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Most exciting games of 2016



Chess
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Most exciting games of 2016
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KEY TO SYMBOLS

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+ -	White has a decisive advantage
- +	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞̄	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate

INTRODUCTION

Useful information for our valued readers.

- »» This book is the continuation of last years's successful "Best Games" series
- »» The book contains 50 of the most exciting games of 2016
- »» As in the previous books, the games have been selected and analysed by GM Arkadij Naiditsch, GM Csaba and this time round GM Sebastien Maze also joins our team of experts.
- »» Most of the games are taken from the highest-level tournaments, such as the Baku Chess Olympiad, London Classic Super tournament, World Chess Championship, etc.
- »» The selected games includes illustrious names such as: Carlsen, Caruana, Karjakin, Nakamura and many more of the world's best chess players.
- »» The games are sorted according to their ECO code.

PREFACE

We are proud to present the continuation of the successful 'Best Games' series, with the new release: 'Most exciting games of 2016'.

It was once again interesting and exciting work trying to select and analyse the 50 "best games" from the last year. Of course the choice was wide, with most of the best players in the world being very active on the chess board. Our aim was to find the most interesting, spectacular and, of course, useful attacking ideas — those which might also occur in our own practical games.

The main idea behind this book remains clear: We try to reduce the importance of opening theory and rather get inside the workings of the best chess-playing brains on the planet, in an attempt to explain the most complex attacking ideas in a way that is simple and understandable to any chess lover.

Another very important point of the book which we are proud of is, we have not used much "engine" assistance during our commentary on the games. We try to see the game the way we would in our own practical games, which makes the commentaries very special-and which in practice puts the reader fully in the shoes of the world-class players; this is exactly the best way to improve our own chess skills and level.

Sadly, nowadays, we have more-and-more computer analyses and we can hear chess amateurs judging the play of even Carlsen. Yes, you can find tactical mistakes with an engine at home-but the question is, can you do the same during your practical game over the board?! Chess is a game where everyone makes mistakes-and this is what it is all about in the current book!

We would advise all our readers to take out a real chessboard and enjoy these beautiful masterpieces. This is how we learned to play chess and this is why we still enjoy every wonderful game, even after almost 20 years of being professional chess players!

Yours,
Arkadij Naiditsch, Csaba Balogh & Sebastien Maze

■ GAME 1

- ▶ M. Carlsen (2844)
- ▶ F. Caruana (2787)
- 78th Tata Steel GpA
- 17.01.2016 [A00]
- Annotated by Csaba Balogh

We have ahead of us a fantastic fighting game which finally ends in a deserved draw after both players find many unusual and great ideas in a very difficult position.

1.g3

Carlsen decides to avoid the theoretical battle this time.

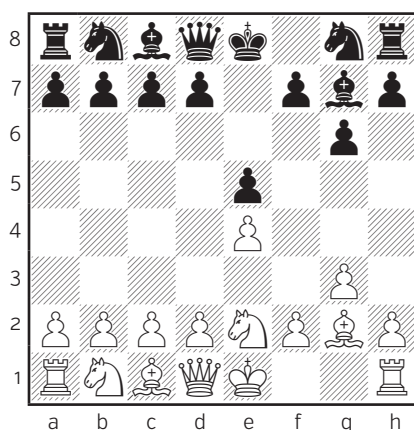
1...g6

As a Grünfeld player, Caruana fianchettoes his bishop with the hope that the game later transposes to some theoretical line if White plays d4 or c4.

2. ♖g2 ♖g7 3.e4

This means no Grünfeld today.

3...e5 4. ♘e2



4...c5!?

An interesting idea to fight for the center. White wants to play d4 and if Black prevents it with 4...♘c6 then 5.c3 followed by d4 looks promising. The drawback of the move is giving up the d5-square, but it can be controlled with the knight from e7. Actually we have transposed into the Closed Sicilian where this ...e7-e5 system is considered to be good, the only difference being that White has kept his knight on b1. Carlsen tries to make use of this.

5.d3 ♘c6 6. ♖e3 d6 7. ♔d2

White still delays the development of his b1-knight and completes the usual Closed Sicilian development instead.

