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CUP★CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019 | ISSUE 11

ROUND 11 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

ROUND 11 RESULTS

♣ GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	∅
♣ GM M. Carlsen	1
♣ GM D. Liren	½
♣ GM S. Mamedyarov	½
♣ GM F. Caruana	½
♣ GM S. Karjakin	½
♣ GM V. Anand	½
♣ GM H. Nakamura	½
♣ GM A. Giri	1
♣ GM I. Nepomniachtchi	∅
♣ GM W. So	½
♣ GM L. Aronian	½

CURRENT STANDINGS

1. GM D. Liren	5 ½
2. GM I. Nepomniachtchi	5 ½
3. GM V. Anand	5
4. GM S. Karjakin	5
5. GM F. Caruana	4 ½
6. GM M. Carlsen	4 ½
7. GM S. Mamedyarov	4 ½
8. GM W. So	4
9. GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	4
10. GM H. Nakamura	4
11. GM A. Giri	4
12. GM L. Aronian	3 ½



GM MAGNUS CARLSEN, ROUND 11
PHOTO BY LENNART OOTES

For the first time in the Sinquefield Cup history, the winner will be determined in a playoff. With a clutch last round victory, Magnus Carlsen tied for first place with Ding Liren, who only managed to draw his game. Sergey Karjakin was also on the heels on victory and could have joined the duo on top, but was unable to convert his advantage. The playoff will consist of two 25-minute games with 10 second delay, and will move on to blitz if still undecided. The tiebreak will be immediately followed by “Ultimate Moves”, a team game with friendly banter between founder Rex Sinquefield and his son Randy Sinquefield and will feature Yasser Seirawan and legendary World Champion Garry Kasparov. Ultimate Moves will be available on grandchesstour.org, approximately 30 minutes after the playoff ends.



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MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE - MAGNUS CARLSEN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY IM DORSA DERAKHSHANI



GM M. CARLSEN // CRYSTAL FULLER

“I made my own luck in the last two rounds”, the World Champion gave himself well deserved credit for his back to back wins. This matchup was a peculiar situation for both players for different reasons: the Sinquefeld Cup is Vachier-Lagrave’s last event of the tour to qualify to the London Finals while the World Champion was in a must win situation with the black pieces in order to keep any hopes of winning the tournament alive. The game had a similar pawn structure to Anand-Carlson from round. Carlsen was happy to see complications on the board once the Frenchman started pushing his “h” pawn. The big blunder happened on move 22, which allowed the World Champion to double his rooks on the g file in a forced sequence. Out of desperation, Vachier-Lagrave decided to give up two minor pieces for a rook. Carlsen converted the resulting winning position seamlessly.

- 1.e4 c5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 g6
- 4.Bxc6 bxc6
- 5.d4 cxd4
- 6.Qxd4 f6

[looks unorthodox since black's pieces are not coming out easily.]

- 7.0-0 d6
- 8.c4 c5
- 9.Qd3 Bg7
- 10.b3

[in this game we could see the concepts of weak squares and weak diagonals quite clearly.]

[10.Nc3 Nh6 11.Nh4 this was another possibility to follow]

- 10. Nh6
- 11.Nc3 Rb8
- 12.Bd2 0-0
- 13.Rae1

[white is simply trying to develop his pieces in the best coordination possible.]

- 13. Nf7
- 14.h4

[with idea h5 to create some attacks towards kingside]

- 14. Rb7

[14...Bg4 just encourages the Nh2 15.Nh2 Bd7 16.f4]

15.h5 g5



[black pawns have nice symmetry!]

- 16.Nh2

[16.Qd5 Rb8 with idea Bb7 improving the Bishop and pushing the Queen away]

- 16. Ne5
- 17.Qg3 Kh8
- 18.f4

[MVL was preparing for this f4 since Rae1]

- 18. gxf4
- 19.Bxf4



[this game is especially interesting since MVL needs a win with white to earn his place for London GCT in December]

so he is going all out. Also, Carlsen needs to win to have a chance at tie breaks against Ding Liren.]

- 19. Rg8

[Magnus can have some ideas with Bh6, e6 and Rbg7]

- 20.Re3 Nc6

[uncovering some potential threats with f5, e5]

- 21.Qf2

[very rare pawn structure]

- 21. f5
- 22.Nf3??



[blunder!]

