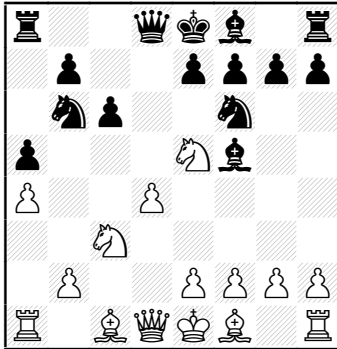


Round 1. Game 6
2 June 2007

Aronian-Carlsen
Slav Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.♗c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♕f5
6.♗e5 ♗bd7 7.♗xc4 ♗b6 8.♗e5 a5



Magnus selected a rare system, in which Black's light-squared bishop can be shut off for a while by White's pawn chain.

9.g3

More often White plays 9.f3 ♗fd7 10.♗xd7 ♗xd7 11.e4 ♕g6 12.♕e3 with a small advantage.

9...♗fd7

More popular is 9...e6 10.♕g2 ♕b4 11.0-0 0-0 12.e3 followed by ♗d1-e2, ♖f1-d1 and e3-e4 – the practice promises White better chances.

10.♗xd7 ♗xd7

Utilizing the opportunity, Black attempts to trade his bishops, however, he remains underdeveloped. 10...♗xd7 does not equalize: 11.♕g2 e6 12.0-0.

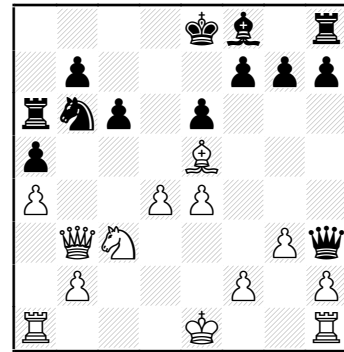
11.e4 ♕h3 12.♕xh3 ♗xh3 13.♗b3 ♖a6

Black's defensive setup looks extremely suspicious, but judging by the speed of play, everything was prepared at home.

14.♕f4!?

An interesting novelty. Earlier White played 14.♕e3 e6 15.d5 ♕b4, but could not achieve anything real: 16.dxe6 ♗xe6 17.♗xe6+ fxe6 18.♕xb6 ♖xb6 19.0-0-0 ♕c5 20.f4 ♗e7 21.♗c2 ♖b4 with a good ending in Gyimesi-Bu Xiangzhi (Tegernsee 2007), which Black managed to win.

14...e6 15.♕e5!



A very strong move! Now in order to place the bishop to b4, Black must seriously weaken the e6-square.

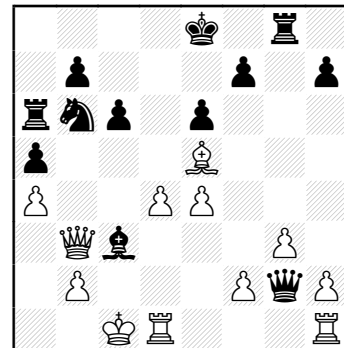
15...♕b4

Carlsen prefers to abandon a pawn! It is difficult to defend after 15...f6 16.♕c7 ♕b4 17.0-0-0 ♗f7 18.♗e2!, while White has a clear objective.

16.♕xg7 ♖g8 17.♕e5 ♗g2

This move regains a pawn, but Black's position becomes cut in two parts. Insecure king and weak kingside add more headaches.

18.0-0-0 ♕xc3



19.♗xc3

Capturing with the pawn has its merits: 19.bxc3!? ♗xe4 20.c4! ♗e2! 21.c5 (21.♖d3 ♗xa4!) 21...♗c4+ 22.♗xc4 ♗xc4 23.♕f4 b5 24.♗c2 with a clear advantage. The Black's knight gets stuck on c4, and the fact that White controls the b8-square suggests that Black will have problems holding his queenside after White doubles the rooks on the b-file by ♗c2-c3, ♖b1-b3 and ♖h1-b1.

