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# CUP★CHRONICLE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018 | ISSUE 1

## ROUND 1 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

## ROUND 1 RESULTS

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



GM MAGNUS CARLSEN AND GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE, ROUND 1  
PHOTO BY LENNART OOTES

## CURRENT STANDINGS

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

Day one of the 2018 Sinquefield Cup produced two early leaders: Levon Aronian and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov. While Aronian is no stranger to success in Saint Louis, having won the Sinquefield Cup in 2015 and the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz in 2017, Mamedyarov is making his debut as an official player in the Grand Chess Tour. His first ever classical game in Saint Louis was a one sided affair, where his opponent Wesley So never had any chances of equalizing. For once, Levon Aronian was on the white side of the Berlin Defense, showing off both his flexibility and flawless technique in a fine victory. The fighting spirit of the players is high and round two promises to bring more excitement!



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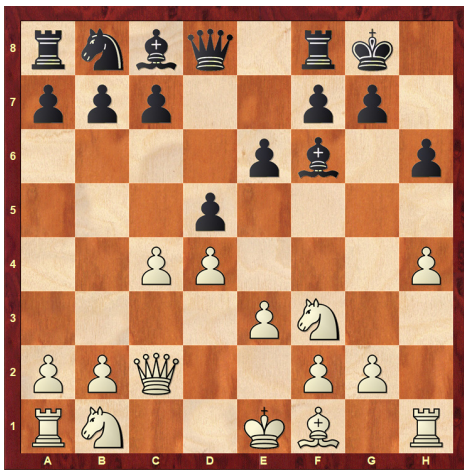
# SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV - WESLEY SO

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

The Azeri grandmaster made it clear that he's here to fight with 8.h4!?, ignoring his own king and trying to build an attack. The burden fell on his opponent to find fault with White's aggressive idea. So attempted to destroy White's center, but he transitioned into an endgame prematurely, thus falling behind in development and still allowing his opponent's initiative to carry on. Mamedyarov played a perfect game thereafter, transitioning into a rook and pawn endgame which he converted without any troubles whatsoever.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Qc2** [already a rare move]

[6.Nc3 transposes into the typical Queen's Gambit position]



**6...h6 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.h4** [a strange looking move that defies opening principles. Instead of worrying about developing his pieces, White simply wants to start a kingside attack and claim that his king is safe in the center]

**8...g6 9.Nc3 c5** [Black needs to look for counterplay in the center, otherwise he might find his king under a strong attack]

**10.dxc5 dxc4 11.h5** [fixing the pawn structure and making the black king permanently weak]

**11...g5 12.Bxc4 Qa5 13.Rc1** [White doesn't want to allow double pawns on the queenside]

**13...Nd7 14.0-0 Bxc3** [it's understandable why Black wants to go into the endgame due to his weakened king, but unfortunately he remains behind in development and will face some problems in the endgame as well]

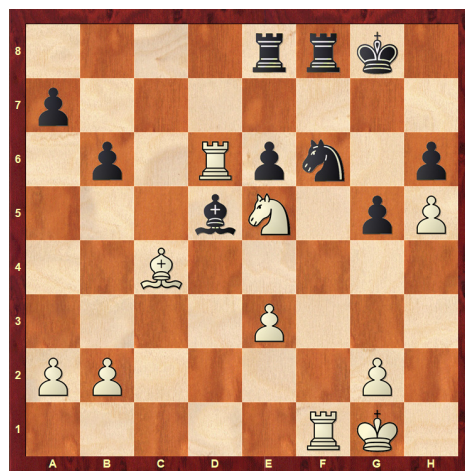
[14...Bg7 15.Ne4 Nxc5 16.Nexg5 hxg5 17.Nxg5 is the sacrifice that worried So. The position remains complicated as there is no direct checkmate, but from human point of view it simply looks scary for Black]

**15.Qxc3 Qxc3 16.Rxc3 Nxc5 17.Ne5 b6 18.f4** [White is still trying to create weaknesses on the kingside and take advantage of his piece activity]

