

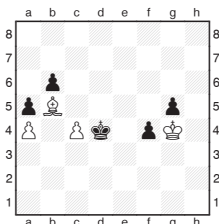
**Michael Adams**



## Rapid king Carlsen plays another blinder

The traditional Amber Rapid and Blindfold tournament upheld another recent tradition as Magnus Carlsen took first place, shared with Vasily Ivanchuk who has participated in all 19 editions of the event.

Kf8-e8 25.Ra1-a8 Qd8xa8  
26.Qf6-h8+ wins the queen.  
**22.Qe6-c6+ Qd8-d7**  
**23.Ra1-a8+**  
Black resigned as  
23...Ke8-f7 24.Rf1xf6+  
Ng8xf6 25.Qc6xf6 is mate.



**Ponomarev, R - Svidler, P**  
Amber Rapid Nice 2010

**51.Kg4xg5 f4-f3**  
**52.Kg5-f4 f3-f2**  
**53.c4-c5**

Opening up the bishop stops Black's first passed pawn, but creates another one.

**53... b6xc5**  
**54.Kf4-f3 c5-c4**

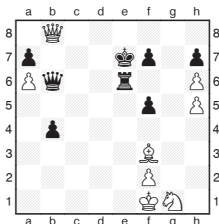
There was a well-concealed way to save the draw:

54...f2-f1Q+ 55.Bb5xf1  
c5-c4 56.Bf1-h3 Kd4-c3  
57.Kf3-e2 Kc3-b2

58.Ke2-d1 c4-c3 59.Bh3-f5  
Kb2-b3 60.Bf5-c2+ Kb3-b2  
and White has nothing  
better than a repetition like  
61.Bc2-f5 Kb2-b3 62.Bf5-d7  
Kb3-b2 63.Bd7-f5.

**55.Kf3xf2 Kd4-c3**  
**56.Kf2-e1 Kc3-b3**  
**57.Ke1-d2**

Black resigned as  
57...c4-c3+ 58.Kd2-c1  
c3-c2 59.Bb5-d7 Kb3-c3  
60.Bd7-f5 gradually wins  
both Black's pawns and  
White has the right coloured  
bishop to promote his own.

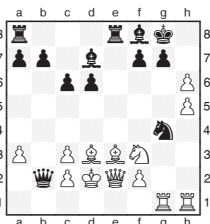


**Aronian, L - Svidler, P**  
Amber Blindfold Nice 2010

The standard of play in the blindfold games was better than ever. However, there was still the odd accident, 41.Qb8-h8 b4-b3 42.Qh8-b2 isn't that clear. Instead:

**41.Qb8-e5 Re6xe5**  
**O-1**

Ivanchuk went through the tournament undefeated and finished in real style.



**Ivanchuk, V - Gelfand, B**  
Amber Rapid Nice 2010

**22.Rg1xg4**  
White is doing very well after the simple 22.h6xg7 Bf8xg7 23.Nf3-d4, but Ivanchuk prosecutes the attack with much more imagination and vigour.

**22... Bd7xg4**  
**23.Nf3-g5 Bg4-e6**  
The bishop has to withdraw as 23...Bg4xe2 24.h6-h7+ Kg8-h8 25.Ng5xf7 is mate.

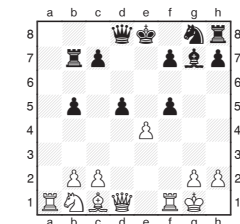
**24.Be3-d4 Qb2-a2**  
**25.Rh1-g1 c6-c5**

There is no good defence with all White's forces joining the attack, 25...f7-f6 26.Ng5xe6 Qa2xe6 27.Qe2xe6+ Re8xe6 28.h6xg7 Bf8xg7 29.h5-h6 wins on material. Now a series of checks hunts down the Black king.

**26.Bd3-h7+ Kg8-h8**  
**27.h6xg7+ Bf8xg7**  
**28.Ng5xf7+**

A great bit of calculation – it isn't obvious this is the most efficient way to finish the game.

**28... Be6xf7**  
**29.Bd4xg7+ Kh8xh7**  
**30.Qe2-d3+ Kh7-g8**  
**31.Bg7-f6+ Kg8-f8**  
**32.Qd3xd6+ O-1**



**Karjakin, S - Ponomarev, R**  
Amber Rapid Nice 2010

**16.Nb1-c3**  
Spurning all Black's pawns to accelerate development.

**16... f5xe4**  
**17.Nc3xd5 c7-c6**

**18.Qd1-g4**  
The key move, White's queen is very well-placed here.

**18... Bg7-d4+**  
**19.Bc1-e3 c6xd5**

Now 19...Bd4xe3+ 20.Nd5xe3 Ng8-e7 21.Qg4-g7 had to be tried, albeit with minimal chances of survival, 19...Qd8xd5 20.Qg4-c8+ shows the strength of White's 18th move.

**20.Be3xd4 f7-f6**  
**21.Qg4-e6+**

21.Qg4-h5+ Ke8-f8 22.Ra1-a6 was even more deadly.

**21... Rb7-e7**  
21...Ng8-e7 22.Rf1xf6 Rh8-f8 23.Rf6xf8+ Ke8xf8 24.Qe6-f6+

**Michael Adams**



## Champion for a year – master for a lifetime

Vasily Smyslov, who died on March 27 at the age of 89, was an expert in co-ordinating his pieces, often outplaying his opponents in quiet positions, and possessed excellent endgame technique. Unjustly he only held the World championship title briefly despite his three matches with Mikhail Botvinnik ending one win apiece with one drawn.

to collect the rook as well.

- 24.Kh1-h2**                      **Ng5-f3+**  
**25.Kh2-h3**                      **Bg7xb2**  
**26.Qa4xa7**                      **Ba8-e4**

The passed pawn is too far back to be a serious problem with White's king gasping for air.

- 27.a3-a4**                      **Kg8-g7**  
**28.Rf1-d1**                      **Bb2-e5**  
**29.Qa7-e7**                      **Rf8-c8**

With the bishops centralised the rook slides into the action.

- 30.a4-a5**                      **Rc8-c2**  
**31.Kh3-g2**                      **Nf3-d4+**  
**32.Kg2-f1**                      **Be4-f3**  
**33.Rd1-b1**                      **Nd4-c6**

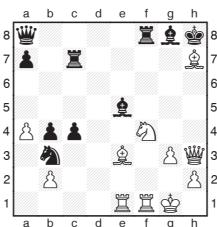
White resigned as 34.Qe7-c7 Be5-d4 leaves the f2 pawn defenceless.

Smyslov showed his enduring class and great understanding of the game by remarkably reaching the candidates final at the age of 62, losing to Kasparov.

Bf7-g8 allowing Black's queen to cover along the third rank was essential.

- 31.Kh1-g1**                      **Bf7-g8**  
**32.Bg6xh7**

A pleasing echo of the previous idea, now the bishop is sacrificed to vacate the g6 square for the knight.



- 32...**                      **Rc7xh7**

Capturing with the bishop is even worse, 32...Bg8xh7 33.Nf4-g6+ wins the house.

- 33.Nf4-g6+**                      **Kh8-g7**  
**34.Qh3-d7+**                      **Rf8-f7**

Unfortunately for Black 34...Kxg7xg6 35.Qd7-g4 is mate.

- 35.Rf1xf7+**                      **Bg8xf7**  
**36.Ng6xe5**                      **Qa8-d5**  
**37.Qd7xa7**

The smoke has cleared and White is left with two extra pawns and an enduring attack.

- 37...**                      **Rh7-h5**

The knight is untouchable due to 37...Qd5xe5 38.Be3-h6+.

