

□ **Ding,Liren**
■ **Aronian,Levon**
 Alekhine Memorial 2013 (1) 21.04.2013
 [Robot 8]

D45**2707****2809**

(100m+30s)/40+(50m+30s)/20+(15m+30s)
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.e3 e6 6.c5 Nbd7 7.b4 b6 8.Bb2 a5 9.a3 Be7 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 Ba6 12.Ne1 Bc4 13.Bxc4 dxc4 14.Qe2 Rb8 15.Ra2 b5 16.e4 Rb7 17.Nc2 Nb8 18.Raa1 Qc8 19.Rad1 Rd8 20.Bc1 Na6 21.Bf4 Rbd7 22.h3 Ne8 23.Qe3 Bf6 24.e5

Whilst Houdini's assessment is a mere +0.4, I wonder whether in reality black is more or less lost? Too many of black's pieces are away from the king side, with little chance of getting over in time. **Be7 25.Ne4 Nac7 26.Nd6 Qa8 27.Qg3 Nd5 28.Ne3 Nc3 29.Rde1 Bxd6 30.exd6 Ne4 31.Qh4 Nd2 32.Nd5 Nxf1 33.Nb6 Qa7 34.Rxf1 Nf6 35.Be5 Nd5 36.Nxd5 exd5**

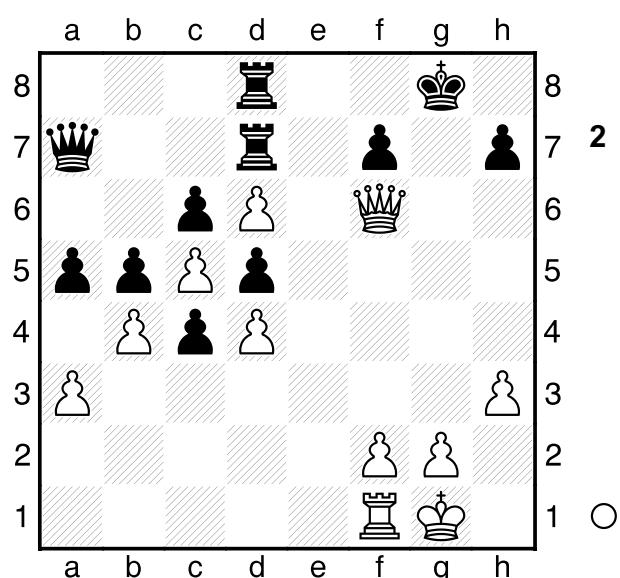
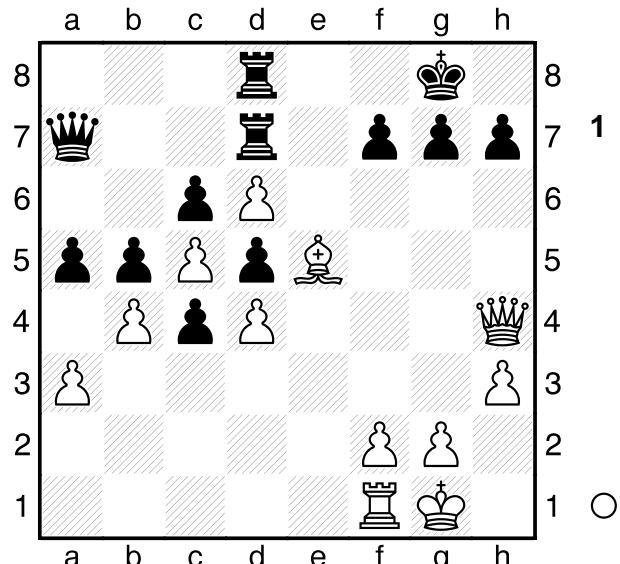
Diagram

(Diagram 1)

Watching the game live, 37 Bg7 was the obvious move, but I couldn't tell whether it was only a draw. It was clear that it was at least a draw, so could be played with confidence, and Ding had about 50 minutes left on his clock, plenty of time to analyse. First of course, he shows good technique by repeating. **37.Bxg7+- Kxg7 38.Qg5+ Kf8 39.Qf6 Kg8 40.Qg5+ Kf8**

