

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

So - Aronian	2
Giri - Liren	3
Anand - Nakamura	4
Topalov - Vachier-Lagrave	5
Svidler - Caruana	6
Crosstable	7
Pairings Round 4	8
Schedule of Events	8

CUP ★ CHRONICLE

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 | ISSUE 3

ROUND 3 HIGHLIGHTS

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan



GM Aronian and GM So before the start of Round 3 // Austin Fuller

ROUND 3 RESULTS:

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

CURRENT STANDINGS:

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

Day three of the 2016 Sinquefield Cup was very peaceful, but not without some fireworks. Much to everyone's surprise, Veselin Topalov blundered a simple tactic right out of the opening, but his opponent, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, did not find the most precise continuation and only drew the game.

Anish Giri got extremely adventurous against Ding Liren, but the latter also settled for a draw instead of playing for a win by marching his king down the board. Levon Aronian unleashed the preparation he had been saving for months, but it was only enough to draw with black.

After suffering two losses, Peter Svidler had some real chances against Fabiano Caruana, but the U.S. Champion once again managed to escape with half a point. Nakamura and Anand had the most balanced game out of the round, with the former World Champion having a slight edge at one point. Aronian, So, Anand and Topalov are now tied for the lead with 2/3.



GRAND CHESS TOUR™
2016

GM WESLEY SO - LEVON ARONIAN 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Levon Aronian played a line he had prepared some time ago and sacrificed two minor pieces for a rook. Such an imbalance usually favors the side with the minor pieces, but Wesley So was behind in development. Aronian had one opportunity in the game to take advantage of white's awkwardly placed pieces. After the missed opportunity, Aronian gave his rook back for two minor pieces and the game was drawn soon after.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.0-0 h6 [sideline, 6...d6 is the most common move] 7.d4 Bb6 8.dxe5 Nxe4 9.Bd5 Nxf2N 10.Rxf2 d6 11.exd6 Qxd6 12.Bb3 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 Qf6 14.Qd2 [trying to exchange queens, but the move looks very strange] [14.Be3 simply developing the piece looks more natural] 14...g5?! [stopping the trade of queens but a very weakening move] [14...Ne5 also stops the queen exchange without creating weaknesses and white's pieces are extremely uncoordinated] 15.Qd4 Re8 16.Bf4 Qxf4 17.Qxf4 Nd3+ 18.Kg3 Nxf4 19.Kxf4 Re2 20.Kg3 Rxb2 21.Nbd2 Be6 22.Nc4 computer evaluates the position as better for black but Levon wasn't sure] 15.Kg1 Bg4 16.Qf2 Rfe8 17.Be3?! [gives away the advantage tactically] 17...Bxf3 18.Nd2 Rxe3! [Diagram 1] 19.Qxe3 [black managed to get the two pieces back for the rook] 19...Bh5 20.Qh3 Be2 21.Re1 Re8 22.Bc4 Qd8 23.Qxh6 [forces the matters] 23...Bxc4 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8

25.Qxg5+ [Diagram 2 and now it's a perpetual] 25...Kf8 26.Qc5+ Kg8 27.Qg5+ Kf8 28.Qh6+ Kg8 29.Qg5+

