

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – November 2013

Chairman's Chatter

The club events are now up to speed. The second round draw for the club championship is included here and the ladder competition is starting to show promotions and relegations. Above all, leaders are starting to emerge in the Grand Prix ... and not the usual suspects!

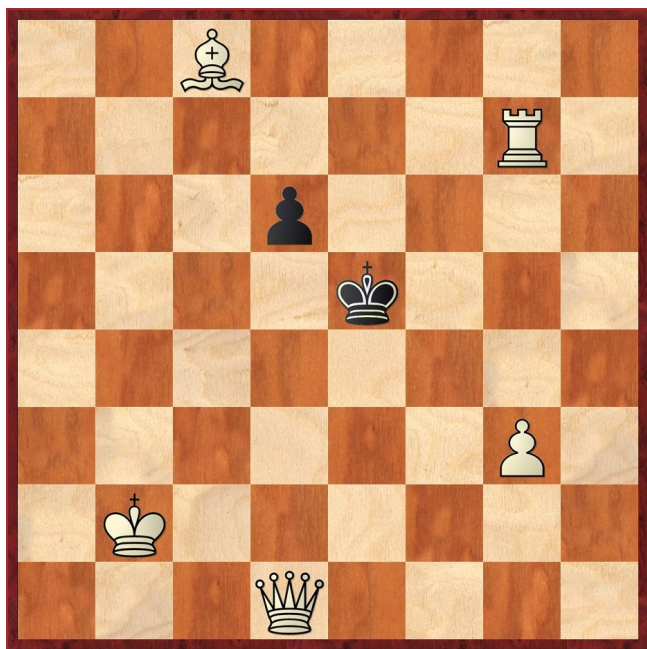
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

Chris Davison has taken over running the County Individual Championship (2nd and 3rd November at Fenstanton Church Centre, School Lane PE29 9JR) but you may still have chance for a late entry.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Lobusov)

Position : 3Q4/8/8/8/2N1r3/2bB1R2/5NR1/1KB1k2q

1 Qh8 Qxh8 2 Rg1# [1 ... Bxh8 2 Bd2#; 1 ... Ba5 2 Qxh1#; 1 ... Rh4 2 Qxc3#/Re3#]

Website to Watch

The must-see event in November is the World Championship match between Anand and Carlsen in Chennai, India from 9th to 26th starting at 9-30am GMT. The website has been launched in good time and promises live games with either computer analysis or video and expert commentary. For real pre-match excitement, please see the main article in this newsletter and the progress in the match can be followed on <http://chennai2013.fide.com>.

Window on the Web

<http://oldinchess.blogspot.co.uk/> is a chess news website with a difference. You will find that instead of reporting the exploits of such players as Carlsen, Kramnik and Aronian, the site provides news items from 100 years ago, involving the likes of Lasker, Marshall and Tartakover.

A new post appears every day and they all (as far as I can tell) contain at least one game that can be played through. For example, a post dated 10 October 1913 reports the death of D G Baird, an American master who was born in 1854 and during his chess career managed to defeat several of the strongest players of the time. Four of his games are given, including an outstanding win against Amos Burn, the English player and writer who gave his name to the Burn Variation of the French Defence.

All the games (some of which have light annotations) can be played through and the post on October 25 has a game between Capablanca and Edward Lasker described as a remarkable game, under the headline "Cuban sacrifices Queen in victory over Ed. Lasker". The October 7 post has a game involving two Hamburg Chess Club players which involved an interesting double-rook ending.

