



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1010 | March 19, 2022

Gens Una Sumus!

Contents:

[Falconer TNM report](#)

[March Quads](#)

[GM Nick de Firmian](#)

[FM Paul Whitehead](#)

[Dr. Judit Sztaray](#)

[Tony's Teasers](#)

[Richard Hack's Stories
from the Chess Cafe](#)

[Interview with Jennifer
Shahade](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Solutions](#)

[Feedback](#)

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Falconer TNM Round Three Report

A round of ups and downs in the top section, as both **Sean Kelly** and **Guy Argo** tripped up in likely winning positions, losing to **Nathan Fong** and **Nicholas Weng** respectively. Expert **Edward Lewis** continued his winning ways by crushing NM **Yusheng Xia** in a model game. Tied at the top with a perfect 3-0 scores are Fong and Lewis, who most likely will be paired against each other in round four. IM **Elliott Winslow**, NM Michael Walder and Experts Weng and **Eugenio Garcia** are all at 2.5 points, so the tournament is wide open.

The race in the under 1800 section tightened up with only three tied at a perfect 3-0: **Nursultan Uzakbaev**, **Karl Kingma**, and **Christian Brickhouse**. Uzakbaev continues to impress with another sharply played victory over **George Tsolios**, while the under-rated Brickhouse was gifted a point when his opponent **Venugopol Mani** resigned after only eight moves – in an equal position!

Neil Falconer (1923-2014) was a Mechanics' Institute trustee. A remembrance penned by former Chess Room Director **IM John Donaldson** can be found here: <http://www.uschess.org/index.php/April/Neil-Falconer-1923-2014.html>

For TNM info, standings and results: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon>

Follow the DGT action: <https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tnm-2022/2/1/1>



Falconer Memorial TNM Round Three.

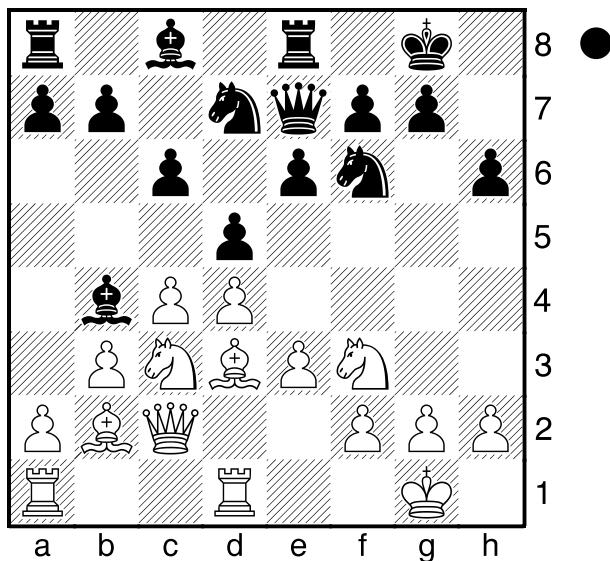


Falconer Memorial TNM Round Three – Abel Talamantez makes a move vs David Askin, while Jashith Karthi (in the Star Wars shirt) writes his move down vs Kevin Sun.

Askin,David
 Talamantez,Abel
 Falconer Memorial TNM (3) 15.03.2022
[Whitehead,Paul]

D46
2007
1800

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6
5.e3 Bb4 An odd move that doesn't
 seem to fit with ...c6. **6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.0-0**
0-0 8.Qc2 Re8 9.Rd1 h6 10.b3 Qe7
11.Bb2



Ba3?! Black should preserve his dark squared bishop, not seek to exchange it. Preferable are both

[11...b6]
 [11...Bd6]

12.Bxa3 Qxa3 13.c5?!

[13.e4! opens the game while leading in development should give white the edge.]

13...e5! Striking powerfully in the center.

14.dxe5 Nxe5

[14...Ng4 was an excellent alternative.]

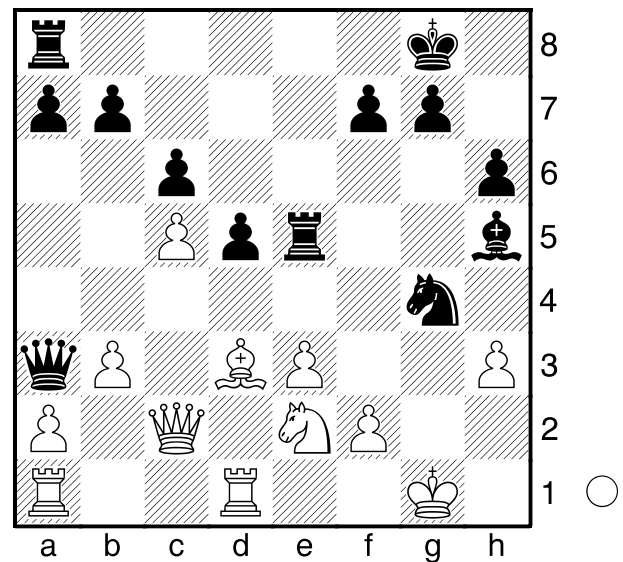
15.Nxe5 Rxe5 16.Ne2 Bg4 17.h3 Bh5

[17...Bxe2 18.Bxe2 Ne4 19.Rac1 Rae8= was another path. However, black is not in a peaceful mood.]

18.g4 Nxg4!?

[Instead 18...Bg6 19.Bxg6 fxg6

20.Qxg6 Qxc5 is dynamically equal.]

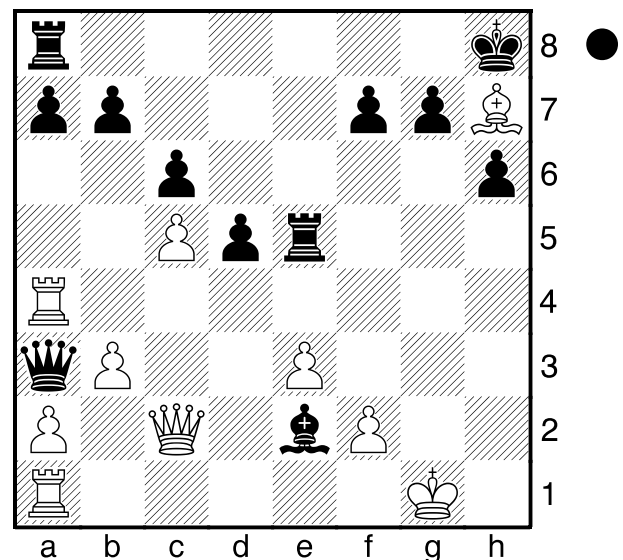


This is not quite sound - but fortune favors the bold! **19.hxg4 Bxg4**
20.Bh7+! An interesting idea - that should work!

[20.Rd2 was a sound alternative.]

20...Kh8 21.Rd4! Bxe2 22.Ra4?

