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♖ GM H. Nakamura	½
♜ GM S. Karjakin	½
♖ GM M. Carlsen	½
♜ GM F. Caruana	½
♖ GM D. Liren	½
♜ GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	½
♖ GM I. Nepomniachtchi	½
♜ GM S. Mamedyarov	½
♖ GM W. So	½
♜ GM A. Giri	½
♖ GM L. Aronian	½
♜ GM V. Anand	½

CURRENT STANDINGS

1. GM V. Anand	2
2. GM M. Carlsen	1½
3. GM F. Caruana	1½
4. GM A. Giri	1½
5. GM W. So	1½
6. GM L. Aronian	1½
7. GM S. Mamedyarov	1½
8. GM D. Liren	1½
9. GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	1½
10. GM S. Karjakin	1½
11. GM H. Nakamura	1½
12. GM I. Nepomniachtchi	1

CUP★CHRONICLE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019 | ISSUE 3

ROUND 3 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM SERGEY KARJAKIN, ROUND 3
PHOTO BY JUSTIN KELLAR

Round 3 of the Sinquefield Cup saw all six draws again, which was enough for Viswanathan Anand to remain on top of the leaderboard. While Anand had no trouble drawing with the black pieces, Karjakin, on the other hand, had to fight for his half a point, essentially defending for over 80 moves. Tomorrow will see some interesting battles as Caruana will have the white pieces against Aronian and Carlsen will have the black pieces against Mamedyarov, the last player to have defeated him in a classical game over a year ago. Anand will be looking to increase his lead as he has the white pieces against Wesley So.



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HIKARU NAKAMURA - SERGEY KARJAKIN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

The 104 move epic battle lasted for nearly 6 hours only to leave Nakamura frustrated. On move 26, Nakamura closed the position, explaining that optically the position looks for winning for him and that one day he would be able to break through as black had no counter play. He missed Karjakin's 31...Qd8 move, which allowed Black to control the a5 square and built a fortress. Karjakin had to remain passive for a long time, moving his bishop back and forth, waiting for his opponent to find a way to make progress. As the players were nearing the 50 move rule draw, Nakamura decided to sacrifice a pawn and look for new ways to breakthrough. The 2019 U.S. Champion exhausted every trick and idea he could find but ultimately had to accept the inevitable fate of the game.



31.Rb3 Qd8

- 32.Qc1 Ra7
- 33.Be1 Rh8
- 34.Bxa5 Qxa5
- 35.Qc3 Qxc3
- 36.Rxc3 Ra5
- 37.Rb3 Rh7
- 38.Rb4 Kf8
- 39.h4 Ke8
- 40.e3 Kd8
- 41.Nd3 Kc7
- 42.Nc1 Rh8
- 43.Nb3 Ra7
- 44.Kf1 Bd7
- 45.Ke1 Rha8
- 46.Kd2 Be8
- 47.Kc3 Bd7
- 48.a5 Be8
- 49.Rb6 Bd7
- 50.Kb4 Be8
- 51.Rg1 Nd7
- 52.Bf1 Bf7
- 53.Bd3 Be8
- 54.Ra1 Bf7
- 55.Kc3 Be8
- 56.Rb4 Nb8
- 57.Rba4 Bd7
- 58.Nc1 Be8
- 59.Bc2 Bd7
- 60.R4a3 Be8
- 61.Bd3 Bd7
- 62.Ne2 Be8
- 63.Kb4 Na6+
- 64.Kb3 Nb8
- 65.Nc3 Bd7
- 66.Kb2 Kd8

- 67.Nd1 Kc7
- 68.Nf2 Be8
- 69.Bc2 Bd7
- 70.Nd3 Be8
- 71.Bd1 Kc8
- 72.Be2 Kc7
- 73.Nb4 Bd7
- 74.Kc2 Be8
- 75.Nd3 Bd7
- 76.Nc1 Be8
- 77.Nb3 Bd7
- 78.Ra4 Be8
- 79.Rb4 Bf7
- 80.Rb6 Nd7
- 81.Bd3 Be8
- 82.Kc3 Bf7
- 83.Rb1 Rb8
- 84.Rb4 Be8
- 85.Kd2 Bf7
- 86.Ke1 Be8
- 87.Kf1 Bf7
- 88.Kf2 Be8
- 89.Kg2 Bf7
- 90.a6 bxa6
- 91.Rxb8 Nxb8
- 92.Na5 Be8
- 93.Rb6 Bd7
- 94.Bc2 Be8
- 95.Ba4 Bd7
- 96.Kf2 Be8
- 97.Ke1 Bd7
- 98.Kd2 Be8
- 99.Kc3 Bd7
- 100.Kb4 Be8
- 101.Bc2 Bd7
- 102.Ba4 Be8
- 103.Bc2 Bd7
- 104.Ba4 Be8

