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## ROUND 7 RESULTS

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

## CURRENT STANDINGS

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

# CUP★CHRONICLE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019 | ISSUE 7

## ROUND 7 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM VISWANATHAN ANAND, ROUND 7 SINQUEFIELD CUP  
PHOTO BY CRYSTAL FULLER

Once again, a round of all draws left the standings unchanged. It was another frustrating day at the office for Viswanathan Anand, who missed a golden opportunity to defeat one of his co-leaders and take the sole lead in the tournament. Tomorrow, he will be facing Fabiano Caruana with the black pieces. As the tournament is entering its final stages, tomorrow's game is almost a must-win situation for Caruana if he wants to take the title home. It remains to be seen if Anand will be affected by the disappointment of the last few games. Ding Liren will have the difficult task of facing Magnus Carlsen with the black pieces.



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# MAGNUS CARLSEN VS IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI

BY GM MAURICE ASHLEY



The tactically rich theoretical battle in the Grunfeld was the most exciting game of the round.

The players blitzed out the opening, with Carlsen playing a novelty on move 14. Nepomniachtchi played quickly and calmly while accepting a pawn sacrifice. He later explained that he had this specific line prepared for Croatia GCT, but hadn't reviewed since then and needed some time during the game to remember his preparation. Carlsen praised his opponent for his perfect defense, as both players found the best moves while avoiding the mistakes that were waiting to be made in the extremely sharp position. In the final position, Carlsen had a queen for his opponent's two rooks and the game ended with a threefold repetition.

1.d4 Nf6  
2.c4 g6  
3.Nc3 d5

4.cxd5 Nxd5  
5.e4 Nxc3  
6.bxc3 Bg7  
7.Qa4+

[Magnus chooses a sideline in the hopes of avoiding Nepo's deep preparation in the main lines.]

7. Nd7  
8.Nf3 c5  
9.Be2 0-0  
10.0-0 Nb6

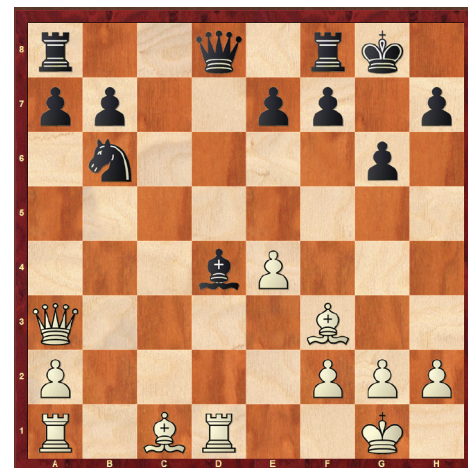
[Previously, in a game against Riazantsev in the World Rapid Championship in Berlin in 2015, Nepo had essayed 10...a6 11.Qa3 Qc7 12.e5 b6 13.Bg5 Re8 14.h4 Bb7 15.h5 b5 and won after 48 moves in a wild affair.]

11.Qa3 cxd4  
12.cxd4 Bg4  
13.Rd1 Bxf3  
14.Bxf3

GM M.CARLSEN // AUSTIN FULLER

[A new move by Magnus, thinking maybe he had surprised his opponent. Instead, Nepo returned to the board, wrote down the move, instantly whipped out his next move and got up and walked away!]

14. Bxd4



[The most principled but at first glance dangerous reply. For a pawn, Black walks into a pin that seems potentially exploitable. Unfortunately for White, Black has a simple way to resolve the tension. But more on that later!]

**15.e5!**

[An exciting follow-up by Magnus, as he has to fight for the initiative to prove the credibility of his sacrifice.]

**15. Nc4**

[Played after a long think. The main alternative was 15...Bxa1 16.Rxd8 Rfxd8, but 17.e6! looks scary. White looks to denude the king's shield in order to use his queen and two bishops to harass the Black monarch.]