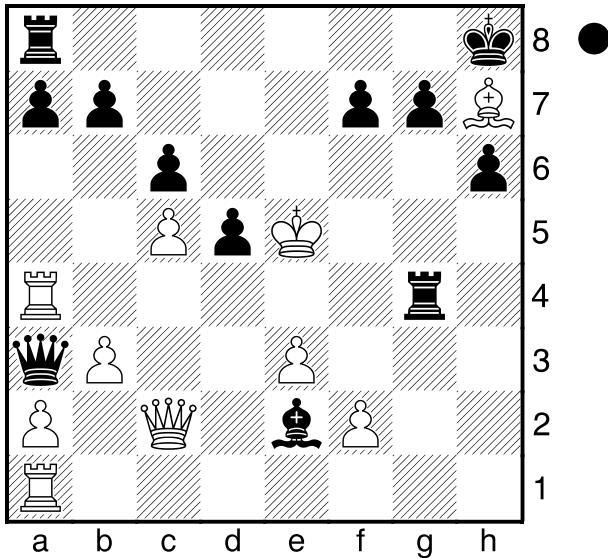
[White traps the queen, but... 22.f4!± first was the way to do it.]



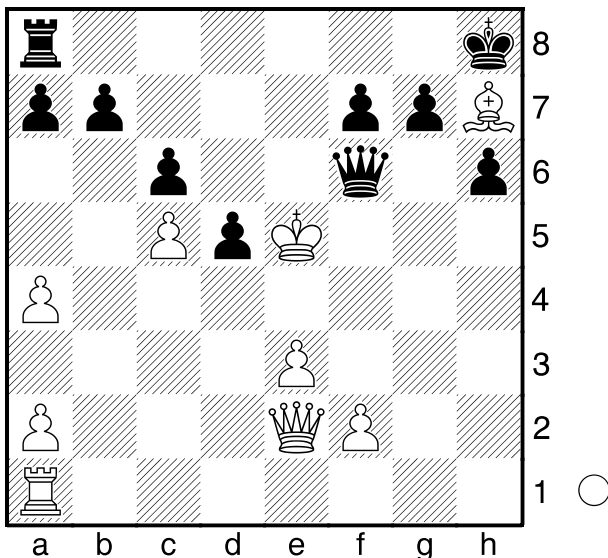
This looks good, but it allows back to escape. **22...Rg5+ 23.Kh2 Rh5+ 24.Kg3**

[24.Kg1?? allows Bf3 and white is mated.]

24...Rg5+ 25.Kf4 Rg4+= The game should now end in a draw by perpetual check, but white errs with **26.Ke5??**



Re8+ 27.Kd6 Rxa4!-+ Rather obvious, but white must have overlooked this. **28.bxa4 Qb4** The queen moves in for the kill. **29.Kd7 Ra8 30.Qxe2 Qa5!** Single-minded! **31.Kd6 Qd8+ 32.Ke5 Qf6#**



A flashy win by the former Chess Room Director!

□ Widjaja
■ Carron,Joel
TNM

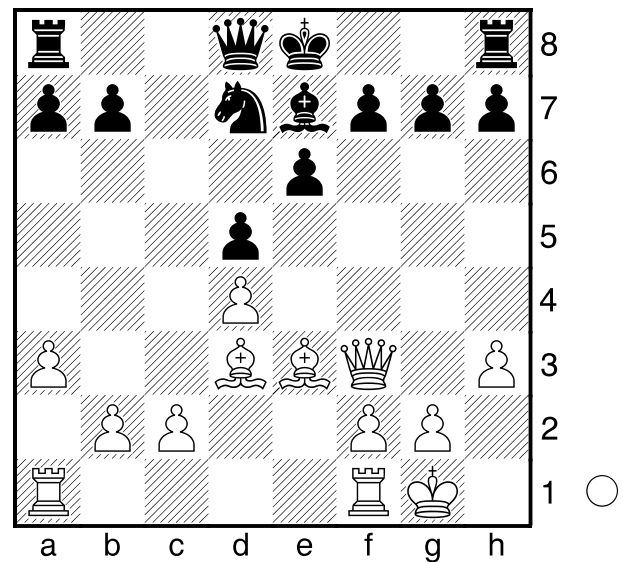
18.03.2022

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3?!

This makes White's play easier. More challenging is to maintain the pin with 6... Bh5. **7.Qxf3 c6 8.Be3 e6 9.a3!?**

A slow move but reasonable. Morphy would have chosen quicker development with 9. Bd3. **9...Nbd7 10.Bd3 Nd5! 11.Nxd5 cxd5**

This is solid pawn structure for Black with the d5 pawn taking center stage. **12.0-0 Be7**



13.c4! Aggressively trying to open up the game before Black castles. **13...Nf6! 14.cxd5?!**

[14.c5 would keep the edge for White with the strong queenside pawn phalanx.]

14...Qxd5! 15.Qxd5 Nxd5 16.Bb5+ Kd8 The game is equal. The black king is ok in the center in the endgame.

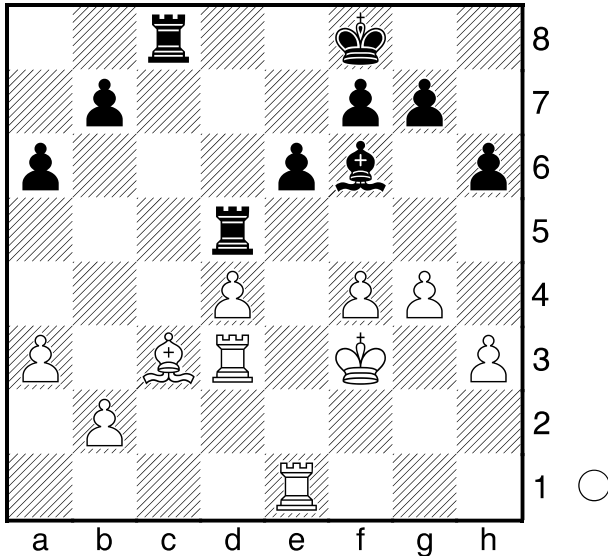
17.Rac1 a6 18.Bc4 Kd7 19.Bd2 Rhc8 20.Bd3 Bf6 21.Bc3?! Wrong direction. **21. Be3** keeps the c-file contested. **21...Nf4**

[21...Rc7!]

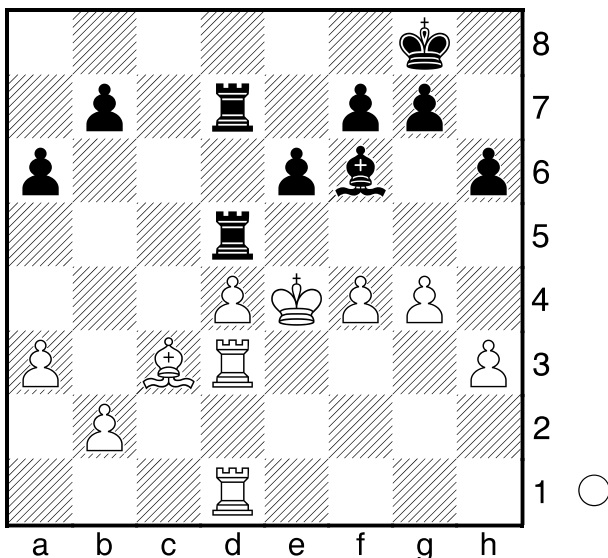
22.Rfd1 Nxd3 23.Rxd3 Ke8 24.Re1 Kf8 25.f4 another pawn on a dark square. Active defense could be tried