19...♗xe4 20.♖he1 ♗d5

If the queen retreats to some other place, for example, 20...♗f5, White can think about an immediate 21.d5!?, exploding the center. However, Black has a defense: 21...cxd5! (bad is 21...♗xd5? 22.♖xd5! exd5 23.♗c5 f6 24.♕xf6+ ♗f7 25.♗e7+ ♗g6 26.♕h4 c5 27.♖e5) 22.♖xd5! (22.♗c7 ♗g5+ and ♗g5-e7) 22...♗xd5

23. ♖c8+ ♔e7 24. ♗xb7+ ♔e8 25. ♗xa6 ♗xf2 with good chances to hold the position thanks to the strong d5-knight.

21. b3 ♗d7?!

Of course, the knight is excellently located on d5, but the queen becomes very passive. Black should consider 21... ♗d7!?, keeping the queen on d5. In this case it would be more difficult for White to attack the kingside pawns.

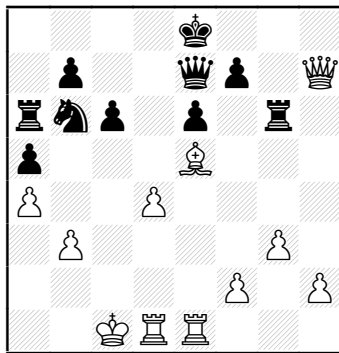
22. ♗c2 ♗e7

After 22... ♖g6 23. h4 ♗e7 24. ♔b2 White will eventually break the opponent's defense.

23. ♗xh7

It is not necessary to rush taking the pawn. White can continue building up the attack. After 23. ♔b2!? f6 (23... ♗d5 24. ♗xh7) 24. ♔f4 ♗d5 25. ♖e2 ♖g6 26. ♖de1 f5 27. ♔d2 ♔f7 28. h4 Black is probably unable to prevent opening the kingside.

23... ♖g6



In case of 23... ♗a3+ 24. ♔d2! ♗a2+ White chooses between 25. ♗c2 with an extra pawn in the ending, or 25. ♔e3!? ♗d5+ 26. ♔f3 with attacking chances.

24. ♖e3

One could force trading the queens by 24. ♗h8+!? ♗f8 (not 24... ♔d7? 25. d5! ♗xd5 26. ♗b8 ♗a3+ 27. ♔c2, and 27... ♗a2+ is impossible in view of 28. ♔b2 ♖b6 29. ♖d3, followed by ♖e1-a1, and the queen is trapped) 25. ♗xf8+ ♔xf8. Black has to suffer a lot for a draw.

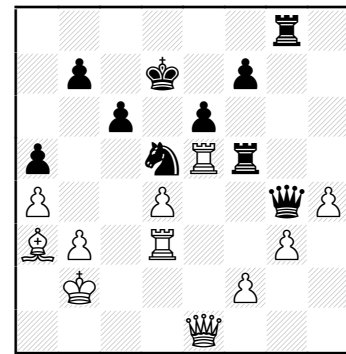
24... ♗d5 25. ♖f3 ♗f8 26. h4 ♖h6

Maybe Black should have traded the queens by 26... ♗h6+ 27. ♗xh6 ♖xh6.

27. ♗c2 ♖a8 28. ♗d2 ♖h5 29. ♔b2 ♗g8 30. ♖e1 ♗g6

Gradually Black consolidates, but he has no compensation for a pawn, and his only hope is to survive.

31. ♔d6 ♖d8 32. ♔a3 ♗g4 33. ♖d3 ♖f5 34. ♖e5 ♔d7 35. ♗e2 ♖g8 36. ♗e1!



White found a good spot for the queen. From e1 it attacks the queenside and can help advancing the kingside pawns.

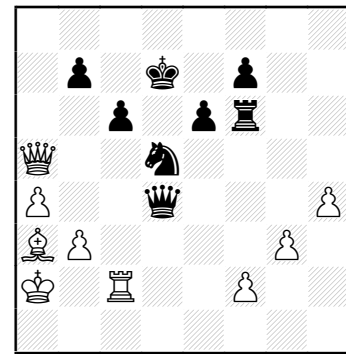
36... ♖g6 37. ♖e2 ♖f3 38. ♖xf3 ♗xf3 39. ♖c2 ♗f6

It was necessary to prevent ♗e1-e5-d6.