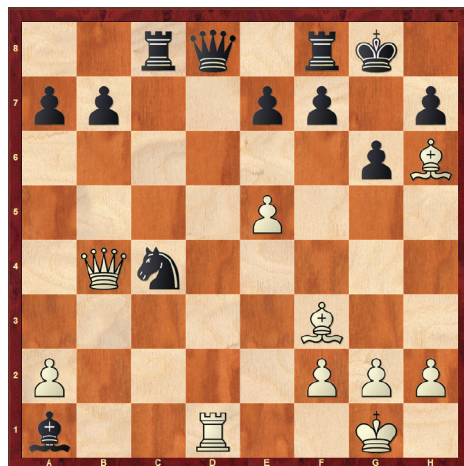
**16.Qb4 Rc8**

[Black could have upped the ante with 16...b5 when White cannot grab the rook on a8 due to 17.Bxa8? (17.Rb1 was better.) 17...Bxf2+!! 18.Kxf2 Qxd1 19.Bf3 Qd4+ winning.]

**17.Bh6**

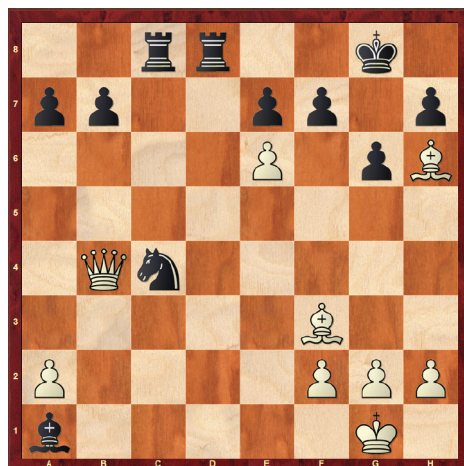
[A move that simplifies Black's task, though maybe he had nothing better. During the telecast, we were analyzing 17.e6!? fxe6 18.Bh6 Rxf3! gxf3 when a move such as 19...Qd7? will lose to 20.Rac1 b5 21.Rxd4! Qxd4 22.Qxe7 Qe5 23. f4!(Seirawan) and Black cannot guard both e6 and g7. However, the simple, counterintuitive and instructive 19...Kf7! protects the e-pawns and keeps Black well covered for generating counterplay without any real problems.]

**17. Bxa1!**



[This is the bailout move mentioned earlier. Just when White seemed to be ramping up the pressure, Black creates a two-rook vs Queen imbalance that he will hold with just a little effort.]

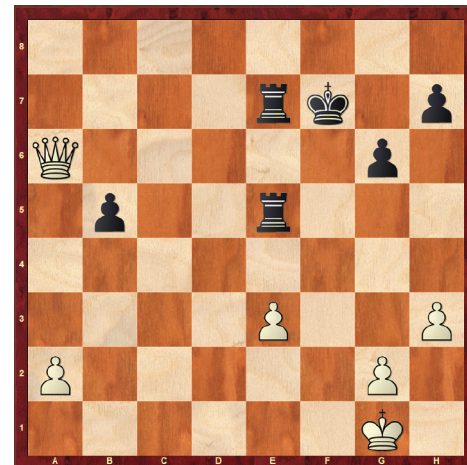
**18.Rxd8 Rfxd8  
19.e6**



[The last gasp to create some fire, but it turns out to be just smoke.]

**19...Ne5  
20.exf7+ Nxf7  
21.Be3 Bd4!  
22.Qxe7 Re8  
23.Qa3 b6  
24.Bd5 Rc5  
25.Bxf7+ Kxf7  
26.Qxa7+ Re7  
27.Qa6 b5**

**28.h3 Bxe3  
29.fxe3 Rce5**



**30.Qb6 R7e6  
31.Qb7+ Re7  
32.Qb6 R7e6  
33.Qb7+ Re7  
34.Qb6**

[Magnus admitted after the game to being very frustrated as he came in with what he thought would be a fresh novelty only to see it neutralized by his opponent without too much suffering. That makes seven games now where the World Champion has failed to draw blood. With only four games left, he is quickly running out of time.]

