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Michael Adams Annotates

Ivan Markovic

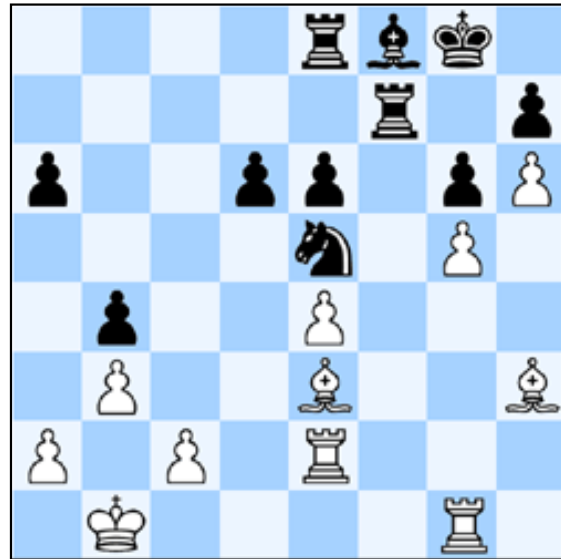
Chess Informant Deputy Editor-in-Chief

This month's article features a retrospective of Michael Adams' key wins on his road to the finals of the World Knockout Chess Championship held in Tripoli. The selected games demonstrate the principle ingredients of the Cornish grandmaster's clearly defined classical positional style that has been typical throughout his career. Analyzing his games from knockout events, one begins to appreciate the "simplicity" of his concepts. Systematic squeezes, usually with White, are followed by seemingly effortless draws. His rationality of thought is almost always on course. He coolly rejects tempting lines and directs his efforts towards finding accurate and clear-cut solutions that bring him closer to his goal. Asrian, Hamdouchi, Nakamura, Akopian and Radjabov all fell prey in Libya. The new FIDE World Champion Kasimdzhanov was the only one capable of exchanging equally heavy blows with the white pieces, and it was he who finally prevailed in the rapid tie-breaks.

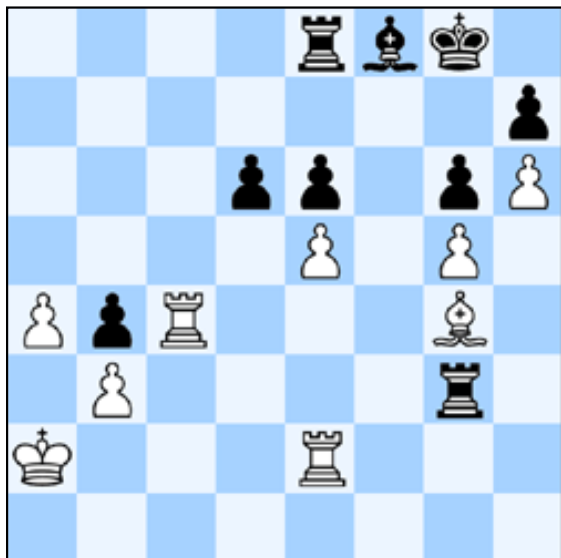
Mi. Adams 2731 - Vl. Akopian 2689 **Tripoli (m/1) 2004**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be3 Nc6 7. f3 e6 8. Qd2 Be7 9. 0-0-0-0 10. g4 Nd4 11. Qd4 Nd7 12. h4 [12. g5 see 88/198] Ne5 13. Be2 b5 14. Kb1 [14. f4!? Nc6 15. Qb6 Qd7 16. Bf2 unclear] **Bd7** (a novelty) [14... Nc6 (a novelty) 15. Qd2 Qa5 16. Bd3 unclear; J. C. Ibarra Jerez 2413 – Zhigalko 2470, Chalkidiki 2003; 14... Rb8; 14... Bb7] **15. f4** [15. g5 Qa5 (15... Nc6 16. Qd2) 16. a3 Rfb8 with initiative] **Nc6 16. Qd2** [16. Qb6? Qe8 17. Bc1 b4 18. Na4 Nb8 19. b3 Ba4 20. ba4 Qa4 and Black is superior] **Qa5 17. Bf3** [17. Bd3!? a) 17... Rfc8 18. g5 Nb4 19. Be2 Rc3 20. Qc3 Qa2 21. Kc1 Qa4 (21... Nc2 22. Kc2 Rc8 23. Qc8 Bc8 24. Ra1 and White is winning) 22. Qb3 Qb3 23. cb3 Bc6 24. Bf3 d5 and White is slightly better; b) 17... Nb4 18. g5 (18. a3 Nd3 19. Nd5? Bd8 and Black is superior) Nd3 19. cd3 b4 20. Ne2 unclear] **Rfc8 18. Ne2** [18. g5!? Nb4 19. a3 (19. h5 Rc3 20. Qc3 Qa2 21. Kc1 Nc2 22. Qc2 Rc8 23. Qc8 Bc8 and Black is slightly better) Nc6 a) 20. h5 b4 21. ab4 Nb4 (21... Qb4 22. g6 Rab8 with initiative) 22. g6 Rab8 23. gh7 Kh7 24. h6 g6 and Black is slightly better; b) 20. Na2! Qa4 21. h5 Rab8 (21... b4 22. ab4 a5 23. b3 Qa3 24. Qc1 ab4 25. Qa3 Ra3 unclear) 22. g6 b4 23. gh7 Kh7 24. h6 g6 25. ab4 Rb4 unclear] **Qd2** [18... Qa4!?] **19. Rd2 Na5** [19... b4!?] **20. b3 Rab8?!** [20... Nc6 21. g5 a5 22. h5 a4 with counterplay] **21. g5 Nb7 22. Rf1** [22. Ng3 Rc3] **Nc5 23. Ng3 b4** [23... a5!?] **24. f5** [24. h5!?] **Bb5 25. Rg1 Bf8** [25... Nd7!? 26. fe6 (26. f6 gf6 27. gf6 with attack; 26... Bf8) fe6 27. Bg4 Nf8] **26. h5** [26. f6 Nd7 unclear] **Nd7** [26...

