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CUP★CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019 | ISSUE 4

ROUND 4 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM FABIANO CARUANA, ROUND 4
PHOTO BY LENNART OOTES

ROUND 4 RESULTS

♔ GM F. Caruana	1
♚ GM L. Aronian	0
♔ GM V. Anand	1/2
♚ GM W. So	1/2
♔ GM S. Mamedyarov	1/2
♚ GM M. Carlsen	1/2
♔ GM A. Giri	1/2
♚ GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	1/2
♔ GM H. Nakamura	1/2
♚ GM D. Liren	1/2
♔ GM S. Karjakin	1/2
♚ GM I. Nepomniachtchi	1/2

CURRENT STANDINGS

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

There was finally a shake up in the standings today, as Fabiano Caruana defeated Levon Aronian. The American joins Viswanathan Anand in the lead as the rest of the games were drawn. Caruana's win is the second decisive result in the first four rounds. Anand was on track to extend his lead in the tournament, but the calculations required for him to do so were very computer-like—not easy for a human to find. Tomorrow, both Anand and Caruana will have the black pieces against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Wesley So, respectively.



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FABIANO CARUANA - LEVON ARONIAN

ANALYSIS BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM F. CARUANA // JUSTIN KELLAR

The main culprit of this result was Aronian's time trouble. Caruana played a new idea in the anti-Berlin, calling it a remnant from his World Championship preparation. The novelty he played did not lead to a big advantage, as black had a wealth of choice leading to equality but as Caruana pointed out, that is not always a good thing. Aronian went into a deep think, spending over an hour in the first 20 moves. Caruana achieved an edge in the middlegame, as he had the perfect set up against his opponent's isolated queen's pawn. Aronian decided to give up the pawn, entering into a queen and rook endgame where he had a very practical chance of holding. After barely making a move and with only a second left on his clock several times, Aronian finally cracked under pressure blundering a simple tactic that allowed a rook exchange and a loss of another pawn. Caruana converted the winning position without any adventures.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 Nf6
- 4.d3 Bc5
- 5.c3 O-O
- 6.0-0 Re8

[defending the e5 pawn]

[6...d6 is the main move in this position 7.Nbd2 a6 8.Ba4 Ba7 is one of the many ways of playing this position]

- 7.d4

[this move has only been played 14 times, so it is already clear that Fabiano has something up his sleeve]

[7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.Nc4 Levon must have been expecting this continuation, as Fabiano has played this line several times before]

- 7. Bb6

- 8.d5 Ne7
- 9.Nxe5 Nxe4
- 10.Qf3 Nf6
- 11.d6!?!N



[interesting pawn sacrifice. The idea is to ruin Black's pawn structure and halt the piece development. When Anish Giri entered the confessional booth, he jokingly started his confession with a moment of silence for Levon's c8 bishop]

- 11. cxd6
- 12.Nc4 d5
- 13.Nd6

[13.Nxb6 Qxb6 14.Na3 grabbing the bishop pair and finishing the development quickly is another way of playing but Fabiano probably wanted to get his pawn back]

- 13. Rf8
- 14.Bg5 Ne4

[Black gives the pawn back, but gets rid of that annoying knight on d6]

[14...Ng6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Qxf6 gxf6 Black's pawn structure is simply hideous]

- 15.Nxe4 dxe4
- 16.Qxe4 f6
- 17.Be3 d5
- 18.Qf3

[We have an IQP position on the board, which favors white mainly due to Black's pawn being on f6. It weakens the king permanently and makes the e6 square vulnerable. Also, White can exchange the dark squared bishops anytime, leaving Black with the bad bishop]

- 18. Ng6
- 19.Na3 Bc7
- 20.Rad1 Ne5
- 21.Qe2 a6
- 22.Ba4 Bg4
- 23.f3 Be6
- 24.Bb3 Re8
- 25.f4 Nc6