1/2-1/2

# DING LIREN VS VISWANATHAN ANAND

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

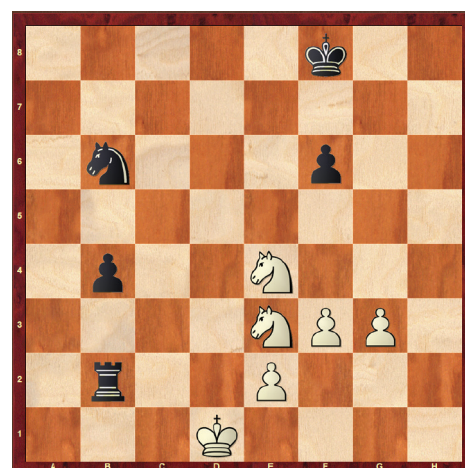


LIREN VS. ANAND // AUSTIN FULLER

Trouble began for Ding in the middlegame around move 17 when he allowed Anand's rook to enter the game with a rook lift, and continued two moves later when he grabbed a dubious pawn. The former World Champion was at a crossroads: he could either grab material or choose the more unclear way of continuing the attack, the option which the engines preferred. He chose the former but missed another opportunity to finish his opponent off in a tactical manner, instead entering an exchange up endgame. As the game progressed, the evaluation of the position kept changing until Anand's advantage completely slipped away from him. On move 44, Anand had his final chance with a study-like win, but it was impossible for a human to find over the board. Ding certainly earned his half a point through tenacious defense.

- 28.Bg3 Qc4
- 29.Qxc4 dxc4
- 30.Ng5 Nf6
- 31.Na3 Bxg3
- 32.hxg3 Ra8
- 33.Nxc4 Rxa4
- 34.Nxe3 Rxd4
- 35.Kf2 Nd5
- 36.Nf5 Rb4
- 37.h5 Rxb2
- 38.h6 f6
- 39.Ne4 gxh6
- 40.Nxh6+ Kf8
- 41.Nf5 b5
- 42.Ne3 Nb6
- 43.Ke1 b4
- 44.Kd1 Na4

- 11.Ne1 Re8
- 12.Nd3 e5
- 13.cxd5 e4
- 14.Nf4 cxd5
- 15.Nb5 Bb8
- 16.Rac1 Ra6
- 17.Bh3 Rc6
- 18.Qb3 Nb6
- 19.Bxa5 Bxh3



- 45.Nd5 f5
- 46.Nd2 b3
- 47.e4 fxe4
- 48.fxe4 Kf7
- 49.g4 Nc5
- 50.Nb4 Ke6
- 51.Kc1 Na4
- 52.g5 Ke7
- 53.Nc6+ Kf7
- 54.Nd4 Kg6
- 55.N4xb3 Ra2
- 56.Nf3 Nc3
- 57.Nbd2 Rxd2
- 58.Kxd2 Nxe4+
- 59.Ke3 Nxg5
- 60.Nxg5



- 20.Nxh3 Qc8
- 21.Kg2 Rxc1
- 22.Rxc1 Qxc1
- 23.Bxb6 e3
- 24.f3 h5
- 25.Ba5 h4
- 26.gxh4 Qc6
- 27.Be1 Nh5

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.g3 Bb4+
- 4.Bd2 Be7
- 5.Bg2 d5
- 6.Nf3 0-0
- 7.0-0 Nbd7
- 8.Qc2 c6
- 9.a4 a5
- 10.Na3 Bd3