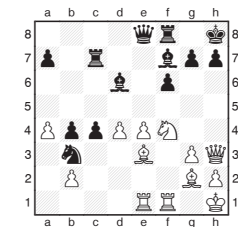
- 38.Ne5xf7**                      **Qd5xf7**  
**39.Be3-d4+**                      **Nb3xd4**  
**40.Qa7xd4+**

It was possible to win the queen with 40.Re1-e7, but Vasily is happy to keep things simple.

- 40...**                      **Kg7-h7**  
**41.Qd4-e4+**                      **Kh7-g7**  
**42.Re1-f1**                      **Qf7-a7+**  
**43.Rf1-f2**                      **Qa7-c5**  
**44.Kg1-f1**

Not a bad time to resign, but Huebner struggles on to the bitter end.

- 44...**                      **c4-c3**  
**45.b2xc3**                      **b4xc3**  
**46.Qe4-e6**                      **Qc5-g5**  
**47.Rf2-f7+**                      **Kg7-h8**  
**48.Qe6-c8+**  
**1-0**



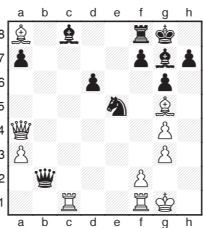
**Smyslov, V - Huebner, R**  
 Candidates Quarterfinal  
 Velden 1983

Black's position is solid, so Smyslov gives up a pawn to vacate the e4 square for the bishop.

- 27.e4-e5**                      **f6xe5**  
**28.d4xe5**                      **Bd6xe5**  
**29.Bg2-e4**                      **g7-g6**  
**30.Be4xg6**

The tactical justification, taken aback by the dismantling of his kingside pawn cover Huebner errs immediately.

- 30...**                      **Qe8-a8+**  
 The bishop can't be captured as 30...Bf7xg6 31.Nf4xg6+ Qe8xg6 32.Rf1xf8+ wins. However, 30...Qe8-c6+ 31.Kh1-g1



**Botvinnik, M - Smyslov, V**  
 World Championship  
 Moscow 1954

- 20...**                      **Bc8-b7**

Declining a pawn on the kingside to probe the vulnerable light-square diagonal.

- 21.Rc1-b1**

Botvinnik can't resist 'winning' Black's queen, but Smyslov grabs more than enough material.

The game could have been steered towards a draw with: 21.Ba8xb7 Qb2xb7 22.Rc1-c3 Ne5-f3+ 23.Rc3xf3 Qb7xf3 24.Bg5-e7.

- 21...**                      **Ne5-f3+**  
**22.Kg1-h1**                      **Bb7xa8**  
**23.Rb1xb2**                      **Nf3xg5+**

The bishop is captured with check giving Smyslov time

# Chess

April 17th 2010

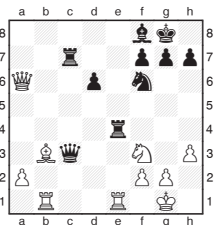
Michael Adams



## Karjakin shows Ukraine's loss is Russia's gain

The Russian Team Championships remains a strong event with three of the teams averaging 2700-plus over their top six boards.

The winners were the Moscow-based ShSM-64 who had newly adopted Russian Sergey Karjakin, who has recently switched his Federation from the Ukraine, on excellent form on board two.



Timofeev, A - Krylov, M  
Dagomys 2010

The position looks ripe for a tactical coup, but surprisingly it is Black's offside queen that seals his fate.

**28.Bb3xf7+ Rc7xf7**

The king can't capture as 28...Kg8xf7 29.Nf3-g5+ is curtains, 28...Kg8-h8

29.Re1xe4 Nf6xe4

30.Qa6-a8 Rc7xf7

31.Qa8xe4 also doesn't offer much hope.

**29.Re1-c1**

Now the rook has been drawn to the kingside, the queen has nowhere to run.

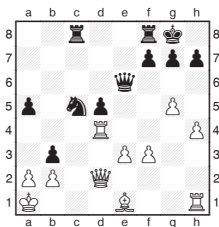
**29... Re4-b4**

**30.Rc1xc3 Rb4xb1+**

**31.Kg1-h2 Rb1-b2**  
**32.Rc3-c8 h7-h6**

32...Rb2xf2 33.Nf3-g5 is catastrophic, but Black is too much material down to hold on for long.

**33.Qa6xd6**  
**1-0**



Potkin, V - Caruana, F  
Dagomys 2010

**26.Qd2-d1**

A wise withdrawal as Caruana already has a monstrous attack. The pawn can't be captured as 27.Rd4xd5 Nc5-e4 28.f3xe4 Qe6xe4 29.Rh1-g1 Qe4xd5 exploits the weak back rank.

**27... b3xa2**

If 27...a5-a4 28.Be1-b4 brings White's bishop into the action so Caruana prefers to open up White's king immediately.

**28.Be1xa5 Qe6xe3**

**29.Ba5-c3 Rc8-a8**

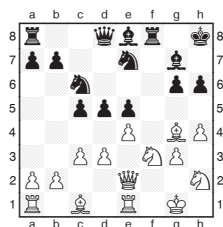
**30.Rh1-e1**

In this position the Black pawn on the seventh rank can paradoxically shield White's king from checks and hence aid the defending side, but here it was essential to play 30.Rd4-b4 continuing the robust defence. Potkin misses the serious threat created by Caruana's last move.

**30... Qe3-c1+**

White resigned as 31.Qd1xc1 Nc5-b3 is a picturesque mate.

Motylev was just short of an impressive 2800 performance and shows some power chess in the following game.



Ivanov, A - Motylev, A  
Dagomys 2010

**18... c5-c4**

This pawn sacrifice, undermining White's centre, is highly effective.

**19.d3xc4 d5xe4**

**20.Qe2xe4 Ne7-f5**

The knight jumps forward to a newly created outpost.

**21.Kg1-g2**

Very natural, but 21.Nh2-f1 was probably wiser.

**21... Qd8-c7**

**22.b2-b3**

This seems like a good moment to suggest an improvement for White, but 22.Bc1-e3 Nc6-e7 also does not bode well along the light-squared diagonal.

**22... Nc6-e7**

**23.Nh2-f1**

Things are so bad, perhaps White should have captured the pawn and prayed 23.Nf3xe5 Be8-c6 24.Ne5xc6 Qc7xg3+ 25.Kg2-h1 Ne7xc6 leaves White's pulse still beating.

**23... Be8-c6**

**24.Qe4-c2 h6-h5**

Motylev continues to conduct proceedings precisely, once the opposing bishop is exchanged the end is nigh.

**25.Bg4xf5 Ne7xf5**

**26.Re1-e4 Nf5-d6**

A mere exchange can't satisfy Black.

**27.Nf1-d2 Rf8xf3**

**28.Kg2xf3 Qc7-f7+**

A nasty check exploiting White's nomadic king.

**29.Kf3-e2 Nd6xe4**

**30.Nd2xe4 Qf7-f5**

Out of one pin and into another: White resigned as 31.Ke2-e3 Bg7-h6+ wins the house.

# Chess

April 24th 2010

Michael Adams



## Fifth title is a close-run thing

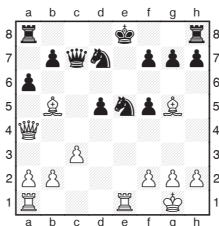
OSC Baden-Baden clinched their fifth consecutive title in the German Bundesliga, but this season we were run close by Werder Bremen, who beat the champions in a tense Elo-laden encounter. However, they were less efficient against the other teams and their three draws enabled my Grenke Leasing-sponsored team to pip them at the post by winning all our other matches.

short-circuits Black's whole position.

**22...** **Qd8-h4**

**23.Rb1-b8+**

Black resigned as 23...Rd7-d8 24.Re1-d1 is the end.



