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# Chess

London Chess Classic 2010 Souvenir Issue

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**Carlsen edges  
out McShane  
and Anand  
in Classic  
thriller**



Exclusive annotations by  
Luke McShane and Vishy Anand  
of their wins against Magnus Carlsen

**PLUS**  
Remembering  
Larry Evans

ISSN 0964-6221





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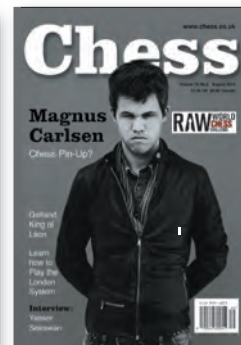
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# Chess

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*Unfortunately Brian Stephenson's Studies feature and Colin Russ's Problem Album have been squeezed out this month due to the extended reporting of the London Chess Classic. They will be back in our February issue as usual.*

# Chess Editorial by Executive Editor, IM Malcolm Pein



The 2<sup>nd</sup> London Chess Classic saw another victory for Magnus Carlsen who ends the year atop the rating pile again after a rather uneven 2010. The tournament went well by any number of measures. We attracted many more spectators, the auditorium was regularly full and the commentary room packed to overflowing again. We received a huge number of plaudits for the online coverage which set new standards with live audio, video, telestrated boards and post game analysis from the players themselves. The commentary team of GM Danny King, GM Chris Ward, GM Jonathan Rowson, IM Lawrence Trent and GM Stephen Gordon were enjoyed by an astonishing 160,000+ users, the figures were immense. Enjoy the detailed report inside.

## Chess in the Sky

We are always trying new ways to get the message across and our PR firm was responsible for this one. David Howell and Hikaru Nakamura were good sports, considering the arctic weather conditions, and agreed to take part in The Chess in the Sky promo. The fact that The Sun managed to find a chess playing Page 3 girl called Rhian had no bearing at all on this decision I am sure. The pictures were spectacular. I gather from David he managed to win a couple of games.

Although the bad weather didn't affect spectator attendance at the Classic and all of the players made it in time, it did delay Vishy Anand on his way back. The night after the closing dinner I took the champ to the West End production of *Yes Prime Minister*, he is a big fan.

The next morning he set off. Two hours later he called me from Heathrow, en route to Amsterdam and all flights were cancelled. I promptly booked him the evening Eurostar London to Brussels service and a hotel near Brussels station. The upside for us all is that Vishy stopped by at the London Chess Centre on the way to St Pancras railway station and gave me some notes on his victory over Magnus Carlsen. Vishy has had incredibly bad luck with his travel arrangements in 2010. Who can forget his epic journey to Sofia during the Icelandic volcano eruption?

Luke McShane's performance was tremendous and his victory over Carlsen was one of the best games played by an English GM in recent years. He kindly gave me his thoughts on the game which you will also find inside.



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

**Pictured above:** David Howell takes on Page 3 girl, Rhian, 50 metres above London  
**Pictured below:** Some of the players found the seats more comfortable than others



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

**Pictured below (left):** Never a spare seat in the hugely popular commentary room  
**Pictured below (right):** Lawrence Trent and Danny King provide the analysis and entertainment



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill



Mickey Adams played very well again but Nigel Short and David Howell struggled. For Howell this was no doubt due in part to the beginning of his academic studies at Cardiff University. However both Short and Howell shrugged off their disappointment. Nigel went to Reggio Emilia and defeated Vugar Gashimov and Alexander Morozevich in straight games as Howell went to his local tournament in Hastings and was on 5/5 at time of writing.

The debate over the 3 pts for a win rule continued to rage. Had Carlsen lost to Kramnik as he surely should have done, then he might still have won the tournament despite losing to his main rivals and, with a 'traditional score' of +1. The excellence of the chess and the exciting finish to the event rather decided it for me. The most telling point had to be that in the final round no fewer than five of the eight players were in with a chance and Michael Adams was also in contention going into the penultimate round. As I introduced the players on stage at Olympia for the last round there was a potential winner on every board.

GM Lubosh Kavalek took exception to the scoring system in his normally excellent column online in the *Huffington Post*: He felt that: 'In the annals of chess history the final results will be noted as follows: Carlsen, Anand, Luke McShane - 4 ½ points in 7 games.' Well no, that's not right, the players adapted to the rules as I reveal below. Had the traditional scoring system been employed they would have prepared and played differently so it's ridiculous to express the results in the traditional way.

I responded to Kavalek thus: 'I see there has been a lot of huffing and puffing on the three points for a win question. It's great to have a debate, even if some of the participants may be a little stuck in the past and want to put the kibosh on 3-1-0. Actually, I was not a great fan of the idea at the outset and even now, I am not totally convinced. However, from a sporting perspective we were absolutely delighted with the outcome. I suspect the no draws rule might be at least as influential in producing the fantastic fighting chess we had. More than one player contacted me before the event to ask which scoring system we were employing as it was going to affect which openings they prepared.'

## English Victory

Another heartening development was the doubling in size of the chess festival that ran alongside the main event and the great result in the FIDE Open which was won by Gawain Jones and Simon Williams. Simon was out in front before losing to Gawain who played what I still regard as a slightly dodgy opening. I gave vent to my feelings on the matter while analysing on the screen in the foyer and who was standing right behind me? Ahem. Gawain turned it round; he understood Simon does not like defending. The pair scored 7½/9 and there were some norms made. Thanks to Adam Raoof and Alex MacFarlane for running it without a hitch.

A full report on the FIDE Open, Women's Invitational and the other side events will appear in our February issue.

If all this wasn't enough Viktor Korchnoi returned to commentate and to give two more sell-out simul and Garry Kasparov agreed to make a flying visit to sign books, speak to CNN and make a speech at the closing ceremony. CNN ran a big piece on chess with contributions from Garry and Vishy whom they interviewed on the stage for nearly half an hour.



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

**Pictured above:** Joint winners of the FIDE Open, GM Gawain Jones (left) and GM Simon Williams (right)

**Pictured below:** Garry Kasparov giving an interview to CNN during his time at the London Chess Classic.



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

**Pictured above:** A record 517 people participated in the London Chess Classic side-events, now what is the collective noun for a group of chess players?

**Pictured below:** In a repeat of last year Victor Korchnoi performed two 30 player simultaneous displays.



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill





# Chess in Schools and Communities

One of the principal objectives of the London Chess Classic is to support CSC both by showcasing the game with a view to raising funds and to provide a perfect setting for activities. Over 600 children came to visit the Classic and 400 took part in our first junior tournament ably run by Sabrina Chevannes with assistance from too many to mention. The children enjoyed a simultaneous display in the morning from 10 masters including CHESS Magazine columnist GM Daniel King where our photographer Ray Morris-Hill captured the following brilliant action shot (see right).

In the afternoon we had a celebrity visit from Alex Zane, star of TV and radio who was simply marvellous with the children and handed out the prizes. Alex stayed for most the day's play and enjoyed himself. I hope we can involve him again. The Classic was also the venue for the first Chess Teacher Training courses run by John Foley and participants came from as far away as Liverpool. I am delighted with how these went and we plan to do more.



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

**Pictured above:** Daniel King performing a speed simul

**Pictured below:** Just some of the 400 participants taking part in their first chess tournament.

All Photos: Ray Morris-Hill



**Pictured above:** The first ever CSC teacher training course

**Pictured left:** Alex Zane entertains the children during the tournament prize-giving.



## Chess Players in Court

Chess in the park is part of New York life and I hope we can introduce it more parks in the UK. Recently Holland Park in west London installed a giant chess set. A group of players in NYC recently got on the wrong side of the law when playing on a park chess table which was located inside a children's section of Inwood Hill Park. The police rushed them and issued them with summonses for failure to obey park regulations. Three of the six agreed to a kind of plea bargain which should lead to dismissal of the case in return for six months good behaviour (No dodgy openings?) but two are fighting on and are going to have their day in court: one of them. Tacahudah Harrison said: "We did nothing wrong, yet for simply playing chess we were treated like criminals," Harrison, 49, told the New York Daily News. "Nobody deserves that kind of treatment."

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/park-chess-players-move-court/story?id=12501406>

**Deadlines, deadlines!** Our apologies for the late delivery of the magazine but there was just not enough time to recover from the Classic and deliver the proofs before the printers shut down for Christmas.

## A World Record – sort of

Hou Yifan of China won the Women's World Championship which was a 64-player KO held in Turkey. At 16 years old she becomes the youngest ever world champion but the standard of play was poor and the best female players in the world are called Polgar in my view, even if only Judit plays much nowadays. I'd wager that Susan and perhaps even Sophia would defeat the best of the rest. Judit recently despatched Veselin Topalov and Vasily Ivanchuk in the same (!) tournament in Mexico City.

## Another Junior GM but not a record

Ilyya Nyzhnyk from Ukraine has become GM at the age of 14 but has looked to be of GM strength to me since he was 11. He might have even broken Sergey Karjakin's record of 12 years and seven months but it never came to pass. It seems ridiculous that his feat makes him only the 11th youngest GM ever.

## But this one is - World Simul record broken in India

Last month we reported on Alik Gershon's feat in Israel when he broke the record for the number of games played simultaneously by one person. The record for the total number of games was broken again in December when a team of players headed by Vishy Anand took on about 20,500 people in the Indian city of Ahmadabad. The record was certified by Guinness and betters the previous record of 13,446 people that was set in 2006 in Mexico City

## Russian Men's Superfinal

Vladimir Kramnik continues to prefer the London Chess Classic to the Russian Championship Superfinal. Next month we will report on Ian Nepomniachtchi's triumph in Moscow which ended a brilliant year for the twenty year old who has already captured the European Individual and Aeroflot Open titles. It all came down to an Armageddon play-off where Nepo recovered from a lost position to hold the draw with black against a very disappointed Karjakin who nearly took the title at his first attempt since "defecting" from Ukraine.

# London Chess Classic

## Magnus Carlsen, Minimal Margin...

### *With annotations by Anand and McShane*

The first London Chess Classic in 2009 was hugely successful and a hard act to follow but the second London Chess Classic managed the impossible and topped it. Once again it provided a fitting finale to the annual world chess circuit as the top players jockeyed for supremacy on the rating list.

The technology brought to bear on the event was simply awesome: chess fans worldwide were able to see as much of the action and post-match commentary as spectators at the venue, both in real-time and after the event. This constant spotlight on the players brought the best out of them. They responded with uncompromising play on the stage and some entertaining cut and thrust in the commentary room. Once you factor in the natural advantages of geography and language - London being one of the world's most famous cities and English being the dominant language worldwide, the whole thing became a virtuous circle, showcasing professional chess as the spectacular leisure activity that we know it to be. So the big winner, as last year, was chess itself.

Despite the strengthened line-up, with the addition of world champion Vishy Anand, victory once again went to Magnus Carlsen of Norway. This wasn't the triumphal procession of 2009, nor was it comparable to his Fischer-like victories in a number of other super-tournaments. In the very first round he received a severe pummelling from England's very own Luke McShane - the chess equivalent of the left hook unleashed by English boxer Henry Cooper which sent a young Cassius Clay sprawling on the canvas a short while before the latter became world heavyweight boxing champion and changed his name to Muhammed Ali! Carlsen won in the next round, only to be 'knocked out' again, this time by Vishy Anand, in round three. He was more than a shade lucky not to lose a third game, against Vlad Kramnik, but this was not a 'knock-out' event and he staged a remarkable recovery. He won four games in total, against Nakamura and the other three Englishmen. With no other player able to amass more than two wins, these four victories were worth three points apiece and enabled him to head Anand and McShane on the '3-1-0' points



system used in London. This ability to win tournaments from the front or from behind, in good form or not so good, is the mark of a sports champion and Magnus Carlsen proved beyond all doubt that he is that.

Vishy Anand's very presence was a signal honour to the tournament and he lived up to his reputation a great ambassador for the game as well as a superb player. His high point was the round three defeat of Magnus Carlsen, which was a reminder to the young man that it is one thing to win tournaments but quite another to win head-to-head games against elite players - something which Carlsen will have to learn to do consistently if he is ever to take Vishy's world crown. Vishy was very solid but his failure to put away a couple of highly advantageous positions in the early rounds probably cost him first place. It was great having Vishy playing chess in London. Let's hope we see him back here soon.

Luke McShane was the individual success story of the tournament. In the UK we've long known he is a player of prodigious talent - now the world knows it. Luke's rating trajectory would surely have taken him past 2700 some years ago but for the time taken out to study at Oxford and embark on a financial career. During the last year he has refocused on chess and he is now rapidly closing on the 2700 mark. Luke's brilliant first-round demolition of Magnus Carlsen demonstrated that he can beat anyone on his day, and he also showed he can hang in there and battle his way to a draw in bad positions. He and the world champion were both unbeaten at Olympia. On the January 2011 rating list he will move above Nigel Short for the first time, becoming the first Englishman to break the Adams/Short duopoly for nearly 20 years.

Vlad Kramnik was below his best at Olympia, but only slightly. His



uncharacteristic loss to Nakamura might have shaken a lesser man but he played steadily and consistently thereafter. His dry humour and relaxed charm made him a popular figure in the commentary room.