1/2-1/2

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nf3 d5
- 4.g3 Bb4+
- 5.Bd2 Be7
- 6.Bg2 0-0
- 7.0-0 Nbd7
- 8.a4 a5
- 9.Qc2 c6
- 10.Na3 Ne4
- 11.Bf4 g5
- 12.Be3 f5
- 13.Rad1 Qe8
- 14.Qc1 h6
- 15.Ne5 Kh7
- 16.f3 Nef6
- 17.b3 Bd6
- 18.f4 g4
- 19.Nc2 h5
- 20.Ne1 Rh8
- 21.N1d3 Kg7
- 22.Bf2 Rh6
- 23.Qe3 Nf8
- 24.Rb1 Ng6
- 25.Nxg6 Qxg6
- 26.c5 Bc7
- 27.b4 axb4
- 28.Rxb4 Rh7
- 29.Ne5 Qe8
- 30.Ra1 Ba5

MAGNUS CARLSEN - FABIANO CARUANA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM M. CARLSEN // LENNART OOTES

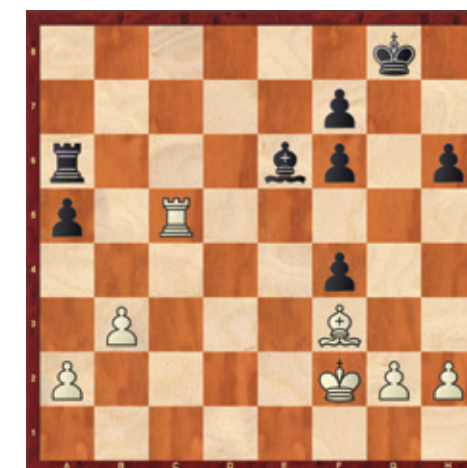
The highly anticipated battle between the World Champion and his 2018 challenger was a well fought out affair. Caruana deviated from the game Carlsen-Duda game from earlier this year with a novelty on move 9 in the Vienna Variation. Caruana explained that playing a novelty is a pleasant feeling as it means that the opponent is out of book, but he had to suffer a bit in the opening nonetheless. Carlsen felt that he achieved a comfortable edge but wasn't able to do anything with it. After simplifications, the game ended in a rook endgame on move 43.



- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nf3 d5
- 4.Nc3 dxc4
- 5.e4 Bb4
- 6.Bxc4 Nxe4
- 7.0-0 Nf6
- 8.Qa4+ Nc6
- 9.Ne5 Bd6

- 10.Nxc6 bxc6
- 11.Qxc6+ Bd7
- 12.Qf3 0-0
- 13.Bg5 h6
- 14.Bh4 Rb8
- 15.b3 Rb6
- 16.Ne4 Be7
- 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6
- 18.Bxf6 Qxf6
- 19.Qxf6 gxf6
- 20.d5 e5
- 21.Rfc1 a5
- 22.Be2 c6
- 23.dxc6 Rxc6
- 24.Rxc6 Bxc6

- 25.Rc1 Bd7
- 26.Rc5 Ra8
- 27.f4 exf4
- 28.Bf3 Ra6
- 29.Kf2 Be6
- 30.Be2 Ra8
- 31.Bf3 Ra6



- 32.Bb7 Ra7
- 33.Be4 Kg7
- 34.Kf3 a4
- 35.Bc2 axb3
- 36.Bxb3 Rb7
- 37.Kxf4 Bxb3
- 38.axb3 Rxb3
- 39.g3 Rb4+
- 40.Kf3 Rb3+
- 41.Kf4 Rb4+
- 42.Kf3 Rb3+
- 43.Kf4

1/2-1/2

DING LIREN - MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY IM ALMIRA SKRIPCHENKO



GM D. LIREN // JUSTIN KELLAR

Ding Liren's opening preparation against Vachier-Lagrave's Grunfeld Defense gave him a substantial advantage but he misplayed the resulting middle game position. The position had an interesting dynamic with the white king in the center but in return white had a better grip on the center and managed to exchange the dark squared bishops, leaving black with the knight pair. Ding Liren misplayed the position on move 22 when he chose the tactical path. This decision only allowed black to open the position forcing an exchange of pieces and leaving white with a weak pawn structure. With limited pieces on the board, the game petered out into a draw.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 g6
- 3.Nc3 d5
- 4.cxd5 Nxd5
- 5.Bd2 Bg7

[5...Nb6 was played in D. Liren - S. Mamedyarov just a few days ago. After 6.Bf4!? (Main move is 6.e3) 6...Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.dxc5 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qxd1+ 10.Rxd1 Na4. The game eventually ended with a draw.]