7...♘d4

Black also puts off the development of his g8-knight to avoid the trade of the dark-squared bishops. A common trap to fall into is 7...♘ge7 8.♙h6 o-o 9.h4! when Black might face a dangerous attack.

8.c3

Finally Carlsen decides on the fate of the b1-knight. It will be driven to c4 through a3 or d2 as the d5-square can be well controlled by the knight on e7.

8...♘xe2 9.♙xe2 ♘e7

Black uses the fact that the queen is gone from d2 and there is no longer a ♙h6 available.

10.h4

White fights for the initiative. If he chooses some normal moves like o-o and ♘d2, Black has no reason to stand worse.

10...h6!?

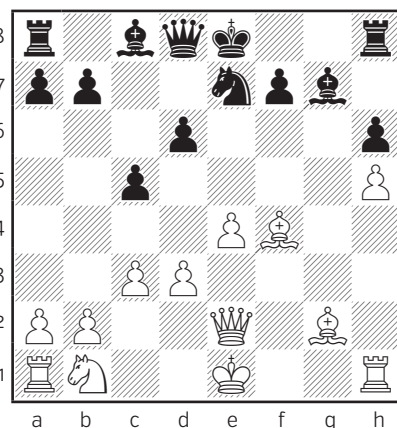
It is always a big question as to how to deal with such a flank attack? Black had to prevent h5, but to do it with ...h5 himself or like it happened in the game? In this particular position, probably ...h5 was preferable to get control over the g4-square. 10...h5!

11.h5 g5 12.f4!?

The right idea, but is it the right timing?! White has to open the position, but to do it with d4 is much harder to execute as Black is well-prepared due to his g7-bishop, therefore

White opens the f-file. White could have started with 12.♘a3 followed by o-o-o and only then f4.

12...exf4 13.gxf4 gxf4 14.♙xf4



14...♘c6

Black takes control over the central squares. After the exchanges on the kingside, it is clear that both sides must forget about castling there.

15.♘a3 ♙e5

Black wants to reduce the pressure on the d6-pawn. 15...♙e6 can be strongly met by 16.o-o-o! followed by ♘c4 or ♙h3. 16...♙xa2 going for the material at the cost of delaying development should backfire 17.e5! dxe5 18.♙xc6+ bxc6 19.♙xe5 and Black's position strategically collapses.

16.♙e3!

Carlsen feels the importance of the dark squares: he had to preserve his bishop. 16.♙xe5 ♘xe5 would have passed the initiative to Black; ...♙g4 and ...♙g5 are coming next.

16... ♖e6

Black could not force the trade of the bishops with 16... ♗g3+ because White simply plays 17. ♕d2! followed by ♖af1 and ♖c1, executing a kind of artificial castling.

17. ♖c4

Carlsen hunts down the pair of bishops.

17... ♗g3+

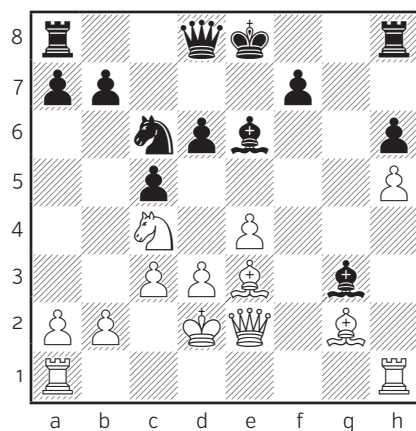
Caruana tries to save both of his bishops, but the one on g3 gets a bit misplaced. It is hard to evaluate the consequences of 17... ♗xc4 18.dxc4: White has the two bishops, but Black has the nice e5-square. It seems to me that White's chances remain better after some logical moves like 18... ♖f6 19.o-o-o o-o-o 20. ♗h3+ ♖b8 21. ♗f5± Black has only one square on e5 and it can be occupied by only one piece at a time. On the other hand, White can improve his position by doubling his rooks on the f-file. The pawn on h6 is also weak, so I prefer White's position.

18. ♕d2!

Keeping the dark-squared bishop.

18... ♖d7

Preparing for queenside castling and at the same time creating the threat of b5! 18...b5 did not work immediately in view of 19.e5! when Black loses material.

