



COLUMNISTS



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The First Hundred Informants

Aleksandar Matanovic

Forty-two years ago an idea was born:

- To select the most distinguished chess games from all major events;
- To establish a “chess language” – an international code akin to those used in mathematics and music, equally understandable to chessplayers all over the globe;
- To substitute traditional opening names with a “classification of chess openings” based on evaluation of all the available hitherto played games.

Having delved into an adventure that has spanned more than four decades, little did we know that we were trailblazing a path towards an era yet to come – the information era. With no support from our chess organization or any financial backup (in spite of the fact that Belgrade was a true chess center at the time), and led only by our firm belief that we were doing the right thing, our enthusiasm gave birth to the first volume of Chess Informant in 1966.

Chessplayers all over the world would finally have access to information they needed. The “Chess Bible” kept spreading the word to the disciples – the “Chess Informant generation”: we have a language of our own – “Gens una sumus!”

The statistics speak volumes about the energy and knowledge found between the covers of one hundred Informants. We have published a total of 101,033 games, along with a selection of 3,128 combinations, 2,503 endings and 108 studies. Viktor Korchnoi has had the most games appear in Chess Informants – an awe inspiring total of 1,709, closely followed by Jan Timman’s 1,703 over-the-board battles. The longest game to appear was Van der Wiel – Fedorowitz, Graz 1981 – it took 143 moves to determine the outcome! Among the openings, we also have a record: there were 1,498 ECO B33 games (the Lasker-Pelikan Sicilian, Sveshnikov variation). World Champions, both men and women, from Max Euwe to Viswanathan Anand, appear in exactly 10,639 games, heading an impressive list of more than 3,000 different contributors.

We had thus created a foundation that led to many more publications:

- Five volumes of Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings;
- Five volumes of Encyclopaedia of Chess Endings;
- Anthology of Chess Combinations;
- Small Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings;
- 1,234 Chess Problems;
- Monographs of Chess Openings, etc.

From all the games ever published in Chess Informant, the Editorial Board and a jury of leading grandmasters chose the ten best games from each volume, and among them – a golden winner for each volume. These 1,000 games (100 of them are “golden”) have been compiled in a book that will soon be available. They represent the hallmark of an era heralding some of the greatest achievements in chess, and the crowning of the creative efforts of thousands of chessplayers.

All that we have achieved, we have done together!

Here are some statistics that may be of interest to our readers:

In the 100 volumes of Chess Informant 101,033 games were published, 63,667 main games, 37,366 additional games, 3,128 combinations, 2,503 endings and 108 studies.

The largest number of games in a single volume was published in Volume 46 (834 main games and 853 additional games).

The number of published games in a five-year period each:

1966-1970	7,111
1971-1975	7,280
1976-1980	8,778
1981-1985	12,176
1986-1990	14,394
1991-1995	15,908
1996-2000	15,955
2001-2005	15,231
2006-2007	4,200

Of 101,033 published games, 66,858 are complete games. The following results were achieved in these games:

White wins	30,017
Draw	21,146
Black wins	15,695

The number of complete games according to the number of moves is:

1-10	28
11- 20	3,607
21- 30	14,007
31- 40	21,127
41- 50	16,053
51- 60	7,099
61- 70	3,188
71- 80	1,141
81- 90	385
91-100	127
101-110	56
111-120	31
121-130	6
131-140	2
141-150	1

The shortest game, which ended in a draw on the 7th move, is Rublevsky – Dreev, Elista (m/2) 1998, 72/(133). The shortest decided game is Neelakantan – Nagendra, India 1988, 47/(217), won by White in 9 moves. The longest game, which ended in a draw after 143 moves, is Van der Wiel – Fedorowicz, Graz 1981, 32/264.

