



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
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CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1011 | March 26, 2022

Falconer TNM Round Four Report

Gens Una Sumus!

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Edward Lewis pulled one out of the hat, bamboozling **Nathan Fong** right and left to gain victory from the ashes of defeat... He now leads the top section with a perfect 4-0. Tied just a half-point behind are experts **Michael Walder**, who was gifted a point when **IM Elliott Winslow** blundered in an equal position, and **Eugenio Garcia**, who steamrollered **Nicholas Weng** right out of the opening.

In the Under 1800 section **Karl Stuart Kingma** played a nice attacking game against **Nursultan Uzakbaev** and now leads with a perfect 4-0. Right behind with 3.5 each are **Paul Reed**, who took advantage of a few tactical errors by **Christian Brickhouse**, and **Rishabh Bhatnagar** who ground out a well-played game vs **Romeo Barreyro**.

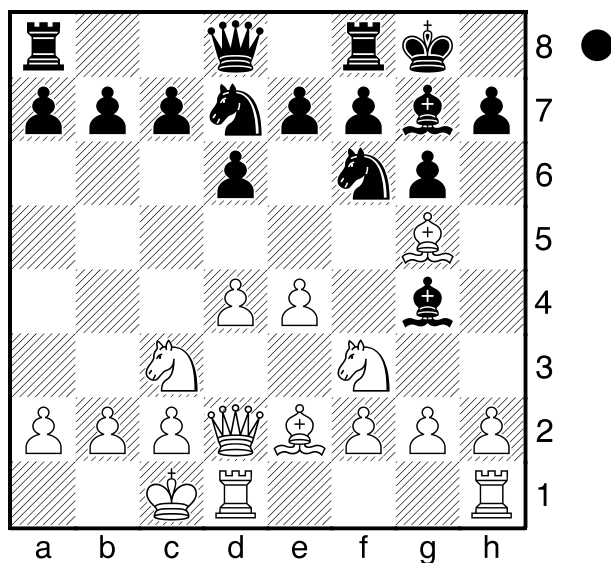
Neil Falconer (1923-2014) was a Mechanics' Institute trustee. A remembrance penned by former Chess Room Director **IM John Donaldson** can be found here: <http://www.uschess.org/index.php/April/Neil-Falconer-1923-2014.html>

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>

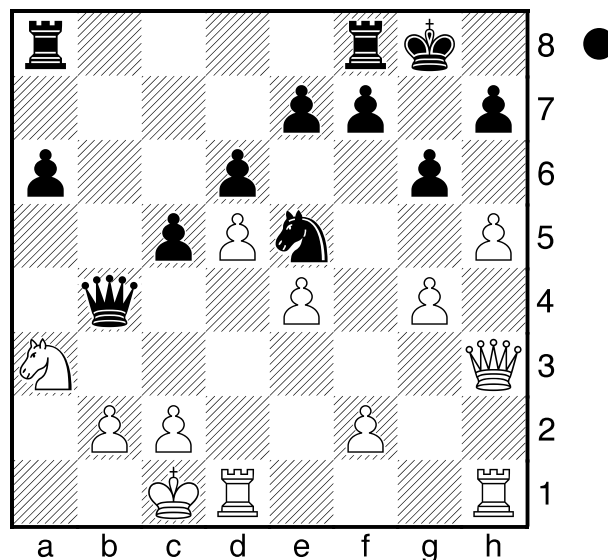
Sun, Kevin **B08**
 Kaplan, Glenn **1683**
 MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (4.17) **1673**
 22.03.22
[de Firmian]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.Qd2 Bg4 7.Be2
Nbd7 Glen is a master of the Pirc
 Defense, but Kevin plays aggressively
 and well with the white side. **8.0-0-0**

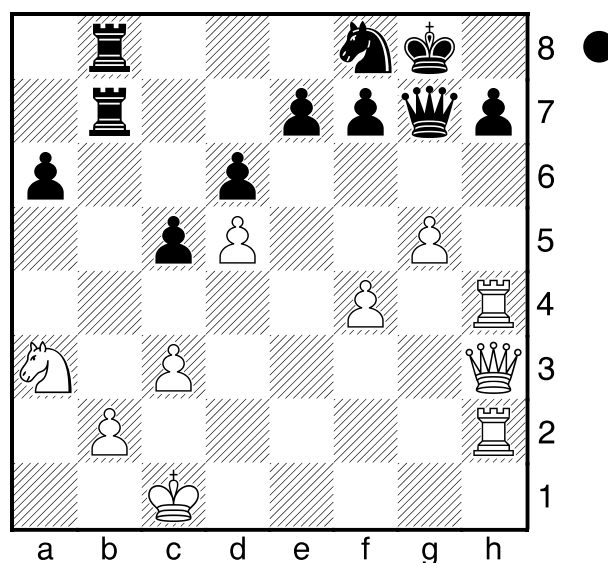


Going for a real fight with opposite side
 castling. **8...c5 9.d5 a6 10.h3 Bxf3**
11.Bxf3 b5 Black has a clear plan with
 queenside expansion and an easier
 game to play. **12.g4?! Ne5! 13.Qe2**
 [13.Be2?! b4 14.Na4 Nxe4]
13...Qa5 14.a3 b4 15.Nb1 White is
 under pressure on the queenside. 15...
 Rab8 would be a natural way to follow
 up. **15...bxa3 16.Nxa3 Qb4?**
 Giving an important tempo for the
 defense. With
 [16...Rab8 17.Bd2 Qa4 Black has
 good winning chances.]
17.Bd2! Qb6 18.Bc3 White has shored
 up the king's defenses and is ok now.
18...Nfd7 19.h4 Nxf3 20.Qxf3 Bxc3
21.Qxc3 Ne5 22.h5?!
 [22.Nc4]

22...Qb4! 23.Qh3



Qxe4?! Glen grabs a pawn but must
 now suffer to defend. With
 [23...g5! The black king is completely
 safe and Black would have a good
 initiative.]
24.hxg6 Qxg6 25.Rdg1 Rab8 26.f4
Nd7 27.g5 Qg7
 [27...e6]
28.c3 Rb7?!
 [28...Nb6]
29.Rg4! Rfb8 30.Rh4 Nf8 31.Rh2



A nice setup with good rook placement.
 Kevin has tripled on the h-file while still

guarding the b2 square for defense.
31...e6?! 32.Nc4! The knight jumps in with strong effect. **32...Rd7 33.Ne3!**
 Now it heads to the g4 square with decisive effect. **33...e5?! This loses the queen but**

[33...Kh8 34.Ng4 f5 35.Nf6 Re7
 36.dxe6 is winning anyway]

34.Nf5 Qg6 35.Rh6 White wins the queen and the game is over. **35...exf4 36.Rxg6+ fxg6 37.Nh6+ Kg7 38.c4 Re7 39.Qc3+ Re5 40.Ng4 Rbe8 41.Nxe5 dxe5 42.Rf2 Kg8 43.d6 Kf7 44.Qd3 Nd7 45.Qd5+ Re6 46.Rh2 Nf8 47.d7 e4 48.d8N+** Black resigns. A nicely developed attack by Kevin.
1-0

Chan, John A85
 Hack, Richard 1500
 MI Falconer TNM: u1800 (4.22) 22.03.22
[de Firmian]

1.c4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bd2 0-0 7.Qc1 Kh7 8.e3 Qe8 9.h3 d6 10.Qc2 e5 11.0-0-0!?
 This is certainly aggressive! We can thank John for a double edged game of opposite side castling. **11...e4 12.Nh2 c6** Ready to make the big central pawn chain. Also good was development with **12... Nc6. 13.Be2 d5 14.g4**

(Diagram)

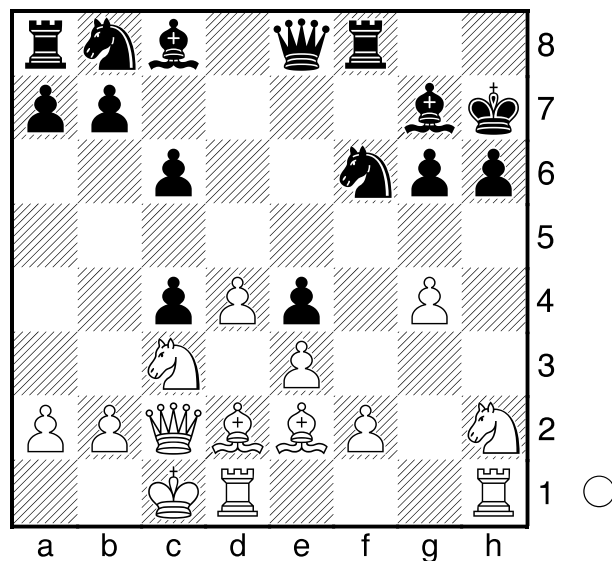
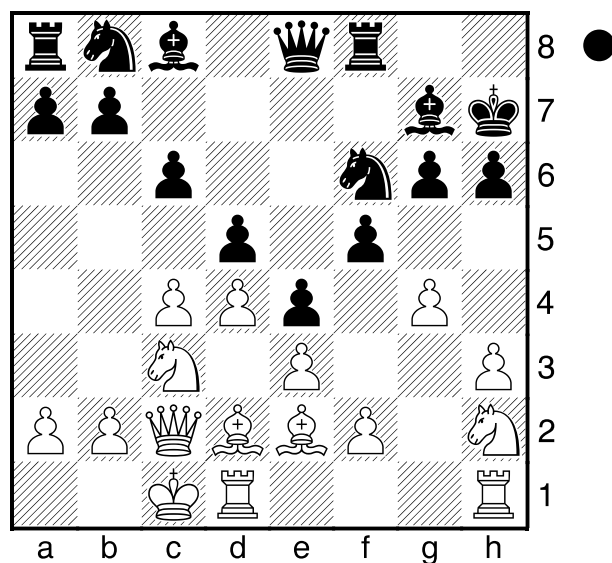
fxg4?! This opens up the Black kingside somewhat.

[14...dxc4 15.Bxc4 a5 threatens a strong queenside pawn advance]

15.hxg4 dxc4

(Diagram)

16.g5! Nh5



[16...hxg5 17.Ng4+ Kg8 18.Bxc4+ Be6 19.Nxf6+ Bxf6 20.Nxe4 is very good for White]

17.Bxh5?!