Bc6] **27. fe6** [27. g6 hg6 28. hg6 fg6 29. fe6 Ne5 unclear] **fe6 28. Bg4** (and White is slightly better) **Re8 29. Rf2 g6** [29... Ne5 30. Bh3] **30. h6 Ne5 31. Bh3 Rb7** [31... Bd7! 32. Ne2 Be7 33. Nd4 Bd8 34. Rgf1 Bb6 35. Rf6 Rbc8 and White is slightly better] **32. Ne2 Be2** [32... Rf7 33. Nf4 Bd7 34. Rd1 and White is superior] **33. Re2 Rf7**



34. Rg3! Nd7 [better is 34... a5] **35. Bd2!** (and White is superior) **a5 36. c3?!** [36. a3! ba3 37. Ka2 (37. Ba5 Ra8 38. Bc3 a2 39. Ka1 Re7 40. Bb4 and White is superior) Ne5 38. Ba5 Rf3 39. Rf3 Nf3 40. Rg2 d5 41. ed5 ed5 42. Bd7 and White is superior] **bc3 37. Rc3?!** [37. Bc3! a4 38. ba4 Nc5 39. a5 Rb8 40. Kc2 e5 41. Bd2 and White is superior] **Nc5 38. a4?** [38. Rc4!? Rb7 (38... a4 39. ba4 and White is superior) 39. Kc2 (39. Ba5 Nb3) Rb5 40. Bc3 (and White is superior) Be7? 41. Rc5 and White is winning; 40... e5] **Rb7** [38... e5] **39. Ka2 Rf7** [better is 39... e5] **40. Bc1** [40. Rc4 Rf3 41. Bg2 Rd3 with counterplay] **Na6** time [better is 40... e5 41. Ba3 Rf4 42. Bc5 dc5 43. Bd7 Rd8 44. Be6 Kh8 unclear; 41. Bd2 and White is slightly better] **41. Ba3 Nb4 42. Bb4 ab4 43. Rc4!** [43. Rd3 Rf4] **Rf3** [43... Rf4 44. Rc8] **44. Bg4 Rg3** [44... Rf4 45. e5 Rc4 46. bc4 Kf7 (46... de5 47. Re5 Kf7 48. c5 and White is winning) 47. Rf2 Ke7 48. Rf6 de5 49. Re6 Kf7 (49... Kd8 50. Rc6 and White is winning) 50. Rf6 Kg8 51. Kb3 and White is superior] **45. e5**

