

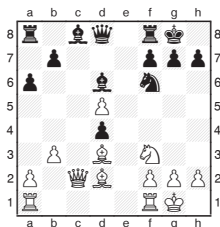
Michael Adams



US outshines World event

The World Championship match has got off to a tentative start. With both participants having a plethora of top-class GMs on their backroom staff, there has been a duel of excellent preparation in the first six games.

The players have had little chance to demonstrate their playing strengths, prompting further questions about the suitability of the match format in the computer age. The information overload in chess was emphasised by the fact that game four saw Viswanathan Anand and Boris Gelfand testing a variation that was centre stage in a more entertaining but less accurately played encounter in the US Championships only days before:



G. Kaidanov - R. Hess
US Champs St Louis 2012

15.Ra1-e1

Two days later Gelfand tried 15.h2-h3 but the World Championship game petered out to a draw after: 15...Bc8-d7 16.Ra1-d1 Rf8-e8 17.Nf3xd4 Ra8-c8 18.Qc2-b1 h7-h6 19.Nd4-f5 Bd7xf5 20.Bd3xf5 Rc8-c5 21.Rf1-e1 Rc5xd5 22.Bd2-c3 Re8xe1+ 23.Rd1xe1 Bd6-c5 24.Qb1-c2 Bc5-d4 25.Bc3xd4 Rd5xd4 26.Qc2-c8 g7-g6 27.Bf5-g4

h6-h5 28.Qc8xd8+ Rd4xd8 29.Bg4-f3 b7-b6 30.Re1-c1 Rd8-d6 31.Kg1-f1 a6-a5 32.Kf1-e2 Nf6-d5 33.g2-g3 Nd5-e7 34.Bf3-e4 Kg8-g7. Kaidanov's less careful continuation allows Black's forces to spring into action.

15... Bc8-g4
16.Nf3xd4 Ra8-c8
17.Qc2-b1 Rc8-c5
18.Bd2-g5

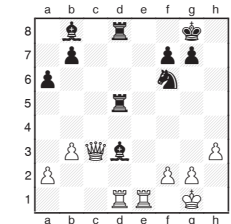
White should have settled for 18.h2-h3 Rc5xd5 19.Bd2-e3, now his pieces become destabilised.

18... Rc5xd5
19.Bd3xh7+ Kg8-h8
20.Nd4-f5 Nf6xh7
20...g7-g6 was also good.

21.Bg5xd8 Bg4xf5
22.Qb1-c1 Rf8xd8

The queen has no targets in Black's compact position and the influential bishop pair allows the pieces to gradually take over the board.

23.Re1-d1 Bf5-d3
24.Rf1-e1 Kh8-g8
25.Qc1-c3 Nh7-f6
26.h2-h3 Bd6-b8



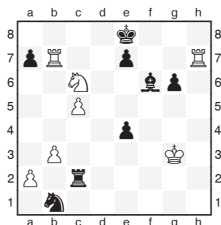
27.Re1-e3
27.Qc3-b4 was a better try.

27... Bd3-b5
28.Rd1xd5 Nf6xd5
29.Qc3-d4 Bb8-c7
30.Re3-e1 Nd5-f4
31.Qd4-a1
31.Qd4-e3 Bb5-c6 32.f2-f3 had to be tried.

31... Bc7-b6
32.Re1-d1 Bb6-d4
32...Rd8-e8 was tempting.

33.Qa1-b1 Bb5-d3
0-1

The US event has created great excitement, as Hikaru Nakamura and Gata Kamsky have cut a swathe through the strong field in their battle for overall supremacy.

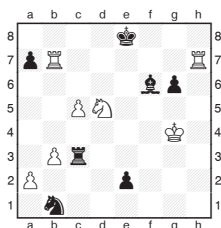


H. Nakamura - R. Robson
US Champs St Louis 2012

40... Rc2-c3+
Black could have kept fighting by bringing his knight back into the game with 40...Nb1-c3, but errs on the notorious 40th move.

41.Kg3-g4 e4-e3
42.Nc6xe7
42.Nc6-e5 also wins but this is rather beautiful.

42... e3-e2
43.Ne7-d5
Despite Black's considerable resources he can't evade the mating net.



43... Rc3-g3+
44.Kg4-f4 Bf6-g5+
45.Kf4-e5 e2-e1Q+
46.Ke5-d6 Bg5-f4+
46...Bg5-e7+ 47.Rh7xe7+ Qe1xe7+ 48.Rb7xe7+ Ke8-f8 49.c5-c6 wins easily.

47.Nd5xf4 Rg3-d3+
47...Qe1-d2+ 48.Nf4-d5 again leaves White's monarch completely secure.

48. Nf4xd3 Qe1-g3+
49.Nd3-e5 1-0