½

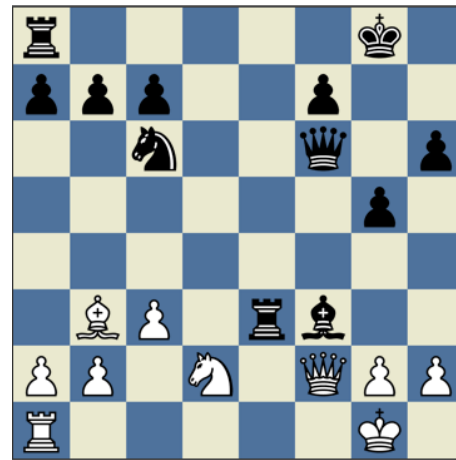


Diagram 1

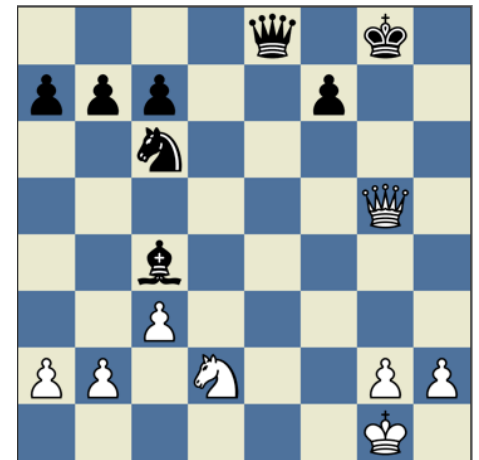


Diagram 2



GM ANISH GIRI - GM DING LIREN 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Anish Giri was slightly better for the first half of the game but missed a very nice positional exchange sacrifice that allowed black to have long term compensation. At some point, the Dutchman felt that his opponent wasn't playing the most optimal moves and decided to sacrifice the exchange back for a chance to attack. This allowed Black to have some real winning chances but it meant running his king down the board, which is a scary decision. Of course, the computers calculated out the win, but for a human being playing such moves is not easy. Instead, he allowed his opponent to give a perpetual.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 [both c3 and a4 are more common here] 8...Na5 9.Ba2 c5 10.Nc3 Be6 11.Nh4 0-0 [11...c4 12.Nf5 Bxf5 13.exf5 0-0 14.dxc4 Nxc4 was played between Caruana and Ding in January of 2016 and white eventually won the game] 12.Nf5 Rc8 13.Bg5 Bxf5 14.exf5 [Ding is playing the same way as he did against Caruana, except he hasn't committed his pawn to c4] 14...Ne8 15.Be3 Bg5 16.Bd5 Bxe3 17.fxe3 Nf6 18.Qf3 Re8 19.b3 h6 20.Be4 [20.Kh1 and white is slightly better as he has a nice grasp on the light squares] 20...c4! [Diagram 1 great positional sacrifice] 21.dxc4 Nxc4 [Diagram 2 22.bxc4 Rxc4 23.Bc6 Rxc3 24.Bxe8 Qxe8 [black has long term compensation as white has a lot of pawn weaknesses



Diagram 1



Diagram 2

and the rooks can't join the game easily] 25.Qb7 Ng4 26.f6 [giving the pawn back just to force the knight away from white's king] [26.e4 Qd8 27.h3 Ne3 28.Rf2 Qg5 Anish was worried about this line with black pieces around his king] 26...Nxf6 27.Qxa6 Qd7 28.Rab1 Rc5 29.a4 [29.c4 bxc4 30.Rb8+ Kh7 31.Rxf6 gxf6 32.Qa8 Qc6 33.Rh8+ Kg6 34.Qg8+ Kf5 35.Qxf7 Ke4 36.Qxf6 same idea as in the game but now the rook on c5 is stuck. Giri didn't like this because the king has the d3 escape square] 29...bxa4 30.Rb8+ Kh7 31.Rxf6 [31.

Rb7 winning one of the pawns back and the game continues] 31...gxf6 32.Qa8 Qc6 33.Rh8+ Kg6 34.Qg8+ Kf5 35.Qxf7 Rxc2? [missed opportunity] [35...Ke4!! Diagram 3 the king escapes the perpetual and now black is winning! 36.Qxf6 (36.Rxh6 Rxc2 37.Rxf6 Kd3) 36...Rxc2 37.Qf3+ Kd3] 36.Qh7+ Ke6 37.Qg8+ Kf5 38.Qh7+ Ke6

