

□ **Anand, Viswanathan**

■ **Kramnik, Vladimir**

WCC Bonn (11)

B96

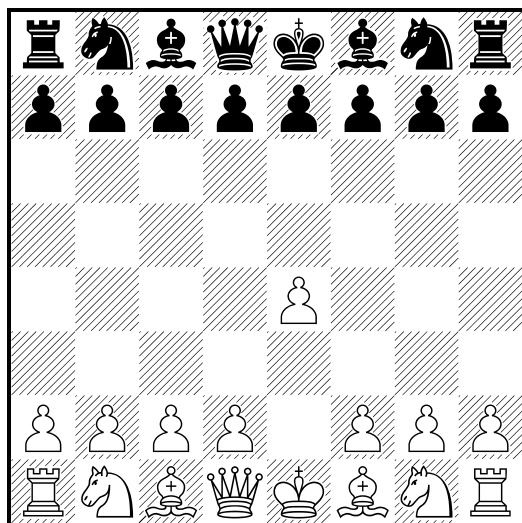
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29.10.2008

The eleventh game turned out to be the last game of the match. In my opinion, it was the lowest quality game of all, as the direct result of the tension and the necessity by Kramnik to risk for a win.

1.e4

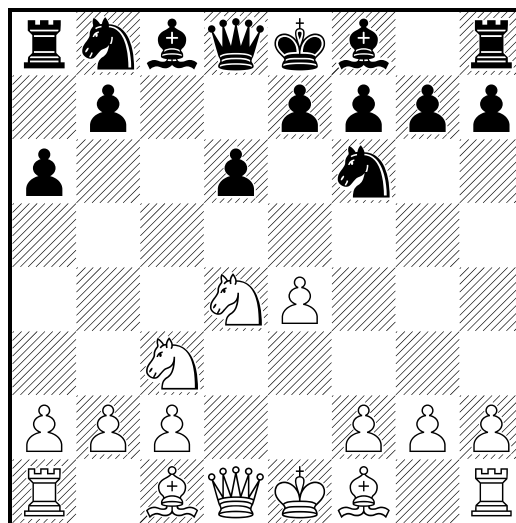


As it was easy to predict, Anand made the right choice to retain his title, 1.e4!, a powerful move that only Kramnik has been able to neutralize. He kept undefeated in 5 games against Kasparov in their London 2000 match and made 1.5 out of 2 against Leko in their Brissago 2004 match. That was enough to convince his opponents that he is invulnerable in those grounds. Leko switched immediately to 1.d4, Topalov in Elista 2006 did not bother to try 1.e4 in a single game, and so had done Anand until today.

However, Kramnik's preparation against 1.e4 is directed to reach equality and no

more. It's impossible to use the Berlin or the Petrov as a must win weapon. So what to do? Over the board, Kramnik improvised, played the always fashionable Najdorf, but soon landed out of book, felt uncomfortable with the position and made the wrong decisions.

c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6



The Najdorf is not new to Kramnik.

There was a period of time when he switched to 1.e4 and had to face it quite a few times, in particular, 3 games against Anand, all of them ending in a draw. As Black Kramnik played the Najdorf against Anand in Dortmund 2004, where he lost in the line 6.Be3, that he was probably expecting this time. **6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 ♖c7** A side line. Most players as White are afraid of 7...Qb6 which has been analyzed heavily with most lines leading to a good evaluation for Black. The problem with 7...♗b6 is that many variations are leading to a draw by force, so Kramnik could not go for it precisely today. **8.♙xf6 gxf6 9.f5 ♖c5**

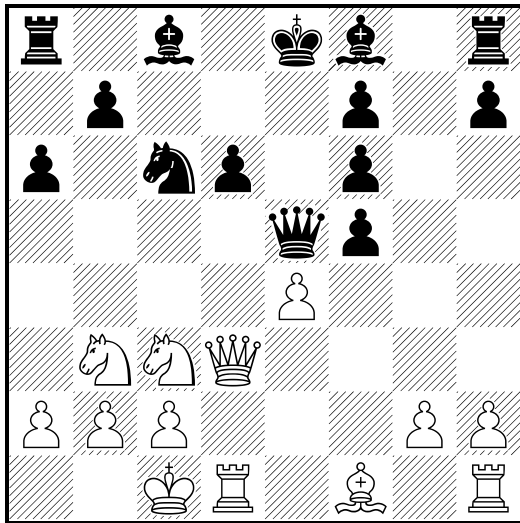
At the press conference Kramnik said

that he had found this move, probably a new move The truth is that there are many games with this move, one of them played by Kasimdzhanov, one of Anand's seconds in this match.

