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CUP ★ CHRONICLE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14 2016 | ISSUE 8

ROUND 8 HIGHLIGHTS

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan



Aerial shot of Round 8 // Lennart Ootes

ROUND 8 RESULTS:

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

CURRENT STANDINGS:

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

The leader of the tournament, Wesley So, was not able to seal the deal today, as he drew quickly against his compatriot, Fabiano Caruana. It seemed as if it was going to be a quick round, for three of the games ended very quickly, but Levon Aronian got a very solid advantage right out of the opening and masterfully progressed it towards a win. Veselin Topalov and Viswanathan Anand, both of whom were trailing So by half a point, drew their game. Topalov, Anand and Aronian are all still half a point behind the leader.

In the final round, all eyes will be on the Vachier-Lagrave vs. So game. The American holds the fate of the tournament in his hands, as a win would mean that no one could catch him. If he ties the game, he is at least guaranteed a tie for first, as the burden to win a game and catch him would fall on his competitors. The most interesting scenario that could happen is if So loses and a specific series of results happen, which could mean a 7 way tie for first! The Frenchmen vowed to try to beat the leader, as it is his last chance to have a shot at the crown. After eight days of hard fought chess, everything will come down to the final, dramatic round.



GRAND CHESS TOUR™
2016

GM LEVON ARONIAN - GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 1 - 0

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Historically, Nakamura has struggled against Aronian and this game was no exception. The Armenian grandmaster had an edge right out of the opening as black struggled to finish his development. The advantage increased when white got the bishop pair in the open position then won a pawn. Unable to withstand the pressure the entire game, Nakamura blundered giving Aronian another pawn, simplifying Aronian's task. With this win, Aronian is only half a point behind Wesley So and is still very much in contention for first place.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c5 [6...dxc4 7.Bxc4 a6 8.Bd3 c5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Rc1 Be7 12.e4 Nb4 13.Bb1 Qxd1 14.Rfxd1 Rd8 15.Ne5 Rxd1+ 16.Rxd1 Nc6 17.Na4 Nxe5 18.Nb6 1-0 (18) Sakaev,K (2647)-Schramm,C (2331) Germany 2003] 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Bd3 [usually white doesn't commit the bishop in order not to lose a tempo. Both a3 and Qc2 are more common] 8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 [symmetrical structure, except the both of white's bishops are out] 9...a6 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.0-0 Nb4 [this position may look harmless, but black has some difficulty finishing his development] 12.Bb1 Qxd1 13.Rxd1 Nbd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Be4 [this position is already uncomfortable for black] 15...Nf6 [15...Nxf4 16.exf4

black gets the bishop pair, but gives white a slight edge, as developing the c8 bishop will be a problem] 16.Nd2 [precise move] [16.Bc2 Bd7 and black solves all of his problems] 16... Re8 [16...Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Ba7 18.Rac1 and black still has the problem of developing his bishop] 17.Bf3 e5 18.Bg3 Ra7 19.Rac1 b6 20.a3 Bd7 21.Nc4 e4 22.Be2 a5 23.Nd6 Re7 24.Nb5 Bxb5 25.Bxb5 [Diagram 1 now white has a big long term advantage as he got the bishop pair in the open position and his rooks are well placed] 25...Ra8 26.Kf1 Re6 27.Ke2 g5 28.Bc4 Ree8 29.h4 h6 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.Bd6

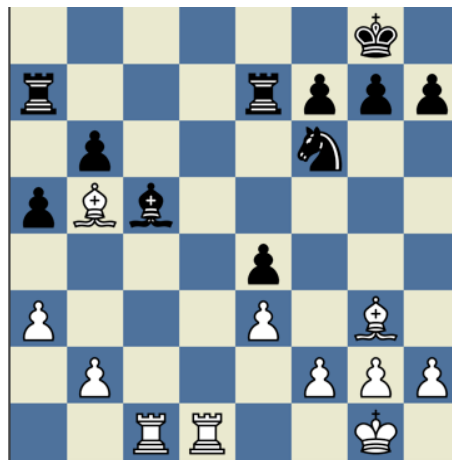


Diagram 1

Kg7 32.Bb5 Bxd6 33.Rxd6 [33. Bxe8?? Nxe8] 33...Re5 [33... Reb8 is very passive and loses the pawn anyways 34.Rcc6] 34.Rxb6 Rh8 35.Rb7 Rf5 36.Rf1 Rh2 [36...Rc5 threatening Rc2 37.Ba4 Rh2 same idea as in the game, except the bishop is worse on a4 38.Bb3 Rxd2 39.Bxf7 Rc2+ this is the reason why the rook

