

## (2) Anand,Viswanathan (2811) - Carlsen,Magnus (2826) [D85]

6th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (7), 23.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙e3 c5 8.♞d2 cxd4 9.cxd4 ♘c6 10.♞d1 0-0 11.♘f3 ♙g4 12.♙e2 ♞c8 13.0-0 ♞a5 14.h3 ♙xf3 15.♙xf3 ♞xd2 16.♞xd2 ♘a5 The simple plan of bringing the knight to c4 offers Black good counterplay- Avrukh, the Grandmaster Repertoire 9, page 142. 17.e5N Anand deviates from the 17.Bg5, as was played previously in all three games that reached this position. [17.♙g5 ♘c4 18.♞d3 ... ½-½ Melkumyan,H (2582)-Areshchenko,A (2670)/Rijeka 2010. ] 17...♘c4 It feels natural to exchange one of the White's bishops. 18.♞d3 ♘xe3 19.fxe3 ♞c7= 20.♙e4 [One attempt to complicate the position could be to attack Black's pawns on the queenside 20.a4 b6 21.a5 bxa5 22.♞a1 However Black can counter-attack White's pawn weaknesses. 22...♞fc8 23.♞xa5 ♞c3 24.♞xc3 ♞xc3 25.♞xa7 ♙h6!=] 20...♞fc8 21.♞b3 b6 22.♙f2 f6 23.exf6 ♙xf6 24.♙e2 ♙g7 25.♞d1 ♞c3 26.♞d3 ♞c2+ 27.♞d2 ♞c3 28.♞d3 ♞c2+ 29.♞d2 ♞c3 ½-½

## (3) Anand,Viswanathan (2811) - Nepomniachtchi,Ian (2730) [D97]

6th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (3), 18.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.♞b3 dxc4 6.♞xc4 0-0 7.e4 a6 This move is a most popular choice. Avrukh in his book recommends 7...Nc6 as a viable alternative to the more common lines. 8.♙e2 b5 9.♞b3 ♘c6 It was very interesting listening to Sutovsky's comments on the tournament website. At this moment he predicted that Black on the next move can offer three pieces for a queen. The acceptance may lead to very complicated and unbalanced position with mutual chances. Some players prefer to have a piece play, when the others, including computers like to keep the queen. 10.e5 ♙e6 11.♞d1 [The World Champion agrees with the computer's assessment and prefers to keep his queen on the board. The alternative 11.exf6 ♙xb3 12.fxg7 ♙xg7 13.axb3 ♘xd4 14.♘xd4 ♞xd4 15.0-0 ♞b4 is unclear.] 11...♘d5 12.0-0 ♘xc3 13.bxc3 ♙d5 14.♙e3 ♘a5 15.♘d2 c5 It looks like Black managed to solve his opening problems and now equalises comfortably. 16.♙f3 cxd4 17.cxd4 ♘c4 18.♘xc4 bxc4 19.♞c1 e6 20.♞a4 ♙xf3 21.gxf3 ♞d5 22.♞xc4 ♞xf3 23.♞fc1 ♞g4+ 24.♙h1 ♞e4+ 25.♙g1 ♞g4+ 26.♙h1 ♞e4+ 27.♙g1 ½-½

## (4) Aronian,Levon (2802) - Svidler,Peter (2755) [D93]

6th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (8), 24.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♙f4 ♙g7 5.e3 c5 6.dxc5 ♞a5 7.♞c1 dxc4 8.♙xc4 0-0 9.♘f3 ♞xc5 10.♙b3 ♘c6 11.0-0 ♞a5 12.h3 ♙f5 13.♞e2 ♘e4 14.♘xe4 ♙xe4 15.♞fd1 ♞h5 16.♙c2 [16.♞d7 given as a main line by Avrukh. 16...♞ac8!] 16...♙xc2 [I was very surprised to find on the page 217 in Avrukh's book the quote to my own game. 16...♙xf3 this well-timed exchange completely solves Black's opening problems, according to Avrukh. 17.♞xf3 ♞xf3 18.gxf3 ♞ad8 19.♙e4 ♙xb2 20.♞xd8 ♞xd8 21.♞c2 ♙a3 22.♙xc6 bxc6 23.♞xc6 f6 24.e4 a5 ½-½ Portisch,L (2595)-Arakhamia Grant,K (2420)/Roquebrune 1998. However in his comments after the game Aronian points out that Svidler played all the right moves until maybe move 19.] 17.♞xc2 ♞b5 18.a4 ♞b4 19.♘e1 e5 20.♙g3 ♞fd8 21.♘d3 ♞e7 22.♞c5 ♞d6 Aronian describes this move as overly ambitious. He is suggesting instead 22...f6, first restricting white's bishop and maybe exchanging queens on c5 next. 23.b4 ♞ad8 24.b5 ♞d5 25.♞c2 e4 [Maybe it was better to play 25...♘a5 26.e4 ♞d4 27.♘b2 b6= (27...♙b6 28.♞xd4 exd4=) ] 26.♘f4± ♞xd1+ 27.♞xd1 ♞xd1+ 28.♞xd1 ♘b4 29.♞c1 ♙f6 30.♞c8+ ♙g7 31.♞b8 a6 32.b6 [32.♘g6?! ♙xg6 33.♙d6 ♞d8 34.♞xd8 ♙xd8 35.♙xb4 axb5 36.axb5 ♙f5 37.♙f1 ♙e6 38.♙e2 ♘d5 39.♘d2 ♘c4 40.♙d6 ♙xb5] 32...♘c6 33.♞c8 h5 34.♘e2 ♘d8 35.♙c7 ♞e6 36.♞b8 ♞d7 [36...♞a2! 37.♘f4 ♞xa4 38.♙xd8 ♞d1+ 39.♙h2 ♙xd8 40.♞xb7 ♞d6=] 37.♙e5 ♘e6 38.♘c3 ♞c6 39.a5 h4 40.♙xf6+ ♙xf6 41.♞h8+ ♙f5 42.♞xh4 ♞xc3 43.g4+ ♙e5 44.♞h8+ f6 45.♞b8+ ♘d5 46.♞xb7+ ♞c6 47.♞b8 ♘c5 48.♞g8+ ♞e6 49.♞xg6 ♘c4 50.h4 ♘d3 51.h5 ♙e2 52.h6 ♞c4 53.h7 ♙e1 54.♞xf6 1-0

## (5) Banikas,Hristos (2620) - Caruana,Fabiano (2727) [D85]

18th European Teams Porto Carras GRE (9.8), 11.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.e4 ♘xc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.♙e3 ♞a5 9.♞d2 ♘c6 10.♞b1 a6

**11.♞c1 ♖g4 12.d5 ♜d8 13.♙e2 0–0 14.0–0 e6** [Avrukh believes that move to be inferior to the recommended by him in the Grandmaster Repertoire 9 14...♙xf3 15.♙xf3 e6] **15.♞fd1** [The point is that White has a strong reply here 15.♙g5 GR 9, p.119, 15...f6 (in case of 15...♞d7 16.♞f4 ♙xf3 White has an intermediate capture 17.dxc6!) 16.♙f4 and White has a better chances.] **15...♙xf3 16.♙xf3 exd5 17.exd5 ♖e5** Now games transposes into a variation given by Avrukh on page 120. **18.♙e2 c4** According to Avrukh that move gives Black a good play. **19.♞b1 b5 20.a4 ♖d3 21.axb5 axb5 22.♙xd3** Draw was agreed as the following exchanges lead to more simplifications and equality. ½–½

### (6) Braun,Arik (2560) - Naumann,Alexander (2546) [D98]

Schachbundesliga 2011–12 Muelheim GER (2.7), 15.10.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

**1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖c3 d5 4.♖f3 ♙g7 5.♞b3 dxc4 6.♞xc4 0–0 7.e4 ♖c6 8.♙e2** In the Grandmaster Repertoire 8, Avrukh discusses this line in a chapter number 28! **8...♙g4 9.♙e3 ♙xf3 10.gxf3 e5 11.dxe5 ♖xe5 12.♞b5 ♖h5 13.♞d1 ♞h4 14.♞xb7 ♞ab8** [Attacking the queen is a good option, but looks like Avrukh's recommendation on page 330 is even stronger 14...♖f4! 15.♙xf4 ♞xf4 16.♞d5 ♞ab8 17.♞d2 ♖xf3+ 18.♙xf3 ♞xf3 19.0–0 ♙e5–+; 14...♞h3 15.♞xc7 ♖xf3+ 16.♙xf3 ♞xf3 17.0–0 ♞ae8 18.♞d7 ♖f6 19.♞d3 ♞g4+ 20.♖h1 ♞f3+ 21.♖g1 ½–½ Kaufman,L (2427)-Winer,S (2306)/Washington DC 1999.] **15.♞xc7 ♞xb2 16.♖d5 h6?!** [Black missed the opportunity to get the overwhelming advantage with 16...♞h3 17.f4 ♖g3!–+] **17.♞d2** White now is in time to neutralise Black's initiative **17...♞b1+** [Black could try to play on with 17...♞h3 but he does not have sufficient resources to carry out successful attack. 18.♞xb2 ♖xf3+ 19.♙xf3 ♞xf3 20.♞b4 ♞xh1+ 21.♖e2=] **18.♞d1 ♞b2 19.♞d2 ♞b1+ 20.♞d1 ♞b2 21.♞d2 ♞b1+ ½–½**

### (7) Carlsen,Magnus (2826) - Nepomniachtchi,Ian (2730) [B52]

6th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (8), 24.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.♙b5+ ♙d7 4.♙xd7+ ♞xd7 5.c4** Experts on Anti- Sicilian p.122, 142. Commentating after the game Carlsen mentioned that he did not get anything special out of opening. **5...♖c6** Greet considers 5...Nf6 to be the more accurate move order. **6.d4 cxd4 7.♖xd4 g6 8.♖c3 ♙g7 9.♙e3 ♖f6 10.h3** This way White avoids Agdestein's move discussed on p.142. [10.f3] **10...0–0 11.0–0 a6** [11...♞fc8 12.b3 a6 13.♖d5 ♖xd5 14.exd5 ♖xd4 15.♙xd4 ♙xd4 16.♞xd4 b5 17.♞fe1 bxc4 18.bxc4 ♞c7 19.♞h4 ♞ac8 20.♞e4 ♞f5 21.♞ae1 ♞f6 22.♞g4 h5 23.♞e2 ♞c3 24.♞xe7 ♞xc4 25.♞e3 ♞f6 26.♞f3 ♞f4 27.♞e2 ♖g7 28.g3 ♞f5 29.h4 ♞c5 30.♞d3 ♞e5 31.♞d2 ♞xe1+ 32.♞xe1 ♞c2 33.a3 ♞f5 34.♞d4 ♞f3 35.a4 ♞e2 36.♞f1 ♞a2 37.♞e1 a5 38.♞f4 ♞xd5 39.♞c3+ ♖g8 40.♞d4 ♞e5 41.♖g2 ♖g7 42.♞c4 ♞a1 43.♞f4 d5 44.♞a6 ♞d1 45.♞a7 ♞e6 46.♖h2 d4 47.♞xd4 ♞f1 48.♖g2 ♞a1 49.♞xa5 ♞c6+ 50.♞d5 ♞xd5+ ½–½ Howell,D (2611)-Anand,V (2804)/London 2010.] **12.a4 ♞fc8** More often Black develops the a8-rook on c8. **13.b3 e6 14.♞c1 d5 15.♖xc6 bxc6 16.e5 ♖e8 17.f4** [White has an interesting resource 17.a5!? sacrificing a pawn and hoping to win an exchange in return. 17...♙xe5 Black has to accept the pawn, otherwise he will be struggling for space. 18.♖a4 d4 (18...♙c7 19.♖b6 ♞d6 20.f4 ♙xb6 21.axb6 ♞e7 22.c5 The strong passed pawn and weakened dark squares around Black's king guarantee compensation for the pawn, perhaps more.) 19.♖b6 ♞d8 20.♙d2 c5 21.♖xa8 ♞xa8 22.b4 cxb4 23.♙xb4 Black definitely has some play for the exchange but it will take time to coordinate his pieces. White must play precisely but it seems to me that White's position is preferable. ] **17...a5 18.♖e4 ♙f8 19.♞f3 ♞d8 20.♖c5 ♞cb8 21.♙f2 ♖c7 22.♞e2 ♞b4 23.♖h2 ♙e7 24.♞c2 ♞f8 25.♖d7 ♞d8 26.♖c5 ♞f8 27.cxd5 ♖xd5 28.g3 ♞c8 29.♙e1 ♞b6 30.♞c4 ♞ab8 31.♞d1 ♙xc5 32.♞xc5 ♞f8 33.♞c2 ♖b4 34.♙xb4 ♞xb4 35.♞xa5=** [White can try taking a different pawn 35.♞xc6± ♞d4 36.♞c5 ♞d2+ 37.♖g1 ♞d8! (37...♞xc5+ 38.♞xc5 ♞b2) 38.♞d6 ♞e7 39.♞c3 ♞b2 40.♞c6 ♞d8 Black has sufficient recourses to hold the position.] **35...♞d8 36.♞c5 ♞xb3 37.♞xb3 ♞xb3 38.♞xb3 ♞d2+ 39.♖h1 ♞e1+ 40.♖g2 ♞e2+ ½–½**