The following first moves were played in the complete games:

		1-0	½	0-1
1.e4	30,699	13,950	9,281	7,468
1.d4	24,694	10,928	8,229	5,537
1.c4	5,695	2,607	1,784	1,304
1.Nf3	5,274	2,314	1,750	1,210
1.g3	320	144	73	103

1.b3	97	46	11	40
1.f4	43	14	9	20
1.c3	22	10	5	7
1.b4	9	3	1	5
1.d3	4	1	2	1
1.g4	1	–	1	–
Total	66,858	30,017	21,146	15,695

The number of games according to the main classification codes of Openings:

A	15,655
B	32,267
C	16,082
D	17,646
E	19,383

Of the 500 codes comprised in the Classification of Openings, the largest number of games was played in the following codes:

B 33	1,498
E 12	1,421
D 85	1,256
E 15	1,239
B 22	1,169
E 97	1,059
A 30	1,008
C 42	919
B 07	862

About 11,000 chess players have had their games published in Chess Informant.

Players who have had more than 640 published games: Korchnoi (1,709 games), Timman (1,703), Beliavsky (1,620), Karpov (1,611), Kasparov (1,193), Portisch (1,184), Shirov (1,151), M. Gurevich (1,087), Anand (1,052), Ivanchuk (1,047), Gelfand (1,007), Miles (999), Ljubojevic (990), Iv. Sokolov (985), Short (967), Tal (963), Adams (937), Polugaevsky (887), Larsen (887), Jussupow (879), Kramnik (876), Tukmakov (860), Romanishin (850), Hort (831), Van Wely (829), Gligoric (828), Hübner (802), Andersson (795), Piket (779), Vaganian (777), Spassky (760), Sax (760), Bareev (751), Leko (739), Gulko (732), Lautier (719), Van der Wiel (701), Ftacnik (693), Geller (687), Topalov (676), Nunn (671), Nikolic (665), Uhlmann (663), Khalifman (645), Psakhis (641).

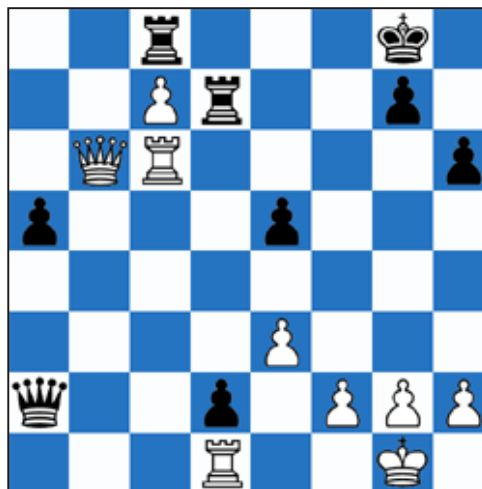
The number of published games of World Champions: Euwe (2 games), Botvinnik (72), Smyslov (604), Tal (963), Petrosian (531), Spassky (760), Fischer (221), Karpov (1,611), Kasparov (1,193), Kramnik (876), Khalifman (645), Anand (1052), Ponomarev (308), Kasimdzhanov (256), Topalov (676), Gaprindashvili (185), Chiburdanidze (262), Xie Jun (146), Zsuzsa Polgar (201), Zhu Chen (33), Stefanova (37), Xu Yuhua (5).

Over 3,000 chess players annotated the published games. The number of games annotated by World Champions: Euwe (1), Botvinnik (29), Smyslov (128), Tal (367), Petrosian (509), Spassky (17), Fischer (10), Karpov (579), Kasparov (620), Kramnik (409), Khalifman (209), Anand (456), Ponomarev (136), Kasimdzhanov (117), Topalov (55), Gaprindashvili (61), Chiburdanidze (127), Xie Jun (29), Zsuzsa Polgar (99), Zhu Chen (7), Stefanova (2).

From the book “1,000 Best Games – 100 Golden Games” that will be available at the beginning of next year we have selected five golden games. The games of Korchnoi, who has the greatest number of published games in all hundred volumes, as well as three ex-world champions Kasparov, Karpov, Kramnik and the current world champion Anand.

