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CHESS ROOM NEWSLETTER

Issue #1018 | May 28th, 2022

Conway TNM Round Four Report

IM **Elliott Winslow** is in sole 1st place in the top section with 3.5 points after defeating Expert **Edward Lewis**. This apparently makes the score between the two a perfect 7-0 for Winslow, and he represents a major hurdle for the talented Lewis. But there's always next time! Lewis is among six tied for 2nd with 3 – 1 scores.

Anton Maliev leads the under 1800 section with a perfect 4 – 0. He is closely trailed by **Dominic Croce**, **Steve Sobel**, and **Yorgos Tsolias**, all with 3.5 points.

The Conway TNM has two TD's, with Dr. **Judit Sztaray** and former MI Chess Club Director **Abel Talamantez** alternating every other Tuesday.

Raymond (Ray) Conway was the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director from 1971 to 1980. His tenure coincided with the 'Fischer Boom', and the Tuesday Night Marathon was started by Conway to make the most of the soaring interest in chess at that time.

Former Chess Room Director IM **John Donaldson** rounds out the little we know about his predecessor in a previous MI Newsletter, here:

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/734>

For complete TNM info, standings and results:

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

Gens Una Sumus!

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415-393-0110



□ Winslow, Elliott

■ Lewis, Edward

MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (4.1) 24.05.2022

[Winslow, Elliott C]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3

Another completely unprepared opening choice at the board. **3...Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0**

5.Nc3 d6

[The real reason I don't play the Fianchetto so often is 5...c6 6.Nf3 d5 -- boring!]

6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 a6 8.h3 This is now more frequent than the old main line,

[8.d5 Na5 9.Nd2 c5]

[And would you believe that the highest-scoring move, by quite a bit, is 8.Bf4! , so I'll be learning about *that* in the near future. And note, there have been over a thousand cases of it so it's no statistical fluke.]

8...h6!?

[8...Rb8]

[8...Bd7]

9.e4 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.Be3?!

[11.Ne1!]

11...Ne8

[11...Nd7]

12.Qd2 Kh7 13.Ne1 f5 14.Nd3 b6?!

Somewhere along this line Black had ... b5 as a shot.

[14...Nf6 15.f3 Nh5 16.Ne2 c5 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.Rfd1 d5 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.exd5 Qxd5 21.g4 Nf6 22.Nc3 Qa5 23.b4 Qc7 24.Rac1 f4 25.Bf2 Qb8 26.Bc5 Rf7 27.Nf2 Bb7 28.Qd6 Qxd6 29.Rxd6 Nc6 30.Rd2 Bf8 31.Nce4 Nxe4 32.Nxe4 Nxb4 33.Bxf8 Raxf8 34.Nd6 Rd7 35.Rb1 a5 36.a3 Rfd8 37.Nxb7 Rxd2 38.Nxd8 Nc2 39.Nc6 Nxa3

1-0 (39) Molina, R (2376)-De Carvalho, L Belo Horizonte 2010]

15.f4 fxe4 16.Nxe4 Nf5 17.Bf2 Rb8

18.Rae1 a5 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.g4 Nfd6

E63

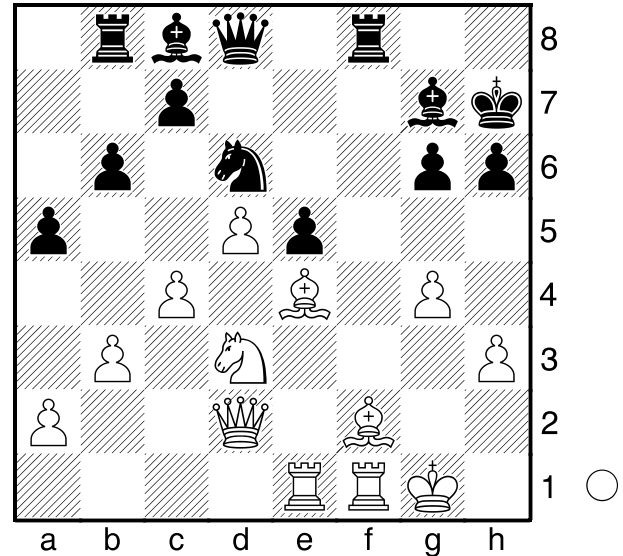
2235

1998

21.b3 White's positional (i.e. not material) edge is fatal and everything Black wants to avoid in the King's Indian: weak pawns (e5, c7, g6), monster square (e4), loose king, bad bishops, even behind in development.

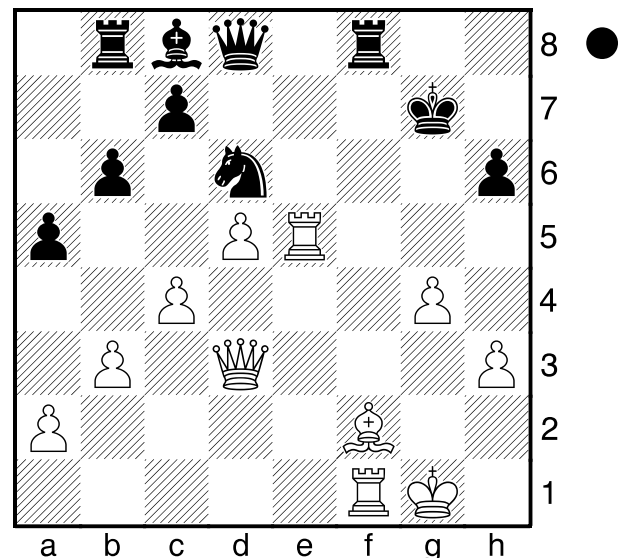
21...Nxe4 22.Bxe4+- Nd6?!

[22...Bd7 23.Bg2 e4]



My mind was moving slow. **23.Bg3**

[23.Bxg6+! Kxg6 24.Nxe5+! Bxe5 (24...Kh7 25.Nc6! Qf6 26.Nxb8) 25.Qd3+ Kg7 26.Rxe5



White is down a piece. Black is very

lost. Qf6 27.Re7+!! Qxe7 28.Bd4+ Rf6 29.Rxf6 Qxf6 30.Bxf6+ Kxf6 31.Qd4+ Kg6 32.Qh8 Black got a lot for the queen (although "on paper" material is even), but if/when the h- or c-pawn goes it's Promotion Time.] [Or 23.Nxe5 Bxe5 24.Bxg6+ Kxg6 25.Qd3+ when none of the blocks work either.]

23...Rxf1+ 24.Kxf1 Ba6?!

[24...Nf7 25.Qf2 Qf6 26.Qxf6 Bxf6 27.Bf3 Bd7 28.Nxe5+-]

25.a4 Qe7 26.Qe2

[26.Nxe5! Nxe4 27.Rxe4 Re8 28.Kg2 Bb7 29.Re1+-]

26...Re8?!

[26...Nxe4 27.Qxe4 Qa3!? 28.Nxe5 Qxb3 29.Kg2! Bxe5 30.Qxe5 Rf8 31.Qd4!!+-]

27.Kg2 I thought after a few moves that this was horrible, but it's okay, just not best.

[27.Nxe5! he can just never take advantage of any pins.]

27...Bb7

[27...Bc8! keeps my rook off e6 in the big combo line, although White is still +- there.]

28.h4?!

[28.Nxe5! Bxe5 29.Bxe5 Qxe5 30.Bxg6+ Kxg6 31.Qxe5 Rxe5 32.Rxe5+- I should be seeing this clearly -- perhaps the cough medicine...]

(Diagram)

28...Qd7?

[28...Nxe4 29.Qxe4

A) 29...Qd6

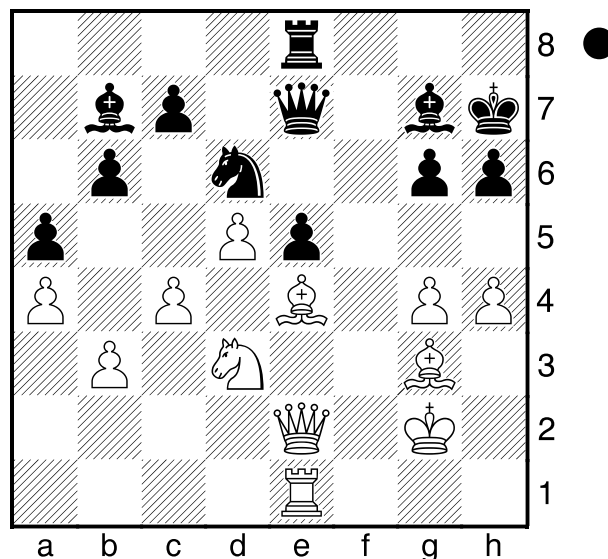
A1) 30.h5 c6!

A1a) 31.Nxe5! cxd5

A1a1) 32.Qxg6+? Qxg6

33.hxg6+ Kg8 34.Kh3=

I was looking for some won



ending, which is all wrong.

Bxe5 (34...Re7; 34...dxc4);

A1a2) 32.hxg6+!

A1b) 31.Qxg6+ Qxg6

32.hxg6+ Kxg6 33.d6! Bc8

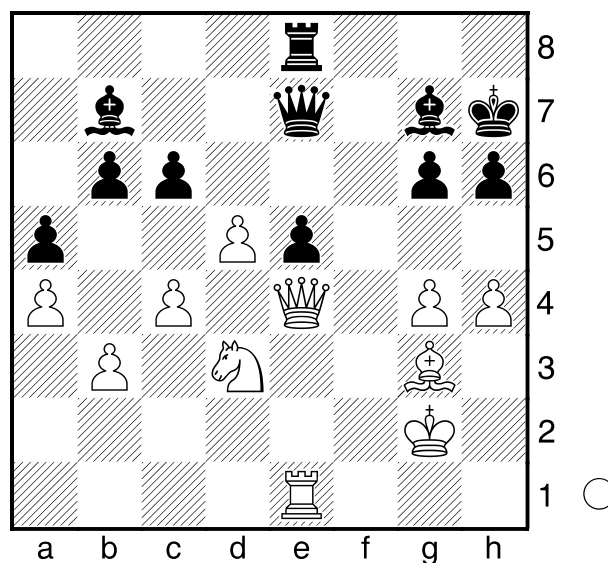
34.Kf3! c5 35.Bxe5!±;

A1c) 31.Nf4!;

A2) 30.Bxe5+-;

A3) 30.Nxe5!+-;

B) 29...c6!!



B1) 30.dxc6 Ba8 31.Kh3 Qe6

32.Nxe5 Bxe5 33.Bxe5 Bxc6

34.Qf4 Qd7 (34...h5 35.Kg3

Qxg4+ 36.Qxg4 hxg4 37.Kxg4

Bd7+ 38.Kf4 Bf5 39.Re3±);
B2) 30.Nf4!+- but not by the
 margins seen in other lines]

29.h5 Nxe4

[29...Kg8!? 30.Bxg6]

30.Qxe4 c6?!

[30...Re6!? tries to obfuscate
 (unsuccessfully).]

31.Nxe5

[31.Qxg6+! Kg8 (31...Kh8 32.Nxe5)
 32.Nxe5 Stockfish is seeing mate in
 11 even if I'm not.]

31...Bxe5

[31...Qd6 is the only move to avoid
 impending checkmate.

A) 32.Qxg6+ Qxg6 33.hxg6+ Kg8
 34.Nxc6 (34.dxc6 Ba8 35.Kh3)
 34...Rxe1 35.Bxe1;

B) 32.hxg6+! Kg8 33.Qf5! Rf8
 34.Nxc6!]

32.Qxg6+ Kh8 33.Bxe5+
1-0

 **Weng,Nicholas** **B01**
 **Bambou,Christophe** **2021**
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (4.2) 24.05.2022
[Winslow, Elliott C]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5
4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2 Bg4 6.f3 Bd7 7.Bc4

Essayed by some serious players, for
 example: Anand and Bacrot.

[7.f4!? (Negi) Qb6! 8.Nf3 a6! 9.Bc4
 Nc6 was seen in Winslow-Bambou,
 2nd Shipman Memorial TNM, 08.Feb.
 2022, and now Negi's continuation
 would be 10.Na4! Qa7 11.Nc5!
 sacrificing a pawn for distinct
 compensation.]

7...Qb6! 8.Nge2 e6 9.Be3!

[9.Bb3 was the move order of Anand-
 van Wely, below.]

9...Nc6! 10.0-0

[10.a3!? Ne7!? 11.0-0 Ned5 12.Bf2

Be7 has held up in a couple games.]

10...Na5

[10...0-0-0 was played by the opening
 pioneer Eric Prie, but his opponent
 was a mere 1700 player so it doesn't
 seem appropriate to quote the game
 (0-1 29). 11.Kh1 Nb4 12.a3 Nbd5
 13.Bf2 h5]

11.Bb3 Nxb3 12.axb3 c5N

[12...Be7 13.Nf4 0-0 14.Re1
 when the Indian former world
 champion outplayed the leading
 Dutch grandmaster at the time. 1-0
 (37) Anand,V (2772)-Van Wely,L
 (2679) Wijk aan Zee 2013.]

