ Ke7 39.Ng5 should give White an easy win.

**35...Bf4+ 36.Kg2 Bxe5 37.Nxe5 Nf4+ 38.Kf3 Ne6 39.b7 Rb3+ 40.Kf2 Rb2+ 41.Ke3.** Black resigns.

### Viswanathan Anand – Sergey Karjakin Ruy Lopez C67

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0–0.** The first real Berlin Variation, as both grandmasters noticed at the press-conference. I have to admit I don't believe in my ability to understand the nuances of this fundamental variation, so my notes will be short and general.

**4...Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.h3 Ke8 10.Nc3 h5.** The only drawback of the solid system with h5 is Black's total lack of ambition.

**11.Bf4.** Vishy is first to deviate from their earlier game. The text-move was used by Karjakin several times as well. After 11.Rd1 Be7 12.Bg5 Be6 13.Rd2 (13.b3 h4 14.Kf1 a5 15.a4 Rh5 16.Bc1 Bb4 17.Ne2 Bd5 18.Ne1 Rd8 19.Bb2 Rh6 20.c4 Be6 21.Nf3 Be7 22.Rxd8+, draw, Ivanchuk-Karjakin, Wijk aan Zee 2012) 13...Rd8 14.Rad1 Rxd2 15.Rxd2 h4 16.Bxe7 Kxe7



17.Ne2 Bd5 18.Nfd4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Black could hardly complain about the opening outcome, although later he played poorly and lost, Anand-Karjakin, Moscow 2009.

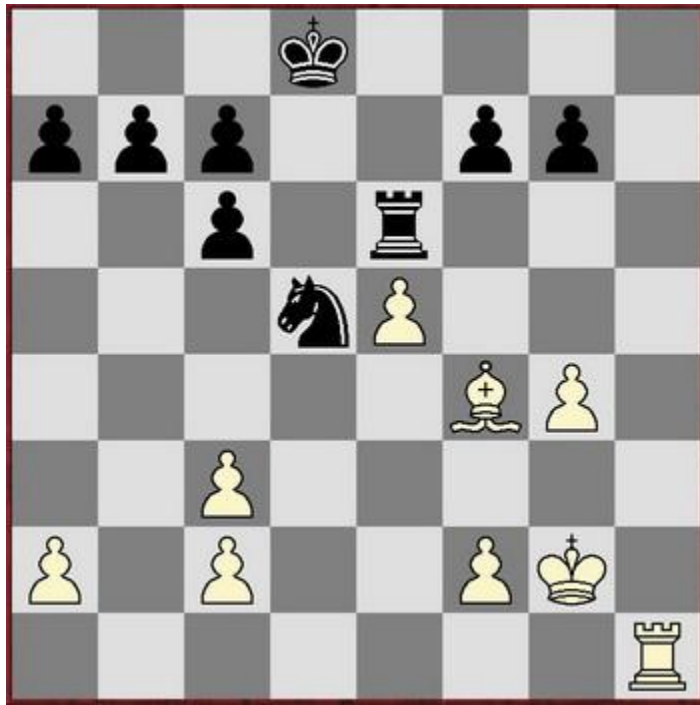
**11...Be7 12.Rad1 Be6 13.Ng5.**



**13...Rh6!** A typical developing maneuver in this variation. Karjakin got a better game as White after 13...Bc4?! 14.Rfe1 Rd8 15.b3 Bd5 16.Nce4 Bxe4 17.Rxd8+ Bxd8 18.Rxe4 Bxg5 19.Bxg5 h4 20.Rf4 Rh5 21.Rxf5 g6 22.Rf4 Rxg5 23.e6 fxe6 24.Rxh4 in Karjakin-Nakamura Moscow 2010, but the game was drawn anyway.

**14.Rfe1 Bb4 15.g4 hxg4 16.hxg4 Ne7 17.Nxe6 Rxe6 18.Kg2 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Rd8 20.Rxd8+.** A novelty. Earlier practice saw 20.Rb1 b5 21.Kg3 Rd5 22.c4 Rc5 23.Re4 a6 24.Rb3 Ng6 25.Ra3 f6 26.Rxa6 Nxf4 27.Kxf4 Rxe5 28.Rxe5+ fxe5+ 29.Kf5 Kf7 30.Ra7 g6+ 31.Kg5 e4+ 32.Kh6 Rxc4 33.Rxc7+ Ke6 34.g5 Rxc2 35.Kxg6 Rxf2 36.Rxc6+ Kd5 37.Rb6 Kc5 38.Re6 Kd4 39.Rd6+ Kc5 40.Re6 Kd4 41.Rd6+ Kc5 42.Re6, draw, Karjakin-Grischuk, Moscow 2013.

**20...Kxd8 21.Rh1 Nd5!** 21...Ng6!? 22.Bg5+ Ke8 23.f4 c5, and it is hard for White to make progress.



**22.Bg3 g5.** Black created some kind of a fortress – White cannot utilize his pawn majority and cannot create an iconic second weakness.

**23.c4! Nc3 24.Kf3.** Trying to restrict the black knight. The best chance is 24.Rh7, and the early recommendation of the computer 24...Ne2 loses to 25.Rxf7 Nxg3 26.Kxg3 Rxe5 27.Rf5 Re4 (bad is 27...Rxf5 28.gxf5 Ke7 29.Kg4 Kf6 30.c5!+-) 28.Rxg5 Rxc4 29.Re5 – more advanced pawn are much more valuable! Black must reply by 24...Ke8 25.Rh8+ Kd7! (but not 25...Ke7? 26.f4! gxf4?? 27.Bh4+ Kd7 28.Rd8#) 26.Rf8 Re7!, although here White can try to increase pressure – 27.f4 gxf4 28.Bxf4 c5 29.Kf3 Nxa2 30.Bg5 Rxe5 31.Rxf7+ Ke8 32.Rg7, and try to queen the g-pawn without much risk.

**24...Rg6?!**



**25.a3.** Rook invasion still looks promising – 25.Rh8+ Kd7 26.Rf8 Rg7 27.e6+!? Kxe6 (27...fxe6 28.Be5 Rh7 29.Bf6!, and here Black's position looks very suspicious, although the computer remains optimistic) 28.Re8+ Kd7 29.Rb8 b5 30.Rb7 Rg6 31.Rxc7+! Ke8 32.Rxa7, and Black to work hard for a draw.

**25...Na4 26.Ke4 Nc5+ 27.Kf5 Ne6.** Black just completed his defensive wall, now White cannot break anywhere.

**28.Rh8+ Kd7 29.c3 Ng7+ 30.Ke4 Ne6 31.f3 c5 32.Bf2 a6 33.Be3 b6.** Draw.

### Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Peter Svidler Dutch Defense A81

**1.d4 f5.** An opening surprise on the move one! According to my database, Svidler played the Dutch just once.

**2.g3.** That game went on 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 d5 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.e3 c6 6.Bd3 Be6 7.Qf3 g6 8.Nge2 Nd7 9.0–0–0 Qc7 10.h3 0–0–0 11.g4, and White is slightly better, Grischuk-Svidler, Riga 2013.

**2...Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.0–0 0–0 6.c4 d6 7.Nc3 Qe8.** A critical position of the Leningrad Dutch arose.

**8.b4.** A rare reply that aims to gain space on the queenside. In return Black is allowed to carry out e7–e5. Playing White against Nakamura, Svidler went for the most principled 8.d5 Na6 9.Nd4 Nc5 10.b3 Bd7 11.Bb2 c6 12.Rb1 a5 13.Ba3 Nfe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.Bb2 cxd5 16.cxd5 a4 17.Ne6 Bxb2 18.Rxb2 Bxe6 19.dxe6 Qb5, and Black equalized, Svidler-Nakamura, Stavanger 2013.

8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5.



**10.Ba3.** A new move. Statistically the most popular move here is 10.e4, but the score favors Black.

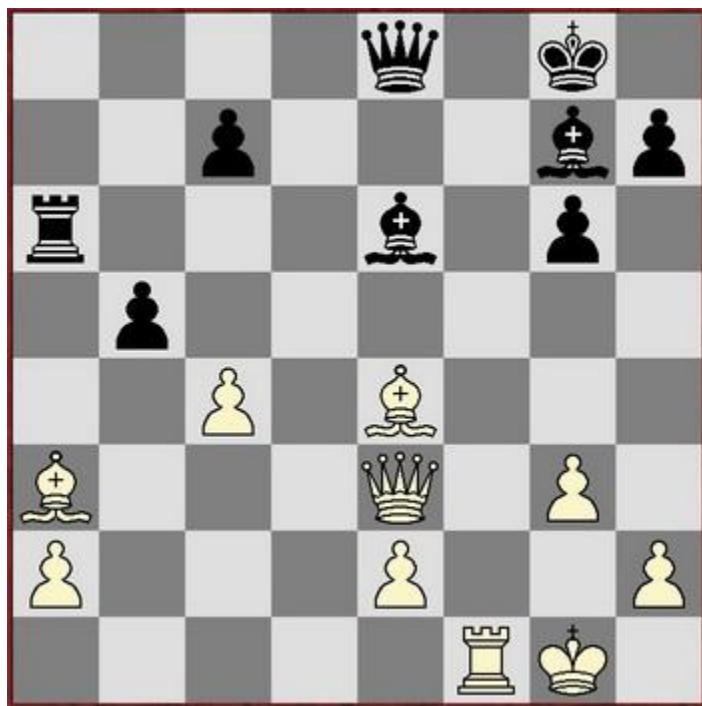
**10...e4 11.Nd4 Rf7.** Black can consider the typical idea 11...Qf7 12.Qb3 Nc6!?, and he is fine after 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.b5 Rd8 15.bxc6 Be6, because the g2-bishop is out of play.

**12.Qb3 Nc6 13.Nxc6 Qxc6.** Black prefers to keep his pawn structure flexible, but gives the opponent time to save the imprisoned bishop.

**14.b5 Qe8 15.f3 Be6 16.Rad1.** Holding on e4 is no longer possible, but Peter's queenside play should equalize comfortably.

**16...a6!?** 16...c6 is also possible. 17.fxe4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 fxe4, and now 19.Bxe4 is not good – after 19...Rxf1+ 20.Rxf1 Bh3 21.Bg2 Bd4+ 22.e3 Bxe3+ 23.Kh1 Bxg2+ 24.Kxg2 c5 Black's position is even more pleasant.

**17.bxa6 Rxa6 18.fxe4 fxe4 19.Nxe4 Nxe4 20.Bxe4 Rxf1+ 21.Rxf1 b5! 22.Qe3?! 22.Bc5!?** Bxc4 23.Bd5+ Bxd5 24.Qxd5+ Re6 25.e3 with an approximately even game is more accurate.

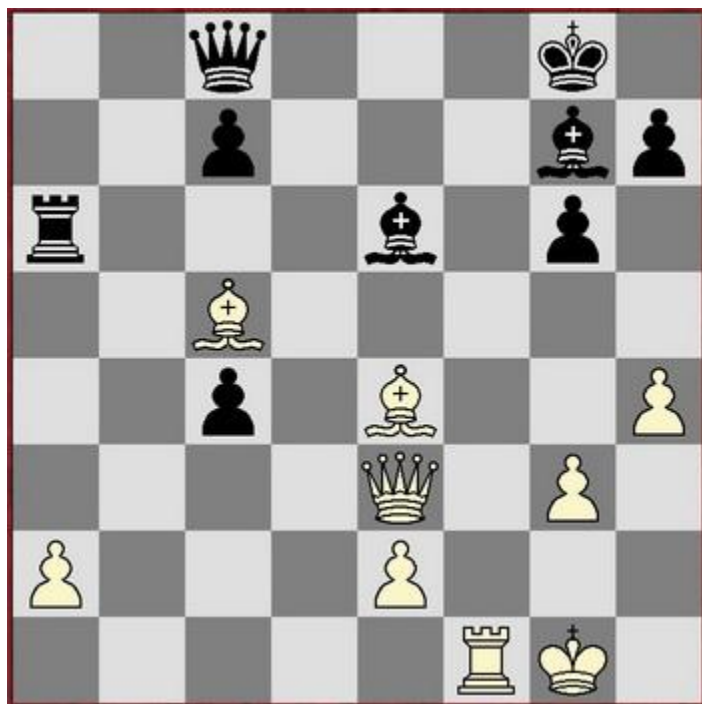


**22...bxc4?!** By 22...Qd7! 23.Bc5 Bxc4 24.a3 Re6 Black obtains a better game – after the only possible reply 25.Qf3 Rf6 26.Qe3 Bh6! 27.Qd4 (27.Qxh6 loses to 27...Rxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Qd1+ 29.Kg2 Qxe2+, mating in a few moves) 27...Qxd4+ 28.Bxd4 Rd6 (also interesting is 28...Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1 Bf8!?) 29.Bc5 Rd2 White has to work hard to make a draw.

**23.Bc5 Qc8?!** The first move of the inexplicable sequence that led Black to a complete disaster. The computer defends against Bd5 by 23...Qd7, and after 24.Rb1 Bf6 25.Rb8+ Kg7! White must take the move repetition 26.Bf8+ Kf7 27.Bc5, as there is nothing better.

An attempt to bring back the rook loses quite nicely – 23...Bf7? 24.Rxf7! Qxf7 (after 24...Kxf7 25.Bd5+ Re6 26.Bxc4 Black perishes due to the eternal pin) 25.Bd5! Qxd5 26.Qe8+ Bf8 27.Qxf8#.

**24.h4.** Stronger is 24.Rd1! Bf8 (24...Bf7 is again bad, now it is refuted by 25.Bb7!, and Black either loses a rook or gets mated after 25...Qxb7 26.Rd8+) 25.a4 Bf7 26.Qd4! Bxc5 27.Qxc5, and it is still hard for Black to defend.

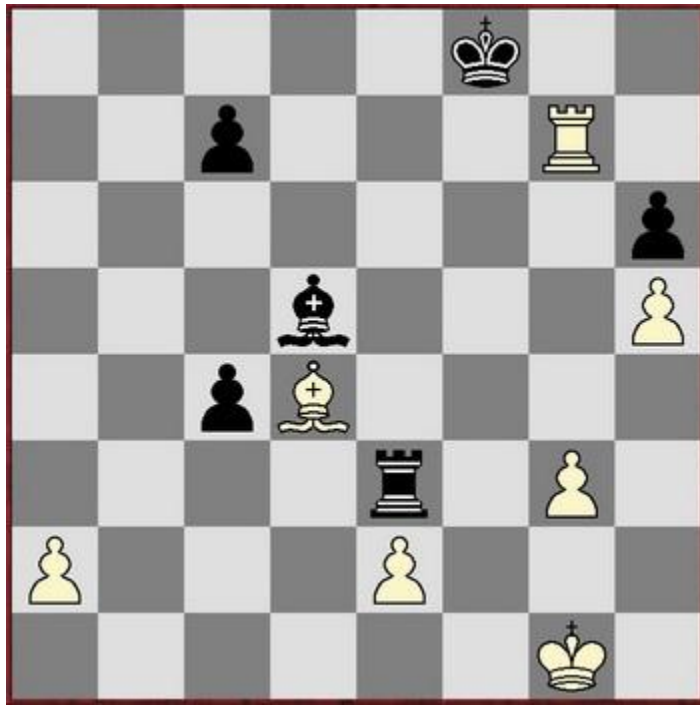


**24...h6??** A completely inexplicable blunder. Black could still defend by 24...Kh8 25.Bd4 Qd7 26.Rf8+ Bg8 27.Bc3 Re6 28.Kg2! (28.Qf3 Rxe4 29.Qxe4 Bxc3 30.Rxg8+ Kxg8 31.Qxc4+ Qf7 32.Qxc3 Qxa2 with equality) 28...Qd6! 29.Qf3 Bxc3 30.Qf7 Qxf8 31.Qxf8 Bg7 32.Qa8 c6 33.Bxc6 Rxe2+ 34.Kh3 Rd2 with good chances to make a draw.

**25.Bxg6 Bd5 26.h5.** 26.Bf5 Qa8 27.Rf4!+- followed by Rg4 is even stronger.

**26...Qd7.** This leads to a lost ending. Black's last chance to resist was to bring the rook back to the 8th rank – 26...Ra8, however, his position after 27.Kh2 (taking h3 under control) 27...c6 28.Bd4 Bxd4 29.Qxd4 hardly calls for optimism – it should be lost.

**27.Bd4 Re6 28.Bf7+ Qxf7 29.Rxf7 Rxe3 30.Rxg7+ Kf8.**



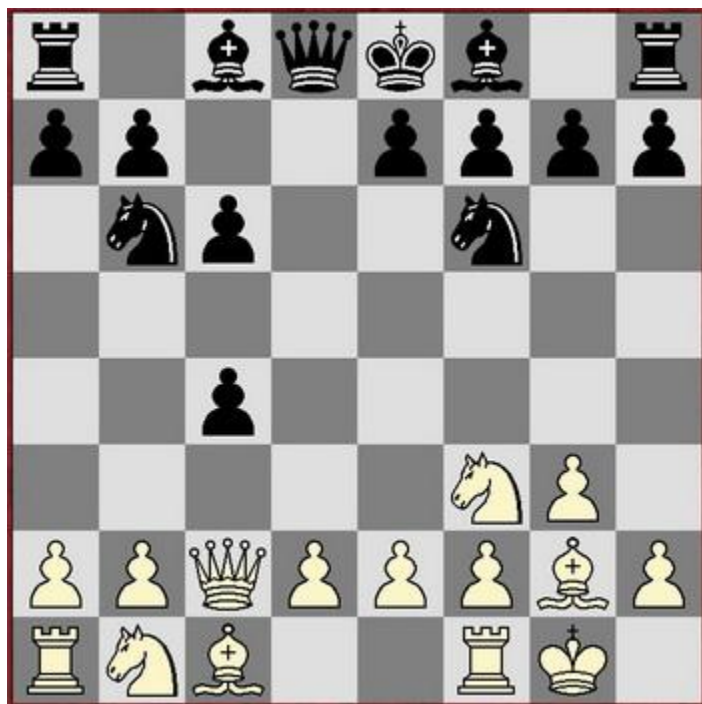
**31.Rg5!** An elegant way to finish off the game. Svidler resigned in view of 31...hxg5 32.Bxe3 g4 33.a4, and White has too many passed pawns.

### Levon Aronian – Dmitry Andreikin Reti Opening A11

**1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3.** This is a so-called Reti Gambit, a rare guest at the top level.

**3...dxc4 4.Bg2 Nd7 5.0-0 Ngf6 6.Qc2 Nb6.** A first critical position of the variation. White is at the crossroads.





**7.Na3.** If White includes 7.a4 a5 8.Na3, the safest option for Black is 8...Qd5 9.Ne1 Bf5, and after 10.Bxd5 Bxc2 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.Naxc2 g6 13.d3 Bg7 he has sufficient counterplay on the b-file.

**7...Be6.** Now after 7...Qd5 8.Ne1 (also interesting is 8.b3 cxb3 9.axb3 g6 10.Nc4 Nxc4 11.bxc4 with Benko-type compensation, Adams-Kanep, Caleta 2013) 8...Bf5 9.Bxd5 Bxc2 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Nexc2 e6 12.b3 cxb3 13.axb3 a5 14.Bb2 White's position is more pleasant due to more compact pawns, Marin – Ris, Reykjavik 2009.

**8.Ne5!?** A relatively recent development in the theory of the line. It looks like Black neutralized the old main line 8.Ng5 by 8...Bg4 9.Nxc4 Bxe2 10.Ne5! Bh5! 11.Re1 h6! 12.Ne4 e6 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Bxc6+ Nd7 16.Qf5 Bg6 17.Rxe6+ Be7 18.Qxf6 Rg8 19.Re1 Kf8 20.Qf4 Rc8 21.Qxh6+ Rg7 22.Qh8+ Rg8 23.Qh6+ Rg7 24.Qh8+ Rg8, draw, Dubov-Potkin, Moscow 2012.

**8...Qd4.** Andreikin accepts the challenge! It doesn't look like White can achieve anything real after a modest reply 8...g6 9.Naxc4 Nxc4 10.Nxc4 Bg7 11.b3 Bd5 12.Bb2 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 c5, although Pantsulaia-Sargissian, Khanty-Mansiysk 2010 ultimately ended in White's favor.



**9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bxc6+ Kd8 11.Nb5 Qc5 12.Bxa8 Qxb5.** After 12...Nxa8 13.a4 a6 14.d4 Qf5 15.Qxf5 Bxf5 16.Na3 White's chances in a complex ending should be preferred.

**13.Bg2 Bd7.** A novelty that aims to develop Black's frozen kingside. Timman-Smeets, Wijk aan Zee 2013 saw 13...h5 14.h4 Bf5 15.e4 Bd7 16.a4 Nxa4 17.e5 Ne8 18.Re1 e6 19.Bf1 Bc5 20.d3 Qb3 21.Qxc4 Qxc4 22.dxc4, and White won this ending.

**14.b3 e5 15.Rb1 cxb3.** In the case of 15...Bd6 16.bxc4 Qxc4 17.Qxc4 Nxc4 18.Rb7 the game is one-sided, so Black decides to snatch the e2-pawn, taking even greater risks due to slow development.

**16.Rxb3 Qxe2 17.Ba3 Bxa3 18.Rxa3 Qc4 19.Qb1 Ke7 20.Rxa7 Qd4 21.Rb7.**



**21...Na4?!** This knight gets stuck on the edge and becomes a target for white pieces. More solid approach is 21...Nc8 22.Rb4 Qxd2 23.Rd1 Qc3, and in my express-analysis I failed to find an advantage for White, although playing Black after, say, 24.a4!?, is not an easy task.

**22.Rc1 Rd8 23.h3.** This crafty pawn move is also a very practical decision. Levon did not find anything forced and decided to make a useful move (some air for the king), giving his opponent an opportunity to make a mistake. 23.Rb4 Qd6 (23...Qxd2 is dubious: 24.Rd1 Qc3 25.Rxd7+ Rxd7 26.Rxa4, and with the queens on the board White's chances are higher) 24.Rcc4 Qxd2 (24...Nc5? 25.Rb6) 25.Rxa4 Bxa4 26.Rxa4 Qd1+ 27.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 28.Bf1 Nd7 leads to equality.

**23...Kf8 24.Qb3 e4?!** The position is very complicated, and no wonder Black commits a slight error. Even the computer does not help much here. It seems Black is in order after 24...Ne4 25.Bxe4 Qxe4 26.Rb4 (also interesting is 26.d4 Be8 27.Qb4+ Kg8 28.dxe5 Qxe5 29.Re7 Qb5 30.Qe4, and Black cannot bring back his sidelined a4-knight) 26...Qa8 27.Rc7 Qa5 28.Rxd7 Rxd7 29.Rxa4 Qxd2, but White retains practical winning chances.

**25.Rc4! Qd5 26.Qb4+ Kg8 27.Rd4 Qc6?** Only 27...Qc5 28.Rdxd7 Nxd7 29.Qxa4 Qc1+ 30.Kh2 Qxd2 gives Black realistic hopes of survival.



**28.Rbxd7?!** Should be sufficient for a win, but 28.Bxe4! is much stronger: White just takes a pawn with tempo, as 28...Nxe4 loses to 29.Rdxd7. After Black's best reply 28...Qe6 White gets a decisive advantage: 29.Rbxd7 Rxd7 30.Qb8+ Ne8 31.Rxa4.

**28...Nxd7 29.Qxa4 Qxa4 30.Rxa4 Nf8.** Also bad is 30...f5 31.Rd4 Kf7 32.d3 exd3 33.Rxd3 Ke7 34.Bc6 Ne5 35.Rxd8 Kxd8 36.Bd5, and White wins without a doubt.

**31.Rxe4?!** Having obtained a winning advantage, Levon started to hesitate, missing one strongest move after another. After 31.Bxe4 Rxd2 32.Ra8 g6 33.a4 Kg7 34.Ra7 the resulting endgame is a much better version of what he got in the game.

**31...Rxd2 32.a4.** Curiously, the computer recommends to bring the rook back to a4 – it seems Levon's idea of defending it from the side should be considered unsuccessful.

**32...Ra2 33.Bf3 g6 34.Kg2 Ne6 35.Rc4 Kg7 36.Bd5 Kf6 37.Re4 Ra3.**



White's task got complicated – Black managed to coordinate his pieces, and pushing the passed pawn is now more difficult. Levon decided to transpose to a rook ending.

**38.Bxe6?! fxe6 39.Rf4+ Ke7.** However, it turned out White cannot win here.

**40.h4 h5 41.Re4 Kf7 42.Kf1 Ra2!** Andreikin does not allow White to activate his king.

**43.Ke1 Kf6 44.Kd1!?** **Ke7.** The trap 44...Rxf2?? 45.Rf4+ Rxf4 46.gxf4 and White wins is too transparent.

**45.f4 Ra3 46.Kc2 Rxc3 47.Rd4 Re3 48.Kb2 e5.** Draw.

#### Round 7

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
2	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	0 – 1	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	7
3	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	½ - ½	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	6
4	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	1 - 0	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	5
1	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	1 - 0	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	8

## Aronian catches Anand on shared first place

Levon Aronian defeated Sergey Karjakin in round 7 of FIDE World Candidates Tournament to join Viswanathan Anand on the top of the crosstable.

