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Blitz match guarantees a fast start

The organisers of the Tal Memorial in Moscow introduced a clever innovation by replacing the drawing of lots with a blitz tournament.

This seems quite logical as the advantage of the extra White due to the odd number of rounds goes to the players who prove adept at the fastest form of the game.

16.h2-h3

16.Ba3xb4 a5xb4 17.h2-h3 Bg7xd4 18.h3xg4 Bd4xa1 was the last chance to resist.

16...

17.Nc2xd4

18.Kf1-e2

19.Ra1xd1

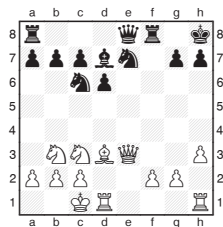
Qc5xd4

Ng4-e3+

Ne3xd1

Bg7xd4

and Luke resigned a few moves later.



T. Radjabov - E. Tomashevsky
Tal Memorial, 2012

In this game the position appears balanced, but White has a clear-cut long-term plan of advancing his pawns on the kingside, while Black finds it more difficult to strengthen his position.

15.f2-f4

16.Rh1-f1

17.Qe3-d2

18.Bd3-e4

19.Rd1-e1

20.Nc3xe4

21.a2-a3

I prefer 21...Nb4-d5. The knight is not happy on c6.

22.Qd2-c3

White keeps some initiative after 22...Qc4xc3 23.Ne4xc3 a7-a6 24.g2-g4, but Black should definitely grab the opportunity to swap queens.

23.Nb3-d2

24.g2-g4

25.Qc3-d3

This queen nudge leaves Black's forces tied in knots.

25... b7-b5

25...Qd5-a2 26.Nd2-b3

Nd4xb3+ 27.c2xb3 shuts in the queen.

26.Kc1-b1

27.a3-a4

28.Nd2-b3

28...Re8-e6 prevents immediate disaster.

29.Ne4-d2

This retreat wins immediately, the knight cannot be saved

29... Re7xe1+

Or 29...Rf8-e8 30.Re1xe7

Re8xe7 31.Nd2-f3 Re7-e4

32.Rf1-d1.

30.Rf1xe1 g7-g5

31.f4-f5

Black resigned as 31...Kh8-g7 32.Re1-e4 wraps up.

M. Carlsen - T. Radjabov
Tal Memorial Blitz, 2012

Black's position looks solid enough, but Carlsen spots that by swapping dark-squared bishops he will open up entry spots into Black's position.

16.Qd1-e1

17.Be3-f2

I think Black should have crossed White's plan with 17...h5-h4.

18.Bc2-b1

19.Bf2-h4

20.Qe1xh4

21.Qh4-f2

22.Bb1-c2

23.b2-b3

24.a2-a4

It was better to play 24...a6-a5 not committing his king. Now it is a static target and Carlsen with a few brutal blows causes fatal damage.

25.Ra1-e1

25...b7-b5 keeping the bishop on defensive duty was better.

26.f4-f5

27.Nd4xf5

Radjabov was probably anticipating 27.Bc2xf5 Rc8-e8.

27...

28.Qf2-g3+

Black resigned as 28...Kg8-h8 29.Rf1xf5 soon forces mate.

Ra8-c8

Bd7-a4

Ba4-d7

Be7xh4

Qc7-d8

Qd8-e7

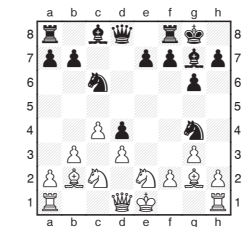
Bd7-a4

Ba4-d7

0-0

Bd7-c6

g6xf5



L. McShane - A. Grischuk
Tal Memorial Blitz, 2012

11... Qd8-a5+

12.Ke1-f1

Things have already gone awry, but 12.b3-b4 Nc6xb4 13.0-0 getting the king to safety was a better practical try.

12... Qa5-f5

13.f2-f4

13.Ne2-f4 e7-e5 14.Bg2-e4 Qf5-f6 was a little better.

13... Nc6-b4

A very strong move, to which there is no good defence.

14.Ne2xd4

The knights run riot, 14.Nc2xb4 Ng4-e3+ wins the queen and 14.Kf1-g1 Ng4-f2 15.Kg1xf2 Nb4xd3+ picks up the bishop with tempo.

14... Qf5-c5

15.Bb2-a3

a7-a5