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# CUP ★ CHRONICLE

SATURDAY AUGUST 13, 2016 | ISSUE 7

## ROUND 7 HIGHLIGHTS

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan



GM Nakamura before Round 7 in his U.S. National Speedskating Team hat // Spectrum Studios

**ROUND 7 RESULTS:**

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

**CURRENT STANDINGS:**

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

After a seven hour day, the standings didn't change and all ended in a draw. Wesley So is still leading with only two rounds to go, trailed closely by Vishy Anand and Veselin Topalov, who are both half a point behind. Unlike yesterday, which saw several tumultuous games, today's round was rather uneventful, except for Caruana vs. Ding which lasted 7 hours! Since the first games ended fairly quickly, the players were happy to spend some time in the studio analyzing the games and chatting with the commentators. In order to prove their physical prowess, Anish Giri and Maurice Ashley did a minute and a half plank challenge in their suits, making it the most stylish plank-off in chess history.

It seems as though chess is booming both inside and outside of the chess capital of the U.S. Hikaru Nakamura received a hat and a shirt as a gift from the U.S. Speedskating team after choosing speed skating as his sport of choice in the Olympics during the opening ceremony, which he happily wore to the game today. Singer and former Destiny's Child member, Michelle Williams, stopped by the World Chess Hall of Fame, snapping a photo in front of the largest chess piece and sharing it on social media. Even with the Olympics going on in Rio right now, the Sinquefeld Cup is the place to be in the U.S.!



**GRAND CHESS TOUR™**  
2016

GM VISWANATHAN ANAND - GM LEVON ARONIAN 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Aronian had an opportunity to sacrifice a piece right in the opening but chose a safer option. After the queens were traded off, Aronian got the bishop pair but Anand had a good grip on the dark squares on the queen side. The Armenian grandmaster felt that the position was unpleasant but fortunately for him, the former world champion did not put enough pressure on him and allowed a lot of trades. Aronian was quite proud of his last move of the game, equalizing the position and ending the game in a draw.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.Nbd2 a6 7.a4 [usually white either plays Nbd2 and Bb3 or a4 and develops the knight via a3] 7... d6 8.0-0 Ba7 9.h3 Ne7 10.Re1 Ng6 11.Bb3 Re8 [11...Bxh3!? Diagram 1 this unexpected sacrifice offers black some attacking ideas 12.gxh3 Nf4 13.Nh2 Nxb3+ 14.Kf1 Bxf2 the position is really messy] 12.d4 h6 13.Bc2 c6 14.Nf1 d5 15.Nxe5 [15.

exd5 e4 16.Ne5 cxd5 17.Nxg6 fxg6 18.Bf4 g5 19.Bg3 g4 and black has good play on the king side] 15...Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 dxe4 18.Qxd8 Rxd8 19.Ng3 Bb8 20.Be3 [20.Rxe4 grabbing the pawn is no good 20...Rd1+ 21.Kh2 and white has back rank issues 21...Ba7 22.Re2 Be6 with good play] 20... Bxe5 21.Nxe4 [21.Bb6 Aronian was worried about this move as he has to be precise now 21... Rd5 22.Nxe4 Bf5 23.Nc5 Bc7 24.Bxc7 (24.c4? Bxb6 25.cxd5 Bxc5 26.dxc6 Bb4 27.cxb7 Rb8 regaining the pawn) 24... Rxc5 the opposite color bishop endgame should be harmless] 21...Bc7 22.a5 Bf5 23.Nc5 Rab8 24.g4 Bc2 25.Rac1 Bg6 26.b4 [this position is unpleasant for black. If white can exchange the dark square bishops, white will have an advantage, as he has a grip on the dark squares on the queen side and the g6 bishop is not doing much] 26... Bd6 27.Na4 f6 28.Ba7 [28.Red1 threatening Bc5 28...Bf8 (28...