Kramnik was simply trying his best, but he was in unfamiliar grounds.

[9...♘c6 10.fxe6 fxe6 11.♙c4 ♘xd4 12.♚xd4 ♖g8 13.0-0-0∞ is one of the latest games in this line at the high level, Radjabov-Grischuk, Sochi 2008]

10.♚d3 The main move. There is also 6. ♙e2, 6. ♘b3 and a few other minor moves ♘c6 11.♘b3 ♚e5 12.0-0-0 exf5



An ugly move, an indication of the tension and the desire by Kramnik to complicate the game. In these Rauzer positions, taking on f5 is normally not good for Black. **13.♚e3!** Anand is really good at the white side of the Sicilian. At the press room most grandmasters were considering moves like 13.♚f3, 13. ♙e2, 13.♘d5 and 13.♙b1 ♙g7 This came also as a surprise, but the alternatives were not looking better, for instance.

[13...♙e6 14.♚b6 fxe4 (14...♖b8 15.♙xa6±) 15.♚xb7 ♖c8 16.♙xa6 ♙h6+ 17.♙b1 0-0 18.♚b6±]

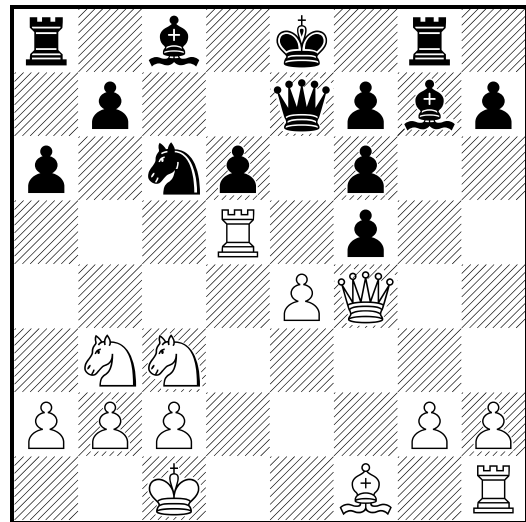
[13...fxe4?! 14.♖d5 ♚e6 15.♘d4 ♘xd4 16.♚xd4 ♙d7 17.♙c4→]

[13...f4 14.♚b6 ♙g7 15.♘d2 with the idea of ♘c4 and ♘d5 looks strong for White]

14.♖d5 ♚e7 15.♚g3 ♖g8

[15...0-0 16.exf5 ♘e5 17.♚f4±]

16.♚f4!



A critical moment, where most grandmasters evaluated the position as slightly better for White or unclear. The next two moves by Kramnik are dubious, clarifying the position in White's favor **fxe4?!**

[16...♙e6 Kramnik had seen this move, but he did not like it. Anyway it looks better than taking immediately on e4.

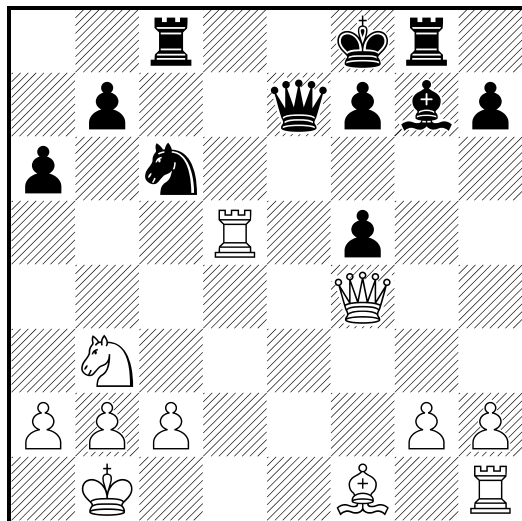
17.♖d1 fxe4 18.♘xe4 ♙g4 (18...♙f8!?) 19.♖d2 f5 20.♘xd6+ ♙f8 and there is still a fight]

17.♘xe4 f5?! This allows a comfortable simplification by **18.♘xd6+ ♙f8**

19.♘xc8 ♖xc8 20.♙b1

From an unclear position we have

reached this one where White is about to gain a big advantage. To avoid it, Black has no choice but to exchange queens.



♔e1+ 21.♘c1 ♘e7

[21...♘b4? 22.♖xf5+-]

[21...♔b4 22.♘d3 ♔xf4 23.♘xf4±]

22.♔d2! ♔xd2 23.♖xd2 ♘h6 24.♖f2

♘e3± At this point Kramnik offered a draw. He could not fight any longer.

It was a very good match, where both players fought hard over the board and at the same time were true gentlemen outside of it.

1/2-1/2