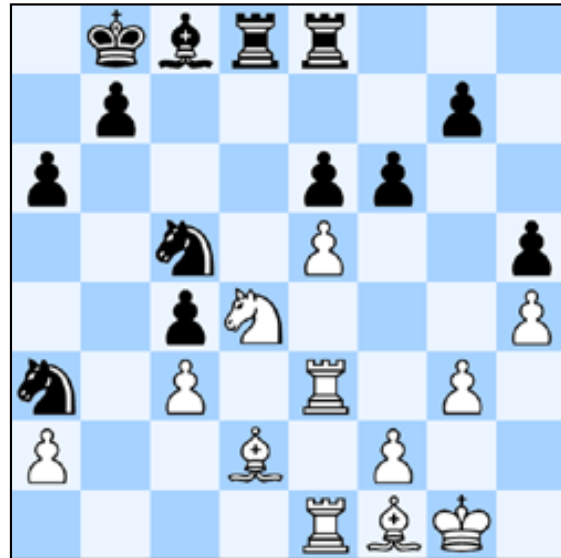


45... de5 time [45... d5! a) 46. Rc8 Kf7 (46... Rc8 47. Be6 Kh8 48. Bc8 d4 49. Rf2 Bc5 50. Rc2 Rc3 51. Rc3 dc3 52. a5 and White is winning) a1) 47. Rf2 Ke7 48. Rc7 (48. Re8 Ke8 49. Be6 Rg5 50. Bf7 Ke7 51. Bg8 Rf5 52. Rf5 gf5 53. Bh7 Bh6 54. Bf5 Bf4 equal) Kd8 49. Rfc2 (49. Rh7 Rg4 50. Rb7 unclear) Rg2 50. Rg2 Kc7 51. Rf2 Be7 (51... Bc5 52. Rf7 Re7 53. Be6 d4 and White is superior) 52. Rf7 Kb6 53. Rh7 Bg5 unclear; a2) 47. Be6 Re6 48. Rf2 Ke7 49. Rcf8 Re5 50. R8f7 (50. Rh8 Reg5 51. Rh7 Kd6 52. Rb7) Kd6 51. Rh7 Reg5 52. Rb7 Rh5 53. h7 Rhh3 and White is slightly better; b) 46. Rf4! Bc5 (46... Rc3 47. Rf6 Rc6 48. Rd2 Bc5 49. Rc2 and White is superior) 47. Rc2 Rc3 (47... Be3 48. Be6 Kh8 49. Rb4 and White is winning) 48. Kb2! (48. Rc3 bc3 49. Kb1 Be3 50. Rf6 d4 51. Kc2 Bg5 52. Re6 Rf8 unclear) Be3 (48... d4 49. a5 and White is superior) 49. Rf6 Bg5 50. Re6 Rc2 (50... Rec8 51. Rc3 bc3 52. Kc2 Kf8 53. Rg6 hg6 54. Bc8 and White is superior) 51. Kc2 Kf7 (51... Re6 52. Be6 Kf8 53. a5 and White is winning) 52. Re8 Ke8 53. Kd3 Bh6 54. a5 Bf8 (54... Kd8 55. Kd4 Kc7 56. Kd5 Bf8 57. Ke6 h5 58. Be2 Bg7 59. Bf3 h4 60. Bg4 Kc6 61. Bh3 Kc5 62. a6 Kb6 63. Kd6 and White is winning) 55. Kd4 and White is superior] **46. Re5 Bd6** [46... Rg2 47. Kb1 Rg1 48. Kc2 Rg2 49. Kc1 Rg1 50. Kd2 and White is winning] **47. Be6** [47. Re6 Re6 48. Be6 Kf8 49. Bg4 Be5 50. Re4 Rg2 51. Kb1 Bc3 and White is slightly better] **Kh8** **48. Rd5 Rg2** [48... Be7! 49. Bg4 Rf8 50. Re5 (50. a5 Rg1!) a) 50... Rg2 51. Kb1 Rg1 (51... Bd6 52. Re2 Re2 53. Be2 Be7 54. Rg4 and White is winning) 52. Rc1 and White is winning; b) 50... Bd6 51. Re2 Kg8 52. Be6 Kh8 and White is superior] **49. Kb1 Be7** **50. Bg4 Rf8** [50... Rg1 51. Kc2 Rg2 52. Kc1 (52. Kd3 Rg3) Rg1 53. Kd2 Rg2 54. Ke1 Bc5 (54... Bg5 55. Kf1 and White is winning) 55. Kd1 and White is winning] **51. a5 Rf1?!** [51... Rg1 a) 52. Kc2 Rg2 53. Kd3 Rg3 54. Ke2 Rg2 55. Ke1 Rg1; b) 52. Rd1 Rd1 53. Bd1 Bg5 54. Rb4 (54. a6 Bh6 55. a7 Be3 and Black is superior) Bh6 55. a6 Be3 (55... Ra8 56. Be2 Be3 57. Re4 Bb6 58. b4 Kg7 59. Re6 Rb8 60. b5 Bg1 and White is superior) 56. Re4 Bf2 57. b4 Kg7 58. b5 h5 59. Kc2 Kf6 60. Rc4 and White is superior; c) 52. Bd1! Rg5 (52... Bg5 53. Rb4 Bh6 54. Rb7 Rc8 55. Ka2 Bf8 56. b4 Rc1 57. Rd8 Rf1 58. a6 Rf2 59. Kb3 Rb1 60. Kc4 Rc1 61. Kb5 Rf4 62. Ka5 and White is winning) 53. Rd7 Bf6 54. Rf4 (54. Rcc7 Ra5 55. Bg4 Ra6 56. Rh7 Kg8) Kg8 55. Bg4 Re5 56. a6 (56. Rd6 Re1 57. Kc2 Rc1 58. Kd3 Be7 59. Be6 Kh8 60. Rf8 Bf8 61. Rb6 Bh6 62. a6 Ra1 63. Rb8 Kg7 64. Rb7 Kf6 65. Bc4 and White is superior) Re1 57. Kc2 Rc8 58. Kd3 and White is winning] **52. Bd1 Rff2** [52... Kg8 53. a6 Rg5 54. Rd7 (54. a7? Rd5) Bf8 55. a7 Ra5 56. Rcc7 and White is winning] **53. Rc8 Bf8** **54. Rd2!** **1 : 0**

