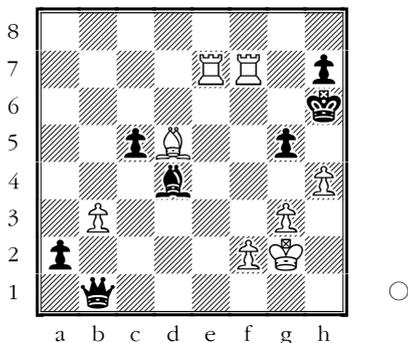


**Test Yourself**

**Aronian – Radjabov**



See Annotated Game



GM Carlsen

photo by Anastasiya Karlovich

**On this Day...**

Grandmaster Sarhan Guliev was born on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1968. One of the top players of Azerbaijan in the 1990s, he played on top board at the 1994 Olympiad.



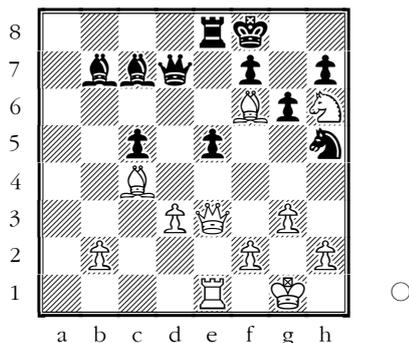
**World Chess News**

**Carlsen wins Candidates Tournament, London**

In an unpredictable final round, both leaders lost and Magnus Carlsen took first place with the same number of points as Vladimir Kramnik, but with a higher number of wins (and losses).

Thus, as the main outcome of a tournament that will be remembered for a long time, Carlsen has won the right to play a match against the world champion Viswanathan Anand.

**Svidler – Carlsen**



In a sharp middlegame against Peter Svidler, Carlsen spent too much time and went astray in time trouble.

**30. Qh4**

An interesting alternative was the crazy looking 30. Qh8!?

**30... Wh3 31. f3?**

A real error. Necessary was 31. Qd5! Qxd5 32. Wxc5+ Kg7 33. Wxd5 Qxh6 34. Wxf7 where Black perhaps should seek a draw by playing 34... Qa5 35. Wxe8 Qxe1 36. Wxe5 Qxf2+ 37. Qxf2 Qxh2+.

**31... Qf4! = (D)**



With a huge advantage to Black.

**32.gxf4**

Or 32.♖f2 ♖xh4! 33.gxh4 ♘h3+.

**32...♖xh4**

and Black won after

**33.♘xf7 ♙xf3 34.♖f2 ♖g4+**

**35.♖g3 exf4 36.♞xe8+ ♜xe8**

**37.♖xg4 ♙xg4 38.♘g5 h6 39.♘f7**

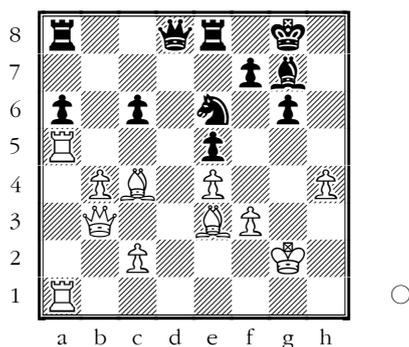
**h5 40.♘h6 ♙d1 41.♖f2 f3 42.h3**

**♙f4 43.♘f7 g5 44.♖e1 g4 45.hxg4**

**hxg4 46.♖xd1 g3 47.♖e1 g2 48.♖f2**

**♙h2 0-1**

### Ivanchuk - Kramnik



Kramnik, who desperately played the Pirc Defence, was under pressure all the game, but Ivanchuk, being short of time, made a tempting but inaccurate move.