**18...Ne4 19.Rd3 Ng3 20.Rf3 Ne4 21.Rd4!** [distracting the bishop]

**21...Bb7 22.f5** [this was the idea behind White's previous move. Now the f5 square isn't defended by the bishop]

**22...Nf6 23.Rf1 Rae8 24.fxe6 fxe6 25.Ng6 Rf7 26.Ne5 Rff8 27.Rd6** [Black's position is crumbling]



**27...Bd5 28.Rxf6** [White transitions into a winning rook and pawn endgame]

**28...Rxf6 29.Bxd5 exd5 30.Rxf6 Rxe5 31.Rxh6 Rxe3 32.Rg6+ Kh7 33.Rxg5 Re2 34.Rxd5 Rxb2 35.Kh2 Rxa2** [the players reached what looks like an equal position where each side has a rook and two pawns. However, Black will fall behind in the pawn race because White's h pawn is more advanced and the white king can assist in pushing of the pawns. Mamedyarov's technique was flawless]

**36.Kh3 a5 37.g4 a4 38.g5 a3 39.Rd7+** [Black can already resign here]

**39...Kg8 40.Rd8+ Kh7 41.Rd7+ Kg8 42.Rd8+ Kh7** [repeating the position is a common practice for grandmasters]

**43.g6+ Kh6 44.Rh8+ Kg7** [44...Kg5 doesn't help 45.g7 and the pawn is unstoppable]

**45.Rh7+ Kg8 46.Ra7 Ra1 47.Kg2** [stopped the rook check]

[47.h6?? Rh1+ winning the h pawn]

**47...Rc1 48.h6 Rc8 49.Rxa3 b5 50.Ra7 Rb8 51.Kg3** [So resigned here but the following line would lead to Black queening his pawn but allowing checkmate]

**51...b4 52.h7+ Kh8 53.Kg4 b3 54.Kh5 b2 55.Kh6 b1Q 56.g7#**

1-0



# LEVON ARONIAN - SERGEY KARJAKIN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM VARUZHAN AKOBIAN

This particular Berlin Wall couldn't be salvaged, not even in the hands of the minister of defense. Aronian has recently switched to playing 1.e4 and has played it exclusively in the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz. He felt that he has had a dreadful year and needed something new to get himself excited about chess again. The choice worked out well for him this game, as he got an excellent position against the Berlin. He slowly outmaneuvered his opponent until move 53, where Aronian spent over 40 minutes after missing a resource. Unfortunately for Karjakin, his position couldn't be salvaged. Aronian's deep think allowed him to see the position with newfound clarity and bring home the full point with precision.

**1.e4** [Recently Aronian made the switch to 1.e4. He has played it in all 2018 Grand Chess Tour tournaments.]

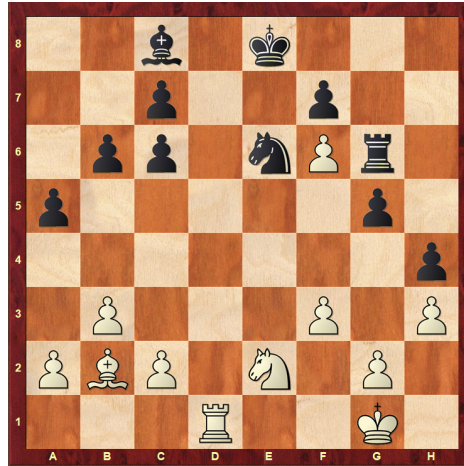
**1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8** [Karjakin is considered one of the best experts of the Berlin defense but Aronian mentioned after the game interview that he has lot of experience in this opening as well playing on the black side.]

**9.Nc3 Ke8 10.h3 h5 11.Bg5 Be6 12.Rfd1 Be7 13.Rd2 Rd8 14.Rxd8+ Kxd8 15.Rd1+ Ke8 16.b3 h4** [This move restricts White's kingside pawns but can also become a weakness in the long term]

[16...Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Bc8 with equal chances]

**17.Bc1 a5 18.Ne2 Bd5 19.Ne1 Be6 20.Nf4 Bc8 21.Nf3 Rh6 22.Nh2 Rh8 23.Ng4 Nh6 24.Ne3 Nf5 25.Nc4** [We see lots of knight maneuvering from Aronian .He is trying to create more weaknesses for Black.]