### (8) Carlsen,Magnus (2826) - Svidler,Peter (2755) [D87]

6th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (6), 22.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

**1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♖xd5 5.e4 ♖xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙c4 c5 8.♖e2 ♖c6 9.♙e3 0–0 10.0–0** In this position Avrukh, The Grandmaster Repertoire 9, page 212, recommends two main options for Black 10...Bg4 and the

little-explored line 10...Qc7 11.Rc1 b6. **10...b6** Despite been played very rarely, this continuation came to the attention after being employed by Anand in his World Championship match against Topalov in 2010. Next time it was Grischuk who tried it against Aronian in the Candidates matches, 2011. Since Grischuk and Svidler are good friends it is safe to suggest that this variation would have been analysed by them in depth. **11.dxc5** The most principled reply. Topalov choice was less committal 11.Qd2. **11...♞c7 12.f4N** [Carlsen accepts the challenge and deviates early with his own novelty. The other above mentioned game continued 12.♘d4 ♘e5 13.♘b5 ♞b8 14.♙e2 bxc5 15.f4 ♘g4 16.♙xc5 a6 17.♘a3 ♞c7 18.♙d4 e5! 19.fxe5 ♘xe5∞ After an intense battle the opponents shared a point on move 70, Aronian,L (2808)-Grischuk,A (2747)/Kazan 2011] **12...bxc5 13.♞b1 ♞d8 14.♞a4 ♘a5** [Also possible is 14...♙d7 15.♞b5 (15.♞a6 ♘a5 16.♙d5 ♞ab8 17.f5 ♞xb1 18.♞xb1 ♙c8) 15...♘d4 16.cxd4 ♙xb5 17.♙xb5 cxd4 18.♞c1 ♞b7] **15.♙d5 ♙d7** [Deserves attention 15...♙a6 16.♞fe1 (16.c4 ♞xd5 17.exd5 ♘xc4 18.♞xa6 ♘xe3 19.♞fc1 ♘xd5∞) 16...♞ab8 17.♞xb8 ♞xb8 18.f5 ♙b5 19.♞c2 ♘c4 20.♙f4 ♙e5] **16.♞a3 ♞ac8 17.f5 e6 18.♙f4 ♙e5 19.fxe6** [White had an interesting alternative to sacrifice a piece with 19.♙xe6!? fxe6 (19...♙xf4 20.♙xf7+ ♘xf7 21.fxg6+ ♘g7 22.♘xf4 ♞f8 23.♘d5+-) 20.fxg6 In my analyses after the accurate defence Black can equalise, but maybe there is an improvement for White or both sides. Anyway somehow intuitively I feel that White's position is very promising. (Although obviously Carlsen is not sharing this opinion since in the game he retreated with his bishop.) 20...♘c4 is the best defence (20...hxg6 21.♙xe5 ♞xe5 22.♞xa5±; 20...♙xf4 21.gxh7+ ♘xb7 22.♘xf4 ♘c4 23.♞c1 White queen gets quickly sent to the kingside where black king is feeling rather vulnerable without the pawn cover. Black pieces are helpless against White's attack. For example 23...♞g8 24.♞f3 ♞e5 25.♞b3+ ♘g7 26.♘d3 ♞f6 27.♞b7+-; 20...♙c6 21.gxh7+ ♞xb7 22.♘g3 ♙xf4 23.♞xf4 ♘b7 24.♞b3 ♞e8 25.♞bf1+- White mobilises all his forces to achieve the overwhelming attack on the kingside.) 21.♞a6 (21.gxh7+ ♘h8 22.♞a6 ♘b6) 21...♙xf4 (21...♞f8 22.♞b7 ♞c6 23.gxh7+ ♘h8 24.♞xc4 ♞xf4 25.♘xf4 ♙xf4 26.♞bb1±; 21...♘b6 22.♞d3±) 22.♘xf4 ♘e5 23.gxh7+ (23.♘xe6 ♙xe6 24.♞xe6+ ♘h8 25.gxh7 ♞e8 26.♞f6+ ♞g7 27.♞xg7+ ♘xg7 28.♞b7+ ♘h8=) 23...♘h8 24.♞e2 ♞b8 25.♞h5 (The idea of keeping more pieces on the board with 25.♞bc1 looks a bit too slow, but probably is not so bad, but still after 25...c4!? 26.♞h5 ♙e8 27.♞g5 ♙f7 Black holds the position.) 25...♞xb1 26.♞xb1 ♙e8 27.♞g5 ♙f7 28.♞f1 ♘xb7 Unfortunately I can't find anything more that to take the perpetual with 29.♘xe6 ♙xe6 30.♞h4+ ♘g8 31.♞g5+ ♘h7=] **19...fxe6 20.♙b3 ♘b3 21.axb3 ♞f8 22.♞c1 c4 23.b4 ♞b6+ 24.♘h1 ♙g7** Black keeps two bishops and has a comfortable position. **25.e5 ♙c6 26.♘d4 ♙d5 27.♞a1 ♞b7 28.♞c2 ♞c7 29.♙g3 ♞cf7 30.♞xf7 ♞xf7 31.♞e2 g5 32.h3 h5 33.♘g1 h4 34.♙h2 ♞g6 35.♞d1 g4** Feels like Black is overextending. White's resources should not be underestimated, especially when it is Carlsen who plays with white pieces. At this tournament we had few opportunities to witness his incredible resilience and creativity, just think of his game against Kramnik! **36.hxg4 ♞g5 37.♘f5! exf5** [After 37...h3 Black does not achieve much when White replies correctly 38.♞d4 with the idea to play Bf4 (38.♘xg7 ♞xg7 39.♞xd5 exd5 40.gxh3 ♞g6 Black is winning due to an exposed situation of White's king and awkwardly placed bishop on h2.) 38...exf5 (38...hxg2 39.♙f4 ♞d8 40.♞xd5! exd5 41.e6±) 39.♞xd5 fxg4 40.♙g3!]=] **38.♞xd5 fxg4 39.♘h1 h3 40.gxh3 gxh3 41.♞d4 [41.♞d1] 41...♞c1+ 42.♞d1 ♞xc3 43.e6 ♞b2 44.♞e4 ♞g2+ 45.♞xg2 hxg2+ 46.♘xg2 ♞e8 47.♞d6 ♙f8 48.♞c6 ♙xb4 49.♞xc4 a5 50.♞c6 ♘g7 51.♘f3 ♘f6 52.♘e4 ♞xc6+ 53.♙e5+ ♘f7 ½-½**

### (9) Galyas,Miklos (2458) - Naumann,Alexander (2546) [D90]

Schachbundesliga 2011–12 Solingen GER (5.6), 11.04.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.♞a4+ ♙d7 6.♞b3 dxc4 7.♞xc4 0-0 8.♙f4 ♘a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 ♙e6** [Avrukh considers only 10...♘h5 in his first volume on page 96, followed by 11.♙e3 cxd4 12.♞xd4 ♙c6 13.♙e2 ♞a5 14.0-0 ♙xf3 (The decision to give the dark squared bishop to win a pawn did not succeed in the following game. Despite losing the game White had an advantage out of the opening. 14...♞fd8 15.♞h4 ♙xe5 16.b4 ♞c7 17.♘xe5 ♞xe5 18.b5 ♞xc3 19.bxc6 ♞xc6 20.♙f3± ♞d6 21.♞ab1 ♞ac8 22.♙xh5 gxh5 23.♞b5 (∩23.♞xb7 f6 24.♞xb5±) 23...h6 24.♞xb7 .... 0-1 Zhukova,N (2443)-Mikhalevski,V (2584)/Aix-les-Bains FRA 2011.) 15.♙xf3 ♙xe5 16.♞d5 ♞xd5 17.♘d5 ♞fe8 18.g4!? This move mentioned by Avrukh as a possible improvement over previously played (18.♞ac1 ... ½-½ Sokolov,I (2695)-Van Wely,L (2654)/Belgium 2003.) ] **11.exf6** [Black has a comfortable play if White decides to keep a queen. 11.♞a4 ♘d5 12.♘d5 ♞xd5 13.♙xa6 bxa6 14.dxc5 ♞xc5 15.0-0 ♞b5] **11...♙xc4 12.fxg7 ♘xg7** [In the only other game that reached this position Black mistakenly captured the bishop on f1 12...♙xf1 13.gxf8♞+ ♞xf8 14.♘xf1 cxd4 15.♘d4 ♞c8 (It is better to play 15...♘c5 16.♘de2 ♘d3 17.h4 but White's chances are still preferable)

16.♖de2 ♖f5 17.♞d1 e5 18.♙e3 ♖b4 19.h4± ... 1-0 Horvath,C (2546)-Flumbort,A (2493)/Budapest HUN 2004.]  
**13.♙xc4 cxd4 14.♞d1 ♖a5** [The move played in the game is stronger than 14...♖b6 suggested by Ftacnik in his analyses of the game Horvath,C-Flumbort,A 15.♙e5+ f6 16.♙xd4 ♖xb2 17.0-0 ♞ac8 18.♞b1↑ Ftacnik] **15.♙e5+** [15.♙xd4 leads to exchange of one pair of rooks but the queen and a pawn still are stronger than three pieces. Black has no weaknesses and his king is safe. 15...♞ad8 16.0-0 ♞xd4 17.♙e5+ f6 18.♙xd4 ♞c8 19.♙e6 ♞d8] **15...f6 16.♙xd4 e5 17.♙e3 ♞fd8 18.0-0 ♖b4 19.a3 ♖c2 20.♙d2 ♖d4 21.♖xd4 ♞xd4 22.♙e2 ♞ad8 23.♙e3** [23.b4!? ♖xa3 24.♖b5 ♖b2 25.♖xd4 ♞xd4 26.♙e3 ♞xd1 27.♙xd1 ♖xb4] 28.♙xa7?! b6 29.♙f3 ♖a5 30.♙b8 b5 31.♞d1 b4-+ 32.♞d7+ ♖h8 33.♙c7 ♖a4 34.♞d6 e4] **23...♞xd1 24.♙xd1 b5 25.♖a2 ♞d2! 26.b4** [26.♙xd2 ♖xd2 27.♖b4 ♖xb2 28.♖c2 a5-+] **26...♖d8 27.♙b3** [27.♙xd2 ♖xd2 28.♙b3 e4 29.♖c1 ♖b2-+] **27...♞d3 28.♖c1 ♞xe3! 29.fxe3 ♖d2-+ 30.♞d1 ♖xe3+ 31.♖f1 e4 32.♙d5 f5 33.♖e2 ♖xa3 34.♙c6 ♖xb4 35.♞d7+ ♖f6 36.♞xa7 e3 37.♞a1 ♖d6 38.♙xb5 ♖xh2 39.♞a3 ♖b8 40.♞b3 h5 41.♙c4 ♖e5 42.♙d3 h4 43.♞b6+ ♖g7 44.♞b4 h3 45.gxh3 ♖d5 46.♖d4 f4 47.♖g1 f3 48.♖xf3 ♖xf3 49.♞b2 ♖xh3 50.♞g2 ♖d7 51.♙c2 ♖d4 52.♖f1 ♖f4+ 53.♖e2 g5 54.♙b3 g4 55.♙e6 ♖f3+ 0-1**

