

TOURNAMENT BATTLEPLAN

OUTPREPARE YOUR
OPPONENT

Copyright© 2023 Thinkers Publishing, Belgium

Author: Daniel Gormally

Managing Editor: Daniel Vanheirzeele

Typesetting: Primož Zerdin, Primož Riegler

Editor & Proofreader: Frederick Rhine

Cover Design: Driedee Plus

Cartoons: Indigenius

Production: BestinGraphics

ISBN 9789464201987 - paperback edition

D/2023/13732/34

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission from the publisher.

All sales or enquiries should be directed to Thinkers Publishing, 9850 Landegem, Belgium.

E-mail: info@thinkerspublishing.com

Website: www.thinkerspublishing.com

First edition 2023 by Thinkers Publishing.

This book is printed on environmentally friendly paper.

TOURNAMENT BATTLEPLAN

**OUTPREPARE YOUR
OPPONENT**

DANIEL GORMALLY

Thinkers Publishing 2023



Key to symbols

	agoodmove	±	White has a serious advantage
?	a weak move	+	Black has a serious advantage
!!	an excellent move	+−	White has a decisive advantage
??	a blunder	−+	Black has a decisive advantage
!?	an interesting move	■	with an attack
?!	a dubious move	i	with initiative
□	only move		with counterplay
	equality	!∞	with the idea of
∞	unclear position	0	better is
	with compensation for the	N	novelty
	sacrificed material	+	check
∴	White stands slightly better	#	mate
+	Black stands slightly better		

Table of Contents

Manual Introduction	13
---------------------------	----

Chapter One

The thread.....	17
Anand Viswanathan (2751] - Carlsen Magnus (2864)	17
The three categories of missed wins	21
Anand Viswanathan (2751] - Carlsen Magnus (2864)	22
Chess as a duel	27
Giri Anish (2761] - Tari Aryan (2663]	27

Chapter Two

An online journey	33
chess_dragons_IvanSt (2430] - SirGerhard (2681]	34
STAYFlow (2467] - SirGerhard (2689)	36
champ2005 (2955] - SirGerhard (2702).....	38
SirGerhard (2697] - Manticore17 (2828].....	40
SirGerhard (2702] - karinachess1 (2573].....	42
SirGerhard (2805] - Jospem (2957].....	44
Vachier-Lagrave Maxime (2760] - Gormally Daniel (2474).....	47

Chapter Three

Do you need a coach?	53
Varney Zoe (2117] - Hunt Harriet (2060].....	54

Zain takes in sunny Spain while driving his mum insane	59
--	----

Chapter Four

Control.....	63
Miles Anthony John (2580) - Adams Michael (2505).....	64
The collapse.....	66
Suba Mihai (2515) - Adams Michael (2510).....	66
Gaining a decisive advantage is one thing. But how to convert?	68
Adams Michael (2555) - Gurevich Mikhail (2645).....	70
gmicl0 (2842) - SirGerhard (2718)	72
SirGerhard (2330) - Hikaru-bot (2820)	74

Chapter Five

The endgame engineers.....	77
lichess AI level 8 - Carobee (1500).....	78
Rudd Jack (2280) - Gormally Daniel (2496).....	80
Gormally Daniel (2470) - Jones Gawain (2575).....	82
Hawkins Jonathan (2232) - Gormally Daniel (2504).....	83
lichess AI level 8 - Anonymous	86
Say no to Netflix.....	88
Koubova Anna Marie (2060) - Varney Zoe (2117).....	88
The depths of knowledge	90
Turner Max N (2238) - Bin Suhayl Ileysaa (2243).....	90

Chapter Six

Calculation and the candidates.....	93
Ding Liren (2806) - Nepomniachtchi Ian (2766).....	94

Boring.....	96
Ding Liren [2806] - Rapport Richard [2764].....	97

Chapter Seven

Bad Chess Habits	101
Gormally Daniel [2497] - Vakhidov Jahongir [2568]	102
How to avoid tilt.....	103
Nakamura Hikaru [2768] - Nepomniachtchi Ian [2793]	104
Kosten Anthony [2384] - Gormally Daniel [2463].....	107
A lack of attention.....	108
Gormally Daniel [2474]- Cooper J. [2240]	109
Palliser Richard [2399] - Gormally Daniel [2463].....	111

Chapter Eight

Hebden vs Arkell.....	117
Hebden Mark [2546] - Gormally Daniel [2494]	119
SirGerhard [2795] - sicilinnaga [2799]	120

Chapter Nine

What Grandmasters do wrong and what you can learn from it.....	123
What do Grandmasters do right?.....	124
Mestel Jonathan [2420] - Balashov Yuri [2565]	124

Chapter Ten

Olympiad 2022	129
Carlsen Magnus [2864] - Pechac Jergus [2594]	130
Varney Zoe [2045] - Zahedifar Anahita [2160].....	133

Chapter 11

Crushing opening fashion.....	139
Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu (2624) - Laurent Paoli Pierre (2487)	140
So Wesley (2770) - Abdusattorov Nodirbek (2627).....	144