Korchnoi 2645 – Spassky 2610
Beograd (m/7) 1977 – 24/535 [D58]

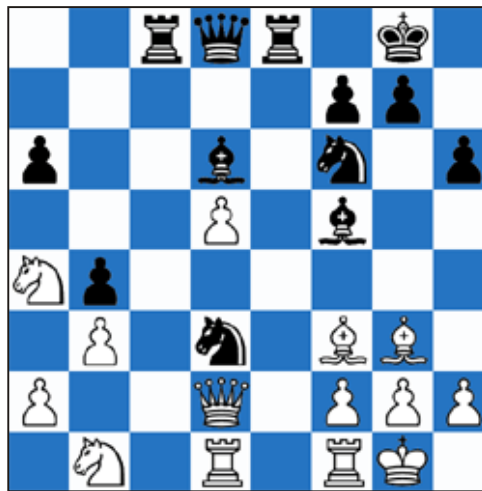
1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.Rc1 Bb7 9.Bf6 Bf6 10.cd5 ed5 11.b4 [a novelty] c6 [11...c5!?, 11...Re8] 12.Be2 Nd7 13.0-0 a5 14.b5 c5 (equal) 15.dc5 [15.Re1!? with the idea 15...c4 16.Nd2 with the idea Bf3] Nc5 16.Nd4 Qd6 17.Bg4!? Rfd8 18.Re1 Ne6 19.Be6!? fe6 20.Nc6! (unclear) Be6 [20...Rd7 21.e4!] 21.bc6 Bc3 [21...Qb4!? 22.a3! Qa3 23.c7 Rdc8 24.Nb5 with compensation] 22.Rc3 Rac8 23.Qc2 e5!? 24.c7 Rd7 25.Rc1 d4 26.Rc6 Qd5 27.Qb1!! d3 28.Qb6 d2 29.Rd1 Qa2 [29... Qd3 30.Qa6!]



30.h3!! and White is winning [30.Qb7 Qa4!! (30...Qa1? 31.Qc8 Kh7 32.Rh6! Kh6 33.Qh8 Kg6 34.Qe8 Kh6 35.Qe6 Kh7 36.Qh3 Kg6 37.Qg4 Kh7 38.Ra1 and White is winning) 31.Qc8 Kh7 32.Qg8 (32.Rh6 gh6 and Black is winning) Kg8 33.c8Q Kh7 34.Rc2 Qa1! and Black is winning] Qa4 31.Rd2! Rd2 32.Qb7 [32. Qb8!? Rb8 33.cb8Q Kh7 34.Rc8] Rdd8 33.cd8Q Rd8 34.Rc7 Qa1 35.Kh2 e4 36.Qe4 Qf6 37.f4 Qf8 38. Ra7 Qc5 39.Qb7 Qc3 40.Qe7 Rf8 41.e4 Qd4 42.f5 h5 43.Ra5 Qd2 44.Qe5 Qg5 45.Ra6 Rf7 46.Rg6 Qd8 47.f6 h4 48.fg7 1-0 [Stein]

Karpov 2720 – Kasparov 2700
Moscow (m/16) 1985 – 40/202 [B44]

