

Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1036 | April 8, 2023 | Gens Una Sumus!



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2023 San Francisco Scholastic Championship

Alex Robins

As our readers may already know, last month we held our annual **San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship** on March 4th and it was a great success. We all want to give a huge thank you to our Chief Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and Tournament Directors **Scott Mason, Richard Koepcke, Arthur Liou, Vincent Ng, Michael Hsu, Abhinav Penagalapati, Ricky Cheung, Dennis Tocol, Jaysen Shi, Dawson Wu, Aaron Tam**, and IM **Guillermo Rey**. We could not put on a tournament without them. We are also extremely grateful to our volunteers **Morsy Cheikhrouhou, Edwin Ng, Brian Wei, Christian Brickhouse, Danny Cao, Richard Hack, Nick Hollon, Kathryn Appleton, Kathy Bella, Kory Cogdill, Mary Risala Laird, Matthew Fitzgerald**, and **Michael Bragg**. We had **274 players** show up with their families from all around the Bay Area and it was a lot of fun! Players received T-shirts, medals – and if they were lucky – brought home a trophy, as well. It was great to see the tournament hall full of eager players.



The competition was stiff at the top of each section and had to be decided by tiebreaks. We would like to offer congratulations to all of our players who were just barely edged out of the top 10 in each

section. Tiebreaks are decided by the strength of opponents in the tournament – so we'll share a message from Judit that this is another great reminder to be sincere when you wish your opponent good luck!

The 1st place trophy in the 800+ Section went to **Cody Kletter** (1422) with a perfect score of 4 out of 4. Congratulations as well to **Tapas Natraj** (1396) who also went 4 for 4 but got edged out in the tiebreak and finished in 2nd. The 3rd through 6th place players were tied with 3.5 points each and in order went to: **Tejas Kunduru** (1202), **Yali Dancig-Perlman** (1706), **Calvin Rummens** (1570), and **Zlata Butenko** (1550). All the players at 7th through 10th place scored 3 points out of 4 and went to: **Ethan Redlin** (1051), **Tejaswini Viswanath** (1004), **Gogo Dancig-Perlman** (1457), and **Ikshit Gupta** (1441). The 800+ winner **Cody Kletter** is also currently organizing another scholastic tournament – check out the end of the newsletter for details.



In the u800 Section, we had three players with a perfect score who were placed according to tiebreak rules. They were, **Akhil Veeravali** (611), **Harrison Qian** (unr.), and **Bradley Harger III** (617). Congratulations to all three for a perfect score! In 4th through 6th place with 3.5 points each were **Zi**

Zheng Ng (698), **Hubert Wang** (175), and **Mowen Sun** (719). The players finishing in 7th through 10th each scored 3 out of 4 and were: **Keshav Raman** (619), **Alen Sabitov** (659), **Sebastian Ghoussaini** (781), and **Aaron Chen** (763). Congrats to all and a special shout out to our winter camper **Keshav Raman**!

The Grade 6-12 Unrated Section also had three perfect scores that had to be placed by tiebreaks, with **Tyler Wong** in 1st, **Sahiti Namburu** in 2nd, and **Muhammad Fatonie** in 3rd. The players in 4th through 10th place all scored 3 out of 4 for the day. They were, in order: **Maclain Wells**, **Justin Huang**, **Yen Wen Jasmine Ho**, **Carson Zhen**, **James Guleno**, **Rhianna Lope**, and **Kyle Yu**.



The Grade 4-5 Unrated Section had an undisputed winner and the only player with 4 out of 4 in their section **Altair Sabitov**. **April Ni** finished in 2nd with 3.5 out of 4. **Afran Pasha**, **Jack Abrams**, **Jayden Huang**, **Leo Schmeling**, and **Samuel Davies** were ranked 3rd through 8th place and all came in with 3 out of 4 points. The 9th place went to **Mendel Jew**, one of the students in our scholastic program, and 10th went to **Samantha Lee**.

In the Grade 2-3 Grade Unrated Section **Leo Ni** was the winner, just barely sneaking past **Kepler McTiernan**, both of whom had perfect scores. One of our winter campers, **Jimmy Harvey**, came in 3rd with a respectable 3.5 out of 4. The 4th through 10th place players all scored 3 out of 4 and included, in order: **Derek Ko, Wesley Wongchenko, Ronan Peterson, Dylan Carter, Jasper Zerr, Thomas Jue, and Angela Alcantara.**



In the K-1 Grade Unrated Section we had **Youcheng Zhang** in 1st and **Rosalyn Chu** in 2nd, both with a perfect score. Our winter camper **Charlotte Cella** had a strong performance in 3rd with 3.5 out of 4. Our 4th place winner also had 3.5 points – congratulations to **Jalen Young**. The 5th place through 9th place players each had 3 points and went to, in order: **Matthew Tang, Eric Shi, Hudson Kim, Asher Bluestein, and Neel Mehta.** In 10th place was **Brian Luo** with 2.5 out of 4 points. Congratulations to all of our K-1 players – it's great to see children starting in tournaments so young!

Finally, in addition to our individual sections we also had school and chess clubs competing with their players in our **Combined Team Competition**. The 1st place trophy went to the **Bernal Chess Club**. We are big fans of the Bernal Chess Club here at Mechanics' Institute, so go check them out at Higher Grounds on Saturdays at 3pm. In 2nd place was **Fallon Middle School**, 3rd place went to the **Town**

School for Boys, 4th place went to **Hamilton**, led by former Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director **Abel Talamantez**, 5th place went to one of our scholastic program schools **Alice Fong Yu**, led by Mechanics' Institute coaches **Otto Schmidt** and **Marcie Yang** – big congratulations to the whole team! The 6th place went to **Junipero Serra Elementary School**, 7th place went to **Francisco Middle School**, one of our scholastic program schools led by coach **George Sanguinetti**. Congratulations to all of the players from Francisco and to their organizer **Wilson Skinner**. In 8th place was **Children's Day School**, 9th place went to **Holy Name**, and finally we had **Mountain House High School** in 10th. We'd also like to give a special shout out to our scholastic program school **West Portal Elementary**, led by Mechanics' Institute coaches **Danny Cao**, **George Sanguinetti**, and **Alex Robins**, who finished in 11th place.



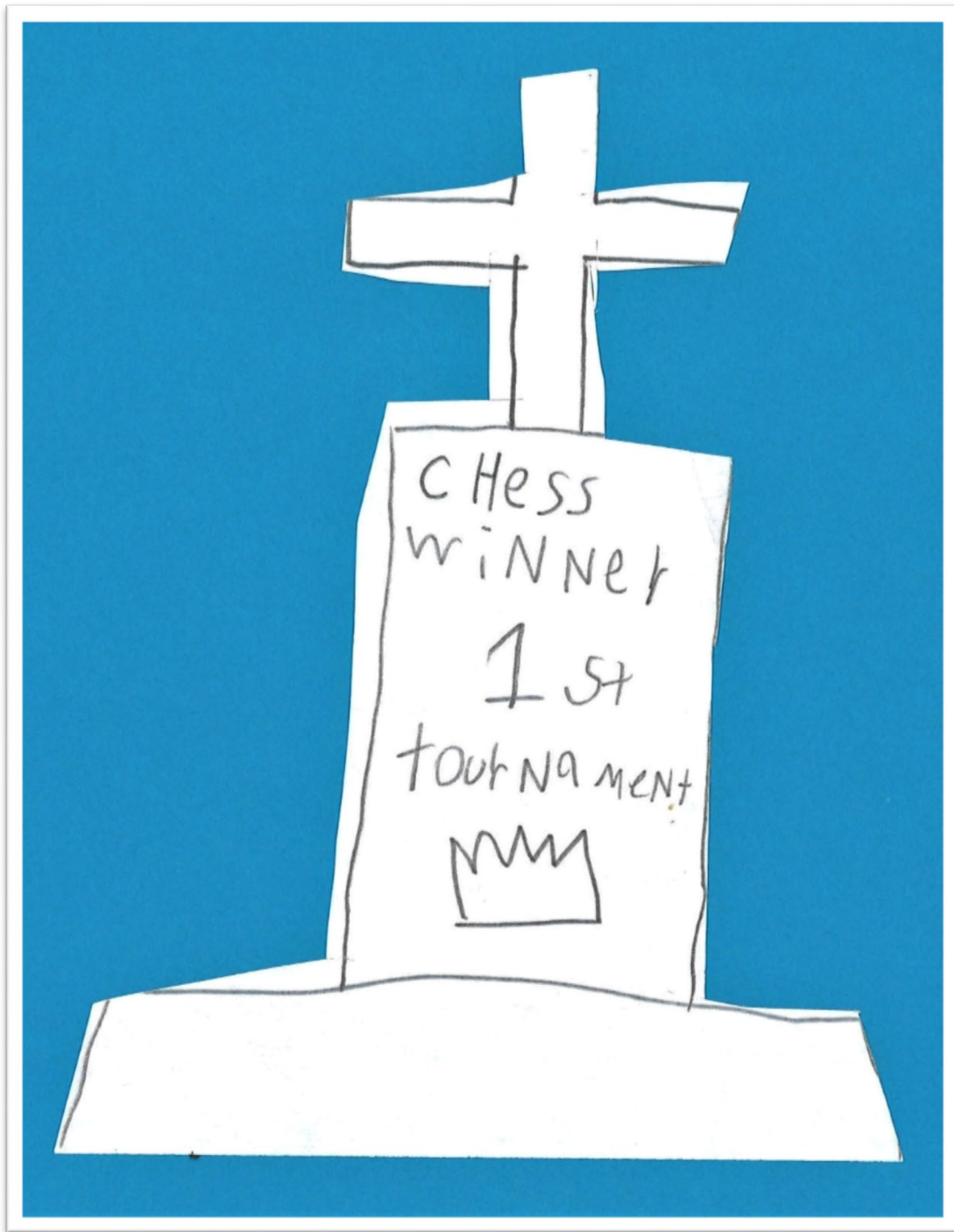
During the tournament we also had Mechanics' Institute's very own and your chess room newsletter editor, FM **Paul Whitehead** deliver a simul. Paul wasn't the only titled player present. We also had a surprise guest appearance from IM **Ladia Jirasek** who was generous enough to give Paul a break from the nonstop action of 20 concurrent games. IM **Keaton Kiewra** also made an appearance and showed some puzzles and strategies in the courtyard. Keaton recently moved to the Bay Area and is currently offering private and group chess lessons. We were also lucky to have IM **Guillermo Rey** as one of our tournament directors. Quite a few titled players for a scholastic tournament!

We would like to congratulate all our players and their families, as well as thank our staff and volunteers, for helping us to put on a great tournament. We are already looking forward to hosting it again next year!



Unfortunately, not all of the students in our scholastic program could make it, so some of our students at Good Samaritans thought they would put on their own tournament and even supplied their

own prizes. Check out their trophy below – which the students generously have allowed us to share. We think we may have some future TNM players and Tournament Directors in our midst.



Finally, [here](#) is a video created by the Bright Knights Chess Club on the event, to which we extend another heartfelt thanks!

Scholastic Chess Camps



Mechanics' Institute camps are an opportunity for beginner chess players to join and start a lifelong appreciation of the royal game of chess and play with other kids in the historic Mechanics' Institute Chess Room!

Intermediate students will learn tactics, how to defend common opening traps, and review famous games.

Join us and start a lifelong journey through one of the world's greatest games.

Find Out More and Register at:

milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess

For More Information Contact:

415-393-0110

chessroom@milibrary.org

Spring Break Camp

March 27-31

from 9:30am-3:30pm

Summer Camps

June 12-16 (All Ages)

June 26-30 (All Ages)

July 10-14 (Grades K-5)

July 17-21 (Grades 6-12)

July 24-28 (All Ages)

July 31-Aug 4 (All Ages)

Aug 7-11 (All Ages)

All camps run from 9:30am-3:30pm

Cost: \$500 (Pro-rated Half-Days Are Available)

The Simultaneous Exhibition

FM Paul Whitehead

A simultaneous exhibition is a subject of fascination to the general public. If playing just one game of chess is difficult, how can someone possibly play 20 people at once – or even double that number? The first (and only!) simultaneous exhibition I ever played in was against a Scottish International Master – whose name I can't recall – way back in 1972, as my interest in chess surged. I remember it was a Sicilian Dragon, and I lost. In the years following I have given a few simuls myself, most memorably a 20 board simul at San Quentin State Prison in 1976, a simul at the Virginia Scholastic State Championship in the late 1990's where I took on hundreds of kids in an all-day marathon, and a three-board blindfold simul in Ireland in 1983.

The simultaneous exhibition put on at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park, as part of this year's San Francisco Scholastic Championship, fell into my hands this year. The simuls in years past were given by **GM Daniel Naroditsky** in an open courtyard, but rain forced us indoors this year. Everyone was welcome to play – casual onlookers, the children participating in the tournament and their siblings, parents, and grandparents.



I stood on my feet (no mean feat!) for about five hours taking on all comers, with a few quick breaks here and there. About half-way through I was joined by International Master **Ladia Jirasek**, who graciously jumped in to spell me, and for a while we also played in tandem. This led to some amusing moments, where I would come back to a board and try to figure out what Ladia was up to. I was not always up to the task, and made a few outrageous moves that led to trouble for both of us. But, unlike a “serious” simul, where folks pay to play and the reputation of the exhibitor is (sort of) on the line, this was all in great fun. Games were abandoned in the middle, or after a few moves when the children had to go play their rounds, and a new crop of kids or adults would take their places. Players consulted with each other, took moves back. Sometimes I would return to a board and find my opponent had made two or even three moves in a row!

Some regulars at the club also sat down and faced off with Ladia and me, including **Renate Otterbach**, **Morsy Cheikhrouhou** (who notched the only win by a participant), and Mechanics’ Institute scholastic coaches **Richard Hack** and **Danny Cao**.

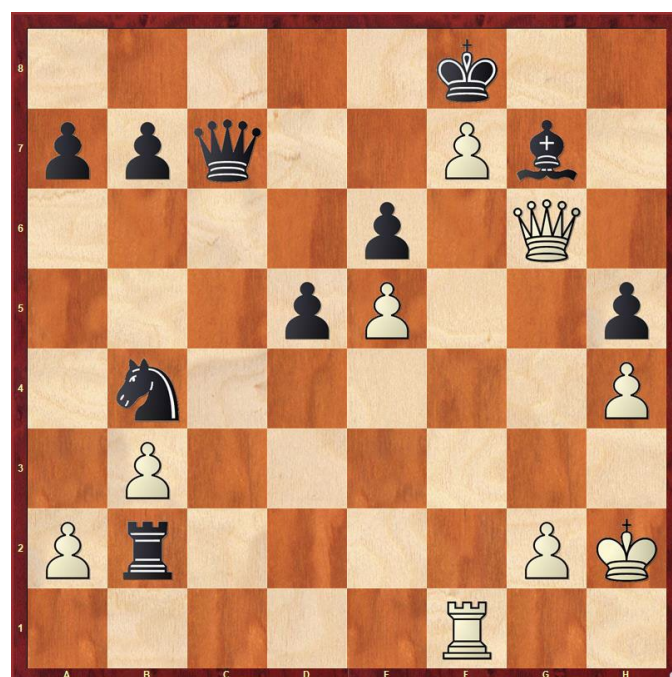
Danny was kind enough to record his game and share it with us:

FM **Paul Whitehead** 2317 / IM **Ladia Jirasek** 2361 – **Danny Cao** 1178

Tandem Simul, SF Scholastic Chess Championship, County Fair Building, March 4, 2023.

Caro Kann Defense

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.O-O Nge7 9.Nbd2 Nf5 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Nxf3 Be7 12.b3 O-O 13.Bb2. This was the end of my contribution, as I went out for lunch.
13...Qb6 14.Rc1 Rac8 15.Bd3 Ncxd4 16.Nxd4 Rxc1 17.Qxc1 Nxd4 18.Qf4 Nc6 19.Qg4 g6 20.Kh2 Nb4 21.Bb1 Rc8 22.h4 h5 23.Qg3 Bf8 24.Bxg6 fxg6 25.Qxg6+ Bg7 26.f4 Rc2 27.f5 Rxb2 28.f6 Qc7 29.f7+ Kf8.



30.Qxg7+! Ladia is as sharp as a tack! **30...Kxg7 31.f8=Q+ Kg6 32.Rf6+ Kh7 33.Rh6# 1-0.**

The 2023 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship was a spectacular event, held in a perfect setting, and organized with barely a hitch. Kudos to all who made this event possible, and to those who participated.

At the end of the day I was happy to have played my part. The rain had stopped, and I decided to take the long way home, walking through the park. Later that evening I found myself more tired than usual, and as I sank into sleep I found myself playing over that typical chess player's refrain:

How could I have lost that game to Morsy?

In line with this, our "scholastic issue" of the Mechanic's Institute Chess Club Newsletter, we are more than pleased to publish the following story, serialized in two parts, by our lead coach **Danny Du Uy Cao**.

Consider it another episode of "Confessions of a Chess Coach."

Chess Room Fairytale

Danny Cao

Preface

Late in 2018, I googled "Chess San Francisco". The Mechanics' Institute was prominent in the search results.

I had been playing daily (1 move per day) games on [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) while commuting on BART (the regional San Francisco subway system) and had been making steady improvement; however pressing the button that said 15+10 (or less) yielded disastrous results. The next logical step it seemed would be to start playing in-person chess at a time control somewhere between 1 move per day and 60 moves in a combined 30 minutes. If you had told me in 2018, that I'd be teaching at a scholastic winter chess camp at the Mechanics' Institute in December 2022 I would have thought that you had taken a few too many of the green pills.

And yet here I was, lying in bed the night before the last day of chess camp thinking, "What am I going to teach about/lecture on tomorrow." My previous lecture that afternoon had come after an exciting simul given by chess master/monster Paul Whitehead. Paul's emergence from the chess office, and quick dispatch of the young challengers had left quite an impression, and holding the kids attention at the end of the afternoon with a collection of checkmate miniatures from 100 years ago didn't quite cut it (two kids were already familiar with a couple of the games).

As I lay in bed, with Paul's simul fresh in my mind, I thought of my own journey at the Mechanics Institute; from googling "chess SF", taking a noontime time tour in November 2018, being gifted a membership in December 2018, my first over the board tournament in February 2019 and later

tournaments and visits to the library through March 2020, the pandemic from 2020-2021; and then being hired as a scholastic coach in September 2021.

As a new assistant coach, I remembered lead coach and former Mechanics' Institute chess director Abel Talamantez bringing in a "chess word jumble" puzzle sheet to a class of 40 kids as opposed to a more usual worksheet of puzzles with chess diagrams or PGNs. The worksheet had more in common with a crossword puzzle than with the usual graded tactics sheet. It was easily the most popular handout of the semester and provided a nice change of pace from the usual lesson to begin the class.

Seeking to present a final morning lecture with my own change of pace; the reflections and images from my own time at the Mechanics' Institute through to Paul's impressive simul earlier in the day began to take shape on the ceiling over my bed as I dozed into a deep sleep.... And when I awoke on the morning of Thursday December 22, 2022, the framework for the lecture/fairytale was fully formed in my mind.

I hope the "word jumble" below is as fun for you to read as it was fun for me to conceive and write.

The Final Day of Chess Camp

At 9:15am on the final day of camp, as I sharpened pencils in the office in anticipation of handing out an end-of-camp chess puzzle competition worksheet, a freshly sharpened pencil somehow caught momentum and rolled away from the cadre of its compatriots, toward, then over the edge of the top of the heavy shelf upon which the sharpened pencils had been placed.

Upon reaching behind the shelf to retrieve the runaway, my hand came upon papers, a manuscript, damp with the feel of mold and time. I was able to grab simultaneously the pencil and mysterious papers. Upon pulling them from behind the shelf, I was taken aback by what I had found. A damp, old, worn manuscript on an ancient parchment culled from ancient times: "The Untold Secret History of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room."

The title beckoned me to investigate the pages beyond the front cover. At a glance I quickly realized that the manuscript held more than just the history of the chess room, but a story so wondrous and spectacular that the laws of man and science could not explain.

The implications were profound. So profound as to challenge the world order as we know it. But who to share this with. People at the Mechanics' Institute: Colleagues? Management? The Board of Trustees? The press? Local, state, or national government? The scientific community? OR... the young impressionable children who would start arriving in 15 minutes for their final day of winter chess camp.

I chose the chess campers.

The Untold Secret History of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room

The Mechanics' Institute building at 57 Post Street in San Francisco in ancient times bore a remarkable resemblance to the building in modern times. There were of course no elevators, but the marvelous spiral staircase "spine" of the building would greet visitors long ago as it still does today. The staircase ascended to the second floor library entrance and then third floor library entrance just

as it does today. And climbing farther, one reached the fourth floor to a floor-plan remarkably similar to current times.

Today the chess room door and doorway comfortably accommodate most human size visitors; but back then, a larger, taller, and wider door and frame existed to allow passage of much larger creatures as we shall see. The large heavy door was quite intimidating and even the fresh pelts/hides/furs/skins of the morning hunt which were affixed to the door and frame could barely mute the thunderous sound of the door slamming shut with the entrance or exit of beings both great and small.

It was through this doorway that on one morning, at 9:30am, on a dark and cloudy day similar to Thursday December 22, 2022, but in the far off past, young children began streaming in for the last day of chess camp. As the children and parents entered the chess room, the view, feel, and size of the room were also quite similar to what one experiences today. The view of the sturdy wooden tables, the floor tiles and the door on the opposite end leading to the men's restroom (and another smaller "forbidden" spiral staircase) all remarkably similar. Out of view as one enters the chess room, to the right of the entrance, was what is now the door leading to the chess room office, but in those days the door was much larger and wider, and had many latches and locks and metal slats reinforcing the door. Quite the foreboding and intimidating display. A dungeon door, behind which lurked mystery.

As parents dropped their children off, the children greeted one another and began warm-up games or simply chatted, as coaches Malysa and Manny began preparations for camp. During these preparations, the coaches realized that the casks in the corner of the room were bone dry and would need to be replenished. One cask was regularly filled with the healing, desalinated, purifying waters of the (then) unpolluted San Francisco Bay and served most visitors (and children). In the other cask, an old San Francisco specialty: an aged iced brew of hazelnut caramel cappulattecino which could be stomached only by the strongest and fittest of chess players, coaches, and other warriors. The children would certainly need water, and the coaches would need the ice-cold hazelnut caramel caffeine brew before beginning their day. A quick expedition would need to be made by the coaches, thus leaving the children alone in the chess room for a brief time (in modern times children are never left unattended at Mechanics' Institute chess camps).

"Listen children and listen close,
for our message to you is important the most:
Don't stack chess pieces, this rule you must follow,
lest you disturb the beasts, the beasts that will swallow.
Swallow you whole with one single bite.
If you are not careful, they just might,
charge through the dungeon door wanting more than a nibble,
devouring children and chess pieces like kibble.
If the monsters should hear, a piece fall on the floor,
they will for surely for surely, storm through that door.
So don't stack chess pieces, this rule you now know.
Off to get beverages, we coaches now go!"

The coaches departed, and as soon as the chess room door slammed closed behind them the children erupted in laughter.

"What a ridiculous story they told;

all it will do is make us more bold.
Bold to stack pieces higher and higher;
no monsters exist, chess coaches are liars.
Let's have a contest, a contest to see;
who can stack pieces as high as can be.
That ridiculous story, we're not believing;
let's stack the pieces as high as the ceiling."

So the children started stacking pieces. One child was quick to realize that the rooks were the most easily stackable of all the pieces. After grabbing as many rooks from as many tables as he could; he soon had the tallest rook tower in the room. As the children marveled at the impressive rook tower, a soft breeze blew through the open window along with perhaps a bit of bee pollen and fairy dust; and while the breeze was not enough to topple the rook spectacle, the dust and pollen wafted into the children's noses and CACHOO. All the children sneezed at once and the rooks cascaded down, bouncing off the table and onto the floor.

A SLAM!!! Not at the main door to the chess room, but at the dungeon door to the immediate left. Another SLAM!!! The hinges and locks loosening. SLAM!!!! The door blowing wide open, and storming through two huge beasts. HEADWHITE the Dragonmaster and RALEX OBINS the Dungeonmaster!

(To be continued in next month's newsletter...)

Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

The A.J. Fink Memorial (u2200) was held on March 11, with 81 players competing in three sections.

Tony Kukavica (2193) and **Chawit Asavasaetakul** (2148) tied for 1st and 2nd places in the 1900-2199 section with 3.5 out of 4, while 3rd place was split between **Aryan Achuthan** (2091), **Quincy Chen** (1983), and **Adam Stevens** (1838), each scoring 3 points.

Jacob Goldman (1681) was the clear winner of the 1600-1899 section with 3.5 points, followed closely by **William Hamill** (1706), **Christopher Powers** (1704), and **Axel Joseph** (1478), with 3 points each.

Ray Smets (1192) scored a perfect 4-0 in the u1600 section, and took 1st place. **Connor Galvin** (1590) and **Austin Wong** tied for 2nd and 3rd places with 3.5 points apiece.

Complete results for the A.J. Fink Memorial can be found [here](#).

The A.J. Fink Memorial was directed by International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

On March 18, the Mechanics' Institute hosted its monthly double-header of Scholastic Swiss in the morning, and Quads Championship in the afternoon.

The Quads saw a nice turnout of 68 players, with **Aryan Achuthan** (2103) winning the top quad with a perfect 3-0.

Complete results for the March Quads can be found [here](#).

The Scholastic Swiss had 25 players competing in two groups, with **Arav Munjal** (838) scoring 3.5 from 4 games and winning the 400+ section, while Maclain Wells (unr.) swept the u400 section with a perfect 4-0.

Complete results for the March Scholastic Swiss can be found [here](#).

Both Quads and Scholastic Swiss were directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, assisted by Local TD **Michael Hsu**.

From February 12 to March 18 the Mechanics' Institute hosted the 2023 Spring Online Women's Tournament, in conjunction with FIDE Trainer **Sophie Adams'** free online [Women's Class](#). The tournament was held on the chess.com platform, and the prizes for the top three finishers were free entries to one of our tournaments.

Sixteen players participated, and **Ruyi Hu** (1414) took clear 1st place with a perfect 5-0 score. In 2nd place was **Christina Madrid** (1332) with 4 points, and 3rd place was taken by 10-year old **Pranavi Pramod** (1547) who wrote:

"I had an amazing experience playing in the women's tournament and I learnt a lot. I thank Mechanics' Institute for giving me this wonderful opportunity and I hope there are more such tournaments in the future."

Complete results for the 2023 Spring Online Women's Tournament can be found [here](#).

The 2023 Spring Online Women's Tournament was directed by International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

The F.I.D.E. rated 20th Max Wilkerson Memorial u2200 was held over the weekend of March 25 and 26, with 81 players competing in three sections.

Niko Pompe (2176) went a perfect 4-0 in the 2000+ section, taking clear 1st place, with **Nikhil Parvathaneni** (1919) right behind in clear 2nd place at 3.5 points. Splitting the prizes for 3rd, best under 2200, and best under 2000 with 3 points each, were **Alexander Charles Su** (1920), **Ethan Sun** (1854), and **Austin Jin** (1863).

The 1600-1999 section also saw a perfect score and a clear winner in **Christopher Powers** (1704). Following right behind with 3.5 points and taking clear 2nd was NM **Michael Walder** (1954). There was a five-way tie for 3rd place, best under 1800, and best under 1600, between **Zee Chin** (1710), **Henry Lien** (1573), **Felix Macnee** (1692), **Sivavishnu Srinivasan** (1668), and **Leo Ni** (1406), each scoring 3 points.

Anirudh R. Seshadri (1241) took clear 1st in the under 1600 section with 3.5 points. There was a four-way tie for 2nd and 3rd places, best under 1400, and best under 1200, between **Taewoo Lumen King** (1319), **Lalitha Sasidhar Upadrasta** (unr.), **Hayes Alexander Marvin** (1310), and **Aradhana Arivoli** (1127), each with 3 points.

Complete results for the 20th Max Wilkerson Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 20th Max Wilkerson Memorial was directed by Senior Tournament Director **Scott Mason**.

On April 1 the Mechanics' Institute hosted the 21st Konig Memorial Tournament with 70 players competing in four sections.

Siddharth Arun (2201) took clear 1st in the 2000+ section with a perfect 4-0 score. Tied for 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points each were **Sebastian Suarez** (2037) and **Ivan Zhou** (1833).

Pranavi Promod (1468) and **Leo Ni** (1434) both played up and tied for 1st and 2nd places in the 1600-1999 section with 3.5 points apiece. **Frederic Dutter** (1900) and **Yali Dancig-Perlman** (1689) tied for 3rd place with 3 points each.

Mechanics' Institute stalwart **Samuel Agdamag** (1482) swept the 1200-1599 section, scoring a perfect 4-0. A full point behind, tied for 2nd and 3rd places were **Adam Ginzberg** (1538), **Alex Dean** (1334), **Ishan Goteti** (1315), **Vasisht Nishtala** (1290), and **Tao Ni** (1198).

Darren Sadr (unr.) also scored a perfect 4-0 to win the under 1200 section. **Herman Mendoza** (unr.) and **Noah Yang** (unr.) tied for 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points apiece.

Complete results for the 21st Konig Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 21st Konig Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, assisted by Local TD **Michael Hsu**.

The Spring Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off on March 7 with 95 players competing in three sections.

Information, standings, and results can be found [here](#).

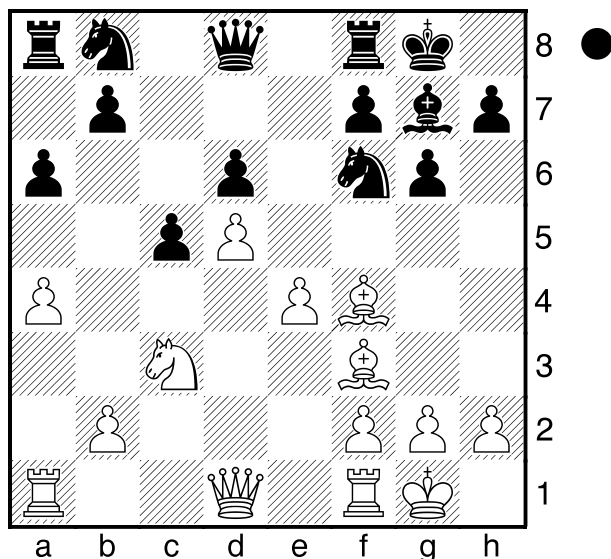
The Spring TNM is being directed by Senior Tournament Director **Scott Mason**, FIDE Arbiter **Richard Koepcke**, and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated Games from rounds two through five of the Spring TNM.

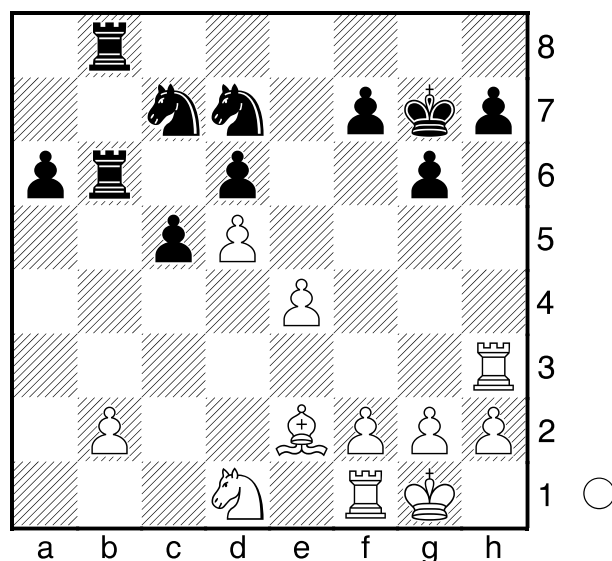
Karthi,Jashith
 Winslow,Elliott
 2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (2.3) 14.03.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 exd5
5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 a6 8.a4
Bg4 9.Be2 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Bg7 11.Bf4
0-0 12.0-0



Ne8 13.Qd2 Nd7 14.Bh6 Rb8
15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Be2 Nc7 17.a5 b5
18.axb6 Rxb6 19.Ra3 Qf6 20.Nd1
Rfb8 21.Rh3 Kg8 22.Qh6 Qg7
23.Qxg7+ Kxg7

(Diagram)



24.Ra3 Re8

[24...Rb3 25.Ra1 R3b4 26.f3 Ne5]

25.f3! Nxd5?!

[25...f5!]

26.Rxa6 Nf4 27.Rxb6 Nxe2+ 28.Kf2

Nxb6 29.Kxe2 d5 30.Nf2 f5 31.Rc1

Nd7 32.Kd2 fxe4 33.fxe4= Rb8

34.exd5 Rxb2+ 35.Ke3! Kf6 36.Ra1

Rb3+ 37.Ke2?!

[37.Kf4 g5+ 38.Ke4!= (38.Kg4??

Kg6 39.g3 Nf6+ 40.Kh3 Nxd5-+)]

37...Ke5 38.Ra7 Nf6 39.Nd3+ Kxd5

40.Rf7 Rb6 41.Kf3

[41.Kd2 c4 (41...g5)]

41...c4-+

[41...Kc4!]

42.Nf4+ Kc5?!

[42...Ke5 43.Re7+ Kf5 44.g3 Rb3+]

43.Ne2?

[43.g4

[43.h4

43...Rb3+ 44.Kf4

[44.Kf2 Ne4+ 45.Kg1 Rb2

(45...Rb1+ 46.Rf1 Rxf1+ 47.Kxf1 c3)]

44...Nd5+ 45.Kg4 Rb2?!

[45...Re3 46.Rf2 (46.Nc1 Re1

47.Na2 Re2) 46...Nb4 (46...Re4+

47.Kg5 Re5+!) 47.g3 Nd3 48.Rg2

Re5]

46.Ng3?

[46.Kf3 h5 (46...g5 47.Rf5 h6)
47.Rf8 g5 48.Rc8+ Kb4!-+]

46...Rxcg2-+ 47.Rxh7? c3

[47...Nf6+ 48.Kf3 Rxcg3+]

48.Rf7 Here my scoresheet (Jashith stopped around move 37) loses it, which is odd since I had time (he was almost completely out of time). **48...Kc4** I'm not certain I played this. My scoresheet say "48...Nd5".

[I had meant to play 48...c2 which is very straightforward: 49.Rf8 (49.Rf1 Ne3+) 49...Kc6! 50.Rc8+ Nc7 51.Kf3 Rxcg3+]

[If it was 48...Kd4?! then it could have been very close: 49.Kf3 Rxh2 50.Ne2+ Kd3 51.Nc1+ Kc2 52.Ne2 (52.Na2 Kb2) 52...Kd2 53.Nxc3 Kxc3 54.Rg7 Rh6 55.Kg4 (55.Ke4 Kc4 56.Ke5 Rh5+ 57.Ke4 Nf6+ 58.Kf4 Rf5+ 59.Ke3 g5) 55...Rh1 wins but just barely!]

49.Kg5 (and it says "49.Kxcg6" -- so I've left some moves out...) **49...c2 50.Rf1 Ne3 51.Rc1 Rxh2 52.Kxcg6 Kd3 53.Ra1 Rd2** (his king is already on g5) **54.Ra3+ Kc4 55.Ra4+ Kb5 56.Ra1 Rd1 57.Ra3 c1Q 58.Rb3+ Kc4 59.Ne2 Kxb3 60.Nxc1+ Rxc1**

and he resigned after a couple more moves

0-1

 **Ivanenko,Anthony Vladimir** **D90 2147**

 **Snyder,Larry** **2069**

2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (2.5) 14.03.23

[Ivanenko,Anthony]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3

Bg7 5.h4!? The fabled Grischuk System! First brought to popularity by Alexander Grischuk against Magnus Carlsen in the 2013 Candidates

Tournament, it has developed a significant bed of theory over time. It's considered a critical line at top level these days. The point is that the knight is currently overburdened having to protect both the d5/h5 at the same time so this move poses a question in how Black is going to resolve it. While looking through NM Snyder's games, I had noticed he had never played it before OTB, so I was expecting this to lead to an interesting game. **5...h5?!** A shame! The critical lines of this variation can lead to wild positions, but this isn't one of them. In fact, despite looking natural at first glance -- blockading the advance of the h-pawn -- it opens up quite a large hole on the K-side. Black has already committed four pawns to the light squares, so White easily makes use of the open dark squares. The following moves are considered critical: the first two especially!

[5...c6 6.Bg5 0-0 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.h5 Bf5 9.e3 e6 10.hxcg6 Bxcg6 11.Bd3 Nd7 12.Qe2 e5 13.Bxcg6 hxcg6 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Rd1 Qa5 17.Kf1 Rad8 18.Nd4 Qc5 19.Nb3 Qc6 20.Na5 Qc7 21.Nb3 Qc6 22.Na5 Qc7 23.Nb3 Qc6 ½-½ Grischuk,A (2764)-Carlsen,M (2872) Candidates Tournament London 2013 (11)]

[5...dxc4 6.e4 c5 7.d5 b5 8.h5 0-0 9.hxcg6 fxcg6 10.d6 exd6 11.Nxb5 d5 12.Nc3 Re8 13.Be3 d4 14.e5 Ba6 15.Qa4 Qd7 16.Bxc4+ Bxc4 17.Qxc4+ Qe6 18.Qxe6+ Rxe6 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Nd5 Bd8 21.0-0-0 dxe3 22.Nxe3 Nc6 23.Rd7 Be7 24.Rxh7 Rb8 25.Rc7 Bf6 26.Rb7 Nb4 27.Rxb8+ Kxh7 28.Rb7+ Kg8 29.Rxa7 Nd3+ 30.Kb1 Bxb2 31.a4 Bd4 32.Kc2 Nb4+ 33.Kd2 Bxe3+ 34.fxe3 Nd5 35.a5 c4 36.Rd7 Nf6

37.Rd8+ Kg7 38.Kc3 Rc6 39.Ne5
Ne4+ 40.Kd4 c3 41.Kxe4 Rc4+
42.Kf3 1-0 Mamedyarov,S (2814)-
Navara,D (2745) Gashimov Memorial
5th Shamkir 2018 (8)]

[5...c5]

[5...0-0]

6.Bg5 White's already making use of the outpost to secure his bishop. White's now threatening to remove the d5-pawn defender. **6...c6** The most common try, but if Black was going to attempt this, he would've done better without weakening his K-side structure with ...h5. This is a lot less stable than 5...c6.

[6...dxc4 is the most challenging option and leads to interesting lines: 7.e4 c5 8.dxc5 Qa5 9.Bxc4 Nxe4 10.0-0 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Nc6 12.Bxe7 Nxe7 13.Qd6± and both sides have achieved dynamic equality, but there're still a lot of nuances at play in this position.]

7.cxd5 cxd5 8.e3 Nc6 While okayed by engine, I feel like this move just gives more options for White and isn't as concise as the following move, which will be seen in the game:

[8...0-0 9.Qb3 e6 10.Be2 Nc6 11.0-0± White still has an easier game though: his pieces are brimming with activity and all he needs to do is to activate his majors on the c-file.]

9.Qb3 Posing the d5/b7 question to Black, which is typical in d4-systems.

9...e6 Necessary, but does sting. Black has entombed his bishop for the near future. **10.Bb5!?N** The rationale was as follows: since Black has spent this many moves setting up his pawns on the light squares, so why not trade off the light-squared bishop for a Q-side defender and potentially set up a backwards c-pawn to play off? However, turns out that isn't much of note according to my engine, as Black fends off the attempt

rather easily.

[Instead, Stockfish takes a more methodical approach: 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Rfc1 Ng4 13.Bf4 Qe7 14.a3 Bh6 15.Bg3± Recognizing that Black's terrible pieces aren't going anywhere and slowly improving piece placement. This is an effective, if not yawn-inducing strategy, but I must admit the silicon's prowess.]