**25...g5 26.Ne2 b6 27.Nd2 Ng7 28.Ne4 Ne6 29.Nf6+ Bxf6 30.exf6 Rg8**



**31.f3 Rg6 32.Bb2** [White has a stable advantage here ,because g5 and h4 pawns are weak and if g5 pawn falls or gets exchanged h4 pawns will be lost soon as well. We saw that happening in the game.]

**32...Bd7 33.Nc1** [Stronger is]

[33.Be5! Kd8 34.Nd4 Nxd4 35.Bxd4 Rg8 36.Kf2 and white has a big advantage]

**33...c5 34.Be5** [34.Nd3 Nd4 35.Ne5 Rxf6 36.Nxd7 Rd6! only move 37.Rxd4! cxd4 38.Ne5 and white still has a small advantage.]

**34...Kd8?!** [Too passive. Black needs to play active here for a chance to equalize.]

[34...Nd4! 35.c3 Nf5 36.Bxc7 Rxf6=]

**35.Nd3 Kc8 36.Bb2** [With a strong threat of Ne5]]

**36...Be8 37.Re1 Rg8 38.Re4 Kd8 39.Kf2 Nf8 40.Ne5 Nh7 41.f4!** [Strong move exchanging the g5 pawn after which h4 pawn will fall.]]

**41...Rh8 42.Nf3!** [another important and strong move and now white is winning]

**42...gxf4 43.Rxf4** [Stronger is]

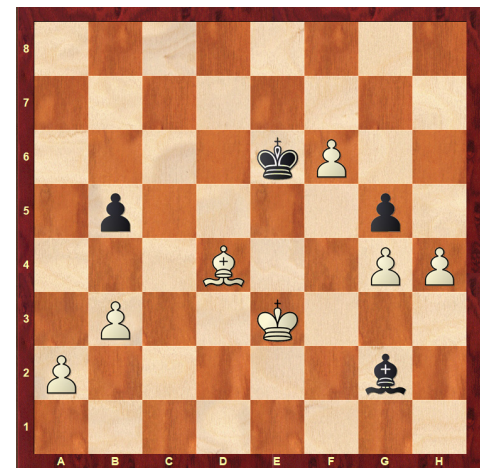
[43.Re7! Nf8 44.Ng5 Rg8 45.Nxf7+ Bxf7 46.Rxf7 With a winning position for white]

**43...Nf8 44.Rxh4 Rxh4 45.Nxh4 Bc6 46.Ke3 Kd7 47.g4 Ng6 48.Nxg6?!** [This move is still winning but Aronian has complicated his task a bit. Much easier is:]

[48.Nf5! Ke8 49.h4 Bd7 50.Ng7+ Kd8 51.h5 Nf8 52.Kf4 White is easily winning]

**48...fxg6 49.Be5 b5 50.Bxc7 a4 51.Bb6 axb3 52.cxb3 g5!** [great defensive move by Karjakin offering him best chances to defend]

**53.Bxc5** [Here Aronian spent 40 minutes but found the most precise winning plan]



**53...Ke6 54.Bd4 Bg2 55.h4! gxh4 56.Kf4 Kf7 57.g5 h3 58.Kg3 Kg6 59.Be3 Kf7 60.Bd2 Kg6 61.a4!** [Creating the third passed pawn. Black's position is hopeless.]

**61...bxa4 62.bxa4 Kf7 63.a5 Bf1 64.Bf4 Kg6 65.Kg4 Kf7 66.Kf5 Bd3+ 67.Ke5 Be2 68.Kd6 Bd3 69.Kc5** [Great start by by Aronian winnig an excellent positional game.]

1-0

# MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE - MAGNUS CARLSEN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ

Last year, Vachier-Lagrave defeated the World Champion in a complicated battle with the black pieces and then went on to win the event. This year the Frenchman also didn't shy away from complications, and played an early h-pawn push much similar to Mamedyarov. Black had an inferior position due to his light square weaknesses, but Vachier-Lagrave's mistake came on move 15 when he decided to close the kingside, a decision he regretted later during his postgame interview. The structural changes didn't favor White, but the position didn't have enough to offer for Black to press for a win.

