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# CUP★CHRONICLE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018 | ISSUE 6

## ROUND 5 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

## ROUND 6 RESULTS

♔ GM F. Caruana	1
♚ M S. Karjakin	0
♔ GM A. Grischuk	1/2
♚ GM M. Carlsen	1/2
♔ GM H. Nakamura	1/2
♚ GM L. Aronian	1/2
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♚ GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	1/2
♔ GM W. So	1/2
♚ GM V. Anand	1/2

## CURRENT STANDINGS

1. GM F. Caruana	4
2. GM M. Carlsen	3 1/2
3. GM A. Grischuk	3 1/2
4. GM S. Mamedyarov	3 1/2
5. GM L. Aronian	3 1/2
6. GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	3
7. GM V. Anand	3
8. GM W. So	2 1/2
9. GM H. Nakamura	2
10. GM S. Karjakin	1 1/2



ALEXANDER GRISCHUK VS. MAGNUS CARLSEN, ROUND 6  
PHOTO BY AUSTIN FULLER

After the rest day, five players came ready to separate themselves from the pack, but only one succeeded. Fabiano Caruana is now leading the tournament after defeating Sergey Karjakin. The only other leader who had winning chances, Alexander Grischuk, let Magnus Carlsen escape with a draw. The highly anticipated faceoff between Carlsen and Caruana will happen tomorrow in round 7. This will be their last encounter before their upcoming World Championship match in November. Not only will they be battling it out for first place in this tournament, but also for the number one spot in the world rankings, as Caruana is only 7 rating points away from his rival. If Caruana wins tomorrow, it will end Carlsen's seven-year streak as the highest rated player in the world. Tomorrow's round is potentially historic and not one to be missed!



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# FABIANO CARUANA - SERGEY KARJAKIN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM PETER SVIDLER

Before playing the World Champion tomorrow, Caruana had to overcome his former challenger in the 2016 match. Sergey Karjakin can't seem to find his form in this tournament and has put his ticket to the finals in London in jeopardy with his poor performance. In an unpleasant position, he completely collapsed and had to resign a few moves later. This was his third loss in the event and he is now in last place. Caruana, on the other hand, is the only player to have won two games in this highly contested event and has distanced himself by half a point from his closest rivals.

## 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.g3

[A very rare line of the Nimzo, White normally starts with 4.Nf3 to only play 5.g3 after 4...c5. The text move allows Black a lot more options.]

## 4...0-0 5.Bg2 d5 6.Nf3 dxc4 7.0-0

[Via this unusual move order, the game reached a Catalan-type position, but with White already committed to Nc3, which makes winning back the pawn on c4 a lot trickier.]

7...Nc6 [7...Bd7 is another viable option here]

8.Qa4 [8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Rb8 10.Bg5, as seen in some recent games, is a way to go all-in, since White will have to sacrifice a piece if Black goes for h6 and g5]



8...Bd7 9.Bg5 [9.Qc2 Be7 10.e4 Nb4 11.Qe2 Nd3 12.Be3 b5 13.Ne1 Nxe1 14.Rfxe1 c6, with unclear play, was seen in a game So-Anand, Saint Louis Blitz 2018]

9...a5?! [Giving up on immediate equality. What's more, Black will have reason to regret pushing this pawn, since it weakens his Qside structure]

[9...Rb8, preparing for b7-b5, has also been tried recently, and after 10.Rad1 Bxc3 11.bxc3 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Qxc4 Rfc8 Black had a solid, if somewhat passive position in Matlakov-Tomashevsky, St Petersburg 2017; 9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 Nxd4 looks very natural, but after 11.Qxc4 Nxf3+ 12.Bxf3 Black will need to play precisely in order to neutralize White's initiative.]

10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.a3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qd8 [Since neither 12...Ne5? 13.dxe5 nor; 12...Nxd4 13.Qxd7 works for Black, he is forced to return the pawn on c4, and the resulting position is a lot easier to play with White - he has a very nice b-file pressure.]

13.Qxc4 a4 14.Nd2 Na5 15.Qb4 Ra7 [Awkward, but at least this allows Black to trade the bishops via the c6 square]

16.Rab1 b6 17.e3 Bc6 18.Bxc6 Nxc6 19.Qb5 [Despite the trade, White is still better, since he has a clear-cut plan of c4-c5 (Black would love to bring the pawn back to a7 now), while Black is struggling to find plans.]

