

Kasparov-Kramnik 2000

by Karsten Müller



Russell Enterprises, Inc.
Milford, CT USA

Kasparov-Kramnik 2000

by Karsten Müller

Copyright © 2000-2006
Russell Enterprises, Inc.



All rights reserved under
Pan American and International Copyright Conventions.

Published by:
Russell Enterprises, Inc.
PO Box 5460
Milford, CT 06460 USA

info@chesscafe.com
<http://www.ChessCafe.com>

Table of Contents

Foreword	4
Game One	5
Game Two	8
Game Three	11
Game Four	16
Game Five	21
Game Six	23
Game Seven	29
Game Eight	30
Game Nine	33
Game Ten	36
Game Eleven	40
Game Twelve	44
Game Thirteen	48
Game Fourteen	50
Game Fifteen	55

Foreword

In the fall of 2000, World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov met challenger Vladimir Kramnik in London in a sixteen game match in defense of his title. Kasparov had dominated the game since winning the title in 1985 from Anatoly Karpov. Before the match, Kasparov was favored to retain his title. Indeed, no one could have predicted that not only would he lose his title, but that he would do so without winning even a single game.

ChessCafe.com is pleased to present all fifteen games of this historic match annotated by German grandmaster Karsten Müller. ChessCafe.com would like to extend its thanks to Karsten Müller and Frederic Friedel of ChessBase. We hope you enjoy Kramnik-Kasparov, match for the world championship, London 2000.

Hanon Russell
September 2001

on the kingside, and Black cannot castle. In return, Black has the bishop-pair and no easily exploitable weaknesses. Opinions about the evaluation of the position are inconclusive. We will see if the discussion is taken up again in the course of this match.

9.♖c3 ♗d7 10.b3 h6 11.♗b2 ♝c8 12.h3

This is Garry's novelty. Kramnik now responds in a way that makes it difficult for White to achieve g4, because it can be attacked with h7-h5. 12.♞ad1 a5 13.h3 b6 14.a4 ♗b4 15.♜e2 ♞e8 16.♜f4 g6 17.g4 ♜g7 18.♞d3 ♜e6 19.♜xe6 ♗xe6 20.♜d4 ♗d7 21.♜e2 ♗d6 22.f4 f5 23.exd6 ♞xe2 24.dxc7 ♝xc7 25.♜e5+ ♝c8 26.♞fd1 ♜e6 27.♞d6 1-0, Shirov,A-Krasenkow,M Polanica Zdroj 2000.

12...b6 13.♞ad1

Kasparov has 1:13 remaining vs. 1:48 for Kramnik, which tells us who stayed in the main line of his preparation longest. The position is a bit better for White, but the black bishops are not easy to overcome.

13...♜e7 14.♜e2 ♜g6 15.♜e1 h5 16.♜d3

Kasparov has only 39 minutes left, which indicates that he has had problems finding a plan that would bring serious danger to his opponent. 16.♜f3!? 16 ♜g5 was also possible, and takes advantage of the fact that 15...h5 has weakened the g5-square.

16...c5 17.c4!?

Closing up the position is advantageous for White. Black's bishop-pair is better in open positions.

17...a5

Kramnik wants to open the a-file for his rook with an eventual a5-a4.

18.a4

Kasparov nails down the queenside in typical fashion. Black can no longer mobilize his pawn majority because of the doubled pawn (after ...c6 and ...b5, White simply stays put), while at the same time Kasparov is able to get a passed pawn on the kingside in the long run. Kasparov has 37 minutes left and strolls across the stage looking confident, while Kramnik, who has much more time on his clock, seems quite uncomfortable in his seat.

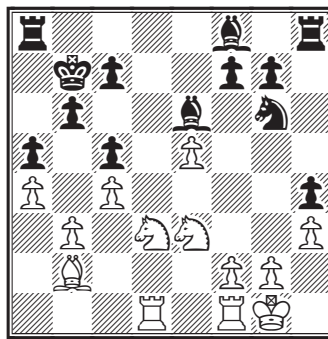
18...h4!?

Kramnik 49:00. 18...♙e7?! 19.♗df4 ♗xf4 20.♗xf4 ♙f5 21.♗d5 ♙d8 22.♗e3± (Fritz).

19.♗c3 ♙e6 20.♗d5

Even after 20.f4 ♙h5 21.♗d5 ♖b7 22.♗e3 ♗e7 Black can stop f2-f4-f5.

20...♖b7 21.♗e3



21...♙h5!?

This unusual development of the rook is directed against f2-f4-f5.

22.♙c3 ♙e8 23.♙d2 ♖c8 24.f4 ♗e7 25.♗f2 ♗f5 ½-½

Black has achieved a solid blockade; neither side can make any progress

Game Two

Kramnik, Vladimir (2770) - Kasparov, Garry (2849)
BGN World Championship London (2), 10.10.2000 [D85]

After the first colorless draw, the two players really got down to business.

1.d4!?

Kramnik wants to go for it. He has prepared a plan against Kasparov's Grünfeld!

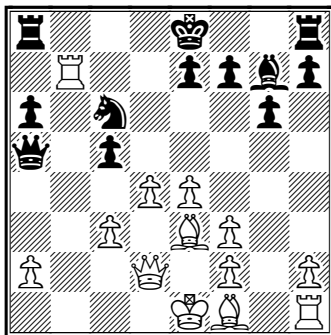
1...♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♞c3 d5

Kasparov accepts the challenge.

**4.c×d5 ♞×d5 5.e4 ♞×c3 6.b×c3 ♟g7 7.♞f3 c5 8.♞e3 ♚a5 9.♚d2
♞g4 10.♞b1 a6 11.♞×b7**

Ivanchuk and Levin give this natural move a “?!” in *Chess Informant*. Kramnik apparently sees it differently. 11.♞b3?! b5 with counterplay, as in Timman, J-Ivanchuk, V Linares 1992 (*Informant* 54/42).

11...♞×f3 12.g×f3 ♞c6



Ivanchuk and Levin give this variation in *Informant* without an evaluation.

13.♞c4!? 0-0

13...e6 14.♞xe6 (Skripchenko) (14.0-0!?) 14...♞d8 15.♞d5 ♞×b7 16.♞×b7
♞b8 17.♞c6+/-; 13...c×d4 14.c×d4 ♚×d2+ 15.♚×d2 ♞×d4 16.f4+/-.

14.0-0 c×d4 (14...♞fd8!?) **15.c×d4 ♞×d4**

After 15...♖xd2 16.♗xd2 ♘xd4 17.♕g2, the pair of bishops gives White a small but permanent advantage. The weak a-pawn in particular may cause Black some headaches.

16.♗d5 ♗c3

16...♖xd2 17.♗xd2 ♖fc8+/=.

17.♖c1 ♘d4

Kasparov gives up a pawn in order to get one of the white bishops off the board, going into an endgame with opposite-colored bishops.

18.♗xd4 ♗xd4 19.♖xe7 ♖a7 (19...♖d8!?) 20.♖xa7 ♗xa7 21.f4!?

Kramnik wants to contest the dark squares and start a kingside attack in the long run. 21.♖g5 allows 21...♖c3.

21...♖d8 22.♖c3

Kramnik maintains his strategy not to leave the dark squares to Kasparov's queen and bishop.

22...♗b8

22...♖h4 23.♖g3 ♖xg3+ 24.hxg3 ♖b8 25.♖c1+/=, +/-.

23.♖f3! ♖h4 24.e5 g5 25.♖e1

Kramnik goes into an endgame with rooks, opposite-colored bishops, and an extra pawn. 25.e6!? (Skripchenko).

25...♖xf4 26.♖xf4 gxf4 27.e6! fxe6 28.♖xe6 ♕g7 29.♖xa6 ♖f5 30.♗e4 (30.♗f3!? – Feist) 30...♖e5 31.f3 ♖e7 (with the idea ♖a7) 32.a4 (32.♖b6?? ♗a7–+) 32...♖a7 33.♖b6! ♗e5 34.♖b4

This endgame is very unpleasant for Kasparov because the rooks are still on the board. And, in time trouble, all problems are compounded.

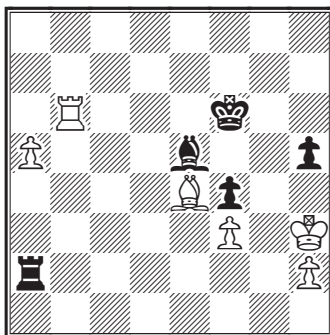
34...♖d7?

Allowing the a-pawn to advance farther. But activating the rook also weakens the h-pawn considerably.

35.♕g2 ♖d2+ 36.♕h3 h5 37.♖b5 ♕f6 38.a5

38.♖b6+!? was an alternative (Fritz 6).

38...♗a2 39.♖b6+



39...♗e7??

In time trouble Kasparov gives the game away to a two-mover. With 39...♗g7 he could have defended quite tenaciously, but White wins nevertheless as Kramnik demonstrated.

I had found this plan as well, and published it in my *Endgame Corner* column #3 at ChessCafe.com: 40.a6 ♗d4 41.♖g6+ ♖f8 42.♗b7 ♖a5 43.♖d6 ♗e3 44.♖d5 normally it is not such a good winning idea to trade rooks in this kind of endgame, but here it works because of the weak black h-pawn and White's far advanced a-pawn: 44...♖x d5 45.♗x d5 ♖g7 (45...♗e7 46.♖h4+-) 46.♖g2 ♖f6 47.h4! fixing the weak h-pawn on a dark square is very important! 47...♗a7 (47...♗e7 48.♖h3 ♖d6 49.♗f7 ♖c7 50.♗x h5 ♖b6 51.♖g4 ♖x a6 52.♗f7 ♖b6 53.♖f5 ♖c7 54.♖e6 ♗d4 55.h5 ♗g7 56.♗e8 ♖d8 57.♗a4 ♗h6 58.♖f6 ♗f8 59.♖f7 ♗h6 60.♖g6 ♗f8 61.h6 ♗b4 62.h7 ♗c3 63.♖f7+-) 48.♗e4 ♗e3 49.♖f1 ♗a7 50.♖e2 ♗g1 51.♖d3 ♗f2 52.♗h7 ♖g7 (52...♖e5 53.♖e2 ♗g1 54.♗g6+-) 53.♗f5 ♖f6 54.♖e4 ♗e3 55.♗h3+-.

40.♗d5 1-0

The pawn endgame after 40.♗d5 ♖x a5 41.♖e6+ ♖d7 42.♖x e5 ♖d6 43.♖x h5 ♖x d5 44.♖x d5+ ♖x d5 45.♖g4 is of course hopeless.

Game Three

Kasparov, Garry (2849) - Kramnik, Vladimir (2770)
BGN World Championship London (3), 12.10.2000 [C67]

There were two crucial questions before this game: would Kramnik once again choose the Berlin Defense, and had Kasparov and his team succeeded in finding a way to create more pressure for White in this opening. The answer to both questions was yes. See for yourself.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6!?

Kramnik shows no fear and stays with the Berlin Defense. It served him well in the first game.

