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CUP ★ CHRONICLE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2016 | ISSUE 1

ROUND 1 HIGHLIGHTS

By GM Tatev Abrahamyan



Frank Camaratta makes honorary first move // Lennart Ootes

ROUND 1 RESULTS:

| | |
|--|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GM Ding Liren | 1/2 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Levon Aronian | 1/2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GM Wesley So | 1 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Hikaru Nakamura | 0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GM Anish Giri | 1/2 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM M.Vachier-Lagrave | 1/2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GM Viswanathan Anand | 1/2 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Fabiano Caruana | 1/2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GM Veselin Topalov | 1 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Peter Svidler | 0 |

CURRENT STANDINGS:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1 GM Wesley So | 1 |
| 2 GM Veselin Topalov | 1 |
| 3 GM M.Vachier-Lagrave | 1/2 |
| 4 GM Levon Aronian | 1/2 |
| 5 GM Anish Giri | 1/2 |
| 6 GM Ding Liren | 1/2 |
| 7 GM Fabiano Caruana | 1/2 |
| 8 GM Viswanathan Anand | 1/2 |
| 9 GM Hikaru Nakamura | 0 |
| 10 GM Peter Svidler | 0 |

The third leg of the Grand Chess Tour, the fourth annual Sinquefield Cup, started off with fireworks. The first round promised to be an exciting one as the two leaders of the tour, Americans Hikaru Nakamura and Wesley So, were paired up. Last year, in the Sinquefield cup, Nakamura defeated So in fashion, delivering checkmate on the board. A year late, So got his revenge and took the sole lead of the tour. The third American, Fabiano Caruana, had a solid draw against five-time world champion Vishy Anand.

The two wild cards of the event, Peter Svidler and Ding Liren, did not seem very confident today, as the former blundered and the latter admitted to feeling shaken up after several bad results. The newest #2 player in the world, Vachier-Lagrave, who has gained almost 100 rating points in the past year, managed to escape with a draw in a much worse position.



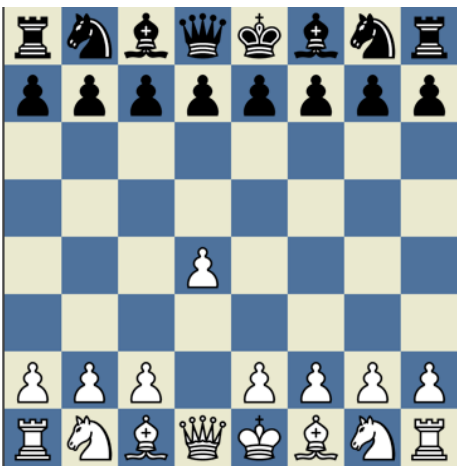
GRAND CHESS TOUR™
2016

GM DING LIREN - GM LEVON ARONIAN

By GM Tatev Abrahamyan



The encounter between the newcomer and the defending champion was quite uneventful and was the first result of the day. While waiting to be interviewed, Aronian joked that even after playing such a boring game, people still want to hear him talk. During the interview, he kept the jokes going by saying that when playing such a boring game, one prays that it's over and this time it worked out well. Even so, the Armenian can't complain about a solid game with the black pieces. On the other hand, Ding Liren seemed to be pleased with the result as he explained that lately he hasn't had good events and needs to build up his confidence.

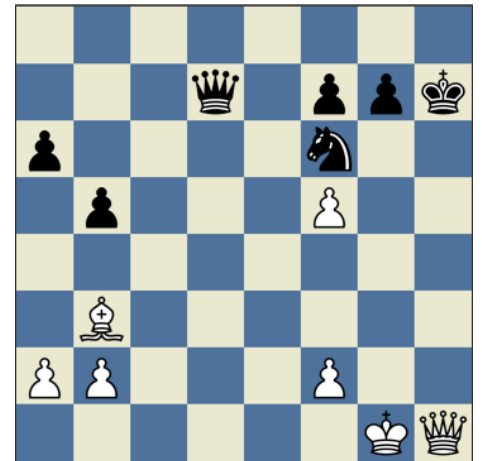


1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 Nbd7 5. Bg5 h6 6. Bh4 Be7 7. e3 O-O {a transposition to one of the most common positions of queen's gambit declined} 8. Rc1 c5 {not the most common variation, but it has been played several times at the top level this year} (8... c6 9. Bd3 dxc4 10. Bxc4 {just one of the many possible variations}) 9. dxc5 (9. cxd5 Nxd5 10. Bxe7 Nxe7 11. Be2 b6 {is slightly more common})



