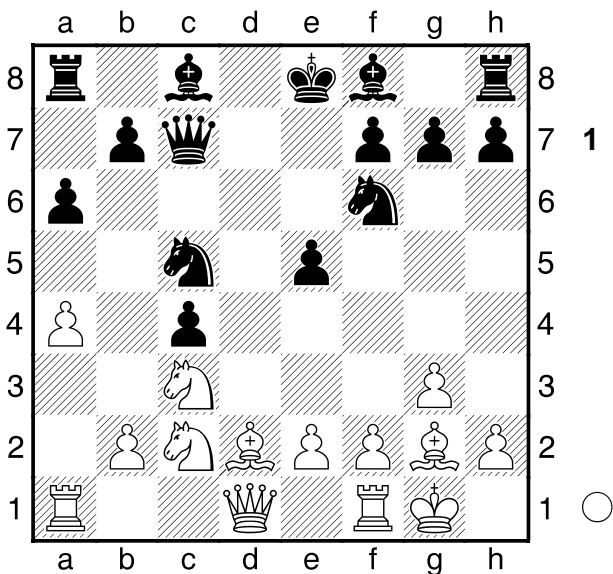


Kramnik, Vladimir D15  
 McShane, Luke J 2795  
 Londres Chess Clasic (5) 2713  
 06.12.2012  
*[Van der Brule, Alvaro]*

Kramnik's crystal clarity in assessing a position, determining what its most important factors are, what plan is best, how it should be executed and for what purpose is reminiscent of Capablanca, Karpov or Carlsen. This is one of his many games that evoke a perfect symphony. Slav Defence (D15): 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.f3 f6 4.c3 a6 5.g3

[5.c5]  
 5...dxc4 6.a4 e6 7.gg2 c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9.fxd4  
 fbd7 10.fxc2 c7 11.f4 triggers e5 to weaken d5  
 11...e5 12.f2 f5

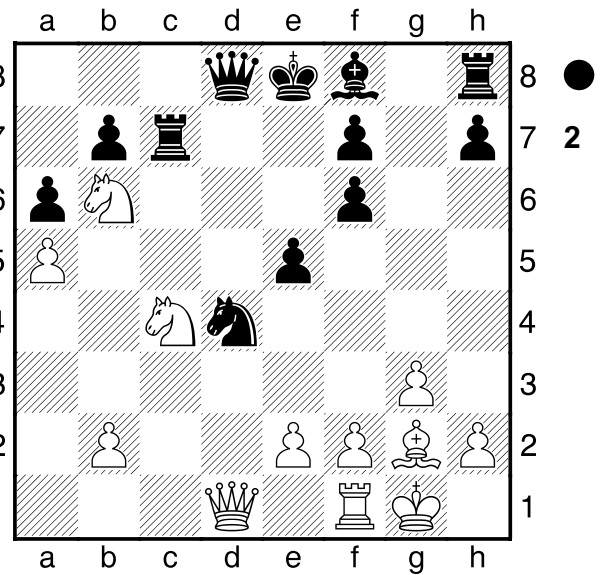


a very interesting position: Bg2 is a monster; the c4 pawn will fall sooner or later; and Kramnik will show that the weakness on b3 is not so important. 13.gg5! f6  
 14.fxf6 gxf6 15.f5 d5 16.f8 17.a5! c8

[(after 17...fxa1 18.f4+ f7 19.fxa1, the recovery of c4 would be guaranteed, and the power of the white horses would more than compensate for the material sacrificed). ]

18.f4! f5 19.f6 c7 20.fxc4! fxc4 21.fxc4

(Diagrama 2)



A MODEL POSITION. The powerful white squared bishop in the middlegame is much stronger than Th8, which has no medium-term prospects. This, together with the strength of the white knight, makes the compensation very clear. THE ROOK ONLY IS STRONGER THAN A MINOR PIECE IN ENDGAMES.

21...f5

[(seems better 21...f7, but White's strength is evident: 22.e3 f6 23.f4+ f8 24.f5, with full control)]

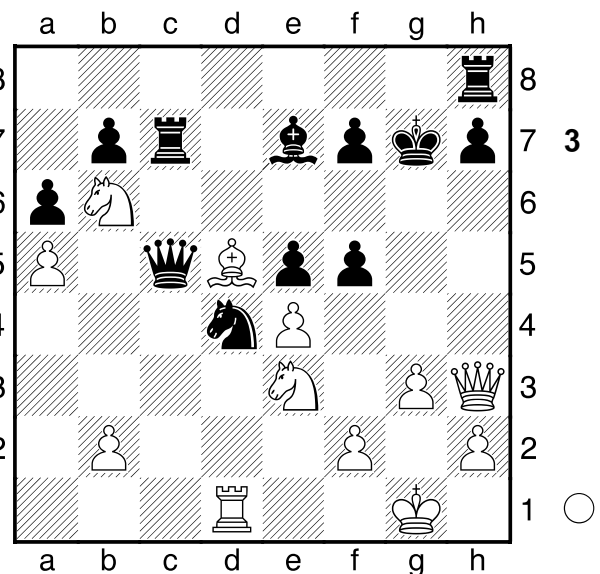
22.f4! f4 23.f1 c5 24.e3 f7 25.f5! f8  
 Kramnik controls the white squares decisively