For those interested in chess history, or those just looking for games to play through, this site should be worth a visit.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	1	Royston	4
P Turp	0	D Coleman	1
S Caraway	0	K Clark	1
M Dunkley	0	P Kemp	1
P Hanks	½	B Judkins	½
R Jones	½	P Ribbands	½
Warboys C	2	New England B	2
J Beck	1	R Jones	0
N Greenwood	1	D Lane	0
P Clough	0	P Spencer	1
D Bentley	0	M Tarabad	1
New England B	1	Buckden	3
D Lane	0	P Barkas	1
P Spencer	½	C Norton	½
S Walker	0	S Foster	1
J Sadler	½	C Hamilton	½

Fenland Trophy

New England A	0	Cambs Eggheads	4
P Turp	0	R Tozer	1
S Caraway	0	A Stewart	1
M Dunkley	0	D Redman	1
P Hanks	0	C Davison	1
Cambs Boffins	3½	New England B	½
J Daugman	1	R Jones	0
S Pride	½	D Lane	½
K Hunter	1	P Spencer	0
G de Block	1	J Parker	0

Team 550 Competition

St Neots	1½	New England 2	2½
R Gompelman	0	M Dunkley	1
P Barkas	1	R Jones	0
M Friday	½	J Sadler	½
Default	0d	M Tarabad	1d

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
J Parker	0	1	P Spencer
I Garrett	1	0	H Currie
I Garrett	0	1	M Tarabad
H Currie	0	1	I Garrett
N Wedley	1	0	J Sadler
P Hanks	1	0	J Parker

Position	Change		Player	Record 30/10/13
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+9	M Tarabad	1,1
2	-	-	S Caraway	1
3	-	+3	I Garrett	1,0,1,0,1
4	-	-1	D Lane	½
5	-	-1	N Wedley	½,½,1
6	+7	+8	P Spencer	1,1
7	-	-2	F Bowers	
8	+3	+3	P Hanks	1
9	-1	-2	S Walker	
10	-4	-9	J Parker	0,½,0,0
11	-2	-3	H Currie	0,0
12	-2	-3	P O'Gorman	
13	-1	-1	S Wozniak	0
14	-	-1	J Sadler	0,0
15	-	-	P Turp	

Club Championship

Round 1			
R Jones	0	1	P Turp
J Sadler	0	1	M Dunkley
D Lane	0	1	P Spencer
N Wedley	0	1	S Caraway
P Hanks	1	0	I Garrett
C Russell	P	P	S Walker
M Tarabad	1	0	J Parker

Round 2			
P Turp (1)			M Tarabad (1)
P Spencer (1)			M Dunkley (1)
S Caraway (1)			C Russell (P)
S Walker (P)			P Hanks (1)
J Parker (0)			R Jones (0)
J Sadler (0)			D Lane (0)
I Garrett (0)			N Wedley (0)
Match night : 13th November. Deadline : 31st December. Next draw : 1st January			

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
P Spencer	1	2	1½	0	0	4½
M Tarabad	1	2	1		0	4
I Garrett	0	3			1	4
S Caraway	1	1	0	0	1	3
N Wedley	0	2			1	3
P Hanks	1	1	½	0		2½
M Dunkley	1	-	1	0		2
J Sadler	0	0	½		1	1½
R Jones	0		1	0		1
P Turp	1		0	0		1
D Lane	0	½	0	½		1
J Parker	0	½		0	0	½
S Wozniak		0				0
B Sadler					0	0
H Currie		0				0
S Walker	P		0			P
C Russell	P	-				P
F Bowers						
P O'Gorman						

Champion v Challenger

The best chess books, to my mind, are games collections written by the great players themselves. Other annotators may be even better at knowing the state of theory at the time of the game and how it has changed in the intervening period but only the player involved can explain the train of thought and the correctness of analysis at the point move decisions are made.

You might think then that when Vishy Anand published his volume of best games in 2001, I would snap it up. I didn't. I assumed he had many years of top-level play ahead and an expanded version would appear subsequently. In due course, John Nunn added a further 30 games chosen by Vishy covering the period to 2011. This time, I did buy a copy and subconsciously brought down the curtain on my expectations of greatness in his career.