is better placed on c5] 37.Bc4 Ne8 [37...Rxd2 38.Bxf7 now this move is possible] 38.Rb5 Rxb5 39.Bxb5 Nd6 40.Bd7 Kf6 [40... Rxd2 41.Rh1 threatening to trap the rook 41...f5 42.Rd1 winning another pawn] 41.Rc1 [41.g4 simply defending the pawn] 41...Rh8 [41...Rxd2 42.Rh1 Nf5 43.Bxf5 Kxf5 44.Kf1 Rg4 45.Rh6 white will win the a5 pawn and have connected passed pawns] 42.b3 Ke7 43.Rc7 Rh1 44.Ra7 Ra1 45.g4 [creating a safe square for the king on g2] [45. Ba4+ Kf8 46.Rxa5 Ra2+ 47.Ke1 Rxa3 and the king is uncomfortable on e1] 45...Rxa3 46.Ba4+ Kf8 47.Rxa5 Ra2+ 48.Kf1 f6 49.Ra8+ Ke7 50.Bc6 Rb2 [white needs to show some technique to win this game] 51.Ra7+ Ke6 52.Bd7+ Ke7 53.Bf5+ Ke8 54.Be6 Rb1+ 55.Kg2 Rb2 56.Bd5 Rb1? [black cracks under pressure] [56...Rc2 avoiding the tactic] 57.Bc6+ Kf8 58.Rd7 Nf7 59.Bxe4 [now white is up two pawns] 59...Rb2 [59...Rxb3?? 60.Rxf7+ Kxf7 61.Bd5+] 60.Rb7 Nd6 61.Rb8+ Kg7 62.Bd5 Rd2 63.e4 f5 64.gxf5 Nxf5 65.Rb7+ Kh6 66.Rb6+ Kh7 67.Rb7+ Kh6 68.exf5 Rxd5 69.f6 69...Rd4 70.Kg3 Kg6 71.f7 Kg7 72.b4 Kf8 73.b5 Rb4 74.b6 Kg7 75.f3 Kf8 76.Kf2 Rb3 77.Ke2 Kg7 78.Kd2 Kf8 79.Kc2 Rb5 80.Kc3 Kg7 81.Kc4 Rb1 82.Kc5 Rc1+ 83.Kd6 Rb1 84.Ke7 Re1+ 85.Kd8 Re6 86.Kc7 Re3 87.Ra7

1 - 0

GM DING LIREN - GM M.VACHIER-LAGRAVE 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