Hikaru Nakamura had a tough draw, with Black against the top three players, but started excellently with a draw and a win against Anand and Kramnik respectively. Unfortunately Carlsen in round four proved a bigger obstacle. Hikaru really needed to capitalise on his good positions against the two younger Englishmen but the win eluded him on both occasions. Overall, though, this was a good and encouraging event for the young American who has a lot of fans in the UK, and his reward is to see his name amongst the top ten on the live world rating list.

Mickey Adams started well with a comfortable win against David Howell but came unstuck against Magnus Carlsen in the next. His other five games were drawn but Mickey seemed to play pretty well in all of them. Overall it was a par performance for a consistent world top twenty player.

David Howell was the revelation of the inaugural 2009 Classic but he found things much tougher this year, perhaps because he is now a university student with other pressing claims on his time. But his back-to-the-wall draws with Anand and Nakamura were impressive and he so nearly held off Magnus Carlsen at his best. He came through a tough work-out pretty well, with only minimal damage done to his rating and some more invaluable experience of elite-level chess.

Nigel Short's tournament probably hinged on his second round game against Luke McShane when he failed to find the win against his opponent's Sicilian Dragon and then subsided to defeat. Both players might have had very different tournaments had White won that game. A tactical miscalculation also cost him his fourth round game against Anand and thereafter he looked out of sorts. He was as ebullient as ever in the commentary room and provided the audience with great entertainment. Nigel may be suffering from a crisis of confidence but it would be unwise to write him off as he has bounced back from such crises before. As we go to press, he has started with two straight wins (against Gashimov and Morozevich) at the very strong Reggio Emilia tournament, so the green shoots of recovery may already be coming through.

Let's get straight down to the action: we're privileged to have Luke McShane's own comments on his wonderful victory over



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

The 2010 London Chess Classic began with a major sensation as England's Luke McShane (left) defeated last year's winner Magnus Carlsen in the very first round

Magnus Carlsen in the first round. It was sweet revenge for Luke's loss to Magnus in 2009. The game followed a known (if slightly obscure) line of the English Opening until Magnus experimented with 9...Ne5, when the more conservative ...Nxd4 and ...Bd7 have been tried before. Magnus found himself obliged to re-stable his horse again a couple of moves later. This (literally) cavalier play was faintly reminiscent of Carlsen's adoption of another off-beat knight-hopping defence against Mickey Adams at the Olympiad. It was a risky plan, going out on a limb in order to play for a win with Black, but it showed that Carlsen was acutely aware of the value of victory under the 3-1-0 scoring system. As things turned out, he would have the last laugh.

at it a little bit but it was one of ten things I had considered as vaguely possible. 7 d4 Malcolm Pein thought this gave White the edge as he had played this in the 1970s when Andersson showed White was doing well. I certainly thought White was comfortable after this. 7 a3 0-0 8 ♖b1 b6 9 d3 ♗b7 10 ♘d2 ♜f5 was the continuation in Andreikin-Carlsen, at the World Blitz Championship in Moscow; 7 b3 0-0 8 ♗b2 ♖b8 9 e3 ♜f5 10 d3 a6 was played in Flores-Carlsen, Khanty Mansiysk Olympiad 2010. Carlsen won both of these earlier games. 7...cxd4 8 ♗xh6 ♗xh6 9 ♜xd4 ♜e5!?

<b>Round 1 (8 December)</b>			
<b>Short</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>Kramnik</b>	
<b>McShane</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>Carlsen</b>	
<b>Adams</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>Howell</b>	
<b>Anand</b>	<b>½-½</b>	<b>Nakamura</b>	

### NOTES BY LUKE MCSHANE

Round 1

L.McShane - M.Carlsen

English Opening

1 c4 c5 2 g3 g6 3 ♗g2 ♗g7 4 ♜c3 ♜c6  
5 ♜f3 d6 6 0-0 ♜h6



I was aware Carlsen had played this somewhere but didn't realise it was as recently as at the Olympiad. I had looked



I was happy to see this. It looks a little over-ambitious and I don't think people will be itching to play it again. He played it confidently. I could tell he was definitely trying to beat me with Black. 9...♜xd4 10 ♗xd4 0-0 or 9...♗d7 are the alternatives. (Black should try and exchange pieces as he has less space so this is risky - Pein) 10 ♗b3 10 e3 ♜xc4?? 11 ♗a4+, but I thought I needed to create threats or he could be a bit better with the bishops. 10...0-0 11 ♗fd1 ♜d7 12 ♗a3! Anticipating ♜c5. The moves e3 and ♗e2 are natural but I was concerned about ♗g4 at some stage. 12...a5 The standard a6 and b5 plan is not possible here. 13 b4 Really important but I wonder if ♜a4 was a better move: 13 ♜a4 ♖a6 14 c5 dxc5 15 ♜xc5 ♜xc5 16 ♗xc5 ♜d6; But 13 ♜a4 ♖a6 14 c5 dxc5 15 ♜b5!?





Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

**Luke McShane:** "Against somebody like Carlsen, you don't want to give him any chances... I tried to smother him."

promising. Maybe 13 ♖a4 was the thing to do, but I was quite pleased with b4 and it threatens c5. 13...♗a6 13...♘b6 was the critical response, hitting c4 and protecting the rook on a8 so that axb4 becomes possible. Now, after 14 c5 ♘c4 15 ♗b3, the move 15...♘d2!? is a surprising shot. During the game I thought White had good chances in the tactical melee which arises after 16 ♗d5!?, but perhaps 16 ♗a4 is the correct follow-up after all. 14 b5 ♗a8 15 e3 a4 15...♘c5 16 ♘e4 ♘e4 17 ♗e4 and c4-c5 comes and it's more potent with a pawn on b5 rather than b2. 16 ♗ab1 ♗g7



17 ♘e4! White has a space advantage and aims for c4-c5. 17 ♘a4? is answered by 17...♗a5! 18 ♗b4 ♘c5 19 ♘b3 when 19...♗b2 (and 19...♗a7 are good for Black.) 17...♗b6 18 ♘c6! Seen when playing 17 ♘e4! 18...♗e8 18...bxc6 19 bxc6 ♗a5 (19...♗xc6?? loses the queen to 20 ♘f6+) 20 cxd7 ♗xd7 21 c5 is good for White. 19 ♘b4! f5 Criticised by everyone but the players thought it was right. However, computers give alternatives such as 19...♗a5 20 ♘d5 ♘b6, etc. 20 ♘c3 20 ♘d5! ♗d8 21 ♘g5! was the strongest continuation,

threatening to hop into the hole on e6. After 21...♘c5 22 b6, to tell the truth, I didn't really calculate these lines and was worried he would play 22...e6 23 ♘c7 ♗xg5 24 ♘xa8, but this is nonsense as he has no real compensation. If he plays 22...♗f8 instead, then 23 ♘c7 ♗b8 24 ♗b5! I missed this, but I was playing quite quickly (because he always plays quickly and I thought I'd better try and keep up). 20...♗c5? Big mistake. 20...e6! was forced, when 21 ♘a6, 21 ♘c6 and 21 ♘xa4 can be played, e.g. 21 ♘xa4 ♗a5 22 ♘a6 and the position remains messy. 21 ♘xa4! ♗a7



22 ♘a6! This looks ungainly but it can't be exploited and the threat is 23 ♘c7 ♗f8 24 c5! 22...bxa6 23 b6 ♘xb6 24 ♗xb6 Much stronger than capturing with the knight. 24...♗b8 25 c5! ♗e6 One of the reasons I played 24 ♗xb6 was that I thought 25...dxc5 26 ♗b3+ was almost winning but I had missed 26...c4, though 27 ♗xc4+ gives White an enduring initiative. 25...dxc5 26 ♗xc5 maybe even better. Fortunately everything is still good 26 ♗db1



The recurring theme now is checkmate to the queen! – Pein. 26...dxc5 26...♗c7 27 c6 is very strong, with ♗b7 coming. 27 ♗b7 ♗xb7 28 ♗xb7 ♗a8 29 ♘c5 ♗c8 29...♗f7 30 ♗xe7! is winning comfortably, as the a6 pawn will also drop off after the exchange of rooks. 30 ♗xa6 ♗f7 30...♗xc5 31 ♗xe6+ ♘h8 32 ♗c6 wins the e7 pawn as well. 31 ♗c6 ♗d8



32 ♗d7! An important move. Against somebody like Carlsen, you don't want to give him any chances so I tried to smother him. It completely knocks him out – he doesn't have any moves. The intention is ♗b6 and ♗b8 to trap Black's queen. After 32 ♗xe7 ♗xa6 33 ♘a6 ♗xa2, I can't lose. It's a tempting, lazy option, but I had 15 minutes left – enough time to calculate everything. 32...♗xd7 32...♗e6 33 ♗b6 ♗xd7 34 ♗xd7 ♗c1+ 35 ♗g2 ♗f8 36 ♗e6+ wins. 33 ♗xd7 ♗c1+ 34 ♗f1 ♗xf1+ 35 ♗xf1 ♗c4+ 36 ♗g1 ♗xa2 37 ♗a4 Forcing off a pair of bishops makes the technical task much simpler. 37...e5 38 f3 Good technique because 38 ♗b3+ ♗xb3 39 ♗xb3 e4 lets him struggle for a while, albeit without hope. After exchanging bishops, White will play e3-e4 to fix a weakness on e5 before advancing the king. 38...♗h6 39 ♗b3+ 1-0



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

Magnus Carlsen on his game against McShane: "I knew it was a risky strategy".





A determined Mickey Adams (right) bulldozed his way through David Howell's Berlin Wall



10...f6 Nigel Short chose 10...e8 against Hou Yifan at Corus 2008 but lost quite quickly. 11 e1 fxe5 12 g3 e5 f6 13 g3 A new move, where 13 h5 had previously been preferred. 13...c5 14 g5



position as unsalvageable. "I had given up and was just trying to keep a straight face at the board," admitted David Howell, to the laughter of the large audience.

Round 1

M.Adams - D.Howell

Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defence

1 e4 e5 2 f3 f3 c6 3 b5 f6 4 0-0 xe4 5 d4



He played quite quickly for the first 15–20 moves but by the time the game was over I was ahead on the clock.

David Howell tried to build a 'Berlin Wall' though, architecturally, this was a 'pre-Kramnik' version of the sturdy edifice which Vladimir Kramnik first erected in this same borough of London to keep out 'Big Bad Wolf' Kasparov in their 2000 world championship match.

David admitted to the commentary room that he had not played this particular line of the Berlin Ruy Lopez before but had looked at it some weeks before. Mickey wasn't prepared for it but found a playable line which offered him an edge. The GM pundits reckoned that 14...d3 was the first wrong step for Howell and he was gracious enough to plead guilty to all charges when brought before the trial judges in the commentary room. "I expected Mickey to play 15 e2 and when he started thinking, it dawned on me that I'd missed 15 e3!", he confessed to the audience. Giving up the b-pawn and getting the rook onto the third rank supercharged the white attack on the queenside. Mickey thought 16...a6 might have been better than 16...xg5 but after that most of the assembled experts regarded Howell's

The Berlin Defence made five appearances at this year's Classic. In round five, Anand opted for 5 e1 against McShane. He secured a small edge and the pundits despaired for McShane's chances for a while, but the defence held. 5...e7 5...d6 is 'the real Kramnik', as used to wrest the world title from Garry Kasparov in 2000. It was played three times in London, in Anand–Nakamura (round one), McShane–Kramnik (round three) and Anand–Kramnik (round seven). All three games were drawn, though Luke McShane came uncomfortably close to losing against 'Mr Berlin'. 6 e2 d6 7 xc6 bxc6 7...dxc6? is rarely played as it leads to big trouble after 8 dxe5 f5 9 d1 d7 (only move) 10 e6! fxe6 11 e5 d6 12 h5+, etc. 8 dxe5 b7 9 c4 9 c3 is more frequently seen. 9...0-0 10 c3



14...d3? Black regretted this move, which gets him into trouble. 14...d6 is perhaps a better alternative, keeping a wary eye on White's kingside build-up and continuing with development. 15 e3! David Howell had originally expected 15 e2 but when White started to spend a long time on his reply, he suddenly became aware of this more forceful response. 15...xb2 There is little else for it but to follow through with this capture. 16 ae1 xg5?! Mickey Adams said he had expected 16...a6 when he might have replied 17 e4 with some play for the pawn, though there is chess left in the position. 17 xg5 f6





Anything else and 18 ♖e7 would be unanswerable. 18 ♖f3 ♗d8 19 ♖ce4 White has a choice of good moves. Another is 19 ♗e5, which craftily closes on the black knight, e.g. 19...♗xc4 20 ♖xf8+ ♗xf8 21 ♗e4 with twin threats of ♗xh7 mate and ♗xc4. 19...♗a6 20 ♖xh7! 20 ♖xf8+ is also very good, e.g. 20...♗xf8 21 ♖xh7! ♗xh7 22 ♖g5+ ♗g8 23 ♗h3! and it's all over. 20...♖xf3 21 ♖xf3 ♗xh7 22 ♖g5+ ♗g8 23 ♗h4 ♗xc4 24 ♗h7+ ♗f8



25 ♖e5 25 ♗h8+ ♖g8 26 ♖e5 is also lethal. 25...♗e6 25...♗f6 26 ♗h8+ ♖g8 27 ♖h7+ ♗f7 28 ♖xf6 also wins. 26 ♗h8+ ♗e7 27 ♗xg7+ ♗d6 28 ♖e4 mate

"I played strategically and got mated," said a whimsical Nigel Short of the final stage of his loss to Vlad Kramnik. Nigel has had some splendid results with old-fashioned 1 e4 e5 openings over the years (including a good win against French star Laurent Fressinet at the Olympiad) but he made little impression on the former world champion, who built up a solid positional advantage based on his central pawns. Eventually an e-pawn thrust cut Short's position in half, separating his queen from his vulnerable king, and Kramnik conjured up a powerful kingside offensive to kill the white king. Short tried a few defensive alternatives in the commentary room and let out an audible expression of pain as Kramnik announced a particularly vicious refutation of his idea.