**Vachier-Lagrave, M - Mchedlishvili, M**  
Bundesliga 2010

**16...** **f7-f6**

Black could have extricated himself from the collection of pins with 16...0-0 17.Bb5xd7 Qc7xd7 18.Qa4xd7 Ne5xd7 which is roughly equal. His move reinforcing the knight has a serious flaw.

**17.Re1xe5+ Qc7xe5**

Sadly forced as after 17...f6xe5 18.Qa4-a3 Ke8-f7 19.Qa3-e7+ Kf7-g6 20.Bb5xd7 White's raking bishops slice Black's position in two.

**18.Bb5xd7+ Ke8-e7**

**19.Bg5-f4 Qe5-e4**

**20.f2-f3 Qe4xa4**

A rook is rarely a match for two bishops and this position is no exception.

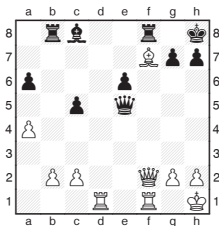
**21.Bd7xa4 Rh8-d8**

**22.Ra1-e1+ Ke7-f7**

**23.Bf4-c7 Rd8-c8**

**24.Bc7-b6**

Black resigned as the threat of Ba4-d7 can't be sensibly met.



**Anand, V - Kempinski, R**  
Bundesliga 2010

Although it is early on a Sunday morning the World Champion is alert and swiftly exploits Black's vulnerable back rank.

**24.Bf7-g6 Rf8-g8**

Of course not 24...Rf8xf2

**25.Bg6xh7**

Giving up the bishop draws the king out in front of his troops where he is met with a firestorm.

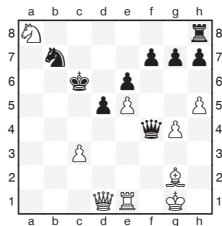
**25...** **Kh8xh7**

**26.Qf2-h4+ Kh7-g6**

**27.Rd1-d3 Qe5-h5**

**28.Rd3-g3+**

Black resigned as 28...Kg6-h6 29.Qh4-f4+ Kh6-h7 30.Qf4xb8 grabs the undefended rook.

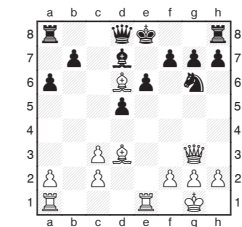


**Haslinger, S - Gurevich, V**  
Bundesliga 2009

There were several English players participating in the league and here we see the talented Stewart Haslinger use a neat piece of interference, enabling Black's king to be driven to his doom.

**28.Re1-e4**

The mundane 28.Qd1-a1 also wins, but this finishes in style. Now Black resigned as 28...d5xe4 29.Qd1-a4+ Kc6-c5 30.Qa4-b4+ Kc5-c6 31.Qb4-b6+ Kc6-d5 32.Qb6-b5+ (White can cash in his chips with 32.Qb6-d4+ Kd5-c6 33.Bg2xe4+, but this leads to a beautiful forced mate) 32...Nb7-c5 33.Na8-b6+ Kd5xe5 34.Qb5xc5+ Ke5-f6 35.Nb6-d7 mate.



**Nisipeanu, L - Schneider, I**  
Bundesliga 2010

**17.c3-c4**

With Black's king stuck in the middle, Nisipeanu hastens to open lines.

**17...** **d5xc4**

**18.Bd3-e4**

Recapturing the pawn wasn't bad, but this more forcing option is even more incisive.

**18...** **Bd7-c6**

**19.Be4xc6+ b7xc6**

**20.Ra1-d1 Ra8-a7**

With the Black king's rook a spectator it's not possible to give him good advice 20...Qd8-f6 21.Qg3-e3 Ng6-e7 22.Qe3-c5 is also rather dismal.

**21.Bd6-c5 Ra7-d7**

**22.Rd1-b1**

Switching the rook back to the other open line

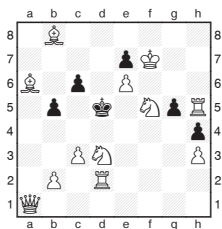
**Michael Adams**



## How do you solve a problem like...

The British problem-solving team have not received the acclaim that their awesome record deserves: they have again been successful with another first place in the European Championships in April, with John Nunn collecting the individual gold. Supported by Winton Capital Management, the team has proved to be a medal machine in recent years, winning three world titles from 2005-7.

Knowing my limitations, I normally give problem-solving a wide berth, but with the advantage of having the solutions in front of me I will try to guide you through some of the posers from the event.



**E H Baird: Mate in 2**  
Pictorial World 1892

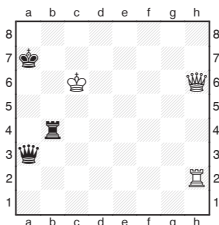
### 1.Qa1-b1

The more obvious 1.Rh5xg5 c6-c5 allows Black's king to survive another move. The queen nudge importantly covers the e4 square and waits for Black to commit himself.

**1... Kd5-e4**

Black's four other options all lead to mate in slightly

different ways. 1...c6-c5  
2.Nd3-e5 mate 1...Kd5-c4  
2.Qb1-a2 mate, 1...g5-g4  
2.Nf5-d6 mate or 1...b5-b4  
2.Qb1-h1 mate.  
**2.Nd3-e1 mate**



### M Gromov: White wins

5th Prize Schachmatnaya Nedelya 2003

Although only major pieces remain, this is a long and visual study.

### 1.Qh6-h7+

The queen has to stay on the light squares as 1.Qh6-g7+ Ka7-a6 allows Black's king a safe haven.

**1... Ka7-a8**

The king tries to hide in the corner as 1...Ka7-a6 allows the dazzling 2.Qh7-d3+ Qa3xd3 3.Rh2-a2+ mating.

**2.Qh7-g8+ Rb4-b8**

Forced as 2...Ka8-a7

3.Rh2-a2 wins the queen.

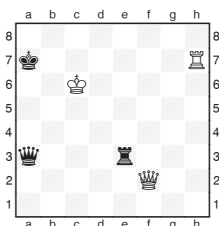
**3.Qg8-a2 Rb8-b3**

The exchange of queens leads to mate, but 3...Rb8-c8+ is a challenging try, 4.Kc6-d7 Rc8-c3 (4...Qa3xa2 5.Rh2xa2+ Ka8-b7 6.Ra2-b2+ wins the rook) 5.Qa2-d5+ Ka8-a7 6.Rh2-a2 and the pin works again.

**4.Rh2-h8+ Ka8-a7**

**5.Qa2-f2+ Rb3-e3**

**6.Rh8-h7+**



**6... Ka7-a6**

Black's king heads up the board, the refutation of 6...Ka7-a8 is very nice and not at all obvious. The key move is the quiet 7.Qf2-g2 setting up a number of neat variations such as

**7...Qa3-c3+ 8.Kc6-b6+ or**

**7...Re3-g3 8.Kc6-b6+ Rg3xg2 9.Rh7-h8+.**

**7.Qf2-f1+ Qa3-d3**

If 7...Re3-d3, the rook is jettisoned to force mate: 8.Rh7-a7+ Ka6xa7 9.Qf1-f7+ Ka7-a6

10.Qf7-b7+ Ka6-a5

11.Qb7-b5 mate.

**8.Qf1-a1+**

Now the immediate rook sacrifice fails to 8.Rh7-a7+ Ka6xa7 9.Qf1-f7+ Re3-e7

10.Qf7xe7+ Ka7-a6.

**8... Qd3-a3**

**9.Rh7-a7+**

The stage is set for this, allowing White's queen, having dummied the defensive line, to finish the job.

