

## 2016 WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 4

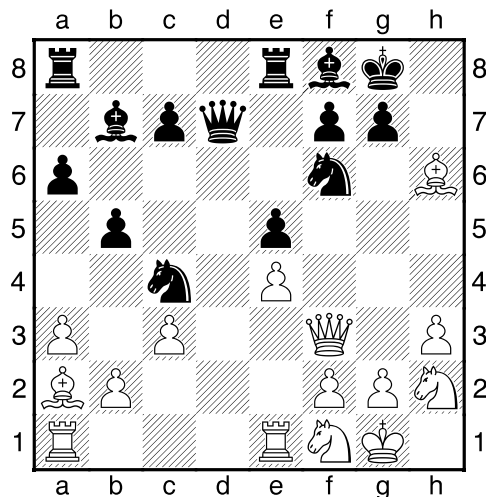
By: Amon Simutowe

### ROUND 4

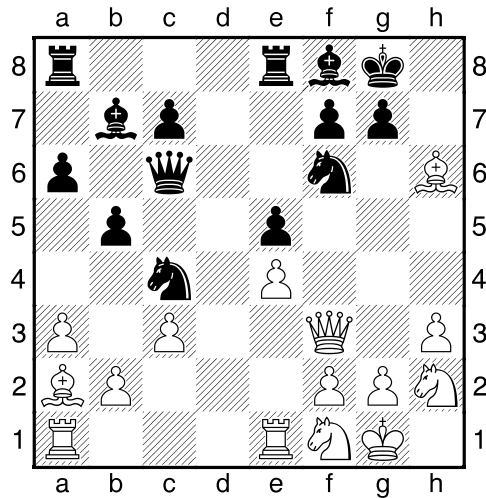
I am beginning to think Karjakin might pose Carlsen some real challenges in this match. While Carlsen has controlled the games in the first four matches, I am not sure it's a good sign if a player of Carlsen's caliber fails to convert at least two games in which he has an advantage into a win. On the other hand, if the trend of Carlsen dominating the games continues, he should win the match. Karjakin blundered with 18.Bxh6 and Carlsen took advantage of Karjakin's mistake after 19...Qc6. Like yesterday, Karjakin pulled off one of the most miraculous saves. But this got me thinking that if Karjakin wins first, he might be able to maintain the momentum.

### Karjakin Vs Carlsen

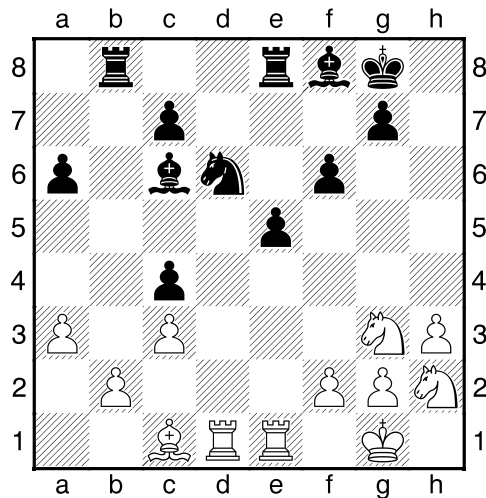
**1.e4** Unlike Carlsen, Karjakin decided not to change the opening move with white pieces **1...e5**  
**2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.h3 Bb7 9.d3 d6 10.a3 Qd7**  
**11.Nbd2 Rfe8 12.c3** [12.Ng5 Rf8 13.Ngf3 Rfe8 could lead to a draw by repetition but Carlsen assumed that Karjakin would not go for a draw with white pieces] **12...Bf8 13.Nf1 h6 14.N3h2 d5 15.Qf3 Na5 16.Ba2 dxe4 17.dxe4 Nc4** making the Bishop on the a2-square quite ineffective **18.Bxh6?** Karjakin admitted he didn't notice this was a mistake until Carlsen responded. His comment also suggested that he was not in his preparation.



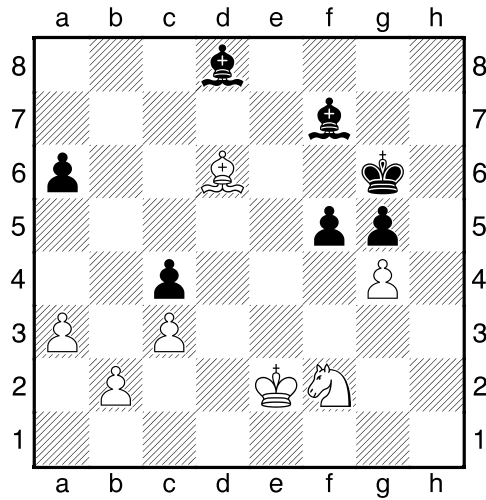
**Qc6** Karjakin spent a lot of time after this move. He later admitted that he had completely overlooked it when he played the previous move