**19.d4!**

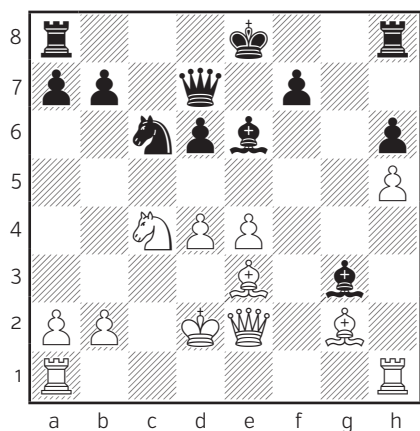
An extremely hard-to-make move by Carlsen. The move suggests itself to occupy the center, but it feels really bad to open the position with the king on d2. However Carlsen foresees correctly that he is ready to counter properly all the aggressive answers of his opponent. 19. ♖af1 could have been met by 19...b5 20. ♖a3 b4

19...cxd4

Now on 19...b5 20.d5! bxc4 21.dxe6 ♖xe6 22. ♗h3! ♖e7 (22... ♖xe4 loses to 23. ♗g2!) 23. ♖xc4± The opening of the position and the changes in the pawn structure favors White because of his bishop pair.

20.cxd4

White threatens to win a piece with d5! Black does not want to give up his light-squared bishop for the c4-knight and also his g3-bishop is misplaced. Caruana knows that he must compensate these facts with direct play, specifically trying to make use of the king on d2.



20...Nxe5!

A nice tactical move! White removes his knight from the d5-fork. The positional reply would be 20...d5 to create a weakness on d4, but the black king stands in the pin... 21.exd5 ♙xd5 22. ♙xd5 ♚xd5 23. ♙f4+-

21. ♙xe5!

Black wins back the piece after 21.dxe5 dxe5+ 22. ♚d3 ♙xc4 23. ♚xd7+ ♙xd7

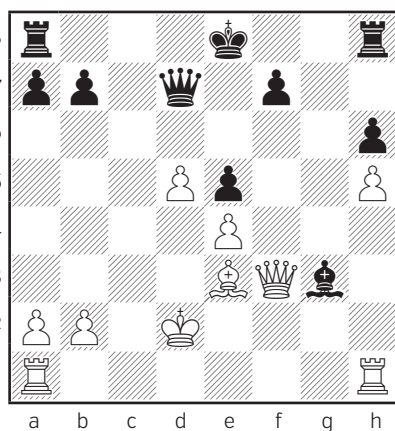
21...dxe5 22.d5

Trying to keep the position closed with the king on d2. White also obtains a protected passed pawn and the bishop on g3 is still out of the game. He retains all his hopes for an advantage.

22... ♙g4 23. ♙f3

23. ♚d3 was met by 23...f5! with ...f4 to follow.

23... ♙xf3 24. ♚xf3



24... ♚b5!

Caruana continues to play the most direct and concrete moves. He must search for active counterplay to compensate White's positional advantages.

25. ♚ac1?!

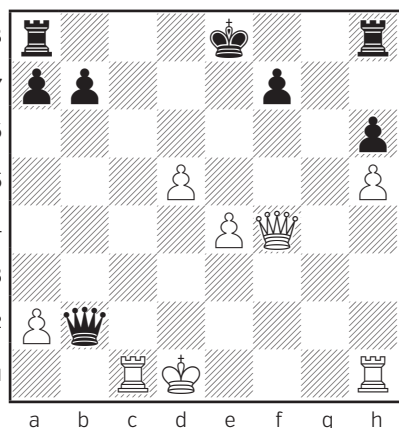
Carlsen plays with style, but this is the move with which he spoils his advantage. He should have simply played 25.b3! ♚b4+ 26. ♙d3! (26. ♙d1 allows 26... ♚c3! attacking the rook and ♙f4 next.) 26... ♙f4 (26... ♚b5+ just sends the king into his shelter 27. ♙c2 ♚c8+ 28. ♙b2 Black has problems with the g3 bishop.) trying to give a check on d4 in case of ♙xf4, but White can simply play 27. ♚ac1±;

25. ♚xg3 leads to perpetual check after 25... ♚xb2+ 26. ♙d3 ♚b5+ 27. ♙c2 (27. ♙d2 ♚b2+=) 27... ♚c8+ 28. ♙d1 ♚d3+ 29. ♙e1 ♚c2! and White has to force draw with 30. ♚xe5+ ♙d7 31. ♚f5+=

25... ♚xb2+ 26. ♙d1

26. ♖c2 also has a tactical drawback
26... ♖b4+ 27. ♔c1 ♖a3+! 28. ♔b1 and
now 28... ♙f4.