The other participant in last round's marathon game, Ding Liren, also was not looking for any adventures with the white pieces. The position was symmetrical, with white having no edge. The game ended when the players started repeating the position, not even meeting the 30-move draw rule.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 d5
5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Nc3 Ne4
8.Qa4+ [rare move that scores well for white and has been played by Gelfand] [8.Qb3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Nc6 10.Nd2 e6 11.Ba3 Na5 12.Qb2 Bd7 13.0-0 Rc8 14.e4 Bc6 15.Bb4 b6 16.Rfe1 dxe4 17.Nxe4 Nc4 18.Qb3 Qd7 19.d5 Bxd5 20.Rad1 Kd8 21.Ng5 Bf6 22.Bxd5 exd5 23.Ne4 Bg7 24.Rxd5 Qxd5 25.Rd1 Qxd1+ 26.Qxd1+ Kc7 27.Qd5 1-0 (27) Caruana,F (2804)-Topalov,V (2761) Paris 2016] 8...Nc6 9.Ne5 Nxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.0-0 [12.Qxc6 principled 12...Qa5 13.Bd2 Rb8 14.0-0 (14.Qxd5 Rb5 15.Qf3 Bb7 16.e4 Rb2 with a lot of compensation as white cannot castle for now) 14...Be6 15.Qc5 only move, otherwise Rfc8 traps the rook 15...Qxc5 16.dxc5 Rbc8 winning the pawn back] 12...Qb6 13.Ba3 Qa6 14.Qxa6 Bxa6 [Diagram 1 a symmetrical position where white has no edge] 15.Rfb1 Bxe2 16.Bxe7 Rfb8 17.Bd6 Rd8 18.Bc5 Bf8 19.Bxf8 Kxf8 20.Rb2 Bd3 21.Rd1 Bf5 22.Rb7 Rdb8 23.Rc7 Rc8 24.Rb7 Rcb8 25.Rc7 Rc8 26.Rb7

1/2 - 1/2

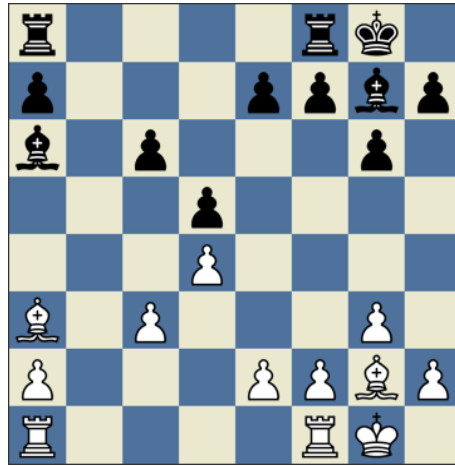


Diagram 1



GM WESLY SO - GM FABIANO CARUANA 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

The battle between America's numbers one and number three players was a quiet affair. As the leader of the tournament, So, did not want to take any risks and was happy with a draw. After an exhausting seven hour game in the previous round, the U.S. Champion was not looking for another marathon session over the board. The game ended in less than an hour after most of the pieces came off the board and there was nothing to play for anymore.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6
 [Diagram 1 we see the Berlin for the second time this tournament] 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nxe5



Diagram 1

8.Rxe5 0-0 9.Nc3 Ne8 10.Nd5 Bd6 11.Re1 c6 12.Ne3 Be7
 [12...Bc7 is the more common move 13.Nf5 d5 14.Ne7+ Kh8 15.Nxc8 Rxc8] 13.c4 Nc7 14.d4 d5 15.cxd5 Bb4 16.Bd2 Bxd2 17.Qxd2 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Qxd5 19.Re5 Qd6 20.Bc4 Bd7 21.Qc3 [21.Rae1 Rae8 22.Qc3 Rxe5 23.dxe5 Qe7 24.Qa5 a6 has been played earlier this year between Vachier-Lagrave and Caruana and eventually ended in a draw] 21...Rae8 22.Rae1 Rxe5 23.dxe5 Qe7 24.Rd1 [Diagram 2 the position is very dry. The exchanges are unavoidable] 24...Be6 25.Bxe6 Qxe6 26.Qa5



Diagram 2

b5 27.Qxa7 Qxe5 28.Qd4 Qe6 29.a4 bxa4 30.Qxa4 h6 31.h3 Rb8 32.Rc1 Rxb2 33.Qxc6 Qxc6 34.Rxc6