13.Na4 Bxa4 14.Rxa4 Rd8 15.Qe1
cx d4 16.Bxd4 Bc5 17.Qf2 Bxd4
18.Nxd4 0-0 19.Re1 Rd5 20.c3 Rfd8
21.Rb4 Black seemed surprised as
 White snaps up the repetition. **21...Qa6**
22.Ra4 Qb6 23.Rb4 Qa6 24.Ra4 Qb6
1/2-1/2

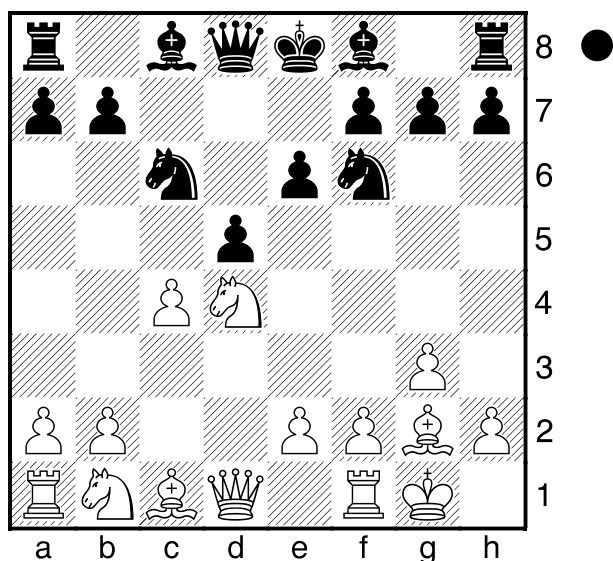
 **Walder,Michael** **E01**
 **Dessert,Christopher** **2075**
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (4.7) 24.05.2022
[Winslow, Elliott C]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 c5
5.Bg2 Nc6 6.0-0 cxd4 7.Nxd4

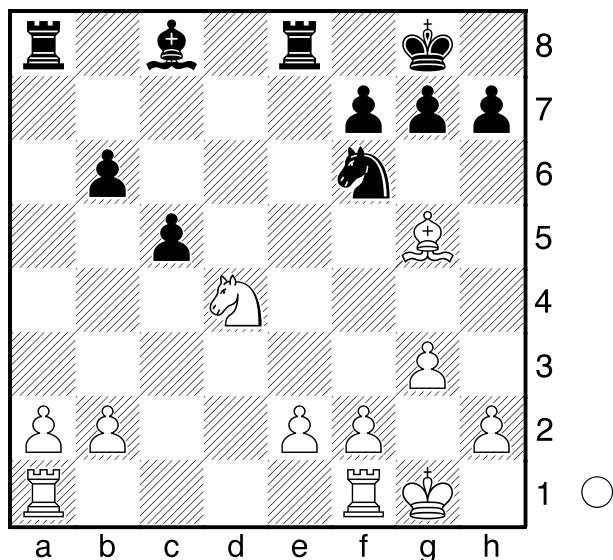
(Diagram)

e5? Transposing into a Grunfeld down
 two moves? Too much!

[Better is 7...Bc5 8.Nb3 Bb6±
 although White can still press this
 Tarrasch position. Here's a recent
 high-level blitz game: 9.cxd5 exd5
 10.Nc3 d4 11.Na4 0-0 12.Bg5
 (There has been a flurry of
 excitement ("The Tarrasch is back!")
 thanks to this game and others:
 12.Re1 Re8 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6



Qxf6 15.Rc1 d3 16.Nxb6 axb6 17.Qxd3 Rxa2 28.05 0-1 (76) Ding,L (2791)-Dubov,D (2699) Lindores Abbey Final 8, chess24.com) 12...Re8 13.Nxb6 axb6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Qxd4 Qxd4 16.Nxd4 c5



It all hinges on this position. Stockfish thinks it's nothing special, but the results speak for White after this forcing sequence: 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Nb5 Rxe2 19.Rfe1! Rxe1+ 20.Rxe1 Bd7 21.Nc3 Bc6 22.a3 1-0 (37), Erigaisi,A (2559)-Gukesh,D (2563) U20 ch (blitz), Chess.com 12.9.

2020.]

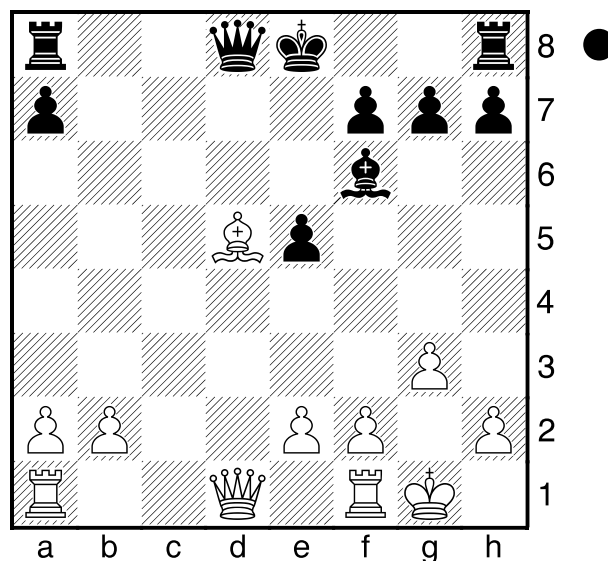
8.Nxc6+- bxc6 9.Nc3 Be6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Nxd5

[13.Bxd5 is the computer preference. At least then you don't have to have paranoid dreams about the opposite colored bishops.]

13...Bxd5?!

[13...Rc8 14.Qa4+ Qd7 15.Qxd7+ Bxd7 16.Rfc1]

14.Bxd5



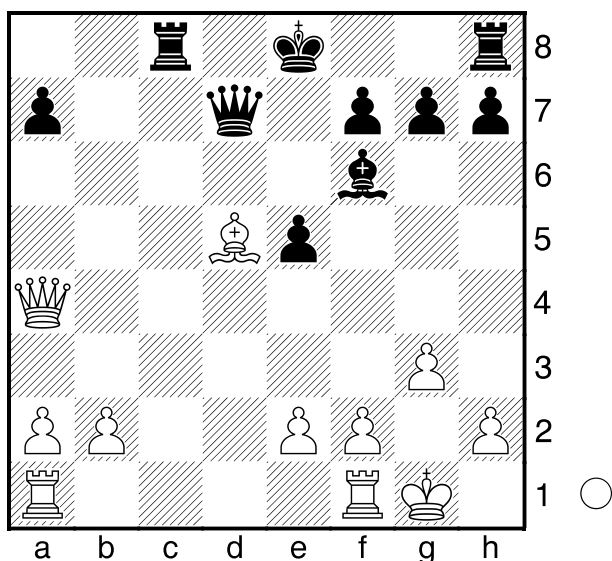
Rc8N

[Time for the irrelevant predecessor: 14...Rb8 15.Qa4+ Kf8 16.Rfd1 Qb6 17.Qd7 Be7 18.Bb3 g6 19.Rac1 Rd8 20.Qg4 Kg7 21.Qc4 Qf6 22.Qc7 h5 23.Rc6 Rxd1+ 24.Bxd1 Bd8 25.Qd7 Qf5 26.Qxf5 gxf5 27.Bc2 1-0 (44), Durmus,K (1611)-Cebis,A (1512) Antalya 2020.]

15.Qa4+ Qd7

(Diagram)

16.Bxf7+! Might as well gain a free tempo. **16...Ke7 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.Rac1 Ke7 19.Bd5 Rhd8 20.Be4 h6 21.e3 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Rd2 23.Rc7+ Rd7 24.Rc2 Kd8 25.Bf5 Rc7 26.Rd2+**

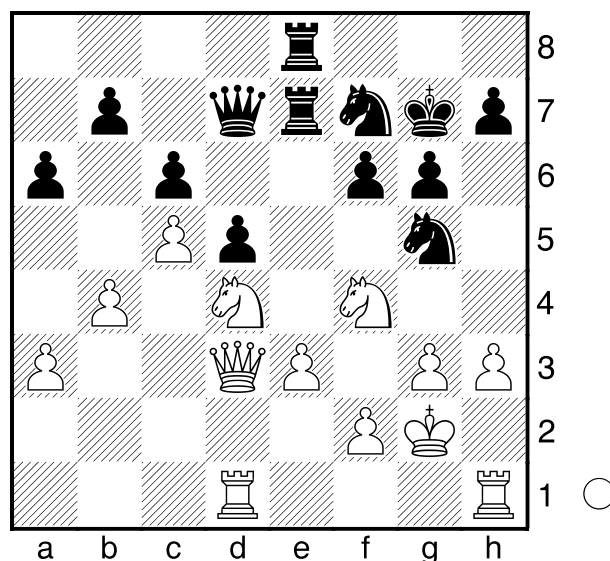


Ke7 27.b3 Ke8 28.Rd5 Ke7 29.Kg2
Kf7 30.Kf3 Ke7 31.Kg4 Ke8 32.Kh5
Kf7 33.h4 Ke7 34.g4 Kf7 35.g5 hxc5
36.hxc5 Be7 37.Rxe5 Rc5
Black forces off the rooks but it's too
late. 38.Bg6+ Kf8 39.Rxc5 Bxc5
40.Kg4 Ke7 41.Kf5 Bb4 42.f4 a5
43.Bh5 Bc3 44.Be2 Bd2 45.e4 Kd6
46.Bc4 Bc1 47.e5+ Ke7 48.Ke4 Bd2
49.a3 Kd7 50.g6 Ke7 51.f5 Bc3
52.f6+ Kf8 53.Kf5 Bd4 54.b4 axb4
55.axb4 Bc3 56.b5 Bd4 57.Bd5 Bb6
58.e6 Bc5 59.e7+ Ke8 60.Bc6#
1-0

Carron, Joel D00
1686
 Riese, Kayven 1900
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (4.9) 24.05.2022
[Winslow, Elliott C]

1.d4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 Bb4 4.Qd3
Nf6 5.a3 Ba5 6.b4 Bb6 7.Na4 Nbd7
8.Nf3 0-0 9.e3 Ne4 10.c4 c6 11.c5
Bc7 12.Bxc7 Qxc7 13.Be2 e5 14.0-0
Nef6 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Qd4 Ng6
17.Nb2 Re8 18.Rfe1 Re4 19.Qd1 Bd7
20.Bd3 Re7 21.Nd4 Ng4 22.g3 N6e5
23.Bf5 g6 24.Bxd7 Qxd7 25.Nd3 f6

26.h3 Nh6 27.Kg2 Rae8 28.Qb3 a6
29.Rad1 Nef7 30.Nf4 Ng5 31.Qd3
Kg7 32.Rh1 Nhf7



33.Nf3??

[33.h4 Ne5 34.Qc2 Ne4 35.f3
Stockfish 14.1 gives White an
advantage that flickers between
insignificant and significant. I suspect
if I let it run enough it will find some
shot for Black; as it went, White beat
us to the punch:]

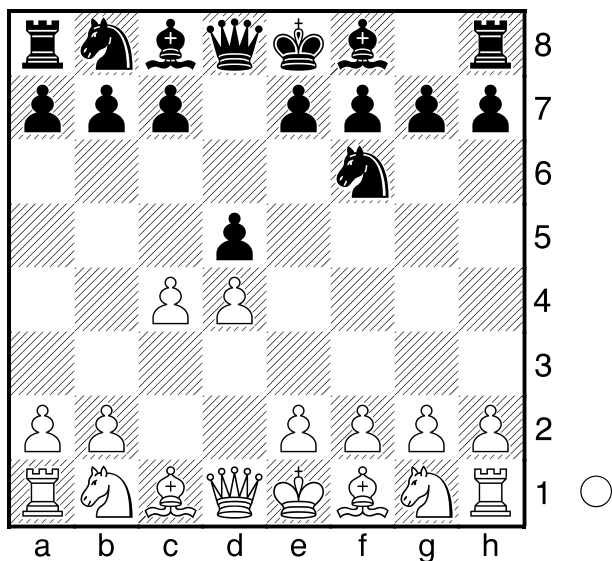
33...Nxf3 34.Kxf3 Ne5+
0-1

Ahrens, Richard D94
1064
 Cadimas, Freddie 779
 MI Conway TNM: Extra Games (4.32)
[Winslow, Elliott C]

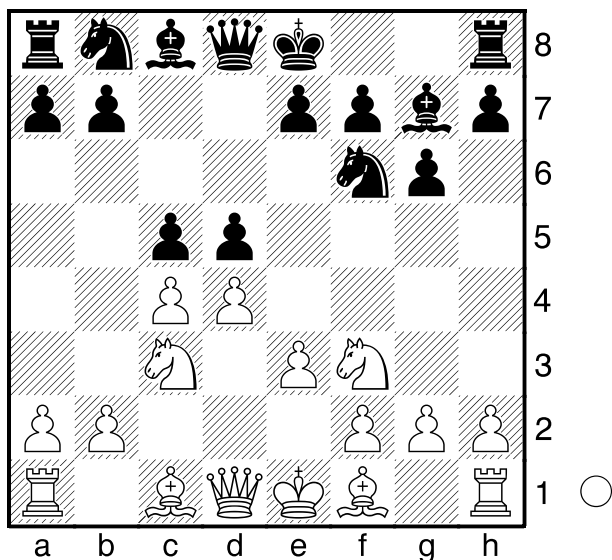
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d5

(Diagram)

The "Marshall Defence" to the Queen's
Gambit. Not his finest product. 3.e3
[3.cxd5! Make Black pay for not
protecting his center better!]
3...c5 4.Nc3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7



[5...cxd4 seems like it's due.]