T. Radjabov 2670 - Mi. Adams 2731 **Tripoli (m/1) 2004**

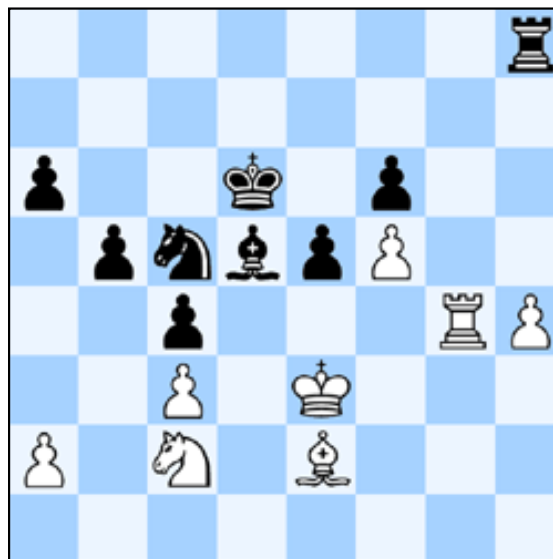
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. Nf3 dc4 5. Bg2 a6 6.0–0 Nc6 7. e3 Bd7 8. Nc3 Nd5 9. Nd2 Nb6!? (a novelty) [9... Nc3 see 90/427] **10. Qe2 Na5 11. e4** [11. Qh5 Bb4 (11... Nc6) 12. a3 g6 unclear] **Bb4** [11... Be7 12. Qh5 Nc6 13. d5 Nb4 unclear; 11... Nc6 12. Nf3 (12. d5 Nd4 13. Qd1 e5 unclear) Be7 13. d5 Nb4 14. Ne5 ed5 15. ed50–0 16. Nc4 Nc4 17. Qc4 Bf5 18. Rd1 and White is slightly better; 15... Bf5; 15... Nd3 unclear] **12. Qg4?** [12. Nf3 with compensation; 12. e5 with compensation a) 12...0–0 13. Nde4 Bc6 14. Qg4 (14. Qh5) Kh8 unclear; b) 12... Bc6 13. Nde4 (13. Qg4 Bg2 14. Qg7 Bf1 15. Qh8 Kd7 16. Qd8 Rd8 17. Kf1 unclear)0–0 14. Qg4 Kh8 15. Be3 Nd5

