

The pgn of the last round was delayed a bit and the Scottish Championships started where the GM that was doing the annotations (Jacob Aagaard) was participating and had little time to annotate the last game. Jacob won the 119th Scottish Championship (see a nice photo of him with the trophy here: <http://www.qualitychess.co.uk/blog/?p=1087>) at the end, so i can safely assume that annotating the games for the Greek league brought him good luck! But, we still needed a game from the last round. So, i had an idea! Why not someone else annotates one of his own games? I didn't have to look for a strong GM to do that. We had already one that he did!

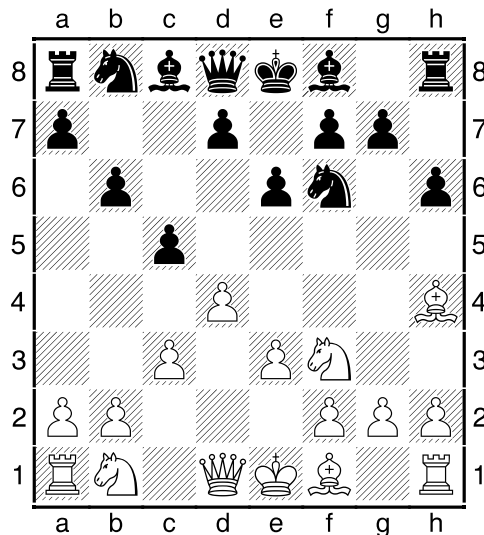
## **Kamsky (2741)** **Navara (2706)**

**40th Greek Team Championship 2012 Porto Rio Hotel (7), 05.07.2012**

**1.d4**

While we were all waiting for the closing ceremony of the 40th Greek Team Championships, GM Gata Kamsky gave a small lecture at the young players of his team and everybody else who was around and watching. When i realised what was happening i immediately went over to see and keep some notes. I was the man responsible for the press release of the tournament, so i wanted to report on such incidents! Luckily for me (and all of us!) i found Haris Siempos already there with his camera recording the whole thing. So, relying more on the youtube video ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qkr\\_N4PfbSc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qkr_N4PfbSc) where unfortunately there is a lot of noise in it) and less on my memory, i tried to present to you Gata's thoughts during his game against Navara as he showed them

**1...♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.♙g5 h6 4.♙h4 c5 5.e3 b6 6.c3**

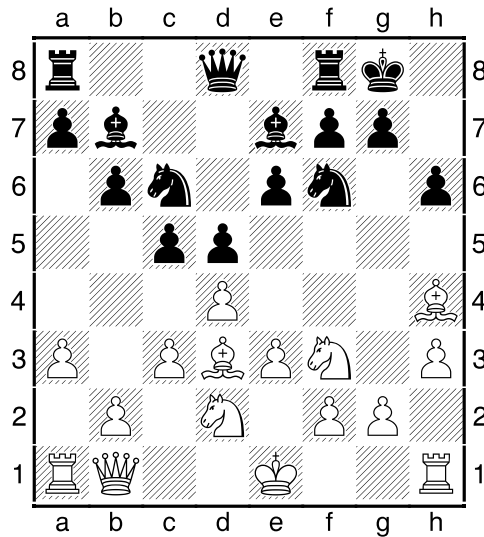


"I played like this when i was at your age", Kamsky

**6...♙b7 7.♘bd2 ♙e7 8.♙d3 0-0 9.h3 ♘c6 10.a3**

Kamsky explained that he played this move in order to meet ...cxd4 with cxd4 and avoid the Knight coming at b4

**10...d5 11.♔b1**



Kamsky's idea was to control the e4 square and avoid the equalising 11.0-0 ♘e4= as he showed