26... ♙f4 27. ♙xf4 exf4 28. ♖xf4



The game still remains very sharp. Both kings are stuck in the center and Black cannot activate his a8-rook as the c-file is controlled by White, who will bring his other rook to f1. Black must keep on aiming for active counterplay.

28... ♖g8!

Trying to break into White's 2nd rank.

29. ♖f1! ♖d4+! 30. ♔e1 ♖b4+!

White cannot allow the rook to his 2nd rank with check, therefore Carlsen allows the perpetual check.

31. ♔d1

31. ♙f2 ♖d4+ 32. ♔e1=

31... ♖d4+ 32. ♔e1 ♖b4+ 1/2

A hard-fought draw with many nice ideas!

■ GAME 2

► A. Grischuk (2754)

► A. Volokitin (2647)

Olympiad

05.09.2016 [A05]

Annotated by Arkadij Naiditsch

Volokitin was playing like a God at the Chess Olympiad 2016 in Baku, leading his team to shared first place, and this game is just more proof of it. It seems like Volokitin was really well-prepared in a relatively rare line, and with a great pawn sacrifice he put Grischuk under a lot of pressure. Being under attack and having not too much time on the clock, Grischuk decided that his best chance of escape lay in a double-rook endgame a pawn down. But, showing very nice technique, Volokitin did what needed to be done and won the game without offering his opponent any real chances.

1. ♖f3

It is almost impossible to guess Grischuk's opening choices, but I think most common is probably 1.e4

1... ♖f6 2.g3 g6

Volokitin is famous for being a Grünfeld player.

3. ♙g2 ♙g7 4.c4

Grischuk is ready to play after 4...d5.

4...c6

One of the safest lines. The position is now going to be almost symmetrical with the center being closed.

5.b3

A rare line, and probably Grischuk is a bit surprised by the opening choice of Volokitin. 5.d4 d5 leads to the main positions.

5...♞e4

Forcing the d4 move to be played.

6.d4 d5 7.o-o o-o 8.♙b2

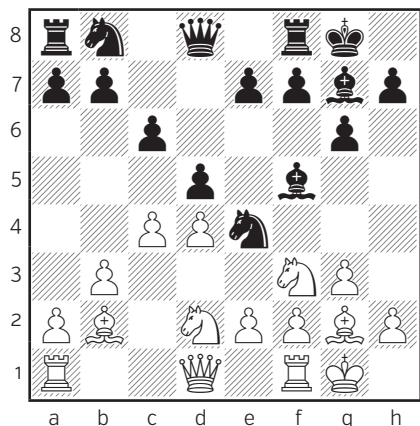
Kramnik has played this kind of position a couple of times, but to me they look to be not particularly promising for White. Black's position is extremely solid and I don't see why he should have any problems here at all.

8...♙f5

A very logical move. Black only needs to take care a bit about ♞h4 somewhere

9.♞bd2

Grischuk also develops his pieces in the most common way.

**9...♙a5!**

I like this move a lot! It has a strong positional idea behind it, which is to not allow White to play ♞h4 (basically anywhere) because the knight is hanging on d2. In case of ♞xe4 Black will react with ♙xe4 and the position just looks equal to me.

10.e3

White improves his position. The idea of playing b4 would not bring much: 10.a3 ♞d7 11.b4 ♙a6 and it is unclear why a3-b4 is useful at all.

10...♞d7

Black has finished his development.

11.♙e2

Setting a little trap.

11...♞fe8

A very solid move with the idea of playing ...♞xd2 next, followed by the ...e5-push. It is a bad idea to try to punish White for playing 11.♙e2 with 11...♞c3? 12.♙e1 ♙d3 because of the beautiful 13.♞b1! ♞e2+ 14.♙h1 and Black's pieces are stuck in the white defensive lines, leading very soon to the loss of some material.

12.♞xe4

White needs to do something. In case of 12.♞fc1 ♞xd2 13.♞xd2 e5 only Black can be better.

