

**Michael Adams**



## Double triumph for France's first couple

Laurent Fressinet was a popular winner of the French Championship when he defeated Romain Edouard in a tie-break. It was quite an unusual double whammy as his wife Almira Skripchenko won the women's event at a canter.

Laurent, who won the title for the first time, is in impressive form in the game below and his opponent is methodically rolled off the board, showing the importance of central control.

14...Nc6-a5 continuing to manoeuvre before opening the game was better.

**15.d4xe5 Nc6xe5**  
**16.Bd2-c3 Ne5-c4**

After 16...Bd7-g4 17.h2-h3 Bg4xf3 18.Bg2xf3 there are still some problems to solve.

**17.Bc3xg7 Kg8xg7**  
**18.Nb5-a3**

A very strong move, challenging Black's best-placed piece.

**18... Nc4-e5**

Exchanging looks logical: 18...Nc4xa3 19.b2xa3 Bd7-c6 20.Ra1-c1, but then White's pieces are perfectly placed.

**19.Nf3xe5 Re8xe5**  
**20.Qe2-d2**

Another piece switches to the 'd' line and the dark squares on Black's kingside start to feel the strain.

**20... Bd7-e6**

This blocks off the rook's retreat, but 20...Kg7-g8 21.Ra1-c1 is also no bargain.

**21.Ra1-c1 f7-f6**  
**22.f2-f4 Re5-a5**

The doubled rooks bite on granite, in sharp contrast to White's, which radiate power.

doesn't have to take on f6 immediately: 26.Rd1-d4 would turn the screws.

**26.Qe7xb7 Qf8-b4**

Black had a slightly better practical chance in 26...Ra8-b8 27.Qb7xc6 Ra5-a7 now his queenside collapses.

**27.Rc1xc6 Qb4xb2**  
**28.Qb7xb6 Qb2xa3**  
**29.Rc6-c7**

There is no way to cover the exposed second rank.

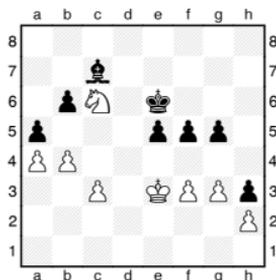
**29... Qa3xa2**  
**30.Rd1-d7 a4-a3**  
**31.e4-e5**

The most efficient, introducing new threats all round the board.

**31... Ra8-a6**

31...Qa2-a1+ is easily met by 32.Bg2-f1.

**32.Qb6-b7 Kg7-h6**  
**33.Rd7xf7**  
**1-0**



**Hamdouchi, H - Bricard, E**  
French Championship  
Belfort 2010

**39... b6-b5**

This neat device creates another passed pawn and overloads White's blockaders.

**40.a4xb5 a5-a4**  
**41.Ke3-d2 Ke6-d7**

The king drops back out of checking range.

**42.c3-c4 a4-a3**  
**43.Kd2-c2 e5-e4**  
**44.f3xe4 f5xe4**  
**45.Nc6-d4 Bc7xg3**

The first two pawns had been covered, but now a third and decisive passer is created.

**46.Nd4-b3 Bg3xh2**  
**47.Nb3-c5+ Kd7-c8**  
**48.Nc5xe4 Bh2-e5**  
**0-1**

**Fressinet, L - Cornette, M**  
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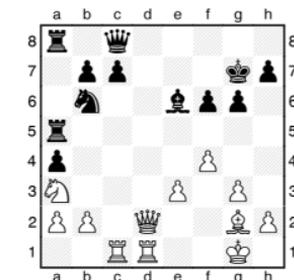
**12.Re1-d1**

A key prophylactic rook-move, preventing Black from freeing his game with the e7-e5 break. This position was also reached in the game Diamant - Howell featured in my column last year.

**12... Bc8-d7**  
**13.Bc1-d2 Qd8-c8**

The queen has to move to an uncomfortable post to escape the rook's menacing glare.

**14.Nc3-b5 e7-e5**



**23.Qd2-b4**

The queen glides forward targeting another weak dark square on e7.

**23... Be6-f7**

The king can't defend due to 23...Kg7-f7 24.Na3-b5.

**24.Qb4-e7**

Now 24.Na3-b5 c7-c6 25.Nb5-d6 Qc8-c7 is not so deadly.

**24... c7-c6**  
**25.e3-e4 Qc8-f8**

After 25...Kg7-g8, Laurent