

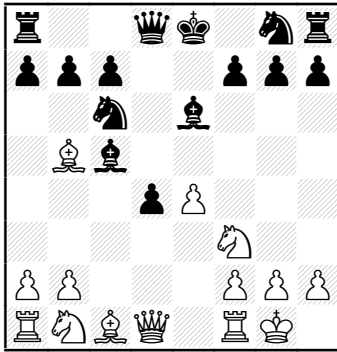
Round 2. Game 3
8 June 2007

Aronian-Shirov
Queen's Gambit Accepted
Notes by grandmaster
Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.♘f3 exd4 5.♙xc4 ♘c6
The players decided to continue their theoretical dispute in the QGA.

6.0-0 ♙e6 7.♙b5

In the first game Aronian failed to set problems after 7.♙xe6 fxe6 8.♞b3 ♞d7 9.♞xb7 ♜b8 10.♞a6 ♘f6 11.♘bd2 ♙d6. 7...♙c5



8.b4

A very rare move with harmless reputation. Usually White plays 8.♘bd2 ♘ge7 9.♘g5 (in the case of 9.♘b3 ♙b6 10.♘bd4 ♙d7 Black forces favorable exchanges: 11.♘xc6 ♙xc6 12.♞e2 0-0 13.♙g5 ♞e8! with an excellent game) 9...♞d6 10.♘xe6 ♞xe6 11.♘b3 ♞d6 12.♙f4! ♞xf4 13.♘xc5 0-0 with good counterchances.

8...♙b6 9.a4

9.♙b2 ♘ge7 followed by castling is not dangerous for Black, e.g., 10.♙xd4 (or 10.♘xd4 0-0 11.♘xc6 ♘xc6) 10...0-0 11.♙c5 ♙xc5 12.bxc5 a6 13.♙xc6 ♘xc6 with an excellent game (Beliavsky-Scherbakov, Niksic 1996).

9...a6

9...a5?! is more risky: 10.bxa5 (10.♙b2!?) 10...♜xa5 11.♘g5 (11.♘bd2!?) 11...♞d7 (11...♙d7 12.♘a3 ♘e5 13.♙f4 c6 14.♙xe5 ♞xg5 15.f4) 12.♘d2 ♘ge7 13.♘xe6 ♞xe6 14.♘c4, planning to take on b6 and d4 with a clear advantage, Ushenina-Korbut, St. Petersburg 2004.

10.♙xc6+ bxc6 11.a5 ♙a7 12.♙b2 ♘f6

This natural developing move is a novelty. Earlier White played 12...♘e7? 13.♙xd4 ♙xd4 14.♘xd4, and Black did not get any compensation for the damaged pawn structure.

13.♘xd4

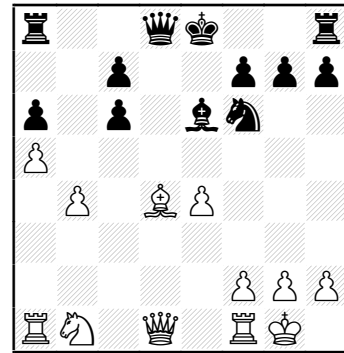
On 13.♙xd4?! Black can reply 13...♘xe4!, and White is

unable to take the g7-pawn and neutralize the a7-bishop at the same time.

13...♙xd4

And now 13...♘xe4?! is dubious in view of 14.♘xe6 ♞xd1 (of course, not 14...fxe6 15.♞h5+ with a strong attack) 15.♘xg7+ ♙f8 16.♞xd1 ♘xf2 17.♞f1 (weaker is 17.♞d7?! ♘d3+ 18.♙d4 ♘e5! 19.♙xa7 ♜xa7 20.♞d4 ♙xg7 or 18.♙f1 ♘xb2 19.♘f5 ♜g8 20.♞xc7 ♜g5) 17...♘d3+ 18.♙h1 ♘xb2 19.♘e6+ ♙e7 20.♘xc7 ♜ad8 21.♘xa6 ♘d3 22.g3 with an extra pawn, although Black retains drawing chances due to limited number of pawns.

14.♙xd4



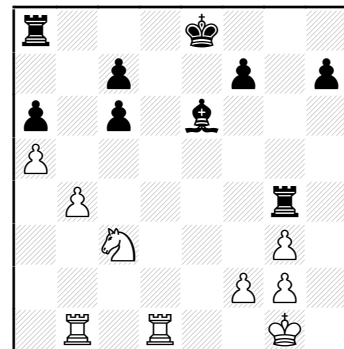
14...♘xe4! 15.♙xg7 ♜g8 16.♙e5 ♙h3 17.♙g3 ♘xg3 18.hxg3 ♞xd1 19.♞xd1 ♙e6

Logical play of both sides results in an endgame, in which Black must create piece activity to compensate for his weak pawns.

20.♘c3

In the case of 20.♞d4 Black proceeds by 20...♜g5 followed by ...c6-c5.