So now we've settled into the Grunfeld Defense, with e2-e3 for White. **6.b3?**

[6.dxc5! is still looking pretty good for White!]

6...Nc6 7.Ba3? There was still time to reduce the damage:

[7.Bb2]

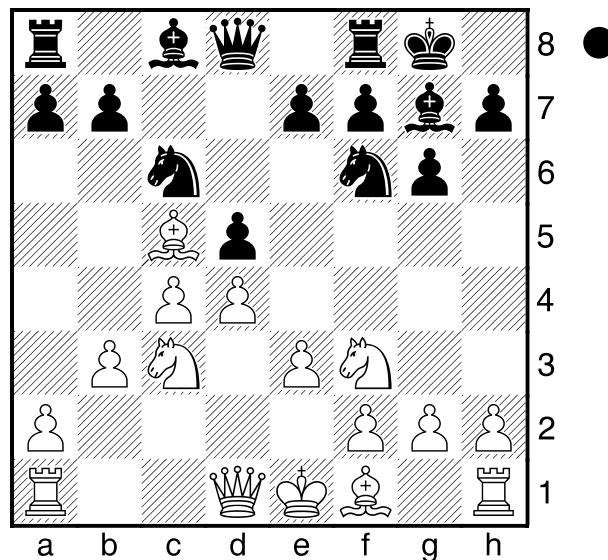
[7.Be2]

7...0-0?

[7...Qa5!-+ 8.Bb2 (8.Qc1 Ne4 9.cxd5 cxd4! 10.dxc6 dxe3!) 8...Bg4 (or 8...Ne4) 9.Be2 Ne4 10.Rc1 Bxf3

11.gxf3 cxd4 - you can't waste time like this in the opening!]

8.Bxc5

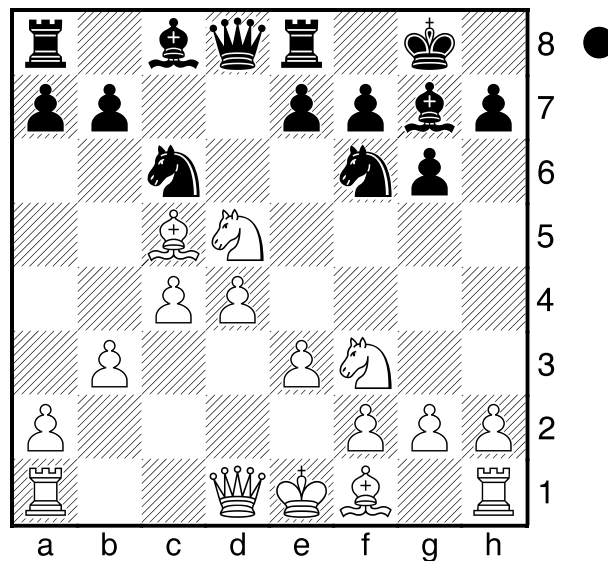


Re8?

[There are some surprising repetitions after 8...Qa5 9.Qd2 b6 10.b4 (10.cxd5 bxc5 11.dxc6 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Rd8 13.b4 Qxb4 14.Rb1 Qa5 15.Be2 e5 16.Nb3 Qb6 17.Nd4 Qc5 18.Nb3=) 10...Qa3 11.Nb5 Qa4=]

9.Nxd5?

[9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5]



9...Nxd5?

[9...Ne4! 10.Rc1 (10.Bb4 e6
11.Nc3 f5!) 10...Bg4!? (10...Nxc5
11.dxc5 Bf5 12.Bd3 Qa5+ 13.Kf1
Bxd3+ 14.Qxd3 Rad8 15.Qc2 Qxc5
16.g3 e6 17.b4 Nxb4 18.Nxb4 Qxb4
19.Kg2 Rd7=) 11.Be2 e6 12.Nc3
Nxc5 13.dxc5 Qa5 14.Nd4 Bxe2
15.Qxe2 Nxd4 16.exd4 Bxd4=]

10.cxd5 Qxd5 11.Bc4 Qh5 12.0-0+ Bg4 13.Be2?!

[13.h3+- Bxh3? 14.gxh3 Qxh3
15.Bxf7+ which is hardly necessary]

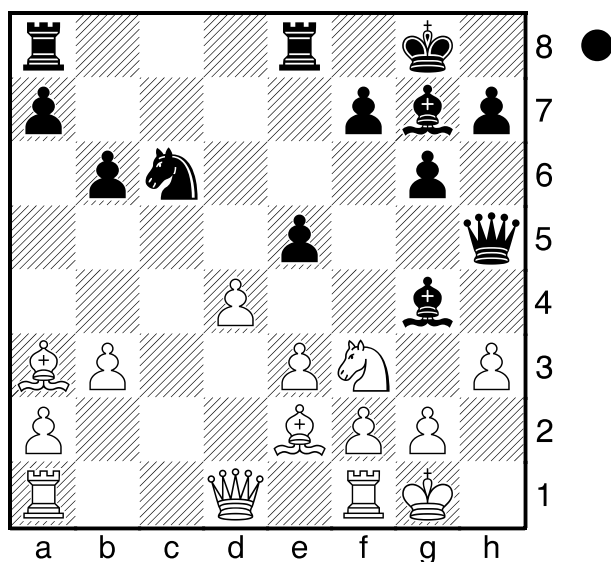
13...b6?!

[13...e5!±]

14.Ba3

[14.Rc1!?]

14...e5?! 15.h3



Bxh3 The best try -- but it shouldn't work! **16.gxh3 Qxh3 17.Nh2**

[17.Bb5! so that on Nh2, the queen can enter on f3 or g4]

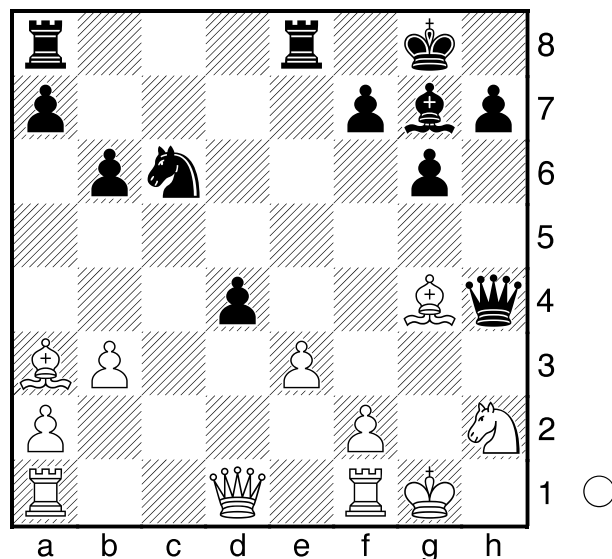
17...exd4 18.Bg4

[18.Rc1!]

18...Qh4

(Diagram)

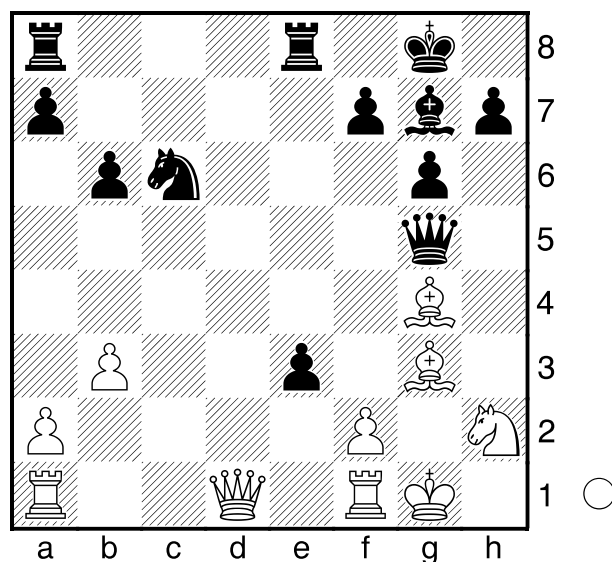
19.Bd6? And the last of White's advantage goes up in smoke and then



some; now it's Black's game. **19...dxe3**

20.Bg3 Qg5?!

[20...Qf6 21.Rc1 (21.fxe3 Qxa1)
21...e2 22.Bxe2 Rad8]



21.f4??

[21.fxe3 Qxe3+ 22.Bf2 Qe7 23.Re1
Ne5!±]

21...Qc5 22.Qe2 Bxa1+ 23.Rxa1 Rad8

[23...Nd4]

24.Nf3 Nd4

[24...h5! 25.Bh3 Rd2! 26.Qe1 Nb4]

25.Nxd4 Rxd4 26.Be1 Rxf4

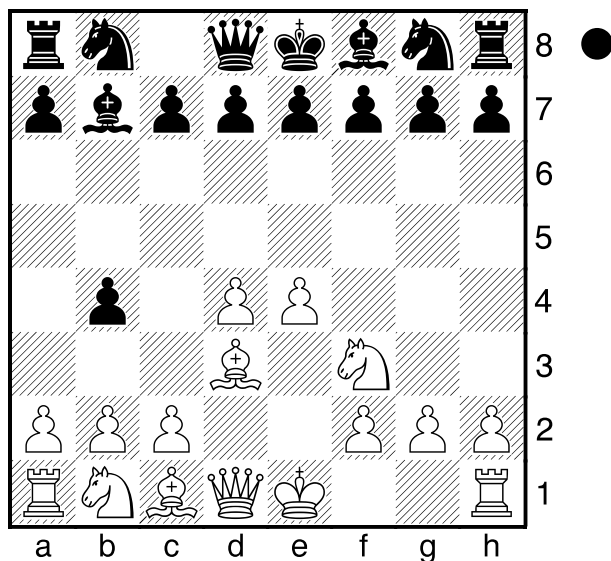
Sometimes the two bishops can perform miracles. Here it's the Black majors that weave spells around White's king. **27.b4 Qg5 28.Bg3 Rxc4 29.Kf1 Rxc3 30.Qh2 Qf4+ 31.Ke2 Qf3+ 32.Kd3 e2+ 33.Kd2 Rd8+ 34.Kc2 Qd3+ 35.Kb2 Qd2+ 0-1**

□ Cao,Danny
■ Starr,Albert

A04
1078
1511

MI Conway TNM: u1800 (4.17) 24.05.22
[de Firmian]

1.Nf3 b5 Albert loves to play this move with the White pieces. He decides to try it for the defense too. **2.e4 b4 3.d4 Bb7 4.Bd3**



One must admit White has a very nice opening with all the control of the center.

4...e6 5.a3 a5 6.axb4 axb4 7.Rxa8 Bxa8 8.0-0 c5 9.Re1

[9.c3 or]

[9.Be3 are to be considered. Both maintain a nice opening edge.]

9...h6 10.d5 Nf6 11.dxe6?!

[Now Albert gets the type of game he was looking for. 11.Nbd2 or]

[11.c4 keep the advantage]

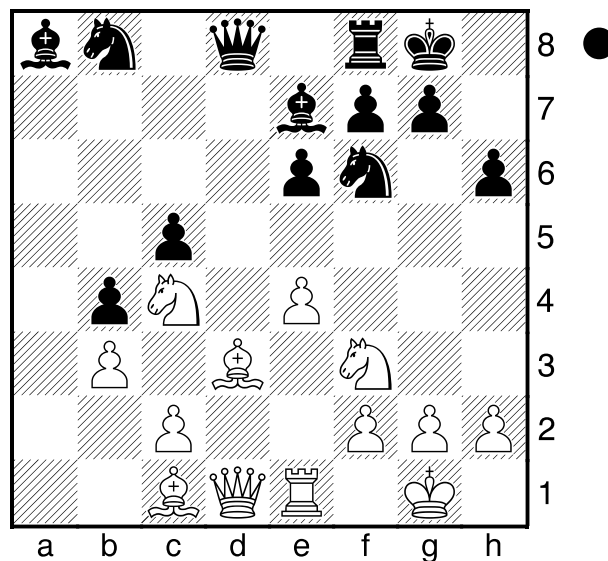
11...dxe6 12.b3 Be7 13.Nbd2 0-0 14.Nc4?!

(Diagram)

Nbd7?!

[14...Bxe4! 15.Bxe4 Qxd1 16.Rxd1 Nxe4 wins a pawn]

15.Bb2 Qc7 16.e5 Nh7



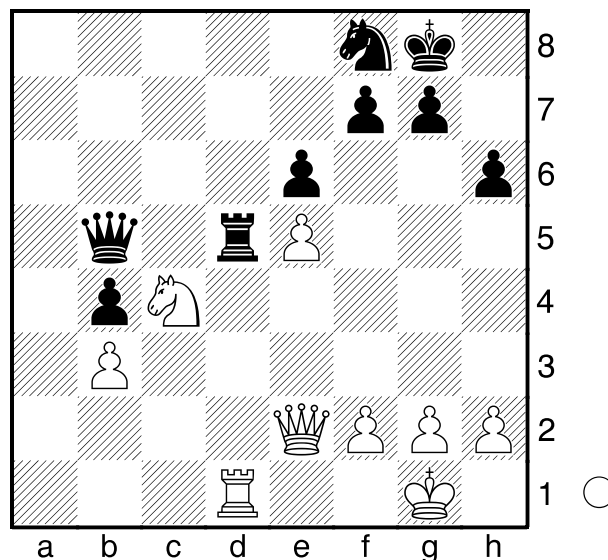
[16...Nd5 is a good central square for the knight]

17.Qd2 Rd8 18.Qe2 Ndf8 19.c3 Ng5 20.Nxg5 Bxg5 21.cxb4 cxb4 22.Bc1 [22.Nd6!?