**11...♘d7**

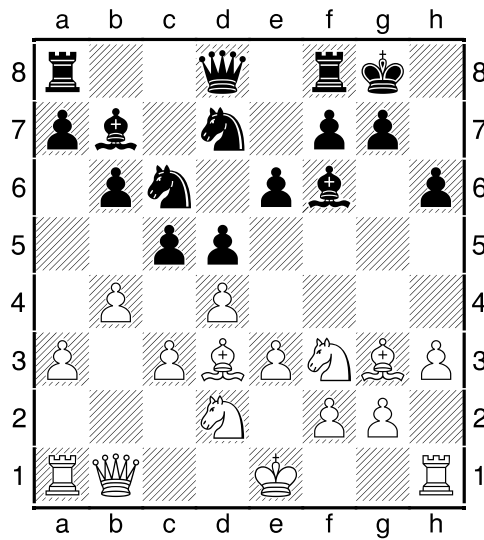
with the idea to play ...e5

**12.♘g3 ♘f6**

again with the idea to play ...e5!

**13.b4**

with the idea to meet ...e5 with b5



### 13...cxd4

13...e5 14.b5 was showed by Kamsky but Houdini gives the following variation as equal  
 14...♘xd4 15.exd4 e4 16.0-0 exd3 17.♙xd3 a6 18.a4 ♖e8 we'll see a similar variation soon

### 14.cxd4 a6?!

Prevents b5 .

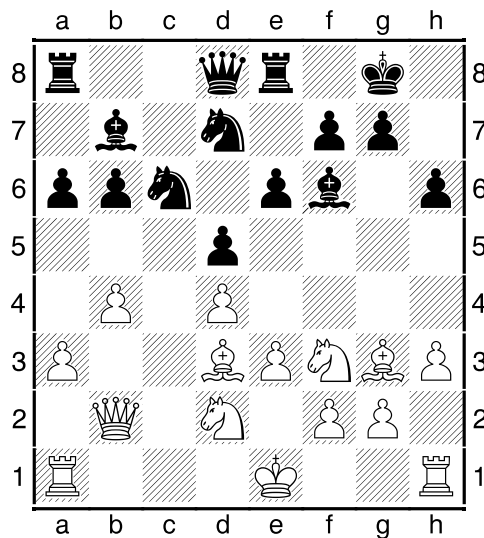
14...e5 "he has to play this" 15.b5 "and now" 15...♘xd4 16.exd4 e4 "it is about equal, but this Bishop (pointing the one at b7) is bad, so i thought that i might be a bit better. Mmmmm,,,probably not, it is equal", Kamsky

### 15.♙b2

more control over e5

### 15...♖e8

he wants to go ...e5 once again



16. ♖e5

Mistake according to Kamsky!

16. ♖c1 was the correct move as Kamsky showed. His idea was to sac the exchange at c6 after ...e5 16... ♖c8

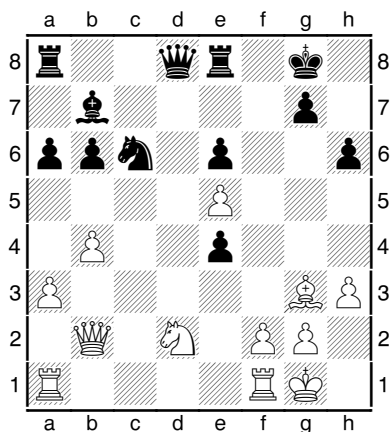
(16...e5 17. ♖xc6 ♙xc6 18.dxe5 ♙e7 (18...d4 is given by Houdini as better) 19. ♘d4 "the Bishops are bad and i have an attack . Huge advantage")

17.0-0 e5 (17...b5 18. ♘b3 "and White is better") 18. ♖xc6 is the same as above

16... ♙xe5 17.dxe5 d4 18. ♘f3

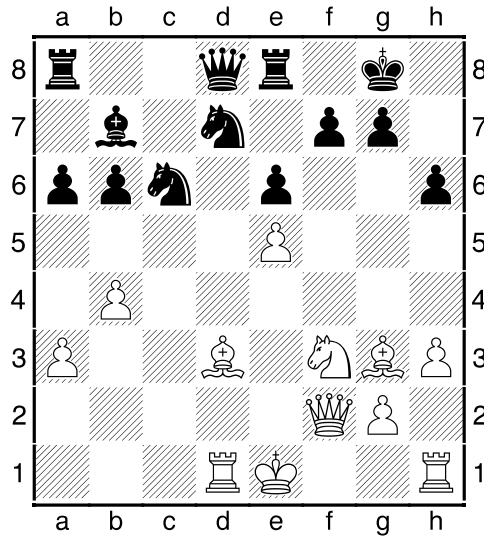
Kamsky now decided to sacrifice a pawn because he saw the following variation:

18.exd4 ♘dx5 19. ♙e4 "it seems that White is better still, but..." 19...f5 20.dxe5 fxe4 21.0-0



"and it looks like i am better, right? The idea is Nc4–Nd6" (21. ♖xe4 is met by the same 21... ♗d4)  
 21... ♗d4 "and i thought: Damn, Black is completely OK"

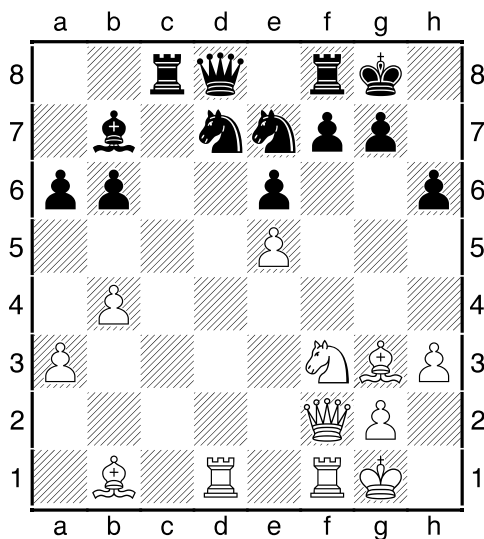
18... dxe3 19. ♖d1 exf2+ 20. ♗xf2



White has two Bishops and play down the d and f–files

20... ♖e7 21. 0-0 ♗f8 "it looks like White is simply winning" 22. ♕b1 with the idea Qc2

22... ♗c8



to protect against Qc2. Now the question is how to continue. There are a lot of ideas:  
 Nh2–Ng4–Nf6+ is one, Nd2–Nc4–Nd6 is another one and also Bf4–Qd2–Bxh6

### 23. ♖d4

i decided to play this having the idea to double at the d-file while also my Rook can transfer to the K-side (Rg4 for example)

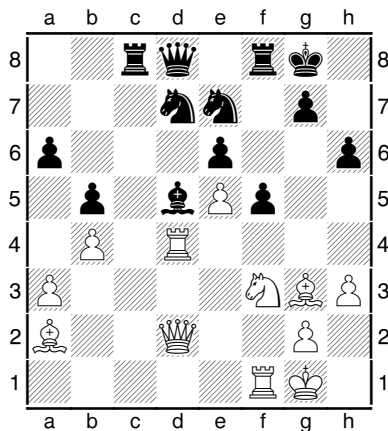
23. ♖d2 he can simply play now 23... ♕d5 and if 24. ♕f4 then 24... ♖g6 with the idea 25. ♕xh6 ♗dx6 and i am losing

23... ♕d5 24. ♖d2 f5 "a good move"

24... ♖g6 here i had the idea to meet this with 25. ♖xd5 exd5 26. e6

25. exf6 "i decided to play this, but i had another good option"

25. ♕a2 he will play now 25... b5 with the idea Nb6 and here i saw



26. ♕xd5 ♗xd5 27. ♖xd5 exd5 28. ♖xd5+ ♔h7 (28... ♔h8 29. ♗h4) 29. e6 ♗f6 (29... ♗b6 this natural move is met by 30. ♖b7) 30. ♖xf5+ (30. ♖b7 ♖d5) 30... g6 31. ♖e5 and i have a good position (31. ♖f4 ♖b6+)

Probably Kamsky thought that this isn't as clear as he would like.

