

# Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1046 | February 10, 2024 | Gens Una Sumus!



GM **Sam Shankland** had good reason to smile: he sold all of his books at the lecture and book-signing on January 16. More on this terrific event below.

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## Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

On January 20, Mechanics' Institute hosted our monthly double-header of **Scholastic Swiss** in the morning, **Quads** in the afternoon.

The Quads had a great turnout of 63 players competing in 15 sections, and **Jashith Karthi** (2137) won the top Quad with a perfect 3 points.

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

The monthly Scholastic Swiss had 36 participants in two sections.

In the 500+ section there was a two-way split for 1st and 2nd places between **Dominic Matar** (1208) and **Keshav Raman** (1013) with 3.5 points out of 4. Tied for 3rd through 5th with 3 points apiece were **Elijah Dukhovny** (916), **Youting Long** (678), and **Zane Chu** (727).

**Aneesh Somani** (314) and **Nicholas Sun** (498) both scored a perfect 4-0 to tie for 1st and 2nd places in the u500 section. Tied for 3rd through 5th places with 3 points each were **Sasha Dennis** (458), **Ellerie Mitchell** (unr.), and **Yen Wen Jasmine Ho** (unr.).

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

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

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We hosted our first ever **ALTO (At Least Twenty One) Tournament** on January 27, and it was a great success. Fifty-one players competed in two sections - three rounds, with a (slow!) time-control of G/60;d5.

There was great feedback from this event, for example:

"Overall the tournament felt very smooth and a nice change for adults as I think anyone would expect. I saw a lot of new faces, good atmosphere, rounds started on time. Thanks again for putting on a nice event and continuing to try new formats." - R. L.

The 1600+ section was won convincingly by **Christophe Bambou** (2129) with a perfect 3-0 score. Tied for 2nd, 3rd, and best u2000 with 2.5 points apiece were **Ranen Lardent** (1920), WIM **Emily Nguyen** (2328), and **Alexander Su** (2006). There was a three-way split for the best u1800 prize between **Bowen Gui** (1568), **Guy Argo** (1791), and **Kar Lun Cheng** (1776), with 2 points apiece.

The u1600 section also had a clear winner, with **Colin Shober** (1214) scoring a perfect 3-0. There was a four-way tie for 2nd, 3rd, and best u1400 between **Shanhuan Fan** (1211), **Nithik Balachandran** (1426), **Dylan Aidlen** (1271), and **Daniel Custer** (1201) with 2.5 points each. The best u1200 prize was shared between **William Beatrez** (unr.), **Pablo Cardenas** (977), and **Isabel Rich** (unr.), each scoring 2 points.

Complete results for the January ALTO Tournament can be found [here](#).

Our next Alto Tournament is scheduled for March 23. Information can be found [here](#).

The January Alto Tournament was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, assisted by **Anthony Simich**.

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On February 3, we hosted the **1st Alla Kushnir Memorial Tournament**, with an outstanding turnout of 81 players competing in four sections.

**Jacob Chiang** (2237) swept the 2000+ section with a perfect 4-0 score. Sharing 2nd and 3rd places a full point behind were **Arun Dixit** (2228), **Jashith Karthi** (2137), **Daniel Lin** (2090), and **Sivavishnu Srinivasan** (1922).

**Liri Dancig-Perlman** (1661) took clear 1st in the 1600-1999 section with an undefeated 3.5 points. Tied for 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points apiece were **Sriaditya Pendyala** (1767), **Ahmet Gurcan** (1606), and **Shiv Sohal** (1468).

**Colin Shoher** (1203) scored a perfect 4-0 to take the top spot in the 1200-1599 section, while **Alexander Dean** (1438) and **Dylan Aidlen** (1222) split 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points each.

The u1200 section also had a clear winner, with **Giacomo Marocco** (unr.) winning every game. **Enzo Steiger** (1110) took clear 2nd with 3.5 points. Sharing 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points each were Ian Kartiwa (1014), Johan Kartiwa (823), Kayaan Kumar (696), and Sreyas Narayanan (unr.)

Complete results for the 1st Alla Kushnir Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 1st Alla Kushnir Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.



WGM **Alla Kushnir** (1941–2013) was the second-strongest female chess player in the world from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s, losing three matches (1965, 1969 and 1972) for the Women's World Chess Championship to **Nona Gaprindashvili** —the last by only a single game.

Kushnir won the Women's Championship of the Soviet Union in 1970 and represented the USSR in two Women's Chess Olympiads, winning team and individual gold in 1969 and 1972. She immigrated to Israel in 1973 and led her new homeland to victory in the 1976 Women's Chess Olympiad.

Kushnir was driven to San Francisco after Lone Pine by Mechanics' Institute trustees **Bob Burger** and **Guthrie McClain** and gave a simul at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in late April, 1975 (left).

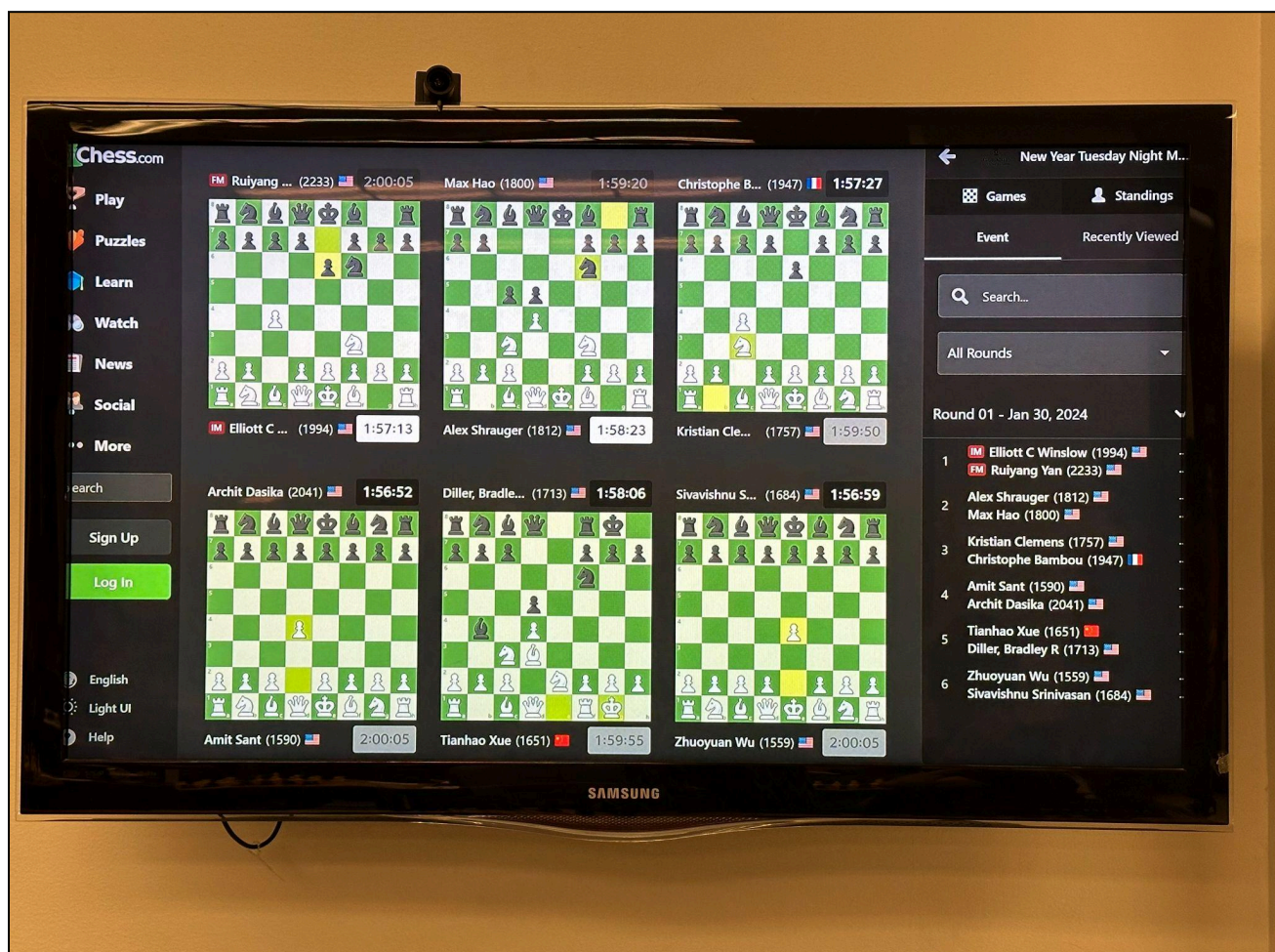


The [2024 New Year Tuesday Night Marathon](#) kicked off on January 9, and runs until February 20. This FIDE rated 7-round Swiss has 75 players competing in four sections.

Information and current standings for the 2024 New Year Tuesday Night Marathon can be found [here](#).

The 2024 New Year TNM is co-directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

Our top six boards were broadcast to the world during the 4th and 5th rounds on [chess.com](#)!



Replay the games [here](#). A huge thanks to our lead TD's Judit Sztaray and Scott Mason, as well as Mechanics' Institute IT Technician **Mitchell Sains** for making this possible.

## IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from rounds two, three and four of the 2024 New Year TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow and the players. All the games from the current TNM can be found [here](#), and games from previous TNMs are in the [Tournament Archive](#).



**Diller, Bradley R** **E06**  

**Yan, Ruiyang** **2145**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 16.1.23 **2357**  
*[Tactical Analysis 6.4]*

Again: Ruiyang Yan is on a tear, winning every game she plays in the Tuesday Night Marathon. But that's just been the final result on the scoresheet; she has been in trouble in a number of the games. Here in Round 2 it could have been a different tournament had Brad Diller cashed in... **1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.d4** And into a Catalan. **4...Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c6 7.b3 a5** Ruiyang plays the Declined, but fairly aggressively. **8.a3** All but novel (one 1300 player!), but it soon transposes to more frequent lines.

[ 8.Nc3 over 250 games, three fourths by transposition. ]

[ 8.Qc2 ]

**8...b6 9.Bb2 Ba6** This looks like the 4. g3 Ba6 Queen's Indian, except somehow Black's a-pawn got passed the bishop.

**10.Nbd2N**

[ Also a Queen's Indian idea: 10.Ne5 Nfd7 11.Nxd7 Nxd7 12.Nd2 Nf6 13.e4 Rc8 14.Re1 Bb7 15.Qe2 Rc7 16.Rac1 c5 17.cxd5 exd5 18.dxc5 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Red1 Rd7 21.Qg4 1-0 Bilobrk,F (2365)-Petrovic, S (2175) Zadar op 1998 (7) ]

**10...Nbd7 11.Re1 Rc8 12.Rc1 c5**

**13.e4=**

[ 13.cxd5 exd5 14.dxc5 to give Black hanging pawns or an isolani on d5. ]

**13...dxc4?!**

[ 13...dxe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.Rxe4= ]

**14.Nxc4±** Black must now prevent d5.

**14...cxd4**

[ 14...b5± is superior. 15.Nce5 Bb7 ]  
 [ 14...Bb7 15.d5! exd5 16.exd5 Bxd5 ( 16...Nxd5 17.Nh4 Bxh4 18.gxh4! ) 17.Bh3! Rc7 18.a4!± Black has

coordination problems for the pawn. ]

**15.Nxd4**

[ 15.e5! Nd5 16.Nxd4 Nc5 17.h4± restrains Black's B/e7. ]

**15...a4?**

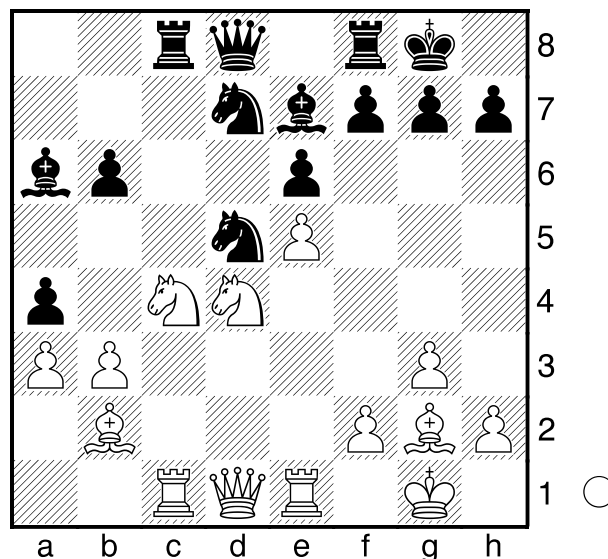
[ 15...e5= ]

[ 15...b5= 16.Nxa5! Qxa5 17.e5

Bxa3= ]

[ 15...Bxc4 16.bxc4 Ne5 17.Qe2!± ]

**16.e5+- Nd5**



As the old Steinitz maxim goes, White \*must\* attack or lose the moment.