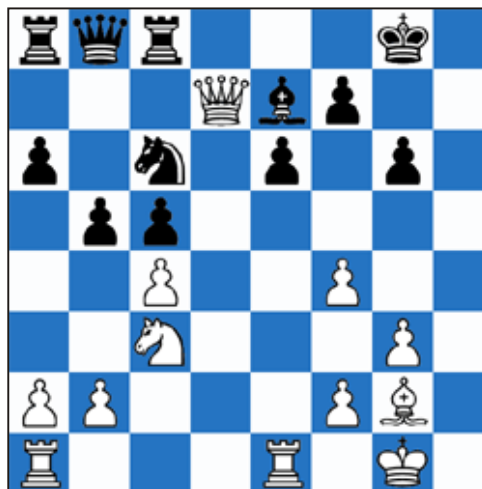
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cd4 4.Nd4 Nc6 5.Nb5 d6 6.c4 Nf6 7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3 d5 9.cd5 [9.ed5 ed5 10.Nd5 Nd5 11.cd5 (11.Qd5? Bb4 12.Bd2 Qe7 13.Be2 Bg4) Bb4 12.Bd2 Qd5 equal] ed5 10.ed5 Nb4 11.Be2!? [a novelty; 11.Bg5 Nbd5 12.Nd5 Qd5 13.Bf6 (13.Qd5 Nd5 14.0-0-0 Be6 15.Bc4 Nc7! equal) Qd1 14.Rd1 gf6 equal] Bc5! [11...Nbd5 12.0-0 Be7 (12...Ba3? 13.Qa4) 13.Nd5 Nd5 14.Bf3 Be6 15.Nc2 and White is slightly better] 12.0-0 0-0 13.Bf3 [13.Bg5 Nbd5 14.Nd5 Qd5 15.Bf6 Qd1 equal] Bf5 [weak point Na3] 14. Bg5 [14.Be3 Be3 15.fe3 Qb6 with counterplay] Re8! [14...b5? 15.Be4!] 15.Qd2 [15.Nc4 Bd3 16.a3 Bc4 (16...Bf1? 17.ab4 Bc4 18.bc5 and White is superior) 17.ab4 Bb4 18.Re1 unclear] b5 16.Rad1 [16.Qf4 Bg6 17.Bf6 Qf6 18.Qf6 gf6 equal] Nd3! 17.Nab1? [17.Be2? Nf2 18.Rf2 b4; 17.d6! Qd6!? (17...b4? 18.Ba8 Qa8 19.Na4 ba3 20.Bf6 gf6 21.Nc5 Nc5 22.Qd5 and White is superior; 17...Ra7 18.Nd5) 18.Ba8 Ra8 with compensation] h6! 18.Bh4 b4! 19.Na4 [19.Ne2 g5! 20.Bg5 Nf2 and Black is superior] Bd6 20.Bg3 [20. Qc2? Rc8 21.Qb3 Nf4 22.Rc1 Rc1 23.Rc1 g5 24.Bg3 g4 and Black is winning] Rc8 [20...Ne4?! 21.Be4 Be4 22.Qe3! unclear; 20...Bg3!? 21.fg3 (with the idea Be2; 21.hg3 Qa5 22.b3 Rad8) Qd7! 22.b3 (22.Be2? Qa7) Nd5 23.Nb2 Qa7 24.Kh1 Nb2 (24...Rad8? 25.Bd5 Rd5 26.Rf5!) 25.Qb2 (25.Bd5? Nd1 26.Rf5 Rad8! 27.Qd1 Qd7) Ne3 26.Ba8 Nd1 27.Rd1 Qa8 and Black is superior] 21.b3 [with the idea Nb2]