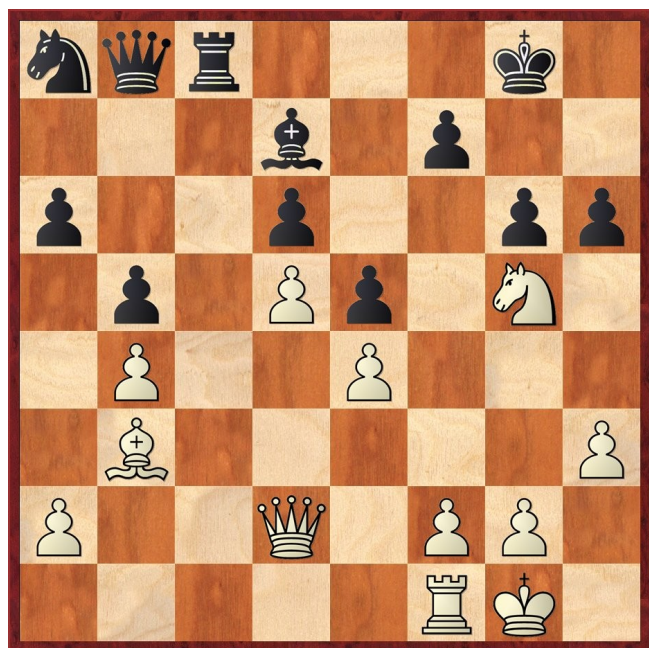
Despite Vishy being World Champion and defending his title successfully against Kramnik, Topalov and Gelfand, my prognosis has proved sadly realistic. His form in the major tournaments over the past 2 years has been unimpressive but there have been flashes of undoubted brilliance. So how does this bode for the coming Anand v Carlsen title match?

► Head-to-head encounters

The record of decisive tournament games between the antagonists starts in 2007 when Carlsen was only just starting to make his presence felt at the highest level. In the classical games since, Anand actually leads Carlsen 6-3 as shown in the table below.

White	Played	Anand win	Draw	Carlsen win
Anand	13	2	11	0
Carlsen	16	4	9	3

Anand (2779) v Carlsen (2690)
Morelia/Linares 2007



Significantly, all Anand's victories came in the period up to 2010 including a fine attacking display in 2007. This position arose from a Ruy Lopez (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 and in this case 3 ... a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7) and I was particularly impressed by Anand's subsequent play.

27 Ne6

It is difficult enough to figure out the ramifications of this move and I am not sure how much Anand saw at the board. He must, however, have had the confidence to foresee it as the logical climax to the preceding play.

My analysis would run 27 ... fxe6 28 dxe6 Be8 29 Qxh6 when Black has a parlous position. Anand continues 29 ... Nb6 30 e7+ Nc4 31 Qf8+ Kh7 32 Bd1 when Black has to play actively to avoid the tour Bd1-g4-e6 (Nunn) e.g. 32 ... Bc6 33 Qf7+ Kh6 34 f4 Rg8 35 fxe5 Nxe5 36 Qf8+ Kh7 37 Rf4. To me, this is hardly forced but computers generally give it as best play. Similarly, 27 ... g5 28 Nxg5 hxg5 29 Qxg5+ Kf8 30 f4 exf4 31 Qxf4 Be8 32 Qf6 Nb6 33 e5 is with a massive attack.

It is quite feasible to play

27 Kh7

which prevents the incursion of the white queen at h6 and leaves the white knight trapped.

28 f4

White has little choice. His attack aims not only to discomfort the black king but to create rampaging passed pawns after 28 ... fxe6 29 dxe6 Be8 30 f5.

28 ... Qa7+
29 Kh2 Be8
30 f5 gxf5
31 exf5 f6

"Equivalent to resignation" - Nunn. White retains his positional advantages without the need for a sacrifice. Anand wrapped up the game efficiently :