**17.Ne3?**

[ Stronger would have been 17.Qg4!

**A) 17...axb3** 18.Bxd5 ( 18.Nxe6! fxe6 19.Qxe6+ Kh8 20.Qxd5 Bxc4 21.Rxc4 Nc5 22.Rd4± ) 18...exd5 19.Nf5! Bg5 20.e6! fxe6 21.Nxg7 Rxc4 22.Rxc4 Bxc4 23.Nxe6 Qe7;

**B) 17...Nc5 ]**

**17...Nc5?**

[ 17...Nxe3= 18.Rxe3 axb3 19.Nc6 Rxc6!? ]

**18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Re3?** Against Nd3

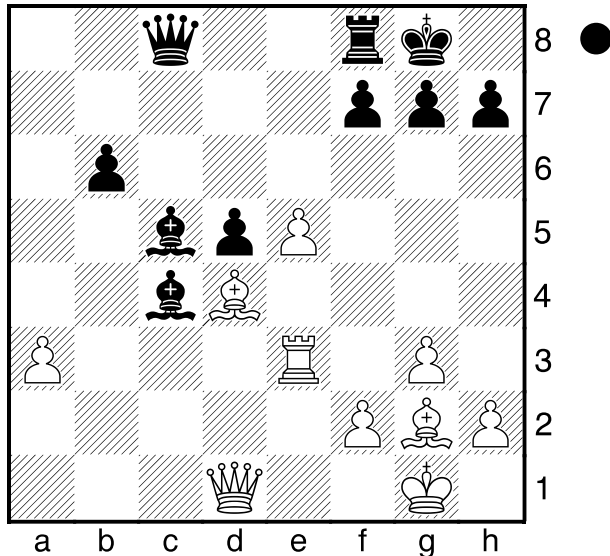
[ White should play 19.Nf5!± ]

[ Or maybe 19.e6!? ]

**19...axb3= 20.Nxb3?!**

[ 20.Nf5!= The danger on the kingside encourages Black to reduce the fire:

Na4! 21.Rxc8 Bxc8 22.Nxe7+ Qxe7  
 23.Qxb3 Nxb2 24.Qxb2 Qc5= ]  
**20...Nxb3 21.Rxc8 Qxc8 22.Qxb3 Bc4**  
 Black is taking over. **23.Qd1 Bc5**  
**24.Bd4**



**Bxd4! 25.Qxd4 Qc5± 26.Qb2?!]**  
 [ 26.Qf4± ]  
**26...d4 27.Re1 Rd8 28.a4 d3 29.Rd1**  
**Rd4?**  
 [ 29...g6-+ 30.Bf3 Rd4 ]  
**30.Bf1?**  
 [ 30.a5!= at the very worst,  
 exchanging off the previously weak a-  
 pawn -- or else turning it into a  
 dangerous passed pawn for  
 counterplay. White stays safe. b5  
 ( 30...bxa5 31.Qb8+ Qf8 32.Qa7= )  
 31.a6 h5 32.Qa1!? Qa7 33.Qa5 ]  
**30...g6** White is weak on the light  
 squares  
 [ 30...Qxe5 31.a5 f6 ( 31...bxa5?  
 32.Re1+- ) 32.axb6± ]  
**31.Rd2**  
 [ Δ31.Qc3 ]  
**31...Ba6 32.Qb3 Rb4**  
 [ 32...Qc6! 33.e6 Qxe6 34.Qxe6  
 fxe6 ]  
**33.Qd1 Qd5 34.e6!? fxe6-+**  
 [ 34...Qxe6?? 35.Bxd3= ]  
**35.Qe1 Qe4 36.Qxe4 Rxe4-+**

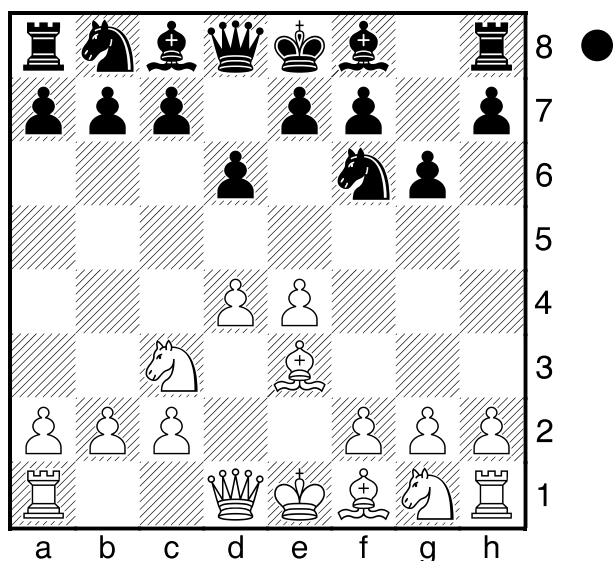
White's lost on time in a lost position.  
**0-1**

**B07**  
 2087  
 2182  
 2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.2) 16.1.23  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

I've played Alex now eight times,  
 starting when he was a B-player. The  
 first six were in Berkeley, where I was a  
 rather lucky 6-0 (a lot of Whites). Then  
 Alex found the Mechanics TNMs and  
 beat me in a wild game last September. I  
 was hardly thinking "revenge," maybe he  
 still was, but in any case another up-and-  
 down epic. **1.e4** What happened to 1.d4,  
 which he's been playing lately? (Mostly  
 with fianchettoes, Catalans and g3 KIDs...  
 ) It turns out my memory was all wrong.  
 I thought he'd played the Alapin (1.e4 c5  
 2.c3) against me before -- but now I look  
 and the only time I've had Black against  
 him it was in Berkeley in September  
 2021, and I mangled my response to a  
 Grand Prix. But won anyway! I don't  
 blame him for wanting to repeat that and  
 fix the record! **1...d6** Oh why not. As it  
 turns out, he was kind of on top of this,  
 to a point. **2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3**

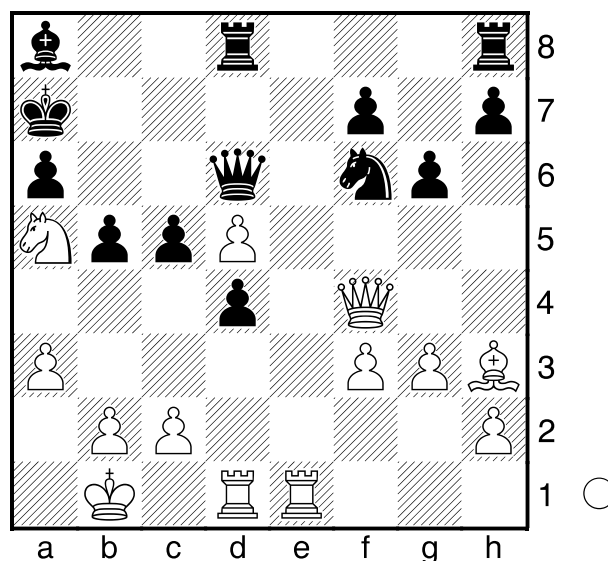
(Diagram)



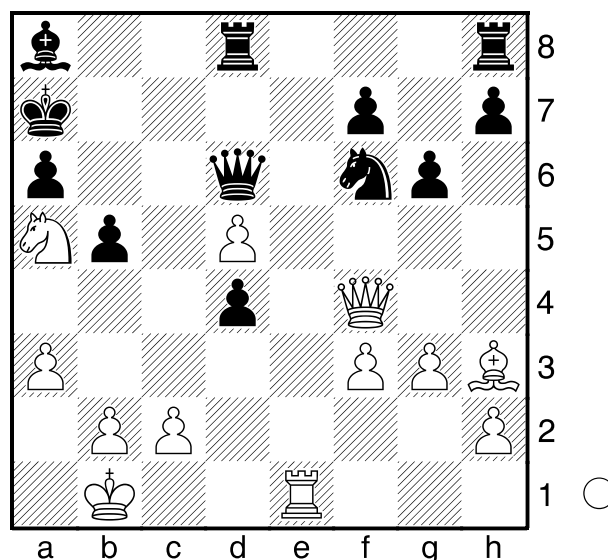


What Pirc players can expect to see for quite a while now. The main impetus was Kasparov-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 1999. Many think this is Kasparov's greatest game, or rather as Gary himself put it, "my favorite combination.". In any case, it *is* a game worth seeing! **4...c6** [Topalov went 4...Bg7 5.Qd2 c6 (Some sources wonder how bad 5...0-0 really is. Stockfish 16 makes it pretty bad after 6.0-0-0 Black's attack is that much slower and White's that much quicker now that Black has "wasted moves" on the kingside. ) 6.f3 Thought to be a bit stodgy these days as well... b5 7.Nge2 Nbd7 8.Bh6 Bxh6 9.Qxh6 Bb7 10.a3 e5 11.0-0-0 Qe7 12.Kb1 a6 13.Nc1 0-0-0 14.Nb3 exd4 15.Rxd4 c5 16.Rd1 Nb6 17.g3 Kb8 18.Na5 Ba8 19.Bh3 d5 20.Qf4+ Ka7 21.Rhe1 d4 22.Nd5 Nbx d5 23.exd5 Qd6

(Diagram)



24.Rxd4! cxd4? ( 24...Kb6! just ruins all the fun. )



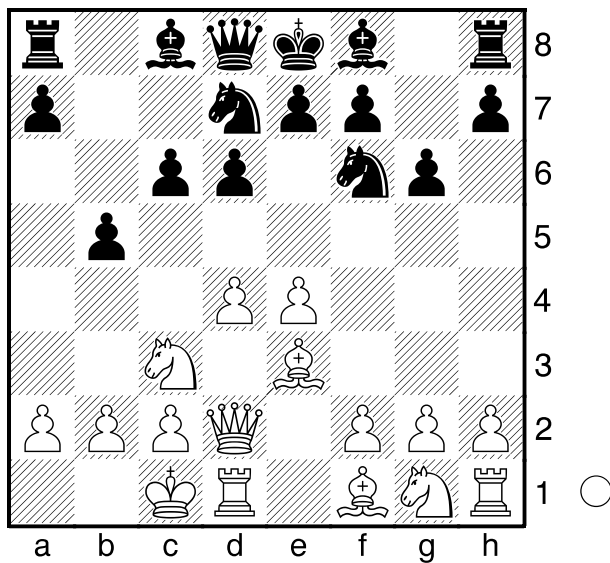
25.Re7+!! Maybe *that's* what Topalov missed. Find the game in myriad places to see the flash finish! ] **5.Qd2 Nbd7 6.0-0-0**