20...♜g4 21.♞ab1



21...♞b8

A logical but not the strongest move. Black had an excellent opportunity to prevent the White's knight from getting to c5 - 21...c5!, and now 22.bxc5 (22.b5 gives nothing: 22...axb5 (22...♞b4!?) 23.♞xb5 ♜c4)

22...♖c4 23.♖bc1!? (or 23.♖dc1 ♖xc5 24.♘e4 ♖b5!)
23...♖b8!? solves all the problems.

22.f4!

Now White transfers the knight to c5, after which one of the Black's pieces will be clued to defending the a6-pawn.

22...♗f5

Possibly an inaccuracy. Black is still unable to stop the opponent from transferring the knight to f5, while the bishop cannot now land on d5. Risky is 22...c5?! 23.b5! (23.bxc5?! ♖xb1 24.♖xb1 ♖xg3) 23...♗f5 (in the event of 23...♖xg3 24.bxa6 ♖xb1 25.♘xb1 the a-passers can become dangerous) 24.♖bc1 axb5 25.♘d5, and although Black is probably unable to hole the a-pawn, his drawing chances remain quite real, because of limited number of pawns on board. 22...♖xg3 is acceptable: 23.♘e4 ♖g6 24.♘c5 ♖a8 25.♗f2 ♗d5 26.♖e1+ ♗f8 27.g3 ♖h6, and Black holds.

23.♖b2 ♖xg3 24.♘a4 ♗f8

Shirov does not want to place his bishop passively after 24...♖d8 25.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 26.♘c5 ♗c8, as the White's rook can find the way to break into the Black's camp.

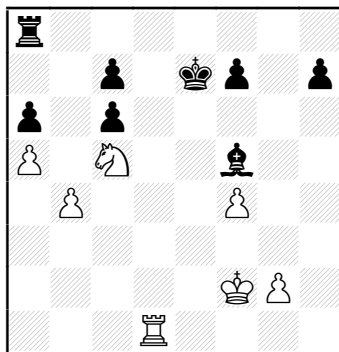
25.♘c5 ♖a8 26.♗f2 ♖c3 27.♖bd2

If 27.♖d4, then 27...f6 28.♖bd2 ♗e7, and the Black's rook does not let White making progress.

27...♖c4 28.♖d4

White wins a pawn by 28.♖d8+ ♖xd8 29.♖xd8+ ♗e7 30.♖b8, but after 30...♖xf4+ 31.♗e3 ♖g4 32.g3!? ♗e6 33.♗f3 ♖c4 34.♘xa6 ♗d5+ Black has sufficient counterchances. In addition, promoting the a-pawn becomes more difficult, as the Black's rook can be placed behind the pawn.

28...♖xd4 29.♖xd4 ♗e7 30.♖d1



30...♗e6

Black decides to defend the a6-pawn with the bishop. Waiting longer is dangerous: 30...h5 31.♖e1+ (31.g3 f6) 31...♗f6 (31...♗f8 32.♖e5 ♗g4 33.f5) 32.g3 ♗g4 33.♖e5 ♗f5 34.♗f3 ♗g4+ 35.♗e4, and Black cannot keep the bishop on the c8-h3 diagonal.

31.♖e1

Attacking the h7-pawn by 31.♖h1 in pointless, as in the case of 31...♗c4 32.♖xh7?! ♖b8 White cannot protect the b4-pawn.

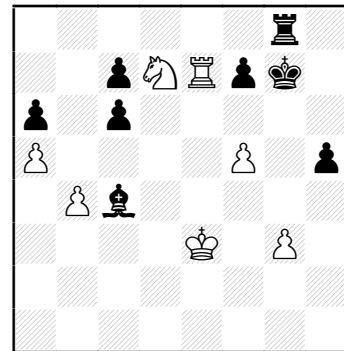
31...♗f6 32.♖e5 h6 33.g3 ♗c4 34.♘d7+ ♗g7 35.♖e7 ♖d8

Shirov is not concerned about the rook ending with an extra a-pawn to White. Interesting is 35...♖c8!? with the idea to drive the opponent's pieces away by ...♗c4-e6.

36.♗e3 h5 37.f5

White made considerable progress – the f-pawn is potentially dangerous. However, his resources are probably insufficient to win the game. After 37.♘e5 ♗d5 38.♖xc7 ♖b8 39.♘xc6 (39.♘d3 ♗c4 40.♖xc6 ♗xd3 41.♗xd3 ♖xb4) 39...♗xc6 40.♖xc6 ♖xb4 41.♖xa6 ♖b3+ the resulting endgame is probably drawish.

37...♖g8



38.♖e4

The interesting 38.g4!? is dodged by 38...♗h6! (38...hxg4? 39.♖e4!) 39.♘f6 (39.gxh5 ♖g1 with counterplay) 39...♖b8 40.gxh5 ♖xb4 41.♖xc7 ♗d5, etc.

38...♗b5 39.♖h4 ♖d8 40.♘c5 ♗h6 41.♗f4 ♗e2

Activating the rook deserved attention: 41...♖d1!? 42.♗e5 ♗g7 (42...♖g1?! is dangerous: 43.♗f6! ♖xg3 44.♖d4!, and the Black's king feels insecure) 43.♖xh5 ♖d5+ 44.♗e4 ♖d1 45.♖h4 ♗f6 with good counterchances.