- 6.e4 Nb6

[6...Nxc3 is much more popular, for instance 7.Bxc3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.d5 Bxf3 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.gxf3 Ne5 13.0-0 c6 14.Qc3 f6, and Black equalised in 1/2-1/2 (48) Anand,V (2792)-Carlsen,M (2863) Sochi 2014]

- 7.Be3 0-0
- 8.Be2 Nc6
- 9.Nf3 Bg4
- 10.d5 Na5

[10...Bxf3 seems to be a decent alternative to the game 11.gxf3 Ne5 (11...Na5 transposes to the game) 12.Qb3 c6]

- 11.Bd4 Bxf3
- 12.gxf3 Qd6
- 13.Bxg7 Kxg7
- 14.Qd2 Qf6



[14...c6 was MVL's first intention, where 15.Nd1 (but he was lucky to spot 15.Rc1! in time, after which Black is in trouble, for example 15...Nd7 16.Na4 b6 17.dxc6+-) 15...Nac4 16.Bxc4 Nxc4 17.Qc3+ Ne5 18.f4 Qb4!! holds for Black]

- 15.h4 Nac4
- 16.Qc1 c6
- 17.h5 Kg8
- 18.a4

[As attractive as it looks, the inclusion of a4 a5 is in fact in Black's favour.]

[White should have played an immediate 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.Nd1 Nd6 20.Ne3 with great chances to get an advantage, for instance 20...Nb5 21.Ng4 Qg7 22.e5 Rfd8 23.hxg6 fxg6 (23...hxg6 24.Qc5) 24.Qxc6, and Black is in serious trouble]

- 18. a5

[MVL mentioned 18...Na5 19.Qh6 Qg7 20.Qxg7+ Kxg7 21.b4 Nb3 22.Rb1 Nd4, and Black should be fine]

- 19.dxc6 bxc6
- 20.Nd1

[20.b3 Nd6 21.Qe3?! (Stronger is 21.f4 Qd4 22.Qe3 Qxe3 23.fxe3 with a slight advantage for White) 21...Nf5!? 22.exf5 Nd5 and Black is ok (the line was shown by MVL)]

- 20. Nd6
- 21.Ne3

["Compy" claims 21.Qh6 Qg7 22.Qg5 to be somewhat better for White, but it seems neither player has considered this during the game]

- 21. Qd4
- 22.Ng4

[22.b3 f5; 22.Kf1! Nxa4? (22...Nd7) 23.e5! Nf5 24.Nxf5 gxf5 25.Qg5+ Kh8 26.Qxe7; 22.Qd2 Qxd2+ 23.Kxd2 Nd7]

- 22. f5

[22...Nxa4 loses to 23.hxg6 fxg6 24.Qh6! Rf7 25.Qd2!+-]

- 23.Nh6+ Kg7
- 24.hxg6 hxg6
- 25.Nxf5+ Nxf5

[25...gxf5? 26.Qg5+ Kf7 27.Rh7+ with mate in two to follow]

- 26.exf5 Rxf5
- 27.Qh6+ Kf6
- 28.Rd1 Qf4



[MVL was thinking of playing for the win with 28...Qb4+ 29.Kf1 Nd5, but felt it might have been too dangerous, as his own king was too exposed. Indeed, that would have been quite risky, as White has 30.Bd3! Rg5 31.Rh5!! with serious initiative]

- 29.Qh4+ Qxh4
- 30.Rxh4 Nd5
- 31.Rc4 Nb4
- 32.f4

[the resulting endgame is objectively equal, but it's already White who has to be careful]

- 32. g5
- 33.fxg5+ Rxg5
- 34.Bf3 Rg1+
- 35.Ke2 Rxd1
- 36.Kxd1 Ra6
- 37.Kd2 Ke5
- 38.Re4+ Kd6
- 39.Rd4+ Nd5
- 40.Rh4 Ra8

- 41.Rh6+ Kc5
- 42.Re6 Rf8
- 43.Bxd5 Rxf2+
- 44.Kc3 cxd5
- 45.Rxe7 d4+
- 46.Kd3 Rf3+
- 47.Kc2 Rf2+
- 48.Kd3 Rf3+
- 49.Kc2 Rf2+
- 50.Kd3

