

D43
 □ **Anand, Viswanathan** **2783**
 ■ **Kramnik, Vladimir** **2772**
 WCC Bonn (9) 26.10.2008

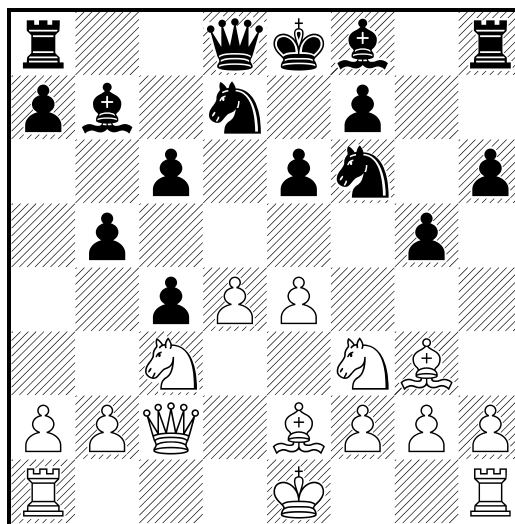
It's not over until it's over. That was the message that Kramnik was about to transmit to all his fans during this game, until he offered to trade queens, to the surprise of everyone. He missed several strong continuations to increase his opening advantage, but he fail to find them and finally the game was drawn shortly after the first time control. It was anyway the longest game of this match and his first real opportunity to win a game.

Anand is now leading by 6-3, which means one more draw is all he needs to win this match, with 3 games remaining to be played. Most people here in Bonn believe that tomorrow the match will come to an end, but as Kramnik said in the press conference, he will try to avoid it by fighting till the very end. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 c6 5.♙g5 h6 6.♙h4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.♙g3 b5 9.♙e2 ♙b7** Anand and Kramnik have played this opening with both colors several times, including games between themselves. From this point on, the lines become extremely complex, mostly because many of them may transpose into the others at anytime, so it's really hard to work out an independent line. **10.♚c2** This came as a surprise, as certainly this move is not one of the most popular in the present position

[10.e5 was the early continuation, not in fashion anymore ♘h5 11.a4 a6 12.♘xg5 ♘xg3 13.♘xf7 ♚xf7 14.fxg3 ♙g8∞ Kramnik-Anand, Belgrade 1997]

[10.0-0 is the way to go for most games being played nowadays ♘bd7 11.♘e5 ♙g7 12.♘xf7!! (12.♘xd7 ♘xd7 13.♙d6 a6 14.♙h5 ♙f8 15.♙xf8 ♚xf8 16.e5 ♚b6 17.b3 0-0-0∞ Kramnik-Anand, Mexico City 2007) 12...♚xf7 13.e5 ♘d5 14.♘e4 ♚e7 15.♘d6 ♚b6 16.♙g4 ♚af8 17.♚c2 was the spectacular game Topalov-Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2008]
 [10.h4 is by far the most explored move]
 [10.♘e5 is also a very popular continuation]

10...♘bd7



At the press conference Kramnik said that this time he wanted to avoid being behind in the clock as occurred in games 3 and 5. He reacted quickly saving time, and he played well indeed. **11.♚d1 ♙b4** This move was new, however it did not lead to a new position as now the computer showed some games where White had played 12.e5 and 12.♘e5, the road Anand follows next. **12.♘e5 ♚e7** Again Kramnik plays a new move and this time it can be called an absolute

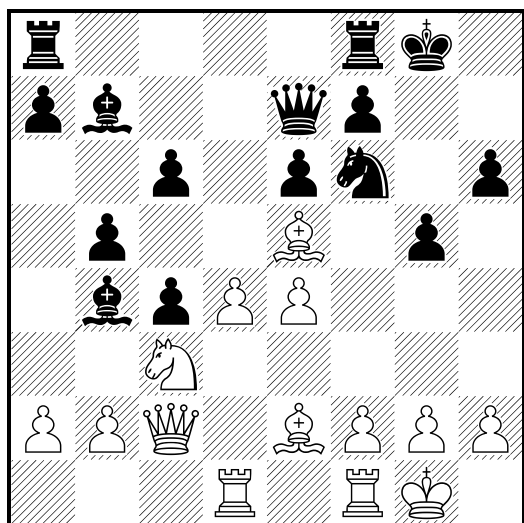
novelty, leading to a new position. The move had been recommended by German grandmaster Lutz who annotated an important game played 8 years ago by Dutch GM Van Wely who was precisely Kramnik's secondant in the WCC in Mexico City, so Kramnik might have studied this position before.