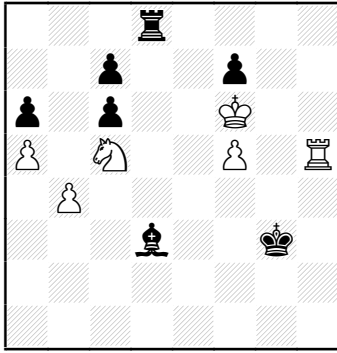
42.♖h2 ♗b5 43.♗e5 ♗g5

Alexei prefers to activate his king, however, there is a chance that the king eventually turns out misplaced. 43...♗g7 44.♖xh5 ♖d5+ 45.♗e4 ♖d1 is possible again.

44.♘e4+ ♗g4 45.♗f6 ♗f3 46.♖h4 ♗d3 47.♘c5

47.♖f4+ is not very promising: 47...♗g2 48.♗xf7 ♖d4 49.♘c5 (49.♖f2+? ♗g1 50.♖d2 ♗c4+ 51.♗g6 ♖xe4) 49...♖xf4 50.gxf4 ♗xf5 (weaker is 50...♗c4+ 51.♗e7 h4 52.♘e6 h3 53.f6 h2 54.f7 h1♖ 55.f8♖) 51.♘xa6 h4, and White must force a draw by 52.♘c5 ♗c8 (52...h3 53.a6 h2 54.a7 h1♖ 55.a8♖) 53.f5 h3 54.f6 h2 55.♗g7 h1♖ 56.f7. The ladder 56...♖a1+ 57.♗g8 ♖a2 58.♗g7 ♖b2+ does not succeed, as after 59.♗g8 the Black's queen is unable to get to b3.

47...♗xg3 48.♖xh5



48...♙c4?!

Black can already pick up the f-pawn by 48...♙g4! intending ...♗d8-d6, check: 49.♖h7 (49.♗g5+ ♕f4; 49.♕e7 ♗d6) 49...♗d6+ 50.♕e7 ♕xf5 51.♗xf7+ ♕e5 with a possible draw after 52.♘d7+ ♕d4 53.♕d8 ♕c3 54.♕xc7 ♗d4.

49.♗h1 ♗b8??

A big blunder, which leads to a losing position. Black has to continue defending patiently, for example, by 49...♕g4, although White can still look for the opportunities.

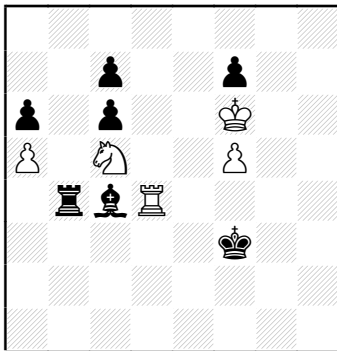
50.♗d1!

The threat to the b4-pawn turns out to be illusive, and the Black's rook is terribly misplaced.

50...♗xb4

Basically the only move. White threatened ♗d1-d4, after which the bishop cannot protect both pawns, while on 50...♗a8 White wins by the simple 51.♗d7, and Black's pawn weaknesses finally begin to tell. An exchange sacrifice on f7 is possible, too.

51.♗d4 ♕f3



52.♘xa6?

This move does not miss a win, but gives the opponent some chances. White has a clear-cut win in this position: 52.♗e4!! Black is completely tied up, while White has all the time to improve the position of his king. The game can continue 52...♗a4 53.♕e7 ♗b4 54.f6 ♗a4 55.♗h4 ♕g3 56.♗d4 ♗b4 57.♘xa6, etc.

52...c5! 53.♘xc5 ♕e3 54.♗h4 ♕d2 55.♘a6

55.♕e5! is possible: 55...♕c3 56.♗h3+ ♕b2

(56...♕d2 57.♗a3) 57.a6, and the pawn cannot be stopped easily.

55...♗a4 56.♘xc7 ♕d3 57.a6 ♗a5 58.♗f4

White is still winning, but Black keeps resisting.

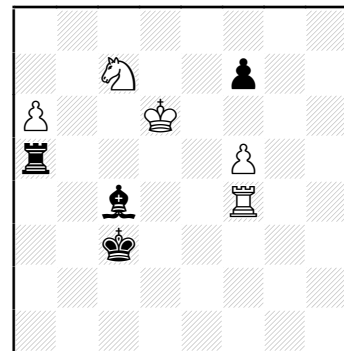
58...♕c3 59.♕e7

59.♕g7 is also sufficient to win: 59...♗a1 60.f6 ♗g1+ (60...♕d3 61.♕f8 ♗a2 62.♗h4 ♗a1 63.♗h7 ♕d4) 61.♕f8 ♗a1 62.♗e4.

59...♗c5

Black does not want to stand passively: 59...♗a1 60.f6 ♕d3, which allows White to carry out decisive rearrangement: 61.♗h4 ♗a2 62.♕f8 ♗a1 (62...♕c3 63.♗e4) 63.♗h5 ♕e4 (63...♕d4 64.♘b5+! ♕e3 65.♘a3!) 64.♗c5 ♕d4 65.♗c6, etc.

