

Michael Adams

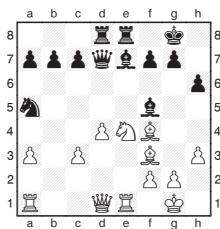


Anand the conqueror in Baden-Baden

Baden-Baden has a notable place in chess history. It was first played in 1870, when chess was overshadowed by the Franco-Prussian War and one player, Adolf Stern, had to leave the tournament to join the conflict.

The players in this year's GRENKE Chess Classic had an easier time of it, staying at the luxurious Brenner's Park Hotel and experiencing great organisation.

World champion Viswanathan Anand swooped with two wins in the final rounds to snatch first place at the death. He demonstrated some impressive new ideas in this game against the solid Petroff defence:



V.Anand - D.Fridman
GRENKE Classic
Baden-Baden 2013

20.Ra1-a2

With the first new move of the game Anand prepares to double rooks. He has judged that despite leaving the 'a' pawn to its fate, activity generated by his forces on the kingside more than compensates.

20... **b7-b6**
21.Ra2-e2 **Be7xa3**

22.Bf3-g4 Re8-f8

The dangers facing Fridman are demonstrated in the venomous tactical sequence 22...Bf5xg4 23.Ne4-f6+ g7xf6 24.Re2xe8+ Rd8xe8 25.Qd1xg4+. However, it was better to defend with 22...Bf5-e6 not ceding complete control of the open file.

23.Bg4xf5 Qd7xf5
24.Bf4xc7 Rd8-d7
25.Bc7-e5 f7-f6

White's central dominance creates serious difficulties as in the lines 25...Na5-c4 26.Ne4-g3 Qf5-g6 27.Qd1-a4, or 25...Ba3-e7 26.Be5xg7 Kg8xg7 27.Ne4-g3.

26.Ne4-g3 Qf5-e6
27.Qd1-a4 Na5-c4

There was a well-hidden defence with 27...f6xe5 28.Re2xe5 Qe6-f7 29.Re5-f5 Rd7-e7 30.Re1-a1 Qf7-b3, when Black has decent chances to survive despite the pawn deficit.

28.Be5-d6 b6-b5

After 28...Qe6xd6 29.Qa4xc4+ Kg8-h8 30.Qc4-a2, there is no good way to rescue the sidelined prelate.

29.Re2xe6 b5xa4
30.Bd6xf8 Kg8xf8

30...Ba3xf8 hanging on to the advanced pawn looks a slightly better practical chance.

31.Re1-a1 Ba3-b2
32.Ra1xa4 Nc4-b6

33.Ra4-a6
33.Re6xb6 a7xb6 34.Ng3-e2 Rd7-c7 35.Ra4-a2

Bb2xc3 36.Ra2-c2 was a crisper finish, but the result is no longer in doubt and Anand wraps things up efficiently enough.

33... **Bb2xc3**
34.Ng3-f5 Bc3-b4

35.Re6-e2 Kf8-f7
36.Re2-a2 Nb6-c8

37.g2-g4 g7-g6
38.Nf5xh6+ Kf7-g7

39.g4-g5 f6xg5
40.Nh6-g4 Rd7xd4

41.Ra2-c2 Nc8-e7
42.Ra6xa7 Bb4-d6

43.Kg1-g2 Kg7-f7

44.Rc2-e2

45.Re2-e5

46.Re5xg5

47.Ra7-a6

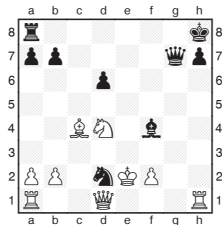
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Bd6-b4

Bb4-d6

Kf7-e6

Arkadij Naiditsch finished the most spectacular game in great style, interrupting a king hunt with a quiet finesse:



D. Fridman - A. Naiditsch
GRENKE Classic
Baden-Baden 2013

37... d6-d5

An ice-cool move with little time on the clock, and a good but less efficient option available in

37...Nd2xc4. The incorrect capture 37...Qg7xd4 allows White to fight back with 38.Rh1xh7+ Kh8xh7

39.Qd1-h1+ Kh7-g6 40.Ra1-g1+ Bf4-g5 41.Bc4-d3+ Kg6-f6 42.Qh1-h5.

38.Qd1-c2

If 38.Bc4xd5 Ra8-e8+ (Again not 38...Qg7xd4 39.Rh1xh7+) 39.Ke2-d3 Qg7-g6+ 40.Kd3-c3 Re8-c8+ 41.Kc3-b4 Qg6-b6+ 42.Kb4-a4 Qb6-a6+ 43.Ka4-b4 Bf4-d6 mate is a fitting conclusion.

38...

39.Ke2-d1

40.Qc2-c3

41.Nd4-f5

42.Kd1-c2

43.Kc2-b3

44.Kb3xc3

45.Nf5-d4

45.Kc3-b3 Nb2-c4 is no better.

45...

White resigned, as

46.Kc3xb2 Be5xd4+

47.Kb2-b3 Bd4xa1

48.Rh1xa1 h7-h5 is

hopeless.

Ra8-e8+

Nd2xc4

Re8-e4

Nc4xb2+

Re4-e2+

Qg7xc3+

Bf4-e5+

Re2-e4