Kf7? 29.Bb6 Rd7 30.Nc5+→) 29.Rxd8 (29.Bc5? Rxd1+ 30.Rxd1 Bc2! 31.Ra1 Bxa4 32.Rxa4 Bxc5 33.bxc5 Re8) 29... Rxd8 30.Bc5 f5 creating counterplay 31.Bxf8 Rxf8 32.Nc5 fxg4 33.hxg4 Rf4 it is still unpleasant for black, but he has activity on the king side; 28.Bc5 Be5 avoiding the exchange] 28...Ra8 29.Bc5 Be5 30.Nb6 Rab8 31.Nc4 Bf4 32.Be3 Bxe3 33.Rxe3 b5! [Diagram 2]

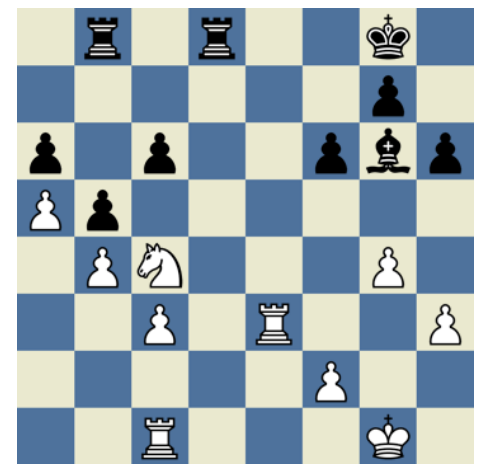


Diagram 2

1/2 - 1/2

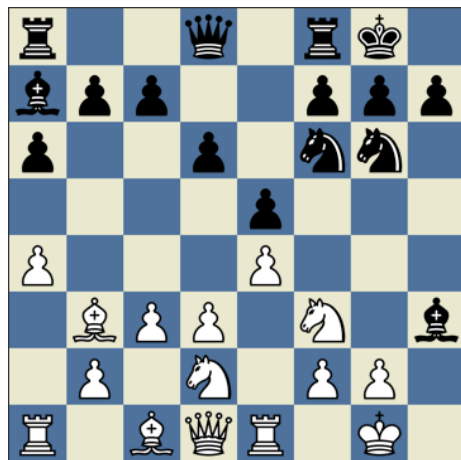


Diagram 1



## GM VESELIN TOPALOV - GM ANISH GIRI 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Topalov was determined to have a Sicilian on the board, so he played it with the colors reversed. Giri got a comfortable position out of the opening, forcing white to find counter-play. In the endgame, the Dutchman won a pawn but his opponent had a very active rook cutting off black's king and not allowing the passed pawn to advance. Giri pushed for a win for a little while, but, thanks to Topalov's accurate play, the game ended in an uneventful draw.

1.c4 e5 2.d3 [playing a reverse Najdorf] 2...Bb4+ 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 Nc6 5.a3 Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 [6.Bxd2 Topalov played this again Anand in the Leuven leg of the Grand Chess Tour and lost] 6...d5 7.cxd5 Qxd5 8.e4 Qd6 9.h3 a5 10.Be2 Nd7 11.Qc2 Nc5 12.Be3 Ne6 [the structure looks like a reverse English Attack variation of the Sicilian, but here black has a nice grip on the d4 square] 13.0-0 0-0 14.b3 Rd8 15.Rfc1 Bd7 16.Qb2 Be8 [Diagram 1 the bishop looks passive here, but it allows black to play b5 without making the knight on c6 loose]



Diagram 1

17.b4 [gaining some space on the queen side] 17...axb4 18.axb4 Rxa1 19.Qxa1 b5 [19...Nxb4 20.Nxe5 black doesn't necessarily want to allow this pawn trade and open up the position, activating white's bishop pair] 20.Qa3 Qxb4 21.Qxb4 Nxb4 22.Nxe5 f6 23.Bg4 Nd4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Nf3 Nxd3 26.Rxc7 [white bad bishop is now active but black has a passed pawn and can play for the win] 26...Rd6 27.Rb7 h5 28.Bf5 g6 29.e5 [only move] [29.Bc8 Nc5 30.Rc7 (30.Rb8 Rd8 losing the bishop) 30...Nxe4 losing the pawn this was worse and the bishop on c8 is also misplaced] 29...Nxe5 30.Nxe5 gxf5 [Diagram 2 gives Black more practical chances]