[17.Ng4 is probably stronger]

17...gxh5 18.gxh6 Bxh6 19.f4 Bf5 The black bishops guard the kingside well enough so the black king is not in danger. Chances are even again.
20.Ne2 Rg8 21.Rdg1 Nd7 22.Ng3 Qf7 23.Nxf5 Qxf5 24.Qxc4 Nb6 25.Qe2 Rxc1+ 26.Rxc1 c5 Starting queenside play instead of the safe **26... Rg1** contesting the g-file. **27.Qb5 Rc8**

28.Kd1?!

[28.Bc3 is a more active defense as the bishop can be useful on the long diagonal]

28...Qd5 29.b3? cxd4! correctly heading for an advantageous endgame with an extra pawn **30.Qxd5 Nxd5**

31.Nf1

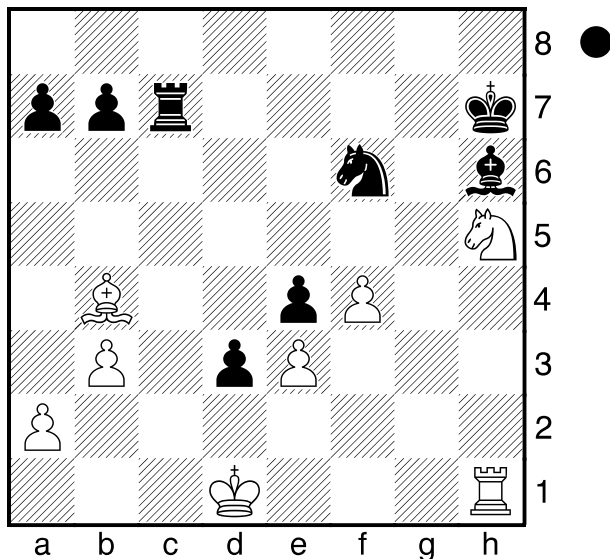
[31.exd4 e3! 32.Be1 Nxf4 33.Nf3 e2+ 34.Kd2 Nh3+ wins]

31...d3 32.Ng3?! Nf6?!

This is otherwise a good move but

[32...Rg8! wins the white knight due to the pin. 33...h4 is coming]

33.Rh1 Rc5 34.Bb4 Rc7 35.Nxh5?!



Ng4! Avoiding the trade with deadly effect. Both the fork on f2 and the e3 pawn are threatened. **36.Be1 Nxe3+ 37.Kd2 Nd5 38.Ng3 Rc2+**

White resigns as it's mate next after 39. Kd1 Ne3.

0-1



Fong, Nathan

Lewis, Edward

B06

2082

1982

MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (4.1) 22.03.2022
[de Firmian]

1.e4 17 g6 41 2.d4 7 Bg7 7 3.Nc3 13 d6 14 4.Be3 12 a6 13 5.f4 34

White chooses the broadest center against Black's around-the-edge noodling. **5...Nf6** 2 Dropping back to the Pirc but with ...a6 committed.

[5...b5± is way more popular, including at the highest level (yes that means Magnus), going full Tiger.]

6.Nf3 51 b5 20 (better late than never?!)

7.a3?! 3:19 Horribly passive,

[especially when 7.e5!± is available.]

7...Bb7 4:21 8.Bd3 4:11 The position

may be equal, but Black has a big score - 80% over 20 games. **8...Nbd7?! 2:07**

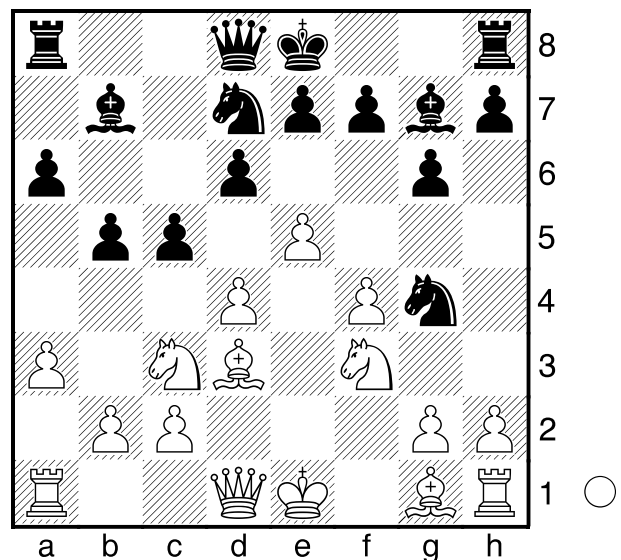
[8...0-0!=]

9.e5!± 6:02 Ng4 1:05 10.Bg1 39

[10.Bd2!±]

10...c5!? 44

[Better is 10...Qc8± says the computer]



11.Be4N 7:54

[11.e6! is not at all easy to handle:

fxe6 12.Ng5 Ndf6 13.Nxe6 Qd7
 (13...Qc8) 14.Qe2? (14.Nxg7+±;
 14.d5!+- overwhelms Black with
 threats and space) 14...c4! 15.Nxg7+
 Kf7 16.Be4 Bxe4 (16...Nxe4!
 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Qxe4) 17.Nxe4
 Nxe4 18.Qxe4 (18.d5!=)

A) 18...Nf6 19.Qe2 Kxg7
 (19...d5!) 20.Be3 (20.d5!=)
 20...Raf8 (20...Qg4; 20...d5)
 21.0-0 (21.d5! Nxd5?! 22.Bd4+
 Nf6 23.g4) 21...Rf7 0-1 (73) Piuva,
 M (2205)-Hillarp Persson, T (2300)
 Sweden 1994;

B) 18...d5!±]

11...Bxe4 6:23 **12.Nxe4** 17 **cx d4** 17
13.exd6 1:09

[White should play 13.e6± Nc5
 14.exf7+ Kf8 15.Qe2!± keeping up
 central pressure. (15.Nxd4 Qc8=)]

13...0-0! 11

[Maybe even better is 13...Ne3
 14.Qe2 0-0±]

14.Bxd4 7:27 **exd6** 9:54

[14...Ndf6!= 15.Nxf6+ Nxf6]

15.0-0 10:00 Both sides have vacated
 the center with their kings, and the pawn
 at d6 is still a weakness. **15...Re8** 6:51
 looking to complicate, but it goes rather
 wrong.

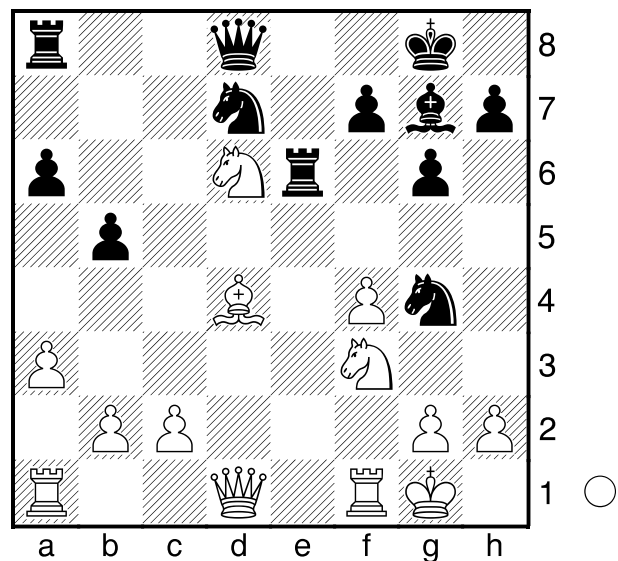
[15...Ngf6 is a thought: 16.Nxf6+!
 (16.Nxd6 Qc7± actually goes bad:
 17.Be5 Nxe5 18.fxe5 Qb6+ 19.Qd4
 Qxd4+ 20.Nxd4 Ng4 -- nice bishop!)
 16...Bxf6 (16...Nxf6 17.c3) 17.f5
 White has the tiniest of advantages.]

16.Nxd6± 29:24 **Re6?** 10:10

[16...Ne3± is a better chance.
 17.Bxe3 (17.Nxe8 Nxd1 18.Nxg7
 Ne3=) 17...Rxe3 and here also
 18.Nxf7!]

A) 18...Kxf7?? 19.Qd5+- Ke7
 (19...Kf8 20.Ne5!) 20.Rae1! Qb6
 21.Kh1!;

B) 18...Qb6! 19.Kh1±]



17.Nxf7!+- 11:16 An excellent shot,
 bringing Black's king into the fracas.
 White is just winning. But somehow that
 never quite happens... **17...Qe7** 17:39

[17...Bxd4+ 18.Nxd4 (18.Qxd4 Qb6
 19.h3 is just as good) 18...Qb6
 19.c3]

18.N7e5 9:07 White unnecessarily
 simplifies (for a pawn).

[18.N3g5!+- and White stays clearly
 on top. Rf6 19.Re1 (19.Qxg4 Rxf7
 20.Bf2)]

[18.N7g5! is somewhere in between:
 Rd6 19.Re1 Bxd4+ (19...Qd8
 20.c3) 20.Qxd4+- but it's always two
 pawns, too much.]

18...Ndx e5± 4:10 **19.Nxe5** 26

[19.fxe5 Rd8±]

19...Rd8?! 1:23

[19...Nxe5 20.Bxe5 Bxe5 21.fxe5
 Rxe5± White is a pawn up with the
 slightly safer king, but no clear win.]

20.Qxg4+- 41

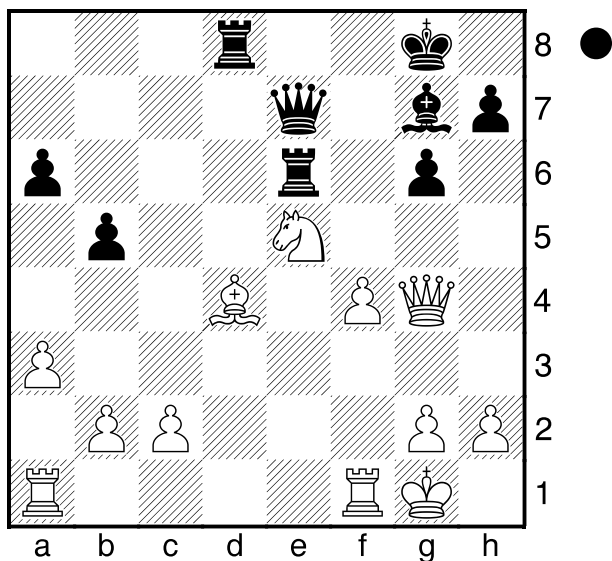
(Diagram)

Rxd4 4:42 **21.Nf3** 2:01

[21.Nd3]

21...Rc4 6:37 **22.Rae1?!** 1:57

[22.c3! Re2 23.Rae1 Rce4 24.Rxe2



Rxe2 Black seems to be getting counterplay, but objectively White is still winning.]