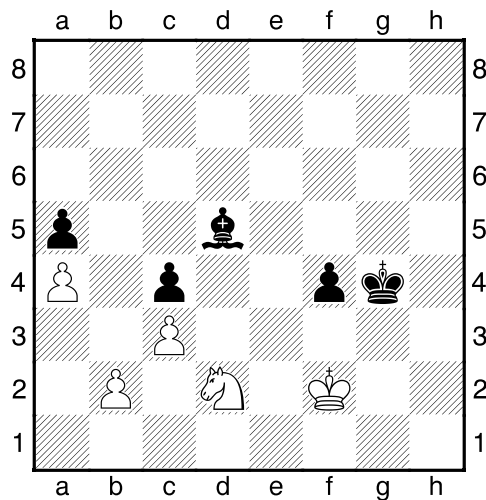
**19.Bxc4 bxc4 20.Be3 Nxe4** It's already clear Carlsen's position is better. It's quite an achievement for Carlsen to get an advantage with black pieces this early in the game **21.Ng3 Nd6 22.Rad1 Rab8 23.Bc1 f6** Since Karjakin's position has become difficult to make moves, it is better for Carlsen to just make a solid move **24.Qxc6 Bxc6** The game now transitions to an endgame which is very difficult for Karjakin to play



**25.Ng4 Rb5 26.f3 f5 27.Nf2 Be7 28.f4** Karjakin had to play this or wait to be squeezed slowly. This move at least gives him an opportunity to get a bit of space **28...Bh4 29.fxe5 Bxg3 30.exd6 Rxe1+ 31.Rxe1 cxd6 32.Rd1 Kf7** Carlsen has obtained so much space to an extent that it seems it's just a matter of time before he wins **33.Rd4 Re5 34.Kf1 Rd5 35.Rxd5 [35.Rxc4 Bb5] 35...Bxd5 36.Bg5 Kg6 37.h4 Kh5 38.Nh3 Bf7 39.Be7 Bxh4 40.Bxd6 Bd8 41.Ke2 g5 42.Nf2 Kg6 43.g4** This move was somewhat crucial to Karjakin's drawing chances. Carlsen retained a significant space advantage as the Bishop pair offered several possibilities but g4 seemed stronger than many people imagined at least in practice.



**43...Bb6 44.Be5 a5** [44...Bxf2 45.Kxf2 fxg4 leads to a drawing endgame due to the opposite colored Bishops] **45.Nd1 f4 46.Bd4 Bc7 47.Nf2 Be6 48.Kf3 Bd5+ 49.Ke2 Bg2 50.Kd2 Kf7** starting the match to the b3-square to gain more space and keep the white King stuck defending b2 while the Bishops search for other opportunities **51.Kc2 Bd5 52.Kd2 Bd8 53.Kc2 Ke6 54.Kd2 Kd7 55.Kc2 Kc6 56.Kd2 Kb5 57.Kc1 Ka4 58.Kc2 Bf7 59.Kc1 Bg6 60.Kd2 Kb3 61.Kc1 Bd3 62.Nh3 Ka2 63.Bc5 Be2 64.Nf2 Bf3 65.Kc2 Bc6 66.Bd4 Bd7 67.Bc5 Bc7 68.Bd4 Be6 69.Bc5 f3 70.Be3 Bd7 71.Kc1 Bc8 72.Kc2 Bd7 73.Kc1 Bf4 74.Bxf4 gxf4 75.Kc2 Be6 76.Kc1 Bc8 77.Kc2 Be6 78.Kc1 Kb3 79.Kb1 Ka4 80.Kc2 Kb5 81.Kd2 Kc6 82.Ke1 Kd5 83.Kf1 Ke5 84.Kg1 Kf6 85.Ne4+ Kg6 86.Kf2 Bxg4 87.Nd2 Be6 88.Kxf3 Kf5 89.a4 Bd5+ 90.Kf2 Kg4 91.Nf1 Kg5 92.Nd2 Kf5 93.Ke2 Kg4 94.Kf2** The fortress cannot be broken. An impressive save! It's amazing that Karjakin was able to play about 70 moves in a bad position against a world champion and managed to draw!



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

A lot of chess fans were impressed that Karjakin was able to save positions in which he was arguably lost twice and he did so impressively. If Carlsen continues to get advantages early on in the next games, I assume he will eventually convert some of those advantages into wins. But there could also be a counter-argument that his inability to break through in the last four games may signal some psychological challenges. The match has somewhat progressed the way I wished. I think Karjakin has a chance even though Carlsen is the favorite. After his impressive saves, I am confident he would be prepared psychologically to try and win even if he loses first.