19...Qa8 20.c4 Rd8 21.Rfc1 e5?! [Beginning a forced operation which will leave Black with a poor position. It was better to play a waiting move like 21...h6, and White has no clear way to make immediate progress, since 22.c5 is always well met by 22...Ra5]

22.d5 Nb8 23.c5! [Very forceful. White leaves the pawn on d5

unprotected, but it's more important to start opening files before the knight on b8 gets to d7 or even c5.]



23...Ra5 [23...Qxd5? 24.cxb6 Qxb5 25.bxa7! is a very beautiful illustration of why 23.c5 is so strong (maybe diagram here?)]

24.Qb2 Qxd5 25.cxb6 cxb6 26.Nc4 Rc5 27.Qxb6 f6?? [It just hasn't been Sergey's day. After 27...Rf8! (defending the back rank as best he can) 28.Qxb8 (28.Qd6, aiming to trade pieces and collect the a4 pawn, may actually be stronger) 28...Rxc4 29.Rxc4 Qxc4 30.Qxe5 Black is obviously worse, but 30...Qd3 keeps him afloat. The text move loses by force, and quite simply, too.]

28.Rd1 [28.e4 Qd4 29.Qe6+ Kf8 30.Rb7 Nd7 31.Nd6 is also totally winning]

28...Qxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 30.Kg2 [And Black resigned, since 30.Kg2 Nd7 31.Qe6+ Kf8 32.Nd6 is hopeless]

1-0

# ALEXANDER GRISCHUK - MAGNUS CARLSEN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ

After the tournament is completed, Alexander Grischuk will likely still be regretting his decisions in this game. He had the World Champion on the ropes out of the opening with his dynamic move 13.g4. The Russian Grandmaster reached a winning position but was unable to convert because his idea was one tempo short. He explained that his approach was to win without allowing any counterplay, though having this kind of attitude too early lead to the loss of the advantage. The win would have put him in a tie for first place with Caruana, while leaving Carlsen a full point behind. Currently, both remain half a point behind the leader.

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7!?** [King's Indian setup is not what Carlsen is known for, but he was certainly in a feisty mood!] 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7!? [King's Indian setup is not what Carlsen is known for, but he was certainly in a feisty mood!]

**4.c4 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.0-0 c5 7.d5** [7.Nc3 leads to completely different set ups.]

**7...b5!?** [The Benko gambit has a bad reputation at the top level, but against the fianchetto variation, specifically when Black has not committed to playing Bxa6, it is considered to be a great version of this old gambit.]

**8.cxb5 a6 9.bxa6 Bf5** [This is the point]

[9...Nxa6 10.Nc3 Bf5 is also possible and likely transposes, but gives White the additional option of 11.Ne1!]

**10.Nfd2** [10.Ne1 Be4=; 10.Nc3 Ne4 eliminates a very important defender from the queenside, like in the game Nikolic-Kasparov, 1994.]

**10...Nxa6 11.Nc3 Nb4** [an old line, which leads to unclear positions.]

**12.Nc4** [12.e4 Bc8 gives Black

obvious counterplay thanks to the weakness on d3.]

**12...Nc2** [theoretically supposed to be unsound, but perhaps Black saw a way against 13. Rb1, the normal reaction.]

[12...Bc2 13.Qd2 Bb3 14.Na3 Bxd5 15.Nxd5 Nfxd5 16.Nc4 like in Nicolic-Ramirez, 2005, leads to very imbalanced positions, though Black should have enough compensation for the exchange after 16...Nb6 or Nc7.]

**13.g4!?** [Dynamic and exciting chess! Grischuk goes for the forced variations.]



[13.Rb1 Nb4 14.e4 Bg4 15.f3 Bc8 16.a3± is supposed to be good for White.]

**13...Nxg4 14.e4 Nxa1** [14...Bxe4 was definitely worth attention. Carlsen played this very quickly, perhaps too confident on his analysis.]

**15.exf5 Bxc3** [15...gxf5 16.Bd2÷]

**16.bxc3 Nf6 17.Qe2!** [Carlsen trusted this position, but quickly realized it was simply not holding. Black doesn't have a good way of bringing the knight back, and there is surprisingly no way to even create counterplay in time.]