Chapter 12

The torment in Torquay	149
Richardson John (2296) - Gormally Daniel (2466).....	152
When do you stop loving the game you were made for?.....	154
Clarke Brandon (2474) - Gormally Daniel (2466).....	155
Gormally Daniel (2466) - Claridge Hansen William (2345).....	160
Grieve Harry (2390) - Gormally Daniel (2466)	164
How to prepare, how not to prepare.....	167
Emms John (2474) - Gormally Daniel (2466)	168

Chapter 13

Snippets from the British	171
Arkell Keith (2409) - Grieve Harry (2390).....	172
Pert Nicholas (2537) -Arkell Keith (2409)	174
Hutchence Gregg (1358) - Collins Jonathan (1823).....	176
Phillips Owen (1860) - Sainbayar Anuurai (1532).....	179

Chapter 14

The nightmare in Northumbria.....	183
Clarke Brandon (2474) - Gormally Daniel (2466).....	185
Gormally Daniel (2466) - Bonn Thomas (2181).....	190
Too tired to play	192

Gormally Daniel (2466] - Harvey Marcus Ross (2456).....	193
Gormally Daniel (2466] - Kett Timothy (2197].....	200
Bremner Adam (2171] - Gormally Daniel (2466).....	205

Chapter 15

The Queen's gambier.....	207
Volokitin Andrei (2683] - Najer Evgeniy [2628].....	212
Gormally Daniel (2466] - Merriman John (2297].....	213

Chapter 16

The Viewer.....	215
Carlsen Magnus [2837] - Keymer Vincent (2701).....	216
Keymer Vincent [2701] - Carlsen Magnus (2837].....	221
The quiet men	222
Erigaisi Arjun (2740] - Le Quang Liem [2791]	223
Carlsen Magnus [2837] - Erigaisi Arjun [2740]	225
Magnus and falsifying	226
Erigaisi Arjun (2740] - Carlsen Magnus (2837]	227
Smirin Ilia [2671] - Gormally Daniel (2476]	228
Vaishali Rameshbabu (2449] - Abdumalik Zhansaya (2503).....	231
The calm before Smirin-gate	232
Vaishali Rameshbabu (2449] - Paehtz Elisabeth (2477].....	233
Kosteniuk Ale xandra (2521)- Zhu Jiner [2464].....	236

Chapter 17

The toughest situations in chess.....	237
Erigaisi Arjun (2728] - Abel Dennes (2416].....	238

Winning with Black against solid players.....	242
Hjartarson Johann [2468] - Anand Viswanathan[2756].....	243
Attacking too rashly	245
Hughes Anthony [1852] - Varney Zoe [1989].....	246
Parham's lost edge	251
Maghsoodloo Parham [2721] - Carlsen Magnus [2856].....	252
Carobee [2700] - Sage_main [2628]	256

Chapter 18

2013.....	261
Carlsen Magnus [2864] - Kramnik Vladimir [2803]	262
Kamsky Gata [2741] -Carlsen Magnus [2862].....	263
Zhou Yang Fan [2418] - Gormally Daniel [2507]	265
Fernandez D. Howard [2346] - Gormally Daniel [2496].....	268
Hanley Craig (2420) - Arkell Keith C (2472)	273
Arkell Keith (2462) - Sarakauskas Gediminas (2408)	276

Chapter 19

Hotel chess, can't afford yer.....	279
Gormally Daniel (2553) - Waldhausen G. Frederick (2067)	281
Camacho Collados Jose (2280) - Gormally Daniel (2553)	283
Gormally Daniel (2553) - Willow Jonah (2300).....	284
Gasarov Eldar (2447) - Gormally Daniel (2553)	287
The English Judit Polgar.....	289
Sivanandan Bodhana (1556) - Head Louise (1915)	290
jefferyx (2995) - SirGerhard (2737).....	291

Chapter 20

Titled Tuesday continued	291
Fandorine [2957] - SirGerhard [2753]	293
SirGerhard [2764] - Chopper1905 [2880]	295
mishanick [2995] - SirGerhard [2761]	297
SirGerhard [2764] - GABUZYAN_CHESSMOOD [2892]	298

Chapter 21

Hastings Diary	301
Gormally Daniel [2450] - Marusenko Petr [2041]	307
Gormally Daniel [2450] -Schimnatkowski Lukas [2194]	309
Walker Martin (2100)- Gormally Daniel (2450)	312

Chapter 22

King's Gambit Declined	315
Gormally Daniel W [2450] - Murphy Conor E [2422]	316
Korpa Bence (2516) - Gormally Daniel (2450)	321
Petrov Martin (2535) - Gormally Daniel (2450)	325
Hastings tidbits	329
Sowray Peter John [2243] - Clarke Brandon [2436]	329
Ellie's prep	330
Varley Joe [1892] -Angheluta Ovidiu [1953]	331

Chapter 23

Summary and evals	333
Gormally Daniel [2375] - Niklasch Oliver [2335]	335
Gormally Daniel [2425] - Nunn John [2620]	336