### (10) Gelfand,Boris (2744) - Nepomniachtchi,Ian (2730) [D91]

6th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (5), 20.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

**1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖c3 d5 4.♙g5 ♖e4 5.♙h4 ♖xc3 6.bxc3 dxc4 7.e3 ♙e6 8.♖f3 ♙g7 9.♙e2 0-0 10.0-0 c5 11.♞b1 b6** This continuation was already played by Nepomniachtchi previously, all but in the blitz game, never the less no doubt Gelfand was prepared for it. [The immediate capture on d4 is recommended by Avrukh 11...cxd4 12.♖xd4 ♙d5 13.♖c2 ♖d7 14.♞fd1 ♙xd4 15.cxd4 ♖e6 in a later game White has tried a different plan of preparing to advance his central pawns 16.♖c3 (Gelfand continued 16.♙f3 ♙xf3 17.gxf3 ♖d7 18.♖e4 b6 19.♞dc1 ♞ac8 20.♞b4 c3 21.♞b3 ♖f6 22.♖xe6 fxe6 23.♙xf6 ½-½ Gelfand,B (2733)-Kamsky,G (2732)/Kazan RUS 2011) 16...♖d7 17.f3 ♖b6 18.♞b5 f5 19.♞db1 ♞ac8 20.♙d1 ♖a8 21.♙c2 ♖c7 22.♞a5 a6 23.e4 fxe4 24.fxe4 b5 (I am not sure Black had to give the piece just yet, but also after 24...♖g4 25.♖e1 ♙c6 26.d5 ♙b5 27.♙xe7 White has an advantage.) 25.exd5 ♖g4 (after 25...♖xd5 26.♖e1 ♖b6 27.♞a3 ♖xd4+ may have three pawns for a piece, but White's pair of bishops is very strong in this position. 28.♙f2 ♖f6 29.♙e4±) 26.♙g3 ♖xd5 27.♖d2 c3 28.♖d3 ♞c4 29.♙b3 c2 30.♙xc2 ♞xd4 31.♙d1 ♖f5 32.♖xf5 gxf5 33.♙b3 e6 34.♞xa6 ♞e8 35.♞a7 f4 36.♙f2 ♞d2 37.♞e1 f3 38.♙xd5 1-0 Kazhgaleyev,M (2618)-Vakhidov,J (2348)/Tashkent UZB 2011.] **12.♖g5N** [Previously White tried Qc2 and capture on c5. For example 12.dxc5 ♖d7 13.c6 (In case of 13.cxb6 ♖xb6 14.♖d4 ♙d7 looks like Black equalises.) 13...♖f6 14.♖d4 ♙d5 15.♙f3 ♞c8 16.♙g3 (Deserves attention 16.♙xf6 ♙xf6 17.e4 ♙e6 18.♖xe6 fxe6 19.e5 ♖xd1 20.♞fd1 ♙xe5 21.♞d7 ♞c7 22.♞e1 ♙xc3 23.♞xe6 despite being a pawn down White has some chances in the ending.(or 23.♞c1 ♙e5 24.♞xc4 ♙d6 25.♞a4 a5 26.♞d4) ) 16...♖e4 17.♖b5 (17.c7!? ♖e8 18.♞b4 ♖xg3 19.♙xd5 ♙xd4 20.hxg3 ♙c5 21.♞b1 ♞xc7 22.♙xc4=) 17...♖xg3 (why not to take the c6 pawn 17...♞xc6 18.♖c2 f5 19.♖xa7 ♞c5) 18.hxg3 ♙xf3 19.♖xf3 a6 20.c7 ♖e8 21.♖d4 e5 22.♖c2 e4 23.♖f4 b5 24.♖d4 ♖e5 25.a4 ♖xf4 26.gxf4 ♙xd4 27.exd4 ♞xc7 28.axb5 axb5 29.♞xb5 ♞a8= although White went on to win the game, 1-0 Delchev,A (2625)-Le Roux,J (2512)/France 2010] **12...♙d5 13.e4 ♙b7 14.d5** [Closing the centre looks stronger than entering the complications after 14.♙xc4 cxd4 15.cxd4 h6 16.♖xf7 ♞xf7 17.♖g4 g5 18.♙g3 ♖d7 19.♙xf7+ ♖xf7 20.d5 ♖f6] **14...h6** [The alternative was to take a pawn on c3 and hope to survive White's initiative. 14...♙xc3 15.♙xc4 ♙f6 16.f4 h6 (Reducing the number of pieces on the board doesn't solve all the Black's problems. 16...♙a6 17.♙xa6 ♖xa6 18.e5 ♙xg5 19.♙xg5 ♖d7 20.f5!) 17.♖f3 ♙xh4 18.♖xh4 e6 19.♖f3 exd5 20.exd5 ♖d7 (20...♖d6 21.f5 g5 22.f6!?) 21.♖e5 ♖xe5 22.fxe5 ♖h4 23.♖d3 White has a compensation for a pawn, but Black should be able to hold.] **15.♖f3 g5 16.♙g3 f5 17.exf5 ♖xd5 18.♖a4 ♖xf5 19.♙xc4+ ♖h8 20.♞be1** This is a very interesting position. Black managed to illuminate White's strong pawns centre, but fall behind in development. White's pieces are controlling the centre and Black's king's weakened position offers him good chances for an attack. **20...♖c6** [20...♙c6 21.♙b5 (21.♖b3 ♙xf3 22.♙e6 ♖g6 23.gxf3 ♖c6 24.♙d5) 21...♖d7 22.♖e5 ♙xb5 23.♖e4 ♙c6 24.♖g6+ ♖g8 25.♖xe7+ ♖h8; 20...♙xf3 21.gxf3 ♙f6 22.♞e3 ♖d7 23.♙b5 ♖b7 24.♙d3+] **21.♞e3 ♞ad8** [in case of immediate 21...e5 White starts dangerous attack after 22.♙d3 ♖d7 23.h4±] **22.h4** [Stronger is 22.♙c7!? ♞de8 23.♙e6 ♖g6 24.♞fe1 ♞a8 25.♖g4±] **22...e5** The point here is that White doesn't have Bd3 now and is unable to stop e5-e4. **23.hxg5 e4 24.♖h4** [24.gxh6 ♙xh6 25.♖h4 ♖h7 26.♞fe1 (26.♞e2 ♙g5 and suddenly white knight has nowhere to go.) 26...♙xe3 27.♞xe3] **24...♖xg5 25.♙b5** [Black is fine after 25.♞xe4 ♙xc3 26.♞e6 ♞f6; It was better to exchange the light-square bishops 25.♙a6 ♙xa6 (25...♙a8 is bad because White just takes the e4 pawn with the queen. 26.♖xe4)

26. ♖xa6 ♜f8 27. ♖e2 ♗d5 28. ♜e1] 25... ♖a5 26. ♜f1 c4 Just in a few moves the assessment of the position changed. It is now Black who has an initiative. 27. ♙xc4 ♙c6 28. ♗b4 ♖xc4 [White could find himself in the difficulties after 28... ♜f6 threatening Bf8-c5. The best for White could be to give an exchange now but he would not have sufficient compensation. 29. ♜xe4 ♙xe4 30. ♜xe4 ♙f8 31. ♗b2 ♖xc4 32. ♜xc4 ♙c5] 29. ♗xc4 ♙d5 30. ♗a4 ♜f7 31. ♜xe4 I am not sure if it was already necessary to take such measures, as I don't believe that White has full compensation for an exchange. 31... ♙xe4 32. ♜xe4 ♗d5 33. ♖h2 b5 34. ♗c2 ♗h5 35. c4 bxc4 36. ♜xc4 ♜fd7 37. ♜c5 ♙d5 38. ♜xd5 ♜xd5 39. ♗c8+ ♖h7 40. ♗c2+ ♖g8 41. ♗c8+ ♙f8 42. ♖h3 ♗f7 43. ♗a6 ♙d4 44. ♖h2 ♜b4 45. a4 ♜e4 46. a5 ♜e6 47. ♗c8 a6 48. ♖f3 ♗h5+ 49. ♖g1 ♗e8 50. ♗c4 ♗c6 51. ♗b3 ♙g7 52. ♙f4 ♖h7 53. ♙e3 ♗e4 54. ♙d4 ♜e7 55. ♙xg7 ♜xg7 56. ♗c3 ♗b1+ 57. ♖h2 ♗f5 58. ♖g1 ♙d7 59. ♗e1 ♜b7 60. ♖h2 ♙g7 61. ♖h4 ♗c2 62. ♗e6 ♗c7+ ½-½

### (11) Ivanchuk, Vassily (2775) - Carlsen, Magnus (2826) [D82]

6th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (5), 20.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♖c3 d5 4. ♙f4 ♙g7 5. e3 c5 6. dxc5 ♗a5 7. ♗b3 ♖a6 [According to my database this move has been played only twice before. Avrukh in the Grandmaster Repertoire 8, on page 179, considers 7... dxc4 to be Black's best continuation.] 8. cxd5 ♖xc5 9. ♗b5+ ♗xb5 10. ♙xb5+ ♙d7 11. ♙d1 ♖h5 12. ♙xd7+ ♖xd7 13. ♙g3 [Why not just develop the knight? 13. ♖f3! it is not clear to me if Black has sufficient compensation for a pawn. 13... ♖xf4 14. exf4 ♙xc3+ 15. bxc3 f6 16. ♙d4±] 13... b5! 14. d6 e6 15. ♖f3 b4 16. ♖b5 ♖xg3 17. hxg3 ♜ab8 18. ♖bd4 h5 19. ♜h4 f5 20. ♖e2 e5 [20... ♖e4 21. ♖d2 ♖xd2 22. ♜xd2 ♜hc8] 21. ♜c4 ♜hc8 22. ♖f1 ♖e4 23. ♜c7+ [□23. ♜cc1] 23... ♜xc7 24. dxc7+ ♖xc7 25. ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 26. ♜xd2 a5 27. b3 a4 28. bxa4 ♜a8 29. ♖c1 e4 30. ♖e2 ♜xa4 31. ♖f4 ♙c3 32. ♜c2 ♖d6 33. ♖e2 g5 34. ♖xh5 ♖d5 35. f3 g4 36. ♖f4+ ♖c4 37. ♖e6 ♜a6 38. ♖f4 ♜h6 39. fxg4 fxg4 40. ♜c1 ♜a6 41. ♜c2 ♜h6 42. ♜c1 ♙d6 43. ♜c2 ♜a6 44. ♖f2 ♜h6 45. ♖e2 ♜h1 46. ♖g6 ♜e1+ 47. ♖f2 ♜a1 48. ♖f4 ♜b1 49. ♖e6 ♙d1 50. ♖f4 ♙d6 51. ♖e2 ♜c6 52. ♜c1 ♖b5 53. ♖d5 ♜c5 54. ♖f4 ♜c6 55. ♖d5 ♜c5 56. ♖f4 ♖a4 57. ♖e6 ♙d5 58. ♜c2 ♖a3 59. ♖d4 ♜c5 60. ♖b3 ♙d5 61. ♖d4 ♙xd4 62. ♙d2 ♙c3 63. ♜xd5 ♖xa2 64. ♖d1 b3 65. ♜b5 ♖b2 66. ♜b8 ♙f6 67. ♖d2 ♙c3+ 68. ♖d1 ♙f6 69. ♜f8 ♙c3 70. ♜e8 ♖a2 71. ♜a8+ ♖b1 72. ♜a4 b2 73. ♜a6 ♙a5 74. ♜xa5 ½-½