41.Qf6 Kg8 Diagram

Here, I had to choose between f4 and Re1. I correctly chose Re1, since I felt f4, Rf3 would fail to ab, Qa3; and f4-f5



was too slow. **42.Re1 axb4**

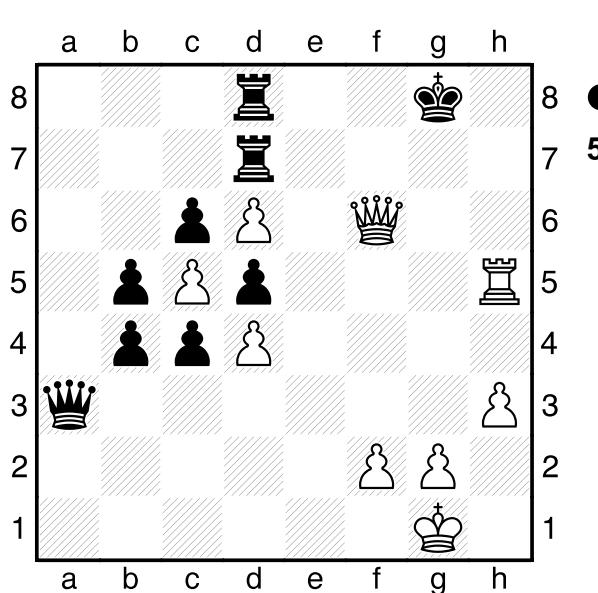
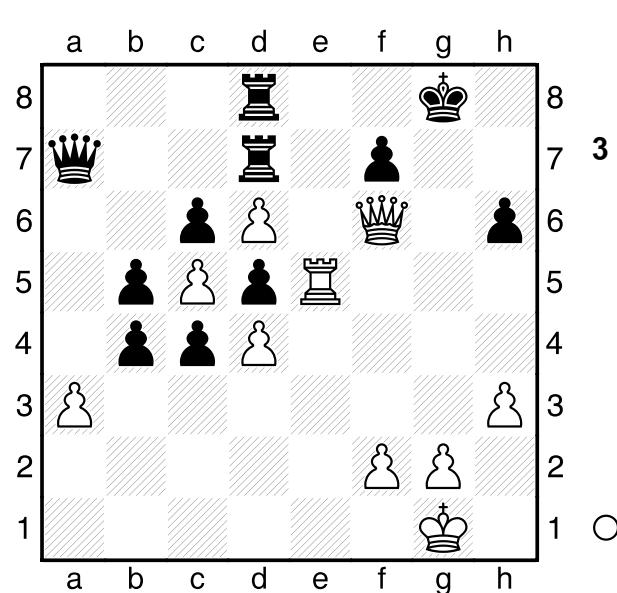
[42...h6 43.Re3 Kh7 44.Re7 Rf8 45.Qf5+ A nice double attack ends the game.]

[42...Qb8 43.Re3 Rxd6 44.cxd6 Qxd6 45.Re8+]

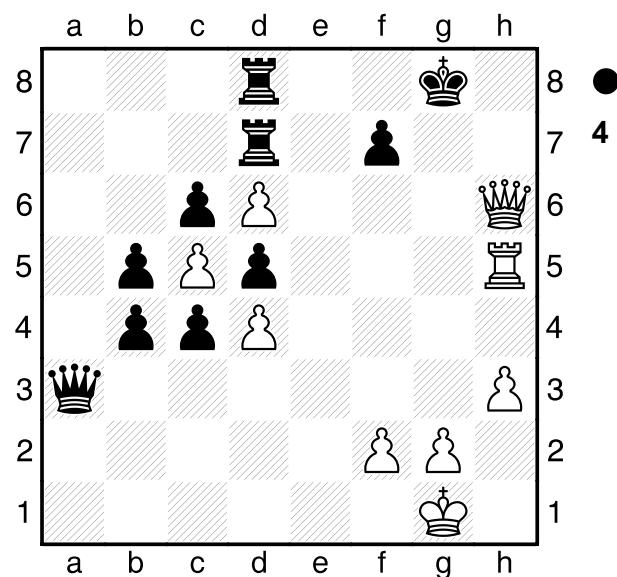
43.Re5 h6 Diagram

(Diagram 3)

Even here, I wasn't sure if white was winning: I had thought Rh5-h6; and Qa3-c1+ Qh6; but hadn't seen 45 Qh6; Ding played these last few moves



rapidly, before I had time to analyse them. **44.Rh5 Qxa3 45.Qxh6**
Diagram



f6 46.Qxf6 Diagram

(Diagram 5)

1-0