Parker Jonathan (2510J) - Gormally Daniel (2425]	338
Nakamura Hikaru (2750] - Carlsen Magnus (2839)	339
Esipenko Andrey (2675] - Gukesh D (2718].....	340
Gormally Daniel (2470] - Oparin Grigoriy (2685]	343

Bonus Chapter

The good and the bad.....	343
Gormally Daniel (2483] - Kollars Dmitrij (2635].....	344
Gormally Daniel (2471] - Hebden Mark (2448).....	345
Gormally Daniel (2466] - Bezuidenhout R. Reinhold (2269).....	346
ECO Index	349

Manual Introduction

Lyrics from pop songs are often revealing. One of my favourite songs is "Fast Car" by Tracy Chapman, from the brilliant album of the same title. It came out in 1988 and resonated with my teenage self. So many amazing songs! In the middle of Fast Car she sings, "You and I can both get jobs and finally see what it means to be living." I thought this ironic, as Tracy Chapman is exactly the sort of person who probably wouldn't hack a nine to five job if she could help it. She's a creative person who shines through her music.

Professional chess players are a bit like this. We are more or less unemployable in anything outside of chess, and aren't suited to the daily grind of a normal job. Over the years, however, even playing in chess tournaments has become a bit of a grind. For example, while I've been writing this introduction the Capella la Grande tournament, which takes place near Dunkirk, finished a few days ago. Twenty years ago I would have been playing in this event, but now the effort of getting to Northern France seems all too much. Fairly sad I know. Partly it's the money. You play in a typical European open and the first prize might be £2000 if you are lucky, and it's very competitive. You may well get several 2600+ players. And your expenses may well offset any prize you happen to win. It is cheaper to stay at home, coach people online, and write courses, books, and articles.

Given all this, and the ease of playing online now, is it even worth playing over the board tournaments at all? I think it is because what you can achieve in over the board tournaments you can't replicate online. There are titles and reputation to be earned. There is also a sense of achievement you can gain with wins in games and tournaments over the board that you can't really get anywhere else. That's why it feels like a good moment in my career to put together a book which talks about tournament play and hopefully uses some of my own experience to put together a work that will be useful for the amateur player. There have been plenty of chess books published which have tried to give practical advice and tips for tournament players, so the genre is hardly new.

However, I feel that we badly need an update, since there have been so many changes in the chess world over the last few years. The pandemic giving rise to

vastly underrated junior and amateur players. Online chess taking a much more prominent role. Accusations of cheating making the headlines. Social media being used as a tool to educate the chess masses. All these have led to a different landscape, but some things stay the same. The player who is willing to analyse and work on chess harder than the rest will still separate him or herself from their peers. In my view, at least 90% of success in tournament play will come down to how good your calculation and analysis is, because that is the bread and butter of tournament play. This is what I will try to get across in this book, that a chess player will often stand or fall on the quality of analysis. I will discuss the positive and negative effects that working with computers have on a player's overall strength. I will also try to explain why my chess fell into a torpar because of an overreliance on computers, and how I have recently come to realize that technical deficiencies have held me back from reaching the higher echelons of the game.

In doing so, and looking at the chess world and trying to explain it from my point of view while following the progress of myself and others, I will try to put together a tournament battle plan. This will include:

1. An emphasis on technical play and how to win won positions. Not winning won positions can be infuriating, right? During this tournament battle manual I want to talk about apart of the game that amateur players often struggle with, which is the technical side. I give tips on how to improve on that while at the same time discussing some well known and some not so well known endings.
2. What you need to do to prepare for tournaments. Are you spending too long on preparation and tiring yourself out? Or are you not preparing for long enough?
3. I talk about modern opening theory and why certain openings are fashionable and why others have fallen out of fashion.
4. An underrated subject in my view - physical fitness. I've recently started going to fitness classes and it has made me realize why lower-rated players often struggle with their chess while professionals can make it look easier. Clearly I'm much more "chess fit" than I am physically fit.

5. I will also be talking about subjects that seem incidental to tournament play to same, but in my opinion are becoming increasingly important in these financially difficult times; like booking hotels, travel, etc.
6. At the end of the book is a Hastings diary, where I give a blow by blow account of what it is like to prepare for an international tournament. These and other subjects will be assembled into a battle manual that the reader will hopefully find useful, and that will help them improve their results.

Chapter One

The thread

I'll let you in on a secret. There is no technical phase. So when a writer says, and now the game enters the technical phase, they are speaking figuratively. There is no such thing. There is just good play, there is finding the correct move, and then there is something else. Yesterday I was watching the Norway Masters commentary on chess24. It reminded me that somehow Super Grandmasters aren't the same as us. It is as if they are their own species. When I saw Anish Giri commentate on the Anand-Carlsen Armaggeddon play-off, it amazed me how quickly he honed in on the right move. Anand and Carlsen followed suit with their choices in the game itself. It's almost as if Super GMs speak their own language, which only they understand. There seems to be an invisible THREAD running through the game, showing the essence of the position, and somehow these guys are able to always find it. So in this chapter we are going to talk about how to find that THREAD ourselves, and how understanding the essence of a position will enable us to win games that otherwise may have eluded us. The reason that Magnus and Vishy found themselves in an Armaggeddon game was that Anand had missed a golden chance to put Carlsen away in their classical game.