[this move gives up the d5 pawn]

[25...Ng4 26.Bd4 Qd7 27.Nc2 / still looks nice for White]

- 26.Qf3 Bb6
- 27.Nc2 Na5
- 28.Bxd5 Bxd5
- 29.Rxd5 Bxe3+

- 30.Nxe3 Qb6
- 31.Rd3 Nc4
- 32.Qd5+ Kf8
- 33.Qxc4 Rxe3
- 34.Rxe3 Qxe3+
- 35.Kh1

[White won the pawn but the conversion will still take a lot of work. Unfortunately for Levon, he was already very low on time]

- 35. Rd8
- 36.h3 b5
- 37.Qc6 Qe2
- 38.Rf3

[although White's king looks safer optically, there are always possibilities for a perpetual with the queens on the board. In addition, the rook on f3 is misplaced, whereas the d8 rook is an excellently placed active piece]

- 38. Qxb2

[for example after 38...h5 39.Qxa6 h4 and Black is already threatening Rd2 as well as Rd1 and Qe1]

- 39.Qxa6 h5
- 40.Kh2 h4
- 41.Qa7

[the exchange of the pawns favored White as the queen now controls the g1-a7 diagonal and can bring the rook back into the game via the e3 square]

- 41. Kg8

[Levon made this move with a second left on his clock]

- 42.Qe7 Qd2

[42...Rd2 43.Qe6+ Kh7 44.Qg4, and now Fabiano is the one attacking]

- 43.Re3 Qd6
- 44.Qe4 Qd5

- 45.Qb4?

[45.Qg6 was the correct way for Fabiano to keep playing for a win]

- 45. Rc8

[45...Qf5! and Black is very much in the draw territory as his queen dominates and White has a lot of pawn weaknesses]

- 46.a4 Qc5??

[With no time on his clock, Levon cracks under pressure]

- 47.Re8+!



[the simple tactics exchanges the rooks and wins another pawn for Fabiano]

- 47. Kh7
- 48.Rxc8 Qxc8
- 49.axb5

[the rest is easy]

- 49. Qf5
- 50.b6 Qd3
- 51.c4 Qg3+
- 52.Kh1 Qd3
- 53.c5

- 1-0

VISWANATHAN ANAND - WESLEY SO

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM W.SO // LENNART OOTES

Here Wesley So essayed the Petroff Defense, the pet line of his fellow countryman, Fabiano Caruana but not one he himself had done well with thus far. So chose the trendy 6...Bf5 continuation of the 3.Nxe5 variation, a line that Anand has faced several times before. So found himself in a world of trouble after forgetting his preparation and facing a serious attack on his king. In the critical moment of the game, the former World Champion had to find an Alpha Zero-esque move, retreating his queen to f1, followed by a series of specific and difficult to calculate moves. The line he chose also gave him an advantage but wasn't as crushing as the lines that the engines were showing. Anand had clearly calculated a vast number of lines as he showed in the postgame analysis, but wasn't able to make any of them work, settling for a better queen endgame. So thought that there must have been a win somewhere, and felt lucky to have escaped with a draw.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nf6
- 3.Nxe5 d6
- 4.Nf3 Nxe4
- 5.d4 d5



- 20.Qf3 h6
- 21.Bxb4 Qxb4

- 6.Bd3 Bf5
- 7.0-0 Be7
- 8.Re1 0-0
- 9.c4 Nc6
- 10.cxd5 Qxd5
- 11.Nc3 Nxc3
- 12.bxc3 Bxd3
- 13.Qxd3 Rae8
- 14.Rb1 b6
- 15.Bf4 Bd6
- 16.Ng5 f5
- 17.Rxe8 Rxe8
- 18.c4 Qa5
- 19.Bd2 Nb4