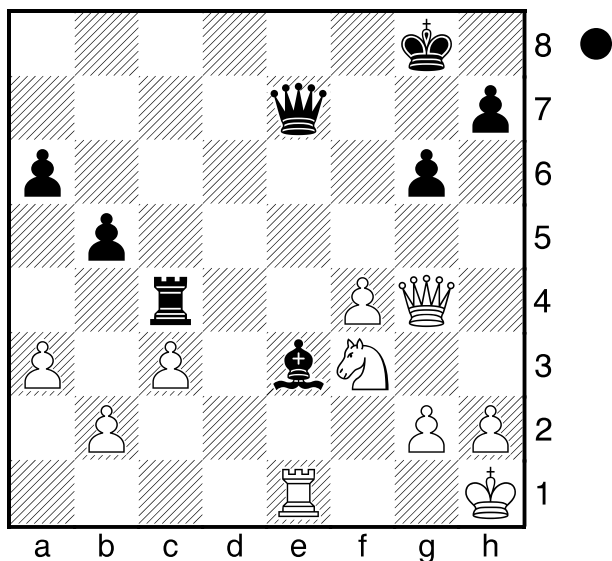
22...Bd4+? 10:48

[22...Qa7+± 23.Kh1 Rxe1 24.Rxe1 Qf7]

23.Kh1 18 **Rxe1** 4:02

[⊲23...Be3 24.g3 h5 (24...Qd6 25.c3) 25.Qg5]

24.Rxe1 9 **Be3** 2:12 **25.c3** 54



Kg7 8:46 **26.Nd4** 53 **Qa7** 8:44 **27.Rxe3** 33 A bit of tactics, but it's still those extra pawns. **27...Qxd4** 1 **28.Qe2?!** 3:56 [⊲28.Re7+ Kf8 (28...Kh8 29.Qf3

Qd8 30.Qe2) 29.Rxh7 is sharper but clearer.]

28...Qxf4 1:10 **29.h3** 39 **h5** 1:23

30.Rf3? 50

[30.Qe1+-]

30...Qd6 22

[30...Re4!± looking for the rook ending right now.]

31.Rd3! 3:05

[31.Qe8?! Rf4±]

31...Qf4 25 **32.Qe7+?!** 44

[32.Kg1 Re4 33.Rd7+ Kh6 34.Qd2 is similar to the game]

32...Kh6 4 **33.Rf3** 2:17 Inhibits Qf1+.

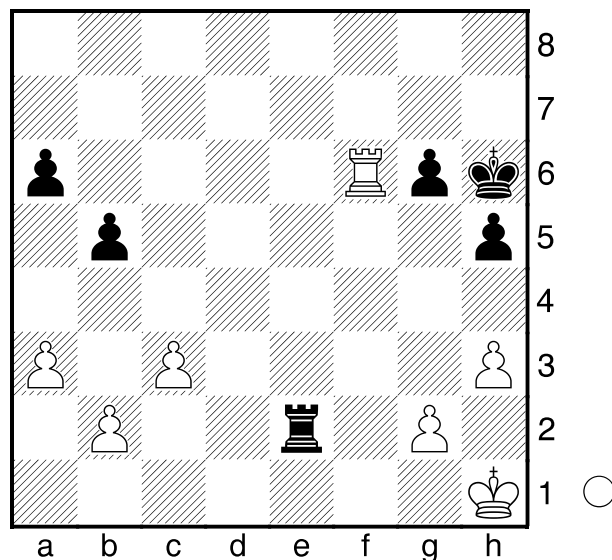
[But not 33.Rd7?! Qc1+ 34.Kh2 Qf4+]

[White should try 33.Qe3]

33...Re4!± 51 **34.Rxf4** 29 **Rxe7** 35 **Rf6** 50 **Re2** 3

[35...Re1+± 36.Kh2 a5]

[35...a5 36.Rb6 Re5 is another way to try.]



36.b4!? 33 **Rc2** 28

[36...Re3± 37.Rxa6 Rxc3 38.h4±]

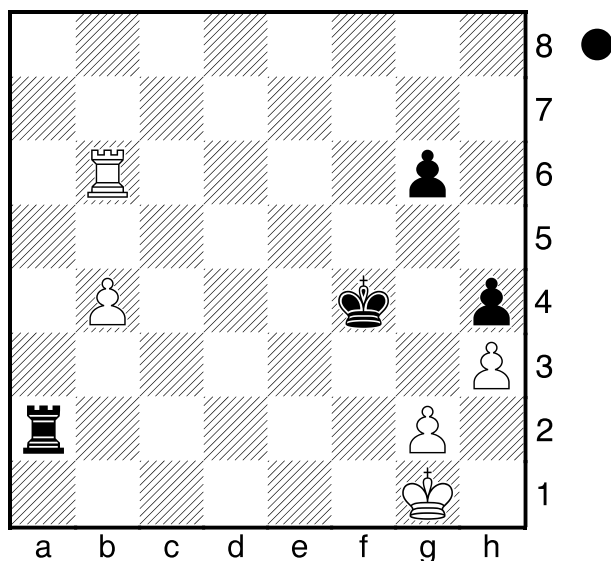
37.Rc6?! 1:05

[37.Rxa6± Rxc3 38.h4 is the only hope.]

37...h4!= 7 **38.Kg1** 1:18 Thinking about c3-c4 and a won pawn ending?

[38.Rxa6 Rxc3 39.Ra5 Kg7
40.Rxb5 Rxa3= is fairly well-known to
be drawn.]

38...Kg5 4 39.Kf1 4 Kf5 31 40.Rxa6 15
But he's got to try it. **40...Rxc3 4 41.Ra5**
37 Kf4! 3 42.Rxb5 6 Rxa3 43.Rb6 40
Ra1+ 2 44.Kf2 19 Ra2+ 45.Kg1 11



g5 1

[45...Ra1+! 46.Kh2 g5 47.b5 Rb1
48.Rb8 Ke5 49.b6 Kf6 (49...Kd6
50.Rg8 Rxb6 is okay as well) 50.b7
Kg7!= is the point]

46.Rf6+ 18 Ke5 2

[46...Kg3?? 47.Rf3#]

[It so happens 46...Ke4!?=

is even more convincing: 47.Rf2

Ra1+ 48.Rf1 Ra6 49.b5 Rb6

50.Rb1 Kd3! when ...Kc2 is awkward
for White's hopes.]

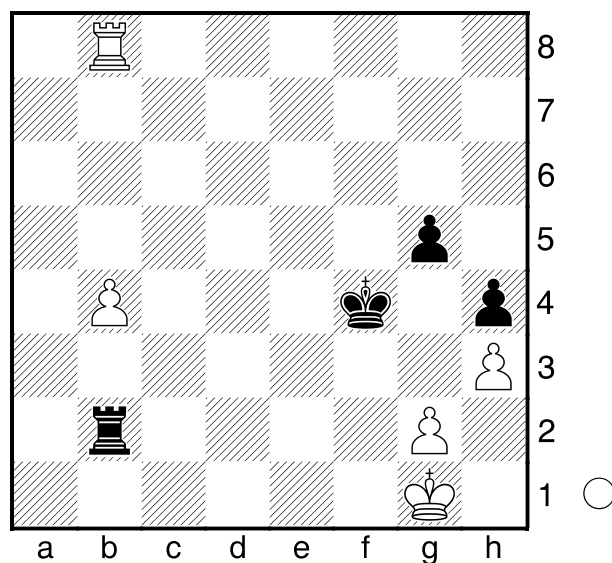
47.Rf8

[47.Rf2!?!± Ra6 48.Rf3 Ra1+ 49.Rf1
but it's probably no different.]

47...Rb2= 48.Rb8 Kf4 Strongly
threatening ... Kg3. **49.Rf8+ Ke5**
50.Rb8 Kf4

(Diagram)

51.b5?? White loses his head, probably
having gone a bit crazy from seeing his



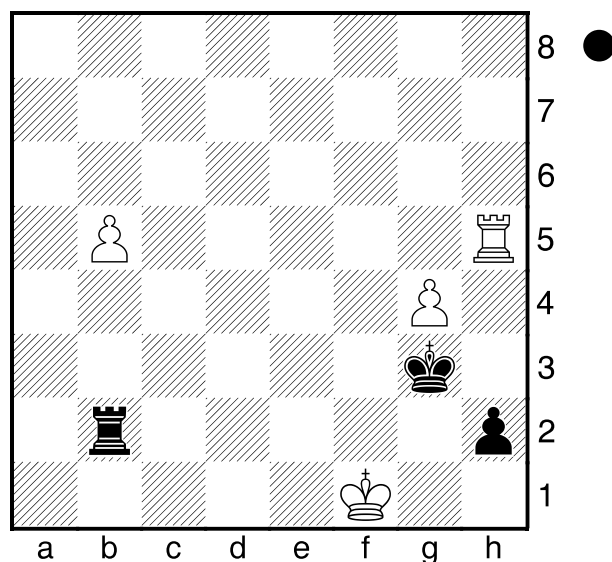
totally won game slip away.

[51.Kh2=]

51...Kg3!-+ An incredible turnaround.

52.Rf8 Rxb2+ 53.Kf1 Rb2 54.Rf5 g4!

55.hxg4 h3 56.Rc5 h2 57.Rh5



Rxb5! 58.Rxb5

[58.g5 Re5 (58...h1Q+; 58...Rb1+)]

58...h1Q+ and the rook is easily picked
off: **59.Ke2 Qe4+ 60.Kd2 Qd4+**

61.Ke1 Qe3+ A difficult game (and an
even more difficult loss for Fong) --

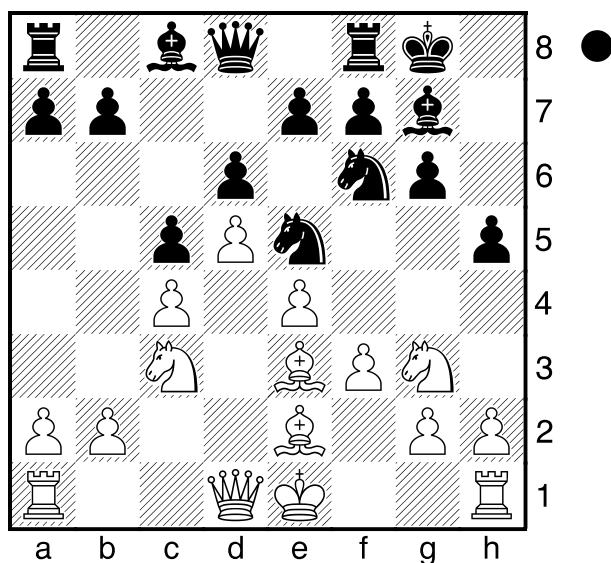
Lewis stubbornly held on and was
probably as surprised as anyone when a

win presented itself.