1/2 - 1/2



GM ANISH GIRI - GM PETER SVIDLER 0 - 1

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Both players have been suffering this tournament, unable to find their form. Giri sacrificed a pawn for the bishop pair and activity, but he was unable to create any real threats. Svidler's extra pawn ended up being the key to the game, as he eventually rerouted his pieces and the pawn became a significant advantage. At the critical point, Svidler traded down to a theoretically won rook ending and finished the game off soon after.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg7
5.Bg2 d5 6.Qb3 [6.0-0 0-0 7.cxd5
cxd5 8.Nc3 Nc6 the resulting sym-
metrical position is very common
in this opening] 6...0-0 7.0-0 dxc4
8.Qxc4 Bf5 9.Rd1 [sideline] [9.Nc3
Nbd7 10.Qb3 Qb6 11.Re1 Qxb3
12.axb3 Be6 13.b4 Nd5 14.b5 Nb4
15.bxc6 bxc6 16.Ra5 c5 17.Ng5
cxd4 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Bxa8 dxc3
20.bxc3 Bxc3 21.Rd1 Rxa8 22.Rxd7
Nd3 23.Ra2 Nxc1 24.Rc2 Nxe2+
25.Rxe2 a5 26.Rxe6 Bf6 27.Rb6 a4
28.Rbb7 a3 29.Ra7 Rxa7 30.Rxa7
Bb2 31.Ra6 Kf7 32.g4 h5 33.gxh5
gxh5 34.Kg2 e6 35.f4 Ke7 36.Kg3
Kd7 37.Kh4 Kc7 38.Kxh5 Kb7
39.Ra4 Kc6 40.Kg6 Kb5 41.Ra8
Kb4 ½-½ (41) Giri,A (2797)-Vach-
ier Lagrave,M (2775) Tbilisi 2015]
9...Nbd7 10.Nh4N Nb6 11.Qb3 Bg4
12.Nc3 Nfd5 13.Nf3 Nxc3 14.bxc3
Qd5 15.Ba3 Rfe8 16.Ne5 Qxb3
17.axb3 Bxe2 18.Rd2 Bxe5 19.dxe5
[Diagram 1 white has sacrificed the
pawn for activity and the bishop
pair] 19...Bg4 20.c4 a5 21.Bc5 Nd7
22.Bd4 Ra6 23.Rda2 Rea8 24.f4

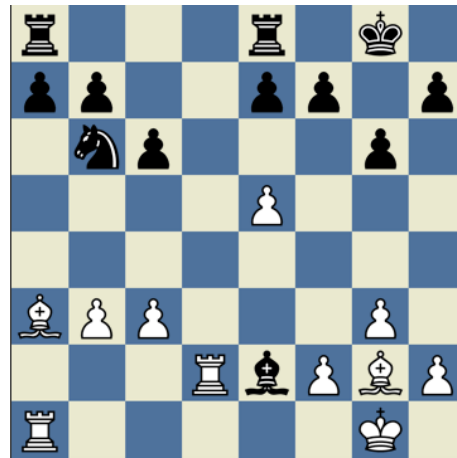


Diagram 1

Be6 25.Bf1 b6 26.Be3 [26.Bg2 Rc8
27.Kf2 now allowing play to play c5
like it happened in the game 27...
c5 28.Bb7] 26...Kf8 27.Ra4 [27.Bg2
Rc8] 27...c5 28.Bg2 Re8 29.Bc6 [29.
R4a2 the rook is no longer doing
anything on a4 as the a5 pawn is
now defended, so it's a good time
to bring it back into the game and
on the d file 29...Ra7 30.Rd2 Rc7]
29...Ra7 30.Bb5?! [wrong diagonal
for the bishop] [30.Bf3] 30...Rc8
[now the bishop is stuck] 31.Rd1
Rac7 [31...Nb8 32.f5 Bxf5 33.Bh6+
Kg8 34.Ra2 Nd7 35.Rad2 Nf8
36.Bc6 Ne6 37.Bd7 Rca8 38.Bxe6
fxe6] 32.Ra2 Kg7 33.Rad2 Nb8
[rerouting the knight to c6, where
it will be more active] 34.Rd8 Nc6
35.Rxc8 Rxc8 36.Rd2 h5 37.Kg2 Bf5
38.h3 f6 39.exf6+ Kxf6 40.Ba4 Nd8
41.Bd7 Bxd7 42.Rxd7 [Black wants
this exchange because it avoids the
possibility of opposite color bishop
endgame but white gets a very
active rook now] 42...Ke6 43.Rd1
Nf7 44.g4 hxg4 45.hxg4 Ra8 46.Bf2
Nd6 47.Re1+ Kf7 48.Rh1 a4 49.bxa4
Rxa4 50.Rh7+ Kf8 51.Rh8+ Kg7

