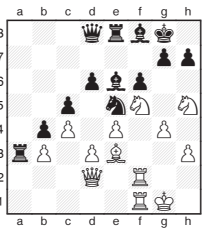


Michael Adams



Sadler's surprise comeback

Matthew Sadler's playing days had seemed to be behind him, but he has been back behind the board for a couple of outings this year and with impressive results. First he won a rapid event in Wageningen with a 100 per cent score and he continued his comeback with some stylish victories en route to winning a weekend tournament in Haarlem.



Sadler, M - Kravtsov, M
Haarlem 2010

With all his pieces massed on the kingside, Matthew decides it is time for action and leaves the queenside to its fate.

32.g4-g5 **Be6-f7**

Black should have grabbed the pawn after 32...Ra3xb3 33.g5xf6 g7-g6 34.f6-f7+ Ne5xf7 35.Nf5-h6+ Bf8xh6 36.Nh5-f6+ Kg8-h8 37.Be3xh6 Re8-e7 the position looks bad, but there is no immediate knockout. If the rook continues harvesting pawns 33...Rb3xd3 34.f6xg7 Bf8xg7 (34...Rd3xd2 35.Nf5-h6 is a nice mate) 35.Qd2-e2 keeps the pressure on.

33.Nf5-h6+ **g7xh6**

The only hope was to try

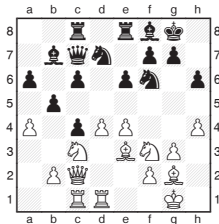
and keep lines closed with 33...Kg8-h8 34.Nh6xf7+ Ne5xf7 35.g5xf6 g7-g6.

34.Nh5xf6+ **Kg8-h8**
35.Nf6xe8 **Qd8xe8**
36.d3-d4

Undermining Black's knight, which was holding his position together, leads to carnage.

36... **c5xd4**
37.Be3xd4 **Bf8-g7**
38.g5xh6 **Ra3xb3**
39.h6xg7+ **Kh8-g8**
40.Qd2-g5 **h7-h6**
41.Qg5xh6 **Rb3-g3+**
42.Rf2-g2
1-0

On the other side of the Atlantic, Viktor Laznicka took first prize in the World Open in Philadelphia. Here we see him solidly soaking up Surya Ganguly's aggressive gestures before gradually taking over the board.



Ganguly, S - Laznicka, V
World Open 2010

17.h4-h5 **e6-e5**

If 17...Nf6xh5 18.e4-e5 embarrasses the knight, so Laznicka counters in the centre.

18.d4xe5 **Nd7xe5**
19.Nf3xe5 **Qc7xe5**
20.Be3-d4 **Qe5xh5**
21.Bd4xf6 **g7xf6**
22.Rd1-d7

22.Nc3-e2 routing the knight for the f5 square was better.

22... **Re8-e7**
23.Rc1-d1 **Rc8-e8**
24.Nc3-e2 **Qh5-e5**

Black calmly improves his pieces emphasizing White's lack of compensation for the material.
25.Ne2-f4 **Re7xd7**

26.Rd1xd7 **Bb7-c8**

The passively-placed bishop relocates to a more promising post.

27.Rd7-d1 **Bc8-g4**
28.Rd1-a1 **Re8-d8**

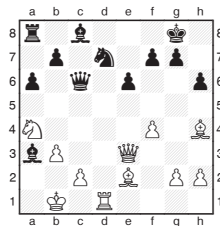
Now Black takes over the open central file that was once firmly in Ganguly's grip.

29.a4xb5 **a6xb5**
30.Ra1-a6 **Bf8-b4**

White resigned as

31.Ra6xc6 Rd8-d2
32.Qc2-c1 Rd2-d1+ wins White's queen.

We finish with a magical variation that never saw the light of day.



Kasimdzhanov, R - Sanikidze, T
Konya 2010

The game continued:

22... **Qc6xg2**
23.Bh4-g3 **Qg2-c6**
24.f4-f5

With good compensation for the material, Kasimdzhanov later won.

However he had calculated a beautiful variation, if Black tries 22...b7-b5 instead, 23.Be2-f3 Qc6-c7 24.f4-f5 (24.Bf3xa8 b5xa4 allows Black to take the initiative.) 24...b5xa4 25.f5xe6 a4xb3 26.c2xb3 Ra8-b8 27.e6xf7+ Kg8-h8 (27...Kg8-h7 28.Bf3-e4+ g7-g6 29.Be4xg6+ Kh7xg6 30.Qe3-e4+ Kg6-g7 31.Qe4-g4+ Kg7xf7 32.Rd1-f1+ is also decisive) 28.Rd1xd7 Bc8xd7 29.Qe3xh6+ g7xh6 30.Bh4-f6+ Kh8-h7 31.Bf3-e4+ Bd7-f5 32.Be4xf5 mate a very picturesque finish.