[22.exf5 must've been played, it was an only move but white most likely was too worried about the weak d4 square being exploited 22...Nd4 (22...Bd4 23.Ne2 still a fighting game)]

- 22. Bxc3!
- 23.Rxc3 e5
- 24.Rd3

[24.Be3 f4 25.Bd2 Rbg7-+; 24.Bh6 f4-+ black is winning since his attack is very strong, and white's pieces are pretty disorganized]

- 24. exf4
- 25.Qb2+ Rbg7
- 26.h6 fxe4
- 27.Rd2

[27.hxg7+ Rxc7 28.Rd2 exf3-+]

- 27. exf3
- 28.hxg7+ Rxc7
- 29.Rxf3 Qg5
- 30.Rdf2 Nd4
- 31.Rxf4

[black is completely dominating the board at this point]

- 31. Bf5
- 32.b4 Be6
- 33.Rf8+ Bg8
- 34.bxc5 dxc5
- 35.Qb8 Qe3
- 36.Qd6 Qc1+
- 37.Kh2 Qg5



- 38.Qd5 Qh4+
- 39.Kg1 Qe7
- 40.Qh5 Qe3
- 41.Qh4 Ne2+
- 42.Kh1 Qc1+
- 43.Rf1 Ng3+
- 44.Kg1 Qe3+

0-1

DING LIREN - SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV

ANALYSIS BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



LIREN VS. MAMEDYAROV // AUSTIN FULLER

The Chinese player took the practical approach of playing safely without too many risks, even though a round 11 win would have guaranteed him the tournament win. Mamedyarov surprised Ding in the opening with a sharp line, putting his opponent in a tough situation. Ding's insistence on playing safe backfired, as he quickly found himself in an unpleasant middlegame which lead to a worse endgame. Unfortunately for Mamedyarov, his advantage was small and was neutralized by Ding with good defense.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 g6
- 3.g3 Bg7
- 4.Bg2 0-0
- 5.Nc3 c5
- 6.Nf3 d5
- 7.dxc5 Qa5
- 8.0-0 dxc4
- 9.Qd4 Nc6
- 10.Qxc4 Be6
- 11.Qh4 Qxc5



- 12.Be3 Qa5
- 13.Nd4 Nxd4
- 14.Qxd4 Nd5
- 15.Qc5 Qxc5
- 16.Bxc5 Rfc8
- 17.Bxd5 Rxc5
- 18.Bxe6 fxe6
- 19.Rfd1 Rac8
- 20.Rd7 R8c7
- 21.Rad1 Bxc3
- 22.Rxc7 Rxc7
- 23.bxc3 Kf7



- 24.Rb1 e5
- 25.Kf1 b6
- 26.Rb3 Rc5
- 27.a4 Ra5
- 28.Rb4 Rc5
- 29.Rb3 Rc4
- 30.Ra3 Ke6
- 31.Ke1 Kd5
- 32.Kd2 e4
- 33.Ra1 g5
- 34.Kc2 Ke5
- 35.a5 b5
- 36.a6 b4
- 37.Ra5+ Kf6
- 38.Rb5 Rxc3+
- 39.Kd2 Ra3
- 40.Rxb4 e3+
- 41.fxe3 Rxa6
- 42.h4 h6
- 43.hxg5+ Kxg5
- 44.Re4 Kf6
- 45.Rh4 Kf5
- 46.Rf4+ Ke5
- 47.g4 e6
- 48.Rf7 Ra2+
- 49.Kd3 Ra3+
- 50.Kd2 Ra2+
- 51.Kd3 Ra3+
- 52.Kd2 Ra2+

1/2-1/2

FABIANO CARUANA - SERGEY KARJAKIN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



CARUANA VS. KARJAKIN // AUSTIN FULLER

Caruana had to show his tenacity to save this game, as, in his own words, he was playing "crazy" at some point. Like Vachier-Lagrave, Caruana also had to take his overall tour standings into account coming into the game, and probably treated this as a must-win situation. After getting too ambitious with his kingside pawn pushes, he blundered that his opponent can mobilize and quickly counterattack his weaknesses. Karjakin had excellent winning chances in the pawn-up endgame but didn't find a clear path to victory. He pointed out that just as Anand, he had good chances in several games and joked that last year he was lucky to have finished with -3, so this result is a turn in the right direction.