22...Bxc1 23.Rxc1 Qb8 24.Be4

[Again 24.Nd6 is more aggressive Nd7 25.Qh5 Rf8 is a little passive for Black]

24...Bd5 25.Bxd5 Rxd5 26.Rd1?! Qb5!



White is objectively still ok, but this move starts to put the pressure on. White cannot trade rooks now as the d-

own would recapture and win the pinned knight on c3. Meanwhile the e5 pawn is coming under attack and must be watched. **27.Qc2?!** Danny gets nervous and wants to step out of the pin immediately.

[27.g3 Nd7 28.Rxd5! exd5 29.e6! dxc4 30.exd7 Qxd7 31.Qxc4 would keep equality.]

27...Ng6 now Black wins the e-pawn

28.Nd6?! Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1 Qxe5

With an extra pawn and better position Albert has all the momentum. **30.Nc4 Qd5** Now White should trade queens and play a knight ending a pawn down. This is suffering of course. Instead Danny blunders to end it quickly.

31.g3??

0-1

□ **Argo, Guy**

■ **Diaz, Conrado**

MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (4.6) 24.05.2022
[de Firmian]

B01

1856

2344

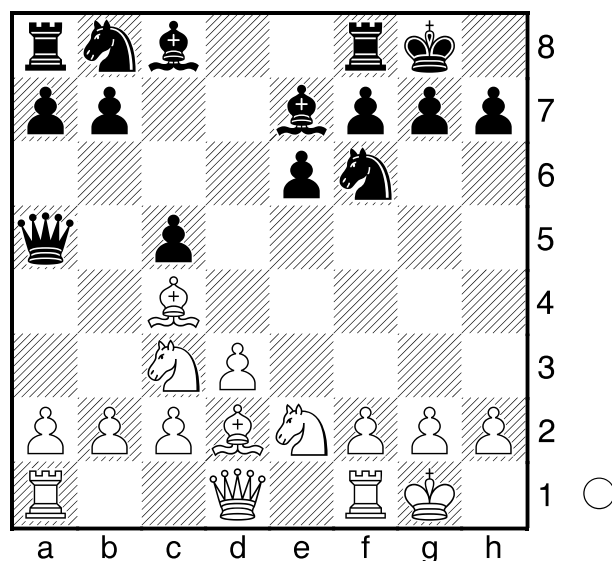
It is a welcome sight to see Conrado Diaz back playing the TNM. Another master to challenge for first place. Of course it makes a challenging pairing for Guy Argo. **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nge2** Less usual than 5. Nf3 or 5. d4 but avoiding the pin from the light-squared bishop. **5...e6 6.0-0 Be7 7.d3 0-0 8.Bd2!** A nice little move that gains a slight edge in the opening. **8...c5**

(Diagram)

9.Ng3 but this is slow

[9.Nd5! Qd8 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7 11.Re1 gains the bishop pair and keeps the edge]

9...Qd8 10.f4 g6 11.Nce4 Nc6 12.Bc3



Nd4 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Ne4 Be7 15.a4

b6 Chances are equal. Both sides have easy development and some good squares. **16.Bd2 Bb7 17.c3?!**

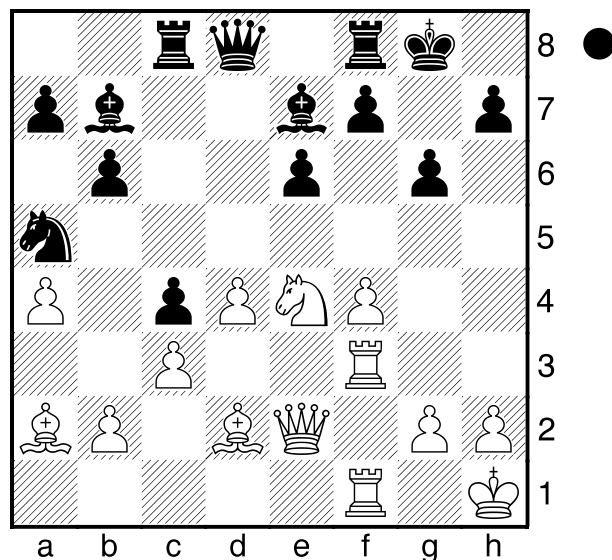
The white d-pawn becomes a little weak after this. **17...Nc6 18.Qe2 Na5!**

19.Ba2 Ba6 20.Rf3 Rc8 21.Kh1 c4

22.d4 Bb7 Black has strong control of the light squares in the center.

23.Raf1?!

[23.Rh3 ♣ / ♣]



offering an exchange sacrifice for a pawn and the loosening of the black

center **23...f5!** Conrado accepts the challenge and grabs the material. His judgement is accurate. **24.Ng5 Bxg5 25.Qxe6+ Rf7**

[25...Kh8 26.fxg5 Re8 27.Qf7 Bd5 28.Qf6+ Qxf6 29.gxf6 Bxf3 30.gxf3 Re2 31.Bf4 Kg8 is also very strong. Black should win the endgame.]

26.fxg5 Bxf3 27.gxf3

[27.Rxf3 may be a little better. In any case the black rooks have the important e-file to use and the white bishops are constrained.]

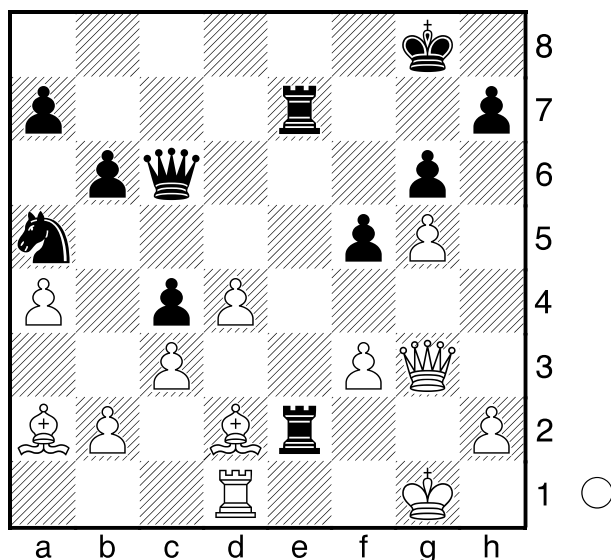
27...Rc6 28.Qe2 Re7 29.Qg2?!

[29.Qd1]

29...Rce6 30.Qg3 Re2 The invasion has come. **31.Rd1?!**

[31.Bc1]

31...Qd5 32.Kg1 Qc6

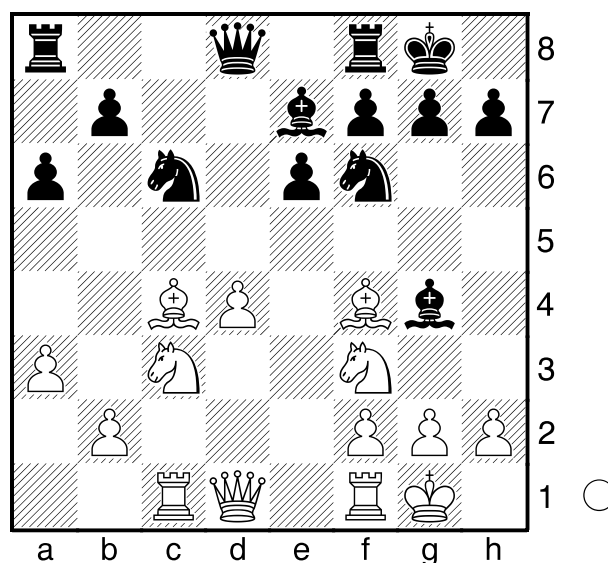


White resigned as he has no active play and Black is just chopping off more material.

0-1

B13
 Powers, Christopher **1747**
 Suarez, Sebastian **1728**
 MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (4.10) 24.05.22
[de Firmian]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bf4 a6 7.Be2
 [7.Nf3]
7...Bf5 8.Nf3 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Rc1 0-0 11.a3 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Bg4



Both sides have developed pieces to good squares and are ready for action. Christopher makes a sensible decision to push the d-pawn and make exchanges.

13.d5 exd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Qb6 16.Qe2 Bf6 17.b4?! This leads to some trouble.

[17.Rfe1 Qxb2 18.Qxb2 Bxb2 19.Rb1 Bxa3 20.Rxb7 gives White active play for the pawn. Chances would be even.]

17...Nd4 18.Qa2 Nxf3+ 19.Bxf3 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Rac8 So Black has an edge due to the doubled white f pawns. Nothing too much yet, but a long term issue. **21.Rfd1 Bd4 22.Re1?!**

[22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.Qd2 is more active]

22...Qf6 23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.Qe2 h6

25.Qe4 b5! 26.Be3 Bxe3

[26...Bb2! wins the a-pawn]

27.Rxe3 Rc1+ 28.Kg2 Rc4 29.Qe5

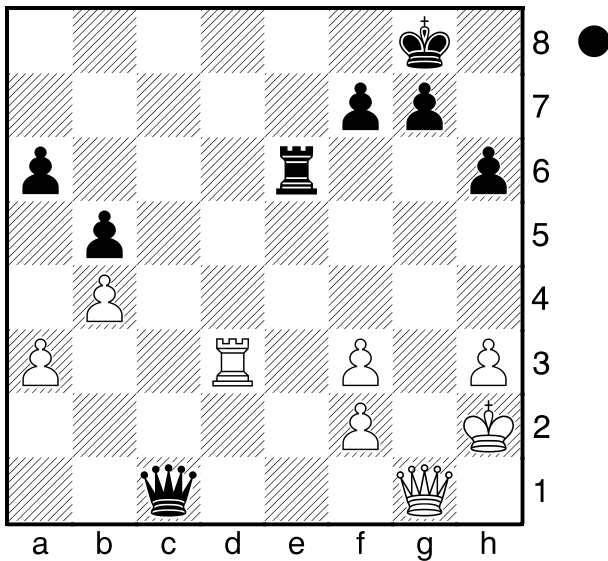
Qg6+ 30.Qg3 Qc6 Best play should probably lead to a draw, but Black has a nagging edge and White must be careful.

31.h3

[31.Qe5!]

31...Rc1 32.Rd3 Re1 33.Qg4 Re6!

switching back for defense also creates play on the g-file **34.Kh2 Qc1 35.Qg1**



Re1 36.Qg2 Rf1 Nice play - like Capablanca. White is getting tied down to weaknesses and king defense.
37.Re3?

(Diagram)

White should have played 37. Rd2! to hold the f2 pawn. Now it's finished.

37...Qc7+! 38.f4

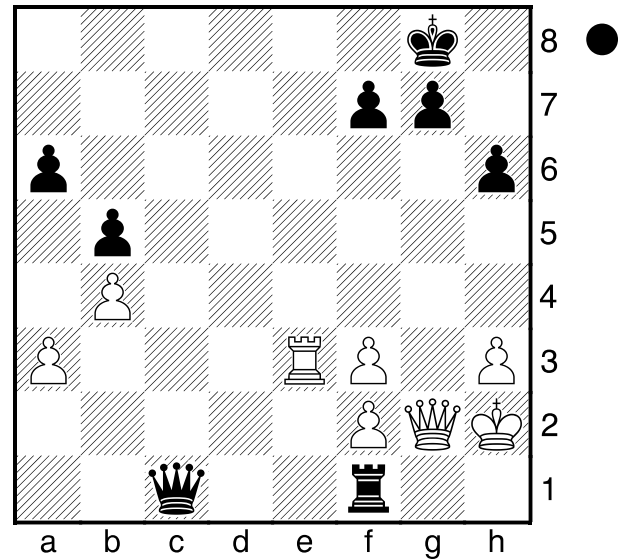
[38.Qg3 Rxf2+]

38...Qxf4+ 39.Rg3?!

[39.Qg3 Rxf2+ 40.Kg1 Qxg3+ 41.Rxg3 Ra2 is an easily won rook ending with two extra pawns and the white king stuck on the back rank]

39...Rxf2

0-1



C68
Dutter, Fredrick 1900
Das, Rohan 1944
MI Conway TNM: 1800+ (4.3) 24.05.2022
[de Firmian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d3 Qf6

8.Nbd2! The usual move in this Exchange Ruy Lopez. Not

[8.hxg4? hxg4 9.Ng5 Qh6 wins at least the piece back after 10.Nh3 Qh4]

8...Ne7 9.Re1 Ng6 10.Nf1?!

[10.d4! exd4 11.hxg4 hxg4 12.e5 Qf5 13.Nh2 favors White]

10...Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Qxf3 12.gxf3

Black is at least equal in this endgame with the doubled white f-pawns.

12...0-0-0 13.Be3 Bd6 14.Rad1 f5!?

Starting action right away. **15.Bg5!**

This is a dangerous move as the white bishop might get trapped, yet it guarantees good activity. **15...Rdf8**

16.Ng3 f4!?

[16...fxe4 17.fxe4 Nf4 is safer]

17.Nf5 h4?!

[17...Rf7]

18.Kh2! The black pawns on the kingside are in danger and the white bishop on g5 is not in danger anymore.