52.Rb8 Nxc4 53.Kf3 Kf7 54.Bh4 e5
55.f5 gxf5 56.gxf5 Nd6 57.Rxb6 Rf4+
58.Ke2 Nxf5 59.Bg5 Ng3+ 60.Ke3
Rg4 61.Bd8 Nf5+ 62.Kf3 Rf4+
63.Ke2 Nd4+ 64.Ke3 Ne6 65.Rb7+
Kg6 66.Ba5 Ra4 67.Bc3 Kf6 68.Kd3
Nf4+ 69.Kc2 Nd5 70.Bb2 c4 71.Rd7
Ke6 72.Rh7 c3 73.Rh6+ Kf5 74.Rh5+
Kf6 75.Bxc3 Rc4 76.Kd3 Rxc3+
77.Ke4 Rc4+ [Diagram 2 giving up
the piece to trade down to a win-
ning rook endgame] 78.Kxd5 Rd4+
79.Kc5 Rd1 80.Kc4 e4 81.Kc3 e3
82.Rh2 Kf5 83.Kc2 Rd8 84.Rh7 Kf4

0 - 1

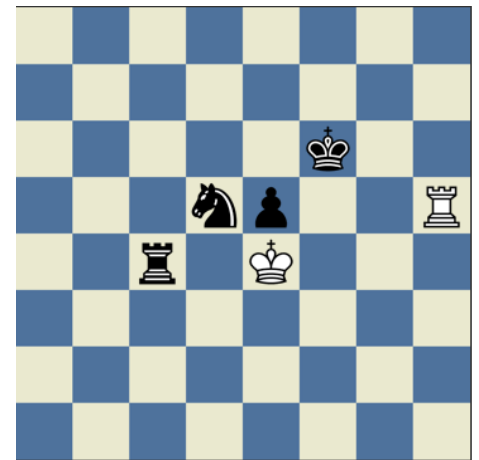


Diagram 2

GM VISWANATHAN ANAND - GM VESELIN TOPALOV 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

This was the second day that the Berlin was played in the tournament. After the standard opening moves, a really unorthodox position occurred when white put his knight on the edge of the board where it couldn't move, and black had triple pawns on the queen side. Even though the players violated a lot of chess principles, the specific placement of the pieces demanded such action. With precise play from both sides, no progress could have been so the game ended in a draw in a rook endgame.

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 9.h3 b6 [rare line. Usually the bishop goes to d7] 10.Nc3 Ke8 11.Rd1 Bb4 12.Ne2 Bb7 13.Ned4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4N Bc5 [14...Rg8 15.Bf4 Rd8 16.Bg3 Bc5 17.Nb3 Be7 18.Nd4 Bc5 19.Nb3 Be7 20.Nd4 Bc5 21.Nb3 ½-½ (21) Klein,D (2517)-L'Ami,E (2613) Wijk aan Zee 2015] 15.Nf5 Rg8 [black has to defend the pawn this way] [15...g6 a really ugly move 16.Ng7+ Kf8 17.Bh6 Ke7 18.Bg5+ Kf8 19.Bf6 is terrible for black] 16.g4 h5 17.Be3 g6!? [allowing the triple pawns] [17...Bxe3 18.Nxe3 c5] 18.Nh6 Rh8 19.Bxc5 [19.Bg5 Anand showed the following calculations in the postgame analysis 19...Bf8 (he rejected the idea because of this move, giving black an extra tempo 19...Be7 20.Bf6 Rxb6 21.g5 Rh7 22.Rd2 Rd8 23.Rxd8+ Bxd8 24.Rd1 Be7 25.h4 Bc8 26.Rd2 Kf8 27.b3 Rg7 28.Rd1 Rg8 29.Rd2 Ke8 and Black brings his rook

back into the game) 20.Bf6 Rxb6 21.g5 Diagram 1 sacrificing a piece just to lock the rook in 21...Rh7 22.Rd2 Be7 23.Rad1 Ba6 24.Rd7 Bd6 25.R1xd6 cxd6 26.Re7+ Kf8 27.exd6 Bc4 28.Rc7 Be6 29.d7]

