

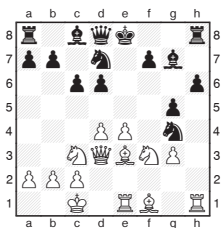
Michael Adams



Classic play by McShane

Luke McShane was the star local player at the London Chess Classic, although he had played little in the months leading up to the event. Instead of spending hours locked away with ChessBase, his day job as a trader proved to be good preparation.

In the game below, he defuses White's compensation in a complex position arising from the King's Gambit.



N. Short - L. McShane
London 2011

12.e4-e5

Nigel could have waited for Luke to commit his king with 12.Be3-g1 or 12.Kc1-b1

12... d6xe5

13.Bf1-h3

The simple recapture 13.d4xe5 seems to pose more problems.

13... Ng4xe3

14.Rc1xe3

Black's king evacuates the centre with perfect timing, leaving White grasping at air.

15.Nc3-e4

White is also short on compensation after 15.d4xe5 Nd7-c5 16.Qd3-c4 Qd8-b6.

15... Nd7-f6

Sensibly exchanging pieces, rather than allowing the murky 15...e5xd4 16.Ne4xg5.

16.Bh3xc8

16.Ne4xf6+ Qd8xf6 17.d4xe5 Qf6-g6 doesn't look convincing, but this allows a powerful intermezzo.

16... e5xd4

17.Bc8xb7

Hoping to complicate matters, but the rather dismal 17.Nf3xd4 Nf6xe4 18.Re3xe4 Ra8xc8 19.Nd4-f5 Qd8xd3 20.c2xd3 Rc8-e8 gives White more chances to save the game.

17... d4xe3

18.Bb7xa8 Nf6xe4

19.Qd3xe4 Qd8-b6

One of several good options.

20.Nf3-e5

After 20.c2-c3 Rf8xa8 21.Nf3-d4 Ra8-b8 22.Rh1-h2 Bg7xd4 23.c3xd4 c6-c5, White's king starts to feel the heat.

20... Rf8xa8

21.Qe4xc6 Qb6xc6

Luke makes the technical phase look easy by keeping it simple.

22.Ne5xc6 Ra8-e8

23.c2-c3 Re8-e6

24.Nc6xa7

The better 24.Nc6-d4 Bg7xd4 25.c3xd4 Re6-e4 leads to a technical win.

24... Bg7-e5

Now White will have to part with his rook to stop the pawn.

25.Na7-b5

25.Kc1-d1 Be5-b8 wins the knight. All that remains is the enjoyable task of pushing the kingside pawns forward.

25... e3-e2

26.Kc1-d2 Be5xg3

27.Rh1-e1 Bg3xe1+

28.Kd2xe1 h6-h5

29.Nb5-d4 Re6-a6

30.a2-a3 h5-h4

31.Ke1xe2 g5-g4

32.c3-c4 h4-h3

33.Ke2-f2 h3-h2

34.Kf2-g2 Ra6-h6

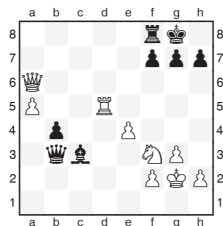
35.Kg2-h1 g4-g3

36.Nd4-f5 g3-g2+

0-1

Vladimir Kramnik deservedly won the event, ruthlessly converting all the

opportunities that came his way.



V. Kramnik - D. Howell
London 2011

29...

30.Qa6-b7

Both sides get ready to advance their pawns.

30... b4-b3

31.a5-a6 b3-b2

32.Rd5-b5 Qc2-a4

33.a6-a7 h7-h6

34.e4-e5

With both sides having reached an impasse on the queenside, Vlad calmly improves his position on the other side of the board.

34... Kg8-h7

35.Rb5-b3 Qa4-a2

36.h2-h4 Kh7-g8

37.h4-h5 Qa2-a5

38.Qb7-b8

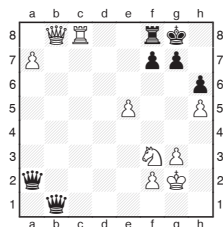
38.Qb7-d7, intending 38...Qa5-a2 39.Rb3-b8 was even better, but near the time control, this proves decisive.

38... Qa5-a2

39.Rb3xc3 b2-b1Q

40.Rc3-c8

1-0



Vlad is well in control. Although his opponent has two queens, the game ended here. David could have tried: 40...Qb1-f1+ 41.Kg2xf1 Qa2-a6+ 42.Kf1-g2 Rf8xc8 43.Nf3-d4 Kg8-h7 44.Kg2-h2 Rc8-g8 45.Nd4-f5, although White should still win.