0-1

□ Winslow,Elliott E81 2258
■ Walder,Michael 2073
MI Falconer TNM: 1800+ (4.2) 22.03.2022
[Winslow/de Firmian]

1.d4 9 Nf6 6 2.c4 2:44 g6 15 3.Nc3
4:43 Bg7 6 4.e4 10 d6 4 5.f3 3:24 0-0
9 6.Be3 34 c5 17 7.Nge2 27 Nc6 1:13
8.d5 1:27 Ne5 1:28 9.Ng3 1:08 h5 2:59
10.Be2 22



Qa5 15:19 Mike gets a bit confused here: Does Black want White's knight on f1 or h1? It turns out that Ng3-h1-f2! is a useful maneuver, so:

[10...h4 11.Nf1 e6 12.Bg5!
Probably worked out elsewhere, but
Kotronias in his five-volume King's
Indian books does a great job:

A) 12...h3?! 13.Ne3! hxg2
14.Rg1!;

B) 12...exd5!? 13.Nxd5 (13.cxd5?
h3! 14.gxh3 b5!) 13...h3!
(13...Qa5+? 14.b4!; 13...Be6!?
14.Bxh4!) 14.gxh3 Bxh3
is just a sketch of all the analysis to

show that Black is Okay.

(14...Be6?!);

C) 12...Qb6!?

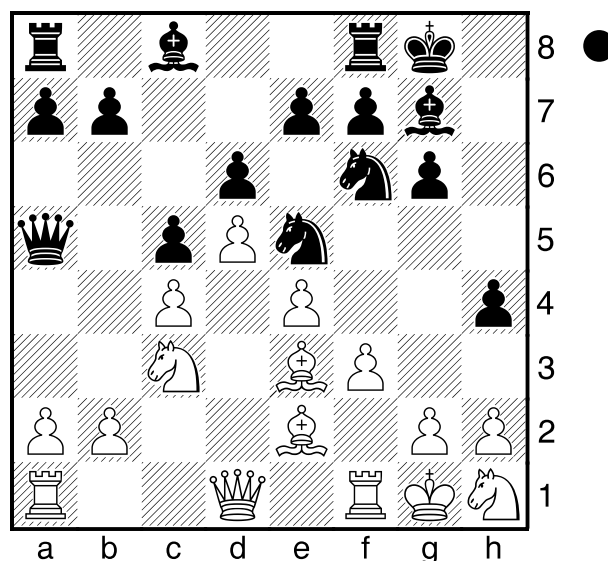
11.0-0 6:01

[11.Bd2]

11...h4 11

[11...Nh7±]

12.Nh1!+- 4:17



White is clearly better, and indeed
Stockfish 14.1 is calling it a win. **12...h3N**
8:28

[12...Qb4 13.Qb3 Qxb3 14.axb3
Nh5 15.Nf2 f5 16.f4 Ng4 17.Nxg4
fxg4 18.e5 1-0 (40) Xiong,J (2709) -
Kanakaris,G (2400) Titled Tuesday on
Chess.com, Feb 2021]

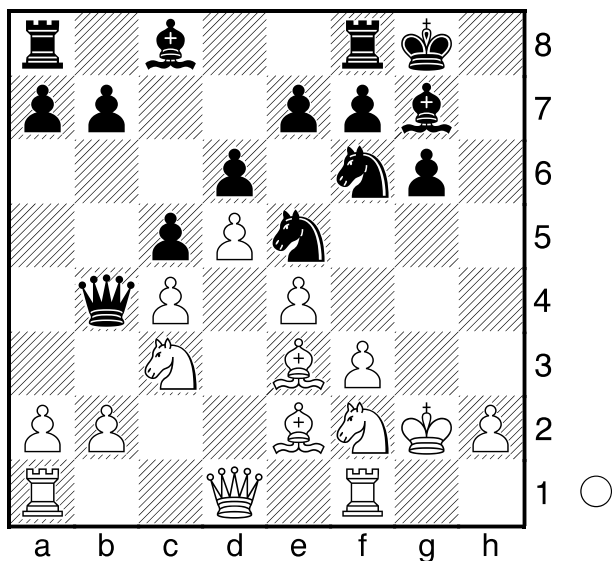
13.Nf2 3:48 Or push, one or two, all
good. **13...hxg2** 3:07 **14.Kxg2** 8 **Qb4?!
1:11**

(Diagram)

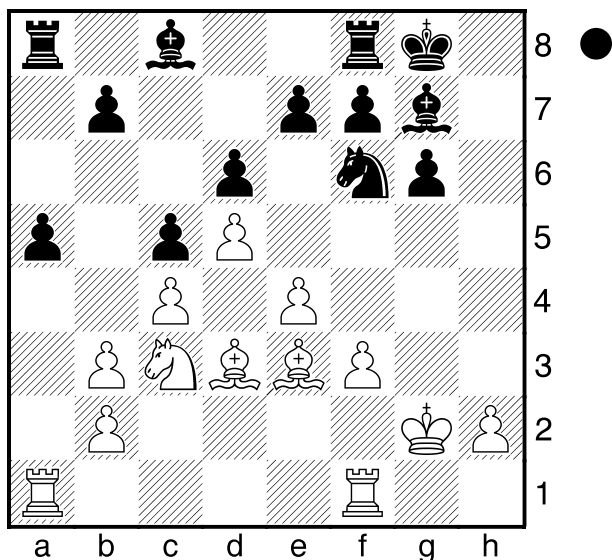
15.Qb3? 1:51 Not as good here
[and definitely not as good as 15.a3!+-
Qa5 (15...Qxb2 16.Na4; 15...Nxc4
16.Bd2 Nxb2 17.Qc2; 15...Qb6
16.b4) 16.f4 Ned7 17.Kh1
Black is pushed back on all fronts.]

15...a5 13:26

[15...Qxb3± deserves consideration.



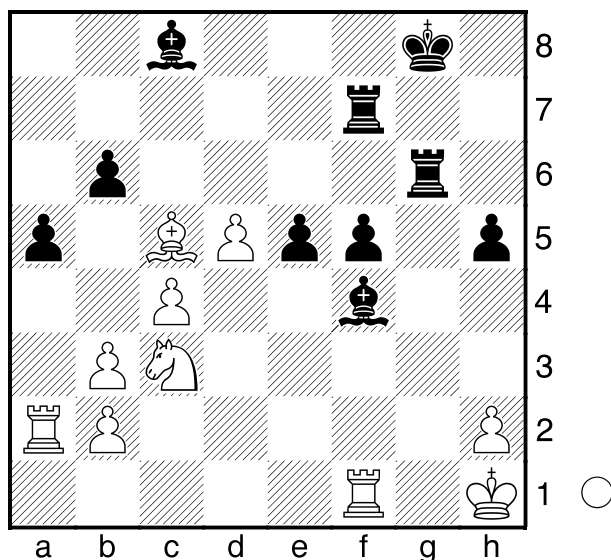
16.axb3 b6]
16.Nd3? 11:31
 [16.Bc1!± is easiest.]
16...Nxd3 8:46
 [16...Nxc4?! is just the sort of thing Mike would like to play, but it doesn't quite work: 17.Nxb4 Nxe3+ 18.Kf2±
A) 18...Nxf1 19.Nc2! Nd2 (19...a4 20.Qc4) 20.Qb5 Bd7 21.Qd3;
B) 18...axb4 19.Kxe3 bxc3 20.bxc3±]
17.Bxd3 22 **Qxb3** 7:02 **18.axb3** 9



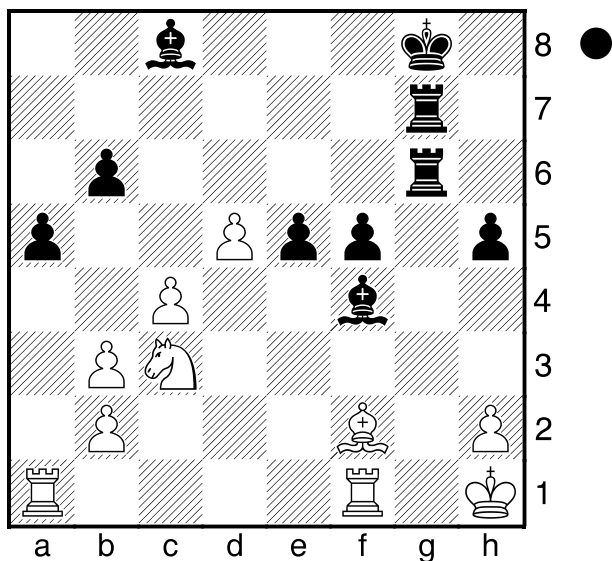
A queenless middlegame. Neither player shows much accuracy in the coming

phase, but it's plenty interesting nonetheless. **18...Nh5** 18 **19.Ra2** 4:04
 [19.f4= b6 Black locks up the queenside and has the better kingside pawn breaks.]