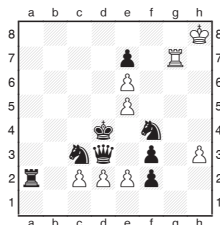
**9... Ka6xa7**

**10.Qa1-d4+ Ka7-a8**

**11.Qd4-d8+ Ka8-a7**

**12.Qd8-c7+ Ka7-a6**

**13.Qc7-b6 mate**



**C Jones: Helpmate in 3**  
Original 2010

This type of problem, in which both sides combine to allow White to mate on his third move, is especially tricky for non-specialists. The solution is rather neat.

**1... f3xe2**

**2.d2xc3+ Kd4-e3**

**3.c2xd3 Ra2-d2**

**4.Rg7-g3 mate**

The few remaining pieces completely box in Black's king.

**Michael Adams**



## Anand fights like a true champion

The Anand vs. Topalov World Championship match is fascinatingly poised as I write, at 4-3 in favour of the champion, but with Topalov having an additional white in the remaining games. This factor could still prove important, as in the games so far, both players have put their adversaries under considerable pressure when moving first.

Let's go back to the start of proceedings where the home player got off to the perfect start.

If 24...Qe5xf6 25.Rf3-h3 Kf7-g8 26.Rh3-h5 Rf8-f7 27.e4-e5 Qf6xe5 28.Qd2xg5+ Qe5-g7 29.Qg5-d8+ Qg7-f8 30.Rh5-g5+ Rf7-g7 31.Rg5xg7+ Kg8xg7 32.Rc1-c7+ is a typical execution, the Black pieces on the queenside remain spectators.

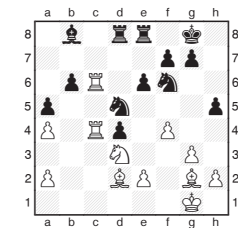
**25.Rf3-h3** **Rf8-g8**  
**26.Rh3-h6+** **Kf6-f7**  
**27.Rh6-h7+** **Kf7-e8**  
**28.Rc1-c7**

Black's king is caught in a vice.

**28...** **Ke8-d8**  
**29.Bd3-b5** **Qe5xe4**  
**30.Rc7xc8+**

Black resigned as 30...Kd8xc8 (30...Ra8xc8 31.Rh7-d7+ Kd8-e8 32.Rd7xd4+) 31.Qd2-c1+ Na5-c6 32.Bb5xc6 Qe4-e3+ 33.Qc1xe3 d4xe3 34.Bc6xa8 wins.

Anand struck back the next day when some imprecise play by Topalov enabled him to get a clamp on the position and squeeze the life out of his opponent.



**Anand, V - Topalov, V**  
World Championship Sofia 2010

**25...** **Nd5-e3**  
Topalov could have stirred up trouble with 25...Nf6-g4 26.Bg2-f3 e6-e5 27.f4xe5 Ng4xe5 28.Nd3xe5 Bb8xe5 now Anand gets a hammer lock on the position.

**26.Bd2xe3** **d4xe3**  
**27.Bg2-f3** **g7-g6**

It was better to fight for activity with 27...Nf6-d7 28.Bf3xh5 e6-e5.

**28.Rc6xb6** **Bb8-a7**

**29.Rb6-b3**  
White's co-ordination is excellent, the rook retreats to cover the knight.

**29...** **Rd8-d4**

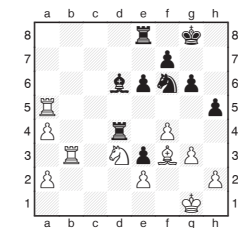
**30.Rc4-c7**  
Now his colleague hassles Black's bad bishop.

**30...** **Ba7-b8**

**31.Rc7-c5** **Bb8-d6**

**32.Rc5xa5**

Suddenly the two sickly pawns have become monsters.



**32...** **Re8-c8**

**33.Kg1-g2**

There is plenty of time to tidy up White's position.

**33...** **Rc8-c2**

**34.a2-a3** **Rc2-a2**

**35.Nd3-b4** **Bd6xb4**

Typically in a good position, all the tactics such as 35...Ra2xa3 36.Rb3xa3 Bd6xb4 37.Ra5-a8+ work for White.

**36.a3xb4** **Nf6-d5**

**37.b4-b5** **Ra2xa4**

**38.Ra5xa4** **Rd4xa4**

A pawn is regained, but the mass liquidation enables the smoke to clear on a completely winning rook and pawn ending.

**39.Bf3xd5** **e6xd5**

**40.b5-b6** **Ra4-a8**

White's rook and king totally dominate their counterparts leaving Black's central pawns easy pickings.

**41.b6-b7** **Ra8-b8**

**42.Kg2-f3** **d5-d4**

**43.Kf3-e4**

**1-0**

Two games later Vishy won another excellent game to take the lead, but the match remains too close to call and it wouldn't surprise me if tie-breaks are needed.

**Topalov, V - Anand, V**  
World Championship Sofia 2010

**23.Rf1-f3** **Kg8-f7**  
It appears that 23...Bc8-d7 would have been a better way to hold the Black position together.

**24.Nh5xf6**  
Although Vishy Anand's 16th move was new, this sacrifice was found by Veselin Topalov in his home analysis showing the immense depth of his preparation. Now Black's king is driven from pillar to post with no chance of survival.

**24...** **Kf7xf6**

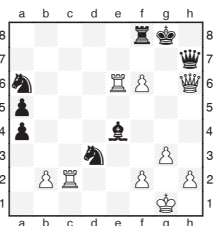


## Michael Adams



### Final goes to the wire

When we left the Anand-Topalov match, Vishy had just edged into the lead:



#### Anand, V - Topalov, V World Championship, Sofia, 2010

With Black's pieces scattered all round the board it doesn't take long for his king to die of exposure.

**30.f6-f7+** **Qh7xf7**

30...Rf8xf7 31.Re6-e8+ mates.

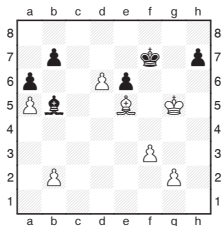
**31.Re6xe4** **Qf7-f5**

The pawn can't be captured as 31...Nd3xf2 32.Qh6-g5+ wins.

**32.Re4-e7**

**1-0**

Play continued to enthrall with lengthy, interesting games. Anand missed a fleeting chance against the run of play in game seven, but the next day there was an uncharacteristic collapse at the end of a gruelling defence to level the scores.



#### Topalov, V - Anand, V World Championship, Sofia, 2010

**54...** **Bb5-c6**

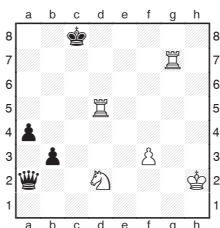
Black could have continued his stoic resistance with 54...Kf7-e8 55.Kg5-h6 Bb5-d3 56.g2-g4 Ke8-d7 57.f3-f4 Bd3-c2 58.Kh6-g5 Bc2-d3 59.f4-f5 e6xf5 60.g4xf5 h7-h6+ 61.Kg5-f6 when it's not possible to lift the light-square blockade. After 61...Bd3-c2 62.Be5-f4 Bc2-d3 63.Kf6-e5 h6-h5 64.Ke5-f6 h5-h4 65.Kf6-g5 h4-h3 66.f5-f6 Kd7-e6 the Black king covers both White pawns.

**55.Kg5-h6** **Kf7-g8**

**56.g2-g4**

Upset about his error, Vishy suddenly resigned. White wins slowly, but surely after 56...Bc6-d7 57.g4-g5 Bd7-e8 58.Be5-g7 Be8-d7 59.g5-g6 h7xg6 60.Kh6xg6 Bd7-c6 61.Kg6-f6 Bc6-d7 62.Bg7-h6 when White's monarch can move to e7 to shepherd the pawn home.

The next game was just as gripping. We join the action at a critical point below.