1/2-1/2

IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI - SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM I. NEPOMNIACHTCHI // JUSTIN KELLAR

This might be another game where Nepomniachtchi regrets playing too quickly as he missed an opportunity to gain lasting advantage on move 30. After following a theoretical line in the Archangelsk Variation of the Ruy Lopez, Mamedyarov started experiencing discomfort after misplacing his light squared bishop on a6. After his main mistake on move 29, Nepomniachtchi had the opportunity to push his passed pawn to the 6th rank, where it would become a nuisance for his opponent. Instead, after only spending 4 minutes on the move, he played the incorrect move order, which allowed Mamedyarov to tactically equalize the position using the pin on White's queen.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 a6
- 4.Ba4 Nf6
- 5.0-0 Bc5
- 6.c3 b5
- 7.Bb3 d6
- 8.a4 Bb7
- 9.d4 Bb6
- 10.Bg5 h6
- 11.Bxf6 Qxf6
- 12.Bd5 0-0
- 13.dxe5 dxe5

- 14.Qe2 bxa4
- 15.Nbd2 Rad8
- 16.Nc4 Bc8
- 17.Rxa4 Ne7



- 18.Nxb6 cxb6
- 19.c4 a5
- 20.Qe3 Ba6
- 21.Rc1 Rc8
- 22.Raa1 Qd6
- 23.h3 Nxd5
- 24.cxd5 f5
- 25.Rxc8 Bxc8
- 26.Rd1 fxe4
- 27.Qxe4 Re8
- 28.Nd2 b5
- 29.Qd3 Qb4



- 30.Ne4 Kh8
- 31.d6 Bf5
- 32.f3 Rd8
- 33.Qc2 Rxd6
- 34.Rxd6 Qxd6
- 35.Nxd6 Bxc2
- 36.Nxb5 Kg8
- 37.Nd6 Bd3
- 38.Kf2 Kf8
- 39.Nb7 a4
- 40.Ke3 Bf1
- 41.Nc5 Bxg2
- 42.h4 g5
- 43.hxg5 hxg5
- 44.Nxa4 Bh3
- 45.Nc5 Bc8
- 46.b4 g4
- 47.fxg4 Bxg4
- 48.Ke4 Ke7
- 49.Kxe5 Be2
- 50.Ne4 Kd7
- 51.Nc3 Bf1
- 52.b5 Bxb5
- 53.Nxb5

1/2-1/2

WESLEY SO - ANISH GIRI

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



SO VS. GIRI // JUSTIN KELLAR

The theoretical Open Catalan variation led to a Carlsbad-like structure, with two sets of minor pieces exchanged. Usually the exchange of minor pieces in the Carlsbad favors the black side, the So had his light squared bishop left with ideas of minority attack with left Giri with a permanent pawn weakness on c6. Optically, the position looked very promising for White, but on the other hand, black had only one weakness which was easily defendable. Ultimately, White did not find a way to build his advantage, ending the game with a repetition.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nf3 d5
- 4.g3 Be7
- 5.Bg2 0-0
- 6.0-0 dxc4
- 7.Qc2 a6
- 8.a4 Bd7
- 9.Qxc4 Bc6
- 10.Bg5 Nbd7
- 11.Nc3 h6
- 12.Bxf6 Nxf6
- 13.b4 Bd5
- 14.Nxd5 exd5
- 15.Qb3 c6



- 16.e3 Bd6
- 17.Rab1 Qe7
- 18.Rfd1 g6
- 19.Ne1 Kg7
- 20.b5 axb5
- 21.axb5 Qd7
- 22.Nd3 Rfc8
- 23.bxc6 bxc6
- 24.Qc2 Ra6
- 25.Rdc1 Qa7
- 26.Bf3 Rb8
- 27.Rxb8 Qxb8
- 28.Kg2 h5
- 29.Nc5 Bxc5
- 30.Qxc5 Qb2



- 31.Qc3 Qb8
- 32.h4 Qb7
- 33.Rc2 Rb6
- 34.Qc5 Ra6
- 35.Qc3 Rb6
- 36.Qc5 Ra6
- 37.Qc3 Rb6

1/2-1/2

LEVON ARONIAN - VISWANATHAN ANAND

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM L. ARONIAN // JUSTIN KELLAR

The quickest game of the round concluded in less than two hours. Aronian didn't show a lot of ambition with the white pieces, trading pieces and entering an endgame where he had a pair of knights against his opponent's pair of bishops. Due to White's rook activity and Black's compromised pawn structure, Anand had to exchange his bishops for the knights, entering an equal rook endgame. The game ended on move 42 with a repetition.