[25.d5 Bxc3 26.bxc3]

25...Rd8 26.g4 h6 27.Kg2 Rd5 28.Kf3 Rc8



29.Rc1 Kg8 30.Ke4 Rcd8 31.Rcd1 R8d7



Black has play against the isolated pawn and could well play on in this position. Calsen would be in his element as Black.
1/2-1/2

□ Thibault, William

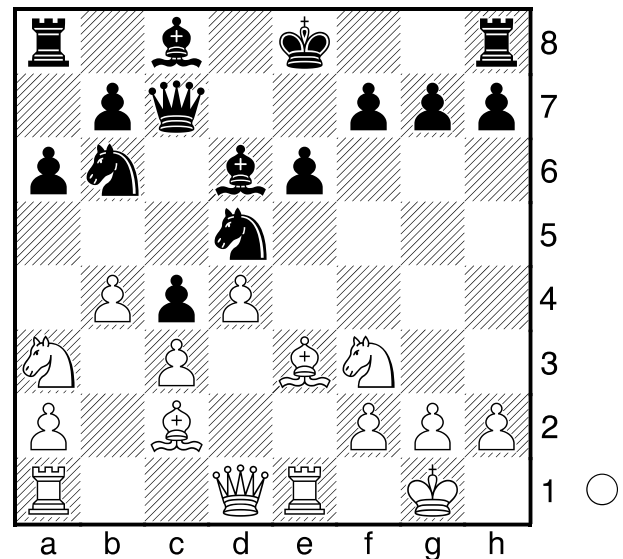
■ Willis, Lisa

Falconer TNM (3)

15.03.2022

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.0-0 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Bxd6 9.d4 Qc7 Just castling would be good and simple **10.Be3** [10.Na3!]

10...c4 Again castling would be good. This move takes pressure off the d4 square. **11.Bc2 Nc6 12.Na3 a6 13.b4?! Ne7!** Very nice. The black knights will make good use of the fine d5 square. **14.Re1 Ned5**

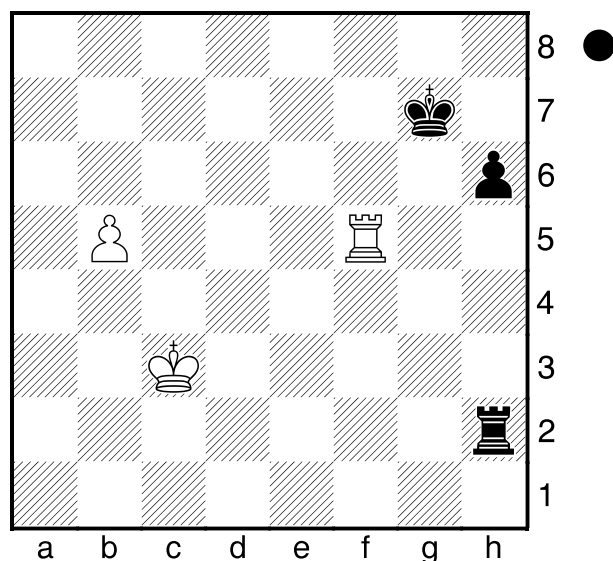


Black has now fully equalized and has the easier game to play. **15.Qd2 Bf4?!** [15...Bd7 keeps control of squares and makes it hard for White to find a good plan.]

16.Be4 Bxe3 17.fxe3 h6 18.Bxd5!? exd5 19.Ne5 Be6 20.Qc2 Nd7 21.Nxd7 Qxd7 22.e4 dxe4 23.Rxe4 0-0 24.Rae1? Bf5!

(Diagram)

25.Re7 Bill goes to an exchange down endgame. He has to play like



**52.Rd6+ Kg5 53.b6 Rb8 54.Kb4 h5
55.Kb5 h4 56.Ka6 h3 57.Rd1 Ra8+
58.Kb7 Ra2 59.Kc7 Rc2+ 60.Kb8
Kg4 61.b7 h2 62.Ka8 Ra2+ 63.Kb8
Kg3 64.Kc7 Rc2+ 65.Kd8 Rb2
66.Kc7 Rc2+ 67.Kd8 Rb2**
A well fought battle.

Kelly, Sean B33
 Fong, Nathan 2008
2082
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (3.1) 15.03.2022

1.e4 2 c5 4 2.Nf3 14 Nc6 3 3.d4 5
 cxd4 7 4.Nxd4 6 Nf6 10 5.Nc3 5 e5 6
 6.Ndb5 3 d6 5 7.Nd5 4 Thanks to the
 Caruana-Carlsen match, this is still quite
 popular. 7...Nxd5 33 8.exd5 5 Nb8 12
 9.c4 5 Be7 28 10.Bd3 18 This could
 well be the better move.

[although over the years 10.Be2 has been more common (staying out of the way of an advancing e-pawn).]

10...0-0 38 11.0-0 17 a6 16 12.Nc3 5 f5 19

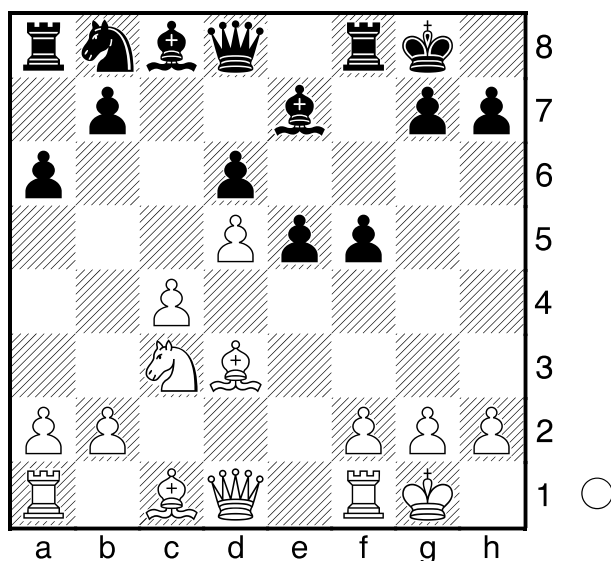
(Diagram)

(Diagram)

Only one pawn left each but Black has trouble with the advanced b-pawn.

48...Kg6 49.Rd5
[49.b6! is dangerous, though Re2 50.Rb5 Re8 51.b7 Rb8 52.Kd4 h should still make a draw]

49...Rf2 50.Kc4 Rc2+ 51.Kb3 Rc8



13.f3 10 The point -- the e-pawn is held up (for now).
 [13.f4 Nd7 does well for Black;]
 [13.Kh1!? keeps Black guessing what White will do (with his f-pawn mostly).]

13...Nd7 53 **14.Qe2** 6:18

[14.a3!? actually gets an exclamation point in the list of games in ChessBase Mega 2022 (but why?), and is Pichot's Big Move, with which he beat Gelfand a couple times in 2021. From even or worse positions. In a blitz and a rapid game. Still...]