Hikaru Nakamura also played a 'Berlin Wall' but this was the standard Kramnik recipe used to tranquillise Garry Kasparov. Visy was playing his first chess game in Britain for 16 years but he looked very composed as he set about grinding out an endgame win. English GMs Jon Speelman and John Nunn were practically salivating at the prospect of a long-distance endgame. Visy can remember when endgames *really were* endgames (with those strange rituals called adjournments, sealed moves and resumptions which Magnus, Hikaru and co will be blissfully unaware of), but in the



Enter The Dragon: (l to r) Daniel King, Luke McShane, Nigel Short and Dragon expert Chris Ward.

end Visy couldn't break down Hikaru's rugged resistance. Yesterday Hikaru wasn't best pleased with his tournament draw - Black versus Anand, Kramnik (in round two) and Carlsen (in round four), but his first result was a good one.

#### Round 2 (9 December)

<b>Kramnik</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>Nakamura</b>
<b>Howell</b>	<b>½-½</b>	<b>Anand</b>
<b>Carlsen</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>Adams</b>
<b>Short</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>McShane</b>

England's Luke McShane became the sole leader of the Classic after beating Nigel Short in a complicated tactical struggle in round two. Two points behind him was Hikaru Nakamura who scored a great win against former world champion Vladimir Kramnik after the Russian uncharacteristically gave up a piece for what proved to be inadequate compensation in the opening.

The Sicilian Dragon is one of the sharpest openings on a chess board and that was the chosen line for Luke McShane against Nigel Short - unusually so, because Luke is not a regular Dragon player. As always with this opening, it soon became highly tactical and mind-bendingly complicated. At one point Nigel appeared to be a couple of moves away from a big kingside mating attack but, when he came to calculate variations, he found Luke had counterstrokes against his major ideas. Looking at the game later with computers, it seemed that the obvious 22 ♖xh5 might have succeeded had it been followed up correctly but, in time pressure, he tried 22 g5 and suddenly the tactics didn't work. Luke found a way to exchange queens after which his extra pawn and superior position told. It was still an exciting spectacle as the two players raced passed pawns down the board, but there could only be one winner as Luke had more pawns. The win took McShane into sole lead in the tournament with a maximum six out of six.

#### Round 2

##### N.Short - L.McShane

##### Sicilian Defence, Dragon Variation

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖f6 5 ♖c3 g6 6 ♗e3 ♖g7 7 f3 0-0 8 ♗d2 ♖c6 9 g4 ♗e6 10 ♖xe6 White usually disdains this capture and plays 10 0-0-0, thinking to get on with the traditional kingside offensive, but it is interesting to see what happens if he does play the obvious move. 10...♖xe6 11 0-0-0



11...♖c8 Rather unusual. Most Black players prefer to stop White's next move with 11...♖e5 first, and this is probably better than the text. 12 ♗c4 Completely logical. White seeks to exploit the weakness on the a2-g8 diagonal. 12...♗d7 13 ♗b3 ♖a5 14 h4 ♖c4 Superficially, 14...♖xb3+ to knock out the light-squared bishop is tempting, but it is not clear then where Black's queenside counterplay is coming from. If he cannot conjure up something, he might simply get mated on the kingside. This is an occupational hazard of playing the Dragon, of course. As Nigel Short put it in the commentary room: "Dragon players don't really mind getting mated", though one could hear Dragon expert GM Chris Ward in the background saying "oh yes, they do!". 15 ♗d3 ♗c6 You might find your computer gets excited at the prospect of 15...♖xb2? here, with the idea of 16 ♖xb2 ♖d5 17 exd5 ♖xc3 18 ♗xc3 ♗xc3+ 19 ♖xc3 ♖xf3 20 dxe6

♖c6+ 21 ♔d2 a5, etc, but the two players were dismissive of this line, feeling that White's rook and two bishops were more than adequate compensation for the queen. **16 ♖e2 ♖d7 17 ♖d4 ♖a6 18 f4 18 ♖xe6? ♗xb2+ 19 ♖b1 ♖xf3 20 ♖g5 ♖xe3! 21 ♖xe3 ♗f6** gives Black a very useful attack for the small material investment. Besides which, White doesn't want pawns, he wants to give mate. **18...e5 19 fxe5 ♖dxe5 20 ♖e2**



**20...♔h8** It would all too easy to fill up the page with analysis here but let's look at just one alternative: 20...d5! 21 exd5 ♖xg4 is another try if Black is afraid of being mated. However, White could continue with 22 ♗g5!?, e.g. 22...♖f2 23 d6! ♖xd1 24 ♖e6+ ♔h8 25 d7! and White seems to emerge with an advantage. **21 h5 gxh5**



**22 g5?** Both players were in severe time trouble by now. Here Nigel Short thought he must be winning on the kingside but calculated that his likeliest tries were flawed, e.g. 22 ♖xh5!? ♖xe3 23 ♖xe3 23...♖f1! 24 ♖h1 (24 ♖xh7+ ♔xh7 25 ♖h3+ ♗h6+ (the fact that this is check is vital, of course) 26 g5 ♖d3+!! is another stunning resource for Black) and now the implausible 24...♖d3!! comes to Black's rescue. But 23 ♖h2! would surely have won the game after all. **22...♖g4! 23 ♗g1** An annoying necessity. 23 ♖xh5 ♖xe3! 24 ♖xh7+ ♔xh7 25 ♖h1+ comes close but 25...♔g6 and the black king is perfectly safe. **23...♖ce3!** Forcing the exchange of queens more or less



Magnus Carlsen bounced back from his first round defeat with a win against Mickey Adams

guarantees that Black will not be mated on the kingside. **24 ♖xa6 bxa6 25 ♗xe3 ♖xe3 26 ♖d3 ♗xd4 27 ♖xd4 ♖c5!** The endgame is a very different story. Black is already a pawn up and has further white pawn weaknesses to target. **28 ♖d3 ♖g2!** Indirectly defending the h-pawn with a fork on f4. Nigel had hoped for 28...♖f1+?? 29 ♖xf1 ♖xf1 30 ♖f3 ♖h2 31 ♖f8+ ♔g7 32 ♖g8 mate. **29 ♖g3 ♖f4 30 ♔d2 ♖e5 31 ♖e1 ♔g7 32 ♔e3 ♔g6 33 c3 ♖xg5 34 ♖xg5+ ♔xg5 35 ♖g1+ ♔h6 36 e5 dxe5 37 ♔e4**



Though Black has three sets of doubled pawns, his endgame advantage is secure. **37...♖g6 38 ♗c4 a5 39 ♔d5 ♖f2 40 b4 axb4 41 cxb4 h4 42 a4 h3 43 a5 h2 44 ♖h1 ♔g5**



Nigel might have resigned around here ordinarily but he sportingly plays on to a more clear-cut conclusion for the benefit of the big crowd watching. **45 b5 ♔g4 46 b6 axb6 47 a6 ♔g3 48 a7 ♖f8 49 ♔c6** Both advanced pawns can queen and 'buy' a rook but Black has a back-up supply of potential new queens, of course. **49...♖f4 50 ♖a1 e4 51 ♗a6 ♖h3 52 ♗b7 ♖g1 0-1**

Magnus Carlsen bounced back from his first round defeat with a win against Mickey Adams. It was deep, positional game, in which it seemed for a while that Mickey stood well and Magnus's play didn't really impress. Then, short of time, Mickey embroiled his pieces in a kingside escapade that didn't achieve much, whilst the Norwegian pieces took advantage on the opposite side of the board and won material. Faced with an enemy pawn about to queen, Mickey resigned.

Round 2  
M.Carlsen – M.Adams  
English Opening

**1 c4 ♖f6 2 ♖c3 e5 3 ♖f3 ♖c6 4 g3 ♗c5 4...♗b4 and 4...d5 are more frequently seen but this is respectable. 5 ♗g2 d6 6 0-0 0-0 7 d3 a6 7...h6, to prevent the pin of the f6 knight, is by far the commonest move here. 8 a3 ♗a7 9 b4**







Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

General view of the stage at the London Chess Classic

9...♙e6 Yasser Seirawan, in his video commentary on the Internet Chess Club, thought 9...♙f5 was a useful alternative, with a view to getting in e5–e4 for Black and, if 10 e4 to prevent it, then 10...♙g4 and Black will have a good home for his c6 knight on d4. 10 ♘d2 ♖b8 Yasser Seirawan preferred the more direct 10...d5 here, but the choice is not critical. This line of the English is quiet and strategic, contrasting with the ultra-sharp Short versus McShane game going on alongside. 11 ♖b1 ♗e7 12 a4 ♗d7 13 b5 ♙h3 14 ♙a3 h6 15 e3 ♙xg2 16 ♔xg2



16...♙c5 Very committal, but still not really classifiable as an error. 16...axb5 17 axb5 ♙c5 would ensure that the resultant doubled pawn on c5 could be defended by the move b7–b6. 17 ♙c5 dxc5 18 ♗f3 ♗e6 Black threatens to undermine White's pawns with e5–e4 so Magnus decides he has to stop that happening with... 19 e4 c6 20 ♗b3 ♖bd8 Superficially, 20...cxb5 looks attractive, to undouble the pawns, but 21 cxb5 ♗xb3 22 ♖xb3 ♗g6 23 ♖c1 would leave Black's queenside pawns a little vulnerable to White's rooks. A player of Magnus's stratospheric ability would be quite capable of capitalising on such a small edge in the long run. 21 bxa6 bxa6 22

♗c2 Black's c5 pawn is now a long-term weakness but White's backward d3 pawn is a compensatory factor from Black's point of view. 22...♗g6 With the immediate threat of ...♗f4+! but White can easily stop this. 23 ♗g1 In a sharp, tactical struggle this sort of retreat would be costly in terms of time but in this quiet, manoeuvring game it does not count as a concession. 23...♖b8 24 a5 ♗d7 25 ♗a4 ♗d6 26 ♗e2 ♗c7 27 ♗c3 White has to defend a second pawn weakness. 27...♖fd8 28 ♖xb8 ♖xb8 29 f4



29...exf4!? Yasser Seirawan considered this the critical point of the whole game.



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

Mickey Adams started well but later went astray

He thought the text move was an error of judgement, preferring the idea 29...♖b7!? with the idea of ♗b8 and an invasion along the b-file. But some analysis engines favour Adams's plan. 30 gxf4 ♗d6 31 ♔h1 ♖b4 32 ♗c2 ♗h4 Another turning point. Black could try 32...♗c7 here, with the simple threat of taking the a5 pawn, but perhaps he was afraid of a white kingside attack should he concentrate his major pieces on the queen's flank. 33 ♗ac3 ♗g6 34 ♗g3



34...♗f6? Perhaps this is the true turning point of the game. The text move allows White to play e4–e5 with tempo and establish a knight on e4. But it looks better to leave the knight where it is, defending the c-pawn, and play 34...♗e6! instead. Black seems quite handily placed then, with useful replies to pawn pushes, e.g. 35 f5? ♗d6! when White's progress stymied and Black is significantly better. 35 e5 ♗h5?! Black could admit his previous mistake and play 35...♗d7 when he is not worse. 36 ♗xh5 ♗xh5 37 ♗e4 ♔h8? This is probably the fatal error. Black needs to play 37...♗f5 when 38 ♗f2 ♗h3 39 ♖e1 ♖b3! seems to hold things together, e.g. 40 ♗xc5 ♖b2! 41 ♗xb2 ♗f3+ 42 ♔g1 ♗g4+ 43 ♔f1 ♗h3+ with perpetual check. 38 ♗f2 ♗f5 39 ♗xc5 Not 39 ♗xc5?? ♗h3! and White suddenly has insoluble problems. 39...♗h3 40 ♖e1 ♗h4 This makes things relatively easy for White but Black was probably losing anyway. 41 ♗g3 ♗xg3 42 hxg3 ♗f3





Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

**Hikaru Nakamura, looking happy on his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He was even happier later that evening, after he had defeated former world champion Vladimir Kramnik with the black pieces.**

**43** ♖f1 Black's forlorn hope is 43 ♖a1?? ♖b2! – a sneaky mating configuration beloved of all competition chessplayers. **43...** ♖d4 **44** ♗g2 Magnus's king is on its way to e4 where it will be safe and ready to support pawn advances. **44...** ♗e6 **45** ♗xa6 ♖a4 **46** f5 ♗g5 There is no time for 46... ♖xa5 because of 47 fxe6 ♖xa6 48 exf7 and the pawn queens. **47** ♗c7 ♗g8 Black would like to play 47... ♖xa5 but 48 e6! fxe6 49 fxe6 ♖e5 50 d4! and White will soon have two united passed pawns on their way to promotion. **48** a6 ♗f8 **49** ♗f2 **1-0** 49 ♗f2 ♗e7 50 ♖b1 ♗d7 51 ♖b7 ♗c8 52 e6 soon decides the outcome.

