

To see London and.... Candidates Tournament.



Visiting London is always an event for an avid traveler and chess enthusiast. London is a city of monuments, kings, queens, knights and towers. The city offers the pleasure of visiting the famous Simpsons Club, a venue that attracted local nobility that wished to play chess for more than a century and hosted last year's Fide Grand Prix. A must treat for the founder of 4 Springare club.



After short promenade – Savoy Place, where the Titans will take fights. Round 11, World no1 Magnus Carlsen in the lead, followed by Levon Aronjan . Can ex-World champion Vladimir Kramnik catch up or calm Norwegian will strike few more. Intrigue is not over. Thanks to special password from Jacob Aagaard, accreditation to press center was very easy, as well as Robert Fontaine ( strong IGM and Agon personal chief) good memories from Rilton Cup. I was recognised and got access to press center and the playing area. Thank you Dr. Rilton for fantastic tournament, that gives the opportunities to invite strong GMs to Stockholm.

Pairs of the day:

Grischuk –Carlsen, Kramnik – Radjabov, Ivanchuk-Gelfand and Svidler – Aronian

Can Grischuk give a fight to Carlsen and help Vladimir Kramnik? (Yesterday Alexander miscalculated to the way into the pawn endgame against Vladimir Kramnik and lost)

Can Peter the Great stop Levon and old friends meeting Ivanchuk vs Gelfand show their best skills.

The answers will be given soon. 10 minutes before start. Lets go and take some pictures. Enjoy quick snaps.



Svidler-Aronian – sharp Nimtzovich defense , variation with 4.a3, that have the reputation as the sharpest and aggressive lines for white, expecting big bloody battle.

Ivanchuk-Gelfand –Grunfeld defense , not main line. The little accident just before the game happened to Vasily. He nearly fell down from the stairs on his way to the table and his first request to the judge after arbiter starts his clocks was to bring the ice to calm the small injury.

Kramnik- Radjabov –Kings Indian defense with 3.g3.

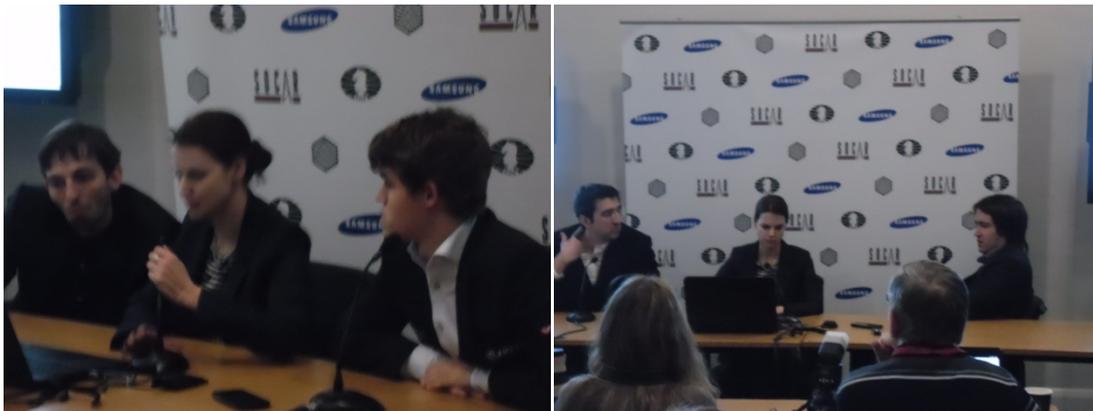
Grischuk –Carlsen – Alexander chosen very aggressive 5.h4 in Grunfeld with c6 against Magnus, thats really shows that the questions about the winner are not closed. Magnus is thinking for long on his answer, almost 30 minutes, that s not common for Norwegian genius. It s look like such an aggression was a big surprise for him. 6... o-o, invitation is taken. Brave castling. Now is Alexanders turn to think. After 7.e3- no danger for black, 7.Rc1-just to do useful move and wait for black reply? 7. Bxf6! With next h5 and attack on the King. Done....8...Bf5 very typical Magnus play solid move, just developing sleeping pieces. Probably 9.Qd2, continue to invite capture on c4 and keep an eye on h6 square. Just

got myself on the thought, that position transformed to one of the famous “tabias” in Declined Queens Gambit. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.Nf3 g6 7.e3 Bg7. The small difference Bishop on f5 instead on c8. OK, after white exchange on g6 and opened h-file, Russian finished his pieces development and his position is slightly better. 12...e5?! on flank attack, reply with counterattack in centre (Great Aron Nimtsovich, “My system”)

After all exchanges pawn on d5 is weak, but direct capture will lead to simple draw after 13. Bxg6 hxg6 14. Dxe5 Nxe5 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Rd1 Qa5 17.Rxd5 Nxf3+ 18.Kf1! Nd2+!! 19. Kg1 (after 19.Qxd2 Rad8 =) 19....Qb4 20.Qxd2 Rc8 21.g3 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Qxc3 23.Qxc3 Rxc3 with very draws Rook endgame.

Alexander played 17.Kf1 to escape from pin for just in case and after 17...Rad8 18. Nd4 Qc5 19.Nb3 Qc6 20.Na5 Qc7 21.Nb3 Qc6 22.Na5 Qc7 23.Nb3 Qc6 both agreed for a draw by repetition. I asked Grischuk on press conference why not 18.b4! Qxb4 19.Nxd5 and white have ,probably little better. Alexander answered that this option was the best, but he was worried about his bad time, that's why took no risk decision. So Magnus became closer to the victory in the tournament.

Svidler beat Aronian, Kramnik defeated Radjabov. Must draw your attention to nice variation ,that Vladimir gave to the press. If after 30. Rb2 Qa3 instead 30...Qa4 that was in the game he saw very beautiful 31.Rb8!! 1-0.



All the notes were written live and without computer help, that makes the annotation more human.

Tomorrow , 28<sup>th</sup> of March- Round 12.

MVH

IM&FT Vladimir Poley

London, Savoy Place.