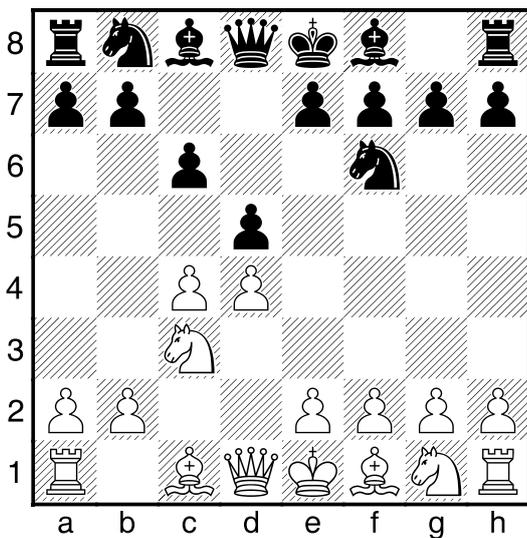


□ Kramnik,Vladimir
 ■ Anand,Viswanathan

WCC Bonn (1)

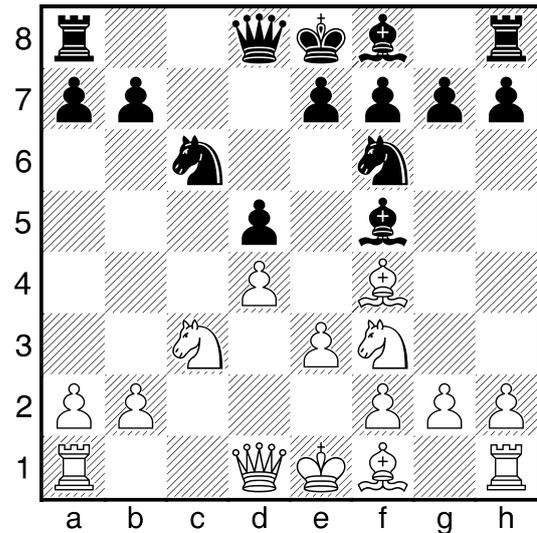
14.10.2008

A very typical first round game. Kramnik, with the white pieces, choosed a very solid variation, trying to put some pressure without taking any risk. Anand played very principal and natural moves and on move 15th Kramnik took a pawn. But the compensation was very clear and Vishy did not suffer too much to hold the draw. **1.d4** Easy to predict. Kramnik wasn't very succesful with 1.e4 and on the last years he came back to his favourite queens pawn openings. **d5** Anand could also go for 1..♘f6 heading for the Nimzoindian but that would be another story... **2.c4 c6** The Slav, a very dynamic weapon which helped Anand to become World Champion in Mexico. Obviously, Kramnik should be ready against it, but the russian will soon come with a surprise. **3.♘c3 ♘f6**

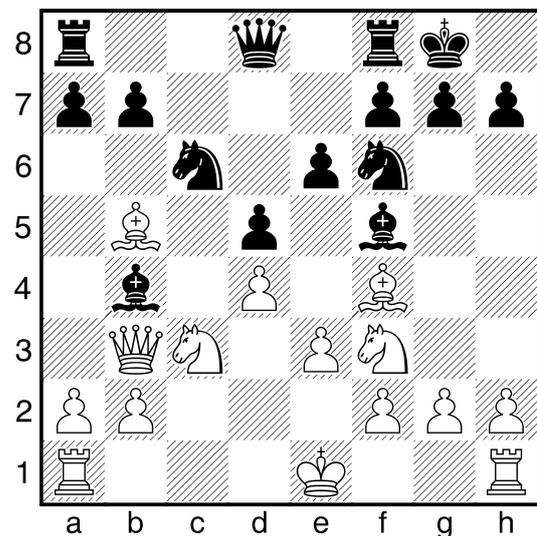


4.cd5!? The exchange variation. A very quiet choice which leads to symmetrical positions. Anand could hardly expect this move since it is well known that it promises almost nothing for white. **cd5 5.♙f4 ♘c6 6.e3 ♙f5** Anand is not scared and goes for the main line **7.♘f3** This was a real surprise. Theory considers this symmetrical approach to be completely harmless. [The more agresive alternative was 7.♗b3 but according to actual theory black stands well also there.]