**1.e4 c5** [The first small surprise. Carlsen plays the Sveshnikov Sicilian here and there, but his usual reply to 1.e4 is, by far, 1...e5 - Carlsen might be saving his ideas in those variations for Caruana in November, however.]

**2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3** [MVL did not want to get in the main lines of the Sveshnikov Sicilian, a defense that has proven tough to crack in the recent past. The usual way to avoid it is the Rossolimo with 3.Bb5, but 3.Nc3 also has some venom.]

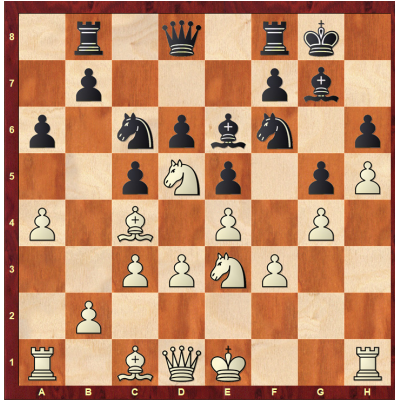
**3...e5 4.Bc4 g6!?** [A strange move that has been essayed before. Black want to fianchetto his bishop, which is ambitious, but not necessarily a bad approach.]

**5.h4!?** [MVL never shies away from complications, trying to force the issue against Black's kingside.]

**5...h6** [5...h5 is a disastrous weakening of the g5 square. 6.Ng5 Nh6 7.d3 d6 8.Be3±]

**6.h5 g5 7.Nh2!?** [The knight reroutes to control both of the weakened squares: f5 and d5. It is time consuming, but preventing the breaks will put Black in a passive position.]

**7...Nf6 8.d3 d6 9.Nf1 Bg4** [Provoking f3 does not change too much, but it's logical for Black to not have to worry about Qf3 ever again.]



**10.f3 Be6 11.Ne3 Bg7 12.Ncd5 0-0 13.c3 Rb8 14.a4 a6 15.g4?!** [MVL mentioned in the post-mortem that he was unsure of this decision, as it takes g4 away from the knight in the future. It does seem like a questionable move, as it also prevents him from ever performing the g3-f4 break.]

[15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Bd2<sup>2</sup> seems safe enough, and it gives White good chances to fight for an advantage. Black's problems in the light squares will not disappear, even with a d5 or f5 break, and White can simply castle (the reason for taking on f6 - not having to worry about the h5 pawn) and develop his pieces. Black is not in huge trouble, but White's position is to be preferred.]

**15...b5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Bb3** [17.Ra6 was White's original idea, but it is extremely risky. Some sample variations: 17...bxc4 18.Rxc6 Bxd5 19.exd5 cxd3 20.Nf5 (20.Qxd3 e4!?) 20...e4!?!÷ The game starts to become very sharp, but White is the one that seems to have more trouble navigating this complications than Black, who holds the initiative.]

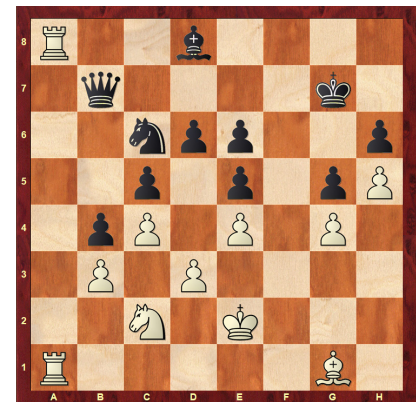
**17...Ne7** [Suddenly White is facing some difficulties. If the game opens up via a pawn break on d5, he is

underdeveloped and his king exposed and in the center. MVL pulled the breaks and started to search for equality.]