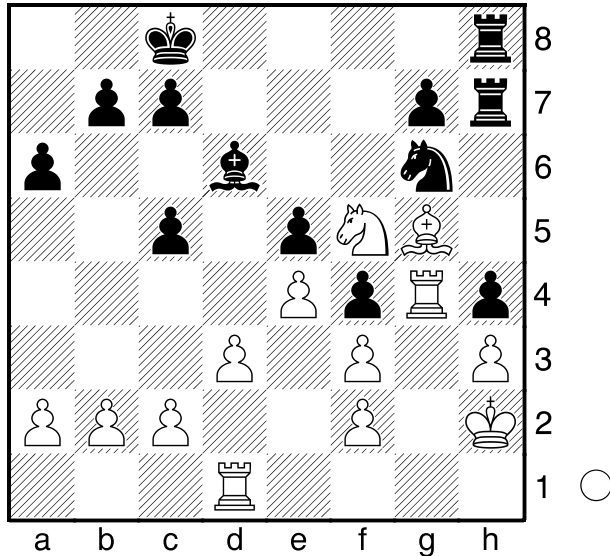
[18.Nxg7? Rfg8]

18...Rh7 19.Rg1 c5?!

[19...Bc5]

20.Rg4 Rfh8?

[20...Rf7]



21.Nxg7! Rxg7 22.Bf6 White wins at least the piece back **22...Rgh7**

[22...Rhg8 23.Bxg7 Rxg7 24.Rdg1]

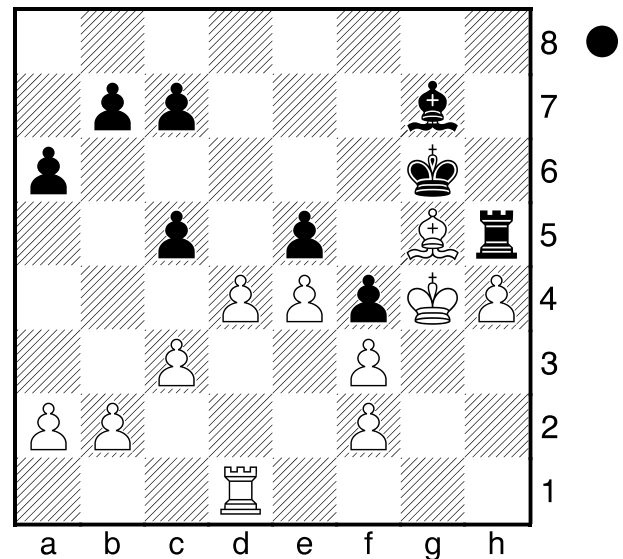
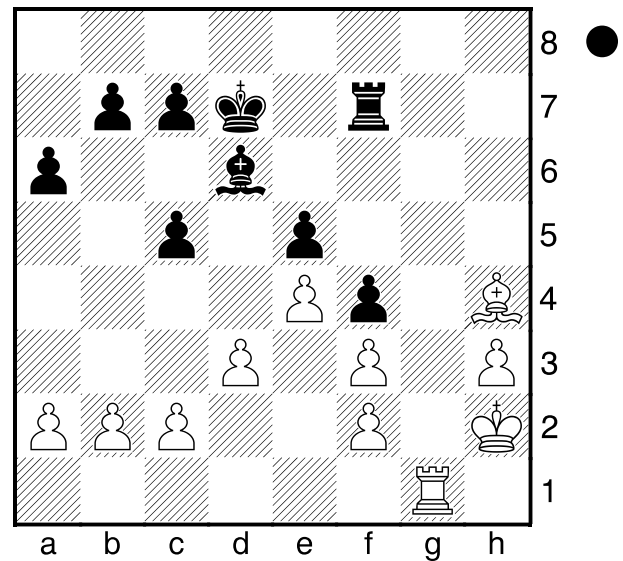
23.Rxg6 Rf8 24.Rdg1 White is simply winning the endgame with the extra pawn, control of the g-file and the target on h4. **24...Kd7 25.Rg7+ Rf7 26.Rxf7+ Rxf7 27.Bxh4**

(Diagram)

Rh7 28.Rg4 Ke6 29.Bg5 Rh5 30.h4 Kf7 31.Kh3 Rh7 32.Rg1 Rh5 33.Kg4 Kg6 34.Rd1 Bf8 35.c3 Bg7 36.d4!

(Diagram)

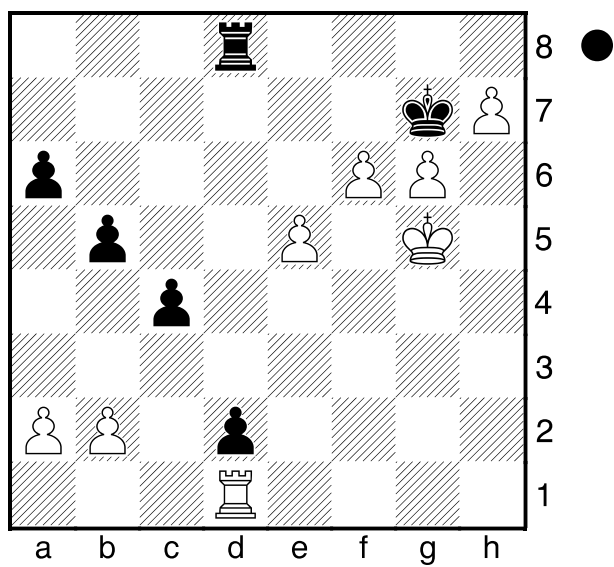
Well played by Dutter. Opening up the center allows the rook into the game and undermines support of the f4 pawn. **36...cxd4 37.cxd4 exd4 38.Kxf4 c5**



39.Kg4 Rh8 40.f4 Bf6 41.e5 Bxg5 42.fxg5 Rd8 43.f4 d3 44.h5+ Kf7 45.Kf5 c4 46.g6+ Kg7 47.Kg5 b5 48.h6+ Kg8 49.h7+ Kg7 50.f5 d2 51.f6+

(Diagram)

Four monster pawns. **51...Kh8 52.g7+ Kxh7 53.Rh1+ Kg8 54.Rh8+ 1-0**



GM Nick de Firmian

Players from India Dominating the Chess World

Indian chess players, both young and old, are dominating right now. Former World Champion Vishy Anand showed age-defying form and won the rapid tournament in the Warsaw stage of the Grand Chess Tour. Here he beat top ten players Aronian, So, Rapport, and Duda. An amazing performance for a 52-year-old player who has hardly competed in the last two years. He was just edged out of first place in the combined rapid and blitz by Duda when he lost a five-minute game to the local hero, but the result was incredible. No other player over 50 years of age is in the top ranked 2700+ club and there is only one player in his 40's on that list (Topalov).

Another Indian player, 16-year-old Ramesh Praggnanandhaa is making waves and breaking into the world's elite. He defeated World Champion Magnus Carlsen for the second time this week with a victory in the Meltwater Chess Tour. Then he progressed into the knockout stage of that event, defeating former prodigy Wei Yi in the quarter finals, then defeating world number 9 Anish Giri in the semifinals and battled world #2, Ding Liren in the finals. He barely lost that match 2.5-1.5, and soon he may be a regular in tournament finals.

The most significant Indian chess event coming soon is the 44th Chess Olympiad, which will be held in Chennai (formerly Madras) from July 28 to August 10th. This most important event of the chess world (along with the world championship) has been moved to India after the planned event in Moscow was cancelled due to the Ukraine war. Thus India, the place where chess began 15 centuries ago, has come again to the fore of the chess world.

□ Anand, Viswanathan

■ Duda, Jan-Krzysztof

C48

2751

2750

Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland 2022 | Gr (10)

[de Firmian]

Blitz 3min+2sec 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6

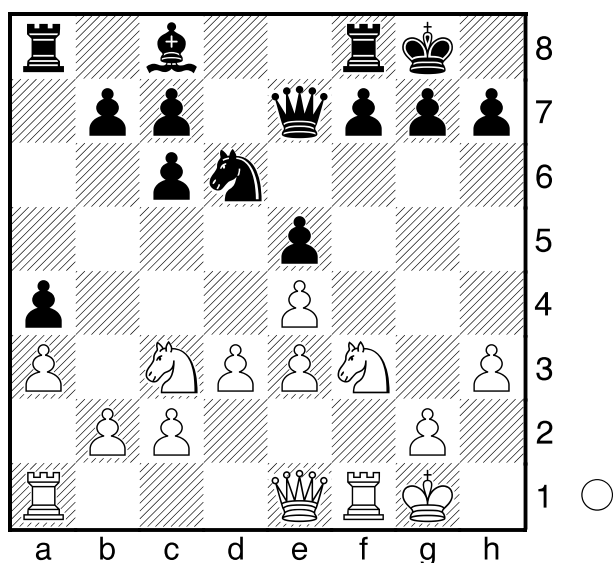
3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6

An interesting opening choice from Anand. He trades the bishop for knight without provocation, seeming to be comfortable with the pawn structure that arises. White has no advantage, but it's a position Anand likes to play. 5...dxc6

6.Nc3 Qe7 7.h3 a5 8.Be3 Bxe3

9.fxe3 a4 10.a3 0-0 11.0-0 Ne8

12.Qe1 Nd6

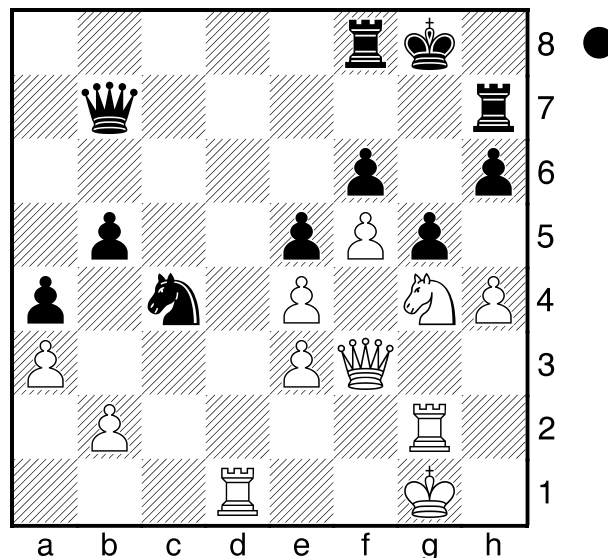


13.g4!? Pressing ahead on the kingside to try to gain space there. 13...f6
14.Qg3 g5 15.Rf2 Be6 16.Raf1 b5
17.Ne2 Still the game is equal and rather blocked on the kingside. Anand begins knight maneuvers. 17...Rf7 18.h4 h6
19.Nh2 c5 20.Qh3! Making way for the other knight to come into the kingside battle. 20...Raf8 21.Ng3 c4 22.Nf5
This seems premature and Black is quite fine now. White could keep more options with 22. Nf3 instead of trading on the f5 square right away. 22...Bxf5

23.gxf5 Rh7 24.Rg2 c5 25.Qf3 cxd3

26.cxd3 c4 27.Rd1 Qb7 28.dxc4

Nxc4 29.Ng4



The game is full of tension as the center and queenside is open while the kingside is sure to open up too. 29...Qb6
30.Rd5 Kh8?

[Black needed to be brave and provoke the sacrifice with 30...h5
31.Nxf6+ Rxf6 32.hxg5 Rd6 33.Re2 when the powerful white pawn duo of f5 and g5 is compensation for the knight but not more.]

31.hxg5 hxg5 32.Rh2 Rxh2 33.Kxh2
Qb7

(Diagram)

34.Nxf6! Anand seizes the moment for the breakthrough. The black king can't quite reach shelter after the knight sacrifice. 34...Rxf6 35.Qh5+ Kg7

[35...Qh7 36.Rd8+ Kg7 37.Rd7+]

36.Qxg5+ Kf7 37.Rd8 Nd6 38.Rh8!

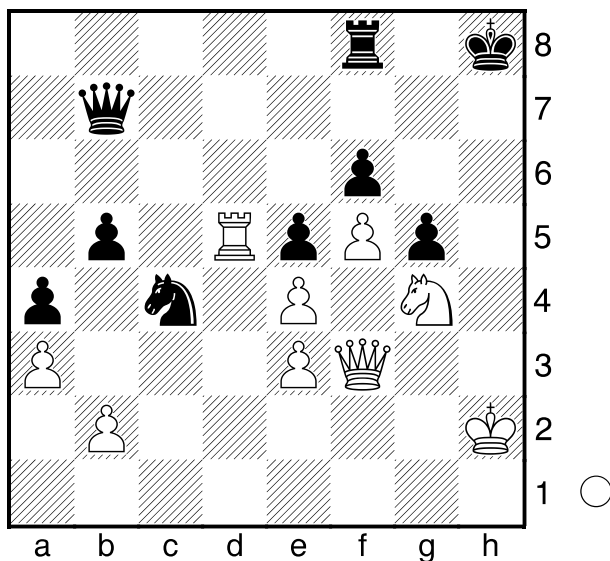
There is no defense now. 38...Qxe4

[38...Ke7 39.Rh6 Nxe4 40.Qg7+

Rf7 41.Re6+ Kd8 42.Qg8+

mops up]

39.Qg8+ Ke7 40.Qd8+ Duda resigned.



40...Kf8 41. Rf8+ Vintage Anand.
1-0

□ Pragganandhaa,R.