7...e6 8.♗b3 [Kramnik had tried once another move: 8.♙b5 ♘d7 9.0-0 ♖c8 10.♖c1

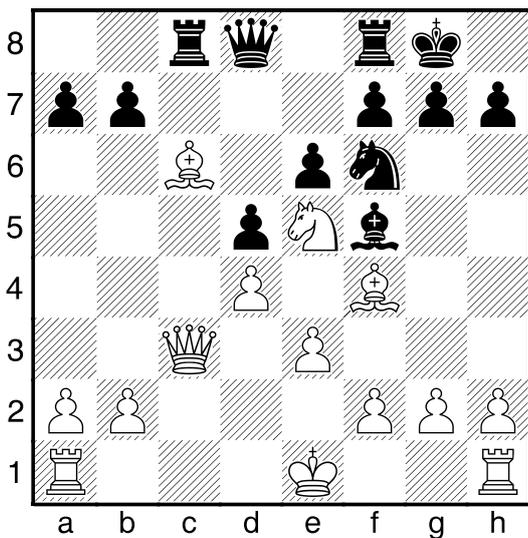


a6 11.♙d3 ♙d3 12.♗d3 ♘f6 13.♘a4 ♙d6
 14.♙d6 ♗d6 15.♘c5 ♖c7 16.♘b7 ♖b7
 17.♗a6 ♖c7 18.♘e5 0-0 19.♖c6 ♖c6
 20.♗c6 and white is winning, Kramnik,V (2800)-Verbal Kint (1604)/Internet 2001;
 A short game between the same opponents 15 years ago: 8.♙d3 ♙d3 9.♗d3 ♙d6
 10.♙d6 ♗d6 11.0-0 and draw agreed, Kramnik,V (2710)-Anand,V (2725)/Groningen 1993] **8...♙b4 9.♙b5 0-0**

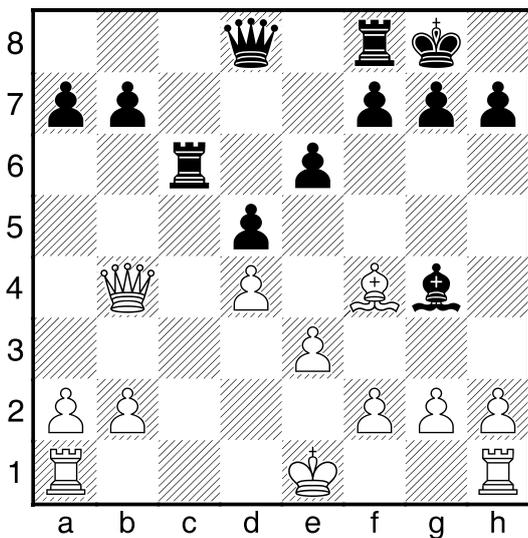


10.♙c6 [All these variations are very very solid. Playing with black, Kramnik could not win in an old game versus a weaker opponent. The game went 10.0-0 ♗e7 11.♙c6 bc6 12.♘a4 ♘h5 13.a3 ♙a5 14.♙g3 ♘g3 15.hg3 ♖ab8 16.♗d1 ♖fc8 17.♖c1 ♙g4 with an equal game, Djurhuus,R (2420)-Kramnik,V (2590)/Oakham 1992/ draw after

49 moves] 10...♙c3 11.♚c3 ♖c8 12.♘e5

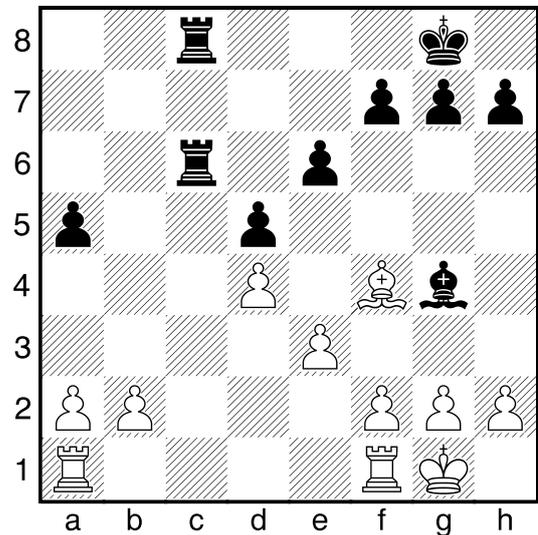


We are following a well known variation. ♘g4!
Very precise. [After 12...bc6 13.f3
white can claim to be slightly better.] 13.♘g4
♙g4 14.♚b4 ♖c6

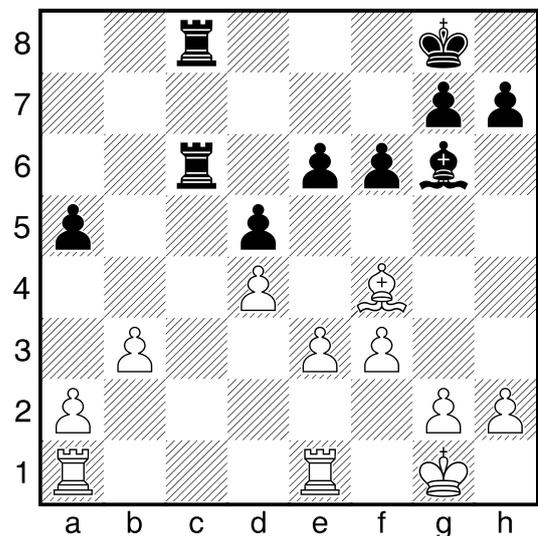


15.♚b7 This capture is a new move, of course a very principal one. [Much easier for black was 15.0-0 ♚b6 with equality, Nussbaecher,A (2120)-Seibold,T (2105)/Bayern 2002/and black drew in 23 moves] 15...♚c8 [It was possible to play more aggressive with 15...♚a5 but after 16.b4 ♚a4 17.0-0 ♖b6 18.♚c7 ♖b4 19.♙d6 ♖c4 20.♙c5 and white is still a little bit better.] 16.♚c8 ♖fc8 17.0-0 Black has clear compensation for the pawn. In the next moves Anand keeps control of the open line and improves his position a5!?

