

2016 WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 5

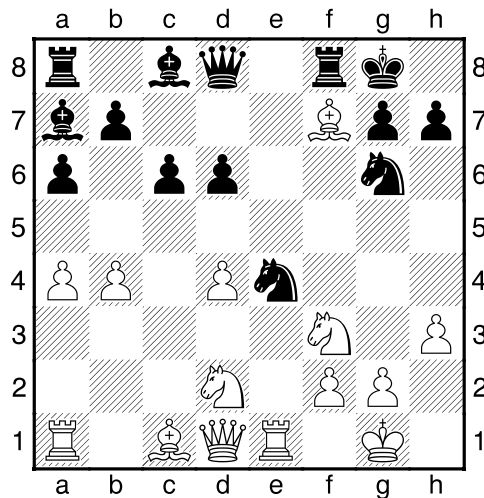
By: Amon Simutowe

ROUND 5

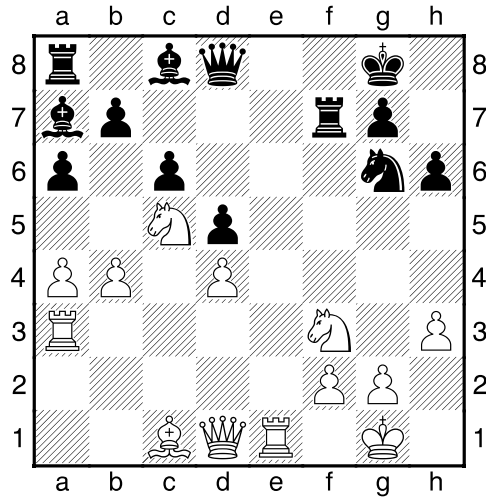
Karjakin has fully settled into the match. The rest of the match should be exciting because Karjakin is demonstrating great resilience. If he starts obtaining an initiative in some of the games, his chances of winning the match should increase noticeably. Carlsen is playing well as expected and remains the favorite. But I am quite convinced that Karjakin's has somehow succeeded in making the match relatively more challenging for Carlsen. I have observed this in a number of cases - the audience keeps labeling a player exceeding expectations as lucky until that player eventually wins. That said, unless Karjakin starts obtaining advantages, Carlsen remains the favorite to win the match.

Carlsen Vs Karjakin

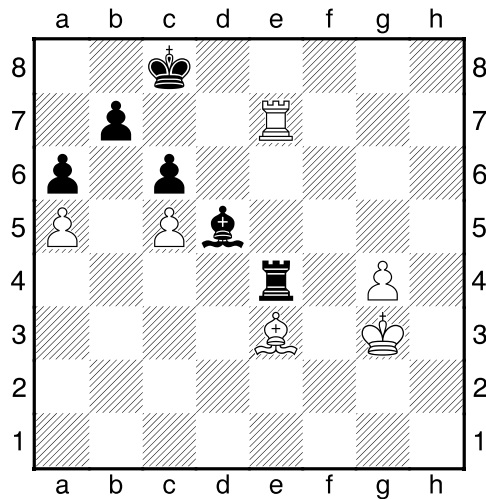
1.e4 Carlsen starts with the same move as in the previous game he played with white pieces. Perhaps, he assumed Karjakin would expect him to switch to d4 **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.a4 d6 7.c3 a6 8.b4 Ba7 9.Re1 Ne7 10.Nbd2 Ng6 11.d4 c6 12.h3 exd4 13.cxd4 Nxe4 14.Bxf7+ [14.Nxe4 d5 would have led to a fairly comfortable position for black regardless of whether Carlsen gave up the Knight or Bishop hence Bf7+ to upset the dynamic a bit]**



14...Rxf7 15.Nxe4 d5 16.Nc5 h6 This move was quite necessary. Karjakin didn't have to worry about when Carlsen's Knight or Bishop might come to the g5-square and cause him some trouble. **17.Ra3** A very creative move – though Carlsen is simply following the chess principles to activate pieces. But the move Ra3 is generally not easy to see.



Bf5 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Qh4 20.Rf3 Bxc5 [20...Qxb4 21.Ba3 Qc4 22. e6 followed by Nd7 after Rf8 or Rf6 (21...Qa5 22.e6 Rf6 then Nd7) 22.Nd7 works favorably for white)] **21.bxc5 Re8 22.Rf4 Qe7 23.Qd4 Ref8 24.Rf3 Be4 25.Rxf7 Qxf7 26.f3 Bf5 27.Kh2 Be6 28.Re2 Qg6 29.Be3 Rf7 30.Rf2 Qb1 31.Rb2 Qf5 32.a5 Kf8** A very imaginative move. Deciding to move the King to c8 required significant imagination **33.Qc3 Ke8 34.Rb4 g5** preventing Rf4 **35.Rb2 Kd8 36.Rf2 Kc8 37.Qd4 Qg6 38.g4 h5 39.Qd2 Rg7 40.Kg3 Rg8 41.Kg2 hxg4 42.hxg4 d4** Creative and quite annoying for Carlsen as the move increases the mobility of the black Bishop **43.Qxd4 Bd5 44.e6** Carlsen decides it's not worth it to keep the extra pawn and opts to give it back in exchange for more activity **44...Qxe6 45.Kg3 Qe7 46.Rh2 Qf7 47.f4 gxf4+ 48.Qxf4 Qe7 49.Rh5 Rf8 50.Rh7 Rxf4 51.Rxe7 Re4** Carlsen will be forced to exchange the Rooks and Karjakin would have no challenges drawing. He just has to bring the King to g8 and then place his Bishop on b5



1/2-1/2 Draw

I think the match remains very competitive. Carlsen remains the favorite but if Karjakin starts obtaining at least noticeable advantages as well, his chance of winning the match would increase significantly. As the match progresses, pressure starts increasing on Carlsen while Karjakin's confidence increases making it urgent for Carlsen to win. Karjakin has successfully made it relatively challenging for Carlsen to break through and this is no small achievement.