

**Michael Adams**



## Svidler's new record in Russia

Peter Svidler won a record-breaking seventh Russian Championship title in fine style – an outstanding achievement.

In the impressive game below, he also gained some revenge for his elimination from the World Cup by the same opponent. However, there might be a way back into the World Championship Cycle. For Peter, now that the 2014 Candidates are going to be held in Khanty-Mansiysk, it is very likely that the wildcard place will go to a Russian player, so that the hosts will comprise half the participants in the event.

prefers to start play in the centre, so his queen returns to home base.

**12...** Nb8-a6  
**13.d3-d4** e5xd4  
**14.Be3xd4** Bd7-e6  
**15.Qd1-e2**

15.Ba4-b3 redeploying the bishop was another sensible option, but this has the advantage of connecting the white rooks.

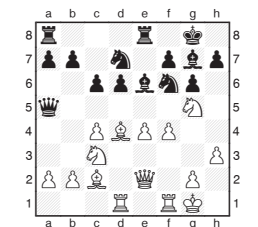
**15...** Rf8-e8  
**16.Ra1-d1** Na6-c5  
**17.Ba4-c2** Nc5-d7

Black should look for activity in this theme of position and the thematic try 17...b7-b5 would have been considered by Andreikin, although 18.c4xb5 c6xb5 19.Nc3xb5 Nc5xe4 20.Bd4xf6 Be6-c4 21.Qe2xe4 Re8xe4 22.Nb5xd6 should favour White. The natural 17...Qc8-c7 18.e4-e5 is bad.

**18.Nf3-g5**  
Eyeing the bishop and opening the way for White's 'f' pawn to slide forward.

**18...** Qc8-c7  
18...a7-a6 is well met by 19.Bc2-b3.

**19.f2-f4** Qc7-a5



### 20.a2-a3

A good practical choice, again limiting the activity of Black's pieces.

**20...** h7-h6  
20...Qa5-a6 is met by 21.Bc2-b3.

**21.Ng5-f3**  
Peter chooses to keep material on with his opponent's pieces tripping over one another, but 21.Ng5xe6 Re8xe6 22.Qe2-f2 was also promising.

**21...** Nf6-h5  
Black had to play 21...Ra8-d8. In the following play, his queen's rook

remains a frustrated spectator.

**22.Bd4xg7** Kg8xg7  
**23.Qe2-d2** Qa5-b6+

It's very hard to keep Black's loose position together 23...Nh5-g3 24.Rf1-f2 Nd7-f6 25.f4-f5 Be6xc4 26.f5xg6 f7xg6 27.Qd2xd6 also results in a collapse.

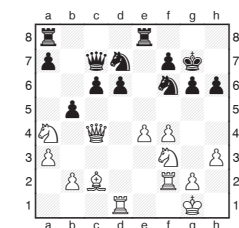
**24.Rf1-f2** Be6xc4  
24...Qb6xb2 25.Qd2-d4+

Nh5-f6 26.e4-e5 d6xe5 27.f4xe5 threatens the knight, and a discovered attack by the bishop.

**25.Nc3-a4** Qb6-c7  
Forced, as 25...Qb6-b5

26.b2-b3 Bc4xb3 (26...Bc4-e6 27.Nf3-d4 Qb5-a6 28.f4-f5) 27.Qd2-c3+ wins a piece.

**26.Qd2-c3+** Nh5 f6  
**27.Qc3xc4** b7-b5



### 28.Qc4-b4

Targeting the key pawn on d6.

**28...** b5xa4  
**29.Rd1xd6** Ra8-b8

29...Nf6xe4 is impossible due to 30.Bc2xe4 Re8xe4 31.Rd6xd7.

**30.Qb4-d2** Re8-d8  
30...Rb8xb2 is refuted by

31.e4-e5 Nf6-d5 (31...Nf6-e4 32.Qd2-d4) 32.Qd2-d4 Re8-b8 33.Rd6xd7 Qc7xd7 34.e5-e6+.

**31.e4-e5** Nf6-e8  
31...Nf6-d5 32.Nf3-d4 is

equally dire.

**32.Qd2-c3** Nd7-b6  
The rook can't be captured

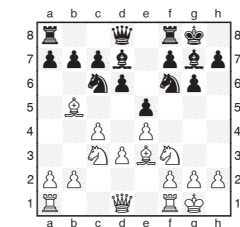
due to 32...Ne8xd6 33.e5xd6+, but now White is completely dominant.

**33.Rd6xc6** Qc7-b7  
**34.f4-f5** Nb6-d5

**35.Qc3-c5** Qb7xb2  
**36.f5xg6** f7-f6

**37.Nf3-d4**

**1-0**



### P. Svidler - D. Andreikin

Russian Championship 2013

### 9.h2-h3

It's handy to prevent a Black piece landing on g4.

**9...** Nc6-b8  
**10.Qd1-b3** c7-c6

The point of Peter's last move is that 10...Bd7xb5 11.Qb3xb5 makes it awkward to protect b7.

**11.Bb5-a4** Qd8-c8  
11...Qd8-c7 looks more

natural to me.

**12.Qb3-d1**

12.Qb3-a3 was another tempting option, but Svidler