[ 6.Nf3! is the modern, hybrid move -- White can also play "Where's my king?" and keep the castling options open. ]

[And then there's: 6.h4 b5 7.f3 Nb6 8.Bd3 a5 9.Nh3 Bxh3 10.Rxh3 h5 11.0-0-0 Bg7 12.Kb1 Nfd7 13.f4 Nf6 14.f5 gxf5 15.e5 dxe5 16.dxe5 Ng4

17.Bxb6 Qxb6 18.Bxf5 Nxe5 19.Rg3  
 Bh6 20.Qxh6 Rf8 21.Ne4 Rd8  
 22.Rxd8+ Qxd8 23.a3 Qd1+ 24.Qc1  
 Qd5 25.Qd2 Nc4 26.Qxd5 cxd5  
 27.Nc3 e6 28.Bd3 Ne5 29.Bxb5+  
 Ke7 30.Rg5 f6 31.Rxh5 Rg8  
 32.Rh7+ Kd6 33.Ra7 Rxg2 34.Ra6+  
 Ke7 35.Rxa5 f5 1-0 Gukesh,D (2725)-  
 Carlsen,M (2859) Speed Chess Chess.  
 com INT blitz 2022 (1.31) ]

**6...b5**

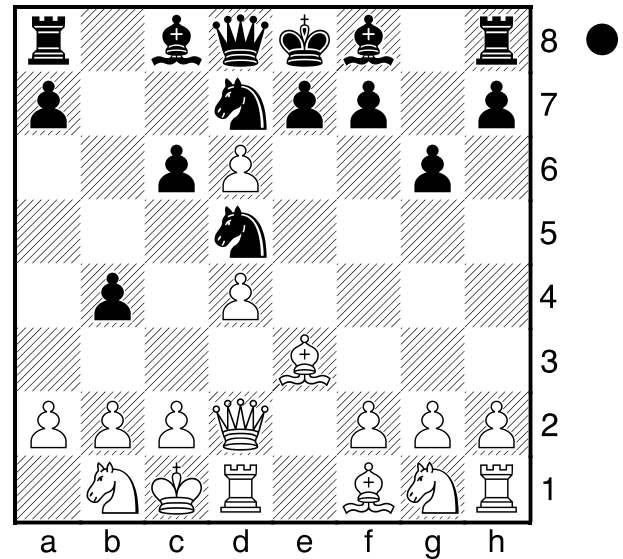


**7.e5** Alex pulls this trigger perhaps a bit early. **7...b4** **8.Nb1** Truth be told I didn't really take this move seriously! But Stockfish makes it the best knight move --

[-- if White moves the knight at all!  
 8.exf6! bxc3 9.Qxc3 Nxf6 10.Qxc6+  
 Bd7 11.Qa6! Bg7 12.Rd3!  
 seems like it might be the best way to turn the pawn grab into something good -- except that now Black can offer a repetition: Bc8 13.Qc6+ ( 13.Qb5+; 13.Qa4+ ) 13...Bd7 which White would be well advised (per SF16) to accept. ]

**8...Nd5** Black has momentum on the queenside, is there anything happening in the center? **9.exd6**

(Diagram)

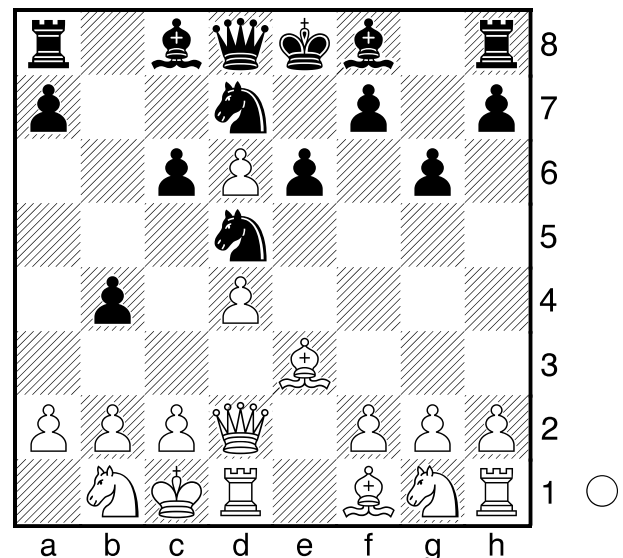


**e6?!**

[ 9...exd6!? 10.Re1

**A)** 10...Nxe3 11.Rxe3+ ( 11.Qxe3+ Be7 12.Qh6 Nb6 13.Qg7 Rf8 14.Qxh7 Be6 ) 11...Be7;

**B)** 10...N7f6 There is no discovered check worth anything. ]



**10.Bh6N**

[ 10.h4 h5 11.c4 bxc3 12.Nxc3 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Bxd6= ]

[ 10.c4 bxc3 11.Nxc3 Bxd6 12.Ne4= ]

[Predecessor: 10.Nf3 Bxd6 11.h4

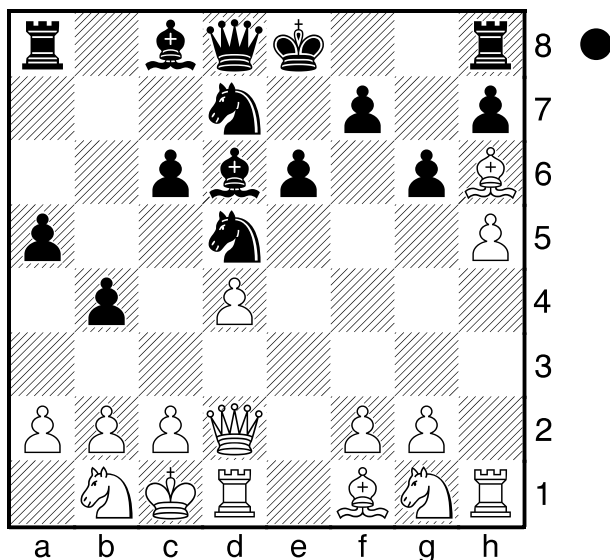


Qa5 12.Bc4 Ba6 13.Bb3 Nxe3  
 14.Qxe3 Qf5 15.Nbd2 Bf4 16.Qe1  
 Nf6 17.g3 Bh6 18.Kb1 0-0 19.Ne5  
 Bxd2 20.Qxd2 Ne4 21.Qe3 Nxf2  
 22.Rdf1 Ng4 23.Rxf5 Nxe3 24.Rxf7  
 Rxf7 25.Bxe6 Raf8 26.Re1 Nf5  
 27.Nxf7 Rxf7 28.Re5 Nxd4 29.Bxf7+  
 Kxf7 30.Ra5 Be2 31.Rxa7+ Ke6  
 32.Rxh7 Bd1 33.c3 bxc3 34.bxc3  
 Ne2 35.Rc7 Nxc3+ 36.Kb2 Ne4  
 37.Rxc6+ Kf5 38.Rc1 Be2 39.a4  
 Nxc3 ½-½ Le Roux,J (2345)-  
 Chabanon,J (2483) FRA-ch Accession  
 Val d'Isere 2002 (5) ]

**10...Bxd6 11.h4 a5?! This has less bite**  
 (the pawn has a way to go still).

[ 11...Qa5!? 12.Bc4 Ba6 ( 12...N7b6  
 13.Bb3 Qb5 Now a5-a4 clomps  
 down on something. ) 13.Bb3 0-0-0 ]

**12.h5**



**Rg8!?**

[ 12...a4 ]

**13.hxg6 hxg6 14.Nh3?!**

[White has to get around to 14.c4  
 or the knight will rot on b1. ]

**14...a4 15.Nf4 N7b6?!**

[It appears now that 15...g5  
 works, here ]

[or preceded by 15...a3 16.b3 g5 ]

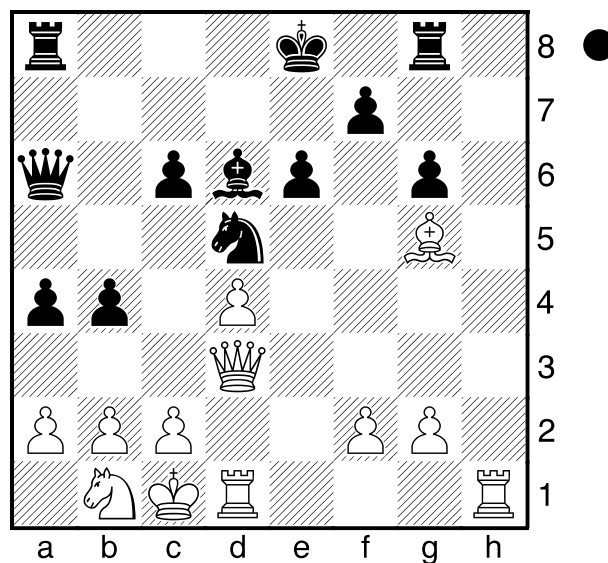
**16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bg5 Qb6 18.Bc4**

**Ba6 19.Bxa6**

[ 19.Bxd5!? cxd5 when maybe Black  
 can't make much use of the c-file. ]

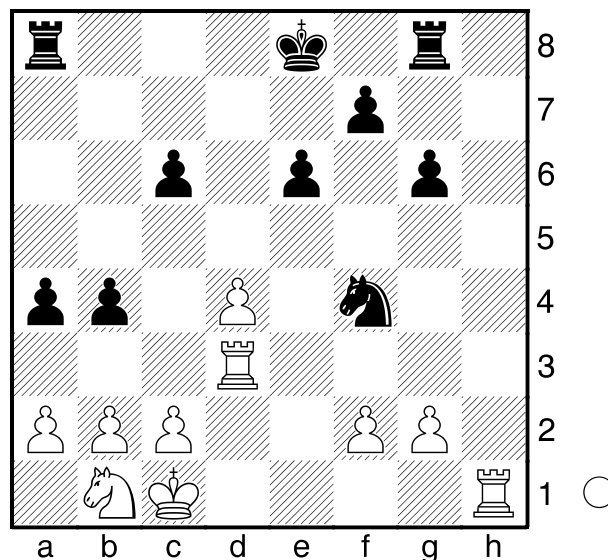
**19...Qxa6 20.Qd3**

[ 20.a3!? ]



I had seen that the ending was  
 interesting for me, and was drawn down  
 the rabbit-hole. Fortunately for me  
 Rabbitfish concurs. **20...Qxd3!?**

**21.Rxd3 Bf4+ 22.Bxf4 Nxf4**



**23.Re3**

[I was caught up in 23.Rf3 Ne2+  
 24.Kd2 Nxd4 25.Rd3 c5 26.c3

wondering just how good this was for me if at all (Stockfish 16: <nod>), when he played this other move. ] [I never even dreamed of 23.Rd2!? Nxg2 24.a3 bxa3 25.Nxa3 and I'm certain I wouldn't have come up with the computer's #1 move here: Kf8!! ( 25...Ke7 was more likely, and it's really not that much worse) ) and if 26.Rh7 Ra5!⚡ and ...Rh5. ]

**23...Ke7?!**

[I could indeed have taken the pawn! 23...Nxg2!