### (12) Ivanchuk, Vassily (2775) - Svidler, Peter (2755) [D80]

6th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (1), 16.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♖c3 d5 4. e3 Quiet continuation, although in Ivanchuk's hands just as dangerous. 4... ♙g7 5. ♗b3 e6 6. ♗a3 a5 7. ♖f3 ♖c6 [Avrukh is suggesting a different route for a knight via a6. He plays first 7... c6 to defend the a5 pawn.] 8. ♙d2 ♖b4 Svidler's idea seems very sensible since sometimes Black wants to play c7-c5. 9. ♗a4+ [9. ♗b3 c5 10. a3 ♖c6 was played in the game Suba-Shirov, 2001] 9... ♙d7 10. ♗b3 dxc4 11. ♙xc4 ♙c6 [The pawn sacrifice deserves the attention 11... c5 12. dxc5 ♙c6 13. ♖b5 0-0 14. ♙xb4 axb4 15. ♗xb4 ♖d7 two bishops and lead in development compensate two missing pawns 16. ♙e2 ♗e7 17. 0-0 ♗xc5 18. ♗xc5 ♖xc5] 12. a3N [Most principled as it is challenging a bishop on c6 straight away. Previously played 12. ♙e2 0-0 13. 0-0 ♖bd5 14. ♖e5 ♖xc3 15. bxc3 ♖e4 16. ♖xc6 bxc6 17. ♙ad1 ½-½ Farago, I (2507)-Ftacnik, L (2579)/Hamburg 2004] 12... ♖bd5 [After 12... ♙xf3 13. gxf3 ♖bd5 White can maybe even take a pawn 14. ♗xb7 0-0 15. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 16. ♗c6±] 13. ♖e5± 0-0 14. ♖xc6 bxc6 15. ♗c2 White has a slight long term advantage of two bishops and better pawn structure. 15... ♗e7 16. 0-0 c5 17. ♖e2 cxd4 18. ♖xd4 c5 19. ♖b5 ♜fc8 20. ♜fd1 [It is tempting to push the d5-knight from his central square, but than the other knight might be heading for the d4 square 20. e4 ♖c7 21. ♖c3 ♖g4 22. h3 ♖e5 23. ♙e2 ♖c6=] 20... ♖g4 21. h3 ♖e5 22. ♙e2 c4 23. ♜ac1 h5 24. ♖c3 ♖b6 25. ♖e4 ♖d5 26. ♖c3 ♖b6 27. ♖e4 ♖d5 28. ♙e1 ♜ab8 29. ♖h1 ♖d7 30. ♜b1 ♖c5 [I am not sure why Svidler decides to give a pawn, he could still continue manoeuvring after 30... a4 ] 31. ♙xc4 ♖b6 32. ♙b5 ♖d5 33. a4 ♖a6 34. ♗e2 ♖ab4 35. ♜bc1± ♜c7 36. ♖c3 ♜bc8 37. ♖xd5 exd5 38. ♜xc7 ♜xc7 39. b3 ♙c3 40. ♜c1 ♗f6 41. ♗f3 ♗e5 42. ♗g3 ♗xg3 43. fxg3 ♙e5 44. ♜xc7 ♙xc7 45. ♖g1 ♖c2 46. ♙d2 ♙b6 47. ♖f2 d4 48. e4 d3+ 49. ♖f1 ♖e3+ 50. ♖e1 ♖xg2+ 51. ♖d1 h4 52. gxh4 ♖xh4 53. b4 axb4 54. ♙xb4 ♖f3 55. a5 ♙d4 56. ♙e7 f5 57. exf5 gxf5 58. ♙d8 ♖f7 59. ♙b6 ♖e6 60. ♙xd4 ♖xd4 61. ♙xd3 1-0

### (13) Javakhishvili, L (2464) - Cmilyte, V (2525) [D85]

16th ECC w Rogaska Slatina SLO (5.1), 29.09.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♗xd5 5.e4 ♗xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙e3 c5 8.♗f3 ♖a5 9.♗d2 ♗c6 10.♙b1 a6 11.♙c1 ♙g4 12.d5 ♙d8 13.♙h6N According to Avrukh this move was suggested by Krasenkov, but if I can trust my database has not been used in practice prior to this game. 13...♙xh6 14.♖xh6 ♙xf3 15.gxf3 ♗d4 16.♙g2 e6! 17.♗d2 [It must be too dangerous to take a pawn on h7 when white king remains in the centre and position is likely to open. 17.♗g7 ♙f8 18.♖xh7 exd5] 17...♗c6 [17...♗b5 is the continuation suggested by Avrukh, on page 116 of the Grandmaster Repertoire-9, followed by 18.0-0 (I think White should play the ending after 18.c4 ♖xd2+ 19.♗xd2 ♗d4 20.f4 ♗e7 21.e5 b6 22.♙b1 ♙b8 23.b4 f6 24.h5 and White has his own pluses like passed d-pawn and centrally placed king.) 18...0-0] 18.♙e3 [The difference between knight's retreats is prominent in case of 18.c4 Black has an option of keeping queens on the board 18...♖a4 19.0-0 ♗d4 20.f4 0-0 dominant knight in the centre and queen coordinate very well and offer Black better chances.; If White is castling that Black can relocate the knight to a blockading d6-square after 18.0-0 0-0 19.f4 exd5 20.exd5 ♗d4 21.♙fe1 ♗f5] 18...♗e5 19.0-0 0-0 20.c4 ♗d7 [Deserves attention the attempt to eliminate white's strong pawn centre 20...b5!? 21.cxb5 (21.dxe6 fxe6 22.cxb5 ♗d3) 21...axb5 22.♙xc5 ♗d7 23.dxe6 (23.♙c2 exd5 24.♗d2 (24.exd5 ♗b6) 24...b4 25.♙b2 dxe4 26.fxe4 ♖e5) 23...♗xc5 24.e7 ♗e6 25.exf8 ♖+ ♙xf8 26.♙b1 ♖xa2 27.♙xb5 ♖a1+ 28.♙f1 ♙c8=] 21.f4 [White could try a pawn sacrifice 21.e5!? ♖xa2 22.♙fd1± I think White has an initiative thanks to mobile pawn centre and better coordinated pieces. 22...exd5 23.cxd5 ♙fe8 24.f4] 21...b5 22.f5 gxf5 [22...exf5 23.e5 ♙fe8 24.e6 ♖b6 25.cxb5 axb5 26.♙fd1] 23.exf5 [23.♙fd1] 23...exf5 24.♗h1 [At a first sight the immediate check with the queen looks stronger, but Black should be able to hold 24.♖g5+ ♗h8 25.♖xf5 ♖b6 26.♙b1 b4=] 24...♖b6 25.♙g1 ♗h8 26.♖c3+ ♖f6 27.♖xf6+ ♗xf6 28.cxb5 axb5 29.♙xc5 b4 30.♙d1 ♙fe8 31.d6 ♙e6 32.♙xf5 ♙exd6 33.♙xd6 ♙xd6 34.♙f3 ½-½

#### (14) Kramnik, Vladimir (2800) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2758) [E04]

3rd London Chess Classic London ENG (1), 03.12.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.♗f3 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.d4 dxc4 5.♙g2 ♗c6 6.♖a4 ♙b4+ 7.♙d2 ♗d5 8.♙xb4 ♗dxb4 9.0-0 ♙b8 10.♗a3 0-0 11.♖b5 b6 12.♖xc4 ♙a6 13.♗b5 ♖d5 14.♖xd5 ♗xd5 15.a4 ♗a5 16.♗e5 ♙bd8 17.♗xa7 ♗b4 That move was Kramnik's choice when he played this position with black pieces. Avrukh also examines this continuation in the first volume of the Grandmaster Repertoire, page 146, but gives 17...Nb3 as a main line. 18.♙ac1 ♙xd4 19.♗b5 [19.♙xc7 ♙xe2 20.♙fc1 f6 21.♗ec6 ♗axc6 22.♗xc6 ♗xc6 23.♙7xc6 ♙fd8 24.h3 ♙8d6 25.♙xd6 ♙xd6 26.♙c6 ♙xc6 27.♙xc6 e5 28.f4 exf4 29.gxf4 ♗f7 30.♗f2 ♙c4 31.b4 g5 32.fxg5 fxg5 33.h4 gxh4 34.a5 ½-½ Anand,V (2800)-Kramnik,V (2780)/Bilbao 2010.] 19...♙xb5 20.axb5 Avrukh comments that White's light-squared bishop gives him an edge. 20...f6 21.e3 ♙dd8 22.♗f3 ♙f7 Nakamura seems to be following Romain Edouard's analyses to the Anand- Kramnik game. In his comments Edouard mentions that variation as an improvement over previously played 21...Rd2 in the game Prohaszka-Csonka 2010. 23.♙h3 ♙e7 24.♙c3 ♗f7 25.♙a1 ♙d3= 26.♙f1 ♙xc3 27.bxc3 ♗d5 28.c4 ♗c3 29.c5 ♙d7 30.♗d4 ♗e4 31.cxb6 cxb6 32.♙c1 ♗c5 33.f4 ♗e7 34.♗c6+ ♗xc6 35.bxc6 ♙a7 36.♙d1 ♙c7 37.♙g2 e5 38.fxe5 fxe5 39.♙b1 e4 40.♙xb6 ♗d6 41.♙b4 ♗d5 42.♙d4+ ♗e5 43.♙c4 ♗d5 44.♙d4+ ♗e5 45.♙c4 ♗d5 ½-½

#### (15) Leko, P (2720) - Topalov, V (2768) [D85]

European Team Championship Porto Carras GRE (9.3), 11.11.2011

[Jacob Aagaard]

This line of the Grunfeld was not included in Avrukh's repertoire, but is fascinating in its own right. It seems to us that Leko won a good game here. 1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♗xd5 5.e4 ♗xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙e3 c5 8.♙c1 ♖a5 9.♗d2 0-0 Avrukh recommends to take on d4 and exchange queens in his book. 10.♗f3 ♙d8 11.d5 e6 12.♙g5 f6 13.♙e3 ♗c6 14.♙d3 exd5 15.exd5 c4 16.♙xc4 ♙e6 17.♙d1 ♗e7 18.dxe6 ♙xd2 19.♙xd2 ♖xc3 [19...♗f5 20.♙d3 ♗h8 21.0-0 is untested and also a bit uncomfortable for Black.] 20.♙b3 ♖c1+ [20...♖a1+ 21.♙d1 ♗f5 22.0-0 ♖c3 23.♙b3+- Lupulescu - Bukavshin, Aix-les-Bains 2011.] 21.♙d1 ♖c3+ 22.♙d2 ♖c1+ 23.♙d1 ♖c3+ 24.♗e2 a5 It seems to me that this move brings Black in trouble. The solution has already been played. [Previously played was: 24...♖b4 25.♙d3 (25.♙d4!N is my guess of what Leko was intending. After 25...♖b5+ 26.♙c4 ♖c6 the computer gives (26...♖a4 27.♙hd1 ♙e8 28.♙1d3±) 27.♙c1 ♙c8 28.♙d3 ♖e4 29.♙d5 ♗xd5 30.♙xc8+ ♙f8 31.♙xd5 ♖xd5 32.e7 ♖b5+ 33.♗e1 ♖b1+ as equal, but the feeling is that everything is very dangerous for Black around here, and any improvement (or just