Anand Viswanathan (2751) - Carlsen Magnus (2864)

Two Knights Defense C55

Norway Chess '22 Chess.com (9), 05.06.2022

1.e4 *es* 2.cZ:lfa cZ:lc6 3.j, c4 lZ:lf6 4.d3 j, e7
5.o-o o-o 6. e1 d6 7.a.4 lZ:las s.j, az *cs*
9.c3 cZ:lc6 10.cZ:la3 h6 11.cZ:lc2 a6 12.cZ:le3
j, e613.lZ:ld s *es* 14.lZ:ld 2 *bs*

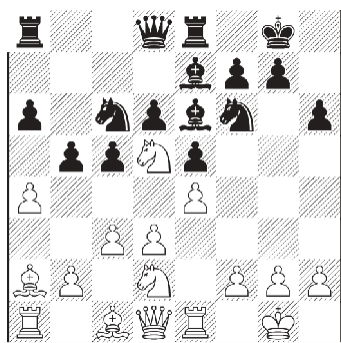
One of the main commentators, Jan Gustafsson, suggested that Black

could have played 14... j, fs here. Anish Giri said something about how Magnus recently won the world championship match with such a plan. "The only thing he knows, right? He won a world championship with ... e8 and

...♙f8." 15.♘f1 ♙xd5 16.exd5 ♘e7



The Knight finds itself on a more productive square on e7, and Giri didn't like the way the Knight ended up on as in the game. He suggested that 14... ♗l6 was possible, although he admitted that here it probably didn't work. The idea is that Black may now be threatening to carry out a favourable ... c2xc3 exchange, as when White takes back with the pawn there won't be a fork on the Bishop on e6 and Knight on c6. Familiarity with the opening ideas of a particular opening variation is crucially important. Giri has clearly studied this opening (and so many others) deeply and has good knowledge of all the various plans that each side has available. 15.c2:xf6+ ♗xf6 16..i xe6 ♗.xe6 17.c2:lc4 c2:ld 7 is holding for Black, at least for now.



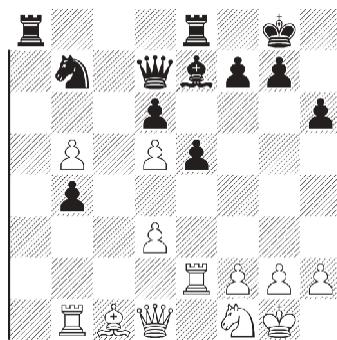
1s.♗l6. ♗.i xds?!

When Jan Gustafsson and Jovanka Houska spoke with Giri afterwards, he said this was a questionable decision. "Isn't that a very odd operation? I thought he's (Magnus) an expert." Anish is absolutely right because Black's position becomes slightly unpleasant after this. Although the computer evaluation doesn't change that much, it said White had a tiny edge before this and now it goes up to something more like a clear edge. Giri was able to understand at a glance that this was one of the key moments of the game. I was impressed. How was he able to do this? Mostly experience and knowledge, because he is something of an expert in the Italian Game. He would have sensed that Black's position becomes difficult to handle after this exchange. So the more opening and early middlegame knowledge we accrue, the better. This will help us to understand the essence of the game. Of course Magnus is also quite capable of understanding the essence of the game, so why would he make this "slight mistake"? Perhaps we can blame it on somewhat superficial play caused by the fast time control.

16..i xds ♗l6xds 17.exds ♗l6as 18.b4 c2:b7 19..s.e 2 cxb4 20.cxb4 as! 21.axbs axb4 22..s.b1 ♗dl?

This is too straightforward a defence, and Black soon finds himself in trouble. When forced to make "only moves," even world champions can falter. Here

Black had to find 22... $tZ:lc5!$ 23. $xb4$ ar
creating sufficient counterplay for
Black. 24. $'ik\ 2\ V\ as =$



23. $eb2!Z:lc5$

23... $V\ xb5$ 24. $xb4$ wins the Knight on
b7 and the game.

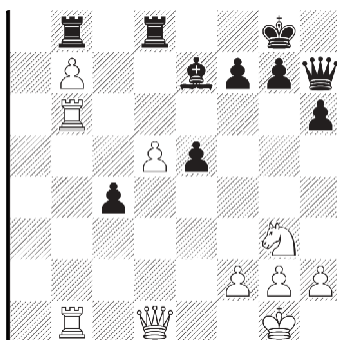
24J $xb4\ Vfs\ 2s.\ e3$

It turns out that the crude plan of
pushing the b-pawn spells trouble for
Black.

2s... $Z:ld\ 3$

25... $V\ xd3\ 26.V\ xd3\ Z:ld3\ 27.\ 4b3\ Z:lc5$
28. $xc5dxc5\ 29.b6+-$ also leaves Black
malam.