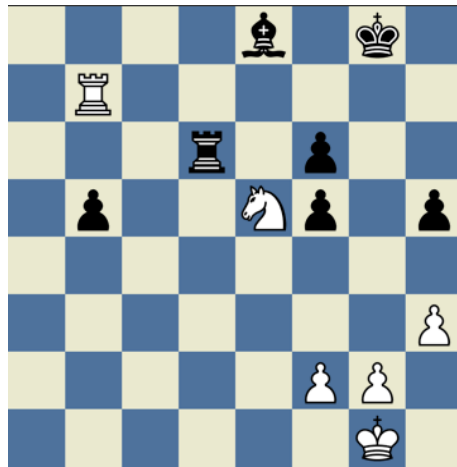


Diagram 2

[30...fxe5 31.Be4 Kf8 (31...h4 32.Re7 Kf8 33.Rxe5 b4; 31...Rd4 32.f3 white's rook is very active, cutting off the black king so even with the extra pawn, it's hard to make progress) 32.h4] 31.Rb8 Kf8 32.Ng6+ Kf7 33.Nf4 h4 34.g3 Bc6 [34...Rd1+ 35.Kh2 hxg3+ 36.Kxg3 Bc6 37.Rc8 Rc1 Black can torture white for a while] 35.gxh4 Rd4 36.Rb6 [36.Rf8+?? trading the rooks is a mistake 36...Kxf8 37.Ne6+ Kf7 38.Nxd4 b4 39.Kf1 Ba4 40.Ke1 b3 41.Ne2 b2 42.Nc3 Bc2-+] 36...Rc4 37.h5 Kg7 38.Kh2 b4 39.Nd3 Rc3 40.Nxb4 Be4 41.Rd6 Rf3 42.Nd5 Rxf2+ 43.Kg3 Rf3+ 44.Kh4 Bxd5 45.Rxd5 Kh6

1/2 - 1/2





GM PETER SVIDLER - GM WESLY SO 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Even though a win for So with the black pieces against the player who has been struggling the whole tournament could seal the deal, he decided to play safely. The American thought that Svidler was a dangerous player, like a cornered animal who is ready to attack. Svidler didn't get anything out of the opening joking that, "it's hard to play the English against someone who plays the English." The position petered out to an opposite color bishop middle game where neither side had any initiative. The players agreed to a draw after they reached the 30 move requirement.

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0-0 Nb6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.a3 0-0 9.b4 Be6 10.d3 a5 11.b5 Nd4 12.Bb2 Nb3 13.Rb1 f6 14.Nd2 Nxd2 15.Qxd2 Nc4 16.Qc1 Nxb2 17.Qxb2 Rb8 [this has all been played before] 18.e3N [Diagram 1] [18.Rfc1 Rf7 19.Ne4 b6 20.Rc6

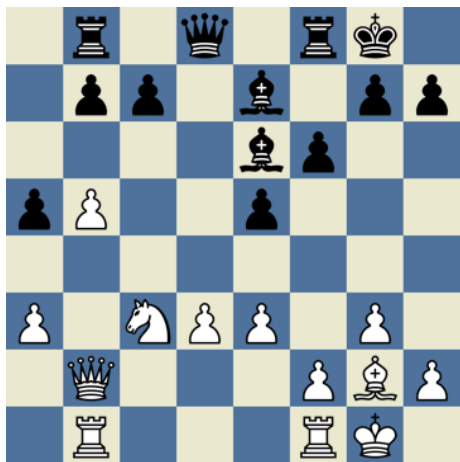


Diagram 1

Bd5 21.Nd6 Bxc6 22.Nxf7 Kxf7 23.Qb3+ Kf8 24.Bxc6 Bc5 25.a4 Qe7 26.Bd5 Rd8 27.e3 g6 28.Bc4 Kg7 29.Qd1 f5 30.Qf3 Qf6 31.Re1 Bb4 32.Re2 h5 33.h4 Re8 34.Kg2 Bc5 35.Qc6 Qxc6+ 36.bxc6 Kf6 37.f4 e4 38.d4 ½-½ (38) Miroshnichenko,E (2696)-Gasanov,E (2536) Zuerich 2009] 18...f5 [trying to gain some kind of advantage [18...Qxd3 19.Rbd1 Qg6 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.Rxd5 white wins a pawn but with the opposite color bishops and the more active g2 bishop, white should have enough compensation] 19.Na4 Bd6 20.b6 c6 [black is trying to break through on the king side] 21.d4 Qe7 22.Nc5 exd4 23.Nxe6 Qxe6 24.exd4 f4 [Diagram 2 if black can get an attack going, the opposite color bishops will favor him] 25.d5 [25.Qb3 Qxb3 26.Rxb3