Anand had some advantage with black against Peter Svidler but he couldn't achieve more than a draw.

Vladimir Kramnik surged ahead by winning a wild game against Shakhriyar Mamedyarov. Dmitry Andreikin escaped from the bottom by punishing Veselin Topalov's over-ambitious play.

After seven rounds Aronian and Anand are leading with 4,5 points each. Kramnik is half a point behind and Svidler remained on 50% score. Topalov, Andreikin and Mamedyarov are on 3 points each, while Karjakin is last with 2,5 points.

**Veselin Topalov** was not amazed by **Dmitry Andreikin's** opening choice, since the Russian repeated the line he used to beat Kramnik last year in Dortmund.

Already on the 7th move white introduced a novelty, but his plan was kind of slow and black threatened to take the initiative after a quick castle and pawn sacrifice.

But Topalov chose a wrong path and instead of recapturing the c-pawn he went for the kingside expansion. The tactical problem is that 18...g4 wouldn't work because of the powerful influence of white heavy pieces on the open files.

White first secured the advanced c6-pawn and then evacuated the king to safety on a1. Black was running out of options as his pieces couldn't get to the good squares.

Andreikin besieged the weak d5-pawn and black position immediately fell apart.

Another Berlin Ruy Lopez in the game of former World Champion Viswanathan Anand proves that he has plenty of preparation left from the match in Chennai.

**Anand** employed a novel idea 11...exd4 with d5 and Nh5, which worked exceptionally well in combination with the strike against white center.

**Peter Svidler** spent 40 minutes to make 15.Bc2 and his position looked depressing, but then suddenly Anand pulled a break and allowed white to somewhat stabilize the game.

Anand started over again by giving the queen for rook, bishop and better pawn structure. But Svidler found the straightforward plan of eliminating all the pawns on the queenside, after which Anand agreed to a draw.

**Levon Aronian** also played the Berlin Ruy Lopez against **Sergey Karjakin**. After white was forced to capture on c6, the game started resembling the Delayed Exchange Variation.

White had difficulties in getting his pawn majority going, while black slowly probed opponent's structure on the other flank. Despite the apparent simplicity on the board, Karjakin was spending lots of time and his position slowly deteriorated.

Few moves before the time control white conceded two pieces for a rook and some pressure on the back rank. He did win the bishop back, but then black captured a handful of pawns while constantly threatening the white king.

Karjakin tried to seek the escape by exchanging the queens but black pawns were too fast and the game was concluded in Aronian's favor on move 53.

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** remained loyal to the Ragozin Queen's Gambit defence despite the earlier loss against Aronian. He attempted to surprise the opponent with unknown 14...b5, but **Vladimir Kramnik** navigated quickly through the opening, most likely thanks to the home analysis.

White emerged with a small but healthy advantage and Kramnik proceeded to perform his traditional positional squeeze.

At some point Kramnik rushed with the central break e3-e4 and Mamedyarov got the chance to unbalance the position by grabbing a piece and allowing two advanced pawns.

White pawns were looming near promotion but somehow he just couldn't find the way to queen them.

Nevertheless, the position was immensely complicated and black had to find a sequence of computer-like moves to reach a better rook endgame. Mamedyarov's hand slipped in the decisive moment when he allowed promotion with check instead of creating checkmating net around white king.

Kramnik easily converted the huge advantage.

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 7th round**

### **Sergey Karjakin – Levon Aronian**

Ruy Lopez C65

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 Re8.** Aronian already employed this not very popular, but quite logical move. As far as I can see, Black would like to save a tempo on d7-d6 and hopefully play d7-d5 in some lines.

**7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bxc6.** Earlier Levon faced 8.Ba4 b5 9.Bb3 (if 9.Bc2 then 9...d5) 9...d6 (here 9...d5 is bad due to 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Ng5!, and White seizes the initiative) 10.Re1 Be6 11.Nf1 Bxb3 12.axb3 d5, and Black solved opening problems in Radjabov – Aronian, London 2013.

**8...dxc6 9.Nc4 Nd7 10.b4 Bd6.**





**11.Qb3.** A novelty. 11.Bg5 was played before exclusively, but after 11...f6 12.Be3 Nf8 Black never had any trouble, for instance, 13.Nfd2 Be6 14.Nb3 Qd7 15.Qe2 Ng6 16.Rfd1 Bf8 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.bxc5 f5 19.f3 Bxc4 20.dxc4 Qe6 with complete equality, Rublevsky-Kurnosov, Eilat 2012.

**11...Nf8.** The computer suggests 11...h6, but I like Levon's move more – White gains nothing by Bg5, and h7-h6 creates a weakness.

**12.Bg5 Qd7 13.Be3 Ng6 14.Nfd2 Bf8.** White carries out the most logical plan in the position – **15.d4**, but after **15...Qe7 16.dxe5 Be6 17.Qc2 Bxc4 18.Nxc4 Nxe5** Black's activity balances out White's structural achievements.

**19.Nd2 a5 20.a3 axb4 21.axb4 Qe6 22.f3 Nc4 23.Bf4 c5 24.b5 Nd6 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Rb1 b6 27.e5 Nc4 28.Qe4 Ra4 29.Rc1 h6.**



**30.h4?!** This is where Sergey started to lose control over the situation. The prophylactic **30.Bg3!** is the way to go, as Black cannot really get rid of the pin, while White cannot really make any use of it. For example, **30...Nb2 31.Qc2**, and now Black has to discover **31...Ra3!** to hold.

**30...Nb2! 31.c4 Qd7! 32.Rb1 Ra2 33.Be3?!** Black was threatening **Qd4**, yet White should have preferred **33.Nb3 Nd3 34.Bg3** (weaker is **34.Rd1? Rxc2+ 35.Kxc2 Nxf4+ 36.Qxf4 Qxd1 34...Nb4 35.Kh2**, and it is hard to Black to make progress, especially with his f8-bishop being out of play).



**33...Na4! 34.Rb3?!** A desperate attempt to lighten the load and create some counterplay, however, there was a better way to do that: **34.Re1!? Nc3!?** (in the case of **34...Rxd2 35.e6 fxe6 36.Bxd2 Qxd2 37.Qxe6+ Kh8 38.g3! Nc3 39.f4!** the black bishop is still out of play, and his king is weak, which gives White sufficient counterchances) **35.Qg4!?** **Qxc4** (perhaps more promising for Black is **35...Qd3 36.Ne4 Nxe4 37.Qxe4 Qxe4 38.fxe4 Be7 39.g3 Kf8 36.fxc4 Be7 37.g3**, and White should be able to hold this ending).

**34...Rxd2 35.Bxd2 Qxd2 36.Rd3!** The last chance to make counterplay! **36.Re3** does not help, as Black continue **36...Qd4 37.e6 Qxe4 38.Rxe4 Be7!** with a decisive advantage in the endgame.

**36...Qc1+ 37.Kh2 Nb2!** Starting a forced sequence, in which Black has the last word.

**38.Rd8 Qxc4 39.Qa8 Qxh4+ 40.Kg1 Qe1+ 41.Kh2 Qxe5+ 42.g3!** **42.Kg1?** does not lead to the move repetition, as after **42...Qe1+ 43.Kh2 Qe7 44.Re8** Black has **44...Qd6+ 45.g3 c4!—+**

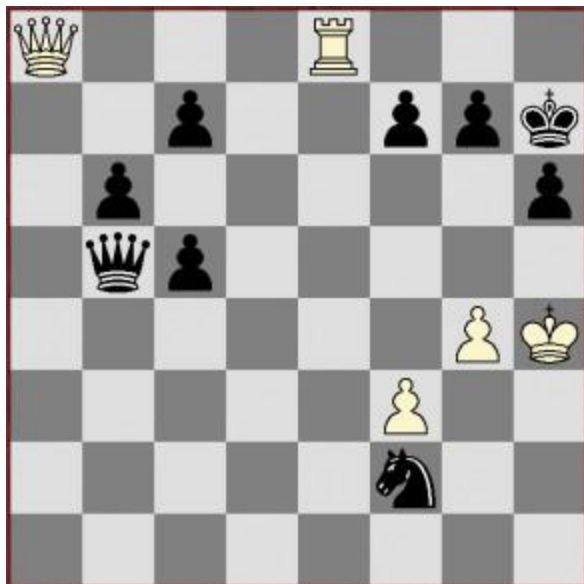
**42...Qe2+ 43.Kh3 Nd3 44.Rxf8+ Kh7.**



**45.Re8?** This is a decisive mistake. The only way to continue fighting is 45.Rh8+ Kg6 46.Qc6+ Kg5! 47.Qd5+ Kf6 48.Qc6+ Qe6+ 49.Qxe6+ Kxe6 50.Kg2, and Black must show some technique.

**45...Nf2+ 46.Kh4.** 46.Kg2 loses by force to 46...Ne4+ 47.Kh3 Qf1+ 48.Kg4 Nf6+ 49.Kf4 Qc1+ 50.Re3 g5+ 51.Kf5 Qxe3, and White cannot take the knight due to a checkmate on e6.

**46...Qxb5 47.g4!**



White resists as hard as he can. Now Black has the only winning move, and Levon finds it in 15 minutes.

**47...Qc4!** Black controls the e4-square, parrying the Kg3 threat.

**48.Qc8.** 48.Rh8+ also doesn't help – 48...Kg6 49.Qc6+ Qe6 50.Qxe6+ fxe6 51.Rc8 Nd3 52.Rxc7 b5!, and Black wins.

**48...Qf4!** Forcing the queen trade, which makes Black's queenside passed pawns unstoppable.

**49.Qf5+ Qxf5 50.gxf5 c4 51.Re7 c5 52.Rxf7 c3 53.f6 Kg6.** White resigns.

### **Dmitry Andreikin – Veselin Topalov**

Queen's Gambit D30

**1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.Nbd2.** This modest, but very safe opening choice proved right against zealous Veselin.

**6...Be7.** The flexible 6...Nd7 is more popular, but Black has no opening problems after the game continuation as well.

**7.Qc2.** This novelty hardly changes the reputation of the line as being harmless for Black.

**7...0-0 8.e3.**



**8...c5!?** This pawn sacrifice was supposed to equalize the game.

**9.dxc5 Nd7.** 9...Bd7 looks like a serious alternative. After 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nb3 a5 12.a4 Rc8! White may even encounter some problems.

**10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nb3 a5 12.a4.** Topalov is unable to regain a pawn quickly, so he chooses a very ambitious plan.

**12...b6 13.c6 Bb4+ 14.Kd1 Nc5 15.Nbd4.**



The white king got stuck in the center early, however, an extra pawn on c6 (which is very hard to capture) and a good location for a knight on d4 gives White strong trumps.

**15...Ne4?!** Black's first misstep. He should have chosen another square for a knight – 15...Bg4 16.Bb5 Ne6! 17.Kc1 Bc5!, and Black breaks the blockade on d4 with good counterchances, e. g., 18.Qd2 Rac8 19.Kb1 Bxf3 20.Nxf3 Nd8 21.Qxd5 Nxc6 with the dangerous initiative for a pawn.

**16.Bb5 g5?!** For some strange reason Veselin abstains from the most natural idea of placing a rook on the c-file. After 16...Ra7 17.Ke2 Bg4! 18.Rhd1 Bc5 19.Kf1 Bxd4 20.Nxd4 Bxd1 21.Rxd1 Rc7 Black has good chances to hold.

**17.h3 h5.** Consistent play – Black sort of renews the threat g5-g4, but he completely overlooked Andreikin's excellent reply.



**18.Kc1!** A very beautiful maneuver – White defends against Black’s swift attack but slowly moving the king to a safe place, and then begins his counterattack.

**18...Bc5.** After 18...g4 19.hxg4 hxg4 20.Kb1! gxf3 21.gxf3 Ng5 22.Ka2! Qg6 23.Rag1 White should win.

**19.Kb1 Re8 20.Ka2 Ra7 21.Rad1.** White has an extra pawn with very safe king and excellent development – his advantage is almost decisive.

**21...Kf8. 21...Rc7 22.Rhf1 Bb4 23.Ka1!**, preparing Ne2 and Nfd4.

**22.Rhf1 Kg7 23.Ka1 Bf8?** Black’s position is already difficult, and this move loses even more material. Black could still fight after 23...Rc7 24.Nb3 Be6, although White’s position there is nearly winning.



**24.Ne2!** The decisive maneuver!

**24...Rd8 25.h4.** Securing the f4-square for a knight.

**25...g4 26.Nf4 Kg8 27.Nxd5.** Black loses more material, so Topalov resigned.

### Vladimir Kramnik – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov Queen’s Gambit D38

This game is so incredibly complex that I will only highlight a few spots.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Qc2 c5 8.e3 Qa5 9.Bd3 c4 10.Bf5 0–0 11.0–0 Re8 12.Nd2 g6 13.Bxd7 Nxd7.** One of the key positions of the Ragozin defense arose, and after Kramnik selected a less popular **14.h4**, Shakhriyar, apparently caught unprepared, responded with a very exotic **14...b5**, which was played just once.



**15.a4.** A novelty. 15.a3 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Nb6 17.f3 Na4 18.Rac1 Nb6 19.Ra1 Na4 20.Rac1 f6 21.Bf4 Qd8 led to a complicated game in Lekic-Mikhalevski, Budva 2009, and Black slowly took the upper hand.

**15...Bxc3 16.bxc3 b4 17.cxb4 Qxb4 18.Nb1 Qd6?!** Perhaps not the optimal choice. The computer insists on placing the queen on a5 – 18...Qa5 19.Nc3 Rb8, but here 20.Rfb1 Rb6 21.e4 gives White unpleasant initiative.

**19.Nc3 Qc6 20.Rfb1.** Threatening Rb5, so Black has to spare a tempo on prophylaxis. White has a small but lasting advantage.

**20...Ba6 21.Qd1 f6 22.Bf4 Rad8 23.Qf3 Nf8 24.Bh6 Kf7 25.Rb2 Ne6 26.Rab1 Ng7 27.g4 Kg8 28.Qf4 Kf7.**



Here Kramnik decided the position is ripe for action.



**29.e4!? Ne6.** Another key line is 29...dxe4 30.d5 Qd6, and White has to choose between an unclear endgame after 31.Qxd6 Rxd6 32.Rb7+ Bxb7 33.Rxb7+ Re7 34.Rxe7+ Kxe7 35.Bxg7 Kf7 36.Bh6 g5! 37.hxg5 fxg5 38.Bxg5 Rg6 and equally unclear middlegame after 31.Qe3.

**30.exd5 Nxf4 31.dxc6 g5!** The position is filled by tactical motives for both sides. After the inaccurate 31...Rxd4 White gets an advantage by 32.Rb7+! Bxb7 33.cxb7 Rb8 34.Nb5! Ne6 35.Nxd4 Nxd4 36.a5 a6 37.Rb6.

It seems Black survives after 34...Rxb7! 35.Nd6+ Ke6 36.Nxb7 c3 37.Nc5+ (37.Bxf4 Rxf4, and White loses many pawns on the 4<sup>th</sup> rank) 37...Kd5 38.Rb5! Kc6 39.Nb3 Rxa4 40.Rc5+ Kd6 41.Bxf4+ Rxf4 42.g5 fxg5 43.hxg5 Rf5 44.Rxc3 Rxg5+ 45.Kf1 a5 – or at least White has significant technical difficulties.

**32.hxg5 fxg5.**



**33.c7!?** Kramnik finds an amazing idea of maintaining pressure. White bets on passed pawns! An attempt to save the offside bishop with an exchange sacrifice leads to a draw:- 33.Rb7+ Bxb7 34.Rxb7+ Kg6 35.Bg7 Re1+ 36.Kh2 Rf1 37.Be5 Rxf2+ 38.Kg3 Rc2 39.Rg7+ Kh6 40.Ne4, and Black gives the perpetual by 40...Ne2+ 41.Kh3 Ng1+.

**33...Rd6 34.Bxg5 Nh3+ 35.Kg2 Nxc5 36.d5 Bc8.** Black cannot destroy the c7-pawn – after 36...Rc8? 37.f4 his knight is trapped. The machine gives an interesting move – 36...h5 37.f4 Nh7 38.g5 Rd7 39.Rb8! Bc8 (39...Rxc7? 40.g6+) 40.R1b4 Rxc7 41.Nb5 Re2+ 42.Kf1 Rce7 43.Nd6+ Kg7, and the epic struggle justly ends in a draw by perpetual.

**37.Rb8 Rf6.**



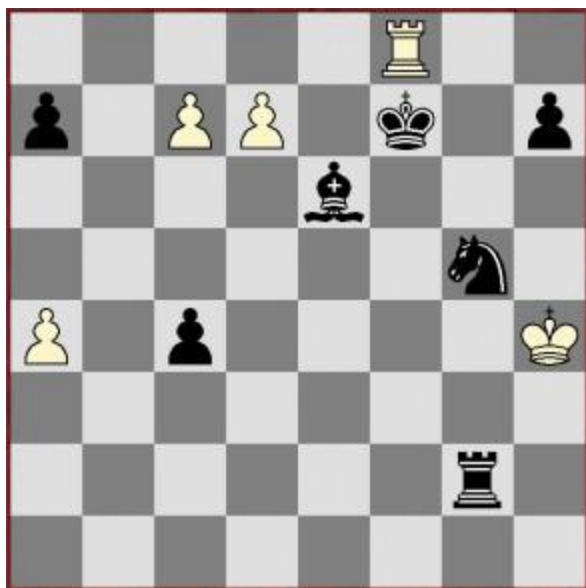
**38.Ra8?!** It is hard to blame Vladimir for being inaccurate in such a head-spinning situation, especially bearing the outcome in mind! The computer gives 38.Rf1!? Nh3!? 39.f3 (39.Kxh3 Rf3+ 40.Kg2 Rxc3 41.Re1!? Rg8 42.d6 Rd3 43.Rxc8 Rxc8 44.Re7+ Kf6 45.d7 Rxd7 46.Rxd7 Ke6 47.Rxh7 c3 48.Kf3 c2 49.Rh1 Rxc7 50.Rc1 Rc4! leads to a draw) 39...Nf4+ 40.Kg3 Nd3 41.Ne4 Rg6 42.d6 Ke6 with an absolutely surreal position! After 43.Rh1 h6 44.Rh5 Kd7 45.Rf5 Rxd6 46.Rf7+ Kc6 47.Nxd6 Kxd6 48.Rh7 the outcome is still in doubt.

**38...Rf4 39.f3 Rxf3?!** Stronger is 39...Nxf3 40.Kg3 (the only reply; 40.d6? Ne5+!) 40...Rxg4+ 41.Kxf3 Rg6!, threatening a discovered check with a bishop and a checkmate after Rf6+. White is forced to play 42.Rxc8 Rf6+! 43.Kg4 Rxc8 44.Rb7, and 44...h5+ 45.Kh4 a6 is the most accurate for Black and gives him excellent winning chances.

**40.d6.** White's control move initiates another tactical skirmish, and even the computer cannot assess it correctly at first.

**40...Bxg4 41.Rxe8?** Mamedyarov failed to refute this move, but objectively White should prefer 41.Rd8. In the following sequence almost each move is forced: 41...Bh3+ 42.Kh1 Rxc3 43.d7 Re2 44.Rg1 Bf5 45.Rf8+ Kxf8 46.d8Q+ Kf7 47.Qd5+ Be6 48.Rf1+ Kg6 49.Qxe6+ Rxe6 50.c8Q Kh5, and the game should end in a draw.

**41...Kxe8 42.Rb8+ Kf7 43.Rd8 Bh3+ 44.Kh2 Rxc3 45.d7 Rc2+ 46.Kg3 Rg2+ 47.Kh4 Be6 48.Rf8+.**



**48...Kxf8?** Shakhriyar fails one step away from the victory: 48...Kg6!! 49.Rg8+! (in the case of 49.Rf6+ Kxf6 50.d8Q+ Kf7! the newborn queen does not save White) 49...Kh6! 50.Rxg5 Rh2+ 51.Kg3 Bxd7 52.Rg8 Ra2 53.Rd8 Ra3+ 54.Kf4 Rxa4 55.c8Q (55.Rxd7? c3+ 56.Ke3 Rc4) 55...Bxc8 56.Rxc8 Kh5, and Black should win despite technical difficulties.

**49.c8Q+ Kg7?!** On the previous move Mamedyarov missed a win, now he misses a draw. It seems Black could still hold by 49...Kf7! 50.Kh5! (50.d8N+ is insufficient: 50...Kf6 51.Nxe6 Nxe6 52.Qxc4 Rg7 – Black's fortress cannot be taken) 50...Bg4+ 51.Kh6 Ne6 52.Qe8+ Kf6 53.d8Q+ Nxd8 54.Qxd8+ Ke5 55.Qc7+ Kd4 56.Qxa7+ Kd3 57.Qxh7+ Kd4, and it is hard to believe White can win – Black can sacrifice two pieces for the a-pawn and bring his own passed pawn to c2.

**50.Qb7!**



Now this is all over – the d7-pawn costs Black too much.

The game continued **50...Nf3+ 51.Qxf3 Rh2+ 52.Kg5 h6+ 53.Kf4 Rh4+ 54.Ke5**, and Mamedyarov resigned.

### Peter Svidler – Viswanathan Anand

Ruy Lopez C65

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0–0 6.0–0 d6 7.Nbd2 Ne7**. The Anti-Berlin positions resemble the Italian Game with 4.d3.

**8.Re1**. Svidler does not repeat himself. 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 Bb6 10.h3 d5 11.e5 Ne4 12.Bd3 Bf5 13.Qe2 Nc6 14.Nb3 f6 15.Be3 Qd7 16.Rac1 a6 17.exf6 Rxf6 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Rg6 20.Kh2 Qe7 21.Bxb6 cxb6 22.Bxe4 Qxe5+ 23.f4 Qxe4 24.Qd2, and White gradually won this equal position in Svidler-L'Ami, Warsaw 2013.

**8...c6 9.Ba4 Bb6**. 9...Ng6 occurred in one of Gabriel Sargissian's blitzgames. After 10.Nf1 d5 11.exd5 cxd5 12.Ng3 Qb6 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 Bg4 15.f3 Bd7 Black equalized comfortably, Duda-Sargissian, Warsaw 2013.

**10.d4 Ng6 11.h3**.



Here Vishy introduced a new move from his tech lab.

**11...exd4 12.cxd4 d5**. White pieces are caught completely off-guard.

**13.e5 Nh5 14.Nf1 Nh4 15.Bc2?!** This natural move is inaccurate and makes White's position suspect. According to the machine, better is 15.Bxf4 Nxf4 16.Qd2, but it fails to impress a human eye – after 16...Ne6 17.Bc2 f6 Black's bishop pair might give him an advantage.

**15...f6 16.Ng3?! fxe5 17.Bxg6**. The computer line 17.Bxf4 exf4 18.Nf1 is sensible, but it would be a clear declaration of poverty.

**17...Nxb6 18.Bg5.** 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Rxe5 Qf6 20.Be3 h6 is not an improvement for White – his e5-rook is placed very awkwardly, and Black has a clear advantage.

**18...Qc7 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Rxe5.**



**20...h6.** Black rejects 20...Rxf2, which leads to a clear advantage – 21.Re8+ Rf8 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.Kh2 (even worse is 23.Nh5 Qe5!) 23...Kg8, and Black successfully completes development, keeping an extra pawn: 24.Qd2 Be6 25.Bf4 Qd7.

**21.Bh4!? Qf7.** The simple-minded 21...g5 loses to 22.Bxg5 hxg5 23.Qd2! Rf4 (23...Kh8 24.Qxg5+-) 24.Nh5! Rf5 25.Rxf5 Bxf5 26.Qxg5+.

**22.Nh5 Be6.** The most critical here is 22...g5 23.Bxg5 Qxf2+ 24.Kh1 hxg5 25.Rxg5+ Kf7 – the attack looks very dangerous, but there is nothing decisive yet – 26.Qd3 Ke8 27.Rg7 Kd8! (27...Bf5? 28.Qa3! is good for White; after 27...Rf7 28.Qg6 Bxh3! 29.Nf6+ Qxf6 30.Re1+ Kd8 31.Qxf7 Qxf7 32.Rxf7 Bc8 White also should win) 28.Qg6 Bxh3 29.gxh3 Qf3+ 30.Kh2 Bc7+ 31.Ng3 Qf2+ 32.Kh1 Qxg3 33.Qxg3 Bxg3 34.Rxg3 with equality.

**23.Re3 Bd8!?** Planning a nice-looking positional queen sacrifice.

**24.Rf3.**



**24...Qxf3!** The machine suggests 24...Bf5, but this is not playing for a win! After 25.Ng3 Qd7 26.Nxf5 Rxf5 27.Bxd8 Rxd8 28.Rxf5 Qxf5 29.Qd2 a draw is near.