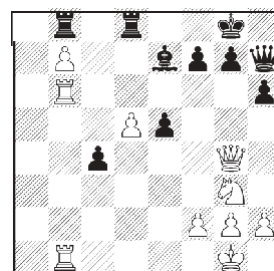
26 $tZ:g3\ V\ h7\ 27.\ 4b3Z:lc5\ 28.\ xcs\ dxc5$
29. $b6\ eds\ 30.b7\ abs\ 31.\ b6c4$



Anand must have sensed his position
was winning here. His two passed
pawns, particularly the one on b7, are
not counterbalanced by Carlsen's on
c4. But now Anand confronts one of
the more difficult situations that aris-
es when we have a technically winning
game. White has several tempting
alternatives, and it is no easy task to
choose among them.

32. $c6?$

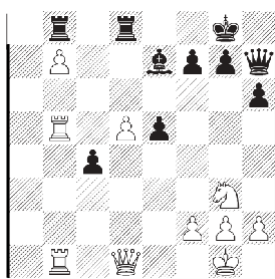
Afterwards, Anand looked rather de-
pressed, not surprisingly. It's not often
that you get a chance to defeat Carlsen
in a classical game. "It was so winning,"
said Vishy, correctly pointing out that
32. $V\ g4!$



would have closed the game out. When
a player of Anand's calibre messes up,
more than likely he will understand
what the critical moment of the game
was, and what he could have done
differently. Someone like me might
sense that White had a win, but not
be able to identify the key moment.
 $Vg4!$ crushes Black, as the various
threats like $Q:if\ 5$ become too much
to handle. 32... $c3\ 33.Q:if\ 5\ a3\ 34.\ c6$
Controlling the c-pawn and reducing
Black to complete passivity. 34... $b2$

35.cZ)xb6+ WfS 36.cZ)f5 Exb7 37.Exc3+- ;
 32.i fa4 was another alternative.
 32... c3 (32.. Jh:ds 33.V c6 V d3 34.iid
 .1t..d6 35.Jh:d6+-) 33.iBC4+-

Even the weird looking 32.E6b5,



just defending the d-pawn, would have been good enough, although this is not a very human way to continue. When you are trying to put the game away, it makes more sense to go forward. 32... c3 33.Ec1 controls everything.

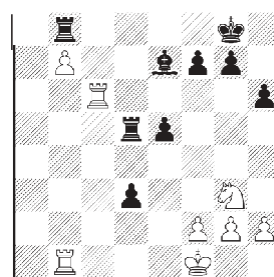
32... V d3!

Magnus finds the only chance, once again showing why he is one of the hardest players in history to beat.

33.V f1?

As usual when we start to deviate from the winning path, we continue to go wrong. On the webcam it was clear that Anand looked very uncomfortable before making this move. No doubt he had underestimated the strength of ... Vd3! And probably felt that he had already blown the win.

Still, the hard-headed engine feels that White is more or less winning after the sequence 33.V xd3 cxd3 34.Wfr! a nice tidy-up move that is often useful in technical situations and is often overlooked by those looking for more immediate solutions. 34 1t..f8 (34.. J!xds



35.cZ)f5! was possibly missed by Anand. 35... .st..fs 36.EcS Eds 37.Jh:ds Jh:ds 38.bBV +-) 35.Ec7Exds 36.Wer Black remains in a passive situation.

33... 1t..f8 34.Exc4

34.d6! it is hard to make such a decision when it seemed like you had an easy win earlier, because you feel with such a move you could be risking everything. 34... 1t..xd6 (34... Ed735.V xd3 cxd3 36. 4 Jh:d6 37.Wft ± is another complex line. J 35.Edr 'ifg6 36.Eb6 c3 37.'ifC4 c2 38.Ecr 1t..f 8! Creating a threat against the back rank. 39.Exg6 Edr+ 40.'Llfr Excr with decent counterplay.

34... if xft+ 3sW xfl Ed7 36.EcS Ebx b7 37.Exb7 Exb7 38.'Llfs Ed7 39.g4 g6 40. cZ)xb6+Wh7 ½

The three categories of missed wins

Ironically, on the same day I started writing this book Anand had this "classic" missed win game against Carlsen. It was ironic because one of the areas I need to improve on is converting a winning position. This game bought back all the thoughts and experiences I've had when failing to convert what seemed like a decisive advantage. It's always more painful to squander a win at longer time controls, as you have all the baggage that you build up over the course of several hours. The emotional ups and downs, and the time and hard work that you've invested to gain that winning position, can only lead to a feeling of emptiness and regret in the aftermath. That was painfully clear when Anand was interviewed later.