Hikaru Nakamura celebrated his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the day of the second round and his 'gift' from the tournament was a tough pairing - Black against Vladimir Kramnik. Vlad's own birthday gift seemed much more generous - a sacrificed piece. Vlad soon transposed from what looked like a Catalan into a Nimzo-Indian and seemed to getting a spatial advantage, but on move 12 he unexpectedly gave up a piece for some play.

Blunder or sacrifice? If the latter, how much play did he expect to get from it? It did require Hikaru to compromise his king safety but it still looked a pretty good deal for him. There were a few tactics as the players reached the time trouble and Nakamura's king had to flee up the board. But it all held together somehow and Hikaru had the perfect birthday gift after all - a win with Black against Kramnik. Add that to his rugged draw with Black against Vishy Anand in the

first round and he had made a remarkable start to the tournament.

In the early rounds Vishy Anand was getting good positions but couldn't quite seem to put his opponents away. At one point, near the time control, it looked as though David Howell might succumb to a concerted attack by Vishy's queen and rook. David had to surrender a pawn but gained just enough play to hold off the world champion and eventually regained the pawn. It was a splendid rearguard effort by the young Englishman and a psychological boost after his unhappy first round. A second draw was bad news for the world champion, however, as it only garnered him a total of two points compared to three other competitors who had won one and lost one but scored three points for their win.

In the commentary room Nigel Short told a cherishable anecdote about a game he played the previous week in Saint Louis, Missouri, against the young US GM Ray Robson. Returning from the rest room, Nigel had glanced up at the demo board as he returned to his chair and saw that his opponent had played ♗g8. He sat down and promptly played ♗f2 in reply. His opponent's subsequent reply was unexpected. Not a chess move, but the astounding words "it's my move!". The young US GM hadn't played ♗g8 - or indeed anything else. Nigel's aberration was the result of a demo board error (the king was actually unmoved on h8). Is Nigel's unwitting attempt to play two consecutive moves unprecedented, I

wonder? Later in the same session, Nigel happened to be teasing Dragon expert GM Chris Ward: "Chris is one of these guys who plays ♖xc3 in every position in which it is legal!" but the earlier revelation provided Chris with the perfect riposte: "Yes, but only when it is my turn!"

### Round 3 (10 December)

<b>McShane</b>	½-½	<b>Kramnik</b>
<b>Adams</b>	½-½	<b>Short</b>
<b>Anand</b>	1-0	<b>Carlsen</b>
<b>Nakamura</b>	½-½	<b>Howell</b>

Round three featured the ultimate clash - world number one plays world number two, Vishy versus Magnus. Prior to the Classic they had faced each other nine times in 2010 with five of those being at longplay chess (the other shorter stuff doesn't really count to purists). Vishy led 3-2, with one win (in Bilbao, with Black, two months previous) and four draws. Linares 2009 was the last time Magnus had beaten Vishy in a longplay head-to-head so ideally he needed a win to emphasise to the chess public that he was not just a serial destroyer of lesser names, while Vishy's immediate problem was his position in the tournament. Two draws are only worth two points under the 3-1-0 system and McShane was already on 6. Plenty to play for, then.

The game started with a fairly standard Ruy Lopez but Vishy made a slip and Magnus emerged very well from the opening. But, just when Carlsen seemed poised to take advantage, he played 24... ♗e4, which he himself described as a "huge oversight". He still might have saved himself but committed a few more serious errors.

Vishy might have converted well before the time control but for some errors of his own. Eventually it came down to a position where Vishy could play on and on and torture Magnus for many moves without risk to himself. White's main advantage was his vastly superior king safety and his ability to target Black's weak pawns. Carlsen endured as Vishy's pieces circled and tormented his depleted forces but in the end he couldn't hold out.

Despite a few flaws, this was an excellent win for the great Indian player, particularly in the final phase, and a good way to celebrate his 41st birthday the following day. It was also a severe psychological blow for the young man with designs on his crown. On the evidence of this game, Magnus still has a little way to go before he could hope to beat the likes of Vishy in a match. In some ways it was reminiscent of the game Spassky won against Fischer at the 1970 Siegen Olympiad. But time is





*Vishy Anand versus Magnus Carlsen: "I was feeling like a wally allowing this to happen," said Vishy of his opening play but the sleeping tiger finally awoke from his slow start to defeat his young rival*

on Magnus's side and we have also to bear in mind what Fischer did to Spassky in 1972.

Here is the game with Vishy Anand's own comments, exclusively for *CHESS*.

## NOTES BY VISHY ANAND

Round 3

V.Anand - M.Carlsen

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 a6 4 ♗a4 ♜f6  
5 0-0 ♗e7 6 ♜e1 b5 7 ♗b3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9  
h3 ♘b8 10 d4 ♘bd7 11 ♘bd2 ♗b7 12  
♗c2 ♜e8 13 a4 ♗f8 14 ♗d3 c6



No surprise as we had reached this position three times already this year, at Bilbao, Kristiansund Rapid and Nanjing. All three games were drawn. At Bilbao I was winning but he was also better at some point. **15 b4 ♜c8** New, and I should have been more careful. **15...♘b6** is theory: three games of ours and Shirov-Carlsen from Bilbao. **16 axb5?!** Lack of concentration and a silly move anyway because ♜c8 is designed to prevent this. **16...cxb5 17 ♗b2 d5!**



Black now has a slight edge. **18 exd5** I was feeling like a wally allowing this to happen. I had a long think here as the position was critical and I saw all the way to 30 ♜d1. **18 dxe5 ♘xe5** (or **18...dxe4**) **19 ♘xe5 ♜xe5 20 ♜f3 ♜e8 21 e5 ♘e4** is fine for Black. I didn't like any of these lines. **18...exd4 19 ♜xe8 ♗xe8**



**20 c4** The only way to try and liquidate a little bit. Not **20 ♘d4 ♘xd5**, intending **♘e5** and **♘f4** with an awesome position. **20...bxc4 21 ♘xc4? 21 ♗xc4!** ♗xb4 **22 ♗xd4 a5 23 ♗b3 ♗d8** and I didn't see a defence to **♘c5** winning the d5 pawn, but

the computer finds **24 d6** which is equal. **21...♘xd5 22 ♘xd4 ♘xb4 23 ♘f5 ♘xd3**



**24 ♗xd3**

**24 ♘h6+ ♔h8 25 ♘d6** doesn't work: **25...♗xd6 26 ♗xg7+ ♔xg7 27 ♘f5+ ♔f8 28 ♘xd6 ♗e5** wins for Black. **24...♗e4?** The funny thing is he doesn't have an obvious way to equality after this. The one thing I can say is that, when played **20 c4**, I had seen all that follows: **24...♗e6 25 ♘cd6 ♗b8** (**25...♜c5** is the computer's choice, with a big edge for Black) **26 ♘xb7 ♗xb7 27 ♗xa6** (**27 ♗d4** and Black keeps his extra pawn with **27...♗b5**) and I had seen that **27...♘c5!** was winning. **25 ♗d4 ♗xf5 26 ♘d6**



**26...♗d8** I had foreseen **26...♗e6 27 ♘xc8 ♘c5 28 ♗a3 ♘b3 29 ♗d8 ♗xc8 30 ♜d1** when thinking about **20 c4** and Magnus had missed this specific move, so I had gone one ply further. I had used an hour to this point. **27 ♘xf5 ♜f6 27...♘f6 28 ♗xd8 ♗xd8 29 ♗xf6 gxf6 30 ♗xa6** followed by **31 g4** gives good winning chances. If **30...♗d5 31 ♗xf6** Black cannot play **31...♗g7** because of **32 ♘e7+**. If Black's rook had been on c8, this would have been a defence as he could have played **♜c8-c5** and **h7-h5** exchanging a pair of pawns. After **27...♘f6** White would probably win in the long run. Carlsen did not like this at all - Pein. **28 ♜d1 ♜c2 28...♜c7 29 ♗d5+ ♔h8 30 ♗f7 ♗c8 31 ♘h6 ♗c5 32 ♗e6!** Magnus saw this before me. **29 ♘h6+ gxf6 30 ♗g4+ ♗g7 31 ♗e6+ ♔h8 32 ♗xd7 ♗f8 33 ♗a3 33 ♗e7 ♗xb2 34 ♗e8 ♗b8** is a fortress; but **33 ♗f7! ♗c8 34 ♗e7 ♗xb2 35 ♗xg7 ♗c1+**



36 ♖h2 ♜f4+ and now 37 ♜g3! was the point I missed.



Analysis Diagram after 37 ♜g3

33...♜g8 34 ♜xa6 ♜e8 35 ♜a7 ♜g8  
36 ♙e7 36 ♙c5 is an improvement.  
36...♜c8 37 ♜a6 ♜e8 38 ♜a7 ♙g8  
39 ♜e6+ ♙h8 40 ♜a6 ♙g8



I felt I could torture him for a while and thought: "well, if Magnus had this position against me, he would play on for 170 moves." 41 ♜e6+ ♙h8 42 ♙h2 ♜c6  
43 ♜b3 ♜c8 44 ♙d6 ♜g6 45 ♜b7 ♜d8  
46 ♙g3 ♜g8 47 h4 ♜f5 48 ♜c7 ♜d5  
49 ♜a5 ♜e4 50 ♜d7 ♜c4 51 ♜f5 ♜c8  
52 ♜f3 ♜d7 53 ♙f4



He can't liquidate anything so I can just organise – I don't know the evaluation but it's just very unpleasant. Eventually I can re-route the bishop onto the long diagonal. 53...♜f7 54 g3 ♜e8 55 ♙e3  
♜g8 56 ♜a6 ♜e8 57 ♜a7 ♜e7 58 ♜a8+  
♜f8 59 ♜a6 ♜e8 60 ♜c6 ♜c8 61 ♜f3 ♜f7  
62 ♜a7 ♜e6 63 ♜b7 ♜g8 64 ♙f4 ♜d8  
65 ♜a6



There are various endgames to consider. The rook ending is a draw but he has to put his rook on c5 so I cannot play ♜e5 and then f4. After ♜e5 and f4 I can get my king to h5 and win. If he can play his pawn to h5 or his king to g6, he holds. So I did not head for this. The bishop ending is also drawn. Only the queen endgame is won. 65...♜e8 65...h5 66 ♙h6! ♙xh6 67 ♜xf6+ ♙g7 68 ♜xg7 ♜xg7 69 ♜xd8+ wins. 66 ♜c7 ♜a8 67 ♜c6 ♜e8 68 ♙e3 ♜b8 69 ♙d4 ♜f8 70 ♜c3 ♜e8 There was no defence. 71 ♜c6 ♜f7 72 ♙xf6 ♜f8 73 ♙xg7+ ♜xg7 74 ♙e3 ♜b2 75 ♙g2 ♜b7 76 ♜xh6 ♜f7 77 ♜c2 1-0



77...♜f3+ 78 ♙h2 and the two extra pawns will decide eventually.

If Vishy versus Magnus was gruelling, Luke McShane versus Vlad Kramnik was utter torture. Not only did Luke's efforts to breach Vlad's Berlin Wall prove futile, he spent much of the game in grave danger of being crushed under the weight of falling masonry. It came down to rook versus rook and bishop - the endgame dreaded by players, arbiters, chess journalists and everyone else with an aversion to dry-as-dust endgames that last six or seven hours. Finally, at 9.37pm, seven hours and 37 minutes after they started play, Vlad abandoned his winning attempts and stalemated his opponent - draw! The Russian later told us this was his longest game ever in terms of elapsed time.

David Howell once again showed his talent for brinkmanship, both on the



It's great to be a world champion - sometimes you have an assistant to make moves for you!

board and on the clock. He defended a Fianchetto Grünfeld Defence against Hikaru Nakamura, following a line played by Karpov and Kasparov in their nostalgic rematch in 2009. David had not expected the opening and ate up gigantic amounts of time on his clock trying to decide what to do around move 12, while Hikaru seemed to think he was playing an online bullet game. Only kidding - the real reason for his speed was that he had prepared the line in some depth. After 25 moves David only had five minutes or so left while Hikaru had only used some 12-15 minutes altogether. However, David came up with a very nice 'fortress' plan to save the day; his rook, knight and king huddled together for safety whilst simultaneously protecting a couple of key pawns and preventing Hikaru's king from entering the fray. Hikaru's queen prodded and poked, and his king huffed and puffed, but the American couldn't blow the Englishman's house down.