**A) 24.Rf3** g5 25.Rh7! ( 25.Rg1 Nh4 26.Rfg3 f6 27.f4 Nf5 28.R3g2 Nxd4 29.fxg5 Kf7 ) 25...f5 26.Rfh3 Nf4⚡;

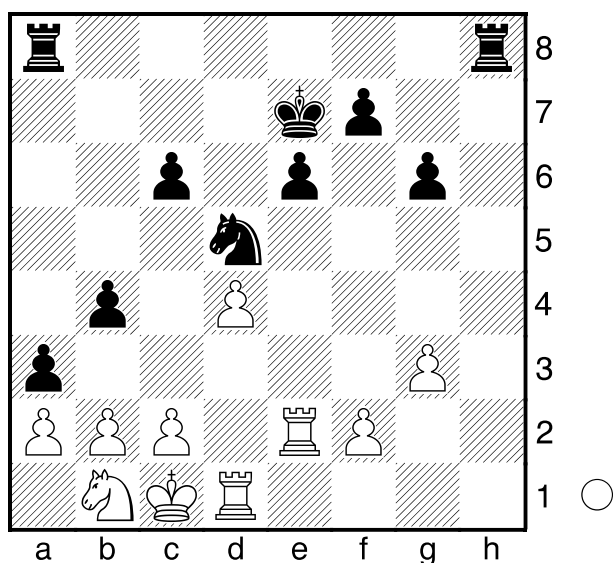
**B) 24.Re4** Ke7! 25.d5! Rh8! ( 25...cxd5 26.Rxb4 g5⚡ ) 26.d6+! Kxd6 27.Rd1+ Ke7 28.Rxb4 Rh4!⚡ Black is still on top in this complicated not-quite-an-ending. ]

**24.g3!** Best (although I didn't think so at the time) **24...Rh8!?** **25.Rd1 Nd5**

**26.Re2?!**

[ 26.Rf3! keeps vital control of the third rank ]

**26...a3!**



**27.bxa3?**

[ 27.c4! is White's only move, and

Black's plus is slight. bxc3 28.bxc3 Ra4⚡ ]

**27...Nc3!-+** This catches White in a nasty bind. **28.Nxc3 bxc3 29.Re3 Rxa3 30.Rde1 Rd8**

[ 30...Rh2! ]

**31.Rd3 Rxa2** A bit better

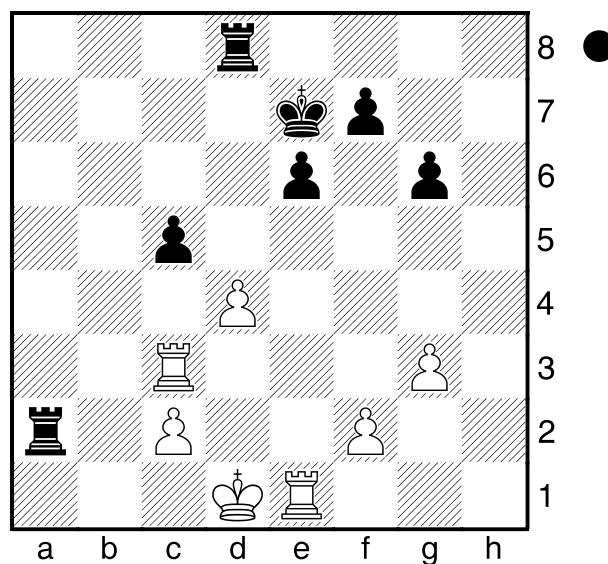
[than 31...c5 ]

**32.Kd1 c5**

[ 32...Ra4! ]

**33.Rxc3**

[ 33.Re4!? ]



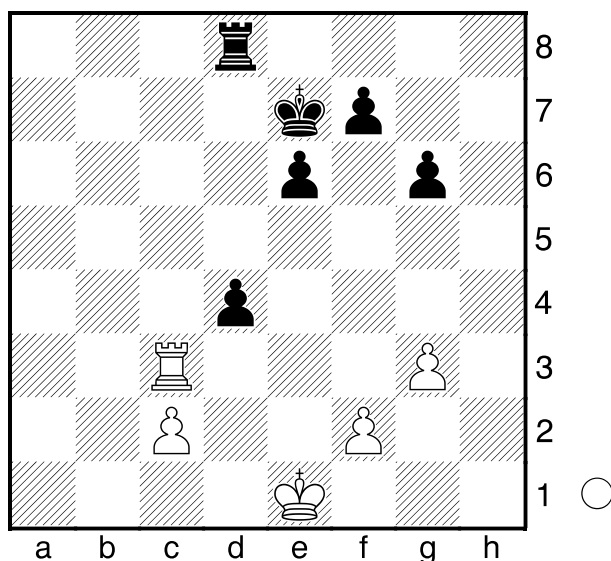
**33...Ra1+?**

[ 33...cxd4-+ 34.Rc7+ Rd7 35.Rxd7+ Kxd7 36.Re4 Ra4 ]

**34.Ke2 Rxe1+ 35.Kxe1 cxd4**

(Diagram)





Alex and I now have an opportunity to demonstrate just how bad we are at rook endings. The computer says: I've blown my won game, for that matter all my advantage. **36.Rc5?** Now I have a big, maybe winning advantage..

[ 36.Rc7+! Rd7 37.Rc4! e5 38.c3 is apparently just a draw. ]

**36...Kd6!?**

[ 36...Ra8!-+ ]

**37.Ra5?-+**

[ 37.Rc4 is still the right try. White can just wend a path to a draw: e5 38.c3 Kd5! 39.Rc7 d3 40.Kd2 e4 41.Rxf7 Ra8 42.Rd7+ Ke5! 43.Re7+ Kf5 44.Ke3! ( 44.Rf7+ Ke6 ) 44...Rd8 45.Kd2! ]

**37...e5**

[ 37...f6! is most accurate. ]

**38.Kd2 Rc8 39.Ra7 Rc7**

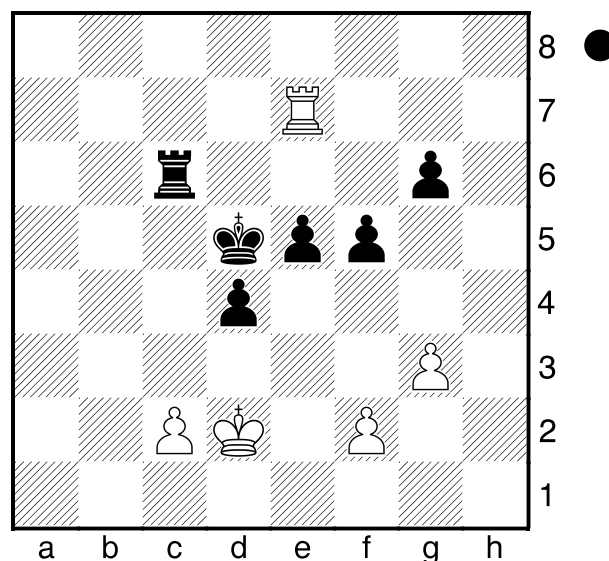
[ 39...f6! ]

**40.Ra6+ Rc6 41.Ra7 f5?!**

[ 41...f6! ]

**42.Rg7 Kd5 43.Re7**

(Diagram)



**e4?!**

[ 43...g5 ]

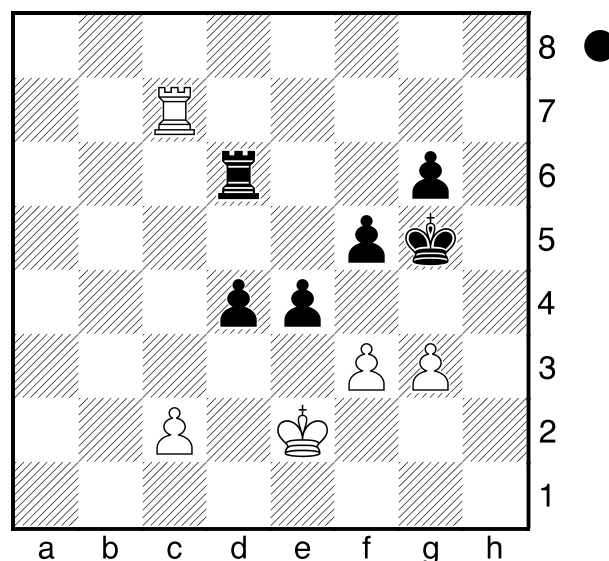
**44.Rd7+?!**

[ 44.Re8 Black is still winning but more difficulty. ]

**44...Ke5 45.Re7+?! Re6**

[ 45...Kf6! 46.Rd7 Rc4 and ..Kg5 sets White too many problems. ]

**46.Rd7 Rd6 47.Rc7 Kf6 48.Ke2 Kg5 49.f3!?**



**Kf6?**

[ 49...d3+! is a big -+ and the only move: 50.cxd3 Rxd3! forcing the clearing of g4 for king entry 51.fxe4

fxe4 steps into TablebaseWorld: Black is winning. 52.Rc4 Kf5 ]

**50.Rc5?**

[ 50.fxe4 fxe4 51.Rc5+ ]

**50...Ra6?**

[ 50...exf3+ 51.Kxf3 Ra6!-+ (only move) ]

**51.Rd5?**

[ 51.fxe4 fxe4 52.Rd5+ ]

**51...Ra4?**

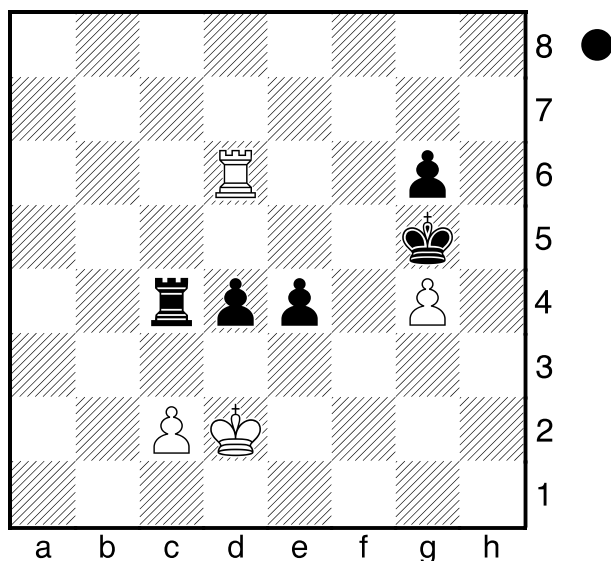
[ 51...exf3+ 52.Kxf3 ( 52.Kd3 Ra1 ) 52...Ra4 53.Ke2 Kg5! 54.Rd6 Kh5 55.Kd3 Ra3+ 56.Kxd4 Rxg3-+ ]

**52.Rd6+?**

[ 52.fxe4 fxe4 53.Kd2+ (only move) ]