**18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.0-0 Qb7 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.c4 b4 22.b3 Nd7 23.Qe2 Rbd8 24.Nc2** [Black is the one pressing. He has ideas of putting a knight on d4 and using the fact that his bishop gains some squares once a trade on d4 happens. White is super-solid, however, as he has no attackable weaknesses, the pawn break of d5 is the only one remaining and is highly ineffective, and the rooks simply cannot enter. MVL finds a nice setup in which he feels safe.]

**24...Nb8 25.Be3 Nc6 26.Kg2 Rf7 27.Ra4 Rdf8 28.Bg1** [Now White is never afraid of Nd4, as he can take with the knight and put his bishop on h2.]

**28...Bf6 29.Rfa1 Bd8 30.Ra8 Rxf3** [Not much of a sacrifice, but it changes very little.]



**31.Qxf3 Rxf3 32.Kxf3 Kg7 33.Ke2** [As both players explained in the post-mortem with Maurice Ashley, even if Black were to win a rook for the knight, not that this is remotely achievable, White would still have a total fortress.]

**33...Bb6 34.R8a6 Kf7 35.Ra8 Kg7 36.R8a6 Kf7 37.Ra8 Kg7**

1/2-1/2



# FABIANO CARUANA - ALEXANDER GRISCHUK

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY CRISTIAN CHIRILA

Caruana could have joined the two leaders, but a few key mistakes cost him the half point. He got a pleasant position with a space advantage in the middle game, then transitioned into an opposite color bishop endgame where only he had chances to win. With a big advantage on the clock and the board, Caruana was a heavy favorite to score the full point. Unfortunately for him, two inaccuracies allowed Grischuk to liquidate to a pawn down endgame that was easy to draw due to the opposite color bishops.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7** [The one difference compared to the usual 3...Bc5 response, Black now has the option of leaving the dark square bishop behind to support the defense on the King side.]

**5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 d6 7.a4 Kh8 8.Nc3** [An interesting and fairly unexplored option. Generally, White prefers the expansion in the center with c3-d4.]

**8...Ng8 9.Nd5 f5 10.h3 fxe4** [10...Bf6 is considered to be the main line, but the resulting positions are not encouraging. 11.a5 a6 12.c3 Nce7 13.Nxf6 Nxf6 14.d4! A strong blow that allows White to grab the initiative in a powerful manner. 14...fxe4 15.dxe5f]

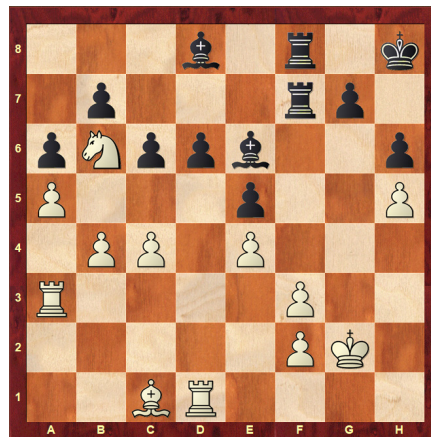
**11.dxe4 Nf6 12.a5** [12.Ng5 was one of the lines proposed by Aronian in the confessional booth, as well as the proposed antidote which gives Black the better position. 2800s know their openings! 12...Nxd5 13.Nxh7 Rf4!! 14.g3 Qe8 15.Qxd5 Nd4 16.Bxf4 c6 17.Qf7 Qxf7 18.Bxf7 exf4 19.Red1 Nf3+ 20.Kg2 Ne5 21.Bh5 f3+<sup>3</sup>]

**12...a6 13.Ra3 Be6 14.Nxf6 Bxc4 15.Nd5 Bb5 16.Be3 Qd7 17.Nd2 Nd8 18.c4 Bc6 19.Qg4 Ne6 20.b4** [An intriguing yet slightly dangerous expansion. Black has the bishop pair, and any misstep by White could cost him

dearly. The players are approaching the time trouble zone!]