■ Giri,Anish

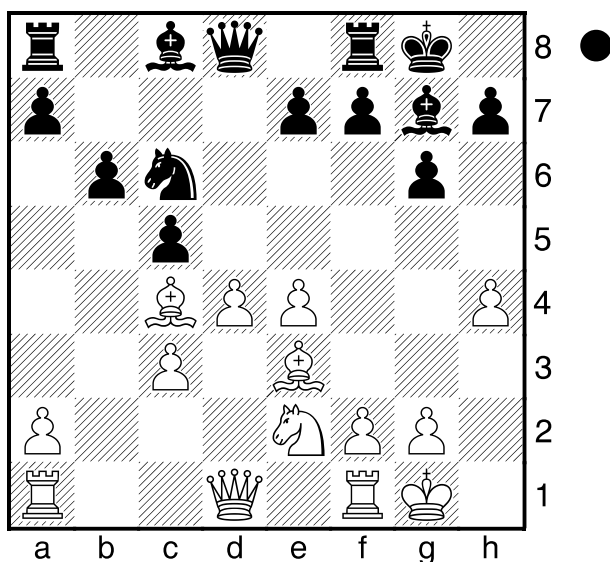
D87

2642

2761

Meltwater Champions Chess Tour 2022: Ch (2)
[de Firmian]

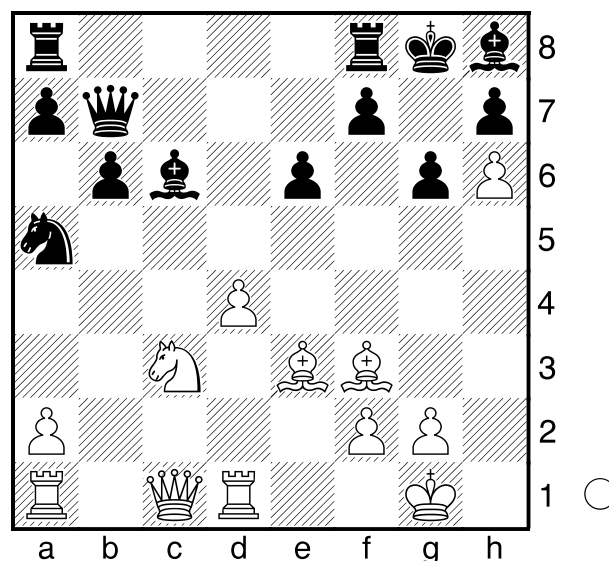
Rapid 15min+10sec 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3
6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0
Nc6 10.Be3 b6 11.h4!?



I must say I like Pragg's aggressive style.
He seems to like to attack, just like his
hero Anand. 11...e6 12.h5 Qh4

13.Qc1!? a sharp pawn sacrifice
[13.hxg6 hxg6 14.f3 is safer]

13...cxd4 14.cxd4 Qxe4 15.Rd1 Na5
16.Nc3 Qb7 17.Be2 Bd7 18.h6 Bh8
19.Bf3 Bc6



20.d5 Throwing a second pawn sacrifice
into the attack. It may not be completely
sound but it is certainly difficult to deal
with. 20...exd5 21.Bd4 Rad8

[21...f6 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Bxd5+
Qxd5 24.Bxb6 Qb5 25.Bxa5 Qxa5
26.Qc4+ Rf7 27.Rd7 Raf8 28.Rb1
Qe5 29.Rxf7 Rxf7 30.Rb7
completely ties Black up. White
should be winning here.]

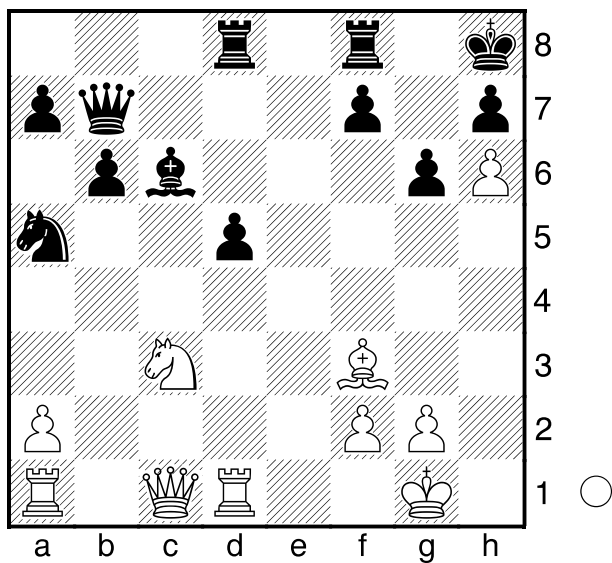
22.Bxh8 Kxh8

(Diagram)

23.Nxd5! Bxd5 24.Qd2 Qe7 25.Qc3+
f6 26.Rxd5 Rc8 27.Re1! Qc7 28.Qa3
Nc4 29.Qe7 Ne5? Giri had defended
well and would have an equal position
after

[29...Rf7 30.Qe8+ Rf8]

30.Rexe5! The winning shot! 30...fxe5
31.Rd7 Qc1+ 32.Bd1 Qxh6 33.Qxe5+



Black resigned. I'm sure we are going to
get a lot of great games from young
Pragg in the next decade.
1-0

IM John Donaldson

Jeremy Silman – Chess Author and Modern Benoni Killer, Part One.

International Master Jeremy Silman, who celebrates his 68th birthday this summer, is well-known as one of the best and most successful authors in the history of American chess. His classic work *Reassess Your Chess* has gone through four editions and sold over 100,000 copies. The latter figure is especially noteworthy as the few other books that have enjoyed this degree of success have invariably been aimed at beginners. Silman's intended audience - club players in the 1400 to 2200 range – are nowhere near as numerous.

My personal favorite among the many books Silman has written is the one devoted to Pal Benko. This was a collaboration with the late Hungarian-American Grandmaster but it was Silman who did most of the work and was responsible for making the book so special. It has everything one could want as dozens of well-annotated games are interspersed between stories of Benko's life, told in Silman's entertaining style. Add in John Watson's survey of Benko's contributions to opening theory, sections on his endgame studies and problems and dozens of great photos and you have a wonderful book that deserves a place in every chessplayers' library. It doesn't hurt that it is also quite attractive - a handsome hardcover work with dust jacket beautifully laid out by Silman's wife and publisher, Gwen Feldman.

The two have teamed up together once again with *Silman's Chess Odyssey* (Siles Press 2022, 550 pages, \$35.95, <https://www.silmanjamespress.com/shop/chess/silmans-chess-odyssey/>). This is a unique book and the closest Jeremy has come to writing a work about his best efforts, but it is much more than a standard game collection. Much of it is devoted to his examination of the best players in history going all the way back to Greco in the 16th century. Silman makes his own judgements on these giants and his assessments sometimes differ considerably from conventional wisdom making this both an instructive and fun book to read and one which I can warmly recommend.

These days Silman is primarily known as a writer and lecturer, talents that were combined in his work for The Great Courses series, but back in the day he was also a strong player with first place finishes in the US Open, National Open, American Open, and Northern and Southern California Championships to his credit.

Jeremy Silman grew up in San Diego and started playing in the late 1960s. By today's standards Jeremy was hardly a prodigy - he was the 20th rated junior in the country at 2175 on the April 1974 USCF rating list. His fortunes would change when he moved from Southern California to San Francisco later that year.

That fall, a few months after his 21st birthday, he finally became a USCF Master, but this would not be the limit of his forward progress. During the next decade, spent primarily in the Bay Area with short stays in England and Chicago, Silman steadily advanced, reaching 2556 on the July 1982 USCF rating list and was clearly International Master strength. However, he would not receive the title until 1987 as opportunities to make norms were limited in the US, particularly on the West Coast.



Jeremy Silman (with moustache) watches Jay Whitehead (wearing a visor), Robert Hammie and Water Browne (sunglasses and hat) at Paul Masson. The hat and visor were worn because the tournament, which ran through much of the 1970s into the early 1980s, was played outdoors in a vineyard.

Silman reached his peak as a player in the late 1980s and early 1990s while living in Los Angeles. It was there he attained his peak rating of 2593 USCF in May 1990 and achieved his greatest competitive result, a 3 ½ - ½ match victory over Jack Peters (then 2505 FIDE), one of the strongest International Masters in the history of American chess.

Unfortunately, you will not find the games of this match in MegaData Base. Like many of Silman's best efforts, often played in American Swisses without bulletins, they have not been included which is a real pity. Fortunately, Jeremy did save a number of his best efforts which he sent me. I hope to share the best with readers of the *MI Newsletter*. Consider this the first installment.

FM Paul Whitehead

The New York Open, 1985.

In the summer of 1985, footloose and fancy-free, I decided to take off for Europe for a month or so to visit some old friends.

On the way over I stopped in New York City to visit my good friend David and found out he was playing in a chess tournament – the fabled New York Open.

Why not? I thought and threw my hat in the ring.

I got off to a good start by defeating fellow Californian Thomas Maser in round one: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/893#whitehead>. A nice effort vs. Danny Edelman from the last round is in the same Newsletter.

And then in round two I crushed my old rival John Fedorowicz - maybe the best game I have ever played: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/867>

I was 2-0, and on a roll.

David lived in Queens, so we took the subway into Manhattan for the tournament. I was having a blast: it was Summer, we were hanging out with the delightful Pia Cramling, the Pretenders and the Cars were on the radio - we were wild children in the City.

But what about the chess?

Was I going to win this thing?

The answer came soon enough. In round three I was paired with the fearsome Lev Alburt, the U.S. Champion at the time. As usual I was ready for a fight, but my opponent's experience and resiliency won out in the end.

An opportunity for redemption came in round four when I was matched up with the legendary Eugenio Torre, Philippine ace and friend of Bobby Fischer.

Again, I came out swinging, but yet again I was out-boxed.

Despite these two losses (bringing me back to an even score) I finished with a respectable 4.5 - 3.5 - plus wonderful memories of friendship and good times...

My shortcomings as a player were, as ever, glaringly apparent - even to myself - non-existent opening preparation and overly aggressive play when I should have kept a clear head. Worst of all, from the competitive aspect: lack of chess ambition.

But here, see for yourself:

□ **Alburt, Lev O**
 ■ **Whitehead, Paul A**
 New York op (3)
[Whitehead, Paul]

E61
2535
2370
 1985

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Nbd7

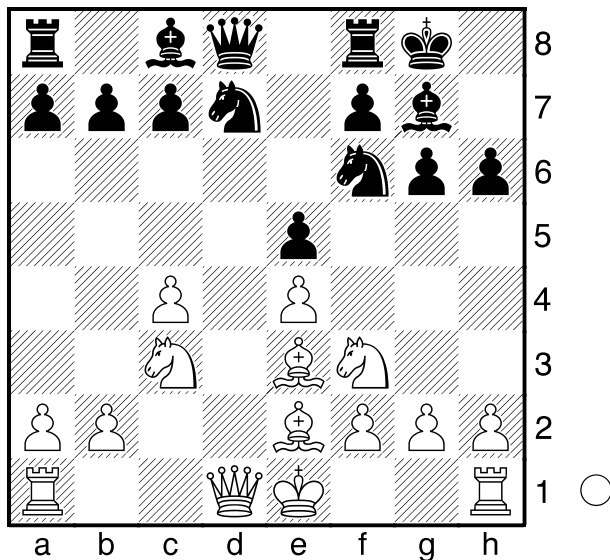
There's nothing wrong with this 'Old-Indian' move, but it's completely out of fashion. **4.e4 e5 5.Nf3 g6 6.Bg5** Provoking black's next move. White can also try:

[6.Be2]

[6.d5]

6...h6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.dxe5

An interesting approach. I've had both John Grefe and William Lombardy choose this pawn structure against me. Of course there's nothing wrong with this from black's point of view. **9...dxe5**



10.Nd2 Nh7

[10...Nb8! intending ...Nc6 and ...Nd4 is an excellent alternative.]

11.c5 Ng5 12.Bc4 Nf6 13.f3 c6

14.Nb3 Qe7 15.Qc1 Alburt goes his own way.

[15.Qd6 Qxd6 16.cxd6 Rd8

17.0-0-0 b6 18.Rd2 was a sharp alternative.]

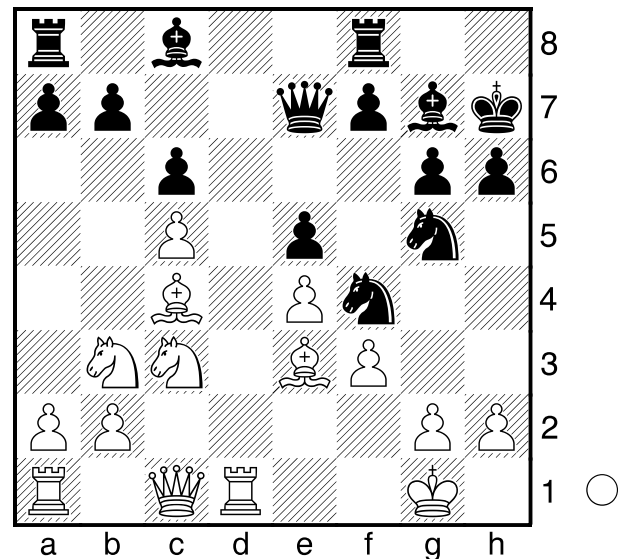
15...Nh5 Black is attack-oriented.

[15...Be6! is also quite good.]