#### Anand, V - Topalov, V World Championship, Sofia, 2010

**64.Kh2-g3**

In this long and very complicated game Anand had held the upper hand most of the way, but rejected the obvious plan of doubling rooks on the seventh rank. 64.Rd5-d7 a4-a3 (64...Qa2-c2 65.Kh2-g3 Qc2-f5 66.Rd7-c7+ Kc8-d8 67.Rc7-a7 Qf5-d5

68.Ra7-a8+ is a typical line showing the problems of Black's king position)

65.Kh2-g3 Qa2-a1

66.Rd7-a7.

Here Vishy must have been concerned about perpetual check, but the White king dodges round the board to safety 66...Qa1-g1+ 67.Kg3-h3 Qg1-h1+ 68.Kh3-g4 Qh1-g1+ 69.Kg4-f5 Qg1-c5+ 70.Kf5-e4 Qc5-c6+ 71.Ke4-e3 Qc6-c3+ 72.Ke3-e2 Qc3-e5+ 73.Ke2-d3 Qe5-d5+ 74.Kd3-c3 Qd5-e5+ 75.Kc3xb3 Qe5-b2+ 76.Kb3-c4 Qb2-c2+ 77.Kc4-b5 Qc2-b2+ 78.Kb5-c5 Qb2-e5+ 79.Kc5-c4 Qe5-e6+ 80.Kc4-b4 Qe6-d6+ 81.Kb4-c3 Qd6-f6+ 82.Kc3-c2.

**64...** **Qa2-a1**

**65.Rg7-g4**

65.Rd5-d7 was the last chance.

**65...** **b3-b2**

**66.Rg4-c4+** **Kc8-b7**

**67.Kg3-f2** **b2-b1Q**

**68.Nd2xb1** **Qa1xb1**

**69.Rd5-d4** **Qb1-a2+**

**70.Kf2-g3** **a4-a3**

**71.Rc4-c3** **Qa2-a1**

Calmly done, Topalov is happy to part with his pawn as the awkward positioning of White's rooks ensures perpetual.

**72.Rd4-b4+** **Kb7-a6**

**73.Rb4-a4+** **Ka6-b5**

**74.Rc3xa3** **Qa1-g1+**

**75.Kg3-f4** **Qg1-c1+**

**76.Kf4-a5** **Qc1-c5+**

**77.Kf5-e4** **Qc5-c2+**

**78.Ke4-e3** **Qc2-c1+**

**79.Ke3-f2** **Qc1-d2+**

**80.Kf2-g3** **Qd2-e1+**

**81.Kg3-f4** **Qe1-c1+**

**82.Kf4-g3** **Qc1-g1+**

**83.Kg3-f4**

1/2-1/2

As I write, the scores are level with one game and possible tie-breaks to come. I shall be reporting on the conclusion in next week's column.

**Michael Adams**



## Anand keeps a cool head to take the title

The Topalov-Anand match came to a sudden and unexpected conclusion as the Indian won the final regulation game to retain his title.

Topalov wasn't at his best at the crucial moment, his sense of danger deserting him. Nonetheless he fought valiantly throughout and was sporting after a tough defeat. Anand held his nerve and showed an impressive ability to tailor his style to his opponent, playing much less sharply than in his match with Kramnik.

**27... Rd7-c7**  
**28.Nb3-a5 Bb7-a8**  
**29.Na5-c4 e6-e5**  
**30.e3-e4 f7-f5**

Anand seizes the opportunity to increase the scope of his most influential piece.

**31.e4xf5**  
This is as suicidal as it looks after 31.Nc4-d2 Black's initiative could be contained.

**31... e5-e4**  
**32.f3xe4**

Consistent, but opening up the light squares proves terminal 32.Ra3-e3 e4xf3+ 33.Kg2-g1 had to be tried.

**32... Qe7xe4+**  
**33.Kg2-h3 Rd8-d4**  
**34.Nc4-e3 Qe4-e8**

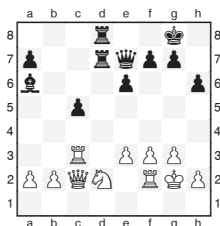
A deadly withdrawal, now White's kingside is opened up.

**35.g3-g4 h6-h5**  
**36.Kh3-h4 g7-g5+**

The other check 36...Qe8-d8+ 37.Kh4xh5 (or 37.f5-f6 h5xg4 38.Ne3xg4 g7xf6) 37...Kg8-f7 was even better.

**37.f5xg6**  
Forced as 37.Kh4xg5 Rc7-g7+ shows the point of Anand's last move.

**37... Qe8xg6**



**Topalov, V - Anand, V**  
World Championship Sofia 2010

**24... Ba6-d3**  
**25.Qc2-c1 Bd3-a6**  
**26.Rc3-a3**

Topalov declines the repetition, but with his draughty king it's clear this is a risky undertaking. However, after 26.Qc1-c2 e6-e5 is another possibility.

**26... Ba6-b7**  
**27.Nd2-b3**

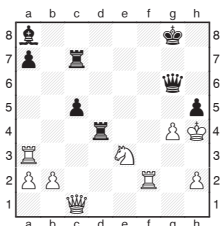
This knight manoeuvre costs a few tempi, 27.e3-e4 aiming to block Black's bishop was better.

**38.Qc1-f1 Rd4xg4+**  
**39.Kh4-h3 Rc7-e7**

Alternatively, 39...Rc7-f7 40.Rf2xf7 Ba8-g2+ forces White to give up his queen as 41.Ne3xg2 Rg4-h4+ 42.Ng2xh4 Qg6-g4 is mate.

**40.Rf2-f8+ Kg8-g7**

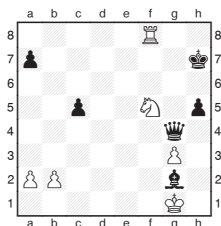
Topalov couldn't even hope for a blunder on the last move of the time control as 40...Kg8-h7 41.Rf8-h8+ Kh7xh8 42.Qf1-f8+ Qg6-g8 43.Qf8xe7 Ba8-g2+



44.Ne3xg2 Qg8-c8 also wins.  
**41.Ne3-f5+ Kg7-h7**  
**42.Ra3-g3**

The rook can't be captured due to the familiar mating pattern: 42.Nf5xe7 Rg4-h4+ 43.Kh3xh4 Qg6-g4 mate.

**42... Rg4xg3+**  
**43.h2xg3 Qg6-g4+**  
**44.Kh3-h2 Re7-e2+**  
**45.Kh2-g1 Re2-g2+**  
**46.Qf1xg2 Ba8xg2**



**47.Kg1xg2**  
Topalov has to fight on without his queen as 47.Rf8-f7+ Kh7-g6 48.Rf7-g7+ Kg6xf5 49.Rg7xg4 h5xg4 50.Kg1xg2 Kf5-e4 51.Kg2-f2 Ke4-d3 leads to a winning king and pawn ending.

**47... Qg4-e2+**  
**48.Kg2-h3 c5-c4**

48...Qe2xb2 was good enough, but Anand plays it super safe maintaining all his pawns.

**49.a2-a4 a7-a5**  
**50.Rf8-f6 Kh7-g8**

Neatly exploiting the instability of White's pieces, 50...Qe2xb2 51.Rf6-h6+ Kh7-g8 52.Rh6xh5 gives White hopes of a miracle save.

**51.Nf5-h6+ Kg8-g7**  
**52.Rf6-b6 Qe2-e4**  
**53.Kh3-h2 Kg7-h7**

Again forcing White to give ground.