[12...♖g8?! 13.0-0 ♔e7 14.a4 a6 15.♘xd7 ♘xd7 16.d5 ♘f6 17.d6 ♔d7 18.f4 ♕xc3 19.bxc3 c5 20.fxg5 ♕xe4 21.♔d2 ♘d5 22.♕h5 ♕g6 23.♕f3 ♕d3 24.♕xd5 exd5 25.♖de1+ ♔d8 26.♖e7 1-0 Van Wely-Dao Thien Hai, Istanbul 2000]

13.0-0

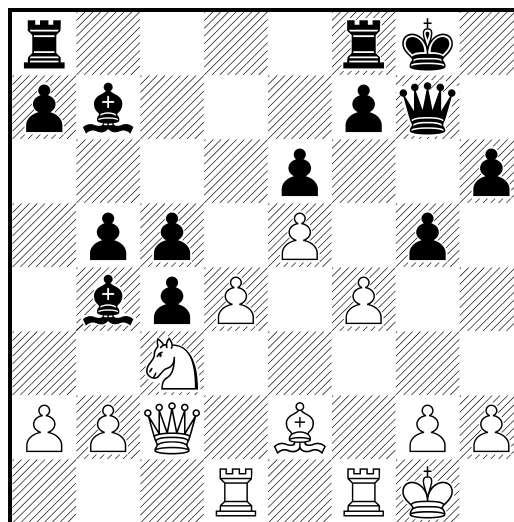
[13.♘xd7 was suggested by Kramnik as a possible improvement after the game]

13...♘xe5! 14.♕xe5 0-0



The position already looks OK for Black as it is not easy for White to organize his attack on the king side. For instance, after the normal break 15.f4 ♘d7! the position becomes very suspicious. **15.♕xf6 ♔xf6 16.f4 ♔g7** While many grandmaster were calculating the

consequences of 16...gxf4, Kramnik played quickly this move and as Anand admitted at the press conference, around here he started to feel that something had gone wrong with his previous play. **17.e5** A critical moment where Anand is ready to deploy his pieces in the Black's king direction and Black has to show a consistent plan. The computers were in favor of advancing the f-pawn to f6 or f5 to secure the king but weakening the position. Kramnik finds something much better. **c5!**



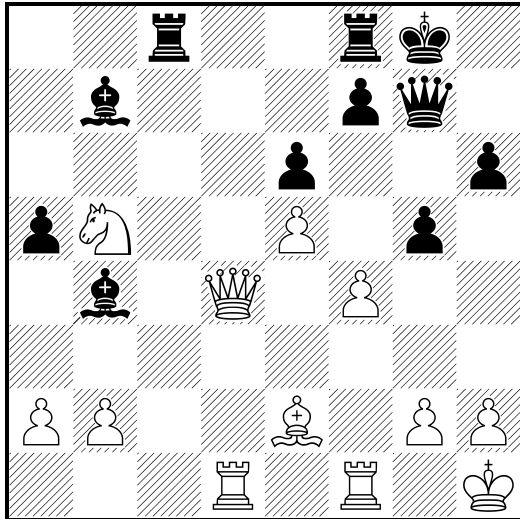
An energetic continuation, giving back his pawn for a strong initiative. **18.♘xb5 cxd4 19.♔xc4**

[An alternative was 19.♕f3 but after ♕xf3 20.♖xf3 ♖ac8 21.♘xd4 ♖fd8 the position looks fine for Black]

19...a5! Again a strong move by Kramnik and most people watching the game at the press room were really impressed. It's clear that Black has the upper hand **20.♔h1** There were other moves like 20.♕f3 or 20.♘d6, but ♔h1 seems best. **♖ac8** Better than

[20...gxf4 21.♕f3 ♕xf3 22.gxf3

(22. ♖xf3 ♔xe5) 22... ♔xe5 23. ♞xd4
when Black is still better but White has
play]
21. ♔xd4



gxf4 A move that was instantly criticized
at the press room, probably without
reason.