½

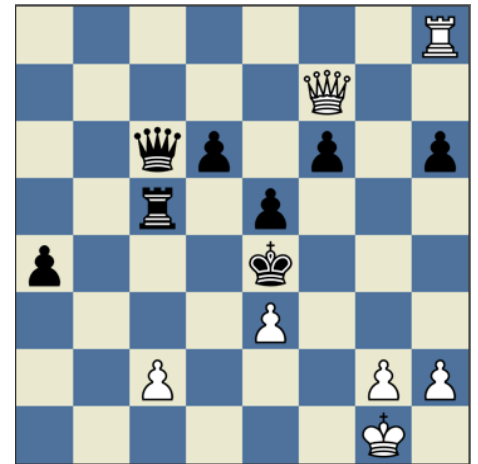


Diagram 3

GM VISWANATHAN ANAND - GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Vishy Anand made the very unusual decision of giving up the bishop pair in an open position. He found an interesting idea to attack on the kingside and placed his knight on e7, not allowing his opponent to castle. Hikaru Nakamura kept his cool and equalized the position without much trouble by exchanging all the minor pieces, resulting in a drawn rook exchange.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 h5 [very committal move, as castling king side will always be risky for black] 8.Nd5 [rare line] [8.Bg5 is the main line] 8...Nxd5 9.Qxd5 [Anand has played this position twice in the Leuven leg of the Grand Chess Tour with a 100% score] 9...Nc6N [9...Nd7 10.Nc3 Nf6 has occurred twice in Leuven] 10.Qd1 Be6 11.Nc3 Ne7 12.Bd3 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.0-0 Nb4 15.Qe2 [15.Be4 looks more natural to preserve the bishop pair in an open position 15...Qxd1 16.Rxd1 f5 Anand wasn't sure how to continue after this move and showed the following analysis 17.a3 fxe4 (17... Nc6 18.Bxc6+ bxc6 19.Re1 Bd6 20.Bf4 Diagram 1 white is better) 18.axb4 Bxb4 19.Nxe4 Bf5 20.Rd5 0-0 unclear position] 15...Qc7 16.f4 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Nxd3 18.cxd3 Bd4 19.f5 [going after the black's king that's still stuck in the center] 19...Bd7 20.f6 g6 21.Nd5 Qd6 22.Ne7 [Diagram 2 unorthodox position. Now the black king can't castle] 22...Rd8 23.a4 [stopping the bishop from getting to b5]

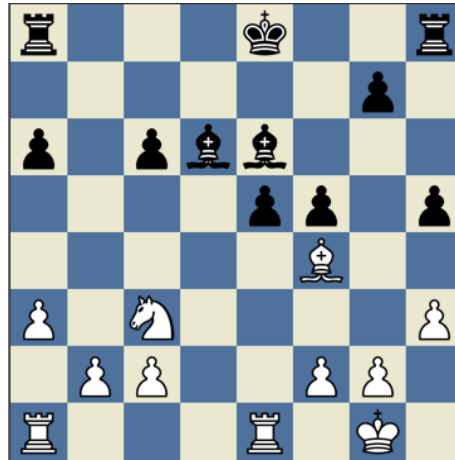


Diagram 1



Diagram 2

[23.Bd2 Bc6 24.Ba5 b6 25.Bb4 tricky idea! 25...Qxb4 26.Nxc6 Qxb2 even this position is unclear] 23...Bc6 24.Be3 Bxe3 25.Nxc6 [now all the pieces are coming off and the game is headed towards a draw] 25...bxc6 26.Qxe3 Qd4 27.Rae1 Qxe3 28.Rxe3 0-0 29.Rxe5 Rxd3 30.Rc5

½



GM VESELIN TOPALOV - GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

The players blitzed out 26 moves of theory and surprisingly Veselin Topalov's first move out of theory was a blunder. He himself seemed surprised as he had looked at the position the night before and knew that the move was a blunder, but for some reason played it anyway. In the postgame interview, he joked that his plan wasn't to get a pawn down position out of the opening with white. The Frenchman went for the most obvious continuation missing a subtlety that would have given him a big advantage. He was up a pawn in knight vs bishop endgame, but his opponent had enough counter play to draw the game.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bc1 Nf6 8.f3 e5 9.Nb3 Be6 10.Be3 Be7 11.Qd2 0-0 12.0-0-0 Nbd7 13.g4 b5 14.g5 b4 15.gxf6 bxc3 16.Qxc3 Nxf6 17.Na5 Rc8 18.Nc6 Qe8 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Qa5 Rc6 [so far the players are repeating Giri vs Vachier-Lagrave from round 1] 21.Rg1 [the most common move in the position] [Giri chose 21.Kb1 Rfc8 22.Rd2 Nh5 23.Rg1 Qh4 24.Be2 Nf4 25.Bd1 f5 26.exf5 Bxf5 27.Ka1 and white was better] 21... Rfc8 22.Rg2 [this has been played by Anand twice] 22...Bh3 23.Rgd2 Bxf1 24.Rxf1 Qe6 25.Rff2 h6 [Anand and Grischuk agreed to a draw in this position in 2011] 26.Kb1 Qh3 27.Rd3? [Diagram 1 [27.Qa3 eyeing the pawn on d6 and keeping the game going] 27...Rxc2 [looks natural but the resulting endgame is