40. ♗xa5

40. ♗e5!? deserved attention, but White logically thinks that trading the d4-pawn is not in his interests.

40... ♗xd4+ 41. ♔a2 ♖f6



42. f4?!

However, this advance that weakens the g3-pawn should have been avoided. Stronger is 42. ♔c5! ♗e4 43. ♗d2 and ♖c2-c4.

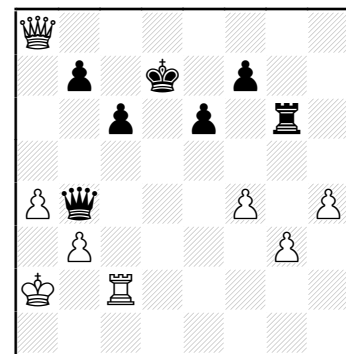
42... ♖g6

42... ♗d3!? is also unclear.

43. ♗a8

In case of 43. ♖d2 ♗e3 44. ♗b4! ♔c7! 45. ♗d6+ ♔b6 46. ♗d8+ ♔a6 Black can defend.

43... ♗b4+! 44. ♔xb4 ♗xb4



45. ♖g2?

An overlook, after which Black forces a draw. White has to continue 45. ♖c4! ♗d2+ 46. ♕a3, but Black retains good drawing chances by 46... ♗d6+ (in case of 46... ♕c7!?) 47. ♗f8 ♖xg3 48. ♗xf7+ ♗d7 49. ♗xd7+ ♕xd7, White has some winning chances after 50. h5 ♖h3 51. ♖c5 ♖h4 52. ♖g5! (52. f5? ♕d6!) 52... ♖xf4 (52... ♕d6!?) 53. ♖g7+ ♕d6 54. ♖xb7 ♖h4 55. ♖h7, etc.) 47. ♖b4 b5! 48. axb5 cxb5 49. ♗b7+ ♕d8 50. ♗xb5 ♖xg3, etc.
45... ♖xg3! 46. ♖xg3 ♗d2+ 47. ♕a3 ♗c1+
 White cannot avoid the perpetual – it's a draw.

Rublevsky-Ponomariov Caro Kann Defense Notes by grandmaster Yury Yakovich

1. e4 c6!?

Surprise! It was almost impossible to predict the Caro Kann Defense when Black desperately need a win.

2. d4 d5 3. ♘d2 dxe4 4. ♗xe4 ♗f6 5. ♗xf6+ gxf6!?

So this was his idea. Ponomariov creates the position with complex pawn structure. Of course, White's chances should be preferred, but Black hopes to make some complications.

6. c3

White makes a useful waiting move. When the Black's bishop comes out to f5, White will develop his knight to f3, not worrying about ♗g4. After 6... ♗f5 7. ♗f3 e6 8. g3! ♗c7 9. ♗g2 ♗d7 10. 0-0 0-0-0 11. ♖e1 White's queenside attack carried out by c4 or b4, ♗a4 etc. is quicker than Black's kingside play.

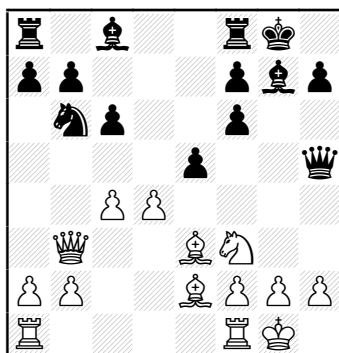
6... ♗d5!? 7. ♗b3!

This move is especially strong under the given circumstances. White ties the opponent's bishop to defending the b7-pawn, while trading the queens on b3 is not in Ponomariov's interests.

7... ♗d7 8. ♗f3 ♗b6 9. c4! ♗h5 10. ♗e2 ♗g7?!

Perhaps Black could try 10... ♖g8!? 11. g3 ♗e6 (11... ♗g4? loses to 12. c5! ♗e6 13. ♗d1! ♗d5 14. ♗h4, winning the queen) 12. ♗f4 ♗h6.

11. 0-0 0-0 12. ♗e3 e5



13. ♗c2!

Very strong. White threatens 14. ♗xe5, and 14... ♗f5 can be met by 15. ♗d3 ♗h5 16. ♗e2, and repeating the position cannot satisfy Ponomariov.

