

## 2016 WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 3

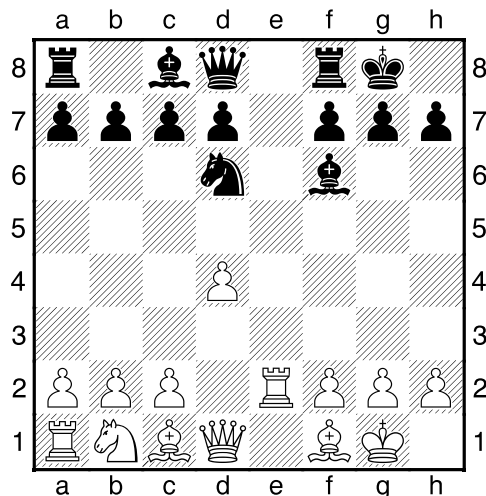
By: Amon Simutowe

### ROUND 3

In round 3, Carlsen continued the trend of creating positions which were relatively easier for him to play while holding a slight advantage. If this continues, Carlsen will likely win the match as some of the positions will translate to wins. Additionally, I think Carlsen's switch from d4 to e4 on the first move was a good idea strategically and psychologically. Karjakin will have challenges predicting Carlsen's starting move. Carlsen is conscious that strategy and psychology will weigh significantly in the final outcome. Karjakin also knows this but the question is whether he will demonstrate it. In game 3, there were a number of moments when I thought the game would eventually tilt Carlsen's way but Karjakin was very resourceful. Karjakin's impressive save still showed he is good enough to win the match but Carlsen seems better prepared strategically and psychologically. I am hoping Karjakin will manage to gain a reasonable advantage in game 4 even if it eventually ends in a draw at least to show he is likely to win some games in this match. Until he does that, Carlsen remains the favorite.

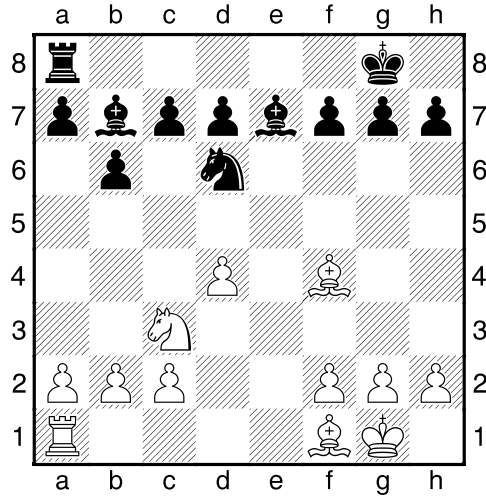
### Carlsen Vs Karjakin

**1.e4** Carlsen may have wanted to communicate to Karjakin that he has several strategies prepared. This would at least make Karjakin spend more time preparing for Carlsen. In short, Carlsen is fully combining the strategic and psychological factors in trying to win the match **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6** The Berlin continues to be popular ever since Kramnik successfully used it in his match against Kasparov in their 2000 World Championship match **4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0 9.d4 Bf6 10.Re2** This assumes that black would play Re8 and after the Rook on e8 takes the Rook on e2, the Bishop on f1 would recapture on e2.

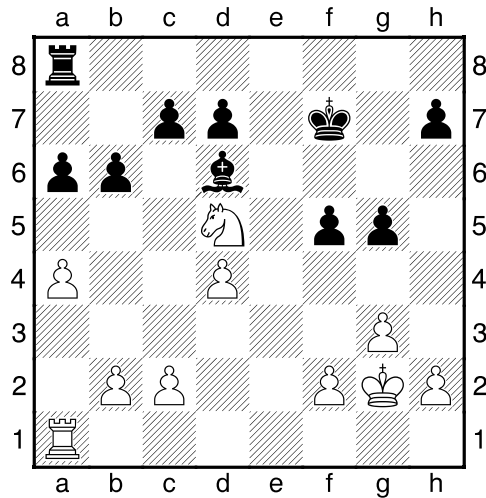


**b6 11.Re1** Carlsen doesn't want Karjakin to play Ba6, so he decides to play Re1 **Re8 12.Bf4 Rxe1 13.Qxe1 Qe7** [13...Bxd4 leads to 14.Bxd6 cxd6 15.Qe4 Bxb2 16.Qxa8 Qf8 17.Nc3 Bxa1

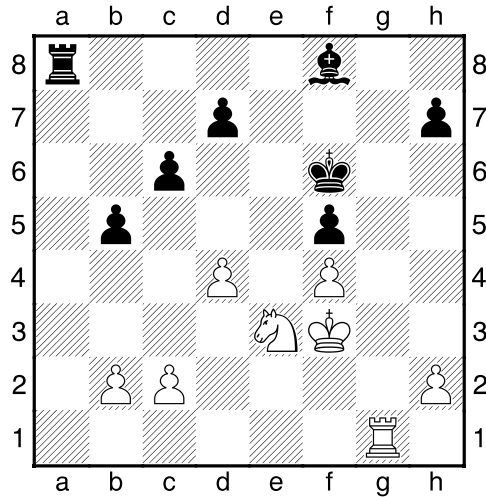
18. Nd5 leading to a fairly complicated position tilting Carlsen's way] **14.Nc3 Bb7 15.Qxe7 Bxe7** Endgame time again