Mickey Adams and Nigel Short have long been rivals for the title of English number one. Nigel pinched it from Mickey a year or so but Mickey raised his game and pinched it back again. Their third round game was hard fought, with Nigel playing a g6 move in the Caro-Kann which has been played quite a lot by his fellow Greek residents Skembris and Nikolaidis (for those who didn't know, Nigel lives in Athens and occasionally likes to refer to himself as an "olive farmer"). Mickey played the very plausible 11 e6 to break up Black's structure and then start an attack rolling down the kingside. Some cagey shadow-boxing ensued. It was a tough game though not quite the grim struggle the other three games were. White had a long-lasting initiative but





Photo: John Saunders

Doctor Short faces the Tiger of Madras. He thought he had him snared but there was a hole in the net.

nothing came of it - draw agreed (slightly naughtily, without consulting an arbiter, but it was the deadest of dead draws).

adrift, so fell on his sword, allowing a mating finish to entertain the crowd.

Thus Luke remained the overnight leader going into round four and ensured that not one Englishman had lowered his colours in this toughest of tough rounds of chess. No wonder the delighted home fans went on their way chanting 'Engerland, Enger-land, Enger-land!' (well, not audibly, but you can bet they were thinking it).

**Round 4 (11 December)**

<b>Kramnik</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>Howell</b>
<b>Carlsen</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>Nakamura</b>
<b>Short</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>Anand</b>
<b>McShane</b>	<b>½-½</b>	<b>Adams</b>

World champion Vishy Anand celebrated his 41st birthday by defeating backmarker Nigel Short to join Luke McShane (who drew with Mickey Adams) in the lead. It wasn't quite such a good day for the English players as round three as David Howell also lost, to Vladimir Kramnik. The last game to finish was Carlsen-Nakamura, which Magnus won after five hours of play.

So the scores just beyond the halfway mark were: Vishy Anand, Luke McShane 8/12, Vladimir Kramnik 7, Magnus Carlsen 6, Hikaru Nakamura 5, Mickey Adams 5, David Howell 2, Nigel Short 1.

After emerging from some initial difficulties with his Closed Sicilian opening, Nigel Short seemed to be doing quite well around move 28, when Vishy Anand allowed him to open the g-file and land a rook on the seventh. He worked a knight around to assist in the attack but then had an aberration, sacrificing first a pawn and then a bishop to hack a way through to Vishy's king. But there was a flaw in his calculation - Vishy had the simple move 38...♖d6! which covered all the mating threats. He was left a piece

**Round 4  
N.Short - V.Anand**



White has slightly the worst of it here, so he reacts aggressively, trying to open up lines to the black king. 28 h5 gxh5?! 28...♖c6 or the same move after exchanging on e2 would be better moves for Black. 29 ♖e7! The mate threat gives White a glimmer of hope. 29...♗xe7 30 ♗xe7 ♖e6 31 ♗xa7 Prefacing the pawn capture with 31 ♖e1 may be a tad better since it forces the black knight to retreat to a passive square. 31...♗h8 32 ♖f2 ♖f6 33 ♖h3 h4 34 ♖f2 h6



Objectively the position is now approximately equal but White is still

focused on the black king and thinks he sees a tactic to (at least) draw. 35 ♖g5? ♖xg5! White is half-right: 35...hxg5 36 fxg5 forces 36...♗g7 37 ♖xh4+ ♖g8 38 g6 ♖f8 39 ♖e7 ♖e5 40 ♖f7+ ♖h8 41 ♖f4! when Black has to settle for perpetual check with 41...♖e1+ 42 ♖h2 ♖h4+ 43 ♖g1, etc. 36 fxg5 hxg5 37 ♖xg5? White could limp on a pawn down with something like 37 a4 but he is still set upon his tactic. 37...♖xg5 38 ♖e2



38...♖d6! The one and only move for Black, and quite conclusive. If 38...♖h6? 39 ♖e7! ♖g8 40 ♖e5+ ♖g7 41 ♗xg7 and White regains the piece with advantage. 39 ♖h5+ ♖h6 40 ♖f3 40 ♖f7 achieves nothing: Black simply counterattacks with 40...h3 and wins. 40...♖c8 41 ♖xf5 ♖c1+ 42 ♖h2 ♖d6+! White's last hope was 42...♖f4+? 43 ♖h3 and Black cannot avoid a perpetual check with the rook, while 43...♖h1+ 44 ♖g4 might even lose. 43 ♖h3 ♖g3 mate

Vladimir Kramnik built up a steady advantage from the opening (a Grünfeld) against David Howell and opened up the h-file for his rooks to infiltrate. It wasn't easy to make further progress and a liquidation occurred to what looked like a less dangerous position. However, Vlad established his rook on the seventh rank and his bishop on g4 and Black suddenly had difficulty protecting his king from their unwanted attentions. David tried a desperate b5 push and after a further inaccuracy found he couldn't prevent the advance of Vlad's d-pawn. Game over.

Luke McShane opened with the quiet 1 g3 and Mickey Adams gradually assumed the initiative. He established his queen and rook on the seventh rank but Luke had a tactical trick to swap the queens and relieve the pressure. Further exchanges were made and the game eventually came down to an opposite-coloured bishop - hence drawn.

Hikaru Nakamura answered Magnus Carlsen's English Opening with a sort of Dutch Defence, but the Norwegian emerged from the opening with a steady



"Great move, kid!" Magnus approved of his assistant's choice of first move and used it to defeat Hikaru Nakamura in fine style.

edge. One interesting juncture was when Magnus exchanged a bishop for a knight (23  $\text{♗d4}$  and 24  $\text{♙xb6}$ ). It looked as though Hikaru might be OK with his two bishops but Magnus's pressure told in time trouble when Hikaru didn't have time to work out the consequences of 33... $\text{♗d8!}$ ? which he thought might have been a better try. He missed the desperado sacrifice 38  $\text{♗xg6+}$  after which he was left a pawn down in an endgame. Magnus's technique was immaculate and he soon brought the game to an end.

#### Round 4

M.Carlsen - H.Nakamura

English Opening

1  $\text{c4}$  Magnus is now a confirmed 'anglophile' when it comes to his choice of opening for White... 1... $\text{f5}$  ... while Hikaru favours the Netherlands with Black. Of course it is not a true Dutch as White does not play  $\text{d4}$  at any stage. 2  $\text{g3}$  3  $\text{♗f6}$  3  $\text{♗g2}$  4  $\text{d6}$  4  $\text{♗c3}$  5  $\text{e3}$  6  $\text{♗g7}$  6  $\text{♗ge2}$  0-0 7 0-0 8  $\text{e5}$  8  $\text{b3}$  9  $\text{♗bd7}$  9  $\text{d3}$  10  $\text{♗a3}$  11  $\text{♗d2}$  12  $\text{♗e8}$  12  $\text{♗ae1}$  13  $\text{h3}$  14  $\text{e4}$



14  $\text{dxe4}$  14  $\text{d4}$  isn't really an option because of 14... $\text{♗d3}$  and the knight makes a nuisance of itself. 14... $\text{♗fxe4}$

15  $\text{♗c2}$  16  $\text{♗xc3}$  17  $\text{♗e6}$  18  $\text{♗d1}$  19  $\text{♗ad8}$  20  $\text{♗b2}$  21  $\text{♗f7}$  22  $\text{♗d2}$  23  $\text{a5}$  24  $\text{♗fd1}$  25  $\text{♗e5}$  26  $\text{♗e2}$



So far, a lot of cautious jockeying for position has ensued, but now Hikaru makes a committal move. 21... $\text{a4}$  22  $\text{b4}$  23  $\text{♗d7}$  24  $\text{♗d4}$  Note that the immediate capture of the a-pawn with 23... $\text{♗xa4}$  would be a very bad idea because of 23... $\text{♗b6!}$  24  $\text{♗b3}$  25  $\text{♗xc4}$  and White is actually losing material. However, the a-pawn remains a liability in the long term as it is awkward to defend. 23... $\text{♗b6}$  23... $\text{♗xd4}$  is not a good idea as Black would be giving up a key defender of the d6 pawn. 24  $\text{♗xb6!}$  25  $\text{♗b1}$  26  $\text{♗d4}$  27  $\text{♗c8}$  28  $\text{♗c1}$  29  $\text{♗e7}$



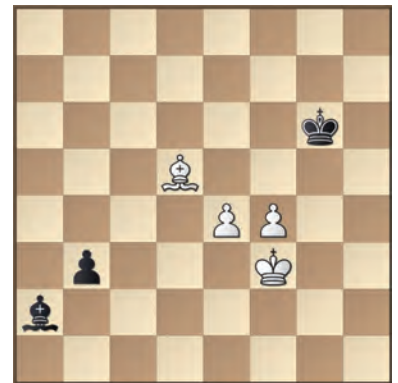
28  $\text{♗d3}$  The a-pawn is still indirectly defended: 28  $\text{♗xa4?}$   $\text{♗xg3!}$  is good for Black. 28... $\text{c5}$  29  $\text{bxc5}$  30  $\text{♗xc5}$  31  $\text{♗xa4}$  32  $\text{♗ec8}$  33  $\text{♗b1}$  34  $\text{♗xc4}$  35  $\text{♗d1!}$  White was quite brave to surrender bishop for knight on move 24 but his positional plan appears to be to target Black's loose pawns on b7 and d6. 32... $\text{b6}$  After this White takes a firm grip of the position. Perhaps 32... $\text{♗4c5!}$ ? was worth a try, e.g. 33  $\text{♗xb7}$  34  $\text{♗8c7}$  35  $\text{♗xc7}$  36  $\text{♗xc7}$  37  $\text{♗d2}$  38  $\text{♗c1+}$  39  $\text{♗h2}$  40  $\text{♗xd4}$  41  $\text{♗xd4}$  42  $\text{♗c2}$  43  $\text{♗b5}$  44  $\text{♗4c5}$  Hikaru was short of time. He looked at 33... $\text{♗d8}$  34  $\text{f4}$  35  $\text{♗f6}$  36  $\text{♗xd6}$  37  $\text{♗c3}$  38  $\text{♗xb6}$  39  $\text{♗c7}$  40  $\text{♗xc3}$  41  $\text{♗xc3}$  42  $\text{♗e2}$  43  $\text{♗d4!}$ ? but didn't have time to check all the implications. 34  $\text{♗xd6}$  35  $\text{♗xd6}$  36  $\text{♗xa2}$  37  $\text{♗a1}$  38  $\text{♗c1}$  39  $\text{♗xc1}$  40  $\text{♗xc1}$  41  $\text{♗xg6+}$



A desperado move to secure the extra pawn. 38... $\text{hxg6}$  39  $\text{♗xc1}$  40  $\text{♗d6}$  41  $\text{h4}$  42  $\text{♗f7}$  43  $\text{♗xf5}$  is worse. 42  $\text{hxg6+}$  43  $\text{♗xg6}$  44  $\text{♗c2}$  45  $\text{g4}$  46  $\text{♗e5}$  47... $\text{♗e6?}$  48  $\text{gxf5+}$  49  $\text{♗xf5}$  50  $\text{e4!}$  wins a piece, but 44... $\text{b4!}$ ? seems worth a try since it is quite hard for White to restrain the b-pawn and Black's f-pawn is lost anyway. 45  $\text{gxf5+}$  46  $\text{♗g7}$  47... $\text{♗f6}$  48  $\text{♗c6+!}$  49  $\text{♗xf5?}$  50  $\text{♗h3+}$  51  $\text{♗g5}$  52  $\text{f4+}$  wins the queen. 46  $\text{♗e4}$  47  $\text{♗d6}$



The exchange of queens leads to a win for White as we shall see shortly. 47  $\text{♗h4}$  48  $\text{♗c4}$  49  $\text{♗f3}$  50  $\text{♗f6}$  51  $\text{♗xf6+}$  52  $\text{♗xf6}$  53  $\text{♗e4}$  54  $\text{♗a2}$  55... $\text{b4}$  56  $\text{f4}$  57  $\text{b3}$  58  $\text{♗f2}$  59  $\text{b2}$  60  $\text{♗b1}$  wins. 51  $\text{f4}$  52  $\text{♗f2}$  53  $\text{♗d5}$  54  $\text{♗xf5}$  55  $\text{♗f3}$  56  $\text{♗f6}$  57  $\text{e4}$  58  $\text{♗g6}$



56  $\text{♗e3}$  It's now a straightforward technical win though those of us less skilled at the game could easily mess it up. For example, 56  $\text{♗g4?}$  57  $\text{♗b1!}$  is a draw. 56... $\text{♗h5}$  57  $\text{♗d4}$  58  $\text{♗g4}$  59  $\text{f5}$  60  $\text{♗g5}$  61  $\text{♗e5}$  1-0





Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

The Adams-Kramnik game shortly before the Berlin Wall went up.