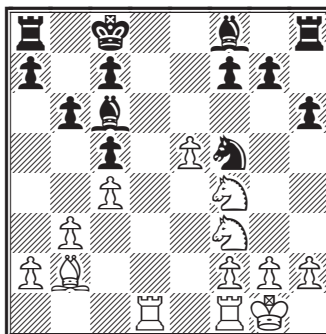
4.0-0 ♗×e4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗×c6 d×c6 7.d×e5 ♘f5 8.♙×d8+ ♗×d8 9.♗c3 ♗d7 10.b3 h6 11.♗b2 ♖c8 12.♞ad1!?

Deviating from game one. In the following, Kasparov puts full emphasis on the quick development of his pieces and the pawn advance e5-e6. In the first game he hadn't forced the tempo and played for the mobilization of a kingside majority with f2-f4-f5. But Kramnik had succeeded in setting up a firm blockade on the squares e6-f5: 12.h3 b6 13.♞ad1 ♗e7 14.♗e2 ♘g6 15.♗e1 h5 16.♗d3 c5 17.c4 a5 18.a4 h4 19.♗c3 ♗e6 20.♗d5 ♖b7 21.♗e3 ♞h5 22.♗c3 ♞e8 23.♞d2 ♖c8 24.f4 ♗e7 25.♗f2 ♗f5 ½-½, Kasparov,G-Kramnik,V London 2000 (25).

12...b6

Kramnik's novelty compared to 12...a5 13.h3 b6 14.a4 ♗b4 15.♗e2 ♞e8 16.♗f4 g6 17.g4 ♘g7 18.♞d3 ♗e6 19.♗×e6 ♗×e6 20.♗d4 ♗d7 21.♗e2 ♗d6 22.f4 f5 23.exd6 ♞×e2 24.d×c7 ♖×c7 25.♗e5+ ♖c8 26.♞fd1 ♗e6 27.♞d6 1-0, Shirov,A-Krasenkow,M Polanica Zdroj 2000.

13.♗e2 c5 14.c4 ♗c6 15.♗f4



Kasparov played all his moves very quickly, probably because this is all preparation. Kramnik now goes into a long think.

15...♖b7

15...♗xf3 16.gxf3 was the other principle possibility. Kramnik would have relinquished his bishop-pair, but White's kingside majority would have been diminished in value because of the double pawns on the f-file. However, the great activity of the white pieces makes Black's position very uninviting.

16.♘d5 ♘e7 17.♞fe1 ♞g8

Kramnik covers the pawn on g7 prophylactically, in case White is able to play e5-e6. Now Kasparov goes into a long think.

18.♘f4

After thinking for twenty minutes, Kasparov pulls his knight from d5 back to f4 in order to support the advance e5-e6. 18.e6?! fxe6 19.♘xe7 (19.♘f4 ♗xf3 20.gxf3 ♘f5) 19...♗xe7 20.♞xe6 ♗xf3 21.gxf3 ♗d6 doesn't get anything for White.

18...g5

The alternative was 18...♗xf3 19.gxf3 ♞e8 20.e6 fxe6 21.♞xe6 ♞c8 22.♞d7 g5!? (Fritz 6).

19.♘h5 ♞g6

Planning to bring the rook into play with ♞e6, which Kasparov immediately prevents with his next move.

20.♘f6

The knight seriously disturbs the coordination of Black's position. Kramnik is now forced to take very drastic measures to get rid of the knight.

20...♗g7 21.♞d3 ♗xf3

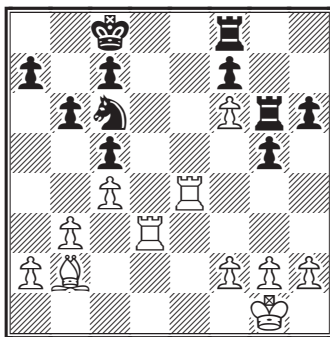
21...♗xf6?! looks very dubious, because the rook on g6 has problems getting into play: 22.exf6 ♘g8 23.♞ee3 ♘xf6? 24.♘e5 ♞gg8 25.♘xc6 ♞xc6 26.♗xf6+.

22.♞xf3 ♗xf6 23.exf6 ♘c6 24.♞d3 ♞f8

24...♘d4 was possible, in order to seek survival in a rook ending. However,

White doubtlessly has the advantage after 25. ♖xd4 cxd4 26. ♗xd4 ♜xf6 27. ♖d7.

25. ♖e4 ♜c8



26. f4!?

Kasparov now tries to create more weaknesses on the kingside by bringing his pawn majority and space advantage into play.

26... gxf4

26... ♖d4!? was again possible.

27. ♗xf4 ♜e8

Kramnik prefers to activate his second rook instead of going on a pawn hunt. Naturally, 27... ♖b4 is Fritz's preference.

28. ♖c3 ♜e2 29. ♗f2 ♜e4 30. ♗h3

This decision costs Kasparov plenty of time. Is the rook good on h3, since it pressures h6 and makes it easier to mobilize the kingside; or is it bad because the rook is missing on the central files? Whatever the answer, Kasparov proceeds with full risk.

30... a5

30... ♖d4 31. ♖d2; 30... ♖e5 31. ♗f5 in both cases White has a permanent initiative on the kingside.

31. ♗h5!? a4 32. bxa4

All or nothing!

32... ♗xc4 33. ♖d2 ♗xa4 34. ♗xh6 ♗g8?!

34...♖×h6!? 35.♙×h6 c4 also looks very plausible, although I am unable to work out the pawn races in the short time I have for this commentary.

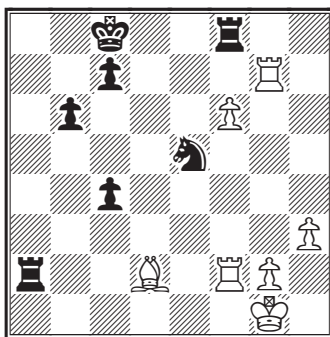
35.♖h7 ♖×a2

Kramnik also has a word to say; he too holds strong trumps in his hand. However, the white f-pawn is extremely dangerous because it is so far advanced. 35...♙d8 (Fritz 6) seems to be very passive.

36.♖×f7 ♘e5!

36...♖a1+? 37.♖f1 ♖a2? (37...♖×f1+) 38.♙f4+–.

37.♖g7 ♖f8 38.h3 (38.h4!?) 38...c4



After 38...♙d3, the idea was 39.f7 ♘×f2? (Better is 39...♙d7 40.♖g8 ♖a1+ 41.♙h2 ♘×f2 42.♖×f8 ♙e7 43.♖c8 ♙×f7) 40.♖g8 ♙d7 41.♖×f8 ♖×d2 42.♖e8+–.

39.♖e7

Kramnik suggests the very interesting 39.♙c3!? in *New in Chess Magazine* 1/2001 and gives 39...♖×f2 40.♙×f2 ♖×f6+ 41.♙e3 ♖e6 42.♙d4±.

39...♙d3 40.f7 ♘×f2

The last few moves had to be played quickly, and especially Kramnik had just a few minutes on his clock. The first time control is reached at move 40. The next moves are forced for both sides.

41.♖e8+ ♙d7 42.♖×f8 ♙e7 43.♖c8

43.♖d8 ♙×f7 44.♙×f2 c3 45.♙e3 c×d2 46.♖×d2=.

43...♙×f7 44.♖×c7+ ♙e6 45.♙e3!

Kasparov is still trying to breathe life into the position, but Kramnik's counterplay is enough for the draw.

45...♗d1! 46.♙×b6 c3 47.h4

47.♖h2 ♕e5 48.h4 ♖e4 49.h5 ♗a6 50.♙g1 ♕d3 51.♗d7+ ♖e2 52.♗e7+ ♕d3= (Kramnik).

47...♗a6!

After 47...c2?! 48.♖h2 the black pieces are very awkwardly placed.

48.♙d4 ♗a4 49.♙×c3 ♗×c3 50.♗×c3 ♗×h4 51.♗f3!?

The rook ending is a theoretical draw in spite of the black king being cutoff. Kasparov decides to test Kramnik's technique for just a few more moves.

51...♗h5 52.♖f2 ♗g5

Naturally not 52...♗f5?? 53.♗×f5 ♖×f5 54.♖f3!+- and mate in 23 (Fritz 6).

53.♗f8 ♖e5 ½-½

After 53...♖e5 54.♖f3, trading down to a pawn ending would be a safe possibility: 54...♗f5+ 55.♗×f5+ ♖×f5 56.♖g3 ♖g5! =.

Game Four

Kramnik, Vladimir (2770) - Kasparov, Garry (2849)
BGN World Championship London, (4) 13.10.2000 [D27]

1.d4 d5

Kasparov refrains from playing the Grünfeld Defense, with which he lost the second game of the match. This is also an indication that he was not able to improve that variation.

2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 e6 4.e3 c5 5.♙xc4 a6 6.0-0 ♗f6 7.dxc5

Alternatives are 7.♖e2 or 7.a4. Also interesting is 7.♙d3.

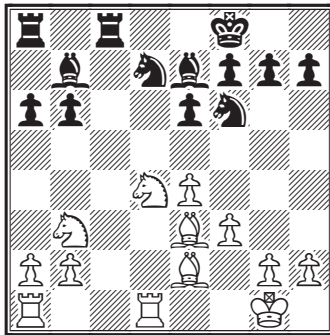
7...♗x♙d1 8.♞x♙d1

Kramnik's match strategy seems to involve variations with an early exchange of queens.

8...♙xc5 9.♗bd2 ♗bd7 10.♙e2 b6 11.♗b3

11.♗c4 ♙b7 12.b3 0-0 13.♙b2 ♙d5 14.♞ac1 ♞fc8 15.♗fe5 b5 16.♗xd7 ♗xd7 17.♗d2 ♙b4 18.♗b1 ♗b6 19.f3 ♞xc1 20.♞xc1 ♞c8 21.♞xc8+ ♗xc8 22.♙a3 ♙xa3 23.♗xa3 b4 24.♗c2 a5 25.♙a6 ♗b6 26.e4 ♙c6 27.♖f2 ½-½, Kramnik, V-Lautier, J Monte Carlo 1997 *CBM 57* ext (27).

11...♙e7 12.♗fd4 ♙b7 13.f3 0-0 14.e4 ♞fc8 15.♙e3 ♖f8



16.♗d2

A novelty compared to the game Bareev, E-Rublevsky, S Elista 1996: 16.♖f2 ♗e5 17.♗d2 ♞c7 18.♗4b3 ♞c6 19.♞ac1 ♞ac8 20.♞xc6 ♞xc6 21.h3 ♖e8 22.♙d4 (½-½ in 45).

16...♖e5

16...e5?! 17.♗f5 ♖c2 18.♜xe7 ♜xe7 19.♙d3 ♖c6 (19...♗xb2 20.♜c4 ♖b4 21.♙d2 ♖a4 22.a3 ♜e6 23.♜e3 ♜c5 24.♙c2 ♖d4 25.♜f5±) 20.♜c4±.

17.♜4b3 ♖c6 18.♗ac1 ♖ac8 19.♗xc6 ♖xc6 20.g4!? h6 21.h4 ♙c8

After 21...♖c2, White wins the exchange by 22.♙d4 ♜fd7 23.♙c3 ♙xh4 24.♜d4.

22.g5 h×g5 23.h×g5 ♜fd7 24.f4 ♜g6 25.♜f3 ♖c2? 26.♙xa6! ♙xa6

26...♜de5?! 27.♜xe5 ♜xe5 28.♜d4 ♜f3+ 29.♜xf3 ♙xa6 30.♖d2±.