12...♙xe4 13.♙h3

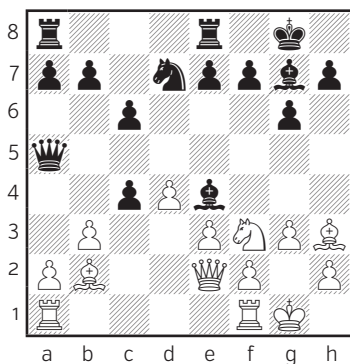
A very typical idea. White avoids the exchange of the bishops and prepares the main idea of playing ♞d2 next.

13...dxc4!!

A very beautiful move, even though I am quite sure the current position was nothing new to Volokitin. Black could also continue with the super-solid 13...♙xf3 14.♖xf3 e6 but White could hope for some small advantage after 15.♗e2 and having a bishop pair is a long-term plus for White.

14.♙xd7

This seems to be the only option.



If White tries the exchange sacrifice after 14.♘d2 ♙d3 15.♘xc4 ♙xe2 16.♘xa5 ♙xf1 17.♗xf1 only Black can be better after 17...f5 18.♘xb7 ♗ab8 19.♘a5 c5 and the position is somewhere between equal and better for Black.

14...♗h5

This is the key behind 13...dxc4!! The knight on f3 can't be protected so easily.

15.g4

What else to play?! To go for the exchange up with 15.♙xe8 ♙xf3 16.♗xc4 ♗xe8 17.♗fe1 looks dangerous for White after 17...♗d8 18.♗f1 g5 and the bishop on f3 is worth at least

the exchange. I think Black is better here. White is unable to defend the knight on f3 with 15.♙g2 ♗ed8! 16.♙h3 ♗d6 17.g4 ♗h4 and it is funny, but there is no defense against the upcoming ...♗f6.

15...♗h3 16.♘e1

All White's moves are very logical.

16...♙d3

Of course! Otherwise the threat of bxc4 and f3 would catch the bishop on e4.

17.♘xd3 cxd3 18.♗xd3 ♗ad8!

So after massive exchanges White is a piece up! But the bishop on d7 has no moves and the position of the black queen on h3 is very unpleasant for White.

19.♙xc6

Probably the best try for White. In case of 19.♙e6 fxe6 20.♗e4 Black equalizes with 20...♗f8 21.♗xe6+ ♗f7 22.♗e4 ♗f3 and his activity offers equal chances.

19...bxc6 20.♗e4

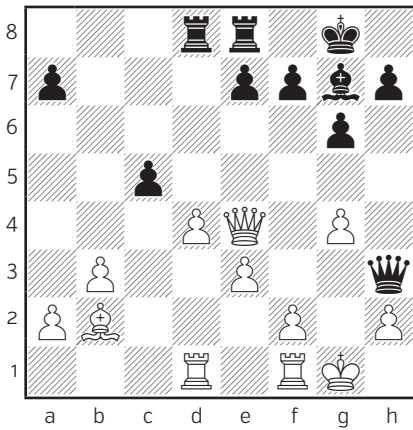
The pawn on g4 has to be protected.

20...c5

Clearly the best! Black is trying to get as much counterplay as possible for the pawn deficit.

21.♗ad1

Protecting the d4-pawn and looking to play ♗g2 next, achieving an endgame with an extra pawn.

**21...h5!**

A very strong move! Black not only frees his Queen from h3, but also opens the position of the white king even more.

22.gxh5

Maybe it is already time to force a draw with 22. ♖g2? But who could play such an ugly move! Clearly not Grischuk, who is a big fighter and I am sure still hoped to stand better somewhere.

22...♔xh5 23.f4?

But this is already a little blunder. 23. ♖d2 White should continue with this safer move. 23... ♖d5 and only now with 24.f4 but still Black has little to worry about and can enjoy the position with 24...e6 followed by ... ♖ed8 next and I think the game should end in a draw.

23...♔e2!

Attacking the b2-bishop and threatening ...cxd4. Black is clearly taking over the game.

24. ♖a1 cxd4

The e3-pawn is hanging, the a2-pawn also, so White is doing really badly here.