24...Qxh5?? 25.Rxf8+ Kxf8 26.Qxh5 is too simple.

**25.gxf3 Bxh4.** Black has compact pawn structure and the bishop pair, which secures him for a loss, but he cannot really afford being more ambitious than that.

**26.Kg2 Rf7 27.Rc1 Raf8 28.Rc3 Bg5 29.Ng3 Re7 30.b4 a6 31.a4 Bd7 32.Qb3 Kh8.**



**33.b5!** Forces simplifications.

**33...cxb5 34.axb5 Bxb5 35.Qxd5 Rd7 36.Qe4.** Black risks nothing after 36.Qe6 Rxd4 37.Nf5 Bd7 38.Qe5 Bf6 39.Qc5 Rc8 40.Qxc8+ Bxc8 41.Nxd4 Bxh3+ 42.Kxh3 Bxd4 cwith equality.

**36...Bc6 37.Rxc6 bxc6 38.Qxc6 Rxd4. Draw.**

#### Round 8

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
4	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	½ - ½	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	1
3	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	0 - 1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	2
8	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	½ - ½	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	5
7	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	½ - ½	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	6

### Aronian and Anand split the point in round 8

he co-leaders Levon Aronian and Viswanathan Anand shared the point in their round 8 match in the FIDE World Candidates Tournament.

The duo remained in joint lead, but now the possible tie-break at the end of the event would favor Anand (mutual score 1,5-0,5).

Vladimir Kramnik missed a chance to catch the leaders as his opponent Dmitry Andreikin defended very well to deserve half a point.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov sacrificed a knight for attack but Veselin Topalov found the safe route to make a draw in the rook endgame. Sergey Karjakin defeated Peter Svidler in the longest game of the day.

After eight round of play Anand and Aronian are on top with 5 points each, while Kramnik is close behind with 4,5 points. The remaining five players, Mamedyarov, Topalov, Karjakin, Svidler and Andreikin are on 3,5 points each.

**Levon Aronian** stunned **Viswanathan Anand** with an enterprising novelty as early as on move 3.

Anand appreciated the strength of Qb3 in various transpositions as it was not easy for him to reach a convenient Catalan or Gruenfeld structure. He finally went for the reversed Benoni even if it included a pawn sacrifice. Black did achieve quick development as compensation.

Aronian said that he convinced himself in the viability of the novel idea, which “he discovered during a nap”. He knew that computers wouldn’t like the pawn grab, but he believed he could “always pull a Petrosian and slowly consolidate”.

As the game progressed Aronian grew unsatisfied with his position and started to fear of another quick loss against Anand. He joked that he wished black had his pawn back on c5, a square which Anand used to transfer the pieces and exert huge pressure on white queenside.



The game was drawn after repetition on move 19.

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** defended with the Naidorf Sicilian and **Veselin Topalov** used the Fischer's favorite 6.h3 which is back in fashion again.

The play soon transposed into Dragon variation. White castled long and expanded on the kingside but black was quick to generate the counterplay on the other flank.

Mamedyarov said he didn't like his knight and he didn't want to stay passive in defence so he decided to sacrifice this piece to open up the b-file.

The temporary sacrifice triggered a forced line that led to an equal rook endgame. Draw signed on move 32.

**Dmitry Andreikin** used his trusted Chebanenko Slav defence to which **Vladimir Kramnik** responded with a fianchetto setup.

White created some pressure as his bishops cross-fired all over the board, but he probably over-estimated the position resulting after the pawn sacrifice.

Black did experience problems with coordination while white dominated on the c-file and on the 7th rank.

At some point black was even two pawns up but white had strong pressure on the central pawns. After the massive exchanges white got the material back and a drawn endgame was reached.

**Peter Svidler** used a clever-move order to transpose from Reti to King's Indian Attack, an opening which certainly wasn't high on the priority list in **Sergey Karjakin's** preparation.

Nevertheless, the young Russian played very well to extinguish white's initiative on the kingside.

Much of the middlegame was black's effort to exchange some pieces and stabilize the extra pawn.

White attempted to set a fortress, but black broke through with 40...f4+ just before the time control. Faced with tough defence white was slowly losing the ground.

Karjakin converted the advantage in the 7th hour of play.

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 8th round**

**Peter Svidler – Sergey Karjakin**

**Reti Opening A05**

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Be7 5.d3 c5 6.e4.**



An interesting pawn sacrifice, which only occurred a couple of times. The standard continuation is 6.Nbd2.

**6...Nc6.** If Black accepts the offer – 6...dxe4 7.dxe4 Qxd1 8.Rxd1 Nxe4 9.Ne5 Nd6 10.Na3, White gets long-lasting positional compensation, like in some lines of a Catalan.

**7.Qe2!?** The point of Svidler's move order – White saves time by abstaining from Nbd2, which allows him to arrange the pieces more harmoniously.

**7...0-0 8.e5 Nd7 9.c4 d4 10.h4.** The classical kingside attack plan looks even stronger here, as inclusion of ♖4-d4 significantly restricts Black's options on the queenside, plus White got a nice transit square on e4.

**10...Kh8 11.Bf4 f5 12.Ng5.** 12.exf6!? gxf6 (other recaptures give White complete control over the e4-square and a very comfortable advantage) 13.Nbd2 e5 14.Bh6 Rg8 15.h5 with a Benoni-style game.

**12...Bxg5 13.hxg5 Qc7.**



**14.g6!?** A tempting pawn sacrifice. After 14.Nd2 g6! the white dark-squared bishop is completely out of play for a long time, and the pressure on the h-file can be neutralized by placing a knight on f8. After 14...Nb6 the pawn sacrifice is even more effective: 15.g6 hxg6 16.Bxc6 Qxc6 17.Nf3.

**14...hxg6 15.Nd2 Kg8 16.Nf3 Re8 17.Ng5 Nf8!** Right on time.

**18.g4!?** Adding more fuel to the fire. An attempt to force the way to the enemy king fails: 18.Bxc6 Qxc6 19.f3 Nh7!, and Black is in order.

**18...Nd8.** 18...Nh7 is not good here due to 19.gxf5! Nxf5 20.fxg6 Nf7 21.gxf7+ Qxf7 22.Bg5 with a clear advantage for White.

**19.Kh2.** Switching the play to another flank deserved attention: 19.b4!? cxb4 20.a3!? On the other hand that would slow down White's attack.

**19...Bd7.** The next few moves are logical – White adds pressure, Black defends and tries to decrease White's attacking potential by trading material.

**20.gxf5 exf5 21.Bd5+ Nde6 22.Rg1 Bc6 23.Qf3 Rad8 24.Rae1 Qd7.**



**25.Bxe6+?! In the case of 25.Nxe6 Nxe6 (25...Rxe6 26.Bxe6+ Nxe6 27.Qg3 Qf7 looks attractive, but the computer gives White an edge) 26.Rxg6 Bxd5 27.cxd5 Qxd5 28.Qh5! Black must discover 28...Rd7! (28...Nxf4? 29.Rxg7+ Kxg7 30.Rg1+ Qg2+ 31.Rxg2+ Nxg2 32.Qg5+ Kh8 33.Qf6+ Kg8 34.Kxg2, and White has good winning chances) 29.Bh6 Rf7 30.f4 with a completely computerized position that should end in a draw after 30...Qxa2 31.Rxg7+ Nxg7 32.Bxg7 Qxb2+ 33.Kh3 Rxg7 34.Qxe8+ Kh7 35.Qh5+.**

**25...Nxe6 26.Qg3 Rc8 27.Nh3 Qf7 28.Qh4 Bf3!** Black transfers the bishop on the kingside to help defending. Somewhere around here Svidler should have started thinking about a draw.

**29.Bd2.** 29.Ng5!? Nxg5 30.Bxg5 Bg4 31.Kg3 b5 32.f3 Bh5 33.b3, and Black's advantage is negligible.

**29...Bg4 30.Rg3 Qe7 31.Qxe7 Rxe7 32.Ng5 Nxg5 33.Bxg5 Re6 34.f3 Bh5.** The bishop is temporary locked, and if White could bring his king to f4, he would be more optimistic about the future.

**35.b3.** 35.Rh3 Rce8 36.Bf4 Ra6 37.Ra1 Kf7 – Black brings the king to e6 and then opens up the queenside.

**35...Kf7 36.Rh3 Rce8 37.Bf4 Ra6 38.Re2 Ke6 39.Kg3 Rb8 40.Bg5.**



**40...f4+!?** With his control move Karjakin makes an important decision to change the pawn structure. It seems he didn't want to see the white king on f4.

**41.Bxf4.** 41.Kxf4?? loses at once to 41...Rf8+ 42.Ke4 Rf5 43.Bf4 g5 44.Bh2 Bg6 with a checkmate next move.

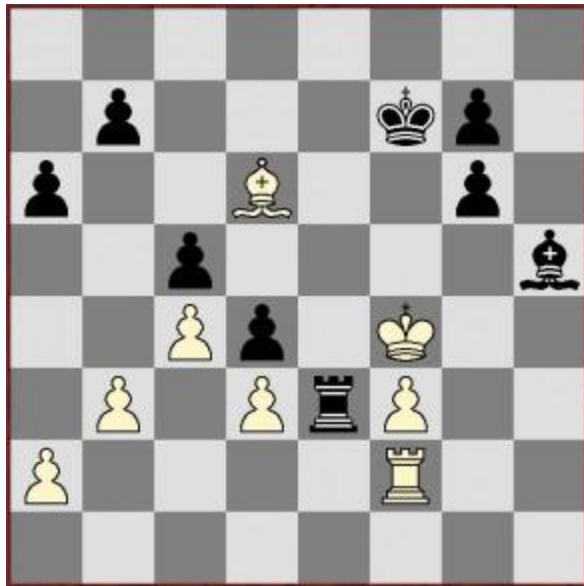
**41...Rf8 42.Rf2 Rf5 43.Bc1 Rxe5 44.Rh1?!** A strange move. Stronger is 44.Rh4 Kd7 45.Re4. White achieves a favorable rook trade and should survive the resulting endgame: 45...Rae6 (stronger is 45...Rf5 46.Rf4 Re6 47.Rxf5 gxf5 48.Bd2, but White's position is not at all hopeless) 46.Bf4 Rf5 47.Rxe6 Kxe6 48.Re2+ Kd7 49.Re5=.

**44...Kf7 45.Bf4 Rf5 46.Bb8.** The bishop broke free, but White lost control of the e3-square, and Karjakin immediately utilizes it.

**46...Re6 47.Rh4 Re3 48.Rf4 a6 49.Bd6?** Much more accurate is 49.Ba7 Rxf4 50.Kxf4 Kf6, which transposes to the game after 51.Bxc5 g5+ 52.Kg3 Rxd3, etc.

**49...Rxf4?!** By 49...Ke6! 50.Rxf5 gxf5 51.Bxc5 Rxd3 Black gets an improved version of the endgame.

**50.Kxf4.**



**50...Kf6! 51.Bxc5 g5+.** Pushing the white king further away from the d-pawn.

**52.Kg3 Rxd3 53.Kg2 Be8 54.Kf1 Bh5 55.Ke2 Re3+ 56.Kd2 Ke5 57.Rg2.** A sad necessity... It looks like Black wins after 57.Re2 Rxe2+ 58.Kxe2 g4 59.fxg4 Bxg4+ 60.Kd2 Bf5 61.Be7 Bb1 62.a3 Ke4 63.b4 Bd3 64.c5 Bb5 followed by the king transfer to c4.

**57...Kf4 58.Bxd4 Re7 59.Re2 Rd7 60.Kc3 Bxf3 61.Re8 Be4 62.Rf8+?** This is probably a decisive mistake. After 62.Rg8 g6 63.Rg7 Black cannot win by 63...Rxd4 64.Kxd4 g4 65.Re7! Bf5 66.Rxb7 g3 67.Re7 g2 68.Re1 Kf3 69.Rc1 Kf2 70.b4 g1Q 71.Rxg1 Kxg1 72.b5 axb5 73.cxb5 Kf2 74.b6 Bc8 75.Ke5, and White destroys all black pawns. White also holds after 63...Rxg7 64.Bxg7 g4 65.Kd2 g3 66.Bd4 Bb1 67.a4 a5 (67...Ba2 68.Kc3!) 68.Ke1 Ba2 69.Bb6 Bxb3 70.Bxa5 Bxc4 71.Bb6 Kf3 72.a5 g2 73.Kd2=.

**62...Bf5 63.Rg8 g6 64.Rg7.**



It looks like White achieved a lot, but...

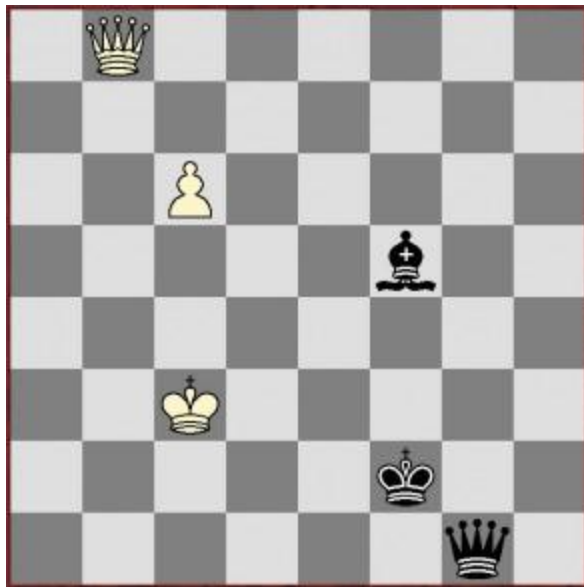
**64...Rxd4! 65.Kxd4 b6!** The only way! The g-pawn will cost White a rook now, while his attempt to create a passed pawn on the queenside is nicely refuted.

**66.Kc3 Ke3!** And again the only move.

**67.Rb7** (67.Re7+ Be4) **67...g4 68.Rxb6 g3 69.Rd6 g2 70.Rd1 g5**. Even more accurate is 70...Bg4 71.Rg1 (71.Rc1 Be2! with the idea Bf1) 71...Kf2 72.Rc1 g1Q 73.Rxg1 Kxg1, and this is it.

**71.b4 Kf2 72.a4 g1Q 73.Rxg1 Kxg1 74.b5 axb5 75.axb5 g4 76.c5 g3 77.c6 g2!?** An elegant move! Black can also play 77...Be4 78.Kd4 Bf3 79.Kc5 Kh2 80.b6 g2 81.b7 g1Q+, etc.

**78.b6 Kf2 79.b7 g1Q 80.b8Q.**



**80...Qc1+ 81.Kd4 Qe3+ 82.Kc4**. A bit more stubborn is 82.Kd5 Be6+ 83.Kd6 Qf4+ 84.Kxe6 Qxb8 85.Kd7, and Black wins by 85...Qb5!

**82...Be6+**. White resigns.

**Levon Aronian – Viswanathan Anand**

**Reti Opening A11**

**1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Qb3**. Not the most popular move in this position, to say the least.

**3...d4.**





The players made history – a novelty (at least according to my database) on the 3rd move in a candidates event!

**4.e3 c5!?** An ambitious pawn sacrifice. Maybe this move took all Vishy's ambition in this game?

**5.Qb5+.** White must accept the challenge, otherwise he just stands worse.

**5...Nc6 6.Qxc5 e5 7.Qb5 a6 8.Qb3.** White made five queen moves out of the first eight, and no wonder Black has an excellent compensation for a pawn!



**8...Bc5.** 8...Nf6!? deserved serious attention. After 9.exd4 e4 10.d5 exf3 11.dxc6 Bc5! White's position is very dangerous – 12.d4 (12.cxb7 Qe7+ 13.Qe3! Bxe3 14.bxa8Q Bd4+ 15.Kd1 0-0 16.gxf3 Bb7 17.Qxf8+ Kxf8 18.Be2 Ng4) 12...Bxd4 13.Be3 Ng4 with a strong attack.

It looks like White must play 9.d3, but after 9...Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Nbxd2 dxe3 12.fxe3 Ng4 Black's initiative looks threatening.

**9.d3 Nf6 10.e4.** Now White at least has time to consolidate.

**10...0-0 11.Be2 Bb4+ 12.Nbd2 a5 13.0-0 Nd7 14.Qd1 Bd6 15.Ne1.** The computer suggests 15.Nb1!? and transfers the knight to b5, but after 15...Nc5 16.Na3 f5 17.exf5 Bxf5 18.Nb5 Bb8 19.b3 Nb4 20.Ba3 Ra6 Black's activity is threatening.

**15...Nc5 16.Nb3 Na6.** Black could continue the game by 16...Ne6, but... see the note to Anand's fourth move.



**17.Nd2.** Levon was unable to force himself to continue, and the shortest (so far?) game of the candidates tournament concluded after **17...Nc5 18.Nb3 Na6 19.Nd2.** Draw.

**Veselin Topalov – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov**

**Sicilian Defense B90**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 g6 7.g4 Bg7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Qd2 Bd7 11.0-0-0.** The game started as a Najdorf, but now transposes to a Dragon-like setup.



**11...Rc8.** A very sharp fight in Dominguez-Carlsen, Sofia 2009 ended in a draw: 11...b5 12.f4 Rc8 13.e5 b4 14.Nce2 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 dxe5 16.fxe5 Qa5 17.a3 Nd5 18.e6 fxe6 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Bxd5 exd5 21.Qd4+ Kg8 22.axb4 Qa2 23.Nc3 Qa1+ 24.Kd2 Qxb2 25.Rhf1 Rxf1 26.Rxf1 e6 27.Rb1 Qa3 28.Rb3 Qa1 29.Rb1 Qa3 30.Rb3 Qa1.

**12.f4 Na5.** Technically White's previous move is a novelty, but 12...b5 instead of the text would transpose to the aforementioned game.

**13.b3 Qc7 14.Nde2 b5 15.Nd5.** This position occurred via move transposition in Admiraal-Bosboom, Haarlem 2010. White played 15.Kb1 and after 15...Be6?! 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 got an advantage.

**15...Nxd5 16.exd5 Rfe8.** Black prepares for e7-e6 or even e7-e5.



**17.Rhf1.** The typical 17.Bd4 offers White nothing – Black continues 17...e5 18.dxe6 Bxe6 19.Bxg7 and now, instead of an automatic recapture on g7, plays 19...Bxb3!! The only way

to create problems for Black is 20.Nd4! Nc4! (20...Ba4!? 21.Bf6 Nc4 22.Qf2 Na3 23.Rd3! Nxc2 24.Nc6 d5 25.Rc3 Qxc6 26.Rxc6 Rxc6 27.Bxd5 Rxf6 28.f5, gives White a better game, although it is far from over) 21.Qc3 Re3 22.Rd3 Rxd3 23.cxd3 (23.Qxd3 Bxa2 24.Bh6 Qa5 25.Bd5 Bb3 26.Bxc4 Bxc4 27.Nc6! Rxc6 28.Qd4 Qa3+ 29.Kd2 Qb4+! with perpetual) 23...Ne3 24.Nxb3 Qd7 25.Be4 Rxc3+ 26.Bxc3 d5 with a very unclear position (the computer say it is balanced).

**17...e6 18.Rf2.**



**18...Nc4?!** This brave piece sacrifice does not offer Black equality, but leads to very complicated positions and is justified in a practical game. After 18...exd5 19.Bd4 White's advantage is stable, and the resulting dry position does not suit Shakhriyar's explosive style.

**19.bxc4 bxc4 20.Bd4.** After this move Black regains a piece and transposes to an equal ending. 20.c3? is weak due to 20...Rb8 followed by ...Qa5, and the white king is under fire. The strongest move is rather hard to find – 20.Qb4! Now after 20...Rb8 21.Qa3 Bb2+ 22.Qxb2 Rxb2 23.Kxb2 c3+ 24.Ka1 Bb5 25.Nc1 exd5 26.Bd4 Qa5 27.Nb3 Qb4 28.Rf3 Rc8 29.Rb1 White has a clear advantage.



**20...c3! 21.Qxc3 Qxc3 22.Nxc3 Bxd4 23.Rxd4 Rxc3 24.dxe6 Rxe6 25.Rfd2 Rg3 26.Rxd6 Rxd6 27.Rxd6 Bxg4 28.hxg4 Rxc2 29.g5 Rf2 30.Rd4 f6 31.a4 fxg5 32.fxg5 Rf5. Draw.**

**Vladimir Kramnik – Dmitry Andreikin**

### Slav Defense D15

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.g3 b5 6.b3 Bf5 7.Bg2 Ne4.** A rare move, 7...e6 is more popular.

**8.Nxe4.** Vladimir immediately shows a novelty. Earlier White tried 8.Bb2 and 8.Bd2.

**8...Bxe4.** Recapturing with a pawn 8...dxe4 hardly deserves attention, as 9.Ng5 e5 10.0-0! Qxd4 11.Qxd4 exd4 12.Nxe4 gives White a big advantage.

**9.0-0 Nd7.**



**10.Ba3!?** Aimed against Black's development.

**10...g6 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Qd2 Bg7 13.Rac1 0-0 14.Bh3!?** **Bxf3 15.exf3 Re8.** 15...a5 16.Rc6 b4 17.Bb2 e6 18.Rfc1 deserved attention. White seizes the c-file, while Black succeeds in neutralizing the opponent's powerful dark-squared bishop. The game is unclear.

**16.Rc6 e6.**



**17.Rfc1!?** An interesting pawn sacrifice that allows White, according to Kramnik, to play almost risk-free.

**17...Qf6 18.Rc7 Nf8?!** More accurate is 18...Rad8, keeping an eye on  $\square 5$  – after 19.Rb7 Qxd4 20.Qxd4 Bxd4 21.f4 Nf6 22.Rcc7 Ne4 23.Rxf7 Nxf2 24.Kg2 Nxh3 25.Kxh3 h6 White cannot win despite very strong rooks on the 7th rank, as on the next move Black begins chasing them by Rb8.

More promising is 19.Bb2 Qxf3 20.Ra7 Nf6 21.Rcc7 Ne4 22.Qc2 Rf8 23.Bg2 Qf5, but here Black has excellent counterchances as well.

**19.Bc5 Qxf3 20.Rc3 Qh5 21.g4 Qh4 22.Qf4.**



**22...f6.** After the strongest 22...f5! 23.Qg3 Qxg3+ 24.hxg3 fxg4 25.Bxg4 e5! Black equalizes by force – 26.Bxf8 (26.Bf3 Ne6 27.Bxd5 exd4 28.Rd3 Rad8 |→| 28.Bxd4 Bxd4 29.R3c6 Kh8=) 26...Rxf8 27.Be6+ Kh8 28.Rd7 Rad8! 29.Ra7 Ra8=.

**23.Be7.** In the case of 23.Qd6 f5! it looks like White has to transpose to the line above by 24.Qg3.

**23...Qg5 24.Qg3.** At the press-conference the players discussed 24.Qxg5 fxg5 25.Bxg5 Bxd4 26.R3c6 and agreed that after 26...Be5 27.Rb7 Rec8 28.Rxc8 Rxc8 neither side is at particular risk.

**24...Qd2.**



**25.g5?!** Black's task would be more challenging after the correct 25.Qe3. 25...Qd1+? 26.Kg2 e5 is just bad – after 27.Bxf8 Rxf8 28.dxe5 fxe5 (28...d4?? 29.Rxg7+ Kxg7 30.Rc7+ Kg8 31.Qh6+-) 29.Rd3 Qa1 30.Rxd5 Rad8 31.g5! Rxd5 32.Be6+ Kh8 33.Bxd5 Black is faced



with tough defensive problems, and the naive 33...Qxa2? loses immediately: 34.Rxg7 Kxg7 35.Qxe5+ Rf6 36.Qxf6#.

After 25...Qxe3 26.fxe3 f5 27.g5 the missing pawn is fully compensated by pieces activity. Black is practically paralyzed, and 27...e5 only makes things worse – after 28.Bg2 e4 29.R3c6 f4?! 30.Kf2! Black runs out of reasonable moves.

**25...Qxg5 26.Qxg5 fxg5 27.Bxg5 Bxd4 28.R3c6.**



Black has two extra pawns already, but White' activity is still sufficient for a draw.

The game continued **28...a5 29.Bh6 b4 30.Kg2 a4 31.bxa4 Rxa4 32.Bxf8 Rxf8**, and in view of 33.Bxe6+ Kh8 34.Rc8 Rxc8 35.Rxc8+ Kg7 36.Bxd5 with total equality the players agreed to a draw.

#### Round 9

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
2	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	1 - 0	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	4
1	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	½ – ½	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	3
6	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	1 - 0	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	8
5	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	1 - 0	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	7

## Anand surges ahead as Aronian falters in round 9

In the battle of two former World Champions Viswanathan Anand defeated Veselin Topalov to single out again on the top after his co-leader Levon Aronian lost to Shakhriyar Mamedyarov.