27.♗xd7 ♖xb2 28.♖a7 ♙b5

28...♖xa2?? 29.♖a8+-.

29.f5 e×f5 30.e×f5 ♖e2

After 30...♙c6? 31.♜bd4 ♙xf3 32.♜xf3, the attacked knight on g6 has no retreat square because 32...♜h8 33.♖a8+ loses. 30...♜h8?! 31.♖a8+ ♙e8 32.♙xb6 results in a hopeless position with a pawn less.

31.♜fd4

After 31.♙d4, Black can fight as well: 31...♙c6! 32.♖c7 ♙xf3 33.♖c8+ ♙d8.

31...♖e1+ 32.♜f2 ♖f1+ 33.♜g2 ♜h4+!

33...♜h8?? 34.♖a8+ ♙e8 fails to 35.♜xf1+-.

34.♜h3 ♖h1+ 35.♜g4 ♙e8 36.♙f2 ♜g2

Kasparov's play is an exercise in brinkmanship.

37.♖a8

37.♜f3!? threatens to win a piece after 38.♜g3.

37...♖f1 38.♜f3 ♜h4+

After 38...♜f4 39.♜d2 ♖d1 40.♜c4!, Kramnik proves that White is winning, with deep analysis in *New in Chess Magazine* 1/2001.

39. ♖e2 ♜h1

39... ♜xf2+ 40. ♖xf2 ♘xg5 41. ♜b8 b5 42. ♖g3!+-.

40. ♘b5 ♘xg5 41. ♘c7

Kramnik will win a piece now.

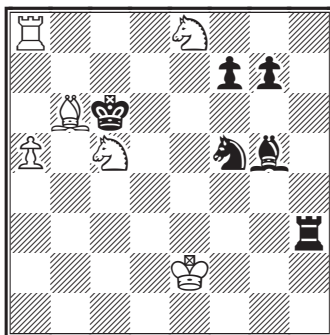
41... ♖e7 42. ♘xe8

42. ♜xe8+? ♖d7 43. ♜f8 ♖xc7 44. ♜xf7+ ♖d6 45. ♜xg7 ♘f6 46. ♜f7 ♘g5 (Kramnik) and Black is still fighting.

42... ♘xf5 43. ♘xb6 ♖d7 44. a4

Kramnik used plenty of time for this move.

44... ♜h3 45. ♘c5+ ♖c6 46. a5



46... ♜e3+?

A trap would be 46... ♘d4+ 47. ♖d1?? (correct is 47. ♖f1!) 47... ♜h1#. 46... ♘e3! was much more tenacious according to Kramnik.

47. ♖d1 ♜e7 (47... ♘f4!?) 48. ♜c8+ ♖b5 49. ♘e4?!

49. ♘c7+! (Fritz6) was better: 49... ♖c4 (49... ♖c6 50. ♘7e6+-) 50. ♘e4 (50. a6?? allows 50... ♘e3+ 51. ♖e2 ♘d5+) 50... ♘e3 51. ♘d2+ ♘xd2 52. ♖xd2+-.

49... ♜xe4 50. ♜c5+ ♖a6 51. ♘c7+

Is White winning after 51. ♜xf5 ♜xe8 52. ♜xg5 g6?.

51...♖b7 52.♗xf5 ♕e3! 53.♕xe3

53.♗d5? ♕xb6 54.axb6 ♖c6=.

53...♗xe3 54.♗xf7?

54.♗d5 (Kramnik) was necessary to protect the a-pawn with the knight from behind.

54...♗e5?

Miguel Illescas proved that 54...♖c6! leads to a drawn position.

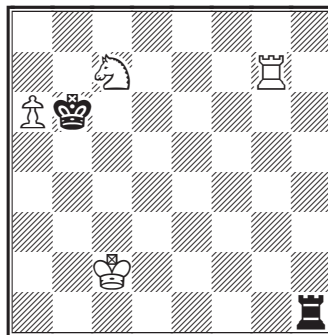
55.a6+?

55.♗d5+ ♖a6 56.♗b4+ ♖b5 57.♗f4+- (Kramnik).

55...♖b6 56.♗xg7 ♗a5

Kramnik just has to win having a piece and a pawn to his advantage, doesn't he?

57.♖d2 ♗a1 58.♖c2 ♗h1?



Wim van Os points out that the black rook had to stay on the a-file.

59.♖b2?

Kramnik misses his chance. 59.♗g8! ♗h2+ (59...♖xc7 60.a7+-; 59...♗a1 60.♗d5+ ♖a7 61.♗b4+-) 60.♖d3 ♗h3+ 61.♖e2 ♗h2+ 62.♖f3 ♗h3+ 63.♖g2! (van Os) (63.♖g4? ♗a3!=) 63...♗a3 64.♗d5+ ♖c5 (64...♖a7 65.♗b4+-; 64...♖xa6 65.♗a8+-) 65.♗g5 ♖b5 66.♗g6 ♖c5 67.♗c7+-.

59...♗h8 60.♖b3 ♗c8 61.a7

61. ♖b4 ♜xc7 62. ♜xc7 ♞xc7 63. ♞c5 ♖b8=.

61... ♞xa7

The endgame with rook + knight against the rook is nearly always a draw.

**62. ♞b4 ♖b6 63. ♜d5+ ♞a6! 64. ♜g6+ ♖b7 65. ♞b5 ♜c1 66. ♜g2 ♖c8
67. ♜g7 ♖d8 68. ♜f6 ♜c7 69. ♜g5**

69. ♜g8+ ♞e7 70. ♜d5+ ♞f7!=.

**69... ♜f7 70. ♜d5 ♖d7 71. ♜g6 ♜f1 72. ♞c5 ♜c1+ 73. ♞d4 ♜d1+
74. ♞e5 ½-½**

Game Five

Kasparov, Garry (2849) - Kramnik, Vladimir (2770)
BGN World Championship (5) London, 15.10.2000 [A34]

After his miracle escape yesterday, Kasparov again had the serve today.

1.c4!?

Obviously, Kasparov hasn't yet found a remedy for the Berlin Defense.

1...c5 2.♟f3 ♟f6 3.g3 d5 4.c×d5

Kasparov doesn't try Kramnik's idea of 4.d4!? from Kramnik,V-Kasparov,G Linares 2000. For example, see *ChessBase Magazine* #75, with game annotations by GM Stohl.

4...♟×d5 5.♞g2 ♟c6 6.♟c3 g6

6...♟c7 7.d3 e5 8.0-0 ♞e7 9.♟d2 ♞d7 10.♟c4 0-0 11.♞×c6 ♞×c6 12.♟×e5 ♞e8 is unclear, but with compensation for the pawn, as in Piket,J-Kasparov,G Kasparov Chess Grand Prix 2000.

7.0-0 ♞g7 8.♞a4

Alternatives were 8.♟×d5, 8.♞b3, or 8.♟g5.

8...♟b6

8...0-0!? 9.♞c4 (9.♞b5 ♞b6! 10.♞×b6 ♟×b6 11.d3 c4 12.d×c4 ♟×c4 unclear Ljubojevic,L-Ivanchuk,V Monaco blindfold 1993.) 9...♟×c3 10.d×c3 b6 11.♟g5 ♞c7= Hertneck,G-Miles,A Dortmund 1986. (11...♞b7? 12.♟e6!+-Uhlmann,W-Suetin,A Halle 1981.)

9.♞b5

9.♞h4 0-0 (9...c4!; 9...h6!?) 10.d3 f6 11.♞h6 with a slight advantage for White, as in Krasenkow,M-Brynell,S Malmoe 1995. See *CBM* #48 for commentary by GM Ribli.

9...♟d7

9...c4?! 10.♟e5!? (Fritz 6) 10...♞×e5 11.♞×c6+ b×c6 12.♞×e5 0-0 13.d4.

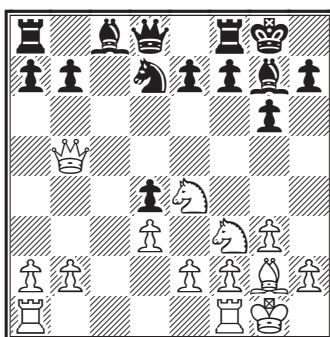
10.d3 0-0 11.♞e3 ♟d4!?

11...a6?! 12.♖c4 b5 13.♗h4 f6?! 14.♘e4! with an initiative for White, as in Schoenfeld,F-Schosse,T Germany 1994.

12.♙×d4

12.♖c4?! ♘xf3+ 13.♙xf3 ♘e5 14.♗xc5 ♘xf3+ 15.exf3 b6 16.♗b5 ♙b7 shouldn't be to White's liking.

12...c×d4 13.♘e4



13...♗b6!?

Kramnik follows his strategy of trading queens early to dampen Kasparov's attacking spirits. So far this has worked quite well. 13...♘b6 14.♘c5 e6 15.♙fc1 ♗e7 16.a4 ♙d8 17.a5 ♘d7 18.♘b3 gave White the initiative in Palermo,V-Wexler,B Buenos Aires 1964.

14.a4 a6 15.♗×b6 (15.♗g5!?) 15...♘×b6 16.a5 ♘d5! 17.♘c5 ♙d8 18.♘d2 ♙b8 19.♘c4 e6 20.♙fc1 ♙h6 21.♙cb1 ♙f8 22.♘b3

22.b4? ♘xb4 23.♙xb4 ♙xc5 24.♙b2 ♙d7 25.♙xb7 ♙b5.

22...♙g7 23.♙×d5 ♙×d5 24.♘bd2

24.♘b6 ♙b5 25.♘d2 e5=.

24...e5 ½-½

The two bishops are not inferior to the knights in spite of the somewhat closed position. Kramnik has sufficient options: f5-e4, ♙g7-h6, ♙c8-g4, and ♙d5-b5.

Game Six

Kramnik, Vladimir (2770) - Kasparov, Garry (2849)
BGN World Championship (6) London, 17.10.2000 [D27]

While the fifth game was somewhat colorless, this time a ferocious battle again took place.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4

Once more Kasparov resorts to the less ambitious Queen's Gambit Accepted.

3.f3 e6

Usually 3...f6 is played to prevent e2-e4.

4.e3

Kramnik won't be put off and will do without e4.

4...c5 5.fxc4 a6 6.0-0 f6 7.a4!?

Kramnik varies from 7.dxc5, as in the Game 4.

7...c6 8.e2 cxd4 9.d1 e7 10.exd4 0-0 11.c3 d5 12.b3 e8 13.h4!?

A new move. 13.e5?! dxc3 14.bxc3 dx5 15.dxe5 c7 16.d3 d7 17.h3 g6 18.h6 b5? (18...ed8 Naumkin,I-Sadler,M Oostende 1992 is better.) 19.d2 f5 20.g7+- Müller,K-Sadler,M Altensteig 1992.; 13.d2 f6 14.e4 cb4 15.e5 b6 16.f3 b7 17.e4 e7 18.ac1 ac8 19.e2 a5= Gelfand,B-Ivanchuk,V Monaco 2000.

13...cb4

13...hx4! 14.xh4 xc3 (14...hx4? 15.xd5 xd4 16.e4+-) 15.bxc3 hx4 16.d5 a5 17.c2 d7 18.d4 with an attack.