[Predecessor: 10.Bd3 Qa5 11.0-0 0-0 12.a3 a6 13.Na4 Nd7 14.Rfc1 Re8 15.Nc5 Nxc5 16.Rxc5 Qc7 17.Bf4 Qd8 18.Rac1 Bf8 19.R5c3 Be7 20.g3 Kg7 21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.Bxe5+ Kg8 23.Bc7 Qd7 24.Qb6 Bd8 25.b4 Bxc7 26.Rxc7 Qd8 27.a4 Re7 28.a5 Rxc7 29.Rxc7 Qf8 30.e4 Kh8 31.Bc2 Kh7 32.Bd3 Kh6 33.exd5 exd5 34.Qf6 Qg7 35.Rxf7 Qxf6 36.Rxf6 1-0 Rodriguez Velasco, G (2122)-Ruiz,A (2199) Bogota Navidad op 2019 (6)]

10...0-0?! Black just needlessly complicated the game for himself.

[10...Bd7 11.Ne5 Qc7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Bf4 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Bxb5 16.Qxb5 dxe4± And Black's not facing any serious issues.]

11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.0-0

[I was tempted, but quickly realized I needed to resolve my king safety: 12.Na4? Qa5+±]

12...Qb6 Somehow I missed this move... although it's not as scary as it first seemed. **13.Na4!** The knight aims for the c5-outpost. **13...Qxb3 14.axb3 Ba6 15.Rfc1** Only move. **15...Bb5 16.Nc3!** White recognizes the need to dislodge the bishop prior to pushing his Q-side activity. **16...a6 17.Nxb5?!**

It's interesting how much move order matters sometimes: White needed to temporarily keep his knight to guard e4 while maneuvering his f3-knight through

treacherous waters to reposition it more actively. This is a little too quick on the trigger.

[17.Ne5 Ng4 18.Nd7 Rfe8 19.Nxb5 cxb5 20.Rc7± and White's pieces end up much more active.]

17...axb5?! Fortunately, Black returns the misstep back.

[17...cxb5!? 18.Rc6 (18.Ne5 Ne4!=) 18...a5 19.Rb6 Ne4 20.Rxb5 Rfb8 21.Rxb8+ Rxb8 22.Rxa5 Rc8= White's doubled pawns aren't enough to bring him a significant advantage in this endgame.]

18.Ne5! Instantly snapped. I remember Elliot walking by and stopping at this move to evaluate. White doesn't want to allow Black to infiltrate the open files, so he should use his minors to do the dirty work. **18...Ne4 19.Nxc6 Nxg5??**

Black just completely loses the plot: trading away his very active minor for our lonesome bishop... to improve White's pawn structure!? This ends up sealing the game.

[I was only scared by the following move and it turns out I was right in my assessment: 19...f6 20.Bf4 g5 21.Bc7 gxh4± and while the engine prefers White, Black is starting to see some play.]

[19...Nd2 was what I was expecting, but it turns out fine for White: 20.b4 (However, I was also seriously considering this: 20.Ra3?! Rxa3 21.bxa3 Ra8!= is what I had missed, expecting ...Nxb3.) 20...Nb3 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 22.Ne7+ Kh7 23.Rc7±]

20.hxg5 Rfe8 21.f4 Played after a half-hour of thought and thank Lord I did as I was seriously considering a dubious move. However, as I couldn't find a forcing win, I fell back onto this line, as it's a nice consolidation maneuver and stops ...e5.

[21.Ra7? was what I considered and

while still winning, it just makes White's life excessively difficult. Rxa7 22.Nxa7 Ra8 23.Nxb5 Rb8 24.Nc3 Rxb3± White is still a pawn up but he'll have to work for that pawn.]

[21.b4! on the other hand, is completely crushing: fixing the pawn to a light square, away from the bishop's protection. How did I miss this move when I spotted the concept already? Don't ask me... Bf8 22.Ra5+-]

21...Bf8 22.Ne5 White's taking his knight for a little maneuver: Nc6-e5-d7-c5, where it's perched much better to blockade Black's pieces. It also has the added threat of Rxa8-Rc7 -- targeting the f7-pawn. **22...Bd6 23.Nd7** Threatening the fork to win a tempo. **23...Kg7**

24.Nc5 Kf8

[24...b4 was Black's chance to bring about any difficulty. 25.Kf2 Rec8 26.Ke2 Rxa1 27.Rxa1 Rc7 28.Ra5+-]

25.b4! ends up of Black's chances to achieve play. The rest is simple.

25...Ke7 26.Ra5 Rxa5 27.bxa5

Finally undoubling the b-pawns. **27...b4**

28.Ra1 Ra8 29.Ra4 Kd8 30.Nb7+

Kc7 31.Nxd6 Kxd6 32.Rxb4 Rxa5

33.Rb7 And the game's over: Black's f7- and then g6-pawns are dropping like flies. **33...Ra2 34.Rxf7 Rxb2 35.Kf1**

Last precise move required, not allowing any counterplay against the e3-pawn. With this, Black could safely resign.

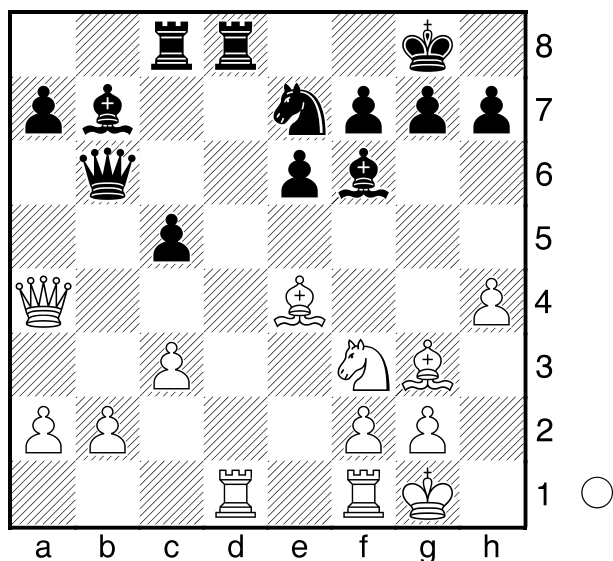
1-0

Handigol, Abhishek
Hao, Max

D02
2074
2047

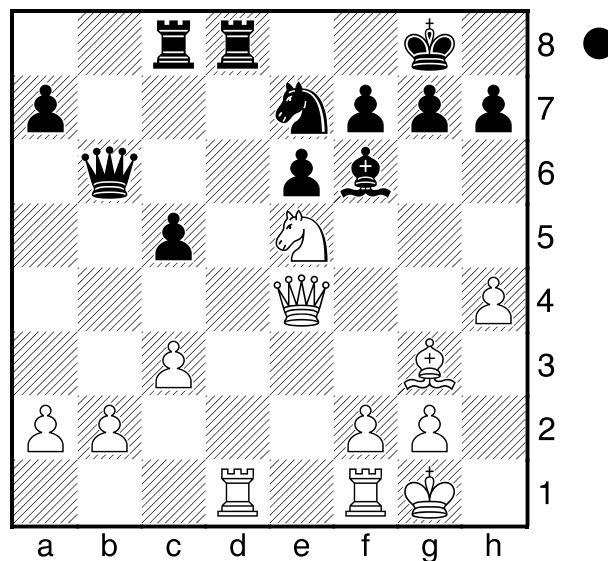
2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (2.6) 14.03.2023
[Winslow, Elliott]

A hard-fought battle, in which Max eventually came out on top. 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 e6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bg3 0-0 8.Bd3 b6 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Be7 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Be4 Bb7 13.Qa4 Rc8 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.Rd1 Qb6 16.0-0 Rfd8 17.h4 Ne7



18.Ne5? Bxe4! 19.Qxe4

(Diagram)



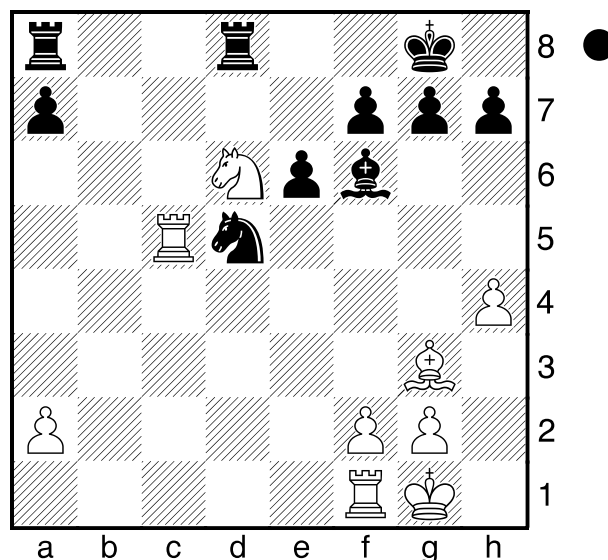
Qxb2! Hardly poisoned -- in fact White's queenside comes undone. But the win is another matter, still far off...

20.Nc4 Qxc3 21.Nd6 Ra8! 22.Rb1 Qd4+ 23.Qb7 Qd5 24.Qc7 Qc6

[24...c4]

[24...Qxa2]

25.Rb7 Qxc7 26.Rxc7 Nd5 27.Rxc5



Be7

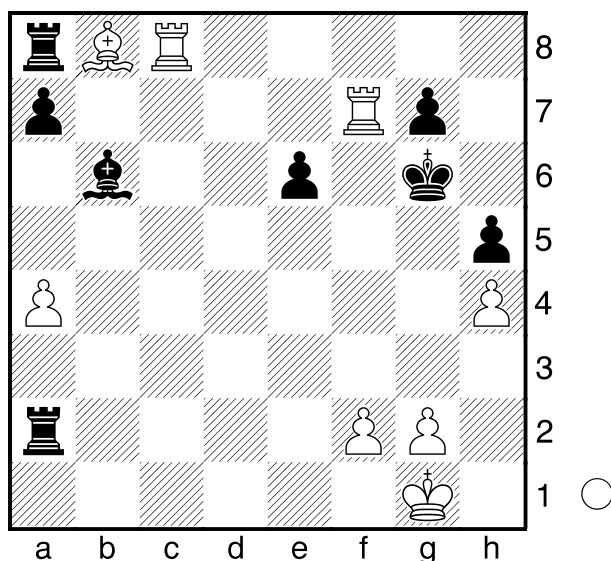
[27...Nc3! 28.Re1 Nxa2]

28.Rc6! Nb4 29.Rc4 Rxd6 30.Rxb4 Rd2 31.Rb7

[31.Ra4]

31...Bc5 32.a4 Ra2

[32...h5!]
33.Rc1 Bb6 34.Bb8?!
 [34.Rd1 h6 35.Rdd7 Rf8 36.a5! ♣]
34...h5?
 [34...Bxf2+ 35.Kh2 h5-+]
35.Rc8+ Kh7 36.Rxf7 ♣ Kg6
 [36...Ra1+ 37.Kh2 Rxa4 ♣]

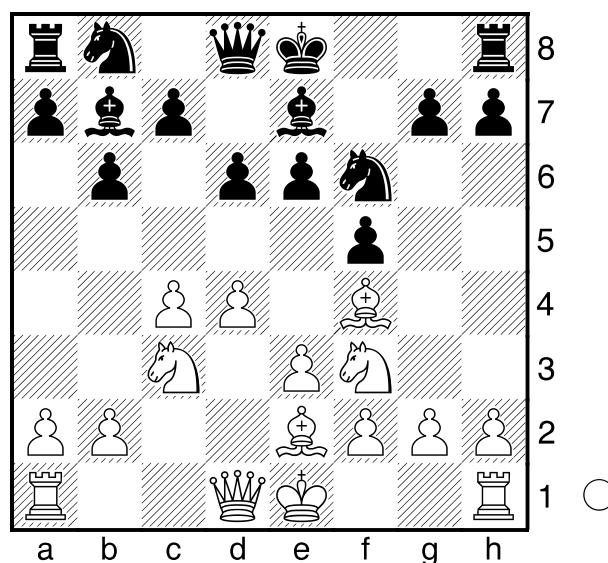


37.Rb7?
 [37.Rf4=]
37...Bxf2+-+ Finally -- leading to fairly clear sailing. **38.Kf1 Bxh4 39.Rc6 Rxa4 40.Rxe6+ Bf6 41.Ke2 Ra2+ 42.Kf3 Kf5 43.Re3 a6 44.Rb4 g5 45.Rd3 g4+ 46.Ke3 Bg5+ 47.Kd4 Rxd3 48.Kd5 Rd2 49.Kc4 Rxd3 50.Kxd3 h4 51.Ke2 Be7 52.Rb7 a5 53.Rb5+ Kg6 54.Ke3 a4 55.Rb6+ Kf7 56.Ke4 a3 57.Be5 Ra4+ 58.Kf5 a2 59.Ba1 g3 60.Rh6 Ra5+ 61.Kg4 Rg5+ 62.Kh3 g2 63.Bd4 Rg3+ 64.Kh2 a1Q 65.Rh7+ Ke8 66.Rh8+ Kd7 67.Rxh4 g1Q+ 68.Bxg1 Qxg1# 0-1**

A85
1780
1597
 2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (2.10)
[Parsons,Stephen/Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 f5 White is already out of book, which means we should have an interesting game. **2.d4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7?!** We discussed after the game that (the computer's choice) Bb4 is stronger, as this move is a bit passive.
 [4...Bb4!]
 [4...b6!]

5.Bf4 d6 6.e3 b6 Interestingly, Black signals his intention to abandon the defense of the e6 pawn. **7.Be2 Bb7**



8.Ng5! Qd7 9.d5! e5 10.Bg3
 [The computer gives the following variation, however White did not feel so bold this day. 10.Ne6 exf4 11.Nxg7+! Kd8! 12.Bd3 Ne4 13.Nxe4 fxe4 14.Bxe4 where Black will have trouble finding safety for his king.]
10...Na6
 [Don't try 10...Nxd5? 11.cxd5 Bxg5 12.Bb5! c6 13.dxc6 Bxc6 14.Bxc6 Nxc6 15.Qh5+! wins a piece. g6 16.Qxg5]

[10...0-0 Winslow,Elliott]
11.Ne6! For now, Black's king will remain in the center of the board. **11...Rg8**
 Winslow,Elliott: '?!'

[11...g6]
12.Qc2 Winslow,Elliott: '± Not bad, at all - but White had all sorts of "strike while the iron is hot" moves:'

[12.b4 Here b4 should be considered to stop the knight from coming to c5 and removing White's excellent e6 knight, but the followup was missed from White otb. Winslow,Elliott: '!' Nxb4 13.Qb1 The computer does not miss though. a5 14.Qxf5 g6 15.Qb1]

[12.f4! Winslow,Elliott]
 [12.e4! Winslow,Elliott]

12...g6 13.Rd1?!

[13.f4! Winslow,Elliott]
 [13.e4 Winslow,Elliott f4 14.Bh4]
13...c6?! Now the knight's anchor is in jeopardy...

[13...Nc5! (Winslow,Elliott) For an up-to-the-minute analogy: that pothole needs filling!]

14.Qb3

[14.e4! Winslow,Elliott f4 15.Bh4 Kf7 16.g3]

14...Nc7 15.Nxc7+ Qxc7 16.dxc6

Bxc6 17.Nb5! This series of trades proves favorable for White, even if he loses his great outpost. **17...Qb7??**

18.c5!? A tricky move, but the straightforward Nxd6 should have been preferred.

[18.Nxd6+! Bxd6 19.Rxd6 Ne4 (19...Ke7?! 20.c5) 20.c5!!

The point of this variation.

A) 20...Nxd6? 21.cxd6
 (21.Qxg8+);

B) 20...Kf8 21.Bxe5!! Re8
 22.Re6]

18...0-0-0? This is a bit too much, as the king is even less safe. **19.Nxd6+?!**

[19.cxd6 Would again have been

more straightforward. Bf8 (19...Bxb5 20.Bxb5) 20.Bxe5]

19...Bxd6 20.cxd6 Rge8 21.Qa3?

Making the superficial threat of Ba6 to win the queen, but Black had shown up late to this game and as a result was very low on time at this point.

[21.Bh4 Keeps things difficult for Black.]

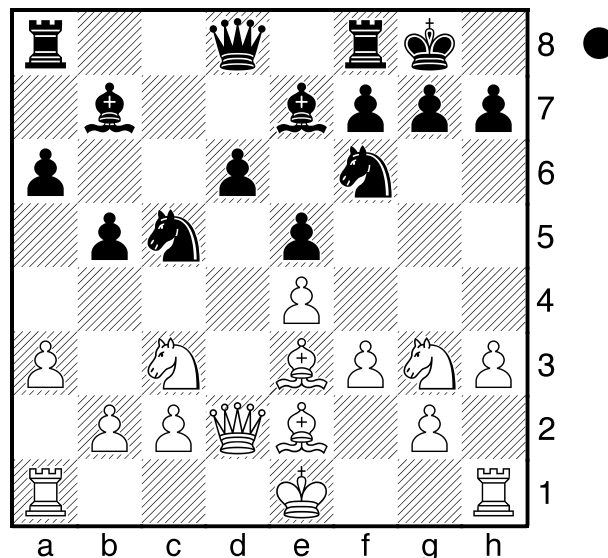
21...Ne4?? 22.Ba6! Nothing else can be tried.

1-0

□ **Srinivasan,Sivavishnu** **B90**
 ■ **Gu,Chunhui** **1668**
1525

2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (2.17)
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Chunhui loses the exchange but Sivavishnu isn't incisive enough -- next thing he knows Black's bishops and central passed pawn are taking over. Nice technique to shepherd the game home. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 Be7 8.Ng3 0-0 9.Be3 Nbd7 10.Be2 b5 11.a3 Bb7 12.Qd2 Nc5 13.f3=**



d5?! 14.exd5± Nxd5? 15.Nxd5 Bxd5

16.Nf5+- Be6 17.Qxd8 Bxd8 18.Bxc5
Bxf5 19.Bxf8 Bh4+ 20.Kf1

[20.Kd1+-]

20...Kxf8 21.c3 Re8

[21...Bg3]

22.g4 Bc8 23.Bd3 g6 24.Rh2 f5

25.Re2 Kf7

[25...Bb7!]

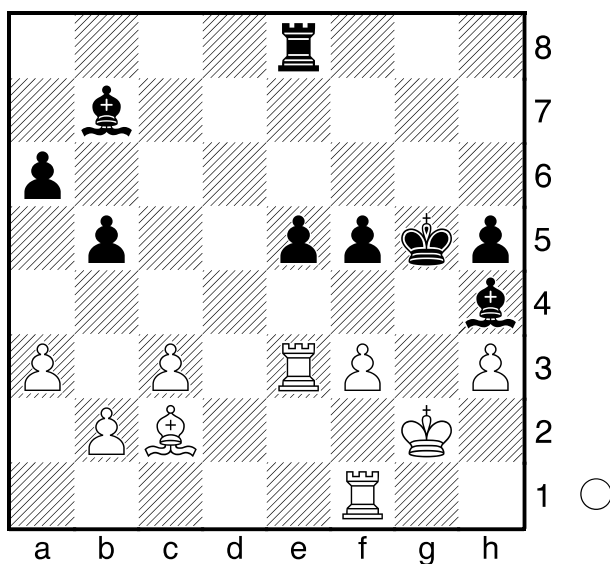
26.Kg2 Kf6 27.Rf1?

[27.a4+-]

27...Bb7± 28.Bc2 Kg5 29.Re3?! h5

[29...Bd5=]

30.gxf5 gxf5



31.Rd1?? Kf4-+ 32.Red3 Rg8+

33.Kh1 Bxf3+

[33...Bf2!]

34.Rxf3+ Kxf3 35.Rf1+ Bf2 36.Bxf5

Rf8 37.Be6 e4 38.Bd5 Ke2 39.Kg2

e3 40.c4 Kd2 41.Bf3 bxc4 42.Bxh5

e2 43.Bxe2 Kxe2 44.Rc1 Rf4

45.Rc2+ Ke1 46.Kh2 Bh4 47.Rc3

Kd2 48.Kg2 Bf6 49.Rg3 Bxb2 50.Rg8

Rd4

0-1

Starr, Albert Martin

Levin, Adam

2023 Spring TNM: u1600 (2.24) 14.03.23

[Winslow, Elliott]

A00

1500

1114

An up-and-down game, when a runaway
passed pawn brings a conclusion. 1.b4

e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.e3 Be6 4.d3 a6 5.a4

Nf6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0

9.Nbd2 Nbd7 10.c4 c6 11.Ng5 Qe7

12.Nxe6 Qxe6 13.Bf3 d5 14.cxd5

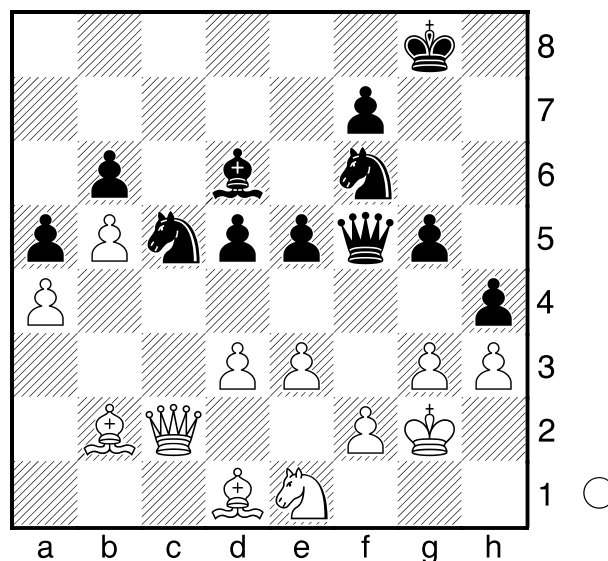
cxm5 15.Rc1 Rfc8 16.Rxc8+ Rxc8

17.Qa1 b6 18.Rc1 Rxc1+ 19.Qxc1

Bf8 20.b5 a5 21.g3 Nc5 22.Qc2 Qf5

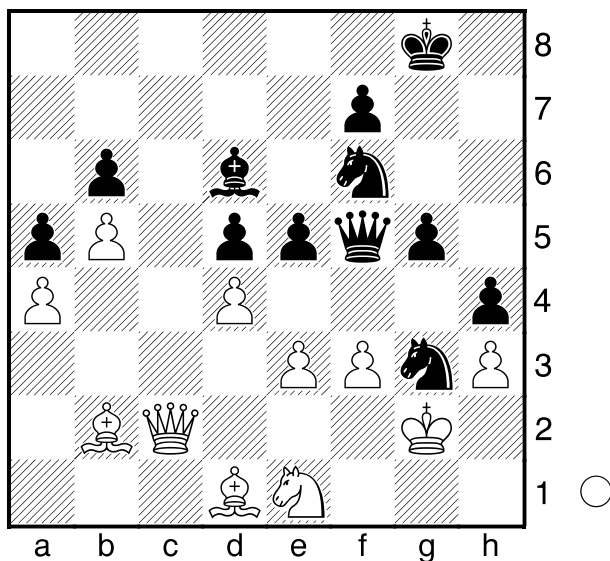
23.Be2 Bd6 24.Nf3 Ng4 25.h3 Nf6

26.Kg2 h5 27.Ne1 g5 28.Bd1 h4



29.d4!+- Nce4 30.f3 Nxc3

(Diagram)



31.Qxf5?

[31.dxe5!+-]

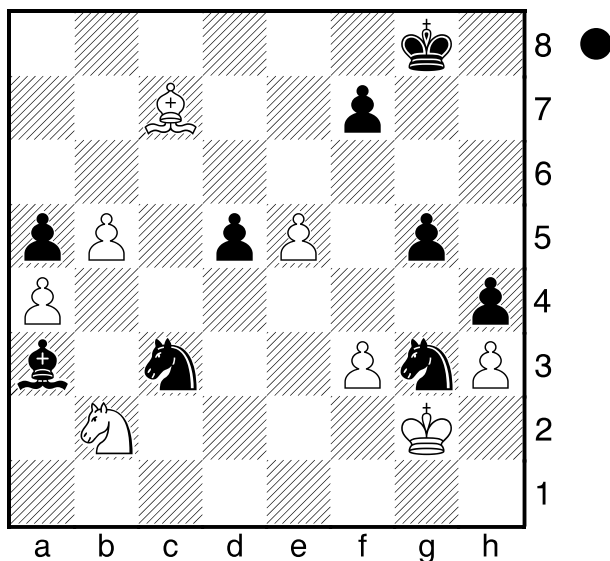
**31...Nxf5+- 32.dxe5 Nxe3+ 33.Kh1
Nxd1 34.Bd4 Bb4 35.Nd3 Nh5**

[35...Nd7]

**36.Bxb6 Nc3 37.Nb2 Ba3 38.Bc7
Ng3+**

[38...Nxb5 39.axb5 Bxb2 40.b6 Bd4
41.b7 Ba7]

39.Kg2



Bxb2?? Probably completely out of time, Black just doesn't force himself to stop the pawn. (I've lost dozens of blitz games the same way.)

[39...Nf5! It's *this* knight that will deal with that dangerous passed pawn!]

[39...Nxb5! 40.axb5 Bxb2 41.b6 Bd4 ... or this bishop (when Black has a couple extra pawns, and a solid win).]

**40.b6+- Nd1 41.b7 Ne3+ 42.Kf2
Nd1+ 43.Ke1 Ne3 44.b8Q+ Kh7
45.Qxb2 Ng2+ 46.Qxg2
1-0**

C34

Ahearn,Matthew

819

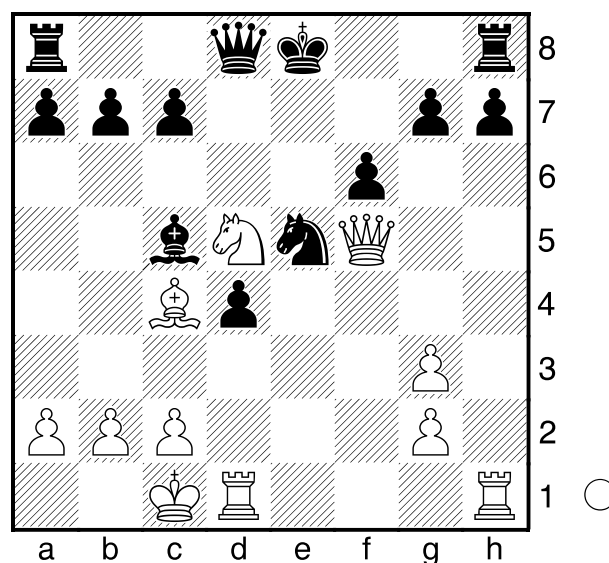
Karwat,Joseph

1408

2023 Spring TNM: u1600 (2.40) 14.03.23

[Winslow,Elliott]

Poor Matt was so on the verge of a big upset, but the complication of a mating attack eluded him. So close! **1.e4 e5 2.f4** Sure, let's throw the King's Gambit at him! **2...exf4 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 Bg4 5.Bxf4 Nf6 6.e5 Nh5 7.Bg3 Nxe3 8.hxg3 dxe5 9.Bc4 f6 10.Nc3 exd4 11.Nd5 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nc6 13.0-0-0 Ne5 14.Qf5 Bc5**



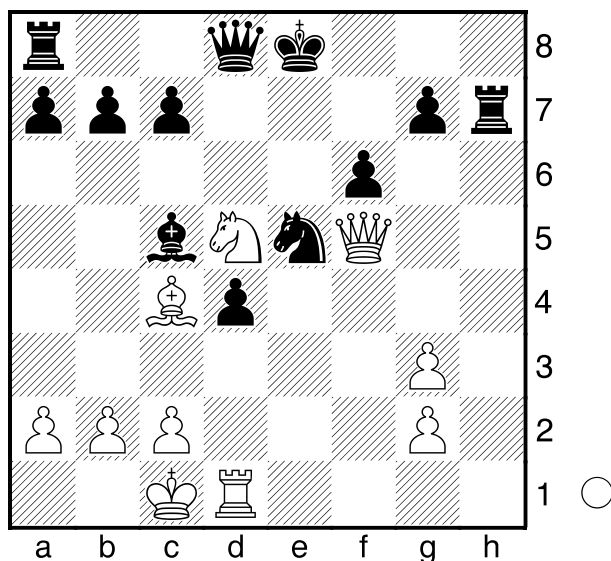
15.Rxh7? Natural, but draws at best, or that's how it "should" be.

[15.Qe6+ Kf8 (15...Be7 16.Rxd4 Nxc4 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.Qxc4+-) 16.Nf4! (Threat: 17. Ng6+!) Qe8 17.Qd5 Bd6 18.Rhe1 is just too strong.]

[15.Nf4 is also pretty good -- the e6 square is a gold mine.]

[And best of all (not by too much): 15.Rhe1! threatens various sacrifices, winning. Admittedly it's hard not to grab the h-pawn!]

15...Rhx7



16.Qxh7??

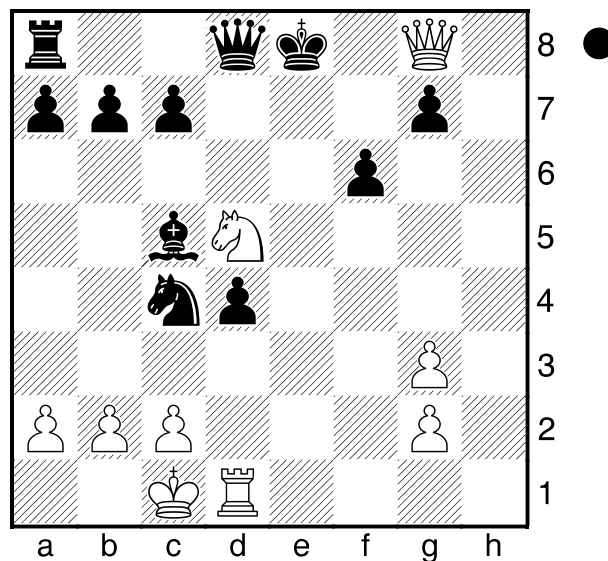
[16.Qe6+! sets up a draw, but who would think!]

A) 16...Be7 17.Qg8+ Bf8 (17...Kd7 18.Qxh7 White is even going to be a bit better, says Stockfish) 18.Qe6+=;

B) 16...Kf8 17.Nf4 Rh6! (The threat was 18.Ng6+ Nxc6 19. Qf7#) 18.Qg8+ Ke7 19.Qe6+]

16...Nxc4 17.Qg8+

(Diagram)

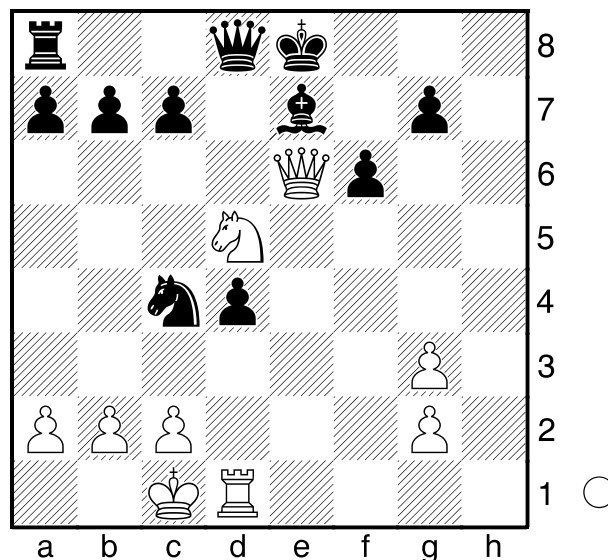


Bf8??

[17...Kd7! 18.Qxg7+ and now three king moves are winners: Kc6 (18...Kc8; 18...Kd6; 18...Be7? lets White draw or better after 19.Qg4+!; 18...Ke6?? 19.Nxc7+ is winning -- for White.)]

18.Qe6+ Be7

[18...Qe7 19.Nxe7 is mate in seven or so.]

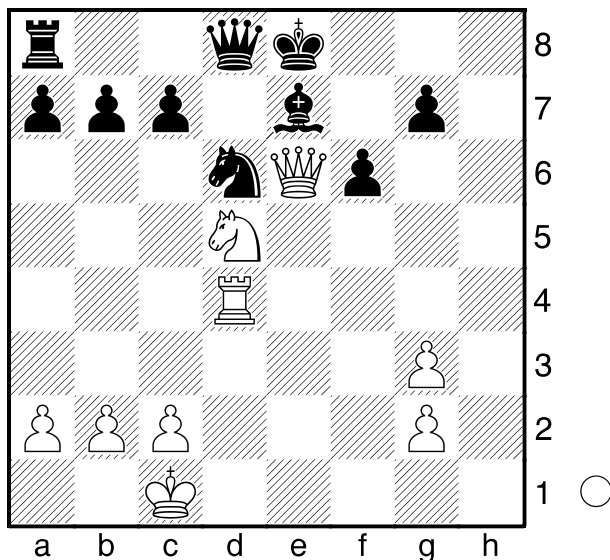


19.Rxd4?

[19.Rh1! and mate next!]

19...Nd6?

[19...Ne5! 20.Qg8+ Bf8 21.Qe6+=]



20.Rh4?

[20.Nxf6+! gxf6 (20...Kf8 21.Qg8#)
21.Rg4 and mate!]

20...Nf7 21.Re4 Ne5 22.g4?

[22.Nxe7 Qxe7 23.Qg8+ Qf8
24.Qe6+=]

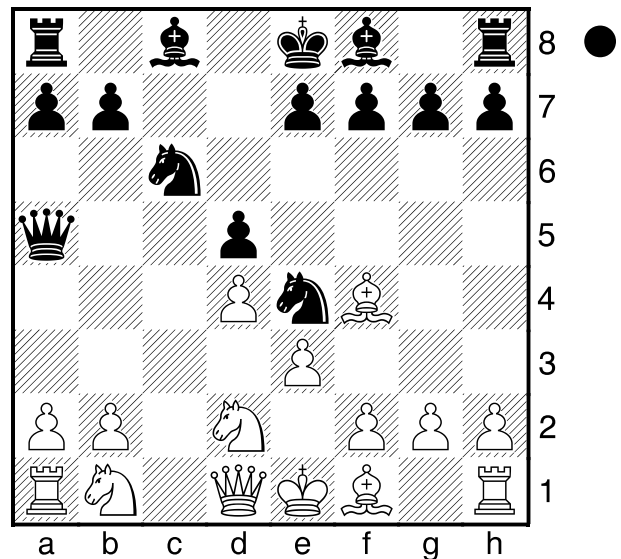
**22...c6 23.Nc3 Kf8 24.g5 Qd6 25.Qh3
Rd8 26.g6 Qd2+ Black gets the last
word, and it's mate on d1.**

0-1

D03
2262
2058
2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 21.03.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Ne4 4.Bf4
c5 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 Nc6 7.e3 Qa5+
8.Nfd2**

(Diagram)



e5!?

[8...g5! 9.Bg3 h5 10.f3 Nxg3
11.hxg3 e5+]

9.Bxe5! Nxe5 10.dxe5 Bf5! 11.f3?!

[11.a3 Rc8 12.Bd3!? (12.Be2 Bb4)

A) 12...Nxf2 13.Kxf2 Bxd3

14.Nc3= Qb6 15.Qb3 Qxb3

16.Nxb3 g6 17.Rac1 Bg7

18.Rhd1 Bf5 (18...Bc4 19.Nxd5)

19.Rxd5 Be6;

B) 12...Qb6]

11...Nc5 12.Nc3

[12.Be2 0-0-0 13.0-0]

12...0-0-0! 13.Nb3

[13.Nb5!?]

13...Nxb3 14.Qxb3

[14.axb3 Qb6]

14...d4 15.Qc4+?!

[15.Qb5]

15...Bc5+ 16.exd4? Rxd4 17.Qb5

[17.Qxf7 Rf8 18.Qxg7 Rb4]

17...Qc7! 18.Rc1 Rb4

[18...a6!]

**A) 19.Qe2 Re8 20.Qf2 Rxe5+
21.Be2 Rd2!**

A1) 22.Qxc5 Rxc5

(22...Rdx2+ 23.Nxe2 Rxc5

24.0-0 Kb8) 23.Kxd2 Qf4+

24.Kd1 Rc6;

A2) 22.Kxd2;

B) 19.Qb3]
19.Qe2 Rd4?!
 [19...Rd8 20.a3 Rb3]
20.Nb5 Qa5+ 21.Rc3 Kb8
 [21...Rd3!

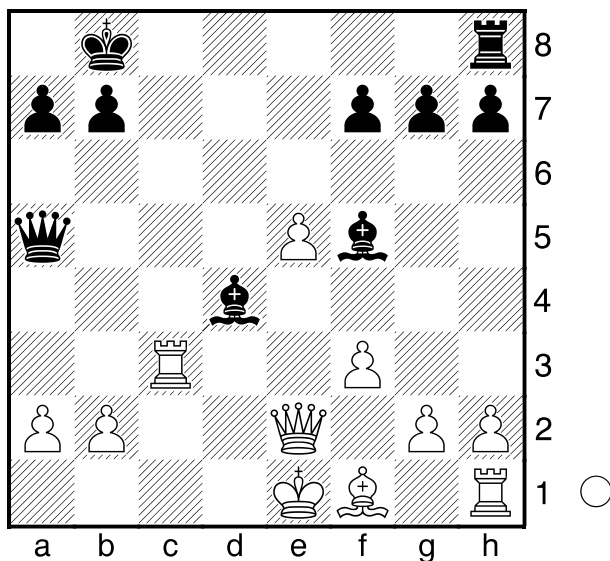
A) 22.Nd6+ Kb8 23.Nxf5 Rxc3
24.bxc3 Qxc3+

A1) 25.Kd1 Qa1+ 26.Kd2
 (26.Kc2 Qxa2+) 26...Rd8+
 27.Nd6 Bb4+ 28.Kd3 Bxd6;

A2) 25.Qd2;

B) 22.a3 Qxb5 23.Qd2 Rxd2
24.Bxb5 Rxb2 25.Rxc5+ Kb8
 (Two threats: 26...b6 and 26...
 Rb1+) 26.e6 Bxe6 27.0-0-+]

22.Nxd4!± Bxd4



23.Qb5?

[23.Qd2! Bxc3

A) 24.bxc3 Rd8 25.Qc1 Rc8
 (25...Qxa2);

B) 24.Qxc3!]

23...Bxc3+ 24.bxc3 Qxc3+ 25.Kf2
Qd4+ 26.Kg3

[26.Ke1 Rc8! mate is coming]

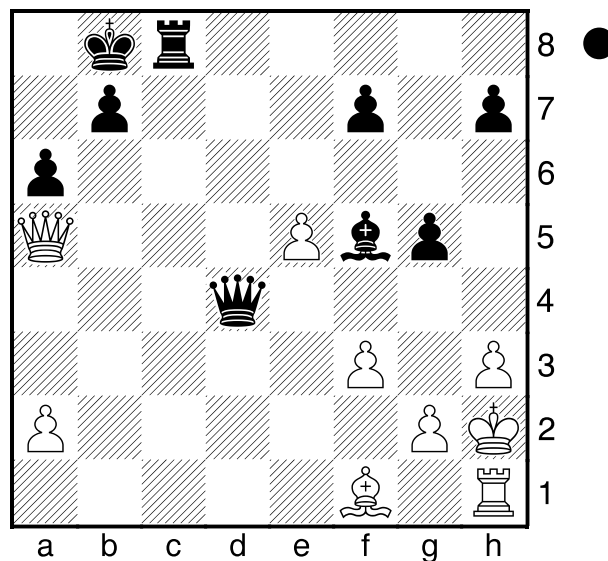
26...g5

[26...Rc8!?]

27.h3

[27.h4 gxh4+ 28.Kh2 Qf4+ 29.Kg1
 Rc8]

27...Rc8 28.Kh2 a6 29.Qa5



Bxh3! 30.Rg1

[30.Qa3 Bxg2! 31.Bxg2 Qf4+
 32.Kg1 Rc1+ 33.Qxc1 Qxc1+-+]

30...Bd7

[30...Rc2]

31.g3

[31.Qe1]

31...h5!?