9...dxc4 10. Bxc4 Nxc5 11. O-O a6 12. Nd4 Nce4 {a new move but it transposes} 13. Nxe4 Nxe4 14. Bxe7 Qxe7 15. Qc2 (15. Qd3 Nf6 16. Rfd1 Bd7 17. Nf3 {this has been played by Aronian's second as white. It leads to a symmetrical position where white is slightly ahead in development but black should be able to catch up soon}) 15... Nf6 16. Bb3 Rb8 {preemptively defending the b7 pawn, as white plans on playing Qc7 in the future} 17. e4 Rd8 18. Rfd1 ({white can try sacrificing a pawn to stop black

from developing quickly} 18. e5 Rxd4 19. exf6 Qxf6 20. Qc7 Ra8 21. Rcd1 {Diagram [#]} but black can give back the pawn} e5 22. f4 Be6) 18... e5 19. Nf5 Bxf5 20. exf5 Rxd1+ 21. Rxd1 {some exchanges have happened and white's bishop on b3 looks strong, but it is hard to utilize the bishop with so few pieces on the board} e4 22. Qc3 Rd8 23. Rxd8+ Qxd8 24. h3 h5 25. Qe5 b5 26. g3 Qd7 27. g4 {forces the game into a draw} hxg4 28. hxg4 Nxg4 29. Qxe4 Nf6 30. Qa8+ Kh7 31. Qh1+ {Diagram [#]} with a perpetual}



GM WESLEY SO - GM HIKARU NAKAMURA

By GM Tatev Abrahamyan

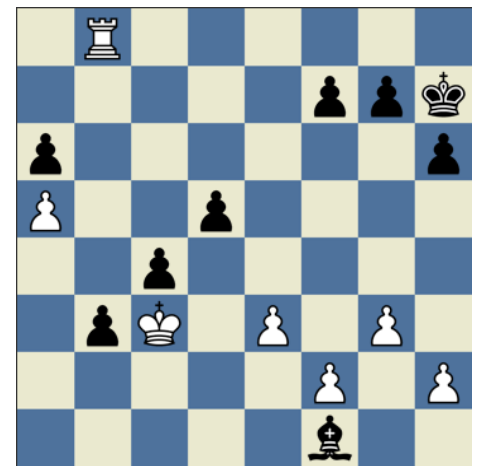


This was definitely the biggest result of the round. Going into the round, both Americans were leading the tour. Not only did the win give Wesley So the clear lead, but it was also the first time he had ever defeated Nakamura in a classical time control. The game was a complicated Catalan where So sacrificed two pawns and Nakamura sacrificed an exchange back just to fix his pawn structure. Unfortunately for Nakamura, the resulting endgame was quite bad for him and Wesley finished the game off with perfect technique.