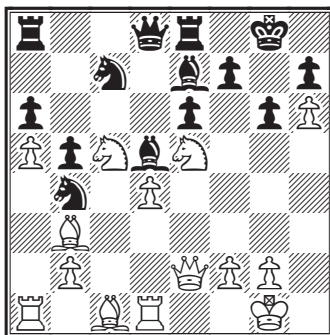
14.h5 b6 15.e5 b7 16.a5!? b5

16...bxa5?! 17.a4 f8 18.d7 e8 19.c5 c6 20.xc6 xc6 21.xe6.

17.h6 g6 18.e4 c7

18...c8!? (Fritz 6).

19. ♖c5 ♕d5



20. ♖a3!?

The rook might swing over to the kingside.

20... ♖c6 21. ♕x d5 ♖x d5 22. ♖cd7 ♖ad8

22... f6!? (Fritz 6); 22... ♕xa3?? 23. ♖f6+-.

23. ♖x c6

23. ♖b6?? ♖x d4+-.

23... ♖x d7

23... ♖x c6? 24. ♖e5 f6 25. ♖x f6+ ♕x f6 26. ♖x f6 ♖d7 and White has a pawn to his advantage (Schulz).

24. ♖x e7+ ♖e x e7 25. ♖c3 f6 26. ♕e3 ♖f7 27. ♖dc1 ♖b7

This clears d5 for his knight.

28. ♖c5 ♖d5 29. ♖f3 ♖b4 30. ♖e2

Both players each had about 10 minutes remaining.

30... ♖c7 31. ♕f4! ♖x c5

31... ♖cd7? 32. ♕e5! f x e5? 33. ♖x e5 ♖d8 34. ♖c7+-.

32. d x c5

A small success for White. He gets rid of his isolated pawn on d4, which has now become a protected passed pawn.

32...e5 33.♖d2 ♘c6

33...exf4? 34.♗xb4±; 33...♗e4!?

34.♗d5+ ♕f8 35.♙e3 ♗d7

35...♗xa5? 36.♗d8+ ♕f7 37.♗xa5+-; 35...♙e8!?

36.♗f3 ♕f7 37.♙d1 e4 38.♗e2 ♗f5 39.♙d6 ♙e6 40.♙d7+ ♙e7

The time control is over.

41.♙d6 ♙e6 42.♗d1!?

42.♙d7+ ♙e7 43.♙d6 would have drawn by the repetition of moves. But Kramnik wants more.

42...g5?

42...♙xd6 43.♗xd6 ♗e6= (Kramnik).

43.♗h5+?

43.♙d7+ was correct (see 45.♙d7+).

43...♕e7

43...♕f8 44.g4 ♗e5 45.♙f4? ♙xd6! 46.♙xe5 ♙d1+ 47.♕g2?! ♗xe5 48.♗h3 ♗f3 49.♗g3 ♙g1+ 50.♕h3 ♙xg3+-+ (Schulz); 43...♗g6? 44.♗xg6+ hxg6 (44...♕xg6 45.♙xe6+-) 45.♙xe6 ♕xe6 46.h7+-.

44.♗d1 ♕f7?

44...♕e8! (Kramnik) was called for.

45.♙d7+

Kasparov buries his head, while Kramnik looked nervous when making his move. The analysts in the London Chess Center thought that Kasparov was in serious trouble.

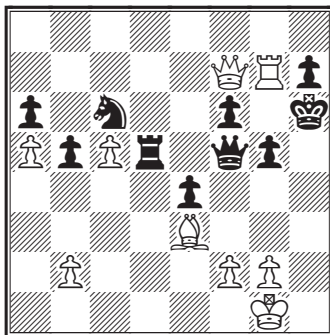
45...♕g6!

45...♙e7? 46.♗b3+-; 45...♗e7? 46.c6+-.

46. ♖g7+ ♜xh6 47. ♗d7

48. ♖xh7+ ♜xh7 49. ♗xe6 is threatened.

47... ♖e5 48. ♗f7 ♖d5



Hardly any good moves left for Kasparov.

49. ♗h1!!

49. ♗h2?! ♖e5 50. ♖xg5+ (50. ♖xh7+ ♜xh7 51. ♗xd5 +/-) 50... f×g5 51. ♗xf5 and now 51... ♖f3+ 52. g×f3 ♖xf5 53. ♖a7 ♖xf3 54. ♖xa6+= (Schulz); 49. ♖xh7+!? ♜xh7 50. ♗xd5.

49... ♖d8

49... ♖e5? 50. ♖xg5+ +-; 49... ♖d1+? 50. ♗h2 ♖d4 51. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 52. ♖xh7+ ♜xh7 53. ♗xf6+ +-; 49... b4 50. b3!+- (50. g4? ♖d1+ 51. ♗h2 ♖d4! 52. f4 (52. g×f5 ♖f3+ 53. ♗g3 ♖g1+ 54. ♗h3 ♖h1+=) 52... ♖f3+ 53. ♗g3 ♖g1+=).

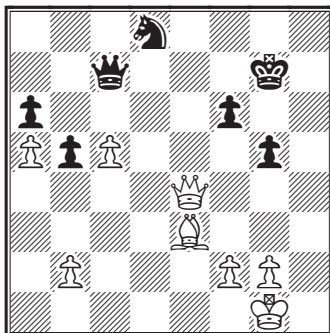
50. ♖xh7+

50. ♗f8!? ♗h5 (50... ♖e6? 51. ♖xg5+!! ♖xf8 52. ♖xf5+ +-) 51. ♗e7 ♗g4 (51... ♗h6? 52. g4+-) 52. ♖xh7+-.

50... ♜xh7 51. ♗xd5 ♗g6+ 52. ♗g1 ♜c7

Kasparov gives up the pawn on e4. 52... ♗e7? 53. c6+-.

53. ♗g8+ ♗f5 54. ♗d5+ ♗g6 55. ♗xe4+ ♗g7



56. ♖a8?

56. ♗d4! ♜c6 (56... ♖a5? 57. ♖e7+ ♜f7 58. c6+-) 57. ♗c3 ♖d7 58. f3±; 56. b4!?

56... ♖d7

56... ♖a5! 57. b4 ♖a1+ 58. ♗h2 ♜f7 59. c6 ♖b1 60. ♖c8 ♖xb4 61. c7±.

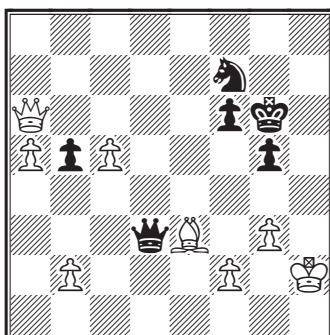
57. ♗h2

57. ♖a6?! ♖d1+ 58. ♗h2 ♖h5+=.

57... ♖d3! 58. g3

58. ♖a6?! ♖h7+ 59. ♗g3 ♖h4+ 60. ♗f3 ♖h5+ 61. ♗e4 ♖g6+ 62. ♗d4 ♖c2 63. b3 ♖xb3 64. ♗e4 f5+ 65. ♗xf5 ♖d5+ 66. ♗g4 ♖xg2+= (Schulz).

58... ♜f7 59. ♖b7 ♗g6 60. ♖a6



The last move before the second time control. The players have a half an hour for the rest of the game.

60... ♜e5

In a worse position Kasparov tries to maximize the confusion. Kramnik has to watch out not to allow a draw by move repetition or even fall into a mating trap.

61. ♖a8

61. ♖b7 ♗g4+ 62. ♖g2 ♗xe3+ 63. fxe3 ♖c2+ 64. ♖g1 ♖d1+=.

61... ♗g4+ 62. ♖h3 ♖f5!

62... ♖f1+? 63. ♖g2 ♗xe3? 64. ♖xf1 ♗xf1 65. a6+-.

63. ♖g8+

63. ♖g2 ♗xe3+ 64. fxe3 ♖c2+ and now not 65. ♖h3?? g4+ 66. ♖h4 ♖h2+ 67. ♖xg4 ♖h5+ 68. ♖f4 ♖f5#.

63... ♖h6 64. ♖h8+ ♖g6 65. ♖e8+ ♖h6 66. ♖h8+ ½-½

66. ♖h8+ ♖g6 67. ♖e8+ ♖h6 68. ♖g2 ♖d5+ 69. f3 ♗e5= (Schulz).

Game Seven

Kasparov, Garry (2849) - Kramnik, Vladimir (2770)
BGN World Championship London (7), 19.10.2000 [A32]

What's wrong with Kasparov? Tactical reasoning would seem to dictate that he would have to play aggressively today, doing everything possible to win and equalize the score. But for reasons that are a complete mystery to me, he decided to go for a quick draw.

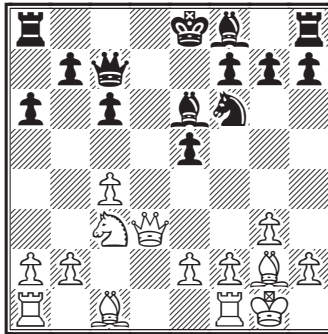
1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.d4 c×d4 4.♗×d4 a6!?

Again a surprise by Kramnik.

5.♗c3 e6 6.g3 ♖c7 7.♖d3 ♗c6 8.♗×c6 d×c6

After 8...♖×c6!?, the asymmetry on the board is greater.

9.♗g2 e5 10.0-0 ♗e6



11.♗a4!? ½-½

This move, to exploit the dark square weaknesses on the queenside with ♗e3, is not in my database. Normally the continuations are: 11.♗e4?! ♗×e4 12..♗×e4 g6 13.♗e3 f5 14.♗g2 ♗g7, which brought White nothing in Sapis, W-Ivanchuk, V Lvov 1988. And 11.b3 ♗d8 12.♖c2 ♗e7 13.♗b2 00 14.♗ad1 with a draw in Ribli, Z-Ljubojevic, L Linares 1981. I can't explain why Kasparov offered a draw with 11.♗a4.

Game Eight

Kramnik, Vladimir (2770) - Kasparov, Garry (2849)
BGN World Championship London (8), 21.10.2000 [E32]

After the quick draw in the 7th game, Kasparov today switched into a higher gear. For the first time in this match he was able gain the initiative with black and actually put pressure on Kramnik.

1.d4 ♘f6!?

Another Grünfeld Indian?

2.c4 e6

No, Kasparov has prepared a surprise. We are going to see either a Nimzo-Indian, a Queen's Indian, or a Queen's Gambit.

3.♗c3 ♘b4!?

So Nimzo-Indian it is. Both players follow a blitz game they played in Moscow in 1998, with colors reversed.

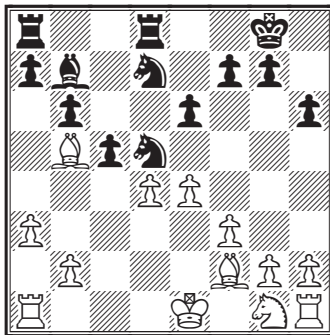
4.♞c2 0-0 5.a3 ♘×c3+ 6.♞×c3 b6 7.♘g5 ♘b7 8.f3 h6 9.♘h4 d5 10.e3 ♗bd7 11.c×d5 ♗×d5 12.♘×d8 ♗×c3 13.♘h4

13.♘×c7? ♗d5 14.♞c1?? (14.♘f4 ♗×f4 15.exf4 is necessary.) 14...♞ac8-+.