**20...Rae8 21.Nf3** [21.Rb1 Bd8 22.Qe2 Qf7 23.b5 Bd7 24.bxa6 bxa6 25.Rb7<sup>2</sup> Forcing the break on the queen side would have been the better plan]

**21...Bd8 22.h4 h6 23.h5 Nd4** [Black is slowly but surely getting his hands on the initiative.]



**24.Qxd7 Nxf3+ 25.gxf3 Bxd7 26.Kg2 Rf7 27.Rh1 Ref8 28.Bc1 c6 29.Nb6 Be6 30.Rd1 Bxb6?!** [A dangerous decision by Grischuk. Allowing the appearance of opposite color bishops can only yield trouble, as White will now be able to invade via the "d" file and take gain a potent advantage.]

[30...Rf6 was the better option 31.Rad3 Bc7 32.b5 Bxb6 33.axb6 Bxc4 34.Rxd6 cxb5<sup>3</sup>]

**31.axb6 Rf6 32.Rad3 Bxc4 33.Rxd6 Rxf3 34.Be3 R3f7 35.R1d2 Kh7 36.Rd7** [The White rooks are invading. Grischuk is starting to feel the pressure!]

**36...Rxd7 37.Rxd7 Rf7 38.Rc7 Be6 39.Bd2 g6 40.Bc3** [40.hxg6+!? In the post mortem Fabiano suggested that this version would give him a decisive advantage. Sometimes the last move before the time control can prove

decisive. 40...Kxg6 41.Bc3 Bg4 (41...Rxc7 42.bxc7 Bc8 43.Bxe5 Kf7 44.f4+- And the connected pawns will prove decisive.) 42.Kg3 Rf3+ 43.Kxg4 Rxc3 44.Rxb7 Rb3 45.Rb8 Rxb4 46.b7 h5+ 47.Kh4 Kg7 48.Kxh5±]

**40...g5 41.Bxe5 Kg8 42.f3 Bb3?** [A big mistake by Grischuk, who allows Fabiano to once again get a decisive advantage. Unfortunately for the American, he does not capitalize on his final chance.]

**43.Kf2 [43.Bd6! Rxc7** (43...Bd1 44.f4 gxf4 45.Be7!! once the b7 pawn will be lost, the game will be over. 45...Bxh5 46.Rxb7 Bg6 47.Kf3+-) 44.bxc7 Be6 45.f4 gxf4 46.Bxf4 Kg7 47.Be3!! the only winning move, now allowing Black to create a passed pawn via b6-a5 47...b6 (47...Kf7 48.Bxh6+-) 48.Bxb6 Kf6 49.Be3 Ke5 50.Bxh6+-]

**43...Be6 44.Ke3 Kf8 45.f4** [45.Bd4 White had to maintain the tension if he wanted to pressure his opponent. 45...Bh3 46.Kf2±]

**45...gxf4+ 46.Bxf4 Ke8 47.Bxh6 Bg4 48.Bf4** [48.Bg5 Bxh5 49.Rc8+ Kd7 is similar to the game]

**48...Bxh5 49.Rc8+ Kd7 50.Rh8 Bg4 51.Bc7?!** [Now Black gets the break he needed, the position is now equal.]

[51.Rb8 Ke6 52.Rd8±]

**51...Rf3+ 52.Kd4 Rh3 53.Rb8 c5+!** [The important break, allowing the K to support the defense via c6. The fortress is now complete.]

**54.bxc5 Kc6 55.Bd6 Bd7 56.Ke5 Rh6 57.Rg8 a5 58.Kf4 a4 59.Ra8 Rh4+ 60.Ke3 Kb5 61.e5 Bc6 62.Kd3 Rh3+ 63.Kd2 Rh2+ 64.Kd3 Rh3+ 65.Kd2 Rh2+ 66.Kd3 Rh3+ 67.Kd2**

1/2-1/2

# HIKARU NAKAMURA - VISWANATHAN ANAND

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



NAKAMURA // LENNART OOTES

Nakamura's opening novelty was a bit mysterious. He made a bishop move, then retreated his bishop back a few moves later. It was a pretty typical structure that arises from the Queen's Gambit where Black has an isolated pawn. Anand had no trouble exchanging the problematic pieces and getting rid of his weakness, thus reaching complete equality. The players agreed to a draw on move 29.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c5** [Nakamura himself has played this opening many times with the black pieces]