[21... ♖c2 22. ♕f3 ♕xf3 23. ♖xf3 gxf4
24. ♖g1 and White holds]

[21... ♕c5!? This is the move
everybody was expecting. At the press
conference, Kramnik said he had tried
to make it work but could not see how
to continue after the best defense

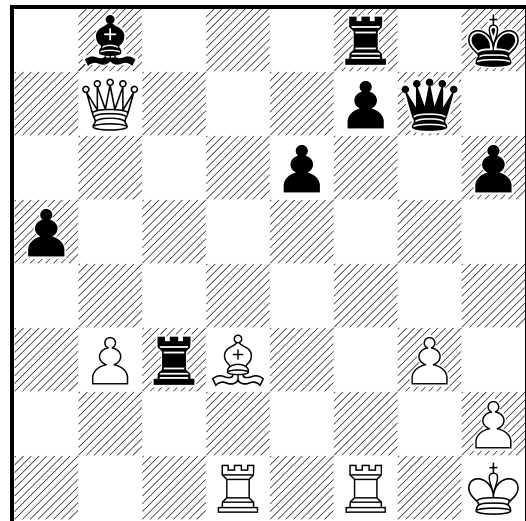
22. ♔a4 gxf4 23. ♕f3 ♕xf3 24. ♖xf3

A) 24... ♕e3 25. ♞d6! (after 25.g3
♔g4 the tactics were working nicely
for Black) 25... ♔xe5 (25... ♖b8
26. ♞c4 ♔h8 27. ♔c2∞) 26. ♞xc8
♖xc8 with compensation but probably
not more ;

B) 24... ♔xe5 25. ♔xf4 ♔xf4 26. ♖xf4
♖fd8 the ending looks very
comfortable to Black]

22. ♕f3 ♕a6 23. a4 ♖c5 24. ♔xf4 ♖xe5
25. b3?! ♕xb5 26. axb5 ♖xb5 27. ♕e4
♕c3 28. ♕c2 ♕e5 29. ♔f2 ♕b8 30. ♔f3

♖c5 Black has regrouped his pieces that
are all working nicely. The big question
is now how to make progress against
best defense by White. 31. ♕d3 ♖c3
32. g3 ♔h8 Creating the threat ♖xb3
33. ♔b7



Looks active but at the same time this
move creates new problems for White.
f5

[33... ♕c7! is much stronger since
Black may be threatening 36... ♖b8.
Should White try to protect the b3
pawn with the natural 34. ♕c4
then he runs into nasty tactics by
♕xg3!!

A) 35. ♖g1? ♔e5! 36. hxg3
(36. ♖xg3 ♖xg3 37. hxg3 ♔h5+)
36... ♔h5+ 37. ♔g2 ♖c2+ ;

B) 35. hxg3? ♖xg3+ ;

C) 35. ♔e7 ♕e5 36. ♖g1 ♕f6
37. ♔c5 ♕g5+]

34. ♔b6

[34. ♔xg7+ ♔xg7 35. ♕c4 ♔f6
led to a better ending for Black]

**34... ♔e5?! Allows White to save the
game**

[34... ♕a7? 35. ♔xe6 ♔b7+]

36.♙e4!+-]

[34...♙e5!?]

35.♖b7?

[In time pressure Anand misses

35.♙xf5! exf5 36.♖xh6+ (36.♖fe1!?