14...Nc5 9:29 A sort of premature -- if it ends up retreating!

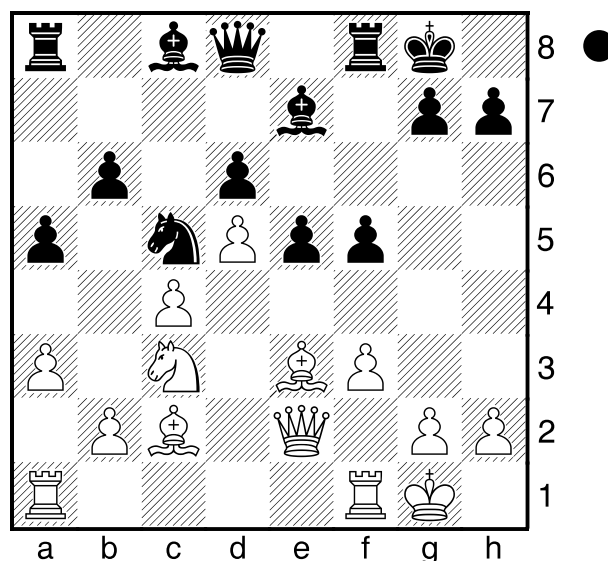
[14...Bg5 did very well in this position (½-4½!) but transposes into a not-so-high score; basically it's a game, th higher rated player has almost always won. 15.Bxg5!? Qxg5 when 16.b4 2-0 (16.f4 2-1)]

15.Bc2 12:21

[For example, the lower rated player in the last game here played 15.Kh1?! Nxd3 16.Qxd3 f4 (and would have been somewhat worse after 16...b5! 17.cxb5 axb5 18.Nxb5 Ba6 recovers the pawn with the better structure.) 17.Ne4 b6 18.Bd2 a5

19.b4?! (19.a3 a4 20.Be1) 19...axb4 20.Bxb4 Rf5?! (20...Bf5) 21.a4 Rh5 22.g4? (22.Ra2±) 22...fxg3 0-1 (38) Severiukhina,Z (2108)-Shaydullina,S (2331) Smolensk 2005]

15...a5 1:39 **16.Be3** 2:58 **b6** 51 **17.a3** 58



Ba6?? 9:29 Not critical enough!

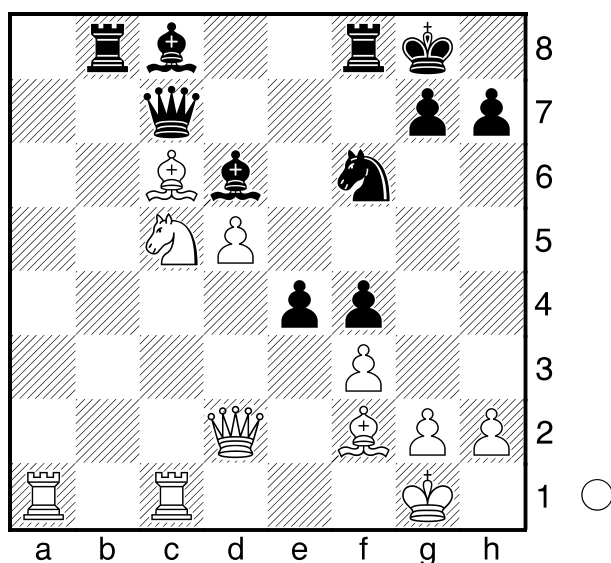
[17...Bf6!

A) 18.Rab1!? a4 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Bxa4 e4! 21.Bc6 Bxc3 22.Bxa8 Bd4+ 23.Kh1 Qh4 (23...f4) 24.f4 Qg4 Somehow Black has great compensation, well even (computer's assessment!);

B) 18.Rae1! a4!? (18...Bh4 19.g3 Bg5 20.Bxg5 Qxg5 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 Na6 23.Ra1 Bd7 24.Ba4±) 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Bxa4 e4 21.Bc6 Bd4+ 22.Kh1 Bxc3 23.Bxa8 Bxe1 24.Rxe1 f4!? 25.b4! It's all up in the air...]

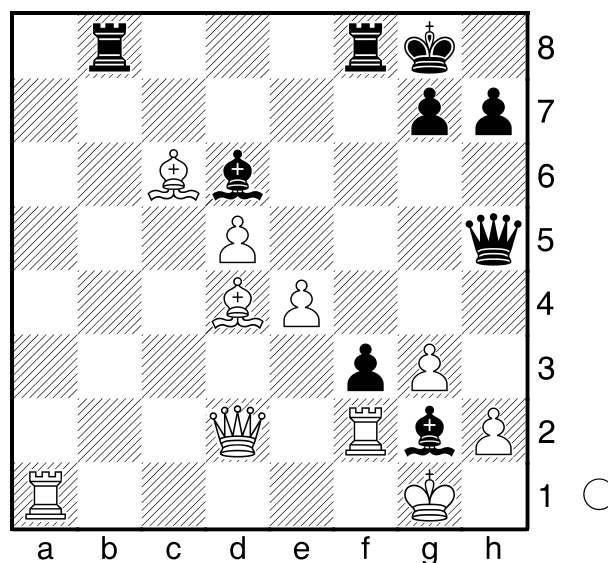
18.b4+- 3:07 Now Black falls back, leaving White way ahead. **18...Nd7** 28 **19.Ba4** 2:39 **Nf6** 4:47 **20.Bc6** 5:46 **Rb8** 1:29 **21.Rfc1?! 13:28** White is thinking c4-c5, but either the b-file or the e-file (prophylaxis!) works better. **21...Qc7?! 7:04**

[21...Nh5!]
22.Na4?! 10:36
 [22.bxa5 bxa5 23.Nb5 continues forward (+-)]
22...Bd8 2:54 23.Qd2?! 6:38
 [23.Rab1]
23...f4 28:18 24.Bf2 55 axb4? 1:35
 [24...Qf7 keeps the door shut for a moment and heads for counterplay, although after 25.Rab1 axb4 26.Rxb4 g5!]
25.axb4+- 20 Bc8 3:09 26.c5 6:17
 Now White is quite happy. **26...bxc5 4:56 27.bxc5 7 Be7 16 28.cxd6 3:18 Bxd6 14 29.Nc5?! 2:38**
 [29.Nc3!]
29...e4 2:00