13...♗d5 14.♘f2 c5 15.♘b5 ♞fd8

15...♗5f6 16.♗e2 a6 17.♘a4+/- happened in Kramnik,V-Adams,M Linares 1999 (see *Informant* 75/477 with commentary by Kramnik).

16.e4

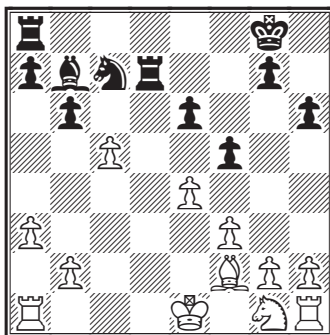


This is as far as the blitz game mentioned above goes. Now comes a novelty from Kasparov. 16. ♖e2 cxd4 17. ♗xd4 ♗c5 18. 0-0 ♗c7 19. ♖c4+/= Topalov, V-Kramnik, V Monte Carlo 1998.

16... ♗c7!?N

This pawn sacrifice for activity is vintage Kasparov. It suits his style and also removes the bishop-pair. 16... ♗e7 17. ♗e2 ♖c6?! (17... cxd4 18. ♗xd4 a6 19. ♖e2 ♗c5 20. b4 ♗a4 21. 0-0 e5 22. ♗b3 ♗c3 23. ♖fe1 ♗xe2+ 24. ♖xe2 ♖d6 25. ♖d2 ½-½, Anand, V-Karpov, A Monte Carlo 1999 *CBM* 69 ext (25)) 18. ♖a6+/= 1-0 Kasparov, G-Kramnik, V Moscow 1998 *CBM* 67 ext (61).

17. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 18. dxc5 f5!?



In order to make full use of his advantage in development, Kasparov opens lines for his pieces.

19. cxb6 axb6 20. ♗e2

Kramnik decides to return the pawn immediately to complete his development. 20. ♖xb6 fxe4 was surely examined quite carefully by Kasparov. The black pieces are so active they must compensate for the pawn. And 20. exf5?! exf5 21. ♗e2? ♖e8-+.

20... fxe4 21. fxe4 ♖xe4 22. 0-0 ♖d2

Kasparov is already better because of his more active pieces.

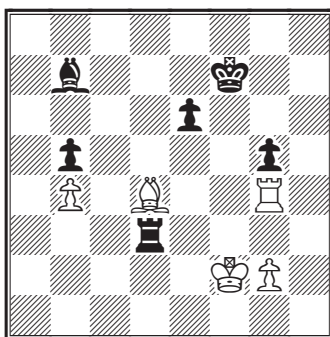
23. ♗c3 ♖b7 24. b4

After 24. ♖ad1 ♖xb2 25. ♖d7 ♖c8, I don't think White has enough compensation; for instance, 26. ♗a4? (and 26. ♖d4?? ♖xg2+ 27. ♖h1 ♖g4+--+) 26... ♖c2 27. ♗xb6 ♖f8 28. a4 ♖a6-+ are not playable. 24. ♖xb6?? ♖xg2+ 25. ♖h1 ♖g6+ 26. ♗e4 ♖xe4+ 27. ♖f3 ♖xf3#.

24...♖f8 25.♖a2

Kramnik seeks to relieve the pressure by swapping pieces. He is aiming for an endgame with opposite-colored bishops.

25...♖×a2 26.♘×a2 ♘d5 27.♙d4 ♖a8! 28.♘c3 (28.♖f3!?) 28...♘×c3
 29.♙×c3 ♖×a3 30.♙d4 (30.♖c1? ♖a2-/+) 30...b5 31.♖f4 ♖d3 32.♖g4
 g5 33.h4 ♕f7 34.h×g5 h×g5 35.♕f2



35...♖d2+?!

After this White can sacrifice a pawn and force the exchange of rooks. 35...♕g6!? 36.♕e2 (36.♙e3 ♖d5) 36...♖b3 37.♙e3 ♕f6, I am not sure whether Black can win the position or not, but keeping rooks on the board would have given him better practical chances than the game continuation.

36.♕e3 ♖×g2 37.♖×g2 ♙×g2 38.♙e5 ½-½

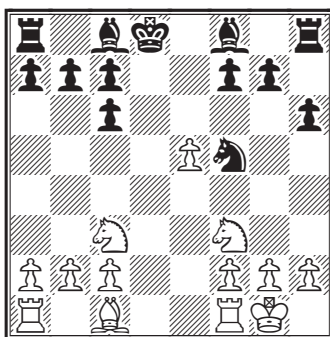
White's position is impregnable. 38.♙e5 ♕g6 39.♙c7 ♕f5 40.♕d4 ♕g4 41.♕e3 ♙d5 42.♙d6 ♕h3 43.♕f2=. Opposite-colored bishop endings are notorious for their drawing tendencies.

Game Nine

Kasparov, Garry (2849) - Kramnik, Vladimir (2770)
BGN World Championship London (9), 22.10.2000 [C67]

After having gotten little out of two attempts with 1.c4, Kasparov returns to his main weapon. Apparently his team believes they have found something against Kramnik's Berlin Defense.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♗f6 4.0-0 ♗×e4 5.d4 ♗d6 6.♙×c6 d×c6
7.d×e5 ♗f5 8.♞×d8+ ♞×d8 9.♗c3 h6!?



In the previous games Kramnik twice played 9...♗d7. If Kasparov has prepared this variation it doesn't achieve its goal. Probably Kramnik planned it to avoid Kasparov's preparation. In the third game he came under considerable pressure after 9...♗d7.

10.♞d1+ ♞e8

Now it is too late for 10...♗d7?? 11.g4 ♗e7 12.e6 f×e6 13.♗e5+-.

11.h3 a5 12.♗f4

12.b3 ♗b4 13.♗b2 ♗×c3 14.♗×c3 c5 15.♞d2 b6 16.♞ad1 ♗e6 17.a4 ♗e7
18.♗e1 g5 19.f3 ♗c6 20.♞f2 ♞e7 21.♗b2 ♞hd8 22.c4 ♞×d2+ 23.♞×d2 ♗f5
0-1, Fritz5-Anand, V Frankfurt 1998 (93).

12...♗e6 13.g4!?

This time Kasparov takes energetic steps against the blockade on e6 and f5, which led to a draw in the first game.

13...♗e7 14.♗d4 ♗d5 15.♗ce2 ♗c5

15...h5 16.♗×e6 f×e6 17.c4 ♗b6 18.b3 h×g4 19.h×g4 a4 20.♖g2 ♕e7 21.♗c3+/
= or +/- 1-0, Galkin,A-Yarovik,Y Novgorod 1999 (40).

16.♗×e6 f×e6 17.c4 ♗b6 18.b3!?

Restricts the knight on b6 and puts the pawns on the light squares. But Black gets counterplay on the a-file by playing a5-a4. 18.♕g3 a4 (18...♗×c4? 19.♖dc1 b5 20.b3 ♕a3 21.b×c4±) 19.♖ac1 ♖f7 20.h4 h5 21.g×h5 ♖×h5 22.♖g2 ♖ah8 ½-½, Vuckovic,B-Sakaev,K Herceg Novi 2000 (63).

18...a4!

Black can now open the a-file for his rook at any time by playing a×b3. The same doesn't apply to White.

19.♕d2 ♖f7 20.♕c3

Kasparov regroupes: the bishop vacates the f4-square for the knight. The immediate 20.♗f4? is not possible because of 20...♕d4, with a double attack on the a1-rook and the e5-pawn.

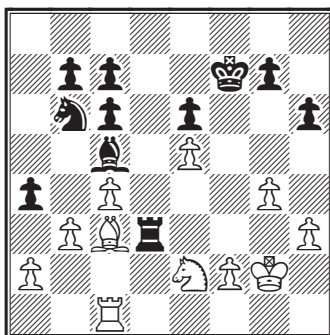
20...♖hd8 21.♖×d8

Now after 21.♗f4? ♖×d1+ 22.♖×d1 a×b3 23.a×b3 ♖a3 24.♖b1, Fritz6 tells us 24...♗×c4 25.b×c4 ♖×c3 26.♖×b7 ♕b6 27.♖g2 ♖×c4-/+ is possible.

21...♖×d8 22.♖g2

Again 22.♗f4 ♕d4 is not what White wants.

22...♖d3 23.♖c1



23...g5

Kramnik prevents Nf4 and secures his active rook on d3.

24.♖c2 a×b3 25.a×b3 ♗d7!

This mobilizes the somewhat unhappily posted knight on b6, to increase the pressure on White's queenside.

26.♖a2 ♕e7

26...♕b6?! 27.b4 c5 28.b5+/=.

27.♖a7 ♗c5 28.f3

The powerful threat is b3-b4. Less effective is the immediate 28.b4 because of 28...♗e4 29.♕a1 ♕×b4 30.♖×b7 ♕a5=.

28...♗×b3 29.♖×b7 ♗c1!

29...♖e3? 30.♖f2 ♕c5 31.♕b4 ♕b6 32.c5 ♗×c5 33.♖×b6±.

30.♗×c1 ♖×c3 ½-½

After 30...♖×c3 31.♗b3 ♖×c4 (31...♖e8 32.♗a5 ♕c5=) 32.♖×c7 ♖e8 33.♗a5 ♖c2+/, the position should be about equal.

Game Ten

Kramnik, Vladimir (2770) - Kasparov, Garry (2849)

BGN World Championship London (10), 24.10.2000 [E54]

The match is approaching its final phase and every game increases the pressure on the two opponents. At the moment it looks as though Kramnik has the better nerves.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♕b4!?

After the promising turn of events in game 8, it is not surprising that Kasparov once again goes for the Nimzo-Indian.

4.e3!?

Kramnik avoids 4.♖c2, which did not turn out so well in the eighth game. It is very impressive how his team has been able to prepare for the opening duels so far.

4...0-0 5.♕d3 d5 6.♗f3 c5 7.0-0

This position is reached in most games that White plays the Rubinstein Variation with 4.e3.

7...cxd4

The main alternative is 7...♗c6.

8.exd4 dx4 9.♕xc4

The position is similar to the games in which Kasparov played the Queen's Gambit Accepted (games 4 and 6). White has an isolated pawn on d4, but also better development potential for his pieces.

9...b6 10.♗g5 ♕b7 11.♖e1 ♗bd7 12.♖c1 ♖c8

Here Kramnik thought for a long time on how he should proceed. 12...♕xc3?! 13.♖xc3 ♖b8 14.♗e5! ♗xe5?! 15.♖xe5 ♗e4? 16.♖g4± Kumaran,D-Hellsten,J Copenhagen KS, 1996 1-0 (28), after 16...♗xc3, White wins with 17.♗f6 g6 18.♖g5+–.

13.♖b3!?

This not only attacks the bishop on b4, Black must also reckon with the permanent threat of $\text{d}\times\text{e6}$. Also playable is 13. $\text{d}\text{b}3$, 13. $\text{c}\text{e}2$, or 13. $\text{d}\text{d}3$ $\text{e}8$ 14. $\text{c}\text{e}2$ $\text{d}\times\text{c}3$ 15. $\text{b}\times\text{c}3$ $\text{c}\text{c}7$ 16. $\text{d}\text{h}4$ $\text{c}\text{d}6!$?= Gulko,B-Short,N New-York (m/4) 1994 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$, (34).