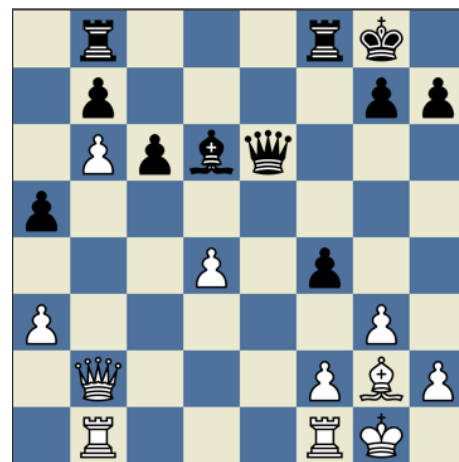


Diagram 2

is also possible, but white probably wanted to get rid of his d4 weakness] 25...cxd5 26.Qb3 [precise play, exchanging the pieces] 26...Kh8 27.Bxd5 Qf6 28.Qb5 Bxa3 29.Qxa5 Bb2 30.Bf3 Ra8 31.Qd5

½ - ½



## GM FABIANO CARUANA - GM DING LIREN 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

This was truly a titanic battle, which lasted 7 hours. Caruana had a structural advantage because his king could infiltrate, but it wasn't quite enough. Like a true champion, Caruana took any chance that he could, making his opponent work for the draw. Even at the very end, after about six and a half hours of play, the U.S. Champion allowed his opponent to queen his pawn while queening his own pawn a tempo down, trying to win an end-game with only eight pieces on the board. Ding defended ferociously, giving up one of his remaining two pawns just to activate his king. Eventually, he won the pawn back and the game was drawn.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Re8 10.d4 Bb7 11.Nbd2 Bf8 [Ding Liren plays the Zaitsev once again] 12.Bc2 h6 13.d5 Nb8 14.b3 c6 15.c4 Nbd7 16.Nf1 Qc7 17.Be3 a5N [17...Rec8 18.Rc1 Qd8 19.Ng3 cxd5 20.cxd5 g6 21.Qd2 Kh7 Karpov - Balashov 1979 1-0] 18.Rc1 Ba6 19.cxb5 Bxb5 20.Bd3 Qb7 21.Bxb5 cxb5 22.Ng3 Rec8 23.Qd3 h5 24.Rc3 b4 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Rc1 Rxc1+ 27.Bxc1 Nc5 28.Qc4 g6 29.Bg5 Nfd7 30.Nd2 a4 31.Kh2 Qb6 32.Ne2 axb3 33.axb3 Qa5 34.Ng1 Nb6 35.Qe2 Nc8 36.Ngf3 Be7 37.Be3 Nb6 38.Ne1 Nbd7 39.Nc2 Qa6 40.Qxa6 Nxa6 41.Kg1 [Diagram 1 Fabiano creates something out of nothing] 41... Kf8 42.Kf1 Bd8 43.Ke2 Bb6 44.Bh6+ Ke7 45.f3 Ndc5 46.Be3 f5 47.g4 hxg4 48.hxg4 fxg4 49.fxg4 Nd7 50.Bg5+ Ke8 51.Nc4 Bc7 52.Be3 Ndc5 53.Nd2