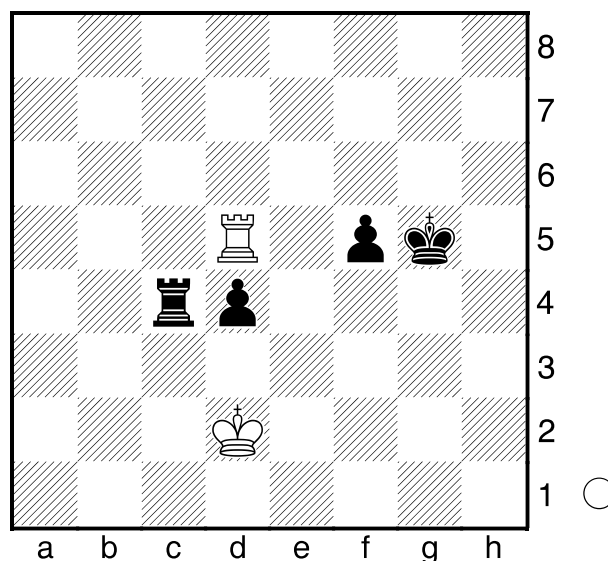
**52...Kg5!-+ 53.Rd5?!]**

[ 53.fxe4 fxe4 54.Kd2 Rc4 55.g4



Rc5!! 56.Rxd4 Kf4 57.c4 g5!-+ ]  
**53...exf3+!** FINALLY! (and here the only move) **54.Kxf3 Rc4** Black is winning a 2nd pawn **55.g4 Rc3+ 56.Ke2 Rxc2+** [ 56...Kxg4! 57.Rxd4+ f4 is easiest. two connected passed pawns vs. one. Another basic rook ending I don't know. ]  
**57.Kd3 Rc1 58.Kd2 Rc4 59.gxf5 gxf5**

(Diagram)



I \*do\* know that rook and two is a win except for things like f and h. Which doesn't mean it's easy. **60.Kd3 Ra4 61.Rd8 Kf4 62.Rf8 Kg4 63.Rf7 f4** heading for a Lucena Position. **64.Ke4 d3+!**

[ 64...Kg3 works too ]

**65.Kxd3 Kf3! 66.Rh7 Ra8 67.Kd2 Re8 68.Rf7 Kg3 69.Rg7+ Kf2 70.Rf7 f3**

[ 70...Rd8+ ]

**71.Rd7 Kf1 72.Rf7 f2 73.Kd1 Rd8+ 74.Kc2 Rd5** Actually the fastest (at this point Stockfish will take a while to see the fastest mates). **75.Kc3 Ke2 76.Re7+ Kf3 77.Rf7+ Ke3 78.Kc4 Rd1**

[ 78...Rd4+! and 79...Rf4! ]

**79.Re7+ Kd2** Another instructive game to remind me (us) how much there is to learn.

**0-1**

**Hao,Max** **D11**  
**2068**  

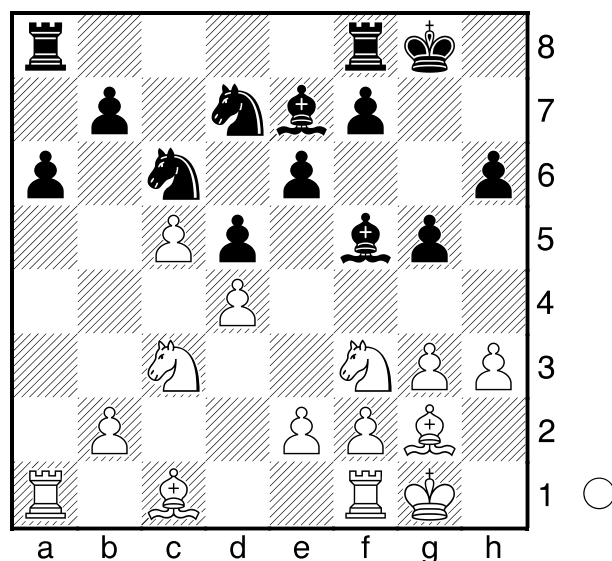
**Bambou,Christophe** **2129**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.3) 16.1.23  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

Max Hao has been steadily improving of late (working with some GM somewhere?), playing interesting positional games. This game sees Christophe Bambou bending the opening principles again (4...h6!?) and reaching a complex queenless middlegame with a provocative pawn structure. The game only clarified to a win for Hao in the ending. **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 h6 5.0-0 e6 6.c4 c6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Qb3 Qb6 9.c5 Qxb3 10.axb3 0-0 11.b4 a6 12.b5** It's nice to get b4-b5 in thanks to the pin; it's going to be a lot harder to get the other b2-b4-b5 with Black's bishop aiming at b1.

[Relevant: 12.Ne5 Nbd7 13.f4 Rad8 14.h3 Nxe5 15.fxe5 Ne4 16.g4 Bg6 17.Bf4 f5 18.Nxe4 fxe4 19.Bd2 Bh4 20.Rxf8+ Rxf8 21.Rf1 Rf7 22.Rxf7 Kxf7 23.Kf1 h5 24.e3 Bh7 25.gxh5 Bf5 26.Kg1 Kg8 27.Bf1 Kh7 28.Kg2 Kh6 29.Be2 Kg5 30.Bc3 Kh6 31.Bd2 ½-½ Rakhmanov,A (2621)-Sjugirov,S (2662) FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss Douglas 2019 (7) ]

**12...cxb5 13.Nxb5 Nc6 14.Nc3 g5 15.h3 Nd7**

(Diagram)

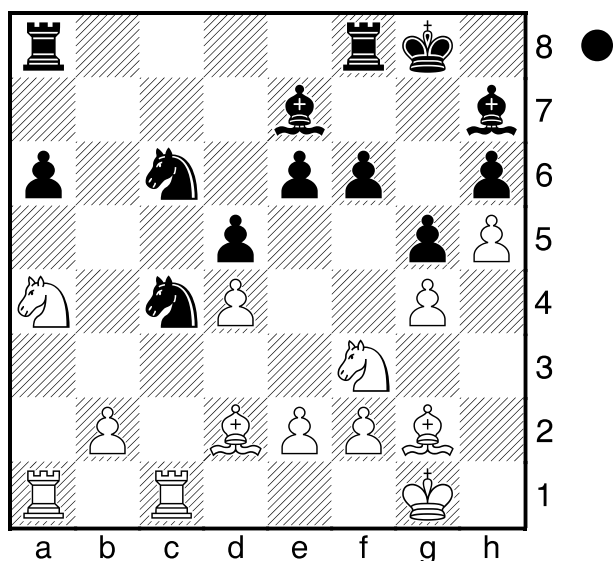


**16.g4N**

[Here is Chessbase's all-but-worthless "last played Predecessor" by a couple A-players (not to disparage A-players, but our guy do a better job): 16.Be3 b6 17.cxb6 Nxb6 18.Rfc1 Nc4 19.b3 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Rfc8 21.Na4 Nb4 22.Nb6 Rxc1+ 23.Rxc1 Rb8 24.Nd7 Rd8 25.Nde5 f6 26.Nc6 Nxc6 27.Rxc6 a5 28.g4 Bg6 29.Nd2 Rd6 30.Rc8+ Kf7 31.Rc7 Ke8 32.Ra7 Rb6 33.Rxa5 Bb4 34.Ra8+ Ke7 35.Nf3 Rc6 36.h4 Rc1+ 37.Kh2 Bd6+ 38.Kh3 Rb1 39.Ra7+ Kf8 40.h5 Bc2 41.Ra6 Ke7 42.Ra7+ Ke8 43.Ra8+ Kd7 44.Rh8 Rxb3 45.Rxh6 Rxe3 0-1 Tomasi,E (1858)-Kanyamarala,T (1811) Wch FIDE Online U16 Girls Europe qual Tornado INT rapid 2020 (4) ]

**16...Bg6 17.h4 f6 18.Bd2 b6 19.cxb6 Nxb6 20.Rfc1 Nc4 21.h5 Bh7 22.Na4**

(Diagram)



**Rfc8? 23.Rxc4!+-** Breaking in! White picks up a big advantage. **23...dxc4 24.Nb6 Be4 25.Nxc8?!** There was no reason to take yet.

[ 25.Bc3!+- secures d4 and frees d2 for the knight. Black's a- and c-pawns are endangered. ]

**25...Rxc8 26.e3?!** This will cost. **26...a5 27.Bc3 Bb4 28.Nd2 Bd3!** Black holds on and minimizes White's plus. **29.d5**

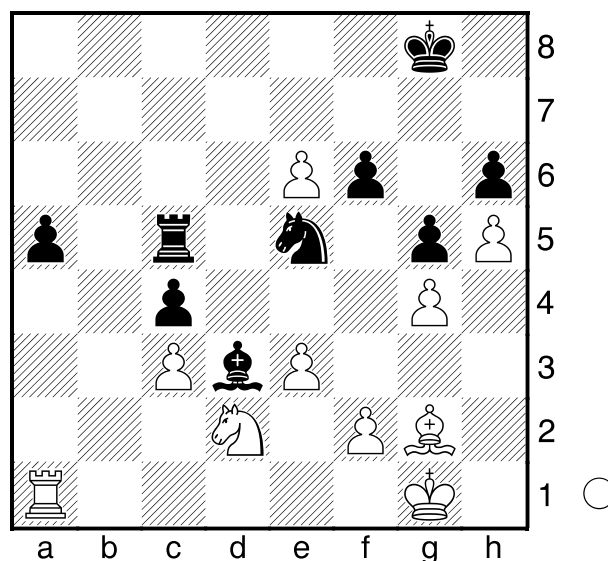
[ 29.Ne4 encourages Bxe4 30.Bxe4 Ne7 when it's hard to make anything of the bishops and the more solid pawns. ]

**29...Ne5!** All but equalizing. **30.dxe6 Bxc3?** Christophe loses his chess composure and ruins his position.

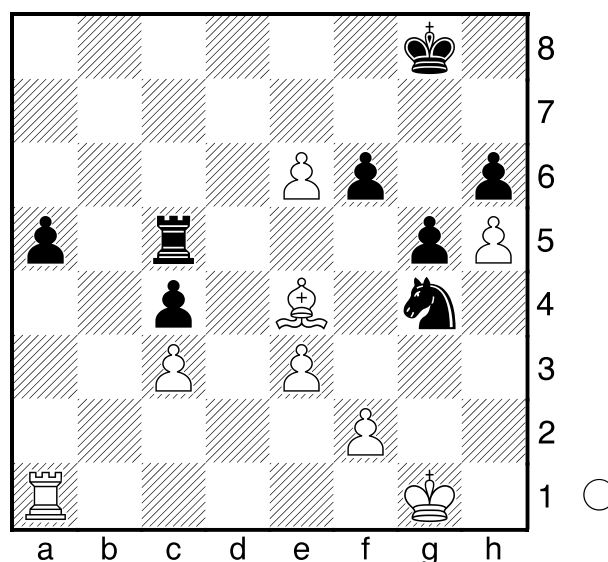
[ 30...Kf8= ]

**31.bxc3+-** Black can't do everything now. **31...Rc5**

(Diagram)

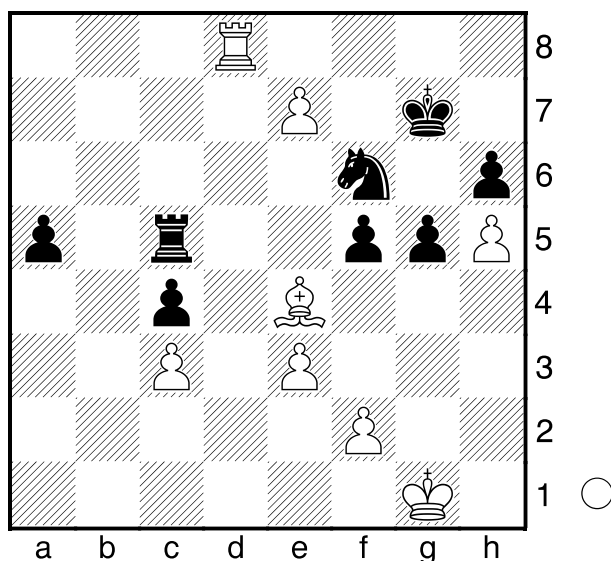


**32.Ne4! Bxe4 33.Bxe4 Nxc4**  
[ 33...Kf8 34.Rb1! ]



**34.Rd1!** A lot better than 34.Rb1; allowing rook in, Bd5. **34...f5 35.Rd8+ Kg7 36.e7 Nf6**

(Diagram)



