

**Michael Adams**

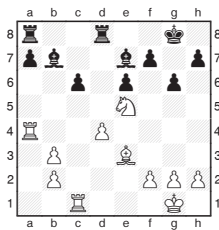


## Candidates in higher definition

The FIDE Candidates event, which continues with the penultimate round tomorrow, has showcased new ideas to modernise game presentation. These innovations are mainly based on the ChessCasting technology recently launched by the World Chess Federation's commercial partner, AGON.

Spectators can watch the game on a Galaxy tablet offering features such as the thinking time on the current move, players' profiles, and the option to see all the games on one page. One drawback is that the queens and rooks look too similar, and for such a big-budget event supported by SOCAR, the commentary team is rather threadbare.

At the board after round eight, Aronian and Carlsen have left the field behind.



**L. Aronian - B. Gelfand**  
FIDE Candidates London

### 18.Ne5-c4

A typical Aronian manoeuvre. He transfers the knight to a5, irritating Black's bishop. This kind of probing is very unpleasant to face.

**18... Be7-f6**

It was worth considering 18...g6-g5 taking some

space on the kingside, then 19.Nc4-a5 can be well answered by 19...Rd8-d7.

**19.Nc4-a5 Rd8-d7**  
**20.Ra4-b4 Bb7-a6**  
**21.Na5xc6**

After the error 21.Rc1xc6, Bf6-e7 embarrasses the rooks.

**21... Rd7-b7**  
**22.h2-h3 Kg8-g7**  
**23.Rb4xb7 Ba6xb7**  
**24.Nc6-e5 Bf6-d8**

It's not easy to defend.

24...Ra8-c8 is well-met by 25.Rc1-c3. Perhaps 24...Bb7-d5 25.b3-b4 (25.Rc1-c7 Bf6xe5 26.d4xe5 a7-a5) 25...Ra8-b8 26.Be3-d2 Rb8-b7 was best.

**25.b3-b4 Ra8-c8**

A tactical slip, which Levon takes full advantage of.

25...f7-f6 26.Ne5-d7 Bb7-d5 27.f2-f3 Kg7-f7 keeps chances to survive.

**26.Be3-h6+ Kg7-g8**

The king must retreat, as 26...Kg7xh6 27.Rc1xc8 Bb7xc8 28.Ne5xf7+ picks up the bishop with a decisive edge.

**27.Rc1xc8 Bb7xc8**  
**28.Ne5-c6 Bd8-f6**

The bishop is forced to a bad square, as 28...Bd8-b6 29.Nc6-e7+ isn't possible.

**29.b4-b5**

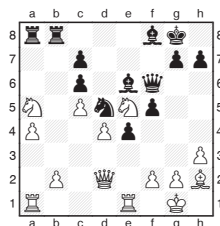
Keeping a clamp on the position is more important than snatching the pawn immediately.

**29... Bc8-d7**  
**30.g2-g4 g6-g5**

30...a7-a6 31.g4-g5 a6xb5 32.Nc6-b8 Bf6xd4 33.Nb8xd7 Bd4xb2 34.Kg1-f1 is simple, as the White king will saunter over to pick up Black's passed pawn.

**31.h3-h4 g5xh4**  
**32.g4-g5 Bd7xc6**  
**33.b5xc6 Bf6-d8**  
**34.Kg1-g2 Bd8-c7**  
**35.Kg2-h3**

Black resigned, as 35...f7-f6 36.g5xf6 Kg8-f7 37.Bh6-g5 wins easily.



**M. Carlsen - A. Grischuk**  
FIDE Candidates London

Another pawn is dropping off so Grischuk gives up the exchange for counter chances.

**24... Ra8xa5**  
**25.Qd2xa5 Rb8xb2**  
**26.Ra1-b1**

26.Re1-b1 Rb2-c2 27.Qa5-e1 was possible, but Magnus cleverly keeps the rook on e1 where it can interpose to cover the second rank.

**26... Rb2-a2**  
**27.Qa5-a6 e4-e3**

The tactics don't work for Black. 27...f5-f4 28.Re1xe4 Be6-f5 29.Re4xf4 Nd5xf4 30.Bh2xf4 Bf5xb1 31.Qa6-c4+ wins.

**28.f2xe3 Qf6-g5**  
**29.Re1-e2 Nd5xe3**

The key variation, which is difficult to spot in advance, runs 29...Ra2xe2 30.Qa6xe2 Nd5-c3 31.Qe2-e1 Nc3xb1 and now an important intermezzo 32.Bh2-f4 secures White's position.

**30.Ne5-f3 Qg5-g6**  
**31.Re2xa2 Be6xa2**  
**32.Rb1-b2**

With the rooks swapped, there is not enough material left for Black to generate serious threats.

**32... Ba2-c4**  
**33.Qa6-a5 Bc4-d5**  
**34.Qa5-e1 f5-f4**  
**35.Bh2xf4 Ne3-c2**  
**36.Qe1-f2 Bd5xf3**  
**37.Rb2xc2**  
**1-0**