

□ Kramnik,Vladimir

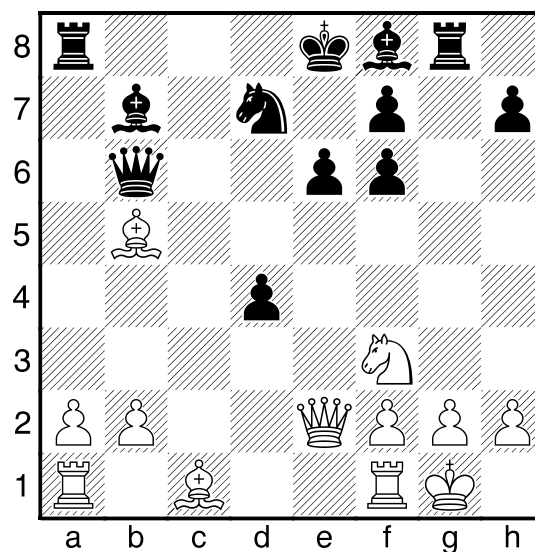
■ Anand,Viswanathan

WCC Bonn (5)

20.10.2008

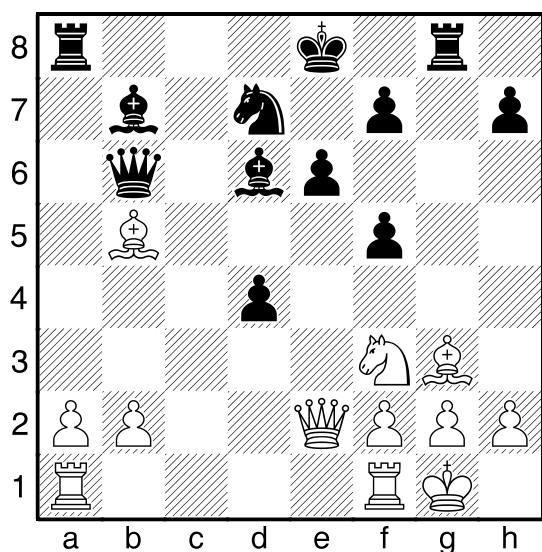
Today we saw the best performance of Anand so far. He played an almost perfect game to take the full point when Kramnik blundered heavily on move 29 after a tough battle. Black repeated the idea 14...♙b7 in the Meran Variation of the Sémislaav defence which brought him success on game three. Kramnik's team had three days to study it but it was Anand who again took the initiative on the opening with a novelty on the next move. Vladimir was soon out of his preparation and black accumulated a nice time advantage on the clock. Despite being outprepared for the second time, the Russian overcame the psychological impact and reacted well, but Vishy played wonderfully and much faster than in previous games, showing a great confidence and putting a lot of pressure on his opponent who finally collapsed. It looks that Kramnik is having big problems to keep the concentration when his opponent manages to press him for a long time in this kind of sharp positions. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♗c3 e6 5.e3 ♗bd7 6.♙d3 dc4 7.♙c4 b5 8.♙d3 a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 cd4 11.♗b5 ab5 12.ef6 gf6 13.0-0 ♖b6 14.♙e2 ♙b7 15.♙b5 So far we have seen the same moves as in the third game. Anand decides to avoid the main preparation of his opponent and tries a new approach. Till this moment both players were moving at lightspeed. ♖g8!? A novelty, changing the order of moves which makes for some subtle differences which Anand probably worked out as a part of his preparation for the match. [On the aforementioned third game we saw 15...♙d6 16.♖d1

♖g8 17.g3 ♖g4 and black won after 41 moves, Kramnik,V-Anand,V/Bonn (3)/2008]



16.♙f4 Kramnik answered very fast, so he was still on his preparation. Positionally, it makes a lot of sense to develop the bishop here, aiming to land it on g3 where it will help to protect white's king. ♙d6! It seems that this natural move escaped Kramnik's team attention, since he started to think a lot. White has to decide now whether to take on d6 or keep with the original idea of ♙g3 17.♙g3 Played after 15 minutes. It is difficult to say which move was better. Kramnik's choice looks more ambitious but it will be well counteracted by Anand. [After 17.♙d6 ♙d6 18.♖fd1 black has a number of options, while the position remains unclear. One possible continuation would be e5 19.♖d4!? ♙d4! 20.♗d4 ♙g2 21.♙d7 ♙d7 22.♙d2 ♙h3 23.♙h1 ♙g2 with a draw] 17...f5! A good move which poses a lot of practical problems for white. Black wants to advance to f4 and continue the attack on the king side. [Much weaker would be 17...♙g3?! since after 18.hg3 white's king is much safer and black would have problems to continue with his