Sergey Karjakin scored a second consecutive victory by beating Vladimir Kramnik, while the other two Russians – Dmitry Andreikin and Peter Svidler, split the point.

After nine rounds of play Anand is leading the race with 6 points, a full point ahead of the second placed Aronian.

Kramnik, Karjakin and Mamedyarov are on 4,5 points each. Andreikin and Svidler share the sixth place on 4 points, while Topalov is last with 3,5 points.

Monday is the rest day, the tournament resumes with round 10 on Tuesday.

The match between **Dmitry Andreikin** and **Peter Svidler** was a Naidorf Sicilian with the Fischer's variation 6.h3.

Svidler opted for the traditional e5-Be6 setup, while Andreikin expanded on the kingside with g4. Black made a counter in the center and soon the queens went off.

The position quickly simplified but there were still some resources for both sides.

However, after reaching the required 30 moves the players have agreed to a draw.

**Levon Aronian** introduced another stunning idea when he temporarily sacrificed two pawns in the sharp Gheorghiu Nimzo Indian against **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov**.

Black successfully built a strong attack and white was forced to concede an exchange. But then black strayed from the right path and white was given a chance to coordinate the pieces.

A few more mistakes by Aronian and Mamedyarov was already launching a devastating counterattack.

Shortly before the time control white decided to trade down to a winning opposite-colored bishops ending with two extra pawns. Black immediately gave up.

Former World Champions **Viswanathan Anand** and **Veselin Topalov** also had the h3 Naidorf Sicilian on trial.

Topalov went for a more flexible structure with e6, much similar to the Scheveningen Sicilian.

White allowed the exchange of his strong dark-squared bishop, but he got a quick long castle in return. Black's reaction was not the best and he soon ended up in a slightly passive French-like structure with the backward pawn on e6.

Black tried to obtain some counterplay against white f4-pawn, but the exchange of both pairs of rooks only helped white to press on black's weak points.

In the ensuing Q+B endgame white king was also much safer.

After some clever maneuvering white won the pawn and proceeded to convert the advantage.

Today it was **Sergey Karjakin's** turn to use an unexpected move order in the opening to throw **Vladimir Kramnik** off the balance.

The position after 7.Qb3 strongly resembled some of the Kramnik's own games with white from the 90's. Exactly at this moment black erred by capturing the pawn on c4 instead of taking the knight on f3.

Karjakin grabbed the b7-pawn and after a sequence of natural moves obtained clear advantage.

In desperation, black sacrificed another pawn in the hope of setting a blockade on the light-squares. But after some patient build-up, white was able to push the opponent's pieces back.

Karjakin exchanged everything to reach a winning double-rook endgame with two extra pawns. Kramnik resigned on move 64.

## GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 9th round

**Sergey Karjakin – Vladimir Kramnik**

### Queen's Pawn Opening D02

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4.** Sergey refuses to participate in a home analysis contest and shows his intention to compete at the board even without any opening advantage.

This is a reasonable strategy, but one could not expect it to be that successful!

**3...c6 4.e3 Bg4 5.c4 Nbd7 6.Nc3 e6 7.Qb3.**



**7...dxc4??** It is still unclear what kind of hallucination occurred to Kramnik. He didn't come up with a convincing answer at the press-conference either. After this move Black loses a pawn without any compensation, which at this level equals losing. After 7...Bxf3 8.gxf3 Qb6 9.c5 Qxb3 10.axb3 e5! 11.dxe5 (11.Bxe5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.b4 Nxe5 14.f4 Nd7 does not look dangerous for Black either) 11...Nh5 12.b4 Nxf4 13.exf4 g5! 14.fxg5 h6! Black can afford being ambitious.

**8.Qxb7 Bxf3 9.gxf3 Nd5.** In the case of 9...Rc8 10.Bxc4 Nb6 11.Be2 Bd6 12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.Qxa7 White already has two extra pawns, while Black is yet to show his compensation for one.

**10.Bg3 N5b6 11.Qxc6 Bb4 12.Qb5 Qe7 13.a3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 0-0 15.Bxc4.** This move gives Black some play on the light squares at least. Perhaps more practical is 15.a4 a5 16.Be2 – in such structures White stands better even with equal material, and in this situation his advantage is definitely decisive.

**15...Nxc4 16.Qxc4 Rac8 17.Qd3 Nb6 18.0-0 Rc4 19.Rfb1 Rfc8 20.Rb3 h5 21.e4.**



**21...Qg5.** Here Vladimir missed his last more or less real chance to fight for a draw. By 21...h4 22.Bf4 h3 Black created some back rank motives, which, combined with his light-square play, could cause White technical problems.

**22.h4 Qa5 23.Rc1 Qa4 24.Qb1 Nd7 25.Kg2 Nf8 26.Qb2.** 26.Rb8 Qxa3 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.c4 seems more powerful – the pair of passed pawns smashes everything on their way.

**26...Qe8.** An attempt to regain one of the pawns does not work: 26...Rxd4 27.cxd4 Rxc1 28.Qxc1 Qxb3 29.Qc8! Qb6 30.d5 exd5 31.exd5, and White should win.

**27.Rb7 a6 28.Qb6 Ng6 29.Qxa6 Qd8 30.Qb5 e5 31.Rh1 Rxc3 32.dxe5 Nf8 33.Qd5 Qe8 34.Ra1 Ne6 35.Qd7 Qf8 36.Qe7 Qxe7 37.Rxe7 Nd4.**



**38.a4! Nxf3 39.e6 fxe6 40.Rxe6.** A pragmatic decision. 40.a5 is more ruthless – Black cannot do anything about the h-pawn march combined with possible (if the knight retreats) Be5.

**40...Nd4 41.Re5 Ne2 42.Rxh5 Nxc3 43.fxc3 Re3 44.a5!?** The greedy 44.e5 is also possible, for example, 44...Rcc3 45.Rg5 Ra3 46.Rxa3 Rxa3 47.Rg4 Re3 48.Rd4 Rxe5 49.Rd2 followed by Ra2.

**44...Rxe4 45.a6 Re7 46.Rb5 Kh7 47.Kh3 Ra8 48.Rb6 Raa7 49.Ra5 Re3 50.h5 Rd3 51.Kh4 Rd4+ 52.g4 Re4 53.Kg5 Rf7.**



**54.Rg6!** Avoiding a trap 54.a7? Rff4, and White cannot win: 55.Re5! (certainly not 55.a8Q Rxg4+ 56.Kf5 Rgf4+ with a draw) 55...Rxg4+ 56.Kf5 Ra4 57.Rb7 Rgf4+ 58.Ke6 Rf6+ 59.Kd5 Ra5+ 60.Ke4 Ra4+ 61.Ke3 Ra3+ 62.Kd4 Ra4+ 63.Kc3 Rf3+ 64.Kb2 Rfa3 65.Ree7 Ra2+, and White either allows the perpetual or loses the a7-pawn.

**54...Ra7 55.Kh4 Rb4 56.Rc6 Re4 57.Rb6 Re1 58.Ra4 Re3 59.g5! Ree7 60.Rb8 g6 61.Rb6 gxh5 62.Rab4 Re1 63.Rb7+ Kg6 64.R4b6+. Black resigns.**

**Dmitry Andreikin – Peter Svidler**

### **Sicilian Defense B90**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nb3.** A rare move, 7.Nde2 is much more popular.

**7...Be6.** The most principled reaction – Black prepares d5.



**8.g4.** 8.f4 occurs more often, preventing Black's break in the center. 8...b5 9.f5 Bc8 10.Bg5 Bb7 11.Qf3 Nbd7 12.0–0–0 Be7 13.Kb1 Rc8 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 led to a complicated game in Grischuk-Wojtaszek, Riga 2013.

**8...d5 9.g5 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Bg2 Nc6 13.Bxe4 Kc7.** Black does not experience any special problems in the endgame.

**14.Bd2.** There was no alternative to this modest bishop move, as after 14.Be3 Rd8 15.Nc5 Bxc5! 16.Bxc5 h6 White lags too much in development.

**14...h6 15.h4.** Weaker is 15.gxh6 g6 16.Bg5 Bxh6 17.Bf6 Rhe8 18.h4 Bf5 19.Bxf5 gxf5, and Black's central pawn mass offers him better chances in the forthcoming struggle.

**15...hxg5 16.hxg5 Rxh1+ 17.Bxh1 Be7 18.0–0–0 Rh8.**



Black's position looks more attractive, but Svidler didn't manage to convert his slightly more active pieces into anything more significant.

**19.Be3 Rh4 20.Bg2 b6 21.a3 a5 22.Re1 g6.** 22...a4 offers too little: 23.Nd2 Nd4 24.g6! f6 (24...Rg4 25.Bxd4 exd4 26.Bf3! (26.gxf7?? Rxd4 27.Rxe6 Rg1+ 28.Nf1 Rxf1+ 29.Kd2 Rxf2+ 30.Kd3 Rxf7—) 26...Rxd4 27.Bh5 Rf6 28.Bxf7 Bxf7 29.Rxe7+ Kc6 30.Ne4! Rf4 31.Kd2=) 25.f4 Nf5 26.fxe5 Nxe3 27.Rxe3 Rg4 28.exf6 Bxf6 29.Rxe6 Rxd2, and Black cannot seriously hope to win it.

**23.Nd2 Nd4 24.Nf3 Rg4 25.Bh1 Bd6 26.Bd2 Nc6.**



The e5-pawn was hanging, and after 26...Nxf3 27.Bxf3 Rh4 28.Be3 Black's winning chances didn't look realistic for Svidler, so he offered a draw after **27.Be3 Nd4 28.Bd2 Nc6 29.Be3 Bf5 30.Rg1 Rxd1+.** And his offer was accepted.



Indeed, after 31.Nxg1 Nd4 32.c3 (after 32.Bxd4 exd4 33.Ne2 d3 34.cxd3 Bxd3 Black at least has the bishop pair) 32...Nb3+ 33.Kd1 Black's winning chances are nebulous, however, I am sure one of the future World Chess Championship participants (hint: the one who is not in Khanty-Mansiysk right now) would definitely play on.

## Viswanathan Anand – Veselin Topalov

### Sicilian Defense B90

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e6 7.g4 Nfd7 8.Bg2 Be7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.h4!?** A rare move, according to my database – this position occurs only for the third time.

**10...Nde5 11.g5 Bd7.** A novelty. After 11...Nc4 12.Bc1 0–0 13.b3 Qa5 14.Nde2 Na3 15.0–0 b5 Black got a good game in Nestorovic-Hajbok, Kazan 2013.

**12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.b3.**



**13...f5.** A concrete approach, typical for Topalov. The Bulgarian provokes an immediate crisis. 13...Qa5 deserves attention – after 14.Bd2 (14.Qd2 Ng4) 14...Qc5 the black queen does not allow White to arrange his pieces harmoniously, for example, 15.f4 Nd7 16.Qe2 Rc8 17.a4 Bd8!? with the idea Ba5.

**14.f4 Ng4 15.Qe2 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 fxe4?!** It was better to wait with this capture. 16...0–0 17.0–0–0 Rc8 forced White to spend a tempo for defending the g2-bishop sooner or later, and then Black could take on fxe4.

**17.0–0–0 d5 18.Nxe4 Ba3+ 19.Kb1 Qe7 20.Nf2!**



A typical French Defense structure arose.

**20...Bc5 21.Qg3 Bxf2.** After 21...0-0 22.Rhe1 Qf7 23.Nd3 Bd6 24.Qe3 White has a small but lasting advantage.

**22.Qxf2 0-0 23.Qd4 Rf5 24.Rde1 Raf8 25.Rhf1 Qd6 26.Re5 Rxe5 27.fxe5 Rxf1+ 28.Bxf1 Qe7 29.a4.** The game proceeded to an endgame, but Black's problems remained the same – White has a spatial advantage, and the e6-pawn is weak.

**29...Be8 30.Kb2 Bg6 31.Bh3.**



**31...h6?** Desire for active counterplay ruins Veselin. After 31...Qd7 followed by the king's march to e7 I was unable to find a straightforward plan for White, although defending the position after 32.a5 Kf7 33.Qb6 Ke7 34.Bg4 Be4 is not a pleasant task.

**32.gxh6 gxh6 33.Qg4! Kf7 34.h5!** White puts a pawn on a “wrong” square (matching his bishop), but fixates a weakness on h6, which completely paralyzes Black.

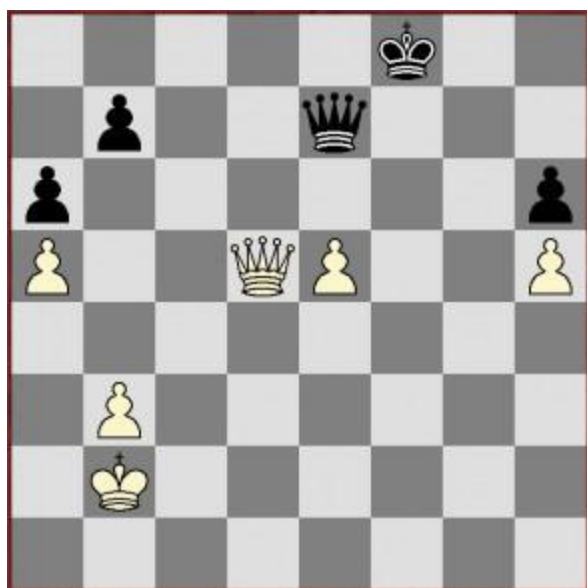
**34...Be4 35.a5! Bh7 36.c3!**



Black is in zugzwang.

**36...Be4 37.c4 Bf5 38.Qf4 dxc4 39.Bxf5 exf5 40.Qxf5+ Ke8 41.Qc8+ Kf7 42.Qxc4+ Kg7 43.Qd5.** The queen endgame is hopeless for Black due to the domination of the white queen and because a pawn ending is not an option. So Black has no counterplay, while White can gradually improve his position.

**43...Kf8.**



**44.Kc3.** This works as well, but White could win by force by 44.Qd6! Qxd6 45.exd6 Ke8 46.Kc3 Kd7 47.Kc4! (maybe Vishy missed this move) 47...Kxd6 48.Kd4! Ke6 49.Kc5 Kd7 50.Kd5! and wins.

**44...Ke8 45.b4.** 45.Qd6 was still playable.

**45...Qc7+ 46.Kd4 Qe7 47.Qg8+ Kd7 48.Kd5.** 48.e6+! Qxe6 (48...Kd6 49.Qb8+ Kxe6 50.Qe5+ Kf7 51.Qxe7+ Kxe7 52.Ke5+-) 49.Qxe6+ Kxe6 50.Kc5 Kd7 51.Kd5+-.

**48...Kc7 49.Qg6 Qh4 50.Qd6+ Kc8 51.Kc5 Qf2+ 52.Qd4 Qf7 53.Qc4 Qg7 54.Kb6+ Kb8 55.Qc5 Qf7 56.Qd6+ Kc8 57.e6.** Black resigns.

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Levon Aronian**

**Nimzo-Indian Defense E20**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 0–0 5.e4 d5 6.e5 Nfd7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3.**

This line is considered dubious for White, but Shakhriyar has a different opinion.

**9...f6 10.exf6.** 10.f4? occurred a few times, and after 10...fxe5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.fxe5 Qh4+ Black won all games.



**10...Qe8+!?** The simple 10...Qxf6 is the most popular. After 11.Bd3 Nb6 12.Ne2 Bf5 the chances are basically even.

**11.Qe2 Qf7!?** A novelty. The only preceding game continued 11...Nxf6 12.Qxe8 Nxe8 13.Ne2 Nd6 14.Bf4 Rd8 15.Ng3 Nc6 16.Bd3 Be6 17.Kf2 Bf7 18.Nf5 Bg6, draw, Shmeliov-Kraai, Las Vegas 2007.

**12.fxg7 Re8 13.Be3 Nc6.** In exchange for two sacrificed pawns (besides, one of them can be regained at will) Black gets dangerous initiative. His knights are ready to seize control over the c4-square.

**14.Qd2 Na5 15.Rb1 Nb6.**



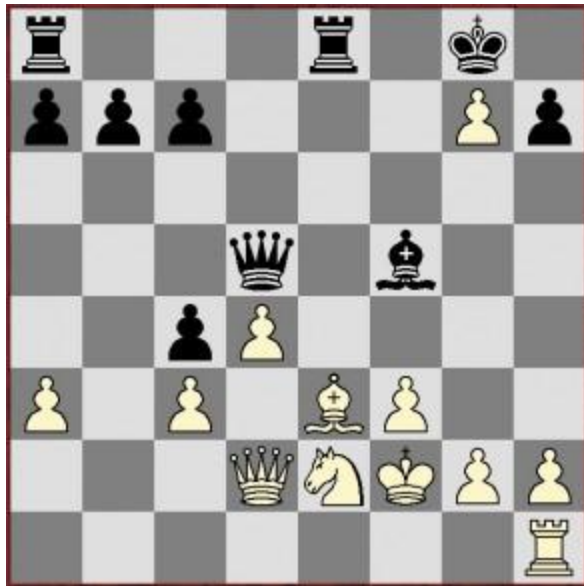
**16.Rb4.** The only way to avoid an immediate crushing defeat is this exchange sacrifice, which makes the game completely unclear.

**16...Nac4 17.Bxc4 dxc4!? 18.Rb5.** White could also consider 18.Ne2 Nd5 19.Bh6 Nxb4 20.axb4 with compensation.

**18...Bf5?!** Giving White an option he was deprived of after 18...Nd5 19.Rxd5 Qxd5 20.Ne2 Bf5 21.Kf2. White's compensation for an exchange is doubtless.

**19.Kf2.** Shakhriyar keeps playing by his plan and does not dare to deviate, although 19.Re5 seems stronger than the text. 19...Rxe5 (19...Rad8 20.Bf4 c5 21.Ne2 cxd4 22.Nxd4 Rxe5+ 23.Bxe5 Re8 24.f4 Bd3 25.Nf3 Nd5 26.Kf2 Nf6 27.Bxf6 Re2+ 28.Qxe2 Bxe2 29.Be5 gives White a clear advantage) 20.dxe5 Qe7 21.Ne2 Qxe5 22.Nf4 Re8 23.Kf2 Qxg7 24.Re1, and the position is still not equal, because the black king is wide open.

**19...Nd5 20.Rxd5 Qxd5 21.Ne2.**



The computer evaluates this position as equal, but from practical point of view playing White is way simpler – he has a clear kingside attack plan, while it is hard to Black to create any real threats.

**21...a5.** This queenside counterplay comes too late. Perhaps one should have preferred centralization by 21...Rad8 followed by c7-c5.

**22.h4 b5 23.h5 b4 24.cxb4 axb4 25.axb4 Qb5 26.Re1.** The computer prefers 26.d5 Bd3 27.Nf4 with a clear advantage for White, e. g., 27...Qd7 28.Bd4 Qd6 29.g3!? c6 30.Kg2 cxd5 31.b5.

**26...Bd3.** This turns out to be unsuccessful, but Black's position is already difficult. For example, 26...Ra3 27.Nc3! Qxb4 28.Bh6! Raa8 29.Rxe8+ Rxe8 30.g4 Be6 31.Qf4! Bf7 32.Ne4 Re6 33.Nf6+ Rxf6 34.Qxf6 Qd6 35.Qxd6 cxd6 36.Bf4 Kxg7 37.Bxd6, and the endgame seems winning for White.

**27.Nf4 Ra3.**



**28.d5! Bb1 29.Kg3.** White also wins by 29.Qd4 Qxb4 30.Bd2 Qb8 31.Rxe8+ Qxe8 32.d6!

**29...c3 30.Qc1 Rb3 31.Bc5 Rxe1 32.Qxe1 Qd7 33.h6 Qf7 34.Nh5!?** 34.Qe5 and d5-d6 is the quickest.

**34...Bg6.**



**35.Qe8+!** The only winning move (and it was clearly planned ahead by Mamedyarov).

**35...Qxe8 36.Nf6+ Kf7 37.Nxe8.** Now Black kills a newborn queen – **37...Ra3 38.Nf6 Ra8 39.g8Q+ Rxg8 40.Nxg8 Kxg8**, but this is his last achievement in this game. After **41.Kf4 Bd3 42.Ke5 Kf7 43.Be3 Bf1 44.g4** Aronian resigned.



### Round 10

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
2	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	½ – ½	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	1
4	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	0 – 1	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	3
7	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	½ – ½	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	8
6	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	½ – ½	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	5

## Anand maintains one point lead after round 10

Former World Champion Viswanathan Anand maintained a full point lead in the FIDE World Candidates Tournament after playing a draw with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in round 10.

Anand's nearest rival Levon Aronian also made a draw, with white against Veselin Topalov. In the all-Russian matches Peter Svidler defeated Vladimir Kramnik, while Sergey Karjakin and Dmitry Andreikin drew.

Anand is clear first with 6,5 points, one point ahead of the second-placed Aronian. Mamedyarov, Karjakin and Svidler are on 5 points each, while Kramnik and Andreikin share the 6th place with 4,5 points. Topalov remains last with 4 points.

The 6.h3 Naidorf Sicilian is all rage now in the FIDE World Candidates Tournament. In round 10 Viswanathan Anand again used the system, this time in the game against Shakhriyar Mamedyarov.

The game was similar to Anand's match against Topalov, but this time black was more vigorous to trade the pieces, counter in the center and achieve good play.

Anand made a good psychological decision to go for relatively simple position in which Mamedyarov, a gifted tactician, could not create threats with taking excessive risk.

At some point white offered moves repetition but black decided to play on. However, on move 30 black changed his mind and offered a draw.

Dmitry Andreikin defended with the Taimanov Sicilian and Sergey Karjakin used Rustam Kasimdzhanov's favorite 7.Qd3, although Karjakin admitted he didn't analyzed this variation with his second.

Karjakin followed his earlier clash with Mamedyarov (2009), but then he chose a different pawn structure with 13.e5, very similar to the Classical French. Black didn't meet many obstacles in solving the typical problems – exchange of the light-squared bishops and counterplay on the b-file.

Having achieved no advantage, white conceded a draw by repeating the moves.

Peter Svidler had another go at the Dutch defence and Vladimir Kramnik responded with the customary expansion in the center.

With the slightly better pawn structure white claimed a small advantage, but black always remained solid and was close to trading off the entire queenside.

At one point Kramnik blundered horribly by allowing 32...Bxh2+ which lost him an exchange and a pawn.

Further, the white king was exposed to a relentless attack and he gave up shortly before the time control.

Levon Aronian chose a quiet setup against Veselin Topalov's Chebanenko Slav, allowing black to extinguish much of the opening pressure.

Around move 14 white was uncertain how to place the pieces. At the press conference Topalov proposed 15.a4 Qb6 16.Bc3, but Aronian replied that he didn't like the bishop there.

After black installed the knight on the strong d4-outpost, white understood that he should be careful not to end up worse.

Topalov thought that he had small advantage throughout the middlegame, but he decided not to be rash and make mistakes in pursuit of a victory at all costs, as it happened to him earlier in the tournament.

Despite the doubled f-pawns and opponent's passer on d-file, white was able to hold the endgame. Draw signed on move 45

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 10th round**

**ergey Karjakin – Dmitry Andreikin**

**Sicilian Defense B46**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Qd3.** A rare move first employed by Karjakin's second Rustam Kasimdzhinov.

No doubt Dmitry Andreikin considered it in his preparation.



**7...Qc7.** Another option is 7...d5 8.Bf4 Nf6 9.Be2 Bb7 10.0-0-0 Qb6 11.Qg3 Rc8 12.Rhe1 d4 13.Na4 Qb4 14.Qb3, and White got an advantage in Nepomniachtchi-Svidler, Moscow 2010

**8.Qg3 Qxg3 9.hxg3 d5 10.g4.** White seizes space and tries to exert pressure on the semi-open h-file.

**10...Rb8 11.g5 f6 12.gxf6.** In the case of 12.g6 h6 the g6-pawn is not a threat but rather a weakness. After 13.Bd3 Bd6 14.b3 Ne7 Black's position is more pleasant.

**12...Nxf6 13.e5.** A novelty. Earlier Karjakin-Mamedyarov, Baku 2009 saw 13.Bd3 Bd6 14.0-0 0-0 15.Re1 Bc5 16.exd5 cxd5 17.Na4 Bd6 18.b3 e5 19.f3 Bd7 20.Bd2 Rbc8 21.Nb6 Bc5+ 22.Be3 Bxe3+ 23.Rxe3 Rc6 24.Nxd7 Nxd7 25.c4 d4 26.Re2 a5 27.Be4 Rc7 28.Bd5+ Kh8 29.a3 h6 30.b4 axb4 31.axb4 Nb6 32.Rxe5, draw.

**13...Nd7 14.f4.**



**14...Nc5!** An important move – Black prevents Bd3, which could force him to weaken his kingside by h7-h6. After the possible 14...a5 15.Bd3 h6 16.Bg6+ Kd8 17.b3 his position would be slightly worse.