25. ♖de1 ♔g4+

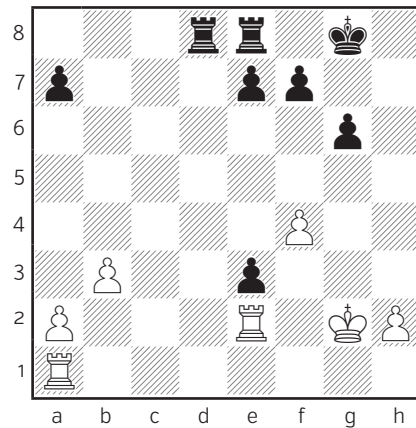
The best, as after 25... ♖xa2 White can complicate things with 26.f5!

26. ♔g2 ♖xg2+

Now the game reaches an endgame.

27. ♔xg2 dxg3 28. ♖e2!

A nice move. White continues to attack the e3-pawn and hopes to get a drawish rook endgame after the exchanges.

28... ♖xa1 29. ♖xa1**29...e5!?**

An interesting option and an attempt to keep the e3-pawn alive, but probably not the best. After 29... ♔g7 30. ♖xe3 ♖d2+ 31. ♔g3 e6 Black stands clearly better and the idea of ... ♖c8-♖c2 next puts real pressure on White.

30.fxe5?!

I think a good try to reach a draw would be 30. ♖xe3 e4 (after 30...exf4 31. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 32. ♖f3 it seems like White reaches a drawn rook endgame 32...g5 33.h4 ♖e3+ 34. ♖g4 ♖g3+ 35. ♖f5 gxh4 36. ♖xf4 with excellent drawing chances for White) 31. ♖f2 and of course Black is better, but I think White's chances to escape are not so bad.

30...♖xe5 31. ♖ae1

It is impossible to get the e3-pawn and this is probably what Grischuk has missed. To more-or-less the same result leads 31. ♖f3 ♖h5 (White is able to make a draw after 31...♖g7? 32. ♖xe3 ♖xe3+ 33. ♖xe3 ♖h8 34. ♖h1 ♖h3+ 35. ♖f2 followed by ♖g2 and freeing the rook from h1) 32. ♖ae1 ♖g7 the pawn on e3 just can't be taken... 33. ♖xe3 ♖h3+ 34. ♖f4 ♖d4+ and Black wins the h2-pawn and with it probably the game.

31...♖g7

With the idea of ...♖h8 in mind.

32. ♖g3

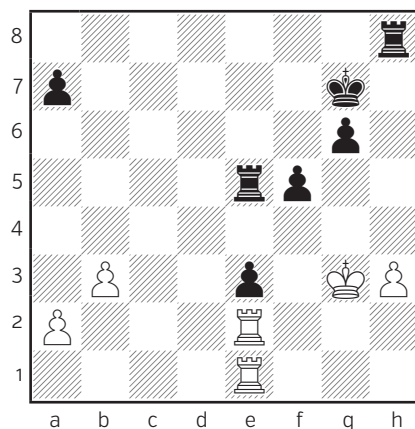
If White tries 32. ♖xe3 ♖d2+ the bad luck for him is that it is not possible to get a nice version of a single rook endgame. 33. ♖g1 (33. ♖g3 ♖g5+) 33... ♖xe3 34. ♖xe3 ♖xa2 and the position with the king cut off on the first rank should most probably be losing.

32...♖de8 33.h3 f5

The black pawns start to move.

34. ♖f3 ♖h8

Attacking the h3-pawn.

35. ♖g3**35...g5**

And of course White still can't take the e3-pawn because of the f4-check. The game is totally lost.

36. ♖h2 f4+ 37. ♖f3 ♖f6

It is all just hopeless.

38. ♖c1 ♖f5 0-1

Really a very nice win by Volokitin, who clearly out-prepared Grischuk and gained a very comfortable position directly out of the opening. At the point where Grischuk didn't want to force a draw, he basically blundered and found himself in a very difficult rook endgame which he was unable to save. A great game by Volokitin—nothing else to say!

■ GAME 3

► **V. Kramnik (2808)**

► **B. Adhiban (2671)**

Olympiad

12.09.2016 [A07]

Annotated by Arkadij Naiditsch

What does it mean to understand the position well? What does it mean to 'feel' the co-ordination of pieces better than your opponent? This is what we are going to see in the current game. Kramnik is about to give a great positional lesson to his less-experienced opponent followed by a great finish, basically putting Adhiban's pieces into stalemate positions!