1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. g3 Be7 5. Bg2 O-O 6. O-O dxc4 7. Ne5 (7. Qc2 a6 8. Qxc4 b5 9. Qc2 Bb7 10. Bd2 Be4 11. Qc1 {is the main line of the Catalan}) 7... Nc6 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. Na3 Bxa3 10. bxa3 {Diagram [#] funny pawn structure. Black has the triple pawns on the c file and white has the double pawns on the a file. In the long term, white's structure is better and white has the bishop pair, so black needs to remain active} Ba6 11. Qd2 Rb8 12. Qa5 {white's idea is to make that bishop on a6 uncomfortable and force the black queen to c8 to defend it} Qc8 13. a4 Rd8 14. Ba3 {sacrificing another pawn} (14. Rd1 Nd5 {has been played before}) (14... c3 {makes more sense to exchange the weak c pawn for the e2 pawn}) 15. Qxc3 Bxe2 16. Re1 Qa6) 15. Ba3 f5 16. Bc5) 14... Rxd4 15. Rfb1 \$146 {white simply doesn't care about the pawns and plays for the initiative. White felt that the rook is better placed on a1 than f1, as in the future he can push the a pawns and Be2 won't be a tempo move} Rb6 16. Bc5 {Diagram [#] looks like a blunder, but black would rather give up the rook for a bishop and have his pawn structure fixed} Rd7 17. Rd1 {white doesn't need to rush with taking the rook on b6 as it is not going anywhere} h6 (17... Nd5 {in the postgame interview Hikaru admitted to forgetting that this is the correct move}) 18. Rxd7 Nxd7 19. Bxb6 cxb6 20. Qd2 c5 21. Rd1 Nf6

22. Kf1 (22. Qd8+ {white could have exchanged the queens and not given black the chance to avoid the exchange}) 22... Kh7 23. Qc2+ Kg8 (23... g6 {simply avoiding the queen exchange and asking white how he's going to make progress}) 24. Qd2 Kh7 25. Qd8 Qxd8 26. Rxd8 {it is much easier to white to play for the win in the endgame. The pawn on a7 is very weak and once captured, the rest of the pawn chain will also fall. The rook is very strong in the endgame now that the queens are gone} c3 27. Ke1 Bc4 28. Kd1 Bxa2 29. Kc2 Bc4 30. e3 b5 31. Kxc3 a6 (31... Bd5 32. Bxd5 Nxd5+ 33. Kd2 bxa4 34. Ra8 {Nakamura said he missed this}) 32. Ra8 Nd5+ 33. Bxd5 exd5 34. a5 \$1 {Diagram [#] very nice technique! Black's pawns are not going anywhere and once white takes on a6, his a pawn will queen} b4+ 35. Kd2 Bf1 (35... Bb5 36. Rc8 c4 37. Rb8 {and white is threatening taking the bishop and queen the a pawn, as white's king will stop all of Black's pawns}) 36. Rc8 c4 37. Rb8 b3 38. Kc3



GM ANISH GIRI - GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE

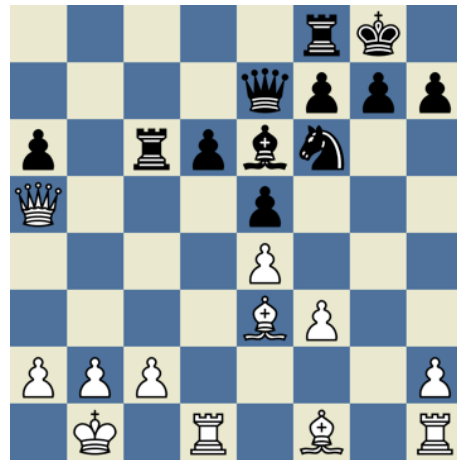
By GM Tatev Abrahamyan

For a long time both the commentators and the engines favored white. The two young players played down a well known theoretical line in the Najdorf. Black seemed to have misplayed it a little as white won a clear pawn and had the advantage. The Dutchman failed to convert the point and blundered a tactic, allowing world's #2 player find a drawing idea.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be3 Ng4 7. Bc1 Nf6 {the commentators were worried that the game was going to end in a quick draw, but the players came to fight} 8. f3 e5 9. Nb3 Be6 10. Be3 Be7 11. Qd2 O-O

