

12<sup>th</sup> December 2016

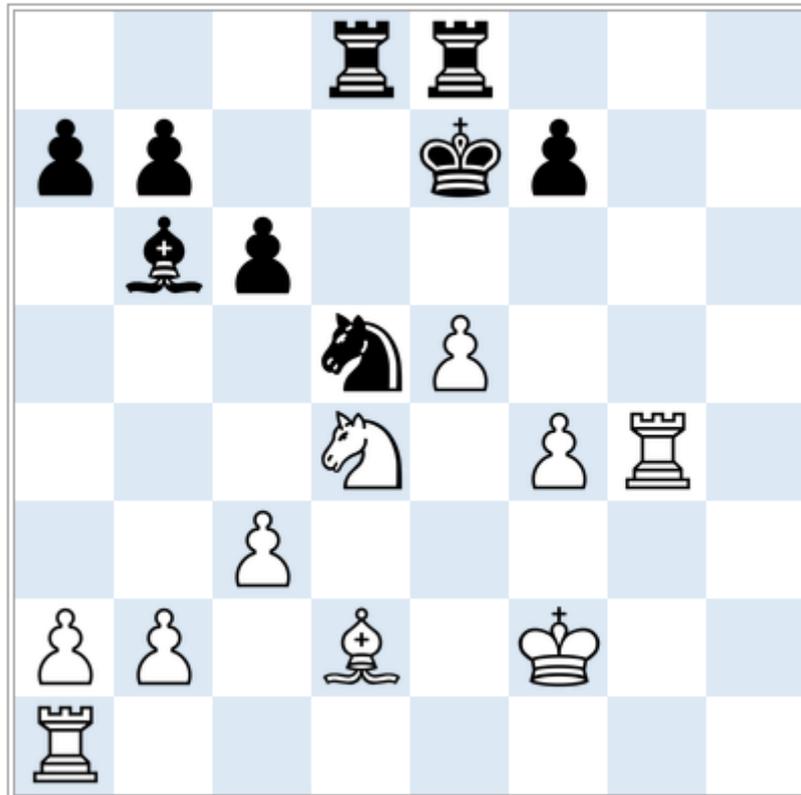
## LONDON CHESS CLASSIC DAY 4 ROUND-UP

The end results of four draws and a Nakamura win may have had a familiar feel today, but there can be no mistaking the fighting spirit on display, with Vachier-Lagrave's great escape against Kramnik surely the pick of an entertaining batch. Game 2 of the British KO Championship Final was a draw in only 11 moves after yesterday's gruelling ending. In the FIDE Open we now have a sole leader, while two Weekday events got under way, drawing over 100 additional players to the Olympia venue.



Nakamura beat Topalov in the only decisive game of the round (Photo: Lennart Ootes)

After his initial blackout loss to Wesley So, Hikaru Nakamura is back on track with two consecutive victories, against two former World Champions no less. Today's victim was Veselin Topalov, who is having a tournament to forget as he stands on 0.5/4. Incidentally, Nakamura will face a third former World Champion in the person of Vladimir Kramnik tomorrow and it will be interesting to see whether he can keep up his winning streak (something he said he would have to do if he wanted to be in with a chance of topping the overall Grand Chess Tour standings). Elsewhere it was a day of close escapes, as Anish Giri, MVL and Mickey Adams were all on the brink of defeat. The Englishman had been suffering in a position a pawn down since a 'vague' (Mickey's words) pawn sacrifice on move 12, but in the below position 29...Nxc3! allowed him to restore material equality and a draw was agreed after the sequence 30.bxc3 (if 30.Bxc3 simply Bxd4) Rxd4! 31.cxd4 Bxd4 and Bxa1.



Position after 29.Kf2

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave meanwhile found himself in the very uncomfortable position of being outplayed in the opening for a fourth consecutive time but some extraordinary defence from the Frenchman allowed him to salvage half a point against Kramnik. Anish Giri had possibly decided to pay tribute to his surroundings by employing the London System, but he found himself in a worse position as early as move 12. After the game he said 'I thought I've done nothing wrong to deserve a worse position, but apparently I'd messed up quite a bit'. However after this initial slip-up Giri went back to being his resilient self and a draw was agreed on move 56, which means that Wesley So maintains his half-point lead. The most balanced game of the round was Caruana-Aronian, where the latter's shoes and trousers probably provided more talking points than the actual game!



Mickey Adams wasn't the only one to be impressed with Levon Aronian's shoes (Photo: Fiona Steil-Antoni)

There isn't much to report about when it comes to Game 2 of the British Knockout Championship Final, as after yesterday's wearying endgame the players decided to take it easy today and agreed a draw by repetition after only 11 moves. However, there are still four games to go and with a £20,000 prize at stake for the winner, the players will surely come back well-rested and eager to fight it out tomorrow. Meanwhile one player made it into the sole lead of the FIDE Open by maintaining his perfect score and it is none other than 17-year old Indian GM Aravindh, who beat Sebastian Bogner on the top board today. He is closely followed by four players on 4.5/5: Etienne Bacrot, Benjamin Bok, Erik Blomqvist and Jan-Christian Schroeder. GM Keith Arkell and IM Richard Bates (who took out the much higher rated Bilel Bellahcene today) are the top placed English players on 4/5.



Aravindh is now the sole leader of the FIDE Open (Photo: Fiona Steil-Antoni)

Today also marked the start of two Weekday events: the U2050 section with 53 players and the U1750 section with 68 players. At the same time it was the last day of the London Chess Conference and you can find pictures as well as information about in on the [official website](#).



The schools events resumed in the morning (Photo: Lennart Ootes)

You can find all the photos from the festival, taken by Lennart Ootes, on the [following page](#). The results and tournament details are all on the [LCC website](#) and you can also download the PGN files of the games by clicking on the following links:

- London Chess Classic: <http://live.londonchessclassic.com/pgn/lcc2016/lcc04/games.pgn>
- British KO Ch'ship: <http://live.londonchessclassic.com/pgn/bco2016/round10/games.pgn>
- FIDE Open: <http://live.londonchessclassic.com/pgn/fide/round5/games.pgn>

All the live games will be broadcast at: <http://live.londonchessclassic.com/>

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