25... ♗xf6 26. ♗e5

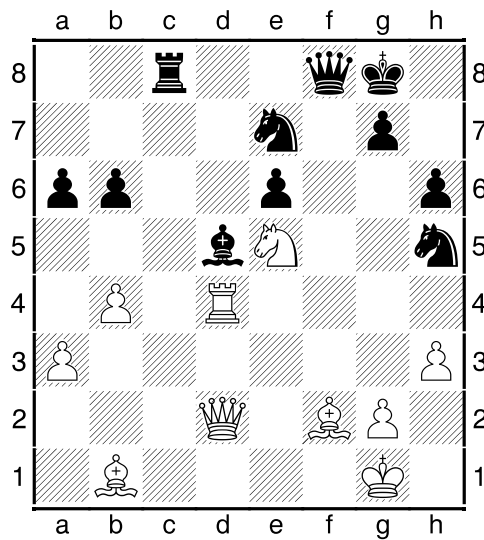
"i thought that White is probably winning here but my opponent found an amazing possibility"

26... ♗h5 27. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 28. ♕f2 (see diagram next page)

28. ♕h4 is given by Houdini as best

28... ♖c7! "his idea is to play Qc8 while he is defending d7"

28... ♗f5 29. ♖xd5 exd5 30. ♖xd5+ ♔h7 and now 31. ♗d7 ♖c1+ 32. ♔h2 no checks, White is winning. But now, Black is defending the d7 square



**29. ♖h4** now i threaten the Knight, i threaten the pawn...

29. ♕e3 is the move i wanted to play with the idea to play Rg4 but he has 29... ♘g3 and if 30. ♖g4 then 30... ♜c1+

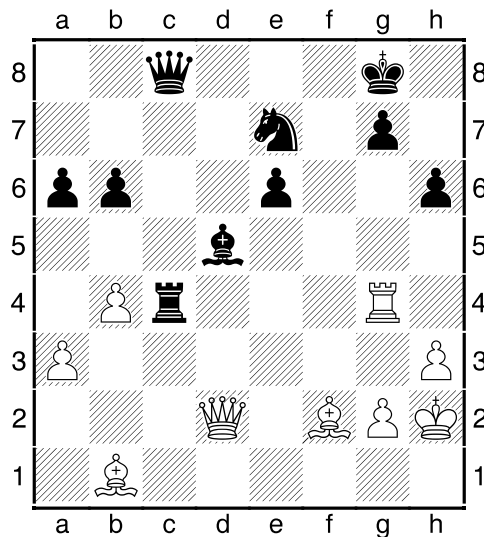
**29... ♜c8**

hoping for counterplay by coming to c1 with check

**30. ♖h2 ♗f6**

30... ♜c1 this is now bad because 31. ♕d3 ♗f6 32. ♗g4

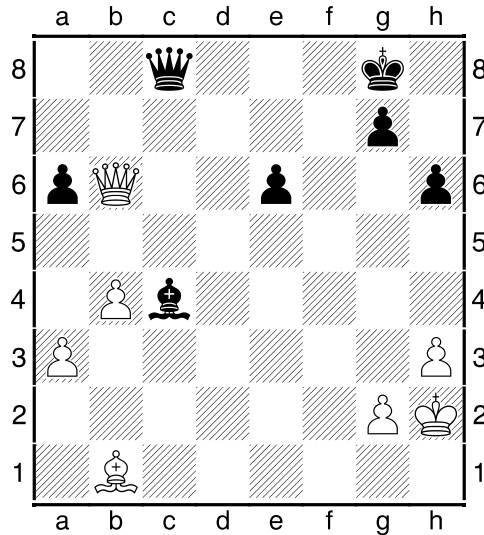
**31. ♗g4 ♗xg4+ 32. ♖xg4 ♜c4** amazing defence! I have no time for Qxh6



