

Michael Adams

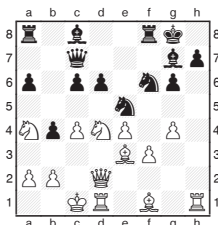


A strange coronation

The Women's World Championship remains mired in a similar hotchpotch of formats to the men's cycle, and it does seem bizarre that the winner, Anna Ushenina of the Ukraine, became champion even though she will now have to contest a match with Grand Prix winner and previous title-holder Xie Jun.

The lowly-rated winner generated a familiar rehashing of less justified complaints about the knockout system, though in reality the favourites paid the price for not playing well.

The incredible, consistent success of Viswanathan Anand in this knockout format shows that justice is, however, normally done.



A. Ushenina - Ju, Wenjun
Women's World Cup
Khanty-Mansiysk 2012

16.c4-c5

With Black's king feeling uncomfortable Ushenina opens lines for her pieces.

16... **d6-d5**

17.Na4-b6 **Ra8-b8**

18.Nb6xc8

The immediate 18.Qd2-h2 is also strong.

18... **Qc7xc8**

It was better to play 18...Rb8xc8 as 19.Nd4-e6 can be countered by

19...Ne5xf3.

19.Qd2-h2 **b4-b3**

Surprisingly, there is no good way to stabilise the knight, so Black tries to randomise. Neither 19...Rf8-e8 20.Be3-f4, or 19...Ne5-f7 20.Be3-f4 Rb8-b7 21.e4-e5 help.

20.a2xb3 **Ne5xf3**

21.Nd4xf3 **Rb8xb3**

22.e4-e5 **Rb3xe3**

23.e5xf6 **h7-h5**

23...Rf8xf6 24.Qh2xh7+ Kg8-f8 25.Qh7-h8+ Bg7xh8 26.Rh1xh8+ Kf8-g7 27.Rh8xc8 cleans up efficiently. In the game White remains a piece ahead.

24.f6xg7 **Rf8xf3**

25.Bf1-e2 **Rf3-h3**

26.Qh2-f2 **Rh3xh1**

27.Rd1xh1 **Qc8-e8**

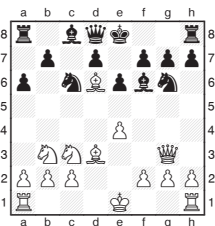
28.Be2-d1 **Kg8xg7**

29.g4xh5 **Qe8-e7**

30.h5xg6 **Qe7xc5+**

31.Kc1-b1

1-0



A. Bodnaruk -

L. Javakhishvili

Women's World Cup
Khanty-Mansiysk 2012

11.Bf4-d6 **Bf6-h4**

Black will regret she didn't remove the marauding bishop with 11...Bf6-e5.

12.Qg3-e3 **Qd8-g5**

13.Qe3-h3 **Ng6-f4**

Although it was hard to anticipate, this is a big mistake, it was time to return with 13...Qg5-d8.

14.Bd6xf4 **Qg5xf4**

15.g2-g3 **Qf4-f3**

16.Qh3xh4

The point of White's play 16.0-0 Bh4-d8 is fine for Black.

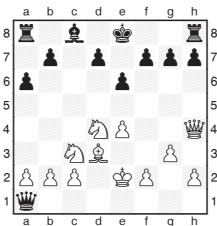
16... **Qf3xh1+**

17.Ke1-e2 **Nc6-d4+**

The greater mobility of

White's pieces is also decisive after 17...Qh1-g2 18.e4-e5 d7-d5 19.e5xd6 f7-f5 20.Nb3-d2 0-0 21.Nd2-f3 e6-e5 22.Ra1-g1 Nc6-d4+ 23.Nf3xd4 Qg2xg1 24.Nc3-d5 e5xd4 (24... h7-h6 25.Nd5-e7+ Kg8-h7 26.Nd4xf5) 25.Nd5-e7+ Kg8-h8 26.Ne7-g6+ Kh8-g8 27.Bd3-c4+.

18.Nb3xd4 **Qh1xa1**



19.e4-e5

White is two exchanges behind on the material count, but Black's rooks remain spectators as White's minor pieces run riot.

19... **d7-d5**

It was no better to play 19...Qa1xb2 20.Nc3-e4 or 19...Qa1-c1 20.Nc3-e4 when White's knight will soon be embedded on d6.

20.e5xd6 **f7-f6**

21.Bd3xh7

The most precise was 21.Qh4-h5+ Ke8-f8 22.Qh5-c5 Bc8-d7 23.Qc5-c7 Kf8-e8 24.Nd4xe6.

21... **Ke8-f8**

22.Nc3-e4 **e6-e5**

Black had some hopes to survive after 22...Rh8xh7 23.Qh4xh7 Qa1xb2 24.Ne4xf6 g7xf6 25.d6-d7 Bc8xd7 26.Qh7xd7.

23.Ne4xf6 **Rh8xh7**

There is nothing better than the feared queen and knight combo corner Black's king.

24.Nf6xh7+ **Kf8-g8**

25.Nh7-g5 **Qa1xa2**

26.Qh4-h7+ **Kg8-f8**

27.b2-b3

Cutting the queen out of the defence.

27... **Bc8-g4+**

28.f2-f3 **Kf8-e8**

29.Qh7-g8+ **Ke8-d7**

30.Qg8-f7+ **Kd7xd6**

31.Ng5-e4 **mate**