1/2-1/2

# ANISH GIRI VS FABIANO CARUANA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

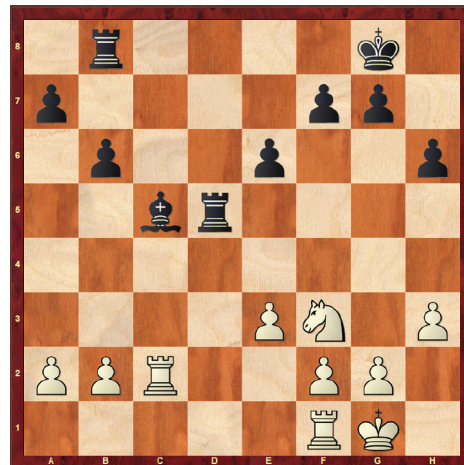


GM F. CARUANA // CRYSTAL FULLER

Caruana maintained his tie for first by drawing comfortably with the black pieces. He essayed the topical variation of 6...b6 against the 5.Bf4 line of the Queen's Gambit declined, achieving equality out of the opening. The players reached a double rook endgame where Black had a bishop against a knight. Caruana tried to press for some time but was unable to create any realistic winning chances. The game ended in 50 moves with the bare kings left on the board.

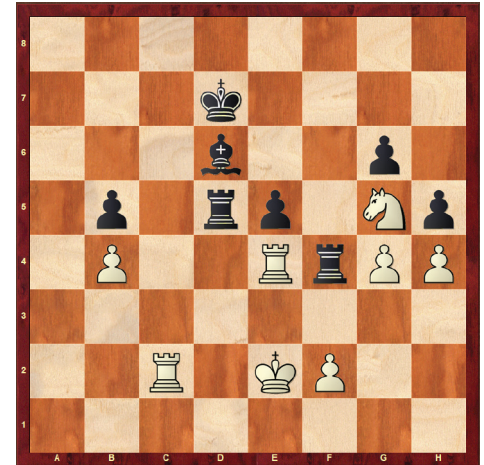
1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	e6
3.Nf3	d5
4.Nc3	Be7
5.Bf4	0-0
6.e3	b6
7.Bd3	dx4
8.Bxc4	Ba6
9.Qe2	Qc8
10.0-0	Bxc4
11.Qxc4	c5
12.dxc5	Qxc5
13.Qxc5	Bxc5
14.Rac1	Rd8
15.h3	h6
16.Bxb8	Raxb8
17.Rc2	Nd5

18.Nxd5 Rxd5



19.Rfc1	a5
20.Kf1	f5
21.Ke2	Kf7
22.Rc4	Rbd8
23.g4	g6
24.h4	e5
25.e4	fxe4
26.Rxe4	Ke6
27.a3	Rf8
28.Rc3	h5
29.Rc2	b5
30.b4	axb4
31.axb4	Bd6
32.Ng5+	Kd7
33.Nh7	Rf7

34.Ng5 Rf4



35.gxh5	gxh5
36.Rxf4	exf4
37.Ne4	Be7
38.Kf3	Bxh4
39.Nc3	Rf5
40.Ke4	Ke6
41.Ra2	Re5+
42.Kxf4	Rf5+
43.Ke4	Rxf2
44.Rxf2	Bxf2
45.Kf3	Bd4
46.Nxb5	Kd5
47.Nxd4	Kxd4
48.Kg3	Kc4
49.Kh4	Kxb4
50.Kxh5	