**37.Bd5!** Amazing that this only move even exists, but it does -- and wins.

**37...a4 38.Rg8+**

[ 38.Be6 ]

**38...Kh7 39.Rf8 Ne8 40.Rxe8 Rxd5**

**41.Rh8+ Kxh8 42.e8Q+ Kg7 43.Qe7+ 1-0**

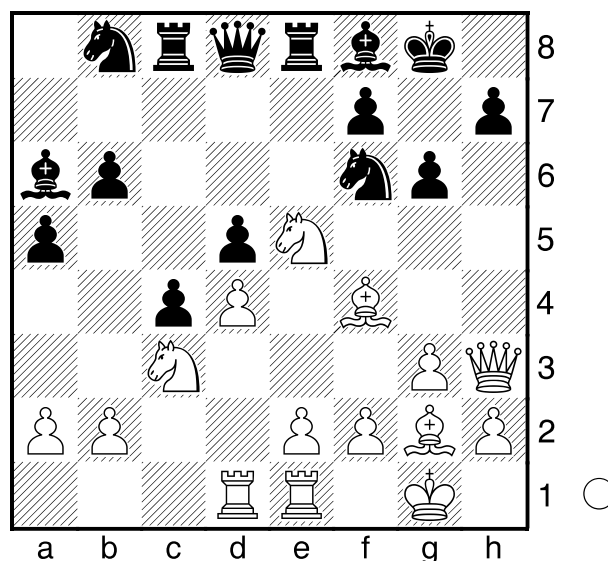
**Sant,Amit** **E11**  
 **Santos,Catalino Jr** **1882**  
**1973**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (2.4) 16.1.23  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

This was a curious game, with White up to some strange maneuvers for a Catalan! But then it all crystalizes with a nice sacrificial kingside attack! Or does it? Black sacs back -- and into an endgame... **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 a5** So many players of the Black pieces have been going for this BogolIndian formation, especially in the TNMs. There was a time when the Bog was thought to be sterile, but no more! **6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Be7**

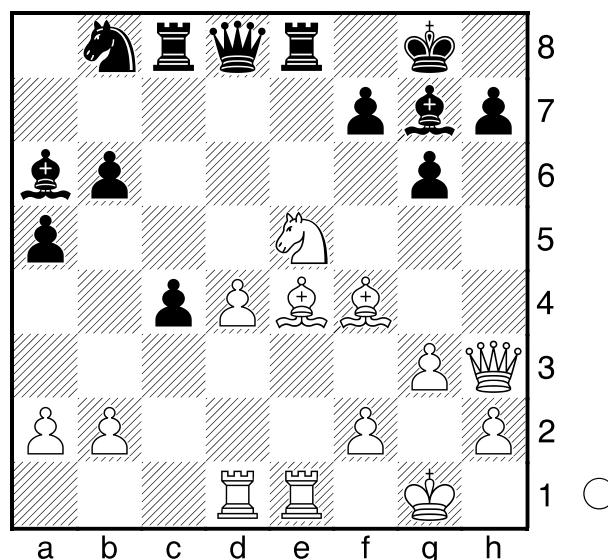
[ 7...dxc4 is more in keeping with the intention of ...a5. ]

**8.Bc3 b6 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Qc2 Ba6**

**11.Re1 Nbd7 12.Bd2 Rc8 13.Nc3 c5 14.Qf5 g6 15.Qh3 Re8 16.Bf4 Bf8 17.Rad1 c4 18.Ne5 Nb8**



**19.e4 dxe4 20.Nxe4 Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Bg7**



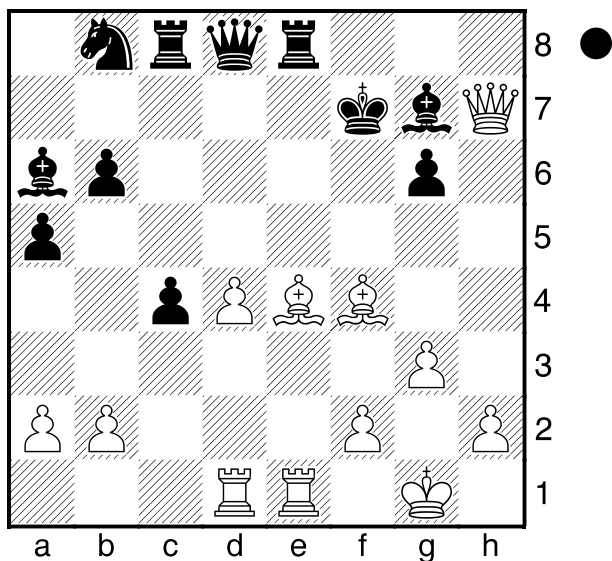
**22.Nxf7!?** In fact, White's advantage could well be on the \*queenside\* -- via moves like

[ 22.a4 or ]

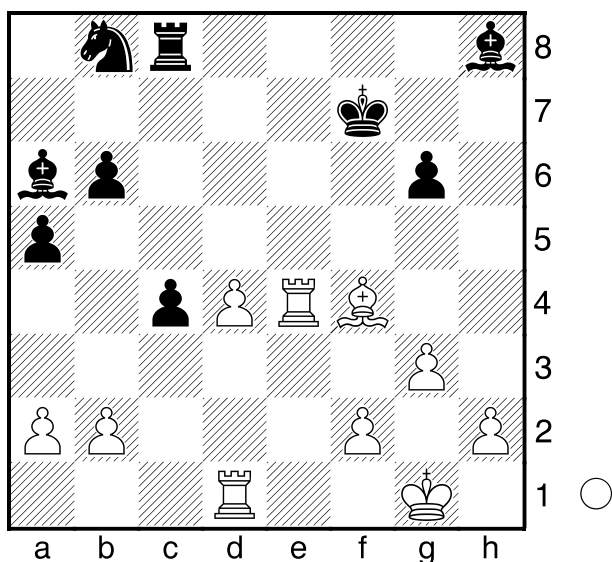
[ 22.Qg2 ]

But Amit (who I know nothing about, he's a new player to the Tuesday Night Marathons) has other ideas. **22...Kxf7 23.Qxh7**





**Rxe4! 24.Rxe4 Qh8!** Santos (also a stranger to me) shows excellent defensive aplomb, and the game gets interesting on another level. **25.Qxh8 Bxh8**



After blow and counterblow it's an unbalanced ending! Rook and two pawns vs. bishop and knight, with the pawns everywhere. Stockfish has White clearly better but hardly yet winning; Sant makes the most of it. **26.Rde1 Bf6 27.Be5 Bxe5 28.Rxe5 Nc6 29.Rd5** [ 29.R5e4! Rd8 30.Rf4+ Kg7 31.Re6! Nxd4 32.Re7+± and even in

the ending, Black's king has problems. ]

**29...Rc7± 30.Rd6 Bc8 31.a3 b5**

Sant tries to mobilize those pawns.

**32.d5 Nd4?!**

[ 32...Re7! 33.Rxe7+ Nxe7 holds on. ]

**33.Re4!± Nb3 34.Rf4+**

[ 34.Rc6! Rxc6 35.dxc6 Nd2 36.Re2 Nf3+ 37.Kg2 Nd4 38.Re5! b4! 39.Re4 Nxc6 40.Rxc4± ]

**34...Kg7 35.Rff6?**

[ 35.Rb6 Bd7 36.Re4 Nc5 37.Re7+ Kf8 38.d6 ]

**35...Bf5!= 36.g4 Bd3 37.Rb6 b4?!**

[ 37...Nd4 ]

**38.axb4**

[ 38.Rfc6! ]

**38...axb4 39.Rfc6 Rd7?!**

[ 39...Ra7! ]

**40.f3?!**

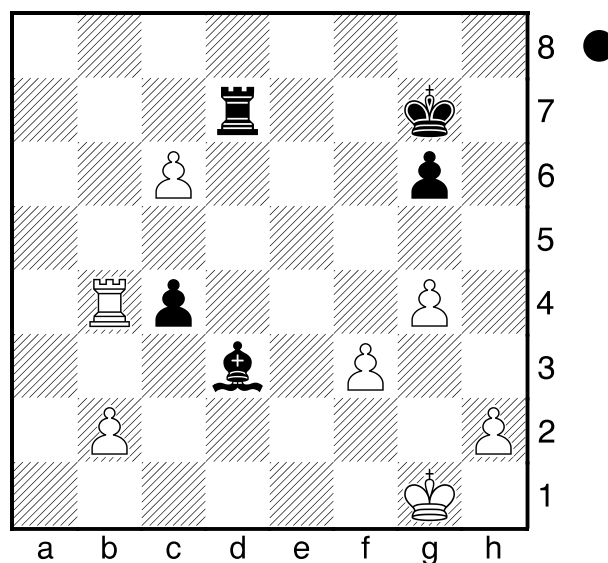
[ 40.d6!± ]

**40...Nd4** Now the game goes crazy.

**41.Rxb4**

[ 41.Kf2!= ]

**41...Nxc6 42.dxc6**



**Rd6??**

[ 42...Rd8= ]

[ (or 42...Rd5= ) ]

**43.Rb7+ Kh6**

[ 43...Kf6 44.c7 Rc6 45.Rb6 ]  
**44.h4 g5 45.c7 Rc6 46.Rb6!**  
 Very nice! **46...Rxb6 47.c8Q gxh4**  
**48.Qh8+ Kg6 49.Qxh4 Rf6 50.Qh5+**  
**Kg7 51.f4 Re6 52.f5 Re1+ 53.Kf2**  
**Re2+ 54.Kf3 Rxb2 55.Qg6+**  
**1-0**

□ **Wong,Wilson**  
 ■ **Hack,Richard**

**B80**  
**1883**  
**1572**

2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (2.8)  
*[Wong,Wilson]*

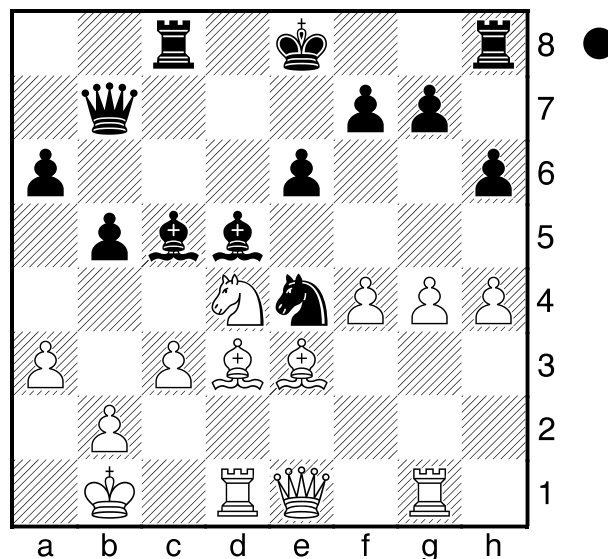
EW: Wilson Wong has been sending in extensive notes to his every game. The work he puts into his games, his thoughts and study, are reaping benefit -- he's in 5-0 and a point ahead of the field in the 1600-1999 section going into the last two rounds. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.a3 Be7**

[ 8...h5 Black's most effective response, stopping g4. ]

[ 8...Bb7 The most popular move. Black isn't under threat so it might be better to try break in center with ...d5, also opening a3-f8 diagonal, which can support ...b4. ]

[EW: For example: 8...Bb7 9.g4 h6 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.0-0-0 Rc8 12.Kb1 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.Rg1 Bc5 16.f4 Nf6 17.Bd3 Qc7 18.Qe1 Ne4 19.h4 Qb7 20.c3

(Diagram)



**Bxa3 21.f5 b4 22.c4 Nc3+ 23.Ka1 Bxc4 24.fxe6 0-0 25.Bxc4 Rxc4 26.Rd2 Bxb2+ 27.Kxb2 b3 28.exf7+ Qxf7 29.Nxb3 Rb4 0-1 Ding,L (2791)-Carlsen,M (2863) Carlsen Tour Final chess24.com INT rapid 2020 (1.33) (was that all sound?!?) ]**

**9.Qd2** (Stockfish Depth 36 +0.5 vs. 9.g4 +0.3) is the main move played in master games. **9...Bb7 10.0-0-0** Its not clear

[ 10.g4 Stockfish preferred and marginally more commonly played. I think I should have gone with this to stop ...h5. If ...h5 then gxh5 opens a file, and kingside would've been where Black would've liked to castle. I didn't go for this because I thought after 10...d5 11.e5 Nfd7 12.f4 left my h1-rook hanging, but Black's d5-pawn blocks the diagonal. ]

**10...0-0 11.g4 Nc6 12.h4** I ended up going for this since the game plan is very straight forward and I thought my chances were better than they were. The plan is h5, g5, g6.