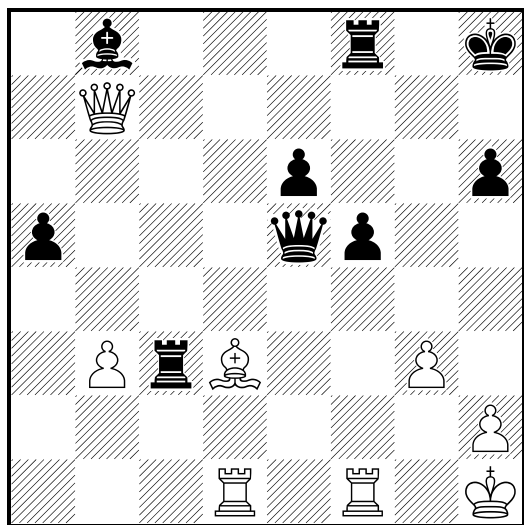
♖g7 37.♖e6 may even be stronger)

36...♙g8 37.♖g5+ (37.♖g6+ ♖g7

38.♖e6+ ♖f7 39.♖xf7+ ♖xf7

40.♖d8+ ♖f8 41.♖xf8+ ♙xf8

42.♖xf5+) 37...♖g7 38.♖xf5]



35...♖c7? A really poor decision since there was a lot of danger for the White king. At the press conference Kramnik said that he had not been good handling tactics in time trouble in previous games, so when he started here calculating the line 35...f4 and later discovered that it simply allowed mate in one, he decided to go for the ending.

[35...♖g8? On his way to the press conference somebody informed Kramnik of this move that he later quoted 'as winning'. It's not easy to asses if the position is already winning or not, but certainly Black is clearly better with the queens over the

board.]

[35...♙c7? was also a move]

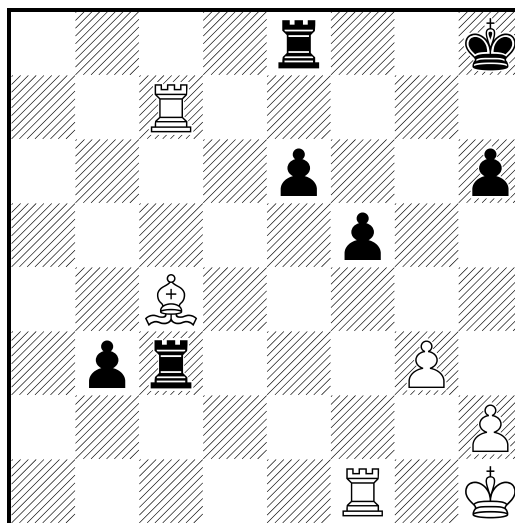
36.♖xc7 ♙xc7 37.♙c4 ♖e8?!

[37...a4 immediately was the only chance to keep the fight on]

38.♖d7 a4 now is much easier for White to make the draw **39.♖xc7**

[39.♖a1=]

39...axb3



40.♖f2?! Vishy had seen the line with ♖d1 to search for perpetual on the seventh rank, but with only a minute left decided to play solid and then allowed sudden chances to Vladimir

[40.♖d1 b2 41.♙g2]

40...♖b8

[40...♖a8!? was probably more dangerous]

41.♖b2 h5

[41...♖b4? 42.♖c8+ ♙g7 43.♙xe6]

[41...e5 42.♙g2]

[41...f4 42.♙g2]

[41...♖c2 unfortunately for Kramnik, this natural continuation was not enough after the forced line 42.♖xc2 bxc2 43.♙xe6 ♖b1+ 44.♙g2 c1♖ 45.♖xc1 ♖xc1 46.♙xf5 leading to a

theoretical ending where White puts his bishop in the long diagonal and his position is invulnerable.]

42.♔g2 h4 43.♖c6

[43.gxh4 ♖a8]

[43.♔f2? ♖a8 was the trick Kramnik had in mind as he revealed in the press conference although it may not be enough to win either.]

43...hxg3 44.hxg3 ♖g8 45.♖xe6 ♖xc4

After this result, Anand leads by 6-3 and needs only a draw to win the match. The next game, number 10, will see Kramnik as White trying to stop him at least for one day.

1/2-1/2