21...g5!! 22.Bd6 [22.Nb2? Nb2 23.Qb2 g4; 22.Be2? Ne4; 22.h4 Ne4 (22...g4? 23.Be2 Ne4 24.Qh6 unclear; 22...Nf4!?) 23.Be4 Be4 24.hg5 (24.Bd6 Qd6 25.hg5 Nf4!; 24.Qe3 Bf4! 25.Qd4 gh4) Bg3 25.fg3 Qd5 26.gh6 (26.Qe3? Bg2) Rc6! with attack] **Qd6 23.g3** [23.Be2 Nf4 24.Bc4 Ng4 25.g3 Rc4! 26.bc4 Re2 27.c5 (27.Qd4 Be4) Qg6 28.gf4 Qh5 and Black is winning] **Nd7! 24.Bg2** [24.Nb2 Qf6!! a) 25.Nd3 Bd3 26.Bg4 (26.Qd3 Ne5 and Black is winning) Ne5 27.f4 Ng4 28.Qd3 Qb6 and Black is winning; b) 25.Nc4 N7e5 26.Ne5 (26.Be2 Bh3) Ne5 27.Bg2 (27.Be2 Bd3! and Black is winning) Bd3 28.f4 (28.Rfe1 Nf3) Rc2 29.Qe3 Bf1 30.Rf1 gf4 and Black is winning] **Qf6! 25.a3 a5 26.ab4 ab4 27.Qa2 Bg6 28.d6** [28.Nd2 Re2 and Black is winning; 28.Bh3 Rcd8 with the idea N7e5 and Black is winning] **g4!** [28...Qd6? 29.Nd2] **29.Qd2 Kg7 30.f3** [30.f4 Bf5!] **Qd6 31.fg4 Qd4 32.Kh1 Nf6 33.Rf4** [33.h3 Re3! (33...Ne4? 34.Qd3 Nf2 35.Rf2 Bd3 36.Rfd2) 34.Rf4 Qe5 and Black is winning] **Ne4 34.Qd3 Nf2 35.Rf2 Bd3 36.Rfd2 Qe3! 37.Rd3 Rc1!! 38.Nb2 Qf2! 39.Nd2 Rd1** [39...Re2!] **40.Nd1 Re1 0-1** [Kasparov]

Karpov 2740 – Topalov 2640 Linares 1994 – 60/40 [A33]

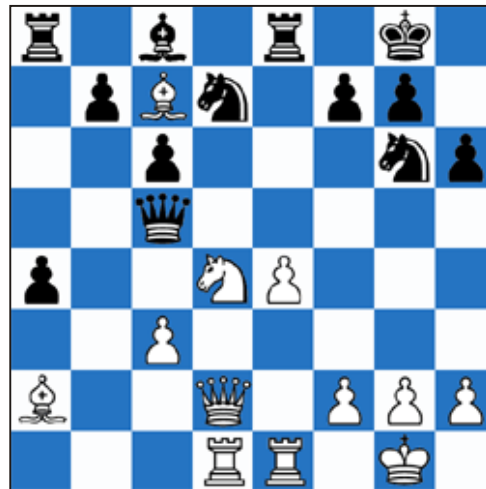
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 cd4 4.Nd4 e6 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0 d6 10.Bf4 [10.Bg5] **Nh5** [10...Na5 11.Na5 Qa5 12.Bd6! Rd8 13.Be7 and White is superior] **11.e3!** [a novelty; 11.Qd2 Nf4 12.gf4 and White is slightly better; 12.Qf4 and White is slightly better; 11.Be3 see 35/57] **Nf4 12.ef4 Bd7 13.Qd2 Qb8 14.Rfe1!** [with the idea f5] **g6 15.h4** [15.Rad1 Rd8 16.Ne4 Be8 17.Qc3 b5 with counterplay; 16.h4!?] **a6** [15...h5 16.Rad1 Rd8 17.f5 gf5 18.Qh6 and White is superior] **16.h5** [16.Nd5 ed5! 17.cd5 Bf6! and White is slightly better] **b5** [16...Ra7 17.h6 b5 18.Nd4 and White is superior] **17.hg6 hg6 18.Nc5! dc5** [18...Be8 19.Ne6!? (19.Na6 Ra6 20.cb5 Rb6 21.bc6 and White is superior) fe6 20.Re6 Rf6 21.Rae1 Re6 22.Re6 Bf7 23.Qe3 Qc8 24.Bc6 and White is winning] **19.Qd7 Rc8**