**17...Re8 18.Bg5 Qd7 19.fxg6!** [19.Nb6 leaves Grischuk up a piece. 19...Qxf5 20.Nxa8 Qxg5 21.Nc7 Rc8

22.Nb5 Nxd5 23.Rxa1 Nf4 Black has some compensation, but it should be insufficient.]

**19...hxg6 20.Rxa1 Qf5 21.Bxf6?** [An almost incomprehensible move.]



[21.h4 and black is down a rook against two bishops with very little counterplay: a technical and simple win for a player of Grischuk's strength.]

**21...Qxf6 22.Qf3 Qh4 23.Qe4 Qf6 24.Qf3 Qh4 25.Qe4 Qf6 26.Qd3** [Things are no longer so easy, but after this move it is clear that Black has enough counterplay.]

**26...Reb8! 27.a3 Rb3! 28.Rc1 Ra4** [White is not even better anymore.]

**29.Qc2 Qf4 30.Qxb3 Qxc1+ 31.Bf1 Qg5+ 32.Bg2 Qc1+ 33.Bf1 Qg5+ 34.Bg2 Qc1+**

1/2-1/2

# HIKARU NAKAMURA - LEVON ARONIAN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

The wild affair eventually ended in a draw after several missed opportunities by both players. The Armenian superstar described his play as “inexcusable” and was ashamed of his performance. After they reached a double rook endgame, Aronian sacrificed one of his rooks in order to queen his passed pawn, but he overlooked a simple resource by his opponent. Nakamura had a winning position according to the computers, but bringing the full point home was still a challenging task over the board. The American misplayed the position, allowed his opponent’s pawn to reach all the way to the second rank, and thus had to settle for a draw.

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3** [4.e3 is another way for White to continue the development]

**4...d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Bc5** [not a common continuation]

[6...Nb6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.Be3 is the main line]

**7.0-0 0-0 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.d3 Qd8** [Novelty in an already untested territory]

[9...Bb6 has been previously been played twice by Karjakin]

**10.Be3 Bxe3 11.fxex3 e4!?** [interesting sacrifice that leaves White with an ugly pawn structure]

**12.dxe4 Qe7 13.Qc2 Bg4 14.Rac1 Rad8 15.h3 Bc8** [funny enough, this is the best square for the bishop as otherwise it will get in the way of Black's pieces]

**16.a3 Rde8 17.e5 h6** [17...Nxe5 18.Qxc7 the exchange of the pawns clearly favors White as he trades his weak e pawn with a healthier one]

**18.Qc5 Qxc5 19.Rxc5 Ne7 20.Rxc7 Nd5 21.Rc5 Nxe3 22.Rfc1 Rd8 23.R1c3 Nxc2 24.Kxc2 Bf5 25.Rc7 Be4 26.Kf2 Rfe8 27.R3c4 Bxf3 28.Kxf3 Rxe5 29.Rxb7** [White is still up a pawn but rook endings are notoriously tricky!]

**29...Rd2 30.e3 g5 31.Rd4 Rc2?!** [inaccurate as it allows a lot of counterplay]

**32.Rdd7 Rf5+ 33.Ke4 Rf6 34.Rb8+ Kg7 35.Rxa7** [the greedy pawn grab allows Black to capture all of White's kingside pawns. Due to the g pawn already being on g5, the black passed pawns will be very dangerous]

**35...Re6+ 36.Kf3 Rf6+ 37.Ke4 Re6+ 38.Kd3** [White refuses the repetition]

**38...Rg2 39.g4 Rg3 40.Rbb7 Rxe3+ 41.Kc2 Ref3** [even though White is up two pawns, the problem is that his rooks are blocking his pawns and the kingside pawns will fall]

**42.a4 Rxh3 43.a5 Rh4 44.a6 Rxc4 45.Ra8 Ra4?** [Black can achieve the same position with checks]

[45...Rg2+ 46.Kb1 Rf1+ 47.Ka2 Rg4 48.a7 Ra4+ 49.Kb3 Rfa1 after stopping the dangerous a pawn, Black is ready to start pushing his own pawns]

**46.a7 g4??** [careless move that loses]



[46...Rf1 47.Rc8 Rfa1 golden rule of rook endings - put the rook behind the passed pawn! 48.Rcc7 h5 49.Rxf7+ Kg6 and the game should end in a draw]