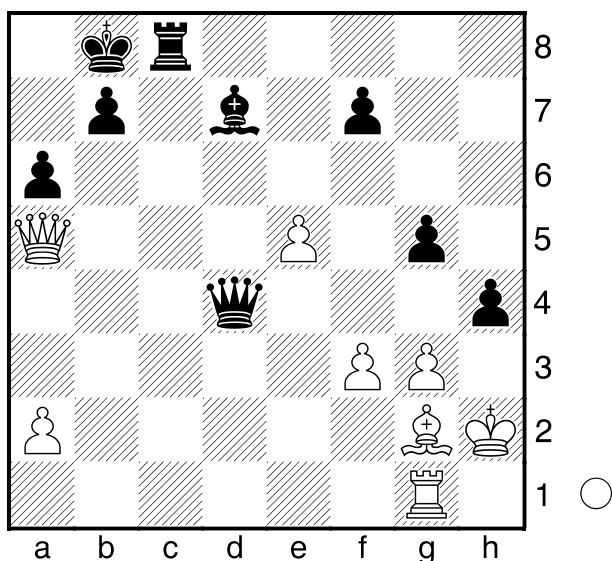
[31...Rc1 32.Qd8+ Ka7 33.Qxg5
 Qf2+ 34.Rg2 Qxf1]

32.Bg2?!

[32.e6 Bxe6 (32...h4!) 33.Qxg5 h4
 34.gxh4 Rh8 35.Qg3+ Ka8 36.Kg2
 f6]

32...h4!

(Diagram)



Computers see mate now (in 15 though)
33.g4 h3?! Can't call it "bad" when it's completely winning

[33...Qf4+ 34.Kh1 h3 wins a bishop (which means long diagonal), opens the h-file, the end is near. 35.Qa3 hxg2+ 36.Rxg2 Rh8+ 37.Kg1 Qd4+ 38.Rf2 Qa1+ 39.Rf1 Qxe5 and into g3.]

34.Bxh3 Rh8?!

[34...Rc2+

A) 35.Rg2 Qf4+ 36.Kg1 (36.Kh1 Qxf3) 36...Rc1+ 37.Kf2 Bb5;

B) 35.Bg2]

35.Qe1 Bc6 Bambou stopped keeping score, which tells us he was running out of time. **36.Qg3**

[Δ36.Rf1]

36...Qe3?! Black is *still winning, but letting White trade off that weak pawn makes it a tougher go.

[36...Ka8!]

37.e6+ Ka8 38.exf7 Qe7 After picking up the f-pawn Black is still winning, but there is still work to do... (-3 on the computer) **39.Rf1 Qxf7 40.Rf2 Re8** Sending the queen to e3 or e1 would probably send White into Zugzwang.

41.Bg2 Re1?! 42.Rd2?!

[42.f4! Bxg2! 43.Kxg2 (forced) Qd5+

44.Qf3 Re4! keeps Q+R on the board so that White's king is *still* a target, with Stockfish 15.1 suspecting a win for Black. 45.fxg5?! Rxg4+ 46.Kh3 Qxf3+ 47.Rxf3 Rxg5 is a big win -- White's king stuck on the h-file makes it easy -- even 48.Rf4 Ka7 49.a4 Kb6 50.Rb4+ Ka5 51.Rxb7 Kxa4 is routine.]

42...Qh7+

[42...Re8!]

43.Bh3 Qe7

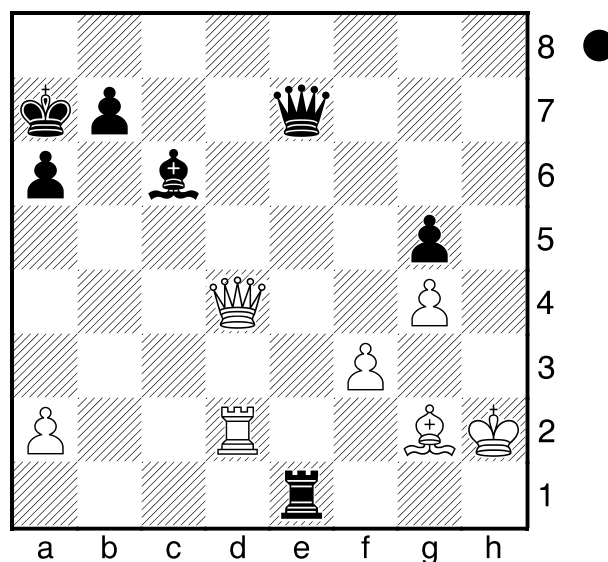
[43...Re8]

44.Bg2 Qh7+ 45.Qh3 Qe7

[45...Qg7! 46.Rd8+ Ka7 47.Qh8 Qxh8+ 48.Rxh8 Ra1-+]

46.Qh8+ Somewhere around here on a queen check Black made a rook move; White was awarded a two-minute penalty. Black was already down to maybe five seconds (plus delay) at that point, while White had more than a few minutes.

46...Ka7 47.Qd4+



Ka8?=-

[47...b6-+ 48.Qd6 Qh7+ 49.Bh3 Rc1-+ (49...Qf7!? 50.Bg2 Qh7+ 51.Bh3)]

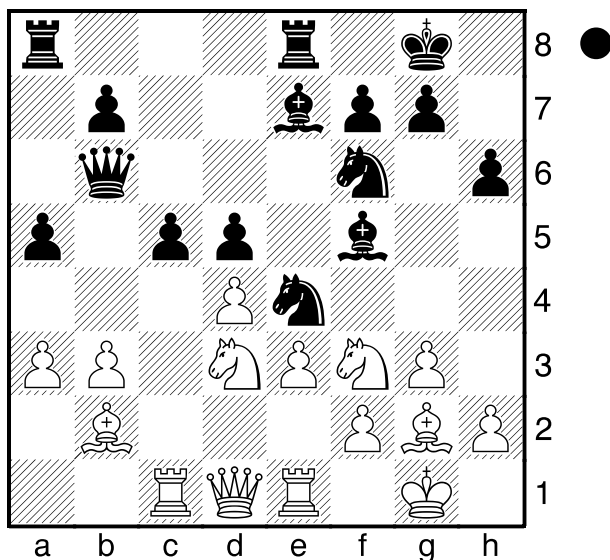
48.Qd8+ Qxd8 49.Rxd8+ Ka7

In this quite even position Black lost on

time.
1-0

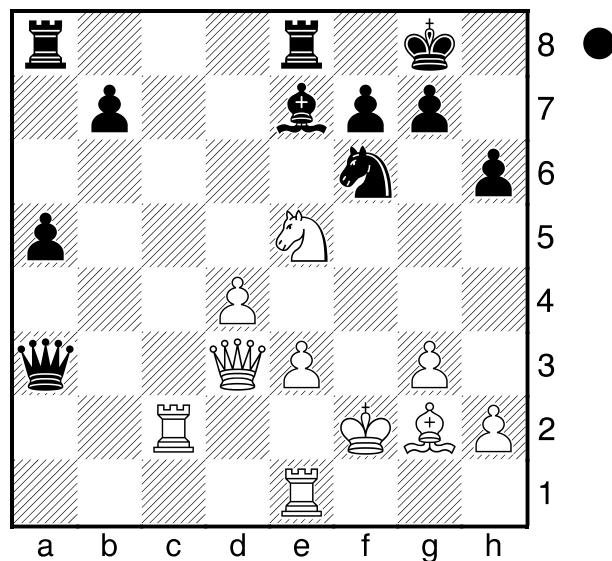
Garcia,Eugenio Vargas **D11**
2140
 Dasika,Archit **2143**
 2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (3.3) 21.03.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

Archit shows classical development, tactical acuity, and endgame technique for a nice win. 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 e6 5.0-0 h6 6.c4 c6 7.b3 Be7 8.Bb2 Nbd7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Ne5 a5 11.a3 Re8 12.Re1 Ne4 13.Ndf3 Ndf6 14.e3 Qb6 15.Rc1 c5 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Nd3

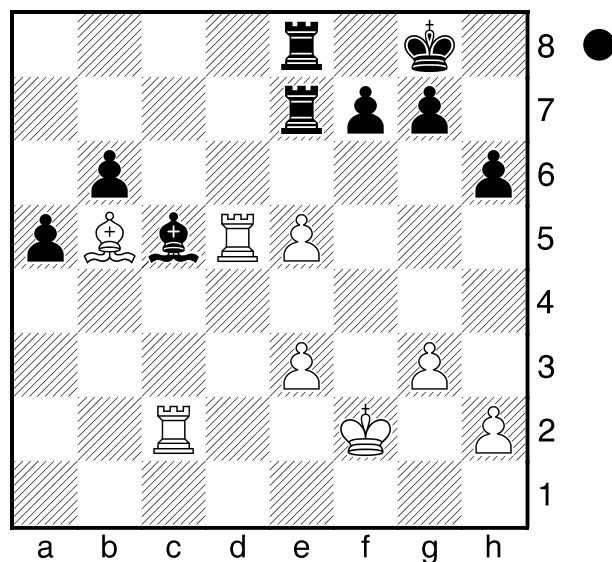


c4! 18.bxc4 dxc4 19.Rxc4 Nxf2! 20.Kxf2 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 Qxb2+ 22.Rc2 Qxa3 23.Ne5

(Diagram)

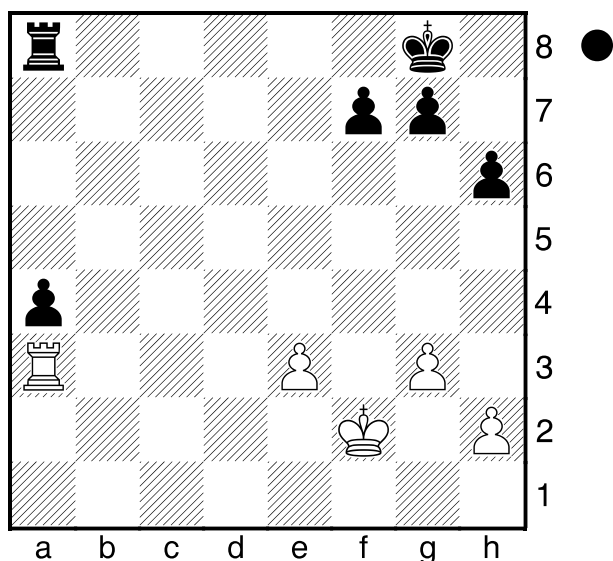


Ng4+ 24.Kg1 Nxe5 25.Qxa3 Bxa3 26.dxe5 Re7 27.Rd1 Rb8 28.Rd5 b6 29.Bf1 Bc5 30.Kf2 Rbe8 31.Bb5



Rxe5 32.Rdxc5 bxc5 33.Bxe8 Rxe8 34.Rxc5 Ra8 35.Rc3 a4 36.Ra3

(Diagram)



Rook behind extra outside passed pawn: textbook win. 36...Kh7 37.Kf3 Kg6 38.Kf4 Kf6 39.g4 Ra5 40.h4 g5+ 41.hxg5+ hxg5+ 42.Ke4 Ke6 43.Kd4 f5 44.gxf5+ Kxf5 45.e4+ Kf4 46.e5 Rxe5
0-1

D80
 1974
 2147
 2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (3.5) 21.03.23
[Ivanenko,Anthony Vladimir/(Winslow,Elliott)]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 The moment I saw this move on the board, I knew things were starting to heat up. In all my preparation, I had only observed my opponent going into the main 1.d4 lines once or twice (and almost always against Elliott!), so my curiosity began to peak. **2...g6 3.Nc3 d5** Deja vu, I have been in this place before! For the third time straight, the Grunfeld Defense appears onto the board. In my previous two games, Black had failed to materialize anything out of it. Perhaps third time's the charm? **4.Bg5** What the...? Even though I had a nagging suspicion that the Grunfeld may

appear on the board tonight, there was no way I would've predicted that it would be the Stockholm variation with Bg5. The fight is on! **4...Bg7** The Svidler system, popularized by the godfather of the modern day Grunfeld! I had briefly considered playing the main line, but I quickly realized three things: my opponent would've certainly examined it in detail, he could easily play one of the more solid variants like 5.Bf4 and my position on the leaderboard necessitated a win to be in the running, and finally, I wasn't certainly if I could fully recall the theory for some of the more critical lines like 5.h4, so I settled on this line. The point of it is rather simple: Black is offering a pawn in exchange for a huge boost in dynamic activity, which Grunfeld players always strive for.

[The main line is 4...Ne4 after which White has a wide variety of choices ranging from solid lines to more aggressive ones. Here's an example of a sharp line: 5.Bh4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 dxc4 7.e3 Be6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Qb1 Qd5 10.Be2 Bf5 11.Qb4 c5 12.Qb5+ Bd7 13.Qxc4 Bc6 14.Qb3 e6 15.c4 Qd7 16.Ne5 Qc7 17.0-0 0-0 18.Bg3 Qb6 19.Rfd1 Qa6 20.a4 Nd7 21.Nxc6 bxc6 22.Rab1 cxd4 23.exd4 Nb6 24.Ra1 Rfd8 25.a5 Nc8 26.Ra2 Ne7 27.d5 exd5 28.cxd5 Qc8 29.Bh4 Qc7 30.Bxe7 Qxe7 31.dxc6 Rxd1+ 32.Qxd1 Rd8 33.Qc2 Be5 34.g3 Rb8 35.Kg2 Kg7 36.Qc1 Rb3 37.Bf3 Bc7 38.Qc4 Ra3 39.Qd4+ Be5 40.Re2 Rxa5 ½-½ Wei,Y (2743)-Svidler,P (2768) Tata Steel-A 80th Wijk aan Zee 2018 (2) and Svidler was lucky to escape with a draw later on...]

(ew): I think this 4...Bg7 line has in fact become the modern main line! It definitely happened while *I* was sleeping (probably a time zone thing). It's

a wonderful example of the Gruenfeld, where so often it's not about material (a pawn here or there) but the Initiative. Very instructive! **5.Bxf6** The main try, White has to accept the challenge!

[White may also transpose back to the main variant with 5.Nf3 Ne4 but with Bg7 and Nf3 on the board, White's flexibility is severely lessened, so this isn't too bad for Black.]

5...Bxf6 6.cxd5 The players have reached the tabiya of the Svidler system and now Black has a choice. **6...c5!?** An interesting idea that had begun to appear in the early 2010's when Topalov and Giri began to play it and is considered the modern way to play this system! Black's idea is to prevent White's consolidation in the center via e2-e4 by temporarily sacrificing a second pawn in order to directly attack White's dark squares. **7.Nf3!** Second main move and quite reasonable, but I feel that White is obligated to accept the gauntlet if he wants to pose a challenge to Black.

[7.dxc5 is the main try: Nd7 (7...0-0!?) 8.Nf3 (8.c6 poses no problem for Black after Nc5 9.Rc1 Qb6 10.Nf3 0-0 11.e3 Qxb2 12.Nd4 bxc6 13.Be2 cxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd4 15.Nxe7+ Kg7 16.Qxd4+ Qxd4 17.exd4 Re8 18.Rxc5 ½-½ Vallejo Pons,F (2710)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2751) Moscow FIDE GP 2017 (9)) 8...Nxc5 9.e3 0-0 10.Nd4 Qa5 11.Bc4 Qb4 12.Bb3 Bf5 13.Nxf5 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qxc3+ 15.Ke2 gxf5 16.Rc1 Ne4 17.f3 Qb2+ 18.Qc2 Qxc2+ 19.Rxc2 Nd6 20.Rc7 Rfe8 21.Kd3 a5 22.a4 Rac8 23.Rhc1 Rxc7 24.Rxc7 f6 25.Kd4 Kf7 26.Bc4 Rb8 27.Bb5 b6 28.Ra7 Rc8 29.Bc6 Rb8 30.Kd3 h5 31.Bd7 h4 32.Ke2 Kg6 33.Bc6 Kf7 34.Kf2 b5 35.axb5 Nxb5 36.Bxb5 Rxb5 37.d6 Ke6 38.dxe7 Rb2+ 39.Kf1 Rb1+ 40.Ke2

Rb2+ 41.Kd3 Kf7 42.g3 Rxh2 43.gxh4 Rxh4 44.Rxa5 Rh5 45.Ra7 Rh1 ½-½ Mamedyarov,S (2743)-Giri,A (2778) EU-chT (Men) 20th Reykjavik 2015 (6.1)]

7...cxd4

[7...0-0!?]

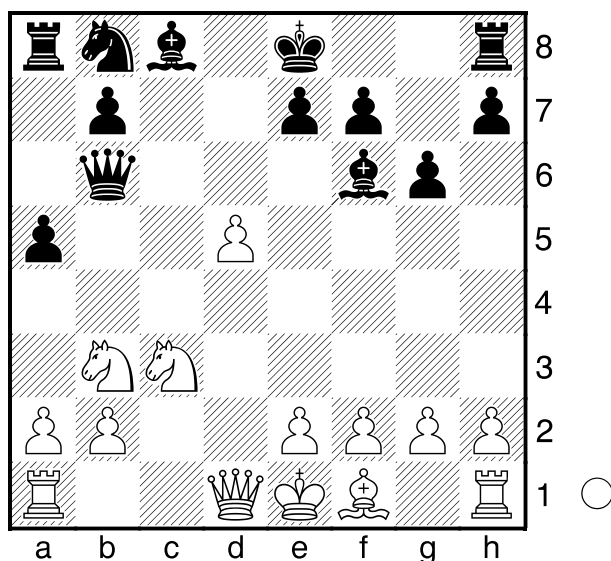
8.Nxd4 Qb6! Black's attacking the knight to gain development tempi and drive it to a place where it can be attacked further. **9.Nb3!**

[9.e3 Qxb2 is satisfactory for Black, for example: 10.Bb5+ Nd7 11.Rc1 0-0 12.0-0 a6 13.Bxd7 Bxd7 14.d6 exd6 15.Nd5 Bd8 16.Qf3 Rc8 17.Rb1 Qxa2 18.Rxb7 Rc5 19.Nb4 Qa4 20.Nxa6 Bc6 21.Nxc6 Rf5 22.Rb4 Qxa6 23.Rf4 Rxf4 24.exf4 Bf6 25.Nb4 Qc4 26.Nd5 Kg7 27.f5 Qd4 28.Rd1 Qe5 29.fxg6 hxg6 30.g3 Re8 31.h4 Bd8 32.Nf4 Qe4 33.Qg4 Bb6 34.h5 Bc5 35.Rf1 Qf5 36.Qxf5 gxf5 37.Rb1 Re7 38.Kg2 Ra7 39.Rb3 Kh6 40.Rf3 Re7 ½-½ Jobava,B (2717)-Radjabov,T (2726) Tashkent FIDE GP 2014 (4)]

9...a5!?

[9...0-0 has been the main try by top players in this position, but I believed the text move is more forcing when I was building my repertoire.]

(Diagram)



10.Qd2?!N is the novelty of this game and a bit of a surprising one to say the least. The point is obviously to defend the b2-pawn, but I feel as if 10.Qc1 is better for that task as it leaves Nd2 open (and obviously not 10.Qc2 which is met with 10...Bf5). But White's main try should've been to counter-play against Black's light squares instead!

[10.e3!

A) 10...a4 11.Bb5+ Bd7 is the main try, for example: 12.Nd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qxd4 14.exd4 Bxb5 15.Nxb5 Ra5 16.Rc1 0-0 17.Nc7 Nd7 18.Kd2 Nf6 19.Rc4 (19.Rhe1 Nxd5 20.Rc4 Rc8 21.Rec1 Rd8 22.Nxd5 Raxd5 23.Rxa4 Rxd4+ 24.Rxd4 Rxd4+ 25.Kc3 Rd6 26.a4 Rc6+ 27.Kd2 Rd6+ 28.Kc2 Kg7 29.Kb3 Kf6 30.a5 Rd5 31.Ka4 Rd2 32.b4 Rxf2 33.Kb5 e5 34.Kb6 e4 35.Rb1 e3 36.Kxb7 Rd2 37.b5 Rd5 38.Kc6 Ke5 39.b6 e2 40.b7 Rd6+ 41.Kc7 Rd1 42.b8Q e1Q 43.Qe8+ 1-0 Flom,G (2460)-Bronstein,O (2396) Petah Tikva GM 2019 (7)) 19...Rd8 20.Re1 Nxd5 21.Nxd5 Raxd5 22.Rxe7 b5 23.Rb4 Rxd4+ 24.Rxd4 Rxd4+

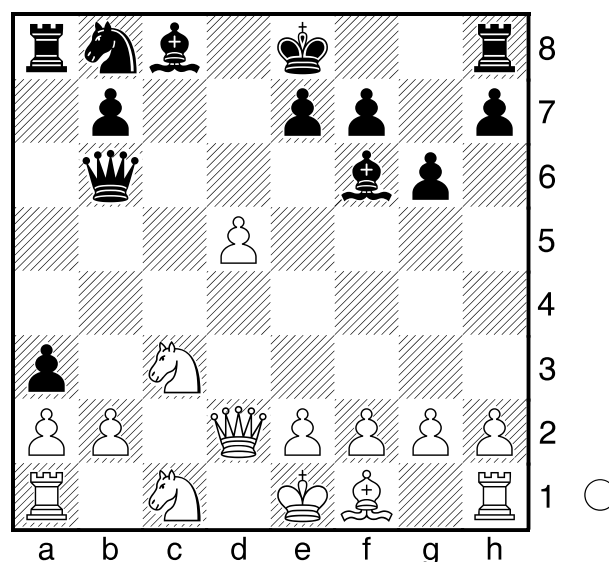
25.Kc3 Rc4+ 26.Kd3 Rb4 27.Kc3 Rc4+ ½-½ Bluebaum,M (2605)-Swiercz,D (2665) Moscow Aeroflot op-A 15th 2016 (2) ½-½ Bluebaum,M (2605)-Swiercz,D (2665) Moscow Aeroflot op-A 15th 2016 (2);

B) 10...0-0 11.Qd2 Rd8 12.Nd4 a4 13.Be2 Qa5 14.Rd1 e6 15.d6 Nc6 16.Ndb5 a3 17.b3 Bg7 18.0-0 Na7 19.Qd3 Bd7 20.Nxa7 Bxc3 21.Nb5 Bb4 22.Nc7 Rac8 23.Bf3 Bc6 24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.Ne8 Qe5 26.d7 Rb8 27.Qc4 c5 28.Qh4 Bc3 29.Qe7 h5 30.Kh1 Qf5 31.f4 Bg7 32.e4 Qxe4 33.Nd6 Qc6 34.Nxf7 Rf8 35.d8Q Rbxd8 36.Nxd8 1-0 Sethuraman,S (2562)-Howell,D (2639) Leiden LCT op-A 7th 2013 (9)]

[10.Nd2!?N can lead to some very interesting positions.]

10...a4 11.Nc1 a3!!

[11...0-0]



Black attempts to punish White's choice of queen placement by marching the rook's pawn straight down the isle! (ew: "aisle" :-). With White's knight blocking Rc1, his pawn is chained to b2.

12.Nb3?+ White's innocuous move

demonstrates the razor-sharp nature of the Grunfeld, instantly dropping the engine's evaluation to -3.3

[White's only attempt to save the position was 12.Rb1!= /̄ 0-0 13.bxa3 Qc7 14.Nb5□ Qe5 15.e3 Rd8 16.d6□ Bd7∞ and while my engine may claim parity, White's position is not pleasant at all.]

[12.b3?? or 12.bxa3 Qa5 13.b4 Qxb4 14.Nd3 Qxc3-+]

12...axb2 13.Qxb2 Qb4?!̄ A little too hasty from my end and demonstrates my need to spend more time evaluating these critical positions. It may look natural but wastes a vital tempo: White is intending Rc1ΔQd2 anyway and this move even puts the unprotected queen in the line of fire.

[(EW): 13...0-0 followed by 14...Bf5 is *winning* acc. to Stockfish 15.1 !?! 14.Rc1 Bf5 15.Qd2 Rc8 I left my computer running while having dinner, and it's -3.58 at depth 46(!).]

[Better was 13...Bf5 14.Rc1]

14.Rc1!̄ Bf5 Developing to an active diagonal and opening the square for Rc8. **15.e3?!-+** Thankfully for me, White gives back the vital tempo to Black.

[The only way to remain in the game is 15.Qd2 0-0 16.Nd1 Qa3 17.e3 Qxa2 18.Qxa2 Rxa2̄ and while Black regains the pawn and White is stuck with passive pieces, Black doesn't have enough active pieces to shut out White from the game completely.]

15...0-0 16.Qd2 Rc8 17.Nd1

To be honest, I didn't expect this move at all, the knight just looks so unnatural on d1.

[17.Ne2 was my expectation, after which Rxc1+ 18.Nbxc1 Qb1 19.Nd4 Bxd4 20.exd4 Be4-+

made me confident in my position.]

[17.Nb5?! Qxd2+ 18.Kxd2 Rxa2+

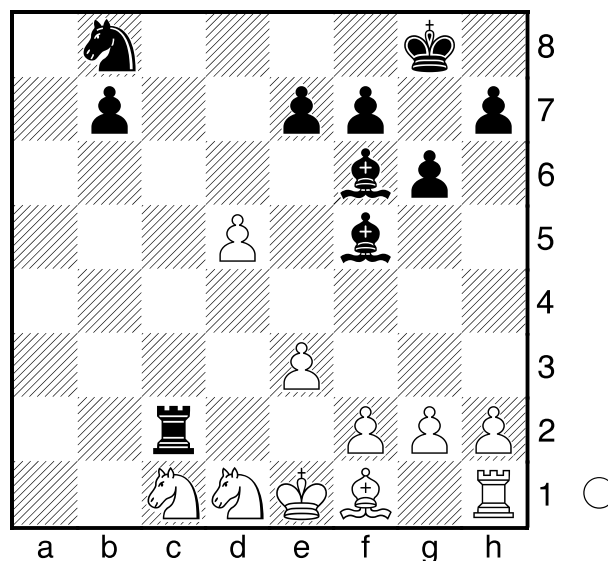
19.Ke1 Rxc1+ 20.Nxc1 Ra1 21.Kd2 Rb1-+ Δ̄b2+ and White's ♞b5 is looking a bit stranded.]

17...Qxd2+ 18.Kxd2 Rxa2+ 19.Ke1 Rxc1

[I had thought of 19...Rcc2 20.Rxc2 Bxc2 21.Nd4 Bxd4 22.exd4 Bxd1 23.Kxd1 Nd7-+ but I stylistically preferred the text move.]

20.Nxc1 Rc2!

[I had pondered about 20...Ra1 as well, but after 21.Nb3 Ra3 22.Nd4 Be4-+ I couldn't find anything concretely winning, so decided against it despite the move being as good as the text move.]



This position instantly screamed "Karpovian" — the great World Champion had a tendency to strangle his opponent's pieces in this manner. (ew: usually as *White* *against* the Grunfeld!) Despite material parity, White's Nd1, Rh1, and even Bf1 are completely pacified at the moment and his king is stuck on the back rank! Though already winning for Black, even I felt a psychological torture just looking at this position from White's point of view! **21.Nd3**

[My expectation was 21.Ne2 although after Na6 22.Ng3 Bd7-+ White isn't faring much better than before.]

21...Na6 22.Nf4 Nc5

[I was debating between this move and 22...Nb4 Both turn out to be fine, but I did enjoy having my knight a little closer to the center action.]

23.Bb5 I hesitate to give this move an inaccuracy since only my silicon friend could realistically continue struggling in this position, but it does allow the final nail in the coffin. **23...g5!** Knocking the knight away from protection of the d3-square. **24.Nh5 Bd3?** ($\Delta Re2$)

[I will be completely honest — the engine's declaration of an error confused me for quite a bit, but it turns out 24...Be5 was a necessary intermezzo in this position, after which 25.Ng3 Bd3 26.Bxd3 Nxd3+ 27.Kf1 Rd2-+ leads to the resulting text position.]

25.Nxf6+?

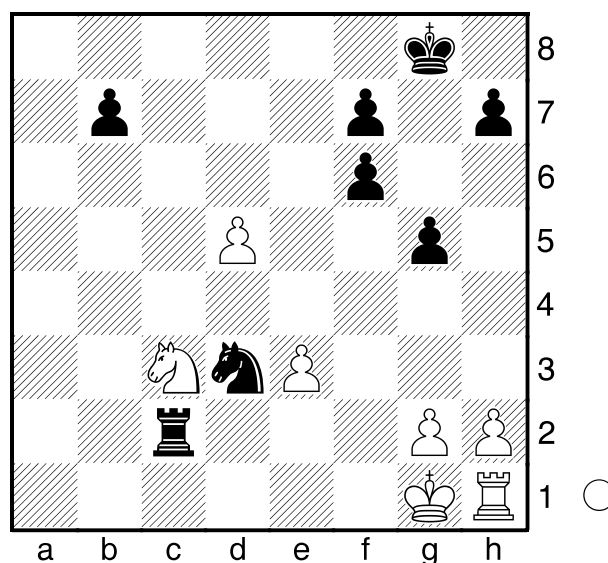
[Fortunately, my opponent also missed the insane defense that slightly keeps White in the game: 25.Bxd3 Nxd3+ 26.Kf1 Rd2 and after 27.d6!! (which I completely missed), Black's king cannot actually reach the pawn due to being blocked by his own e7-pawn, so he is forced to give up on the piece advantage: exd6 28.Nxf6+ Kf8 29.Nc3 Rxf2+ 30.Kg1 Rxf6-+ and White still has some juice left in the tank — although with two extra pawns and the entombed Rh1, Black should still have no difficulty converting this position. (ew: Maybe some of those "?"s should be "?!" since it still looks pretty bad for White...)]

25...exf6 26.Bxd3 Nxd3+ Endgame RN-RN 27.Kf1 Rd2 28.Nc3

[I was prepared for 28.d6 Kf8 29.d7

Ke7 30.Nc3 Rxf2+ 31.Kg1 Rc2 32.Nd5+ Kxd7-+ and White can't take due to threat of ...Rc1#.]

28...Rxf2+ 29.Kg1 Rc2



Threatening both ...Rxc3 and ...Rc1#

30.h4 Rxc3 31.Kh2 Rc1 Not giving White a morsel of reprieve and simply trading down to a completely won endgame. **32.Rxc1 Nxc1** Even without the N/c1, Black still wins this endgame. **33.hxg5 fxg5 34.Kg3 b5 35.Kg4 b4 36.Kf5 b3 37.d6 b2 38.Kf6 b1Q 39.d7 Qg6+ 40.Ke7 Qe6+ 0-1**

B33
 1954
 1780
 2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (3.8)
[TA/Walder,Michael/Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5
 This less tactical line got a good going over in the Carlsen World Championship matches with Caruana and Karjakin, and there are still some interesting ideas to be found. **7...Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8**
 [8...Ne7]

9.a4 This is now debated instead of 9.c4.

9...Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.Bd2

[11.0-0 Nd7 12.Bd2 f5 13.a5 a6
1-0 Kriebel,T (2515)-Lewtak,D (2411)
Legnica Voivoda Cup 34th 2018 (4)
was the order for]

11...a6 12.Na3 Nd7 13.a5± White is slightly better. **13...f5** 0.85/29

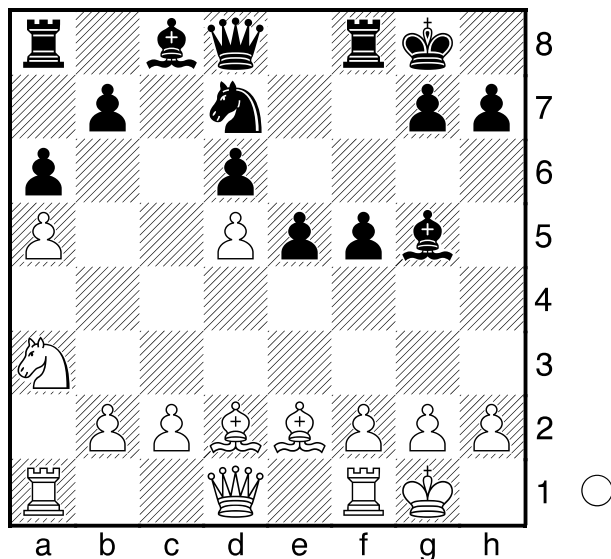
[13...Nf6± 0.35/31]

14.0-0 0.36/32

[14.Nc4± 0.85/29]

14...Bg5 1.67/25

[Black should try 14...e4± 0.36/32]



15.Bb4N 1.21/28

[The precedent game was a quintessential positional grind:
15.Nc4!+- 1.67/25 Bxd2 16.Qxd2 Rf6
17.f4 Rh6 18.Ra3 Rook Lift vs. Rook Lift!
Rb8 19.b4 Kh8 20.Re3 e4 21.Qd4 b5
22.axb6 Qf6 23.Qxf6 Rxf6 24.Rc3 Bb7
25.Rd1 Kg8 26.Na5 Nxb6 27.Nxb7 Rxb7
28.Bxa6 Ra7 29.Bb5 Kf8 30.Rc6 Rb7
31.c4 Nd7 32.Ra1 Ke7 33.Rca6 1-0
Kriebel,T (2515)-Lewtak,D (2411) Legnica Voivoda Cup 34th 2018 (4)]

15...Qc7 1.89/28

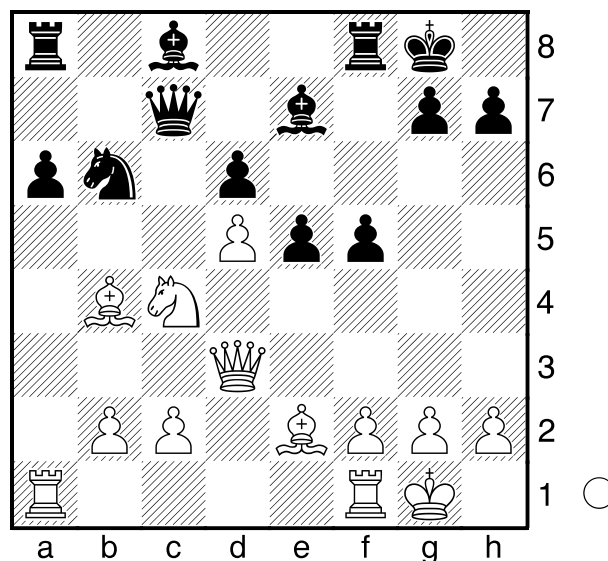
[15...Be7± 1.21/28 is a better defense,

says Mike's cloud analysis, but who's going to retreat now?]

16.Nc4+- Be7 Black is, is who. **17.Qd3 b5?! 2.28/28**

[17...Rf6± 1.46/27 18.Qc3 Rh6]

18.axb6! Nxb6



19.Nxe5! Bb7 6.52/27

[19...dxe5? 20.d6 Bxd6 21.Bxd6+-]
[19...a5 2.32/29]

20.Nc6 Qd7 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.c4

With an extra pawn, the Two Bishops, healthier pawns (two pawn islands vs. three), Black's bishop restrained -- White must just be winning. **22...Nd7**

23.Bc3 Nc5 24.Qd1 Rae8 25.Bh5

Rc8 26.b3 Ne4 27.Bb2 Qg5 28.Re1

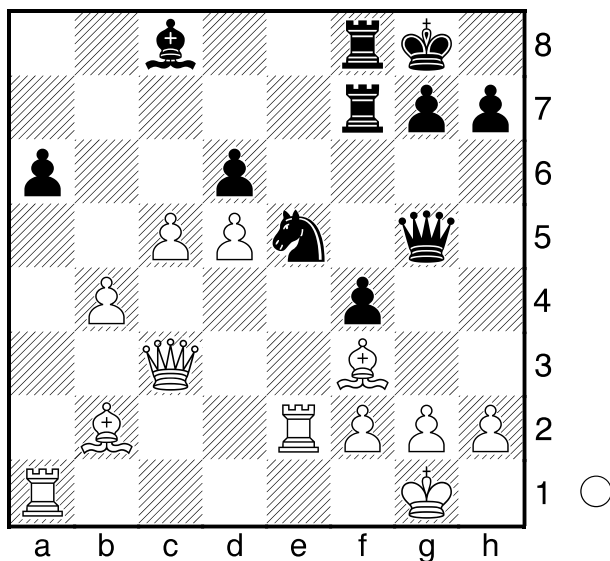
Rc7 29.Bf3 Rcf7 30.Qd4 Bc8 31.Re2

Nc5 32.Qc3 f4 6.91/26

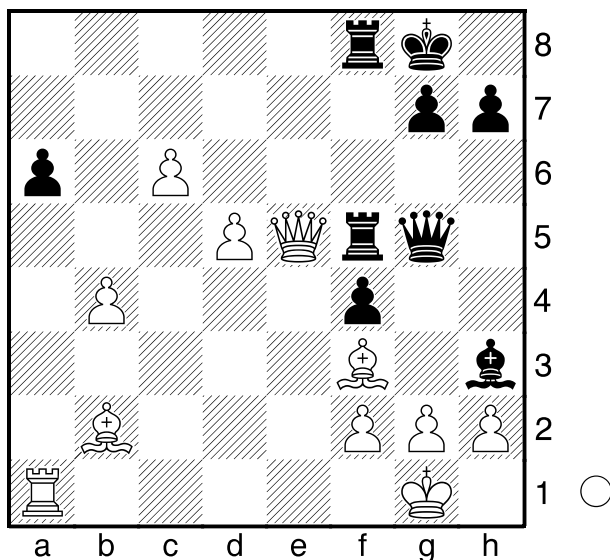
[32...Qg6 4.74/29 33.Ree1 h6]

33.b4 Nd7 34.c5 Ne5

(Diagram)



35.Rxe5 dxe5 36.Qxe5 Rf5 37.Qd4 R5f6 38.c6 Bh3 39.Qe5 Rf5



40.Qxg7+!

[40.Qe6+ is just as good, if you notice Kh8 41.c7 Bxg2 42.h4!]

40...Qxg7 41.Bxg7 Bxg2 42.Kxg2 Rg5+ 43.Kf1 Kxg7 44.Rxa6

Endgame KRR-KRB **44...Kf6 45.c7+**

Ke7 46.Rh6 Black must now prevent d6+.

46...Rg7 47.d6+ The computer

says "White mates." **47...Kd7 48.b5**

Rfg8 49.Bc6+ Kc8 50.b6 White must

have enjoyed that. Certainly an

advertisement for the "safer" 7.Nd5!

1-0

C11

1011

1567

2023 Spring TNM: u1600 (3.22) 21.03.23

[Nolen,Sam]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5

Nfd7 5.Nce2 c5 6.f4!? I needed a

wrinkle to play against the French in this game, and I decided to go with an early

f4. **6...Nc6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.c3 0-0 9.a3**

Nb6 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.b4 Be7

12.Ned4?!

[12.a4 Nc4 13.Ng3 with a balanced position]

12...Bd7 13.Bd3 Rc8 14.0-0

[14.Be3 Nc4 15.Bf2 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 and White is slightly better]

14...Nxd4 15.cxd4 Ba4 16.Qe2 Nc4

17.Bd2? The start of White's problems.

My thinking here was to prepare to put a rook on c1. I figured White was fine after Nxd2 but I didn't pay sufficient attention to Nb2.

[17.g4]

17...Qd7 18.g4? A logical continuation

of my plan in this game after 6. f4, but allows Black to slip in the knife on b2.

[18.Be1 is the engine

recommendation but wasn't easy to find. The bishop is not doing much on d2 but it will take precious time to rotate it to the kingside.]