**35.♞xa6? ♞c8?**

Kramnik could have forced a draw:

**35...♞xa6 36.♞xa6 ♘f4+!! 37.♙xf4 exf4**

**38.♙xf7+ ♖h8! 39.♖d3! (39.♙xe8??**

**♖d2+ is even winning for Black: 40.♖f1**

**♙d4) 39...♖xh4! 40.♙xe8 ♖g3+ 41.♖f1**

**♖h3+ with a perpetual check.**

**36.♞h1+-**

and White won after

**36...♞c7 37.♙xe6 ♞xe6 38.b5! ♞b7**

**39.b6 c5 40.♞b1 ♙f8 41.♖d5! ♖b8**

**42.♞ba1! ♞d6 43.♞a8 ♞xd5**

**44.♞xb8 ♞xb8 45.exd5 ♙d6**

**45...♞xb6 46.♞a8 ♖g7 47.♞xf8 ♖xf8**

**48.♙xc5+-.**

**46.♞a6 ♞b7 47.♖f1 1-0**

### Round 14 results:

Carlsen - Svidler 0-1

Ivanchuk - Kramnik 1-0

Gelfand - Grischuk ½-½

Aronian - Radjabov 1-0

### Final Standings:

**1-2..** Carlsen and Kramnik - 8½,

**3-4.** Svidler and Aronian - 8,

**5-6.** Gelfand and Grischuk - 6½ ,

**7.** Ivanchuk - 6,

**8.** Radjabov - 4.

Below is the official press report:



### Carlsen qualifies for world title match after bizarre finish FIDE Candidates' Tournament

by Peter Doggers

Magnus Carlsen won the FIDE Candidates' Tournament in London on Monday after a bizarre finish of what has become a historic event for chess. Both the Norwegian and co-leader Vladimir Kramnik of Russia unexpectedly lost their games in the final round. This way the two remained tied for first place and Carlsen won on the second tie-break rule: higher number of wins. Carlsen thus qualified for a title match against World Champion Viswanathan Anand. On the last day Levon Aronian of Armenia beat Teimour Radjabov of Azerbaijan while Boris Gelfand of Israel and Alexander Grischuk of Russia drew their game.

A Hollywood blockbuster couldn't have had a more dramatic scenario with the hero of the story going down just before the end, only to emerge as the winner after all. This is what happened in rounds 12-13 with Carlsen losing his lead to Kramnik on Friday and then recovering on Sunday, and it also happened in a thrilling final round. The Norwegian unexpectedly lost his white game against Peter Svidler, but because Vladimir Kramnik also went down against Vassily Ivanchuk, Carlsen won the tournament anyway. It was quite a fitting scenario for April 1<sup>st</sup>, except that this is what really happened!

The day started quietly with a draw between Boris Gelfand and Alexander Grischuk. Facing the Grünfeld, which he included in his own repertoire last year against Anand, Gelfand tried the

5.♘d2 variation. Grischuk was "surprised by 11.♙c4" but reacted well and about the position after 17.f4 he said: "White at maximum can get a very slight advantage but Black can get a winning position if something goes wrong for White. "Already with 18...b4 Black "more or less forced the draw", according to the Russian. Joining the live commentary, Grischuk said: "I'm quite happy to finish my game early so that I can enjoy this!"

Then, the game between Levon Aronian and Teimour Radjabov finished in favour of the Armenian. "In general after the opening I got a big advantage and it was very difficult to play for Black," said Aronian. Radjabov, who finally went for a proper King's Indian – the defence with which he has had so many successes – managed to trap the white queen in the early middle game, but Aronian got two rooks for it and combined with the presence of opposite coloured bishops, his attack on the king was just too strong.

But, of course this last round was all about the other two games: Vassily Ivanchuk versus Vladimir Kramnik and Magnus Carlsen versus Peter Svidler. Because Carlsen was leading on tie-break, Kramnik basically had to outperform him in the final round to emerge as the winner: he needed a win if Carlsen drew, or a draw if Carlsen lost. It all went quite differently. Kramnik, playing black, got under serious pressure right out of the opening, while Carlsen didn't get an opening advantage at all playing White. To keep all options open, Kramnik played the Pirc Defence, and Ivanchuk responded with simple, healthy developing moves. However, the Ukrainian (again!) needed quite some time to make his moves in this game, so even though he was building up an advantage, the Carlsen fans weren't sure at all about the situation. Would Ivanchuk lose on time again...?