**Round 5 (12 December)**

<b>Adams</b>	1/2-1/2	<b>Kramnik</b>
<b>Anand</b>	1/2-1/2	<b>McShane</b>
<b>Nakamura</b>	1-0	<b>Short</b>
<b>Howell</b>	0-1	<b>Carlsen</b>

This round was an unofficial 'England versus the World' match as well as a critical juncture in the tournament as the joint leaders Vishy Anand and Luke McShane clashed. By the end of the round the number of leaders had swelled to three, as Magnus Carlsen took advantage of the 'football scoring system' to join Vishy and Luke at the head of the field.

The first game to finish was Anand-McShane, which ended in a draw. Luke seemed to be under some pressure from the opening and Vishy retained an edge for most of the game, but he was never able to amplify his edge. He tried a pawn sacrifice to activate his queen but it was only enough for a repetition of position.

Nigel Short had another off-day. In a spirit of recklessness born of desperation, he tried a sacrificial sideline of the Marshall Attack (9...e4) for which Hikaru Nakamura was barely prepared but was able to find a stable continuation based on 11 g3 which suggests that this line may not be feasible at super-GM level. Short's position after 20 ♖f5 looked hopeless and so it proved. Nigel was his usual ebullient self in the commentary room and even treated us to a short burst of song at the end.

*Round 5*

**H.Nakamura - N.Short**

*Ruy Lopez, Marshall Attack*

**1 e4 e5 2 ♠f3 ♝c6 3 ♜b5 a6 4 ♜a4 ♜f6 5 0-0 ♜e7 6 ♜e1 b5 7 ♜b3 0-0 8 c3 d5**  
The Marshall. Nigel has played this a handful of times over the years but

Hikaru was probably not expecting it. **9 exd5 e4!?**



The Steiner variation. It may be that, after GMs have analysed this game thoroughly, that the exclamation and question marks shown here swap places. "This is the sort of recklessness that happens when you've got 1/2/4" (Short). "I had an idea Nigel would play something a little bit crazy" (Nakamura). Nigel pointed out that Malcolm Pein plays this line and jokingly suggested that he played it in his honour. **10 dxc6 exf3 11 g3** This logical continuation, simply aiming at emerging from the opening with an extra pawn, was more or less improvised by Hikaru at the board. It has been played before but barely mentioned in books on this line. "The book recommendation is 11 d4 – maybe there will be a new book recommendation after this game" (Short); 11 ♖xf3 is another way to play and one chosen by Bobby Fischer a couple of times. **11...♜e8 12 d4** Black's innocuous-looking last move actually carried a payload of venom. If 12 ♖xf3? ♜c5! and White is suddenly vulnerable to tricks against his rook and back rank, e.g. 13 ♜f1 ♜g4! 14 ♖g2 ♖c8, etc. **12...♜g4 13 ♜g5 h6 13...♖d6 14**

**♖d3 h6 15 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 16 ♜d2 ♖xc6 17 ♖g6!?** ♜e6 18 ♖h5 rounds up the f3 pawn and ensures White keeps his one-pawn advantage. **14 ♜xf6 ♜xf6**



White's decision to give up his dark-squared bishop wasn't too problematic as the residual black dark-squared bishop doesn't have much of a future against White's preponderance of pawns on black squares. **15 ♜d2 ♖d6 16 h3! ♜h5 16...♜xe1+ 17 ♖xe1 ♜xh3 18 ♖e4** and White will soon be a pawn up once again, with an enhanced positional advantage. **17 ♖c2!** With the threat of ♖f5, embarrassing the h5 bishop. **17...♜g5 18 ♜e4 ♖xc6** If 18...♖g6 White can step up the pressure with 19 ♖d3 and then 11 ♜c2, while Black has only succeeded in bottling up his own pieces on the kingside. **19 ♜xg5 hxg5 20 ♖f5**



Nigel told us that, paradoxically, he still had some belief in his position while he was a pawn down, but now the material was level, he completely despaired of it. **20...♖xe1+ 20...♖g6 21 ♖xg6 ♜xg6 22 ♜d5** wins the f3 pawn, leading to a comfortable technical win. **21 ♜xe1 ♜e8 22 ♜e5** Not 22 ♜xe8+? ♖xe8 when the back rank threat would necessitate 23 ♖e5 ♖xe5 24 dxe5 and White has endangered his winning chances. **22...♖xe5 23 dxe5 ♜g6** Once again 23...♖g6 allows 24 ♖xg6 ♜xg6 25 ♜d5 and the f3 pawn drops off. **24 ♖xg5 ♖e4 25 ♖d8+ ♜h7 26 ♖h4+ ♖xh4 27 gxh4**



27...f6 Annoyingly for Black, the doubled h-pawns almost help White's cause. If he tries to defend his f-pawn with 27...h5 the white king can now march out to attack it via h2 and g3 and then play ♔d1 to win it. 28 exf6 gxf6 29 ♔d5 a5 30 b4 axb4 31 cxb4 ♔d3 32 ♖h2 ♔c4



33 ♔e4+ 33 ♔xc4?? we can discount; 33 ♔xf3? is also sub-optimal as after 33...♔xa2 Black might have a few tricks based on driving the b-pawn through (on a very good day, anyway). 33...♔h6 34 a3 1-0



Black is right to quit at this point: 34...♔e6 35 ♔f3 ♖g6 36 ♖g3 f5 37 ♖f4 ♔d7 38 h5+ ♖f6 39 ♔e2 ♔c6 40 ♔d3 ♔d7 41 h6 is hopeless. At the end of the session in the commentary room, Nigel concluded with a short snatch of song with the first line "What do you get when you sac a pawn?" to the tune of the 1960s hit *I'll Never Fall in Love Again* by Bobbie Gentry. You can hear it for



Howell-Carlsen: Magnus studies the position on the big screen (as Vlad does on the opposite page)

yourself on video 5.3 at the tournament website. Nigel graciously attributed the libretto to former British champion and joker extraordinaire GM Jonathan Mestel.

Mickey Adams confronted Vlad Kramnik's celebrated Berlin Wall with 4 d3, which the great Russian said he thought of as the "second main line" against his trademark barricade. After some exchanges, the players reached a position with a small edge for White but one which proved readily defensible by Black. After some further exchanges a draw was agreed.

David Howell, like his senior English colleague, found the cruel truth of the biblical quotation "he that has not, from him shall be taken even that which he has". There is always a tendency to gang up on players who are not doing too well in a tournament. Of course, the fact that he was paired with Magnus Carlsen didn't help. Even so, David was alive and only suffering from a slight disadvantage at the time control. However, he went astray almost immediately with 42 g5 and then the disastrous 43 ♖g3 which cost him a piece.



Black has achieved a fairly easy equality out of the opening but, against an opponent rated 200 points lower, Carlsen wants to win. 20 ♔b6 ♖xc4 21 ♖xc4 ♖c8 22 ♖c2 ♖xc4 23 ♖xc4 ♖e8 24 a4 ♖a8 25 f4 White tries to stay active and think in terms of aggression but the long-term effect might be to weaken his position slightly. 25...h6 26 ♔f2 ♔h4 27 ♔e3 If 27 ♔xh4 ♔xh4 28 ♔h1 then 28...d5!? becomes a possibility, e.g. 29 exd5? ♔xd5 30 ♔xd5 exd5 31 ♖d3 d4 32 ♖g3 g5! and all the tactics favour Black. 27...♔f6 28 ♖d3 ♔c6 29 ♔g3 ♔e7 30 ♔h5 ♔f8 31 ♔f2 ♖b7 32 ♖c4 ♔e7 33 ♖d3 d5



With seven moves to the time control and

#### Round 5

#### D.Howell - M.Carlsen

#### Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♔f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♔xd4 ♔f6 5 ♔c3 a6 6 h3 White takes the game off the beaten track. 6...e6 7 g4 ♔e7 8 ♔g2 ♔fd7 9 ♔e3 ♔c6 10 ♖d2 0-0 10...♔de5 11 b3 ♔xd4 12 ♔xd4 was played in Dominguez-Topalov, Sofia 2009, and eventually drawn. 11 0-0 ♔de5 12 b3 ♔xd4 13 ♔xd4 ♔g6 14 ♔e3 ♖c7 15 ♔e2 b5 16 c4 bxc4 17 ♖ac1 ♔b7 18 ♖xc4 ♖d7 19 ♖fc1 ♖ac8





Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

This third win for Magnus Carlsen catapulted him into the joint lead with Vishy Anand and Luke McShane; technically he was the leader on tie-break because he has had more Blacks (and more wins) than his rivals. Asked whether he liked the 'football scoring system', Magnus smiled and answered "Now I certainly do!"

**Round 6 (14 December)**

<b>Kramnik</b>	1/2-1/2	<b>Carlsen</b>
<b>Short</b>	1/2-1/2	<b>Howell</b>
<b>McShane</b>	1/2-1/2	<b>Nakamura</b>
<b>Adams</b>	1/2-1/2	<b>Anand</b>

The sixth and penultimate round at Olympiad consisted of four draws out of four, so the leader board didn't change. All four games were hard fought, as usual, and winning chances came and went on various boards. In some ways it was the ideal result as it left a tantalising final round with five players still having a realistic chance of €50,000 first prize. Scores after round six: Magnus Carlsen, Vishy Anand, Luke McShane 10, Hikaru Nakamura, Vladimir Kramnik 9, Mickey Adams 7, David Howell 3, Nigel Short 2.

The first game to finish was the all-English battle between Nigel Short and David Howell. Nigel treated us to some 19th century romanticism - a King's Gambit. David chose a 1870s continuation by Blackburne (7...g7) rather than the older 7...d6, as played by Staunton amongst others. In the spirit of the opening, the players disdained to defend pawns and attacked hard but eventually the pieces came off and a level position appeared on the board.

Adams-Anand was a cagey struggle. Mickey perhaps had slightly more targets to aim at but he couldn't make significant progress. It lasted 54 moves but always seemed likely to be a draw.

Luke McShane had a great battle with Hikaru Nakamura. Luke repeated his 1 g3 experiment of the fourth round. It transposed into the English Four Knights variation. Luke might have improved with ♖a4 around move 18 and it did get mightily complex in the lead up to the move 40 time control, with both players short of time.

Hikaru could probably have improved his play and was close to winning but Luke was allowed to get his queen near the black king, setting up some perpetual check opportunities. Hikaru found a way to win material but Luke's queen rescued the draw on her own.

Luke McShane was in trouble against Nakamura but some deft moves of his queen secured a draw.

his opponent short of time, Carlsen ratchets up the complexity a tad. 34 e5 34 exd5 ♗xd5 35 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 leaves White's position a little too open for safety. 34...d4 A hint of impatience, perhaps. Carlsen sets a minor trap. 35 ♗f1! 35 ♗xc6 ♗xc6 36 ♗g3 ♗b4!? 37 ♗xd4 ♖f3 38 ♖e3 ♗d1+ 39 ♗h2 ♗d3 and Black will regain his pawn and perhaps win a second one. 35...♗d5 36 ♖xa6 ♖xb3 37 ♗d3 ♖xa4 38 ♖xd4 ♖a8 39 ♖a7 ♖c8 40 ♖c5 Time control reached. 40...♗c6 41 ♖c3 ♖a8



44 ♗f6+ Desperation. White could do nothing to defend his knight on h5. If 44 ♖h4 ♗c4 45 ♗g3 Black plays 45...♗d4! and all the tactics work for Black. For example, 46 ♗xd4 ♖xd4+ 47 ♗h1 ♗d5+ 48 ♗g2 ♗c5 49 ♗e2 ♗d1+ and wins. 44...gxf6 45 gxf6+ ♗h8 46 ♗d3 ♖xd3 47 ♗xd3 ♗b4 48 ♗b1 ♗a2 49 ♗e4 ♗d5 50 f5 ♗f4 51 ♗h2 exf5 52 ♗xf5 ♗e6 53 ♗g4 ♗xg4 54 hxg4 ♗e6 55 ♗g3 ♗c5 0-1



Black has the safer king and other small advantages but it doesn't add up to much. 42 g5? David prefers to seek counterplay but he should have been content to sit and suffer as this has a tactical flaw. 42...♖a4! Black's immediate threat is now ♖e4 and ♖h1 mate. White could defend with ♗g3 but that would cost him his f-pawn and his position would collapse. 43 ♖g3? This loses a piece. White's best might have been 43 ♖e3 when 43...♗d1 44 ♖e2 ♖xe2 45 ♗xe2 hxg5 46 fxg5 ♗xe5 would probably win for Black. 43...♖d1!



The unofficial 'England versus the World' thus ended 3-1 in favour of the World.