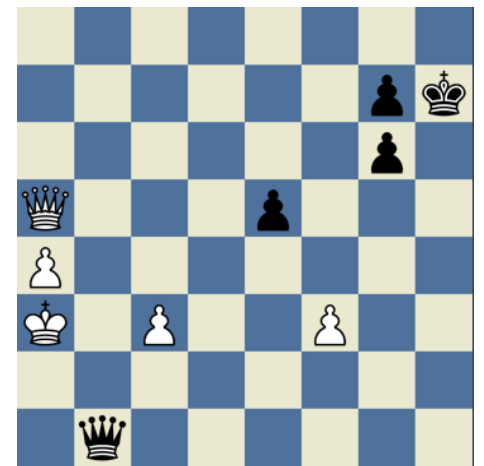


12. O-O-O Nbd7 13. g4 b5 14. g5 b4 15. gxf6 {this move has become fashionable in the recent years. It leads to a long and forcing line} (15. Ne2 {is the more common move} Ne8 16. f4 a5 17. f5 a4 18. fxe6 axb3 19. exf7+ Rxf7 20. cxb3 Rxa2 21. Ng3 {Diagram [#]} and the position is very unclear}) 15... bxc3 16. Qxc3 Nxf6 17. Na5 Rc8 18. Nc6 Qd7 19. Nxe7+ Qxe7 20. Qa5 Rc6



21. Kb1 Rfc8 ({the point of white's previous move is to refute this line} 21... d5 22. exd5 Bxd5 23. Rxd5 Nxd5 24. Qxd5 Rd6 25. Qe4 Rd1+ 26. Bc1 Qg5 27. f4 Qxf4 28. Qxf4 exf4 29. Bg2 {Diagram [#]} and the imbalanced ending is better for white}) 22. Rd2 Nh5 {the first new move in this position. 22...Qc7 and Qb7 have been played before} 23. Rg1 {Vachier-Lagrave admitted that he forgot the preparation here} Qh4 24. Be2 Nf4 25. Bd1 f5 26. exf5 Bxf5 27. Ka1 {when Vachier-Lagrave played Qh4 on move 23, he was planning on taking the c2 pawn. After Ka1 was played he realized that he couldn't} d5 (27... Bxc2 \$4 28. Bxc2 Rxc2 29. Rxc2 Rxc2 30. Qa4 Rc8 31. Qd7 {[%csl Gc8,Gg7]} Diagram [#])) 28. c3 Rg6 29. Rxc6 hxc6 {due to back rank threats, black needs a square for his king} 30. Bxf4 Qxf4 31. Qxd5+ Kh7 32. Bb3 {now white is up a healthy pawn and black's king will always be in danger} a5 33. a4 Re8 34. Ka2 \$2 {the big blunder of the game} (34. Qb5 {As Vachier-Lagrave pointed out} Re7 35. Qc4 Qxd2

36. Qh4+ Qh6 37. Qxe7 Qxh2 38. Ka2 Qf4 39. Qc5 Qxf3 40. Qxe5 g5 41. Qxa5 g4 42. Qe5 g3 43. Bd5 Qf2 44. a5 {lets white keep the advantage, as it is hard to keep pushing the g pawn}) 34...Be6 35. Qc6 (35. Qb5 Rb8 36. Qxb8 Qxa4+ 37. Kb1 Bxb3 38. Rd8 Qa2+ 39. Kc1 Qa1+ 40. Kd2 Qd1+ 41. Ke3 Qe1+ {is a draw}) 35... Bxb3+ 36. Kxb3 Rb8+ 37. Kc2 Rxb2+\$1 {Diagram [#]} 38. Kxb2 Qxd2+ 39. Kb3 Qxh2 40. Qd5 Qe2 41. Qxa5 Qd1+ 42. Kb2 Qd2+ 43. Kb3 Qd1+ 44. Kb2 Qd2+ 45. Ka3 Qc1+ 46. Kb4 Qb1+ 47. Ka3 1/2-1/2



GM VISWANATHAN ANAND - GM FABIANO CARUANA

By GM Tatev Abrahamyan



The US champion delivered the first surprise in the game as he chose the French defense with the black pieces. Trying to avoid any kind of preparation, Anand chose the quieter and less challenging exchange variation. In the confession box, Caruana admitted that he did not expect Anand's choice but still felt comfortable in his position. The game was quite balanced and ended with a queen sacrifice that forced a perpetual.