- 22.Qd5+ Kh8
- 23.Nf7+ Kh7
- 24.Rf1 Re1
- 25.Qxf5+ Kg8
- 26.Nxd6 cxd6
- 27.Qd3 Rxf1+
- 28.Kxf1 Qb2
- 29.a3 d5
- 30.cxd5 Qa1+
- 31.Ke2 Qa2+
- 32.Ke3 Qxd5



- 33.g3 b5
- 34.Qc3 Qe6+
- 35.Kd3 a5
- 36.Qxa5 Qc4+
- 37.Ke3 Qe6+
- 38.Kd2 Qa2+
- 39.Ke1 Qb1+
- 40.Kd2 Qa2+
- 41.Ke3 Qe6+
- 42.Kd2 Qa2+

1/2-1/2

SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV - MAGNUS CARLSEN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



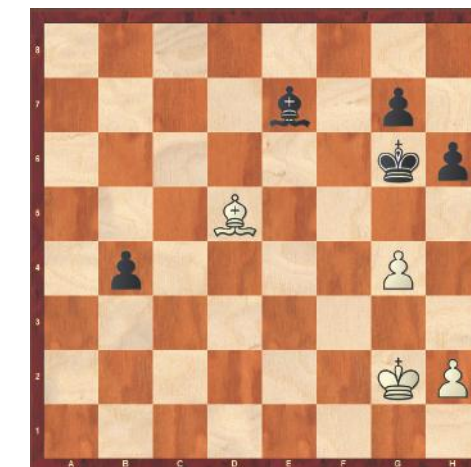
MAMEDYAROV VS. CARLSEN // LENNART OOTES

Magnus Carlsen faced the man who delivered his last defeat over a year ago in the Biel Chess Festival. Since then, the World Champion has gone on an undefeated streak, extending to 83 games after today's draw. Carlsen opted for the Semi Slav, an unusual opening choice for him. At the end of the theoretical discussion, Carlsen emerged with a slight edge, eventually entering a queen endgame where he had the bishop pair against his opponent's bishop and knight. At this point, Anish Giri was being interviewed by Maurice Ashley and predicted a win for the World Champion, pointing out the similarities between the ongoing game and the one where Carlsen defeated Ding Liren in Croatia. The World Champion did not find a way to grow his advantage, allowing Mamedyarov enter a pawn down opposite colored bishops endgame, which he held easily.

- 1.d4 d5
- 2.c4 c6
- 3.Nc3 Nf6
- 4.e3 e6
- 5.Nf3 Nbd7
- 6.Qc2 Bd6

- 7.Bd3 dxc4
- 8.Bxc4 b5
- 9.Be2 0-0
- 10.0-0 a6
- 11.Rd1 Qc7
- 12.e4 e5
- 13.g3 Re8
- 14.a3 exd4
- 15.Nxd4 Be5
- 16.Bf3 c5
- 17.Nde2 Bb7
- 18.Be3 c4
- 19.b4 cxb3
- 20.Qxb3 Nc5
- 21.Bxc5 Qxc5
- 22.Rac1 Qb6
- 23.Na4 Qa7
- 24.Nc5 Rac8
- 25.Nd7 Rxc1
- 26.Nxc1 h6
- 27.Nxf6+ Bxf6
- 28.Rd7 Re7
- 29.Rd8+ Kh7
- 30.Qd3 Be5
- 31.Rh8+ Kxh8
- 32.Qd8+ Kh7
- 33.Qxe7 Bd4
- 34.Qxf7 Bxf2+
- 35.Kg2 Bc8
- 36.Qa2 Bb6
- 37.e5 Bf5

- 38.g4 Bg6
- 39.Ne2 Qc7
- 40.Nf4 Qc2+
- 41.Qxc2 Bxc2
- 42.Nd5 Bc5
- 43.Nb4 Bb3
- 44.Nxa6 Bxa3
- 45.Nc7 Bc4
- 46.e6 Bd6
- 47.Bc6 b4
- 48.Nd5 Kg6
- 49.e7 Bxd5+
- 50.Bxd5 Bxe7