deviation from what you remember) could be catastrophic.) 25...a5 26.♞c1 a4 27.♞c4 ♖b5 28.♞c5 ♖b4 29.♞c4 ♖b5 30.♞c5 ♖b4 Here White should take the draw. 31.♙c4? ♞b8? (31...♙b6!! 32.a3 ♖b2+ 33.♙d2 ♙xd2 34.♙xd2 ♞b8♣) 32.♙d7 ♙f8 33.♞c7 b5 (33...♖b2+ 34.♙d2 b5=) 34.♙d3 ♖a3 35.♙d2 (35.♞c2±) 35...♖xa2 36.♞xe7 ♙xe7 37.♞xe7 a3 38.♙d4 ♙f8 39.♙c5 ♙g8 40.♙d4 ♙f8 41.♙c5 ♙g8 42.♙e3? f5? (42...♖a1!-) 43.♙d4 ♙f8 44.♙c5 ♙g8 45.♙d4 ♙f8 46.♙f6 ♞b6 47.♞f7+ ♙e8 48.♞e7+ ♙f8 49.♞f7+ ♙e8 ½-½ Pashikian - Cornette, Aix-les-Bains 2011.] **25.♙d7 a4 26.♞c1 ♖b2+ 27.♞c2 ♖b1 28.♙d2 axb3 29.♙xb1 bxc2 30.♙c3 ♙f5 31.♙d2 h5?!** Only this is new, but already here Black is worse. [White also has a lasting pressure after 31...♞e8 32.♙d3 (32.♞xb7 ♙d4+ 33.♙d3 ♙xe6 is not so bad, thus the move order.) 32...b6 33.g4 ♙h6 34.h3 ♞xe6 35.♙xc2 f5 36.g5 ♙f7 37.♙d5 ♙e5 38.♞b7 ♙f3 39.♙e7+!N (39.♙e3 ♙d6 40.♙xb6 f4 41.♞b8+ ♙f7 42.♞b7+ ♙g8 43.♞b8+ ♙f7 44.♞b7+ ½-½ Potkin,V (2646)-Svidler,P (2722)/Moscow 2010/CBM 140) 39...♙f8 40.♙b4 ♙e8 41.♙d5 ♞c6+ 42.♙b3 ♙d4 43.♞e7+ ♙d8 44.♞xh7 ♙xf2 45.♙e7+ ♙c8 46.♞g7 ♙g3 47.♙a4 ♙d6 48.♙f6 ♙d2 49.♙c3 b5+ 50.♙a5 ♙c4+ 51.♙xb5 ♞c5+ 52.♙b4 ♞c7+ 53.♙b3 ♞xg7 54.♙xg7 ♙d2+ 55.♙c2 ♙f3 56.♙f6±] **32.♙d3± b5 33.e7 ♞e8 34.♙d5 ♙f7 35.♙xc2 ♞c8+ 36.♙c7 ♙xe7 37.♙b4 ♙f8 38.♙b3 ♞b8 39.♙d5 ♙e6 40.♙d6+ ♙e5 41.f4+ 1-0**

## (16) Nakamura,Hikaru (2758) - Adams,Michael (2734) [C36]

3rd London Chess Classic London ENG (9), 12.12.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

**1.e4 e5 2.f4** The choice of the opening would not come as a surprise to Adams, because of Nakamura's reputation as a very original player and the fact that he played the King's Gambit before. **2...exf4 3.♙f3 d5** [It is actually great to see the romantic openings played by top players in our pragmatic age. In the following game we see Shirov in action behind the white pieces. 3...h6 4.♙c3 d6 5.d4 g5 6.g3 ♙g7 7.gxf4 g4 8.♞g1 ♙f8 9.♙e3 ♙c6 10.d5 ♙b4 11.a3 gxf3 12.axb4 ♖h4+ 13.♞g3 ♙f6 14.♖xf3 ♙h5 15.♙e2 ♙xg3 16.hxg3 ♖d8 17.♙d2 ♙d7 18.e5 dxe5 19.f5 b6 20.d6 ♙e8 21.f6 ♙xf6 22.♞f1 ♙g5 23.♙c4 ♖xd6+ 24.♙e2 ♙xe3 25.♖xa8 ♖d2+ 26.♙f3 f5 27.♖c8 ♙g7 28.♖xc7+ ♙f8 29.♖xe5 ♙h5+ 30.g4 ♙xg4+ 31.♙g3 ♖d4 32.♖b8+ ♙g7 33.♖c7+ ♙g6 34.♖f7+ ♙g5 35.♖e7+ 1-0 Shirov,A (2709)-Alekseev,E (2673)/Lublin POL 2011/The Week in Chess 863; 3...g5 4.♙c4 ♙g7 5.h4 h6 6.d4 d6 7.c3 ♙c6 8.0-0 g4 9.♙e1 ♖xh4 10.♙xf4 ♙f6 11.e5 dxe5 12.dxe5 g3 13.♙xg3 ♖xg3 14.exf6 ♙f8 15.♙d3 ♙d6 16.♖h5 ♙g4 17.♙xf7+ ♙f8 18.♖g6 ♖h2+ 19.♙f2 ♖g3+ ½-½ Nakamura,H (2733)-Ivanchuk,V (2754)/Cap d'Agde FRA 2010/CT-3646/[Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net)]] **4.exd5 ♙f6 5.♙c4** [Nakamura deviates from his own game where he gave a check on b5. 5.♙b5+ ♙bd7 6.c4 ♖e7+ 7.♖e2 ♖xe2+ 8.♙xe2 a6 9.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 10.d4 ♙h5 11.♙f2 0-0 12.♙c3 h6 13.♙e5 ♙e8 14.g4 ffg3+ 15.hxg3 f6 16.♙f3 g5 17.♙d2 ♙g6 18.g4 ♙g7 19.♞a1 ♞e8 20.♞xe8+ ♙xe8 21.c5 ½-½ Nakamura,H (2701)-Ivanov,A (2516)/Ledyard 2009/CBM 129 Extra] **5...♙xd5 6.0-0 ♙e6** [The other popular continuation is to quickly finish development of the kingside, for example like in the next encounter on the top level: 6...♙e7 7.♙xd5 ♖xd5 8.♙c3 ♖d8 9.d4 0-0 10.♙xf4 ♙f5 11.♖e2 ♙d6 12.♙xd6 ♖xd6 13.♙b5 ♖d8 14.c4 a6 15.♙c3 ♙d7 16.♞ad1 ♙g6 17.♖f2 ♞e8 18.h3 ♞c8 19.♞fe1 ♞xe1+ 20.♞e1 c6 21.d5 ♙f6 22.♖d4 cxd5 23.♙xd5 ♙xd5 24.cxd5 ♖d6 25.♙e5 ♞e8 26.♞e3 ♙d8 27.♙c4 ♖ff6 28.♞e5 h6 29.d6 ♙f5 30.♙b6 ♙e6 31.d7 ♙h8 32.a4 g6 33.♖c3 ♙g7 34.a5 h5 35.h4 ♞xd7 36.♙xd7 ♙xd7 37.♖d4 ♙c6 38.b4 ♙b5 39.♙h2 ♙a4 40.♙d5 ♙c6 41.♖xf6+ ♙xf6 42.♞c5 ♙e6 43.♙g3 f6 44.♙f2 ♙d5 45.g3 g5 46.g4 hxg4 47.h5 ♙e4 48.♞c7 f5 49.h6 f4 50.h7 g3+ 51.♙e1 f3 52.h8♖ f2+ 53.♙e2 ♙d3+ 54.♙e3 1-0 Carlsen,M (2813)-Wang Yue (2752)/Medias ROU 2010.] **7.♙b3 c5** [More common is 7...♙e7 ] **8.♙h1** [The attempt to complicate the game. The alternative 8.d4 may lead to the following simplifications 8...cxd4 9.♙xd4 ♙c5 10.♙h1 ♙xd4 11.♖xd4 0-0 12.♙xd5 ♙c6 13.♖xf4 ♖xd5 14.♙c3 as in the game Lyell,M (2187)-Haslinger,S (2468)/Great Yarmouth 2007, where Black went on to win, although not because of the opening.] **8...♙c6** [8...♙e7 9.d4 0-0 10.c4 ♙e3 11.♙xe3 fxe3 12.d5 ♙g4 13.♖d3 ♙d7 14.♙c2 g6 15.♖xe3 ♙d6 16.♙bd2 ... ½-½ Fier,A (2471)-Saralegui Cassan,M (2196)/Turin 2006] **9.d4 c4!?** [The move in the game is stronger than the capture on d4. Maybe this option escaped Nakamura's attention when he played his 8th move. 9...cxd4 10.♙xd4 ♙e3 11.♙xe3 fxe3 12.♖h5 ♖a5=] **10.♙a4** [If bishop takes the c4 pawn, White loses the exchange without the reasonable compensation. 10.♙xc4 ♙e3 11.♙xe3 ♙xc4 12.♙xf4 ♙xf1 13.♖xf1 ♙d6♣] **10...♙d6** Black succeeds in finishing his development and still keeps his extra pawn for a little while without compromising his position. In fact the f4- pawn greatly restricts White's from harmoniously developing his pieces. **11.b3 c3 12.♖d3 0-0 13.♙xc6** [In case of immediate capture on c3 White loses c2-pawn due to the open c file. 13.♙xc3 ♙cb4 14.♖d2 ♙xc3 15.♖xc3 ♞c8+] **13...bxc6 14.♙xc3 ♞e8 15.♙xd5 ♙xd5 16.c4 ♙e4 17.♖c3 a5 18.a3 f6 19.♙b2 ♞a7 20.♞ad1 ♞ae7 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 ♙h8 23.♖b3 ♞b7 24.♙c3 ♖b8**

25.b5 cxb5 26.c5 b4 27.♔d2 ♕f8 28.♞de1 g5 29.♞c4 g4 30.♖h4 f3 31.d5 fxg2+ 32.♖xg2 ♕f3 33.♔g1 ♞c8 34.c6 ♞b5 35.♖f4 ♕c5+ [Stronger is to push the passed pawn now 35...b3 since, if 36.♞c3 like in the game, Black still has the bishop on f8 sufficiently defending his king. 36...b2 37.♖e6 ♕e7!-+] 36.♕e3 ♕xe3+ [The unfortunate mistake by Adams, who played really well until now. Although it is not losing the game yet, as it often happens, it is followed by even bigger error. Black keeps his advantage with 36...♞b6 37.♞c1 ♕xe3+ 38.♞xe3 ♞xe3+ 39.♞xe3 b3+] 37.♞xe3 ♞b6 38.♞fe1 b3? [More resilient is 38...♞a5 39.♔f1 ♞a1 40.♞e7 ♞e1+ 41.♞xe1 ♕xd5!?! transposes into an ending where White has an extra piece but reduced number of pawns suggests that Black might have some practical chances. 42.♖xd5 ♞xc6 43.♞xc6 ♞xc6 44.♖xb4 ♞d6] 39.♞c3 ♞f8 40.♖e6 b2 41.c7 1-0