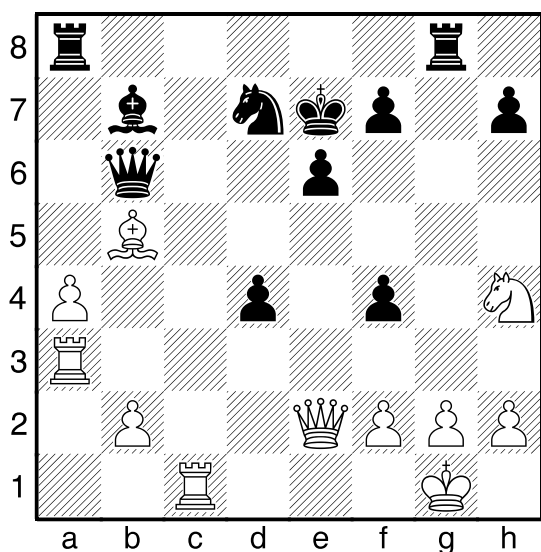
plan since ♔e7? fails to 19.♞d4!]



18.♞fc1!? Probably a good move, taking control of the 'c' line and in particular of the c5 square, where the black queen may be able to switch to the kingside. However, Vladimir payed a high price for it: more than 40 minutes of his time, so he was now almost one hour behind on the clock. [It was very critical 18.♞d4 but it is understandable that Vladimir didn't want to test Anand's home preparation. By the way the move doesn't promise any particular advantage for white, just an unclear game. Black can try ♞g3 (After 18...f4!? 19.♞e6! fe6 20.♞e6 ♔f8 21.♞f5 ♔g7 22.♞d3! white may have compensation, but not more. A sample line: ♞c6 23.♞h7 ♔f8 24.♞f5 ♔g7 25.♞h7 with a perpetual check) 19.hg3 ♞d4 20.♞ad1 ♞b6 and we reach a position difficult to evaluate. It seems to me that black should be fine. A sample line: 21.♞d2! 0-0-0 (21...♞a6!?!; 21...♔d8!?) 22.♞c1 ♔b8 23.♞c6! ♞c5 24.♞b7 ♔b7 25.♞c3 with an unclear fight; At the press conference Kramnik was right to point that after 18.a4?! f4 19.♞h4 ♞c5! black gets a strong attack transferring his queen to the kingside.; A journalist

proposed 18.♞fd1? but after the forced sequence f4 19.♞h4 ♞a5! 20.a4 ♞b5! 21.ab5 ♞e5 black has a decisive attack ; It was still possible to go for 18.♞d6 ♞d6 19.♞fd1 as in the previous move. Now black doesn't have the move e5, but instead he gets a lot of interesting possibilities. One of them is ♔e7!? where white has to be careful. 20.g3! (20.♞d4? ♞g2 21.♔g2 ♞d4; 20.♞d7?! ♞d5! 21.♔h1 ♞d7 22.♞d4? ♞d4!) 20...♞f3!?! 21.♞f3 ♞e5 with an unclear game, where black seems to be alright] From this point Anand was also playing on his own and he did a good job indeed! His next moves show a deep understanding of the position. He found the way to play simple, which is many times the most difficult thing in chess. **18...f4!** **19.♞h4 ♞e7!** Black wants to clean the e7 square for his king. **20.a4!** [After 20.♞e7 ♔e7 it doesn't work 21.♞d7?! ♔d7 22.♞d1 ♔e7 and black's bishop is too strong] **20...♞h4!** **21.♞h4 ♔e7** Once again Kramnik was faced with a difficult choice. He has a lot of moves but it's not easy to find a clear plan. **22.♞a3** The rook develops on the third rank, the same maneuvre that put him in trouble on the third game of the match! This time it was not so bad, still I don't quite like it, but please, don't ask me why! There were a lot of possible ideas, most of them dubious. [With 22.f3?! white stops the attack but his knight may stay out of the game for a long time.; Computers recommend 22.g3?! but after fg3 23.hg3 ♞g5 black is doing well.; Asked at the press conference about 22.b4?! Kramnik gave the correct line: ♞g2! 23.♞g2 ♞g8 24.f3 d3 25.♞f2 ♞f3 26.♞b6 ♞g2 27.♔f1 ♞b6 28.♞d3 ♞d5 and black has big compensation and better chances.; Maybe 22.♔f1!? was useful, getting out of some nasty

tricks before deciding further actions.]