18...Nb2 At this point Black's idea was

clear to me: 19... Nxd3, 20. Qxd3 Bb5

wins the exchange. **19.Ne1**

[19.Rfc1 Nxd3 20.Qxd3 Rc4

is not as bad for White]

19...Nxd3 20.Nxd3 Bb5 21.Rf3 b6

22.Qf2 Rc4?! This move doesn't do

much. There is no reason for White not to proceed with f5. My fear was

something like 23. f5 Rc2 after which Black can threaten Bg5, creating a double attack on the bishop on d2. However, this was a hallucination I could have avoided with more precise calculation. **23.Be3?** jumping at shadows. **23...Rc3 24.Ne1 Rfc8 25.Bd2 R3c7?** After Black incorrectly declines the rook trade, White is totally fine! The pawn push on the kingside can resume, but I was imprecise in executing it. **26.h4 Ba4 27.g5? Bc2!** Threatening Be4, which White cannot afford. The exchange is forced and Black once again gains entry on the queenside. **28.Nxc2 Rxc2 29.f5?** Ironically, there were many earlier opportunities for me to play f5, which I'd prepared with my choice of 6. f4. However, at this point in the game it sets up the fatal blunder. **29...exf5 30.Rxf5??** "Overloaded defenders" is a motif I am now going to drill alongside forks and skewers. **30...Rxd2 31.Qxd2 Qxf5 32.Qf2 Qd3 33.Rf1 Qg6 34.Qf5 Qxf5 35.Rxf5 Rc4 36.Rf4 Rc3 0-1**

B12
 Chanoff,Eli Kleiner 1210
 Tam,Hoa Long 1460
2023 Spring TNM: u1600 (3.30) 21.03.23
<i>[Tam,Hoa-Long]</i>

(ew: Nice game by Hoa-Long! I've wondered why so many Mechanics' player play 3...c5 against the Advanced Variation Caro Kann; this game shows at least one good reason. If Black gets going, it can be White caught in the center...) **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 e6 5.Be3 Nd7** threatens both pawns **6.Nd2?!** defends neither pawn. If White wants to give up the e pawn for activity, I think White should go for a

more active move. **6...Nxe5 7.Ngf3 Nd7?!** I wanted to keep pressure on the c5 pawn and stay solid, but I'm going to wind up too far behind in development. [7...Nxf3+ 8.Nxf3 Qa5+ and Black is just up a pawn] **8.Nb3** This solidly defends c5 but the knight stands in the way of White's 4-on-2 QS pawn majority. [8.b4 a5 9.c3 b6] **8...Ne7** [8...Ngf6 Instead of going after the bishop, I could try to develop more actively and pick up the c-pawn later by pushing a7-a5-a4. However, maneuvering the knight to f5 is very thematic and I didn't consider this. 9.c4= is not a threat because I can recapture with the knight] **9.c4!?** This looked like a very strong move during the game, as my development is awful and if I trade my center pawns then only White will be playing for a win. However, White will be forced to accept an isolated e3 pawn, keeping me in the game. **9...Nf5** [9...dxc4 10.Bxc4] **10.cxd5 1:49** [10.Bd4? trying to prevent the isolated e pawn doesn't work for White **Nxd4 11.Nfxd4 (11.Qxd4 Bxc5! 12.Nxc5 Qa5+; 11.Nbxd4 e5 12.Nb3 d4** c4 has turned into a liability and c5 is lost) **11...Nxc5**] **10...Nxe3 1:53 11.fxe3 Nxc5** keeping my bishop un-developed, but I want to go after the b3 knight to give my queen access to a5. **12.Nxc5** [12.dxe6? Qxd1+ 13.Rxd1 Nxb3 14.axb3 Bxe6] **12...Bxc5 13.Bb5+ Bd7?** [13...Ke7!? 14.Bc4 getting out of a queen fork on a5. **Bxe3**] **14.dxe6?** [14.Qa4 my king and queen are tied down to d7, so must force a trade

before White can build any additional pressure a6 15.Bxd7+ Qxd7 16.Qxd7+ Kxd7 17.dxe6+ Kxe6 18.Nd4+ White has an isolated pawn and Black has better king activity. If we trade on d4 then White's isolated pawn will be passed and defended easily with O-O-O, but if we don't then my king is too exposed to deal with the coming knight and rook checks. Running to f8 will block in my rook]

14...Bxb5

[14...Qa5+ 15.Kf2 Bxb5 16.exf7+ Kf8 (16...Kxf7 17.Qd5+±)]

15.exf7+ 1:32 Kxf7?? 1:37

[15...Kf8 My rook is blocked in but I'm up a bishop and should be able to grab the pawn and connect my rooks as soon as I can force a queen trade.]

16.Qb3+ Ke7 17.Qxb5 Qb6

offering a queen trade, but any other attempt to defend the bishop will run into White's rooks coming to c1 or d1. I don't want to retreat the bishop to b6 and open myself up to a bunch of queen checks.

[17...Bxe3 18.Qe5+-]

18.Qc4?

[18.Qxb6 Bxb6 19.Kf2±]

18...Bxe3? I completely missed that my b7 pawn hangs after this

[18...Qb4+ 19.Qxb4 Bxb4+ 20.Kf2±]

19.Qe4+ Qe6 20.Qxb7+? 1:17. Lucky for me, this pawn is quite poisonous

[20.Qh4+? g5! 21.Qh5 (21.Qh3 g4+; 21.Qg3 Bf4+-+; 21.Nxg5 Bxg5+-+; 21.Qb4+ Bc5+-+) 21...Bf4+]

20...Kf6 1:21. White is in a tough spot. White's king is very vulnerable and cannot access the dark squares because of my discovery threats along the e file. I'm also threatening ...Rab8, after which White's queen has no light escape squares. 21.Rf1?? this looks like the most natural move by far, but it blunders

mate!

[21.Qb3 Bc5+ (21...Qxb3 22.axb3=) 22.Kf1 Qa6+ 23.Ke1 Rhe8+ 24.Kd1 Qe2+ 25.Kc1 Rac8+] [21.Qb5 Rhe8+]

21...Bf4+ 22.Kd1

[22.Kf2 Qe3#]

22...Rhd8+ 23.Kc2

[23.Nd2 Rxd2+ 24.Kc1 Qc4+ 25.Kb1 Qxf1#]

23...Qc4+ 24.Kb1 Qd3# 0-1



Widjaja,Luke



Dasika,Archit

B11

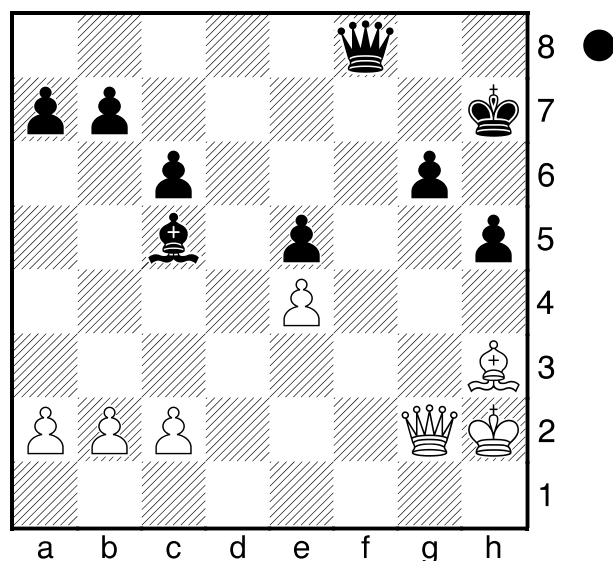
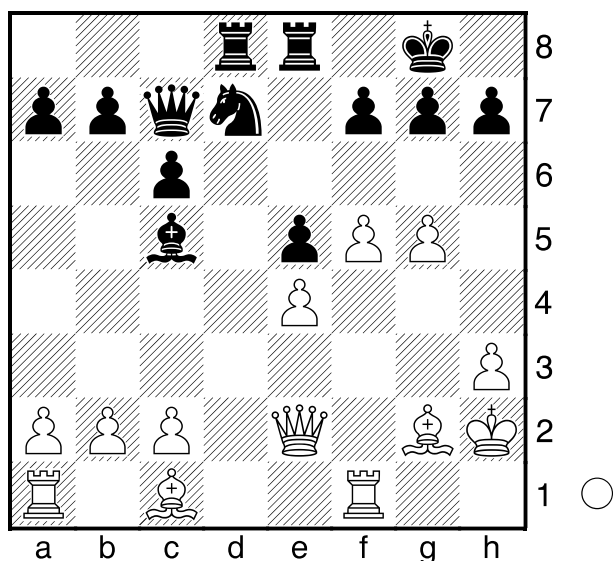
2085

2143

2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 28.03.23 [Winslow,Elliott]

The lines start to clear up at the top of the field. Dasika riskily lets Widjaja set up an imposing pawn attack against his castled king, but somewhere in there it goes wrong for White. 1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Bc5 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.d3 0-0 10.Qe2 dxe4 11.dxe4 e5 12.Na4 Bd6 13.f4 Qc7 14.f5 Rfe8 15.g4 Nc5 16.Nxc5 Bxc5+ 17.Kh2 Rad8 18.g5 Nd7

(Diagram)



19.g6? Breaking too soon! There was no urgency, no danger of Black counter-attacking.

[The computer offers 19.h4 with Bh3 and h5 to tighten the screws before jumping in. Black might be nicely centralized, but there's nothing to do but await White's break.]

19...hxc6 20.fxc6 fxc6 21.Qc4+?!

[Even here, 21.h4 and 22.Bh3 -- although Black has some new squares for defence: b5 22.Bh3 Nf6]

21...Kh7 22.Rf7 Qd6?!

[22...Re7 leaves White wondering just what he's doing there.]

23.Bg5 Nb6 24.Qe2

[24.Qb3±]

24...Rd7 25.Raf1 Qe6 26.Rxd7?!

[26.R7f3! Regroup!]

26...Nxd7 27.h4 Rf8 28.Bh3 Qe8

29.h5 gxh5

[29...Rxf1!]

30.Bf5+ Kh8 31.Qg2? Nf6! 32.Rd1

g6! 33.Bh3 Nh7 Black pushes White out. **34.Rf1?!**

[34.Rd8 Qf7 35.Rd7 Qxd7! 36.Bxd7 Rf2]

34...Rxf1 35.Qxf1 Nxc6 36.Qf6+ Kh7

37.Qxc6 Qf8 38.Qg2

(Diagram)

Qf2 Dasika trusts that the opposite colored bishop ending with two extra healthy pawns is won -- and it is.

39.Qxf2

[39.Bc8 Qh4+ 40.Qh3 Qxe4]

39...Bxf2 40.Kg2 Be3 41.Kf3 Bc1

42.b3 g5 43.Bf5+ Kh6 44.a4 g4+

Black smoothly avoids any hint of blockade by White's bishop and king.

45.Kg2 Kg5 46.c4 c5 47.a5 h4

48.Bc8 h3+ 49.Kh1 Kh4 50.b4 g3

Defence is often said to be harder than attack -- but in this game it was the other way around; Black defended well, and White's attack was inconsistent and premature.

0-1

A51

Hao,Max 2047

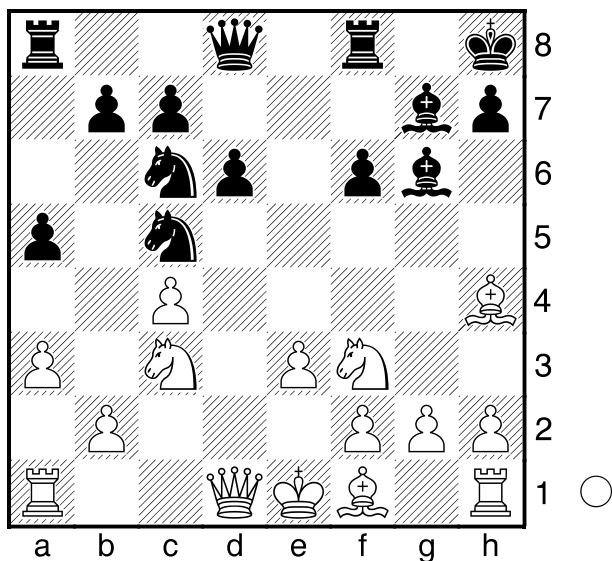
Diaz,Conrado 2262

2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 28.03.23

[Winslow,Elliott]

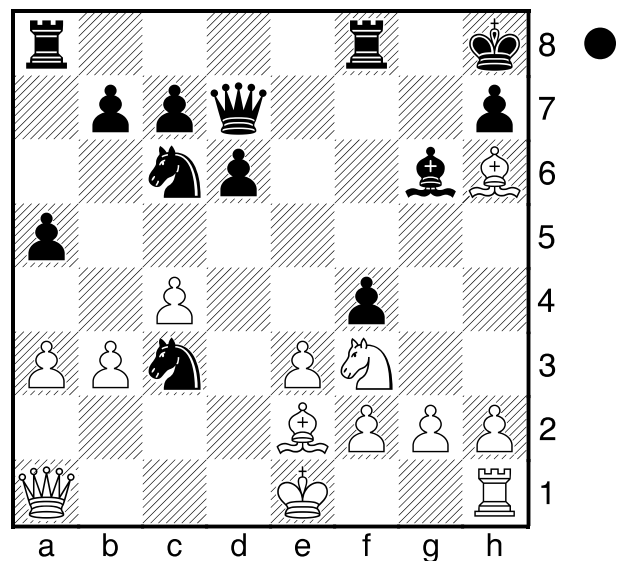
Another bumpy ride. Conrado's offbeat Budapest Gambit didn't seem to faze Max too much, but into an ending set up the classic experienced endgame master vs. expert unclear on the concepts.

Black almost blew it at one point, but White matched Black's error with his own, and Diaz was able to put all his small advantages together for the point.. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 Budapest Gambit -- not common. 3.dxe5 Ne4 The Fajorowicz Variation -- *definitely* not common at all! 4.a3 d6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Qd5 Nc5 7.Bg5 f6 8.exf6 gxf6** This just has to be good for White, but there is a development problem that needs to be resolved before that extra pawn will matter. And White's queen keeps getting kicked around... **9.Bh4 Be6 10.Qh5+ Bf7 11.Qf5 Bg7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.e3 Bg6 14.Qd5+ Kh8 15.Qd1 a5**



16.b3 There. White should just let ...a4 happen, get castled and mobilized.
 [16.Be2 a4 17.0-0 Nb3?! 18.Ra2! Nc5 19.Nd4±]
16...Qd7 17.Be2 f5 18.Rc1 f4 19.Bg5 Bxc3+ 20.Rxc3 Ne4 21.Bh6 Nxc3 22.Qa1

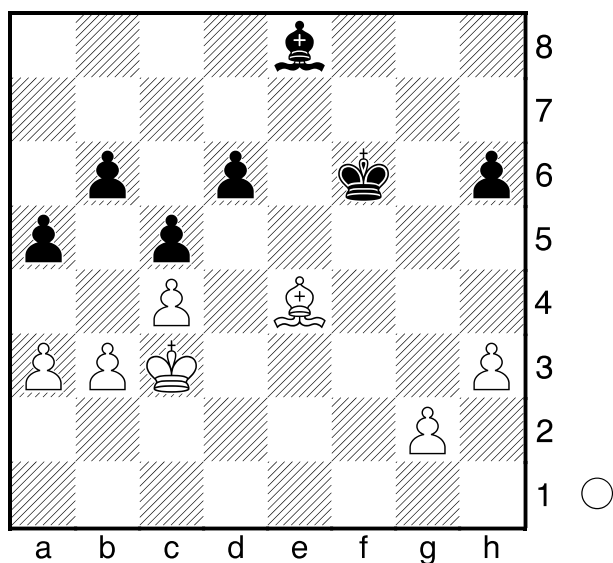
(Diagram)



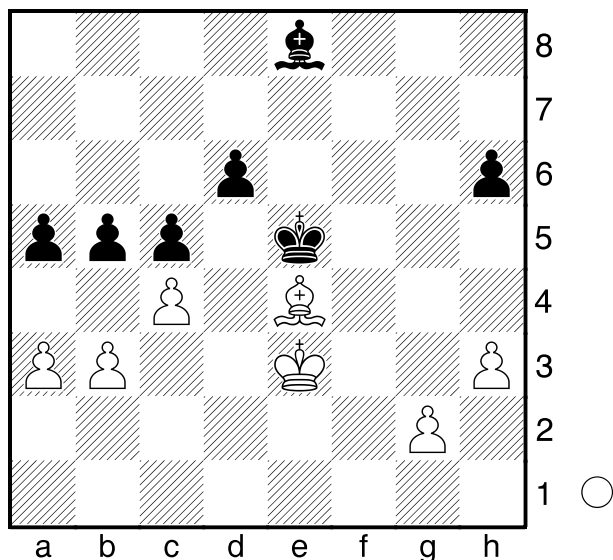
fxe3 23.Qxc3+ Kg8 24.Bxf8 exf2+ 25.Kxf2 Rxf8 26.Re1 Qg7 27.Qxg7+ Kxg7 28.Bd1 b6 29.Ke3 Re8+ 30.Kd2 Ne5 31.Kc3 c5 Computers say: dead drawn. But with fixed pawns on the bishops' color, there are latent possibilities... **32.h3** Another pawn on light?! Max probably had the thought "I'll keep my pawns where they can be guarded by my bishop." Suicide.
32...Nxf3 33.Rxe8 Bxe8 34.Bxf3 Bg6 Still "0.00"... **35.Be2 Be4 36.Bf3**
 Is Max sure about that king and pawn ending?

[36.g3 keeps it "normal"]
36...Bg6 I guess not just now. **37.Be2 h6 38.Bd3 Be8 39.Be4 Kf6**

(Diagram)

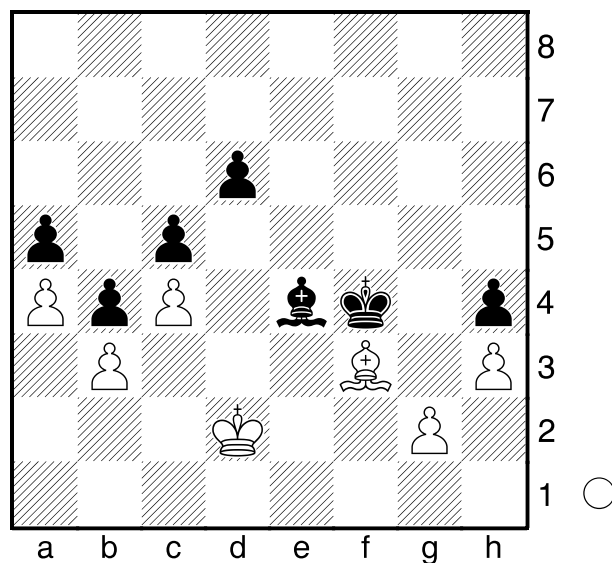


40.Kd3?! It's not too late to control squares nicely with
[40.g3 and h3-h4]
40...Ke5 41.Ke3 b5!

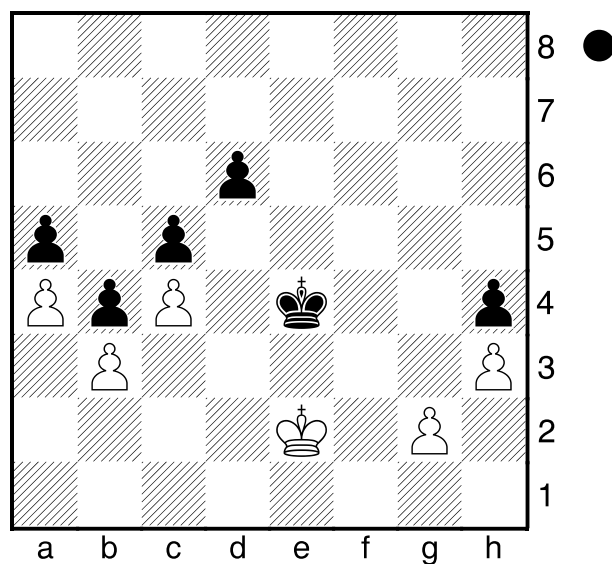


This could just be too much to think about in time pressure. **42.Bd5?? b4??**
[42...a4-+ sets up connected passed pawns, which as usual sweep down the board. White's outside passed pawn remains insignificant. 43.bxa4 bxc4! 44.Bxc4 Bxa4]
43.a4??
[43.axb4! cxb4 44.g3 a4 (44...Bg6 45.Bc6 Bc2 46.Ba4 White can tap

the bishop with Kd2 and get back to e3 right after.) 45.bxa4 Bxa4 46.Kd3= easily stops the b-pawn.]
43...Bg6-+ This isn't the same at all.
44.Kd2 Kf4 45.Bf3 Kg3 46.Bd5 h5 47.Bf3 h4 48.Bd5 Kf2 Diaz takes a detour from the winning plan, but happens onto it soon enough (and there's nothing Hao can do about it, with the b-pawn to tend to). **49.Bf3 Kg3 50.Bd5 Kf4 51.Bf3 Be4!**



The key. Black can use his extra pawn on the queenside, while White's majority is stuck. **52.Bxe4 Kxe4 53.Ke2**



d5 Once. **54.cxd5 Kxd5 55.Kd3 c4+**
Twice! 56.bxc4+ Kc5
0-1

B99

☐ **Ivanenko,Anthony Vladimir 2147**
☒ **Winslow,Elliott 2219**
 2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (4.3) 28.03.23
[Ivanenko,Tony/(Winslow,Elliott)]

(EW): This game is very annoying for me. I've played into this line before, *and* I know how to meet it, **and** I've even written it up that previous time in the TNM archive! ***AND***, I spent all my pregame time investigating the *other* line, 10...b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 0-0!, which I've analyzed before, and then just had a spurious change of mind. This is not the way to do things. In any case, Ivanenko plays an exemplary game, plus his copious notes, including opening references, engine analysis, and thoughts before, during, and after the game, are a tour de force. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** Sicilian Defense: Najdorf Variation. Win or lose, I'm always excited to see this opening show up on the board -- with a rich history and many theoretical ideas, it is 1.e4 opening of champions (alongside the Spanish Opening) and was favored by Fischer and Kasparov in their heyday. **6.Bg5** The old main line, although that title belongs to the English Attack (6.Be3) these days. I was deliberating on whether I wanted to go into this or not, as I had already played this once before and my opponent had undoubtedly prepared for it. However, I decided to bite the bullet and see what he had in store for me. As a show of display, here're the numerous options White had played at top level over the past few

years:

[6.Be3]
 [6.h3]
 [6.Be2]
 [6.Bc4]
 [6.g3]
 [6.a4]
 [6.Bd3!?]

6...e6 7.f4

[7.Qf3 Nbd7 8.0-0-0 Qc7
 has also been tested at top level in recent years, for example: 9.Qg3 h6 10.Be3 b5 11.Bxb5 axb5 12.Ndxb5 Qb8 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.Qxd6 Qxd6 15.Rxd6 Ng4 16.Re1 Nxe3 17.Rxe3 Ne5 18.b3 Ke7 19.Rb6 g5 20.f3 Ba6 21.a4 Rhb8 22.Rxb8 Rxb8 23.Nb1 Kd6 24.Nd2 Kc5 25.Kb2 Rd8 26.Kc3 Kb6 27.Re1 h5 28.b4 h4 29.b5 Bb7 30.h3 Rc8+ 31.Kb3 Rd8 32.Rd1 Kc7 33.Kc3 Ng6 34.Re1 Nf4 35.Nc4 f6 36.a5 Nxg2 37.Ra1 g4 38.hxg4 h3 39.a6 Ba8 40.b6+ Kb8 41.Na5 Nf4 42.Rb1 Ne2+ 43.Kc4 Rd7 44.a7+ Kc8 45.b7+ Rxb7 46.Nxb7 Bxb7 47.Rh1 Nf4 48.Kd4 e5+ 49.Ke3 Kc7 50.Ra1 Ba8 51.Rb1 Bb7 52.Kf2 Ne6 53.Kg3 Nd4 54.Ra1 Ba8 55.Rh1 1-0 Niemann,H (2637)-Albornoz Cabrera,C (2574) Capablanca Memorial Elite 55th Havana 2022 (7)]

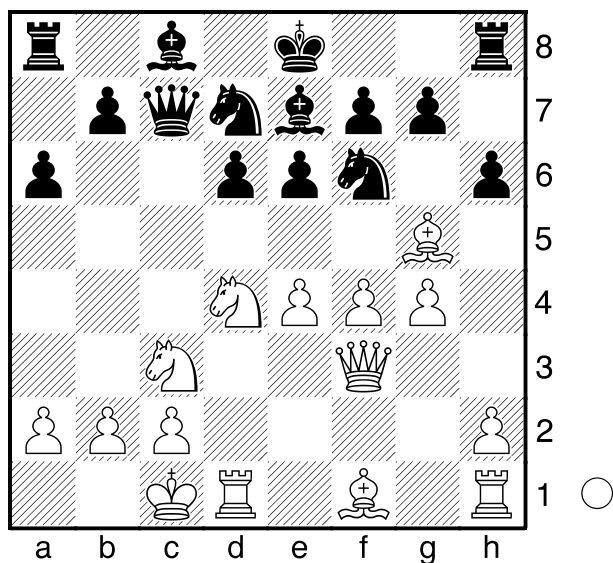
7...Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7

The Three-Piece System. I had previously played this in my very first game at the last TNM so I was a bit hesitant in repeating it, knowing full well that my opponent looked over it, but then I realized that I couldn't remember the 10.Bd3 lines very well when I was recounting them... **10.g4** ...so I decided to stick with the traditional main line. It's amazing how this position has shown up in over 5000 games at this point and yet it never gets boring!

[10.Bd3]

10...h6!?

[10...b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 is the traditional main line and was featured in one of my games: Bxg5+ 14.Kb1 Ne5 15.Qh5 Qd8 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.fxe6 0-0 18.h4 Be7 19.Bh3 f6 20.Nd5 Rc8 21.Bf5 g6 22.Rdg1 Qe8 23.Qh6 Kh8 24.h5 1-0 Ivanenko,A (1712)-Gu,C (1525) New Year's TNM (1)]



This has definitely become one of the major tests to 10.g4 these days, played almost as frequently as the traditional 10...b5 line. The ...h6 here is quite different to the typical three-piece system with ...h6 -- White has already committed to the pawn storm by playing g2-g4 and thus has to play more actively to unearth the Black king. On the other hand, because Black waited so long to kick the bishop, White has already gathered enough resources to release the tension along the h4-d8 diagonal and trade off the dark squared bishop. **11.Bxf6** (EW): 'The big theoretical line, but hardly the only way to go.'

[11.Bh4 (EW): '(which could have happened earlier, had Black tossed in ...h6)' has also been tried, but not to

great success as it scores rather poorly. For example: g5

A) (EW): 12.e5!?

A1) 12...gxh4 13.exf6 Nxf6 (13...Bxf6!?) 14.g5 pushes through when Black's king is in danger.;

A2) 12...dxe5 13.fxg5 hxg5 14.Bg3 is also quite a dangerous pawn sacrifice (and sometimes more!), with White scoring well.;

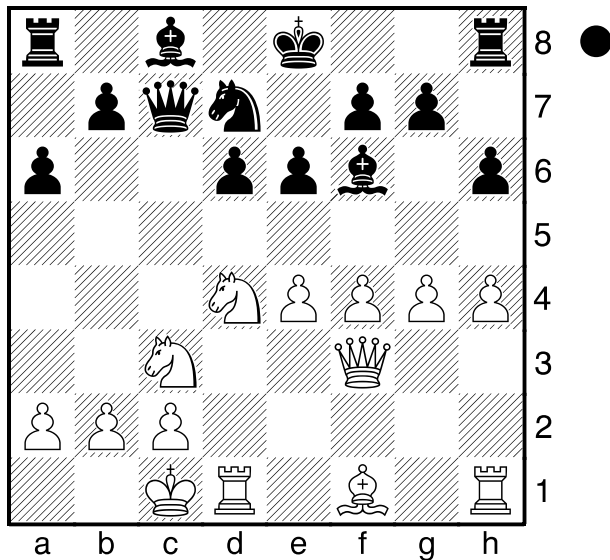
B) (EW) So many players have sleepwalked into 12.fxg5 Ne5 where Black has scored very well, but it's not so simple either.;

C) 12.Bf2 gxf4 13.h4 Ne5 14.Qxf4 Nexg4 15.Qf3 Nxf2 16.Qxf2 Bd7 17.Rg1 Qc5 18.Qh2 0-0-0 19.Nb3 Qe5 20.Qf2 Bc6 21.Nd4 Qc5 22.Qe1 Rhg8 23.Rxg8 Rxg8 24.Nxc6 Qxc6 25.e5 dxe5 26.Qxe5 Qc7 27.Qe3 Ng4 28.Qf3 Ne5 29.Qe3 Bxh4 30.Kb1 Bg5 31.Qa7 Nc6 32.Qf2 Rd8 33.Re1 Bd2 34.Rd1 Bxc3 35.Rxd8+ Nxd8 36.bxc3 Qxc3 37.Bd3 h5 38.Qh4 Qe5 39.Qe7 Qc7 40.Qg5 Qb6+ 41.Kc1 Qd4 42.Qxh5 f5 43.Qf3 Qa1+ 44.Kd2 Qxa2 45.Qg3 Qa5+ 46.Kc1 Qa1+ 47.Kd2 Qa5+ 48.Kc1 Qc7 49.Qg5 Qe5 50.Qe7 Nc6 51.Qf8+ Kc7 52.Qf7+ Kb6 53.Bc4 Qa1+ 54.Kd2 Qd4+ 55.Bd3 Qf4+ 56.Kd1 Qg4+ 57.Kc1 Qg5+ 58.Kb2 Qe7 59.Qg6 a5 60.Qg1+ Qc5 61.Qg8 Qb4+ 62.Kc1 a4 63.Qxe6 a3 64.Bxf5 Qb2+ 65.Kd2 a2 66.Qe3+ Qd4+ 67.Qxd4+ Nxd4 0-1 Dardha,D (2604)-So,W (2771) Titled Tuesday intern op 27th Sep Early Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (5)]

[11.Qh3!? has to be investigated further.]

[Even 11.h4!? can't be brushed off so

easily.]
11...Bxf6 12.h4



No point in beating around the bush -- White has already played g2-g4, intending the pawn storm, so the best way is forward, adding more fuel to the fire and targeting the g5-square.

12...Qb6 (EW): '?' This is the "old main line" in the 10...h6 variation, attacking the white knight to drive it from the center and then placing the knight on the nice c5-square. However, recent practice has shown that Black exerts more pressure with the c5/b6 pieces swapped.

[(EW): 'Theory has moved on, to'
12...Nb6!? 13.g5 Bxd4 14.Rxd4 Qc5
is the modern try these days, with one
game going: 15.Rd2 Bd7 16.Be2
Rc8 17.gxh6 Rxh6 18.h5 Na4
19.Nxa4 Bxa4 20.c3 Bc6 21.Rhd1
Ba4 22.b3 Bb5 23.c4 Bc6 24.Kb2
Rd8 25.Qg3 Bxe4 26.Rd4 Qf5
27.Qxg7 Rh7 28.Qg1 Qf6 29.Qg5
Qxg5 30.fxg5 d5 31.cxd5 exd5
32.h6 Ke7 33.Bc4 Rhh8 34.Re1 f5
35.Rxd5 Rdf8 36.Re5+ Kd6
37.Re6+ Kc7 38.g6 b5 39.g7
1-0 Brkic,A (2621)-Van Foreest,J
(2691) FIDE Grand Swiss Riga 2021

(7) (EW): 'Black can play better, and I intend to next time!']

13.Nde2!? I quite like this knight maneuver personally, as I find the knight better placed towards the center, where it can spring to f4 at a moment's notice.

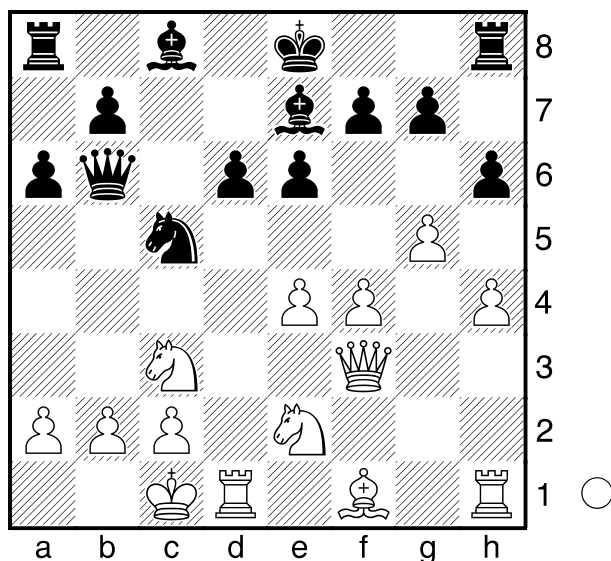
[13.Nb3 (EW) 'is the other move, also good.' Be7 14.Kb1 Nc5 is the more frequent alternative attempt, but I find the knight rather misplaced on b3 where it just serves as a "hook" for enemy pieces. 15.g5 (15.Nd4 Bd7 16.Bg2 0-0-0 17.g5 Kb8 18.Rd2 hxd5 19.hxd5 Rxd2+ 20.Bxd2 Rh8 21.Bg2 g6 22.Rd1 Na4 23.Nxa4 Bxa4 24.Qa3 Bd7 25.e5 Bf8 26.exd6 Bxd6 27.Nc6+ Bxc6 28.Qxd6+ Qc7 29.Qd4 e5 30.Qg1 Bxg2 31.Qxg2 exf4 32.a3 Rd8 33.Rf1 Qe5 34.a4 f6 35.gxf6 Qxf6 36.Qg4 g5 37.Rg1 Rd2 38.Re1 f3 39.Qg3+ Ka7 40.Qc7 f2 41.Rf1 Re2 42.Ka2 Qc6 0-1 Perunovic,M (2534)-Kempinski,R (2561) EU-chT (Men) 14th Plovdiv 2003 (5.3)) 15...Bd7 16.f5 hxd5 17.hxd5 0-0-0 18.fxe6 Bxe6 19.Bh3 Bxd5 20.Nd5 Qc6 21.Rd2 Bf6 22.Rxd5 Bxd5 23.Ne7+ Kc7 24.Nxc6 Nxb3 25.axb3 Kxc6 26.Bxe6 Rxd2+ 27.Qxd2 fxe6 28.Qh7 Rd7 29.Qh8 e5 30.Qc8+ Rc7 31.Qe6 Rd7 32.Qc4+ Kb6 33.Qc8 Rc7 34.Qd8 Kc6 35.b4 Bh6 36.c4 b6 37.c5 dxc5 38.bxc5 Kb7 39.Qd5+ Kb8 40.Qd6 1-0 Guseinov, G (2650)-Kokarev,D (2588) Khanty-Mansiysk Governor Cup 2008 (5)]

13...Nc5

[13...Be7 14.g5 Nf8!? is an idea that still hasn't been tested at high level, where Black intends to play ...d7/g6 and control the critical f4/e6 squares. It isn't scary, but does require rather precise play from White to counter. 15.Kb1 Bd7 16.Nd4 hxg5 17.hxg5 Rxh1 18.Qxh1 0-0-0

19.Qh8 Ng6 20.Qxg7 Nxf4
21.Nce2± and the engine tends to favor White in this position, although proving that advantage is a task in and of itself.]

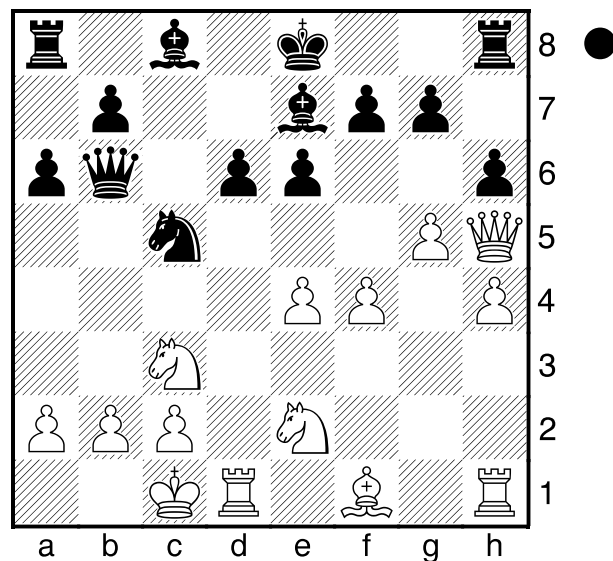
14.g5 Be7



I had been slightly worried since the 10th move since I realized that my memory of this sideline was ending in this position, which is still very much critical and not easy to play. However, due to calculating it out ahead of time, I didn't panic and simply stopped myself for a deep think in this position. Black's plan is quite evident: he wants to play ...♗d7, followed by ...♖c8, and then bust open White's ♔-side with ...♞a4. But what about White? Where does his advantage lay? Well for starters, he has a massive ♔-side space advantage. But how does he use it? 15.g6 is main try and it is engine-approved, but I found it releases the tension too quickly. White would very much like to play 15.f5, but it runs into 15...hxg5. After struggling to figure out how to fit in the move, lo and behold...! **15.Qh5!±**

[15.f5!?]

[15.g6!?]



Out of the 37 games in my Mega Database, several of which were played by top GMs, this engine-preferred move was shockingly only played twice! The concept behind it is relatively simple: White wants to force f4-f5 by pinning the h6-pawn to ♖h8. In addition, there's also the added bonus of threatening the f7-pawn, which means it's not so easy for Black to castle ♔-side anymore. (EW) '?! This vies for top spot with 15.f5! and 15.g6!?' **15...g6** Only move really, f4-f5 was being threatened and Black couldn't really afford it.

[For an example line if Black allows: 15...Bd7?! 16.f5 exf5? (16...Bc6 would be Black's best try: 17.fxe6 Nxe6 18.g6!! 0-0-0 19.gxf7± Δ♗h3 and Black's position is looking rather porous.) 17.Nd5! That's the point! White opens up d5-square for his knight, which quickly becomes powerful in the center. Qa5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Nec3+- And while Black may have a pawn advantage, his loose pawns and pieces pose the question of how he will be solving the dilemma of the unsafe king.]

16.Qf3 The queen sulkingly retreats back to its original position, but the

objective has been achieved: Black weakened his ♔--side pawn structure and introduced a second "hook" on g6. The second prong of this attack has been revealed. **16...Bd7?!±** I feel as if my opponent might have misjudged the dynamics of this position and thought he had more time to parry the ♔-side assault. Unfortunately, it turns out that he was just one tempo too short to afford this.

[Black's best try was 16...hgx5 (EW): "!!" although after 17.hxg5 Rxh1 18.Qxh1 Bd7 19.Qh8+ Bf8 20.Nd4 Black is practically forced to resort to the sad-looking ((EW) 20.Qg8?! Bc6! intending ...Qc7 and ... 0-0-0.) 20...Qd8± to defend his position, with the intention of ...♔e7. Black doesn't have any obvious weaknesses to play against, but it does leave a sour taste having to give up all your initiative and erect a barricade this early into the game. (20...0-0-0? 21.Qf6± White's activity on the ♔--side is too overwhelming for White and the pawns will begin falling in short order.)]

[16...h5? Winslow,Elliott: '?!' 17.f5! (Predecessor: 17.Ng3 Bd7 18.f5 0-0 19.f6 Bd8 20.Nxh5 Bc6 21.Rxd6 Bc7 22.Rd1 Be5 23.Ng3 Bxc3 24.bxc3 Na4 25.h5 Qb2+ 26.Kd2 Rfd8+ 27.Bd3 Qxc3+ 28.Ke2 Nb2 29.hxg6 fxg6 30.f7+ Kf8 31.Rdf1 Nxd3 32.cxd3 Qc2+ 33.Ke3 Rxd3+ 34.Kf4 Rxf3+ 35.Rxf3 Kxf7 36.Kg4+ Kg7 37.Nf1 Qg2+ 38.Rg3 Qxh1 39.Ne3 Bxe4 40.Rh3 Bf5+ 41.Nxf5+ exf5+ 42.Kg3 Qg1+ 43.Kh4 Qg4# 0-1 Li,E-Chen,D (1854) PNWCC Online blitz JP 8th Chess.com INT 2020 (5); 17.Bh3 Winslow,Elliott) 17...Bd7 (17...gxf5?! 18.exf5 exf5?? 19.Nd5 Qd8 20.Nd4+- would just be horrible for Black with his

misconstrued pieces.) 18.Bh3 gxf5 19.Rhf1! Avoiding the skewer with ♕c6. 0-0-0 20.exf5+- and the position is already looking quite bad for Black, with the lack of space for his pieces and no initiative whatsoever.]