19...Ra6? 4:56
 [19...Bd7±]
 [19...b6]
20.f4? 17:35
 [20.Bd2±]
20...Bh6? 43
 [20...f5!±]
21.Be2 3:34
 [White should try 21.Kf3!=]
21...f5! 3:03 **22.Bxh5** 2:25 **gxh5** 7
23.e5 24 **dxe5** 8:00 **24.Bxc5** 17
 [24.Kf2!±]
24...Bxf4 46 **25.Bxe7** 6:56
 [25.Rxf4!?± was preferable. exf4 26.Bxe7]
25...Rg6+± 1:23 **26.Kh1** 15
 [26.Kf2± Re8 27.d6 Bxh2]
26...Rf7 57 with g-file thoughts!
 [But 26...Re8!? could well be better.]
27.Bc5 1:53 **b6!** 4:59



28.Bf2 3:49 **Rfg7** 6:55
 [28...Bd2! to get right on to ...f4]
29.Raa1? 4:35
 [29.Na4! e4! 30.Bd4 Bc7!!-+]



29...h4? 4:53

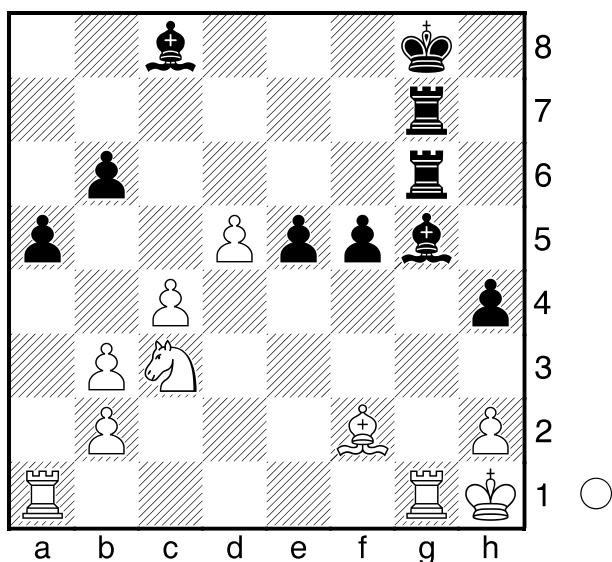
[29...Bg5!+- 30.Rae1 f4!]

30.Rg1 2:52

[Or 30.Na4!=]

30...Bg5 5:03

[30...h3?]



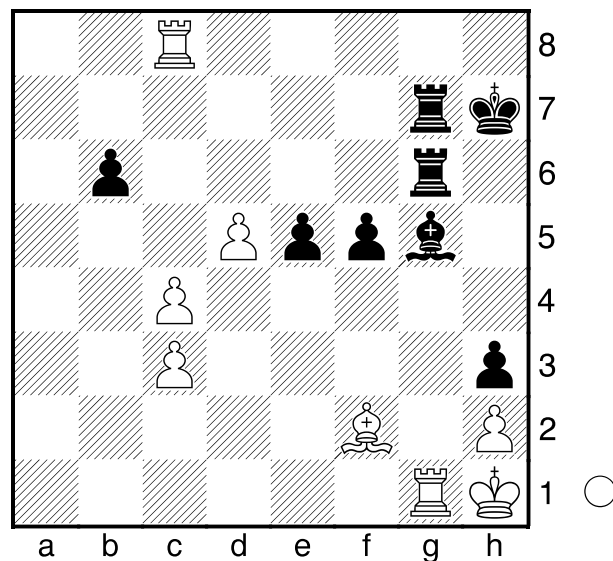
31.b4!= 3:33 **axb4** 8:55 **32.Ra8** 1:04

bxc3 1:10

[32...Rc7??? 33.c5!+- (33.Nb5)]

33.Rxc8+ 4 **Kh7** 6 **34.bxc3** 11 **h3** 3:00

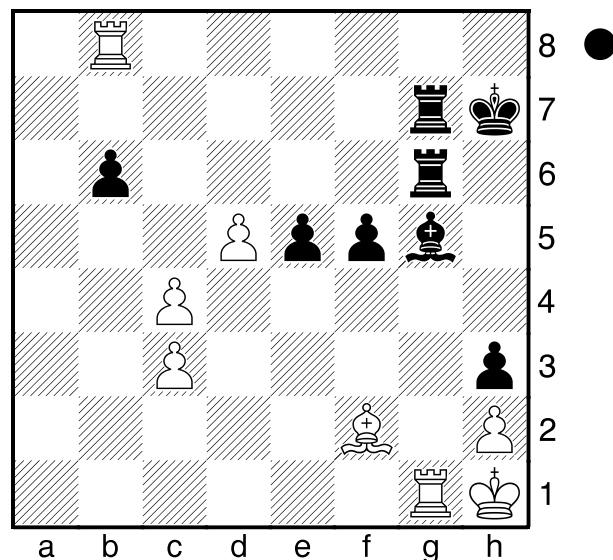
(Diagram)



35.Rb8? 4:11

[35.Rg3=]

[35.Rc6]



35...Bd2?= 1:11

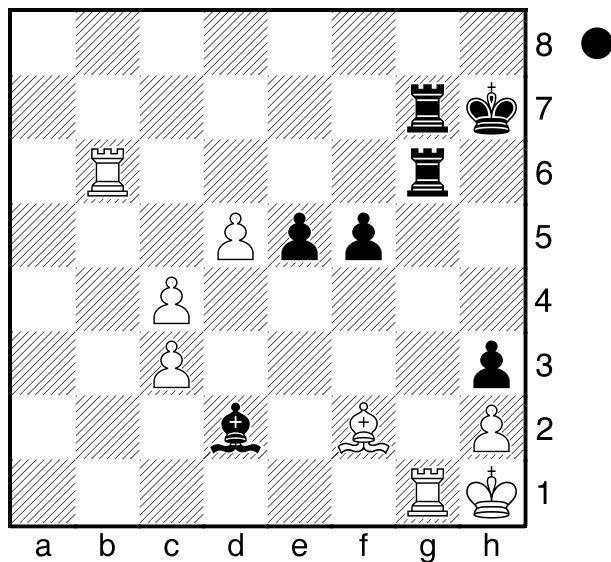
[35...f4! 36.Bxb6 (36.Rxb6? e4
Black is the faster by a lot) 36...Bh4!]

36.Rxb6?? 1:18

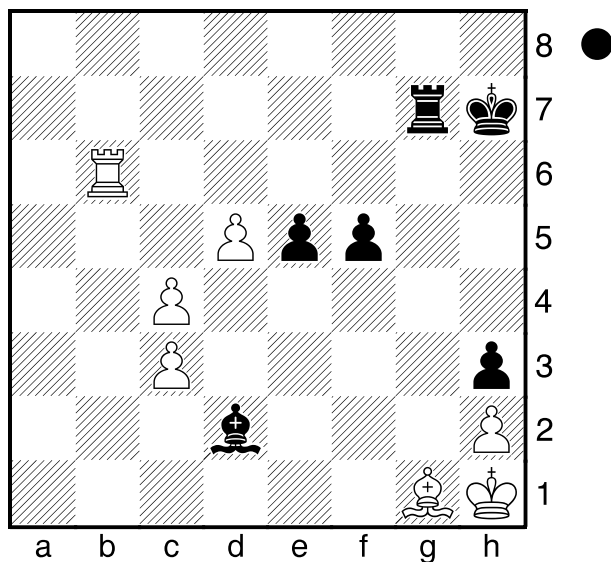
[36.Rg3= Rxg3 37.hxg3 f4! 38.gxf4
The only move according to Stockfish!
Rg2 39.d6 Rxf2 40.d7 Rf1+ 41.Kh2
Bxf4+ 42.Kxh3 Bg5 Everything is
drawn now.]

[Or 36.Rd1 Rg2! 37.Bxb6!=]

(37.Rxd2?? Ra7-+)]



36...Rxg1+-+ 14 White completely overlooked this tactic; that Black found it with two minutes and panic setting in was impressive. **37.Bxg1 2**



Rxg1+! 2 38.Kxg1= 4 Be3+ 2 39.Kf1 4 Bxb6-+ 3 40.d6 1:07 Bc5 1:07 41.d7 4 Bb6 1 42.c5 13 Bc7 2 43.Kf2 4 e4 8 44.Ke3 10 Kg7 4 45.c6 1:03 Kf6 4 46.c4 4 Ke5 3 0-1

GM Nick de Firmian

Chess and Politics

The Candidates Tournament has taken an interesting twist with the global politics. Former world championship challenger Sergey Karjakin has been banned from FIDE events for six months and thus will miss this critical event. His outspoken support for the war in Ukraine and Vladimir Putin has raised the ire of the FIDE ethics committee, which is chaired by the respected Swedish lawyer Johann Sigeman. (Some will recall seeing the Sigeman Cup online. The annual grandmaster tournament in Malmo is one of Scandinavia's most important events.)

This mix of politics and chess has not been seen on this scale for decades. Some of us recall the "Match of the Century" in 1972 when the great American Bobby Fischer beat the Russian Boris Spassky while the whole world was captivated by the cold war battle on the chess board. Spassky was a wonderful, sympathetic man who never joined the Communist party despite the personal advantages. He brought the world some understanding of the "enemy" country, and all who met him felt his humanity. He visited the Mechanics' Institute twenty years ago, and his visit is fondly recalled.

The current situation is more akin to the aftermath of WWII when the great world champion Alekhine was barred from playing in the great London victory tournament because of his pro-Nazi writings during the war. Alekhine died in 1946 in Portugal. The official report was from choking on a piece of meat, but the doctor who wrote the death certificate later told he was pressured not to report a murder.

Now we have Karjakin and former world champion Karpov involved in the backlash of the Ukraine war. Karjakin will only lose tournament invitations, but Karpov is a member of the Russian Duma that voted to go to war. Now President Joe Biden is targeting members of the Duma for sanctions.

Should we forget the magnificent games of Karpov and Alekhine because of their politics? Some people will not listen to the music of Michael Jackson because of his posthumous criminal accusations. Of course, we leave it to you, but I believe such art is not to be neglected for the circumstances in which these world champions found themselves. We give below a game from each of them.