32 Re1

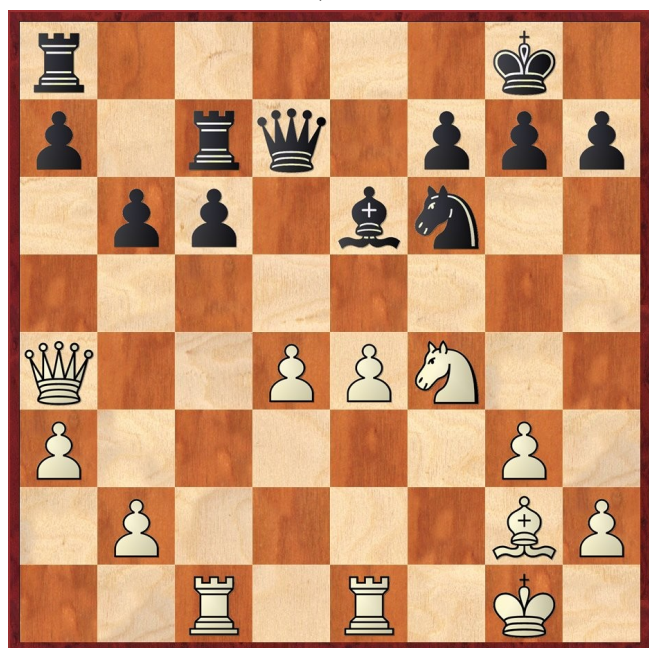
32 Rf3 is supposed to be even stronger

32 ... Nc7
33 Rc1 Bd7
34 Rc3 e4
35 Rg3 Nxe6
36 dxe6 Be8
37 e7 Bh5
38 Qxd6 1-0

Carlsen made the breakthrough in 2009 by winning a long, hard-fought endgame but has won two recent games in short order.

Starting from a Rubinstein Variation of the Nimzo-Indian Defence (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3), this game virtually transposed into an Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit (1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 cxd5). White has achieved great things positionally – space advantage, central presence, active pieces – whereas Black has not made his traditional challenge c7-c5. In fact, redeploying his bishop Bb7-c8-e6 has left the c6 pawn vulnerable.

Carlsen (2864) v Anand (2786)
Tal Memorial, Moscow 2013



22 d5 cxd5
23 Qxd7 Rxd7
24 Nxe6 fxe6
25 Bh3

So far, Black's play is forced but this tactic leaves him without a reasonable reply e.g. 25 ... Re7/e8 26 exd5 Nxd5 27 Bxe6.

25 ... Kh8
26 Bxe6 Rdd8
27 e5 Ng8

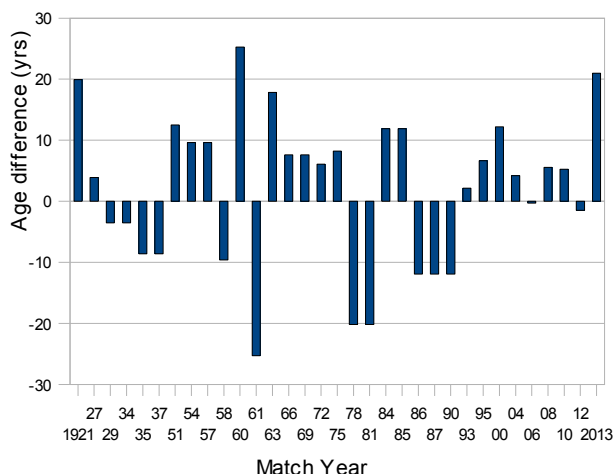
Other knight moves fail to hide the weakness of the light squares. 27 ... Ne4 28 Rcd1 Re8 29 Bxd5.

28 Rc7 d4
29 Bd7 1-0

Now, White's passed pawn will advance but Black's has no support.

► Experience

By coincidence, both contestants will celebrate a birthday shortly after the end of the match. Vishy will be 44, Magnus 23.



The age difference is the second largest in the history of classical chess during the last century exceeded only by Tal's meteoric surge to the title against Botvinnik in 1960. It even eclipses the gap between Lasker and Capablanca in 1921 when the champion tried to relinquish the title in favour of his youthful challenger!