Diagram 1

not clear. Vachier-Lagrave thought the ending was drawn] [27...d5 very subtle. MVL didn't see this idea until around move 35. the idea is to open the b1-h7 diagonal 28.exd5 Rxc2 29.Rxc2 Qf1+ 30.Bc1 Qxd3 31.Qd2 Qf5 allows black to keep the pin] 28.Rxc2 Qf1+ 29.Bc1 Qxd3 30.Qd2 Qxc2+ 31.Qxc2 Rxc2 32.Kxc2 Kf8 33.Kb3 Ke7 34.Kc4 [34. Ka4 the players agreed that this straight forward move going after the a6 pawn is risky 34...d5 35.exd5 Nxd5 36.Ka5 f5 37.Kxa6 f4 38.Bd2 g5 39.Kb5 g4 40.fgx4 f3 41.Be1 Ne3 as Topalov pointed out, this is dangerous for white] 34...Ke6 35.b4 d5+ 36.exd5+ Nxd5 37.Bd2 f5 38.b5 axb5+ 39.Kxb5 Kd6 [39...g5 40.a4 f4 41.h3 (41.a5 g4 42.fgx4 e4 43.Kc4 f3 44.Be1 e3 45.Kd3 f2 46.Bxf2 exf2 47.Ke2 Ne3 48.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 49.Kg3 Ne5)] 40.a4 [Diagram 2 even with the extra pawn, it's hard to make progress with black. The bishop stops the pawns and the a5 passed pawn is very annoying to deal with] 40...g5 41.a5 f4 42.Kc4 Nc7 43.Bb4+ Ke6 44.h3 h5 45.Bc5 e4 46.fxe4 g4 47.hxg4 hxg4 48.Kd3 Na6

49.Bd4 Nb4+ [the black king has no way of getting in and white's king and bishop will stop the pawn pair] 50.Ke2 Na6 51.Kf2 Kd6