17.h5! Only move. It's now or never for White, he must use the ♔-side initiative before Black castles and firmly consolidates his pieces in the center.

(EW): '±!' **17...hxg5?** Another misstep, perhaps not realizing how necessary it is to keep the h-file closed as Black's ♖h8 is a much more useful defender than White's ♖h1 an attacker.

[Black needed to give up on the pawn: Winslow,Elliott: 'Black could try to hold with' 17...0-0-0 18.hxg6 fxg6 19.gxh6 (or 19.Rxh6 Winslow,Elliott Rxh6 20.gxh6 Rh8) 19...Bf8 (19...Rh7 Winslow,Elliott) 20.h7 Bg7 21.Bg2± and while h7 will remain a thorn in Black's side for many moves to come, his pieces at least enjoy activity.]

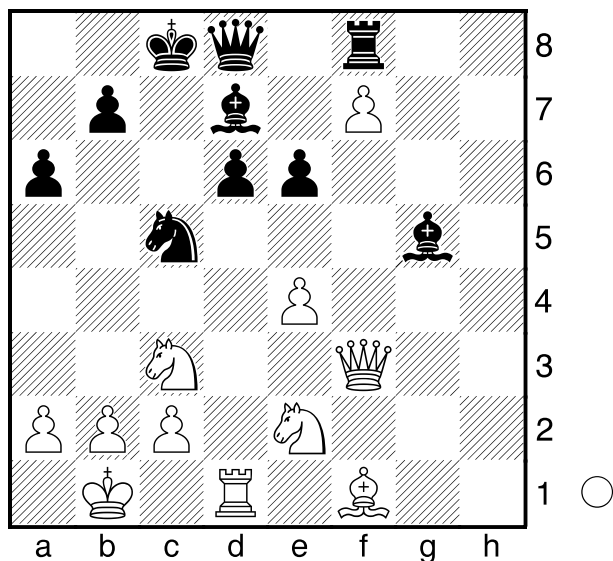
18.hxg6 0-0-0 At this point, it was really a matter of picking the lesser of two evils for Black and I agree with it, as the other move provides White with many choices.

[Worse is 18...Rxh1? 19.Qxh1 (Or White could elect to drag the Black king out of safety: 19.gxf7+ Kxf7 20.Qxh1 gxf4? 21.Nxf4+- where Black has a daunting task of defending his king.) 19...0-0-0 20.Qh7! (Even 20.g7 looked scary to my eye with Rg8 21.Qh7 Qd8 22.b4 Na4 23.Nxa4 Bxa4 24.f5± where White's g7-pawn is secured by Black's own interfering pawn structure, although I couldn't find anything concrete after this during the game.) 20...Re8 21.Qxf7+-]

19.Rxh8 Rxh8 20.gxf7 Rf8 21.fxg5 Bxg5+ 22.Kb1 And after a quick series

of moves between us — Black is struck with a decision: how should he continue? I was already enjoying my position with the extra pawn and was planning on consolidating via ♖h3-♖f1/g1-g8. Thus, Black's biggest challenge to White would be challenging the f7-pawn's presence...

22...Qd8



...which my opponent wisely chooses to do. **23.b4!?** It seems as if I must play at least one flashy, yet completely unnecessary move every single game. While pondering over 22...♕d8, I realized that the move isn't quite as innocuous as it first seemed, so I was trying to work out every variation for 23. ♖h3 and was getting close but hadn't solve every issue with it. Likewise, I tried 23.e5 and was still unsatisfied with it. Dismayed, I asked myself, "What would Stockfish do?" And came up with the solution: whole board play! Now that my opponent has focused his attention onto the ♖-side pawn, I can shift mine to the ♕-side to rattle his loose knight. My point is clear: bring back the queen and lose your tempo or lose your knight. And now here I am, sitting in front of Stockfish as my engine shakes his head at me. (EW): '?!'

[Turns out my original idea works: 23.Bh3! where I wasn't certain about Qf6 (23...Bf6 had an easy solution in 24.b4!!+- and now both ♖d8 and ♗d7 are overloaded with squares they need to protect.; 23...Qe7 presented no problems either after 24.Rf1+- when the pawn is protected and White gets to consolidate his advantage.) 24.Qh5 Rxf7 and now this was the sequence I missed: 25.e5! dxe5 26.b4 Na4 27.Ne4+- Δ♘d6+ / ♕xf7, winning the exchange.] [Turns out 23.e5 works too: dxe5 24.Bg2 Qf6 25.Qg4! Sidestepping the challenge and threatening ♗g5. Rxf7 26.b4 Na4 27.Ne4+- with similar ideas as before.]

23...Qb6 White's plan worked, but it comes with a price: he must endure a series of only moves to retain his advantage. Fortunately, I already had the idea in mind, so it didn't prove much of a challenge. (EW): '!' Right back.'

24.a3 ♖ a5 25.Na2 ♖

[I had briefly considered 25.Rd4? but realized that after axb4 26.axb4 Na6= The rook is just awfully placed.]

25...axb4

[25...Na4!? Winslow,Elliott]

26.axb4!! White needs to commit to the b4-pawn as ♘a2 serves the important role of guarding both the c3- and b4-squares.

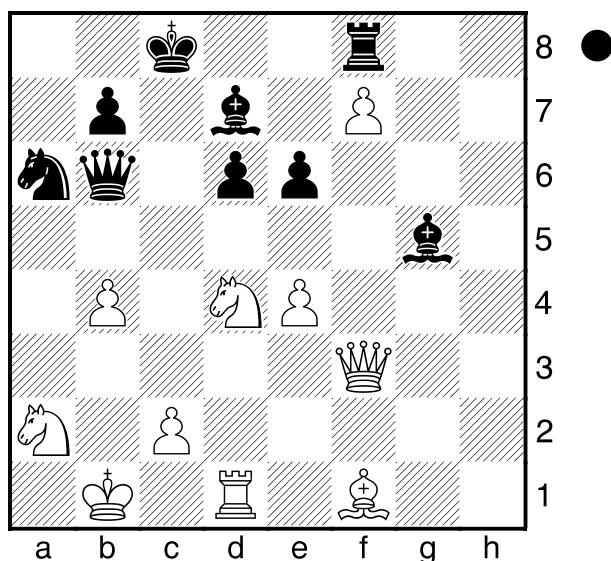
[26.Nxb4? just runs into Na4 (or 26...Qd8 where 27.Bh3 Qf6=) 27.Bh3 Qb5 28.Bg4 Qxe2 29.Qxe2 Nc3+= where Black's active bishops means that the 3P vs 2P endgame is just a dead draw.]

26...Na6

[26...Na4 runs into a long, almost forced sequence: 27.Nd4 e5 28.Nf5 Rxf7 29.Bc4! Taking control of the key a2-g8 diagonal. Rf8 30.Bb3 Kb8 31.Qg2 Bf6 32.Nxd6+- where White's

more active and better placed minors provides the full compensation he needs to convert the pawn-up endgame.]

27.Nd4



White plays the last necessary move of the sequence and emerges with a very nice position. All that's left is to trade a few pieces off the board to consolidate and press the pawn advantage into a winning endgame. (EW): '!' **27...e5** (EW): '?!' **28.Bxa6?! I** would hesitate to call this a mistake as White retains the advantage but it unnecessarily complicates the position. Fortunately, my opponent was in time trouble by now, so he didn't notice the proper continuation (or perhaps unfortunately(?), as I was pressured to prevent him from thinking on my time — I should've spent more than 3 minutes on this move!)

[28.Nf5 Winslow,Elliott]

28...bxa6?

[At first I was worried that I didn't account for 28...exd4 but after 29.Bc4+- I realized the position is actually good for White.]

[However, I really started to panic when I saw that after 28...Qxa6 Winslow,Elliott: '!'

A) I didn't see 29.b5 at the time, which requires quite a precise series of moves: (EW): '!' Qa4 30.Nb3 Qc4 31.Qg3 Bd8 (31...Be7 Winslow,Elliott 32.Nc3±) 32.Rxd6 Rxf7 33.Rd5+- where White is compensated by the pressure against the loose bishops and unsafe king.;

B) 29.Nf5? Black had the superb defense of 29...Be6! targeting ♖a2 30.Nxd6+ Kb8 31.Nc1 Be7= and White cannot actually hold onto the f7-pawn.]

29.Nf5 Rxf7 30.Qh5

[And obviously not 30.Nxd6+??

Qxd6+- where it is Black's turn to play for a win.]

[Turns out my other consideration was just as good: 30.Rxd6 Rxf5 31.Qc3+ Qc7 32.exf5+-]

30...Bxf5 31.Qxf7

[I had also considered 31.exf5!? which after Rxf5 32.Qg6!+- is just as winning for White.]

31...Bxe4 32.Qg8+ Qd8

[32...Bd8 33.Qg4+-]

33.Qc4+

1-0

A96
 Admassu,Yonathan **1647**
 Toledo Guerrero,Fernando **1597**
 2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (4.13)
 [Winslow,Elliott]

This game is an epic; a broad-scope Dutch Defence, deep play in the center, a kingside attack that really should have ended it in Black's favor, and eventually into an impossible-to-fathom king and pawn ending where the final battle is decided. **1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Qc2 Nxc3 9.Qxc3 a5 10.b3**

Bf6 11.Bb2 Nc6 12.Rad1 Qe8 13.Qd2

[13.Qe3!?]

13...e5! 14.d5

[14.dxe5! dxe5 15.Ne1±]

14...Ne7

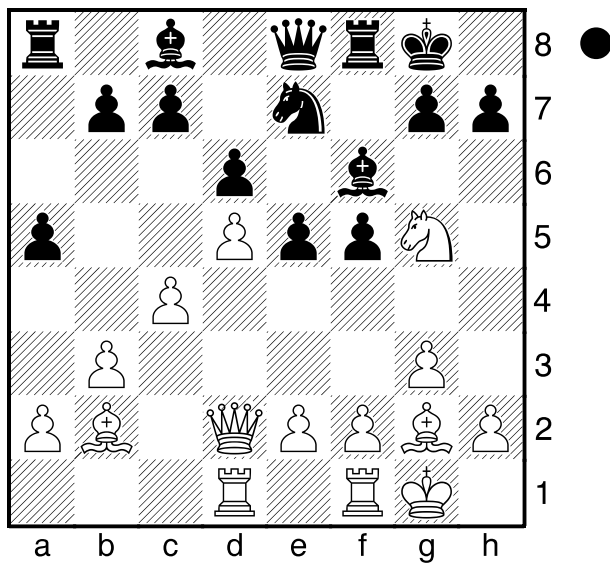
[14...Nd8!? 15.e3 b6]

[14...Nb4! 15.a3 Na6 16.Qxa5 f4]

15.Ng5?

[15.c5 Qh5]

[15.e3 Bd7 (15...Ng6; 15...Qh5)]



15...f4?

[15...Bxg5 *MUST* be taken before it lands on e6! 16.Qxg5 f4± Now it's just about Black's moving forward on the kingside, with no distractions.]

16.Ne6! Bxe6 17.dxe6 Qh5?!

[17...Qc8 18.e3 fxc3 19.hxc3 a4 (19...Qxe6 20.Bxb7±)]

18.Bxb7 Bg5?!

[18...Rab8]

[18...Rae8]

19.Qd3 Rab8 20.Be4 Rf6 21.Kg2 Rh6 22.Rh1

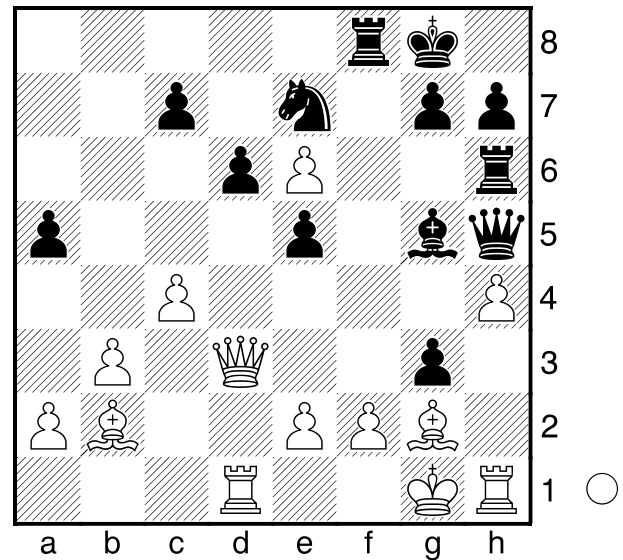
[22.h4! is a tactical defense, leading to a trade of queens and a won game: Bxh4 23.Rh1 Qg4 24.Qf3! Qxf3+ (24...Qg5 25.Bc1!) 25.exf3! Bg5 26.Rxh6 Bxh6 27.Bc3+-]

22...Qh3+± 23.Kg1 Rf8 24.Bg2

Yes, White really did castle on move six!

[24.Bc3!+-]

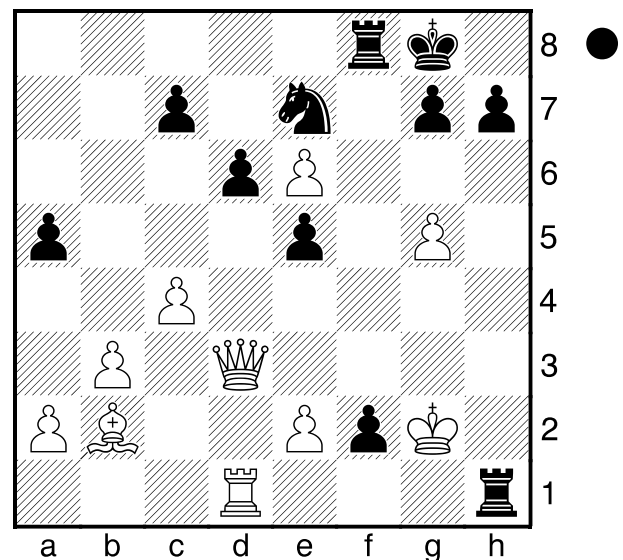
24...Qh5 25.h4! fxc3



26.hxc3??

[26.fxc3+-]

26...gxf2+ 27.Kf1 Qxh1+ 28.Bxh1 Rxh1+ 29.Kg2



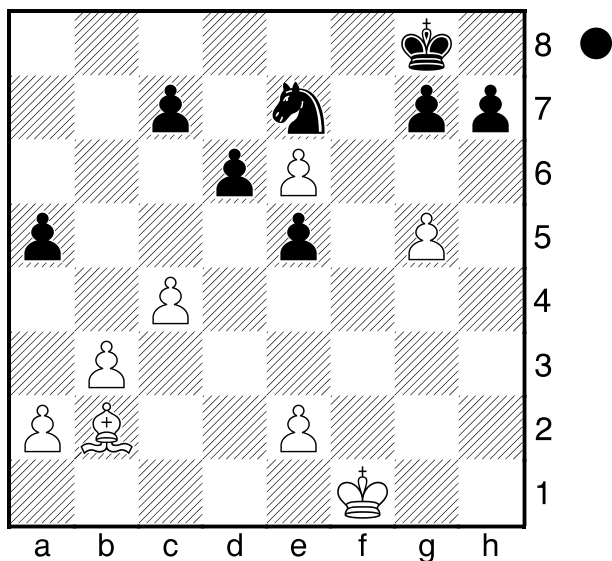
Rxd1?

[29...f1Q+-+]

[29...Re1!+- by a LOT]

30.Qxd1± /± 30...f1Q+ 31.Qxf1 Rxf1 32.Kxf1

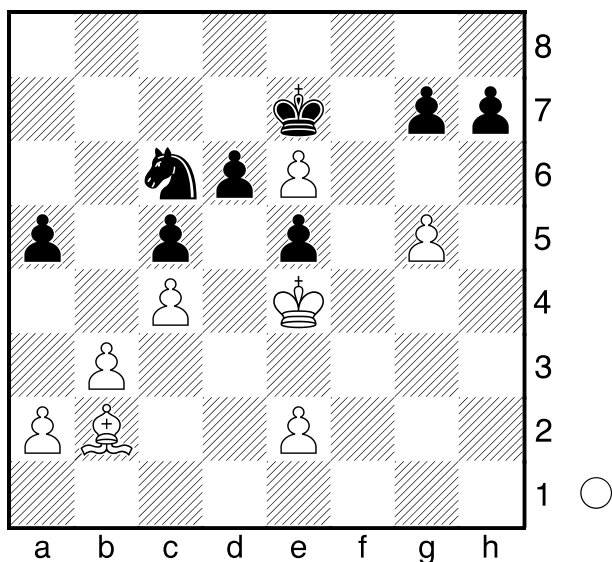
(Diagram)



c5?!

[32...Nc6]
 [32...Kf8 33.Bc3 Nc6 34.g6 hxg6
 35.Kg2 Ke7 36.Kh3 Kxe6 37.Kg4
 Black is certainly the better, but
 White could easily end up drawing
 here.]

33.Kf2 Kf8 34.Kf3 Nc6 35.Ke4 Ke7



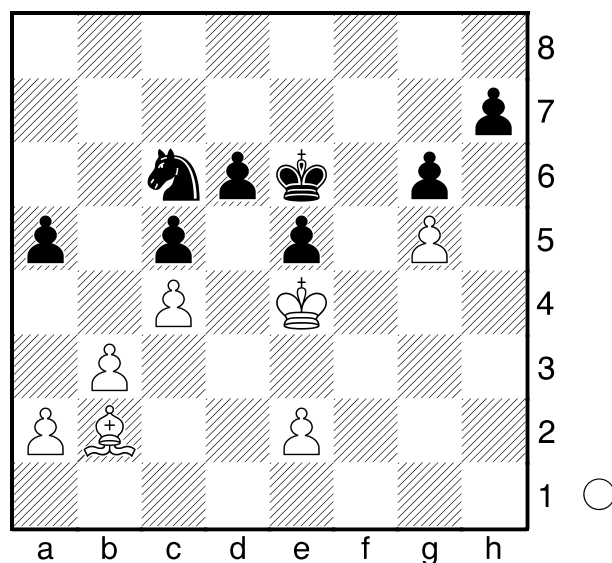
36.Kf5?

[36.Bc3 Kxe6 37.e3=]

36...g6+?

[36...Nd4+! wins whether or not White
 takes the knight or loses the e-pawn.
 37.Bxd4 exd4-+ (37...cxd4??

38.a3+-)]
37.Ke4= Kxe6



38.e3?

[38.a4=]

[38.Bc3=]

38...Kd7?=-

[38...Nd8! 39.Bc3 Nf7 40.Bxa5
 Nxb5+ 41.Kd3 h5 42.Ke2 (42.Bd8
 h4) 42...Ne4-+ after ...g5 Black's
 kingside takes care of itself, while the
 king stops the a-pawn. 43.Kf3 d5!
 44.a4 g5!-+ (44...Ng5+-+)]

39.Bc3 Nb4 40.Bxb4 axb4 41.Kd5=

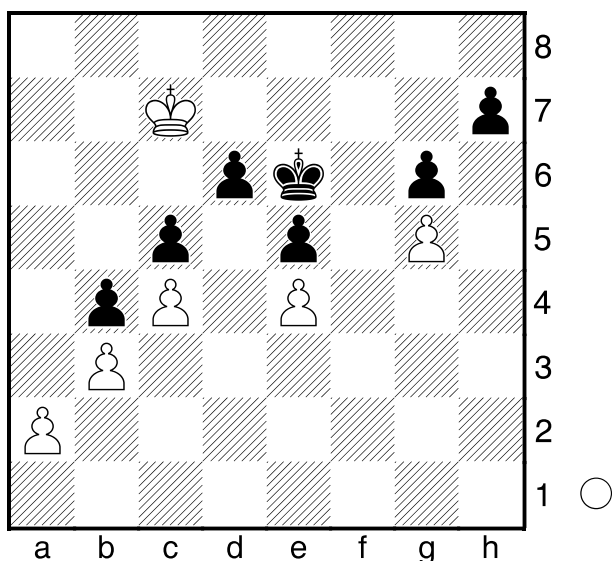
Ke7 42.Kc6! Ke6

[42...e4 43.Kd5 Kd7 44.Kxe4 Ke6=]

43.e4 (only move for White) 43...Ke7

44.Kc7! Ke6!

(Diagram)



45.Kd8?

[45.Kc6=]

45...Kf7!-+

[45...h6!-+]

[45...h5!-+]

46.Kd7 Kg7?? This loses a result-changing tempo to check!

[46...h5!-+ 47.gxh6 g5! 48.Kxd6 g4 49.Kxe5 g3 50.h7 Kg7 51.Kd5 g2 52.Kxc5 g1Q+ 53.Kxb4-+ Yes, White takes all of Black's remaining pawns -- but the queens handles the little White guys handily. White can drag it out, but no draw (remember, every pawn move starts the 50-move count over again.).]

[46...h6!-+]

47.Kxd6 h5 48.gxh6+ Kxh6 49.Kxe5 Kg7 50.Ke6! g5 51.Kf5 Kf7 52.Kxg5 Ke6 53.Kf4 Kd6 54.e5+ Ke6 55.Ke4 Ke7 56.Kd5 A catastrophe for Fernando, so close! But credit to Yonathan for hanging in there. One can see the influence of his compatriot from Stockton, Ed Lewis, the "objective reality be damned" approach.

1-0



Krayushkin,Igor



Vandenhoven,Clarke Raymond

2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (4.15)

[Vandenhoven,Clarke Raymond]

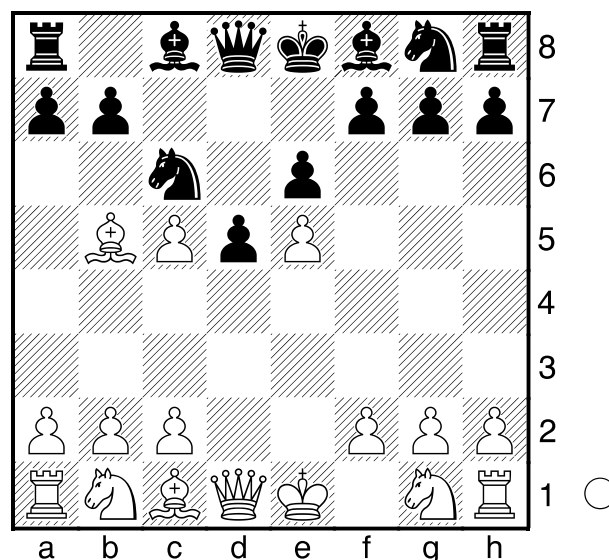
B12

1726

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 Nc6

One of the two moves Black has available here (other being the immediate e6), but I saw that my opponent had handled the opening inaccurately last time they faced it (luckily there are many people at the Mechanics who play this c5 Caro Kann), so I went for my less-preferred Nc6.

5.Bb5 e6

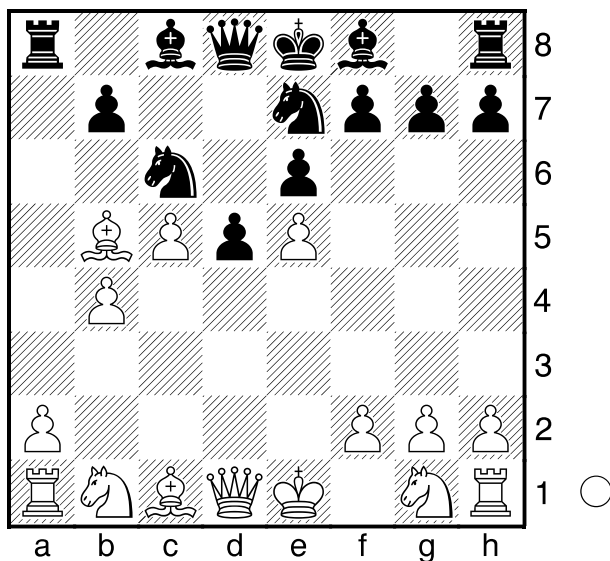


6.b4?! Although this succeeds in defending the pawn, Black can strike at the pawn and leave White with a permanent weakness on b4. **6...a5 7.c3 axb4**

[7...Bd7 Slightly more accurate, forcing White to immediately give up his good LSB to try to keep the pawn (both of which are very important because they're either central pawns OR defend a central pawn).]

8.cxb4 Nge7?!

(Diagram)



White now has time to defend both of his pawns! **9.f4?** White completely lets me off the hook for the opening inaccuracies.

[9.Nf3 Bd7 10.Bxc6 Nxc6 11.Bd2 b6?! My plan here was to go b6, but White has a powerful resource that I missed from a distance. (11...Be7± Have to settle for the pretty passive Be7, and White continues to maintain his extra pawn.) 12.b5! Na5 13.c6 Bc8+- And White keeps his extra pawn and a huge space advantage.]
9...Bd7 A move late, but it shows up
10.Bxc6 Nxc6 11.Be3

[11.Bd2 Although this defends the pawn for now, we get an advantage by opening up the queenside.

A) 11...b6? 12.b5 Nd4 13.c6 Bc8 14.Nc3!± (14.a4? Nxb5!);

B) 11...Nd4 Black should start by moving the knight, so that White never has b5 on ...b6. 12.Nf3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 b6± Black is a bit better thanks to the two bishops (especially in such an open position) and the longterm pressure against the isolated a-pawn.]

11...Nxb4 12.Qb3? Given that hell is about to rain on White's king, he needs

to get out of the centre NOW!

[12.Nf3 Qa5 13.0-0 Bxc5 14.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 15.Kh1± And Black is better, but it's not immediately lost for White.]

12...Qa5+ Lining up on the White king and there's no good way to deal with what's about to happen. **13.Bd2**

[13.Nf3 Ba4 Or just winning the Queen on the spot. (13...Nc2+ 14.Kf2 Nxa1 winning a full rook if White doesn't deal with the double check threat. 15.Qb2 Qxa2)]

[13.Nc3 Bxc5 14.Bxc5

A) 14...Qxc5± White's position doesn't make any sense AND we're up the pawn.

A1) 15.Nge2 Ra3 (15...Nd3+ 16.Kd1 d4 17.Qxb7 The queen isn't even threatening the rook! dxc3! 18.Qxa8+ Ke7 19.Qxh8 Ba4#);

A2) 15.Rd1 Ra3!! BANG!;

A3) 15.Nce2 Ra3!! Bang, but different!;

B) 14...Nd3+ For style points]

[13.Nd2 Ba4 And the Queen is lost. 14.Qb1 Bc2]

13...Bxc5

[13...Ba4? The other move I considered, but it gives White chances with 14.Bxb4 Bxb3 15.Bxa5 Rxa5 16.Nc3 Bxc5± And Black is only better here]

14.a3 Qb6 Attacking the knight in the corner and putting my queen on a better square.

[14...Ba4?? Again I considered this move, but now it leads to a worse position! 15.axb4 Bxb3 16.Rxa5! Rxa5 17.bxa5±]

15.Nf3

[15.Ne2 Only move to lose more slowly. Ba4 16.Qf3 Nc2+ 17.Kf1 Nxa1+-]

15...Bf2+ White resigns, since the queen hangs no matter where the king goes

and/or White gets mated.

[15...Bf2+ 16.Kd1 (16.Kf1 Bb5+;
16.Ke2 Bb5+ 17.Qd3 Bxd3+)
16...Ba4]

0-1

 **Chan, John** **D37**
 **Brickhouse, Christian** **1500**
2023 Spring TNM: u1600 (4.32) 28.03.23 **1238**
[Brickhouse, Christian]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4

[3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.e4 Nxc3 5.bxc3 g6
6.d4 Bg7 and we transpose to an
Exchange Gruenfeld.]
[(ew): 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3
putting pressure on the center before
occupying it.]

3...e6 4.Nf3 Nbd7

[4...dxc4!? 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 (6.e5!?
Nd5 7.Bd2)]

5.c5 Be7N

[5...c6 6.Bf4 Nh5 7.e3 Nxf4 8.exf4
g6 9.h4 12 Guichard - Alexieva, 1-0,
TCh-FRA Top 2021 (9.Bd3?!
Unuk-Rozum, 0-1, European Hybrid
Qual 2021)]
[5...b6 6.b4 (6.c6? Nb8 wins the
pawn.) 6...a5 7.c6 axb4 8.cxd7+
Bxd7 9.Nb1 Black leads in
development.]

6.Bf4 0-0 7.Nb5 e5

[7...Ne8!? 8.e3 c6 9.Nc3 Black has
repelled the attack.]

8.dxe5 Nh5 9.Be3 Nxc5 10.g3 c6

11.Nc3 f6 Black needs to find a way to
rescue his h5 knight, but the e5 pawn is
preventing that. f6 attacks the e pawn
creating an escape for the knight.

12.Bg2

[12.exf6 Nxf6 Knight escapes]
[12.e6 Bxe6 13.Nd4 Bd7 14.Bg2 f5
15.0-0 Nf6 Knight escapes.]

12...fxe5 13.Nxe5 Qd6 14.Nf3 Nf6

15.0-0 Kh8 16.Qc2 Nfe4?!

[16...Ng4!? 17.Bd4 Bf5 18.Qd2
Rae8 Black has more piece activity.]

**17.Bf4 Qd8 18.Rad1 Bf5 19.Qc1
Nxc3 20.bxc3 Qa5**

[20...b5 mobilize the pawns sooner.]
[20...Ne6 put the knight behind the
pawns.]

21.Qb2 Bf6 22.Nd4 Bg6 23.Bd6 Rfe8

24.Rc1 Ne4 25.Bxe4 Bxe4 26.a3

Rad8

[26...Qd8!? bring the queen behind
the pawns to prep for queen side
advance. 27.Bf4 c5 28.Nf3 (28.Nb5
Qb6 29.Bc7 Qc6) 28...b6]

27.Bf4 c5 28.Nb5 Rd7 29.Nd6 Ree7

30.Qb3 c4 31.Qb2 d4? 32.Nxe4

[32.cxd4! simply loses two pawns
after Bc6 (32...c3??
was my intended continuation with
33.Rxc3 Bxd4 but missed 34.Rc8+
Rd8+- and White is winning the
bishop.) 33.Rxc4±]

32...Rxe4 33.Qc2 Re8

[33...d3! 34.exd3 cxd3 35.Qd2 Black has a passed pawn on the 3rd
rank.]

34.cxd4 Rxd4 35.Be3 Rde4 36.Rb1

b5 37.Rfd1 a6 38.Rd5? Qxa3

39.Rbd1 Qe7?! Black has a 3 on 0 and
should be trying to trade pieces, not
triple stack on the e-file (which isn't even
open!)

[39...Qb3]

[39...Rxe3!? 40.fxe3 Qxe3+ 41.Kg2
and Black argues that the 3-on-0 is
sufficient compensation for being
down the exchange.]

40.Rd7 Qe5? 41.R1d5 Qa1+ 42.Kg2

R4e6?? Black's position is mostly fine,
and the a6 pawn is adequately defended
by the queen. Black should instead work
to get the King out of the corner. Instead,
he overprotects the a6 pawn and
unleashes White's queen which proves
to be the fatal mistake of the game.

[42...Kg8!]
43.Rh5! Re4 44.f3 Qb2 45.Qxb2 Bxb2 46.fxe4 c3 47.Bd4 Rg8 48.Rd6 Re8 49.Rxa6 b4 50.Ra7 Rg8 51.Rb7 Ba3 52.Rc7 Black's queen side is about to fall and his defense in the corner is being swarmed. The situation is quite hopeless. **52...h6 53.Rxh6# 1-0**

C42

 **Winslow,Elliott** **2219**
 **Snyder,Larry** **2069**
 2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (5.4) 04.04.23
[Winslow,Elliott]

More half-baked preparation from your author... **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.c4 Nb4 9.cxd5** A tricky line that might even just be bad.

[9.Be2 is more popular (almost 7000 games vs. 1000), scores better (a few % points admittedly), and keeps my favorite bishop. But it needs some study. But then again, it looks like so did this line!]

9...Nxd3 10.Qxd3 Qxd5 11.Re1 Bf5 12.Ne5

[The famous brilliancy Browne-Bisguier, US Championship Chicago 1974, went **12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.Qxc3**

A) 13...Be6! became the standard line, simply dropping a pawn for fine play:

A1) 14.Re5!? Qc6!

A1a) 15.Qxc6+ bxc6 might even turn good for Black (many games!);

A1b) 15.Qe1!? 0-0-0
16.Bg5!? (16.Be3!? Bd6
17.Rc1 Qe8 18.Ra5 b6
19.d5 bxa5 20.dxe6 Bb4
21.Qf1 Qxe6 22.a3 Be7
23.Nd4 Qe4 24.Nc6 Rd6

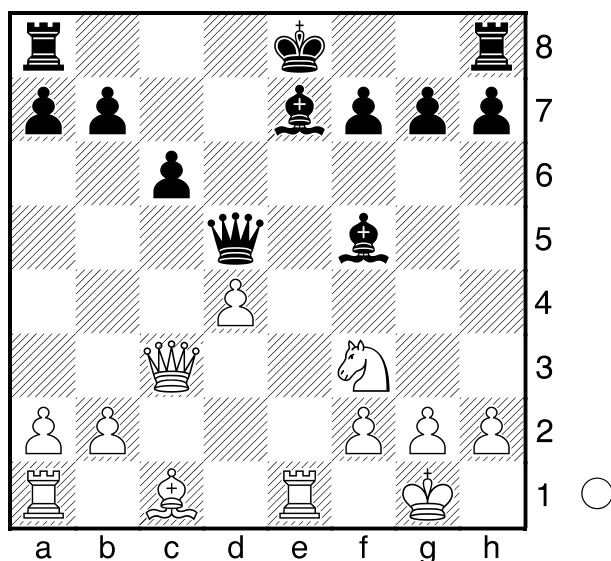
25.Nxa7+ Kb8 26.Qb5+ Qb7
27.Nc6+ Rxc6 28.Qxc6 Qxc6
29.Rxc6 1-0 Da Maia,V (2513)-
 Au Cardero,R (2305) CADAP-
 ch22 sf02 email ICCF email
 2008) **16...Bxg5 17.Nxg5**
Rhe8 18.Rc1 Qd7 Black has
 done just fine.;

A1c) 15.Qa5 Rd8 16.Bf4 0-0
 17.Rc1 Qb6 18.Rb5 Qxa5
 19.Rxa5 Ra8 20.d5 Bd7
 21.Ne5 Bd6 22.Bg3 Bxe5
 23.Bxe5 c6 24.dxc6 Bxc6
 25.Bd4 a6 26.Re5 Rfe8
 27.Rxe8+ Rxe8 28.Be3 Rd8
 29.f3 f6 30.Kf2 Kf7 31.h4
 ½-½ Naiditsch,A (2678)-
 Kramnik,V (2772) Olympiad-38
 Dresden 2008 (5);

A2) 14.Qxc7 Bd6 15.Qc2 0-0
 16.Bd2 Bf5 17.Qb3 Qxb3
 18.axb3 f6 19.Bc3 Kf7 20.Nd2
 Rfd8 21.Ne4 Bf8 22.b4 b6
 23.Ng3 Bd3 24.Nf1 Rd7
 25.Ne3 Re8 26.Rad1 Bb5
 27.Nc2 Rxe1+ 28.Rxe1 g6
 29.f3 Ba4 30.Ne3 Bb3 31.Ra1
 Bh6 32.Kf2 Bxe3+ 33.Kxe3 Bc4
 34.Kf4 g5+ 35.Kg3 Re7 36.h4
 h6 37.Rh1 Kg7 38.Rd1 Bb3
 39.Rd2 Bd5 40.Kf2 Kg6 41.Rd1
 Bb3 42.Rh1 Bc4 43.h5+ Kf7
 44.Re1 ½-½ Huebner,R (2625)-
 Smyslov,V (2595) Candidates qf
 Huebner-Smyslov +1-1=12
 Velden 1983 (3);

B) 13...c6

(Diagram)



14.Bh6!! Rg8 15.Re5 Qd7
 16.Rae1 Be6 17.Ng5 0-0-0
 18.Nxf7 Bxf7 19.Rxe7 Qxd4
 20.Rxf7 Qxc3 21.bxc3 gxh6
 22.Rb1 Rg5 23.h4 Rb5 24.Rxb5
 cxb5 25.Rxh7 Rd1+ 26.Kh2 Rd2
 27.Rxh6 Rxa2 28.h5 Rxf2
 29.Rh8+ Kc7 30.h6 Kb6 31.Kh3
 a5 32.g4 b4 33.cxb4 axb4
 34.Re8 Rf1 35.Kg2 Rf7 36.g5
 Rf5 37.h7 Rxcg5+ 38.Kf3 Rh5
 39.h8Q Rxh8 40.Rxh8 1-0 Browne,
 W-Bisguier,A USA-ch Chicago 1974
 (9)]

12...h6!? Played after a significant think.
 Quite a surprise for me, even knowing
 this is an obscure line.

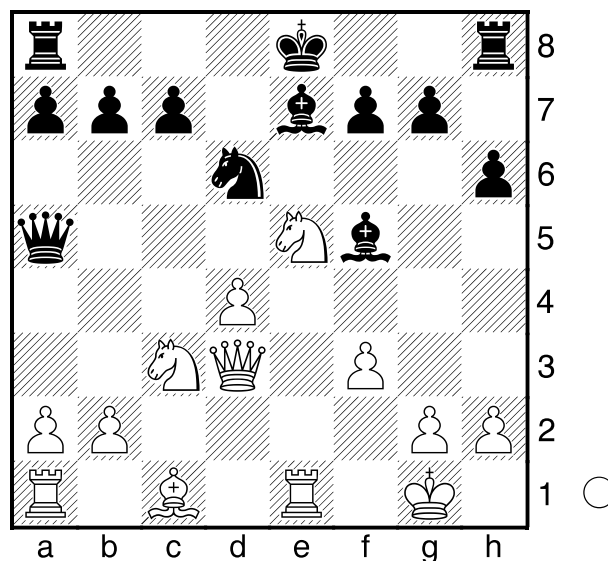
[12...g6 was the solution I
 remembered from way back. It's
 "unnatural" thus making this 12.Ne5 a
 sort of trap (except for the other
 alternative given next!). 13.Nc3 Nxc3
 14.Qxc3 0-0-0= Any pawn win
 involving a desperado knight and the
 Black dark-squared bishop results in
 opposite colored bishops and
 negligible chances. (14...0-0)]
 [12...0-0-0!? when both sides walk a
 narrow path: 13.Qf3! g6!

A) 14.g4? Bb4! (14...Bh4

15.Nc3) 15.Re3! Qxd4! 16.gxf5
 Ng5 17.Qe2 f6! (17...Qd1+
 18.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 19.Kg2 Rxc1
 20.h4=);

B) 14.Nc3! Nxc3 15.bxc3 Qxf3
 16.gxf3! (16.Nxf3 Rde8)]

13.f3 Nd6 14.Nc3 Qa5

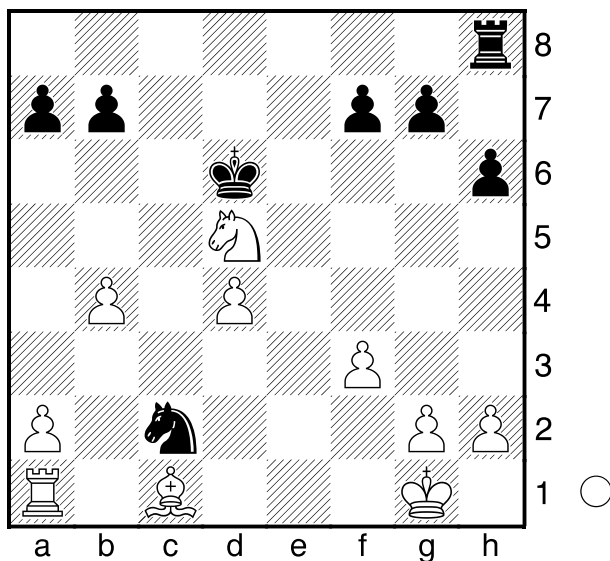


15.Nc4?!N I saw some tricks when the
 queens came off, but overlooked an
 even better continuation.