- 51.Kf3 Kf6
- 52.Ke4 Kg5
- 53.Kf3 Kh4
- 54.Be6 Bg5
- 55.Kg2 Bf4
- 56.h3 Kg5
- 57.Kf3 Kf6
- 58.Bg8 Ke5
- 59.h4 g5
- 60.hxg5 hxg5
- 61.Ke2 Kd4
- 62.Kd1 Kc3
- 63.Bf7 b3
- 64.Be6 Be3
- 65.Bf7 Bf4
- 66.Be6 Be3
- 67.Bf7 Bf4
- 68.Be6

1/2-1/2

ANISH GIRI - MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE // LENNART OOTES

Vachier-Lagrave chose his trusty Grunfeld Defense again, giving up a pawn via tactical means in order to liquidate the center and gain the bishop pair. Giri wasn't sure how to keep building his position as Black could constantly attack his vulnerable extra pawn. He offered a trade of the knight for a bishop but missed that Vachier-Lagrave could force a trade of queens by taking advantage of his vulnerable back rank. Giri was still up a pawn, but was unpleasantly surprised to realize that his opponent could in fact activate his rook, as he was under the assumption that Black had to simply wait passively for White to find a way to breakthrough. After the Frenchman won the h pawn back and set up a fortress, the game ended in a draw with a repetition.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 g6
- 3.Nc3 d5
- 4.cxd5 Nxd5
- 5.e4 Nxc3
- 6.bxc3 Bg7
- 7.Bc4 c5
- 8.Ne2 Nc6
- 9.Be3 0-0
- 10.0-0 b6

- 11.Rc1 Bb7
- 12.Bb5 Rc8
- 13.Qd2 Na5
- 14.d5 e6



- 15.c4 a6
- 16.Ba4 exd5
- 17.exd5 Nxc4
- 18.Rxc4 b5
- 19.Bxb5 axb5
- 20.Rxc5 Qd7
- 21.Rxc8 Rxc8
- 22.Rd1 Rd8
- 23.Qb4 Rc8
- 24.Qb3 Rd8
- 25.Nc3 Bxc3
- 26.Qxc3 Qc6
- 27.Qxc6 Bxc6



- 28.d6 f6
- 29.h4 Bd7
- 30.a3 Re8
- 31.Bc5 Re4
- 32.Bb4 Rxh4
- 33.Re1 Rd4
- 34.Re7 Bf5
- 35.Re8+ Kf7
- 36.Re7+ Kg8
- 37.f3 h5
- 38.Rb7 Rd5
- 39.g3 g5
- 40.Kf2 Be6
- 41.Re7 Bf5
- 42.Rb7 Be6
- 43.Re7 Bf5
- 44.Ra7 Be6
- 45.Re7

1/2-1/2

HIKARU NAKAMURA - DING LIREN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM D. LIREN // LENNART OOTES

Nakamura chose a less common continuation with 11.Nc3 followed by Nd5 in the Anti-Marshall variation of the Ruy Lopez. Optically, his position was always better due to his opponent's isolated queen's pawn. Unlike in the Caruana-Aronian game, Ding was ahead in development and had more piece activity, 2 key ingredients when playing with an isolated pawn. The double bishop endgame they entered was still visually better for White, as Ding's light squared bishop was limited by his own pawns but there was no way for the white king to penetrate. The Chinese star gave up his pawn weakness in order to exchange his bad bishop, as the extra pawn was of no use for his opponent.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 a6
- 4.Ba4 Nf6
- 5.0-0 Be7
- 6.Re1 b5
- 7.Bb3 0-0
- 8.h3 Bb7
- 9.d3 d6
- 10.a3 Qd7
- 11.Nc3 Rfe8