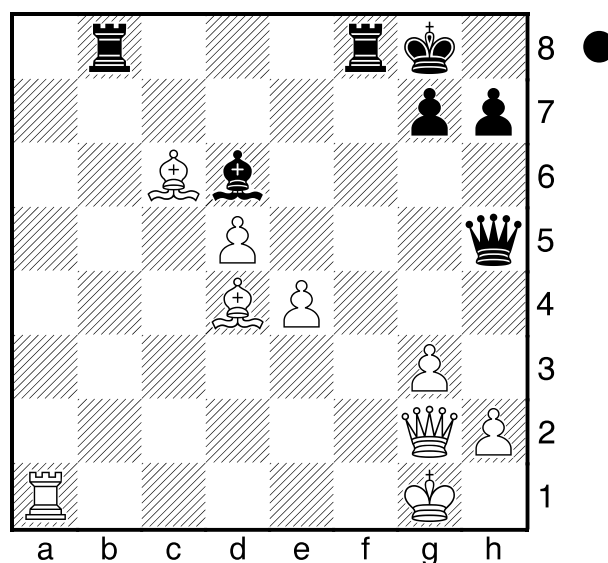


30.Nxe4? 1:15
 [30.Bd4! e3 31.Qc3±]
30...Nxe4 8 31.fxe4 4 f3! 35 32.g3!= 52
 [32.gxf3?? Bxh2+ 33.Kg2 Qd6!!
 White's king is a major liability.]
32...Qf7 2:10
 [32...Qe7]
33.Bd4?! 1:43 Qh5 56 34.Rf1? 1:27 Bh3 5:37 35.Rf2 7:41 Bg2?! 33
 [35...Qg6! 36.Qc2 Bxg3! 37.hxg3 Qxg3+ 38.Kh1 Rf4 39.Bd7!
 (else it's just hopeless) Bxd7 40.Rg1 Rh4+ 41.Rh2 f2! 42.Qxf2 Qxf2

43.Bxf2 Rxe4±]



36.Rxg2? 1:51 Too blunt.
 [36.Qe3]
 [36.Qc3]
 [36.Qe1 Bxg3 37.Rxg2! fxg2 (37...Bxe1?? 38.Rxg7+ Kh8 39.Rg5+) 38.Qxg3 Rf1+! 39.Kxg2 (39.Rxf1 gxf1Q+ 40.Kxf1 Rb1+ 41.Kg2 Qe2+ 42.Kh3=) 39...Qe2+ 40.Bf2 Rxf2+ 41.Qxf2 Qxe4+=]
36...fxg2 7 37.Qxg2 1:13

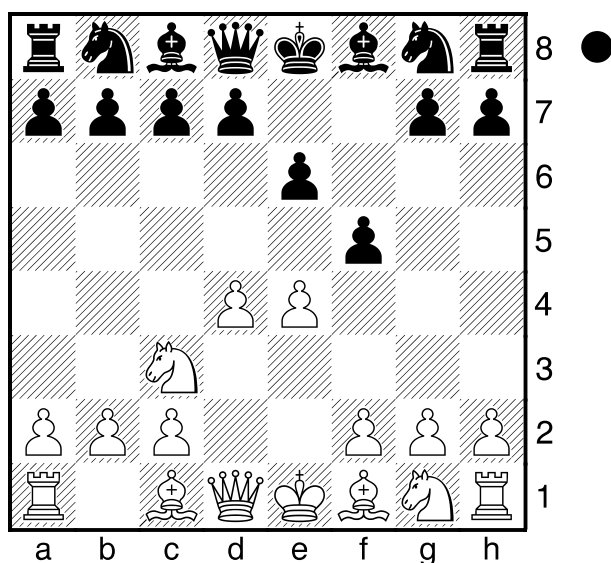


Be5! 34 Totally winning. White's remaining bishop and two passed pawns

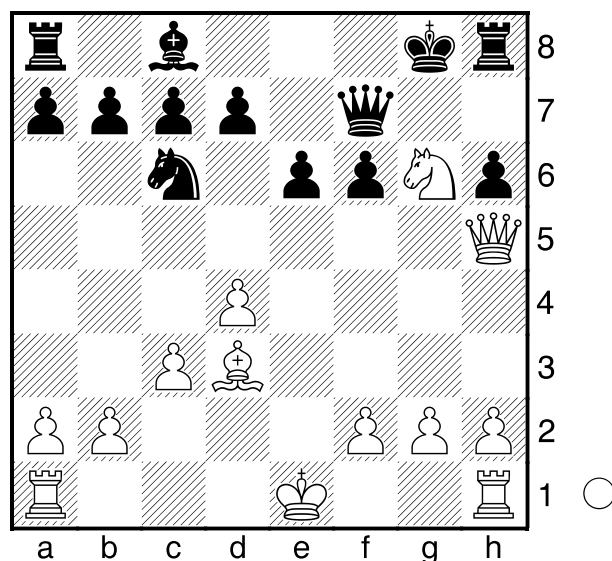
are spectators to their leader's demise.
38.Qd2 1:07 **Bxd4+** 46 **39.Qxd4 Qe2!**
 1:11 **40.Qe5** 4:16 **Qf2+** 36 **41.Kh1** 1
Rb2 17 **42.Qe6+** 7 **Kh8** 35 **43.Qh3** 5
Re2 1:40
0-1

□ **Lewis,Edward** **A80**
 ■ **Xia,Yusheng** **1982**
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (3.2) 15.03.2022 **2294**

1.d4 21 **f5** 3 **2.Nc3** 1:22 **e6?** 5:47
 [2...Nf6]
 [2...d5]
3.e4! 1:35



"+-" Stockfish 14.1 (!!) **3...fxe4** 29
4.Nxe4 10 **Nf6** 17 **5.Bd3** 50 **Nc6** 1:16
6.Bg5 2:09 **Be7** 14 **7.Nxf6+** 1:51 **Bxf6**
 4 **8.Qh5+** 1:16 **Kf8** 2
 [8...g6 9.Bxg6+]
 [8...Ke7 9.Bxf6+ gxf6 10.0-0-0
 As long as White doesn't do anything
 silly like trade queens, then Black's
 king position should prove fatal.]
9.Nf3 2:38 **Qe7** 11:08 **10.c3** 6:22 **h6**
 5:09 **11.Nh4** 2:54 **Qf7** 2:41 **12.Ng6+**
 4:10 **Kg8** 32 **13.Bxf6** 9:14 **gxf6** 20
 (Diagram)



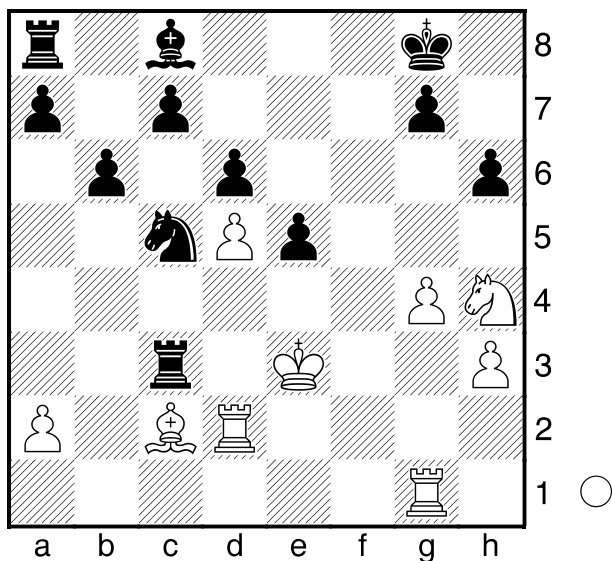
14.h4! 55 **Ne7** 5:09 **15.Rh3** 40 **Nxg6** 31
16.Rg3 49 **Kf8** 26 **17.Rxg6** 1:14 **d5** 44
18.Qf3 50 **f5** 2:20 **19.h5 Bd7** 12:21
20.0-0-0 4 **Re8** 5:01 **21.Qf4** 1:01 **Bc8**
 45 **22.Qe5** 58
1-0

