

D52

□ Gelfand, Boris

■ Carlsen, Magnus

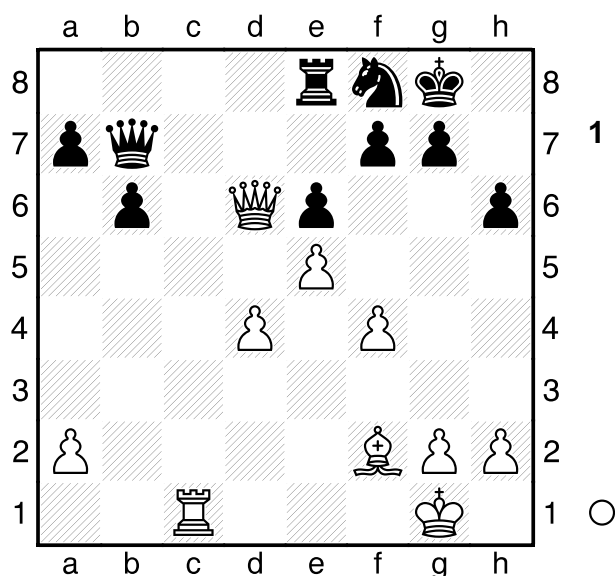
FIDE Candidates (3.3)

17.03.2013

[Beardsworth, Allan]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3
 Nbd7 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Qa5 7.cxd5
 Nxd5 8.Rc1 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Ba3
 10.Rc2 b6 11.Bd3 Ba6 12.0-0 Bxd3
 13.Qxd3 0-0 14.e4 Rfe8 15.e5 h6
 16.Bh4 c5 17.Nd2 cxd4 18.cxd4
 Rac8 19.Nc4 Qb5 20.f4 Rc7
 21.Qxa3 Rxc4 22.Rxc4 Qxc4 23.Bf2
 Qc7 24.Rc1 Qb7 25.Qd6 Nf8

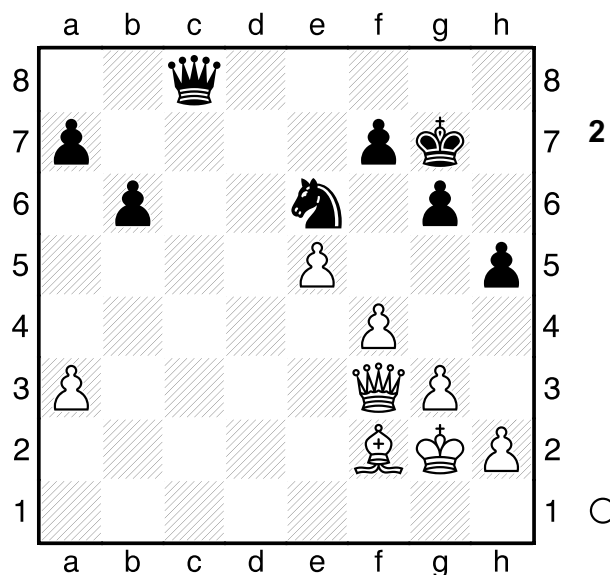
Diagram



Black to play and win? Well, no, not really, but with the better minor piece, and 2-1 advantage on the queenside, the result is either 1/2 or 0-1. **26.g3 Rc8 27.Rxc8 Qxc8 28.d5 exd5 29.Qxd5 g6 30.Kg2 Ne6 31.Qf3 Kg7 32.a3 h5** Diagram

(Diagram 2)

I like Boris' next move- a move I would never have considered, let alone played. I would have played h3, with



the idea of g4 and f5, knowing that that gives black's knight the g5 square; knowing it leaves the white king side full of holes (after Ng5, the Q has to leave the long diagonal)...and, alas, I simply wouldn't have thought of obtaining counterplay by means of first h4, and then g4, **33.h4 Qc2**

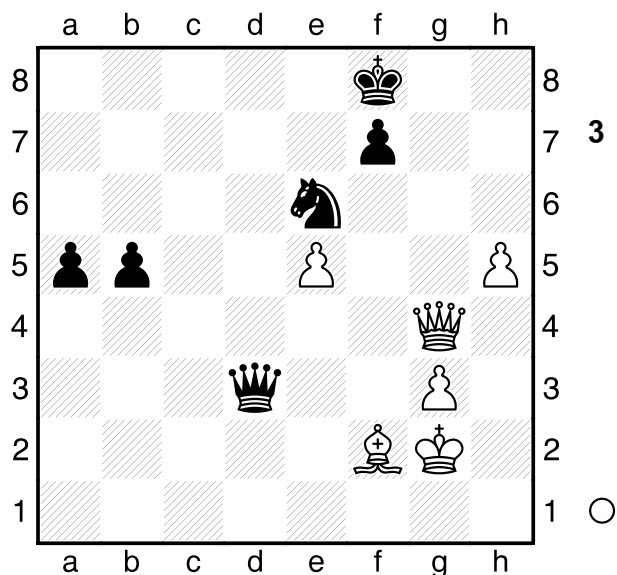
[33...Qc4]