[25...0-0 26.f4]

26.f5! f7 27.f4+ h6

[27...f8 28.f5]

28.e4! the weakness on d4 has a solution, as we shall soon see; on the other hand, the weakness on f5 is fatal  
 28...f4 29.f3 f5 30.f3+ f7

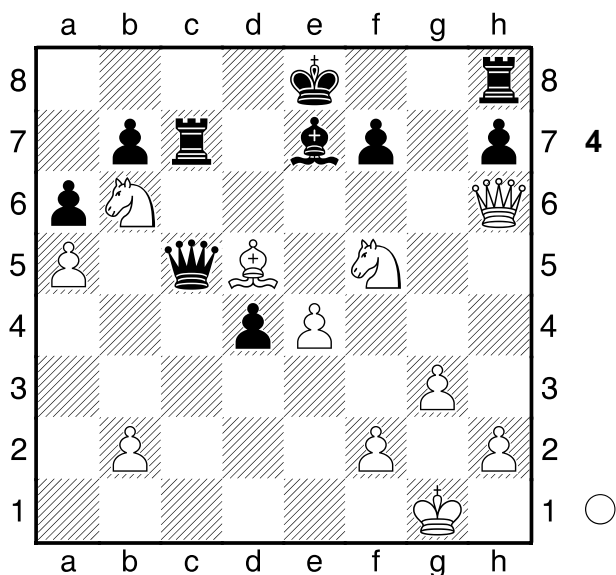


31.fxd4!!

THE SECOND EXCHANGE SACRIFICE!

This is impressive. The white minor pieces are stronger than the theoretically only better black rooks, and the black king's weakness matters above all. 31...fxd4

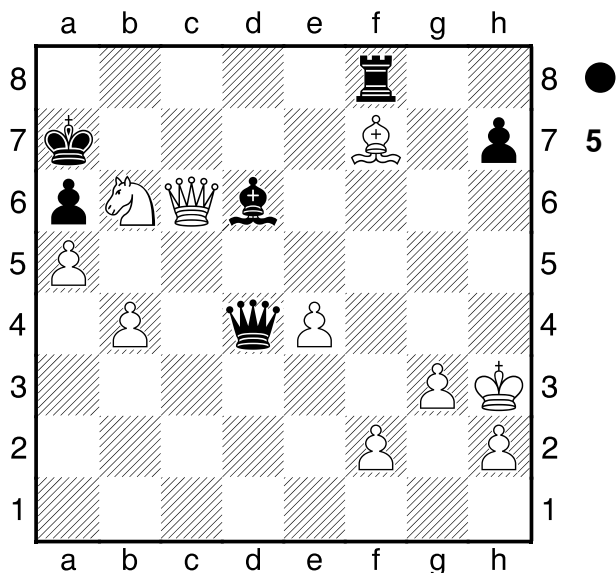
32. ♖xf5+ ♔f8 33. ♗h6+ ♔e8



34. ♕xf7+! An awesome combination!!! A spectacular hunt begins against the black king. 34... ♔d8

[ 34... ♔xf7 35. ♗g7+ ♔e6 36. ♖xd4+ ♔d6 37. ♗h6+ ♔e5 38. ♖f3+ ♔xe4 39. ♗f4+ ♔d3 40. ♖e5+ ♔c2 41. ♗e4+ ♔b3 42. ♗a4+ ♔xb2 43. ♖d3+ ♔c3 44. ♖xc5 ♗xc5 45. ♗a1+ ♔b3 46. ♗xh8+- ]

35. ♗g7 ♗f8 despite the material advantage, Black is lost 36. ♖xd4 ♗c6 37. ♖xc6+ bxc6 38. ♗g4 ♔c7 39. ♗d7+ ♔b8 40. ♗d2 ♔c7 41. ♗d7+ ♔b8 42. ♔g2! ♕d6 43. b4! ♗d4 44. ♗xc6 ♔a7 45. ♔h3!+-



The white king finds a curious safe square here. 45... ♗d1 46. ♖c8+ ♗xc8 47. ♗xc8 ♗f1+ 48. ♔g4 h5+ [ 48... ♗e2+ 49. f3 ]

49. ♔xh5 Checks are over and the material superiority and mate attack are decisive – a masterpiece of positional sacrifices by Kramnik!

1-0