13... ♗f5 14. ♗d1! ♗g4

The only move.

15. h3 ♗xf3 16. ♗xf3 ♗g6 17. ♗h5 ♗e4 18. ♗f3 ♗g6

18... ♗h4 loses to 19. g3 ♗xh3 20. ♗g4.

19. ♗h5 ♗e4

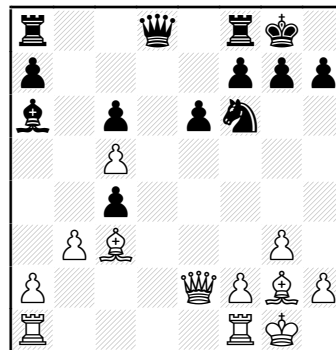
Game drawn. Of course, White has a clear advantage, but the draw allows Rublevsky to advance to the next stage.

Kasimdzhanov-Gelfand Queen's Indian Defense Notes by grandmaster Yury Yakovich

1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♗f3 b6 4. g3 ♗a6 5. b3 ♗b4+ 6. ♗d2 ♗e7 7. ♗g2

In the second game of the match Kasimdzhanov selected a more ambitious 7. ♗c3! 0-0 8. ♖c1 with a complicated game.

7... c6 8. ♗c3 d5 9. ♗e5 ♗fd7 10. ♗xd7 ♗xd7 11. ♗d2 0-0 12. 0-0 ♗f6 13. e4 dxe4 14. ♗xe4 b5 15. ♗c5 ♗xc5 16. dxc5 bxc4 17. ♗e2



17... ♗d3!

An improvement compared to L'Ami-lordachescu (Vlissingen 2006), in which 17... ♗d5?! was met by 18. ♗e5 with advantage to White.

18. ♗xd3 cxd3 19. ♗xc6 ♖ac8 20. ♗g2 ♗d5! 21. ♗xd5

Black equalized the game, and the players agreed to a draw, postponing decisive struggle until the tie-breaks.

Bareev-Polgar
Queen's Indian Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Ruslan Scherbakov

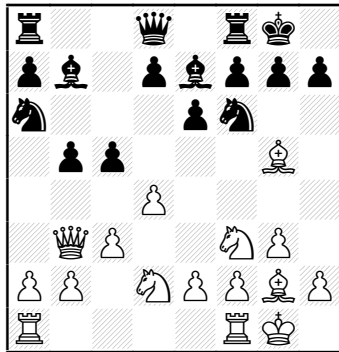
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.g3 b5!?

A logical opening choice – Judit is heading for complicated and unexplored positions.

4.♙g2 ♙b7 5.0-0 c5 6.c3 ♘a6!?

A good idea that was employed by Kasparov. The a6-knight covers the c5-square and does not block the light-squared bishop.

7.♙g5 ♙e7 8.♗bd2 0-0 9.♚b3



White had many options, but Evgeny likes to develop his queen early.

9...♚b6!?

A new move. Also not bad is 9...♖b8!? 10.♚xb5 ♙xf3 11.♚xa6 ♙xg2 12.♙xg2 ♖xb2 with a good game for Black, but the position simplifies too much.

10.a4 b4 11.♗c4?!?

A rather impulsive move – White underestimates the opponent's resources. 11.e4!? deserves attention, but Evgeny is not in a mood for such demanding moves. Safer is 11.a5!? ♚d8 12.♖fc1, finishing mobilization.

11...♚d8!

At the first glance, Black wasted time on the queen maneuvers. However, she managed to maintain the tension. In addition, after the rook comes to b8, White will have to take care of his queen. Black can think about ...d7-d5 when the moment is right.

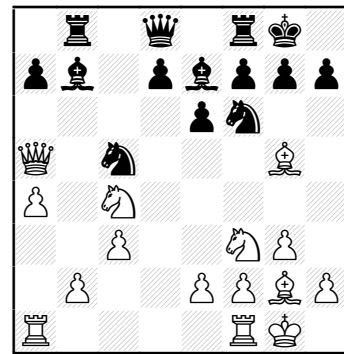
12.dxc5

White is almost forced to get into complications. In case of 12.cxb4 ♗xb4 followed by exchanging the pawns, Black obtains an advantage in the center, while control of the b4-square allows her keeping White's queenside pawns immobile. 12.♙xf6 gxf6 also does not make the White's task easier.

