

12th European Individual Chess Championship



Round 7 report

by
IM

Jean-Baptiste

Mullon

Wojtaszek,R
g 2711

Hracek,Z
g 2631

ECO E20

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♙b4 4.♗f3 c5 5.g3 cxd4 6.♗xd4 ♘e4 7.♖c2
An unusual variation. White plays ♖d3 ninety per cent of the time. As far as the database goes, it's also the first time Wojtaszek used ♖c2 himself. What is sure is that the polish grandmaster had some nice ideas in mind. [7.♖d3 ♙xc3+ 8.bxc3 ♗c5 9.♖d2 b6 10.♗b5 0-0 11.♗d6 ♙b7 12.f3 ♙c6 13.♙a3 ♗ba6 14.♙g2 f5 =, Wojtaszek,R -Akopian,V Lugo 2007.

7...♖a5! 8.♙g2!? ♗xc3 9.0-0 ♗c6!?
9...♗xe2+ 10.♖xe2 gives white a good counterplay; and 9...♗a4 is bad due to 10.a3 ♙d6 11.b4 ♖a6 12.c5 And white wins the piece back.

10.bxc3 ♙xc3 11.♗b5!
Wojtaszek shows good home preparation and keeps playing a tempo. 11...♗d4?!
Trying to save the black bishop but still, for one pawn, white has a huge initiative [11...♙xa1 12.♙d2 ♖b6 13.♖xa1 0-0 14.♖b1 And white has evident positional compensations.

12.♗xd4 ♙xd4 13.♖b1 0-0 14.♖d1 ♙c5 15.♖b5
15.♙xb7 ♙xb7 16.♖xb7 d6± is quite good for white, but it doesn't seem logical to break the positional domination right now.

15...♖c7 16.♙f4 e5

No great change occurred on top ten tables during the seventh round. Only Vitiugov and Wojtasjek could win as white and so Potkin stays all alone on the top of the standings. For the last four rounds, a great fight is expected, as super grandmasters are about to be back in the business: Svidler, Nepomniachtchi, Navara, Jakovenko, and Judit Polgar (with a win in great style over Pantsulaia) won their games and reached the "5 points" group.



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17. ♖xc5! ♜xc5 18. ♜d5 ♜b4 19. ♙xe5 ♜e8 20. ♙e4 h6 21. ♙d6 ♜e1+ 22. ♔g2

With energetic play, typical of that generation of grandmasters and particularly Wojtaszek, white has reached a dream position, leaving black practically in zugzwang in the middle game.

22... a5 23. ♜f5 ♜a6 24. c5 ♜e6 25. ♙d5! ♜a1

25... ♜xe2 26. ♜xe2 ♜xe2 27. ♜xf7 ♔h7 28. ♜f8 ♜a8 29. ♔f3 ♜e1 30. ♙e4+ ♜xe4 31. ♔xe4 is hopeless.

26. ♙xe6 dxe6 27. ♙e5

A typical modern game showing creative play supported by perfect home preparation. 1-0

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