



Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival 2017

Monday 23 January - Thursday 2 February 2017

Round 5 Report: *Saturday 28 January 2017 - by John Saunders (@JohnChess)*

Disco Stu and the Battle of the Sexes

The middle Saturday of the Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival is dominated by the Battle of the Sexes match between elite teams of men and women – more on that further down – but before the evening extravaganza there was still the matter of round five of the Tradewise Gibraltar Masters to be negotiated. After the game between the two leaders, Emil Sutovsky (Israel) and Ju Wenjun (China) ended in a fairly brief draw, the door was opened to other players to catch up with them. By the close of play, four players managed to join the two aforementioned players on $4\frac{1}{2}/5$, namely Hikaru Nakamura (USA), Mickey Adams (England), David Anton Guijarro (Spain) and Maxime Lagarde (France).

As well as the above, David Howell at one point seemed poised to give Maxime Vachier-Lagrave a hard time and join the leaders when he gave up a pawn for considerable positional compensation but he lost his way somewhere along the line. It's worth checking out his informative post-game interview posted on the tournament's official YouTube channel for further details.



Michael Adams playing Hou Yifan in round five. Beyond them, Boris Gelfand is seen playing David Anton.

England's highest rated player has brought his a-game to Gibraltar. In round five he was paired with women's world champion Hou Yifan, who was playing her first male opponent of the tournament. It was a long game but I wouldn't characterise it as a 'long grind' by any means as tactical possibilities were always bubbling under the surface (and sometimes over it) right to the end of the game. An absolute treat for the spectators.

Tradewise Gibraltar Masters, Round 5, 28 January 2017

M.Adams (2751) - Hou Yifan (2651)

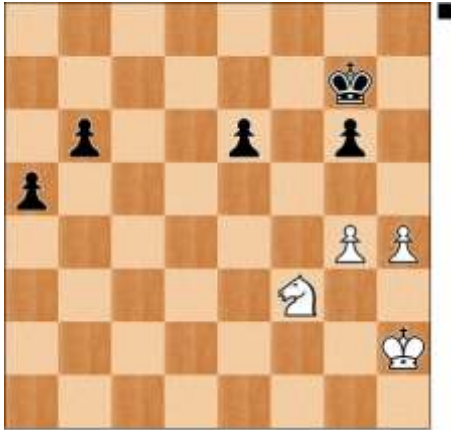
1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.a3 Bc5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.e4 0-0 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Be3 11.f4 was played against Hou Yifan by Inarkiev in a blitz game in 2016 so Adams would still have been in his preparation. The text move has been played more frequently than 11.f4. **11...d6 12.f4** It has actually transposed back to the Inarkiev game but now Hou Yifan varies from the 12...a6 she played on that occasion. **12...Rc8 13.Rc1 Nb8 14.Qd3 a6** Finally departing from known paths. **15.Nd4 Nc6 16.b4 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Nd7 18.Qg3 Bf6 19.Rfd1 Qc7** After this White develops a considerable initiative. Stockfish recommends 19...e5 20.Be3 exf4 21.Bxf4 Be5, etc. **20.Bxf6 Nxf6 21.e5 dxe5 22.fxe5 Nd7 23.Rd6** Now Black is in danger of being enmeshed in a typical Adams web (he's not called 'the Spider' for nothing) so she has to react, even though it means weakening her e6-pawn. **23...f6 24.exf6 24.Bg4!?** looks quite dangerous. **24...Rxf6 25.Bd3 Rcf8** One wonders what Adams had in mind after 25...e5. Perhaps 26.Rxf6 (26.Bxh7+ Kxh7 27.Qh3+ Kg8 28.Rxd7 Qxc4 is tempting but there is no obvious follow-up for White) 26...Nxf6 27.Re1 gives him a small edge **26.Rd1 g6 27.Be2**