**54.Rb6-d6**  
The knight is hobbled as 54.Nh6-f7 Qe4-e2+ 55.Kh2-h3 Qe2-f1+ wins a piece.

**54... Qe4-e5**  
**55.Nh6-f7 Qe5xb2+**  
**56.Kh2-h3 Qb2-g7**  
**0-1**



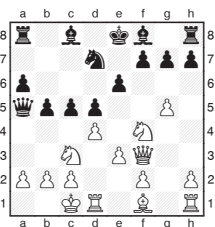
## Michael Adams



### Short held by precocious 15 year-old

Most of the experienced grandmasters in their matches against talented youngsters organised by the Max Euwe foundation completed comfortable victories. However, Nigel Short's pairing was rather tougher, taking on the 15 year-old super talent Anish Giri, winner of the Corus second group last year.

Nigel is no slouch at match play and took the lead in fine style in the third game:



**Short, N - Giri, A**  
Max Euwe Match  
Amsterdam 2010

**11...** **c5xd4**  
The developing move 11...Bc8-b7 keeping lines closed was better.

**12.Nc3xd5**  
Giri had probably only counted on the recapture 12.e3xd4 but taking the other 'd' pawn is much more dangerous.

**12...** **e6xd5**  
It was a better idea to try 12...Qa5xa2 13.Nd5-f6+ (If 13.Nd5-c7+ Ke8-d8 14.Nc7xa8 Bf8-b4 gives Black a winning attack.) 13...g7xf6 14.Qf3xa8 Qa2-a1+ 15.Kc1-d2

Qa1-a5+ 16.Kd2-e2 Qa5-c7 leaves both kings awkwardly situated.

**13.Qf3xd5** **Ra8-a7**  
13...Ra8-b8 is met by the easy to miss and very powerful 14.Bf1-c4 utilising the cross pin.

**14.Bf1-h3** **Bf8-e7**  
The only chance was to go into a huddle with 14...Qa5-d8 15.Qd5xd4 Ra7-c7 although it doesn't inspire confidence.

**15.Qd5xd4** **O-O**  
Now White gets material and the attack, but 15...Ra7-b7 16.Qd4xg7 Rh8-f8 17.Kc1-b1 is pretty wretched.

**16.Nf4-h5** **f7-f6**  
**17.Bh3-e6+** **Kg8-h8**  
**18.Qd4xa7** **Be7-c5**  
**19.Qa7-a8** **Nd7-e5**  
**20.g5x** **g7xf6**  
**21.Qa8-g2** **Ne5-g6**  
**22.Qg2-c6** **Bc5-b4**  
**23.Kc1-b1**  
**1-0**

Giri struck back impressively the next day to share the spoils.



**Giri, A - Short, N**  
Max Euwe Match  
Amsterdam 2010

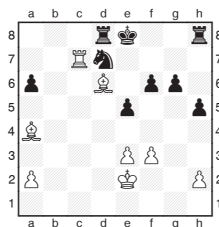
**17.Ba3-d6** **Nc6-d4**  
It looks as though this tactic frees Black's game, but it meets with an audacious response.

**18.c4-c5**  
18.e3xd4 Rd8xd6 19.d4xe5 Rd6xd1+ 20.Ke1xd1 Nf6-d7 gives Black good compensation for the pawn.  
**18...** **b6xc5**  
**19.Rd1xd4** **c5xd4**  
**20.Bf1-b5+** **Nf6-d7**  
**21.Rh1-g1**

Very imaginative play from Giri, Black's knight has been caught in an eternal pin.

**21...** **a7-a6**  
**22.Bb5-a4** **g7-g6**  
**23.Ke1-e2** **f7-f6**  
**24.Rg1-c1** **d4xe3**  
**25.f2xe3** **h7-h5**

If the king makes a break for it 25...Ke8-f7 26.Ba4-b3+ Kf7-g7 27.Rc1-c7 Kg7-h6 28.Bd6-e7 is one way to keep the pressure on.  
**26.Rc1-c7**



**26..** **Rh8-h7**  
The defensive strategy in the game doesn't extricate Black's pieces in time so 26...g6-g5 27.Ke2-d3 g5-g4 aiming for counterplay looks better.

**27.Ke2-d3** **Rh7-e7**  
**28.Kd3-e4** **Ke8-f7**  
**29.Bd6xe7** **Kf7xe7**  
**30.Ke4-d5**

The king arrives just in time to close the net again.

**30...** **f6-f5**  
Now Giri grabs the opportunity to reach a winning ending.  
**31.Rc7xd7+** **Rd8xd7+**  
**32.Ba4xd7** **Ke7xd7**  
**33.Kd5xe5** **Kd7-e7**  
**34.h2-h4** **g6-g5**

A handsome break as 34...Ke7-f7 35.f3-f4 Kf7-e7 36.a2-a4 a6-a5 37.Ke5-d5 wins.

**35.Ke5xf5** **g5xh4**  
**36.Kf5-f4** **Ke7-f6**  
**37.e3-e4** **a6-a5**  
**38.a2-a4** **Kf6-g6**  
**39.Kf4-e3** **Kg6-g5**  
**40.Ke3-f2** **Kg5-f4**  
**41.Kf2-g2**

Nigel resigned as his doubled pawns will shortly be gobbled up by White's king.

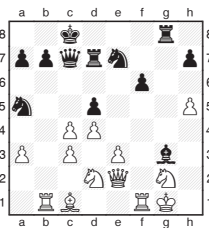
## Michael Adams



## Still winning after 32 years

Keith Arkell was one of the UK's most active and successful players when I was in short trousers and little has changed as he has averaged 10 tournament victories a year throughout his 32-year career.

The game below, where he comes up with a deep attacking concept, is understandably one of his favourites.



**Hodgson, J - Arkell, K**  
Surrey Easter Open 1996

### 21... Ne7-c6

The simple 21...d5xc4 leaves Black with ample play for the pawn, but this is a very intriguing idea.

### 22.c4xd5 Rd7-g7

More fuel is thrown on the fire to line up the heavy artillery opposite White's king.

### 23.Nd2-f3

Hodgson understandably avoids the treacherous 23.d5xc6 Bg3-h2+ 24.Kg1-h1 Rg7xg2 25.c6xb7+ Na5xb7 26.Qe2xg2 Rg8xg2 27.Kh1xg2 Qc7-g3+ 28.Kg2-h1 Bh2-g1 29.Nd2-f3 Bg1-f2 30.Nf3-h2 Qg3-h4 31.Kh1-g2 Qh4-e4+ 32.Kg2xf2 Qe4xb1 which doesn't offer much hope.

### 23... Qc7-f7

Calmly leaving the knight to its fate to bring the queen into the assault.

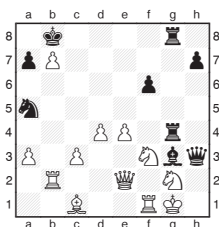
### 24.d5xc6 Qf7xh5

### 25.c6xb7+ Kc8-b8

### 26.Rb1-b2 Qh5-h3

### 27.e3-e4 Rg7-g4

It's important to improve the position of the rook as 27...Na5-c4 28.Qe2xc4 Bg3-h2+ 29.Kg1-f2 Rg7xg2+ 30.Kf2-e1 enables the white king to do a runner.



### 28.e4-e5

This position is rather dire for White, as if Black's knight enters the game, it will not last much longer. A typical line goes 28.Rf1-d1 Na5-c4 29.Rb2-a2 Nc4-d6 30.e4-e5 Nd6-e4. Therefore, 28.d4-d5 looks like the best chance 28...Na5-b3 29.Bc1-e3 Rg4-h4 30.Be3xa7+ (30.Ng2xh4 Bg3-f2+ 31.Kg1xf2 Qh3-g3 mate) 30...Kb8xa7 31.Ng2xh4 Bg3xh4+ 32.Qe2-g2 Rg8xg2+ 33.Rb2xg2 Bh4-g3 34.Rg2-b2 leaves Black with work to do.