**47.Rc8 g3 48.a8Q Rxa8 49.Rxa8 h5** [49...g2 looks winning but... 50.Rbb8! stops

the pawn. This is the move that Aronian had overlooked 50...g1Q 51.Rg8+ +-]

**50.Rbb8 Kf6 51.Rg8** [51.Rh8 it makes sense to put one rook behind the h pawn and the other behind the g pawn 51...Rf2+ 52.Kc3 Rh2 53.b4+-]

**51...h4 52.Ra6+??** [52.Ra3 the only move that wins which proves just how tricky this endgame is! 52...Rxa3 trading the rooks simply ends the game (52...Rf2+ 53.Kd3 Rxb2 (53...Rh2 Black can try the same idea he did in the game except now he's not on time! 54.Ke4 g2 55.Ra6+ Ke7 56.Ke5 Kd7 57.Rg7 White is threatening mate but Black doesn't have any counterplay) 54.Ke4) 53.bxa3 Kf5 54.Kd3 Kf4 55.Ke2 and the king is on time to stop the pawns]

**52...Ke7** [now Black miraculously saves the game]

**53.Rh6 Rf2+ 54.Kd3 Rh2 55.Ke4 g2 56.Ke5** [trying to create a mating net]

[56.Kf3 h3 with the idea of Rh1. The white king doesn't help]

**56...h3 57.Rc6 f6+!!** [only move, creating an escape square for the black king]

[57...Kd7?? 58.Rgc8 with unstoppable mate 58...f6+ 59.Kd5 g1Q 60.R6c7#]

**58.Kd5 Kf7 59.Rg3 Rh1** [now Black has an actual threat of queening the g pawn. White has to settle for a draw]

**60.Rc7+ Kf8 61.Rc8+ Kf7 62.Rc7+ Kf8 63.Ke6** [one last attempt to checkmate but Black's active rook saves the day]

**63...Re1 + 64.Kxf6 Rf1 + 65.Ke6** [65.Kg6?? White can even lose the game! 65...g1Q 66.Rxc7 Rxc7+ 67.Kf6 Rf1 + 68.Ke6 h2 and the pawn in unstoppable]

**65...Re1 + 66.Kf6 Rf1 + 67.Ke6 Re1 + 68.Kf6**

1/2-1/2

# SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV - MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM CRISTIAN CHIRILA



VACHIER-LAGRAVE // LENNART OOTES

The two leaders had a relatively quiet game compared to the chaos on the other boards. The Frenchman missed an opportunity to play a sharper variation and instead played a move “by hand,” as he described it after the game. He regretted his decision, as if he spent more time in the critical position he would possibly have chosen the correct continuation. “It’s going to be difficult to keep my title. I basically need to win tomorrow and then we will see” – Maxime Vachier-Lagrave opined during his postgame interview. He plays Nakamura tomorrow, against whom he hasn’t beaten in a classical time control game yet.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5** [MVL is arguably the top Grunfeld expert at the moment. His versatility and confidence in his Grunfeld lines have helped build an almost indestructible aura around him. Will Mamedyarov be able to challenge that?]

**4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Qd7** [7...Nd7 Is the older Main Line, nevertheless some new developments might have shed new light on White's attacking potential. 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Be2 c5 10.0-0 cxd4 (10...Nb6 11.Qa3

cx d4 12.cxd4 Bg4 13.Bg5÷) 11.cxd4 Nc5 12.dxc5 Bxa1 13.e5, Despite the confidence that Grunfeld players enter this line, the dangers surrounding Black's monarch can't be ignored. White is scoring a torching 71% score in this variation.]

**8.Bb5 c6 9.Bd3** [9.Be2 0-0 10.Qa3 b6 11.Nf3 c5 12.0-0 Bb7 13.d5 e6 14.Be3 exd5 15.Rad1 Nc6 16.exd5 Ne7 17.c4<sup>2</sup> 1/2-1/2 (30) Onischuk,A (2672)-Xiong,J (2665) Saint Louis 2018]

**9...0-0 10.Nf3 c5 11.Qxd7 Bxd7 12.Rb1 b6 13.Be3 Rd8N 14.0-0 Ba4 15.Rfc1 e6 16.h3** [White is playing all his strengthening moves, as he is waiting for Black to move his N and allow the B penetration on a6]



