

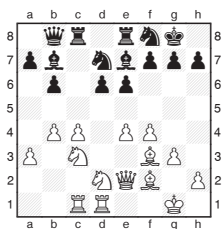
Chess

Michael Adams



Carlsen on the charge (and Adams!)

Magnus Carlsen has made the number one spot on the rating list his own in recent times, but Garry Kasparov's all-time published record high rating of 2851 looked as though it would take him some time to surpass. However, his dominance of the London Chess Classic has taken him comfortably above this level, and you feel there is more to come.



M. Carlsen - J. Polgar
London Chess Classic 2012

22... g7-g6

It was better to play 22...h7-h6, keeping the option of the knight coming to the g6 square when the Hedgehog structure looks solid enough.

23.e4-e5

Typically, Carlsen is alert to seize his opportunity after a period of quiet manoeuvring. Suddenly all Black's minor pieces are caught on the back foot and become short of scope.

23... Bb7-c6

24.Bf2-d4

24.e5xd6 isn't bad, but Magnus doesn't want to exchange his powerful advanced pawn, which cramps all Black's pieces.

24...

25.Bf3xc6

26.Nd2-f3

27.f4xe5

28.Nc3-e4

29.Nf3-d2

30.Ne4-f2

30...h7-h5, gaining more elbow room and covering the g4 square looks better.

31.Rd1-f1

32.Qe2xd2

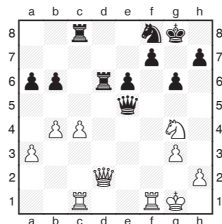
32...Rc6xc4 33.Rc1xc4

Qc7xc4 34.Nf2-g4 gives a strong attack.

33.Bd4xe5

34.Nf2-g4

Judit counters with a tactic of her own, but Carlsen has it covered.



35.Ng4-h6+

36.Rf1xf7+

37.Qd2-f2

With the king penned in the corner, tactics abound e.g. 37...Nf8-d7 38.Rf7-e7 Rc8-f8 39.Qf2xf8+ Nd7xf8 40.Nh6-f7+.

38.c4-c5

38.Rc1-f1 Qd4xf2+

39.Rf1xf2 Nf8-d7 40.Rf7-e7 was also good.

38...

39.Qf2xd4+

40.Rc1xc5

41.Rc5-c7

42.Kg1-g2

43.Kg2-h3

Unfortunately, the rook can't be challenged, as 43...Rd2-d7 44.Rf7xf8+ wins a piece.

44.Nh6-g4

45.Kh3-g2

46.Kg2-f3

47.Kf3-e3

48.Rc7xf7

49.Ng4-f6

Re8-d8

Rc8xc6

d6xe5

Rd8-c8

Qb8-c7

a7-a6

Be7-g5

Bg5xd2

Nd7xe5

Qc7xe5

Rc6-d6

Kg8-g7

Kg7-h8

Qe5-d4

b6xc5

Rd6xd4

Rc8-d8

Rd4-d1+

Rd1-d2+

Rd2-d5

Rd5-h5+

Rd8-d2+

Rh5-f5+

Rf5xf7

Rd2-d8

With the knight transferred to an even stronger post, paralysing the Black pieces, White wins at his leisure.

49...

50.Ke3-f4

51.Kf4-e5

52.b4xa5

53.a5-a6

1-0

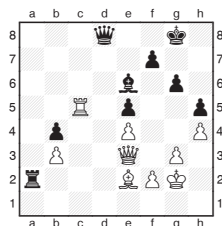
Rd8-b8

h7-h6

a6-a5

Rb8-a8

I exploited a lucky break in my game with the world champion:



V. Anand - M. Adams
London Chess Classic 2012

41.Be2-c4

After 41.Rc5xe5 Qd8-d2 42.Qe3xd2 Ra2xd2 43.Be2-c4 Be6xc4 44.b3xc4 Rd2-c2 the game should end in a draw, but strangely the natural bishop move loses outright.

41...

Qd8-d1

I saw the idea at once (as did my opponent, as soon as he had executed his move), but took some time to convince myself it was completely decisive.

42.Qe3-h6

Surprisingly, White's attack arrives just too late, as 42.Bc4xe6 Ra2-a1 43.Be6xf7+ Kg8-g7 and 43.Rc5-c8+ Kg8-g7 leave him without any good checking possibilities. So Vishy tries his last throw of the dice.

42...

Be6-h3+

Definitely not 42...Ra2-a1 43.Rc5-c8+ Be6xc8 44.Qh6xg6+ Kg8-h8 45.Qg6-f6+ and White wins, but now mate is inevitable. **0-1**