34.Qb7 Qa4 35.Qf3 b5 36.f5 gxf5 37.Qxf5 Qxa3 38.Qxh5 a5 39.Qg4+ Kf8 40.h5 Qc1 Diagram

[40...Qd3 Diagram

(Diagram 3)

This was the move I thought Magnus would play; whilst it lets the h pawn advance one square further, I thought it was important to control the white squares; and in particular f3. However, the tactic in the following line shows I was mistaken in the latter regard: f3 can't be held because of tactics. So, Magnus' move was probably better on the twin counts of stopping the h pawn one square earlier, and also stopping Bc5 tactics. **41.h6 Qc2!** controlling c5;



which is not a square I would have thought of controlling, but after the natural pawn advance, Houdini finds the stunning equaliser, Bc5+. It just shows how tactical endings can be, and also a reminder of the principle of "do not hurry". (41...b4 42.Bc5+!= Nxc5 43.Qc8+ Ke7 44.Qxc5+=) 42.Qf3 Kg8 43.Qd5 (43.Qa8+ Kh7 44.Qb7 Kxh6 45.Qxf7 Qe4+ 46.Kf1 Qxe5∞) 43...b4 Diagram

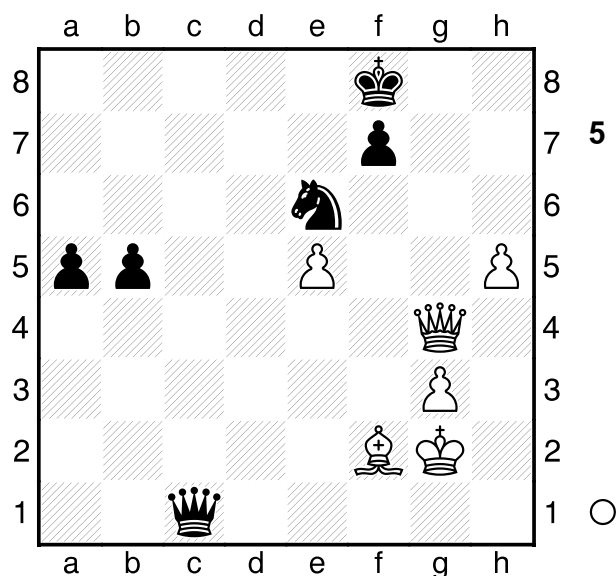
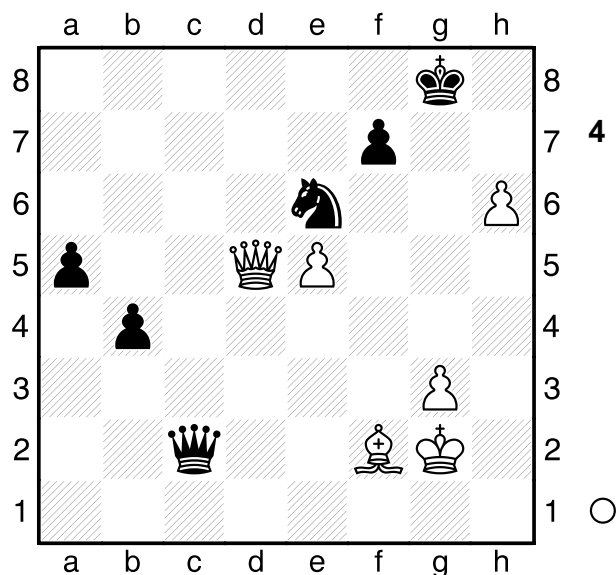
(Diagram 4)

Houdini's evaluation increases move by move, and also increases the longer it is left. 44.Qxa5 Qe4+ 45.Kf1 b3 46.Qa1 Qh1+ 47.Bg1 Qxh6 48.Qc3 Qh3+ 49.Ke1 Qh1 50.Kf2 Ng5+-]

(Diagram 5)

41.Qe4 b4 42.Be3 Qc7 43.Qa8+ Kg7 44.h6+ Kh7 45.Qe4+ Kg8 46.Qa8+ Qd8 47.Qxd8+?

The Magnus effect: constant pressure results in cracking. I think Boris should



have keep the queens on, maybe Qb7 or Qe4; and I can't assess if Magnus can still win. In practice, I would find such a position impossible to play 'accurately'. **Nxd8-- 48.Kf3 a4 49.Ke4 Nc6**

[49...a3 also wins 50.Kd3 (50.Bd4 Nc6 51.Ba1 b3 ; 50.Bc1 Nc6 51.g4 Na5) 50...Nc6]

50.Bc1 Na5 51.Bd2 b3 52.Kd3 Nc4 53.Bc3 a3

0-1