20.Re6! [and White is superior, with initiative; 20.Bc6 Ra7 21.Qd3 Rc6 22.cb5 c4 23.Qf3 Rc8 with compensation] **Ra7 21.Rg6 fg6** [21...Kf8 22.Qh3 fg6 23.Qh8 Kf7 24.Bd5 mate; 21...Kh7 22.Qh3 Kg6 23.Be4 Kg7 24.Qh7 and White is winning] **22.Qe6 Kg7 23.Bc6 Rd8 24.cb5 Bf6** (only move) **25.Ne4 Bd4 26.ba6** [26.Qg4 ab5 27.f5 Rd6 28.Nd6 Qd6 29.Bb5 Rf7; 26.Kg2 ab5 27.Rh1 Rh8 28.Rh8 Qh8 29.Be8 and White is winning; 26.f5 gf5 27.Qf5 and White is winning] **Qb6 27.Rd1 Qa6 28.Rd4 Rd4 29.Qf6 Kg8 30.Qg6 Kf8 31.Qe8 Kg7 32.Qe5** [32.Ne5 Rd1 33.Kh2 Qf1 34.Qe5 Kh6 35.Qg5 Kh7 36.Be4 Kh8 37.Qh5 Kg7 38.Qe5 and White is winning] **Kg8 33.Nf6 Kf7 34.Be8 Kf8 35.Qc5 Qd6 36.Qa7 Qf6** [36...Rd1 37.Kg2 Rg1 38.Kh3 (38.Kg1?? Qd1 39.Kg2 Qh1 equal) Rh1 39.Kg4 and White is winning] **37.Bh5 Rd2 38.b3 Rb2 39.**

Kramnik 2729 – Bruzon 2652
Torino (ol) 2006 – 97/326 [D52]

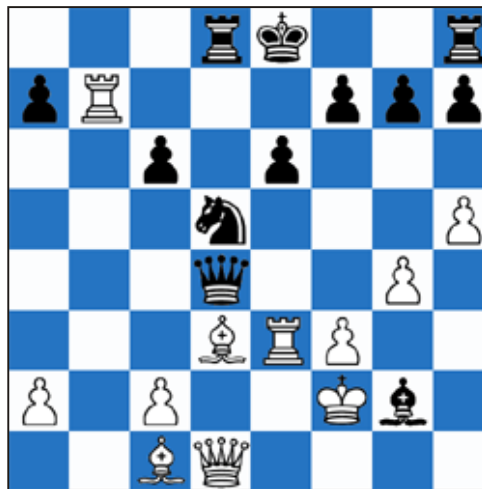
1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.cd5 Nd5 8.Qd2 Bb4 9.Rc1 h6 10.Bh4 0-0 11.a3 Bc3 12.bc3 Qa3 13.e4 [13.Bd3!?] Ne7 14.Bd3 Ng6 15.Bg3 e5 16.0-0 [a novelty; 16.h4 see 87/400] Re8 17.Rfe1 [17.h4?! ed4 18.cd4 Nf6 unclear] Qa5 [17...a5 18.h4 ed4 19.cd4 Nf6 20.Ra1 and White is superior; 17...Qe7] 18.Qb2 Qd8 19.Bb1! a5 [19...Qf6 20.Qd2! (20.Ba2 Nf4! 21.Qd2 g5 unclear) a5 21.h4] 20.Rcd1 a4 21.Ba2 Qe7 [better is 21...Qa5] 22.Qc1 Ra5 [22...b5 23.h4 ed4 24.Nd4!] 23.Qd2! [with the idea c4] ed4 [23...b6 24.h4 a) 24...ed4 25.Nd4 a1) 25...Nge5 26.Nf5 Qc5 27.Nd6 Rf8 (27...Rd8 28.Bf4 and White is superior) 28.Bf4 and White is superior; a2) 25...Qc5 26.Nf5 Nde5 (26...Nge5 see 25...Nge5) 27.Nd6 and White is superior; b) 24...h5 25.Ng5 Rf8 26.de5 Nde5 27.f4 and White is superior; c) 24...Nf6 25.Ne5 Ne5 26.Be5 Re5 27.de5 Qe5 and White is slightly better; better is 23...Ra6 and White is slightly better] 24.Nd4 (and White is superior) Qc5 [24...Nde5 25.f4 and White is superior; 24...Qg5 25.f4 Qc5 26.Bf2 Qf8 27.Nf5 and White is superior] 25.Bc7 [25.Nf5 Nde5 26.Nd6 Rd8 unclear] Ra8 [25...Ndf8 (only move) 26.Ba5 Qa5 27.f4 and White is superior]