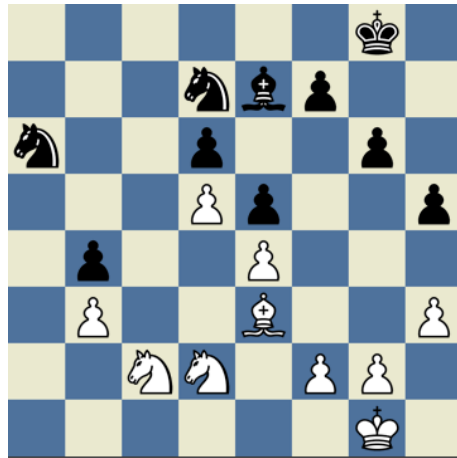


Diagram 1

Ba5 54.Ne1 Bb6 55.Bxc5 Bxc5 56.Nef3 Nc7 57.Ng5 Ke7 58.Kd3 Kf6 59.Ndf3 Bf2 60.Nh3 Bg3 61.Nhg1 Na6 62.g5+ Ke7 63.Nd2 Kd7 64.Kc4 Kc7 65.Kb5 Nc5 66.Ngf3 Nd3 67.Kc4 Nf2 68.Kxb4 Bf4 69.Kb5 Nh3 70.b4 Nxc5 71.Ka6 Nxf3 72.Nxf3 g5 73.b5 g4 74.b6+ Kb8 75.Nh4 g3 76.Nf5! [Diagram 2 winning attempt] 76...g2 77.Ne7 g1Q 78.Nc6+ Kc8

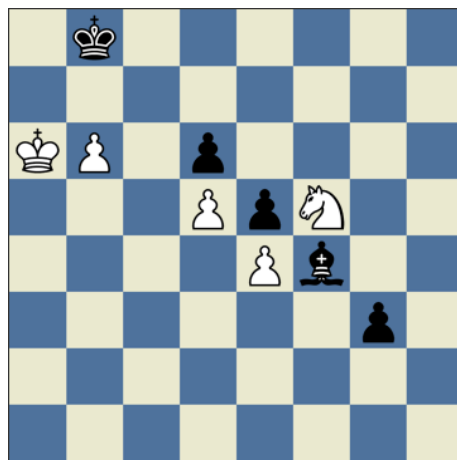


Diagram 2

79.b7+ Kd7 80.b8Q Qf1+ 81.Kb7 Qb5+ 82.Ka8 Qa4+ 83.Qa7+ Qxa7+ 84.Nxa7 Kc7 85.Nb5+ Kb6 [very precise] [85...Kd7 86.Kb7 Bc1 (86...Be3 87.Na7 Bxa7 88.Kxa7 pawn endings are completely lost for black) 87.Na7 Bd2 88.Nc6 Bc1 89.Nb8+ Ke7 90.Kc7 Ba3 91.Nc6+ Kf6 92.Na7 Kg5 should be similar to the game] 86.Nxd6 Kc5 87.Nf5 [87.Nf7 Bg3 88.Ng5 Bh4 89.Ne6+ Kc4 90.Kb7 Kd3 91.Nc5+ Kd4 92.Kc6 Bg5] 87... Bg5 88.d6 Kc4 89.Kb7 Kd3 90.Ng3 Ke3 91.d7 Kf3 92.Nh5 Kxe4 93.Kc6 Kf3 94.Ng7 e4 95.Nf5

1/2 - 1/2



GM M.VACHIER-LAGRAVE - GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

This was the first Berlin Defense of the tournament. The Berlin has become very popular in top level chess, because it's so solid but is dreaded by the fans due to the high number of draws. After 18 moves of theory, Nakamura played a novelty. Later in the game, Vachier-Lagrange felt that, in order to have some chances, he needed to sacrifice an exchange but was not sure how to evaluate the position. Nakamura drew comfortably with the black pieces.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 [Diagram 1 the first Berlin of the tournament!] 9.h3 Ke8 10.Nc3 h5 11.Bf4 Be7 12.Rad1 Be6 13.Ng5 Rh6 14.Rfe1



Diagram 1

Bb4 15.g4 hxg4 16.hxg4 Ne7 17.f3 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Nd5N [18...Bxa2 19.Ne4 Rh8 20.e6 Bxe6 21.Bxc7 Nd5 22.Be5 Kf8 23.Nc5 b5 24.c4 bxc4 25.Rd4 Re8 26.Rxc4 Rh6 27.Ra4 Kg8 was played earlier this year between Vachier-Lagrange and Carlsen and ended in a draw] 19.Bd2 Nb6 20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.Kf2 Rd8 22.Bg5 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Nd7 24.f4 f6 25.exf6 gxf6 26.Bh4 c5 27.Kf3 Ra6 28.Ke4 Nf8 29.Kf5 [29. Rb1 Ng6 (29...b6? 30.Bxf6) 30.Bxf6 Rxf6 31.f5 Ne7 32.Rxb7 Diagram 2 makes the position complicated, but Vachier-Lagrange didn't want to go for this] 29...Kf7 30.c4 Re6 31.g5