### (17) Nakamura, Hikaru (2758) - Svidler, Peter (2755) [D87]

6th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (3), 18.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♖xd5 5.e4 ♖xc3 6.bxc3 ♕g7 7.♕c4 c5 8.♖e2 ♖c6 9.♕e3 0-0 10.0-0 ♕g4 11.f3 ♕d7 12.♞b1 ♞c7 13.♕d3 ♞fd8N [At the press conference Svidler avoided explaining his choice of the rook move. Avrukh suggests to develop the queen's rook. 13...♞ad8 14.d5 ♖e5 15.c4 f5 16.♕f4 e6 17.♞b3 ♕c8 18.exf5 gxf5 19.♖c3 ♞e7 20.♞bd1 ♖g6 21.♕g3 e5 22.♕c2 ♞g5 23.♔h1 h5 24.♖e2 h4 25.♕f2 b6 26.♞de1 ♞h5 27.f4 exf4 28.♖g1 ♖e5 29.♖f3 ♖g4 30.♕xh4 ♞de8 31.♕e7 ♞f7 32.♕d6 ♞e3 33.♞xe3 fxe3 34.♔g1 ♞h6 35.♕b8 ♞b7 36.♕g3 f4 37.♕h4 ♖e5 38.♖xe5 ♕xe5 39.♞d3 ♞g7 40.♞e4 ♞h5 41.♕d1 ♕g4 42.♕xg4 ♞xg4 43.♕g3 e2 44.♞e1 fxg3 45.♞xe5 gxh2+ 46.♞xh2 ♞d4+ 0-1 Antonsen, M (2438)-Avrukh, B (2641)/Helsingor DEN 2009.] 14.♞d2 The natural developing move. In the Avrukh's book it is met by the bishop's retreat to c8, applying pressure on the pawn centre. However since Svidler left a rook on a8 to play bishop d7 to c8 now looks odd. Instead retreating bishop to e8 seems to be a reasonable option. 14...a6 [14...♕e8!?! 15.♞fc1 e6 16.f4 b6∞] 15.f4 e6 16.dxc5 ♖a5 17.♖d4 e5 18.fxe5 ♞xe5 19.♞b2 [White can take advantage of black's 13...Rfd8, by moving a queen from the d-file to f2 with tempo, attacking on f7 and indirectly defending the c5 pawn. 19.♞f2 ♞e7 (in case of 19...♕e8 White regroupes his knight on to d5 20.♞bd1 ♞ac8 21.♖e2 ♖c6 22.♖f4 with the advantage.) 20.h4 ♕e8 21.h5 (winning the exchange cannot be recommended since Black gets a good compensation for it 21.♕g5 ♞xc5 22.♕xd8 ♞xd8) 21...♞ac8 22.♞b6!?! ♞c7 23.♕e2 ♞dc8 (23...♞xe4 24.h6 ♕f8 25.♖e6!±) 24.h6 ♕h8 (24...♕e5 25.♖e6! ♞c6 26.♖f4 ♕xf4 27.♞xf4±) 25.♕g4±] 19...♞ac8 20.♞b4 [Nakamura underestimates Black's next move. He could play 20.♞bc1 ♕e8 (Neither of the pawn captures works for Black now 20...♞xc5 21.♞f2 with a double attack on f7 and c5 21...♞e8 22.♖f5!; in case of 20...♞xc5 21.♖f5 ♞f8 22.♖xg7 ♞xg7 23.♕b6± Black will suffer without the dark-square bishop.) 21.♖f3 ♞e7 22.♕d4 ♖c6 23.♞f2 White still is holding on to his extra pawn and keeps a slight advantage.] 20...♞xc5! 21.♞xc5 ♞xc5 22.♖e2 [Maybe Nakamura was planning to play 22.♖f5 ♞xc3 23.♕b6 ♖c6 24.♖xg7 and noticed too late that Black doesn't have to recapture on g7 and just moves the rook 24...♞c8!± as the knight is now trapped on g7.] 22...♞c6 23.♕b6 ♞xb6 24.♞xb6 ♕c6∞ All black's pieces are harmoniously placed, even the knight is useful on a5 restricting the d3 bishop. 25.♞f3 [I wonder if White should admit his oversight and immediately return the exchange 25.♞xc6 ♖xc6 26.♕c4 ♖e5 27.♕d5 he is maybe still slightly worse but active bishop and the different colour bishops promise good chances to equality, in my opinion.] 25...f5 26.♞b4 [also possible here 26.♞xc6 ♖xc6 27.♕c4+ ♔h8 28.♞d3 ♞e8 29.♕d5] 26...♕f8 27.♞d4 ♕c5 28.♞e3 [More resilient 28.♞f4 but White is still facing ungrateful task of defending in a worse ending 28...fxe4 29.♕xe4 ♕b5 30.♔h1 ♕xd4 31.♖xd4 ♕c4∞] 28...♞e8!± 29.c5 ♕d5 30.♔f2 ♕xa2 31.♞a4 ♕xe3+ 32.♔xe3 ♞xe5+ 33.♔f4 ♕b3 34.♔xe5 ♕xa4 35.♔d6 ♕c6 36.g3 ♔g7 37.♖d4 ♕e4 38.♕xe4 fxe4 39.♖c2 ♖c4+ 40.♔d5 ♖d2 41.♔c5 ♔f6 42.♔b6 ♔e5 43.♔xb7 ♔d5 44.♖e3+ ♔c5 45.♔xa6 ♖b1 46.♔b7 ♖xc3 47.♔c8 ♔d4 48.♖g2 ♔e5 0-1

### (18) Robson, Ray (2583) - Dominguez Perez, Leinier (2710) [B96]

5th SPICE Cup GpA Lubbock USA (7), 22.10.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 a6 6.♕g5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.♕h4 ♞b6 Ftachnik in the Grandmaster Repertoire 6 concentrates his attention on 8... Be7. But recently the move with the queen, reminiscent of the Poisoned Pawn variation became fashionable. 9.♞d2 ♞xb2 10.♞b1 ♞a3 11.f5 [11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 g5 13.exf6 gxh4 14.♕e2 ♞a5 15.0-0 ♖d7 16.♔h1 ♞g5 17.♞f4 e5 18.♖d5 exd4 19.♞xd4 ♔d8 20.♞d1 h3 21.g3 ♕d6 22.♞e4 ♞e8 23.♖b6 ♞xe4 24.♞xe4 ♞c5 25.♖xa8 ♖xf6 26.♞d3 ♔e7 27.♕f3 h5 28.♞e2+ ♕e6 29.♕xb7 ♖g4 30.♞f1 h4 31.gxh4 ♖xh2 32.♞g1



♔f8 33.♖g5 ♖b4 34.♗e4 ♖b1+ 35.♖g1 ♖f1 36.♗c6 ♖g3+ 37.♔h2 ♖f1+ 38.♔h1 ♗d1 39.♗f3 ♗d2 0–1 Nisipeanu,L (2673)-Wojtaszek,R (2711)/Aix-les-Bains FRA 2011.] **11...♙e7 12.fxe6 fxe6 13.♙c4 ♖xe4 14.♖xe4 ♙xh4+ 15.g3 ♙g5 16.♖xg5 hxg5 17.c3N** [Robson deviates from previously played capture on e6, but unfortunately very quickly goes wrong. The other game that reached this position continued 17.♖xe6 ♙xe6 18.♙xe6 ♗xg3+ 19.hxg3 ♙xh1+ 20.♔e2 ♙h2+ 21.♔e1 ♙xd2 22.♔xd2 ♙a7 23.♙d5 ♖d7 24.♙xb7 ♙xb7 25.♙xb7 ♖c5 26.♙f3 ♔d7 ½–½ Vallejo Pons,F (2698)-Morozevich,A (2700)/Reggio Emilia ITA 2011]] **17...♗c5 18.♙xe6 ♗e5+ 19.♔f2?** [The other king's retreat is not any better 19.♔d1 ♗e4–+; Instead White can offer the queen exchange where chances are about equal. 19.♗e2 ♖c6 20.♙d5 ♗xe2+ 21.♔xe2= ♖xd4+ 22.cxd4 ♙b8 23.h4] **19...♙xe6–+ 20.♙be1 0–0+ 21.♔g1 ♙h3 0–1**

### (19) Robson,Ray (2583) - Le,Quang Liem (2717) [B99]

5th SPICE Cup GpA Lubbock USA (9), 24.10.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.♙h4 ♙e7 9.♗f3 ♖bd7 10.0–0–0 ♗c7 11.♙e2 b5 12.♙xf6 ♖xf6 13.e5 ♙b7 14.♗g3 dxe5 15.fxe5 ♖d5 16.♖xe6 fxe6 17.♗g6+ ♔d7 18.♙g4 ♗xe5 19.♖xd5 ♗g5+ 20.♗xg5** [To understand what was happening in the opening stage of this game one must really read the chapter 18, variation D32 of Grandmaster Repertoire 6. Here Ftacnik thinks that White's best chance to fight for the advantage is 20.♖e3+ ♔c7 21.♗xe6 ♙c5 22.♙d7+ ♔b8 23.♙xb7+ ♔xb7 24.♙e1 ♔b8 25.b4 ♙xe3+ 26.♙e3 ♗f6 27.♗xf6 gxf6 28.♙f3 ♙a7 29.♙e6 a5 30.a3 Ftacnik (I was curious about this position and wondered if White can try 30.a4!? bxa4 31.b5 a3 32.♔b1 ♙d8 33.♙xf6 ♙e7 34.♙a6 (34.♙b6+ ♔c7 35.♙xb6 ♙d6 36.♙xd6 ♔xd6 37.b6 ♙e1+ 38.♔a2 ♙c1 39.b7 ♙xc2+ 40.♔xa3 ♔c7=) 34...♙d2 35.b6 ♙b7 36.h4 a2+ 37.♔xa2 ♙xc2+ 38.♔b3 ♙c5 39.♔a4 h5 40.g3 and most likely it will be a draw) 30...axb4 31.axb4 ♙a4 32.♙b6+ ♔a7 33.♙xb5 ♙b8 34.♙xb8 ♔xb8 35.b5 ♔c7=] **20...♙xg5+ 21.♔b1 ♙xd5 22.♙xd5+ ♔c7 23.♙c5+** [23.♙e5 ♙he8 24.♙he1 ♙ad8 25.♙xe6 ♙xe6 26.♙xe6 ♙d6 27.♙e4 ♙f6 28.♙f3 ♙d2 29.c3 a5 30.a3 ♙f2 31.♙e2 ♙xe2 32.♙xe2 b4 33.cxb4 ½–½ Hansen,T (2423)-Nguyen Huynh Minh,H (2477)/Budapest 2008.] **23...♔b6** [Keeping the king central and defending the weak e6-pawn looks like a more natural reaction 23...♔d6 24.♙c3 ♙ac8 25.♙a3 ♙c6 26.♙f3 ♙b6 27.♙d1+ ♔e5 28.♙d7 ♙d8 29.♙xg7 ♙d2 30.♙c3 b4 31.♙b3 ♙b5 32.a3 bxa3 33.♙xa3 ♙c5 34.c3 ♙b5 35.♙a2 a5 36.♙b7 ♙xb7 37.♙xb7 ♙d8 38.h3 ♙f2 39.♙f3 ♔f5 40.♙a4 e5 41.♙g4 ♙g5 42.♙a4 ♙d8 43.♙c4 ♙e7 44.♙c7 ♙f6 45.♙a7 ♙d8 46.♙d7 ♙g5 47.♙d5 ♙f1+ 48.♔a2 ♔f4 49.♙xa5 e4 50.♙a4 ♙xf3 51.gxf3 ♔xf3 52.c4 e3 53.♔b3 ½–½ Balutescu,M (2213)-Evans,D (2413)/ICCF 2010] **24.♙e5 ♙he8 25.♙he1 ♙ac8** White will win the pawn, but with the opposite-coloured bishops Black's drawing chances are high. **26.♙f3 ♙c7 27.a4 ♙ce7 28.♙h5 ♙c8 29.♙f3 ♙ce8 30.♙h5 ♙c8 31.♙xe6+ ♙xe6 32.♙xe6+ ♙c6 33.a5+ ♔c5 34.♙e4 ♙c7 35.c3 ♙e7 36.♙d4 ♙f6 37.b4+ ♔c6 38.♙f3+ ♔c7 39.♙d5 ♙e5 40.♙d3 ♙e8 41.♔c2 ♙e5 42.♔b3 ♙e1 43.♙g4 ♙e4 44.♙f5 ♙f4 45.♙e6 ♙e4 46.♙f5 ♙f4 47.♙h3 ♙c4 48.g3 ♙e4 49.♙d7+ ♔b8 50.♙d6 ♙c4 51.♙d3 ♙e4 52.♙f5 ♙e5 53.♙g4 ♔c7 54.♙d7+ ♔c6 55.♙d3** [It is interesting to notice that all the white pawns are placed on the dark squares (opposite colour of his own bishop) and if in the middle game and closed structures that what we are told to do, here it works to White's disadvantage! In the endgame with the opposite-coloured bishops that rule almost could be reversed. In that case bishop can defend his pawns better! We can see that clearly after 55.♙a7 ♙e3 Black attacks the base of the dark-squared pawn chain and the light-squared bishop can't defend it. 56.♙xa6+ ♔c7=] **55...♔c7 56.♔c2 ♙e4 57.♙d7+ ♔b8 58.♙f5 ♙e2+ 59.♔b3 ♙xh2 60.♙d6 ♙f2 61.♙e4 ♙e2 62.♙d3 ♙d2 63.♙b6+ ♔c7 64.♙e4 ♙e2 65.♙d3 ♙d2 66.♙e4 ♙e2 67.♙d3 ♙d2 ½–½**