Photo: John Saunders

Round 6

L. McShane - H. Nakamura

English Opening

1 g3 e5 2 c4 d6 3 g2 d5 4 cxd5  
 dxd5 5 d3 c3 d6 6 d3 c6 7 0-0 e7  
 8 a3 0-0 9 b4 e8 10 d3 f8 11 b2 a5  
 12 b5 d4 13 d2 c6 14 bxc6 dxc6



15 d4!? 15 d5, 15 b1 and some other moves have been played here before but this is new. 15...e6 15...dxc4 16 dxc4 leaves White with an isolated c-pawn but gives him firm control of the d5 square by way of compensation. 16 dxb6 bxb6 17 b1 a6 18 c1 ac8



19 e1? 19 a4 is better, preventing Black's b-pawn advance and keeping it as a target along the file and long diagonal. After the text, the advantage passes over to Black. 19...b6 20 d2 If 20 a4 now, Black has simply 20...d4

fxe3 e3 brings only a minimal edge for Black. 25 d4 exd4 26 c1 c8 27 xc5 xc5 28 a1 c8 29 h4 c3 30 b7 c7 31 e4 f5 32 f3 b3 33 f1 f8



The a4 pawn looks vulnerable but if 33...b4 34 b1 and White will get the b6 pawn in exchange if Black captures on a4. 34 e3?! A high risk move in mutual time trouble. 34...xd3+ 34...dxe3 turns out to be better: 35 a3+ b4 36 b4+ axb4 37 e3 c1+ 38 e1 xe1+ 39 xe1 xa4 and Black is a clear pawn up, though there is still chess left in the position. 35 g2 c3 36 a3+ e8 36...b4 37 b4+ axb4 38 b1 c3 39 exd4 e7 might have been worth a try, though it is not clear how Black untangles his pieces in order to make progress. 37 d6 White had about a minute left for four moves here, while Black had about three. 37 exd4+!? xe1 38 b3 also looks quite good. White's king is safe but it seems unlikely that Black's king can escape a barrage of checks. 37...d7 38 e5+ e7 39 b5+ f8 40 xf5+ f7 41 e5 41 g5?!, threatening mate in one with d8, is tempting but Black replies as in the game and could be winning; some analysis engines plump for 41 b1 but human players would be worried by 41...xf3 42 f3 d5+ 43 f4 d3 when it would be easy to overlook various threats to the exposed white king.

with a pleasant game. 20...ed8 20...xa3?? 21 xc6 xc6 22 a4 forks two pieces. 21 a4 d4 22 b5 c5 Another possibility is 22...b4!? when 23 xb4 axb4 is quite promising since 24 xb4? loses to 24...c2 forking the rooks. 23 d4 d4 d4 24 e3 c5 24...xe3 25



41...xf3 The immediate 41...xe1? would be much too dangerous with a 'live' white bishop on the board, e.g. 42 b8+ e7 43 c7+ f6 44 d6+ e6 45 d5 e7 46 f4+ f5 47 g4, etc. 42 xf3 xe1 43 b8+ e7 44 c7+ f6 45 d8+ 45 b6+?! e6 46 xd4+ f7 leaves a few winning chances for Black. 45...f7 46 d7+ f8 47 d8+ f7 48 c7+ f6 49 d8+ f7 50 c7+ 1/2-1/2

Magnus was slightly worse after Kramnik played quietly against his provocative opening choice and secured a strong light-squared bishop and knight versus two knights. There followed a typical Kramnik grind. Carlsen's defensive task seemed hopeless as Vlad's central pawns trundled down the board. The Russian eventually won a piece for a pawn but the reduced material gave Magnus a glimmer of hope.

The win proved elusive: Vlad could probably have won after 62 d3 and may also have missed a difficult computer-inspired variation based on 69 g5! and 70 g3, and the game was drawn. A remarkable escape for the young man from Norway and a tribute to his resourcefulness in an utterly depressing position.

Round 6

V. Kramnik - M. Carlsen

QGD Chigorin Defence

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 The Chigorin Defence. An unusual choice at super-GM level, though Morozevich is a regular user and Ivanchuk and Short occasional dabblers. 3 f3 g4 4 c3 e6 5 f4 Kramnik preferred 5 cxd5 exd5 6 f4 against Nigel Short at the 2008 Dresden Olympiad and went on to win. 5...d6 6 g3 f6 6...g3 7 hxg3 would open up the h-file and make kingside castling problematic for Black. 7 e3 0-0 8 a3 d7 9 b3 b6 10 e5 c5 11 xg4 xg4 12 d1 xg3 13 hxg3 f6 14 cxd5 exd5 15 e2 d6 16 c2 h6 17 0-0 So far, quite a successful opening experiment for Black as White has responded quietly. But things now take a





Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

Another good choice - 1 d4 for Vlad Kramnik, by British Girls' Under-10 champion, Imogen Turvey-Cross. Vlad had less to smile about by the conclusion, having missed a clear chance against Magnus.

turn for the worse. 17...c4?! "Never poke a sleeping bear with a stick". I've no idea if that is a Russian proverb but, if it isn't, it should be (the Hogwart's motto 'draco dormiens nunquam titillandus' means something very similar, of course). Kramnik has been comatose to this point but after this naive thrust he springs into immediate action. 18 b3! ♖xa3 18...cxb3 19 ♖xb3 promises White a small but persistent edge. Not the sort of thing you want against the likes of Kramnik, but even so, perhaps preferable to the text. 19 bxc4 dxc4 20 ♙f3 20 ♙xc4 ♖d6 21 ♖a1 is also quite good for White but Kramnik wants his bishop where it controls the board. 20...♖ab8 21 ♖a1 ♖d6 22 ♗b5 ♖d7 23 ♖xc4



Club players might be worried about gifting their opponent two connected passed pawns but Kramnik has the confidence to know (and the technique to ensure) that those pawns are going nowhere. 23...a5 24 e4 ♙fc8 25 ♗e2 ♖c6 26 ♖ab1 ♖d8 27 ♙fd1 ♖dc8 28 d5 ♖c2 Allowing a rook onto the seventh rank would also worry those of us who cling to our book-learned 'basic principles'. Super-GMs prefer to rely on concrete analysis and Kramnik has judged

correctly that this inroad into his position doesn't lead anywhere and that he can simply continue with his plan of pressuring the queenside and seeking the opportunity to push his central pawns forward. 29 ♖e3 ♖2c5 29...♖8c5 30 ♗d4 ♖2c3 31 ♖f4 and Black has no adequate defence for his b-pawn. 30 ♗d4 ♖e8 31 ♖d3 ♖d6 32 ♖a6 ♖b8 33 ♗b3 ♖c2



34 ♗d4 Analysis engines suggest 34 ♗xa5!? but this looks far too messy: 34...♖c5 35 ♖f1 ♖a2 36 ♖b5 ♖c7 and White is still some way from resolving the pin along the a-file. 34...♖c5 35 ♗b3 ♖c2 36 ♖d3 ♖cc8 37 ♗d2 ♗g6 38 ♙e2 ♖c5 39 ♖b5 ♖c3 40 f4 a4 Carlsen tries to stay positive. Remarkably this pawn survives to the very end of the game. 41 e5 ♗d7 42 ♖xc3 ♖xc3 43 ♗e4 ♖c7 44 ♖a1 ♖a7 45 d6 Material is still equal but White's dynamic central pawns give him a big advantage against Black's two static targets on the queenside. 45 ♖a3 looks a very good alternative here, planning to play ♗c3 and eliminate the a4 pawn. Instead Kramnik goes for the b-pawn. 45...♗gf8 46 ♗c3 ♗c5 47 ♗d5 ♖a5 48 ♖xb6 ♖xb6 49 ♗xb6 ♗fe6 50 ♙c4 ♗f8 51 f5 ♗d8 52 ♖f1 ♗cb7 53 ♖e1 Another plan here is 53 ♖d1 ♗c5 54 ♖d5 which looks close to terminal. 53...a3



54 e6? Surprising – the world's most patient chessplayer suddenly gets impulsive. The pawn advance can wait – 54 ♙a2 first looks better: 54...♗c6 55 ♖c1 ♗cd8 56 ♖c3 ♗e8 57 d7+ ♗f8 58 ♖e3 ♗e7 59 e6 fxe6 60 fxe6 ♗c6 61 ♖f3 wins. 54...fxe6 55 fxe6 ♗xd6 56 e7+ ♗e8 57 exd8♖+ ♗xd8 58 ♖d1 ♗c7 59 ♙a2



White has won a piece but the shortage of pawns makes the win slightly problematic. 59...♖g5!? 59...♖c5 is better but loses eventually after 60 ♗d5+ ♗c6 61 ♗c3. Carlsen heads for a position with practical chances. 60 ♗d5+ ♗c6 61 ♗c3 61 ♖d3!? ♗e4 (61...♗b5 62 ♗b4+ ♗c5 63 ♗c2 also wins) 62 ♖xa3 ♗xg3 63 ♗e3 also looks a solid way to win. 61...♖c5 61...♖xg3?? 62 ♖xd6+ followed by ♗e4+ and ♗xg3. 62 ♖xd6+?! 62 ♖d3! would probably have been answered by Carlsen's resignation. 62...♗xd6 63 ♗e4+ ♗c6 64 ♗xc5 ♗xc5 65 ♗f2 ♗d4

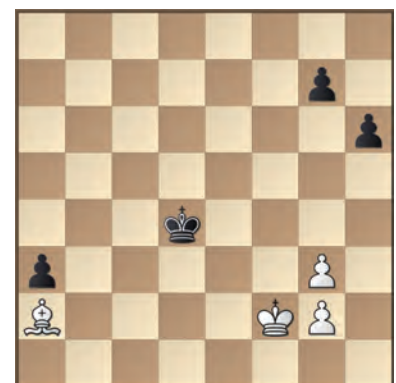






Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

Chess god at Olympia: Garry Kasparov arrives to watch the final round, accompanied by tournament director Malcolm Pein.

66 ♖f3 Garry Kasparov, watching from Warsaw Airport, called Malcolm Pein on arrival at Heathrow. He proposed 66 ♖e2 ♗c3 67 ♗e3 ♗c2 68 ♙f7 ♗c3 69 g4 ♗c2 70 ♗d4 ♗d2 71 ♙b3! ♗e2 72 ♗c3 ♗f2 73 ♙d5 which wins, for example 73...g6 74 g5 h5. 66...♗d3 Kramnik thought for about ten minutes, perhaps realising that the win was more difficult than he had thought. 67 g4 ♗d2 68 ♙e6



68...♗d3 69 ♗g3? 69 g5! on this (or the previous) move wins, e.g. 69...hxg5 and now the very important 70 g3! ♗d4 71 ♗g4 ♗e5 72 ♙a2 ♗e4 73 ♗xg5 ♗f3 and now 74 ♗h4! is the killer, e.g. 74...g5+ 75 ♗h3 ♗e3 76 ♗g4 ♗f2 77 ♙d5! and wins. 69...♗e3 70 ♗h4 ♗f2 71 ♙d5 g6! 72 ♗h3 g5 White's king is now boxed in and his winning chances have evaporated. 73 ♗h2 ♗f1 74 ♙e6 ♗f2 75 ♙c4 ♗e3 76 ♗g3 ♗d4 77 ♙e6 ♗e3 78 ♗h2 ♗f2 79 ♙c4 ♗e3 80 ♗g1 ♗f4 81 ♙e6 81 ♗f2 ♗xg4 82 g3 ♗f5 83 ♗f3 g4+ is also drawn. 81...♗e5 82 ♙b3 ♗f4 83 ♙e6 ♗e5 84 ♙b3 ♗f4 85 ♙e6 1/2-1/2

Round 7 (15 December)

Anand	1/2-1/2	Kramnik
Nakamura	1/2-1/2	Adams
Howell	1/2-1/2	McShane
Carlsen	1-0	Short

Magnus Carlsen clinched first place and

the €50,000 first prize in the 2010 London Chess Classic at Olympia on Wednesday with a consummate positional win against England's Nigel Short. His fourth win meant that he also took home four times €1,500 in win bonuses. His was the second game to finish but the tie-break ensured that Magnus would take first regardless of other results. Vishy Anand and Vlad

Kramnik drew their game. These two results saw Magnus Carlsen reclaim his place at the top of the official rating list in January 2011. His mentor Garry Kasparov was present at the venue to comment on the games of the final round and see his protégé win the tournament for the second successive year.

The first game to finish was the pairing of the current world champion Vishy Anand and his great predecessor Vlad Kramnik. Vlad's own great predecessor Garry Kasparov was present in the building to see how his successors fared. Garry witnessed a Berlin Defence, which was his own nemesis in London in 2000. Vishy too was unable to overcome it. Vlad played 10...h5 in a position where he had previously played 10...♙e7 or 10...b6. Vishy carried a token edge into the middlegame but it came down to an opposite-coloured bishop endgame where his extra pawn was of no consequence.

Nigel Short faced leader Magnus Carlsen with the black pieces and his plan seemed to be to play the French defence and swap off some material to try and stop the rampant Norwegian in his tracks. Unfortunately, exchanges did not relieve the pressure as Magnus restrained Nigel's queenside development and occupied strong points. Magnus gave up the two bishops to round up Nigel's a-pawn and it soon subsided into a straightforward technical win as Nigel's various tricks were defused. In the VIP room Garry Kasparov correctly predicted Magnus's plan of 27 ♖b5 and 28 a5 and then said "this is a technical win - let's look at another game!"