In terms of match play experience, Anand is out in front and over the horizon. His early career included wins in Candidates matches of 8-12 games over Dreev (1991), Yusupov, Romanishin, Adams (1994) and Kamsky (1995) interspersed with losses to Karpov (1991) and Kamsky (1994). All this led to a shot at Kasparov's world title in 1995 and despite his experience in the qualifying cycles, Anand described the final as "genuinely different to lesser matches".

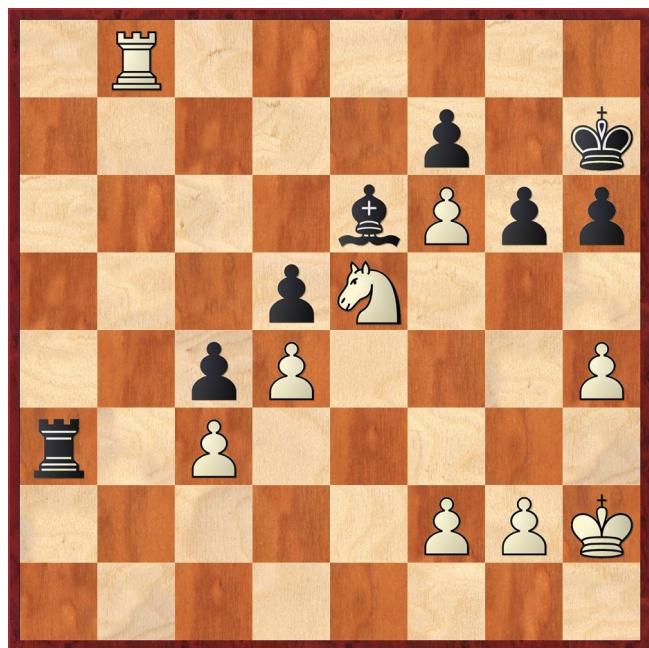
Although the match ended, in Anand's words, with "a cold shower", it started promisingly enough. The contestants engaged in a theoretical duel over 6 Be2 in the Najdorf Sicilian (see **NEW ENGLANDER**, August 2013) and Anand as White gained the upper hand in the fifth such game with a nice exchange sacrifice. Thereafter, Kasparov rejuvenated an idea of Tal's and levelled the score with a stunning novelty. Anand blamed nerves for the subsequent blunders in the increasingly tense situation.

The World Championship entered a murky decade and only regained credibility after Anand won the title in 2007 when a tournament format was used. Anand was a worthy winner of match-play defences against Kramnik (2008) and Topalov (2010). Notably, he won with the black pieces by finding an aggressive system in the Semi-Slav Defence (1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6) and reviving Lasker's Defence to the Queen's Gambit (1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 Be7 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bh4 0-0 7 e3 Ne4) to decide the winner-takes-all final game.

His most recent match against Gelfand in 2012, however, was a turgid continuation of his tournament form from that time. The Israeli surprised the champion by adopting the Sveshnikov Sicilian (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cd4 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5) in place of his trademark Najdorf. Anand switched to the fashionable Rossolimo Variation (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5) - maybe someone does listen to Chris Ross after all!

In contrast, Carlsen appears to have participated in only one long match. True, he was involved in several play-off deciders for the Norwegian Championship (2004-6) and participated in FIDE World Cup tournaments (2004-7) but the two game format is hardly comparable. In 2007, Magnus became the youngest Candidate ever and played Aronian over 6 games. As a sign of the variety in their play, both players allowed every game to feature a different opening ranging from the Benoni Opening (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 c5) to the Queen's Indian Defence (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6). It ended 3-3 with Carlsen twice coming from behind including a very economical attack.

Carlsen (2693) v Aronian (2759)
Elista, 5th Match Game 2007



36 f4 Rxc3
37 h5 gxh5

White weaves a mating net after 37 ... g5 38 f5 Bxf5 39 Nxf7 because Rh8# is unstoppable.

38 Rf8 Ra3
39 f5 Bxf5
40 Rxf7+ Kg8

If 40 ... Kh8, 41 Rg7 with deadly threats.