[ 12.g5 The most popular move and marginally the best move. I planned for h4, h5, g5, g6, to open Black's king, If ...Nh5, then I'd play Nde2 with Ng3 next, and maybe Black would've gone

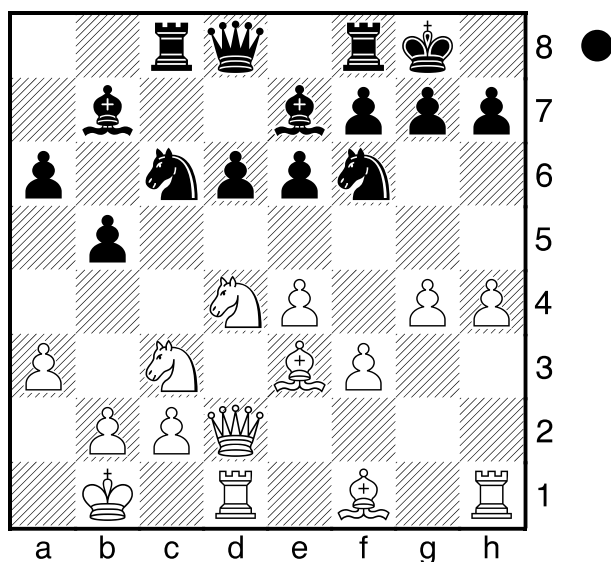
for ...g6, which I think would've been good for me but I wasn't sure I'd have enough to win. ]

### 12...Rc8

[ 12...Nxd4 This is an option that is going to show up over and over again this game for both players. My intuition tells me to trade the knights, since my queen is ideally placed, and Black's bishop recapture would block the c-file, so I should've traded knights when able. ]

### 13.Kb1

[ 13.Nxc6 Stockfish prefers this and I think I should've made this move too. Its better for Black to have the queen in front to attack my king, so either trade is favorable for me. My queen is already ideally placed, so I don't want ...Nxd4 making me lose a turn. ]



### 13...Qc7N Both players miss knight trade.

[ Predecessor: 13...Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Nd7 15.g5 Ne5 16.Qg2 Nc6 17.Be3 b4 18.axb4 Nxb4 19.h5 Qa5 20.g6 Bf6 21.Bd4 e5 22.Be3 Rxc3 23.bxc3 Na2 24.Bc4 Nxc3+ 25.Kb2 d5 26.Bb3 Rb8 27.Ra1 Qb4 28.Bd2 Rc8 29.gxf7+ Kxf7 30.Qg4 Rc7

31.exd5 Qxg4 32.d6+ Nd5 33.fxg4 Rd7 34.g5 Bd8 35.c4 Nf4 36.c5+ Kf8 37.Bxf4 exf4 38.Rhg1 Bc6 39.Rxa6 Bb5 40.Ra2 h6 41.gxh6 Bf6+ 42.Kc1 1-0 Haerig,W (2152)-Schmidt,D (2058) Oberliga Nord W 1920 Germany 2019 (1.5) ]

### 14.h5 I should've traded knights.

### 14...Ne5 Black is just wasting time.

Rerouting knight to c4-square is a typical Najdorf/Scheveningen theme, but its clear as day how behind Black is on the attack. Black should've traded knights which worsens my queen, then think about how to improve the dark-squared bishop and f8-rook. Black could try to setup ...b4 to open another file to my king.

[ 14...Nxd4 The only move to keep an even game. ]

### 15.g5 Nfd7

[ 15...Nxf3 This wasn't on my radar.

16.Nxf3 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Rh3 Bxc2+ 19.Ka1 Bxd1 20.Qxd1 Black is slightly better and up 2 points. ]

**16.g6** Stockfish just recommends ignoring my threat. If Black ignored my threat, I would've gone for h6 next, with the goal of ripping Black's king's defense. **16...fxg6** This seems very wrong, letting center be destroyed, and I'll still be able to open lines to Black's king.

[ 16...hxg6 I expected this recapture to keep d6-pawn protected. 17.hxg6 ( 17.f4 This was what I planned, not allowing ...Nxg6. My move was good, but not best. I didn't find the best move due to not calculating deeper. )

17...Nxg6 18.Qh2 Nf6 I stopped calculating here and assumed this was not good, missing the followup. 19.f4 So simple, just undermine g6-knight that is stopping mate. ]

[ 16...Nc5 Stockfish's recommendation.

Keeping e5-knight ready to capture ... Nxc6 if White plays h6. 17.h6 Nxc6 ( 17...fxg6 Stockfish's choice. 18.hxg7 2.01 I'm not sure what to make of this position but Stockfish likes White a lot. ) 18.hxg7 The idea. ]

**17.Nxe6** Black's center is destroyed and White still has an attack. **17...Nxf3** This has the benefit of deflecting White's queen. **18.Qg2 Qa5** ...Rxc3 is on the table. Who was it that said a knight on the 6th is as strong as a rook? Well, my knight doesn't have a secure outpost, so that strength is temporary. **19.Nxf8**

[ 19.hxg6 The clear best move. g6-pawn supports trapping Black's king, so Black needs to defend against mate threats.

**A) 19...Nfe5** #10 Black doesn't have time to save the piece. Black's king is in grave danger and doesn't have space to flee either. 20.Rxh7 Qd8 ( 20...Nxc6 21.Qxc6 Bf6 22.Rxc6+ Bxc6 23.Qxc6#; 20...Nf6 21.Rxc6+ Kh8 22.Qh1+ Nh5 23.Qxh5# ) 21.Rxc6+ Kh8 22.Rxe7 Qxe7 23.g7+ Kh7 24.Bc4 Ng6 25.Rh1+ Qh4 26.Rxh4+ Kg8 27.Qxc6 Rf1+ 28.Bxf1 Ne5 29.Rh8#;

**B) 19...Nh4** #13 20.gxh7+ Kf7 21.Qxc6+ Ke8 22.Nxf8 Nxf8 23.h8Q b4 24.Bh3 Qf5 25.Bxf5 Nxf5 26.exf5 b3 27.Rh7 bxc2+ 28.Kxc2 Be4+ 29.Kd2 Rc7 30.Qf7+ Kd7 31.Qxe7+ Kc6 32.Qxc7#;

**C) 19...Bh4** #10 20.gxh7+ Kf7 21.Qxc6+ Ke8 22.Nxf8 Nd2+ 23.Bxd2 Ne5 24.h8Q Be7 25.Rh7 Qc7 26.Bh3 Ng4 27.Bxc4 b4 28.Ng6+ Bf8 29.Qgxf8#;

**D) 19...Bf6** 20.Qxf3 hxg6 21.Qh3 b4 22.Rxd6 Qh5 23.Rxd7 Qxh3 24.Bxh3 Rf7 25.Nc5 Rxd7 26.Bxd7 bxc3 Depth 40 +8.5. ]

**19...Rxf8 20.hxg6 h6**

[ 20...hxg6 Black can try to evacuate but holding will still be incredibly difficult, and still probably unsuccessful, but this might be the best try. 21.Qxc6 Nfe5 22.Qe6+ White is up an exchange, but Black at least has a chance to play for something. ]

**21.Bxh6 gxh6 22.Qh3 Ng5**

Only defense, but at this point, Black is just down too much material, and is only delaying the inevitable. **23.Qxd7 Bxe4 24.Nxe4 Nxe4 25.Qxe7**

[ 25.Qe6+ #6 This is slightly more accurate and more forcing than what happened in the game. Kg7 26.Qxe7+ Kxc6 27.Rg1+ Ng5 ( 27...Kf5 28.Rd5+ Kf4 29.Qh4+ Ke3 30.Rd3#; 27...Kh5 28.Be2+ Rf3 29.Bxf3# ) 28.Rxd6+ Kh5 29.Rxh6+ Kxh6 30.Qxc6+ Kh7 31.Qg7# ]

**25...Ng5 26.Rxh6 b4 27.Rh8+ 1-0**



**Gu, Chunhui**



**Chan, John**

**C10**

**1742**

**1517**

2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (2.11)  
[Winslow, Elliott]

Chunhui Gu and his son Thomas are regulars in the TNMs -- as of course is John Chan. Here White loses his way early on, but has some sort of counterplay -- which only finally manifests on move 38! John must be scratching his head over this one... **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 c5?!** Maybe this isn't refuted, but it is an uphill battle. Still, there is some master, Dmitry Goltsev, who plays it all the time in the Titled Tuesday blitz tournaments on Chess.com. With less-than-satisfactory results. The price of fame? In any case,

right down John Chan's alley. **4.exd5**

**exd5 5.dxc5** Best by Stockfish 16.

[The top players (not that they've seen 3...c5 very often!) go 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 and now, gaining a tempo: 8.dxc5 Bxc5 ("cutting edge theory" according to some anonymous Mega Database annotator) 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Nd4 (More recently and closer to home (that is, a local player): 11.Qd2 N Qd6 12.Na4 0-0-0 13.Bxc6 Qxc6 14.Nxc5 Qxc5 15.Nd4 Rhg8 16.Rfe1 Rg4 17.Rad1 Rdg8 18.g3 Bd7 19.Re3 Kb8 20.Nb3 Qd6 21.Qxd5 Qxd5 22.Rxd5 Bc6 23.Rf5 Rd8 24.Rd3 Re8 25.f3 Ra4 26.a3 Re1+ 27.Kf2 Rb1 28.Rxf6 Rxb2 29.Rxf7 Rxc2+ 30.Ke3 a6 31.Nd4 Rcc4 32.Rf6 Bb5 33.Nxb5 axb5 34.Rf7 h5 35.Rf5 h4 36.Rxb5 hxg3 37.hxg3 Rc2 38.Rdb3 Ka8 39.R5b4 Ra6 40.g4 Re6+ 41.Kf4 Rc5 42.Rxb7 Rc4+ 43.Kg3 Re1 44.Rb8+ Ka7 45.R8b4 Rc6 46.Ra4+ Ra6 47.Rxa6+ Kxa6 48.g5 Ka5 49.Kf4 Ka4 50.Re3 Rg1 51.Kf5 Kb5 52.g6 Kc6 53.Kf6 Kd7 54.g7 Kd6 55.a4 Kd5 56.Re8 1-0 Yoo,C (2589)-Goltsev,D (2216) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Feb Late Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (11) ) 11...Qd6 12.Na4 Bb4 13.c3 Ba5 14.b4 Bc7 15.f4 a6 16.Bxc6+ bxc6 17.Qh5 0-0-0 18.Qe2 1-0 (18) Kamsky,G (2657)-Goryachkina,A (2610) Chess.com INT 2022 ]