### 33. ♖xc4

33. ♘d4 Kamsky now showed 33...e5 pointing at g4 but it seems that (33...g5 and; 33... ♖c7+ are evaluated as 0.00 by Houdini) 34. ♖xh6 ♖xg4 35. ♖h7+ ♔f8 36. hxg4 ♖xd4 37. ♖h8+ is probably winning for White; 33. ♖xh6 ♖xg4 34. ♖h7+ ♔f8 35. hxg4 and now Black has counterplay in many ways, for example 35... ♖c1 or (35... ♖c3 as shown by Kasmky)

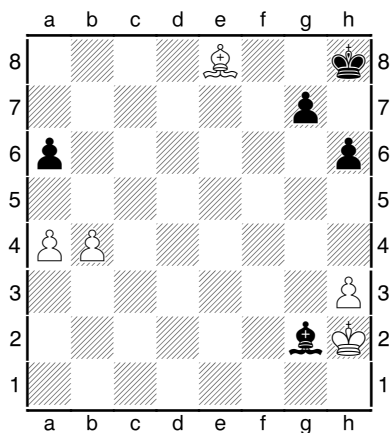
33... ♘xc4 34. ♖d6 ♜d5 35. ♘xb6 ♜xb6 36. ♖xb6



"his pawns are weak and at the light-squares, his Bishop is a light-squared one and his King is weak also but with his next move is has counterplay"

36... ♘d5 37. ♘d3

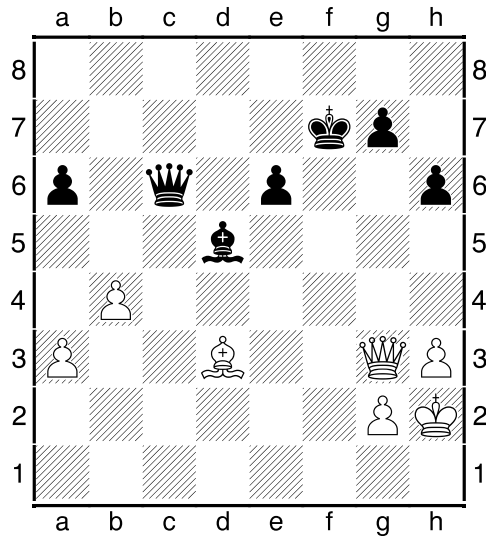
37. ♘g6 ♖a8 was shown as OK for Black by Gata. A sample line is 38. a4 ♘xg2 39. ♖xe6+ ♔h8 40. ♖e8+ ♖xe8 41. ♘xe8





and Houdini likes White but for a human it is easy to see that this is a simple draw after 41...♙b7 and Black will sacrifice his Bishop for the passed pawn and he can even give his remaining two K-side pawns if he likes because we'll have then the famous "Wrong Bishop"+pawn against the King, where despite the enormous material imbalance the draw is trivial. White would like to have dark-squared Bishop to win this endgame 42.b5 axb5 43.axb5 g5 44.♙c6 ♙c8 45.b6 ♗g7 46.b7 ♙xb7 47.♙xb7=

37...♙c3 38.♙b8+ ♔f7 39.♙g3 ♙c6



40.♙f2+

40.h4 "I should have played this move. Still not easy, but i have ideas..." now Gata showed this sample line 40...♙b6 41.h5 ♙c6 42.♙f4+ ♔g8 43.♙g6 ♙b7 44.♙d6 Black has to be careful about his King and if the Queens are exchanged his King comes quickly to g3-f4 and the Q-side pawns are strong

40...♔g8 41.♙g3 ♙e4 42.♙f1 ♙b6 43.♙f4 ♙d5 44.♙d3 g5

after this it becomes obvious why he should have played h4! "Now, its a draw", Kamsky

45.♙e5 ♔f7 46.h4 ♙f2 47.♙c7+ ♔f8

47...♔f6 "not this because" 48.hxg5+ hxg5 49.♙d8+ ♔f7 50.♙xg5

48.♙g3 ♙xg3+ 49.♔xg3 gxh4+ "all forced. There is nothing i can do..." 50.♔xh4 a5 51.g3 axb4 52.axb4 ♙f3 53.g4 ♔e7 54.♔g3 ♙d1 55.♙e4 ½-½