13... $\text{d}\text{e}7$

13... $\text{d}\times\text{c}3$ 14. $\text{e}\times\text{c}3$ h6 (14... $\text{c}\text{e}8!$ 15. $\text{d}\text{d}2$ h6 16. $\text{d}\times\text{h}6!$ $\text{g}\times\text{h}6$ 17. $\text{e}\text{h}3\pm$ Brodsky,M-Kruppa,Y Alushta 1994 0-1, (26)) 15. $\text{d}\text{h}4$ $\text{d}\text{d}5$ +/= Kanstler in *ChessBase Magazine* 55, Atanu,L-Nguyen Anh Dung Budapest 2000 (37).

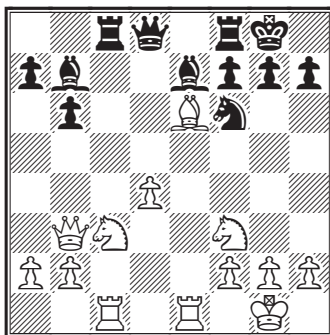
14. $\text{d}\times\text{f}6!$?

This surprising move is based on tactical motifs like $\text{d}\text{b}5$ - $\text{d}6$ and a possible sacrifice on e6.

14... $\text{d}\times\text{f}6$

14... $\text{d}\times\text{f}6$ 15. $\text{d}\text{b}5$ $\text{e}\text{a}8$ 16. $\text{d}\text{e}5$ (16. $\text{d}\text{d}6$ $\text{d}\times\text{f}3$ 17. $\text{c}\times\text{f}3$ with the idea 17... $\text{d}\times\text{d}4$ 18. $\text{d}\times\text{f}7$) 16... $\text{d}\times\text{e}5$ 17. $\text{d}\times\text{e}5$ $\text{d}\text{g}5$ 18. $\text{e}\text{cd}1$ +/=; 14... $\text{g}\times\text{f}6!$ 15. $\text{d}5$ +/= 1-0, Nielsen,P-Hellsten,J Gistrup 1996 (53).

15. $\text{d}\times\text{e}6$



15... $\text{f}\times\text{e}6$?

15... $\text{e}\text{c}7!$ (Kasparov) was called for, when matters are far from clear; for instance, 16. $\text{d}\text{g}5$ $\text{c}\times\text{d}4$.

16. $\text{c}\times\text{e}6+$ $\text{c}\text{h}8$

16... $\text{e}\text{f}7??$ 17. $\text{d}\text{g}5$ $\text{c}\text{e}8$ 18. $\text{d}\times\text{f}7$ $\text{c}\times\text{f}7$ 19. $\text{c}\times\text{e}7$ +/-.

17. $\text{c}\times\text{e}7$

In *CBM 55*, Kanstler gives White a clear edge in this position.

17...♙xf3 18.gxf3

18.♙xd8 ♖cxd8 19.gxf3 ♖xd4 20.♖e7 with a minimal advantage for White in the endgame.

18...♙xd4 19.♘b5!

The knight now penetrates into Black's position with tempo via d6. 19.♙xa7? ♘g4! 20.♗e4 (20.fxg4?? ♙xf2+ 21.♖h1 ♙f3+ 22.♖g1 ♙xg4+ 23.♖h1 ♖f2 24.♙b7 ♖cf8 with the unstoppable threat 25.♖xh2+ 26.♖xh2 ♖f2+ 27.♖h1 ♙h3+ 28.♖g1 ♙h2#) 20...♗e5.

19...♙xb2?

Kasparov has used up almost ¾ of his time. Nigel Short, who challenged Kasparov in 1993 in London, said that Black was already completely lost. 19...♙f4 20.♖xc8 ♖xc8 21.♗d6 ♙xf3? (21...♖a8 22.♗e8 ♗xe8 (22...♗h5!? Langrock) 23.♙xe8+ ♙f8 24.♙xf8+ ♖xf8 25.♖e7±) 22.♗xc8 ♙g4+ 23.♖f1 ♙h3+ 24.♖e2 ♙xc8 25.♖d2 h5 26.♖g1 ♗g4 27.h3 ♙f5 28.♙d8+ ♖h7 29.♙d3 ♙xd3+ 30.♖d3 ♗xf2+ 31.♖e3 ♗xh3 32.♖g3 1-0, Hazai,L-Danielsen,H Valby 1994.; 19...Qd3! (Kramnik).

20.♖xc8

20.♗d6? ♙xc1 (20...♖xc1?? 21.♙xf8+ ♗g8 22.♗f7#) 21.♖xc1 (21.♙xf8+?! ♖xf8 22.♖xc1 ♗d5=+/) 21...♖xc1+ 22.♖g2 ♖a8=; 20.♖c7? ♗g8=.

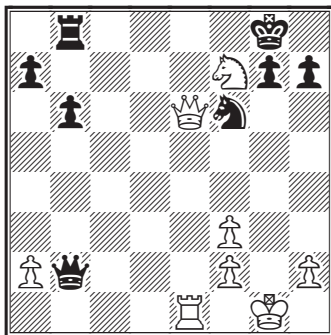
20...♖xc8 21.♗d6!

GM Shipov, commenting on KasparovChess.com, said that the only chance the world champion had was for Kramnik to choke.

21...♖b8?

21...♖a8! 22.♗f7+ ♖g8 23.♙e6 h6! (23...h5? 24.♗g5+ ♖h8 25.♙f5+--)
24.♗xh6+ ♖h7±.

22.♗f7+ ♖g8 23.♙e6!



23...♖f8?!

23...h5 24.♗g5+ ♕h8 25.♜f5+- Fritz6. The attack is based on ideas like ♜e6xf6, ♜e7 and ♜g6, and cannot be stopped, since the white king has a safe spot on g2. For instance: 25...♜xa2 26.♜e7 ♜a3 27.♜f7 ♜g8 28.h4 ♜f8 29.♜xf6 ♜xf6 30.♜h7+ ♜f8 31.♜h8+ ♜e7 32.♜xg7+ ♜e8 33.♜xf6+-; 23...♜e8? 24.♗h6+ ♜h8 (24...♜f8 25.♜f7#) 25.♜g8+ ♜xg8 26.♗f7#; 23...h6 24.♗xh6+ ♜h7 25.♜h3 ♜e8 26.♗f5+ ♜g8 27.♗e7+ ♜f8 28.♜e6 g5 29.♜e5 (Schulz).

24.♗d8+ ♕h8 25.♜e7 1-0

25.♜e7 ♜xd8 (25...♜e8? 26.♜xe8+ ♗xe8 27.♜xe8#) 26.♜xd8+ ♗g8 27.♜d5+- . At half time many had prophesied that the next decisive game would settle the match. It would seem that it was now all over in favor of Kramnik, but can Kasparov turn it around one more time, as he has done so often in the past? A lot depends on the next game on Thursday, in which Kasparov will certainly do all he can to get a full point. We can look forward to that game.

Game Eleven

Kasparov, Garry (2849) - Kramnik, Vladimir (2770)
BGN World Championship London (11), 26.10.2000 [C78]

Things are slowly becoming really uncomfortable for Garry Kasparov. With just six games to go and a 6-4 lead for the challenger, he really needed to win with white today. But once again Kramnik was able to swap queens early and defend well in the endgame.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♗c6 3.♙b5!?

Kasparov stays with the Ruy Lopez. Apparently he has found a way to penetrate the Berlin Wall.

3...a6!?

Kramnik does not want a renewed discussion of the Berlin Defense (with 3...♗f6). Instead, he surprises Kasparov with the Archangelsk Variation, which is often used by Shirov. Kasparov may have been able to use his preparation for the match against Shirov, which never came about.

4.♙a4 ♗f6 5.0-0 b5 6.♙b3 ♙c5

6...♙e7 7.♞e1 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 leads to the main line of the Closed Ruy Lopez.

7.a4 ♙b7 8.d3 0-0 9.♗c3 ♗a5!?

A pawn sacrifice in return for the bishop-pair and active play.

10.a×b5 ♗×b3 11.c×b3 a×b5 12.♞×a8 ♙×a8 13.♗×e5 d5 14.♙g5

14.♗g4 d×e4 15.♗×f6+ ♖×f6 16.d×e4 ♞d8 17.♖c2 ♗g6 18.♙e3 ♙×e3 19.f×e3 b4 20.♗d5!+/= (Wedberg in *CBM* 64) Ivanchuk, V-Anand, V Monaco rapid 1995 EXP 46 (36).

14...d×e4

14...♙e7 15.♗×b5 d×e4 16.d×e4 ♙×e4 17.♗c3 (17.♞e1 Anand, V-Shirov, A Linares (8) 1998) 17...♙b7 18.♞e1 h6 19.♙f4 ♙b4 20.♗g4 ♗×g4 21.♖×g4 ♞e8 22.♞×e8+ ½-½, Kasparov, G-Shirov, A Linares 1998 *CBM* 64 [Wedberg] (22).

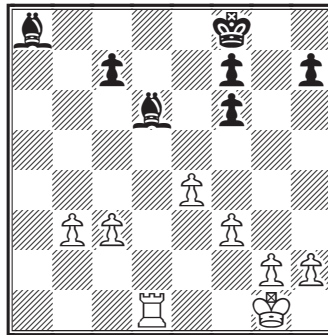
15.d×e4 ♖×d1 16.♞×d1 b4 17.♙×f6

The start of a long, forced line in which Kasparov ends up with a rook and two pawns against two bishops. After 17.♘d5, Shirov played 17...♙xf2+ 18.♖xf2 ♗xe4+ 19.♔g1 ♗xg5 and got a slightly worse endgame that he was able to hold. 20.♘d7 ♖d8 21.♗xc7 ♕h8 22.♗xa8 ♖xa8 23.♖d4 ♖a1+ 24.♔f2 ♖b1 25.♖xb4 ♖xb2+ 26.♕e3 h5 27.h4 ♗e6 28.g3 ♖g2 29.♔f3 ♖b2 30.♕e3 ♖g2 31.♔f3 ♖b2 32.♕e3 ½-½, Topalov,V-Shirov,A Monte Carlo 1997 *CBM* 57 ext (32).

17...bxc3 18.bxc3 gxf6 19.♘d7 ♙d6

19...♖d8?? 20.♗xf6+ ♕g7 21.♖xd8 ♖xf6 22.♖xa8+-.

20.♗xf8 ♕xf8 21.f3



21...h5!?

Kramnik had probably prepared this novelty, which makes White's expansion on the kingside more difficult. 21...♙c6 22.♔f2 ♕e7 23.♖a1 ♙e5! 24.♕e3 ♙d7 25.♖c1 ♙xh2!= (Malaniuk in *Informant* 65) Kupreichik,V-Malaniuk,V Muenster 1995.

22.h4

Kasparov immediately nails down the troublesome h-pawn and hopes to be able to pick it up later.

22...♕e7

22...♙g3?? 23.♖d8+ ♕e7 24.♖xa8+-.

23.♔f2 ♙b7

The somewhat offside bishop maneuvers to the e6-square, where it is active on both wings. It's not going to be easy for Kasparov to subdue the bishops.

24.c4

Kasparov uses a typical strategy. The pawn chains b3-c4 and g2-e4 make it difficult for Black to attack the three weak pawns b3, g2, and h4.

24...♙e5 25.♞d2 ♘c8 26.♞d5 ♙e6 27.♞a5

White plans ♜e3 and f4 to win the pawn on h5, which is energetically opposed by Kramnik.