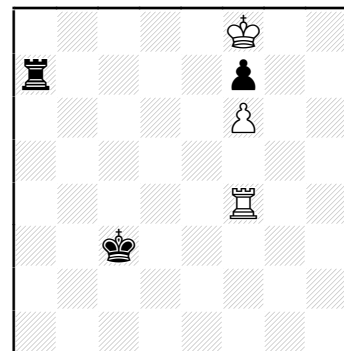
60.♕d6 ♗a5



61.f6??

Fantastic! Having more than enough time, Levon does not want to examine the subtleties of the resulting rook ending. White wins by 61.♕c6! ♕xa6!? (or 61...♗a1 62.♕b6 ♗b1+ 63.♕c5) 62.♕b6 ♗e5 63.♘xa6 ♕d3 64.♘c5+ (or 64.f6 ♕e3 65.♗f1 ♕e2 66.♗c1 ♗f5 67.♗c6) 64...♕e3 65.♗f1 ♕e2 66.♗e1+!

61...♕xa6 62.♘xa6 ♗xa6+ 63.♕e7 ♗a7+ 64.♕f8



64...♕d3!

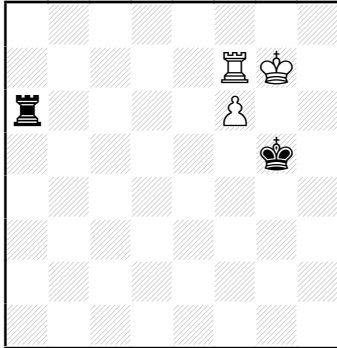
The Black's king arrives in time. In time to prevent ♗f4-e4-e7...

65.♗h4 ♕e3 66.♗h7

66.♕g8 is not better: 66...♕f3 67.♗h7 ♕f4 68.♗xf7 ♗a6!

66...♔f4 67.♖xf7 ♖a6! 68.♔g7

... and in time to arrive to g5 with a book draw, because White cannot make progress after 68.♔g7 ♔g5! (68...♔f5?? 69.♖b7 ♖xf6 70.♖b5+)



69.♖f8 ♖b6, and if 70.f7, then 70...♖g6+. Therefore the players agreed to a draw.

Leko-Bareev

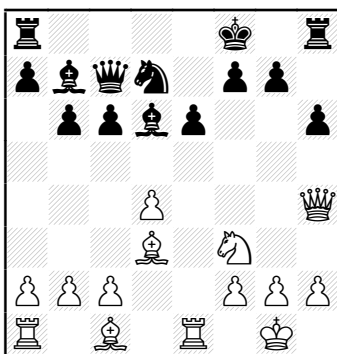
Caro Kann Defense
Notes by grandmaster
Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘g5 ♘gf6 6.♙d3 e6 7.♘f3 ♙d6 8.♗e2 h6 9.♘e4 ♘xe4 10.♗xe4 ♗c7 11.0-0 b6 12.♗g4 ♔f8 13.♗h4!?

In the first game of the match Leko played 13.♖e1 c5 14.c3 ♙b7 15.♗h3, but Bareev was able to solve the opening problems.

13...♙b7 14.♖e1

14.♘g5 ♙xh2+! (14...♘f6? 15.♙g6!; 14...♙e7?! 15.♗h5 ♙xg5 16.♙xg5 c5 17.♙e3) 15.♔h1 ♙d6, and the tactical 16.♙g6? loses material after 16...♙e7!



14...♔g8

A new move. Previously Black played 14...♖e8 15.♙d2 c5 16.♙e4 ♙xe4 17.♖xe4 ♘f6 (17...c4? 18.d5!) 18.♖e2 with better chances to White (Arakhamia-Speelman, England 1998).

15.♗h3!? ♖e8

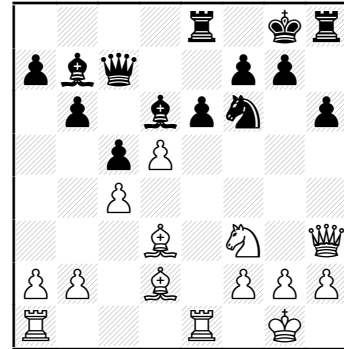
Hasty 15...c5? runs into 16.♖xe6!, and 16...fxe6?? loses to 17.♗xe6+ ♔f8 18.♘h4 g5 19.♙c4 with a decisive attack.

16.c4 ♘f6?!

It is better to carry out the thematic 16...c5!? right away, and if 17.d5, Black can think about 17...♘e5!? 18.♘xe5 ♙xe5 with an acceptable game.

17.♙d2 c5 18.d5!?

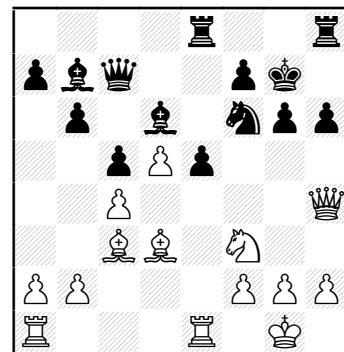
18.♙c3 cxd4 19.♘xd4 a6 20.♖ad1 retains an advantage, but the text-move is more energetic.



18...e5?