### (20) Short,Nigel D (2698) - McShane,Luke J (2671) [C34]

3rd London Chess Classic London ENG (7), 10.12.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

**1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♖f3** In this position Black has a choice of few options like 3...g5, 3...d5, 3...d6, 3...Be7, 3...Nf6. The continuation in the game is not played as often, but has been tried on the top level as well. **3...h6 4.d4 g5 5.♖c3 d6 6.g3 fxg3** [It is amazing to see that White can sacrifice a piece for a pawn if Black decides to return the pawn at once. 6...♙g7 7.gxf4 g4 8.♙g1 (8.♙e3!?) 8...♔f8 9.♙e3 ♖c6 (If Black accepts the sacrifice the position remains unclear and very sharp. However I suspect that players have agreed that it is more difficult to defend it with black pieces, since White has a clear plan of mobilising all his forces, doubling rooks on the open g-file and advancing his central pawns. It is interesting that engines indicate that White is doing fine here despite the material deficit. 9...gxf3 10.♗xf3∞) 10.d5 ♖b4

11.a3 gxf3 12.axb4∞ ... 1-0 Shirov,A (2709)-Alekseev,E (2673)/Lublin POL 2011] **7.hxg3** [We have few games where White played 7.h4 It is probably not the best but dos look very brave.] **7...♙g7 8.♙e3** [The other game on the top level continued 8.♙c4 ♗f6 9.♗d3 ♗c6 10.♙b3 ♙g4 11.♗f1 ♗a5 12.♙a4+ ♗d7 13.♗d5 c6 14.♗e3 ♙e6 15.c3 b5 16.♙c2 ♗c4 17.b3 ♗xe3 18.♙xe3 ♗b6 19.♗f2 d5 20.e5 ♙f8 21.♗g1 ♙e7 22.♗f2 ♗d7 23.♗e1 h5 24.♗f1 h4 25.g4 h3 26.♙f5 ♗g8 27.♗h2 a5 28.♗d3 ♗c7 29.♗e2 a4 30.♗af1 axb3 31.axb3 ♙a3 32.♙c1 ♙a1 33.♗f3 ♗d7 34.♗f1 ♗a8 35.♙b2 ♙a2 36.♗c1 ♙a7 37.♗d3 ♙a3 38.♙xa3 ♙xa3 39.♙xe6 fxe6 40.♗g6 ♗g8 41.♗c2 ♗h7 42.♗b2 ♙ha8 43.♗f7 ♗e4 44.♗d2 ♗xg4 45.♗g7 ♙a1 46.♗ff7 ♗d8 47.♗xg5 ♗e4 48.♗f4 ♗b1 49.♗g1 ♗da8 50.♗f7 ♗e4 51.♗f2 ♗d8 52.♙e1 ♗g6 53.♗g1 ♗e4 54.♙e1 ♗g6 55.♗g1 ♗e4 ½-½ Morozevich,A (2748)-Leko,P (2725)/Frankfurt 2000] **8...♗f6 9.♗d3N** [9.♗d2 ♗c6 10.0-0-0 ♗g4 11.♙g1 0-0 12.♙e2 a6 13.♙e1 ♙d7 14.♙d3 b5 15.♗d5 ♗e7 16.♗e3 ♙e8 17.♗f1 ♗g6 18.♗xg4 ♙xg4 19.♙e3 ♙xf3 20.♗xf3 c5 21.c3 ♙c8 22.♙c2 b4 23.♙b3 ♙e7 24.♗hf1 bxc3 25.bxc3 c4 26.♙c2 ♗c7 27.♗f5 ♙b8 28.♗e2 ♙b7 29.a4 ♙b6 30.♗f3 ♗b7 31.♙d5 ♙d7 32.♗e2 ♗e7 33.♙a5 ♙c7 34.♗f2 ♗c6 35.♙d5 ♙b2 36.♙xd6 ♙a2 37.e5 ♗b2+ 38.♗d1 ♗xc3 39.♙c1 a5 40.g4 ♗h3 41.♗f5 ♙xc2 42.♗xc2 ♙f8 43.♙g6+ ♗h8 44.♙xc6 ♗b3+ 45.♗d2 ♙xc6 46.♗e1 ♗c3+ 47.♗e2 ♙c7 48.e6 ♙e7 49.d5 ♙g7 ½-½ Nightingale,D (2506)-Marczell,I (2559)/ICCF 2009] **9...♗g4 10.0-0-0 c6 11.♙e1** [Why not to save the bishop first 11.♙g1 and then slowly build up the pressure, since the Black weaknesses are more of the long term.] **11...♗d7 12.e5 dxe5 13.♙h3** [Deserves attention to simply take back on e5 13.dxe5 ♗xe3 (13...♗xe5 14.♙d4 ♗e7 15.♗e3 f6 16.♙c4∞) 14.♗xe3 ♗b6 15.e6 ♗xe3+ 16.♙xe3 fxe6 17.♙xe6+∞] **13...♗xe3 14.♙xe3** [Maybe the best option for White now is 14.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 15.♙xe3 ♙e6 16.♗xe5 0-0 Black manages to consolidate his position, but White also has some play for a pawn.] **14...0-0 15.♗e4** [15.♙xd7 is met with 15...exd4! 16.♙xc8 ♙xc8+ 17.♙d7 ♙d7 18.♙e4 ♙d7 19.♙e4 ♙d7 20.♙e4 ♙d7 21.♙e4 ♙d7 22.♙e4 ♙d7 23.♙e4 ♙d7 24.♙e4 ♙d7 25.♙e4 ♙d7 26.♙e4 ♙d7 27.♙e4 ♙d7 28.♙e4 ♙d7 29.♙e4 ♙d7 30.♙e4 ♙d7 31.♙e4 ♙d7 32.♙e4 ♙d7 33.♙e4 ♙d7 34.♙e4 ♙d7 35.♙e4 ♙d7 36.♙e4 ♙d7 37.♙e4 ♙d7 38.♙e4 ♙d7 39.♙e4 ♙d7 40.♙e4 ♙d7 41.♙e4 ♙d7 42.♙e4 ♙d7 43.♙e4 ♙d7 44.♙e4 ♙d7 45.♙e4 ♙d7 46.♙e4 ♙d7 47.♙e4 ♙d7 48.♙e4 ♙d7 49.♙e4 ♙d7 50.♙e4 ♙d7 51.♙e4 ♙d7 52.♙e4 ♙d7 53.♙e4 ♙d7 54.♙e4 ♙d7 55.♙e4 ♙d7 56.♙e4 ♙d7 57.♙e4 ♙d7 58.♙e4 ♙d7 59.♙e4 ♙d7 60.♙e4 ♙d7 61.♙e4 ♙d7 62.♙e4 ♙d7 63.♙e4 ♙d7 64.♙e4 ♙d7 65.♙e4 ♙d7 66.♙e4 ♙d7 67.♙e4 ♙d7 68.♙e4 ♙d7 69.♙e4 ♙d7 70.♙e4 ♙d7 71.♙e4 ♙d7 72.♙e4 ♙d7 73.♙e4 ♙d7 74.♙e4 ♙d7 75.♙e4 ♙d7 76.♙e4 ♙d7 77.♙e4 ♙d7 78.♙e4 ♙d7 79.♙e4 ♙d7 80.♙e4 ♙d7 81.♙e4 ♙d7 82.♙e4 ♙d7 83.♙e4 ♙d7 84.♙e4 ♙d7 85.♙e4 ♙d7 86.♙e4 ♙d7 87.♙e4 ♙d7 88.♙e4 ♙d7 89.♙e4 ♙d7 90.♙e4 ♙d7 91.♙e4 ♙d7 92.♙e4 ♙d7 93.♙e4 ♙d7 94.♙e4 ♙d7 95.♙e4 ♙d7 96.♙e4 ♙d7 97.♙e4 ♙d7 98.♙e4 ♙d7 99.♙e4 ♙d7 100.♙e4 ♙d7] **15...♗f6** [Black had a nice move available here 15...g4! 16.♙xg4 exd4 17.♙xd7 (17.♙ee1 ♗c5 18.♗xc5 ♙xg4+ The position simplified a little. Two bishops, two extra pawns and relatively safe king suggest that Black is close to having a decisive advantage. For example 19.♗e5 ♗g5+ 20.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 21.♗xd2 ♙c8-+) 17...♗xd7 (also possible is 17...dxe3 even if the position around the black king looks a bit worrying 18.♗eg5 f5 19.♗b3+ ♗h8 20.♙xc8 ♙xc8 21.♗e6 ♗d5-+) 18.♙ee1 ♗d5-+ White does not has sufficient compensation for two pawns] **16.♙xc8** [More resilient is 16.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 17.dxe5 ♗g6 18.♙xc8 ♙axc8 Black is better, but White has some practical chances. ] **16...exd4 17.♙xb7 dxe3 18.♙xa8 ♗xe4 19.♗xe4 ♗b6 20.♗e5 ♙xa8-+ 21.♗xc6 ♗xc6 22.♗xc6 ♙e8 23.c3 ♙e6 24.♗xa7 ♙e5 25.♗b5 e2 26.♗d2 ♙xg3 27.♙e1 ♙xe1+ 28.♗xe1 h5 29.♗d4 ♙a6 30.a3 h4 31.♗xe2 g4 32.c4 h3 33.♗f2 h2 34.♗g2 ♙h6 35.♗h1 g3 36.♗f5 g2+ 0-1**

## (21) Thorfinnsson,Bragi (2421) - Borisek,Jure (2541) [D76]

18th European Teams Porto Carras GRE (2.14), 04.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

**1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 d5 5.cxd5 ♗xd5 6.♗f3 ♗b6 7.♗c3 ♗c6 8.e3 0-0 9.0-0 ♙e8 10.♙e1 a5 11.♗e2** Despite the turbulent time White experienced recently in this line Avrukh, according to our sources, stands by his recommendation and believes this move is still very much playable. **11...♙e6 12.♙d1 ♙c4 13.♗c2 ♗c8N** [The most principled here is 13...♗b4 14.♗b1 e5 and now the critical try would be Caruana's suggestion 15.♗xe5 (15.a3 exd4 16.axb4 dxc3 17.♙xd8 ♙axd8 18.♗c2 axb4 19.♗d2 cxd2 20.♙xd2 ♙a8 21.♙xa8 ♙xa8 22.♙xb7 ♙a1+ 23.♙c1 b3 24.♗d1 ♙xb2 0-1 Leitao,R (2624)-Caruana,F (2700)/Khanty-Mansiysk RUS 2010.) 15...♙xe5 16.b3 ♙d3 17.♙xd3 ♗xd3 18.♗xd3 where the opinions divide, some players believe that White has sufficient compensation and maybe even more, whilst others disagree.] **14.e4** [The following alternatives may offer White a slight edge 14.b3 ♗b4 15.♗b2 ♙a6 16.a3 ♗d3 17.♗c2 ♗xc1 18.♙axc1 c6 19.♗e4± with some pressure on the queenside.; Also deserves attention 14.a3 a4 15.♗xa4 ♙xa4 16.b3 ♙xb3 17.♗xb3 ♗f5 18.♙d2± White has two bishops and can slowly improve his position.] **14...♙a6** [Black can play more actively 14...♗b4!? 15.♗b1 a4 with equal chances.] **15.d5± ♗d8 16.♙e3 ♗c4 17.♙d4 f6 18.♗e2** [Stronger is 18.b3 ♗d6 19.♙e3 ♗d7 20.♙ac1 ♙c8 21.♗d4±] **18...e5 19.dxe6 ♗xe6 20.♙c3 c5 21.b3** [It is possible to stop the knight from retreating to e5 21.♗f4 but White compromises his pawn structure. 21...♗xf4 22.gxf4 22...b5 23.e5 fxe5 24.♗xe5 ♗xe5 25.♙xc5 ♙a7∞] **21...♗e5= 22.♗f4 ♗xf4 23.gxf4 ♗c6 24.♙d5 ♗g4 25.f5 gxf5 26.exf5 ♙e2** [26...♙ad8=] **27.♗d1 ♙ae8 28.h3** [28.♙xc5!? ♗h8 29.h3 ♗f4 30.♙d5 ♙g8 31.♗c1∞] **28...♗f4** It looks to me that the position is still too complicated to agree a draw, but I suppose the team competition has its own strategy. ½-½