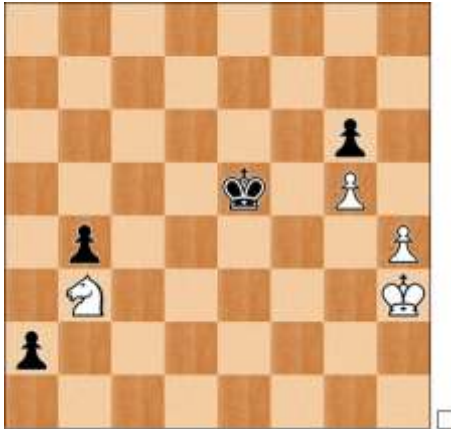
27...Nc5!? 27...Rf2 is hard to calculate at the board. There could follow 28.Rxd7!? Qxg3 29.hxg3 Rxg2+ 30.Kh1 - it would take nerves of steel for White to play into a line where Black threatens to unleash a horrendous discovered check, but here White can successfully walk the tightrope - 30...Bc6 31.Rc7 Ba8 32.Ra7 Rxg3+ - seemingly the only move - 33.Kh2 Rxc3 34.Rdd7 and the complexities are still far from over though the analysis engine would have us believe White is better. Few human players would risk entering such a labyrinth of complexity. Instead Hou Yifan prefers to conjure up a slightly different tactical melee, which she probably thought might give her the edge over an opponent who generally prefers quieter, more positional paths. **28.Qe3** 28.bxc5 Qxc5+ 29.Kh1 Rf2 30.Rg1 Bxg2+ 31.Rxg2 Rf1+ 32.Bxf1 Rxf1+ 33.Rg1 Rxg1+ 34.Qxg1 Qxd6 and Black has two pawns for the knight, with the near certainty of gaining a third. Adams, typically, prefers to apply a little more positional pressure, forcing Black's reply. **28...Rf2 29.Qxf2 Rxf2 30.Kxf2** White has two rooks for his queen but he expects to win more material since the knight has no good move (if it goes to b3, the rooks will fork the black queen after a check). **30...Kg7** 30...Bd5!? may be good now, when analysis engines consider the position to be about equal, though White can get rook and two minor pieces for the queen. However, Black will gain a number of pawns by way of compensation and the white king won't be safe from checks. If 31.bxc5 Qxc5+ 32.Kf1 Qxd6 33.cxd5 Qxa3 34.Ne4 exd5 35.Rxd5 Qc1+ 36.Kf2 Qf4+ 37.Bf3 Qxh2, etc. But the position reached is similar to the game, which of course Adams managed to win. **31.bxc5 Qxc5+ 32.R1d4?** After 32.Kf1 the Bd5 idea doesn't work as White checks on d7 and grabs the material. As played, White has to do something about the loose rook left on d4. **32...Bd5! 33.Rd7+ Kh6 34.Ke3 Bc6 35.Ne4 Qxa3+ 36.Kf2 Qf8+ 37.Bf3 Bxd7 38.Rxd7 Qc8 39.Ra7 Qxc4 40.h4 Qd4+ 41.Kg3 Qe5+ 42.Kh3 Qf5+ 43.Kg3 Qe5+ 44.Kh3 Qf5+** Quite a lot of spectating GMs thought Adams might go for the repetition at this point but not so. **45.Kh2 Qf4+**



46.g3! A big decision, based on a little combination leading to a N+PP versus PPPPP endgame which is by no means easy to evaluate. **46...Qxf3 47.Rxh7+ Kxh7 48.Ng5+ Kg7 49.Nxf3 a5 50.g4**



50...a4 This could well be the final error. Instead 50...Kf6 is much harder to break down. **51.Nd4** Threatening to immobilise the queenside pawns with Nb5 so Black must continue the advance. **51...a3 52.Nxe6+!** White just has time to snaffle this pawn. **52...Kf6 53.Nd4 Ke5 54.Nc2 Kf4 55.Kh3 a2 56.g5 b5 57.Na1 b4 58.Nb3 Ke5**



59.h5! The only winning move, but by now a reasonably easy one to find. 59.Kg3? Kd5! 60.h5 Kc4 is only a draw. **59...gxh5 60.Kh4 Kd5 61.g6 61.Kxh5?** only draws, as per the previous note. **61...Kc4 62.Na1 Kc3 63.g7 Kb2 64.g8Q Kxa1 65.Qc4** Threatening mate in one so the king must move. **65...Kb2 66.Qxb4+ Kc2 67.Qa3 Kb1 68.Qb3+ Ka1 69.Kg5** Black's h-pawn is the instrument of her own destruction. Without it on the board the position would be a draw. **69...h4 70.Qc2 1-0**

Last year's winner Hikaru Nakamura was already well on top in the game when he snared his opponent Eduardo Iturrizaga with an attractive tactic.