Now White obtains a long-lasting advantage and the opportunity to improve his position gradually with his opponent having no counterplay whatsoever. 18...♙c8 also does not cure: 19.♗h4 exd5 20.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 21.cxd5, etc. It looks like Black should bravely take the pawn: 18...exd5!? After 19.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 20.♖e1 ♘f6 21.cxd5 ♗d8!? (or 21...♙xd5 22.♙c3) 22.♘h4 White develops the initiative, but Black has chances to defend.

19.♙c3 g6 20.♗h4 ♔g7



21.♘d2!?

The protected passed pawn on d5 allows White improving his position without obstacles. The text-move frees the f-pawn. There were other tempting opportunities, for example, 21.♖e2 ♖e7 22.♖ae1 ♖he8 23.♘xe5 ♙xe5 24.♖xe5 ♖xe5 25.♖xe5 ♖xe5 26.♗g3 ♖e7 27.d6 ♗d7 28.dxe7 ♗xe7 with an undisputed advantage. However, 21.♗g3!? may be even stronger! 21...♘h5 (21...e4 22.♗h4!) 22.♖xe5! ♘xg3

23. ♖xe8+! (23. ♖e7+ leads to an ending in which White is a pawn up: 23... ♖h7 24. ♖xc7 ♗xc7 25. ♗xh8 ♘e2+ 26. ♗xe2 ♖xh8 27. ♖f1) 23... f6 24. ♖xh8 ♖xh8 25. ♗xf6+ ♖g8 26. hxg3 with an overwhelming advantage.

21... ♖d8 22. ♗c2!?

A good maneuver – the bishop is heading to a4, making it difficult for Black to defend the key e5-square.

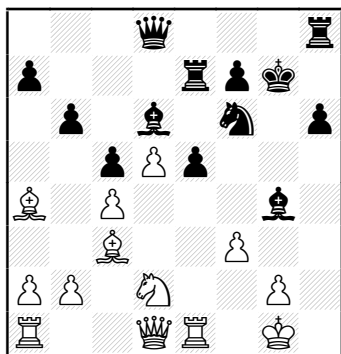
22... ♗c8 23. ♗a4 g5

On 23... ♗d7 White can start his attack without wasting any time: 24. f4! (swapping the bishops also keeps the advantage) 24... ♗xa4 25. fxe5 ♗e7 26. ♖f4! ♘h5 (26... ♘h7 27. ♘e4) 27. ♖f3, and White's powerful central pawns ruin all Black's defensive attempts. For example, 27... ♖g8 28. b3 ♗d7 29. e6 fxe6 30. dxe6 ♖h7 (30... ♖f8 31. ♖d3!) 31. exd7 ♖xd7 32. ♖e4! with a decisive attack.

24. ♖g3 ♘h5 25. ♖f3 g4 26. ♖d1 ♖e7 27. h3

The immediate 27. ♘e4!? looks strong enough.

27... ♘f6 28. hxg4 ♗xg4 29. f3



29... ♗c8

29... ♗h5!? offers more chances to defend, keeping the bishop on the kingside, although the Black's position is already very difficult.

30. ♖e3

Peter demonstrates patience, abstaining from concrete action. The immediate 30. f4!? is playable: 30... ♗g4 (30... ♘g4?! 31. ♘e4) 31. ♖c1 with the idea ♘c3-e4, and if 31... exf4, then 32. ♘e4 ♗e5 33. ♘xf6 ♗xc3 34. ♘e8+! ♖hx8 35. ♖xc3+ followed by ♗a4xe8.

30... ♘h5

An attempt to active the h-pawn by 30... h5 31. ♖e1 h4 drops a pawn: 32. ♘e4 ♘xe4 33. ♖xe4.

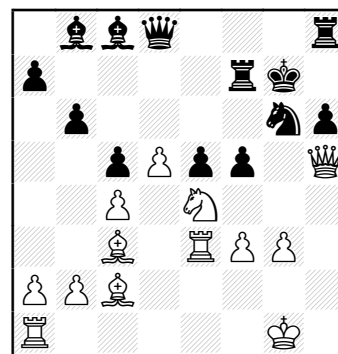
31. ♖e1 f6 32. ♖h4 ♘f4 33. ♘e4 ♖f7 34. g3 ♘g6

35. ♖h5 ♗b8 36. ♗c2

Move by move, White has seriously improved his position, as is now ready to launch a decisive attack. Black is unable to prevent it.

36... f5!?

No matter what Black does, White carries out his kingside break.



37. f4!

This break was planned well in advance.

37... ♖e8?

Necessary is 37... fxe4! 38. ♗xe4 (or 38. fxe5 ♗xe5 (after 38... ♖g5 39. e6+ ♖f6 40. ♗xf6+ ♖xf6 41. ♖f1+ ♖e7 42. ♖f7+ ♖d6 43. ♖xg5 hxg5 44. ♖xe4 ♘e7 Black fortifies, but White's large material advantage should be enough for a win) 39. ♗xe5+ ♘xe5 40. ♖xe5+) 38... ♖f6 (weaker is 38... ♖d6?! 39. ♖f1 ♖hf8 40. ♖f2! and f4xe5) 39. ♖ae1!? ♖hf8 40. fxe5 ♘xe5 41. ♗xe5 ♗xe5 42. ♖xe5 with an extra pawn, however, White still has to put some effort to win the game.