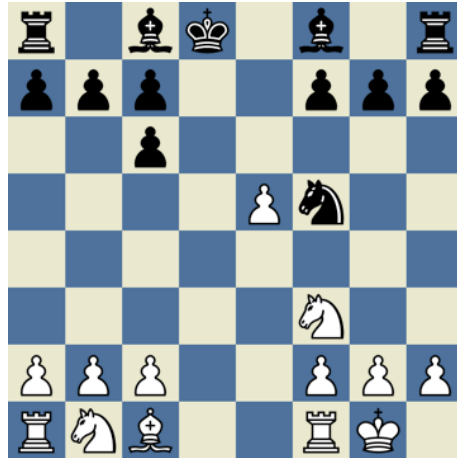


Diagram 1

19...bxc5 20.g5 [Diagram 2 a very unique position with the triple pawns and the knight trapped on h6] 20...Bc8 [the bishop has no

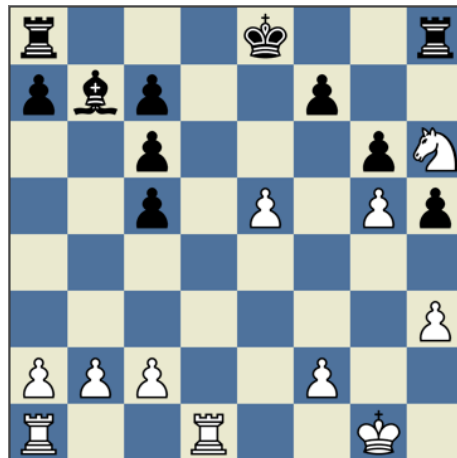


Diagram 2

future on the long diagonal so it makes sense to reroute it. It also stops white's f4-f5 idea] 21.h4 Ke7 22.f4 Be6 23.Rf1 Rad8 24.c3 Bh3 25.Rf2 Ke6 26.Re1 Rd3 27.Re4 Rhd8 28.Ra4 Rd1+ 29.Kh2 R8d3 30.f5+ [white is trying to play for a win] [30.Rxa7 Bf1 31.Rxc7 Rh3+ 32.Kg1 Rg3+ 33.Kh2 unusual way to set up a perpetual 33...Rh3+] 30...gxf5 31.Raf4 Bg4 32.Kg2 [32.Nxf5 Rh3+ 33.Kg2 Rhh1 and the white king finds itself in trouble 34.Ng7+ (34. Kg3 Rdg1+ 35.Rg2 Bxf5) 34...Kxe5 35.Rf1 Rhxf1 36.Rxf1 Bh3+] 32... Bh3+ 33.Kh2 Bg4 34.Nxg4 hxg4 35.Kg2 g3 36.Re2 Rb1 37.h5 Rdd1 38.Kxg3 Rh1 39.Rc4 Kd5 40.Rf4 Rbg1+ 41.Rg2 Rxb1+ 42.Kxg2 Rxb1