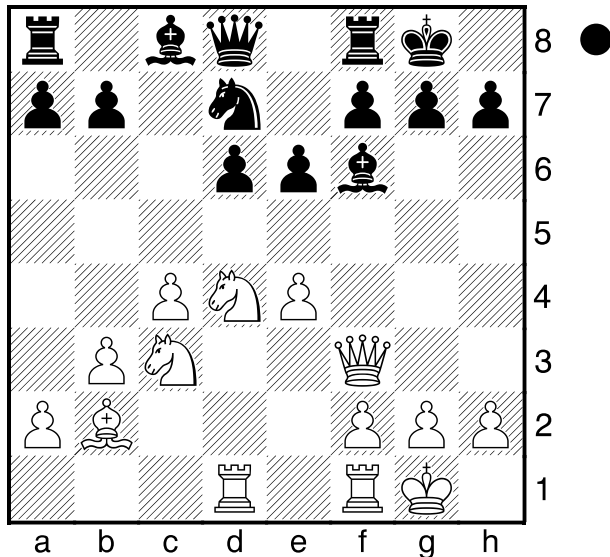
□ Alekhine, Alexander
 ■ Saemisch, Friedrich

Berlin

1923

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Be2 The theory of the Sicilian Defense was not that developed a hundred years ago. Alekhine and Saemisch make logical moves, but Mechanics' Institute TNM players will know better theoretical moves from modern times. 3...e6 4.0-0 d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Bf3 Ne5 8.c4 Nxf3+ 9.Qxf3 Be7 10.Nc3 0-0 11.b3 Nd7!? 12.Bb2 Bf6 13.Rad1



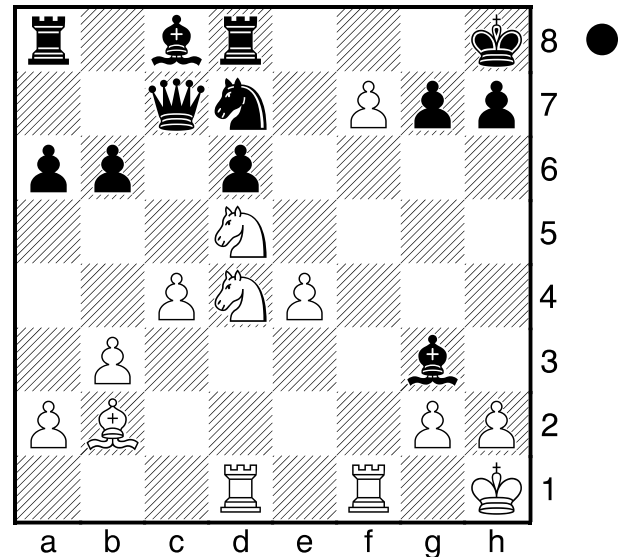
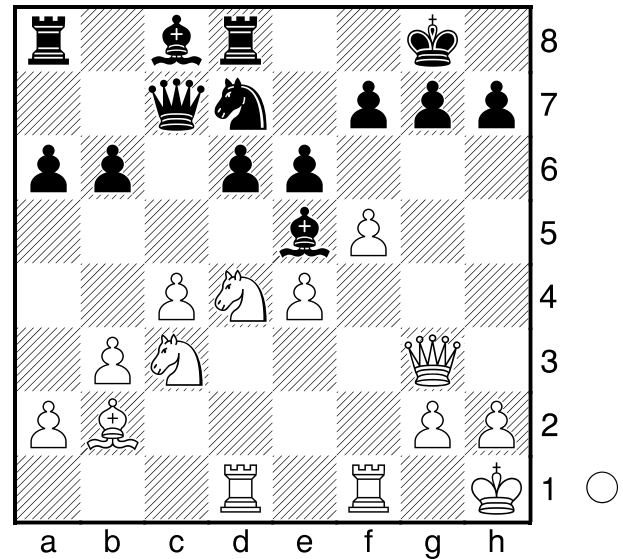
As usual Alekhine gets a fully developed, mobile position. 13...a6 14.Qg3 Qc7 15.Kh1 Rd8 This doesn't cause any harm yet, but the rook leaves its place by the side of the black king. 16.f4 b6 17.f5 Be5?

(Diagram)

18.fxe6!! Bxg3 19.exf7+ Kh8 20.Nd5!

(Diagram)

White is a whole queen down. Yet here



Saemisch thought, and to his credit resigned. There is no way out - e.g. 20...Qb7 21.Ne6 Be5 22.Bxe5 dxe5 23.Nxd8 Threatening the queen and f8(Q)+ mating. 1-0

□ Seirawan, Yasser

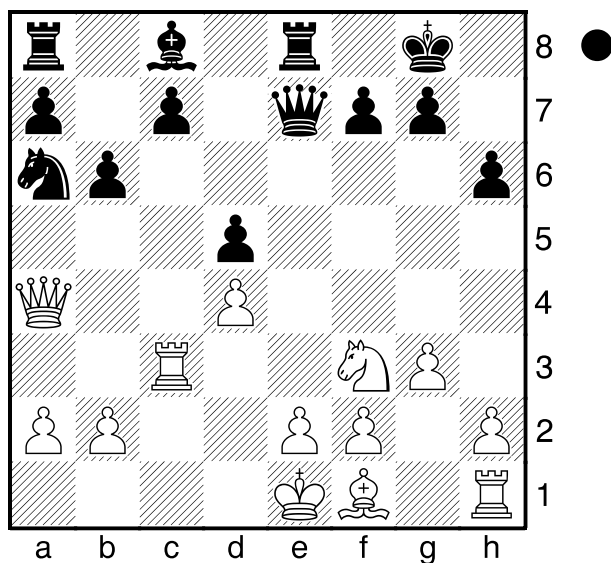
■ Karpov, Anatoly

Hamburg

1982

[de Firmian, Nick]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4
Be7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.Rc1 b6
8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 exd5 10.Bxe7
Qxe7 11.g3 Re8 12.Rc3 Na6
13.Qa4?!



Yasser had success with this move previously, but neglecting development is dangerous. **13...b5!** The pawn sacrifice challenges the White set-up.

14.Qa5

[14.Qxb5 Rb8 15.Qa4 Rxb2
is very nice for Black]

14...Qe4! 15.Kd2 The best move.

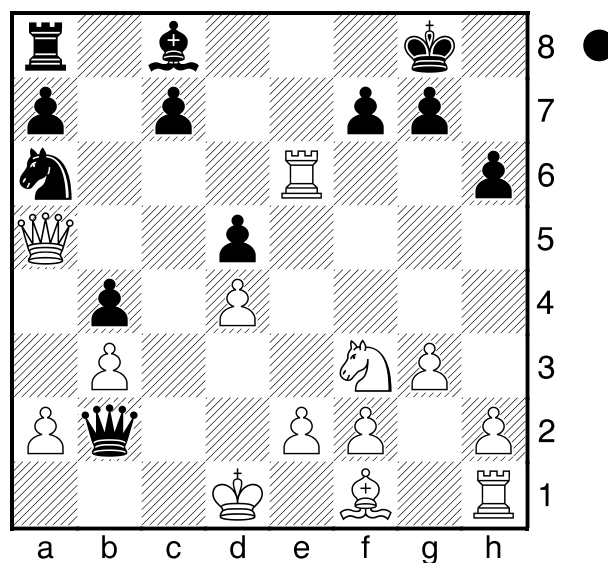
Yasser was always brave with his king.

15...Re6 16.b3 b4 17.Re3 Qb1

18.Rxe6 Qb2+ 19.Kd1

(Diagram)

Bxe6 The white king is alone, so Black should have at least perpetual check. Still it is a piece sacrifice. **20.Qxa6 Qa1+ 21.Kd2 Qc3+ 22.Kd1 Bf5** playing for the win **23.Ne1 Rb8 24.Qxa7 Rb6**



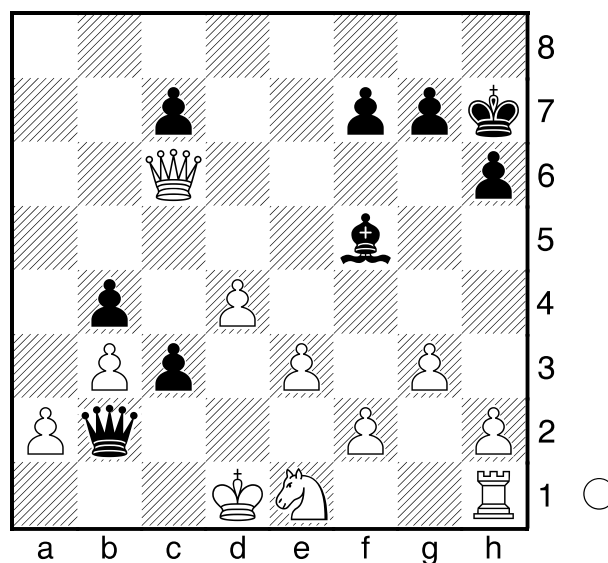
25.e3?

[25.Qa8+ Kh7 26.Qxd5
is more forcing and should lead to a
draw.]

25...Rc6! Now the Black attack is very strong. **26.Bc4 Qa1+! 27.Ke2 Qb2+ 28.Kd1**

[28.Kf1 Bh3+ 29.Kg1 dxc4 30.Qa8+ Kh7 31.Qxc6 Qb1 is the end]

28...dxc4 29.Qa8+ Kh7 30.Qxc6 c3!



A rook ahead, White is helpless.
Seirawan resigned.
0-1

FM Paul Whitehead

Mea Culpa!

This week I received a short e-mail from former Chess Room Director Abel Talamantez:

"Hey everyone -

Thanks for annotating the game for the newsletter! I don't think it's a big deal, but I did want to note that the losing move for white was 25.Kf4?? allowing 25...Rg4+, not 25.Ke5. I think the point is still made though so probably no need to update it.

Great newsletter!"

Chess is everywhere.

GM Sergey Karjakin is banned from FIDE events for 6 months:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/mar/21/sergey-karjakin-banned-chess-fide-russia-invasion-ukraine>

GM Hikaru Nakamura faces a much lighter suspension, from **Twitch**:

<https://www.pcgamer.com/chess-grandmaster-suspended-by-twitch-for-streaming-dr-disrespect-playing-chess/>

An article on **chess and emotions** by **WIM Alexey Root** – that links back to the **Mechanics' Institute Chess Café** on Mondays:

<https://www.sparkchess.com/emotions-in-chess-let-it-go.html>

A recipe for **Chocolate Chess Pie**:

<https://www.tastingtable.com/785417/chocolate-chess-pie-recipe/>

Boise State has a Point Guard who **loves chess**:

https://www.postregister.com/postregister/chess-savant-and-point-guard-boise-states-emmanuel-akot-always-makes-the-right-move/article_499b578f-2e5b-5859-a6ce-11cdb209fdb5.html

Chess and the creation of a **"digital human face"**:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXYUNrgqWUU>

"The world's first **rollable** tournament **e-chessboard**":

<https://www.cultofmac.com/769410/square-off-pro-rollable-electronic-chessboard/>

Chess is not **cricket**. Portrait of Indian chess prodigy **GM Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa**:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2022/3/21/india-chess-prodigy-pragganandhaa-cricket-crazy>

US Chess teams with **GM Garry Kasparov** to raise funds for **Ukraine relief**:

<https://new.uschess.org/news/us-chess-and-kcf-raise-more-33000-ukraine-relief>

Brush up on that pesky **en-passant rule**:

<https://dotesports.com/general/news/what-is-en-passant-in-chess>

Local star **FM Ruiyang Yan** gets an **WIM norm** at the **Charlotte Chess Center**:

<https://www.facebook.com/charlottechesscenter/posts/4902484349869140>

Do you live in **Scotland**? Your town might be the inspiration for a **chess-set**:

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/design-firm-set-use-dumfries-26529040>

Finally, true to form, **GM Judit Polgar defeats the entire world**:

<https://hungarytoday.hu/judit-polgar-vs-the-world-dubai-expo-hungarian-chess-player-grandmaster-hungary/>

Chess is everywhere.