**7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.cxd5 Nxd5** [8... exd5 another option, which was tried by Nakamura last year against Giri 9.Be2 Nc6 10.0-0 a6 11.Rc1 Ba7 12.Ne5 Ne7 13.Bg5 d4 14.exd4 Qxd4 15.Qxd4 Bxd4 16.Nf3 Bxc3 17.Rxc3 Ned5 18.Rc4 h6 19.Bd2 b5 20.Rd4 Re8 21.Re1 Ne7 22.Bd3 Be6 23.a4 Nf5 24.Rf4 Nd6 25.axb5 axb5 26.Rd4 Nc4 27.Bc3 Rac8 28.Rb1 Bd5 29.Nd2 Nxd2 30.Bxd2 Be4 31.Bc3 Bxd3 32.Rxd3 Ne4 33.h3 Nxc3 34.bxc3 Rc5 35.Rd2 Rxc3 36.Rxb5 Rc7 37.Rb1 Rec8 38.Rbd1 Rc1 39.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 40.Kh2 g6 41.g4 g5 42.Kg2 Rc3

43.Rd6 Kg7 44.Rb6 Rd3 45.Rc6 Rb3 46.Ra6 Rd3 47.Rc6 Rb3 48.Ra6 ½-½ (48) Giri,A (2785)-Nakamura,H (2787) Bilbao 2016]

**9.Nxd5 exd5** [We reach a position where Black has an isolated pawn and the exchange of a pair of minor pieces favors White. Black's idea is to either exchange the pawn by pushing it forward or create active counterplay]

**10.a3** [stopping the bishop check]

[10.Bd3 was tried by Nepomniachtchi against Nakamura during last year's Sinquefeld Cup 10... Bb4+ 11.Nd2 Nc6 12.0-0 Be6 13.Nf3 Be7 14.Rc1 Bf6 15.a3 Qe7 16.b4 a6 17.h3 Rac8 18.Rc5 a5 19.Qb1 axb4 20.axb4 b6 21.Rcc1 g6 22.Ba6 Nxb4 23.Bxc8 Rxc8 24.Rxc8+ Bxc8 25.Rc1 Bf5 26.Qb3 Nd3 27.Rc7 Qd8 28.Bg3 h5 29.Qxb6 h4 30.Bd6 Be4 31.Qc6 Kg7 32.Rc8 d4 33.Qxe4 1-0 (33) Nepomniachtchi,I (2742)-Nakamura,H (2792) Saint Louis 2017]

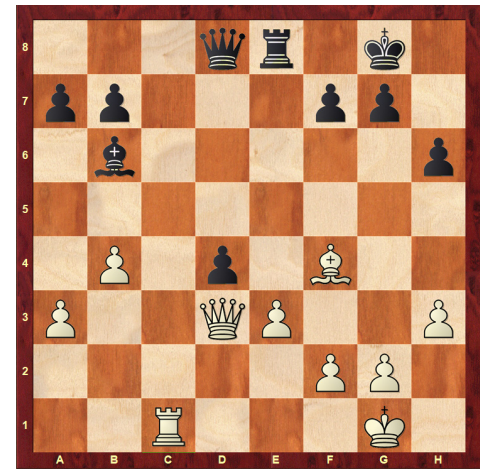


**10...Nc6 11.Bd3 Bb6 12.0-0 Bg4 13.h3 Bh5 14.Bb5** [Novelty.]

**14...Rc8 15.Rc1 h6 16.b4 Re8 17.Bd3** [this move is a bit puzzling considering that White put his bishop on b5 three moves ago]

**17...Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Ne5** [Anand thought that perhaps Hikaru should have tried exchanging on e5 here]

**19.Qe2** [19.Bxe5 Rxe5 20.Qf4 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Re6 and the position is very close to a draw]



**19...Rxc1 20.Rxc1 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 d4** [at this point, Anand went into the confession booth and explained that he was unfamiliar with the Bb5 move that Nakamura played earlier and wasn't sure how to continue, so he made normal improving moves. He felt that allowing d4 took the pressure off him]