It occurred to me that Anand's game falls into one of the main categories of missed wins. I believe those categories are:

1. The missed tactical win. This was the situation in the Anand game, when there is a path leading to victory, but it is a narrow one and you have to calculate extremely well to find it.
2. Failing due to a lack of technical knowledge. An obvious example would be if the player doesn't know how to mate with Knight and Bishop.
3. Blundering away an advantage. A simple tactical blunder by us may let the win slip to a draw, or even worse a loss. Or we may simply get too hasty and make a rash move leading to the loss of the initiative.
4. Being gradually outplayed. We might build up a decisive advantage, but a series of suboptimal moves lead to us losing that advantage altogether. Anand would have been keenly aware during the classical game that trying to beat Carlsen is like trying to hold an anaconda in your hands. You may think you have it in your possession, but it is too powerful and slips out of your control. That in itself puts you under extreme pressure to be as accurate as possible. Fortunately for Vishy, he had a chance to redeem himself in the Armageddon playoff.

Anand Viswanathan (2751) - Carlsen Magnus (2864)

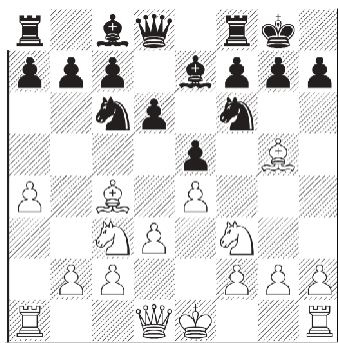
Italian Game C50

Norway Chess '22 Armageddon lichess.org, 06.06.2022

1. e4 e5

It was interesting to me that Carlsen took the time to adjust all his pieces before making his first move, despite the fact that he was already three minutes down on the dock. (In Armageddon, Black starts with a time disadvantage, but only needs to draw to win the game.) Tu.is suggests to me that he wanted to stay in emotional control. Being too hasty at the beginning, failing to do what he would do under normal circumstances, might set off a chain reaction that could cost him later in the game. When I faced Michael Adams recently in an OTB game, I got the same impression. He was throwing off a vibe of not being rushed, being totally relaxed, and having all the time in the world. Of course he won against the panicky and nervy Gorm.

2. ll::ifä ll::ic6,3 it,.c4 ll::if6 4,d3 it,.cs,5 it,.g5 it,.e7 6.ll::ic3 d6 7,a4 o-o



S.as

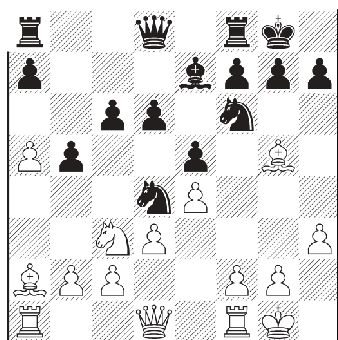
As Giri suggested, this was another indication of how working with computers has influenced people's style of play. "People would never grab space just for fun. Now they do it just like this." The knowledge of how to use space is an important part of a chess player's armoury. I feel it's something that amateur players often struggle with, as it seems like a difficult concept to grasp.

S...it,.g4 9,h3 it,.x fä 10.Wxfä ll::id4 11.W d1 c6

Black's entire plan, which involves exchanging on f3 and then playing solidly with ...c6 and ...ll::ie6, was according to Jan Gustafsson a "typical Dubov operation."

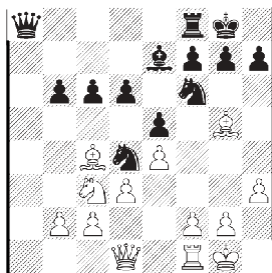
Daniil Dubov is a player who has helped Magnus on several occasions and apparently this approach to the demands of the position derives from his input. A player can and should use others to help them in their chess understanding. The way I see it, chess is a potpourri of different players and styles and approaches. A wise chess player should be like a magpie, grabbing ideas from everyone.

12.0-0 b5 13.it,.a2



According to Giri: "The Knight on d4 is super stable and if White trades with Bb6 then Black will grab space by taking and playing ...d5. But I do rate the two Bishops tremendously. In my Italian course I give this position as advantage for White." Showing fantastic knowledge, and also not missing a chance to plug his Chessable course. Bravo.

13. axb6 axb6 14. Bxb6 Bxb6



might not have seemed convincing to Anand. Already Black has a strategic threat of ... b5, and if White retreats to a2 then ... b4 will win a piece, and if j, b3 then Black will take on b3 and White has lost the advantage of the Bishop pair. Vishy needed to win because the rules of this Armageddon game favour Black in the case of a draw, so exchanges are not in his

favour. However, 15. Bb2! allows White to retain same advantage. 15... Bxb2+ (15... b5? 16. e3xd4 bxc4 17. Bb2+-) 16. Bxb2 h6 17. j, e3 with perhaps the tiniest of edges, but it really isn't much.

13... Bb6 14. j, e3

Giri was surprised by this, expecting White to take on f6. "Vishy is known for preferring Knights. But he also knows the Bishop pair is a good thing. He has heard of it."

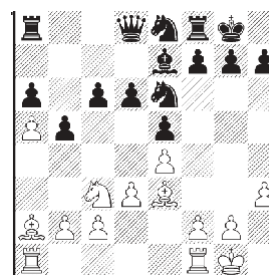
14. j, xf6 j, xf6 15. Bb2 j, g5 discouraging the f4 break, and Black should be fine.