27...c5!? 28.♜e3

Naturally not 28.♞xc5?? ♙d4+-+.

28...♙d4+ 29.♜d3 f5!?

Kramnik wants to exchange pawns to open the position for his bishops and get safe squares for them. Additionally, the white pawn chains will be dissolved and it becomes easier to attack them.

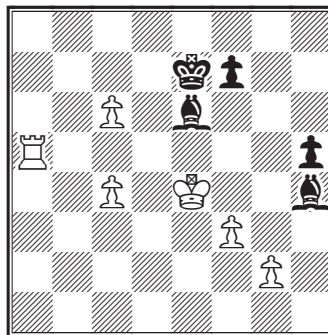
30.b4

After 30.e5?!, Black has 30...♙d7 31.b4 (31.f4?! ♙c6 32.♞a2 ♙e4+ looks comfortable from White's point of view.) 31...♙xe5 32.♞xc5?! ♙d6.

30...fxe4+ 31.♜xe4 ♙f2 32.bxc5 ♙xh4

32...♙xc4? 33.c6 plays into White's hand.

33.c6



33...♜d6!

Wins the pawn on c6, after which Black is no longer in serious danger, because

the endgame rook against bishop without pawns is usually a draw. So he can always sacrifice the second bishop against the last white pawn.

34.♖×h5 ♕f2 35.g4 ♜×c6 36.♖h2 ♕c5 37.♖c2

37.♜e5?? ♕d6+-+.

37...f6

37...♕e7!? was also a real possibility, to allow ...♜c5 and tie down the white pieces to the defense of the c4-pawn.

38.♖h2

Kasparov activates his rook in order to win the f6-pawn. But there is too little material left.

38...♕×c4 39.♖h6

39.♜f5 ♕e7 40.♖c2 ♜d5 41.♖d2+ ♜c6 42.f4 ♕d5=.

39...♕d5+ 40.♜f5 ♕×f3 41.g5 ♜d5 ½-½

Is the match over, or can Kasparov still turn it around? He has five more games, and Kramnik certainly doesn't tend to lose easily these days.

Game Twelve

Kramnik, Vladimir (2770) - Kasparov, Garry (2849)
BGN World Championship London (12), 28.10.2000 [E55]

Five rounds before the end the question naturally is whether Kramnik will try to draw the remaining three white games, hoping not to lose both his black games, or whether he is ready to take a higher risk and try to decide the match at an earlier stage. To the delight of the public he decided to attack.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3

Kasparov still seems to have more faith in the Nimzo-Indian than in his usual Grünfeld.

3...♙b4!? 4.e3 0-0 5.♙d3 d5 6.♗f3 c5 7.0-0

Now Kasparov deviates from the disastrous course of events in game ten, where he played 7...cxd4.

7...dxc4 8.♙xc4 ♗bd7!?

8...cxd4 9.exd4 b6 leads to the tenth game.

9.a3 cxd4 10.axb4 dxc3 11.bxc3 ♖c7 12.♙e2 ♖xc3!?

Kasparov takes up the challenge and captures the pawn on c3, in spite of the fact that it leaves him behind in development and opens the position for the white bishops. 12...e5 13.c4 b6 14.♙b2 ♙b7 15.♖b3 ♗fe8 16.♗fd1+/- ½-½, Garcia Gonzales, G-Balashov, Y Leningrad 1977 MCL 06 (95).

13.♙a3!?

In order to play b4-b5 and control the important squares c5 (possible outpost for a black knight), d6 (weak square in the black camp) and significantly also f8 (possible retreat square for the king).

13...♗d5!?

After a long think, Kasparov decides to open a retreat for his queen on f6, centralizing the knight in the process.

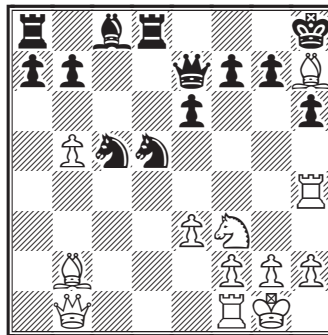
14.♖b1 ♖f6 15.♙d3 h6

After 15...g6?, the black squares become quite weak, which is exacerbated by the fact that Black no longer has a dark-squared bishop.

16.b5 ♖d8 17.♗b2 ♜e7 18.♞a4!?

All or nothing; Kramnik rejects 18.♗a3 ♜f6 (18...♜e8 is also possible, but the black position seems somewhat cramped after this) 19.♗b2 with a possible move repetition.

18...♗c5 19.♗h7+ ♜h8 20.♞h4



How can the threat ♞xh6 be met?

20...f6!

With a cold-blooded defense! 20...♗f6? was bad, in view of 21.♗xf6 ♜xf6 22.♞f4 ♜e7 23.♗e5 ♞f8 24.♞xf7+.

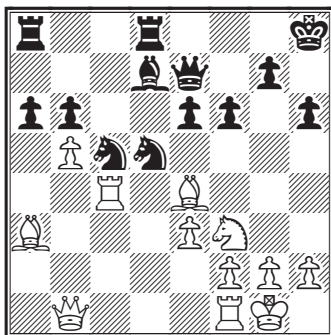
21.♞c4

Kramnik turns down the heat for fear his rook may get stuck offside. From now on the point is to try to neutralize Kasparov's extra pawn.

21...♗d7 22.♗a3

After 22.♗h4, Black has 22...♗e8 as an option.

22...b6 23.♗e4 a6!



Kasparov gets rid of the backward a-pawn and opens the a-file. Does he have real winning chances?

24. bxa6?

24. Bfc1 (Kramnik) was called for.

24... Bxa6 25. Qxc5 Bxc5 26. Bfc1

Brings the d-rook into the game and increases the pressure against the pawn on c5. 26. Qb7? would have put the queen offside: 26... Bb6 27. Qa7 (27. Qh4 Qe8 28. Qg6+ Qg8 29. Qa7 Ba8 30. Qe7+ Qf7-+) 27... Qb5 28. Qxe7 Qxe7-+.

26... Ba5 27. Qb2 Bb5 28. Qa3 Qb6!?

A pretty trick.

29. B4c3

The pawn is poisoned: 29. Bxc5? Bxc5 30. Bxc5 (30. Qxc5 Bc8-+) 30... Qc6 31. Qc2 (31. Qxc6 Bxd1+ 32. Qe1 Bxe1#) 31... Ba8! 32. Qd3 (32. Qb4 Qxc5 33. Qxc5 Ba1+-) 32... Ba1+ 33. Qb1 Bxb1+ 34. Qxb1 Qxc5-+.

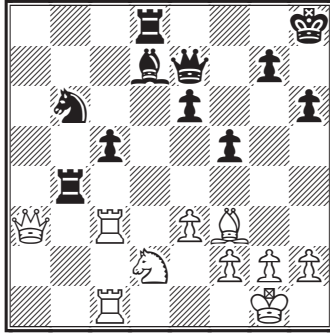
29... Bb4

Kasparov is slowly but steadily gaining the initiative.

30. Qd2 f5?!

Fritz6 suggests 30... Qc6! based on the undefended knight on d2.

31. Qf3?!



31.♖xc5!? ♜xe4 32.♘xe4 fxe4 33.♗b4 ♘d5 34.♗xe4 ♗f6=+.

31...♘a4?

In desperate time trouble Kasparov allows Kramnik to escape to a draw instead of continuing with 31...♖c8 after which it is not clear if White can survive at all.

32.♖xc5 ♜b2 33.♘c4 ♗xc5 ½-½

After 33...♗xc5 34.♗xc5 ♘xc5 35.♘xb2 ♖c8, the situation is fairly even. So Kramnik has taken one more step towards his goal. If Kasparov does not win his game as white tomorrow, the matter is as good as decided. Stay tuned for an exciting finish!

Game Thirteen

Kasparov, Garry (2849) - Kramnik, Vladimir (2770)
BGN World Championship London (13), 29.10.2000 [C67]

In the 13th game Kasparov was again unable to turn things around. Astonishingly he offered his opponent a draw on move 14. Has he given up in this match?

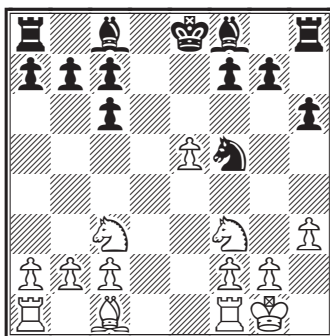
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♗f6!?

Kramnik returns to the Berlin Defense, after switching briefly to the Archangelsk Variation in game 11. Will the Berlin wall hold strong until the end of the match?

4.0-0? ♗×e4 5.d4 ♗d6 6.♗×c6 d×c6 7.d×e5 ♗f5 8.♚×d8+ ♚×d8 9.♗c3 h6 10.h3!?

Kasparov deviates from game 9, where he continued with 10.♞d1+ and only got a draw.

10...♝e8!?



Somewhat surprisingly Kramnik decides to play ♝e8 of his own accord. The move h2-h3 makes more sense and should be more useful to White than ♞f1-d1, since the kingside rook can be used on f1 or e1 instead. My surprise was even greater when I saw Kasparov go into a deep think. Hadn't he prepared anything for this fairly obvious position?

11.♗e4

A very rare continuation, which allows Black's next move, because ♗d5 is now impossible.

11...c5!?

11...b6 12.b3 c5 13.♖e1 ♗e6 14.♘b2 ♗e7 15.c4 ♖d8 16.♖ad1 ♖d7 17.g4 ♟h4 18.♟xh4 ♘xh4 19.♖x d7 ♟x d7 ½-½, Unzicker,W-Troianescu,O Venedig 1969.

12.c3 b6 13.♖e1 ♗e6

After 13...♗e7?!, Kasparov would have been able to go for 14.♟f6+ and put some spice into the game.

14.g4 ½-½

Why on earth did Kasparov offer a draw in this position? He now has to get at least 2½ points from the last three games to retain his title. But Kramnik very seldom loses a game and he also has the white pieces in two of the remaining ones. Is it all over?

Game Fourteen

Kramnik, Vladimir (2770) - Kasparov, Garry (2849)

BGN World Championship London (14), 31.10.2000 [A30]

Today's game was delayed by half an hour because of damage in the theatre caused by the hurricane-force winds and rain that lashed the south of England the day before. Would Kasparov emulate the weather and lash out at Kramnik in a last-ditch effort to keep his chances alive?

1. $\text{d}f3$

For the first time in this match Kramnik plays his favorite move, even though he has been doing very well with 1.d4 so far.

1... $\text{d}f6$ 2.c4 b6 3.g3 c5 4. $\text{g}2$ $\text{b}7$ 5.0-0 g6 6. $\text{c}3$ $\text{g}7$ 7.d4 cxd4
8. $\text{c}xd4$

A hedgehog position has arisen in which Black has fianchettoed both bishops. Both players know this kind of structure well.

8... $\text{d}6$ 9. $\text{d}1$ $\text{bd}7$ 10. $\text{e}3$ $\text{c}8$ 11. $\text{ac}1$ 0-0 12. $\text{h}4$ a6!?

