

Michael Adams

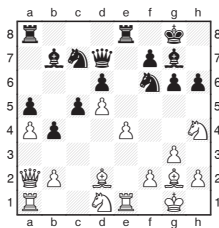


Encounter on the Rock

The Tradewise Gibraltar Masters, held as usual at the Caleta Hotel, was as enjoyable as ever. It has become a part of the chess establishment, but continues to improve.

One entertaining novelty this year – an excellent idea of organiser Brian Callaghan – was a 'Battle of the Sexes' event, with two teams of six playing moves in turn with no consultation at a brisk time limit on a giant set.

I couldn't keep up with the red-hot pace of Nigel Short, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Chanda Sandipan and Nikita Vitiugov, who was the coolest customer during the tie-break. However, I did win one nice game.



N. Dzagnidze - M. Adams
Tradewise Masters, 2013

19... **Re8-e7**
I didn't like my king becoming exposed in the line 19...g6-g5 20.Nh4-f5 Bb7xd5 21.Nf5xh6+ Bg7xh6 22.e4xd5.

20.f2-f4
It was better to play 20.f2-f3 Bb7xd5 (After 20...Nc7xd5 21.Nd1-f2, things are less clear, as 21...Nd5-b6 can be met by 22.Nh4xg6) 21.e4xd5 Re7xe1+ 22.Bd2xe1 g6-g5, although Black is still better.

20... **Ra8-e8**
21.Nd1-f2 **Nf6xd5**
22.e4xd5
22.Ra1-d1 Bg7-d4 is similar to the game.

22... **Re7-e2**
The key idea behind the sacrifice, invading the seventh rank with the white forces disorganised.

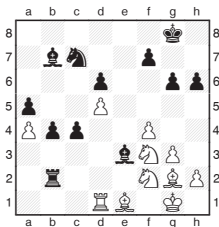
23.Re1xe2
One important variation runs 23.Ra1-d1 Re2xd2 24.Re1xe8+ Qd7xe8 25.Rd1xd2 Qe8-e1+.

23... **Re8xe2**
24.Ra1-d1 **Bg7-d4**
24...Qd7-e8 25.Nh4-f3 Bb7xd5 26.Qa2-b1 is less clear-cut.

25.Bd2-e1 **Qd7-e8**
26.Nh4-f3
The queenside pawns also dominate after 26.Qa2-b1 Nc7xd5 27.Bg2-f3 Re2xb2 28.Qb1-c1 b4-b3.

26... **Qe8-e3**
27.Qa2-b1 **Re2xb2**
The alternative 27...Re2xe1+ 28.Rd1xe1 Qe3xf2+ 29.Kg1-h1 Bb7xd5 was also good.

28.Qb1-c1 **Qe3xc1**
29.Rd1xc1 **Bd4-e3**
30.Rc1-d1 **c5-c4**



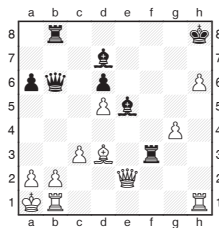
corralled after 33.d6-d7 Nc7-e6, or 33.d6xc7 Bg2-h3 34.Rd1-d8+ Kg8-g7 35.c7-c8Q Be3xf2+ 36.Be1xf2 Rb2-b1+ 37.Bf2-e1 Bh3xc8.

33... **Bg2-b7**
34.d6-d7
34.d6xc7 c4-c3 wins easily.

34... **Be3-g5**
Now the other bishop controls the queening square.

35.d7-d8Q+ **Bg5xd8**
36.Rd1xd8+ **Kg8-g7**
37.Rd8-d7 **Rb2-b1**
38.Kg1-f1 **c4-c3**
39.f5-f6+
39.Rd7xc7 Bb7-a6+ 40.Kf1-g2 Rb1xe1 is also hopeless.

39... **Kg7xf6**
40.Nf2-g4+ **Kf6-g5**
41.Ng4xe5 **c3-c2**
White resigned. She could have tried 42.Rd7xf7, as 42...c2-c1Q 43.h2-h4+ Kg5-h5 44.g3-g4 mate would be a bit embarrassing, but the correct 42...Rb1xe1+ kills any hope.



A. Tari - J. Gallagher
Tradewise Masters, 2013

Black's king is exposed but Joe calculates a neat finish, exploiting his active pieces.

31.Nf3-e5
If 31.Nf3-d2 Bb7-a6 keeps everything under control. The game move is tricky, but I managed to calculate correctly that the knight can be safely captured.

31... **d6xe5**
32.d5-d6 **Bb7xg2**
33.f4-f5
The passed pawn is also

33... **Rf3-f2**
34.Qe2-e4 **Bd7-f5**
Parrying the mate threat and gaining a crucial tempo for his own attack.

35.g4xf5 **Be5xc3**
36.b2xc3 **Rf2xa2+**
White resigned, as 37.Ka1xa2 Qb6-a5+ is a finish as picturesque as a Catalan Bay sunrise.