1. e4 e6 {this must have been a surprise for Anand as the French is



not Caruana's opening of choice} 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. exd5 {practical decision as Anand avoids any preparation Caruana could have had in the main lines} exd5 5. Bd3 Nf6 (5... Nc6 6. a3 Bxc3+ 7. bxc3 Nge7 8. Qf3 Be6 9. Nh3 Qd7 10. Ng5 O-O-O 11. O-O Rdf8 12. Nxe6 fxe6 {was played earlier this year by Caruana against Vachier-Lagrave in an online blitz tournament}) 6. Nge2 O-O 7. O-O c6 8. Bg5 h6 9. Bh4 Re8 {this position hasn't been played many times before, but it is a fairly normal set up for black in the exchange French} 10. f3 Nbd7 11. Qd2 Nf8 12. Rae1 Bd7



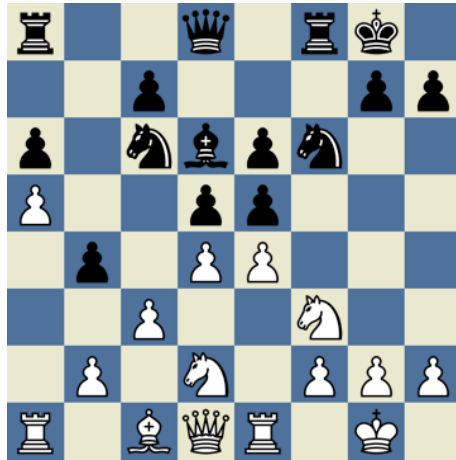
13. a3 Be7 14. Bf2 Ng6 15. Bg3 Nh5 16. Bxg6 fxc6 17. Be5 {Diagram [#]} White has given up the pair of bishops to compromise black's pawn structure a little bit and to have a monster bishop on e5} Bh4 {an accurate way to equalize} 18. Rd1 Bg5 19. f4 Be7 {it seems as if Black accomplished nothing in the last few moves, but he managed to get white's rook off the open

file and provoked f4, which created a square for his knight on e4} 20. h3 Be6 21. Kh2 Nf6 {bringing the knight back into the game and heading towards the e4 square} 22. Nc1 h5 23. Nd3 Bf5 24. Ne2 Ne4 25. Qe3 h4 26. Rc1 Rc8 27. c3 Qb6 28. b4 Bf6 29. Nc5 Nxc5 30. bxc5 Qb2 31. Ng1 {breaking the pawn chain} b6 (31... Qxa3 32. Ra1 Qb2 33. Rxa7 {only helps white}) 32. Nf3 bxc5 33. dxc5 Be4 34. Rce1 Re7 35. Bxf6 (35. Qd4 Bxf3 36. Rxf3 Rf8 37. Ree3 {could be a little annoying for black}) 35... gxf6 36. Nxe4 Rce8 37. Qg3 Rg7 38. Ra1 g5 39. fxc5 Rxc5 (39... fxc5 {leads to a completely crazy variation that only computers would consider playing} 40. Nf5 Bxf5 41. Rxf5 {Diagram [#]} sacrificing a rook} Qxa1 42. Rxc5 Ree7 43. Qb8+ Kh7 44. Rh5+ Kg6 45. Qf4 {Diagram [#]} sacrificing two rooks!) Kxh5 46. g4+ Rxc4 {only move} (46... Kg6 47. Qf5+ Kh6 48. Qh5#) (46... Kh4 47. Qh6#) 47. Qxc4+ Kh6 48. Qf4+ Kh7 49. Qh4+ Kg6 50. Qg4+ Kf7 51. Qf5+ Ke8 52. Qc8+ {with a draw}) 40. Qf2 Qxc3 41. Qxf6 Qg3+ 42. Kg1 Qxc2+ {Diagram [#]} a queen sacrifice that only leads to a draw} (42... Rg7 43. Rf2 Ree7 44. Nf5 Bxf5 45. Qxf5 {is also very drawn}) 43. Nxc2 Rxc2+ 44. Kh1 Rf2+ 45. Kg1 1/2-1/2

GM VESELIN TOPALOV - GM PETER SVIDLER

By GM Tatev Abrahamyan

Even with his subpar result in the tour so far, Topalov always seems to be in good spirits and ready to play. During the game, he visited the confession box just to say “hi”, which the fans enjoyed thoroughly. The game seemed to go quite smoothly for the Bulgarian as he was always comfortable. Peter Svidler, another fresh face at the tour, simply blundered at the end. Topalov felt that Svidler was still jetlagged, thus explaining his oversight.