1. ♖f3 d5 2.g3

This silent 'Reti' opening is very tricky. Many people make the mistake that when you are facing the Reti it is something for which you do not need to know a lot of theory. Nowadays, this is clearly NOT the case. Yes, it is a slow opening, but Kramnik has analyzed it very deeply, knows very well what he is doing and all the main ideas behind it.

2... ♗f6 3. ♘g2 ♘f5

Adhiban chooses the line with ♘f5, actually a rare option. Much more popular is the development of the bishop to g4.

4. 0-0 c6

The move-orders are very important in this system. Depending on Black's answers, White coordinates his play

accordingly. Right now with 4...c6 Black is avoiding the c4 line.

5. d3 e6

Allowing the move in the game. 5...h6 seems to me to be a decent option, but now White can switch to the plan of playing ♗bd2-♖e1 and e4.

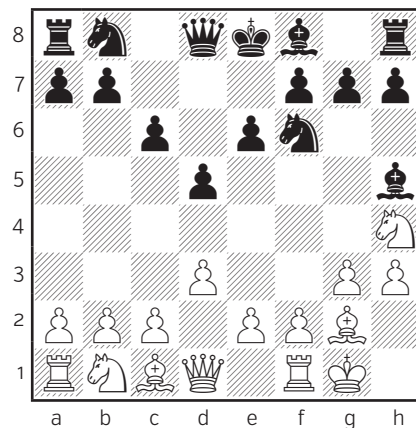
6. ♗h4!?

I think clearly the most critical move. The bishop has no escape except to go to g4.

6... ♘g4

If 6... ♘g6 then White will be able to get a bishop pair and a slight plus.

7. h3 ♘h5



8. ♖e1!

This is the key move! In the event of 8.g4 Black has 8... ♗fd7!? attacking the knight on h4 and forcing it to go back 9. ♗f3 ♘g6 and the bishop is saved.

8... ♘e7

A very solid reply. Black just develops his pieces and already a move such as ... Nfd7 could be a threat because the white knight has to return to f3, after which White's play would be 'strange' to say the least!

9.f4

This is the idea behind Ke1 . White begins his play against the h5-bishop. And please, be absolutely sure, Vladimir has analyzed this position very deeply!

9... Nfd7

Probably Adhiban was also well-prepared, as this is one of the main lines suggested by engines.

10. Nf3 f5

This is not a bad move, but personally I do not like it much; why weaken your own structure so much?! The first question, to me, is if White is really doing better after 10... Nxf3 11. Nxf3 o-o I think Black's position is perfectly fine. Not so accurate is 10... o-o 11.g4 Ng6 12.e4 and Black experiences problems with the g6-bishop.

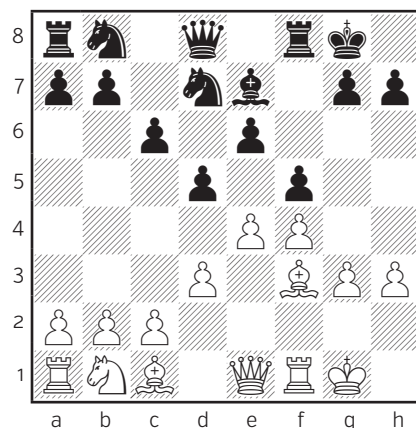
11.e4

Of course! Why not e4, trying to make use of the weak e6-square?

11... Nxf3?!

And this looks like a positional mistake to me. I think the combination of moves such as ...f5 and ... Nxf3 just doesn't fit together well. Black should have played 11. ... o-o .

12. Nxf3 o-o



13. Nc3!

A very nice move! The first question could be: where does the white knight go? This we are going to see during the course of the game.

13... fxe4?!

And another positional inaccuracy from Adhiban, who was clearly provoked by 13. Nc3 . Black should have kept the center tightly together: 13... Na6 14.a3 Nc7 15. Kg2 and White is clearly a bit better but Black's position is still very safe.

14. dxe4 d4

I think it is clear that Adhiban has underestimated White's next move.

15. Nd1!

A very smart decision as White's knight will take up a very good position on f2. Probably Black was hoping for 15. Ne2 e5 and the knight on e2 is a bit passive.