26.Bf7!! Kf7 27.Qa2 Kf8 [27...Kf6 28.Bd8!! a) 28...Ke5 29.Nf3 (29.Qf7 and White is winning) Kf4 30.Qd2 Kg4 31.h3 Kh5 32.g4 mate; b) 28...Ne7 29.Qe6 Kg5 30.Nf3 Kf4 31.g3 Kf3 32.Rd3 Qe3 33.Rde3 mate; c) 28...Rd8 29.Qe6 Kg5 30.Nf3 Kf4 31.g3 Kf3 32.Rd3 Qe3 33.Rde3 mate; 27...Ke7 28.Qe6 Kf8 29.Bd6 and White is winning] 28.Ne6 Re6 29.Qe6 Ne7 [29...Qg5 30.Rd7 (30.Re3 and White is winning) Bd7 31.Bd6 Ne7 32.Qd7 and White is winning] 30.Re3 Ke8 31.Rf3 Qh5 32.Bd6 1-0 [Kramnik]

Anand 2765 – Lautier 2660
Biel 1997 – 70/89 [B01]

1.e4 d5 2.ed5 Qd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 [5...Nc6 see 70/(89)] 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Ne5 e6 8.g4 Bg6 9.h4 Nbd7 10.Nd7 Nd7 11.h5 Be4 12.Rh3 Bg2 13.Re3 Nb6 [13...b5 14.Bd3 b4 15.Ne4 and White is slightly better] 14.Bd3 [14.Bb3?! c5!] Nd5 15.f3! [a novelty; 15.Rg3?! see 67/124] Bb4 [15...Nc3 16.bc3 Qc3 17.Bd2 Qd4 18.Kf2 Bf3 19.Kf3 Bc5 20.Kg2 and White is slightly better] 16.Kf2! Bc3 [16...Nc3 17.bc3 Bc3 18.Rb1 Bd4 19.Kg2 Be3 20.Be3 and White is superior] 17.bc3 Qc3 18.Rb1 Qd4 [18...Bf3 19.Qf3 Qd4 20.Rb7 and White is superior] 19.Rb7 Rd8 [19...Bh3 20.Rf7! c5 21.Rf5!! (J.Lautier) Ne3 22.Be3 Qb2 23.Rc5 0-0 24.Kg3! and White is winning; 19...Nf4 20.Kg3 (20.Qe1 Qf6 21.Kg3 and White is superior; 20.Be2 and White is superior) Qd6 21.Ba3! Nh5 (21...Qa3 22.Be4! and White is winning) 22.Kg2 Qg3 23.Kf1 and White is winning]



20.h6!! gh6? [20...Ne3 (only move) 21.Be3 Qe5 22.hg7 Rg8 23.Qc1 (23.Bh6 Qh2!; 23.Qg1 Bf3 24.Kf3 and White is superior) Bf3 (23...Qh2 24.Bf4 Qh3 25.Qa3! and White is winning) 24.Qa3 Qh2 25.Kf3 Qh3 26.Ke2 Qg4 27.Kd2 Qh4 28.Qc3 c5 29.Ra7 and White is superior] **21.Bg6!! Ne7** [21...Qe3 22.Be3 fg6 23.Bc5 and White is winning; 21...Qf6 22.Bf7 Qf7 23.Rf7 Ne3 24.Qd8! (24.Qe2 Nd1 25.Kg2 Kf7 and White is slightly better) Kd8 25.Be3 Bh3 26.Ra7 and White is winning] **22.Qd4 Rd4 23.Rd3! Rd8 24.Rd8 Kd8 25.Bd3!** [25...Bh1 26.Bb2 Re8 27.Bf6 and White is winning] **1-0** [Anand]

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