Hikaru Nakamura deep in thought against Eduardo Iturrizaga

Tradewise Gibraltar Masters, Round 5, 28 January 2017

H.Nakamura (2785) - E.Iturrizaga Bonelli (2652)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Bd2 Bf6 9.Rc1 d6 10.d5 Nxd2 11.Nxd2 e5 12.b4 a5 13.a3 axb4 14.axb4 Na6 15.Qb3 Bg5 16.e3 f5 17.f4 Bf6 18.fxe5 Bxe5 19.Nf3 Kh8 20.Nxe5 dxe5 21.Nb5 Qd7 22.Qc3 Rae8 23.Rcd1 Rf6 24.e4 fxe4 25.Bxe4



Black, to play, has little scope for his minor pieces so he tried to challenge the cramping d5-pawn with a tactic. But he hadn't seen to the end of the variation. **25...c6?? 26.dxc6 Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1 Bxc6 28.Qf3! 1-0** The killer blow, threatening a mate in two on f8 and also doubling the attack on the c6 bishop.

Much as his former world championship title match opponent Vishy Anand did last year, Boris Gelfand is finding the adjustment to open tournament play a difficult one. In round five he came up against an ambitious young Spanish GM David Anton Guijarro, and was outplayed over the course of a long game, reaching a rook and pawns endgame in which the material was level but the advanced status of one of Anton Guijarro's pawns was decisive.

Maxime Lagarde's name is so similar to that of the French number one, normally known as MVL, that we press people often become confused, but he is rapidly growing in strength and may soon be a set of initials in his own right. In round five he despatched the French number three in another game which came down to a tricky queen endgame where Fressinet's more exposed king seemed to be the deciding factor.

BATTLE OF THE SEXES



Team captains Antoaneta Stefanova and Nigel Short square up to each other in boxing gloves

Now, after the mere hors d'oeuvres of round five, we come to the main course – the Battle of the Sexes. The brainchild of organiser Brian Callaghan, this has become the most visible manifestation of the friendly, family atmosphere engendered by this remarkable tournament. This time, the fifth time such a match has been held, the internet audience was able to enjoy it in real time rather than via text reports and still images, and see the usually serious and stone-faced GMs let their hair down. It's a bit chaotic and only vaguely adhering to the published laws of chess but that is half the fun. People often imagine top chess players to be grim-faced and humourless, probably based on all those photos that we chess photographers pump out showing them hunched over the board, but I don't suppose many of us can manage a smile when we're at our workplace. The Battle of the Sexes match shows them in a relaxed mood. They still take the games on the giant chess set seriously up to a point, not wanting to let their teams down, but really it's just a bit of fun. The result of the match was a 1½-1½ draw, with the first game being drawn, the second won by the men and the final one won by the women.



The women's team bounced back to tie the match at 1½-1½.

EMIL AND LIESL'S MINI-CONCERT



Emil Sutovsky and Elisabeth Paehtz sing a duet. Hou Yifan and her mother are clearly enjoying it

The games were preceded by some music, with Emil Sutovsky and Elisabeth Paehtz displaying their beautiful voices to fine effect in some well-known show tunes. After the games, with everyone still in high spirits, Stuart Conquest and Tania Sachdev let their hair down and treated us to a bit of impromptu disco dancing. I recorded this and put it on YouTube if you want to check it out. As many of you will know, Stuart's usual nickname is 'the fox' (as per his Twitter handle @stuthefox) but I shall now think of him as 'Disco Stu' like the character in *The Simpsons*.

Maybe this is the way ahead for the Battles of the Sexes evening – we could have a contest, call it Strictly Come Chessing, inviting leading chess players to couple up and show off their dance moves, with the best couple being awarded a prize. You heard it here first, folks.

Photos of round 5 by John Saunders at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskTsGecr>

Photos of round 5 by Sophie Triay: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskMYEtQe>

Photos of the Battle of the Sexes by John Saunders: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskTmuNro>

Video of Stuart Conquest and Tania Sachdev disco dancing:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xH47GOCi4RM>

Video footage and interviews from today's round are available to embed from our [YouTube Channel](#).

Report Ends

Official website: www.gibchess.com
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