**16...Nd7 17.Ba6 Bc6 18.Nd2 Nb8! 19.Bb5** [19.Be2!? cxd4 20.cxd4 Bxd4 21.Bxd4 Rxd4 22.Nf3 Rd8 23.Ne5 The only way to justify the pawn sacrifice is with another pawn sacrifice! 23... Bxe4 24.Rb4 Bd5 25.Rc7 Rf8 26.Rf4 a5 27.Nxf7 Nc6 28.Nh6+ Kh8 29.Nf7+=]

**19...Bxb5 20.Rxb5 Na6 21.e5 Nc7 22.Rbb1 Nd5 23.Bg5 Rd7 24.Ne4 h6 25.Bd2 cxd4 26.cxd4 Rad8 27.g4** [An overly aggressive decision by Mamedyarov, which could have created some unexpected complications along the way.]

**27...g5! 28.Rc4 Nf4 29.Bxf4 gxf4** [Suddenly the d4 pawn becomes a troubling nuisance.]

**30.Rbb4 f3** [Now Mamedyarov gets enough time to regroup.]



[30...a5! Would have given Black a seriously dangerous advantage. 31.Rxb6 Rxd4 32.Rxd4 (32.Rd6 Rxc4 33.Rxd8+ Kh7 34.Nd6 Rc7μ) 32...Rxd4 33.Rb8+ Kh7 34.Nf6+ (34.f3 Bxe5 35.Rb7 Kg7 36.Rb3 a4 37.Ra3 Bf6-+) 34...Bxf6 35.exf6 Kg6μ]

**31.Nf6+= Bxf6 32.exf6 Kh7 33.Kh2 Kg6 34.Kg3 Rd6 35.Rc7 Rxd4 36.Rxd4 Rxd4 37.Rxa7 Kxf6 38.Rb7 Ra4 39.Rxb6 Rxa2 40.Kxf3 Ra3+ 41.Kg2 Ra2 42.Kf3 Ra3+ 43.Kg2 Ra2 44.Kf3**

1/2-1/2

# WESLEY SO - VISWANATHAN ANAND

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM VARUZHAN AKOBIAN

The former World Champion has been extremely solid in this event, while Wesley So has still been looking to find his form and score a full point. The American repeated the line Aronian played against Anand in the previous round, but he came prepared with a novelty that gave him a promising position. Anand played an accurate pawn sacrifice in an opposite color bishop middlegame, exchanging the queens and transitioning into an endgame where So couldn't make use of his extra material.

[With Wesley So at -1 and Anand at 50% neither player has shown a great performance so far in this event. However, this game featured an interesting opening novelty and complex middlegame battle in which Wesley had some opportunities to score his first win of the tournament.]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 exd5 10.a3 Nc6 11.Bd3 Bb6 12.0-0 Bg4 13.h3 Bh5** [This same position occurred just one round previously between Aronian and Anand. In that game, Aronian opted for the most popular move, 14.b4 but after Anand's novelty with 16... Qf6! White did not obtain any advantage. The game quickly fizzled out into a draw.]

**14.Bb1!?N** [14.b4 d4 15.b5 Na5 16.exd4 Qf6 17.Be3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Qxf3 19.gxf3 Rfd8 20.Rfd1 Nb3 21.Rab1 Nxd4 22.Kg2 Ne6 23.Bf5 Bxe3 24.Bxe6 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Bb6 26.Bb3 Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Bxd8 28.f4 Kf8 29.f5 a6 30.b6 Bxb6 31.Bd5 Bc5 32.Bxb7 Bxa3 33.Bxa6 Bb2 34.Bf1 Ba3 35.Ba6 Bb2 36.Bf1 Aronian - Anand | Sinquefeld Cup 2018 | 1/2-1/2]

**14...d4 15.Qd3 Bg6 16.e4** [This is the main idea of 14.Bb1. White induced black to play d4 and Bg6 and now after e4, white has a slight positional advantage due to the bad bishop on b6. White now plans to reposition his light squared bishop to a2 where it will thrive on a great diagonal.]

**16...Re8 17.Re1 Qe7 18.Qb5 f6?!** [Not the best approach. This move weakens the light squares around the kingside and

allows white the potential for a very strong pawn break with e5]

**19.Nh4?!** [Missing a strong opportunity]

[19.e5! The critical breakthrough which could have given white a clear advantage. 19...Bxb1 20.Raxb1 fxe5 21.Bxe5 Qd7 22.Bg3 White has a very pleasant position due to the weak isolated pawn on d4 as well as black's exposed king.]