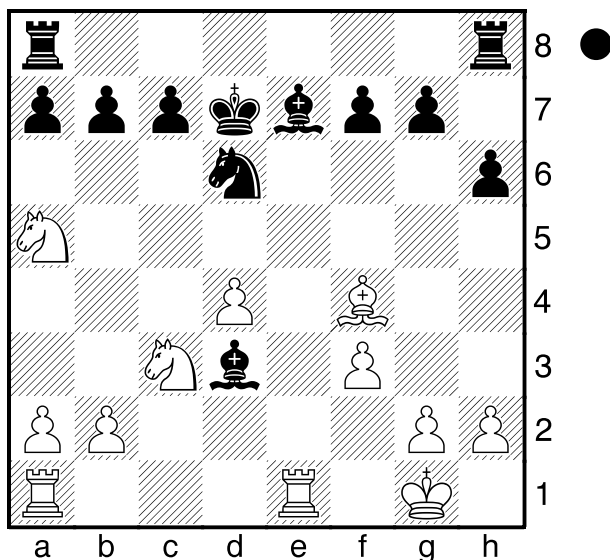
[15.Qe3?! 0-0 16.b4! Qa6!
 (16...Qxb4?? 17.Nd5) 17.g4 (17.a4
 Be6) 17...Bc8 (17...Bh4!) 18.Bd2
 (18.Qe2!) 18...Bh4 0-1 Bogatyriova,
 L (2219)-Goreskul,A (2162) UKR-ch
 U18 Girls Dnipropetrovsk 2000 (3)]
 [15.b4!

A) 15...Qxb4 16.Qe3! Be6
 17.Nxf7 Nxf7 18.Rb1! (18.Qxe6
 Qxd4+ 19.Kh1 0-0! 20.Qxe7 Qxc3
 21.Bf4 Rae8=) 18...Qc4 19.Qxe6
 Qxe6 20.Rxe6 Kd7 21.Rg6! Bf6
 22.Nd5 Bxd4+ 23.Kf1± (but rather
 precarious!);

B) 15...Qb6 16.Qe3! with serious
 danger on the e-file: Be6 17.Nd5!
 Bxd5! 18.Nc4! Nf5! 19.Nxb6 Nxe3
 20.Nxa8 Nc2 21.Nxc7+ Kd7
 22.Rxe7+! (22.Nxd5 Nxe1 23.Bf4
 Nd3=) 22...Kxe7 23.Nxd5+ Kd6



24.Bxh6! Nxa1 25.Bxg7
and the miracles never stop --
White comes out ahead.]
15...Bxd3 16.Nxa5 Kd7! 17.Bf4



b6? This is really worse than just bad --
but White's reply must have been a
stunner.

[17...Bg5!

A) 18.Nb3 b6=;

B) 18.Bxd6? cxd6 19.Nxb7??

just opens the b-file for Black

(19.Nd5?) 19...Rab8 20.Na5

Rxb2-+ Black's rooks and bishops
swarm while White's knights

scramble to find safe posts.;

C) 18.Bxg5 hxg5 19.Nb3 b6

20.Ne4 Bxe4 21.fxe4 f6

Black appears to be fine.]

18.Nc6! Rhe8? Of course this is a
simple blunder, but Stockfish doesn't
have it giving up that much equity.

[18...Kxc6 19.Rxe7 would you
believe (+4.00)? The threat is 20.d5+
and collapse.]

19.Ne5+ On 19...Kc8 20.Nxd3 it doesn't
even get to +5, not that means anything
at all. Larry resigned immediately.

1-0

D80

□ **Dasika,Archit** **2143**

■ **Ivanenko,Anthony Vladimir** **2147**

2023 Spring TNM: 2000+ (5.2) 04.04.23

[Ivanenko, Tony]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5

I have now officially played more than
half the tournament in the Grunfeld. I
suppose I had to make up for the lack of
1.d4 games in the last TNM. One of my
biggest worries was that my opponent
had yet to play against the Grunfeld, so I
thought he would go for one of the
Exchange variations (his other openings
DO feature main lines). However, what
came next was a surprise... **4.Bg5**

What the... again!? I suppose I'll have to
take a closer look at the 4.♗g5 Grunfeld
if it's this popular in the club as I had
already played it in the third round
against Ed Lewis. **4...Bg7** I was already
slightly worried that he cooked
something up based on observations of
my third round game, but since I hadn't
bothered looking at this variation before
the game, I had to stick to memory.

5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.cxd5 c5 7.dxc5

My opponent bravely goes into the main
line and accepts the sacrifice. As noted

previously, Black is opening up the dark squares to use as counterplay and prevent White's consolidation in the center.

[7.Nf3 was Lewis' choice, which featured another interesting game: cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qb6 9.Nb3 a5 10.Qd2 a4 11.Nc1 a3 12.Nb3 axb2 13.Qxb2 Qb4 14.Rc1 Bf5 15.e3 0-0 16.Qd2 Rc8 17.Nd1 Qxd2+ 18.Kxd2 Rxa2+ 19.Ke1 Rxc1 20.Nxc1 Rc2 21.Nd3 Na6 22.Nf4 Nc5 23.Bb5 g5 24.Nh5 Bd3 25.Nxf6+ exf6 26.Bxd3 Nxd3+ 27.Kf1 Rd2 28.Nc3 Rxf2+ 29.Kg1 Rc2 30.h4 Rxc3 31.Kh2 Rc1 32.Rxc1 Nxc1 33.hxg5 fxg5 34.Kg3 b5 35.Kg4 b4 36.Kf5 b3 37.d6 b2 38.Kf6 b1Q 39.d7 Qg6+ 40.Ke7 Qe6+ 0-1 Lewis,E (1974)-Ivanenko,A (2147) Spring TNM 2023 (3)]

7...Nd7 And now there's a multitude of options for White, but I would only consider two of them critical. **8.c6** And this is one of them.

[8.Nf3 Nxc5 9.e3 0-0 10.Nd4 has been seen in several grandmasters' games. An example follows: Qb6 11.Qd2 e5 12.dxe6 Bxe6 13.Be2 Rad8 14.0-0 Bf5 15.Bf3 Ne6 16.Nd5 Nxd4 17.exd4 Qxd4 18.Qxd4 Bxd4 19.Ne7+ Kg7 20.Nxf5+ gxf5 21.Rad1 Bxb2 22.Bxb7 Bd4 23.Rd2 Bb6 24.Rfd1 Rxd2 25.Rxd2 Rd8 26.Rxd8 Bxd8 27.f4 Bb6+ 28.Kf1 Kf6 29.Ke2 Bc5 30.Kf3 Bb6 ½-½ Kuzubov,Y (2644)-Abasov,N (2633) TUR-chT Ankara 2022 (10.3)]

[8.Qa4!? is a quirky move that is still developing in theory (and recommended by Kirill Georgiev) but I feel like it is easily defused — at the very least, here is how one high-profile game went: Qc7 9.Ne4 Bxb2 10.Rb1 Bg7 11.Nf3 0-0 12.Qa3 Ne5 13.Ned2 Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Rd8 15.e4

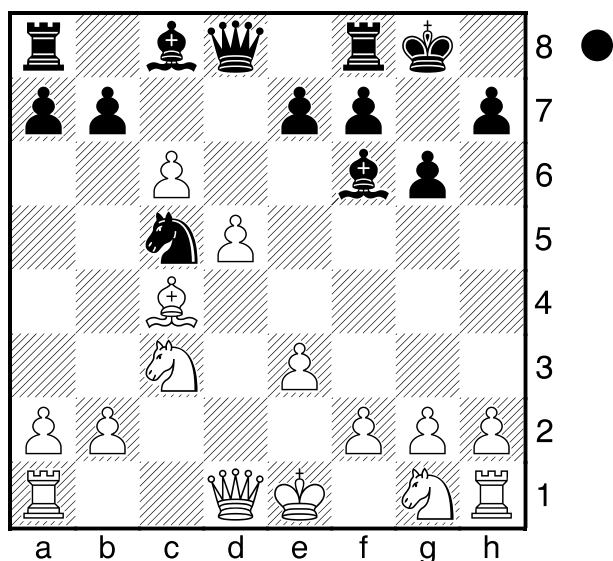
Bd4 16.Rc1 Qe5 17.Nc4 Qf6 18.Rc2 Bd7 19.Be2 e6 20.Ne3 exd5 21.Nxd5 Qh4 22.Bc4 Be6 23.Rd2 Be5 24.Ke2 b5 25.cxb6 axb6 26.Qb3 b5 27.Qxb5 Kg7 28.Qb3 Rab8 29.Qe3 h5 30.Bb3 Bxd5 31.Bxd5 Qf6 32.Rc2 Rdc8 33.Rxc8 Rxc8 34.Rd1 Bf4 35.Qd4 Rc2+ 36.Kf1 Be5 37.Qe3 Qh4 38.f4 Qxh2 39.Qf3 Rc3 40.Rd3 Rc1+ 41.Rd1 Rxd1+ 42.Qxd1 Qxf4 43.Qd3 h4 44.Bb3 g5 45.Bd1 g4 46.Qd7 Qxe4 47.Qxg4+ Qxg4 48.Bxg4 ½-½ Wang, H (2742)-Topalov,V (2752) London FIDE GP 1st 2012 (7)]

8...Nc5 Black has no business in taking the pawn here. **9.e3** Shockingly, 9.e3 hasn't been played before, although this isn't a true novelty yet, as the game will transpose back into known territory. However, White certainly does have this option, even if the main text is more flexible.

[9.Rc1 is met far more frequently. Qa5 10.Qd2 bxc6 11.Ne4 Qxd2+ 12.Nxd2 Na4 13.e4 0-0 14.Rxc6 Bxb2 15.Ngf3 e6 16.Bc4 Nb6 17.dxe6 Nxc4 18.exf7+ Rxf7 19.Nxc4 Bb7 20.Rc5 Bc3+ 21.Ncd2 Bb4 22.Rc4 a5 23.0-0 Ba6 24.Rfc1 Bxc4 25.Rxc4 Rd8 26.Nf1 Rd1 27.Ne5 Rf8 28.g3 Ra1 29.Rc2 Re8 30.f4 Re1 31.Rc4 Re2 32.a4 Ra2 0-1 Kashlinskaya,A (2494)-Adhiban,B (2659) Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Oct Chess.com INT blitz 2020 (2)]

9...0-0 10.Bc4?!?

(Diagram)



I felt this was an inaccuracy during the game and the engine backs up my thoughts. White can certainly this move without c6, but having wasted a tempo on the pawn push is actually critical as it always is in the Grünfeld. That is not to say White is in a poor position, not at all, but Black does get a nicer game to play with. **10...bxc6**

[10...Qb6!? might've been slightly more accurate here than the text move as it practically forces cxb7. 11.cxb7 Bxb7 12.Qd2 Qb4 13.Be2 Rfd8 14.Nf3 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Qxe4 16.0-0 Rxd5 and Black gets a very nice game where he shouldn't lose.]

11.Nge2

[11.dxc6 runs into: Qa5 12.Nge2 Rd8 13.Nd4 Ba6! and now 14.Qe2 Bxd4 15.exd4 Rxd4 White is forced to give up the queen.]

11...Rb8?!N Somehow, my absolute worst moves in this game came with the longest thinking times. I have no idea how I stared at 11...cxd5 for almost 15 minutes and didn't come to the conclusion that it's good for Black. My brain just parsed the thought, "Oh, I'm left a pawn down with no counterplay," and didn't even bother calculating the

follow-up sequence. This is not the way to do things...

[I should've followed my predecessor: 11...cxd5 12.Qxd5 (For some reason, I missed 12.Bxd5 Rb8+ which is just completely winning because I still have play against the b2-pawn...) 12...Qb6 (12...Qa5! 13.Qxa8 Bb7 14.Qxf8+ Kxf8 15.0-0 Na4 is even better, where the queen's placement actively x-rays White's critical squares.) 13.Qxa8 Bb7 14.Qxf8+ Kxf8 15.0-0 Ne4 16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Ng3 Bb7 18.Rad1 e6 19.b3 h5 20.Ne2 h4 21.h3 Qa5 22.Rd7 Bc6 23.Rd6 Be4 24.Nf4 Be5 25.Ra6 Qc7 26.Rd1 g5 27.Nd3 Bf6 28.Nb4 Be7 29.Ra4 a5 30.Na6 Qb7 31.Bf1 f5 32.Rxa5 g4 33.hxg4 fxg4 34.Nc5 Bxc5 35.Rxc5 Bd5 36.Rdc1 Qb4 37.Rc8+ Ke7 38.Rg8 h3 39.Kh2 Qe4 40.f3 Qe5+ 41.g3 Qxe3 42.Rc7+ Kd6 0-1 Kowalski, I (1987)-Kosakowski, J (2106) POL-ch U16 rapid Wroclaw 2017 (6)]

12.dxc6 Qa5?!± It's not losing yet, but this move overcomplicates things far more than necessary. I should've been satisfied with taking the easy way out. Again, I thought for way too long and overthought matters.

[12...Rxb2! Simple and easy. 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.0-0 Rb4 15.Bb3 Nxb3 16.axb3 Rxb3 17.c7 Rd7 18.Rxa7 Bxc3 19.Rc1 Kg7 20.g4 Bd2 21.Ra8 Bxc1 22.Rxc8 Rbd3 23.Rg8+ Kxg8 24.c8Q+= with an easily drawn two rooks vs queen endgame.]

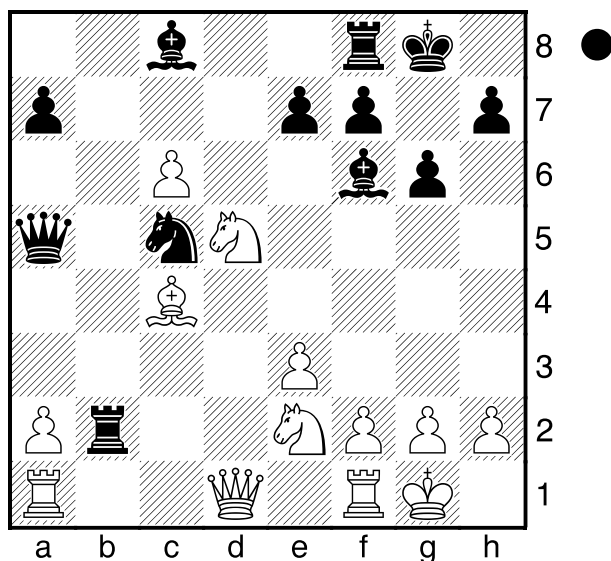
13.0-0 Rxb2?+- And Black runs full force into a brick wall. Admittedly, I missed the text move and how strong it was for White. This was my last chance to divert course.

[13...Rb4! 14.Bb3 e6 15.Qc2 Qb6 16.Ng3 Qxc6 17.Nce4 Be7 18.Nxc5

Qxc5 19.Qxc5 Bxc5 20.Rac1 Bb6= and Black's bishop pair should be enough to hold this pawn down endgame.]

14.Nd5!

[14.Qc1 was my expectation, where I calculated a gorgeous stunner: Rb6 15.Nd4 Nd3!! Simplifying. 16.Bxd3 Bxd4 17.exd4 Rxc6= Black will reclaim back the piece with an even game.]



A stunner. If White didn't have access to this immediate threat, Black would've been completely fine and in time to cut off any White counterplay. **14...Ne4?!** Unfortunately, I had to keep the e7-e5 lever available for future purposes, so the strong bishop had to go.

[14...Be6 is the computer recommendation, though I hesitate to say it's much better than the text move. 15.Nef4 Bxd5 16.Nxd5 Rd2 17.Nxf6+ exf6 18.Qe1 Rfd8+- is still quite lackluster.]

15.Nxf6+ Nxf6 16.Nd4 Bf5?!

Another move where I overthought matters! Black should've just contested the c6-pawn instead.

[16...Rb6 17.Rc1 Kg7 18.Qe1 Qa3

19.Rc3 Qd6+- is still winning for White, but just looking at the moves necessary to hold the advantage, it's not as easy as the engine tells us.]

17.Rc1?± Black finally gets a little reprieve as White misses a cheap tactical shot.

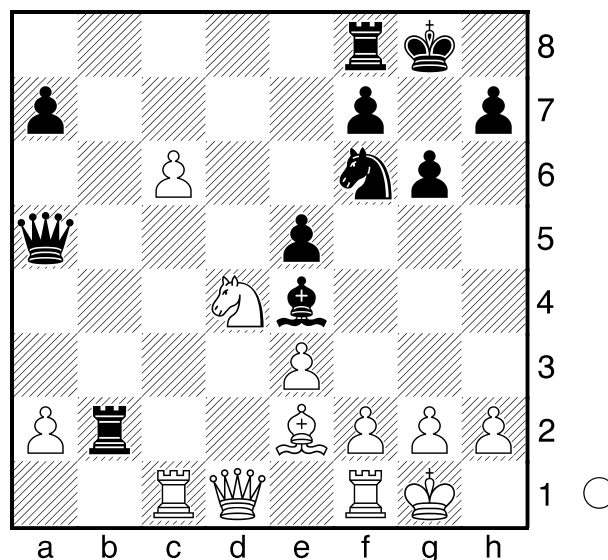
[White should've played 17.Nxf5 where after Qxf5?? 18.c7 Qc8 19.Rc1+- White's c-passer is overpowering Black's pieces.]

17...Be4! 18.Be2

[The idea was that 18.f3? falls to Qg5! threatening both the e3- and g2-pawns. 19.Nc2 Rxc2 20.Rxc2 Bxc2 21.Qxc2 Qxe3+= Black liquidates the White's advantage into a draw.]

18...e5?

[18...Rc8 19.Bf3 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 a6 21.h3 Rxa2± ΔQd5. Black has successfully stalled the c6-pawn and though not out of the woods, his position is looking much better.]



Too ambitious. Black completely underestimated the speed at which the c-passer was approaching. He needed to deal with it first before getting cute with moves like these. **19.c7 Bb7?!** Black's better option was to accept the

exchange, though at that hope he's only hoping to hold the draw.

[19...exd4 20.c8Q Rxc8 21.Rxc8+ Kg7 22.exd4 Rxa2+- and while White is winning, he does have to prove his advantage — if Black is able to nick the d-pawn without losses, it's starting to look like a drawn endgame.]

20.Nb3 Qxa2 21.Bc4 Qa4

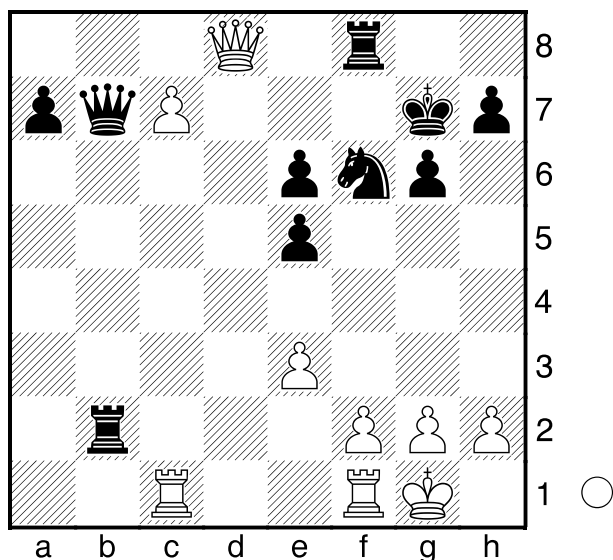
Black cannot afford to lose the queen to Ra1 here, but unfortunately his choices are sparse.

[21...Qa3 22.Nc5 Bc8 23.Qd8 Rb6 24.h3 Rc6 25.Ne4!+- and the discovery threat along the a2-g8 diagonal is simply too much.]

22.Nc5 Qc6 23.Nxb7 Qxb7

[23...Qxc7 was my other thought, but I quickly realized he has: 24.Nd6! Kg7 25.Nxf7 Rxf7 26.Bxf7 Qxf7+- and unfortunately this is too much material loss to try to hold with.]

24.Qd8 Kg7 25.Be6!? Just brute forcing his way through. **25...fxe6**



26.Qxf8+ Kxf8 27.c8Q+ Kf7

Missed the fork, but by this point the game is over anyway. A wonderful finish!

28.Rc7+ (Beauty=13.5)

1-0

B22

□ **Vandenhoven, Clarke Raymond**

■ **Parsons, Stephen**

1780

2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (5.11)

[Winslow, Elliott]

An attack gone awry. **1.e4 c5 2.d4**

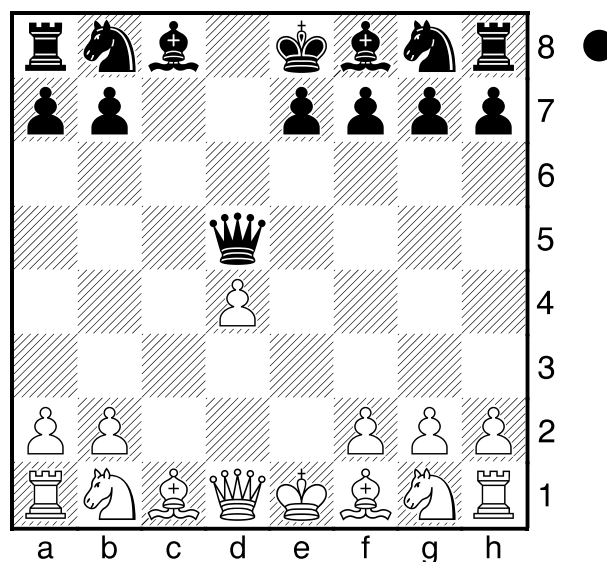
[2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Be3 (6.Be2 (intending c3-c4) cxd4) 6...cxd4]

2...cxd4 3.c3 d5 Against the Alapin (2.c3) the counter 2...d5 makes more sense, as ...cxd4 hasn't been played yet. Here it has, so White will be ready to play Nc3, gaining time on the queen on d5.

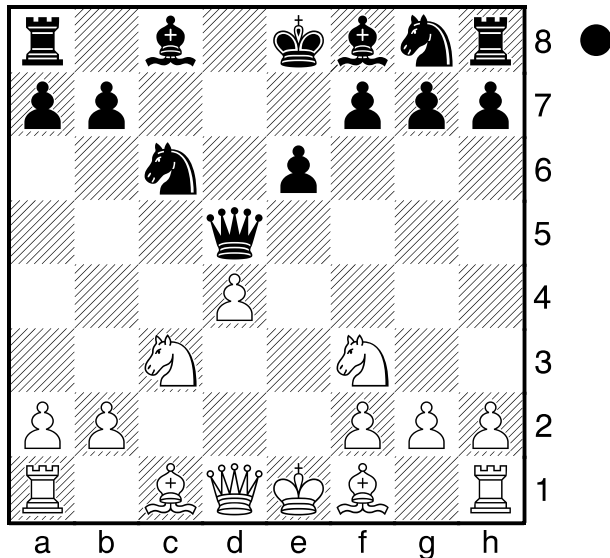
[Of course Black can *take* the Morra Gambit pawn, 3...dxc3 4.Nxc3 when there are a few (well, a couple?) (well there must be *some* way) lines that have White in an uphill battle.]

[The most common and approved way to decline the gambit is 3...Nf6 since White is compelled to advance, 4.e5 Nd5 before either recovering the pawn on d4 or finding some other way to give it up, but the step forward can be more weakening than disrupting (then again, sometimes it just works out).]

4.exd5 Qxd5 5.cxd4



The point is, White doesn't have to "encourage" ...cxd4, with Be3 or even just Be2, as Black has already played it. **5...Nc6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Nc3**



It looks like best is just to retreat the queen, to d6 or d8. Then White gets to bring out the bishops more aggressively, one to d3/c4 and the other to g5 -- but it's a lesser concession. **7...Bb4** Yes and all -- but does Black really want to trade on c3? The pawn structure that results isn't so bad for White, compared to, say, certain Nimzoindians with doubled c-pawns.

[7...Qd8]

[7...Qd6]

8.Bd3 Nf6 9.0-0 Bxc3?! Sooner or later, Black had to make some concession -- here the loss of the Two Bishops. But tellingly Stockfish prefers, by half a point/pawn, all the queen moves!

[9...Qd6]

[9...Qd7]

[9...Qd8]

[9...Qa5]

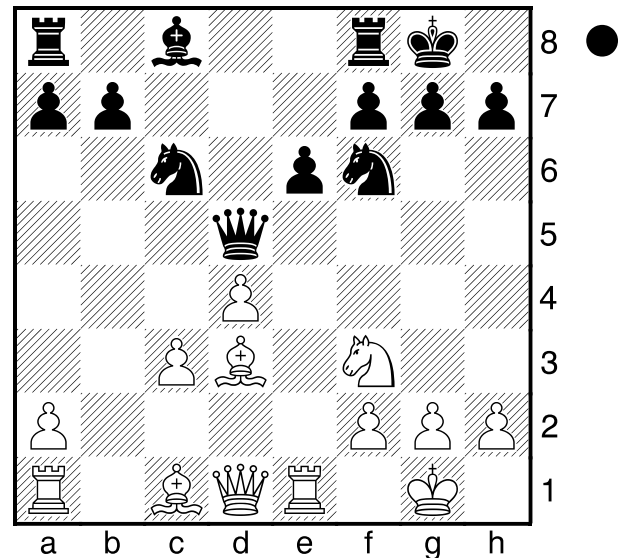
[9...Qh5]

10.bxc3 0-0

[10...Qa5!? White could gambit that pawn on c3! (This *did* start out as a

Morra Gambit after all) 11.Rb1!? Stockfish says +-!]

11.Re1



h6 Black stops Bg5 altogether. The good news: this move vies for best (with ...b6 and ...Ne7). The bad news: White might already be too good. (Stockfish 15.1: +2 at d24!)

[along with 11...b6 12.Bg5 Bb7

13.Qd2+-]

[and 11...Ne7 12.c4 Qd6 13.Ne5

Ng6 14.Rb1 Qxd4?! 15.Ba3 Rd8

16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Qf3+- big problem developing the queenside!]

12.Bb2

[12.Rb1!]

[12.Bf4!]

12...Ne7?!

[12...b6]

[12...Qd6]

[12...Rd8]

13.Ne5

[13.a4!]

[13.c4!]

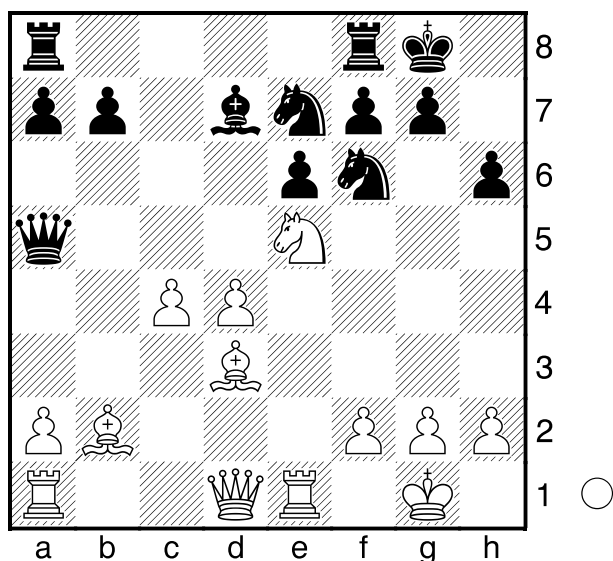
13...Bd7

[13...b5!? 14.Ba3! Bb7 15.f3

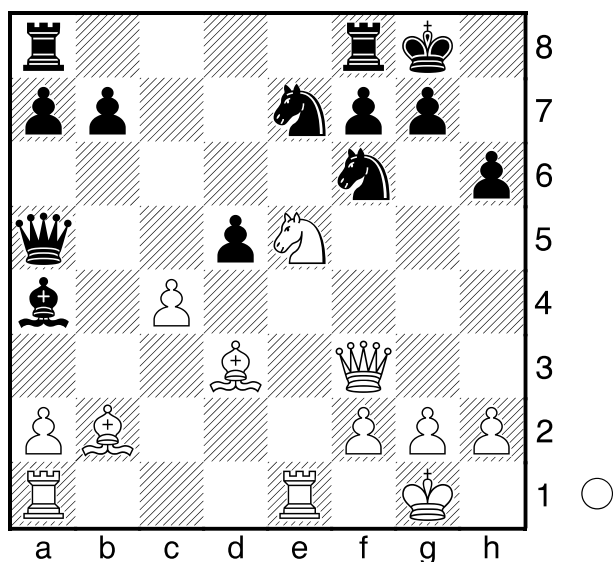
and White might even sell his bishop for a big center: Be4.]

14.c4! Qa5

(Diagram)

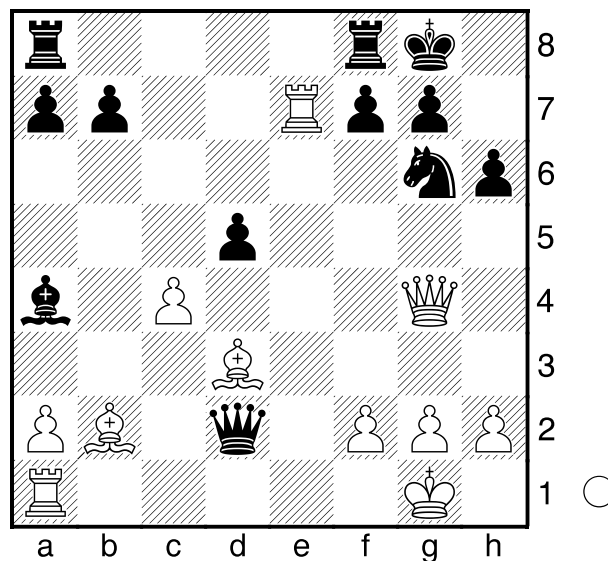


15.d5!+- White is making the move, and Black's position is critical. **15...Ba4**
 [15...Rad8 16.Re3 Here comes the "rook lift" and disaster.]
16.Qf3 exd5?!



17.Ng4! Nxg4 18.Qxg4 Ng6 19.Re7!?
 [Just 19.Bxg6 pulls the plug on Black's defence: fxg6 20.Re7! (necessary but crushing) Rf7 21.Rxf7 Kxf7 22.Qd4 (not letting the king get away) Rg8 23.Qf4+ White may not have Re1+, but between Ba3+, cxd5+ and Qb8+ depending on which square on the e-file the Black king moves to,

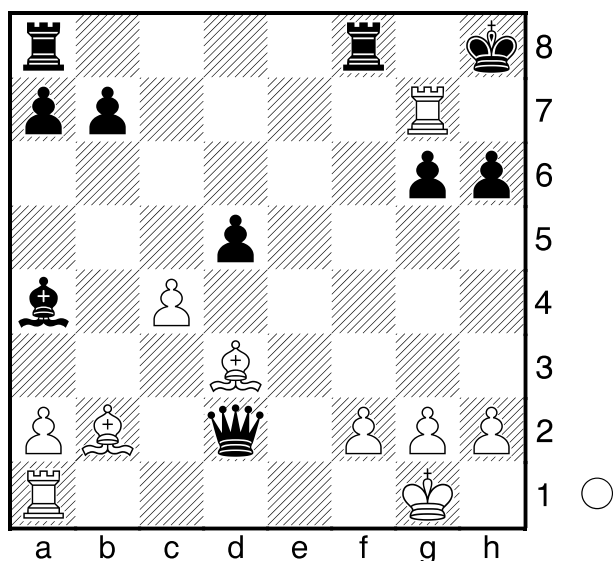
it's bad news.]
 [Then again, 19.Qd4! f6 20.Bxg6 is a completely humorless win of a piece.]
19...Qd2



Attacking both bishops... **20.Qxg6?=/?** Threatening *two* mates in one, and it forces a pendulum perpetual -- but no more!

[MUCH better is 20.Qd4!+- Defending both bishops! And also a little mate in 1 threatened... Qxb2 21.Qxb2 Nxe7 22.Qxb7! Mopping up pawns turns out to be better -- a little! - - than winning a piece, sez Stock. (22.Qb4 dxc4 23.Bf1 b5 24.Qxe7 c3 but of course White is winning anyway.) 22...dxc4 23.Bxc4 Rae8 24.Qxa7]
20...fxg6 21.Rxg7+ Kh8

(Diagram)



22.Rxg6+??

[22.Rxb7+ conveniently guarding the bishop Kg8= (22...Qxb2?! 23.Rxb2 dxc4 24.Bxc4± is not the way to play on for the win if you're Black...)]

22...Qxb2 23.Rxh6+ Kg7 24.Rh7+ Kg8

A quick count from the top down shows Black up a queen (for a pawn, but one should stop counting before that). A painful fail from Vandenhoven! What a great attacking position he had! But the lure of a brilliancy clouded his clear vision. First things first: Score the Point!

0-1

□ **Moisselin, Simon**

■ **Briancon-Marjollet, Victor**

2023 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (5.15)

[Winslow, Elliott]

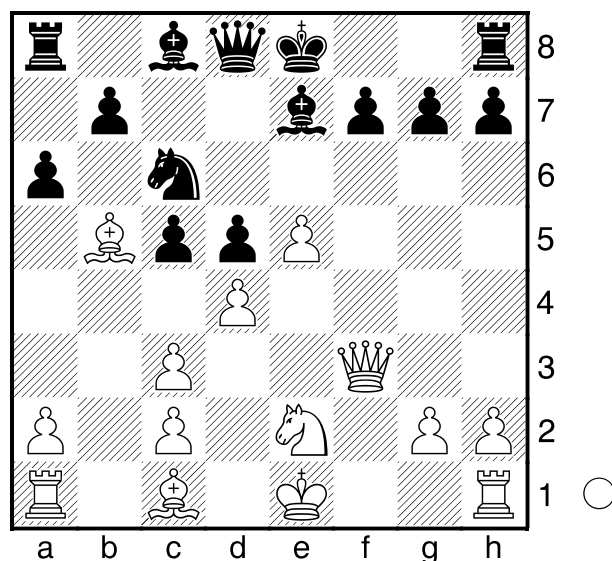
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 Vienna Game, Main Line! 5.Qf3 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Be7 7.d4 c5 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.Ne2 a6

(Diagram)

C29

1565

1701



10.0-0?? It's just not worth it.

[10.Bd3]

10...Be6??

[10...axb5 11.Qxf7+ Kd7±

Stockfish 15.1 doesn't want to call it a win for Black, but the advantage is solid.]

11.Bd3?

[11.Bxc6+! bxc6 12.Qg3+- is annoying -- very much so, so much so that here the engines have White with a win. It's a common French Defense story: all the defences are flawed, while giving up the pawn is "insufficient comp."]

11...Qd7 12.Bf5

[12.Nf4±]

12...Bxf5 13.Qxf5 Qxf5 14.Rxf5 g6?!

[14...0-0± even favors Black a bit, with White's pawn blocking his own bishop and the c-file Black's when he is ready.]

15.Rf3± Now it favors White some -- that last move gave White's bishop somewhere to work, namely h6! **15...b5**

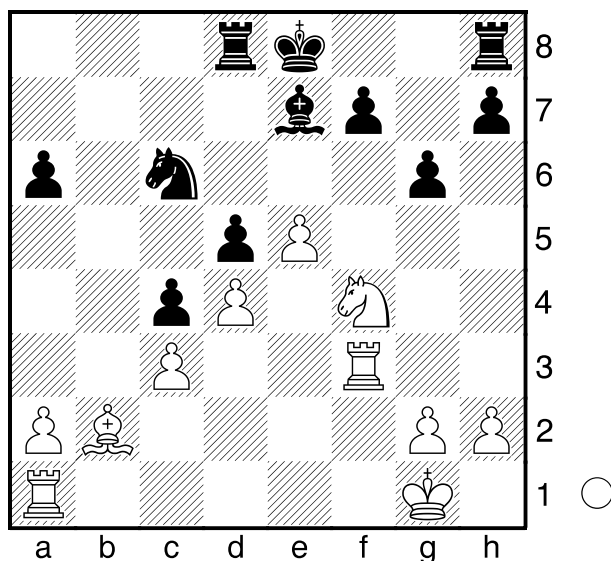
[15...0-0 16.Bh6 Rfc8 17.Raf1 Bf8 18.Bxf8 Rxf8 19.h4±]

16.Ba3?!

[16.Bh6]

16...b4 17.Bb2 c4?

[17...Rb8 $\bar{+}$]
18.Nf4 $\pm$ Rd8 19.cxb4 Nxb4 20.c3
Nc6
 [20...Nd3!? 21.Nxd3 cxd3 22.Kf2! $\pm$
 (or 22.Bc1! $\pm$)]



21.Rb1?!

[21.Bc1!]

21...h5

[21...g5! 22.Nh5 Rb8]

22.Bc1 g5 23.Ne2 0-0?

Now everything wins for White.

[23...Rb8]

24.Rb6 Good But...

[24.Bxg5! Bxg5 25.Rg3 f6 26.exf6

Rxf6 27.Rxg5+ Kf7 28.Rb7+ Ne7

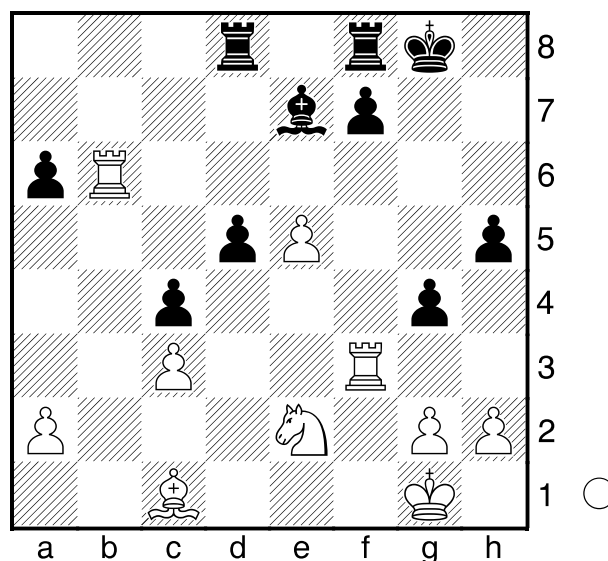
29.Rxh5+- crashes the party.

(29.h4+-)]

24...Nxe5!? 25.dxe5 g4

[25...Bc5+ 26.Be3+-]

(Diagram)



26.Rf5? Clever and flawed.

[26.Rf2! is best of the lot: Bc5 27.Rc6
 Bxf2+ 28.Kxf2+- The combination of
 White's two pieces and Black's weak
 pawns is too much.]

26...Bc5+ 27.Kf1 Bxb6 28.Rg5+ Kh7

29.Rxh5+ Kg8 repetition...

[29...Kg6? 30.Rh6+]

1/2-1/2

IM John Donaldson

Three New Books from Everyman Chess

The Slav by Cyrus Lakdawala (paperback, 448 pages, \$29.95)

The Killer Dutch Rebooted by Simon Williams (paperback, 286 pages, \$28.95)

Squeeze Play by Cyrus Lakdawala (paperback, 464 pages, \$29.95)

Opening books currently account for roughly 75 percent of chess literature. Today, that number may be going down as more and more players use various electronic tools to either keep their repertoire up to date or expand it. That said, there is still a place for the well-executed opening book, particularly when the author is an expert on the subject and has extensive experience playing it. This is the case with two new opening books by Everyman Chess.

Cyrus Lakdawala is a well-known expert on the Slav who has used it with success for over four decades. In his third book for Everyman on this rock-solid answer to **1.d4**, following on the heels of *The Slav: Move by Move* (2011) and ...c6 (2017), the San Diego International Master selects lines for Black that have served him well. This includes recommending two different variations after **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4** (**4...e6** was the choice in ...c6 which Lakdawala co-authored with fellow International Master Keaton Kiewra) **5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 Bg6** and **9...Bg4** (**9...Nbd7 10.e4 Bg6** was preferred in *The Slav: Move by Move*). Against White's other main choice, **6.Ne5**, Lakdawala recommends **6...Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Nb6 8.Ne5 a5** which is easier to learn than Black's other answers to **6.Ne5**. This reasoning is also seen in the Lakdawala's suggestion of **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nc3** (or **5.Nbd2**) **5...Nbd7 6.Bd3 Be7** which he used to draw Garry Kasparov in a blitz game. Theory is never going to show a preference for **6...Be7** over heading into the Meran with **6...dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5**, but Lakdawala's choice, **6...Be7**, is playable and avoids a huge amount of theory.