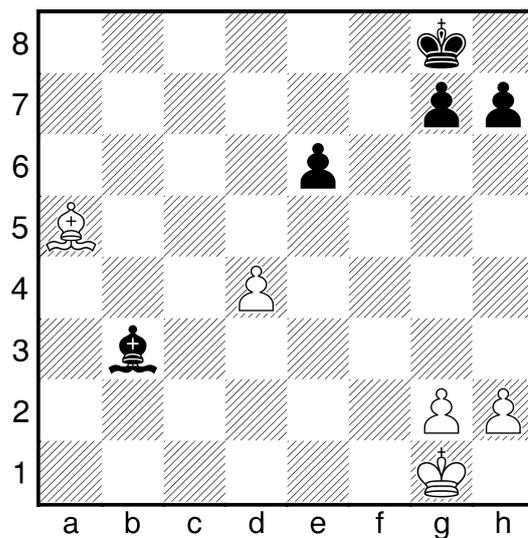
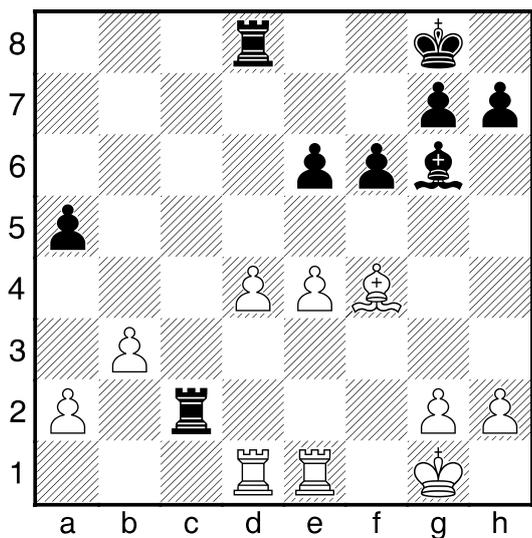
[Some alternatives look also good to keep the balance: 17...h6 18.f3 ♙f5 19.g4 ♙d3 20.♖f2 ♖c2 ; 17...f6 18.f3 ♙f5 19.g4 ♙d3 20.♖f2 g5 21.♙g3 ♖c2 ; 17...♙e2 18.♖fe1 ♙d3 19.h4 a5 20.♖ed1 ♙b5 with compensation in all three variations]



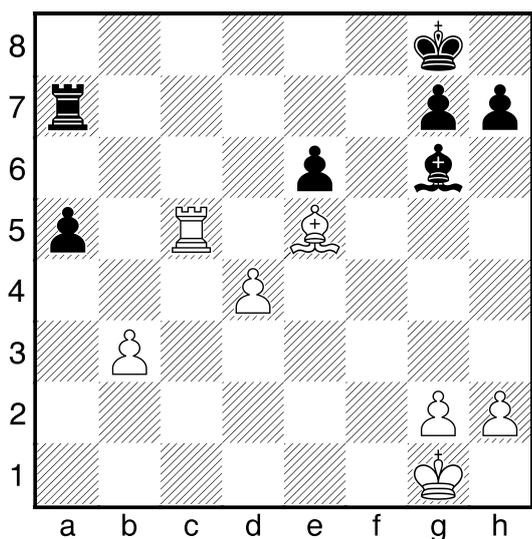
A very committing move, leaving the pawn as a possible target for the opponent bishop but gaining space on the queenside. 18.f3 ♙f5 19.♖fe1 ♙g6 20.b3 f6



21.e4 Finally Kramnik decides to move forward, but black is ready. de4 22.fe4 ♖d8 [Also strong looks 22...♖c2 with enough compensation] 23.♖ad1 ♖c2 24.e5 A clear sign that things don't go well for white. [The truth is that after 24.d5 e5! 25.♖d2 ♖dc8 26.d6 ♖2c6! 27.♙g3 ♖d8 black would be allright] 24...fe5 25.♙e5 ♖a2



Now the material is balanced. **26.♖a1 ♖a1**
27.♖a1 ♖d5 28.♖c1 ♖d7 29.♖c5 ♖a7



The draw is obvious. **30.♖c7 ♖c7 31.♙c7 ♙c2**
32.♙a5 ♙b3

(Diagram)

And draw. Both players were very careful on this first game. The exchange variation proved too peaceful to create real problems for black. After this draw Anand will enjoy for free the initiative of the white colour on the second game.