**15.Rh3 a5 16.b3.** An attempt to refute Ba6 tactically fails: after 16.Be3? Rxb2 17.Bxc5 Bxc5 18.Na4 Rxc2 19.Kd1 Black comes up with 19...Rf2!–+.

**16...Ba6 17.Bxa6 Nxa6 18.Na4 Rb4 19.Bd2 Re4+ 20.Kf1 Bb4 21.c3 Ba3 22.Re1 Rxe1+ 23.Kxe1.**



**23...0–0.** Black's very late castling is probably the most interesting moment of this game. He could equalize easier by 23...Nc5 24.Nxc5 Bxc5, and White runs out of reasonable ideas of playing for a win.

**24.Ke2.** After 24.Be3 Be7 25.g3 (with the idea of Bb6) 25...c5 26.Ke2 Rc8 27.g4 White maintains some pressure.

**24...h6 25.Rg3 Kf7 26.Rh3.** A silent draw offer.

**26...Kg6 27.Rg3+ Kf7 28.Rh3 Kg6.** Black did not find objective reasons to reject the repetition, and after 29.Rg3+ Kf7 the game ended in a draw.

**Viswanathan Anand – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov**

**Sicilian Defense B90**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e6 7.g4 h6.** One of many viable options for Black. Shakhriyar decides to deviate from the previous round Anand-Topalov game, which continued 7...Nfd7.

**8.Bg2 Be7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.f4.** 10.Qe2 is more popular, and then 10...Nxd4 11.Bxd4 e5 12.Be3 Be6 13.0-0 Rc8 14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Nd7 gives Black typical dark-squared counterplay, Ragger-Vallejo 2009.

**10...Nd7 11.Qd2.**



**11...Nxd4.** A new move. Earlier Black played 11...Bh4+ 12.Bf2 Bxf2+ 13.Qxf2 Qb6 14.0-0 g5?!, and now 15.e5 gives White a big advantage (Wallace-Mirumian, Linares 1998 continued 15.fxg5?! hxg5 16.Rhf1 and eventually won anyway) 15...dxe5 16.fxe5 Ncxe5 (16...Ndxe5?? 17.Nxc6) 17.Ne4 0-0 18.h4!, and White's attack is decisive.

**12.Bxd4 e5 13.fxe5 Bh4+ 14.Bf2 Nxe5 15.0-0-0 Bxf2 16.Qxf2 Be6.** Black secured the e5-square for the knight, and his future in this game seems bright.

**17.Qd4 Qg5+ 18.Kb1 0-0-0 19.Bf1.** The computer suggests a plain and simple 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.Qxd5, however a human player would rather find some work for the g2-bishop.

**19...Nc6 20.Qf2 Qc5 21.Qg3 Qe5.**



According to Shakhriyar, this was either a psychological test or a question whether White is playing for a win.

**22.Qf2.** Anand answers this question without much doubt – White does not have many good squares for the queen, and the tournament situation is calling for caution.

**22...Qc5 23.Qg3 Kb8.** Black decides to show ambition, however, as Shakhriyar said at the press-conference, “It is hard to win when your opponent does not want to lose”.

**24.Be2 Ne5 25.Nd5!** An important move – the position after 25.Rd2 Rc8! 26.Rhd1 Rc6 is approximately equal, but White would run into some problems: Black’s pressure on the c-file makes it difficult to occupy the d5-square.

**25...Rc8 26.c3 f6 27.Rd4 Rhe8 28.Rhd1.**



The board is still quite full, but one can already sense the draw is coming. A balanced position, mutual weaknesses on d6 and e4, and in addition neither side can push pawns anywhere.

**28...Rcd8 29.Bd3 Nc6 30.Rc4 Qa7.** The players made the required 30 moves and agreed to a draw. Black cannot use an awkward placement of the c4-rook: 30...Qa5 31.Bc2 Qb5 32.b3!, and White seizes the initiative as he threatens to trap the queen by a4 and b4.

## Levon Aronian – Veselin Topalov

### Slav Defense D15

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.e3 Bf5 6.Bd3.** Recently this move became popular, but it is hard to believe that Black can experience any difficulties with reasonable play provided. 6.Qb3 leads to a more challenging game.

**6...Bxd3 7.Qxd3 e6 8.0-0 Bb4.** Black prevents e3-e4. More frequent is 8...Be7 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 0-0, for example, 11.Rd1 Nbd7 12.b3 Qc7 13.Bb2 Rad8 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Qe2 c5 16.dxc5, draw, Tomashevsky-Kamsky, Tromso 2013.

**9.Bd2 0-0 10.Rfd1 a5 11.a3.**



**11...Be7.** The computer prefers 11...Bxc3, preventing e3-e4 for a long time, however, human players respect their bishops too much, and perhaps in this particular case the machine's decision is inferior: after 12.Bxc3 Nbd7 13.a4!? White can expect to obtain a small plus.

**12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 Nd7.** This position occurred many times with Black's turn to move. Indeed, Topalov lost a tempo on Bf8-b4-e7, however, this is not very important in such structures – Black's position is still very safe.



**15.Bf4 Re8 16.Qc2 Qb6.** Veselin got used to solving problems with concrete actions. The text-move prepares c6-c5. The more flexible 16...Nf8 (the knight goes to g6) also offers sufficient counterplay: 17.Rd3 Ng6 18.Bg3 a4 19.Rad1 Qa5, and the game is about even.



**17.Rd3.** The computer likes gaining space by 17.c5, however, it is not quite clear what else White gains in exchange for weakening the d5-square: 17...Qa6 18.Rd3 Red8 19.Rad1 a4, and if White decides to transfer the knight to d6 by 20.Nd2, Black goes 20...e5 (not 20...Nxc5?? due to a strong reply 21.Rh3!) 21.Re1!? (21.Rh3 h6 22.Bxe5 Nxe5 23.dxe5 Qb5, and Black is fine) 21...exf4 22.Rxe7 Nf6 23.Nc4 Re8! with counterplay.

**17...c5 18.d5.** The most principled reply. After 18.Rad1 cxd4 19.Rxd4 Nc5 I don't see how White can utilize his control of the d-file.

**18...Bf6 19.Rad1.** 19.Rb3!? Qa7 20.d6 a4 21.Rb5 e5 22.Be3 Re6 23.Rd1 b6 leads to a completely unclear position: the passed pawn on d6 is strong, but the rook on b5 is set aside for a long time.

**19...exd5 20.Rxd5 Nf8 21.R1d2.** White does not get much after 21.Be5 Bxe5 22.Nxe5 Rad8 followed by transferring the knight to d4.

**21...Ne6 22.Rd6 Qc7 23.Bg3?!** Aronian overlooks the opponent's reply. He should have simplified the game by 23.Rxe6 Qxf4 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Rd5 b6 26.a4 g6 27.b3 with complete equality.



**23...Nd4! 24.Qd1.** Levon missed 24.R6xd4 Qe7!, and White loses material.

**24...Qe7.** 24...Nxf3+ 25.gxf3 is acceptable for White, as his opponent lacks necessary resources to make any use of the white king's weakened position.

**25.h3 Rad8 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Nxd4 cxd4 28.a4.** Black has a small advantage, but his passed pawn is safely blocked, and the queenside pawns are fixated on the bishop's squares, which in theory offers White enough counterplay.

**28...h5 29.b3 h4 30.Bf4 g5 31.Re2 Qc5 32.Bd2 Qf5.** After 32...d3!? 33.Re4 Kg7 34.Qh5 b6 (34...Rh8 35.Qf3 Rd8 36.Qh5=) 35.Kf1 it is still unclear how Black can make progress.

**33.Re1 b6 34.Qf3.** In the resulting endgame the white king comes to the center, and White is out of danger. Moreover, it is Black who must play carefully from now on. 34.Qh5!? Kg7 35.f4 Qg6 36.Qxg6+ Kxg6 37.Kf2=.

**34...Qxf3 35.gxf3 Kg7 36.Kf1 Kg6 37.Re4 Kf5 38.Ke2 d3+ 39.Kd1 Bd4 40.Rg4 f6 41.f4 gxf4 42.Rxf4+ Ke5.**



**43.f3.** White could try playing for a win by 43.Rxh4 Bxf2 44.Bc3+ Kf5 45.Rh5+, however, 45...Ke6 46.Rd5 Rxd5 47.cxd5+ Kxd5 48.Bxf6 b5 gives Black a draw.

**43...Bf2 44.Rg4 Kf5 45.Rf4+ Ke5.** Game drawn.

## Vladimir Kramnik – Peter Svidler

### Dutch Defense A80

**1.d4 f5.** Peter confirms he was serious about the Dutch, as he picks this rather unpopular opening for a second time.

**2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 b6.** A rare reply to a rare system selected by White. 3...g6 or 3...e6 are much more popular.

**4.d5.**



A novelty on the move 4!

**4...Bb7 5.Bc4 c6 6.Nc3 cxd5 7.Nxd5 e6 8.Nxf6+ Qxf6 9.0-0 Bc5.** A very creative opening led to a balanced position, but now Kramnik slowly starts to outplay his opponent.

**10.Bd2.**



**10...Nc6.** 10...Qxb2 looks dangerous: 11.Nd4 Qa3 (Black's compensation after 11...0-0 12.a4! Bxd4 13.Ra2 Qxa2 14.Bxa2 Bf6 is unlikely to suffice) 12.Nb5 Qa4 13.Qh5+ g6 14.Qh4! Na6, but I cannot see anything direct for White. He can continue 15.a3 Qxc2 (15...0-0?? 16.Bxe6+-) 16.Bc3 0-0 17.Rfd1 Bc6 18.Bd3 Qb3 19.Bc4 with a draw by repetition.

**11.Bc3 Qe7 12.a3 a5 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Rad1 d5 15.Bb5 Na7 16.a4** (16.Ba6!?) **16...Bd6.** 16...Nxb5 is safer, after 17.axb5 Bd6 18.Be5 Qc7 19.Bxd6 Qxd6 Black is just fine.

17.Ba6 Nc6 18.Bxb7 Qxb7 19.b3 Qa6 20.Qd2 Rac8 21.Ng5 Rce8 22.Bb2 h6 23.Nf3 Bb4 24.c3 Be7.



**25.c4!** In a more opened position Black's structural problems begin to tell.

**25...dxc4 26.Rc1 b5.** It is better to maintain symmetry by 26...Rc8 27.Rxc4 Rfd8 28.Qe2 Qb7 with a balanced game.

**27.axb5 Qxb5 28.Rxc4 Nb4 29.Ne5 Nd5 30.Qc2 Bd6 31.Nc6 Nb6.**



White's position looks more pleasant to a human eye, primarily because of a more compact pawn structure. By 32.Nd4 Qe5 33.Nf3 Qb5 34.Rc6 White could maintain pressure and play nearly risk-free. However, Vladimir's next move is just inexplicable:

**32.Rd4??**

After **32...Bxh2+** (Kramnik said he just blundered it) **33.Kxh2 Qxf1** Black easily converted his material advantage.

**34.Qc3?!** More tenacious is 34.Nxa5 Nd5 35.Nc4 Qe1 36.Ba3 Rf6 (36...Rf7? 37.Nd6 Rc7 38.Rc4 Ra8 39.Rxc7 Nxc7 40.Qxc7 Rxa3 41.Qf7+ Kh7 42.Nxf5!=) 37.Ne5 with certain practical compensation.

**34...Rf6 35.Ne5 Qxf2 36.Rf4 Qe2 37.Qd4 Nd5 38.Rf3 Rc8 39.Rg3 f4.** White resigns.

#### Round 11

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
1	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	½ - ½	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	5
8	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	½ - ½	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	2
3	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	½ - ½	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	7
4	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	½ - ½	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	6

### Round 11: All games drawn, Anand still in full point lead

All four games of the 11th round of the FIDE World Candidates Tournament ended in draws. The first to split the point were former World Champions Vladimir Kramnik and Viswanathan Anand. Peter Svidler and Levon Aronian, Dmitry Andreikin and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, followed the suit around the first time control.

Sergey Karjakin was pressing for a victory against Veselin Topalov, but the Bulgarian was alert to parry all the threats.

Round 11 standings: 1. Anand 7; 2. Aronian 6; 3-5. Svidler, Mamedyarov and Karjakin 5,5; 6-7. Kramnik and Andreikin 5; 8. Topalov 4,5.

Possibly the toughest challenge for **Viswanathan Anand** in the last four rounds was the game with black against **Vladimir Kramnik**.

It wasn't a great surprise that Kramnik opened with the Catalan, which brought him so much success in the past.

The line with 7.Ne5 is considered innocuous, but Kramnik wanted to play something that he is familiar with. In an over-the-board inspiration he decided to go for the rare 11.Na3, which he analysed some years ago.

Anand continued in the regular manner, by quickly advancing the c-pawn to clear the files and achieve counterplay with heavy pieces.

A temporary pawn sacrifice helped black to clear the queenside and reach an easy draw.

The game between **Peter Svidler** and **Levon Aronian** started as a Reti but soon the pawns were arranged in the shape of Slav Exchange variation.

Black solved the problem of the light-squared bishop and this helped him achieve good play on the queenside.

The structure was symmetrical but there were still plenty of resources for either player.

Svidler marked 22.b4 as a mistake after which black succeeded in trading the heavy pieces on the c-file. Both players agreed that 22.Rc2 was a better try, when black would probably start preparing a break with e5.

After the queens went off, draw was signed on move 33.

**Dmitry Andreikin** and **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** also explored the Catalan opening. White inadvertently followed in the footsteps of former World Championship Challenger Boris Gelfand, but already by move 20 he was down to less than half an hour on the clock.

Andreikin admitted that he was surprised in the opening and had to spend lots of time to find the best moves.

White made a break by advancing c4-c5, but black exchanged all the pawns on the queenside. On a positive note, white obtained a pair of bishops.

The resulting endgame 2B vs B+N and four pawns on the same flank should be equal, but still some precision was required from black.

Mamedyarov recollected that Kramnik and Gelfand held similar endgames, but he didn't feel entirely at ease in today's game. Nevertheless, he managed to trade more pawns and draw was finally agreed on move 46.

**Veselin Topalov** and **Sergey Karjakin** played the Double Fianchetto Hedgehog, following for a while their earlier game from 2012 World Rapid Championship.

Topalov was the first to deviate by advancing his pawn to g5. In the battle for the long a8-h1 diagonal both players maneuvered their queens to the corners of the board.

The queens and three pairs of minor pieces were soon exchanged. Black tried to create an outside passed pawn on the h-file, while white concentrated his efforts on breaking through on the queenside.

While white was throwing his pawns forward, black seized the opportunity to trade a rook for the bishop and doubled passed pawns on the a-file.

Despite being an exchange up, white remained passive because black always threatened to advance the passers.



Eventually white stopped both pawns with his king and rook and black couldn't find a way to activate his own king to make a decisive impact on the final outcome. Draw in 57 moves.

## GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 11th round

**Peter Svidler – Levon Aronian**

### Reti Opening A06

**1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Bg4 3.Bg2 e6 4.c4 c6 5.cxd5 Bxf3.** Black wants to play with a symmetrical pawn structure, and in this case taking on f3 is necessary because of 5...cxd5?? 6.Qa4+. Also 5...exd5 is quite popular, for example, 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d3 Nbd7 8.Nc3 Bc5 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 0-0 11.Qc2 d4 12.Nb1 Qe7 with an approximately even game, Svidler-Karjakin, Moscow 2011.

**6.Bxf3 cxd5 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.d4.** White's position is slightly more pleasant due to his bishop pair, but symmetrical pawn structure and stable situation in the center gives Black good chances to equalize.

All in all, Levon's opening choice comes as a bit of a shock, bearing in mind his tournament situation. There are many more challenging setups against the Reti...

**9...Be7 10.e3 0-0 11.Bd2.**



**11...Qd7.** This novelty is an improvement over Aronian's earlier game that went 11...Qb8 12.Rc1 Rc8, and after 13.Bg2 b5 14.e4 b4 15.Bf4 Qb6 16.Na4 Qa5 17.e5 Nd7 18.Be3 Nb6 19.Nxb6 axb6 20.f4 Qxa2 21.f5 Black had to work hard to make a draw, Kramnik-Aronian, London 2013.

**12.Rc1 Rfc8 13.Bg2 Ne8 14.Qe2 Nd6 15.Rfd1 Bd8 16.Be1 Ne7.** Black arranged his pieces in the best possible way to meet the e3-e4 break.

**17.b3.** Preparing to transfer the knight to c5. After 17.e4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Bxe4 Nd5 White does not have sufficient resources to break the grip on d5, so this would likely lead to mass exchanges and a quick draw.

**17...Rc6 18.Na4 Rac8 19.Nc5 Qe8 20.Qb2 R6c7 21.a4 Nc6.**



**22.b4.** After the game Svidler was unhappy about his “hasty” decision and suggested 22.Rc2 as an improvement. White may have nothing special, but Black has to play carefully to avoid problems. For example, after 22...a5 23.Rdc1 Bf6 24.Nd3!? White still has some pressure.

**22...Nb8 23.b5 Be7 24.Qb1 Nd7.** Black is ready to bring the knight via d7 and b6 to c4.

**25.Nd3.** 25.e4 looks like White’s last attempt to fight for an advantage. After 25...Nxe4 (weaker is 25...Nxc5?! 26.dxc5 Nxe4 27.Bxe4 dxe4 28.c6!?, and White is better) 26.Nxe4 dxe4 27.Rxc7 Rxc7 28.Rc1!? Black should continue 28...Rxc1 29.Qxc1 Qd8 30.Bxe4 b6, then bring the knight to d5, and the game should end in a draw.

**25...Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Rxc1 27.Qxc1.** There is no life left in this game after exchanging the rooks.

**27...Nb6 28.Qd1 Qc8 29.Bf1 Bf8 30.Ne5 Nbc4 31.Nxc4 Nxc4 32.Qc2 Nb6 33.Qxc8.** Game drawn.

## Vladimir Kramnik – Viswanathan Anand

### Catalan Defense E06

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0–0 6.0–0 dxc4 7.Ne5.** Kramnik’s choice is explained by the crisis of ideas in the main line: 7.Qc2 a6 8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bd2, and largely because of 10...Bd6, which was successfully implemented at the highest level.

7...Nc6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Nxc6 Qe8 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7.



**11.Na3.** A rare continuation. In the previous candidates tournament Kramnik selected 11.Qc2 e5 12.Rd1 Rb8 13.Nc3 h6 14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.Bf4 Qe7 16.Rd4 Be6 17.Rad1 with a small advantage to White, Kramnik-Carlsen, London 2013. The most popular move in this position is 11.Qa4.

**11...c5.** Similar to 11.Qa4 c5 line Black trades his weak c-pawn and opens the position, trying to obtain decent compensation for a pawn due to move active pieces and White's certain underdevelopment.

**12.dxc5.** Black doesn't have any problems after 12.Nxc4 Rd8 13.b3 cxd4 14.Ba3 Qc7 15.Rc1 Ba6, and the white knight doesn't have good retreat squares.

**12...Qxc5 13.Be3 Qh5 14.f3.** This is forced, because 14.Nxc4 is dubious due to 14...Ba6! 15.b3 Bxc4 16.bxc4 Ng4 17.h4 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Qg4, and Black might be better.



**14...c3! 15.bxc3 Qa5.** Black develops powerful activity after a pawn sacrifice.

**16.Qc1 Ba6 17.c4 Rac8 18.Bxa7?!** By insisting on keeping an extra pawn, White risks getting under unpleasant pressure. Objectively better is 18.Rb1 Bxc4 19.Nxc4 Qxa2 20.Rb2 Qxc4 21.Qxc4 Rxc4 22.Bxa7 with complete equality.

**18...Bxc4 19.Nxc4 Qxa7+ 20.Qe3 Qa6 21.Ne5 Rc2 22.Nd3 Nd5 23.Qf2.**



**23...Rxa2.** Anand prefers to make another half-step to the finishing line, and we cannot blame him for it, considering the tournament situation. Yet we must mention 23...Rfc8!? Not that Black can seriously expect playing for a win, but this move allows to keep the tension. Curiously, Kramnik's suggestion 24.Rfc1? was refuted by... the press-conference host Anastasia Karlovich: 24...Qxd3! 25.exd3 Rxc1+ 26.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 27.Kg2 Rc2. Kramnik, looking a bit confused, admitted that he could blunder it indeed.

**24.Rxa2 Qxa2 25.e4 Qa3 26.exd5 Qxd3 27.dxe6 fxe6 28.Qe1 Qd5 29.Qe3 h6 30.Re1 Rxf3 31.Qxe6+.** Game drawn.

**Dmitry Andreikin – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov**

### **Catalan Opening E04**

**1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 c5 6.0–0 Nc6 7.dxc5.** The most modest continuation – White is ready to play an endgame with a slight advantage.

**7...Qxd1 8.Rxd1 Bxc5 9.Nbd2 c3 10.bxc3 0–0.**



**11.Nb3.** 11.Ne1!? Be7 12.Nd3 Nd5 13.Bb2 Nb6 14.Rab1 Na5 15.Ba1 Rd8 16.c4 Naxc4 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.Bxb7 Bxb7 19.Rxb7 Bf6 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Rc1, and White got a small edge in Gelfand-Ponomarev, Khanty-Mansiysk 2009.

**11...Be7 12.c4 Bd7 13.Bb2 Rfd8 14.Nfd4 Rac8 15.Nb5.** 15.c5 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bc6 17.Rab1 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 h6 19.e3 Nd7 20.Na5 Nxc5 21.Nxb7 Nxb7 22.Rxb7 Bf6 23.Rdb1 Bxd4 24.exd4 a5 25.Ra7 Rd5 26.Rbb7 Rf5 leads to an equal game, Kramnik-Anand, Zurich 2013.

**15...b6 16.Rac1 a5 17.a4 Be8 18.Rxd8 Rxd8.**



Only this natural move is a novelty. Earlier Black played less successfully – 18...Nxd8 19.c5 bxc5 20.Nxa5 Nd5 21.Nc4, and White eventually won in Delchev-Llanes Hurtado, Haguenau 2013.

**19.h3 Nb4 20.c5 bxc5 21.Nxa5 Nfd5 22.Nb7 Rb8 23.Nxc5 Bxb5 24.axb5 Rxb5.** White got a bishop pair. However, limited material and absence of weaknesses in Black's position allows him to defend easily.

**25.Ne4 f6 26.Nc3.** White must allow more exchanges, otherwise black knights on b4 and d5 become too powerful.

**26...Rc5 27.Nxd5 Rxc1+ 28.Bxc1 Nxd5.**



Further attempts of Dmitry Andreikin are completely futile – this position is a dead draw.

**29.g4 g5 30.Be4 Nf4 31.Kf1 Nd5** (31...Nxb3 is also possible – 32.e3 h5 33.f3 hxg4 34.fxg4 f5 35.gxf5 exf5 36.Bxf5 Nf4 37.exf4 gxf4 38.Bxf4=, and White scores only a moral victory due to an extra bishop) **32.e3 Kg7 33.Bc2 h6 34.Bb3 Kg6 35.Ke2 h5 36.Kd3 hxg4 37.hxg4 Nc7 38.Bb2 Bd6 39.Bc2 Kf7 40.Ke4 Nd5 41.Bb3 Nc7 42.f4 gxf4 43.exf4 Kg6 44.Bxe6 Bxf4 45.Bf5+ Kg5 46.Bxf6+.** Game drawn.

**Veselin Topalov – Sergey Karjakin**

**Reti Opening A05**

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0–0 g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Qxd4 Bg7 8.Nc3 d6 9.Rd1 Nbd7 10.Be3 Rc8.** This move order is considered the most accurate. After 10...0–0 11.Qh4 Rc8 12.Rac1 White obtains a slightly better version of the same position.

**11.Rac1 a6 12.b3 0–0 13.Qh4 Rc7 14.g4!?** A relatively rare and very ambitious move. More frequent is 14.Bh3 Qb8 15.g4 e6 16.g5 Ne8 with a complicated game, Aronian-Kramnik, Saint Vincent 2005.

**14...Rc8.** This surprising move (looks like Black loses two tempi) is recommended by the computer and already occurred in practice.



**15.g5.** A novelty. After 15.Bh3 b5 16.cxb5 Qa5 17.Bd2 Bxf3 18.exf3 axb5 19.g5 b4 20.gxf6 Bxf6 21.Qe4 bxc3 22.Bxd7 Rcd8 23.Bxc3 Bxc3 24.Qxe7 d5 25.Bb5 d4 26.a4 Rd5 27.Qe4 Rf5 28.Kh1 Qb6 29.Rg1 Qf6 30.Rg3 Rd8 31.Bd3 Rf4 32.Qb7 Qd6 33.Kg2 Black got a slight advantage in Jakovenko-Karjakin, Sochi 2012.

**15...Nh5 16.Ne4 Rc7.** Black decides to let his queen to a8.

**17.Ng3 Nxg3 18.hxg3 Qa8.** White's prospects on the semi-open h-file are unclear, while Black prepares to double his rooks on the c-file followed by b6-b5 break, which is a standard plan in this opening.