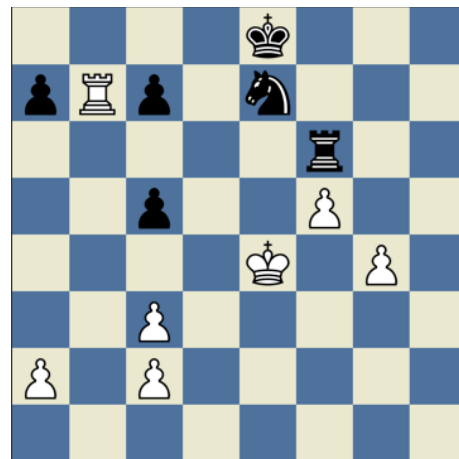
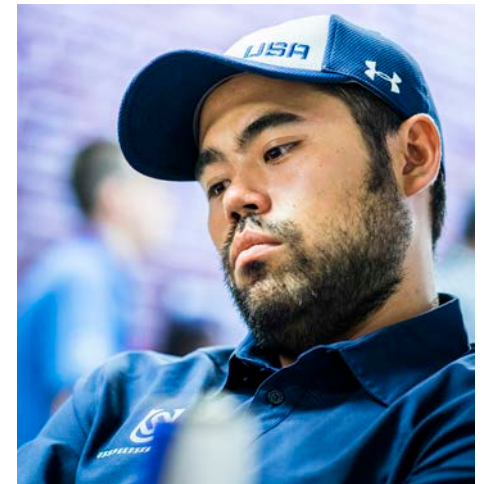


Diagram 2

[Vachier-Lagrange felt that to play for a win he needs to sacrifice an exchange 31.a4 Ng6 32.Rd7+ Ne7+ 33.Rxe7+ Kxe7 34.Kg6 but after 34...Re4 35.Bxf6+ Kf8 white might be in trouble] 31...Ng6 32.Rd7+ Re7 33.Rxe7+ Nxe7+ 34.Ke4 f5+ 35.Ke3 [now there is no way to break through] 35...Ng6

1/2 - 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 winners: Renato Kabigting and Robin Reuben

Solution: 1. f7



## CROSSTABLE AFTER ROUND SEVEN

Rank	Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R	P
1	GM So, Wesley (2771)		1	½	-	½	1	½	-	½	½	7	4½
2	GM Topalov, Veselin (2761)	0		-	½	-	½	1	½	½	1	7	4
3	GM Anand, Viswanathan (2770)	½	-		1	½	½	½	½	½	-	7	4
4	GM Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2819)	-	½	0		1	½	-	½	½	½	7	3½
5	GM Aronian, Levon (2792)	½	-	½	0		-	½	½	½	1	7	3½
6	GM Nakamura, Hikaru (2791)	0	½	½	½	-		-	½	1	½	7	3½
7	GM Ding, Liren (2755)	½	0	½	-	½	-		½	½	1	7	3½
8	GM Caruana, Fabiano (2807)	-	½	½	½	½	½	½		-	½	7	3½
9	GM Giri, Anish (2769)	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	-		-	7	3
10	GM Svidler, Peter (2751)	½	0	-	½	0	½	0	½	-		7	2



### PAIRINGS - ROUND 8

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

### SINQUEFIELD CUP SIDE EVENT

#### SINQUEFIELD BLITZ TOURNAMENT

Saturday, August 13  
 Registration 6 - 6:50 p.m.  
 Rounds begin at 7 p.m.  
 7SS, G/5;d0  
 Entry Fee: \$10  
 Free entries for GMs and IMs.  
 Prize Fund: \$250 unconditionally guaranteed  
 Top U2000: \$25 | Top U1800: \$20  
 Biggest Upset: \$15  
 \*Blitz ratings used for Pairing and Prize Purposes.  
 USCF Membership required as event is Blitz Rated.

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



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