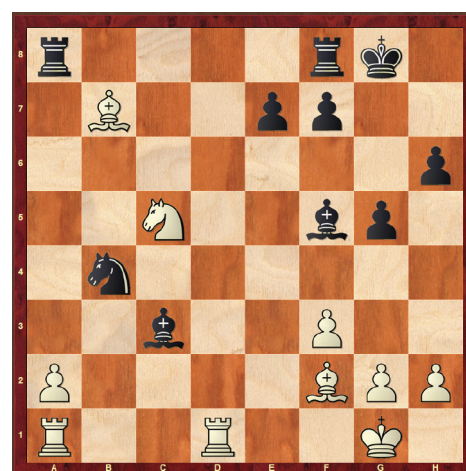
1/2-1/2

# LEVON ARONIAN VS HIKARU NAKAMURA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



ARONIAN VS. NAKAMURA // AUSTIN FULLER



In the postgame interview, Nakamura gave some insight about his game. In the Dragondorf, Nakamura felt that his play was logical and was able to successfully make the d5 idea work, which is the dream of every Sicilian player. There was an interesting imbalance in the resulting endgame, as White had a 3 vs 2 pawn majority on the queenside with Black having a 4 vs 3 majority on the kingside. In these type of pawn structures it is usually easier for White to create a passed pawn, and Aronian's passed a pawn looked dangerous at first sight. Nakamura was able to consolidate, exchanging a pair of bishops tactically and blockading the pawn. The game ended shortly after the players entered an opposite colored bishops endgame.

- 1.e4 c5
- 2.Nf3 d6
- 3.d4 cxd4
- 4.Nxd4 Nf6
- 5.Nc3 a6
- 6.Be2 g6
- 7.0-0 Bg7
- 8.Re1 0-0
- 9.Bf1 Nc6
- 10.Nb3 b5

- 11.Bg5 h6
- 12.Bh4 g5
- 13.Bg3 Bg4
- 14.f3 Be6



- 15.Bf2 d5
- 16.exd5 Nxd5
- 17.Nxd5 Qxd5
- 18.c3 b4
- 19.Nc5 Qxd1
- 20.Rexd1 bxc3
- 21.bxc3 Bf5
- 22.Bxa6 Bxc3
- 23.Bb7 Nb4

- 24.Bxa8 Rxa8
- 25.a4 Bxa1
- 26.Rxa1 f6
- 27.a5 Bc8
- 28.h3 Kf7
- 29.Rb1 Na6
- 30.Ne4 Rb8
- 31.Rc1 Bd7
- 32.Bd4 h5
- 33.Bb6 Rc8
- 34.Rxc8 Bxc8
- 35.Nc5 Nxc5
- 36.Bxc5 h4
- 37.Bb4 Ba6
- 38.Bc5 Bc8
- 39.Bb4 Ba6
- 40.Bc5 Bc8

1/2-1/2

# MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE VS SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

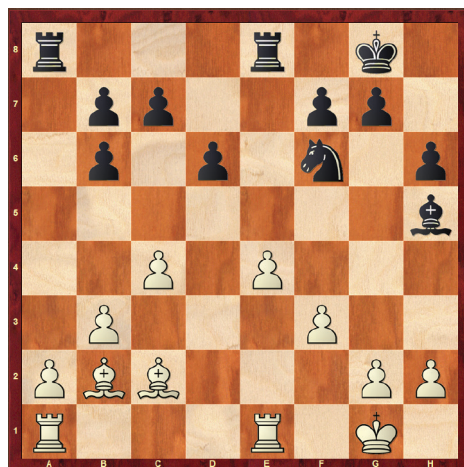


VACHIER-LAGRAVE VS. MAMEDYAROV // JUSTIN KELLAR

Yesterday after his game, Vachier-Lagrave mentioned that he has some opening ideas that he would like to showcase on the board. The two players have faced off in the Giuoco Piano many times before, and this game was no different. Mamedyarov deviated from their game played at the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz on move 10, allowing his opponent to grab the bishop pair. Vachier-Lagrave's play looked logical as he traded the queens, grabbed the center, and developed his dark squared bishop on the long diagonal. After trying to expand on the kingside, he relieved the pressure too quickly by exchanging the pawns on g5, thus allowing his opponent's knight to land on e5 and the pawn on f6, forever blocking White's dark squared bishop. Due to the no draw offer rule, the players resorted to a strange repetition to end the game in a draw.