Dr. Judit Sztaray

FIDE rating of our tournaments.

Until 2021 December, both FIDE and US Chess required organizers to send in their tournaments for rating at the end of the tournament. This included all tournaments, even if a tournament lasted for 7-8 weeks, spanning over 2-3 months.

While for tournaments that do not last more than 30 days the rules are the same, this has changed for long "marathon" events that span through two or more months. According to the new FIDE regulations starting 1/1/2022 organizers (and national federations helping the organizers) are required to register their long "marathon" events into monthly segments. What does this mean exactly? What we think of as one big tournament will now be reported in two or more segments and listed under two or more separate pages.

For example, the Shipman TNM spanned through January and February of 2022. This tournament was split into two: Round 1 through 4 were reported at the end of January and Round 5 through 7 were reported at the end of the tournament.

Therefore, these are listed as two separate "events." To complicate matters, FIDE does not recognize "sections" of one tournament, but each section is its own event.

[2nd Shipman Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon - 1800+ Rounds 1-4](#)

[2nd Shipman Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon - Under 1800 Rounds 1-4](#)

[Shipman Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon - 1800+ Rounds 5-7](#)

[Shipman Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon - Under 1800 Rounds 5-7](#)

The good news of this change – and the driving force of the decision – is that the games that are played in any given month will be counted in the next month's rating list at FIDE. Therefore all the games that you played in the month of January in the Shipman TNM were reported in time to count into your February rating at FIDE.

Similar to the Shipman tournament, Falconer TNM is no different. The 7-week long tournament was split up to two, and I sent in the Round 1-4 games to US Chess FIDE Events Manager, Chris Bird, who's our liaison to FIDE and submitting all events organized and held in the US to FIDE.

[Falconer Tuesday Night Marathon - 1800+ Rounds 5-7](#)

[Falconer Tuesday Night Marathon - Under 1800 Rounds 5-7](#)

[Falconer Tuesday Night Marathon - 1800+ Rounds 1-4](#)

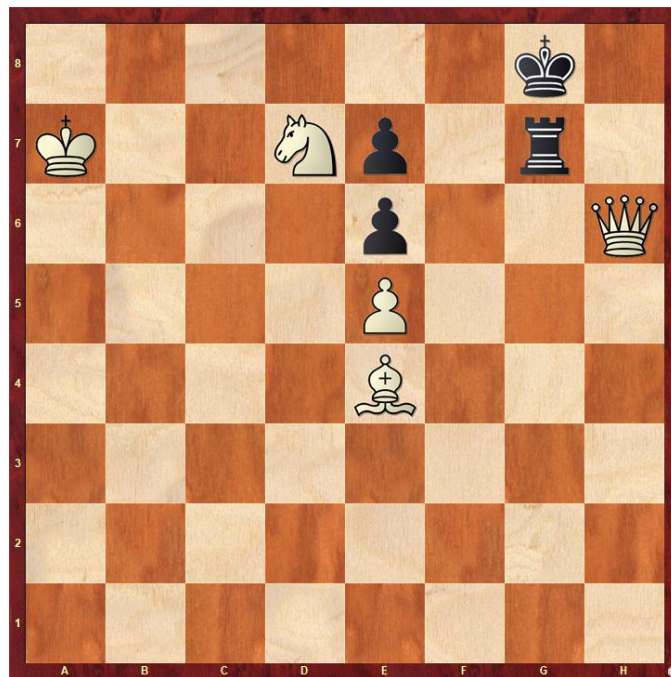
[Falconer Tuesday Night Marathon - Under 1800 Rounds 1-4](#)

Ratings at US Chess remain the same: no interim submission is needed, and the long marathon tournaments are only submitted once, at the end of the tournament.

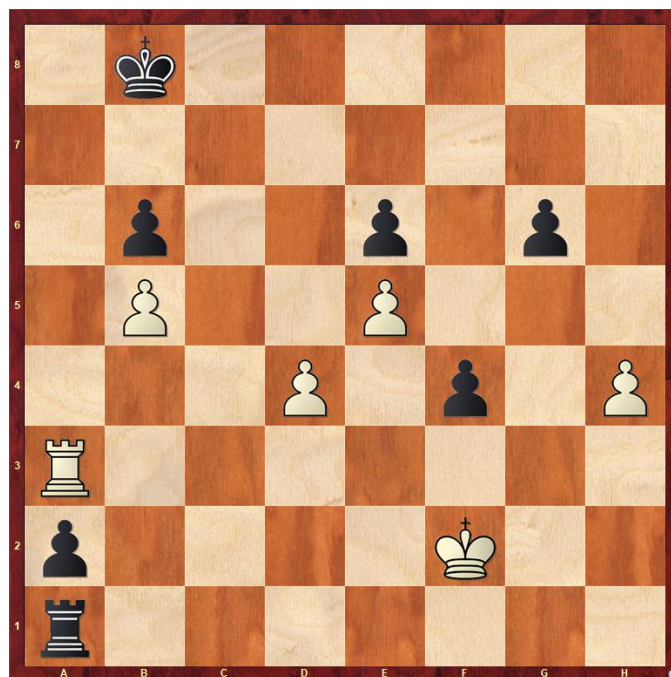
I hope this little explanation is helpful to understand how and when your games are rated. Any questions, my inbox is always open.

Tony's Teasers

Sam Loyd, 1890. White to play and mate in 3.



Barreyro – Bhatnagar, Mechanics' Institute TNM Round 4.
Black to play and win.



Richard Hack's Stories from the Chess Café

Last week's Chess Café featured very lively discussions about Ukraine, the pro-Putin position of Karjakin and Karpov, and most of all, a long look at one of Tal's most brilliant attacking games that epitomizes his dynamic approach to chessplaying.

We began with a reference to Nona Gaprindashvili's lawsuit against The Queen's Gambit production for falsifying the historical record to her detriment in order to heighten the dramatic effect of the protagonist's feats against top male players. Hollywood has a long record of this kind of behavior (especially in sports films), and nowadays movies and novels don't even change the historical names. Maybe S.F. poet Bob Kaufman's "Hollywood" still says it all (almost).

As for Russian treatment of Ukraine, one of our participants detailed a harrowing experience long ago in occupied Poland where the car they were driving was repeatedly rammed from behind by a Russian military vehicle. A tense discussion followed, but no arrest ensued.

A. Allen presented a game from Daily Chess at chess.com (one move per day), an Alapin Sicilian with attacking chances for both sides. Paul and Nick made suggestions like 10. h3: "These little moves make your advance more significant."

Then, with a choice of games sent in, we decided to start with Mikhail Tal vs. Hans-Joachim Hecht from the 9th round of the 1962 Varna Olympiad. Nick de Firmian said with relish, "Tal-Hecht is a work of art." A year after losing the World Championship back to Botvinnik, Tal played 2nd Reserve for the USSR in the event, winning 7 and drawing 6 to outperform all others at that position.

By the 5th move of a Queen's Indian, both sides had attacked third-rank knights with bishops three moves in a row. On the 13th move, Tal's c5 sacrificed a pawn for a big positional advantage. "This is why we love Mikhail Tal," said Nick. "He will neglect his pawns and all these trivial things in favor of the grand and important things."

Mike Walder: "He was the master of timing. A sense of the initiative better than anyone but Fischer."

Paul Whitehead: "The punishment of slow play. Dynamic and speedy moves. It takes courage to play this way."

Mike Walder: "Nick is a fantastic attacker."

Nick de Firmian (modestly): "Well, . . ."

Tal sacs his queen on move 19 by choosing to take Black's KN with exf6. But Black has to give up his queen soon enough. At one point 3 of White's 4 pieces are en prise. After some more exchanges, all 6 of Black's pawns are isolated (2 of them doubled). The remaining rooks chop off a few pawns.

Paul: "Now we get to see some nice technique. Now we get to that part of the game where you take your time."

Trish Gorman: "Did he sac these pieces he knew the pawn game was winning?"

Paul: "Bold play often brings a winning endgame." He moved the position on the screen back to move 12 and went over the sequence again.

Nick: "Every move has a little plus and minus."

By move 40, White had 3 pawns to 2, and two passed pawns to one for Black. Both sides will queen, but White's pawn was one square further advanced. With Black's king on c2 and new queen on d1, white's new queen would check at b3, anchored by his pawn still at a2 (which a Black rook could have taken earlier). After the trade of queens, White would easily promote another pawn, so Black resigned on move 49.

Kudos all around for "The Wizard of Riga." I later read his highly entertaining description of his first game with Reshevsky at about the same time (page 254 in The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal).

Paul: "Tal did everything to mess with your mind. Once you were in his world, he had you."

Another participant mentioned that The Complete Manual of Positional Chess uses 3 Tal Games to show that it's important not to take bait."

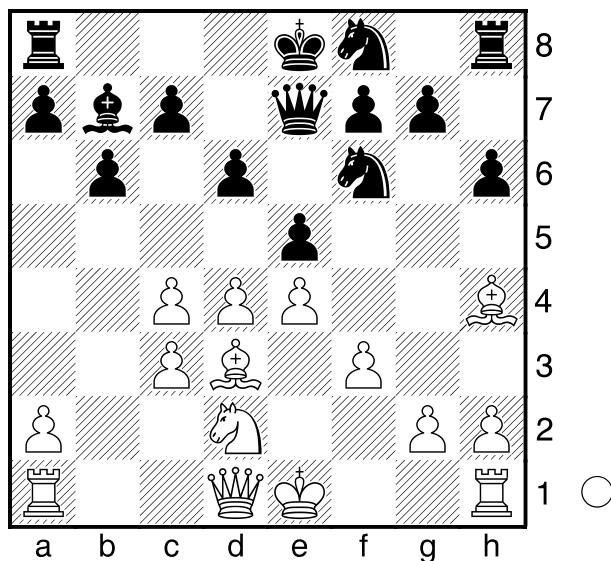
The café ended with another fascinating puzzle sent by Azeri GM Gadir Guseinov to Michael Walder, who mentioned that Gadir would be playing in the European Individual Chess Championship between 26 March and 7 April at Terme Catež, a village near Brežice in Slovenia.