- 1.c4 Nf6
- 2.Nc3 e5
- 3.Nf3 Nc6
- 4.g3 Bb4
- 5.Nd5 Bc5
- 6.Bg2 d6
- 7.0-0 0-0
- 8.e3 Re8
- 9.b3 Bg4
- 10.h3 Bh5
- 11.d3 a5
- 12.a3 Nxd5
- 13.cxd5 Ne7



- 20.Ra2 Rf8
- 21.e7 Rf7
- 22.h5 Bxf3
- 23.Bxf3 Qxf3
- 24.hxg6 hxg6
- 25.Qxf3 Rxf3
- 26.Kg2 Rf7
- 27.e4 Rxe7
- 28.Re2 Kf7
- 29.Bb2 Rh8
- 30.f4 Ree8

- 31.f5 gxf5
- 32.Rxf5+ Kg6



- 33.Bc1 Rh4
- 34.Rg5+ Kh7
- 35.Bd2 c5
- 36.Be1 Rh6
- 37.Bg3 Rhe6
- 38.Kf3 Bd8
- 39.Rd5 Be7
- 40.a4 Kg6
- 41.e5 Rf8+
- 42.Kg2 Rc8
- 43.Kf3 dxe5
- 44.Rexe5 Rxe5
- 45.Bxe5 Bf6
- 46.Bf4 c4
- 47.bxc4 Rxc4
- 48.Rxa5 Rc3+
- 49.Ke4 Rc4+
- 50.Kf3 Rc3+
- 51.Ke4 Rc4+
- 52.Kf3

1/2-1/2

VISWANATHAN ANAND - HIKARU NAKAMURA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM H. NAKAMURA // JUSTIN KELLAR

Anand described this tournament as the first one where he felt “gutted” by his +1 score. “I think with my positions Magnus would have made +6. I’m really embarrassed for my technique”, the former World Champion told Ashley in the postgame interview, referring to his many misses in the previous rounds. Anand didn’t show a lot of ambition in this game and didn’t pose many difficulties on his opponent in the Berlin Defense. The game ended with a threefold repetition in 26 moves.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 Nf6
- 4.0-0 Nxe4
- 5.d4 Nd6
- 6.Bxc6 dxc6
- 7.dxe5 Nf5
- 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8



- 9.h3 Ke8
- 10.Nc3 h5
- 11.Bg5 Be6
- 12.Rfd1 Be7
- 13.Rd2 Rd8
- 14.Rxd8+ Kxd8
- 15.Rd1+ Ke8
- 16.b3 h4
- 17.Ne2 Bd5
- 18.Bf4 Bxf3
- 19.gxf3 g6



- 20.Bc1 Ng7
- 21.Kg2 Ne6
- 22.Nd4 Kd7
- 23.Nf5+ Ke8
- 24.Nd4 Kd7
- 25.Nf5+ Ke8
- 26.Nd4 Kd7

1/2-1/2

ANISH GIRI - IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GIRI VS. NEPOMNIACHTCHI // CRYSTAL FULLER

The players steered off main lines in the Grünfeld choosing a sideline. After a tactical sequence, Giri was left with an extra pawn in a 4 vs 3 rook endgame, with all pawns on one side of the board. Rook endgames are always challenging, but Nepomniachtchi should have held this one quite easily had he not gotten careless. In the postgame interview, Giri shared that after the game his opponent told him that he was expecting a threefold repetition, which was surprising given the extra material Giri had. The endgame became more difficult after the Dutch player gave up a pawn in order to create a passed pawn and activate his king. The moment when Nepomniachtchi needed to do precise calculation to save the game, he once again played too fast, blundering and allowing Giri to take the win.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 g6
- 3.Nc3 d5
- 4.Bf4 Bg7
- 5.e3 0-0
- 6.Rc1 Be6
- 7.c5 c6
- 8.Bd3 b6
- 9.Na4 Nfd7
- 10.h3 bxc5
- 11.Nxc5 Nxc5

- 12.Rxc5 Qb6
- 13.Qc2 Rc8
- 14.Nf3 Nd7
- 15.Rc3 c5
- 16.0-0 c4
- 17.b3 Nc5



- 18.bxc4 Nxd3
- 19.c5 Nxc5
- 20.dxc5 Qa5
- 21.Nd4 Bd7
- 22.c6 Be8
- 23.Rc5 Qa6
- 24.Rxd5 Bxc6
- 25.Nxc6 Rxc6
- 26.Qd2 Bc3
- 27.Rd8+ Rxd8
- 28.Qxd8+ Kg7