12...♗xc5 13.♚xb4 ♖b8

Threatening to take on f3. One can conclude that Polgar got a complicated position with initiative – and this is exactly what Bareev wanted to avoid.

14.♚a5



The only move. After 14.♚a3?! Black wins an exchange by 14...♙xf3 15.♙xf3 ♗b3, while on 14.♙xf6?! Black simply plays 14...gxf6.

14...♚xa5?

Unexpectedly, Polgar simplifies the position – everybody knows that Evgeny possesses a remarkable endgame technique. 14...♙a6 is not very promising: 15.♚xd8 ♖fxd8 16.♗fe5, but the match situation and the position both demanded 14...♚c8! Now White has to make a difficult decision by playing 15.♚xa7 ♗b3 (15...♙e4!? is also interesting) 16.♗b6 ♚c6. Now 17.♖ab1? loses to 17...♙c5 18.a5 ♖a8, and on 17.♙e3 Black can drive the bishop away by 17...♗g4. After 17.♖a3 ♙xa3 18.bxa3 the compensation for an exchange is insufficient, for example, 18...♙a8!? (or 18...♚c5!?) 19.a5 ♖b7 20.♚a6 ♗xa5 21.♚xa5 ♖xb6 etc. It seems 17.♗e1! is the best chance: 17...♚d6! (17...d5?! 18.♗d3 ♗xa1 19.♖xa1 is not bad for White) 18.♙f4!? (18.♖a3? ♙xg2) 18...e5 19.♙e3, and here Black chooses between 19...♗xa1 20.♙xb7 ♗b3 and 19...♙c6! 20.♖a3 ♙xg2 21.♗xg2 ♚e6. In both cases White struggles to make a draw.

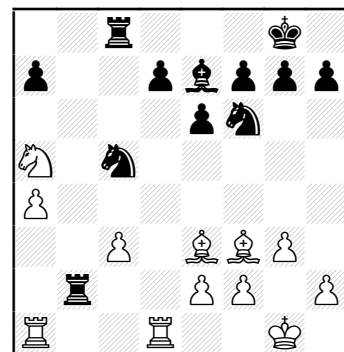
15.♗xa5 ♙xf3 16.♙xf3 ♖xb2

Better pawn structure secures Black a small advantage, but achieving a draw does not look as difficult for White as it was before.

17.♖fd1!?

An inaccuracy, which complicated the defender's task. Better is 17.♖fc1!, protecting the c3-pawn and planning to bring the knight back to c4.

17...♖c8 18.♙e3



18. ♖ab1? loses a pawn to 18... ♗xb1 19. ♗xb1 ♘xa4, and in case of 18. ♘c4 ♗b3 19. ♗dc1 d5 followed by ... ♗b3-b2, Black increases the advantage.

18... ♖f8

18...d5!?, restricting the a5-knight, deserved very serious attention! Now 19.c4?! ♕d8! looks dangerous, but maybe White is not lost: 20. ♗db1! ♗xb1+ 21. ♗xb1, and after 21... ♕xa5!?! (21... ♘fd7 22. ♘b7! ♗b8 23.cxd5 ♗xb7 24. ♗xb7 ♘xb7 25.dxe6 ♘dc5 26.exf7+ ♖xf7 27. ♕xb7 ♘xb7 28. ♕xa7 leads to equality) 22. ♕xc5 dxc4 a strong passed pawn gives Black better chances. Stronger is 19. ♕d4, but after 19... ♗b6! (19... ♕d8?! 20. ♘c4! dxc4 21. ♕xc5) 20. ♗db1 ♘fd7 defending is still difficult for White.

19. ♕d4 ♗c2 20. ♘b7 ♘b3 21. ♗ab1 ♘xd4

This exchange allows White to get rid of a weak pawn. 21... ♘d2!?! 22. ♗b5 d5 may be more promising.

