

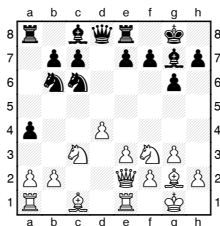
Michael Adams



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.



Fressinet, L - Cornette, M
French Championship
Belfort 2010

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**

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.

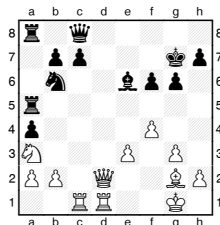
20... **Bd7-e6**

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.



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

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**

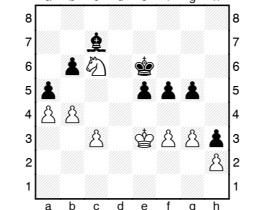
31.e4-e5

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 blockers.

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