38. ♘f2 ♖f6 39. ♖ae1

Now the Black's position cracks under the pressure.

39... e4 40. ♗xe4! fxe4 41. ♘xe4

Black resigns in view of inevitable loss of the material: 41. ♘xe4 ♖xe4 42. ♖xe4 ♗d7 43. ♖e6, etc.

Grischuk-Rublevsky

Sicilian Defense

Notes by grandmaster

Yury Yakovich

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘c6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♗e2 ♖c7

Having suffered a tough loss in the first game of the match 6... d6 7. ♗e3 ♗d7, Rublevsky tries another line.

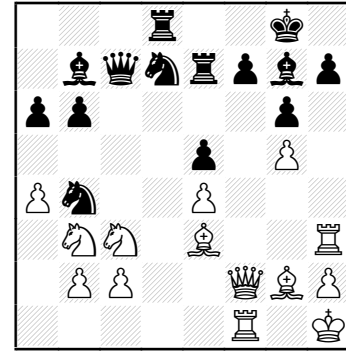
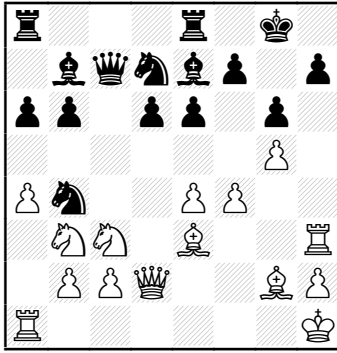
7. 0-0 ♘f6 8. ♗e3 ♗e7 9. f4 d6 10. a4 0-0 11. ♖h1 ♖e8 12. ♗f3 ♗d7 13. ♘b3 b6 14. g4!

The pawn storm plan gained popularity after the 24th game of the Karpov-Kasparov match (Moscow 1985), which continued 12... ♖b8 (instead of 12... ♗d7) 13. ♖d2 ♗d7 14. ♘b3 b6 15. g4 ♗c8 16. g5 ♘d7 17. ♖f2 ♗f8 18. ♗g2 ♗b7 19. ♖ad1 g6 20. ♗c1 ♖bc8 21. ♖d3 ♘b4 22. ♖h3 ♗g7 23. ♗e3 (23. f5!) 23... ♖e7! 24. ♖g1 ♖ce8 25. ♖d1 f5 with a sharp game.

14... ♗c8 15. g5 ♘d7 16. ♗g2 ♗b7 17. ♖f3 ♘b4 18. ♖h3 g6

Defending against 19. ♖h5.

19. ♖d2



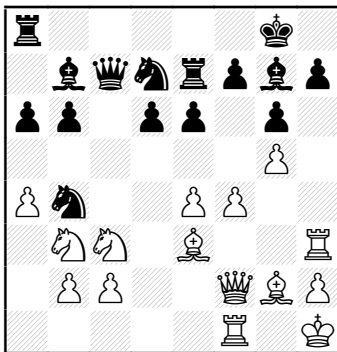
19...♗f8!

Wang Rui played 19...♗c5?! against Jakovenko (Moscow, 2004), and Grischuk's helper here in Elista developed a spectacular attack: 20.♖f2 ♗f8 21.♖f1 ♖ab8 22.♗d4 ♖e7 23.f5 exf5 24.♗xf5! ♖e6 25.♖xh7! gxf5 26.♖h4 ♗g7 27.♖xg7+ ♗f8 28.g6 ♗xg7 29.♗d4+, and Black resigned.

The text-move is stronger. Black immediately transfers the bishop to g7, and the d7-knight can assist in defense from f8.

20.♖f2 ♗g7 21.♖f1 ♖e7!

Following Kasparov's footsteps.



22.♗d4!

Surprisingly, this natural move is a novelty. In De Firmian-Van Wely (New York 1997) the players repeated the moves by 22.♖h4 ♗f8 23.♖f2 ♗d7, and agreed to a draw.

T. Petrossian defeated J. Geller (Dresden 2007) after 22.♗d4 ♖c4 23.♖d2 e5 24.b3 ♖c7 25.fxe5 ♗xe5 26.♗de2 ♖ae8 27.♗d4 ♖d8 28.♗f4 ♖d7 29.♗fd5 ♗xd5 30.exd5 ♖de7 31.♗e4 ♗g4 32.♗xg7 ♗xg7 33.♗f6 ♖e2 34.♖xh7+ ♗f8 35.♗xg4 ♖xd2 36.♖xf7+.

22...e5 23.fxe5 dxe5

Bad is 23...♗xe5? in view of 24.♖h4. Playing 23...♗xe5 is scary, as it weakens the king too much.

24.♗e3 ♖d8

24...♖c8 is still to be tested.

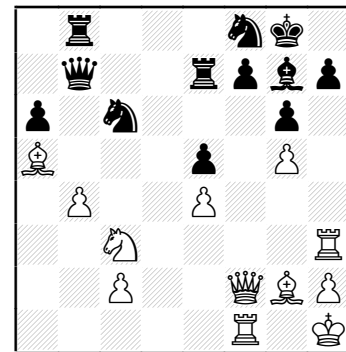
25.a5!