The Slav covers not only **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6** but also all other openings Black might face (**1.c4**, **1.Nf3**, **1.b3**, **1.f4** etc.) – except **1.e4**.

The Killer Dutch Rebooted by Simon Williams sees the English Grandmaster focus on his favorite variation – **1.d4 f5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.Nc3 Ne4**, a line he has used to defeat no less than the great Boris Gelfand and Polish 2700 player Radoslaw Wojtaszek!

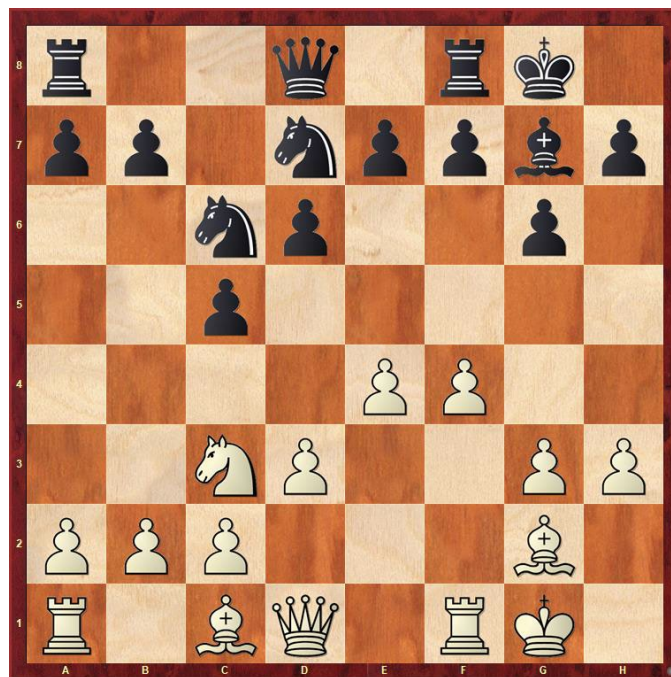
When I first got my hands on this book, I was curious to see what Williams proposed against **7.b3**, a line recommended in Christof Sielecki's *Keep It Simple 1.d4*, and was pleasantly surprised to discover he devotes a whole page to this variation starting with **7...a5 8.Bb2 a4 9.b4 Ne4!**

Like Lakdawala's book, *The Killer Dutch Rebooted* offers the reader a complete answer for all Black's opening worries – except **1.e4**.

Both of these books are aimed at a target audience of 1800 to 2300, but stronger players will find them useful as well.

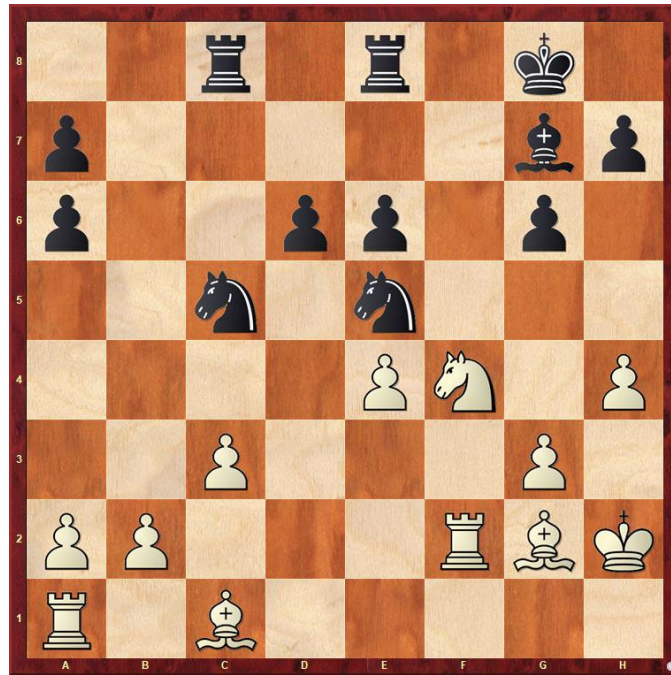
The title of Cyrus Lakdawala's latest book, *Squeeze Play*, addresses the seemingly magical ability that top players possess to grind away and win positions that initially seem devoid of any chances. Lakdawala does this by offering 80 carefully annotated games with interactive exercises throughout. A quarter of these games are played by one of the greatest squeezers of them all, World Champion Magnus Carlsen.

While *Squeeze Play* is primarily aimed at players between 1800 and 2200 it also offers ideas that will interest stronger players. One example that was new for this reviewer was seen in the game Mamedyarov-Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2008, where after **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 d6 6.O-O Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nf6 9.d3 O-O 10.Qd1 Nd7 11.f4.**



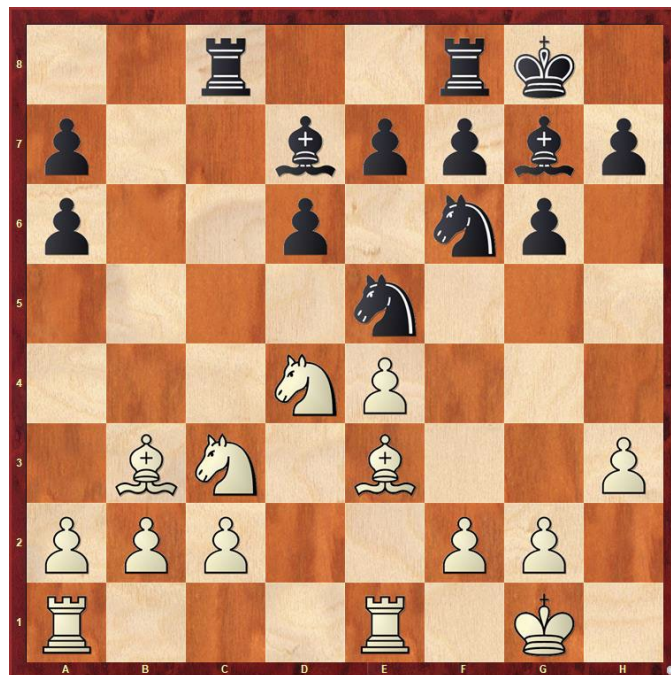
Instead of playing the routine **11...Rb8**, preparing **...b5-b4**, Carlsen came up with the intriguing idea of **11...c4!** accelerating play on the queenside by opening lines. The point is that after **12.dxc4** Black had **12...Na5** and White cannot keep the pawn. Carlsen slowly increased the pressure and surprised again after:

13.Nd5 Nxc4 14.c3 Ndb6 15.Qe2 Rc8 16.Kh2 e6 17.Nb4 Na4 18.f5 Re8 19.fxe6 fxe6 20.Nd3 Qb6 21.h4 Qa6 22.Rf2 Ne5 23.Nf4 Nc5 24.Qxa6 bxa6!

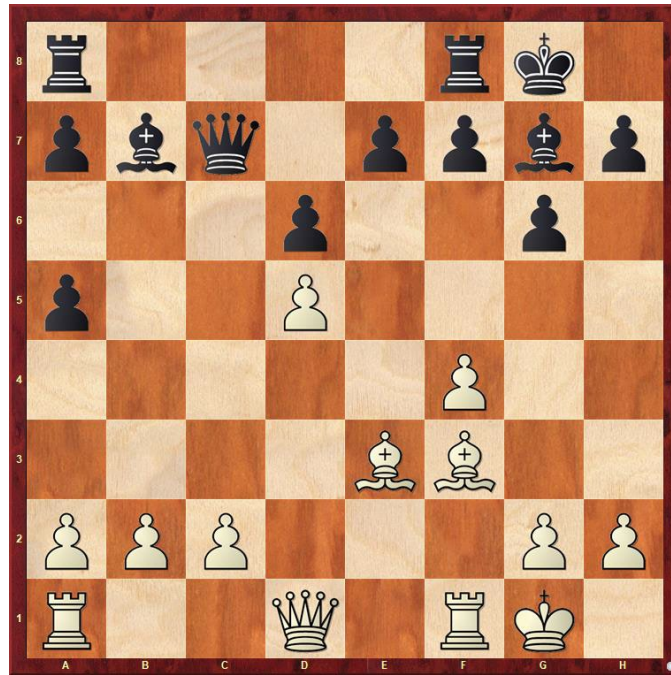


The first time I saw this idea was in the games of International Master Jeremy Silman, one of the best opening theoreticians of the late 1970s and early 1980s with major novelties in the Nimzo-Indian, Benoni, and Sicilian Accelerated Dragon. He regularly accepted double a-pawns in two different lines:

- A. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 Qa5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bb3 d6 10.h3 Bd7 11.Re1 Rac8 12.Qd3 Ne5 13.Qe2 Qa6 14.Qxa6 bxa6.



- B. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 Qa5 8.0-0 0-0 9. Nb3 Qc7 10.Be2 d6 11.f4 b6 12. Bf3 Bb7 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Na5 15.Nxa5 bxa5.



In all three cases, Black's queenside play compensates for the doubled a-pawns which are difficult to exploit:

25.Re2 h6 26.Kh1 a5 27.Be3 a4 28.Rd1 Rc6 29.Bd4 g5 30.Nh3 g4 31.Nf4 Rb6 32.Nh5 Bh8 33.Red2 Reb8 34.Bxc5 dxc5 35.Rd8+ Kf7 36.Rxb8 Rxb8 37.Rd2 Nc4 38.Rd7+ Ke8 39.Rxa7 Be5 40.Rxa4 Ne3 0-1

Everyman Chess offers not only printed books but various electronic options all of which can be found at <https://everymanchess.com/>.

The Chess Scuttlebutt

Links to some of the news that make up our world.

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders gets [kids](#) to play chess.

An [outdoor](#) chess club in London has 500 members.

Judit Sztaray, Lead Tournament Director for the Mechanics' Institute, gets a well-deserved [shout out](#).

IM Irina Bulmaga was thinking about [pickles](#) during the recent Romanian Championship.

New York City welcomes asylum seekers at the [Times Square Migrant Chess Club](#).

Your Move MKE hosts the [Hip-Hop Chess Club](#) in Milwaukee.

Why humans [don't watch](#) computers play chess with each other.

Check out this “Chess Club” [watch](#).

The FIDE Women’s Grand Prix 2022-23 in New Delhi is an organizational [mess](#)...

...but has found a way to [continue](#).

The Ukraine and the UK play a “[solidarity](#)” chess match.

Garry Kasparov [doesn’t think much](#) of the upcoming World Championship Match.

Toronto will [host](#) the 2024 Candidates Tournaments.

An article on the popularity of chess – [written](#) by A.I. technology.

Reykjavik Open [boasts](#) 400 attendees, including popular streamer Alexandra Botez and GM Vassily Ivanchuk.

San Francisco based chess player and musician Lisa Willis has a YouTube channel. Check it out [here](#).

A chess tournament is in the works to [unite](#) historically Black colleges and universities.

GM Anish Giri is the new [CEO](#) of chess.com – or is he?

Popular streamer WFM Anna Cramling [speaks up](#) about women in the chess world.

WIM Alexey Root gives a [shout out](#) to the Chess Cafe and our upcoming panel discussion on the World Championship match (see attached .pdf flyer).

Science finds a [new way](#) to classify chess openings

The Factory Bar in Richmond, CA runs a [blitz tournament](#) every second Thursday of the month.

An entertaining story of a [chess lesson](#) – for \$50,000.

You mean it’s not the Chess Scuttlebut? A [tribute](#) to what is surely the world’s longest running chess column – Leonard Barden of the Guardian.

Recent Games

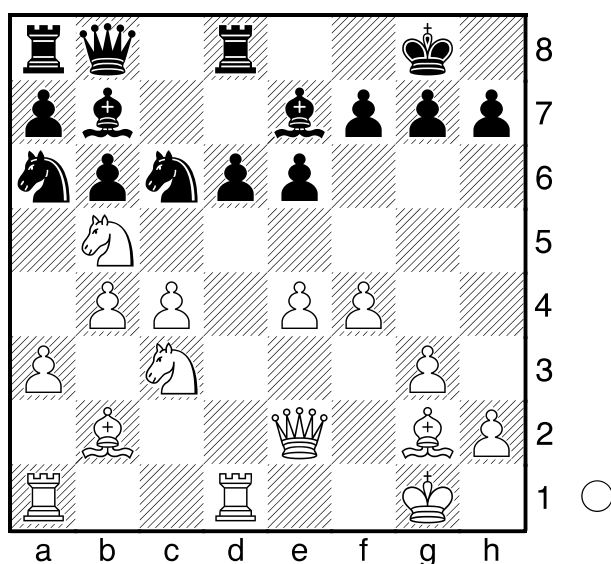
A selection of games played around the world that have caught our attention.

Nyzhnyk, Ilya

Stearman, Josiah
 Saint Louis Super Swiss 2023 (1.1)

E15
2654
2391

White ties black up, then finishes with a lightning attack. 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qa4 Bb7 6.Bg2 c5 7.0-0 Be7 8.Rd1 0-0 9.Nc3 Na6 10.e4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Ng4 12.Qc2 Bc5 13.Na4 Be7 14.Qe2 Ne5 15.Nb5 Nc6 16.Nac3 Qb8 17.b4 Na6 18.f4 Nc6 19.a3 d6 20.Bb2 Rd8



21.Nd5! Bf8 22.Nf6+ Kh8 23.Qh5 gxf6 24.Bxf6+ Bg7 25.Qxf7 Bxf6 26.Qxf6+ Kg8 27.Qxe6+ Kg7 28.Nxd6
1-0

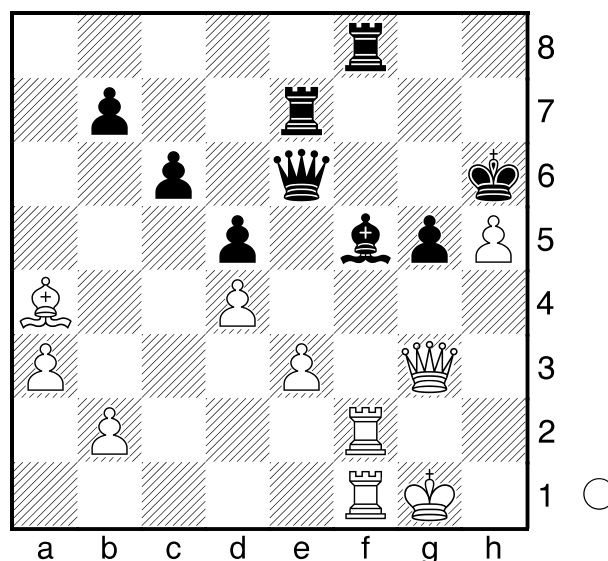
Ivanchuk, Vasyi

Muradli, Mahammad
 EICC 2023 Vrnjacka Banja (11.22)

D35
2664
2539

A pretty deflection sacrifice catches black flat-footed. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.Qc2 Nbd7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 c6 9.Bd3 Re8 10.0-0 Nf8 11.h3 Ng6 12.Bh2 Bd6 13.Bxd6 Qxd6 14.Rab1 a5 15.Rfc1

Qe7 16.Nd2 Nh4 17.g3 Qd7 18.Qd1 Nf5 19.Ne2 Nd6 20.Nf4 Nfe4 21.h4 f6 22.Nxe4 Nxe4 23.Rc2 g5 24.Nh5 Qf7 25.hxg5 fxg5 26.g4 Rf8 27.f4 Nf6 28.Nxf6+ Qxf6 29.f5 h5 30.Rf2 Bd7 31.gxh5 Rae8 32.Qf3 Kh7 33.Qg3 Kh6 34.a3 a4 35.Bc2 Re7 36.Bxa4 Bxf5 37.Rbf1 Qe6



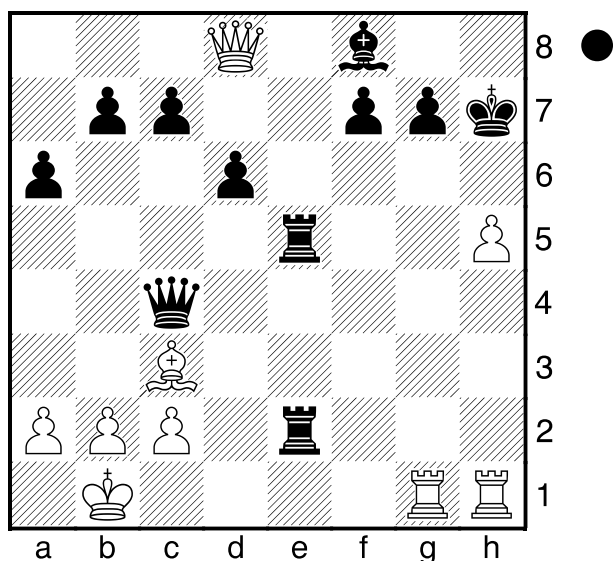
38.e4! dxe4 39.Bb3 Qd7 40.Rxf5 Rxf5 41.Rxf5 Qxd4+ 42.Kh1 Qd2 43.Rf6+ Kh7 44.Rf2
1-0

Kovalev, Vladislav

Yilmazyerli, Mert
 EICC 2023 Vrnjacka Banja (11.30)

C42
2623
2525

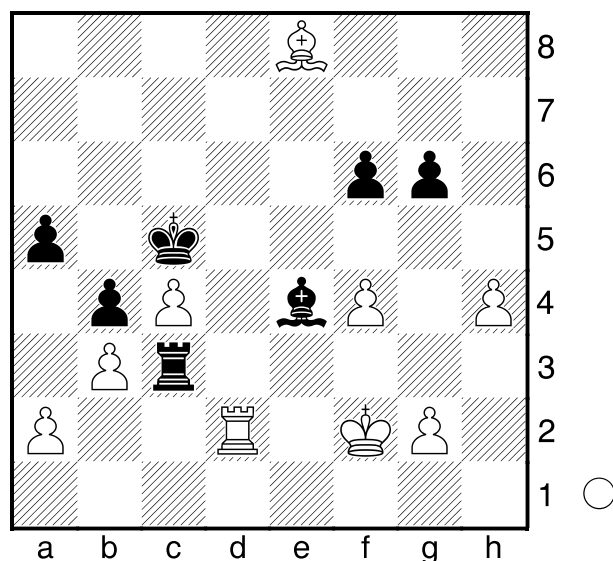
Black's mating attack seems to come out of nowhere. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Be6 9.0-0-0 Qd7 10.Kb1 a6 11.h4 h6 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 0-0 14.Be2 Rfe8 15.g4 Bf8 16.Be3 Bxg4 17.Bxg4 Qxg4 18.Rdg1 Qf3 19.Bxh6 Re2 20.Qc1 Rxf2 21.h5 Kh7 22.Be3 Re2 23.Bd4 Rae8 24.c4 Qe4 25.Bc3 Qxc4 26.Qg5 R8e5 27.Qd8



Ra5! 28.a3 Rxa3 29.bxa3 Qxc3
30.Rc1 Re5 31.Rh4 Qxa3 32.Rh3
Qxh3
0-1

E11
Sarana,Alexey **2668**
Korobov,Anton **2658**
EICC 2023 Vrnjacka Banja (9.1) 11.03.23

A classy game by the winner of the European Individual Chess Championship. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 c5 5.Bxb4 cxb4 6.e3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.0-0 a5 10.Re1 d6 11.e4 Nc6 12.Nf1 e5 13.Bc2 Rc8 14.Rc1 g6 15.Ba4 Qe7 16.Ne3 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 exd4 18.Qxd4 Nxe4 19.Ng4 Qg5 20.Bd7 Rc5 21.Rcd1 h5 22.Rxe4 hxg4 23.Rxg4 Qe5 24.Qxd6 Qxd6 25.Rxd6 Rd8 26.Rgd4 Kf8 27.Bb5 Rxd6 28.Rxd6 Be4 29.Rxb6 Bd3 30.Rb8+ Ke7 31.b3 Bb1 32.Ba4 Re5 33.f4 Re1+ 34.Kf2 Rc1 35.Re8+ Kd6 36.Re1 Rc2+ 37.Re2 Rc3 38.Rd2+ Kc5 39.Be8 f6 40.Rd5+ Kb6 41.Rd6+ Kc5 42.Rd5+ Kb6 43.Rd2 Kc5 44.h4 Be4
(Diagram)

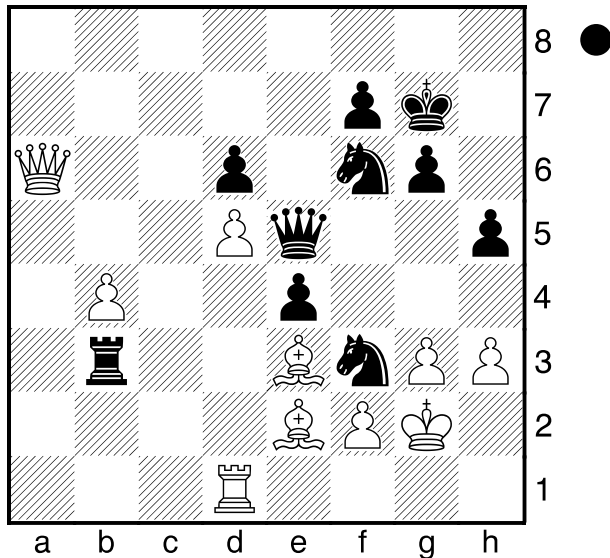


45.f5! gxf5 46.h5 a4 47.Bxa4 f4
48.Re2 Bxg2 49.Bd7 Bf3 50.h6 Bxe2
51.h7 Rc2 52.h8Q Bg4+ 53.Ke1 Rc1+
54.Kd2 Rd1+ 55.Kc2 Rxd7 56.Qxf6
Bd1+ 57.Kc1
1-0

B32
Dominguez Perez,Leinier **2743**
Nakamura,Hikaru **2768**
The American Cup | Group A 2023 (6)

Black combines attack and defense in a beautiful game by the winner of the American Cup. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 Be6 8.Nc4 Rb8 9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Nce7 11.g3 b5 12.Ne3 g6 13.a4 Nf6 14.axb5 axb5 15.Bg2 Bh6 16.0-0 0-0 17.Qd3 Nd7 18.Bd2 Nc5 19.Qe2 Qc7 20.b4 Nd7 21.Ra5 Bxe3 22.Bxe3 Nf5 23.Ra7 Rb7 24.Rxb7 Qxb7 25.Bd2 Ra8 26.Qd3 Ra2 27.Rd1 Nf6 28.Bg5 Kg7 29.Bh3 Nd4 30.c3 Nc2 31.Qf3 Ng8 32.Bf1 Ra3 33.Bc1 Rb3 34.Qe4 Rxc3 35.Bb2 Nf6 36.Qh4 Rb3 37.Bc1 Ng8 38.Qd8 Qe7 39.Qa5 Nd4 40.Be3 Nf3+ 41.Kg2 Qf6 42.Be2 e4 43.Qxb5 Qb2 44.Qa6 Nf6 45.h3

h5 46.Kf1 Qe5 47.Kg2

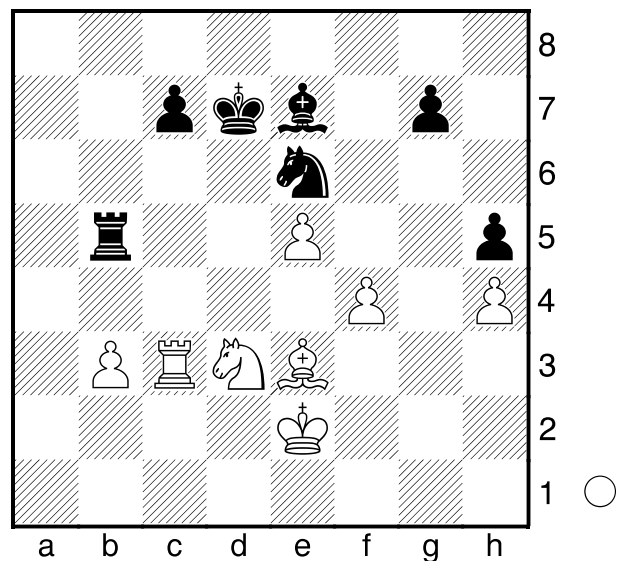


Rxe3! 48.fxe3 h4 49.gxh4 Qh2+
0-1

Shankland, Sam **C68**
2710
 Robson, Ray **2702**
 The American Cup | Group A 2023 (6)

A positional master-class by the 2018 United States Champion. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d3 Qf6 8.Nbd2 Ne7 9.Re1 Ng6 10.d4 Nf4 11.dxe5 Qg6 12.Nh4 Bxd1 13.Nxg6 Nxg6 14.Rxd1 0-0-0 15.e6 fxe6 16.Re1 Bb4 17.c3 Be7 18.Nf3 e5 19.Be3 Kd7 20.g3 Ke6 21.Kg2 Rd7 22.Rad1 Rhd8 23.Rxd7 Rxd7 24.Bg5 Bf8 25.Kf1 b5 26.Ke2 c5 27.Rd1 Bd6 28.Be3 c4 29.h4 Rd8 30.Ng5+ Ke7 31.Nh3 Rf8 32.Rf1 b4 33.cxb4 Rb8 34.Rc1 Rxb4 35.Rc2 c3 36.b3 a5 37.f3 Nf8 38.Rxc3 a4 39.Nf2 axb3 40.axb3 Ne6 41.Nd3 Rb5 42.f4 exf4 43.gxf4 Kd7 44.e5 Be7

(Diagram)

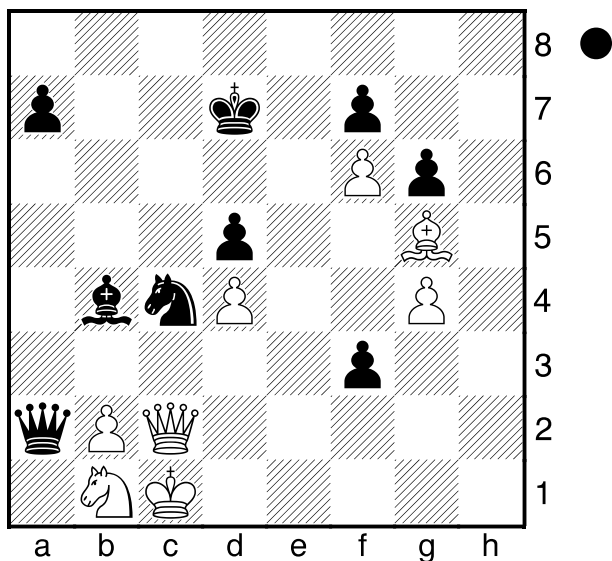


45.f5 Nd8 46.Bg5 c6 47.Kf3 Ra5
48.Ke4 Ra2 49.e6+ Ke8 50.Nf4 Ra1
51.Nxh5 Re1+ 52.Re3 Rg1 53.Nxg7+
Kf8 54.f6 Bxf6 55.Bxf6 Nxe6 56.Nxe6+
1-0

Paikidze, Nazi **D12**
2314
 Lee, Alice **2362**
 The American Cup | Group B 2023 (4)

A dominating performance by the 13 year old prodigy and runner-up in the American Women's Cup. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Bg6 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.Bd2 Nbd7 9.Qc2 Rc8 10.c5 Be7 11.g3 e5 12.0-0-0 Ng4 13.Be1 Rxh2 14.Rxh2 Nxh2 15.Bh3 e4 16.f4 Nf3 17.Bf2 Qa5 18.Rh1 Rc7 19.g4 b6 20.cxb6 Nxb6 21.Bg2 Nc4 22.Rh8+ Kd7 23.Rb8 Rc8 24.Rxc8 Kxc8 25.Bxf3 exf3 26.e4 Bb4 27.Nb1 Qxa2 28.exd5 cxd5 29.f5 g5 30.f6 g6 31.Be3 Kd7 32.Bxg5

(Diagram)



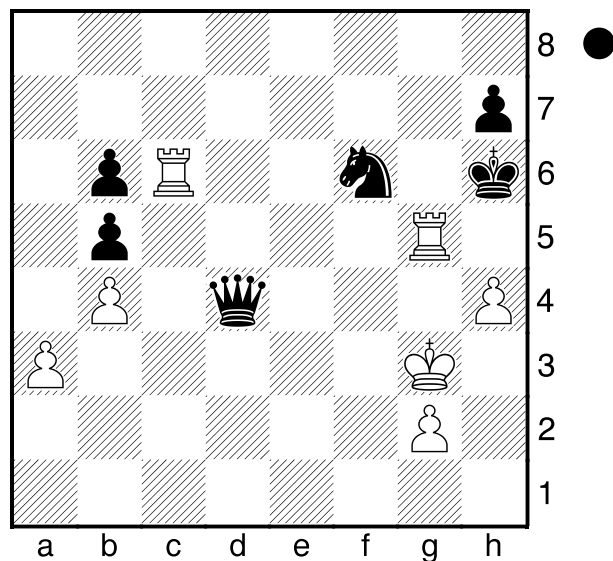
Qxb2+! 33.Qxb2 Nxb2 34.Nd2 Bxd2+
35.Kxd2 Nc4+ 36.Ke1 Nd6 37.Bc1
Ne4 38.g5 f2+
0-1

□ Nakamura,Hikaru
■ So,Wesley

A28
2768
2761

The American Cup | Group A 2023 (15)

A difficult struggle between these two super GM's ends in a surprise stalemate.
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e4 Bb4 5.d3 d6 6.a3 Bc5 7.b4 Bb6 8.Na4 Bg4 9.Be2 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Nd4 11.Nxb6 axb6 12.0-0 Qd7 13.Bb2 Nxf3+ 14.Qxf3 0-0 15.Qe2 Rfe8 16.f4 b5 17.c5 Qe6 18.Rac1 c6 19.cxd6 Nd7 20.Qf2 f6 21.d4 exf4 22.e5 fxe5 23.dxe5 Nxe5 24.Rce1 Qd5 25.Qe2 Nc4 26.Qxe8+ Rxe8 27.Rxe8+ Kf7 28.Re7+ Kg6 29.Rxg7+ Kh6 30.Ba1 Ne3 31.h4 Qd3 32.Rxf4 Qd1+ 33.Kf2 Qxa1 34.Rg5 Nd5 35.d7 Qh8 36.Re4 Qf6+ 37.Kg1 Qd6 38.d8Q Qxd8 39.Re6+ Nf6 40.Kh2 Qd4 41.Kg3 b6 42.Rxc6 Qe3+ 43.Kh2 Qf4+ 44.Kh3 Qf1 45.Re6 Qf2 46.Rc6 Qe3+ 47.Kh2 Qd4 48.Kg3



Qxh4+! 49.Kxh4
1/2-1/2

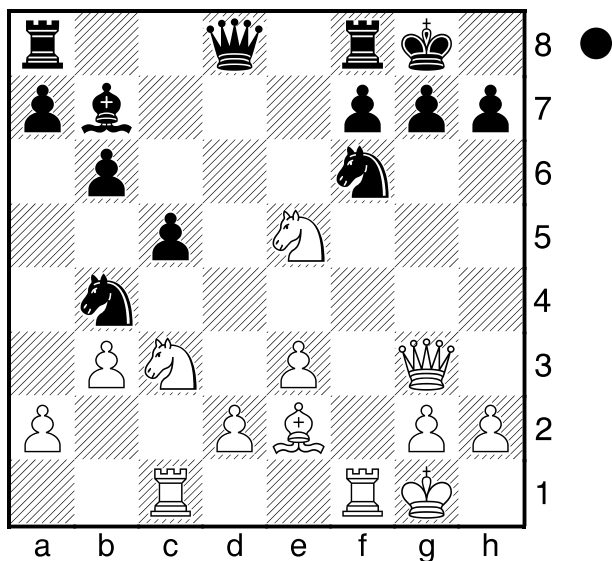
□ Nakamura,Hikaru
■ So,Wesley

A13
2768
2761

American Cup | Champions (32) 26.3.23

So blunders his queen, and Nakamura wins the American Cup in an abrupt conclusion. 1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.b3 Be7 5.Bb2 0-0 6.Nc3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Rc1 d4 9.Na4 dxe3 10.fxe3 b6 11.Be2 Nd5 12.0-0 Nc6 13.Qe1 Bb7 14.Qg3 Bf6 15.Bxf6 Nxf6 16.Nc3 Nb4 17.Ne5

(Diagram)



Qxd2? 18.Rfd1 Qb2 19.Nc4
1-0

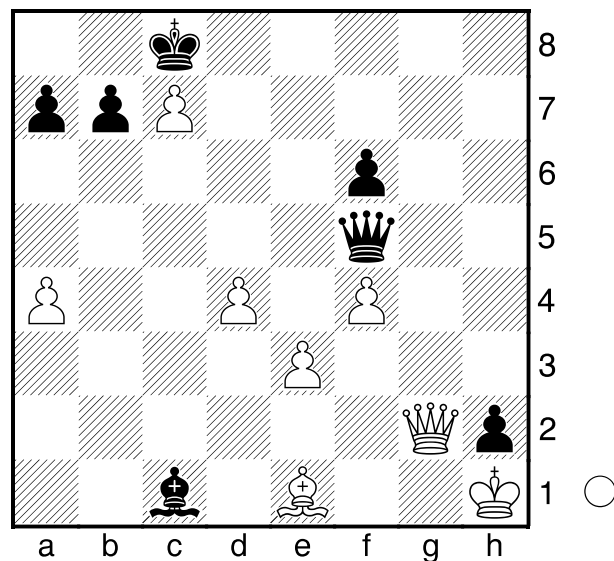
□ **Krush,Irina**
■ **Lee,Alice**

A22
2432
2362

The American Cup | Group B 2023 (9)

Experience wins out, and GM Krush repeats as the American Women's Cup Champion. 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 e4 4.Ng5 c6 5.Ngxe4 Nxe4 6.Nxe4 d5 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.Ng3 h5 9.e3 h4 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.Ne2 Bd6 12.0-0 Qf6 13.f3 Bd7 14.d4 0-0-0 15.Bd2 Bc7 16.Bd3 Qd6 17.f4 g5 18.Qb3 Rhg8 19.Kh1 g4 20.Rfc1 Qf6 21.Qxd5 g3 22.Qf3 Bg4 23.Qf1 Bxe2 24.Bxe2 h3 25.Bf3 hxg2+ 26.Bxg2 gxh2 27.Qf3 Rg6 28.Rc2 Rdg8 29.Be1 Kb8 30.Rac1 Qf5 31.b4 Bd6 32.a4 f6 33.b5 Ba3 34.bxc6 Rxg2 35.Rxg2 Rxg2 36.c7+ Kc8 37.Qxg2 Bxc1

(Diagram)



38.Qg8+ Kxc7 39.Qc4+ Kd7 40.Qxc1 Qh3 41.Bd2 Qf3+ 42.Kxh2 Qf2+ 43.Kh1 Qf3+ 44.Kg1 Qg3+ 45.Kf1 Qf3+ 46.Ke1 f5 47.Qc4 Qg3+ 48.Kd1
1-0

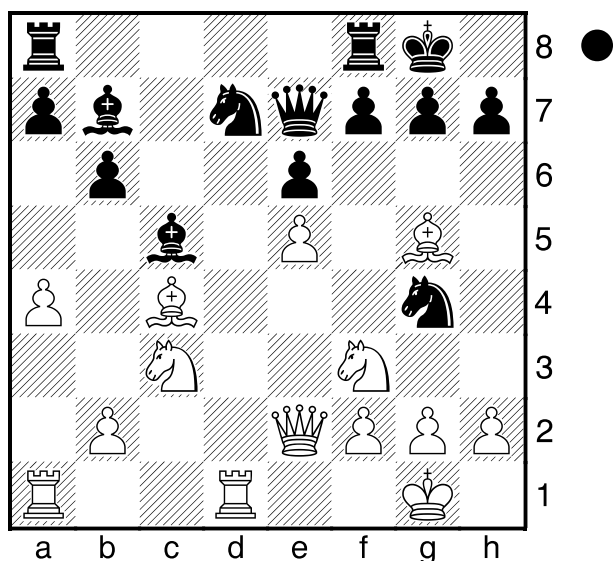
□ **Carlsen,Magnus**
■ **Artemiev,Vladislav**

D16
2852
2701

Chessable Masters Div 1 2023 (1.1)

Under pressure, the World Champion ditches a pawn (15...Qe8 was better) and is subsequently outplayed. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 e6 6.e3 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 Nbd7 11.Rd1 Qe7 12.Nf3 b6 13.e4 Bb7 14.e5 Ng4 15.Bg5

(Diagram)

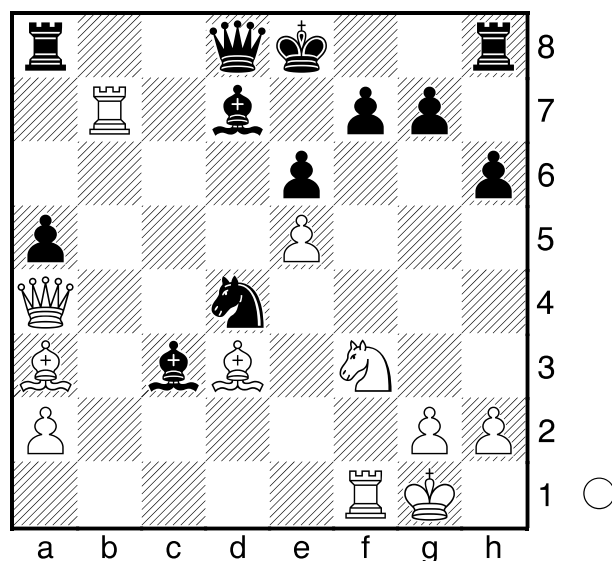


f6? 16.exf6 Ndx6 17.Qxe6+ Qxe6
 18.Bxe6+ Kh8 19.Rd2 Bxf3 20.gxf3
 Ne5 21.Kg2 Rae8 22.Bf5 Nh5 23.Bg4
 Nf6 24.Bh3 Nxf3 25.Kxf3 Ne4+ 26.Kg4
 Nxd2 27.Bxd2 Rxf2 28.Rd1 h5+
 29.Kxh5 Rd8 30.Be1 Rxd1 31.Bxf2
 Rd2 32.Bxc5 bxc5 33.Be6 Rxh2+
 34.Kg6 Rxb2 35.Ne4 c4 36.Bxc4 Rb4
 37.Nd6 Rb6
0-1

D10
 ♖ **Williams, Simon K** **2461**
 ♜ **Rakhmangulova, Anastasiya** **2266**
 Reykjavik Open 2023 (2) 30.03.2023

A brilliant queen sacrifice by the famous "Ginger GM" punishes black's passive play. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.f3 e6 6.e4 dxe4 7.fxe4 Nc6 8.Nf3 Bb4 9.Bd3 Ba5 10.e5 Nd5 11.0-0 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bxc3 13.Rb1 h6 14.Ba3 a5 15.Qa4 Bd7 16.Rxb7 Nxd4

(Diagram)

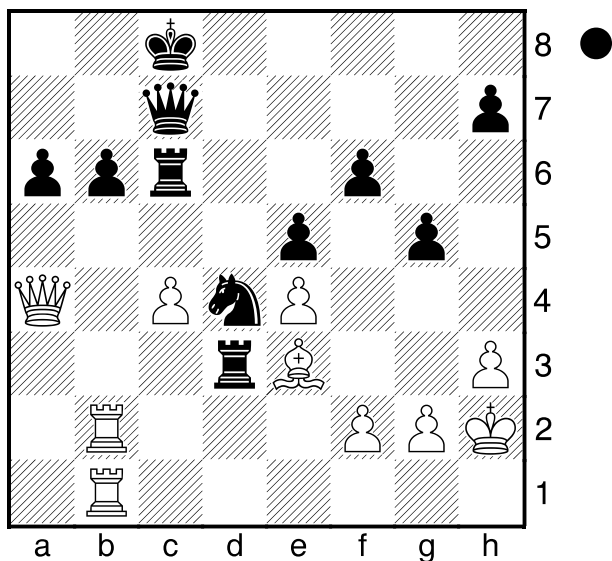


17.Nxd4!! Bxa4 18.Nxe6 Qh4 19.Rxf7
 Bb4 20.Rf8+
1-0

C65
 ♖ **Caruana, Fabiano** **2766**
 ♜ **Le, Quang Liem** **2728**
 Chessable Masters Div 1 2023 (1.5)