### 28... f6xe5

### 29.d4xe5

Surprisingly, moving White's queen away from the king is a more challenging defence; 29.Qe2-a6 Na5-c4 (29...e5-e4 30.Qa6-h6 shows White's dinky defensive resource) 30.Qa6xc4 e5-e4 31.Qc4-f7 Bg3-h2+ 32.Kg1-f2 Qh3xg2+ 33.Kf2-e1 Bh2-g3+ 34.Rf1-f2 Qg2-h1+ 35.Ke1-d2 Bg3-f4+ 36.Kd2-c2 Qh1xc1+

37.Kc2-b3 e4xf3 is winning, but wouldn't be easy to work out.

### 29... Na5-c4

The knight move is now totally decisive.

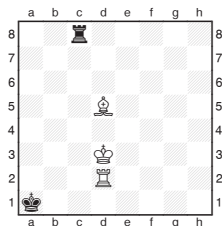
### 30.Rb2-c2 Rg4-h4

A very pretty finish made possible as the flight square on e3 is no longer available to white's king.

### 31.Ng2xh4 Bg3-f2+

### 32.Kg1xf2 Qh3-g3 mate

Arkell has the amazing record of having won the rook and bishop versus rook ending 17 times without a single draw. Here we see another one despite an adjournment break for his opponent to study.



### Arkell, K - Daly, C

Dublin 1993

### 80... Rc8-d8

Pinning the bishop is often correct, but here White's king can dodge out of the way decisively so 80...Ka1-b1 edging away from the corner was better.

### 81.Kd3-c3

Arkell seizes the opportunity and finishes the game in the minimum number of moves.

### 81... Rd8-b8

### 82.Bd5-b3 Rb8-c8+

### 83.Bb3-c4 Rc8-b8

### 84.Rd2-d5

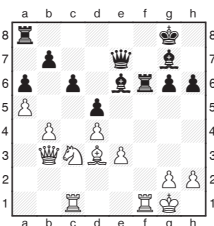
and Black resigned as 84...Rb8-b6 85.Rd5-a5+ Ka1-b1 86.Bc4-d3+ Kb1-c1 87.Ra5-a1+ is mate next go.

**Michael Adams**



## Memorial Day to remember

I was one of 23 grandmasters tackling the Chicago Open held over the Memorial Day weekend. Squeezing nine rated games into four-and-a-half days is a gruelling schedule, best endured by regular US visitor Loek van Wely, who broke away from the field with a finishing spurt of three wins.



**Kacheishvili, G - Van Wely, L**  
Chicago Open 2010

### 20.Nc3-a4

Kacheishvili spies a nice post on c5 for his knight, but the base of his pawn chain proves very sensitive, so it was much better to play 20.Rf1xf6 Qe7xf6 21.Rc1-f1.

**20... Be6-f7**

Defending the weakness on g6 and discovering an attack on e3 at the same time.

**21.Bd3-c2 Ra8-e8**

**22.Rf1xf6**

Desperate measures are required as 22.Rf1-e1 Rf6-e6 23.Kg1-f2 Bg7xd4 wins.

**22... Bg7xf6**

**23.Kg1-f2 Bf6-g5**

**24.Rc1-e1 Qe7-f6+**

**25.Kf2-g1**

White seems to have everything covered now, but

he is undone by a blazing tactical finale.

**25... Bg5xe3+**

**26.Re1xe3 Qf6xd4**

**27.Kg1-f2 Qd4-d2+**

**28.Kf2-f3 Re8-f8**

**29.Kf3-g3 d5-d4**

Yet another discovery keeps the momentum rolling.

**30.Re3-e6 Qd2-g5+**

**31.Kg3-h3 Qg5-h5+**

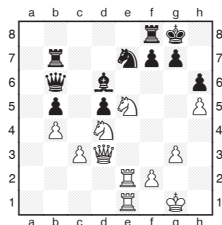
Cruel, the repetition rubs in the hopeless nature of White's position.

**32.Kh3-g3 Qh5-g5+**

**33.Kg3-h3 h6-h5**

White resigned, as with his pieces hopelessly scrambled, he can't defend, if 34.Bc2-d1 Qg5-f5+ picks up the rook.

I also finished well with a couple of wins to end up in a tie for second. The game below was a happy way to conclude the event.



**Adams, M - Akobian, V**  
Chicago Open 2010

**27... Rf8-c8**

Black's position is rather horrible, but if he kept on waiting with 27...Qb6-a6 it wouldn't be easy to win the game. Now a tactical opportunity arises.

**28.Ne5xf7 Kg8xf7**

**29.Re2xe7+ Bd6xe7**

**30.Qd3-f5+**

The loose rook on c8 is collected, regaining the material with interest.

**30... Be7-f6**

**31.Qf5xc8**

The simple capture is more than good enough, although, 31.Qf5xd5+ Kf7-f8 32.Nd4-e6+ Kf8-e8 33.Ne6xg7+ Ke8-f8 34.Ng7-e6+ Kf8-e8

35.Ne6-c5+ is also very strong.

**31... Rb7-e7**

**32.Re1xe7+ Kf7xe7**

If 32...Bf6xe7 33.Qc8-f5+ wins a couple more pawns.

**33.Nd4-f5+ Ke7-f7**

**34.Qc8-d7+ Kf7-g8**

**35.Qd7-e8+**

Even better than 35.Qd7xd5+.

**35... Kg8-h7**

**36.Qe8-g6+ Kh7-h8**

**37.Nf5xg7**

The cross pin enables my knight to decimate Akobian's Kingside pawns.

**37... Qb6-a6**

**38.Ng7-f5 Qa6-a1+**

**39.Kg1-g2 Qa1xc3**

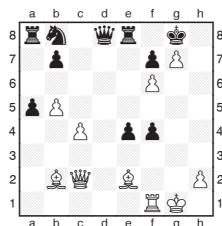
**40.Qg6-e8+**

Many moves suffice, but this is the most precise.

**40... Kh8-h7**

**41.Qe8-f7+**

Black resigned as 41...Kh7-h8 (or 41...Bf6-g7 42.Nf5-e7) 42.Nf5xh6 is terminal.



**Sarkar, J - Fridman, D**  
Chicago Open 2010

**22... Qd8-c7**

After 22...f4-f3 matters remain unclear, 23.Be2xf3 e4xf3 24.Rf1xf3 Qd8-c8 25.Qc2-d3 Qc8-g4+ 26.Rf3-g3 Qg4-h5 27.Rg3-h3 Qh5-g4+ leads to a draw.

**23.Qc2-c1 e4-e3**

The only chance was 23...Qc7-d7 24.Rf1xf4 Qd7-h3, although Black remains under the cosh.

**24.Qc1-e1**

Black resigned as there is no way to impede White's queen path to the kingside where it will deliver mate via h4.

## Michael Adams



## Imaginative master-class in Malmo

Anish Giri won the Sigeman & Co event in Malmo, amassing 4.5/5 in fine style, and gets stronger by the day.

invention has rebounded as his position out of the opening looks decidedly dismal. Giri starts with an imaginative knight sacrifice. Although he only collects one pawn, he gains a superb outpost for his knight and White's coordination is completely destroyed.

**17... Nh5-f4**  
**18.e3xf4 Ne6xf4**  
**19.Qe2-f1**

I think White had to play 19.Qe2-h2 as 19...Rh8xh4 can be met by 20.Bh3-d7+. Giri would probably have continued 19...a5-a4.

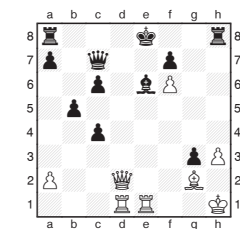
**19... Rh8xh4**  
**20.Nd1-f2 a5-a4**

Levering open the queenside turns the screws.