Playing on the entire board! The tempting 25.♗d5 is well met by 25...♗xd5 26.exd5 e4!, and now 27.♗xe4? loses to 27...♖xe4 28.♖xf7+ ♗h8 29.♖xg6 ♗f8! 30.♖xe4 ♗xd5.

25...bxa5 26.♗c5 ♗f8

The counterblow 26...♗c2?! leads to a bad position after 27.♗xd7 ♗xe3 28.♗f6+ ♗xf6 29.gxf6 ♗xf1 30.♖h4! h5 31.fxe7 ♖e8 32.♗xf1.

27.♗xb7 ♖xb7 28.♗b6 ♖b8 29.♗xa5 ♗c6 30.b4



The Black's position looks very dangerous, however, the natural 30...♗xa5 31.bxa5 ♖c8 or 31...♖a7!? allows him to struggle for equality. Rublevsky, however, selected 30...♗e6?!, planning to transfer the knight to f4, however, after 31.♖h4! Black is practically forced to part with the h7-pawn.

31...♗xa5 32.bxa5

32.♖xh7+?! is not dangerous for Black in view of 32...♗f8 33.bxa5 ♗xg5 34.♖xg6 ♗xh3 35.♗xh3 ♖d8. 32...♗f4

32...♗f8 is not satisfactory, as after 33.♗d5 ♖e6 34.♖hf3 Black is unlikely to hold the position.

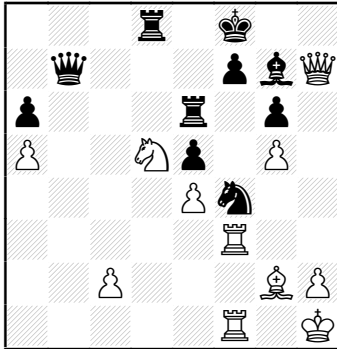
33.♖xh7+ ♗f8 34.♗d5 ♖e6

34...♗xh3? loses to 35.♗xh3 ♖d7 36.♗f6 ♗xf6 37.gxf6 ♖xe4+ 38.♗g2 with inevitable checkmate. Black cannot survive after 34...♗xd5? 35.exd5 e4 36.♖b3 ♖a8 37.♖xb8+ ♖xb8 38.♖xg6, too.

35.♖hf3 ♖d8

35...♖c8? loses to 36.♗h3 ♗xh3 37.♖xh3 ♖cc6

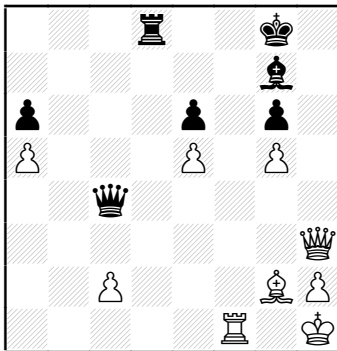
38. ♖h7 ♜xc2 39. ♗f6.



36. ♜xf4?

Surprisingly, this move gives Black good chances to survive! The simple 36. ♗xf4! exf4 37. ♜xf4 ♜d2 (or 37... ♜d7 38. h4) 38. h4 followed by h5 gives White an easy win.

36... exf4 37. ♗xf4 ♜c6 38. e5 ♜c4! 39. ♖h3 ♗g8 40. ♗xe6 fxe6



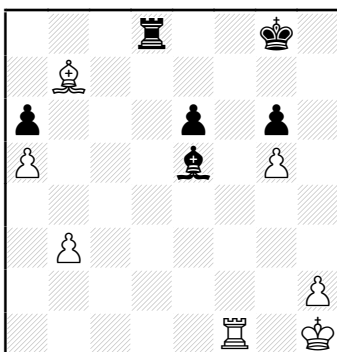
Despite White's two extra pawns, winning this position is difficult because of Black's piece activity.

41. ♖b3

41. ♖e3 is strongly met by 41... ♜d5! with a possible draw.

41... ♖xb3 42. cxb3 ♗xe5 43. ♗b7

Also after 43. ♗h3 ♜d6 draw is the most likely outcome.



43... ♜d2!

Black's limited forces are very well coordinated. Despite

the material deficit, Rublevsky makes a draw.

44. ♗xa6

Or 44. ♜e1 ♜xh2+ 45. ♗g1 ♗c7! 46. ♜xe6 ♜h5! 47. ♜xg6+ ♗f7 48. ♜f6+ ♗g7 49. ♜f5 ♗g6 with a draw.

44... ♜xh2+ 45. ♗g1 ♜h5 46. b4 (46. ♗c4 ♗d4+ 47. ♗g2 ♜xg5+ 48. ♗h3 ♜xa5) 46... ♜xg5+ 47. ♗h1 ♜g4 48. b5 ♜a4 49. ♗c8

Game drawn.