Meanwhile, Carlsen himself was using lots of time himself – too much time. After making his 27<sup>th</sup> move, the Norwegian had only 5 minutes left for

13 moves, and 2 moves later his clock was down to 1 minute and 20 seconds. It was a situation Carlsen hadn't been in before in all previous rounds! It must have been around this time that the home page of Norway's biggest newspaper online, vg.no, crashed (like several chess servers) due too the high number of visitors trying to follow the games.

Carlsen only barely made the time control – he made his last three moves in about nine seconds, knocking over some pieces in the process and losing precious seconds there. After the dust had cleared, he found himself in a completely lost ending. Svidler had simply played an excellent game, while Carlsen has succumbed under the pressure and the tension. "I was trying to equalize and then Magnus perhaps overestimated his position," said Svidler.

"I was spending too much time in the middle game on reasonably good moves but also on not too difficult moves. (...) I definitely overestimated my position. Additionally, I just couldn't calculate very well today and then you have to spend a lot of time, that's the way it is. Obviously not as much time as I did, because it came a serious liability at the end, but it's not easy. From early on there were lots of things to calculate on every move," said Carlsen at the press conference, while Ivanchuk and Kramnik were still playing.

Before leaving the press room, Carlsen asked whether he could get the position of that last game on the laptop that was available. By that time Ivanchuk had made the time control, and he had a winning position. Carlsen said: "I think this cannot possibly go wrong," and right at that moment Kramnik resigned his game, and with it his fight for first place. Carlsen was congratulated by his manager and by Svidler, and immediately gave a few interviews to mostly Norwegian press.

Meanwhile, Ivanchuk and Kramnik arrived in the press room to comment on their game. "I had to play for a win, to burn bridges in a way, because

of course I didn't think that Magnus was going to lose. I thought I got what I wanted at some point. It was an interesting position but terribly complicated. Somewhere around 20...Nhf4 I liked my position and then somehow I lost a bit of concentration because I didn't know what to do," said Kramnik, who also kept an eye on the other game.

"The problem was that Peter [Svidler];s position was already promising but not yet so clear so I didn't know what to do, whether to play for a draw... Somehow I got a bit lost between watching that game and trying to understand what I should do. Then I made a few awful decisions and I was unlucky that I had to make a tough decision on move 40, not 41." In time trouble the Russian missed an important tactic, and then his position was lost. Ivanchuk agreed that the position was at some point drawish. "But I noticed that my opponent started to play a bit risky and he gave me chances."

Carlsen then returned to the press room to answer questions in his new status as tournament winner. He said: "I never expected to lose and I didn't really have any expectations for the other game. That didn't make sense to me since I couldn't do anything about it. (...) I didn't really want to resign before I was sure that Ivanchuk would win!"

The tournament winner felt that until the 11th round he "played the best chess for sure". "At the end everyone got tired, the quality got lower and anything could happen. But overall I think I did pretty well and I deserve to win." Carlsen said he was "very impressed" by Kramnik comeback in the second half of the tournament. About his match against Anand, he said: "I think it's going to be very interesting, a great event but it's a long time ahead so we'll see what happens."

The final standings are as follows: 1. Carlsen 8.5 points (5 wins), 2. Kramnik 8.5 points (4 wins), 3-4. Svidler and Aronian 8 points, 5-6. Grischuk and Gelfand 6.5 points, 7. Ivanchuk 6 points and 8.Radjabov 4 points.

The FIDE Candidates' Tournament took place March 14<sup>th</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at IET London, Savoy Place. It was sponsored by the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) and organized by AGON and the World Chess Federation (FIDE). Games and information can be found at <http://london2013.fide.com>.

The closing ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. 11 Downing Street.

## Annotated Game

by GM Mikhail Golubev

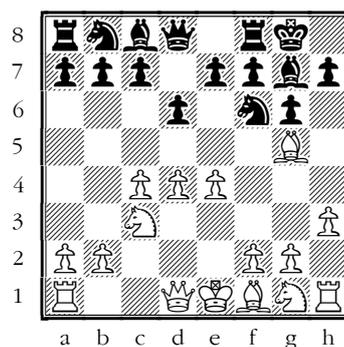
**Aronian (2809) - Radjabov (2793)**

FIDE Candidates London ENG (14.1),

01.04.2013

*King's Indian; E71*

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6  
5.h3 0-0 6.♕g5 (D)**



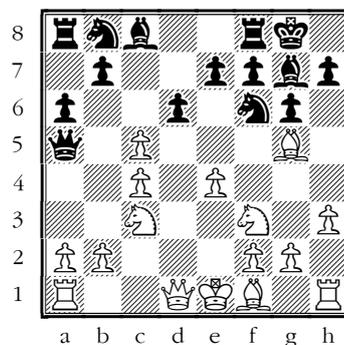
**6...a6!? 7.♗f3 c5**

I have played this line, which I learned from GM Glek, a few times as Black.