**19...Bf7 20.Nf5 Qc5 21.Qe2 Ne5 22.Bxe5 Qxe5 23.Bd3 Bg6?!** [Anand tries to directly remove the knight on f5. It would have been much better for black to keep the bishop pair and prepare g6.]

[23...Kh8 24.Qg4 g6 25.Nh6 Bb3 26.f4 Qe7 With an unclear position and chances for both sides]

**24.Qd2 Bxf5?!** [The wrong plan. It wasn't too late to keep the bishop pair and improve the position.]

[24...Rad8 25.Rac1 Kh8 26.f4 Qb8 with roughly equal chances]

**25.exf5 Qd5 26.Qc2!** [Now white is clearly better. Despite the opposite color bishop scenario there are still heavy pieces on the board. White has tremendous potential to create a strong attack given the light square weaknesses in black's territory.]

**26...Kf8 27.Re6** [Optically looks strong, but this move leads to white's pawn landing on e6 which can actually obstruct the a2-g8 diagonal for the white bishop, thus slowing down the attack.]

[27.g3! a useful and patient prophylactic move that gives white more luft for the king. 27...Rxe1+ 28.Rxe1 Qc6 29.Qb3± It's very important for white to keep the queens on the board because he will constantly have threats against the black king.]

**27...Rxe6 28.fxe6 g6!** [Restricting white's battery along the b1-h7 diagonal.]

**29.Re1 Re8 30.Bc4 d3!** [A very strong equalizing move by Anand, realizing it's more important to open up the diagonal for the dark-squared bishop rather keeping the pawn on d4 where it restricts black's activity.]



**31.Qxd3?!** [An inaccuracy by So, in which the game fizzles out into a dead drawn position.]

[31.Bxd3 Rxe6 32.Qc8+ Ke7 33.Rxe6+ Qxe6 34.Qxb7+ Qd7 35.Qf3² White still maintains small winning chances, but a draw is the most likely result.]

**31...Qxd3 32.Bxd3 Ke7 33.Bc4 Rd8 34.Re2 Ba5** [Threatening Rd2 and exchange the rooks, leading to an immediate draw.]

**35.b4 Rd1+ 36.Kh2 Bc7+ 37.g3 Rc1 38.Ba2 Rc3** [The black rook is quite active and now white's queenside pawns are vulnerable.]

**39.a4 Bd6 40.b5 Ra3 41.Bd5 b6 42.Ra2 Rxa2 43.Bxa2 f5 44.Kg2 Be5 45.g4 fxe4 46.hxe4 h5 47.gxh5 gxh5 48.Kh3 Bf6 49.Bc4 Kd6 50.Kg3 Ke7 51.Kf4 h4 52.Kg4 Kd6 53.f3 Ke7 54.f4 Kd6 55.Kf5 Ke7 56.Bf1 Ba1 57.Bh3 Bf6 58.Bg4 Ba1 59.Ke4 Kd6 60.Bh3 Bb2 61.Kd3 Bf6 62.Kc4 Be7 63.Kd4 Bf6+ 64.Kc4 Be7 65.Kd4 Bf6+ 66.Kc4** [In this game, Wesley So came very well prepared with a novelty on move 14 and obtained a promising position. However, after a few inaccuracies and stubborn defense from Anand, the position liquidated into a dead drawn opposite-colored bishop endgame.]

1/2-1/2



SINQUEFIELD CUP

# CURRENT STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND 6

6



POS.	PLAYER	ROUND 6 RESULT	SCORE
1	GM FABIANO CARUANA	1	4 PTS
T-2	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN	.5	3.5 PTS
T-2	GM ALEX GRISCHUK	.5	3.5 PTS
T-2	GM S. MAMEDYAROV	.5	3.5 PTS
T-2	GM LEVON ARONIAN	.5	3.5 PTS
T-6	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE	.5	3 PTS
T-6	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND	.5	3 PTS
8	GM WESLEY SO	.5	2.5 PTS
9	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA	.5	2 PTS
10	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN	0	1.5 PTS