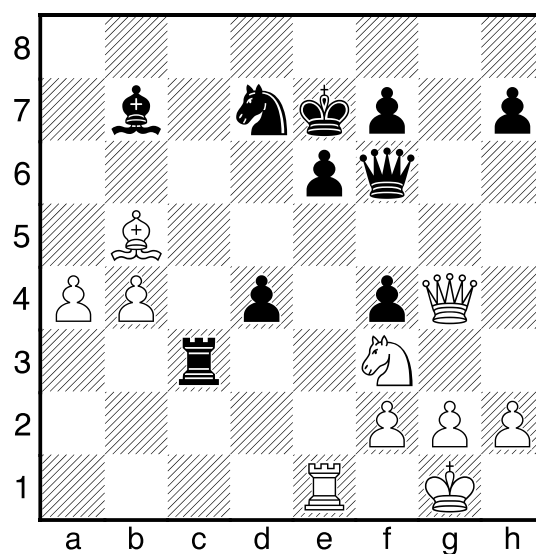
22...Rac8 Very logical; black adapts to the new situation and takes control of the open line. [22...Rg2? was not working anymore: 23.Ng2 Rg8 24.Rf3! Ne5 25.Qe5 Qf3 26.Rc7 and white wins; It was anyway possible to stick to the original plan with 22...Rg5!? with an unclear position] **23.Rc8**

[Seirawan suggested 23.Rd1 Qc5! 24.Qd7 where black may try Qd5!? (After 24...Qd7 25.Rad3 e5 26.Qh5 white gets what he wants, but still there it seems unclear to me that white is any better.)After 25.f3 Qd7 black seems to be slightly better] **23...Rc8 24.Ra1 Qc5!** Very consequent and playing quite fast. The pressure was again on Kramnik who had less than 25 minutes to reach the move 40. **25.Qg4 Qe5 26.Nf3 Qf6 27.Re1**

After this move white will have some little problems but it's difficult to find an improvement. [After 27.a5 h5!? black gets the initiative.; Maybe 27.Rd1!? to simplify the position. The game may follow Ne5 28.Ne5 Qe5 29.Qh4 Qf6 and now white may try 30.Qh7!? Black has compensation but maybe not for more than a draw, for example: Qg5 31.Qf1 Qg4 32.Re1 Qg2 33.Qg2 Rg8

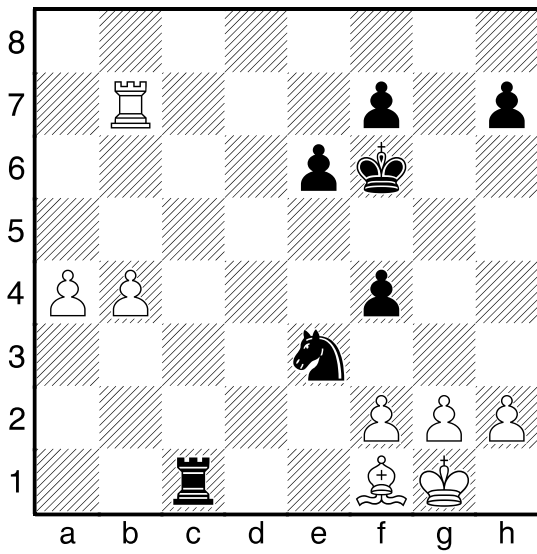
34.Re6 Qe6 35.Qe4 and white gives perpetual check before getting mated] **27...Rc5! 28.b4 Rc3!** Again a strong move from an inspired Anand, forcing once again white to make a difficult choice.

[Kramnik was expecting 28...Ne5 29.Ne5 Re5 30.Re5 Qe5 31.Qh4 Qf8 32.Qf1 and at the press conference he correctly assessed the position as slightly better for him.]



29.Nd4?? A decisive blunder. Kramnik miscalculated the forced line which will end with a deadly blow by black on move 34. Got he tired? Did he crack under pressure? We don't know, but the fact is that he still had 15 minutes on his clock and it was not so difficult to realise that taking on d4 is a losing move. [It was possible to play 29.Nd2 where after d3!? black may enjoy certain initiative.; At the press conference Anand pointed out that after 29.Qd7 he could play Qf3 (In fact maybe 29...Qd7!? could be more accurate, giving black some winning chances) 30.gf3 Qd7 and the indian said that black is not worse here. He is surely right: in fact white should try to equalise with 31.Re4! with good drawing chances.] After the forced moves **29...Qd4 30.Rd1 Nf6**

31.♖d4 ♘g4 32.♖d7 ♔f6 33.♖b7 ♖c1
34.♗f1 Black delivered the winning
stroke ♞e3!



35.♞e3 fe3 and white resigned
0-1