1/2 - 1/2



DAILY PUZZLE

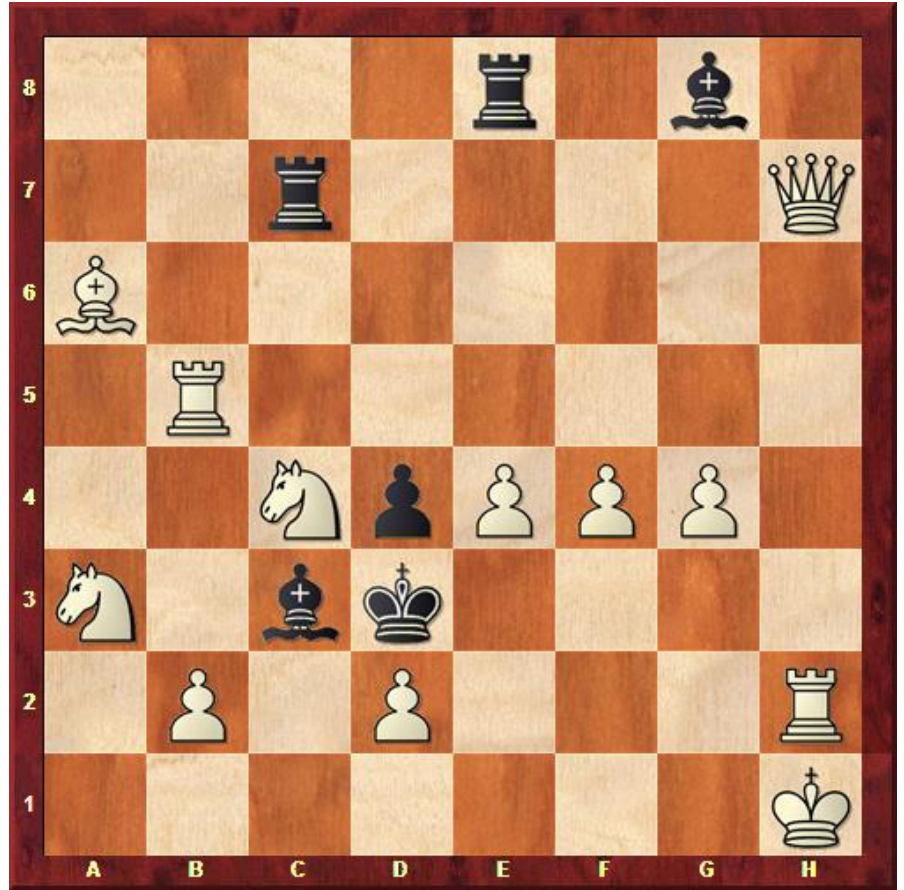
By FIDE Master Aviv Friedman

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: John Salisbury and Jason Woolem

Solution: 1. e3



CROSSTABLE AFTER ROUND EIGHT

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



PAIRINGS - ROUND 9

- GM Veselin Topalov
- GM Levon Aronian

- GM Peter Svidler
- GM Viswanathan Anand

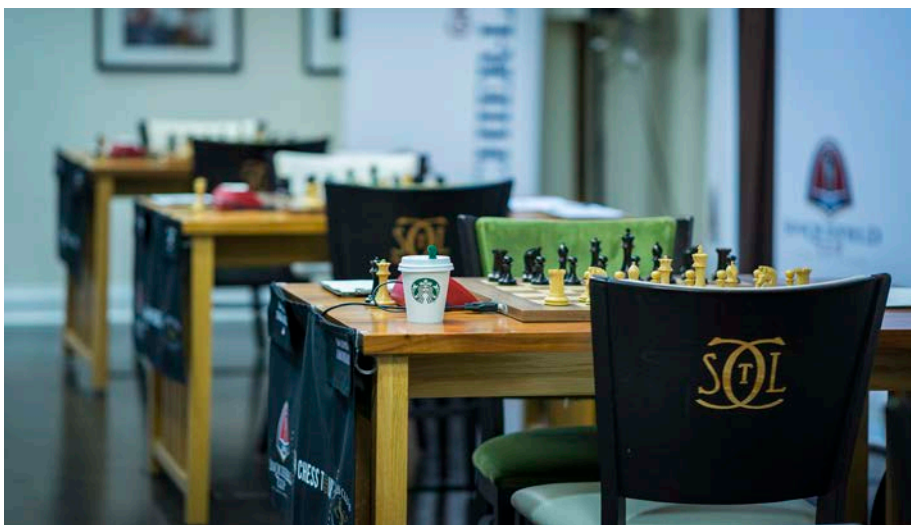
- GM Fabiano Caruana
- GM Anish Giri

- GM M. Vachier-Lagrave
- GM Wesley So

- GM Hikaru Nakamura
- GM Ding Liren



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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