(25... Rb3 {Svidler felt that this move should hold but still preferred white's position}) 26. Qc3 Nxd4 27. Qxb4 Ne2+ 28. Kh1 {this is the reason why this variation doesn't work for black. Black resigned after this move} (28. Kh2 Nxc1 29. Qb8+ Kh7 30. Qb1+ Nd3 31. Ne1 Qe5+ {Diagram [#] and Black has this check}) 28... Nxc1 29. Qb8+ Kh7 (29... Kf7 30. Qxc7+ {wins a piece}) 30. Qb1+ Nd3 31. Ne1 {Diagram [#] there is no check on e5 and white wins a piece} 1-0



1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O 8. a4 {Anti-Marshall} (8. c3 {allows the Marshall gambit} d5 9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Rxe5 c6 {Black sacrifices a pawn for a quick development and a king side attack}) 8... b4 9. d3 d6 10. a5 Be6 11. Bxe6 {a very uncommon move} (11.Nbd2 {developing the knight and defending the bishop is more typical}) 11...fxe6 12. Nbd2 d5 13. c3 {Svidler spent a lot of time in this position trying to figure out where to put his pieces} Bd6 14. d4 {Diagram [#] resolving the matters in the center

and trying to take advantage of the Bd6 move} bxc3 15. bxc3 exd4 16. cxd4 {avoiding complications} ({Topalov showed the following variation} 16. e5 {winning a piece but} dxc3 17. Nf1 Nxe5 18. Nxe5 Ne4 19. Nf3 {leads to a very imbalanced and complex position where white wins a piece but black has 3 pawns}) 16... dxe4 17. Nxe4 Bb4 18. Bd2 Nxe4 19. Rxe4 Qd5 20. Bxb4 Qxe4 21. Bxf8 Rxf8 {a lot of pieces came off the board, leaving white with an advantage. White can simply put a rook on c1, keep pressure along the c file and torture his opponent for a long time} 22. Rc1 h6 23. Qd2 Rb8 24. Qe3 Qd5 25. h3 Rb4 \$4