Kamsky-Gelfand

Queen's Pawn Opening

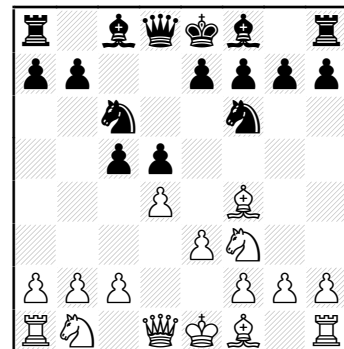
Notes by grandmaster

Yury Yakovich

In short, the game developed as follows: White got into severe time trouble, blundered two pawns and resigned. However, how can one explain Kamsky's lengthy thinking in a quiet position? Why Gata got into such a terrible time trouble, leaving himself 2 minutes for the 16 remaining moves? It is clear that the reasons have nothing to do with chess, so it is a question of physical and psychological state of the American player. In this game he did not look like Kamsky we know: the iron-willed and extremely tenacious player with accurate calculation and excellent technique.

1. d4 ♗f6 2. ♗f3 d5 3. ♗f4 c5 4. e3 ♗c6

4... ♖b6 is met by 5. ♗c3!, and 5... ♖xb2?? is unsatisfactory in view of 6. ♗b5.



Usually White plays 5. c3 here, and after 5... ♖b6 the game is roughly equal. Suddenly, after thinking for more than half an hour, Kamsky came out with 5. ♗b5

Objective merits of this move are not obvious. Black reacted simply and strongly.

5... cxd4 6. exd4 ♖a5+ 7. ♗c3 ♗g4 8. 0-0 e6 9. h3 ♗xf3 10. ♖xf3 ♜c8 11. ♜fd1 ♗e7 12. ♗f1 0-0

White spent more than an hour and a half for all these moves.

13. ♗e2?!

A dubious decision. Black plans to carry out a minority attack by b7-b5. Therefore, White should not weaken the control of this square when it is not necessary. The

prophylactic 13.a3!? is a good idea. The game can continue 13...a6 14.♖a2!? b5 15.c3 ♗b6 16.♗c1 a5 17.b4, and the knight is transferred to c5.

13...b5 14.c3?!

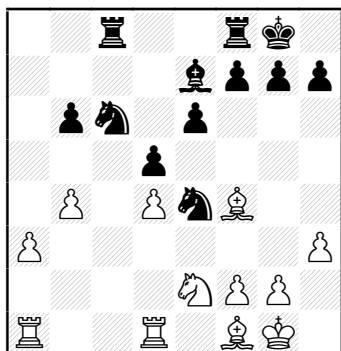
14.a3 ♗b6 15.c3 a5 16.♗g3 b4 17.axb4 axb4 18.♗d3 with approximate equality looked okay.

14...b4 15.♗d3 ♗b6 16.cxb4 ♗xb4 17.♗b3 ♗e4 18.a3?!

Stronger is 18.♗c3!?

18...♗c6 19.♗xb6 axb6 20.b4?!

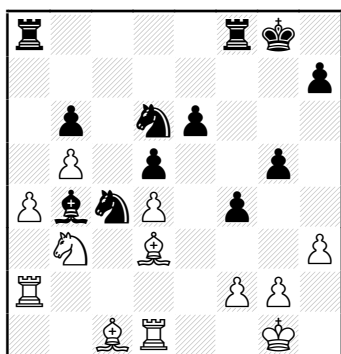
White defends against ...♗a5, but cedes all the outposts on the c-file. Fighting for the file by 20.♖ac1 ♗a5 21.♖xc8 ♖xc8 22.♖c1 can be recommended.



20...g5! 21.♗e3 ♗d6

Black already stands better. He is prepared to attack White's kingside weaknesses. Having 2 minutes for the remaining 16 moves, Kamsky did not manage to solve problems of defense.

22.♗c1 f5 23.♗b3 ♗c4 24.b5 ♗d8 25.a4 ♗b7 26.♗c1 f4 27.♗e2 ♗b4 28.♖a2 ♗bd6 29.♗d3 ♖a8



30.♗f1??

A blunder. White should try 30.♗d2 ♗xd2 31.♗xd2 ♗xb5 32.♖e1 ♗xd4 33.♗xc4 dxc4 34.♗xc4 with saving chances.

30...♗xb5 31.♖c2 ♗bd6 32.♗d2 ♖xa4

After this the game cannot be saved, although Kamsky miraculously managed to pass the control in time. Two pawns is too large a handicap.

33.♗xb4 ♖xb4 34.♗c1 ♗f5 35.♗xf5 ♖xf5 36.♗d3 ♖b3 37.♖a2 ♖f7 38.♗e2 ♗d6 39.♖da1 ♗b5

40.♗d2 ♗xd4 41.♖c1 ♖b5 42.♖c8+ ♖f8 43.♖c7 ♖a5 44.♖b2 ♖f7 45.♖c8+ ♗g7 46.♗e5 ♖b7 47.h4 gxf4 48.♖b4 ♖a2+ 49.♗d3 ♗f5 50.♖xf4 ♖ba7 51.♖c3 ♖7a3 52.♖xa3 ♖xa3+ 53.♗e2 b5 54.♖g4+ ♗f6 55.♗d3 ♖a8 56.♗d2 e5 57.♖b4 e4 58.♗c5 ♖g8 White resigns