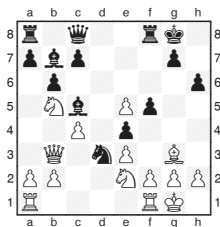


Michael Adams



Eastern front campaigns

It has been a busy period for national championships, with heavyweight all-play-all events in the Ukraine and Russia. The lack of a similar event in England remains a big problem. Top seed Ruslan Ponomarev wasn't in good form, but won an interesting game full of cut and thrust:



A. Moiseenko - R. Ponomarev
Ukraine Championship 2012

Black has good compensation for the pawn with his well-placed pieces and he correctly continues incisively.

18... g7-g5
19.e5-e6 f5-f4
20.e3xf4 a7-a6

An important intermezzo. 20...g5xf4 21.Ne2xf4 Nd3xf4 22.Bg3xf4 Rf8xf4 23.Qb3-g3+ turns the tables.

21.Nb5-c3
It's understandable Moiseenko didn't fancy 21.Nb5-d4 g5xf4 22.Bg3-h4 f4-f3 23.g2xf3 Qc8-e8, but now he is in trouble.

21... g5xf4
22.Ne2xf4 Nd3xf4
23.Bg3xf4 Rf8xf4
24.Nc3-d5 Rf4-f5
Not 24...Bb7xd5 25.Qb3-g3+.

25.Qb3-h3
Black also wins after 25.Qb3-g3+ Rf5-g5 26.Nd5-f6+ Kg8-h8 27.Qg3-c3 Qc8xe6 28.Nf6xe4+ Rg5-g7 29.Ne4xc5 Qe6-c6.

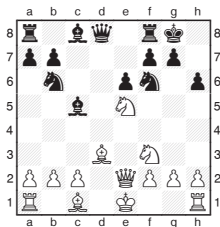
25... Qc8xe6
26.Nd5xc7 Qe6-g6
The best way to unleash the monstrous power of the bishop pair was 26...Qe6-e5 27.Nc7xa8 e4-e3 28.f2xe3 Bc5xe3+ 29.Kg1-h1 Rf5-h5.

27.Nc7xa8 Bb7xa8
It was still better to play 27...e4-e3, but the line 28.f2xe3 Bc5xe3+ 29.Kg1-h1 Rf5-h5 30.Rf1-f6 Qg6-g7 31.Qh3-e6+ Kg8-h7 32.Rf6-f3 Be3-f4 33.h2-h3 Bb7xa8, is very difficult to calculate.

28.Ra1-d1 Rf5-f8
29.Rd1-d7
After 29.Qh3-g3 swapping queens, Black would have to work a lot harder to win the game.

29... e4-e3
30.Kg1-h1
30.f2xe3 Bc5xe3+ is soon wrapped up.

30... e3-e2
31.Rf1-g1 Bc5xf2
O-1



D. Andreikin - S. Sjugirov
Russian Championship 2012

12... a7-a6
Too casual. Black should have challenged the knight with 12...Nb6-d7.

13.g2-g4
Andreikin puts the tempo to good use, storming the barricades on the kingside.

13... Nb6-d5
13...Nf6-d7 14.g4-g5 Nd7xe5 15.Nf3xe5 and 13...Nb6-d7 14.g4-g5 h6xg5 15.Bc1xg5 Nd7xe5 16.Nf3xe5 also look rather ominous.

14.Rh1-g1
The rook takes aim, but there was also a good case for 14.g4-g5.

14... Bc5-b4+
14...Nf6-d7 15.g4-g5 is also bad, but the double-bishop move in the game is clearly not right. The best defence was 14...Qd8-b6

15.Ke1-f1 Bb4-e7
16.g4-g5 h6xg5
17.Nf3xg5
Excellent non-stereotypical play. 17.Bc1xg5 looks very natural, but this move establishing two knights on the fifth rank is even better.

17... Be7-d6
18.Ng5-h7
This crafty tactical blow, exchanging the key defender, which would also be the answer to many other moves, is the justification of his last move.

18... Qd8-c7
18...Nf6xh7 19.Bd3xh7+ Kg8xh7 20.Qe2-h5+ Kh7-g8 21.Rg1xg7+ Kg8xg7 22.Bc1-h6+ Kg7-g8 23.Qh5-g4+ is a sweet finish. 18...Bd6xe5 19.Qe2xe5 Nf6-e8 is relatively best

19.Bc1-h6 Nf6-e8
19...g7-g6 20.Nh7xf6+ Nd5xf6 21.Bd3xg6 is little better.

20.Bh6xg7 Ne8xg7
21.Rg1xg7+ Kg8xg7
22.Qe2-g4+ Kg7-h8
23.Nh7-f6
Black resigned, as mate follows after 23...Nd5xf6 24.Qg4-h4+ Kh8-g7 25.Qh4-g5+ Kg7-h8 26.Qg5xf6+ Kh8-g8 27.Qf6-g5+ Kg8-h8 28.Qg5-h6+ Kh8-g8 29.Qh6-h7.