This takes away the b5-square for the white pieces, so as to be able to play maneuvers like $\text{c}7$ and $\text{a}8$ or even $\text{c}7$ without fear. The weakness of the pawn on b6 is not relevant at the moment. The pawn can in fact easily push forward to b5, to challenge the pawn on c4 and to open files on the queenside.
12... $\text{e}8$ 13.b3 a6 14. $\text{h}3$ $\text{c}7$ 15. $\text{h}6$ $\text{c}5$ 16. $\text{xg}7$ $\text{xg}7$ 17. $\text{d}4$ $\text{g}8$ 18.b4
 $\text{c}7$ 19. $\text{d}5$ $\text{xd}5$ 20.cxd5 ½-½, Kramnik, V-Karpov, A Monte Carlo 1994 (57).

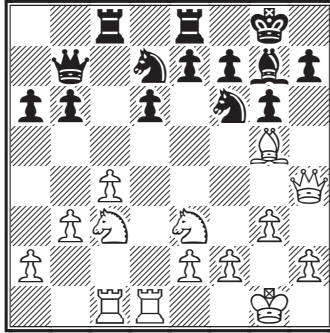
13. $\text{e}1$!?

Is Kramnik playing for a draw? This could be a dangerous enterprise against Kasparov. The normal move is 13.b3.

13... $\text{xg}2$ 14. $\text{d}xg2$ $\text{e}8$!?

A good prophylactic move; now $\text{b}7$ is possible, since the pawn on e7 is covered, and after $\text{h}6$ the bishop exchange can be avoided with $\text{h}8$. If 14... $\text{c}7$?, 15. $\text{d}5$ +/=.

15.b3 $\text{c}7$ 16. $\text{g}5$ $\text{b}7$ 17. $\text{e}3$



17...b5!

Kasparov acts before a white knight can appear on d5. Apart from that a draw will not help him at all. He has to try to win.

18.♠ed5?!

This allows the c4-pawn to become very weak after bxc4. After 18.cxb5 axb5, we can soon expect b5-b4, when the white a-pawn is committed and becomes weak. At the same time the black pawn mass can begin rolling in the center. On 19.♖b4, there can follow 19...♞c5 with an attack on the g5-bishop. Fritz 6 prefers 18.♠cd5!?

18...bxc4 19.bxc4 h5!?

Kasparov again takes measures against ♗h6 and simultaneously gains space on the kingside.

20.♜f4 ♜c6

Now the weak pawn on c4 is firmly in Black's sights.

21.♙xf6

21.♠xe7+? is naturally impossible: 21...♞xe7 22.♞xd6 ♜xc4+.

21...♠xf6 22.♠xf6+ ♙xf6 23.♠d5 ♙b2!

Kramnik has simplified the position, but the weakness on c4 remains.

24.♞b1 ♙g7 25.♜g5 ♜f8! 26.♞dc1 e6

The weakening of the pawn on d6 is now irrelevant. Kasparov is slowly and steadily gaining ground.

27. ♖f6 ♜ed8 28. h4

After 28. ♖h7+ ♜g8 29. ♖f6+, Kasparov can avoid the draw with 29... ♜h8.

28... ♜a8!

This creates the powerful threat ♜c8-c5.

29. c5

Kramnik sacrifices the c-pawn in order to exchange off the minor pieces. Not 29. ♜b6?? because of 29... ♜c5 30. ♜f4 ♜f5 winning a piece; but 29. ♜f4 ♜c5 30. ♖h7+ ♜g8 31. ♖g5 ♜f5 32. ♜d2=/+ was possible.

29... ♜xc5 30. ♜xc5 ♖xf6!

30... dxc5?? 31. ♜xc5+ ♜d6 32. ♜xd6#.

31. ♜xf6 dxc5 32. ♜h2

32. ♜b6?? ♜d1+ 33. ♜h2 ♜h1#.

32... ♜g8

The black king returns to the safety of the corner.

33. ♜b6

33. g4?! ♜d5 and White has mainly weakened his own king's position.

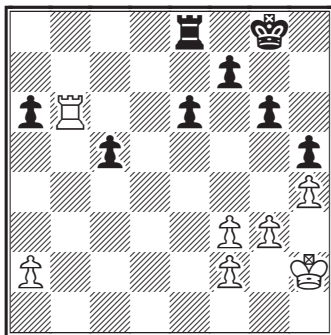
33... ♜e8

33... ♜d1!? 34. e4 ♜c8 with the idea c5-c4 was also a possibility. Not 34... ♜xe4?? 35. ♜b8+ ♜h7 36. ♜h8#.

34. ♜f3?!

As so often in this match, Kramnik wants to exchange queens. He is relying on the aphorism by Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch: all rook endings are drawn. 34. ♜c3 (Kramnik) was called for.

34... ♜xf3 35. exf3



35...♖c8!

The rook belongs behind the passed pawn

36.♗×a6 c4 37.♞d6 c3 (37...♕f8!? – Kramnik) 38.♞d1 ♞a8

38...c2? is wrong, because after 39.♞c1 ♕g7 40.♕g2 the c-pawn becomes weak.

39.♞c1 ♞×a2 40.♞×c3 ♞×f2+ 41.♕g1 ♞a2

If the white f-pawn were still on f2, we would have a well-researched theoretical draw, but in this case the white king is cutoff on the back rank. Still, it is also not easy for Black to make progress without exchanging pawns. So things remain exciting!

42.♞c7 ♕f8 43.♞b7 ♕e8 44.♞b8+ ♕e7 45.♞b7+ ♕f6 46.♕f1

Kramnik's second Joel Lautier said that Vladimir had better positions in this match. But he was convinced that the drawing chances were greater than the possibility of losing.

46...e5 47.♞b6+ ♕f5 48.♞b7 f6 49.♞g7 g5

Kasparov cannot see any way to make progress without exchanging pawns. He seeks a decision.

50.h×g5 f×g5

Here Kramnik thought for a long time, searching for the best way to organize his defense.

**51. ♖g8 g4 (51...h4!?) 52. ♜f8+ ♗e6 53. ♜e8+ ♗f5 54. ♜f8+ ♗g6
55. ♜g8+ ♗f5 ½-½**

Was this the final decision? Kramnik has eight points and has secured at least 50% of the prize money. But hardly anyone can doubt that he will score at least one draw in the remaining two games and win the match. Kasparov's only chance to retain his title is to win the last two games. There is still a smidgen of excitement left. 55...♗f7 56. ♜g5 ♗f6 57. f4 e×f4 58. g×f4 ♜h2 59. ♗g1 ♜h3 60. ♗g2=.

Game Fifteen

Kasparov, Garry (2849) - Kramnik, Vladimir (2770)

BGN World Championship London (15), 02.11.2000 [E05]

It is all over. Vladimir Kramnik has won the Braingames World Championship and dethroned Garry Kasparov after his fifteen-year rule. And he did it in impressive fashion. Kasparov could not win a single game! This happened only once before in a world championship match, when Lasker lost to Capablanca in 1921. Congratulations to Vladimir Kramnik for this fantastic achievement! Here is the decisive 15th game.

1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3!?

The Catalan is regarded as a very safe opening with a high percentage of draws. But Kasparov was able to use a quiet strategy in 1990, when he desperately needed to win a game against Karpov. In any case this opening must have been a surprise to Kramnik.

3...d5 4.♙g2 ♗e7 5.♠f3 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4

The closed variation arises after 6...c6.

7.♞c2 a6

Black can hardly hang on to the pawn, because after 7...b5?! there follows 8.a4 b4 (8...c6?! 9.axb5 cxb5? 10.♠g5+- since ♠d5 is not playable) 9.♠e5 ♠d5 10.♞xc4+/=.

8.♞xc4

With 8.a4 White can also stop the following expansion on the queenside.

8...b5!?

This weakens the c6- and c5-squares in front of the backward pawn on c7, but it also allows a harmonious development of the minor pieces. It will be important to see whether Black can play c7-c5 under more or less favorable circumstances.

9.♞c2 ♗b7 10.♗d2 ♗e4 11.♞c1 ♗b7 12.♗f4

It is clear that Kasparov will not agree to the move repetition that Kramnik is offering.

12...♖d6 13.♗bd2

13.♗c3 ♗bd7 14.♞d1 ♖b8 15.♗e5 ♗xg2 16.♗xd7 ♗xd7 17.♜xg2 c5 18.dxc5 ♖b7+ 19.f3 ♗xc5 20.♗e4+/= Tukmakov,V-Lalic,B Palma de Mallorca (GMA) 1989 Inf 48 (24).

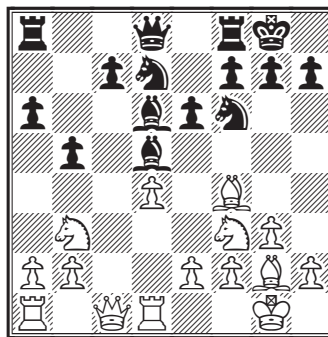
13...♗bd7

13...♗xf4 14.gxf4 gives White even more control over the dark squares c5 and e5, and so hardly fits Kramnik's strategy.

14.♗b3

Regains control of c5.

14...♖d5 (14...♖b8!?) 15.♞d1



15...♞e7

Kramnik's second Evgeny Bareev once had this same position: 15...♖b8 16.♗e5 ♖b6 17.♞f4 ♗e4 18.♗xd6 cxd6 19.♗e1 ♗ef6 1-0, Bareev,E-Lalic,B Sochi 1987 (41).

16.♗e5!?

Reminds Black that the c6-square is weak.

16...♗xg2 17.♜xg2 ♗d5

17...♗xe5?! 18.dxe5 ♗d5 19.♗g5 f6+/= (After 19...♖b4?? 20.♞d4+– the queen surprisingly has no flight square left; 19...♖e8?! 20.e4±); 17...c5?? 18.♗c6 ♖e8 19.♗xd6+–.

18. ♖c6

The biggest weakness in the black camp is the c6-square. 18. ♗g5?! f6 19. ♖c6 ♜e8=.

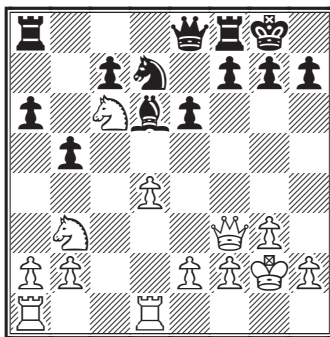
18... ♗xf4+

18... ♜f6!? was also possible 19. ♗d2?! ♜g6 20. f3 f5=.

19. ♜xf4!+/=

19. gxf4? ♜h4 is naturally not in the interest of Kasparov.

19... ♜e8 20. ♜f3



28.♖c6?? ♜f5 29.♖xd6 ♜xd5 30.♖6xd5 ♜e4+/-.

28...h5 29.♗d2 ♜f5 30.♜e4

Here Kasparov had ten minutes on his clock, and Kramnik had fifteen.

30...c5

After the rooks have left the d-file and lost their effectiveness, Kramnik can now accept the exchange of queens.

31.♜xe8 ♜xe8 32.e4 ♜fe5 33.f4 ♜5e6

33...♜5e7? 34.e5+/-.

34.e5 ♗e7 35.b3

35.♗b3 c4 (35...♜d8?! 36.♗xc5 ♗xc5 37.♜xc5 ♜d2+ 38.♜f3+/-) 36.♗d4 ♜b6=;
35.♗e4 c4 36.♜d1 f6=.

35...f6 36.♗f3 fxe5 37.♗xe5 ♜d8 38.h4 ♜d5 ½-½