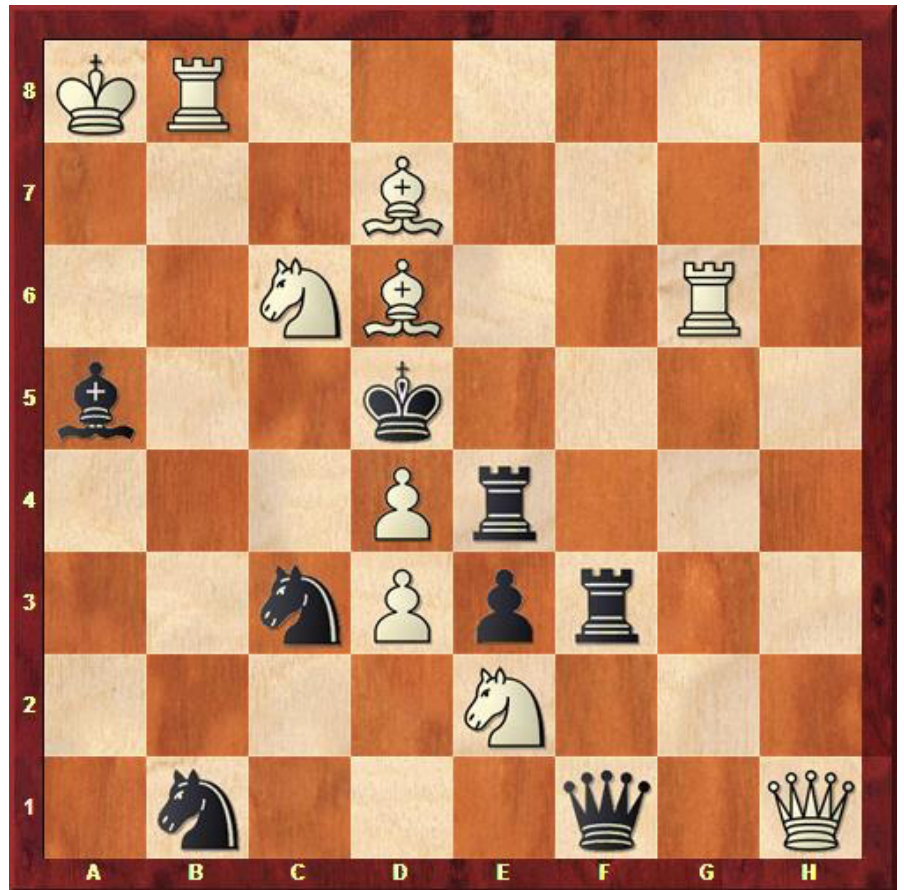
DAILY PUZZLE

By FIDE Master Aviv Friedman

Each day, the Club provides a daily puzzle for all visitors to solve. Two \$25 gift cards to our store will be drawn daily among those who submit a correct solution.

Objective: White to move.
Checkmate in two.

Solution: 1.



CROSSTABLE AFTER ROUND ONE

| Rank | Player | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | R | P |
|------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| 1 | GM So, Wesley (2771) | X | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | GM Topalov, Veselin (2761) | - | X | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | GM Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2819) | - | - | X | - | - | - | ½ | - | - | - | 1 | ½ |
| 4 | GM Caruana, Fabiano (2807) | - | - | - | X | - | ½ | - | - | - | - | 1 | ½ |
| 5 | GM Aronian, Levon (2792) | - | - | - | - | X | - | - | ½ | - | - | 1 | ½ |
| 6 | GM Anand, Viswanathan (2770) | - | - | - | ½ | - | X | - | - | - | - | 1 | ½ |
| 7 | GM Giri, Anish (2769) | - | - | ½ | - | - | - | X | - | - | - | 1 | ½ |
| 8 | GM Ding, Liren (2755) | - | - | - | - | ½ | - | - | X | - | - | 1 | ½ |
| 9 | GM Nakamura, Hikaru (2791) | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | X | - | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | GM Svidler, Peter (2751) | - | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | X | 1 | 0 |



PAIRINGS - ROUND 2

- GM Levon Aronian
- GM Peter Svidler
- GM Fabiano Caruana
- GM Veselin Topalov
- GM M. Vachier-Lagrave
- GM Viswanathan Anand
- GM Hikaru Nakamura
- GM Anish Giri
- GM Ding Liren
- GM Wesley So

SINQUFIELD CUP BLITZ TOURNEY

August 6 | Round 1 begins at 7:00 p.m.

7SS, G/5;d0

Entry Fee: \$20

Registration: 6:00 - 6:50 p.m.

Prize Fund: \$1000 Guaranteed

Top U2000: \$90

Top U1800: \$80

Top U1600: \$70

Biggest Upset: \$60

Free entry for GMs and IMs

USCF membership required



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Autographs, Kingside Diner

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

6:00 PM | Opening Ceremony*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

1:00 PM | Round 1

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

1:00 PM | Round 2

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

1:00 PM | Round 3

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

1:00 PM | Round 4

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

1:00 PM | Round 5

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

Rest Day

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

1:00 PM | Round 6

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

1:00 PM | Round 7

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

1:00 PM | Round 8

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

1:00 PM | Round 9

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

12:00 PM | Playoff

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

6:00 PM | Closing Ceremony*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

1:00 PM | Ultimate Moves

*Private Event,
World Chess Hall of Fame



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