16.0-0 Kh7 17.Rd1 One of the secrets of strong players is that they like giving you the rope to hang yourself with. Black now sacrifices a pawn. **17...Nf4!?**

[17...Be6[∞]]

[17...f5[∞]]

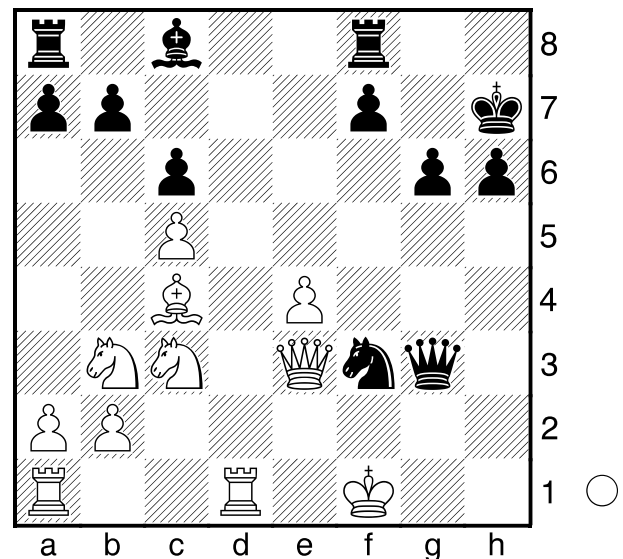


18.Bxf4 Principled. **18...exf4 19.Qxf4**

Be5 Black's play on the dark squares gives no more than an uneasy equality.

20.Qe3 Qc7 21.Kh1!

[21.g3 Bxg3 22.hxg3 Qxg3+ 23.Kf1 Nxf3



is just the kind of action black is looking for.]

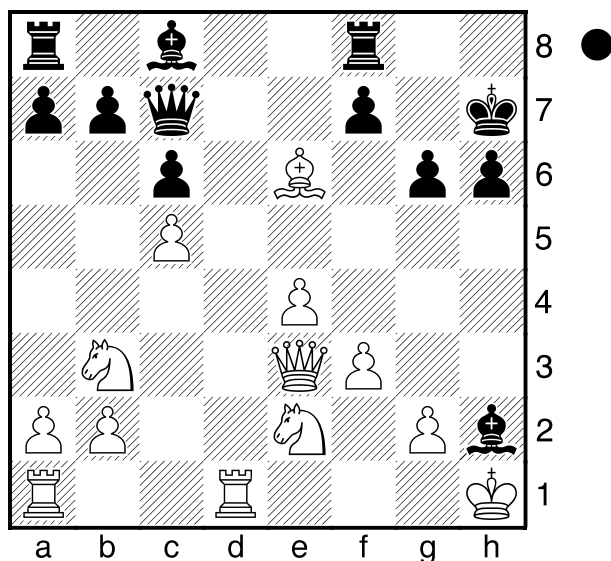
21...Bxh2?! Too eager to regain his pawn, but now the initiative passes to white. Instead

[21...b5! 22.cxb6 axb6 frees up black's position and maintains a dynamic balance.]

22.Ne2! Threatens to trap the bishop with 23.f4. **22...Ne6**

[22...Be6 was more tenacious.]

23.Bxe6!



Played without prejudice. The 2 bishops are meaningless here. **23...fxe6 24.Nd2 b6 25.Nc4! Ba6** Again sacrificing a pawn, but either

[25...Rb8]

[25...bxc5 were a tougher defense.]

26.cxb6 axb6 27.Nxb6 Rad8 28.Nd7!

(Diagram)

Another accurate and powerful move.

28...Bxe2 Black goes out in a blaze of... something.

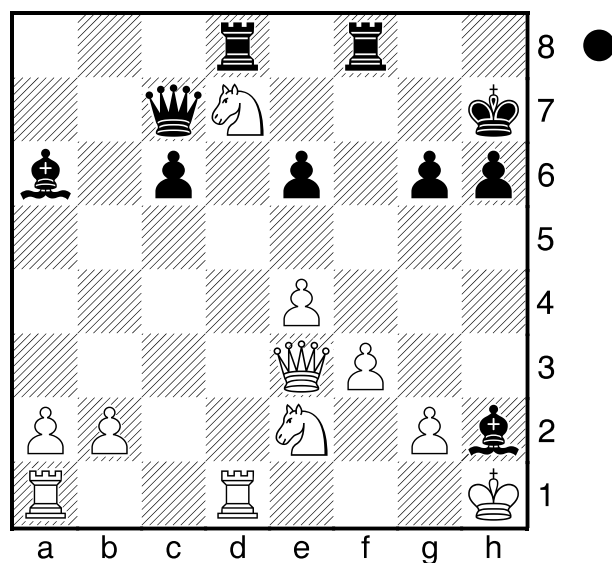
[28...Rxd7 29.Rxd7+ Qxd7

30.Kxh2+- is no better.]

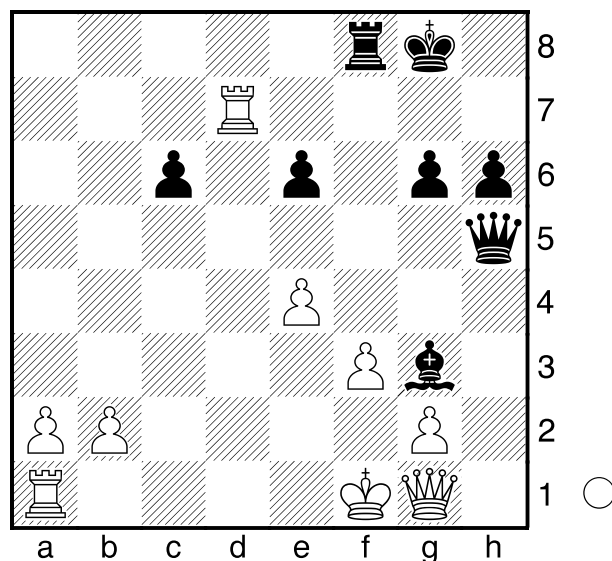
29.Nxf8+ Rxf8 30.Qxe2 Bg3 31.Qe3!

Taking some dark squares. **31...Qe7**

32.Kg1 Qh4 33.Rd7+ Kg8 34.Kf1

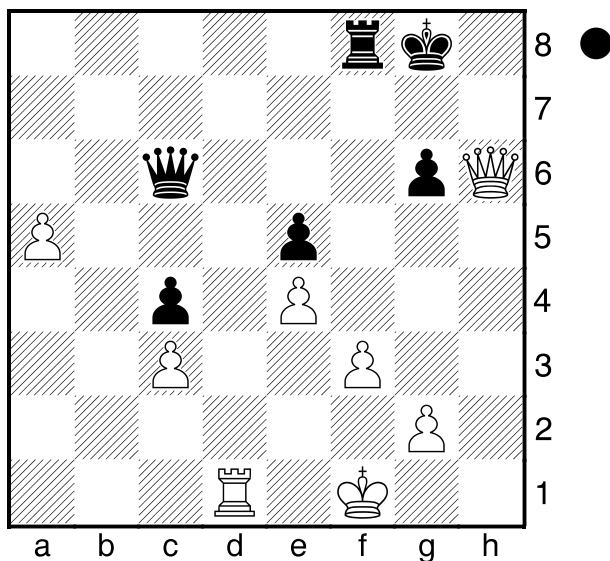


Qh1+ 35.Qg1 Qh5



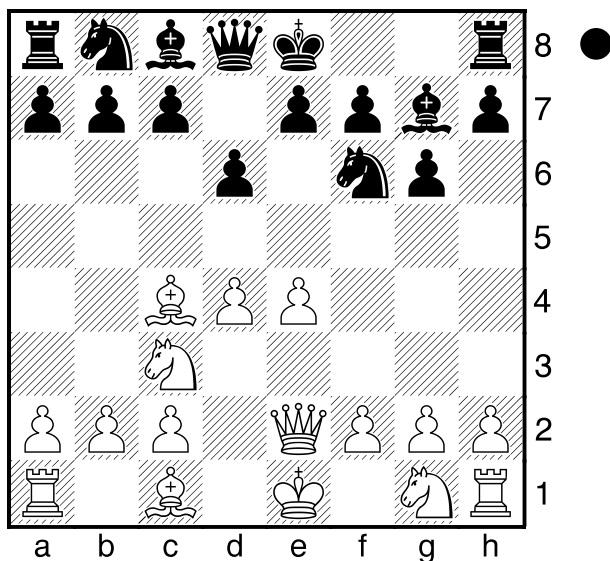
Blacks next to last hope: maybe in time-trouble the U.S. Champion will overlook ...Rxf3+? **36.Rd3** No way. **36...Qb5** Still full of tricks. **37.Qd4!** A powerful centralization. **37...c5 38.a4 Qa6 39.Qe3 c4 40.Rc3 Be5 41.Qxh6!** Returning the exchange: it's all over. **41...Bxc3 42.bxc3 e5 43.Rd1 Qc6 44.a5**

(Diagram)

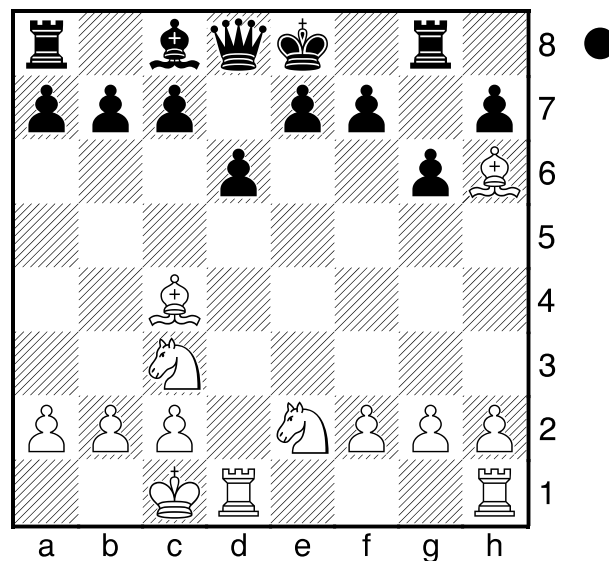


□ Whitehead, Paul A
 ■ Torre, Eugenio
 New York op (4)
 [Whitehead, Paul]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4
 Bg7 5.Qe2



c6 Solid. I was kind of fishing for
 [5...Nc6 6.e5!? Nxd4 7.exf6 Nxe2
 8.fxg7 Rg8 9.Ngxe2 Rxg7 10.Bh6
 Rg8 11.0-0-0



with 3 minor pieces for the queen and a wild position.]

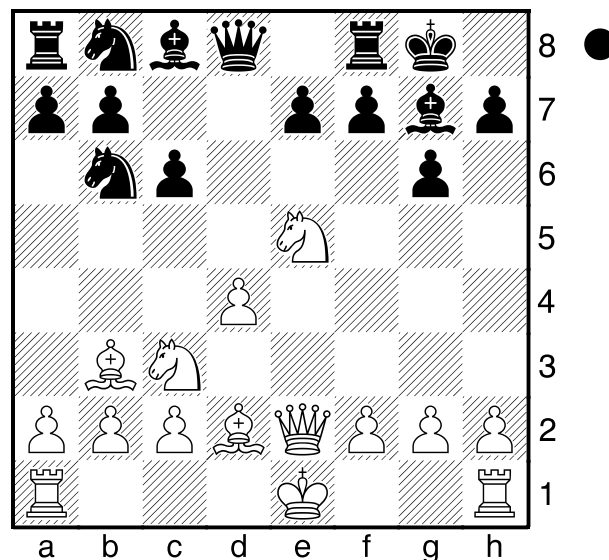
6.e5 Nd5 7.Bd2 0-0 8.Nf3 Both
 [8.h4!? and]

[8.0-0-0 seem more in the spirit of the position.]

8...dxe5 9.Nxe5?! This is a lemon.

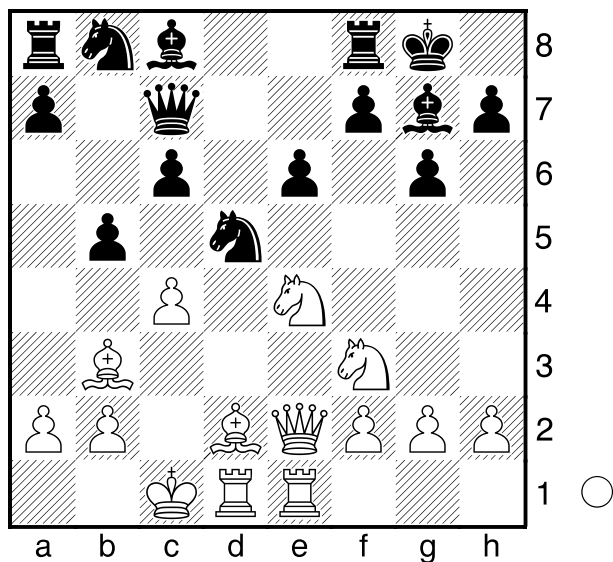
[9.dxe5 Bg4 and after ...Bxf3 white will have to capture with the g-pawn, which did not appeal to me.]