1.e4 e5  
 2.Nf3 Nc6  
 3.Bc4 Bc5  
 4.c3 Nf6  
 5.d3 d6

6.0-0 h6  
 7.Re1 0-0  
 8.Nbd2 Ne7  
 9.d4 Bb6  
 10.Bb3 Nc6  
 11.Nc4 exd4  
 12.Nxb6 axb6  
 13.Nxd4 Re8  
 14.Bc2 Bg4  
 15.f3 Bh5  
 16.c4 Nxd4  
 17.Qxd4 Nd7  
 18.b3 Qf6  
 19.Qxf6 Nxf6  
 20.Bb2 Nd7



21.g4 Bg6  
 22.Kf2 Bh7

23.h4 g5  
 24.hxg5 hxg5  
 25.Rh1 Ne5



26.Kg3 Kg7  
 27.a4 f6  
 28.Bc3 Bg6  
 29.Rh2 Rf8  
 30.Rah1 Rfe8  
 31.Ra1 Rf8  
 32.Rah1 Rfe8  
 33.Ra1 Rf8

# WESLEY SO VS SERGEY KARJAKIN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM S. KARJAKIN // AUSTIN FULLER

In the 5.Bf4 line of the Queen’s Gambit Declined, Karjakin played the same topical line of 6...b6 that Caruana was playing, following the game between Grischuk and So from the Moscow Grand Prix from May of this year until move 17. In the position they reached, So had the bishop pair against a bishop and knight, but Karjakin didn’t have any difficulties neutralizing the bishops. The game ended in a draw in an opposite colored bishop endgame.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.Nf3 d5
- 3.c4 e6
- 4.Nc3 Be7
- 5.Bf4 0-0
- 6.e3 b6
- 7.cxd5 Nxd5
- 8.Nxd5 Qxd5
- 9.Be2 Qa5+
- 10.Nd2 Ba6
- 11.0-0 c5
- 12.Nc4 Bxc4
- 13.Bxc4 cxd4
- 14.exd4 Nc6
- 15.d5 exd5
- 16.Qxd5 Qxd5
- 17.Bxd5 Rac8



- 19.Rab1 Nd4
- 20.Kf1 Rfe8
- 21.g3 Rc5
- 22.Bg2 Ne6
- 23.Be3 Rc2
- 24.Rd7 Re7
- 25.Rxe7 Bxe7
- 26.Be4 Rc7
- 27.Rc1 Bc5
- 28.Bd2 Rd7
- 29.Be1 a5
- 30.a3 g6
- 31.b4 axb4
- 32.axb4 Be7
- 33.Rc8+ Kg7
- 34.Rc6 Rd1



- 36.Rxe6 fxe6
- 37.Bc3 Bf6
- 38.Bxd4 Bxd4
- 39.Bc2 Kf6
- 40.Be4 Kg7
- 41.Bd3 Kf6
- 42.Be4 Kg7

1/2-1/2





GM WESLEY SO // AUSTIN FULLER



GM F. CARUANA // AUSTIN FULLER



GM S. KARJAKIN AND GM W. SO // LENNART OOTES



# CURRENT STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND 7



POS.	PLAYER	ROUND 7 RESULT	SCORE
T-1	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND	1/2	4 PTS
T-1	GM FABIANO CARUANA	1/2	4 PTS
T-1	GM DING LIREN	1/2	4 PTS
T-4	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN	1/2	3 1/2 PTS
T-4	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI	1/2	3 1/2 PTS
T-4	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE	1/2	3 1/2 PTS
T-4	GM S. MAMEDYAROV	1/2	3 1/2 PTS
T-4	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN	1/2	3 1/2 PTS
T-4	GM WESLEY SO	1/2	3 1/2 PTS
T-10	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA	1/2	3 PTS
T-10	GM LEVON ARONIAN	1/2	3 PTS
T-10	GM ANISH GIRI	1/2	3 PTS



# PLAYER MATCHUPS

#GrandChessTour

ROUND 8



WHITE	PLAYER	VS	PLAYER	BLACK
	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN		GM DING LIREN	
	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI		GM LEVON ARONIAN	
	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA		GM WESLEY SO	
	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN		GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE	
	GM SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV		GM ANISH GIRI	
	GM FABIANO CARUANA		GM VISWANATHAN ANAND	

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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

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

\*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.