14... a6 15. Bb2

"Bb2 you play, or not?" said Anish, just milliseconds before Anand's hand reached out for the Queen. Amazing. The way these players follow the THREAD of the game never ceases to amaze.

15... Bb2

Magnus plays a solid move. The commentators were weighing various options like rs... Bb2



intending... j, g5, with the strategically favourable exchange of dark-squared Bishops.

16. **l1e2 ds!**

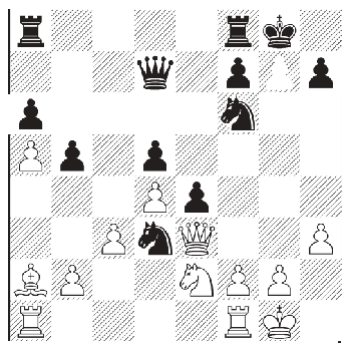
Carlsen's instincts are as correct as ever.

17. **c3 .i cs 18.exds**

This allows Black to eventually gain the initiative.

18. **tl1g3!** would have been a more logical continuation. 18... d4 19..i cr dxc3 20.bxc3 .Uads 21..Udrt White has a pleasant game.

18...cxds 19..i xcslllxc3 20.d4 e4 21.li:Ve3 lllld3

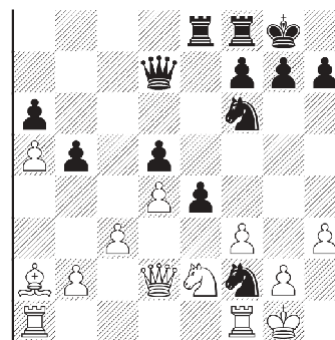


22. ll:Vd2?!

The cool 22..Ua br! would have extinguished some of Black's fire. The idea is .i b3- c2, gathering a pawn. 22l:a e8 23. fa w hs 24.lllg3±

22 l:aes 23.fä lllfa!

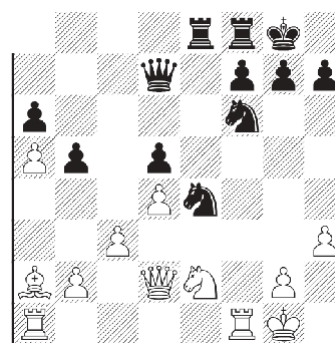
So simple. This was the tactical possibility that Jan had already flagged and mentioned that the engine was recommending. You couldn't help but be impressed by how easily and quickly Magnus found the same idea. Wouldn't it be nice, to borrow his chess brain for a day...



24.fxe4?

24..l:xf3 e3-+; 24.li:Ve3 exf3 25.ll:Vxf3 tl1e4 26..l:ad r=:

24...ll:Vd2?!



2s.li:Vd3

"Magnus is very quick not just in terms of literal speed but quick at making good moves." What Anish Giri is saying here might seem obvious, because you think well, Magnus is world champion, of course he's good at that, but it still needs explaining. I think what Giri is saying is that same people can make good moves, but Magnus can find the best moves with very little thought. His great calculation and instincts lead him there a bit quicker. In faster time controls this is a crucial asset. It's also

an important quality if you get short of time. If you know you can execute one good move after another under time pressure, it frees you up earlier in the game and you don't feel rushed. In this case, when we discussed how at the start of the game Magnus was taking his time to adjust the pieces, it now makes sense. It's like saying to the opponent, "I'm the one in charge here. It doesn't matter if I get short of time, because I will continue to play excellently anyway." He is setting his stool out and it's a positive one. Carlsen is even economical in how he moves his pieces. If you don't believe me, watch same YouTube videos of Carlsen playing chess and gliding the pieces around the board with little effort. When he moves them they seem to go to their stations a bit quicker than when you or I move our pieces. Perhaps that's what Giri meant as well.

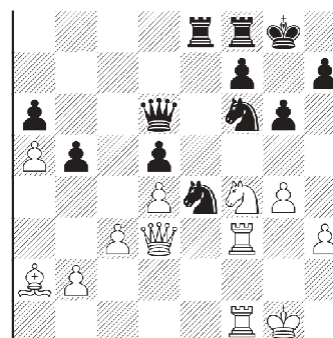
25...Vd6+26.:iäfä

One of the other commentators, Jovanka Houska, suggested 26.:läf5? but Giri was critical of this, suggesting that Black wants to play ... g6 and ... g7 anyway, so you are giving away a tempo. Once again we can see that understanding the essence of the game (the thread) is all important.

26...g6

Sure enough, Magnus plays the Anish Giri plan!

27.:iäaft ltihs **2s.g4** ltihf6 29.ltif4



29...ltigs?

Short of time, it becomes harder to control the position. We'll talk about the value of control in a later chapter. I'm sure in a classical game if confronted by this position Magnus would play 29...:läe7!30. V c2 :iäfes when White has a miserable position. It is difficult for him to undermine the Knight pair on f6 and e4. 31.h4 g5 32.hxgs ltixgs 33.:läg3 :läe1- +

30.:iä3fa ltige4 31.:iäg2 h6 32.h4 gs 33.hxgs hxgs 34.lti3!