**19.Ne1 Nc5 20.Qh1 Rfc8 21.Bxb7 Qxb7 22.Qxb7 Rxb7 23.Nd3 Nxd3 24.exd3.** The endgame that emerged after massive exchanges is quite equal, but Black must show some accuracy.



**24...f6!** Black cannot tolerate the g5-pawn for long.



**25.gxf6 Bxf6 26.a4 h5 27.b4 Kf7 28.Kg2 Ke6 29.Kf3 Rf8 30.Ke2 Kf5 31.f3 g5 32.Rh1 Kg6 33.Rc2.** White could consider the double-edged 33.f4!? – after 33...gxf4 34.gxf4 Rh8 35.Kf3 Kf5 it is not easy for White to attack the h-pawn, but at least this would create the iconic second weakness in Black's position.

**33...e5 34.b5 Ra8 35.a5?!** Approaching the time control, Topalov decides to complicate things, which could really turn against him.

**35...bxa5 36.b6 Bd8 37.Rb1 Rab8 38.Ra2.**



**38...Bxb6!** As Sergey admitted at the press-conference, he went for an exchange sacrifice to secure a draw, and did not realize for a while that it gives him winning chances.

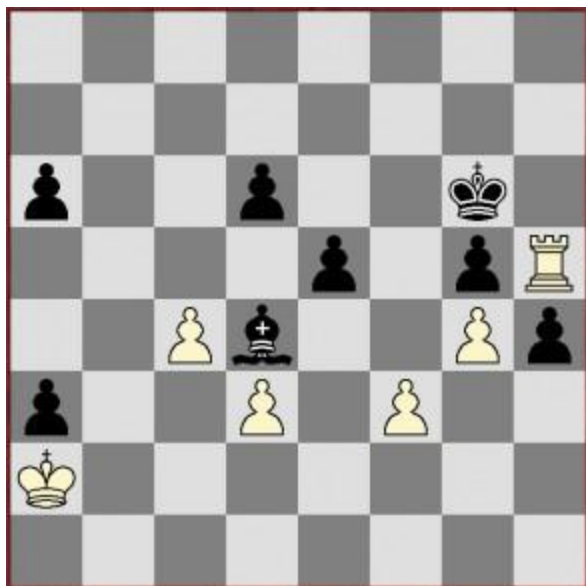
**39.Rab2 Bxe3! 40.Rxb7 Rxb7 41.Rxb7 Bc5 42.Rb8 a4 43.Kd1?!** White switches roles – the rook will now guard the h-pawn, while the king will chase the a-pawn. After 43.Ra8 h4 44.gxh4 gxh4 White survives only by 45.f4 h3 46.Kf3 Kf5 (46...exf4 47.Rxa6 a3?! 48.d4 Bxd4 49.Rxd6+ Bf6 50.Ra6=) 47.Rf8+ Ke6 48.Re8+ Kf7 49.Ra8 Kf6 50.Rxa6 a3 51.Ra8, and he holds.

**43...h4 44.Rg8+ Kf6 45.g4.**



**45...Bf2?!** Now White has time to reach the desired setup and secure a draw. Black should have tried 45...a3! 46.Kc2 Be3!, threatening e5-e4, which can be deadly after, say, 47.Kb3 Bf4! 48.Rh8 e4! 49.dxe4 Ke5 50.Kxa3 Kd4 51.Kb4 a5+! 52.Kb5 a4 53.Ra8 Ke3 54.Rxa4 Kxf3 55.Kc6 h3 56.Kd5 h2 57.Ra1 Kxg4, and Black wins. I should abstain from strong opinions in an express commentary, but this was clearly the best chance for Black. Let us leave a detailed analysis for the future endgame manuals.

**46.Rh8 Kg7 47.Rh5 Kg6 48.Kc2 Bd4 49.Kb1 a3 50.Ka2.**



Now black pieces are tied up with defending their own pawns, and White is never in zugzwang because he can always move the king. After **50...Bb2 51.Kb3 Bc1 52.Ka2 Bb2 53.Kb3 a5 54.Ka2 a4 55.Kb1 Bd4 56.Ka2 Bb2 57.Kb1 Bd4** Karjakin accepted the move repetition.

## Round 12

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
6	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	½ - ½	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	1
5	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	½ - ½	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	2
8	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	1 - 0	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	3
7	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	½ - ½	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	4

## Round 12: Anand takes a practical decision, draws Andreikin

Viswanathan Anand took a practical decision to accept draw against Dmitry Andreikin in a better, but extremely complicated position. Considering the other results, Anand is coming closer to challenging World Champion Magnus Carlsen to another match.

Levon Aronian – Vladimir Kramnik and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Sergey Karjakin were drawn, while Veselin Topalov won a nice game against Peter Svidler.

After 12 rounds of play in the FIDE World Candidates Tournament, Anand is first with 7,5 points, still a full point ahead of Aronian. Mamedyarov and Karjakin share the third place with 6 points each. On 5-8th place and with 5,5 points each are Kramnik, Svidler, Topalov and Andreikin.

Peter Svidler's Taimanov Sicilian was not a great surprise for Veselin Topalov, but the recapture on 8th move, dxc6 instead of Qxc6, is a rare continuation.

Topalov continued in the straightforward manner by transferring the knight to c4 and playing a key move, according to Svidler in the post-game press conference, 12.f3 to effectively stop the counterplay.

The rigid pawn structure and gapping hole on d5 were preventing black from activating the pieces. He was reluctant to part with the bishop pair to eliminate the dominant c4-knight.

White eventually broke through the d-file to win the black a5-pawn. Being unable to find a perpetual check, Svidler gave up.

The game between Levon Aronian and Vladimir Kramnik started as a Queen's Gambit Exchange variation, but white deviated from the theory quite early, by playing the literally unknown 8.h3.

Black immediately used the opportunity to trade the dark-squared bishops and speed up his development.

Both players castled long and tucked their kings into safety. The pieces were shuffled around until white decided to go for a central break with e3-e4.

Aronian admitted that he wouldn't risk that much if he would be closer to the first place. The players repeated the moves for a draw in 31 moves.

Actually, instead of Ba6 in the end, Kramnik had an interesting maneuver in 28...Nb5 29.exd5 Na5! which might have given him something. Aronian was stunned when FIDE Press Officer showed him this line.

Dmitry Andreikin wanted to try a Caro-Kann against Viswanathan Anand, exactly the line that Carlsen played in game 2 of Chennai WCC match.

Anand definitely had an improvement ready, as he deviated on move 15 with Qd3-f3. In this development he kept more pieces on the board.

Black was trying for a usual queenside counterplay, while white centralised his pieces waiting to answer black's c6-c5 break with d4-d5.

Black immediately went astray by allowing the pawn to advance further, all the way to d7. In addition, white launched an attack against the enemy king.

However, Andreikin didn't roll over, and he sacrificed a bishop to lead the white king out in the open field.

His efforts paid off when Anand conceded a draw by "taking a practical decision" to repeat the moves.

Anand commented later – "I looked at Kd2, but there are two rooks, queen, knight jumping around, and I couldn't see it through." He added that 36.Bd2 might have been a better try.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Sergey Karjakin played the longest game of the day. Karjakin took note of Mamedyarov's handling of the sharp f3 Nimzo-Indian in the earlier clash with Aronian.

The Russian team prepared a Benko-like counterblow 5...b5. As it was expected from the tactically gifted Azeri, he quickly expanded to grab space in the center.

Karjakin was pleased with his opening, but at the press conference he criticized 20...Ndc5, which took the knight far away from the defence of the king.

Black did win three pawns, but he was running low on time and white was constantly endangering the king. At one moment black had only 14 seconds to complete six moves (there is no increment before first time control).

Karjakin beat the zeitnot, but by then white simplified the position and in the next hour held a draw in a double rook endgame despite being one pawn down.

## GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 12th round

Veselin Topalov – Peter Svidler

### Sicilian Defense B49

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Be2 b5.** The classical way of handling this position is 7...Nf6 8.0-0 Bb4 9.Na4 Be7 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Nb6 Rb8 12.Nxc8 Qxc8, and it is hard to White to prove his advantage.

**8.Nxc6 dxc6?!** 8...Qxc6 is a more typical Sicilian idea and is way more popular. Here is one of the latest examples: 9.Bf3 Bb7 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Qd3 Ne7 12.a4 b4 13.Nd5 exd5 14.exd5 d6 15.Rfe1 Rc8 16.Bd4 with strong compensation for a sacrificed piece, Karjakin-Morozevich, Beijing 2012.

**9.a4 b4 10.Nb1 Nf6 11.Nd2 c5.**



**12.f3.** A sensible novelty – White creates a barrier on the h1-a8 diagonal against the b7-bishop, also restricting the black knight. Earlier White tried 12.Bf3 Bb7 13.Qe2 Be7 14.0-0 0-0 15.Bg5 Qe5 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nc4 Qc7 18.e5 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Be7 with a balanced game – White's structural weaknesses are compensated by passive placement of the black bishop, Acher-Gofshtein, Cannes 1999.

**12...Bb7 13.Nc4 Nd7?!** (13...Rd8!? 14.Qc1 Be7 15.Bf4 Qc8 16.0-0 0-0 with the idea Nh5.) **14.Qc1 Be7 15.0-0 0-0 16.Bf4 e5 17.Bg3.** Black did not equalize – his light squares are weak.

**17...h6.** Planning to develop the bishop to g5.

**18.c3 a5 19.Qc2 Ba6 20.Rfd1 Rfd8 21.b3 Bg5 22.Bf2 Nf8.** Black prepares to transfer the knight to e6 and proceed by bxc3 and Nd4, so White must act quickly.

**23.cxb4.**



**23...cxb4?!** Probably 23...axb4 is stronger – 24.h4 Be7 25.Ne3 Bxe2 26.Qxe2 Ne6 27.Nd5 Qa7 28.Qc4 Nd4, and White has a small advantage.

**24.Bb6!** Forcing Black to trade on d1, thus seizing control over the d-file.

**24...Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Qb8 26.Bf2 Qc7?** 26...Bd8 is Black's only option. After 27.Nd6 (27.Rd5 is not as strong due to 27...Ne6! 28.g3 (28.Nxe5? Bxe2 29.Qxe2 Nf4) 28...Bc7, and Black maintains material balance) 27...Bxe2 28.Qxe2 Bb6 29.Qb5 Bxf2+ 30.Kxf2 Qa7+ 31.Ke2 f6 Black's position looks horrible due to numerous weaknesses, however, it is not easy to find a way to win for White.

**27.Rd5!** Targeting the a5- and e5-pawns, and also preparing to double the heavy pieces on the d-file in a right order.

**27...Rc8.** After 27...Ne6 28.Rxa5 Nd4 29.Bxd4 exd4 30.g3 Bb7 31.Rxa8+ Bxa8 32.Kg2 Black could defend for a long time, however, objectively White's position is almost winning.

**28.h4?!** This move only creates a weaknesses on the kingside. Stronger is 28.Rc5 Qd8 (maybe Veselin was worried about 28...Qxc5 29.Bxc5 Rxc5, but here White should win by 30.Qd1 Be7 31.Kf2 g6 32.Ne3!) 29.Rxe5, winning a pawn and keeping all the advantages of his position.

**28...Be7 29.Qd2.**



**29...Rd8?** Black cannot tolerate the c4-knight for long, so he should have taken it now by 29...Bxc4. After 30.Bxc4 Rd8 Black at least disputes the d-file and keeps a plan of transferring the knight to d4 in his possession. White would have to work hard to win this game.

**30.Bb6!** With this pendulum bishop maneuver Black is forced to exchange rooks on the d-file, which allows White to win the a5-pawn.

**30...Rxd5 31.Qxd5 Qb8** (31...Qd7 is quite hopeless – 32.Qxd7 (32.Bxa5!?+-) 32...Nxd7 33.Bxa5 f6 34.Kf1 Nc5 35.Bxb4 Nxb3 36.Bxe7 Nc1 37.Bd1 Bxc4+ 38.Kf2, and White should win) **32.Qxa5 Bxc4 33.Bxc4 Qd6** (33...Bxh4 34.Bc7 Qc8 35.Bxe5+-) **34.Bf2 Qd1+ 35.Kh2.** Black resigns.

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Sergey Karjakin**

### **Nimzo-Indian Defense E20**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 c5 5.d5 b5 6.e4 0–0 7.e5.** Shakhriyar does not repeat his own game, which continued 7.Bg5 exd5 8.cxd5 Re8 9.Qd2 a6 10.Nge2 d6 11.Ng3 Nbd7 12.Be2 c4 13.0–0 Bc5+ 14.Kh1 h6 15.Be3 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 Nc5, and Black equalized easily, Mamedyarov-Fressinet, Ohrid 2009.

**7...Ne8 8.f4 exd5 9.cxd5 d6 10.Nf3 c4 11.a4.**





**11...Nd7.** 11...Bg4 is not so successful: 12.axb5 Nd7 13.e6 fxe6 14.dxe6 Nb6 15.Be2 Nc7 16.0-0! (16.Ng5 Bxe2 17.Qxe2 d5 18.0-0 Qf6 19.f5 Rae8 20.Rxa7 Nxe6 21.Nxe6 Rxe6 22.Qf2 Qe5 23.g4 Rg6 24.Qg2 Rgf6 25.Bf4 Qd4+ 26.Qf2 Qxf2+ 27.Kxf2 d4 28.Ne4 R6f7 29.Rxf7 Rxf7 30.Ra1 h6 31.Be5 d3 32.Bd4 Rb7 33.h4 Bf8 34.Rc1 Nd5 35.Rxc4 Rxb5 36.Rc8 Kf7 37.g5 Ne7 38.Nd6+, 1-0, Shirov-Kramnik, Shanghai 2010) 16...Nxe6 17.h3 Bh5 18.f5 Nc7 19.Nd4!, and White's chances in this complicated position look better.

**12.Be2 Qb6 13.axb5 Nc7.** A novelty. Earlier Black tried 13...dxe5 14.fxe5 Bb7, and now 15.Bxc4 is interesting (Ding-Bacrot, Biel 2013 continued 15.Qd4 Nc7 16.Qxb6 Nxb6 17.d6 Nxb5 18.Bd2 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Rae8 with equality) 15...Nc7 16.Ra4!?, and now, say, 16...Qc5 17.Rxb4 Qxb4 18.Qb3 with excellent compensation for an exchange.

**14.Qd4!?** Similar to the previous note, White could try 14.Ra4!?, to which Black should reply 14...a5 (14...Qc5 15.Ng5 dxe5 16.Nge4 Qxb5 17.d6 Ne6 18.0-0 is very unclear – White has dangerous initiative for a pawn) 15.Nd2 dxe5 16.Nxc4 Qc5 17.Be3 Qxd5 18.0-0 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Qxd1 20.Rxd1 Nxb5 21.Bd2 exf4 22.Rxa5 Rxa5 23.Nxa5 Nd6 24.Bxf4 Ne4 with approximate equality – black knights get very good outposts in the center, e. g., 25.Bf3 Re8 26.c4 f5=.

**14...Bb7 15.Bd2.** Less successful is 15.e6 fxe6 16.dxe6 Bc5! 17.Qxc4 d5 18.Qb3 Qxe6, and Black seizes the initiative.

**15...Bxc3 16.bxc3 dxe5 17.fxe5 Bxd5 18.Be3 Qxb5 19.0-0 Ne6 20.Qh4.** For a sacrificed pawn White has a bishop pair and certain attacking prospects.



**20...Ndc5?!** Pushing the passed pawn deserved attention: 20...a5!? 21.Ng5 Nxg5 22.Qxg5 a4!, and I don't see any real threats for White, while the black pawn is now two steps closer to the queening square.

**21.Rab1 Nb3?!** This knight gets stuck on the queenside for a long time, while the main action switches to the kingside. Black should have returned material by 21...Qc6 22.Bxc4 Bxc4 23.Qxc4 Qe4 with a very likely draw.

**22.Bd1! Qa5 23.Bc2 g6 24.Ng5!** White sacrifices a second pawn, which should lead to his advantage.

**24...Nxg5 25.Bxg5 Qxc3 26.Rf2.** Even stronger is 26.Rbd1! Bc6 27.Rf2, and Black must give up an exchange by 27...Nc5 28.Be7 Qxe5 29.Bxf8 Rxf8 30.Qxc4. The resulting position is probably drawn, but White can play for a win without any risk.

**26...Nd4.** Returning the faraway knight to the kingside.

**27.Bh6 Nc6.** After 27...Ne6?! 28.Qf6 Qa5 29.h4 White's attack is likely to succeed, especially in a practical game.

**28.Rd1 Qxe5.**



**29.Rf5!?** **Qe7?!** Karjakin demonstrates his ambition! After 29...gxf5 30.Rxd5 the game ends in a move repetition – 30...Qa1+ 31.Rd1 Qe5 32.Rd5 Qa1+ 33.Rd1, because 33...Qc3? fails to 34.Qg5+ Kh8 35.Qxf5, and Black cannot defend against mate on h7.

**30.Bg5 f6.** Forced, as after 30...Qc5+ 31.Kh1 gxf5 32.Bf6 Black cannot survive even with the computer move 32...Bxg2+ 33.Kxg2 Ne5 due to the following long but practically forced line: 34.Qh6 Qc6+ 35.Kg1 Qb6+ 36.Kf1 Qf2+ 37.Kxf2 Ng4+ 38.Kf3 Nxf6 39.Rg1+ Ng4 40.Bxf5 h5 41.h3 Rfb8 42.hxg4 h4 43.Rh1 Rb6 44.g5 Rxf6 45.gxf6 a5 46.Kf4!, and wins.



**31.Rfxd5?** Shakhriyar outsmarts himself! After the simple 31.Bxf6! Qe3+ (an exchange sacrifice 31...Rxf6 32.Rxf6 Qc5+ 33.Kh1 Ne5!? gives Black some chances to survive) 32.Rf2 is hard for Black to defend. For example, the natural 32...Bf7 is refuted by 33.Be4! Rac8 34.Kh1!, and Black has no adequate defense against Bc3 and Qf6.

**31...fxg5 32.Qxc4 Qe6.** White still has some compensation for sacrificed pawns, plus Karjakin runs extremely short on time...

**33.Bb3 Kh8 34.Qc5 Rae8 35.h4 Qe3+ 36.Qxe3 Rxe3 37.Ba4 Ne7 38.Rxg5 Nf5 39.h5 Kg7 40.hxg6 hxg6 41.Bc2.** White transposes to a double-rook endgame with excellent drawing chances.

**41...Kh6 42.Rg4 Re5 43.Bxf5 Rxf5.**



**44.Ra4.** An easier way to a draw is 44.Rd6 R5f6 45.Rxf6 Rxf6 46.Ra4 a6 47.Ra5, and White reaches a safe heaven.

**44...a5 45.Rd6 Rg5 46.Ra6 Rff5 47.Rh4+ Kg7 48.Ra7+ Rf7 49.Ra6 (49.Rh7+ Kxh7 50.Rxf7+ Kh6 51.Ra7=) 49...Rb7 50.Ra4 Rbb5 51.Ra3 Rb1+ 52.Kh2 Rh5+ 53.Kg3 Rbb5 54.Kf2 Kh6 55.Kg1 Rb1+ 56.Kf2 Rb2+ 57.Kg1 Rg5 58.Rh3+ Kg7 59.Ra7+ Kf6 60.Ra6+.** Game drawn.

**Levon Aronian – Vladimir Kramnik**

### **Queen's Gambit D36**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.Qc2 Be7 7.e3 Nbd7 8.h3.** A rare move in this position, but it is well in the spirit of modern theory – White implies g2-g4.

**8...Nh5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Nf3 Nb6 11.0–0–0.** White signifies his aggression – after castling short Black will face a pawn storm.



**11...Nf6.** More often Black continues 11...g6. Kasparov-Smyslov, Moscow 1988 saw 12.g4 Ng7 13.Bd3 Be6 14.Ne2 0–0–0 15.Nf4 Kb8 16.Be2 Ne8 17.Nd2 Nd6 18.h4 Bc8 19.Nb3 Ne4 20.Bf3 f5 with a draw.

**12.Bd3 Be6 13.Kb1 0–0–0 14.Ka1 Kb8 15.Rc1 Ne8.** Also possible is 15...g6 16.Rhd1 Rc8 17.Na4 Nxa4 18.Qxa4 Ne4 19.Qc2 Nd6 20.g4 f6 with a safe position for Black, Gustafsson-Kosanovic, Budapest 2001.

**16.Na4 Nd6.** One could also consider 16...Nxa4 17.Qxa4 Nd6, but Kramnik prefers to keep more pieces on the board.

**17.Nc5 g6 18.h4.** A novelty. Earlier White tried 18.g4, preventing the bishop trade on f5. Black replied poorly by 18...h5?! 19.Ne5 Ndc4 20.Bxc4 dxc4 21.Qe4 Qd6 22.Nxe6 Qxe6 23.Qf4 Kc8 24.Qxf7, and White eventually won in Ikonnikov-Barua, Dieren 2007.

**18...Bc8.** Played with the same idea of avoiding exchanges. The thematic 18...Bf5 19.Bxf5 Nxf5 20.h5 Nd6 21.Ne5 Nbc4 is enough to equalize.

**19.h5.**



**19...g5!? 20.Bxh7.** One could fixate a weakness on h7 by 20.h6!? g4 21.Nh4 Qg5 22.g3 followed by the knight transfer to f4, however in this case Black has a positional queen sacrifice: 22...Qxh6!? 23.Ng6 hxg6 24.Rxh6 Rxb6, and White lacks resources to convert his minimal advantage.

**20...g4 21.Nh4 Qf6 22.g3 Nbc4 23.Bd3 Rxh5 24.Rhe1 Re8.** Black equalized comfortably, but active ideas from both sides are very limited due to a rigid pawn structure.

**25.Re2 Reh8 26.Qb3 Qd8 27.e4?!** It doesn't spoil anything, but it can be a first step to a disaster. White probably didn't want to keep maneuvering by 27.Qb4!?

**27...b6 28.Na4?** This silent offer could cost White a game. 28.exd5 cxd5 (28...Na5 29.Qc3 Rxd5 30.b4!? leads to an unclear game) 29.Bb1 followed by Kd3 is correct.



**28...Ba6?** Vladimir clearly lacks ambition, otherwise he would at least try calculating 28...Nb5! 29.exd5 Na5! – this intermediate move gives Black an advantage – 30.Qd1 Rxd5 31.Bxb5 cxb5 32.Nc3 Rxd4 33.Qe1 a6!, and White has to suffer for a draw.

**29.Nc5.** Levon correctly sees no reason to play for a win, however, bearing in mind the aforementioned idea, stronger is 29.Qb4!? dxe4 30.Bxc4 Nxc4 31.Rxe4, and White should hold, but not 31.Rxc4 c5!! 32.Qb3 cxd4!, and white cavalry looks pitiful – Black should win.

**29...Bc8 30.Na4? Ba6? 31.Nc5 Bc8,** and a draw was agreed.

## Viswanathan Anand – Dmitry Andreikin

### Caro-Kann Defense B18

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 e6 8.Ne5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Nd7 11.f4 Bb4+ 12.c3 Be7 13.Bd2 Ngf6 14.0–0–0 0–0.**



**15.Qf3.** Anand deviates from 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Nxe5 17.fxe5 Qd5 18.Qxd5 cxd5 19.h5 b5 20.Rh3 a5 21.Rf1 Rac8 22.Rg3 Kh7 23.Rgf3 Kg8 24.Rg3 Kh7 25.Rgf3 Kg8, draw, Anand-Carlsen, Chennai 2013.

**15...Qc7 16.c4 a5 17.Kb1 Rad8 18.Bc1 a4.** A novelty, and probably an unsuccessful one. Topalov-Dreev, New Delhi/Teheran 2000 continued 18...Rfe8 19.Ne2 c5 20.g4 cxd4 21.g5 Nxe5 22.fxe5 Nh7 23.gxh6 Qxe5 24.hxg7, and White won in the subsequent sharp game.

**19.Rhe1 a3 20.b3 Bb4 21.Re3 c5.** The computer approves Black's play, but it looks very suspect for a human eye – Black voluntarily cuts off his bishop from the kingside.





**22.d5! exd5 23.cxd5.** 23.Nf5!? looks very strong, and White's concentration near the black king becomes critical: 23...dxc4?! (after 23...d4 White can continue by 24.Re2 – he basically has an extra piece in the attack, because Black's dark-squared bishop is restricted by his own pawns) 24.Rxd7! Rxd7 25.Qg3 Ne8 26.Nxc4! f6 27.Qg6!, and Black is in terrible shape.

**23...Nb6 24.Red3 Qc8?** After this move White's advantage is already decisive. Black needed to play 24...Nbx d5 25.Rxd5 Nxd5 26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.Qxd5 Rd8 28.Qc4 Rd1, and converting an advantage is hard for White due to numerous weaknesses around his king.