41 Rg7+ Kf8
42 Rb7 Ra8

The pawn promotes after 42 ... Kg8 43 f7+ Kg7 44 Rb8 but defending the first rank deprives Black of piece activity and White can finish with

43 Kg3 Rd8
44 Kf4 Be4
45 g3 c3
46 Rf7+ Kg8
47 Rg7+ Kf8
48 Nd7+ Rxd7

48 ... Ke8 49 Re7#

49 Rxd7 1-0

So can we see any qualities in his string of tournament victories that compensate Carlsen for his lack of match experience? In particular, does he recover from an early setback and will his temperament hold up in a crucial game?

It must be said that examples are hard to come by. Carlsen often leads from an early stage and is rarely under pressure in the closing rounds. He has, however, successfully completed two famous chases. The Sao Paulo/Bilbao tournament is one of the most important events in the calendar and is billed as the Grand Slam Final. In 2011, Ivanchuk was the runaway leader but Carlsen bounced back in the second week and defeated the leader in both individual games and

the tiebreak play-off. History then repeated itself in 2012 when Caruana was eventually hunted down.

Carlsen's record when it comes to deciding games in the last round is more mixed. At the Tal Memorials in 2011 and 2012, he won with Black in the last round but failed at Biel 2012 and was overtaken by Wang Hao. At the Candidates Tournament (London 2013), Carlsen had to equal or better Kramnik's result and he did so. They both lost!

► Style

It goes without saying that Anand and Carlsen are both excellent players but obviously, have types of position they prefer.

Anand does well when he can generate piece activity. This is often based on generating new ideas in the opening and thorough preparation. His superiority against Kramnik has already been mentioned and we shall see another example in the next section.

Carlsen, on the other hand, is reported not to favour a battle of research and memory. He is said not to study openings as much as other grandmasters and instead aims for quiet middlegames and endgames in which strategy and accuracy dominate. This approach came to the fore when his early attempts to overwhelm the old guard suffered setbacks and it has served him well ever since.

Whatever your style, you need first to anticipate your opponent's opening repertoire and see how it fits with your own plans. The table below shows the percentage choices of the combatants for their first few moves.

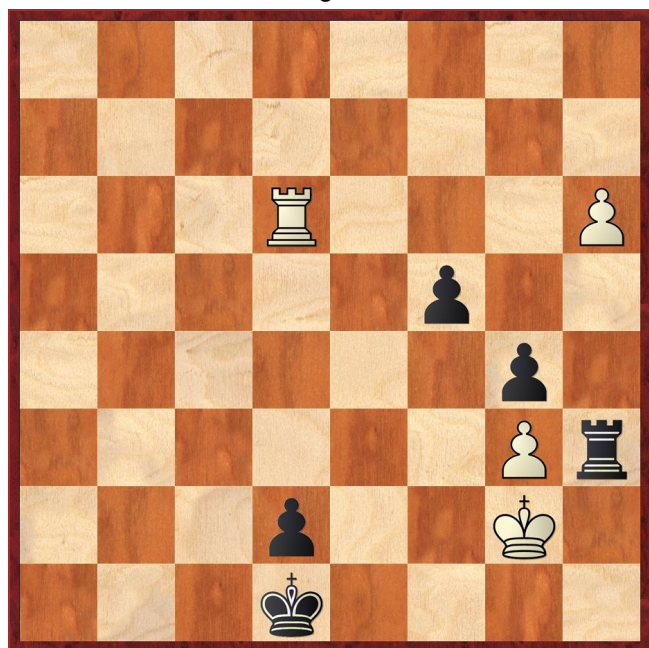
Opening	Anand		Carlsen	
	White	Black	White	Black
Open games	40	9	23	35
Semi-open games	17	27	25	10
Queen's pawn games	17	41	18	24
Indian systems	24	16	19	24
Flank openings	2	7	15	8

The English and Reti openings almost never features in Anand's repertoire. He prefers 1 e4 (57%) to 1 d4 (41%) and can expect Carlsen to reply symmetrically to the former because the French and Caro Kann Defences have not been seen for over a year and the Sicilian is also becoming increasingly rare in his practice. History, therefore points to the Ruy Lopez with Carlsen being fond of the Berlin Defence (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bg5 Nf6) which Anand has also played and the Breyer Defence (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bg5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 0-0 8 h3 d6 9 c3 Nb8). Both of these head towards positions that suit Carlsen so maybe, Anand might choose 1 d4 for at least some of the games. In reply, Carlsen has adopted a wide range of replies including the Grunfeld Defence (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5) which Anand essayed painfully against Topalov.

