

**Michael Adams**

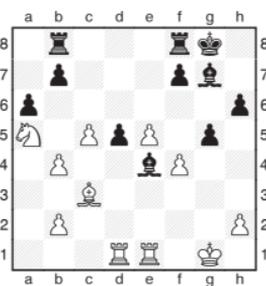


## Kamsky, king of the comeback

Boxers are famous for not being able to resist a comeback, and chess players can also find it a challenge putting their feet up. The most famous retiree, Gary Kasparov, has stayed away from serious competition since Linares 2005, but few others have shown his resolve.

It was sad to see top Spanish player Francisco Vallejo Pons announcing his plans to take an indefinite break from the game after a tough time in the Bilbao event, but he noted in his statement that many players have returned with impressive results.

One such is Gata Kamsky, who took a time-out for eight years, but has prospered on his return and turned in a very powerful 2849-rating performance, helping SOCAR to become the winners of the European Club Cup.



**G. Kamsky - E. Romanov**  
European Club Cup Eilat, 2012

### 27.Re1xe4

White could also try 27.Na5-c4, but Kamsky is happy to immediately remove Black's best piece and correctly

judges that his advanced pawns will be very strong after this sacrifice.

**27... d5xe4**  
**28.f4-f5 Rf8-e8**

It was better to play 28...Rf8-c8 29.Na5-c4 a6-a5 30.Nc4xa5 b7-b6, clearing elbow room for the Black rooks.

**29.Rd1-d5 e4-e3**

The knight is dominant after 29...Rb8-d8 30.Rd5xd8 Re8xd8 31.Na5xb7 Rd8-d7 32.Nb7-d6, but 29...g5-g4 looks better.

**30.Kg1-f1 e3-e2+**  
**31.Kf1-e1**

Not 31.Kf1xe2 Bg7xe5 32.Bc3xe5 f7-f6 justifying Black's plan, but the White king can snaffle the pawn when the time is right.

**31... b7-b6**

Perhaps he should have waited with 31...Bg7-f8.

**32.Na5-c4 b6xc5**

**33.b4xc5 Re8-c8**

**34.Ke1xe2 Bg7-f8**

**35.b2-b4 Rc8-c7**

**36.Ke2-d3 Rb8-e8**

**37.Nc4-d6 Re8-b8**

**38.Nd6-e4 Bf8-e7**

The last passage of play has clarified matters, as Kamsky smoothly improved his position while his opponent hasn't been able to find a constructive plan. Now Gata finishes in style with another exchange sacrifice.



**39.Rd5-d6 Be7xd6**

39...Rb8-d8 40.Kd3-c4 doesn't help.

**40.e5xd6 Rc7-a7**

**41.c5-c6 Kg8-f8**

**42.Bc3-d4 Ra7-a8**

**43.d6-d7**

A slip prolongs the game. 43.c6-c7 Rb8-b7 (43...Rb8-c8 44.Ne4-f6) 44.Ne4-c5 wins immediately.

**43... Rb8-c8**

**44.Bd4-c5+ Kf8-g7**

**45.d7xc8Q Ra8xc8**

Although Black has been able to eliminate the two monster passers, White's pieces keep control.

**46.Kd3-d4 Rc8xc6**

**47.Kd4-d5 Rc6-c8**

**48.Ne4-d6 Rc8-b8**

**49.Kd5-c6 h6-h5**

**50.Kc6-c7 Rb8-g8**

**51.Bc5-d4+ Kg7-h7**

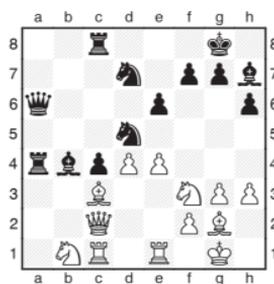
**52.Nd6-e4 Kh7-h6**

**53.Bd4-e3 h5-h4**

**54.Be3xg5+**

Black resigned, as he is too late in the variation:

54...Rg8xg5 55.Ne4xg5 Kh6xg5 56.Kc7-b6 Kg5xf5 57.Kb6xa6 Kf5-g4 58.b4-b5 f7-f5 59.b5-b6 f5-f4 60.b6-b7 f4-f3 61.b7-b8Q.



**L. Brunner - G. Kamsky**

European Club Cup Eilat, 2012

### 27.Bg2-f1

White should have tried 27.Nf3-d2 as it allows a surprising tactical finish.

**27... Nd5xc3**

**28.Nb1xc3 Bb4xc3**

**29.Qc2xc3 Ra4-a3**

All the action appeared to be on the queenside, but the loose knight on the other side of the board seals White's fate.

**30.Qc3-b4 Ra3xf3**

**31.Bf1xc4 Qa6-b6**

**O-1**