- 12.Nd5 Nxd5
- 13.exd5 Na7
- 14.d4 exd4
- 15.Qxd4 c5
- 16.dxc6 Nxc6



- 17.Qd3 Bf6
- 18.Bd2 Ne5
- 19.Rxe5 Rxe5
- 20.Nxe5 Bxe5
- 21.c3 Qc6
- 22.f3 d5
- 23.Re1 Bc7
- 24.Bc2 g6
- 25.Bh6 Re8
- 26.Rxe8+ Qxe8
- 27.Qe3 Qxe3+
- 28.Bxe3 f5

- 29.f4 Kf7
- 30.g3 Ke6
- 31.Kf2 h5
- 32.h4 Bc6
- 33.Ba7 Bd8
- 34.Ke3 Bf6



- 35.Bb6 Kd6
- 36.Kd2 Bd7
- 37.Kd3 Bc6
- 38.Bd1 Bd7
- 39.Bf3 Bc6
- 40.Kc2 d4
- 41.Bxc6 Kxc6
- 42.Bxd4 Be7
- 43.Kd3 Kd5
- 44.Be3 Bd6
- 45.Bd4 Be7
- 46.Be3 Bd6
- 47.Bd4 Be7

1/2-1/2

SERGEY KARJAKIN - IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM S. KARJAKIN // LENNART OOTES

The all-Russian matchup was the first to end in a draw in 21 moves with a repetition. Karjakin chose the Fianchetto System against the Grunfeld, following the game Mamedyarov-Nepomniachtchi from Paris Grand Chess Tour. He deviated on move 12, giving up his central pawn the next move. Nepomniachtchi grabbed the pawn with his queen without fear, as Karjakin had nothing better than to settle for a draw with repetition.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 g6
- 3.g3 c6
- 4.Bg2 d5
- 5.Nf3 Bg7
- 6.Qb3 0-0
- 7.Nc3 Qb6
- 8.0-0 Rd8
- 9.Bd2 dxc4
- 10.Qxc4 Be6
- 11.Qa4 Bf5
- 12.Rfd1 a5

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.Nh4 14.Qc2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bd7 Qxd4
--	---

- 15.Nf3
- 16.Be3
- 17.Nb5
- 18.Na7
- 19.Nb5
- 20.Na7
- 21.Nb5

1/2-1/2



GM SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV // JUSTIN KELLAR



GM M. CARLSEN // JUSTIN KELLAR



GM L. ARONIAN // JUSTIN KELLAR

CURRENT STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND 4

POS.	PLAYER	ROUND 4 RESULT	SCORE
T-1	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND (IND)	1/2	2 1/2 PTS
T-1	GM FABIANO CARUANA (USA)	1	2 1/2 PTS
T-3	GM DING LIREN (CHN)	1/2	2 PTS
T-3	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA (USA)	1/2	2 PTS
T-3	GM ANISH GIRI (NLD)	1/2	2 PTS
T-3	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE (FRA)	1/2	2 PTS
T-3	GM WESLEY SO (USA)	1/2	2 PTS
T-3	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN (NOR)	1/2	2 PTS
T-3	GM S. MAMEDYAROV (AZE)	1/2	2 PTS
T-3	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN (RUS)	1/2	2 PTS
T-11	GM LEVON ARONIAN (ARM)	0	1 1/2 PTS
T-11	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI (RUS)	1/2	1 1/2 PTS

PLAYER MATCHUPS

#GrandChessTour

ROUND 5

WHITE	PLAYER	VS	PLAYER	BLACK
	GM DING LIREN (CHN)		GM ANISH GIRI (NLD)	
	GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE (FRA)		GM VISWANATHAN ANAND (IND)	
	GM WESLEY SO (USA)		GM FABIANO CARUANA (USA)	
	GM LEVON ARONIAN (ARM)		GM SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV (AZE)	
	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN (NOR)		GM SERGEY KARJAKIN (RUS)	
	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI (RUS)		GM HIKARU NAKAMURA (USA)	

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