**8.dxc5**

Also important is known to be 8.d5 b5 9.♕d3 (9.cxb5?! axb5 10.♕xb5? allows 10...♗xe4!±).

**8...♖a5 (D)**



**9.♕d3**

9.♗d2 dxc5 (9...♖xc5 has been tried

*This issue is prepared by GM Mikhail Golubev; technical editor: Graham Brown*

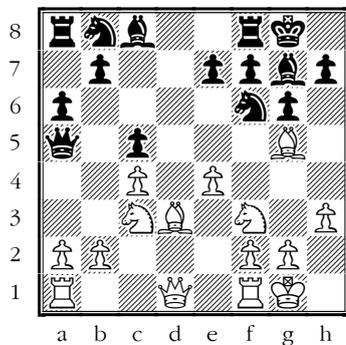
*Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to <http://www.chesstoday.net>*

also) 10.f4 (10.♖e2∞ Suba-Sutovsky, Vendrell 1996) 10...♗c6 (10...♗h5!?) 11.♖e2 ♜d8 12.0-0? (12.e5∞) 12...♗xe4! 13.♗cxe4 f5 was better for Black, Suba-Golubev, Romania 1996.

### 9...dxc5

Also here a number of players have tried 9...♗xc5± though it is obvious that White has some edge in this case.

10.0-0 (D)



### 10...♗c6

Perhaps, Black players can think about the following exchange sacrifice: 10...e6 11.e5 ♗fd7 12.♖e7 ♗c6 (otherwise White gets time for Bd6, protecting the e5 pawn firmly) 13.♖xf8 ♖xf8 (rather than 13...♗xf8 14.♖e4!).

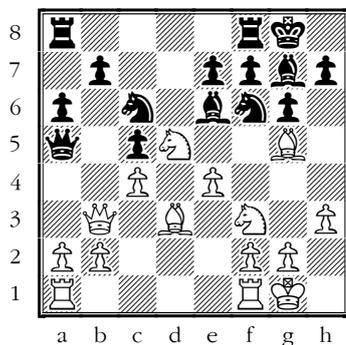
### 11.♗d5!

Available examples include 11.e5 ♗d7! 12.e6! fxe6 13.♗e2∞ Hillarp Persson-Radjabov, Benidorm rapid 2003.

### 11...♖e6!?!N

Previously Black had tried only 11...♗d8 ... and lost all three games after 12.♖e1!?!±. Houdini3 suggests 11...♖e8!?! - anyway with a considerable plus for White.

### 12.♗b3?! (D)



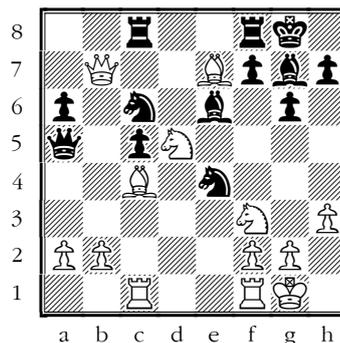
White had several better options than this one, which allows Black to counterattack.

### 12...b5! 13.♖ac1

Very playable for Black is 13.cxb5 axb5 14.♖xf6 ♖xf6 15.♗xf6+ exf6 16.♗xb5

♗b4!? 17.a3 ♗xd3 18.♗xd3 ♖fb8=.