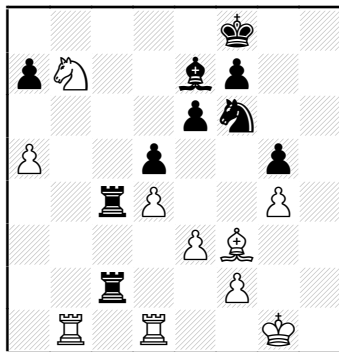
22.cxd4 d5 23.a5 g5

Black can still produce some activity, but the worst is over for White.

24.h3 h5 25.g4 hxg4

25...h4!?! deserved attention, hoping to get closer to the h3-pawn at some point.

26.hxg4 ♗8c4 27.e3



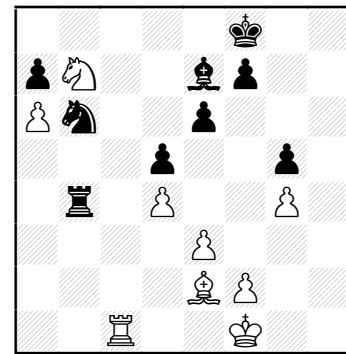
27... ♘d7?!

It was not a good idea to remove the knight that prevented White from using his bishop in defense more efficiently. An immediate 27...a6?! runs into 28. ♗b6, but 27... ♕b4!?! is strong enough, and if 28.a6?!, then 28... ♗a2 29. ♗a1 ♗cc2 30. ♗xa2 ♗xa2 31. ♗b1 ♕e7.

28. ♖f1 ♗a4 29. ♗dc1 ♗b4 30.a6 ♘b6 31. ♕e2

White solved all his problems – Black simply has no objects of attack.

31... ♗xc1+ 32. ♗xc1



32... ♘c4?!

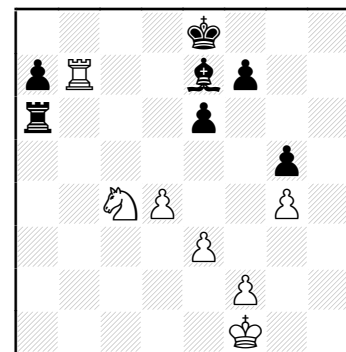
Of course, Judit realized that this exchange only worsens her position, but there was no other way to continue playing for a win.

33. ♕xc4 dxc4 34. ♘a5 ♗a4 35. ♘xc4 ♗xa6 36. ♘e5 White already stands better. Black must defend accurately, and can forget about her passed pawn for a long time.

36... ♕d6 37. ♗c8+ ♖e7 38. ♘c4 ♕b4?!

Stronger is 38...f6!?, and if 39. ♗h8, then 39... ♕b4 40. ♗h7+ ♖d8, setting up counterplay against the f2-pawn.

39. ♗c7+ ♖e8 40. ♗b7 ♕e7



41. ♖e2

White could play for a win by 41. ♘e5 f6 42. ♗b8+ ♕d8 43. ♘d3, but Bareev prefers to seal the match.

41... ♗a2+ 42. ♖d3 ♗xf2 43. ♗b8+ ♖d7 44. ♗b7+

Game drawn.

Shirov-Adams
Petroff Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Yury Yakovich

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6

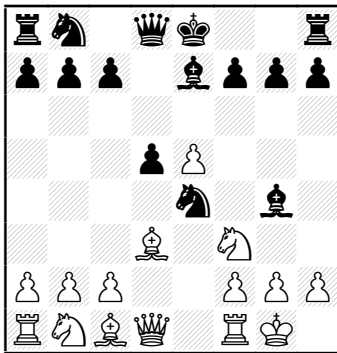
The Petroff is a good choice when you are content with a draw. In addition, this opening is a part of Adams' opening repertoire.

3.d4 ♗xe4 4.♙d3 d5 5.dxe5!?

A rare continuation – normally White takes on e5 with the knight, but the resulting positions are extensively analyzed, and Black usually equalizes.

5...♙e7 6.0-0 ♙g4

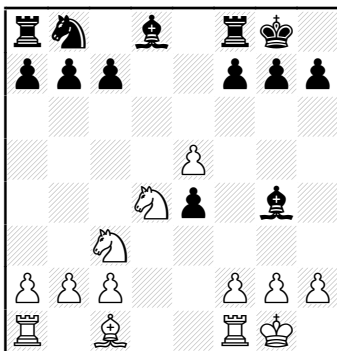
White plays 6...0-0 more frequently.