- 29.Qxe7 Bf6
- 30.Be5 Qxa2
- 31.Ra1 Qe6
- 32.Bxf6+ Qxf6
- 33.Qxa7 Rc2
- 34.Rf1 h5
- 35.Qb7 Rb2
- 36.Qd5 Re2
- 37.Qf3 Qxf3
- 38.gxf3 Ra2
- 39.Rd1 Ra5
- 40.Kg2 Rg5+
- 41.Kh2 Rf5
- 42.f4 Ra5
- 43.Kg3 Ra2
- 44.Rd5 f5
- 45.Kf3 Kf6
- 46.Rd6+ Kg7
- 47.Rd1 Kf6
- 48.Re1 Rb2
- 49.Re2 Rb1
- 50.Kg3 Rg1+
- 51.Kh2 Ra1
- 52.Rb2 Rc1
- 53.Ra2 Rb1
- 54.Kg2 Re1
- 55.Rb2 Kg7
- 56.Kf3 Kf6
- 57.Re2 Rg1
- 58.Rd2 Re1
- 59.Kg2 Kg7
- 60.Ra2 Kf6
- 61.Ra3 Kf7
- 62.f3 Re2+
- 63.Kg3 Kf6
- 64.Kh4 Re1
- 65.Ra6+ Kf7
- 66.Kg5 Rg1+
- 67.Kh6 Rg3
- 68.Ra7+ Kf6
- 69.e4 Rxf3
- 70.e5+ Ke6
- 71.Ra6+ Ke7
- 72.Ra4 Rg3
- 73.Ra7+ Ke6
- 74.Ra6+ Kf7
- 75.Rf6+ Ke7
- 76.Rxg6 Rxh3
- 77.Kg5

1-0

WESLEY SO - LEVON ARONIAN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



SO VS. ARONIAN // LENNART OOTES

There wasn't much fight in this game, as both players clearly wanted to be done with the tournament. The players moved through a theoretical line in the Catalan where all the pieces came off quickly, entering a drawn opposite-colored bishops endgame. The game quickly wrapped in 35 moves.

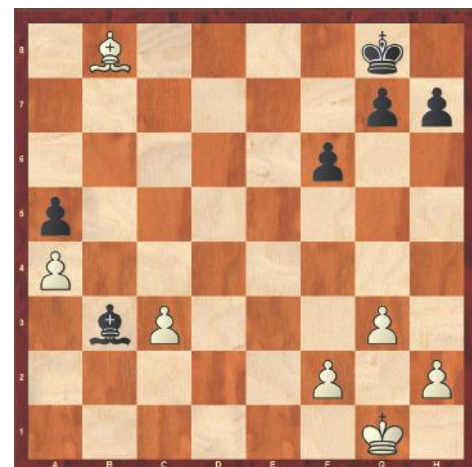
- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nf3 d5
- 4.g3 Be7
- 5.Bg2 0-0
- 6.0-0 dxc4
- 7.Ne5 Nc6
- 8.Bxc6 bxc6
- 9.Nxc6 Qe8



- 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7
- 11.Qa4 e5
- 12.dxe5 Qxe5
- 13.Nc3 Ne4
- 14.Qxc4 Nxc3
- 15.bxc3 Be6



- 16.Bf4 Bxc4
- 17.Bxe5 Rfe8
- 18.Bxc7 Rxe2
- 19.a4 Rc8
- 20.Bf4 Rc2
- 21.Rfc1 Rxc1+
- 22.Rxc1 a5
- 23.Rb1 f6
- 24.Rb8 Rxb8
- 25.Bxb8 Bb3



- 26.Bc7 Bxa4
- 27.Bxa5 Kf7
- 28.f3 Ke6
- 29.Kf2 Kd5
- 30.Bb6 g6
- 31.Bd4 f5
- 32.Bh8 Bb5
- 33.Bd4 Ba4
- 34.Bg7 Bb5
- 35.Bd4 Ba4

1/2-1/2



CARLSEN & CARUANA DURING ROUND 11 // AUSTIN FULLER



GM DING LIREN // JUSTIN KELLAR



FABIANO CARUANA VS. SERGEY KARJAKIN // JUSTIN KELLAR



GM VISWANATHAN ANAND // LENNART OOTES

FINAL STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND 11

POS.	PLAYER	ROUND 11 RESULT	SCORE
T-1	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN	1	6½ PTS
T-1	GM DING LIREN	½	6½ PTS
T-3	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND	½	6 PTS
T-3	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN	½	6 PTS
T-5	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI	0	5½ PTS
T-5	GM S. MAMEDYAROV	½	5½ PTS
T-5	GM ANISH GIRI	1	5½ PTS
T-5	GM FABIANO CARUANA	½	5½ PTS
T-9	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE	0	5 PTS
T-9	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA	½	5 PTS
T-11	GM WESLEY SO	½	4½ PTS
T-11	GM LEVON ARONIAN	½	4½ PTS

SUPER THURSDAY!

#GrandChessTour



GM DING LIREN

Playoff Coverage Begins 9:50am

Tomorrow, August 29

VS



GM MAGNUS CARLSEN

Followed by
ULTIMATE MOVES
30 mins. after the end of playoffs

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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

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

*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.