□ **Parsons,Stephen** **A40**
 ■ **Werby,Timothy** **1660**
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (3.14) 15.03.22 **1805**

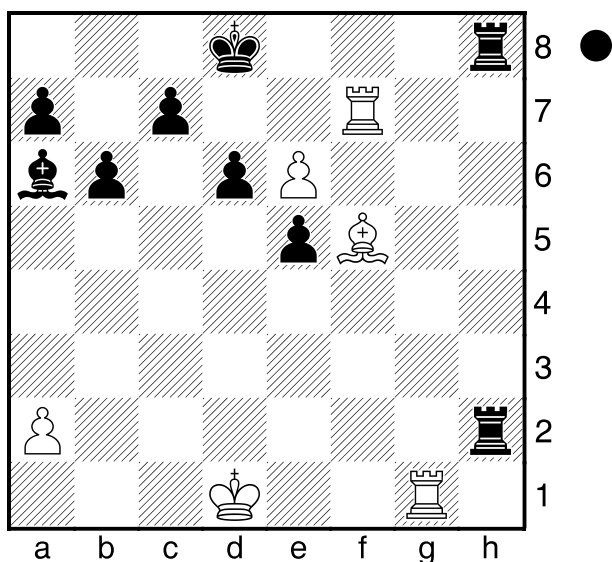
1.c4 b6 **2.Nc3** Bb7 **3.d4** e6 **4.e4** Bb4
5.Bd3 f5 **6.d5** fxe4 **7.Bxe4** Nf6 **8.Bg5**
0-0 9.Qd3 h6 **10.Bxf6** Qxf6 **11.0-0-0**
Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qxf2 **13.Rd2** Qf1+
14.Kc2 Qxd3+ **15.Kxd3** e5 **16.Nf3** d6
17.g4 Bc8 **18.Rg1** Na6 **19.Ke3** Nc5
20.Bc2 Rf4 **21.h3** Rxc4 **22.Nh4**
Rxc3+

(Diagram)

23.Ke2 Ba6+ **24.Kd1** Rxh3 **25.Nf5**
Re8 26.g5 hxg5
 [26...h5!]
27.Rdg2 Kf7 **28.Rxg5** Rg8 **29.Nxg7**
Rh2 30.Bg6+ Kf6
 [30...Ke7!]

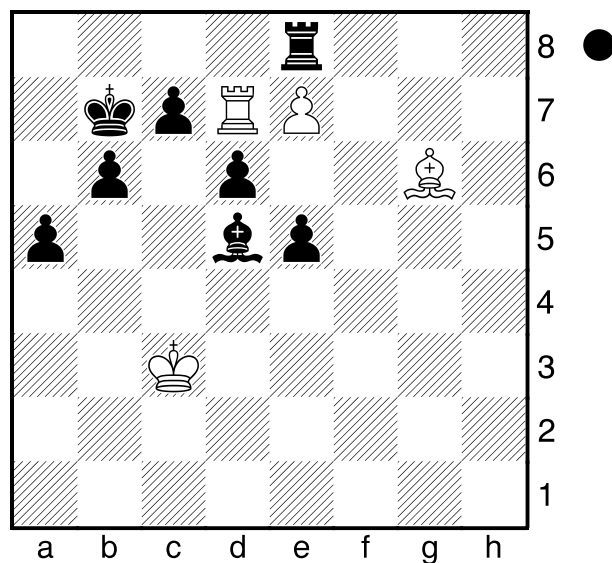


31.Rf5+ Ke7 32.Rf7+ Kd8 33.Bf5
 [33.Ne6+ Nxe6 34.dxe6 Rhh8!-+]
33...Rgh8?
 [33...Be2+ 34.Kc1 Bd3-+]
34.Ne6+ Nxe6 35.dxe6

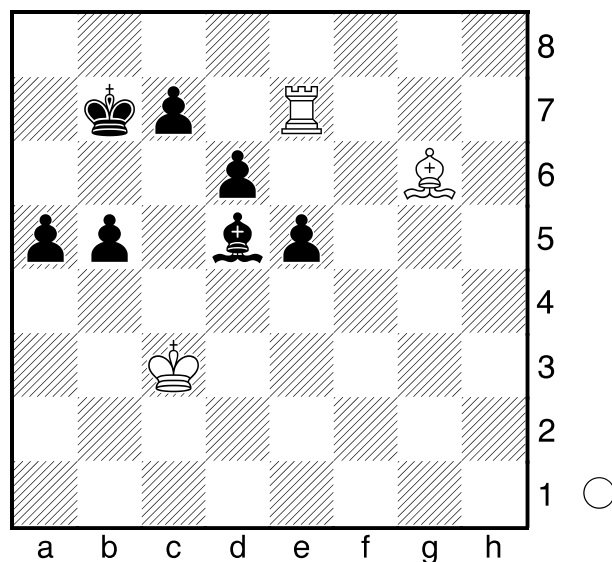


Rxa2??
 [35...Rf2! 36.Rd7+ Kc8 37.Rh7 Re8!-+]
36.Rfg7??
 [36.Rd7+□+- Kc8 (36...Ke8 37.Bg6+ Kf8 38.e7+ and mates) 37.e7 Kb7 38.Be4+ Kc8 39.Rd8+ Rxd8 40.Bf5+]
36...Ra1+-+ 37.Kc2 Rxc1 38.Rxc1

Bb5 39.Rg7 Re8 40.Kc3 a5 41.Rg5 Bc6 42.Rg7 Bd5?!
 [42...d5]
43.Rd7+ Kc8 44.e7 Kb7?!
 [44...Bc6 45.Rxd6+ Kb7-+]
45.Bg6



Bc6??
 [45...Rxe7!! 46.Rxe7 b5



Black wins!]
46.Bxe8 d5 47.Rxc7+ Kxc7 48.Bxc6 Kxc6 49.e8Q+ Kd6 50.Qb5 d4+ 51.Kd3 a4 52.Qxb6+ Kd5 53.Qb5+ 1-0



Falconer TNM – David Nichol vs Lucas Radaelli.



Falconer TNM – Dawn Adams vs Pratyush Hule.

March Quads

60 players in 15 sections turned out for the Mechanic's Monthly Championship Quads on Saturday the 12th. For a full list of cross tables and prize-winners go here:

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-championship-quads#0312>

Arthur Liu was the TD – expect to see more of him in the months to come.



March 12th Quads.



Ilker Nadi Bozkurt vs Alan Finklestein from the top Quad.

GM Nick de Firmian

(GM Nick de Firmian's column will resume March 26th)

FM Paul Whitehead

Chess is everywhere.