Most likely Adams expected 7.c4!?, after which 7...♗c6!? gives Black a good game. However, Alexei unexpectedly played 7.♙xe4!?

Being in a must-win situation, Shirov proceeds to an endgame with a small advantage. One can recall great Emanuel Lasker making a similar decision in St. Petersburg 1914 against Capablanca. The second World Champion, trailing by a point, proceeded to a roughly equal complex ending and won in excellent style.

7...dxe4 8.♖xd8+ ♙xd8 9.♗d4 0-0 10.♗c3



10...♗d7?!

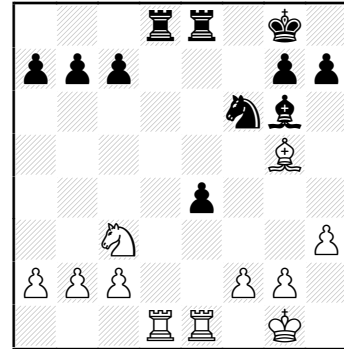
In my opinion, not the best. Black could seek counterplay in two different ways. The first is a pawn sacrifice: 10...c5!? 11.♗db5 ♗c6 12.♗d6 (12.♗xe4? ♙e2!) 12...♗xe5 13.♗xb7 f5 14.♗xc5 ♙b6, and

Black's strong center and active pieces give him sufficient compensation. The second is 10...f6!? 11.♙f4 fxe5 12.♙xe5 ♗d7 13.♙g3 ♙f6 14.♗db5 c6 15.♗d6 ♙xc3 16.bxc3 ♗c5 with rough equality. Maybe Adams lost concentration, thinking that he has nothing to worry about.

11.h3 ♙h5 12.e6! fxe6

After 12...♗c5 13.exf7+ ♙xf7 14.♗b3!? Black has problems protecting the e4-pawn.

13.♗xe6 ♖e8 14.♗xd8 ♖axd8 15.♙g5 ♗f6 16.♖fe1 ♙g6 17.♖ad1



17...♙f8?!

Suddenly Black faces serious difficulties. It is difficult to protect the e4-pawn, but the text-move is dubious to say the least. Black has to seek salvation in the following lines:

A) 17...♙f7 18.♖xd8 ♖xd8 19.♙xf6 gxf6 20.♗xe4 ♖d4 21.f3 ♙xe4 22.♖xe4 ♖d2 23.♖c4 c6, and there is no guarantee that this rook ending can be won.

B) 17...♖xd1!? 18.♖xd1 ♙f7 19.♙xf6 gxf6 (weaker is 19...♙xf6 in view of 20.♗d5+ ♙e5 21.♗xc7 ♖c8 22.♖d5+) 20.♖d7+ ♖e7 21.♖xe7+ ♙xe7 22.♗d5+ ♙d6 23.♗xf6 e3 24.fxe3 ♙xc2, and the activity of Black's pieces can suffice for a draw.

18.♙xf6 gxf6

White wins a pawn without compensation.

19.♗d5 e3 20.♗xe3 c5 21.♙f1?!

It is better to gain some space by 21.g4!? h5 22.♙g2.

21...♖d4 22.c3?! ♙d3+ 23.♙g1 ♖d6

Unsuccessful combination of the 20th and 21st moves by White allowed Adams activating his pieces.

24.♖d2 b5 25.♗c2 ♖ed8 26.♖ed1 ♙e7 27.♗e1 ♙e4!

An active-looking 27...c4?! gives White good winning chances in a rook ending - 28.♗xd3 (28.♗f3!?) 28...cxd3 (bad is 28...♖xd3? in view of 29.♖xd3 cxd3 30.f3, and the White's king goes to e3) 29.♖e1+, and Black cannot stop the White's king from taking the position in front of his passed d-pawn.

28.♖xd6 ♖xd6 29.♖xd6 ♙xd6 30.♙f1 ♙d5 31.♙e2 ♙b1! 32.a3 ♙c4 33.♙d2