## (22) Topalov,Veselin (2805) - Anand,Viswanathan (2787) [D17]

WCh Sofia BUL (8), 04.05.2010

[Jacob Aagaard]

Karsten Muller wrote to us to point out that Kotronias missed out on a win for Topalov in the following game, given on page 264 in THE GRANDMASTER BATTLE MANUAL. Kotronias did not really study the game seriously and was more focussed on an earlier chance to get an advantage, but still it is interesting for us to check (and had Vassilios known about it, he would definitely have included it). 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♙f5 6.♘e5 e6 7.f3 c5 8.e4 ♙g6 9.♙e3 cxd4 10.♙xd4 ♙xd4 11.♙xd4 ♘fd7 12.♘xd7 ♘xd7 13.♙xc4 ♙c8 14.♙b5 a6 15.♙xd7+ ♘xd7 16.♘e2 f6 17.♙hd1 ♘e8 18.a5 ♙e7 19.♙b6 ♙f8 20.♙ac1 f5 21.e5 ♙g5 22.♙e3 f4 23.♘e4 ♙xc1 24.♘d6+ ♘d7 25.♙xc1 ♘c6 26.♙d2 ♙e7 27.♙c1+ ♘d7 28.♙c3 ♙xd6 29.♙d1 ♙f5 30.h4 g6 31.♙xd6+ ♘c8 32.♙d2 ♙d8 33.♙xf4 ♙xd6 34.exd6 ♘d7 35.♘e3 [The surprising 35.♘d2!! would have prevented the black regroupment by dominating the bishop and thus won. Timman gives the following main line: 35...e5 (There is also 35...♙b1 36.♘c3 ♘e8 37.b3! Prophylaxis aimed against delaying ...♙c2-a4-d7, making it possible for the White king to make it to f6 "quickly. 37...♘f7 38.♙g5 ♘e8 39.♘d4 ♙c2 40.♘e5 ♙xb3 41.♘f6 ♘d7 42.♙f4 ♙c2 43.♙e5 h5 (43...♙d3 44.g4 ♙c2 45.g5 ♙d1 46.♘g7 ♙xf3 47.♘xb7 ♙h5 Black is hanging on, but will inevitable end up in a deadly zugzwang. 48.♘g7 ♘d8 49.♘f8 ♘d7 50.♘f7 ♘d8 51.♘f6 ♘d7 52.♙g3+-) 44.g4 ♙d3 45.♘g5 ♘e8 46.gxh5 gxh5 47.♘xh5 ♘f7 48.♘g5 ♙e2 49.h5 ♙xf3 50.h6 ♙e4 51.♙f6 ♘e8 52.♙c3 ♘f7 53.♘f4 ♙h7 54.♘e5 ♙g6 55.♙b4+-) 36.♙xe5 ♘e6 37.g4 ♙b1 38.♘c3 ♙a2 39.b3 ♙b1 40.♙g3 ♘d7 41.♘d4 ♘e6 42.♘c5 ♘d7 43.♘d5 ♙d3 44.♘e5 ♙e2 45.♘f6 ♙xf3 46.g5 White wins the h7-pawn and will win through zugzwang once again.] 35...♙c2 36.♘d4 ♘e8 37.♘e5 ♘f7 38.♙e3 ♙a4 39.♘f4 ♙b5 40.♙c5 ♘f6 41.♙d4+ ♘f7 42.♘g5 ♙c6 43.♘h6 ♘g8 44.h5 ♙e8 45.♘g5 ♘f7 46.♘h6 ♘g8 47.♙c5 gxh5 48.♘g5 ♘g7 49.♙d4+ ♘f7 50.♙e5 h4 51.♘xh4 ♘g6 52.♘g4 ♙b5 53.♘f4 ♘f7 54.♘g5 ♙c6 55.♘h6 ♘g8 56.g4 ♙e8 57.g5 ♙c6 58.♙g7 ♙e8 59.f4 ♙c6 60.g6 hxg6 61.♘xg6 ♙e8+ 62.♘f6 ♙c6 63.♘e6 ♘g7 64.d7 1-0

### (23) Vachier-Lagrave,Maxime (2710) - Sutovsky,Emil (2696) [D85]

18th European Teams Porto Carras GRE (3.6), 05.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♘f3 c5 8.♙b1 0-0 9.♙e2 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♙a5+ 11.♙d2 ♙xa2 12.0-0 ♙g4 13.♙g5 h6 14.♙h4 g5 15.♙g3 a5 Here we have Sutovsky trying to improve on Avrukh! [15...♘c6 16.d5 ♙ad8 17.♙xb7 e6 is the variation studied in the Grandmaster Repertoire 9, p.196.] 16.♙xb7 a4 17.h3 ♙xf3 18.♙xf3 ♘c6 19.e5 [The alternative 19.d5 is analysed by Dominguez in his comments to his game against Van Wely.] 19...♙c4 20.♙b2 ♘xd4 21.♙xa8 ♙xa8 22.♙d2 ♘f5N [Here comes the novelty. 22...♘e6 was played in Van Wely,L (2625)-Dominguez Perez,L (2717)/Wijk aan Zee 2009.] 23.♙f3 ♙c8 24.e6 [Interesting is 24.♙fd1!? with the idea of transferring the game into an ending after 24...e6 25.♙xa8 ♙xa8 26.♙d8+ ♙xd8 27.♙xd8+ with a clear advantage for White. 27...♘h7 28.♙a8+-] 24...fxe6 25.♙c7 ♙a6 [Black can try 25...♘d6!? to prevent White's bishop from returning to e5 later.] 26.♙e4 a3 27.♙e5 ♙xe5 28.♙xe5 ♙c6 29.♙a1 ♘f7 30.♘h2 [Black's harmoniously placed pieces and far advanced a- pawn compensate for the exchange. 30.♙da2!? ♙a4 31.♘h2 ♘d6 32.♙h8 ♘f5 Black manages to defend his passed pawn with the tactical means and his knight provides a good cover for the king against the attacks of the somewhat lonely white queen.] 30...♙a4 31.f3 Objectively the position is well balanced, but I can't help feeling that the game finished prematurely. It would be great to learn how to play such non-standard position from the top level players. I am not sure if Sutovsky's idea will find many followers. One thing I am certain that he prepares thoroughly and his novelties usually have a long life. That makes me to believe that he has some improvement after 24.Rfd1. ½-½

### (24) Williams,Si (2513) - Jones,G (2635) [B10]

4NCL 2011-12 Staverton Park ENG (1.15), 12.11.2011

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.e4 c6 2.♙c4 d5 3.♙b3 dxe4 4.♙h5 g6 5.♙h4 ♙g7 6.♘c3 a5 7.♘xe4 a4 8.♙c4 b5 9.♙e2 ♘h6 10.g4?! a3 11.♙b1 ♙d5 12.♘c3 [12.♙d3 ♙xa2 13.c3 ♘xg4+-] 12...♙xh1 13.♘f1 ♙e5 14.♙f3 [14.♙xh6 ♙xh2+-] 14...♙xh2 15.♘h3 ♘xg4 16.♙xg4 ♙f6 0-1

### (25) Tikkanen,Hans (2586) - Solak,Dragan (2629) [D12]

XLI Rilton Cup 2011-12 Stockholm SWE (6.2), 02.01.2012

[Keti Arakhamia-Grant]

1.d4 c6 2.♟f3 d5 3.c4 ♟f6 4.e3 ♟f5 5.♟c3 e6 6.♟h4 ♟g6 7.♟e2 ♟bd7 8.0-0 ♟e4 9.♟xg6 hxg6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.♟xe4 dxe4 12.d5 ♟d6 13.g3 c5 [Not surprising it is also a first choice of the computer. Avrukh in his book Grandmaster Repertoire 1, 1.d4-volume 1, on the page 336 considers 13...♟f6 suggesting that White is better due to Black's weak pawns and White's pair of bishops after 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.♟a4 which is a fair assessment.] 14.♟b3 [In the following example Black won a spectacular game, all but White's 15th move is a clear mistake. 14.♟a4 ♟e7 15.♟b5 0-0-0 16.♟d2 ♟f6 17.♟xa7 ♟b8 18.♟a3 ♟xd5 19.♟fc1 ♟g4 20.♟a5 ♟xh2 21.♟d1 ♟e6 22.♟ac1 ♟f3+ 23.♟f1 ♟h1+ 24.♟e2 ♟d4+ 25.exd4 ♟g4+ 26.♟d2 ♟xd1+ 27.♟xd1 ♟xd4+ 0-1 Hillarp Persson,T (2596)-Malakhov,V (2707)/Helsingor DEN 2009] 14...♟g5! An imaginative pawn sacrifice. [Safe alternative of defending a pawn with a queen is also seems to be playable, although personally I would prefer more active continuation in the game. 14...♟c7 15.♟d2 0-0 16.♟ac1 ♟fe8 White has two bishops, however the position is relatively closed at the moment and I think Black is fine.] 15.♟xb7 ♟b8 16.♟a6 [Another retreat is not promising for White either 16.♟c6 ♟e7 (The main point is that in case of 16...♟b6 like in the game, after 17.h4 g5 18.h5 the knight is pinned and Black can't play Ne5.) 17.♟a4 f5 nevertheless Black has sufficient treats on the kingside to compensate the material deficiency. Also White has difficulties with developing his queenside. For example 18.♟d1 ♟h3 19.♟g2 ♟bh8 20.♟h1 ♟h6 21.♟g1 White pieces look very sad, all on the back rank.; If White takes a second pawn 16.♟xa7 Black's attack on the king develops very quickly 16...♟h6 17.h4 g5 18.h5 g4! 19.♟xg4 ♟f6 20.f3 ♟g5 21.♟f2 0-0! despite missing three pawns harmoniously placed pieces give Black an upper hand.] 16...♟h6 [Deserves attention 16...♟e7 17.♟c4 f5 18.♟d2 ♟h6 19.h4 g5 20.h5 ♟e5∞] 17.h4 g5 18.h5 g4 19.♟xg4 ♟e5 20.♟a4+ ♟f8 21.♟d1 ♟xg4 [The ending that happened in the game seems favourable for Black, but I think he also has an alternative of keeping position more complicated by means of 21...♟g5 22.♟e2 c4 23.♟g2 ♟d3∞] 22.♟xg4 ♟xh5 23.♟xh5 ♟xh5 24.♟d1 ♟e7 25.♟d2 ♟xb2+ 26.♟c3 ♟c2 27.♟dc1 ♟xc1+ 28.♟xc1 ♟xd5 29.♟xg7 f6 30.♟c4 ♟h5 31.g4 ♟h7 32.♟xe4+ ♟f7 33.♟xf6 ♟xf6 34.♟f1 ♟b7 35.♟a4 ♟b4 36.♟xa7 ♟xg4 37.f4 ♟g3 38.♟f2 ♟h3 39.♟a6 ♟e7 40.♟e2 ♟d7 41.♟a4 ♟e6 42.♟a6 ♟d7 43.♟a4 ♟c7 44.♟a6 ♟h6 45.♟a7+ ♟b6 46.♟f7 c4 47.e4 ♟h2+ 48.♟d1 0-1