unclear] **Qf6! 13. Nf3** [better is 13. e5 Qg6 14. Qd1 Bc6 15. Nf3 0-0-0 16. Be3 Kb8 and Black is slightly better] **h5!** [13... e5 14. de5 Bg4 15. ef6 gf6 unclear] **14. Qf4** [14. Qh3 Nc6 (14... e5 15. de5 Qf3 16. e6 Be6 17. Qe6 fe6 18. Bf3 Nc6 and Black is slightly better) 15. e5 (15. Bg5 Qg6 16. Qh4 f6 17. Bf4 0-0-0 and Black is superior) Qg6 16. Qh4 Qg4 and Black is superior] **Qf4 15. Bf4 0-0-0** (and Black is superior) **16. Rac1** [16. Ng5? Rhf8 17. Nh7 Rg8; 16. Ne5 Be8] **f6 17. h4** [17. a3 Be7 18. b4 cb3 19. Nb5 Nbc4 and Black is winning] **Kb8 18. Rc2** [18. e5 Bc6 19. ef6 gf6 20. Rfe1 Rhe8 and Black is superior; 18. Rfd1 Bc6] **Rhe8 19. Re1** [19. Rfc1 Bc6] **Nc6!** [19... Na4!?] **20. Rd2** [20. Rce2 Nd4 21. Nd4 e5 and Black is winning; 20. a3 Ba5 21. Rd1 Na7 and Black is superior; 20. Rd1 Bd6 and Black is superior; 20. Rec1 Bd6 (20... Nd4 21. Nd4 e5 22. Nde2 ef4 23. Nf4 and Black is slightly better) 21. e5 Bf8 22. a3 Ne7 and Black is superior] **Na7 21. Rde2** [21. Rc1 Bc6 22. Re2 Nb5 and Black is superior] **Nb5 22. Bd2 Bc3?** [22... a5!?!; 22... Bc6 23. Nb5! Bd2 24. Nc7 Be1 25. Ne8 Bf2 26. Kf2 Re8 27. Ke3 and Black is slightly better; 22... Nc3 23. bc3 Ba5 and Black is superior] **23. bc3 Na4 24. Re3** [24. Rc1 c5] **e5** [24... e5!?!] **25. e5!** [25. Bf1 cd4 26. cd4 c3 27. Bc1 Bc6 and Black is winning] **Bc8** [25... f5 26. d5 (only move) ed5 27. e6 Bc8 28. Ng5 with counterplay; 25... Nc7!?!] **26. dc5 Nc5 27. Bf1 Na3** [27... Nd3 28. Bd3 Rd3 29. Rd3 cd3 30. ef6 gf6 31. Re3 Rd8 32. Ne1 Nc3 33. Rd3 Nd5 and Black is slightly better] **28. Nd4?** time [28. Rc1 b5 29. Nd4 Bb7 and Black is superior; 28. Rd1 a) 28... Rd5 29. Nd4 fe5 (29... Re5 30. Re5 fe5 31. Nf3 unclear) 30. Re5 Re5 31. Bf4 with compensation; b) 28... Nc2 29. Re2 f5 30. Rc1 Na3 and Black is slightly better]



28... Nc2! and Black is superior [28... f5? 29. Bc1 unclear] **29. Nc2 Rd2 30. Nd4 b5** [30... Nd3 31. Bd3 (31. R1e2 Rd1 and Black is winning) cd3 and Black is superior] **31. R3e2** [31. R1e2 Rd1 32. Re1 Re1 33. Re1 Kc7] **Re2 32. Be2** [32. Re2 Bb7 and Black is winning] **Rh8 33. ef6 gf6 34. f4** [34. Nc6 Kc7 35. Ne7 Rh7 36. Nc8 (36. Ng8 Nd7 and Black is winning; 36. Ng6 e5) Kc8 and Black is superior] **Na4** [34... Bb7 35. Bd1 Bd5 and Black is superior; 34... Kc7 35. Bf3 Nd3 36. Re3 e5 37. fe5 fe5 38. Nc2 Kd6 39. Nb4 Nb4 40. cb4 and Black is superior] **35. Rc1 Kc7 36. Kf2 Nc5** [36... e5 37. fe5 fe5 38. Nf3 Bg4 39. Ke3 Rg8 40. Bd1 e4 41. Ke4 Re8 42. Kd4 Rd8 43. Ke5 Nb2 and Black is winning] **37. Ke3 Bb7** [37... e5 38. fe5 fe5 39. Nf3 Bg4 and Black is winning] **38. Rg1** [38. a4 e5 (38... Rg8 39. ab5 Rg3 40. Kf2 Ne4 41. Kf1 ab5