**22.exd4 Bxd4** [now the position is completely drawn and there isn't much to play for]

**23.Qd2 Qf6 24.Bg3 Rd8 25.Qe2 Qg5** [a double attack on the rook and the bishop but White can simply trade all the pieces now]

**26.Rd1 Qxg3 27.Rxd4 Qc7 28.Rxd8+ Qxd8 29.g3**

½-½





SINQUEFIELD CUP

# CURRENT STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND



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



SINQUEFIELD CUP

# RESULTS AFTER ROUND 1

#GrandChessTour



WHITE      PLAYER      VS      PLAYER      BLACK

|  |                                |       |  |                               |
|--|--------------------------------|-------|--|-------------------------------|
|  | GM LEVON ARONIAN 2794 URS      | 1 - 0 |  | GM SERGEY KARJAKIN 2791 URS   |
|  | GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE 2796 URS | DRAW  |  | GM MAGNUS CARLSEN 2866 URS    |
|  | GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 2812 URS    | DRAW  |  | GM VISWANATHAN ANAND 2771 URS |
|  | GM S. MAMEDYAROV 2782 URS      | 1 - 0 |  | GM WESLEY SO 2794 URS         |
|  | GM FABIANO CARUANA 2785 URS    | DRAW  |  | GM ALEX GRISCHUK 2782 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!

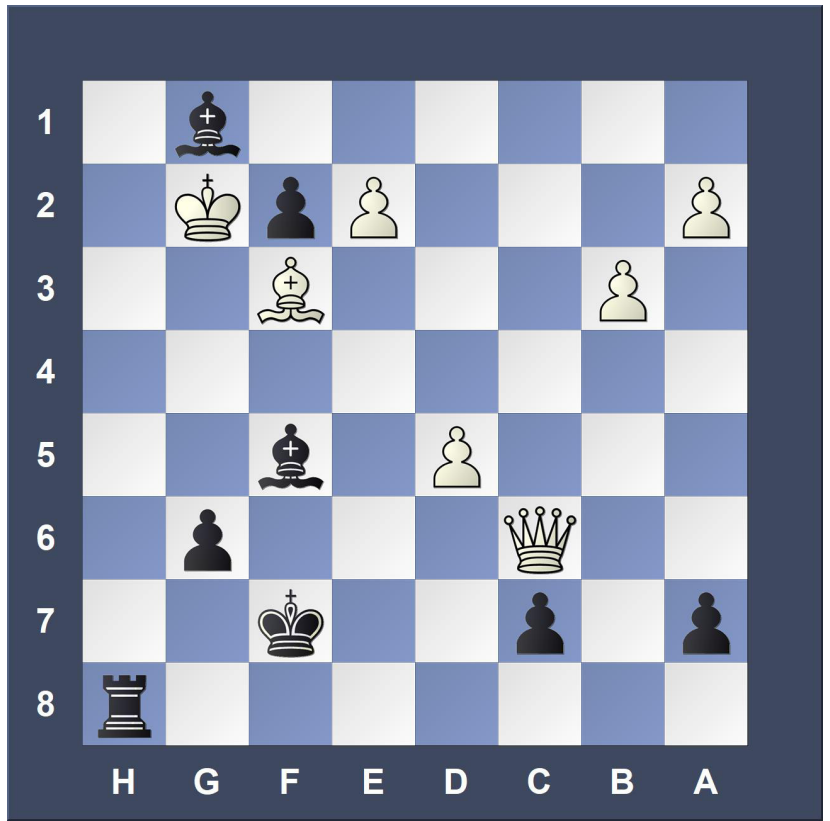
Each day, two \$25 gift cards will be drawn among those who submit a correct solution.

**Objective:** White to move

White: Vladimir Kramnik

Black: Levon Aronian

2018 World Championship Candidates Match



## 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

### Sinquefield 6-Player Swiss

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 20

3 Rounds | Game in 15; 2 second delay

#### Entry Fee

\$10

#### Registration

6-6:45 PM

Space is limited to the first 40 registrants.

#### Round 1

7:00 PM

#### Prizes for each flight \$40-20.

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.