**25.d6 Rfe8.**



**26.Nh5! Re6?** Giving White a chance to win immediately. After the most tenacious 26...Qe6 27.Nxf6+ Qxf6 28.Qxb7 c4 29.Qxb6 Rb8 30.Nd7! Qf5 31.Nxb8 cxd3 32.g4! White wins anyway, though.

**27.Nxf6+.** The strongest is 27.d7! Qc7 28.f5!, and White gains material while continuing his attack: 28...Qxe5 (28...Rxe5 29.Nxf6+ gxf6 30.Bxh6) 29.Re3! Qxe3 30.Bxe3 Rc6 31.Nxf6+ Rxf6 32.Qxb7+-.

**27...Rxf6 28.d7.** And here 28.Ng4 is stronger, and Black must keep the rook under attack, because 28...Re6 is unsatisfactory: 29.f5 Ree8 30.Nf6+ gxf6 31.Bxh6+-.

**28...Qc7 29.Qg4! c4 30.Rg3 g6 31.h5! cxb3 32.Rxb3!** So far Vishy is up to the task – his latest moves are not only the strongest, but also the only ones to keep an advantage.

**32...Na4 33.hxg6 fxg6 34.Rxb4 Nc3+ 35.Kc2!** 35.Ka1 Nxd1 36.Rc4! Qd6 is totally unclear, for instance, 37.Qf3 Qxe5+! 38.fxe5 Rxf3 39.gxf3 Rxd7, and Black solves his problems.



**35...b5!** Dmitry complicates the opponent's task as much as possible.

**36.Kb3!** The most practical solution – White reaches the time control and gains an extra hour to calculate the winning line. It is hard to dare playing 36.Rc4!? bxc4 37.Kxc3 Qa5+ 38.Kxc4! under the time pressure.

**36...Na4 37.Qf3.** This move was clearly planned in advance and it cannot be criticized. However, White could win by 37.Bd2 Nc5+ 38.Kxa3, and he just has an extra piece.

**37...Nc5+ 38.Kc2.** Now 38.Kxa3 runs into 38...Qa5+, and White loses a rook, but Vishy did not have enough time to realize that his position after 39.Kb2 Qxb4+ 40.Ka1 is still much better: 40...Ra6 41.Qd5+ Ne6 42.Bb2!±.

**38...Na4+ 39.Kb3 Nc5+ 40.Kc2 Na4+.**



The control is passed, and Vishy started thinking. It looked like he should find a win, but after a 10-minute thought he played **41.Kb3?**, drawing the game by a threefold repetition.

At the press-conference Anand said he didn't want to take risks after 41.Kd2 Qd6+ 42.Nd3, but he missed an unexpected resource 41.Rc4!, and after 41...bxc4 White has many ways to win the game. The most convincing is 42.Ng4 Qb6 (42...Rd6 43.Qe4+-) 43.Qxa3 Re6 44.Qxa4 b7 45.Ne5 Qxg2+ 46.Kb1, and White wins.

#### Round 13

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
1	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	1 – 0	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	7
2	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	½ - ½	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	6
3	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	½ - ½	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	5
4	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	1 – 0	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	8

## Viswanathan Anand qualifies for 2014 FIDE World Championship Match

Viswanathan Anand will have another shot at the World Chess Championship title after winning the Candidates Tournament 2014 in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

In round 13 Anand held a draw against Sergey Karjakin to take his score to 8 points and secure clear first place with one round to go.

Anand is set to play a match with World Champion Magnus Carlsen in November. The hosting city should be announced soon.

In the other games Dmitry Andreikin defeated Levon Aronian and Vladimir Kramnik won against Veselin Topalov. Peter Svidler and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov split the point.

Anand is first with 8 points, point and a half ahead of the large group of players on shared second place – Andreikin, Kramnik, Aronian, Mamedyarov and Karjakin. Svidler is 7th with 6 points, while Topalov is last with 5,5 points.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov remained consistent and chose once again the Sicilian Naidorf. Peter Svidler answered with 6.Be3, the line in which he has huge practical experience.

The first critical junction was on move 16 when black played Nd4 instead of Grischuk's Nce5. Next he offered exchange of the queens.

More pieces were traded soon and a rook endgame was reached around move 25. Black had the doubled f-pawns.

World Champion Magnus Carlsen tuned into live commentary with GM Peter Heine Nielsen and said that white can keep pressing for a long time without any risk.

Svidler tried for something more until the time control, but then he agreed to a draw.

Levon Aronian played another very original opening, defending against the Trompowski employed by Dmitry Andreikin.

After only ten moves of play black's pawn structure looked awful, but he still tried to stir trouble on white's long castle and advanced pawns.

White decided to trade the queens and go into a roughly equal endgame. He offered an exchange for advanced passed pawn, but black snubbed the offer because the eventual result was likely to be a draw. Aronian needed a win to stay in contention for the first place.

Andreikin skillfully took advantage of the poor placement of black bishop to win a pawn and proceed to the double rook ending. He converted into full point on move 44.

Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov tested the Semi-Slav Moscow variation. Again Topalov was first to insert a new move, by playing the speculative 10...c5.

Kramnik cemented the development advantage with an excellent 14.Bb5, which prevents black knight from coming into play. Magnus Carlsen also praised this move in his live commentary.

Black somehow untangled his pieces but white already had the action going on the kingside. However, after a couple of inaccurate moves, white lost all of his advantage and even started looking suspicious because black had the pair of bishops.

The resulting endgame was sharp and unclear. It was extremely difficult to find the most precise moves – only deeper analysis can tell.

Topalov was the last to make a mistake, when he allowed white rook to reach the back rank and claim a bishop. Kramnik quickly wrapped up the game.

Sergey Karjakin was fully charged to fight in the game versus Viswanathan Anand, having in mind that only a victory would have given him the chance to win the first place and match against the World Champion Magnus Carlsen.

White played a modest yet flexible setup with fianchetto on b2. Black replied with the principled strike in the center c5, but was soon left with a backward c6-pawn.

Karjakin won this pawn but the queens got exchanged and it looked like black had a good compensation for the material. Anand's idea to trade the light-squared bishops with 17...Bd7 was criticized by Magnus Carlsen.

The reigning World Champion had a good hunch, as black soon came under pressure on the queenside.

Anand made a huge decision to give two pieces for a rook and pawn. The material favored white, but all pawns were on one side of the board and white pieces were poorly coordinated.

The Grandmasters who commented the game on Twitter believed that black had better chance to draw than white to win.

Anand succeeded in setting a fortress, and despite the huge effort Karjakin simply couldn't find a way through.

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 13th round**

### **Sergey Karjakin – Viswanathan Anand**

#### **English Opening A13**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3.** A combative approach – after the normal 4.Bg5 or 4.Nc3 White could run into the ultra-solid Lasker Variation.

**4...Be7 5.b3 0–0 6.Bb2 c5.** Vishy plays strictly for equality. 6...b6 leads to a more complex game. For example, 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.Nc3 (or a more recent case: 8.0–0 c5 9.Qe2 cxd4 10.exd4 Nc6 11.Nbd2 Re8 12.Rac1 Rc8 13.Rfd1 with mutual chances, Fedoseev-Bacrot, Yerevan 2014) 8...c5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.0–0 Nbd7 11.Rc1 a6 12.Ne5 with

approximately even chances, Gelfand-Anand, Moscow 2009.

**7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5.**



**8...Nd7.** A logical novelty – Black wants to take on c5 with a knight. Recently in Fedoseev-Wojtaszek, Yerevan 2014 Black did not have anything to worry about: 8...Bxc5 9.Bc4 Nc6 10.0–0 Nb6 11.Bb5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Bd7 13.Nc3 Be7 14.Ne4 Rfd8 15.Rac1 Be8 with complete equality. Wojtaszek won in the subsequent struggle.

**9.c6!?** An attempt to break the symmetry. White cannot have any advantage after 9.Bc4 Nxc5 10.0–0 b6=.

**9...bxc6 10.Nbd2 a5!?** Vishy is trying to get rid of a potential weakness and shake White's queenside. There was an interesting attempt to simplify the game by 10...Bf6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6, however, Black still needs to provide certain accuracy to equalize.

**11.e4 N5f6 12.Qc2 a4 13.Qxc6.**



**13...Qa5?!** According to Anand, he did not consider taking on c6 seriously, because he felt he has something. Probably what his intuition tried to tell him was 13...Ra5! Now 14.bxa4?? loses to 14...Rc5 15.Qa8 Qc7, so the queen must retreat – 14.Qc2, and after 14...Bb7 the black pieces come to the optimal outposts: 15.Be2 axb3 16.axb3 Rxa1+ 17.Bxa1 Qa8 18.0–0 Nxe4. White might even have some problems.

**14.Qxa4 Qxa4 15.bxa4 Nc5 16.Bb5 Nxa4 17.Bd4 Bd7?!** After the exchange of the bishops Black ends up in a dangerous position. The immediate 17...Bb7 is also less successful due to 18.Rc1 threatening Rc7. However, Black seems to solve his problems by 17...Rd8 18.0–0 (18.Ke2?! Bb4, and the white king is not very safe in the center) 18...Bb7! 19.e5 Ne4! 20.Nxe4 Bxe4 21.Rfd1 Ba3, and Black's activity fully compensates the minimal material deficit.

**18.Bxd7 Nxd7 19.Ke2 Nac5.** The computer suggests 19...f6 20.Rhc1 e5 21.Be3 Rfc8, assessing the resulting



position as equal, however, such assessment is highly doubtful in a practical game.

**20.Rhc1 Ra4 21.Rc2 Rfa8.**



**22.Rac1! Rxa2!?** Black sacrifices two pieces for a rook, which significantly simplifies the practical task – converting White's advantage becomes very difficult.

**23.Rxc5 Bxc5!?** According to the machine, better is 23...Nxc5 24.Bxc5 Rc8 25.Ba3 Rxc1 26.Bxc1, switching a bishop for a knight compared to the game.

**24.Bxc5 Rc8 25.Ba3 Rxc1 26.Bxc1 Nc5.** Anand's idea 26...Nf6 is also interesting: Black forces 27.e5 and gets an excellent outpost for a knight by 27...Nd5.

**27.Ke3 f6 28.Nd4 e5 29.Ne2 h5 30.h3 Kf7.** It is hard for White to improve his pieces. In addition Karjakin is getting short on time.

**31.Nc3 Rc2 32.Ne2 Ra2 33.h4 g6 34.g3 Ke6 35.f3.**



**35...Kf7.** An active push

35...g5 deserved attention, which could be especially strong due to the opponent's time pressure. After 36.hxg5 fxg5 White has problems untying in the center, while after 37.f4 exf4+ 38.gxf4 gxf4+ 39.Nxf4+ Kf7! 40.Nd3 Rc2 a draw seems inevitable – Black only needs to trade his pieces for White's bishop and a pawn.

**36.Nc3 Rc2 37.Ne2 Ra2 38.Nb1 Nb3 39.Nbc3 Ra1.** And again Anand does not force the issues. Black could draw at once by 39...Nxc1 40.Nxc1 Rg2 41.N3e2 g5 42.hxg5 fxg5 43.Nd3 Kf6, shown by Karjakin at the press-conference.

39...Rc2? 40.Kd3! Rxc1 41.Nxc1 Nxc1+ 42.Kc2, and the knight is trapped.

**40.Bb2 Rf1 41.Nd5 Na5 42.Nb6 Rb1 43.Bc3 Rxb6.** Anand mentioned that objectively keeping the knights is probably stronger, but it was easier for him to play that way.

**44.Bxa5 Rb3+ 45.Bc3 g5!** Finally Black comes across this idea, even if under worse circumstances.

**46.hxg5 fxg5 47.Kf2 Rb5.**



**48.g4!?** Even the computer recommends this move (clearly it just cannot calculate everything to the end), and generally speaking this pawn push looks like White's most realistic chance to play for a win. Vishy Anand: "When Sergey confidently played g4, I was sure I blundered something".

**48...h4!** The only reply, but it is enough.

**49.Ng1 Rc5 50.Bd2 Rc2 51.Ke2 Ra2 52.Nh3 Kg6!**



The players reached this position quickly, and finally Sergey fell into thought.

**53.Kd3.** It turns out that after 53.Nxg5 Rxd2+ 54.Kxd2 Kxg5 an extra pawn in a pawn endgame does not give White a win. Black just stands still: 55.Ke3 Kh6. Or 55...Kf6, but not 55...Kg6?? 56.f4! h3 57.f5+!, and White wins. Karjakin said he saw how to win after 55...h3 56.Kf2 Kh4 57.Kg1 Kg5 58.Kh1!, but missed the king moves.

**53...Rb2.** It turns out that White has no other ideas. The rest of the game is rather meaningless: Anand easily dodges one-move threats, while Karjakin skilfully emulates Vishy's future match opponent.

**54.Ke3.** Not 54.Bxg5? Rh2, and Black is even better.

**54...Rb3+ 55.Ke2 Rb2 56.Kd1 Rb3 57.Ke2 Rb2 58.Kd3 Ra2 59.Nf2 Ra3+ 60.Bc3 Ra2 61.Ke3 Ra3 62.Kd2 Ra2+ 63.Ke1 Kf6 64.Kf1 Ra3 65.Nd1 Ke6 66.Kg2 Rb3 67.Ba5 Ra3 68.Bb6 Ra2+ 69.Nf2 Kf6 70.Kh3 Ra3 71.Kg2 Ra2 72.Bd8+ Kg6 73.Be7 Rb2 74.Bc5 Rc2 75.Bd6 Kf6 76.Kf1 Rc1+ 77.Kg2 Rc2 78.Bb4 Rb2 79.Ba5 Ra2 80.Bd8+ Kg6 81.Be7 Rb2 82.Bc5 Kf6 83.Kg1 Rb1+ 84.Kh2 Rb3 85.Kg2 Rb2 86.Ba3 Ra2 87.Bb4 Rb2 88.Be1.** In the end White misses tactics, which does not affect the outcome of the game.



**88...h3+! 89.Kf1** (89.Kxh3 Re2 90.Nd3 Re3 91.Nxe5 Rxe1)  
**89...h2 90.Nh1 Rb1! 91.Ke2**, and Karjakin offered a draw,  
 which Vishy accepted, securing his victory in the  
 tournament.

**Dmitry Andreikin – Levon Aronian**

**Trompowsky Opening A45**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 g6 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.c4 Bb4+?!**



A strange opening choice by Levon. One can understand that the Armenian wanted to avoid well-known lines, however, the objective value of this move is highly dubious, and the position gets too simple too soon, which is also hardly good for Aronian...

**5.Nd2 c5 6.a3 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 cxd4. 7...d6 8.e3 0–0** looks safer, but Black's chances to initiate a double-edged game in this line look miniscule.

**8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Qa5+ 11.b4 Qe5 12.0–0 a5 13.b5 d6 14.Qxe5+ dxe5 15.g3.**



The computer considers this position equal, however, White's chances in the long run are much higher, and the course of the game shows it.

**15...Be6.** Aronian goes into complications, hoping to trick the opponent and obtain winning chances. After a more reserved **15...Ke7 16.Bg2 Rb8 17.Rd3 Be6 18.Rc3** White's chances are still higher.

**16.Bg2 Bxc4?!** Another option is **16...Rc8 17.Bxb7 Rxc4+ 18.Kb2 Ke7 19.Bd5 (19.Rc1 Rb8 20.Bc6 Bd5! 21.Rxc4 Bxc4**

22.Rb1! Bxe2 23.Kc3 with compensation for a pawn looks unclear, and I think Levon would be very happy to play this position, considering the tournament situation)  
 19...Bxd5 20.Rxd5 Rhc8 with equality.

**17.Bxb7 Rb8 18.Bc6+ Kf8 19.a4! Bb3.** 19...Bxe2 deserved attention.



**20.Kb2!** A sensible exchange sacrifice. Aronian does not dare to accept it.

**20...Bxa4.** The machine considers the position after 20...Bxd1 21.Rxd1 Kg7 22.Kc3 equal for quite a long time, but it is hard to believe for a human that Black can deal with the b-pawn successfully. 22...Rhd8 seems critical (otherwise white rook's invasion to d7 basically decides the game) 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Kc4 Kf8 (24...Rd4+ 25.Kc5 Rxa4 26.b6 Rd4 27.b7 Rd8 28.Bd7!, and White wins) 25.b6 Ke7 26.Kc5 Rb8 27.b7 f5 28.Bd5 Kd7 29.Kb6!, and Black should run out of moves at some point.

**21.Rd5! Ke7.** 21...Kg7 22.Ka3 Bc2 23.Rd2 Bf5 24.Ka4 does not help – Black is in trouble.



**22.Ka3 Bc2 23.Rd7+ Kf8.** After 23...Ke6 24.Rd2 Bf5 25.e4 Bxe4 26.Bxe4 Rxb5 Black still has some practical drawing chances, but 24.Rc1! is clearly stronger: 24...Be4 (24...Bf5? 25.Rcd1+-) 25.Ra7 Bxc6 26.Rxc6+ Kd5 27.Rd7+ Ke4 28.b6, and the passed pawn decides the game.

**24.e4!** The computer gives 24.Bd5!? Rxb5 25.Rc1, netting an exchange, but winning the endgame after 25...Rxd5 26.Rxd5 Bf5 27.Rd8+ Kg7 28.Rxh8 Kxh8 29.Ka4 may be problematic.

**24...a4.** 24...f5 25.f3 a4 is more tenacious (White wins nicely after 25...fxe4? 26.Rc1! Bd3 27.Ka4! Kg7 28.fxe4 Rhd8 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.b6, and the b-pawn once again tells) 26.Rc1 Bb3, however, after 27.exf5 gxf5 28.Bd5 Bxd5 29.Rxd5 White wins, too.

**25.Rc1 Bb3.**



**26.Bd5?!** Dmitry loosens his grip. After the strongest 26.Rc5 Kg7 27.Bd5 Bxd5 28.exd5 Black cannot hold against two passed pawns, for example, 28...Rb6

29.Ra7! Rhb8 30.Kxa4 f5 31.Ka5 e4 32.Ra6, and Black did not create his counterplay in time.

**26...Bxd5 27.Rxd5 Kg7 28.Rc7 Rb6 29.Rc6 Rb7 30.Kxa4?!** The computer recommends 30.b6 Ra8 31.Rdd6, but it is not quite clear how to win. After 31...Rbb8 32.g4! Ra6! Black seems to hold.

**30...Ra8+ 31.Ra6 Rc8 32.b6 Rc2 33.Kb5.**



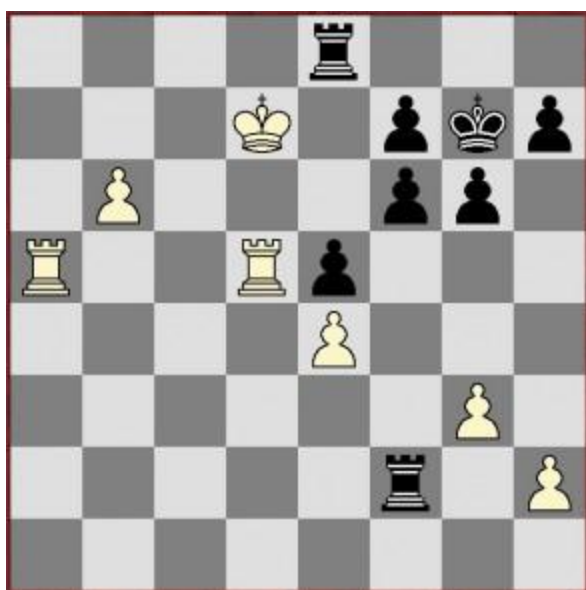
**33...Rxf2?** A decisive mistake in the time trouble! Much better is 33...Rb8!, which was mentioned at the press-conference. The f2-pawn goes nowhere, and the rook retreats in advance from the white king's attack. Unbelievably, White cannot win: 34.Rd3!? (34.Rc5?! Rxf2 35.Kc6 Rc8+ 36.Kd6 Rd2+ 37.Rd5 Rb2!, and White cannot improve his position) 34...Rxf2 35.Rb3 f5!

a) 36.Ra7 fxe4 37.b7 Rxh2 38.Kb6 Rd2! 39.Ra8 (39.Kc7 Rbd8!=) 39...Rd3 40.Rxd3 Rxb7+ 41.Kxb7 exd3, and Black risks nothing, as he can protect the d3-pawn;

b) 36.exf5 e4 37.fxg6 hxg6 38.Ra7 e3! 39.b7 (39.Rxe3 Rb2+=) 39...Rf3! (right on time, and now Black has sufficient counterplay due to e3-e2 threat) 40.Rb2 Rf2 41.Rb3 Rf3! (but not 41...e2?? 42.Re3+-).

**34.Kc6 Re7 35.Raa5!** Now White coordinates his rooks, and the b-pawn inevitably promotes.

**35...Re6+ 36.Rd6 Re7 37.Rdd5 Re6+ 38.Kc7 Re7+ 39.Kc8 Re8+ 40.Kd7!**



**40...Kf8.** Loses at once, but the best try 40...Rb8 41.Kc7 Re8 42.b7 Rc2+ 43.Rac5 Rxh2 44.Rd8! Re7+ 45.Rd7 Re8 46.b8Q Rxb8 47.Kxb8 is equally hopeless.

**41.b7 Re7+ 42.Kc6 Re6+ 43.Kc7.** Easier is 43.Rd6!

**43...Re7+ 44.Kb6,** and here Aronian resigned.

**Peter Svidler – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov**

**Sicilian Defense B90**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7 10.Be2.** This move

leads to a forced sequence with a pretty good equalizing chances for Black. Recently White plays 10.h3 or 10.Qd2 more often, but it does not help to claim an opening advantage either.

**10...h5.**



**11.h4.** 11.Bxg4 is a serious alternative, leading to either 11...Bxg4 12.f3 Bd7 13.Bf2 Nc6 with unclear play, or 11...hxg4 12.Nd5 Nc6 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Bxb2 15.Rb1 Qa5+ 16.Qd2 Bd4 17.Qxa5 Nxa5 18.c3 Bf6! (18...Bc5 19.Nc7+ Kd7 20.Nxa8 Rxa8 with an advantage to White, Shirov-Grischuk, Wijk aan Zee 2011).

**11...Nc6 12.Nb3 gxf4 13.Bxf4 Be6 14.Qd2 Qb6 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 Nd4. 16...Nce5 17.Bg3 Kf8 18.Bxg4 hxf4 19.Rxf4 Bxf4 20.Qe2** deserves attention (Morozevich-Grischuk, Moscow 2006), and here 20...a5! gives Black a slightly more promising game: 21.0-0-0 a4 22.Nd4 Nc6! 23.dxc6 Bxd4 24.c3 Bf6 25.a3 bxc6 26.Qxg4 c5.

**17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Qxd4 Bxd4.**

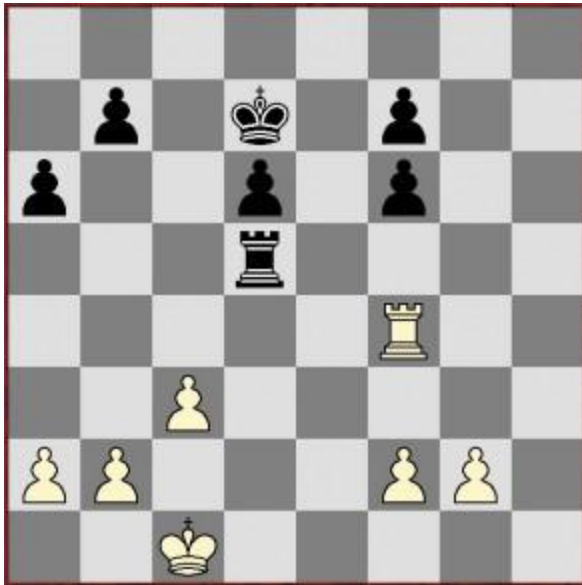


**19.c3.** This novelty almost by force leads to an endgame that is slightly unpleasant for Black, but is drawn objectively. The critical move here is 19.0-0-0. 19...Bf6?? 20.Bxg4 hxc4 21.Bxf6+- would be embarrassing. After 19...Be5 20.Rh3!? Kd7 21.Rb3 Rab8 22.a4 Rhg8 23.Kb1 Bf6 24.Rh1 Bxh4 25.Rxh4 Nf6 26.g3 White got a small edge in Kotronias-King, Gausdal 1993.

It seems 19...Bxf2!? does not lose, too. 20.Bxg4 Be3+ 21.Kb1 hxc4 22.Rde1 (22.Bf2 Bh6!) 22...Bd4 23.Rxe7+ Kf8 24.Re4 (also after 24.Rxb7 Bf6 25.g3 Bxh4 26.gxh4 Re8 Black has good counterplay) 24...Re8 25.Rxg4 Bf6 26.g3 Bxh4 27.gxh4 Rh5, and Black should hold.