15...e5

The ...e5-move has to be played otherwise White will play e5 himself.

16. ♘f2 c5

Black tries to keep the center alive, but we are going to see how beautifully the white pieces will go 'around' this darker zone.

17. ♔e2

Winning control over the white squares

17... ♞c6 18. ♙g4

Of course! Now, slowly, Black starts to feel how it is to miss his white-squared bishop when the center opens.

18... ♔h8 19. ♙e6

White does not want anything concrete, but the simple idea of playing let's say: ♙d2-♘g4 could already be very unpleasant for Black. It is going to be very difficult to keep the center solid. This is why Adhiban decides to act immediately-but it only makes things worse.

19...exf4

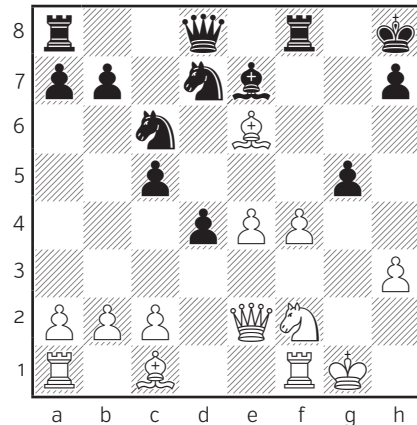
This is probably the correct decision as White maybe wanted to push f5 next as well.

20.gxf4

Of course Kramnik keeps control over the e5-square.

20...g5?

This is a logical move — Black wants to win the e5-square for the knight, the kind of idea we see a lot in Sicilians. However, here is not the right moment for it! White has a bishop pair and black can't win control over the e5-square, which leads to very difficult position. Black should have continued with 20... ♔c7 and now the idea of ...g5 becomes much stronger. Also a simple move such as ... ♖ae8 next doesn't look too bad. White might be a bit better but Black is more-or-less fine.

**21. ♘g4!**

Strong play. White keeps on fighting for control of the e5-square.

21...gxf4

Opening the position even more. I think Black should still have tried 21... ♔c7 22. ♙f5 (not so clear is 22.fxf5 ♔g3+ 23. ♔g2 ♖xf1+ 24. ♔xf1 ♖f8+ 25. ♙f5 ♔h4 and Black clearly has decent compensation for being a pawn down) 22...gxf4 23. ♙xf4 ♘de5 and even though White is clearly better,

Black has managed to get the knight to e5, which is at least some small achievement.

22. ♖xf4

Now Black's position starts to look really unpleasant.

22... ♕e8

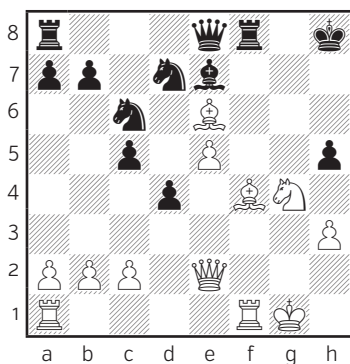
Bringing the queen a bit more into the action.

23. e5

An interesting move, but I am not so sure if White really needs these complications. He also had the 'un-human' but very strong 23. ♖b5! and I don't see a good way for Black to defend the b7-pawn — while the solid 23. ♖f5 would also cement White's advantage.

23... ♖h4?!

This is what Kramnik was hoping for: now his e-pawn becomes very dangerous. Even if it looks super-risky, Adhiban had no other choice but to try 23...h5! Now white has a lot of moves...



24. ♔h1! a genius move! (Black is more-or-less fine after 24. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 25. e6 ♖d5) 24...hxg4? Of course Black doesn't need to take on g4, but then we don't see the beauty of ♔h1 25. ♖xg4 and with these 2 silent moves White gains a winning advantage! Black can't defend the knight on d7 and at the same time against White's ♖g1 threat. Beautiful!

24. ♖c4

The bishop pair plus a running e-pawn — what else do you need to win a game!

24... ♖g6 25. ♔h1

Avoiding — just in case — some tricks with the ...h5 move.

25... ♖g5 26. ♖h2

Of course no exchange of the bishops. White will retain the bishop pair for as long as possible.

26... ♖b6

After this we can count the position as lost.