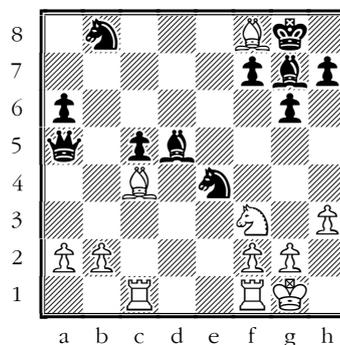
13...bxc4 14.♖xc4 ♗xe4 15.♗b7 ♖ac8 16.♖xe7 (D)



### 16...♖xd5

Black could have equalised by 16...♖fe8 17.♖fe1 ♖xd5 18.♖xd5 ♗xe7, etc. which seems to be a safer option.

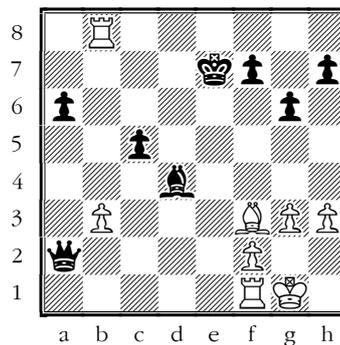
17.♖xf8 ♖b8 18.♗xb8 ♗xb8 (D)



### 19.♖xd5

Another opportunity was 19.♖xg7 ♖xc4 20.♖xc4.

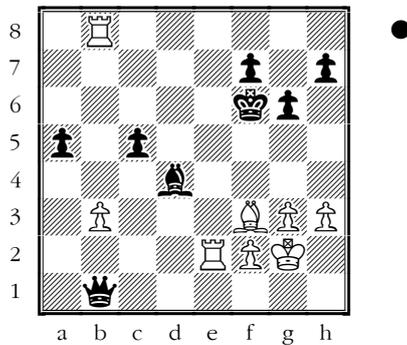
19...♗xf8 20.♖xe4 ♗d7 21.b3 ♗xa2 22.♖cd1 ♗e5 23.♖d8+ ♗e7 24.♖b8 ♗xf3+ 25.♖xf3 ♖d4 26.g3 (D)



### 26...a5?

Looks like a mistake: Radjabov underestimates White's kingside attack. 26...♗d2= would have stopped White activating his f1 rook.

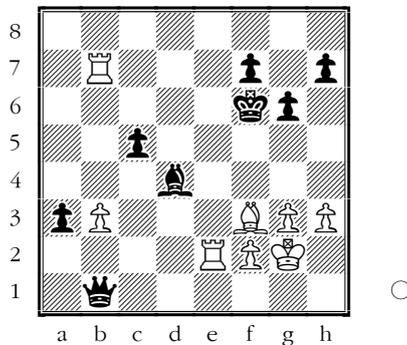
27.♖e1+! ♗f6 28.♖e2 ♗b1+ 29.♗g2 (D)



### 29...a4?

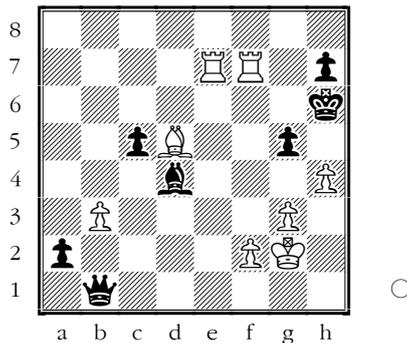
Indeed, it had been Black's idea, to push the pawn. But he is not in time because of White's 31st. Black should have tried to hold, taking care of the f7 pawn. 29...♖d3 30.♞b7 ♜g7 31.♞ee7 ♜f5.

### 30.♞b7! a3 (D)



31.♙d5!+- a2 32.♞xf7+ ♜g5 33.h4+  
There was a faster win: 33.♞ee7 a1♜  
34.f4+ ♜h6 35.♞xh7#.

### 33...♜h6 34.♞ee7 g5 (D)



### 35.♙e4!

Black resigned because of 35.♙e4  
♜xe4+ 36.♞xe4 a1♜ 37.♞e6+ ♜h5  
38.g4+! and White mates quickly, for  
example: 38...♜xg4 39.f3+ ♜h5  
40.♞xh7#.

1-0

**Contact information.** Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) - we appreciate your feedback! **Chess Today** is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. E-mail: [ababurin@iol.ie](mailto:ababurin@iol.ie) Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net> Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev. Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ivan Baburin and Ralph Marconi.

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