19.Ne5 bxc6
20.Nxc6 Bb7



21.Ne7+ Kh7
22.Rd7 Bd6
23.Rd1 Rab8
24.Nb5 Bxe7
25.Rxe7 Bc6
26.Nc3 Rb4
27.Rxc7 Bxa4
28.Nxa4 Rxa4
29.Rb7 Rf4
30.g3 Rf6
31.Rb5 Ra8
32.Ra1 Rc8
33.Raxa5 Rc2
34.Rf5 Rxb2



35.Rxf6 gxf6
36.Ra4 Rb3
37.Kg2 Kg7
38.Rg4+ Kh7
39.Rf4 Kg7
40.Rg4+ Kh7
41.Rf4 Kg7
42.Rg4+

1/2-1/2

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bc4 Bc5
4.d3 Nf6
5.0-0 h6
6.c3 d6
7.Re1 0-0
8.h3 a6
9.a4 a5
10.d4 Bb6
11.Be3 exd4
12.cxd4 d5
13.exd5 Nxd5
14.Bxd5 Qxd5
15.Nc3 Qd8
16.d5 Bxe3
17.dxc6 Qxd1
18.Raxd1 Bc5



GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE // JUSTIN KELLAR



GM V. ANAND // LENNART OOTES



GM W. SO // JUSTIN KELLAR

CURRENT STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND 3

POS.	PLAYER	ROUND 3 RESULT	SCORE
1	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND (IND)	1/2	2 PTS
T-2	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN (NOR)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM FABIANO CARUANA (USA)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM ANISH GIRI (NLD)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM WESLEY SO (USA)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM LEVON ARONIAN (ARM)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM S. MAMEDYAROV (AZE)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM DING LIREN (CHN)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE (FRA)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN (RUS)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA (USA)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS
12	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI (RUS)	1/2	1 PT

PLAYER MATCHUPS

#GrandChessTour

ROUND 4

WHITE	PLAYER	VS	PLAYER	BLACK
	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA (USA)		GM DING LIREN (CHN)	
	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN (RUS)		GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI (RUS)	
	GM SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV (AZE)		GM MAGNUS CARLSEN (NOR)	
	GM FABIANO CARUANA (USA)		GM LEVON ARONIAN (ARM)	
	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND (IND)		GM WESLEY SO (USA)	
	GM ANISH GIRI (NLD)		GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE (FRA)	

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ULTIMATE MOVES

AUGUST 29

Following the conclusion of the Sinquefield Cup, the Saint Louis Chess Club will host an Ultimate Moves Exhibition with all players on August 29 at 2pm. The event will include Saint Louis Chess Club founder Rex Sinquefield, President of Spectrum Studios Randy Sinquefield, legendary World Champion Garry Kasparov, and the Sinquefield Cup players in a team vs. team matchup. All tournament players will compete in this fun-spirited event where players swap out after every fifth move and are encouraged to talk amongst each other and their opponents throughout the match. Free admission!



2018 ULTIMATE MOVES // AUSTIN FULLER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 15

5-6 PM Autograph Session, Kingside Diner

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Thursday, August 15
6 PM Opening Ceremony, World Chess Hall of Fame*</p> <p>Saturday, August 17
1 PM Round 1</p> <p>Sunday, August 18
1 PM Round 2</p> <p>Monday, August 19
1 PM Round 3</p> <p>Tuesday, August 20
1 PM Round 4</p> <p>Wednesday, August 21
1 PM Round 5</p> <p>Thursday, August 22
Rest Day</p> <p>Friday, August 23
1 PM Round 6</p> | <p>Saturday, August 24
1 PM Round 7</p> <p>Sunday, August 25
1 PM Round 8</p> <p>Monday, August 26
1 PM Round 9</p> <p>Tuesday, August 27
1 PM Round 10</p> <p>Wednesday, August 28
1 PM Round 11</p> <p>Thursday, August 29
10 AM Playoff (If Necessary)</p> <p>Thursday, August 29
2 PM Ultimate Moves</p> <p>Thursday, August 29
6-7 PM Closing Ceremony, World Chess Hall of Fame*</p> |
|---|--|

*Private Event

SIDE EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Sinquefield Action Quads

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

3 Rounds | Game in 20; 3 second delay

Entry Fee
\$10

Registration
6-6:50 PM

Space is limited to the first 50 players.

Round 1
7:00 PM

Winner of each quad receives \$36.

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.