An in-depth look at chess and the Russia/Ukraine conflict from Mother Jones:
<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2022/03/chess-grandmasters-putin-russia-ukraine-war/>

Find out who is involved in the world's longest running chess match:
<https://www.ft.com/content/3ed2e124-1968-44ae-92c1-cf1560611d32>

Why we love chess:
<https://www.harlemworldmagazine.com/4-reasons-why-people-love-playing-chess/>

A new 'teen-angst' Graphic Novel is slated for publication – be on the lookout for
Scholar's Mate:
<https://bleedingcool.com/comics/chess-and-teen-angst-ya-graphic-novel-scholars-mate-for-2024/>

An Albanian Grandmaster is also a scientist on the front-lines in the battle vs Covid-19:
<https://en.chessbase.com/post/can-a-chess-grandmaster-save-the-world-2>

Surprise! The Botez sister win the Best Chess Streamer Awards 2022:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCdVrhLEja0>

A sobering profile of Ukrainian chess players under siege:
<https://www.chess.com/news/view/ukrainian-chess-players-in-times-of-war>

Chess & Community celebrates their 10th anniversary in Athens, GA:
<https://www.onlineathens.com/picture-gallery/news/local/2022/03/11/chess-community-celebrates-10-years-music-poetry-and-chess/6995616001/>

The forecast is rosy for chess and card game software through 2028 – buy the PDF report for only \$3,480.00:
https://www.reportsandmarkets.com/reports/global-chess-and-card-games-software-market-4395903?utm_source=dj&utm_medium=41

A Russian Grandmaster essentially defects to Norway:
<https://chess24.com/en/read/news/russian-grandmaster-changes-federation>

Three Rock Stars walk into a bar called Chess Club...

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/daily/music/2022-03-10/team-behind-barracuda-to-open-chess-club-in-former-plush-location/>

You can now buy a concrete chess set that harkens back to the Roman Empire:
<https://mensgear.net/mim-studios-arena-chess-set/>

A rural Canadian is remembered as a giant in chess composition:
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/article-rural-manitoba-carpenter-still-considered-one-of-the-best-chess/>

Chess records – need we say more?
<https://www.chicagjournal.com/chess-records-to-reopen-for-tours-next-month/>

Magnus Carlsen is a Fantasy Football maven:
<https://www.essentiallysports.com/us-sports-news-chess-news-andrey-esipenko-he-is-very-unpredictable-russian-grandmaster-on-being-bested-by-magnus-carlsen-at-fantasy-soccer-game/>

India will host the 2022 Chess Olympiad:
https://www.espn.com/chess/story/_/id/33515785/india-confirmed-2022-chess-olympiad-hosts-all-need-know

Britney Spears accuses her father of playing her like “a game of chess”:
<http://www.noise11.com/news/britney-spears-takes-aim-at-father-on-instagram-then-deletes-post-20220316>

And finally, the incredible GM Judit Polgar is getting ready to play millions of earthlings - simultaneously:
<https://fide.com/news/1628>

Chess is everywhere.



FM Paul Whitehead lectures before round three of the Falconer TNM.

Dr. Judit Sztaray

Establishing a Rating at US Chess and FIDE

Are you a new player with no rating? You are so called an "unrated" player, both at USCF and at FIDE.

US Chess: Once a player plays a game, they get a rating right away. Even after the first game, regardless of who they play against (player with a rating or unrated player) and regardless of the score of that game (win-draw-lose), a rating will be established. During the first 25 games of a player's history, the rating will be denoted by PXX, where P means Provisional and the XX is the number of total games played.

So, for example 700 (P20), means that the player played 20 rated games already, and the rating is 700. The (PXX) will only disappear once the player crosses the 25 games threshold. After that the rating is listed by itself, without any indication how many total rated games the player played.

FIDE: Players have a much harder time to get a rating with FIDE. Below are the relevant rules.

7.1.4 A rating for a player new to the list (aka FIDE rating list) shall be published when it is based on five games against rated opponents. This needs not be met in one tournament. Results from other tournaments played within consecutive rating periods of not more than 26 months are pooled to obtain the initial rating. The rating must be at least 1000.

8.2.1. If an unrated player scores zero in their first event this score is disregarded.

This means that for those players who are looking to establish their FIDE rating, they MUST score 0.5 points against a player with FIDE rating and play a total of five games against players with FIDE rating.

This is why oftentimes it takes a while in the under section for players to get a FIDE rating. However, once you get a rating, there is no P (provisional) denotation at FIDE.

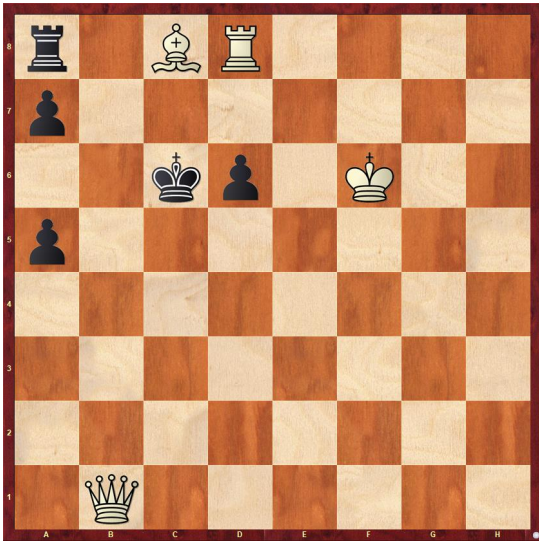
Calculating any rating change is a complicated procedure both at USCF and FIDE. Those who are interested in the process, please see the following links for further explanation, and, as always, feel free to email me with any particular question.

<https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/the-us-chess-rating-system-revised-september-2020.pdf>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elo_rating_system#FIDE_ratings

Tony's Teasers

Kenneth Howard 1924.
White to play and mate in 3.



Richard Hack's Stories from the Chess Café

One of the things I like most about the Chess Café is the range of experience and thoughtfulness I find among the participants. Whatever question I may have, I can get answers there. I can also bring one or two of my games for entertainment and analysis, and I often find out that some of my losses aren't as terrible as I thought they were.

The game's the thing. Once that clock starts, you have a limited amount of time to make all your good and bad moves, to keep fighting and trying to get control of that moving arrangement of pieces on a board that is a symbolic world in conflict. Win or lose, there is much to celebrate and much to correct, and there's always another game.

We often think of chess players as mental athletes. When I asked about philosophers in chess, names like Emanuel Lasker and more recent thinkers were brought up. Mike Walder said when he was a member of the chess club at what was then known as the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, the other members were either IT or philosophy majors.

In one of the games we looked at on March 14 (Einstein's birthday), Paul remarked, "It's much more difficult to defend than to use good, aggressive play."

This brought to mind some comments by Judit Polgar: "Chess is thirty to forty percent psychology. You don't have this when you play a computer. I can't confuse it".

And:

"One can say that in the last decades chess has become more of a sport than a science. I see it from an artistic point of view."

Philosophy and the search for truth on the chessboard also have to deal with superstition, which is rife in sports. Last week Alexey Root was wearing a Norway Chess sweater that got a lot of compliments. "I like it, but I've finished 1½-2½ twice while wearing it, and was 4-0 not wearing it," she said with a smile. Her new title, U.S. Women Chess Champions, 1937-2000 is forthcoming from McFarland Books, and she has begun a column on Women in Chess for the American Chess Magazine. Sal Matera, Zooming in from the Hudson Valley in N.Y., praised ACM for what it has accomplished. He is a great and generous source of chess knowledge.