The game is starting to turn chaotic which at blitz means more mistakes are inevitable. Anand was happy to find this idea where White intends läf5, attacking g5.

34... g735.:iäfs ?

This turns out to be premature. The more careful 35.V e3=was called for.

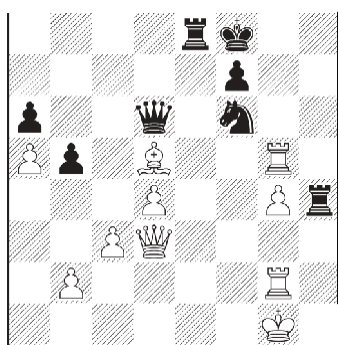
35...:itihs 36.ltiogs :iäh 4?

36... ltiogs 37.:läxgs+ fs and Black is getting there first. The White King looks wide open. 38.:läf5 :läe1+ 39.:läf1 :iäxf1+ 40.Vxf1ltie4- +

37. xds!

The commentary team predicted that Vishy would find this move. "Typical Vishy tactics" and "like that game against Kasparov" were some of the comments.

37... '2ixgs 3s..axgs+ fs

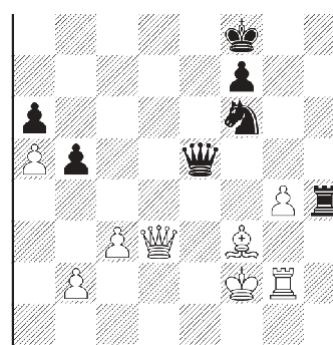
**39. fä?**

39.V g3! would have won the game, as the commentary team saw. But Vishy didn't see this move, as he admitted afterwards. This is surprising, as it's a useful tactical tidying up move that is typical of Anand's excellent technique. 39... V xg3 40. 'l'xg3 '2lxd5 41. 'l'xd5+- the endgame is fairly hopeless for Black. The alternative 39. xf?? was suggested as a possible attacking try, but this fails on several counts. 39 .. 'l'er+ 40. fa V f4+ 41. xer 'l'hr+ turns the tables completely. But I don't mind the idea of xf?. We should at least look at such moves, even if they don't always work!

39...Vf4

39... 'l'er+ 40. fa 'l'hr looked quite scary for White. 41. 'l'f5! only move. 41...'2le4+ 42. Xe4 V h6 43.g5 V h4+ 44. 'l'g3 'l'hr+ 45.V xfr 'l'xfr+ 46. xfr V xg3 47. e2=

40. 'l'es 'l'es 41.dxes V xes 42. fa

**42 ..'l'h3?**

I was surprised when watching that Magnus didn't go for 42... 'l'hr, especially since this threatened mate in one. 43.V d2 leads to a state of dynamic equilibrium. (Vishy said afterwards that he was intending 43.V e3??, but this loses on the spot to 43 'l'ft.+! 44- xft.V xe3.)

43.gs '2l'hs 44.g6 fxg6?

44... V cs+ 45.V d4 V xd4+ 46.cxd4 '2if4 was the only way to keep resisting.

45- V ds+ V es 46.V xes+ es 47. 'l'x g6 '2if4 48. 'l'x 6 '2ld3+ 49. e3 '2les so 'l'le 6+ 1-0

Chess as a duel

The essence of chess is the cut and thrust. You come up with an idea or plan, and your opponent scrambles to refute it. Such was the case when

observing Anish Giri's dissection of his game against Aryan Tari. Anish maintained the "thread" of the game by understanding the ups and downs well.

Giri Anish (2761) - Tari Aryan (2663)

Queen's Pawn Game 002

Norway Chess '22 lichess.org (8), 09.06.2022

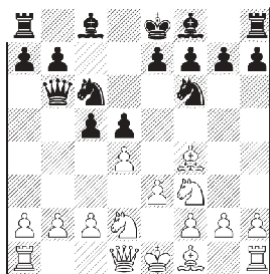
1. ctf3 **ds 2.d4** ctif6 3.t f4

The London System has become extremely popular lately. As chess is increasingly dominated by reams of main-line theory, the ability to create new battlegrounds has become ever more important.

3... **cs 4.e3** ltlc6 **s.ltlbd2.t** g4

A logical response anchoring the Bishop outside of the pawn chain before playing ...e6.

5... Wb6



attacking the pawn on e6, is also a critical option and has been played many times. It is important to play

this before White has had the chance to play c3, so that he is not in time to meet this comfortably with Wb3. In a practical tournament game faced with the move ... Wb6, I would take the time to think about the position. White has an important decision to take. Do you want to limply defend the 6-pawn or not bother doing so? The problem is that if you play a move like fi'.61, then d4 will hang. So White is probably going to lose a pawn for the time being. The point is to not panic, actually think about the position, realize you have done nothing wrong, and try to work the moves out systematically. 6.dxc5 Wxb2 7.fi'.61 Wc3 s..t b5 e6 9.0-0 .te7=