As White, Carlsen has much the greater experience with the English Opening (1 c4) and as this fits perfectly with his style. I see no reason for him to look any further. With 1 e4, he would run into Vishy's prowess with the Sicilian and 1 d4 might see complex variations of the Slav in the Queen's Gambit (1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6) which has a wealth of theory behind it.

The most intriguing part of the contest may well be in the endgame. This phase is for connoisseurs and will probably contribute to a less attractive match from the viewpoint of club players. Normally, it is Carlsen's forte but he has shown an uncharacteristic fallibility on several occasions recently. Here he was expecting to hold on for a draw :

M Carlsen (2868) v **Wang Hao** (2743)
Stavanger 2013



but his judgement proved faulty when the game continued

1	...	f4	
2	gxf4	Ke2	
3	Re6+	Re3	
4	Rxe3+	Kxe3	
5	h7	d1Q	
6	h8Q	Qf3+	
7	Kg1	Qf2+	
8	Kh1	Qf1+	
9	Kh2	g3+	0-1

The white queen is lost after 10 Kxg3 Qg1+ 11 Kh3 Qh1+.

► Recent form

Lets's look at how the finalists have fared since January 2011. This is a significant point because it was the last time the champion finished ahead of Carlsen and led to Anand temporarily topping the world ELO ratings. What I glean from the table below is how boring life must be as a grandmaster! Neither player loses many games but look at the percentage of draws! It is hard to escape the fact that Carlsen is winning more games and losing fewer.

Tournament	Played	Anand			Carlsen		
		W	D	L	W	D	L
Wijk aan Zee 2011	13	4	9	0	5	6	2
Medias 2011	10	-	-	-	3	7	0
Biel 2011	10	-	-	-	5	3	1
Sao Paulo/Bilbao 2011	10	2	6	2	3	6	1
Tal Memorial 2011	9	0	9	0	2	7	0
London Classic 2011	8	1	6	1	3	6	0
Wijk aan Zee 2012	13	-	-	-	4	8	1
Moscow 2012 (Wch)	12	1	10	1	-	-	-
Tal Memorial 2012	9	-	-	-	2	7	0
Biel 2012	10	-	-	-	4	6	0
Sao Paulo/Bilbao 2012	10	0	9	1	4	5	1
London Classic 2012	8	1	6	1	5	3	0
Wijk aan Zee 2013	13	4	8	1	7	6	0
Baden-Baden 2013	10	3	7	0	-	-	-
Zurich 2013	6	1	4	1	-	-	-
London Candidates 2013	14	-	-	-	5	7	2
Norway 2013	9	3	4	2	3	5	1
Alekhine Memorial 2013	9	2	6	1	-	-	-
Tal Memorial 2013	9	1	5	3	3	5	1
Sinquefield Cup 2013	6	-	-	-	3	3	0
TOTAL (games)		22	89	14	61	90	10
(%)		18	71	11	38	56	6

Is there no hope for Anand? Bear in mind he has healthy scores against the two players with the most similar style to Carlsen – Karpov and Kramnik. Many of Anand's previous games in World Championship matches have ended in tame draws. I do hope he will produce at least one flash of brilliance to make the match truly memorable. He still has the ability as this example of his preparation, coolness and analytical powers clearly shows.

L Aronian (2802) v **V Anand** (2772)
Wijk aan Zee, 2013

1	d4	d5
2	c4	c6
3	Nf3	Nf6
4	Nc3	e6
5	e3	Nbd7
6	Bd3	dx c4
7	Bxc4	b5
8	Bd3	Bd6
9	0-0	0-0
10	Qc2	Bb7
11	a3	

So far, this is the current main line.