Round 7

M.Carlsen - N.Short

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗d2 dxe4 4 ♗xe4

♗d7 5 ♗f3 ♙e7 "I was surprised by this. Usually they play 5...♗g6. I had to stop myself playing ♗f6+!" (Carlsen) 6 ♙c4 ♗g6 7 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 8 0-0 0-0 9 ♗e5 c5 10 dxc5 ♖xd1? 10...♖c7 11 ♖e2 ♙xc5 is a normal position in this line. 11 ♖xd1 ♙xc5 12 ♙e2



Too obvious to deserve an exclamation mark. The bishop prepares to go to f3 and paralyse the queenside. 12...♗e4 12...b6 13 ♙f3 ♖b8 14 ♗c6 ♖b7 15 b4 ♙e7 16 ♙f4 and only the awful 16...♗e8 avoids immediate material loss. 13 ♗d3 ♙e7 14 ♙e3 h6? 14...b6! 15 ♗e5 or 15 a4 would restrict White's advantage. 15 a4 a5?! 15...♖d8 16 a5 a6 17 ♙b6 would also be weakening. 15...♗d6 may be slightly better. 16 g3 ♖d8 17 ♗e5 ♗f6 18 ♗c4 ♖xd1+ 18...♗d5 19 ♗b6 ♗xb6 20 ♙xb6 ♖d7 21 ♙b5 ♖xd1+ 22 ♖xd1 leaves White with a dominating position. 19 ♖xd1 ♗d5 20 ♗b6 Effectively winning the game despite material being equal. 20...♗xe3 21 fxe3 ♖b8 22 ♗f2 e5 Losing a pawn but what else? 23 ♖d5 ♙e6 24 ♖xa5 ♖d8 25 ♙d3 ♙f6 25...e4 26 ♙xe4 ♖d2+ 27 ♗f3 g5 28 ♙f5 wins. 26 e4 ♖d4



At this point, Garry Kasparov in the VIP room correctly predicted Magnus Carlsen's next two moves, pronounced Black technically dead and urged the commentators to look at a different game. 27 ♖b5 g6 28 a5 ♗g7 29 ♗e2 ♙g4+ 30 ♗f2 ♙e6 31 ♗f3 h5 32 ♗d5 ♙d8 33 b4 ♙c8 34 ♗e2 ♙g4+ 35 ♗e1 f5 35...♙c8 36 a6! bxa6 37 ♖b8 wins material. 36 ♖xb7+ ♗h6 37 ♗e3 ♙f3 38 a6 fxe4 39 ♙e2 ♙g5 40 a7 1-0





Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

**Home and dry: Magnus Carlsen relaxes in the commentary room with Lawrence Trent and Stephen Gordon (right) after his final round victory over Nigel Short secured him the top prize.**

David Howell and Luke McShane are the heirs apparent of English chess and they played a full-blooded Sicilian Dragon. The game followed theory until Luke's 17...e6 (17...e5 has been played before). David seemed to have much the best of it of the early part of the game and it appeared his attack was crashing through when he played 33 e5d5. But next move he hesitated and demurred to play 34 e5h7+ g8 when White has the improbable 35 f7!! and all the tactics seem to work. Luke then missed his defence and David once more had the chance to win had he played 38 e5h7+ and 39 e5he7 which surely wins. Instead the game was drawn by repetition. A watching Garry Kasparov made a wicked observation: "Is Howell a member of Amnesty International?" So the game was drawn and Luke McShane had improbably remained unbeaten in the tournament.

**Round 7**

**D.Howell - L.McShane**

*Sicilian Dragon*

1 e4 c5 2 f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 dxd4 f6 5 c3 g6 6 e3 g7 7 f3 0-0 8 d2 c6 9 0-0-0 d5 10 exd5 dxd5 11 dxc6 bxc6 12 d4 dxd4 12...e5 13 e5 e6 14 e4 e8 15 h4 is a sharp line which has had more outings than the text. 13 d4 b6 14 a4 a5 14...d4 is not so good as it concedes the c5 square to White's knight, which will then control several squares where Black would like to locate his knight; Magnus Carlsen experimented with 14...c7 in 2009 and it has subsequently been taken up by other players, with variable results. 15 b3 c7 Having provoked the weakening b3 move, Black is content to retreat. 15...f5 has

been tried here when, after 16 g4 e6 17 e5 b4 18 c4 f6, White could press ahead with 19 h4. 16 h4 f5 16...h5 has been played in a couple of GM games, with respectable results. McShane prefers to be provocative. 17 g4



17...e6 The intermezzo move 17...e5 was played in the game Blehm-Charbonneau, USA 2006, which ended in



Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

**David Howell very nearly spoiled Luke**

a draw. 18 c5 ad8 19 c4 This developing move is preferable to giving

up the well-placed knight for Black's less favoured bishop. 19...c8 20 h5 White has secured an edge from the opening. 20...e5 21 f2 21 d2!? f4 22 e3 also seems to maintain strong pressure against Black's position, e.g. 22...e1+ 23 e1d1 gxh5 24 d3!? d3+ 25 e3d3 and the black kingside is vulnerable. 21...e7 22 e4 g5 It would take a strong nerve to try 22...f5!? here, though that is one silicon-assisted suggestion. McShane decides he has no option but to block the kingside lines against his king. 23 h6 h8 24 c5!?



Now Black has blocked the kingside, Howell decides to prosecute his plan without the queens. 24...xc5 25 dxc5 f5 26 gxf5 e5f5 27 e1e1 e5xf3 28 e5e5 g4 29 e4 White could gain a pawn here with 29 e5d5 cxd5 30 e5d5 d5f8 31 e7 e3 32 e7a7 e5h6 but the advanced black g-pawn, assisted by menacing rooks, might prove a handful, particularly since both players were running short of time. 29...d5f8 30 e5d5 cxd5 31 d5g5 e3f6 32 e7 Indirectly defending the h6 pawn. 32...e6g6? 32...e5h6? 33 f7+ wins material; 32...e5f5 is a more accurate defence. 33 e5d5 g3



34 f7? In time trouble White misses 34 e5h7+! g8 35 f7!! and White wins, e.g. 35...e5f7 (35...e5g5? 36 e5f8+ is a killing intermezzo; 35...e5h6 is the best of a bad job: 36 e5f8+ e5xf8 37 e5d8+ g7 38 e5xc8 g2 39 f3 e6 40 e4 e5f3 41 e5g4+ and White will be two pawns up in the endgame) 36 e5d8+ e5f8 37 h7+ g7 38 e5f8 and wins. 34...e8 35 e5e5?! 35

♖xh7+ ♔g8 36 ♖e7! ♖f8 37 h7+ ♔h8 38  
 ♖f7! transposes to the line above.  
 35...♖d8 36 ♖d5? 36 ♖xh7+ ♔g8 37  
 ♖he7 ♖xh6 38 ♖e8+ ♖xe8 39 ♖xe8+ ♔g7  
 40 ♖xc8 g2 41 ♖f3 ♖f6 42 ♖c4 and we're  
 back at a line given in the above notes.  
 36...♖e8 37 ♖e5 ♖d8 38 ♖d5 ½-½



Black can now effect a threefold  
 repetition with 38...♖e8. Around here  
 Kasparov made his joke about David  
 Howell being a 'member of Amnesty  
 International'. Easy to say if you're the  
 strongest player of all time – or indeed  
 sitting on your favourite sofa at home  
 looking at a computer running Ultra-  
 Deep Rybka, but not so easy in the heat  
 of battle. A definite let-off for 'Lucky  
 Luke' McShane.

The game between Hikaru Nakamura  
 and Mickey Adams went right down to  
 the kings - a most appropriate end to a  
 fighting tournament. Mickey played his  
 favourite Marshall Attack and Hikaru  
 exited the 'book' when he played 17 a4.  
 It is very possible that Hikaru could have  
 improved on move 21 when he allowed a  
 discovered attack on his queen. The  
 queens came off and Mickey retained  
 some compensation for his sacrificed



Garry Kasparov wasn't in London just to have fun! Here he is signing copies of his latest book, 'Kasparov on Modern Chess, Part 4'. The queues wrapped all round the foyer of the building...

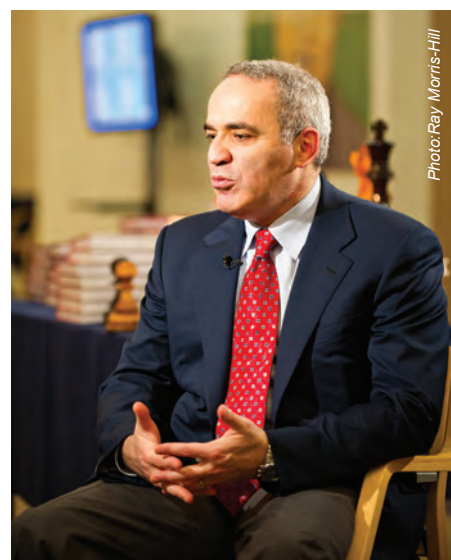
pawn in the shape of the two bishops  
 and pressure against Hikaru's hanging  
 pawns. Eventually he managed to  
 equalise material and draw the game.

The official crosstable using '3-1-0'  
 scoring is given below, with Vishy Anand  
 and Luke McShane level in second place  
 on every conceivable tie-breaking  
 system, but Hikaru Nakamura placed  
 ahead of Vlad Kramnik.

For the record, using conventional  
 scoring, the places would have been as  
 follows (on Sonneborn-Berger):

1-2	L McShane	4½
1-2	V Anand	4½
3	M Carlsen	4½

... and the other places would have been  
 unchanged.



... and here's Garry giving a TV interview for CNN, in front of the Classic audience in the foyer.

2nd London Chess Classic Olympia 8-15 December												
Player	Nat	Elo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	TPR
Magnus Carlsen	NOR	2802	*	0	0	3	1	3	3	3	<b>13</b>	2816
Viswanathan Anand	IND	2804	3	*	1	1	1	1	1	3	<b>11</b>	2815
Luke McShane	ENG	2645	3	1	*	1	1	1	1	3	<b>11</b>	2838
Hikaru Nakamura	USA	2741	0	1	1	*	3	1	1	3	<b>10</b>	2772
Vladimir Kramnik	RUS	2791	1	1	1	0	*	1	3	3	<b>10</b>	2765
Michael Adams	ENG	2723	0	1	1	1	1	*	3	1	<b>8</b>	2725
David Howell	ENG	2611	0	1	1	1	0	0	*	1	<b>4</b>	2583
Nigel Short	ENG	2680	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	*	<b>2</b>	2422



# Classic Observations

by **Rajko Vujatovic**

♟️ The size of **Luke McShane's grin** after beating Magnus Carlsen in round 1.

30 minutes before it occurred, Viktor Korchnoi foresaw that Carlsen's a4 pawn was not so poisoned after 22 ♖a6!! bxa6 23 b6



♟️ Commentators **Stephen Gordon** and **Lawrence Trent** usurping 'Ant & Dec' as Britain's funniest double act. More stylish too: Stephen sported a pink shirt with black tie; Lawrence a black shirt with pink tie.



♟️ **Nigel Short** playing blitz with **David Norwood** after his 3rd consecutive loss. Nigel won 4-3, thereby taking the Bolton championship back home to Greece. This was the tournament that REALLY mattered!

♟️ **Danny King** giving schoolkids a simul, majestically sprinting from one end of the hall to the other, all flowing locks he looked like Tarzan in a pin-striped suit (see picture on page 6 of this issue).

♟️ Being asked to give a coaching session to **9-year old** Singaporean, **Cameron Goh**. I began a game to gauge his strength... only to find

myself 2 pawns down after 15 moves. I'm pleased to report I succeeded in teaching the youngster something... the fine art of swindling.

♟️ Unsuccessfully trying to bribe some kids to play **1 h4?! for Anand's first move**, explaining it was a good idea to get the rook out and checkmate. Anand sportingly refused to retract their choice of 1 e4 in favour of what he knew to be the best move. Next year, I clearly need to bring more cash.



♟️ Stephen Gordon and Lawrence Trent playing **blitz on a giant chess set**, which ended in a wrestling contest to stop each other reaching the clock in time trouble.

♟️ **Nigel Short's** gallows humour after losing his games, and for entertaining the public at the press conferences even though there was no obligation or expectation to do so.

♟️ **Malcolm Pein** getting excited whenever someone risked a disreputable opening in search of 3 points. "I used to play that in the 70s!" (Magnus' 6...♗h6 in game 1). "I used to play that in the 80s!" (Short's 9...e4 in the Herman-Steiner variation of the Ruy Lopez).

♟️ **Garry Kasparov** explaining to a CNN journalist why Russia hosting the World Cup is not necessarily a good thing. "Why do you think Russians always must have positive views about Russia... Aren't we allowed negative

views?... We do not have the infrastructure... or the money..."

♟️ **Viktor Korchnoi's** simultaneous displays. Taking every game seriously but wanting to enjoy himself, he eschewed playing the English Opening on every board, favouring widely varied openings and speculative sacrifices. It was a delight to see his endgame technique when it came to the last few boards.



♟️ **Chris Ward** pipping **Malcolm Pein** and arbiter **Albert Vasse** to win the loudest tie prize.

♟️ **Kasparov's** recoil when a fan brought out 15 books at the book-signing. After composing himself, Garry dutifully signed and dated every single one.



♟️ Watching **John Nunn** talk about his other passion in life, astronomy.



All Photos: **Ray Morris-Hill**