1/2

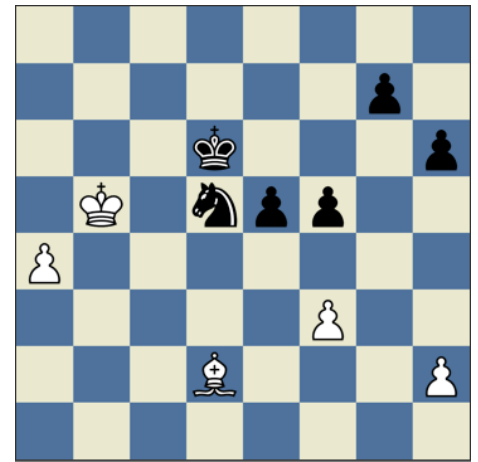


Diagram 2



GM PETER SVIDLER - GM FABIANO CARUANA 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Fabiano Caruana made a couple of inaccuracies in the opening and was worse during the endgame. Peter Svidler played what looked like natural moves, but missed some more precise continuation to gain a bigger edge. Svidler was up a pawn, but instead of staying up a clear pawn and keeping more pieces on the board, he traded down to a rook ending with an extra pawn. A rook ending with 4 pawns for one side and 3 pawns on the opposite side can be a real struggle for amateurs, but the U.S. Champion defended without any complications and the game was a fairly simple draw.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 Be7
 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.e3 Ne4 [7...b6 is the most common move in this variation but Ne4 is the latest fashion in the top level] 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Rc1 c6 10.Bd3 Nxc3 11.Rxc3 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nd7 13.0-0 b6 14.Bd3 c5 15.Be4 Rb8 16.Qa4 Nf6?! [allows white to have a bit of pressure] [16...Bb7 17.Bxb7 Rxb7 exchanging the annoying bishop on e4 and the position should be roughly even] 17.Bc6 cxd4 18.Nxd4 e5 19.Nf3 Rd8?! [19...Bg4 developing the last piece 20.Rfc1 Rbc8 and all of black's pieces join the game] 20.h3 a6 21.Rfc1 b5 22.Qa5 Be6 23.Qxa6?! [giving away a lot of the advantage] [Caruana was worried about this line 23.Nxe5 Bxh3 24.Rc5 Bg4 25.Qxa6 Rd1+ 26.Rxd1 Qxc5 27.Nxg4 Nxg4 28.Bf3 Ne5 29.Be2 Diagram 1 and white is up a pawn with no real compensation] 23...Nd5 24.Bxd5 Bxd5 25.Rc7 Qb4 26.Qa3 [giving away all of the advantage] [26.a3 both players missed this move 26...Qxb2 27.R7c2 Qb3 28.Nxe5 Ra8 29.Qb6 Qxa3 30.Qxb5 Diagram 2

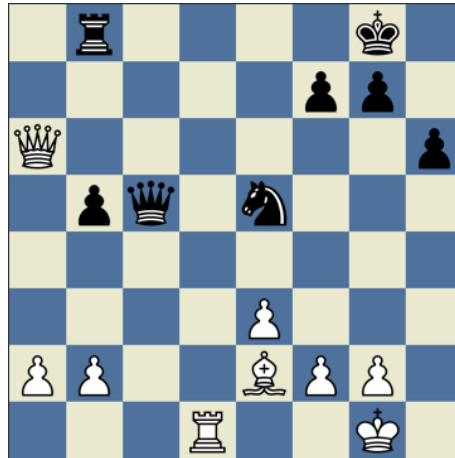


Diagram 1

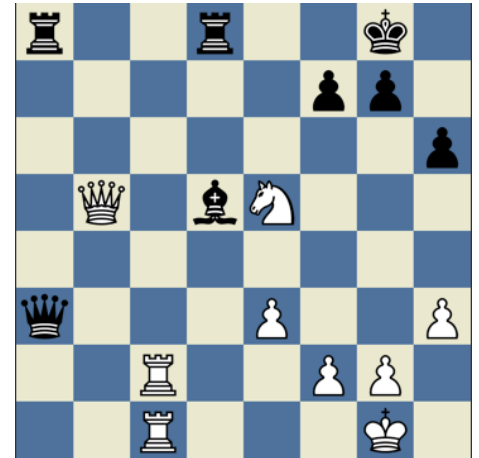


Diagram 2

white is up a pawn and can torture his opponent forever] 26...Qxa3 27.bxa3 Bxf3 28.gxf3 Ra8 29.R7c5 Rxa3 30.Rxe5 Rxa2 31.Rxb5 Rdd2 32.Rf1 Rdb2 [results in a 4 vs 3 rook endgame, which should be drawn without any problems for a player of this caliber] 33.Re5 Rb6 34.f4 Rab2 35.Kg2 g6 36.h4 h5 37.f5 Kg7 38.fxg6 Rxg6+ 39.Kh3 Rf6 40.Rg1+ Rg6 41.Rf1 Rf6 42.f4 Re2 43.Kg3 Re6 44.Kf3 Rh2