**21.b3-b4**  
Another error. Now the scope of White's pieces is fatally reduced; 21.Ra1-b1 Qd8-a5 was the only chance.

**21... a4-a3**  
**22.Bb2-c1 d4-d3**

The duo of pawns on the sixth cut White's position in two.

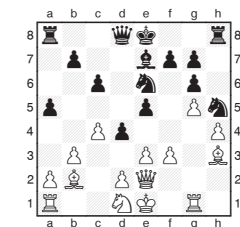
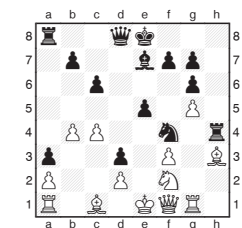


**Giri, A - Grandelius, N**  
Sigeman & Co, Malmo, 2010

Black's extra pawns don't compensate for his king, which is stranded in the centre.

**30.Qd2-g5 Rh8-f8**  
If 30...Ra8-c8 31.Qg5-g7 Rh8-f8 32.Bg2-f3 sets up the killer threat of Re1xe6+ followed by Bf3-h5+. Now Giri gives mate by force.

**31.Re1xe6+ f7xe6**  
**32.Qg5-g6+ Qc7-f7**  
**33.Bg2xc6**  
**mate**



**Hillarp Persson, T - Giri, A**  
Sigeman & Co, Malmo, 2010

Tiger Hillarp Persson is an original player, but here his

**23.Ra1-b1**  
If 23.Rg1-g4 Rh4xg4 24.Nf2xg4 Be7xg5 White's forces remain hopelessly boxed in.

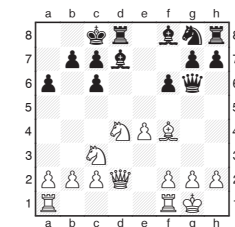
**23... Qd8-d4**  
**24.Rg1-h1 Qd4xc4**  
**25.Bh3-d7+ Ke8xd7**  
**26.Rh1xh4 Qc4xa2**

Unfortunately, White's rook has absolutely nowhere to run to.

**27.Rh4xf4 Qa2xb1**  
**28.Rf4xf7 Qb1xc1+**  
**29.Nf2-d1 Qc1-c4**  
**O-1**

An impressive piece of strategically controlled play.

We finish with a truly spectacular move from the annual ACP rapid event held in the Ukraine.



**Jakovenko, D - Inarkiev, E**  
ACP Rapid, Odessa, 2010

**12.Nc3-b5**  
A real bolt from the blue, Black had the b5 square well-covered, but this enables White to get at the vulnerable dark squares and make inroads into Inarkiev's apparently secure king position.

**12... c6xb5**  
The other capture is impossible, as after 12...a6xb5 13.Qd2-a5 the twin threats of Qa5-a8 mate and Qa5xc7 mate can't be adequately met.

**13.Qd2-c3 Bd7-c6**  
If 13...c7-c6 14.Qc3-a5 Black's Swiss cheese pawn structure isn't very effective at preventing Qa5-c7 mate.

**14.Nd4xc6 b7xc6**  
It was better to try 14...Rd8-d7 15.Ra1-d1 Qg6-g4 16.Rd1xd7 Qg4xd7 17.Nc6-d4, although White's initiative is still considerable.

**15.Qc3xc6 Bf8-d6**  
**16.Ra1-d1 Qg6-e8**  
The queen must withdraw, as 16...Ng8-e7 17.Qc6xa6+ Kc8-d7 18.Bf4xd6 c7xd6 19.Qa6xd6+ is decisive.

**17.Rd1xd6 Qe8xc6**  
**18.Rd6xc6 Rd8-d7**  
**19.Rc6xa6 Kc8-b7**  
**20.Ra6-a5 c7-c6**

And Jakovenko had no problems converting his extra pawns into the full point, although he later lost out in the final to Sergey Karjakin.

## Michael Adams



### A variation of my own!

Having a chess opening named after you is an honour which, given my theoretical prowess, has not surprisingly eluded me thus far.

However, in *Understanding the Marshall Gambit* by David Vigorito from [www.gambitbooks.com](http://www.gambitbooks.com), the author is, as far as I know, the first person to dub one line the Adams Variation. Regrettably this is not anything to be very proud of as my ingenious invention was down to my substandard memory: I mixed up the move order in a surprisingly positive way, as Vigorito explains.

the players meandered outside while the problem was fixed and sat back to enjoy the afternoon sun. Ivanchuk, however, was pacing up and down furiously with a furrowed brow and I became more optimistic about my unintended deviation.

#### 18.Nd2-f1

18.a2-a4 is a more popular continuation these days.

#### 18... Re8-e6 19.Bb3-d1

With the pressure on the light-square diagonal removed, I get a strong initiative going.

#### 19... f7-f5 20.Bd1xg4 Qh5xg4 21.Be3-d2 Re6-g6 22.Kg1 f5-f4 23.f2-f3 Qg4-h5 24.g3-g4 Qh5-h4

Now the kingside pawns have been drawn forward, they are vulnerable to sacrificial attack.

#### 25.Re1-e2 Rg6xg4+ 26.f3xg4 f4-f3+ 27.Kg2-h1

27.Qd3xf3 Rf8xf3  
28.Kg2xf3 Nd5-f6 leaves White's king leading the line, which is rarely a healthy situation.

#### 27... f3xe2 28.Qd3xe2 Kg8-h8 29.Kh1-g1 h7-h6 30.Qe2-g2

30.Bd2-e1 Qh4-g5  
31.Be1-g3 looks like a better defensive try.

#### 30... Bd6-f4 31.Bd2-e1 Qh4-g5 32.h2-h3 Qg5-g6 33.Ra1-d1 Bf4-b8

Ivanchuk can't cover all the entry squares and things quickly go downhill.

#### 34.Rd1-d2 Qg6-b1 35.Be1-f2 Kh8-g8

Despite the large amount of material remaining on the board, White is move bound and he is forced to weaken his queenside pawns, leading to total collapse.

#### 36.b2-b3 Bb8-f4 37.Rd2-e2 Nd5xc3 38.Re2-e6 Qb1xa2 39.Re6xc6 Qa2xb3 40.Rc6xa6 Nc3-e2+ 41.Kg1-h1 Bf4-b8

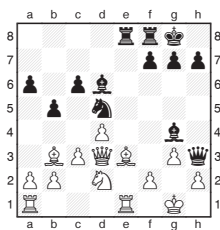
The bishop withdraws again and the threat of Ne2-f4 finishes the game.

#### 42.Bf2-e1 Qb3-d1 0-1

The book is a good summary of existing theory, and the author has taken care to track down often overlooked, but sometimes theoretically crucial, correspondence games, and importantly there is a decent-sized section on Anti Marshall lines that often crop up in practice.

The high-quality *Grandmaster Repertoire* series has taken this format to a completely different level. The recently published Volume Two of Avrukh's 1.d4 concludes the work begun in style in his first book. Marin's *The English Opening Volume One* is also a very classy production: the two further volumes on this system due out next month are eagerly awaited.

The [www.qualitychess.co.uk](http://www.qualitychess.co.uk) website also does an innovative job of bridging the divide between old and new media with updates to their books, chats with authors, and responses to analytical queries published online.



#### Ivanchuk, V - Adams, M Terrassa 1991

#### 17... Qh3-h5

This move, instead of the common 17...Re8-e6 followed by withdrawing the queen next, inspired by the aforementioned memory lapse, made an immediate impression on Vasily, who had been moving at warp speed and now sank into thought.

Oddly, shortly afterward the lights went down in the playing hall, and