Black was unable to cope with white's incessant queenside pressure and finally cracked. 38... Qb7 would have kept the balance. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nbd2 Be6 7.0-0 Nd7 8.Nb3 Bb6 9.Ng5 Bxb3 10.axb3 f6 11.Nf3 Nc5 12.Nd2 Ne6 13.Qh5+ g6 14.Qd1 Qd7 15.Nc4 a6 16.b4 0-0-0 17.Nxb6+ cxb6 18.Be3 c5 19.Kh1 Kb8 20.bxc5 bxc5 21.Qe1 Rc8 22.b3 Rc6 23.Ra2 Rhc8 24.h3 g5 25.b4 Nd4 26.bxc5 Rxc5 27.c4 R5c6 28.Qb4 Qd6 29.Qa5 Rb6 30.Raa1 Rb3 31.Qd2 Ne6 32.Rfb1 Rxd3 33.Qa5 Rc6 34.Kh2 Kc8 35.Ra2 Nd4 36.Rab2 Qc7 37.Qb4 b6 38.Qa4

(Diagram)

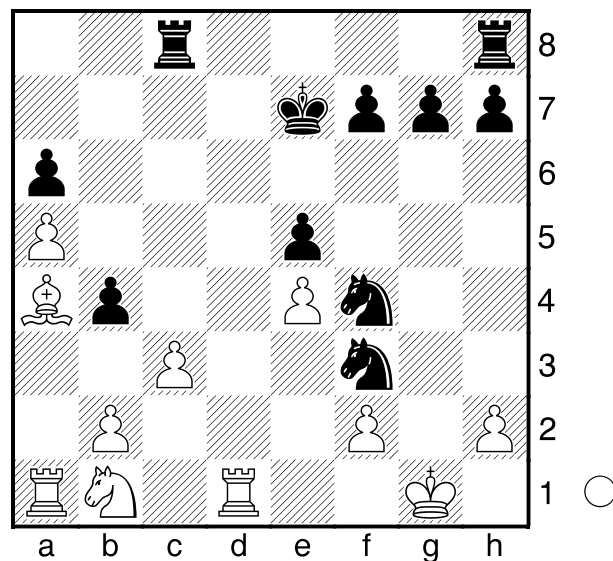


Kb7? 39.Ra2 Kc8 40.Qxa6+ Qb7
41.Qa4 Rc3 42.Qb4 R3xc4 43.Qf8+
Kc7 44.Ra8 Rd6 45.Qf7+ Rd7
46.Qxc4+ Kd6 47.Ra6 Qxe4
48.Rxb6+ Ke7 49.Re6+ Kf8 50.Rxf6+
Kg7 51.Qc8
1-0

□ **Fedoseev, Vladimir** **B30 2674**
 ■ **Nakamura, Hikaru** **2768**
 Chessable Masters Div 1 2023 (1.4)

Tremendous positional acumen from Nakamura, jettisoning a pawn with 17... Bg4, followed by a rapid invasion with both knights. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e5 4.0-0 Bd6 5.c3 a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bb3 c4 8.Bc2 Nf6 9.d4 cxd3 10.Qxd3 Be7 11.Bg5 Nh5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Rd1 Nf4 14.Qe3 d6 15.a4 b4 16.Qd2 Bg4 17.Qxd6 Rc8 18.a5 Bxf3 19.Qxe7+ Kxe7 20.gxf3 Nd4 21.Ba4 Nxf3+

(Diagram)

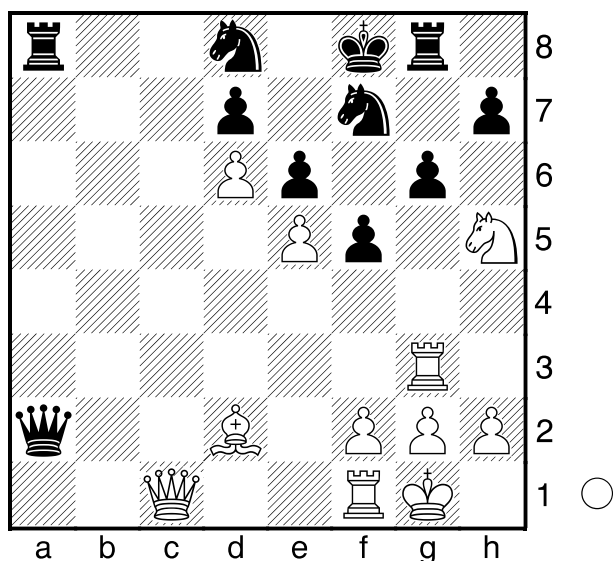


22.Kh1 Rhd8 23.Rxd8 Kxd8 24.Bd1
Ng5 25.Ra4 Ngh3 26.Nd2 Rc6 27.Nf1
bxc3
0-1

□ **Keymer, Vincent** **C01 2699**
 ■ **Meier, Georg** **2613**
 Chessable Masters Div 2 2023 (1.3)

Black gets in hot water right out of the opening and never recovers. 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.e4 Bb4+ 4.Nd2 Bb7 5.Qc2 c5 6.d5 f5 7.a3 Ba5 8.b4 cxb4 9.Qb2 Qf6 10.e5 Qe7 11.d6 bxa3 12.Rxa3 Bxd2+ 13.Bxd2 Qh4 14.Rg3 Qe4+ 15.Be2 Kf8 16.Nh3 Nc6 17.Bc3 Nh6 18.0-0 Nd8 19.c5 Nh7 20.cxb6 axb6 21.Bf3 Qc4 22.Bxb7 Nxb7 23.Qxb6 Nbd8 24.Bd2 Qc6 25.Qb2 Qd5 26.Nf4 Qa2 27.Qc1 Rg8 28.Nh5 g6

(Diagram)



29.Bh6+
1-0

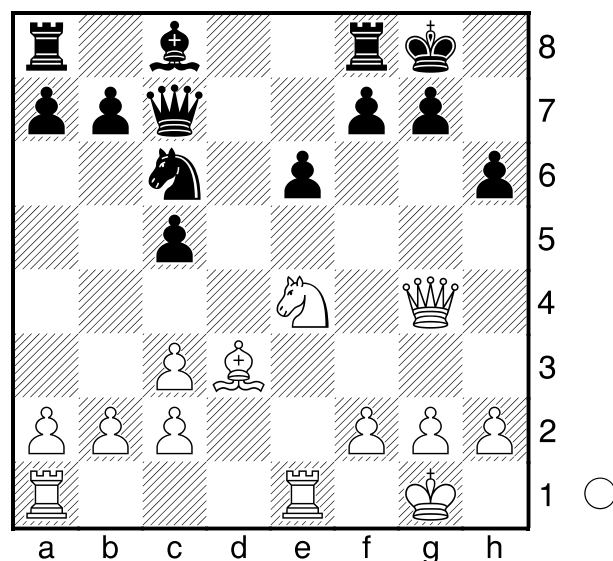
□ Praggananandhaa R
■ Le,Tuan Minh

Chessable Masters Div 2 2023 (1.1)

B29
2691
2542

Black is overwhelmed right and left in this powerful attacking game by the Indian prodigy. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3 Nxc3 5.dxc3 Nc6 6.Bf4 Qb6 7.Bd3 h6 8.0-0 e6 9.Re1 Qc7 10.Nd2 d5 11.exd6 Bxd6 12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.Ne4 Qc7 14.Qg4 0-0

(Diagram)

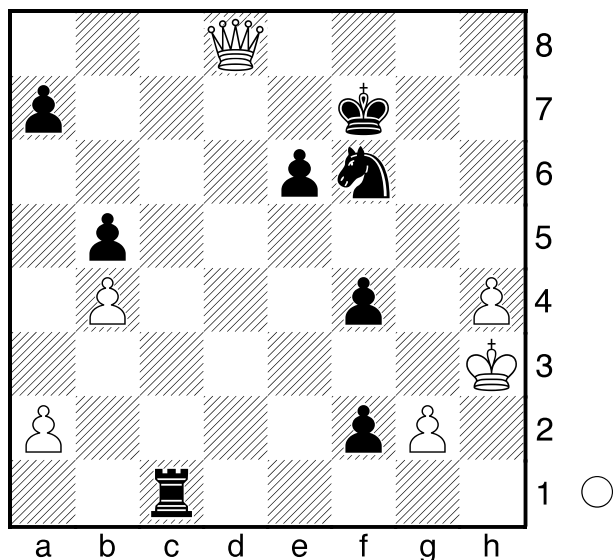


15.Nf6+ Kh8 16.Qe4 g6 17.Qe3 Kg7 18.Ng4 g5 19.Qxc5 Rd8 20.Qc4 Rd5 21.a4 Bd7 22.b4 Rc8 23.Be4 Rd6 24.Rad1 Be8 25.b5 Rxd1 26.Rxd1 Rd8 27.Bd3 f5 28.bxc6 fxg4 29.Qe4 Qxc6 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Qxh6+ Ke7 32.Qxg5+ 1-0

□ Erigaisi Arjun **D00**
■ Abdusattorov,Nodirbek **2701**
Chessable Masters Div 2 2023 (2.4) **2731**

Two of the world's top prospects go all-in against each other, with a piquant finish. 1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Bf5 3.f3 e6 4.e4 Bg6 5.Nh3 Bb4 6.Bd3 c5 7.dxc5 Nf6 8.Bg5 dxe4 9.Bxe4 Qc7 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Qd4 Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3 0-0 13.Bxg6 fxg6 14.0-0 b6 15.Rfe1 Kf7 16.b4 Nd7 17.Qc4 Ne5 18.Qe4 Rae8 19.f4 Ng4 20.c6 b5 21.Rad1 Qb6+ 22.Kh1 Kg8 23.Rd7 Rf7 24.Red1 f5 25.Qf3 h6 26.R1d6 Nf6 27.Rxf7 Kxf7 28.Nf2 Ke7 29.Rd2 Rc8 30.Qg3 Qxc6 31.Qe3 Qc3 32.Rd3 Qxc2 33.h3 Rc7 34.Qg3 g5 35.fxg5 Qc1+ 36.Kh2 hxg5 37.h4 g4 38.Rd1 f4 39.Qd3 g3+ 40.Kh3 gxf2

41.Qd8+ Kf7 42.Rxc1 Rxc1



0-1

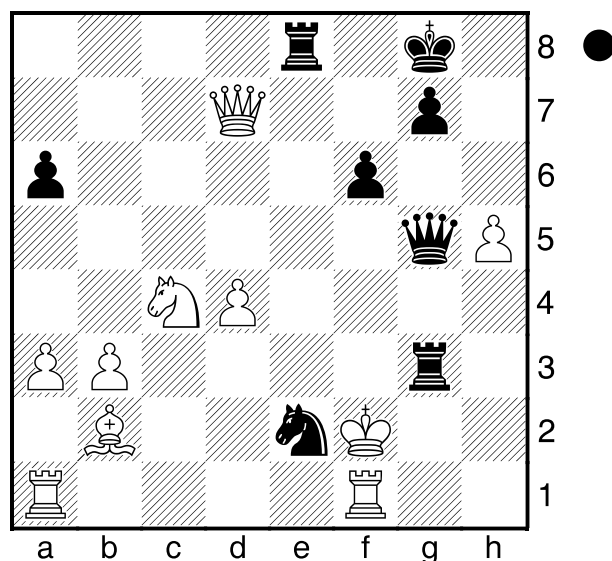
□ Keymer,Vincent
■ Lazavik,Denis

D37
2699
2544

Chessable Masters Div 2 2023 (2.2)

A powerfull attacking game by yet another up and coming young GM. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.h3 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 0-0 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.0-0 Re8 11.b3 d4 12.Na4 Bd6 13.exd4 h6 14.Nc3 a6 15.Bb2 Nb4 16.Be2 Bf5 17.a3 Nbd5 18.Ne5 Nxc3 19.Bxc3 Nd5 20.Bb2 Nf4 21.Bg4 Qg5 22.Qf3 Bxg4 23.hxg4 f6 24.Nc4 Ne2+ 25.Kh1 h5 26.gxh5 Re4 27.g3 Rh4+ 28.Kg2 Bxg3 29.fxg3 Rg4 30.Kf2 Rxg3 31.Qxb7 Re8 32.Qd7

(Diagram)



Rf3+!! 33.Ke1 Rxf1+ 34.Kxf1 Qg1#
0-1

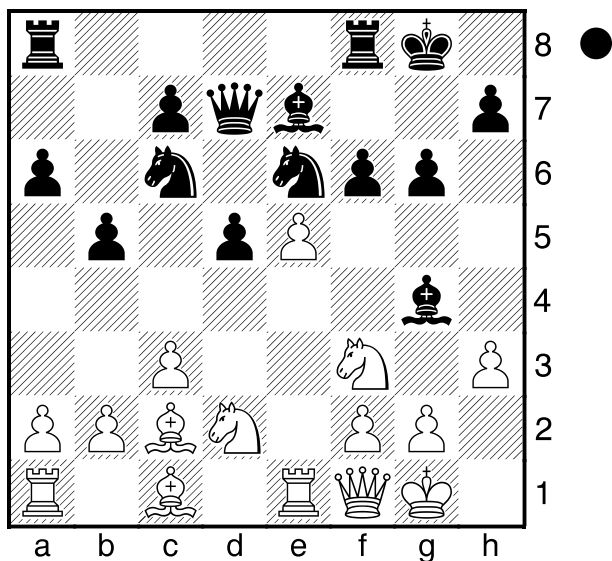
□ Vachier-Lagrave,Maxime
■ Pragganandhaa R

C83
2736
2691

Chessable Masters Div 2 2023 (2.1)

Black throws everything into the attack but is thwarted at every turn. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Bc2 Bg4 11.Qe1 Nc5 12.Nbd2 Ne6 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Re1 Qd7 15.Qd3 g6 16.Qf1 f6 17.h3

(Diagram)

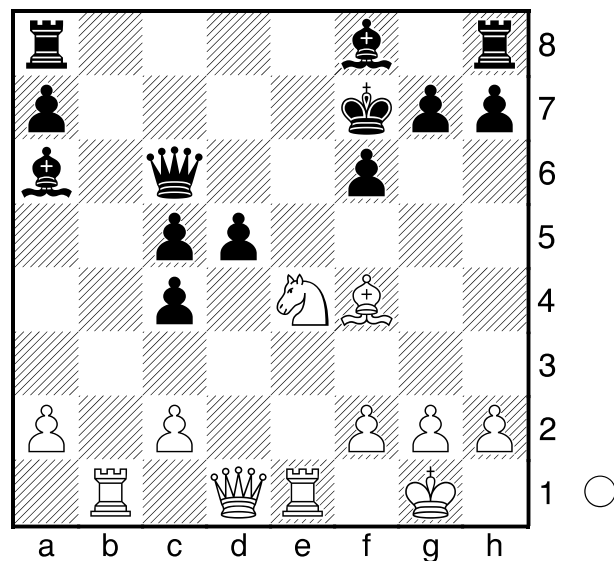


Bxh3!? 18.gxh3 fxe5 19.Nxe5 Nxe5
20.Rxe5 Nf4 21.Re3 Bc5 22.Rf3 Qe7
23.Kh1 Ne2 24.Bd1 Nxc1 25.Rxc1
Qg5 26.Nb3 Bd6 27.Qg2 Qe5 28.Re3
Qf4 29.Bf3 Rae8 30.Rce1 Rxe3
31.Rxe3 Rf5 32.Nd4 Re5 33.Bxd5+
Kh8 34.Rxe5 Qxe5 35.Be4 c5 36.Ne2
c4 37.Kg1 b4 38.Qf3 a5 39.Kf1 a4
40.Qe3 a3 41.bxa3 Bc5 42.Qf4 Qxf4
43.Nxf4 bxc3 44.Ne2
1-0

D02
 Praggnanandhaa R **2691**
 Giri, Anish **2768**
 Chessable Masters Div 2 2023 (53.2)

19.Nxf6!! rips black apart in another
imaginative effort from Pragg. 1.d4 Nf6
2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Bb5
Qa5+ 6.Nc3 Ne4 7.0-0 Nxc3 8.Bxc6+
bxc6 9.bxc3 f6 10.c4 dxc4 11.d5 Qd8
12.e4 cxd5 13.exd5 Kf7 14.Rb1 Qd7
15.d6 Qc6 16.Nd2 Ba6 17.Re1 exd6
18.Ne4 d5

(Diagram)

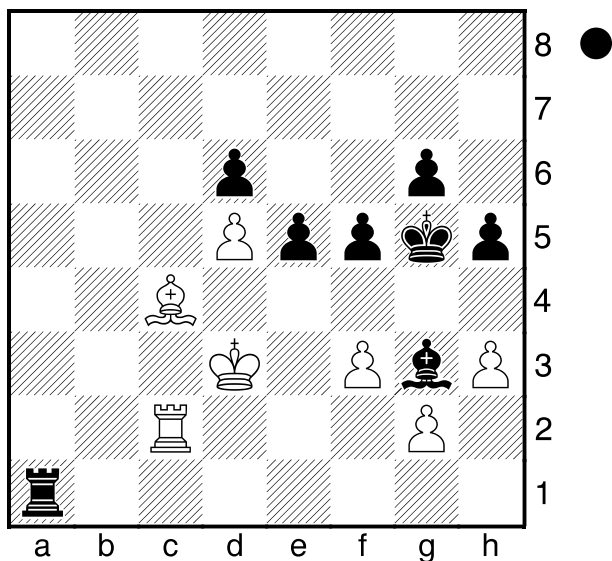


19.Nxf6!! gxf6 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Re3
h6 22.Qg6+ Bg7 23.Re7 Rh7 24.Bxh6
1-0

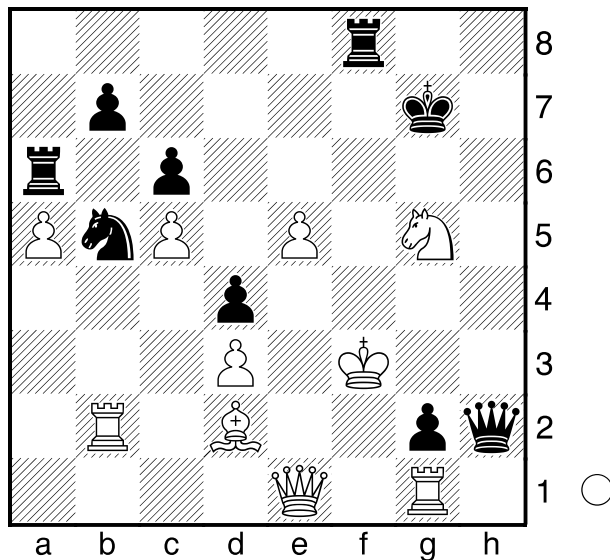
B30
 So, Wesley **2761**
 Carlsen, Magnus **2852**
 Chessable Masters Div 1 2023 (52.1)

The World Champion grinds out victory
in an opposite color bishop scenario in
classic fashion. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 e5 4.0-0 Bd6 5.d4 Nxd4
6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.c3 Bc5 8.b4 Bb6 9.a4
a6 10.Bd3 Nf6 11.a5 Ba7 12.b5 axb5
13.Na3 dxc3 14.Nxb5 Bc5 15.Bg5 0-0
16.Nxc3 h6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Nd5 Qd8
19.Qd2 d6 20.Rfb1 Ra7 21.Kh1 Be6
22.Bc4 Qh4 23.f3 Rfa8 24.Ra2 Qd8
25.h3 Rxa5 26.Rxb7 Rxa2 27.Bxa2
Qh4 28.Kh2 Kh7 29.Rb2 Ra3 30.Rb3
Ra7 31.Rb1 Bf2 32.Rf1 Bg3+ 33.Kh1
Bf4 34.Qf2 Qxf2 35.Rxf2 Bxd5
36.exd5 Bg3 37.Bb1+ g6 38.Ra2 Rc7
39.Rc2 Rb7 40.Ba2 h5 41.Kg1 Kh6
42.Kf1 Kg5 43.Ke2 f5 44.Kd3 Ra7
45.Bc4 Ra3+ 46.Rc3 Ra1 47.Rc2

(Diagram)



Qh2+ 44.Kf3 g2 45.Rg1 Rf8+



46.Kg4 Nc7 47.Rxb7 Kh6 48.Rxc7
Rxa5
1-0

Kf4 48.Re2 Ra3+ 49.Kc2 e4 50.fxe4
fxe4 51.Bb5 Ra5 52.Bc6 g5 53.Kc3
Ke5 54.Rb2 Rc5+ 55.Kd2 Bf4+ 56.Ke2
h4 57.Ra2 Rc1 58.Rb2 Bg3 59.Ke3
Re1+ 60.Re2 Bf4+ 61.Kf2 Ra1 62.Rb2
Ra3 63.Ke2 Be3 64.Rb8 Bc5 65.Rb2
Ra1 66.Kd2 Rg1
0-1

A29
2766
2768
Caruana,Fabiano
Nakamura,Hikaru
Chessable Masters Div 1 2023 (3.1)

White king walks a tightrope to victory in this wild, wild game. 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Nd4 5.Bg2 Nxf3+ 6.Bxf3 Bb4 7.Qb3 a5 8.0-0 Bc5 9.d3 0-0 10.Bg2 d6 11.Qc2 h6 12.Na4 Ba7 13.Bd2 c6 14.c5 d5 15.e4 Be6 16.h3 Bb8 17.Nb6 Ra6 18.b4 axb4 19.Bxb4 Qe7 20.Rfb1 Rd8 21.a4 d4 22.a5 Ne8 23.Rf1 Nc7 24.f4 exf4 25.gxf4 f6 26.Rae1 Nb5 27.e5 f5 28.Kh1 Bc7 29.Rb1 Kh8 30.Rb2 g5 31.fxg5 hxg5 32.Qd1 Qh7 33.Qe1 Rg8 34.Nc4 g4 35.Nd6 g3 36.Rf4 Bd8 37.Bd2 Bg5 38.Rf1 Qh6 39.Nxf5 Qh7 40.Nd6 Bxh3 41.Nf7+ Kg7 42.Nxg5 Bxg2+ 43.Kxg2

A New Puzzle in the Library

Every week or so the Mechanics' Institute's Head of Technical Services, Steven Dunlap, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.



White to move. From *100 Chess Puzzles (Improve Your Game)*, by Paul Lamford (1999). Steven says: "When you see the king boxed in, consider the possibilities for checkmate." The solution is short and elegant: 1. Qxh7+!! Kxh7 2. Rh3+ Qh4 3. Rxh4#.

Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

Are you interested in joining the team at Mechanics' Institute? The Institute is currently seeking Scholastic Chess Instructors for the upcoming school year. Qualified candidates should have a foundational knowledge of chess and should be familiar with or willing to learn chess instructional techniques. Candidates should also have a basic foundation in classroom management and conflict resolution strategies, particularly working with children. This is an in-person position and candidates must be able to commute to schools in San Francisco. If you're interested follow the link below or reach out to our Chess Program Manager, Alex Robins, at arobins@milibrary.org.

[Employment Opportunities | Mechanics' Institute \(milibrary.org\)](https://milibrary.org/employment-opportunities)

Chess in Prisons

Alex Robins

Here in the chess room we often get calls and emails from all around the world. Recently, we received correspondence from a local high school student, Tilden Stadtmiller, who is doing a school project on the benefits of chess in prison. He's been talking with some people at San Quentin State Prison and found that there is no actively organized chess club there currently and is working to hopefully organize something. I've been impressed with Tilden's work and encouraged him to share some of his findings in this special Scholastic Chess issue of the MI Chess Room Newsletter, which you can find below.

The Importance of Chess Programs in Prisons and San Quentin

Tilden Stadtmiller

Chess is a beloved pastime for countless people worldwide; played by all ages, in every country, and even in prison. Chess is an increasingly popular pastime among inmates in prisons around the world, and for a good reason. Many prisoners have found that the game provides a much-needed mental escape from the stresses and anxieties of prison life. Chess helps to develop essential skills that can benefit them both during and after their time behind bars.

One of the most significant benefits of chess for prisoners is its ability to foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Chess requires players to think several moves ahead, analyze potential outcomes, and make strategic decisions in order to outmaneuver their opponent. For prisoners, this kind of mental stimulation can help improve cognitive function and promote intellectual growth. Additionally, the game can help prisoners build confidence and self-esteem, as they develop new skills and gain a sense of accomplishment through their victories on the chessboard.

More locally, San Quentin State Prison has a large chess community. Inmates and activity directors alike have expressed how popular chess is within the prison. With the benefits of chess for inmates being clear and the desire to play chess present within the prison, I think setting up a correspondence chess program with inmates in San Quentin would be incredibly helpful in the rehabilitation efforts and providing recreation for inmates. If this is something you think you would be at all interested in feel free to reach out.

TildenStadtmiller@gmail.com

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café

The world of chess has many social currents in its attachments, motherboards, and applications. Like correspondence chess, or chess in the schools, chess composition is a world, if not a galaxy, unto itself. Its many products fit into a unique taxonomy, and may appeal to anyone who can play.

Composers have competitions and their own high-spirited ways of collaborating and teaching.

On a very windy and rainy Wednesday, the 22nd of March, a prize-winning problemist, Gady Costeff, delivered the monthly chess presentation at the Bernal Heights Branch Library at 500 Cortland Avenue on the theme “Shocking Moves.” Each opening jugada in the 16 two-movers on his handout was awarded a well-deserved pair of !! These were endgame compositions with pieces and pawns (as few as six, as many as 11 per board).

The second one featured a knight dominating a queen. Our lecturer told us to remember that in OL blitz, there’s an advantage in having a knight. The third position was the first to be solved (by Juliana, of course, as we at the Chess Café are used to). Folks in attendance suggested plenty of moves, sometimes in free-spirited collaboration they saw most of the squares that needed to be controlled; but sometimes we all had to be led out of the mystery and into closer proximity to the final key. “When harmony happens, the pieces are very strong,” the leader said.

Juliana Gallin, the organizer of the event: “When I first started the Bernal Chess Club (June 2019) I put up flyers around the neighborhood to see if people would want to meet at a cafe once a week to play. Gady saw the flyer and showed up, which is how we first connected. Back then there weren't too many people in our group who could give him a decent game, but he seemed to just enjoy seeing what the patzers were up to. When I started the library lectures last year he was a natural to invite as a speaker.

“Gady has given two library talks. Dan Sevall has given most, but not all, of the others. Gady’s first talk was more specifically about chess composition, which is a fascinating topic. He showed some stunning compositions; described different kinds, like helpmates and retrograde analysis; and also talked about tournaments and competition.”

Elliott Winslow adds, “Gady is an excellent blitz player, very knowledgeable about compositions, and a generally nice guy.”

One of the attendees on March 22 was Chris Cruz, who is involved in The L.A. Chess Social. He wrote back to me: “Here is the link for our ‘official’ website (although our Instagram typically has the most up-to-date information): <https://www.chesssocial.org/>

I went there and found about seven places where their group has gathered.

“Right now we meet once a month on a Friday or Saturday. We typically meet either at a pub, Griffins of Kinsale [RH: a truly vintage ceiling surface] or The Old Towne Pub [red-brick sections of the walls,

the band's silver drumset visible through an open door and a large window, with about six active chessboards on white tablecloths caught in the frame], both in Pasadena. Every once in a while we choose a new venue just for fun. We usually have a turnout of about 15-20 people although on holiday weekends we sometimes get up to 30. The event tends to last from 6pm to bar closing. [They've posted chess action pictures [here](#) from a number of other pubs they've met at in the past.]

"We have live music from local bands that play while everyone plays chess. Everyone is welcome to grab a brew and play. . . Sometimes we have a fun tournament, but mostly we are about just having a good time and playing casual chess with anyone who is willing. We have beginners all the way to International Masters who come to play with us (sometimes some Grandmasters too, but far less often). My buddy Karl is the main organizer.

"As far as other casual chess clubs in LA, there are a few that I love to go to: Highland Park Chess Club, Loz Feliz Chess Club, DTLA Chess at Il Caffé, 9th St. and Broadway downtown. All of which are run by great people, are very welcoming, and have strong players."

The ARVES Chess End Game Study Association site (<https://arves.org>), names an original founder, then says on the next line, "Improved by: Gady Costeff."

"ARVES Association has made its goal to encourage the composing, solving, and replaying of chess endgame studies and the development of chess endgame theory, especially in The Netherlands and Flanders."

There's a note on the ARVES book of the year in 2003: *Depth and Beauty: The Chess Endgame Studies of Artur Mandler*. "No longer available to purchase, but on the website of John Beasley a scanned version of this book can be found!" Check it out:

<http://www.jsbeasley.co.uk/ochess/mand029042.pdf>.

In a related abstract there is more specialized lingo: "We prove PSPACE-completeness of two classic types of chess problems when generalized to n -by- n boards. . . Our PSPACE-hardness reductions are from a variant of a puzzle game called Subway Shuffle."

Another composition site talks of edge gadgets and vertex gadgets, showing a 15x13-square chessboard with a five-square check mark in the southwest quadrant containing red bishops, that is diagonally linked to a four-square pillar of three red rooks and a red knight topped by a white pawn and bishop, with long dense lines of bishops and pawns and other pieces in four colors in a large complex that has open spaces, and there are different-sized boards with different arrangements. I read: "Now we have to implement the Subway Shuffle target edge. This means making a win gadget which checks whether a particular edge is used."

It's fitting to conclude [here](#) a perceptive and ironically humorous article by our March 22 lecturer. And his own site is [here](#).

(Information about joining the weekly Chess Café can be found [here](#).)



Chess World Championship: China and Russia on Board A Special Edition of the Chess Cafe Monday, April 10 at 4pm



Ding Liren
(Photo by Vladimir Barskij)



Ian Nepomniachtchi
(Photo by Eleri Kublashvili)

Join us for a special edition of the Chess Cafe on Monday, April 10 at 4pm PT, where we will be taking a look at the historic World Chess Championship match between Ding Liren from China and Ian Nepomniachtchi from Russia.

This is China's first crack at the World Chess Championship match, and our panel of experts include:

- International Master John Donaldson
- FIDE Master Paul Whitehead
- International Master and Marshall Chess Club Vice President Sal Matera

The panel will review the match up between Liren and Nepomniachtchi, analyze championship games, and share stories of chess world championships.

A Virtual Event on Zoom

Cosponsored with Marshall Chess Club
To register: milibrary.org/Events
FREE TO ALL

Questions? Call Pam Troy at 415-393-0116



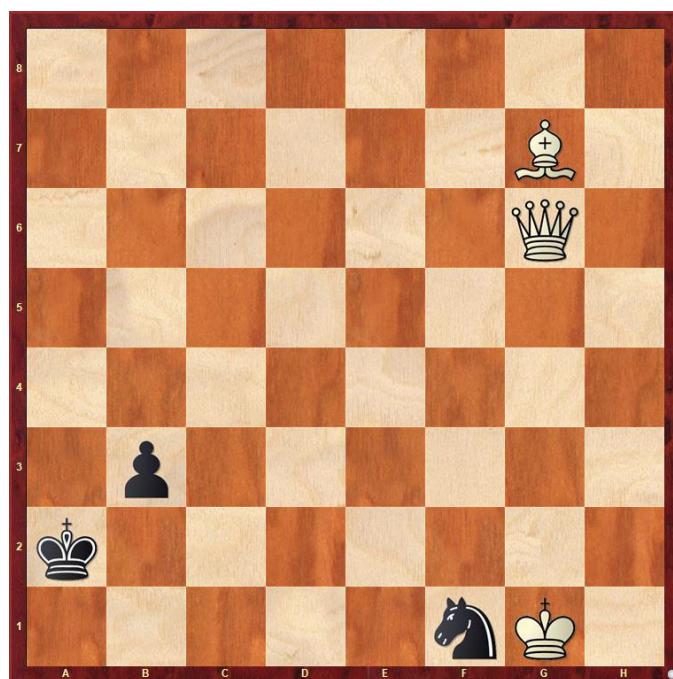
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CHESS CLUB

Tony's Teasers



1. M. Wrobel, 1953.
White mates in 2 moves.



2. W. Shinkman, 1890.
White mates in 3 moves.

Tournaments, Classes, and Events

The Mechanics' Institute offers a wide range of chess tournaments, classes, and special events. Our offerings include a monthly Chess Social, free classes for women and Mechanics' members, an online Chess Café, chess camps for adults and children, and much more.



You can find a list of ongoing and upcoming tournaments [here](#).



Offerings for adults and advanced players can be found [here](#).



Information about scholastic events, camps, and programming can be found [here](#).



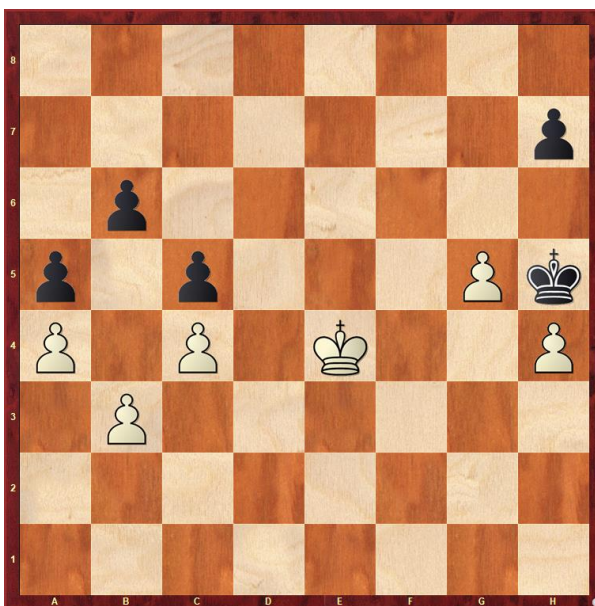
Play chess in the oldest club in the United States!

**New
Offering!**

Endgame Lab

with

FM Paul Whitehead



**Korchnoi-Petrosian
1974.
White to play and
win.**

**April 13 -June 1,
2023
8 Classes**

**Thursdays in the
Chess Room
Annex 4th Floor
5:30 PM - 6:30
PM**

**Register here:
milibrary.org/chess**

In this eight week course, FM Paul Whitehead will lead a discussion covering basic and intermediate endings, including reviewing the participant's knowledge of basic checkmates, principals and terminology – opposition, centralization, zugzwang. We will discuss and review the theory and practice of king and pawn endings, rook endings, minor piece endings, queen endings, and various material imbalances.

chessroom@milibrary.org

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**MECHANICS'
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Solutions

Tony's Teasers

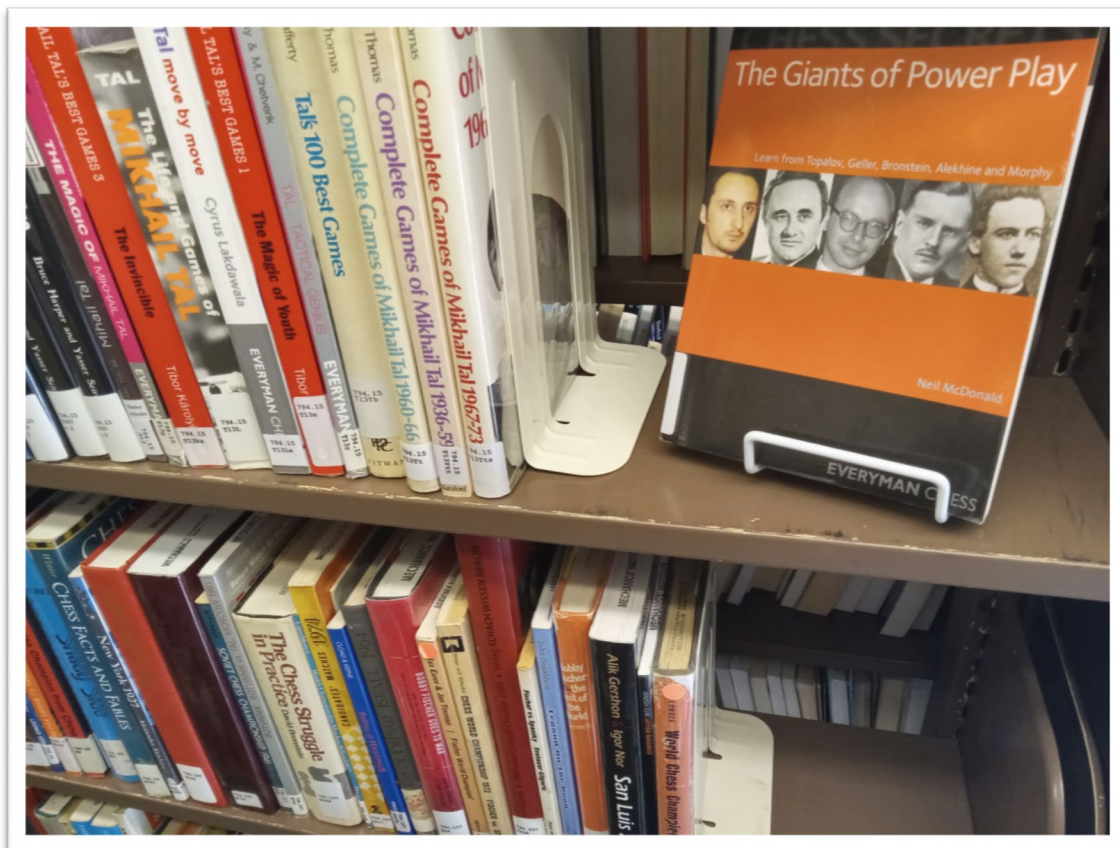
1. **M. Wrobel**, 1953. **1.Qc5!** Zugzwang. If **1...Nb6 2.Qb4#**. Or **1...Ra6 2.b6#**. Or **1...Rh8 2.Qa7#**. Finally, **1...Nc3 2.Qc7#**.
 2. **W. Shinkman**, 1890. **1.Qd6!** Leaves black helpless: **1...b2 2.Qb4! b1=Q 3.Qa4#** is the main idea. Nothing else helps: **1...Nd2 2.Qxd2+ Ka3 3.Qa5#**. Or **1...Ne3 2.Qe5! Nc4 3.Qa1#**.
-

Contact Us

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA.
Our phone number is (415) 393-0110.

We welcome any feedback, articles, or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today at
chessroom@milibrary.org

With more than 3,000 books and periodicals, The Mechanics' Institute boasts one of the largest chess book collections in the U.S.



You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!
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Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!

Free and encouraged for MI Members

5-6pm

First Fridays of the month:

April 7th

May 5th

June 2

July 7

August 4

September 1

Unwind from the week with fellow chess players. We'll have rousing game replays on the big screen, snacks, and lively conversation. Wine available for purchase in the Meeting Room provided before the CinemaLit program. Stick around for CinemaLit at 6pm!

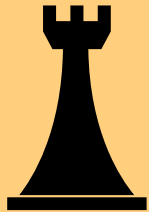
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INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT

USCF RATED AND UNRATED BRACKETS

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CLOCKS IF YOU HAVE

SAT, APRIL 22ND

1:00 PM

MENLO SCHOOL

Contact the following for details and questions:

Armin Hamrah (SHP '23) at ahamrah23@shschools.org

Cody Kletter (Menlo '25) at cody.kletter@menloschool.org

Rohan Dalal (Crystal '25) at rdalal25@csus.org

Entry Fee: \$10 (payable at the door with cash or Venmo)

Register here to guarantee spot: <https://forms.gle/pUPduvDvr4ryktt18>



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