1/2



DAILY PUZZLE

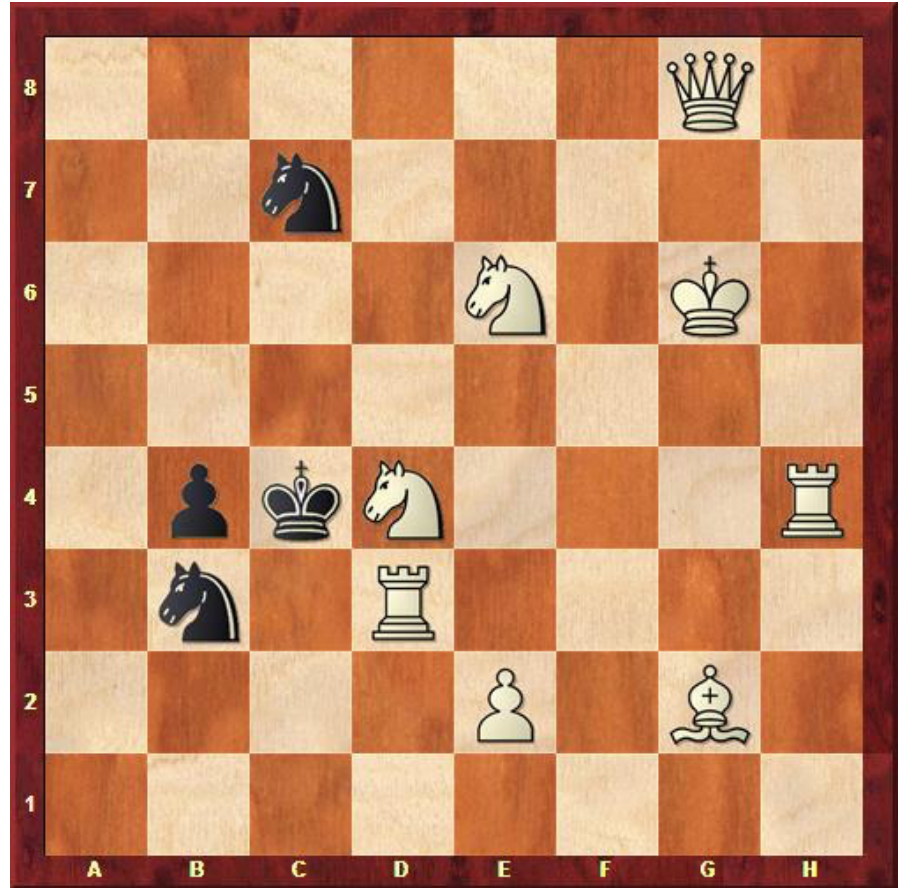
By FIDE Master Aviv Friedman

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.

Yesterday's winner: Alekhine Ferber and John Salisbury

Solution: 1. Qg6



CROSSTABLE AFTER ROUND THREE

Rank	Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R	P
1	GM Aronian, Levon (2792)	X	½	-	-	-	-	½	-	-	1	3	2
2	GM So, Wesley (2771)	½	X	-	-	1	-	½	-	-	-	3	2
3	GM Anand, Viswanathan (2770)	-	-	X	-	½	½	-	1	-	-	3	2
4	GM Topalov, Veselin (2761)	-	-	-	X	-	½	-	½	-	1	3	2
5	GM Nakamura, Hikaru (2791)	-	0	½	-	X	-	-	-	1	-	3	1½
6	GM Caruana, Fabiano (2807)	-	-	½	½	-	X	-	-	-	½	3	1½
7	GM Ding, Liren (2755)	½	½	-	-	-	-	X	-	½	-	3	1½
8	GM Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2819)	-	-	0	½	-	-	-	X	½	-	3	1
9	GM Giri, Anish (2769)	-	-	-	-	0	-	½	½	X	-	3	1
10	GM Svidler, Peter (2751)	0	-	-	0	-	½	-	-	-	X	3	½



PAIRINGS - ROUND 4

- GM Levon Aronian
- GM Fabiano Caruana

- GM M.Vachier-Lagrave
- GM Peter Svidler

- GM Hikaru Nakamura
- GM Veselin Topalov

- GM Ding Liren
- GM Viswanathan Anand

- GM Wesley So
- GM Anish Giri

SINQUEFIELD CUP SIDE EVENTS

- CHESSE OPENING EXPLAINED G/45 GAME
August 8
- LECTURES
August 9
- AUGUST KNIGHTS R2
August 10
- LECTURES
August 11

Cup Chronicle Photo Credit: Austin Fuller | Lennart Ootes | Spectrum Studios



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



4657 MARYLAND AVENUE | SAINT LOUIS, MO 63108
314.361.CHESS (2437) | USCHESSCHAMPS.COM