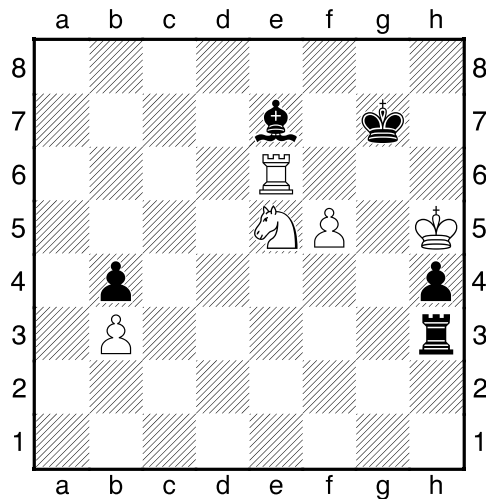
**16.a4 a6 17.g3 g5 18.Bxd6 Bxd6 19.Bg2 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 f5 21.Nd5** Carlsen has achieved his pattern of having relative more control. In this position, the Bishop on d6 is tied to defending c7 and c6 is not possible because the pawn on b6 would remain vulnerable to the Knight



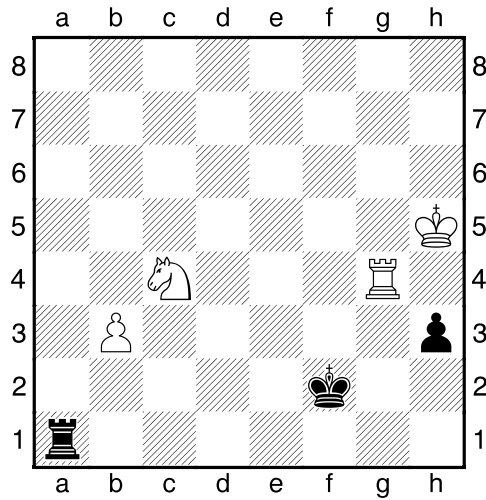
**21...Kf7 22.Ne3 Kf6 23.Nc4 Bf8 24.Re1 Rd8 25.f4 gxf4 26.gxf4 b5 27.axb5 axb5 28.Ne3 c6 29.Kf3 Ra8 30.Rg1** The position for white is already easier to pay. Karjakin has to worry about his pawn on f5



**30...Ra2 31.b3 c5 32.Rg8 Kf7 33.Rg2 cxd4 34.Nxf5 d3** Karjakin bets that creating a fairly chaotic pawn structure for white should still give him a chance to draw [34...Be5 35.Ke4] **35.cxd3 Ra1 36.Nd4 b4 37.Rg5 Rb1 38.Rf5+ Ke8 39.Rb5 Rf1+ 40.Ke4 Re1+ 41.Kf5 Rd1 42.Re5+ Kf7 43.Rd5 Rxd3 44.Rxd7+ Ke8 45.Rd5 Rh3 46.Re5+ Kf7 47.Re2 Bg7 48.Nc6 Rh5+ 49.Kg4 Rc5 50.Nd8+ Kg6 51.Ne6 h5+ 52.Kf3 Rc3+ 53.Ke4 Bf6 54.Re3 h4 55.h3 Rc1 56.Nf8+ Kf7 57.Nd7 Ke6 58.Nb6 Rd1 59.f5+ Kf7 60.Nc4 Rd4+ 61.Kf3 Bg5 62.Re4 Rd3+ 63.Kg4 Rg3+ 64.Kh5 Be7 65.Ne5+ Kf6 66.Ng4+ Kf7 67.Re6 Rxb3 68.Ne5+ Kg7**



I really like this move. It gives Karjakin his best chance to draw. What may be more impressive is that he planned it several moves before. Almost every other move other than Kg7 would have lost [68...Ke8 loses fairly quickly after 69.f6; 68...Kf8 69.Ng6+ Kf7 70.Rxe7+ Kf6 71.Rb7 leads to a winning endgame for white] **69.Rxe7+ Kf6 70.Nc6 Kxf5 71.Na5 Rh1 72.Rb7 Ra1 73.Rb5+ Kf4 74.Rxb4+ Kg3 75.Rg4+ Kf2 76.Nc4 h3 77.Rh4 Kg3 78.Rg4+ Kf2** An impressive save by Karjakin



**1/2-1/2 Draw**

In sum, Carlsen still seems better prepared strategically and psychologically. Perhaps we could simply say he is getting a chance to use his preparation. Karjakin demonstrated how deep his insight is with his impressive endgame play today. But Carlsen still seems in control. I am still waiting for a round when Karjakin may control the game. At least I will then become convinced he has a reasonable chance to win the match.