Boris Gelfand writes about his 2004 game with Daniel Hugo Campora in his book Positional Decision Making in Chess, where with a definite structural advantage, he decided to trade the queens and rooks and win the endgame of bishop and knight against two knights: "This is a moment to go with your feeling, . . . and I always play according to my beliefs. At the end of the day it is not a matter of life and death; nor is it the right moment to try to find ultimate solutions."

Editor's Note: Information for joining the Chess Café is here:

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe>



Richard Hack, TNM Round 3.

Interview with WGM Jennifer Shahade

by Dr. Judit Sztaray

What motivated you to write the book, what went through your mind when you first thought of the idea of writing this book and approached the publisher?

My amazing editor Anna Baty and agent Elizabeth Sheinkman made this book a reality. I went through a traditional process of a book proposal, and ended up signing a two book deal to Hodder & Stoughton (<https://www.thebookseller.com/rights/hodder-stoughton-snares-shahades-chess-titles-1300660>).

For the first book, Chess Queens, I aim to show the REAL women of chess who are making moves on and off the board from the first Women's World Champion Vera Menchik to modern day players all over the World who use chess to challenge their minds and find flow---and as a vehicle for fun and liberation.

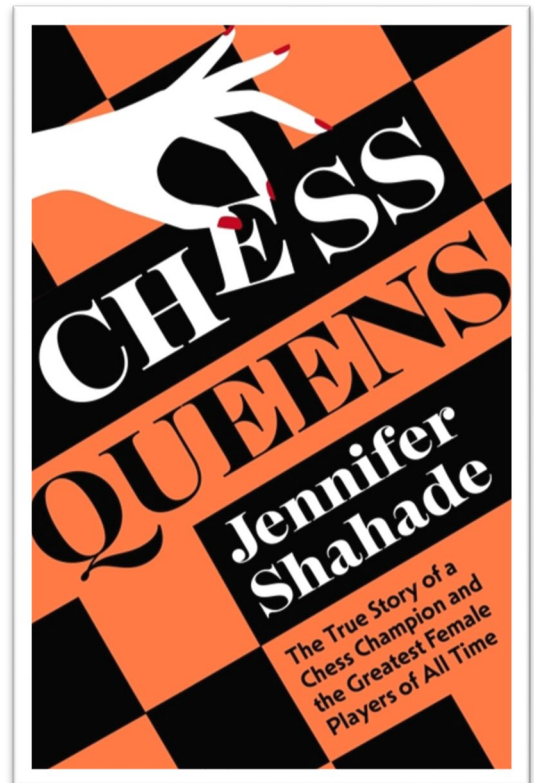
There are so many new chessplayers, of all ages and genders, who are hungry to learn more about the culture and history of chess. I see Chess Queens as a great entry point to introduce them to dozens of amazing women of all backgrounds-- and to give them tools to confront pseudo-science that claims women and girls aren't as talented at chess as males.

What would be your message to the Northern California - San Francisco Bay Area girls who are competing in open tournaments? Some of whom are too shy/afraid to come out to play in our open tournaments? (Percentage is still under 10% sadly.)

I'd say don't be deterred by the haters. For every person who is against you, there are more who are rooting for you to succeed. Every girl who plays competitive chess is part of making the game more inclusive and fun-- and showing the world that it's NOT just a boy's game. It can be tough at the start, but if you stick with it, you may find that you get double the joy: both from thriving and from proving those who doubted you wrong.

What are some of the effective or unique ideas you have that could start to increase the percentage of girls/women in chess, that brick and mortar chess clubs can start employing to see if they are making a difference?

I think the pandemic showed that girls really crave social groups (like all genders do.) Because girls/women are outnumbered, it can be harder to find someone who is in the



same geographical area and you click with. That's why we are keeping our online community going for the US Chess Girls Club. I am also very excited about the return of Spring Scholastics, where we will have "Girls Club" at every event. That's something for other organizers to emulate: if you have a mixed event, you can have a special meal, or area for girls/women to socialize or meet. You could also give prizes, like books or boards or gift certificates for the top scoring female player.

It's also important to be inclusive and welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community and gender minorities. I know the Mechanics is a leader in that area, as one of the players featured in Chess Queens, Lisa Willis, told me!

There should be a zero-tolerance policy for harassment and bullying. Make it clear that you're an inclusive and positive space and set up a clear way to report abuse.

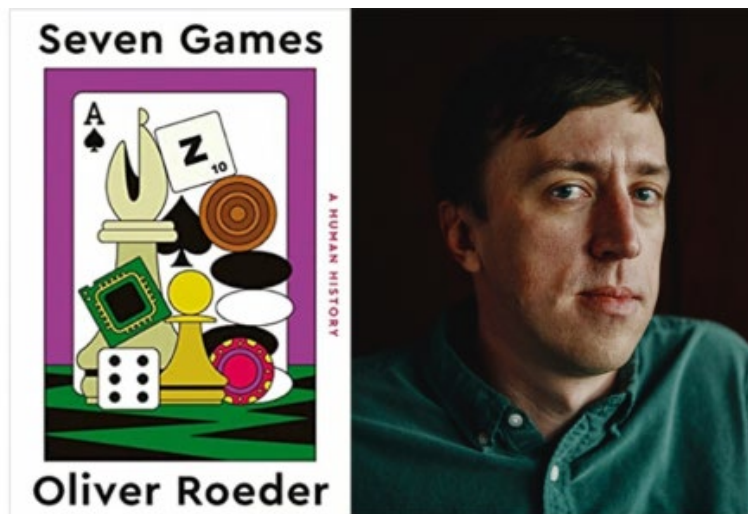
Thanks for all you do to help making the game fun and open to all and for giving me a platform to discuss Chess Queens!

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 31st 2022 at 5:30PM – Virtual Event on Zoom

Seven Games: A Human History

Author **Oliver Roeder** in conversation with Dr. Judit Sztaray and FM Paul Whitehead.



Free for Mechanics' members. Public sliding scale \$5-\$10.

For information and to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/events/seven-games-human-history-virtual-event-zoom-mar-31-2022>

**Ongoing Tuesday Night Marathon:
Falconer Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon,**

March 1 - April 12, 2022, 6:30PM. USCF + FIDE Rated. 7SS G/120;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/falconer-memorial-tuesday-night-marathon>

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/FalconerMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon>

19th Max Wilkerson Memorial – FIDE rated

March 26 and March 27, 2022. USCF + FIDE Rated. 5SS G90+30

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/19th-wilkerson-memorial-championship-person-fide-g9030>

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/19thWilkersonMemorialChampionship>

20th Imre Konig Memorial

April 2, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4SS G45;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/20th-konig-memorial-championship-g45-person>

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/20thKonigMemorialChampionshipG45>

Solution to Tony's Teaser

1.Ba6! Rxd8 2.Qb5+ Kc7 3.Qb7#. If 1...Kc5 2.Qb5+ Kd4 3.Qe5#!

Submit your piece or feedback

We would welcome any feedback, articles or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today through this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA>