11	...	Rc8
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A slight deviation though it has been seen before.

12 Ng5 c5

This is the new idea. Black ignores both White's threat to h7 and his own possibility of 12 ... Bxh2+ 13 Kxh2 Ng4+ and 14 ... Qxg5.

13 Nxh7

Anand argues he has great compensation for the pawn after 13 Bxh7+ Kh8 14 Be4 Nxe4 15 Ngxe4 (15 Ncxe4 Be7) 15 ... Bb8. White either allows cxd4 leaving him with an isolated pawn or he plays dxc5 which starts the process of bringing the rook on c8 to the kingside with a massive attack based on the raking bishops.

13 ... Ng4
14 f4

14 Nxf8 is not yet possible due to 14 ... Bxh2+ 15 Kh1 Qh4 mating e.g. 16 Rd1 Bg3+ 17 Kg1 Qh2+ 18 Kf1 Qxg2+ 19 Ke1 Bxf2+ 20 Kd2 Bxe3+ 21 Ke1 Qg3+ 22 Kf1 Qg1+ 23 Ke2 Qf2#. Alternatively, 14 h3 Bh2+ (not 14 ... Qh4 15 f4) 15 Kh1 Qh4 with threats of Qxh3 and variations stretching to move 31 elaborate White's difficulties.

Vishy admits not being able to remember any details of his preparation beyond this point but knew Black's position was basically sound.

14 ... cxd4
15 exd4



15 ... Bc5!
16 Be2

After 16 dxc5 Nxc5, the bishop on d3 is attacked and cannot be defended by 17 Rd1 because 17 ... Qb6 18 Kf1 (18 Kh1 Nxd3 19 Rxd3 Nf2+) 18 ... Nxd3 19 Rxd3 Be4 20 Nxf8 Bxd3+. If 17 Nxf8 Nxd3, you have to ask "Do I prefer a) the exchange or b) a trapped knight + vicious tactical threats?" The bishop has few squares (17 Be4 Nxe4 – the knight on c3 is pinned!) and its loss permits Qd8-h4 hitting h2 and h7. Aronian chooses another and weaker option.

16 ... Nde5!

White's last move deprives the f2 square of much-needed defence and raises the spectre of the well-known checkmate by Philidor's Legacy i.e. 17 d/fxe5 Qxd4+ 18 Kh1 Qg1+ 19 Rxf2 Nf2# and 17 dxc5 Qd4+ 18 Kh1 Nf2+ 19 Rxf2 Qxf2 with death on g2 or the back rank. There was also a mating mechanism that is new to me 16 ... Bxd4+ 17 Kh1 Nxh2 18 Kxh2 Qh4# but sadly 18 Ng5 closes the diagonal for the black queen. Hence Anand's move order.

17 Bxg4 Bxd4+
18 Kh1 Nxg4
19 Nxf8

Black's grip on e3 and pin on the c file mean there is no way to challenge the central bishop and with the white king cornered, the light-squared bishop deprives White of defensive pawn pushes – h2-h3 is an ineffective response to Qd8-h4. If 19 Ng5, Black lifts his king's rook into the fray with 19 ... f5 and 20 ... Rf6.

19 ... f5

Not 19 ... Qh4 immediately due to 20 Qh7+.

20 Ng6 Qf6
21 h3 Qxg6
22 Qe2 Qh5
23 Qd3 Be3 0-1

There is no defence to Qxh3. A splendid demonstration of piece mobilisation.

As a postscript, Anand noted how the careers of some promising candidates have gone rapidly downhill in the past after reverses in important matches. In 1995, his remedy was to return quickly to the arena in the environment of a friendly tournament. Significantly, he has elected to play in the London Chess Classic soon after the big event and a wildcat entry is being held open (for Carlsen?) until the match has finished. Yet another fascinating prospect...