

Michael Adams

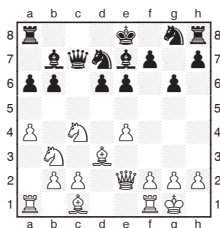


Kasparov and Short give fans a treat

It was a rare treat for English chess fans to see both Karpov and Kasparov in London to promote the former's campaign to become FIDE president, a bid which is widely supported here.

In the evening they adjourned to Simpsons for a special Staunton Memorial dinner, sponsored by Darwin Strategic. This glamorous event was ably organised by the ECF president C J de Mooi as roast beef and glasses of champagne were consumed alongside blitz simuls and auctions.

Exhibition games aren't always entertaining, but this one, despite being surprisingly theoretical, provided good entertainment for the spectators. The game was played with alternate moves, the grandmasters playing the even-numbered ones.



Vujatovic, R + Short, N, - Crumiller, J + Kasparov, G
Consultation game, London 2010

13.a4-a5 **b6-b5**
14.Nc4-b6
An interesting idea, White gives up a pawn to open the position with Black lagging in development.

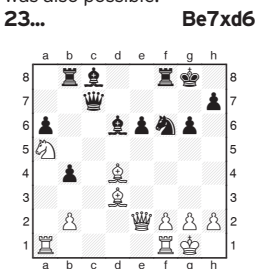
14... **Nd7xb6**
15.a5xb6 **Qc7xb6**
16.Nb3-a5 **Bb7-c8**
Not wanting to part with the bishop, but there was a case for 16...Ng8-f6.

17.Bc1-e3 **Qb6-c7**
18.c2-c4 **b5-b4**
19.e4-e5 **Ra8-b8**
In one previous game 19...d6xe5 was played, but 20.Qe2-f3 Ra8-b8 21.Qf3-c6+ looks good there.

20.Be3-d4
20.e5xd6 Be7xd6 21.g2-g3 Ng8-e7 22.c4-c5 was also good.

20... **f7-f6**
21.e5xf6
This aids Black's development, 21.e5xd6 Be7xd6 22.g2-g3 or 21.f2-f4 were tempting alternatives.

21... **Ng8xf6**
22.c4-c5 **O-O**
23.c5xd6
23.Na5-c4 d6xc5 24.Bd4-e5 was also possible.



24.Rf1-c1
It was more practical and stronger to play 24.g2-g3, denying Black activity.

24... **Bd6hx2+**
25.Kg1-h1 **Qc7-f4**
26.Rc1xc8 **Qf4xd4**
The other capture was even better 26...Rb8xc8 27.Qe2xe6+ Kg8-g7 28.Na5-b3 Qf4-h4.

27.Rc8-c4 **Qd4-d6**
28.Ra1-d1 **Kg8-h8**
29.g2-g3

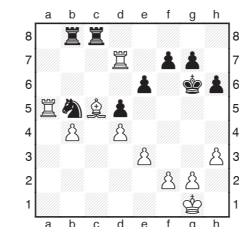
After the more precise 29.Bd3xg6 Qd6-e5, the exchange of queens leads to a balanced position.
29... **Qd6-d5+**
29...Bh2xg3 would have

netted an additional pawn as the queen check could pick up the knight next go.

30.Kh1xh2 **Qd5xa5**
31.Qe2xe6
Unfortunately, a blunder ends the game: 31.Rc4-h4 would have enabled White to resist.

31... **Qa5-h5+**
32.Rc4-h4 **Qh5xd1**
33.Bd3xg6 **Nf6-g4+**
A precise finish. White resigned as mate follows shortly after 34.Kh2-h3 Ng4xf2+ 35.Kh3-g2 Qd1-f3+ 36.Kg2-g1 Qf3xg3+ 37.Kg1-f1 Nf2-g4+.

Even in this recent blitz game from China, Kramnik shows impressive endgame technique.



Kramnik, V - Aronian, L
Shanghai blitz play-off 2010

36.f2-f3
The plan of creating a second passed pawn is very powerful.

36... **Rc8-c6**
37.Kg1-h2 **f7-f6**
38.e3-e4 **d5xe4**
39.f3xe4 **Kg6-h7**
40.d4-d5 **e6xd5**
41.e4xd5 **Rc6-c8**
42.d5-d6 **Rc8-c6**
43.Ra5xb5

A neat tactical trick finishes proceedings by enabling White to promote his queen's pawn.

43... **Rb8xb5**
44.Rd7-c7 **Rb5-b6**
44...Rc6-a6 45.d6-d7 Ra6-a8 46.Rc7-c8 also wins.
45.Rc7xc6
Black resigned as after 45...Rb6xc6 46.d6-d7 the rook cannot stop the pawn.