SINQUEFIELD CUP

# PLAYER MATCHUPS

#GrandChessTour

ROUND 7



WHITE PLAYER VS PLAYER BLACK

GM LEVON ARONIAN 2794 URS	VS	GM WESLEY SO 2794 URS
GM VISWANATHAN ANAND 2771 URS	VS	GM ALEX GRISCHUK 2782 URS
GM MAGNUS CARLSEN 2866 URS	VS	GM FABIANO CARUANA 2785 URS
GM SERGEY KARJAKIN 2791 URS	VS	GM S. MAMEDYAROV 2782 URS
GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE 2796 URS	VS	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 2812 URS

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# DAILY CHESS PUZZLE

BY DANNY MACHUCA

Submit your solution to our front desk staff for a chance to win a gift card to the store at the Saint Louis Chess Club!

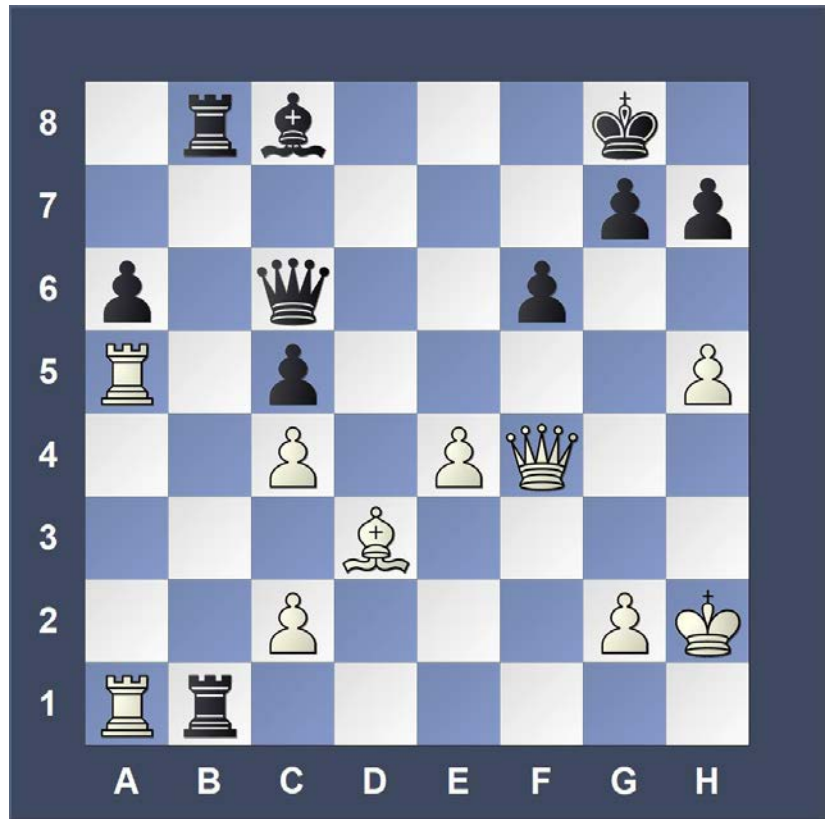
Each day, two \$25 gift cards will be drawn among those who submit a correct solution.

**Objective:** White to move

White: Alexander Grischuk

Black: Boris Grachev

Russian Team Championship 2017



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

4-5:30 PM Autograph Session, Kingside Diner

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

6 PM Opening Ceremony, World Chess Hall of Fame\*

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

1 PM Round 1

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

1 PM Round 2

### MONDAY, AUGUST 20

1 PM Round 3

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

1 PM Round 4

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

1 PM Round 5

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Rest Day

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

1 PM Round 6

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

1 PM Round 7

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

1 PM Round 8

### MONDAY, AUGUST 27

1 PM Round 9

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

1 PM Playoff (If Necessary)

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

5:30 PM Closing Ceremony, World Chess Hall of Fame\*

6:30 PM Chess Club 10 Year Documentary Premiere, Chase Park Plaza

\*Private Event

## SIDE EVENT HIGHLIGHT

### \$2000 Sinquefeld Speed Spectacular

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

7SS | Game in5; 0 second delay

#### Entry Fee

\$30

#### Registration

6:30-7:15 PM

Space is limited to the first 50 registrants.

#### Round 1

7:30 PM

#### \$2000 unconditionally guaranteed!

Quick Ratings will be used for Pairings and Prize purposes.

Free Entry for GMs and IMs. USCF membership required.

Arbiter has the discretion to appoint ratings.