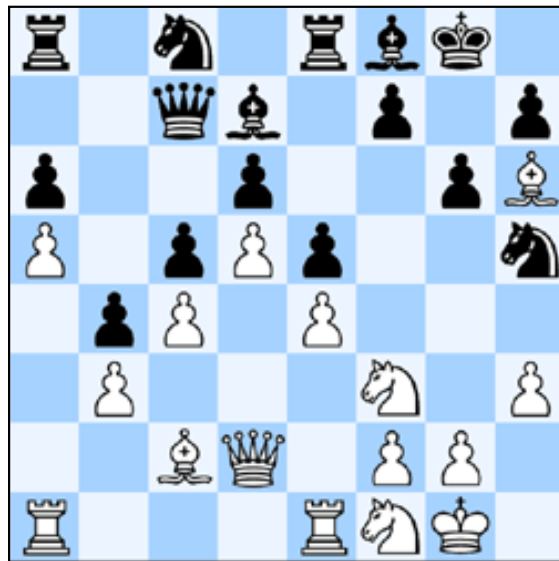
42. Nb5 Kb6 43. Na3 Rh3 and Black is winning) 39. fe5 fe5 40. Nf5 Na4 41. Ng7 Nb6 42. Bh5 Nd5 and Black is winning] **Bd5 39. g4 hg4 40. Rg4 Kd6 41. f5** [41. Rg6 Rh4 42. Rf6 Rh3 43. Bf3 Nd3 44. Ke2 Ke7 and Black is winning; 41. Bf3 Na4 42. Kd2 Bf3 43. Nf3 Kd5 and Black is winning] **e5 42. Nc2** [42. Nf3 Rh5 and Black is winning]



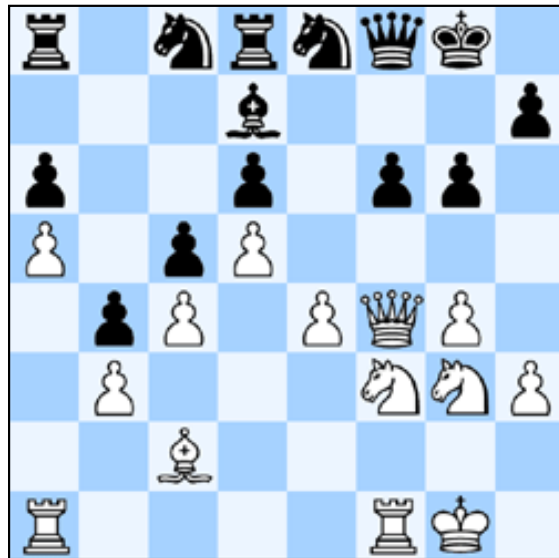
42... Be4! and Black is winning [42... Bf7 and Black is winning] **43. Re4 Ne4 44. Ke4 Rh4 45. Ke3** [45. Kf3 Rh3] **Rf4 46. Nd4** [46. Nb4 a5 47. Nc2 Rf5 48. a4 ba4 49. Bc4 Kc5 50. Be6 Rg5 51. Ke4 Rg3 52. Ne3 a3 53. Kd3 f5 and Black is winning; 46. Bf3 Rf5 47. Bb7 a5 48. Ba6 Kc5 49. Na3 Rh5 50. Bb5 (50. Nb5 Kb6 and Black is winning) Rh3 51. Kd2 Rh2 and Black is winning] **b4! 47. Ne6 bc3** [48. Nf4 ef4 and Black is winning; 47... Rf5 48. Bc4 bc3 and Black is winning] **0 : 1**

Mi. Adams 2731 - Kasimdzhanov 2652 Tripoli (m/5) 2004

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c30-0 9. h3 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. d4 Qc7 12. d5 Nc4 13. a4 Bd7 14. b3 Nb6 15. a5 Nc8 16. c4!? (a novelty) [16. b4 see 89/(335)] **b4** [16... Bd8!?!; Editorial comment: 16... g6 17. Nc3 Nh5 18. Ne2 Re8 19. Ra2 Bf8 20. g4 Ng7 21. Ng3 f6 22. Nh2 Re7 23. h4 Rf7 24. f4 and White is slightly better; V. Topalov 2735 – Shirov 2736, Linares 2004] **17. Nbd2 g6** [better is 17... Bd8 18. Nf1 Ne7 19. Ng3 Ng6 (19... Ne8!?) 20. Nf5 and White is slightly better] **18. Nf1 Nh5 19. Bh6 Re8?!** [19... Ng7! 20. Qd2 Kh8 21. g4 Bd8 22. Ng3 Ne7 and White is slightly better, with the idea 23. Ne5?! de5 24. d6 Qb7 25. de7 Be7] **20. Qd2 Bf8**