9...Nb6! 10.Bb3



A clumsy pawn sacrifice. **10...Qxd4**
11.Nf3 Qd6 12.0-0-0 Nd5 13.Rhe1 e6
14.Ne4 Qc7 15.c4 I thought I was

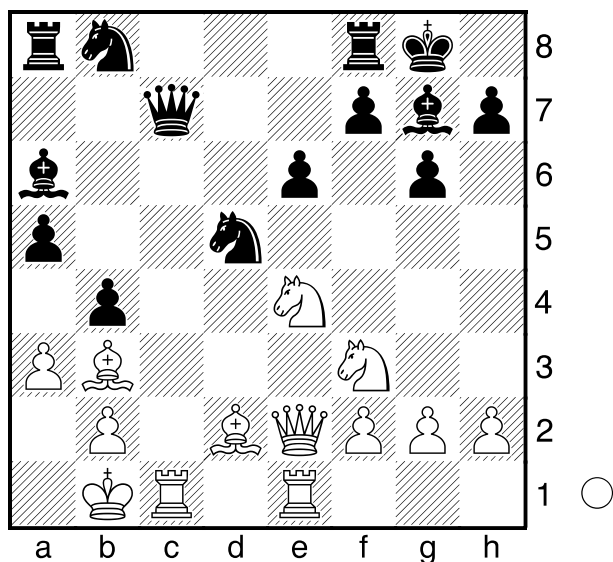
getting somewhere, but... **15...b5!**



A really nice tactic. **16.cxb5** Black is a pawn ahead and winning after

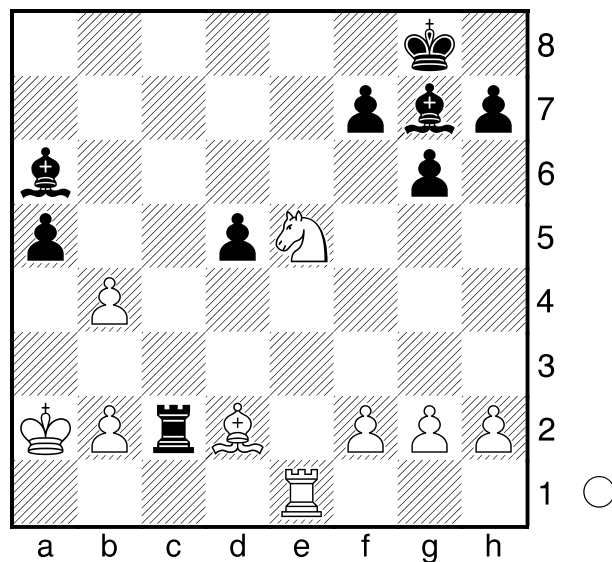
[16.cxd5 cxd5+ 17.Kb1 (17.Nc3 b4-+) 17...dxe4-+]

16...a5! Another beautiful move. White is rocked back on his heels. **17.a3 cxb5+ 18.Kb1 b4 19.Rc1 Ba6!**



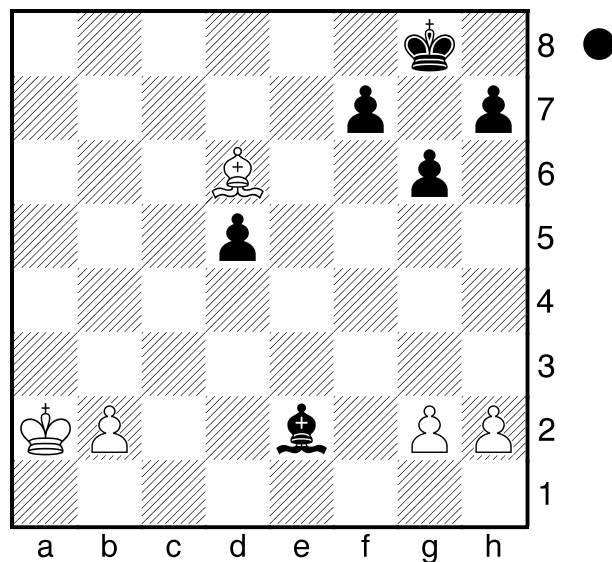
Not letting up the pressure. **20.Rxc7 Bxe2 21.Bxd5 Bd3+! 22.Ka2 exd5 23.Nc5 Na6! Black's moves are a model of precision, and white is left without a chance to recover. 24.Nxa6 Bxa6 25.Ne5 Rfc8! 26.Rxc8+ Rxc8 27.axb4**

Rc2!



28.Bc3 axb4 29.Bxb4 h5! Avoiding white's cheapo:

[29...Rxf2? 30.Nd3! Bxd3 31.Re8+ Bf8 32.Bxf8 Threatens 33.Bh6#. Re2 33.Rxe2 Bxe2 34.Bd6



with a drawn position.]

30.g4 hxg4 31.Nxg4 Be2! 32.Ne3 Rxb2+ 33.Ka3 Bf3 34.Nd1 Bxd1 35.Rxd1 Rxf2 I never knew what hit me!
0-1

Tony's Teasers



1. G.J. Slater, 1882. White mates in two moves.



2. M. Lipton, 1991. White mates in three moves.

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café.

Monday's Chess Café was active on many fronts. We participated in going over several games as well as stories from the recent history of chess. The first game was Botvinnik-Smyslov, Game 2 of the 1958 return match for the World Championship, which was the third match in a row between the same opponents, which started with a tie in 1954 (Botvinnik kept the title, based on a rule he got installed after winning the 1948 tournament to succeed the late Alekhine), a win by Smyslov in 1957 after he won his second Candidates Tournament in a row, then a win by Botvinnik in the return match granted him a year later. In fact the latter won the first three games in '58 and we saw why. "Black's set-up is called the Panno," noted Paul Whitehead.

"Smyslov seemed to play without a plan," said Urban Lehner, Zooming in from D.C.

"It was 16. . . Nb6?! [instead of . . . Re8] where he started to go wrong," noted Mike Walder.

We then looked at the latter's game as Black against Edward Lewis in Round 3 of the Tuesday Night Marathon. "Kind of a King's Indian Defense or King's Indian Reversed," noted Walder. "I do well against this." He pointed out . . . d6 with the aim of . . . Nd7 and . . . e5. Mentioned an early choice with the observation, "I'd rather play a Tarrasch Defense Reversed a tempo down. I like the Reti variation of the Tarrasch for White."

When White played 8. c5, the choice of cxd5 was discussed. "Maybe c5 is a great move," said Paul. White's next move, 9 h3, Walder said, "The computer loved it. Black really wants to play . . . Bg4. . . . Christophe Bambou and a master in the tournament thought I was going to play . . . Bxh3, but that doesn't work." Elliott Winslow noted that the move is routinely ignored.

After the loss, it was pointed out that Elliott would be Lewis's next opponent. The latter has said Elliott is the only guy in the tournament that he only has losses against, the score being 6-0 for E.W., who noted in his high-spirited way, "It wasn't my fault." In fact Elliott did beat him again the day after the Café met.

We followed Lewis-Walder with Sherwood-Walder, which had a different result than the former. Paul noted, "There's nothing like a good old-fashioned slaughter." Added Mike, "Especially after losing."

We moved on to a puzzle from Gadir Guseinov. Mike said that G.G. and Bacrot look to many sources for puzzles that are hard for them, then share them with each other and their students. Last week Alexey Root was first to find the winning move, a skewer

of the opposition's queen with a horizontal check. Today's problem was found in a magazine published in the 1920s.

Paul noted that John Donaldson once gave him Jon Speelman's puzzle book. Mike said, "My rating went up 200 points when I went through a volume of Domination and Endgame Studies."

As we struggled with this one, the comments came fast and free.

"Now we're onto something," said Paul.

"Or on something," joked Elliott. Then, "So close and yet, so what?"

Eventually the Black queen was put in jail by pawn, bishop, and rook after it took the Ra8. Paul: "That's a beautiful problem." Elliott: "And real."

My comments last week on the upcoming U.S. Senior were corrected. The tournament is a ten-player invitational, the winner of which plays in the World Senior, which, Mike noted, makes you a grandmaster. The 36 entrants in the Irwin tournament (which occurs during the U.S. Open) produces one of the qualifiers from California. We learned that Nick de Firmian is now going to play. Apparently Larry Christiansen, who tied for first last year, talked him into it. We looked at a list of the top U.S. players over 50.

After the recent passing of Yuri Averbakh at age 100, Alexander Matanovich at 92 is the oldest current GM. He was the founder and editor of Chess Informant.

The Candidates tournament will occur in about a month. Some really exciting players this time, including Hikaru Nakamura, 34, who recently won a World Championship qualifier. He is one of the most popular chess streamers. "He's finding quirky ideas," said Paul. "I'm definitely rooting for him."

Young chess streamers like Nakamura and the Botez sisters (who are not high-level competitors) are taking chess to a much wider audience than normal.

Mike: "I watch Kamsky sometimes, too, and Izoria."

Paul: "They all upload their stuff to YouTube. A group in L.A. plays chess on the beach. Chess has become entertainment."

In regard to a software question, Trisha Gorman noted that she was once a technology journalist, and mentioned the term "feature compliant," because sometimes you can put in too many features.

Alexey pointed out some of the different forms the U.S. Senior tournament might take, and that Chess.com will have all the boards. And how once Maxim Dlugy said he was hoping to hang out with people, but they all went back to their hotels to prepare.

She said in her younger days her dream was to play in the U.S. Junior Invitational, one of which was organized by the Mechanics' at the Palace Hotel in 1973, and that she did play twice.

There was another story about Craig Chellstorp at the May 9 café. He was one of just 8 players in the 1972 U.S. Jr. Invitational, a Midwesterner among various New Yorkers. The TD, Isaac Kashdan, thought to tell him beforehand, "You don't have a chance, you know." Chellstorp was ticked off and rolled over the field. Kashdan had once directed another top U.S. tournament, where in the game Denker-Reshevsky, time ran out for one, but Kashdan turned the clock around and at first forfeited the wrong player. He was one of the strongest players in the early 1930s. "As long as he had the two bishops," Sal Matera quipped.

In Part 2 of Bobby Fischer and His World, John Donaldson quotes Bent Larsen on a Caro-Kann he played against Fischer at Zurich 1959: "In the endgame I had good defensive opportunities, exchanging off all the pawns on the queenside. In a position with two bishops versus two knights and both sides having three kingside pawns, I offered a draw, but Fischer wanted to play on. Consequently we played almost another forty moves, and only when Bobby was threatened with the loss of a bishop was peace agreed upon. . .

"In this phase, Fischer overrates the power of the bishop pair; this appears to be an American tradition since the time of Fine and Kashdan."

I'll just note here that I was really ready for my 4th round game last Tuesday, but I went against some of the basic principles of play. I've been reading silently and out loud and trying to impose my will and my preparation on the position instead of being flexible and just playing. In fact, I rejected the good advance of my queen pawn two squares on the third move in both games I've lost, once as White and once as Black.

I'll give Paul the last word, from May 23: "Chess requires that you make the effort. You do the best you can with the tools you have."

(More on the Chess Café here: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/chess-cafe>)

New Chess Books at the MI

One of the benefits of membership at the Mechanics' Institute is total access to one of the largest chess libraries in the country, with more than 3,000 books and periodicals. New titles are added frequently, in consultation with MI Chess Coordinator FM Paul Whitehead and former Chess Room Director IM John Donaldson. New chess books are displayed on the 'non-fiction' tables before shelving.



New titles at the MI include *The Final Yearbook*, by New in Chess, *A Chess Omnibus*, by Edward Winter, and *My Chess World*, by GM David Navara.

Upcoming Events

Ray Conway Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon - Ongoing

Tuesday, May 3rd 2022 - Tuesday, June 14th 2022. 6:30PM.

USCF + FIDE Rated. 7 Round SS G/120;d5

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

Registration: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/RayConwayMemorialTuesdayNightMarathon>

May USCF Online-Rated Scholastic Tournaments via ChessKid.com

Monday May 30, 3PM. 6 games of G/10+2

For Information and links to register: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/uscf-online-rated-scholastic-tournaments-2022-chesskidcom>

57th Arthur Stamer Memorial G/40

Saturday June 4, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 Games of G/40;d5

Two sections: 1800+ and under 1800.

Information: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/57th-stamer-memorial-championship>

Registration: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/57thStamerMemorialChampionship>

Mechanics' Institute June Championship Quads

Saturday June 11, 2022, 3PM. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5

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

Registration: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsChampionshipQuadsJun2022>

Mechanics' Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss – In Person

Saturday June 11, 2022, 10AM. USCF Rated. 4 games of G/30;d5

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

Registration: <https://mechanics-institute.jumbula.com/2022Tournaments/MechanicsInstituteKidsSwissJun2022>

Solutions to Tony's Teasers

Problem #1: 1.Qa6! Kf3 (1...Kd5 2.Qc6#. 1...Kf5 2.Qg6#. 1...Ke3 2.Nc5#.) 2.Nf2#!

Problem #2: 1.Kh6. Zugzwang! 1...Ka7 (1...Bd5 2.Nh3 and 3.Qg1#. 1...Bh3 2.Nf3 and 3.Qg1#.) 2.Nf3+ Ka6 3.Qa5#.

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<https://forms.gle/eLfUyg2yFZ3vxgcMA>

Newsletter



In This Issue

- TNM Report & Annotated Games
- GM de Firmian and FM Whitehead on Politics and Chess
- Dr. Sztaray on the rating of FIDE events

You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!

<https://www.milibrary.org/chess>



The Mechanics' Institute Chess Book collection.