Editor's Note: Information for joining the Chess Café is here:
<https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online#Chesscafe>

Given below is the Tal – Hecht game, with light annotations by FM Paul Whitehead.

□ Mikhail Tal
 ■ Hans-Joachim Hecht
 Varna ol (Men) fin-A (9) 06.10.1962
 [Whitehead, Paul]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3
 Bb4 5.Bg5 Bb7 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4
 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d6 9.Nd2 e5 10.f3
 Qe7 11.e4 Nbd7 12.Bd3 Nf8



Black tries to play a closed game...
13.c5! ...but white opens it up with a nice
 pawn sacrifice. **13...dxc5 14.dxe5**
Qxe5 15.Qa4+! Every white move is an
 attempt to keep black off-balance.
15...c6 16.0-0! Ng6

[16...Qxc3 17.Nc4! Qxd3
 18.Rad1+-]

17.Nc4 Qe6 18.e5 b5 19.exf6!!

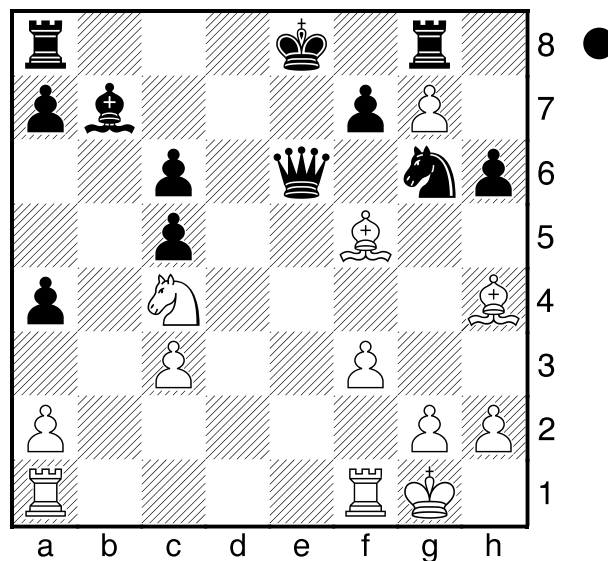
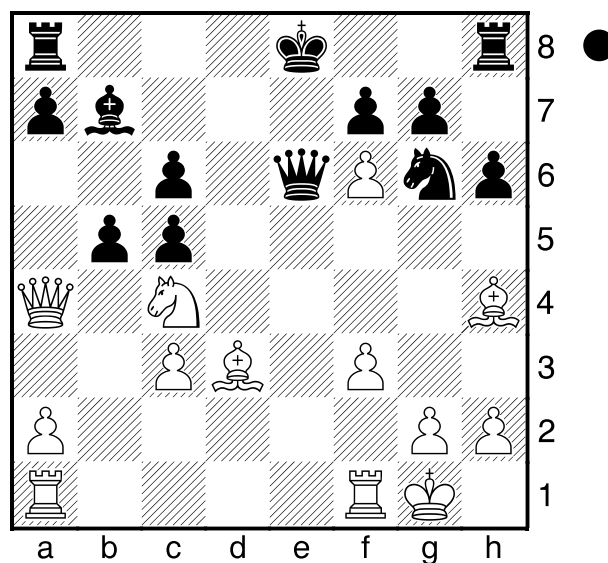
(Diagram)

With Queen, knight and bishop hanging.
19...bxa4 20.fxg7 Rg8 21.Bf5!!

(Diagram)

Nxh4

[21...Qxc4 22.Rfe1+ Qe6 23.Rxe6+
 fxe6 24.Bxg6+ Kd7 25.Rd1+ Kc7



26.Bf6 with a winning endgame.]

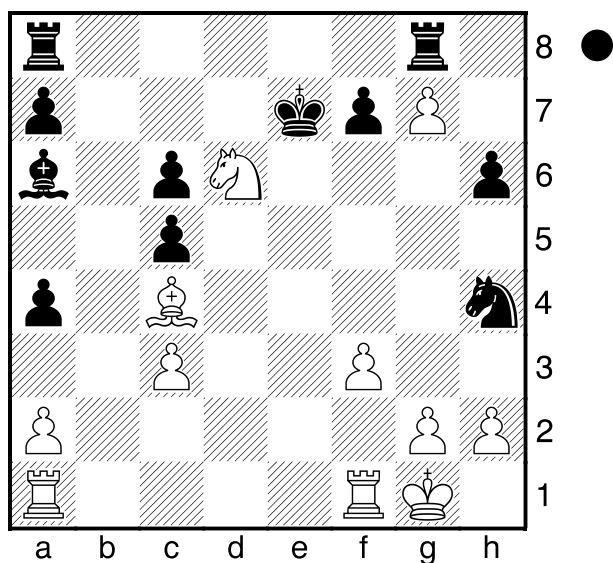
[21...Qxf5 22.Nd6+ Kd7 23.Nxf5
 protecting the bishop(!) is also
 winning.]

22.Bxe6 Ba6 23.Nd6+ Ke7 24.Bc4!

(Diagram)

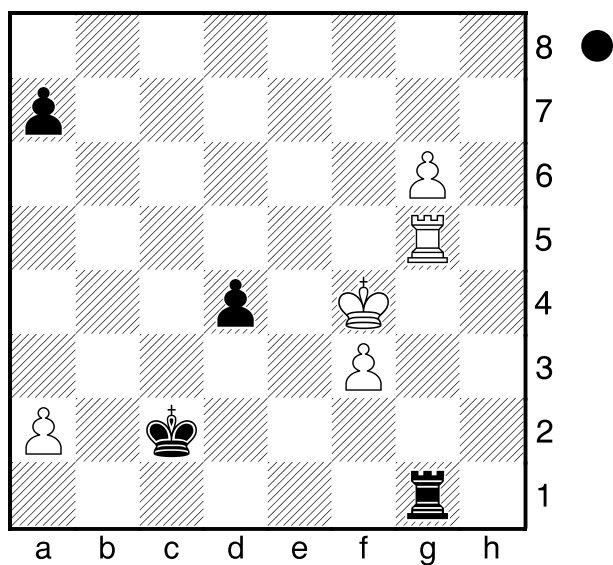
This is the final point to the combination.
 White enters a superior endgame - a
 pawn down! **24...Rxg7 25.g3 Kxd6**
26.Bxa6 Nf5

[26...Rb8 creating counterplay was
 black's last chance.]



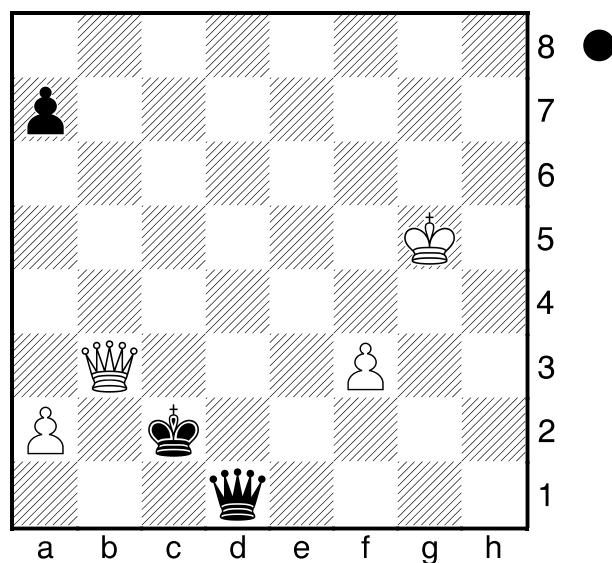
27.Rab1 f6 28.Rfd1+ Ke7 29.Re1+
Kd6 30.Kf2 c4 31.g4 Ne7 32.Rb7
Rag8 33.Bxc4 Nd5 34.Bxd5 cxd5
35.Rb4 Rc8 36.Rxa4 Rxc3 37.Ra6+
Kc5 38.Rxf6 h5 39.h3 hxg4 40.hxg4
Rh7 41.g5 Rh5 42.Rf5 Rc2+ 43.Kg3
Kc4 44.Ree5 d4 45.g6 Rh1 46.Rc5+
Kd3 47.Rxc2 Kxc2 48.Kf4 Rg1
49.Rg5!

[After 49.Rg5



Rxg5 50.Kxg5 d3 51.g7 d2 52.g8Q
d1Q 53.Qb3+!

(Diagram)



trading queens with an easy win.
Black resigned.]

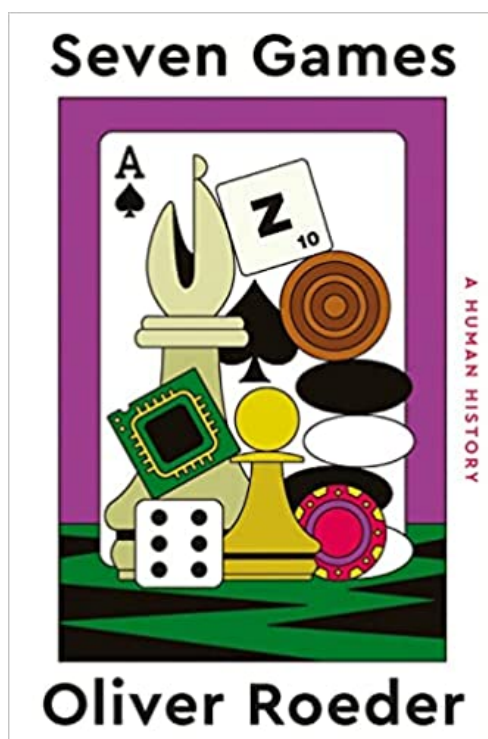
1-0

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 and the chess community.

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-](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/FalconerMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon)

[institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/FalconerMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon](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-](https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/19thWilkersonMemorialChampionship)

[institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/19thWilkersonMemorialChampionship](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>

Mechanics' Institute April Championship Quads

April 9, 2022, 3PM. USCF Rated. 3RR G/30;d5

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

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsApr2022>

Mechanics' Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person

April 9, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 Games of G30;d5

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/mechanics-institute-monthly-scholastic-swiss-person>

Register: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissApr2022>

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Loyd:

1.Qh1! Kf7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Qe8#.

Or 1...Rf7 2.Bg6! Rg7 3.Qa8#.

Barreyro – Bhatnagar:

1...Rh1! 2.Rxa2 Rh2+ wins.

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>