

Michael Adams



Hit for six by Svidler

Austerity measures have also hit Russia, as this year's Championship was comprised of only eight players and seven rounds. Despite this reduced field, Peter Svidler secured his record-breaking sixth title. An awesome achievement, proving that sometimes nice guys finish first.

P. Svidler - A. Galkin
Moscow 2011

1.e2-e4 c7-c6
2.d2-d4 d7-d5
3.e4-e5 Bc8-f5
4.h2-h4 h7-h5
5.c2-c4
After White's attempts to expand on the kingside are blocked, he initiates play in the centre.

5... e7-e6
6.Nb1-c3 Bf8-e7
Galkin goes for quick development, but now the bishop will impede his knight, which often comes to this square instead:
6...Ng8-e7.

7.Ng1-e2 Ng8-h6
After **7...Be7xh4 8.Qd1-b3**, there are problems on the queenside.

8.Ne2-g3 g7-g6
Black gradually drifts into passivity. Perhaps **8...Bf5-g6 9.Ng3xh5 Nh6-f5** was worth a try.

9.Bc1-f4 Ke8-f8
9...Be7xh4 10.Qd1-d2 leaves the knight in trouble. If **10...Bh4xg3 11.Bf4xg3** gives good compensation for the pawn.

10.Qd1-d2 Kf8-g7

11.Bf4-g5
A key move, clamping down on any activity.

11... a7-a6
12.Bf1-e2 Nb8-d7
13.O-O d5xc4
14.Be2xc4 Be7xg5
15.h4xg5

The exchange of bishops is helpful for Peter as he annexes more space, but it is very hard for black to avoid making the swap.

15... Nh6-g8



16.Ng3-e4
Stronger than **16.Ng3xf5+ g6xf5** when the e4 square is under control and the king's knight can transfer to g6.

16... Bf5xe4
17.Nc3xe4 Ng8-e7
Black has eased the pressure with exchanges a little, but the f6 outpost for White's knight is rather monstrous.

18.Ra1-d1 Ne7-f5
19.Ne4-f6 Qd8-e7
Black decides not to take the knight immediately, creating a pawn chain.

20.Qd2-a5 Rh8-d8
21.Rf1-e1 Nd7-f8
22.Qa5-b6 Ra8-c8
23.Bc4-b3 Nf8-h7
24.f2-f4 Qe7-c7
25.Qb6-c5 Nh7xf6

Black decides to make the exchange, but he should have waited a bit longer. Now White's position looks strategically winning.

26.g5xf6+ Kg7-h7
27.Kg1-h2 Nf5-h6
28.Rd1-d2 Rd8-d7
29.Bb3-d1 Qc7-d8
30.Bd1-f3

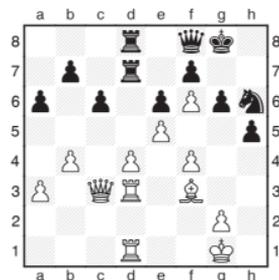
White could immediately open the kingside with **30.g2-g4**, but first he improves all his other pieces further.

30... Qd8-f8
31.Qc5-c3 Rc8-d8
32.Re1-d1 Kh7-g8
33.Kh2-g1 Kg8-h7
34.b2-b4

Advancing on the queenside to take the sting out of the c6-c5 possibility is a nice touch.

34... Kh7-g8
35.a2-a3 Kg8-h7
36.Rd2-d3 Kh7-g8

The same breakthrough occurs after **36...Kh7-h8 37.Bf3xh5 g6xh5 38.Rd3-h3** when Black is helpless. **36...a6-a5** was the best attempt at distraction, although White can simply capture the pawn.



37.Bf3xh5 Nh6-f5
The bishop can't be captured: **37...g6xh5 38.Rd3-h3 b7-b6 (38... Kg8-h7 39.Rh3xh5 or 38...Nh6-f5 39.Rh3xh5) 39.Rh3xh5 c6-c5 40.Qc3-h3 Kg8-h7 41.Rd1-d3 Rd7xd4 42.Rd3-g3** but now the end is nigh.

38.Bh5-g4 Qf8-h6
39.Bg4xf5 e6xf5
40.Rd1-f1 Qh6-h4
41.Rd3-h3 Qh4-g4
42.e5-e6

A neat finish **42.Qc3-e1 Rd7xd4 43.e5-e6 Rd4-e4 44.e6-e7** also suffices, but this is more precise.

42... f7xe6
43.Qc3-e1
Black resigned as **43...Kg8-f7 44.Rh3-h4** traps the queen.