21. g4! Ng7 [21... Nf4 22. Bf4 ef4 23. Qf4 Bg7 24. Ra2 Bc3 25. Re3 Ne7 (25... f6 26. Rc3! bc3 27. Qf6 and White is superior) 26. Ng3 f6 27. Rc3 (27. Ne2 g5 28. Qg3 Be5 29. Ne5 fe5 30. h4 Ng6 31. hg5 Qd8 32. f4 ef4 33. Nf4 Ne5 and White is slightly better) bc3 28. Qf6 Rf8 29. Qc3 and White is superior; 21... Bh6 22. Qh6 Nf6 23. Ng3 Re7 24. Nf5! Bf5 25. ef5 and White is superior] **22. N3h2!** and White is superior [22. Ng3 Ne7 23. Kg2 Kh8 and White is slightly better] **Qd8** [22... Ne7 23. f4 Kh8 24. f5 and White is superior] **23. f4 ef4** [23... Be7 24. f5 and White is superior] **24. Qf4 Qe7 25. Nf3** [25. Ng3!? Qe5 26. Qf2] **f6 26. Ng3 Rd8** [better is 26... Qf7 27. Rf1 Re7 28. e5!? (28. Rf2 Ne8 with the idea 29. Raf1? g5; 28. Qd2 Ne8 29. Be3 Qg7 30. Kh2 and White is superior) a) 28... fe5 29. Qe3 Ne8 (29... Qe8 30. Ne4 Rf7 31. Nfg5 Rf1 32. Rf1 and White is winning) 30. Bg5 Qg7 31. Be7 Qe7 32. Rf2 and White is superior; b) 28... de5 29. Qe3 Ne8 (29... f5 30. Ne5 Qe8 31. Rae1 Nd6 32. Qf4 and White is superior) 30. Ne4 Bh6 31. Qh6 Ncd6 32. Nc5 and White is superior] **27. Rf1 Ne8** [27... Ra7!?] **28. Bf8 Qf8**



29. e5! (and White is winning) **de5** [29... fe5 30. Qf8 Kf8 31. Ne5 Kg8 32. Nf7] **30. Ne5 Ncd6 31. Rae1** [31. Nd7? Rd7 32. Rae1 Re7 and White is slightly better] **Qg7** [31... Nb7 32. Ne4 Na5 33. Qf2 Nb7 34. Qh4] **32. Nd3 Rac8 33. Qf2 f5** [33... Nb7 34. Ne4] **34. Ne5** [34. Nc5!? fg4 35. Nd7 Rd7 36.

hg4 Rf7 37. Qe3] **Nf6** [34... fg4 35. hg4 Rc7 36. Re2! Bc8 37. Nc6 Rdd7 38. Qe1] **35. Nd7 Rd7 36. gf5 g5** [36... gf5 37. Kh2 Qh6 38. Bf5 Nf5 39. Nf5 Ng4 40. Kg3 Nf2 41. Nh6 Kg7 42. Nf5] **37. Re6 Kh8** [37... g4 38. hg4 Ng4 39. Qf4 Qd4 40. Qd4 cd4 41. Rf4 Ne3 42. Bd3 Rg7 43. Kf2] **38. Bd1** [38. Qe3!? g4 39. Qe5] **g4 39. hg4 Rg8** [39... Ng4 40. f6 Qg5 41. Qf4 Qf4 42. Rf4] **40. Qf4 Ng4 41. Bg4 Qg4 42. Qg4 Rg4 43. Kh2 h5** [43... Rdg7 44. f6 Rg8 45. Rd6 Rg3 46. f7] **44. Kh3 Rd4 45. f6 Nf7** [45... Kg8 46. Re7 Rd8 47. Rg7 Kf8 48. Nh5] **46. Rf5 1 : 0**



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