**19...Bf6 20.0-0-0.** On 20.Bg3 Black can try 20...h4 (20...Kd8!? with the idea of creating kingside pressure by Kc7 and Rag8 is quite interesting) 21.Bxg4 (after 21.Bf4 Ne5 Black's construction in the center is very stable, allowing him to remain optimistic about his future) 21...hxc3 22.Rxh8+ Bxh8 23.f4 Bf6 24.Ke2 b5 25.a3 a5, and Black should survive.

**20...Kd7 21.Bxg4+ hxg4 22.Bxf6 exf6 23.Rxh8 Rxh8  
24.Rd4 Rh5 25.Rxg4 Rxd5 26.Rf4.**



Despite numerous weaknesses, Black's position can be held, which Shakhriyar proved convincingly.

**26...Ke6 27.Kc2 Rg5 28.g3 Re5 29.Kd3 Rd5+ 30.Rd4  
Rf5 31.Re4+ Kd7 32.Ke3 Re5 33.Kd4.** After 33.Rxe5 fxe5  
34.c4 f5 35.f3 Ke6 an attempt to create an adjacent passed  
pawn does not really work: 36.g4 fxg4 37.fxg4 Kf6 38.Ke4  
b6 39.b4 a5 40.bxa5 bxa5 41.a4 Kg5 42.c5 dxc5 43.Kxe5  
Kxg4, and White wins a pawn, but not the game – 44.Kd5  
Kf5 45.Kxc5 Ke6 46.Kb5 Kd7 47.Kxa5 Kc8, and Black gets  
there with a tempo to spare.

**33...Rh5.** Of course not 33...Rxe4+? 34.Kxe4 Ke6 35.g4!,  
winning.

**34.a4 b6 35.b3 Rh1 36.Kd3 Rd1+ 37.Kc2 Rf1 38.Rf4  
Ke6 39.Kd3 f5 40.Ke2 Rc1 41.Kd2 Rf1 42.Ke2.** Draw.

## Round 14

SNo.		Name	FED	Res.		Name	FED	SNo.
7	GM	Aronian Levon	ARM	0 – 1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	RUS	2
6	GM	Anand Viswanathan	IND	½ - ½	GM	Svidler Peter	RUS	3
5	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	AZE	½ - ½	GM	Kramnik Vladimir	RUS	4
8	GM	Topalov Veselin	BUL	½ - ½	GM	Andreikin Dmitry	RUS	1

## FIDE World Candidates Tournament is concluded

Viswanathan Anand concluded the FIDE Candidates Tournament with a draw against Peter Svidler for a total of 8,5/14 points. FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov made the honorary move for the World Championship qualifier.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Vladimir Kramnik also had a relatively quick draw, while Veselin Topalov and Dmitry Andreikin split the point only after 69 moves of play.

In the longest game of the day Sergey Karjakin defeated Levon Aronian with black after seven hours of play.

With this victory Karjakin emerged clear second with 7,5 points. On shared third place are Kramnik, Mamedyarov and Andreikin with 7 points each. Svidler and Aronian and on 6,5 points each, while Topalov is last with 6 points.

**Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** was involved in some of the sharpest games of the previous rounds, but today he decided to go for the positional Qc2 line in the Nimzo-Indian Defence. As he admitted at the post-game press conference, he was already feeling tired.

**Vladimir Kramnik** happily entered his pet line 7...dxc4. Instead of the common retreat 11.Qc2, white accepted to trade the queens on move 11. The players commented afterwards that this exchange meant that the game will be drawn.

The play continued until most of the pieces were removed from the board and draw was signed on move 30.

Having already qualified for the World Championship Match, **Viswanathan Anand** felt no pressure ahead of the game with **Peter Svidler**, but he still “didn’t want to finish a good tournament with a defeat”.

Anand allowed the Ruy Lopez Marshall Gambit, stating that he wanted to test the new ideas by Fabiano Caruana. Svidler in his turn followed the plan of Rustam Kasimdzhanov – 14...Qf6.



Many pieces were exchanged and white was hoping to further trade the rooks and play a B vs N endgame with pawns on both sides of the board. However, before he could do that, black succeeded in clearing all pawns from the queenside.

Draw agreed on move 34.

**Dmitry Andreikin's** treatment of the Berlin Ruy Lopez was rather original as he quickly expanded with the pawns on kingside and in the center.

It was a strategy with considerable risk and **Veselin Topalov** rushed to open up the play to exploit black's weaknesses.

White managed to snatch a pawn but his own structure was slightly compromised. He proceeded to force the exchange of the rooks hoping that he could get something in the endgame with minor pieces.

Topalov pressed for a long time but couldn't do harm to Andreikin's fortress.

It is rare occurrence that **Levon Aronian** opens the game with 1.e4. Another surprise was his relatively modest approach against **Serey Karjakin's** Sicilian defence.

Black played all the logical moves, even succeeded in locking the white bishop on b1, but then a small inaccuracy handed a pawn to white.

In order to shift the trend, black gave up the exchange to destroy white's structure and win the pawn back.

White's reaction was not the best, he handed the material back and even fell under attack.

The material was already reduced and it was not easy to exploit the weaknesses around the white king.

Only in the 7th hour of play white cracked under pressure and dropped a piece for pawn. He tried to compensate with the advanced passer, but black was quick to force the exchange of the queens and finally clinch a victory.

## **GM Evgeny Miroshnichenko comments on the games of the 14th round**

### **Viswanathan Anand – Peter Svidler**

#### **Ruy Lopez C89**

The winner of the tournament did not spend too much energy in the final round, which can be also explained by tiredness.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O–O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 O–O 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 c6 12.d3 Bd6 13.Re1 Bf5 14.Qf3.**



**14...Qf6!?** A relatively fresh approach. More often Black tries 14...Qh4 15.g3 Qh3, here is a recent example: 16.Be3 Bxd3 17.Nd2 Qf5 18.Bd4 Rfe8 19.a4 h6 20.Kg2 Kf8 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.axb5 axb5 23.Qxf5 Bxf5 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.Ra6 Be7 26.Nf1 b4 with some initiative for White, Caruana-Aronian, Zurich 2014.

**15.Nd2 Qg6 16.Bd1 Bxd3 17.Ne4 Bxe4 18.Qxe4 Qxe4 19.Rxe4 Rae8 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Kf1 Bf4 22.Bf3 Bxc1 23.Rxc1 Kf8.**



**24.a3.** Until now the players followed Shirov-Nyback, Helsinki 2014, and only this move is a novelty, but it doesn't influence the evaluation of the whole line as harmless for Black. The aforementioned game went on 24.b3 Re6 25.c4 Nb4 26.cxb5 cxb5 27.a4 bxa4 28.bxa4 Nd3 29.Rb1 Nc5 30.a5 Re5 31.Be2 Ne6, draw.

**24...Rd8 25.c4 Nf4.** Or 25...Ne7 26.cxb5 axb5=.

**26.Bxc6 Nd3 27.Rc2 bxc4 28.Rxc4 Nxb2 29.Rc2 Rc8!**



**30.Ke2 Ke7 31.Be4 Rxc2+ 32.Bxc2 Nc4 33.Bd3 Nxa3  
34.Bxa6. Game drawn.**

We congratulate Vishy with the brilliant tournament victory!

## **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov – Vladimir Kramnik**

Nimzo-Indian Defense E32

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0–0 5.a3 Bxc3+  
6.Qxc3 d5 7.Nf3 dxc4 8.Qxc4 b6 9.Bg5 Ba6 10.Qa4 Qd7.**



**11.Qxd7.** This occurs a lot less frequently than 11.Qc2, tested twice by Mamedyarov, and both times against Kramnik. In neither of these games Black experienced any problems: 11...c5 12.dxc5 Rc8 13.Rd1 (13.Bxf6 was already mentioned in my notes to Andreikin-Kramnik: 13...gxf6 14.Qe4 Qb5 15.b4 bxc5 16.e3 Qb7 17.Qg4+ Kf8 18.b5 Bxb5 19.Rb1 a6 20.a4 f5 21.Qh4 Qe4 22.Qh6+ Ke7 23.Qg5+ Kf8 24.Qh6+ Ke7 25.Qg5+ Kf8 26.Qh6+ Ke7, draw, Mamedyarov-Kramnik, Moscow 2013) 13...Qe7 14.e4 Bxf1 15.Rxf1 h6 16.Bh4?! Rxc5 17.Qe2 e5,

and Black seized the initiative, Mamedyarov-Kramnik, Geneve 2013.

**11...Nbx d7 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.e3 Bb7.** Black doesn't have any special problems after 13...Bxf1 14.Rxf1 Rfc8 15.Rc1 c5 16.dxc5 Rc7 17.Ke2 Rac8 18.Rfd1 Kf8 19.Ne5 Rxc5 20.Rxc5 Rxc5 21.Nd7+ Nxd7 22.Rxd7=, Lou-Lenderman, Moscow 2011.

**14.Rc1 Rac8.** A rather insignificant novelty. Earlier Black played 14...c5 15.dxc5 Rac8 16.Bb5?! (stronger is 16.Ne5 bxc5 17.f3, hoping to get an advantage due to Black's queenside weaknesses) 16...Rxc5 17.Rxc5 bxc5 18.Ke2 Rb8!, and Black converted his advantage in Span-Rotstein, Netherlands 2008.

**15.Ne5 Rfd8 16.f3 c5 17.dxc5.**



**17...Nd7!** This move completely sterilizes the position. White cannot even hope to get an advantage. Less clear is 17...bxc5 18.Bc4 Nd5 19.Kf2 Nb6 20.Rhd1 with some practical chances for White.

**18.Nxd7 Rxd7 19.e4 Kf8 20.b4 bxc5 21.Bb5.** This leads to mass exchanges and a quick draw. White could create some tension by 21.b5, however, both 21...f5 22.Bc4 Re8 23.Be2 fxe4 24.Rxc5 Ke7 25.fxe4 Bxe4 26.0-0 Rd2 and 21...c4 22.Rxc4 Rxc4 23.Bxc4 Rc7 24.Bf1 Rc2 25.a4 Ra2 26.Be2 Rxa4 is enough to equalize.

**21...Rdc7 22.Kd2 cxb4 23.axb4 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Rxc1 25.Kxc1 e5 26.Kd2 Ke7 27.Kd3 Kd6 28.Bc4 f6 29.g4 g5 30.Kc3 Bc8.** Draw.

**Veselin Topalov – Dmitry Andreikin**

Ruy Lopez C65

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.0-0 Nd4 6.Nxd4 Bxd4 7.c3 Bb6 8.Na3!?** A rare continuation. Usually White searches for an advantage by 8.Bg5 or 8.Nd2.

**8...c6 9.Ba4 0-0 10.Bg5 h6.** A novelty. Venkatesh-Gupta, Bikaner 2004 saw 10...d6 11.Nc4 h6 12.Bh4 Be6 13.Nxb6 axb6 14.a3 Qe7 15.Bc2 Rad8 16.d4 Rfe8 17.Qf3 b5 18.h3 with a small advantage to White.

**11.Bh4 d5.**



Black takes the center under control first, creating some tension on the board. The evaluation now depends on a fate of his central pawns.

**12.exd5 cxd5 13.Bb3 g5 14.Bg3 Re8 15.Re1 Bc7 16.Nc2.** Black dodged a few threats, and White brings the reinforcements – the knight goes to e3. There was an interesting idea of transferring the bishop to g4 by 16.h3 Bf5 17.d4!? e4 18.Bxc7 Qxc7 19.Nc2 with some pressure on Black's center.

**16...Bg4 17.Qd2 d4.** A concrete decision – Black does not let the enemy knight go to e3, but in turn weakens the light squares and brings the b3-bishop to life.

17...Nh5 deserved attention, and then 18.h3 Bf5 19.Bh2 Nf4 20.Ne3 Be6 21.Ng4 Bxg4 22.hxg4 Qd7 with a balanced position.

**18.h3.** 18.Bc4!? threatening c3xd4 is very interesting. After 18...dxc3 19.Qxc3 Nd7 20.Bd5! Rb8 21.Ne3 Be6 22.Bxe6 Rxe6 23.d4 exd4 24.Qxd4 Bxg3 25.hxg3 White keeps some pressure.



**18...Bf5 19.Ba4 Bd7.** Safer is 19...dxc3 20.Qxc3 Nd5 21.Qa3 Re7 22.d4 e4 23.Ne3 Nxe3 24.Bxc7 Rxc7 25.fxe3, and Black's chances are not worse.

**20.Bxd7 dxc3 21.Qxc3 Nxd7 22.d4 Rc8 23.Qb3.**



**23...Ba5?!** A somewhat extravagant move that gives White additional chances of fighting for an advantage. Black should gradually equalize after 23...exd4 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Re1 Qd8 26.Bxc7 Qxc7 27.Nxd4 Qf4! This is a key resource that allows Black to withstand White's unpleasant pressure. Now after 28.Qxb7 Rc1 29.Nf3 Ne5! White must take a draw – 30.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 31.Kh2 Qf4+ 32.Kh1 Qc1+, and 33.Ng1 Nd3 promises White nothing. Activity of black pieces should suffice at least for equality.

**24.Re2.** Stronger is 24.Red1!? exd4 25.Nxd4 Nc5 26.Qf3 Ne4 27.Nf5 Qf6 28.Rd7, and defending is hard for Black.

**24...exd4 25.Rxe8+ Qxe8 26.Nxd4 Nc5 27.Qf3 Qe4.** Black decides to trade the queens, correctly assuming that active pieces in the endgame compensate for minimal material deficit. He could also opt for 27...Rd8!?, not

worrying about 28.Nf5 Qe6, and improving his position is hard for White.

**28.Nf5 Qxf3 29.gxf3 Rd8 30.Nxh6+ Kg7 31.Nf5+ Kg6 32.Nd6 Bb6 33.Nc4 Ne6.**



White's extra pawn is insignificant due to his kingside pawn weaknesses and activity of black pieces.

**34.Re1.** Taking the bishop doesn't offer much – 34.Nxb6 axb6 35.Re1 Rd2 36.Be5 Rc2, and Black plays without risk, as he can always transpose to a drawn rook ending by Kf4.

**34...Bd4 35.b3 Rd5.** After 35...b5 Dmitry could dislike 36.Nd6, temporary cutting off the black rook, but the computer extends the line by 36...Bc3! 37.Rc1 b4 38.Nb5 Rd3 39.Kf1 f6! with equality. After 40.Nxc3 bxc3 41.Ke2 Rd2+ 42.Ke3 Rxa2 43.Rxc3 f5 White has to force a draw: 44.f4 gxf4+ 45.Bxf4 Nxf4 46.Kxf4 Rxf2+.

**36.Kf1 Bc5 37.Re2 a6 38.Rd2.** Black agrees to trade rooks, correctly judging that he should easily make a draw in a minor piece endgame.

**38...Rxd2 39.Nxd2 f5 40.Bb8 f4 41.Ne4 Be7.** White's extra pawn loses its value in this position. For a while Topalov tries to trick his less experienced opponent.

**42.Ba7 Kh5 43.Bb6 Kh4 44.Kg2 Bd8.**



**45.Bc5. 45.Bxd8 Nxd8 46.Nc5 a5 47.a4 b6 48.Nd7 Ne6 49.Nxb6 Nc5** leads to an annihilation of the queenside.

**45...Kh5 46.Bd6 Kh4 47.Bb4 Kh5 48.Ba3 Kg6 49.Kf1 Kh5 50.Bb4 Kg6 51.Nd2 Kh5 52.Nc4 Bc7 53.Be7 Kh4 54.Kg2 Bd8 55.Bb4 Bc7 56.Nd2 Kh5 57.Ne4 Bd8 58.Kf1 Kg6 59.Bd6 Kh5 60.Ba3 Kg6 61.Bb2 Be7 62.a4.** Now Black can force a draw.

**62...Kh5.** Or **62...Nc5 63.Nxc5 Bxc5**, and White cannot make progress.

**63.Be5 Kh4 64.Kg2 Nc5 65.Nxc5 Bxc5 66.Bf6 Bd6 67.Kf1 Kxh3 68.Bxg5 Kh2 69.Ke2 Kg2.** Draw.

**Levon Aronian – Sergey Karjakin**

Sicilian Defense B23

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Bc4 a6 4.a3 e6 5.d3 Nf6 6.Ba2 Nc6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 b5 10.Ne2 Bb7 11.Ng3 d5 12.e5 Nd7.** A creative opening led to a King's Indian type of position with reversed colors, with White's light-squared bishop doing nothing on a2.

**13.c3.**



**13...d4?!** Clearly not the most obvious idea. Now White gets an excellent outpost on e4 for his knight, and the a2-bishop plays a more important role than before. A queenside expansion deserved attention: 13...a5, and after 14.d4 b4 15.Bb1 Re8! followed by Kf8 it is not easy for White to come up with real threats on the kingside.

**14.cxd4 cxd4 15.Bf4 Nc5 16.Rc1 b4.**



**17.Bg5.** 17.Nh5! is a tempting alternative, and after the careless 17...Kh8 (perhaps 17...Nd7!? 18.Rxc6 Bxc6 19.Nxd4 Qb6! 20.Nxe6 b3!! is stronger, and Black holds, although one should not expect from the players such computer-like variations as 21.Nexg7 Bc5 22.Nf5 Bxf2+ 23.Kf1 Kh8 24.Qxb3 Qxb3 25.Bxb3 Bxe1 26.Kxe1 Rab8 27.Bh6 Rg8 28.Bxf7 Rb5, and the position is still unclear!) 18.Rxc5! Bxc5 19.Ng5, and Black cannot survive, e. g., 19...Be7 20.Nxh7 Kxh7 21.Nxg7 Kxg7 22.Qg4+ Kh7 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Bh6! Bf6 25.exf6 Qxf6 26.Re4! Ne7 27.Rf4! Nf5 28.Rg4+ Ng7 29.Bxg7 Qxg7 30.Rxg7+ Kxg7 31.Qg5+ and wins.

**17...b3!?** The plain and simple 17...Bxg5 18.Nxg5 Qxg5 19.Rxc5 bxa3 20.bxa3 Qe7 equalizes as well.

**18.Bb1 h6?!** Stronger is 18...Bxg5 19.Nxg5 (after 19.Rxc5? Be7 20.Rc1 Qb6 White must work hard to unpack the bishop from b1) 19...Qxg5 20.Rxc5 Ne7 21.Qxb3 Bd5 22.Qc2 Ng6 with good compensation for a pawn.

**19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Ne4 Nxe4 21.dxe4! Rab8.**



**22.Qxb3?!** The unhurried 22.Bd3!? is very interesting. Black cannot save the pawn, and after 22...Rfc8 (22...Ba8?! 23.Bxa6±) 23.Qxb3 Ba8 24.Qc2 White gets a much better version of the game position.

**22...Ba8 23.Qc2 Rb6 24.Rcd1.** Here Levon was already rather short on time. It seems 24.b4 is stronger, but Black has sufficient counterplay after 24...a5 25.bxa5 Ra6 26.Qc5 Qd8 27.Bd3 Rxa5 28.Bb5 d3! 29.Rcd1 Na7 30.a4 Nxb5 31.axb5 Ra4! 32.Nd2 Qa5.

**24...Rfb8 25.Re2 Qb7 26.Rdd2 Rb3! 27.Qd1 Qc7 28.Qc1.**



**28...Rxf3!** From practical point of view this exchange sac can be labeled as a winning move. Defending as White is very difficult, especially in the time trouble.

**29.gxf3 Qxe5 30.Rd3 Qh5 31.Qf4 Ne5.** An interesting rook transfer 31...Rb5 deserved attention. After 32.Kh1 Rg5 33.Re1 Ne5 Black stands much better.

**32.Rc2.** The following sequence of inaccurate moves is explained by the mutual time trouble. More accurate is 32.Kg2, threatening to take on d4, and the lengthy line 32...Rb5 (32...Nxd3?? 33.Qxb8+-; 32...Rd8 33.Rd1) 33.Rxd4 Ng6 34.Rd8+ Kh7 35.e5 f5 36.exf6 Rg5+ 37.Kf1 Bxf3 38.Re3 Qh3+ 39.Ke1 Rg1+ 40.Kd2 Qf1 41.Qxf3 Qc1+ 42.Kd3 ends with the perpetual check – 42...Qxb1+ (42...Rd1+ 43.Ke2 Re1+=) 43.Kc3 Rc1+ 44.Kb3 Qc2+ 45.Ka2=.

**32...Rb5 33.h4 Bb7 34.Rcd2 Rb6 35.Kf1.**





**35...Nxd3.** 35...a5! is very strong. After 36.Rxd4 Ba6+ 37.Bd3 Nxd3 38.R4xd3 Rb3 39.Qd6 Bxd3+ 40.Rxd3 Qb5 41.Ke2 Rxb2+ 42.Ke1 Rb1+ 43.Rd1 Rb3 Black wins.

**36.Bxd3 e5 37.Qg3.** Better is 37.Qg4! Qxg4 38.fxg4, and White is not hopeless yet.

**37...Rf6 38.Be2 Rf4 39.Rxd4 Rxh4 40.Rd8+ Kh7.** The time trouble is over, and White survived the direct attack, but his position is still precarious.



**41.Kg2.** Now the king gets stuck in the danger zone. Playing Black is much easier in a practical game, while White must always maintain the highest level of concentration to avoid the immediate disaster. An attempt to run away by 41.Ke1 Rf4 42.Kd2 deserved attention, and I don't think anything decisive for Black.

**41...Rf4 42.Rd1 g5 43.Qh3 Qg6 44.Kf1 Rh4 45.Qg3 Qe6 46.Kg2 Rf4 47.Rc1 Qd6 48.Rd1 Qf6 49.Rc1 a5 50.b4 axb4 51.axb4 Qd6 52.Rh1 Kg7 53.b5 Bc8 54.Qh2 Qg6 55.Qh5 Qf6 56.Qh2 Kh7 57.Qg3 Bb7 58.Rc1 Qd6 59.Rd1 Qf6 60.Rc1 Qd6 61.Rh1 Kg7 62.Qh3 Rh4 63.Qg3.** For more than 20 moves Black did not manage to achieve any progress, but slowly Aronian's tiredness begins to tell.



**63...Rf4 64.Qh3 Rf6 65.Rd1 Qc5 66.Qg3 Rf4 67.Rh1 Qc2 68.Qh2 Rf6 69.Re1 Qd2! 70.Kf1 Rf4?! 70...Bc8** seems stronger – Black aims at h3 and forces White into zugzwang. After 71.Qg2 Be6 72.Rb1 Qc2 73.Re1 Qc3 White cannot survive.

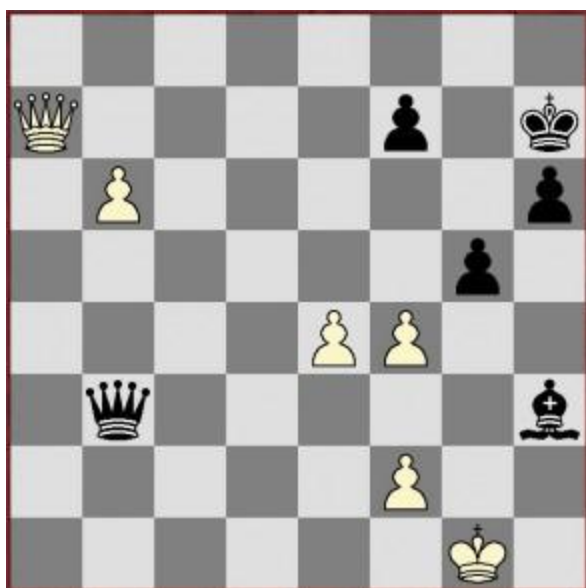
**71.Rd1 Qc3.**



**72.Kg2?** White could still fight by 72.Rd3, but Levon preferred to go down in flames.

**72...Qb2 73.Rh1.** A hopeless counterattacking attempt. After 73.Re1 Rh4 74.Qg3 Bc8 75.b6 Rh3 76.Qxh3 Bxh3+ 77.Kxh3 Qxb6 78.Kg2 Black must win, although he still has some technical obstacles.

**73...Rh4 74.Qg3 Rxh1 75.Kxh1 Qxe2 76.Qxe5+ Kh7 77.Kg2 Qc4 78.Qe7 Bc8 79.b6 Ba6 80.Kh2 Qb3 81.Qa7 Bf1 82.Kg1 Bh3 83.f4.**



**83...gxf4.** A simple human solution. The machine prefers 83...g4 84.Kh2 Bf1 85.Kg1 Be2 86.Qd7 g3! 87.Qf5+ (87.b7 Qb1+ 88.Kg2 Qf1+ 89.Kxg3 Qg1+ 90.Kh3 Bf1+ 91.Kh4 Qh2+ 92.Kg4 Qh3#) 87...Kg7 88.Qe5+ Kg8 with a quick checkmate.

**84.Qc7 Qd1+ 85.Kh2 Qh5 86.Qxf4 Bc8+ 87.Kg2 Qg5+ 88.Kf3 Qxf4+ 89.Kxf4 Kg6 90.Ke5 h5 91.Kd6 h4 92.Kc7 Ba6 93.Kb8 h3 94.Ka7 h2.** White resigns.