**5...d4**

[ 5...Bxc5!? (Gambito!) ]  
[ 5...Nf6!? (Goltsev's move :-) ]

**6.Ne4**

[ 6.Bb5+! Nc6 7.Qe2+! Be6 8.Ne4 Qd5 9.Nh3!? ]

**6...Nc6**

[ 6...Nf6 7.Bg5 Qa5+ 8.Bd2 Qd8 9.Bd3 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 Bxc5 11.Qh5! ]

**7.Nf3**

[ 7.a3!? ]  
[ 7.Qe2! (computer of course) ]

**7...h6?!** too open a position for John's usual extravagant h-pawn moves

**8.Bb5??**

[ 8.Bf4 Bxc5 9.Nxc5 Qa5+ 10.c3 Qxc5 11.Nxd4+- ]

**8...Qa5+-+ 9.c3 Qxb5 10.cxd4 Bg4**

**11.Be3 Rd8**

[ 11...0-0-0 ]

**12.d5 Ne5**

[ 12...Nf6 ]

**13.Nc3 Qa6 14.Qc2**

[ 14.Qe2 ]

**14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nxf3+**

[ 15...Bxc5! a much more important pawn ]

**16.Kd1 Ne5 17.Kc1 Nd3+ 18.Kb1 Nf6**

**19.d6 Nb4?!**

[ 19...Qc6 ]

**20.Qf5 Qd3+ 21.Qxd3 Nxd3 22.Bd4**

[ 22.Rd1!± ]

**22...Kd7 23.Nb5? a6**

[ 23...Nxc5! 24.Rd1 ( 24.Bxc5 Kc6! ) ]

**24.Nc7 Nb4?!**

[ 24...Kc6 25.a3 Nxc5 26.Rc1 Bxd6 27.Nxa6 bxa6 28.Bxc5 Bxc5 29.b4 Rd5 ]

**25.a3 Nbd5 26.Bxf6 Nxf6 27.b4 Ne8**

**28.Nd5 Kc6**

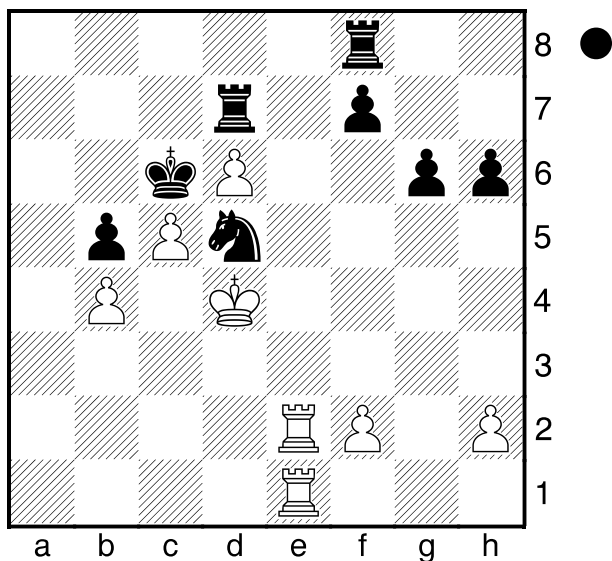
[ 28...Nxd6!? ]

**29.Nc3 g6 30.Re1 Bg7 31.Kc2 Rd7**

**32.Re2 Bxc3 33.Kxc3 Nf6 34.Rae1 Rf8 35.Kc4 Nd5 36.a4 b5+ 37.axb5+ axb5+ 38.Kd4**

(Diagram)





**Nxb4?**

[ 38...Ra8! ]

**39.Ra1=** And just like that: White is drawing! **39...Kb7 40.Rb2 Nc6+ 41.Kd5 b4 42.Rba2 Re8 43.Ra6 Re5+ 44.Kc4 Re4+ 45.Kd3**

[ 45.Kb5 ]

[ 45.Kb3 ]

**45...Rd4+ 46.Ke3 R4xd6!** (actually neither scoresheet says \*which\* rook took first on d6) **47.cxd6 Rxd6**  
1/2-1/2

□ **Tam,Hoa Long**

■ **Yan,Rayna**

2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (2.15)

[Winslow,Elliott]

EW: Ruiyang's quite younger sister Rayna now makes a regular appearance in the TNMs -- even more so than Ruiyang, what with U.S. Women's championships and such for the older Yan (But those byes she takes haven't stopped her from winning the TNMs!). Here Hoa-Long Tam clearly isn't fooled by her age and size, and is taking her seriously, as one can see from his notes

**C54**

**1721**

**1661**

to the game. **1.e4 e5** A surprise on move 1. In previous TNMs, Black reliably played the Caro-Kann. **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 d5 7.Bb5 Ne4 8.cxd4 Bb6** Last book move for me. I had vague ideas about the next few moves but definitely did not remember the details **9.0-0?! This commits my king too early and allows ...Bg4 to come with the threat of opening up White's king.**

[ 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Be3 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 ( 11...Bxf3? gxf3 is good now because White hasn't castled 12.gxf3 Nxc3 13.bxc3± ) 12.Qc2= by far the modern main line ]

**9...0-0 10.Nc3 Bg4 11.Be3 Ba5?! Wastes a tempo. It just helps me develop my rook and winds up exposing the b7 pawn.**

[ 11...f6 12.exf6 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Qxf6 14.Be2 Rae8 15.h3 Bh5= Black keeps the bishop pair and Qb3 no longer comes with a fork ]

**12.Rc1 Bxc3 13.bxc3 f6 14.exf6 Qxf6 15.Be2 Rae8** [ 15...Nd6 with ideas of routing the c6 knight to c4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Qb3± Van Foreest - Hansen, 2021, 1-0 ]

**16.h3** I inserted this move to push Black's bishop onto a shorter diagonal

**16...Bh5**

[ 16...Bxf3 17.Bxf3± White has the bishop pair and half-open b-file while Black's c6 knight is going to have a hard time getting back into the game. ]

**17.Qb3 Bf7?! The move I was hoping for -- blocking Black's intimidating battery along the f-file.**

[ 17...Nd2 18.Bxd2 Rxe2 19.Qxd5+ Kh8 20.Qxh5+- ] [ 17...Qd6 18.Qxb7? ( 18.Rfe1 b6= White has the bishop pair and ideas of pushing c4 while Black enjoys several nice outposts ) 18...Nd2 19.Rfe1 Nxf3+ 20.Bxf3 Bxf3 21.gxf3

Rxf3+ ]

**18.Qxb7 Re7**

[ 18...Rb8 19.Qxc7 White's queen gets to be greedy since it can escape to h2. ]

**19.Qb1 Rb8 20.Qc2 Bg6 21.Bd3 h6?!**

I suspect Black was worried about my bishop coming to g5 but that square is well-covered for now and this move destabilizes Black's g6 bishop. **22.a3** Threatening c4, though I'm still not sure if I want to do so, as my c3-d4 pawn chain does a wonderful job restricting Black's c6 knight.

[ 22.c4? Nb4+ ]

**22...Bh5?? 23.Bxe4 dxe4 24.Nd2**

Black loses lovely outposts on c4 and e4, gains two isolated pawns, and is going to wind up giving White a passed pawn in the center. **24...Bg6 25.Rb1**

An endgame with these pawns should be very good for White, so I want to start forcing trades. **25...Rxb1 26.Rxb1 Kh7 27.Rb5** I don't want to move my central pawns, as they restrict Black's c6 knight, but I want to get my own knight from d2 to c5 or e5. I can't go to e5 right now, so this rook lift intends to support Nd2-c4-e5 or Nd2-b3-c5. **27...Nd8 28.Rc5** This walks into a long series of tempo moves by Black's knight that I did not see

[ 28.Ra5 c6 29.Qa4± Black's a7 pawn will fall. ]

**28...Nb7!** I didn't consider Black's knight rerouting through b7, as this looked like it was moving away from the action.

[ 28...Ne6? 29.Rc6 Be8 30.Qxe4+ Kh8 31.Ra6 c6 32.Qf3+- ]

[ 28...Nf7 29.Qa4± ]

**29.Rc4 Nd6 30.Rc6 Be8 31.Ra6 Bb5!**

I was expecting Black to try to defend a7, but instead Black just keeps attacking and attacking **32.Rxa7 Bd3 33.Qb2 Nb5 34.Rb7?!** loses my c3 pawn for no reason

[ 34.Ra5 Qc6 ( 34...c6 35.c4 Nc7 36.Ra7+- ) 35.c4+- ]

**34...Qc6 35.Rb8 Nxc3 36.Nb3 Ne2+ 37.Kh1 Qc4 38.Nc5 Rf7 39.Rb4?**

I want to go Rb3 but I thought I could win a tempo on Black's queen by inserting this.

[ 39.Rb3± Black can't stop Qd2 and Nxd3. ]

**39...Qd5 40.Rb3 Bc4 41.Rb4 Bd3**

**42.Qb3 Qf5 43.Qd1** Capturing on d3 immediately ought to be fine, as Black can't add any. more defenders to d3, but from a distance it seemed safer to prevent any sort of infiltration along the back rank first.

[ 43.Nxd3 exd3 44.Qd1 Nc3 45.Qd2 Nd5 46.Rb3+- ]

**43...Nc3 44.Qd2 Nd5 45.Rb3??**

Two question marks for overlooking the same bishop move a second time.

**45...Bc4 46.Rb1 Bd3 47.Nxd3 exd3**

**48.Rd1 Nxe3??** Black needs to avoid trades to have any hope of holding a draw. **49.fxe3 c5 50.Qxd3 cxd4**

**51.Qxf5+ Rxf5 52.exd4 Ra5 53.Rd3**

**Kg6 54.d5** Delaying my own king activity to lock Black's king away on d8.

**54...Kf7 55.d6 Ke8 56.d7+ Kd8 57.g4**

**Ra7 58.Kg2 Rc7 59.Kf3 Rc4 60.Ke3**

**Ra4 61.Kd2 Rf4 62.Kc3 Re4 63.Kb3**

**Rf4 64.a4 Re4 65.a5 Re6 66.Kb4**

**Ra6 67.Kb5 Ra8 68.a6 g5 69.Kb6**

**Rb8+ 70.Kc6 Ra8 71.Kb7 Ke7**

**72.d8Q+?!** Black's king move caught me so off guard that I completely forgot that Black's rook was hanging in the corner.

[ 72.Kxa8+- ]

**72...Rxd8 73.Rxd8 Kxd8 74.a7 Kd7**

**75.a8Q Ke7 76.Qa6 Kf7 77.Qd6 Kg7**

**78.Qe6 Kh7 79.Qf6 Kg8 80.Kc7 h5**

**81.Kd7 hxg4 82.hxg4 Kh7 83.Qxg5**

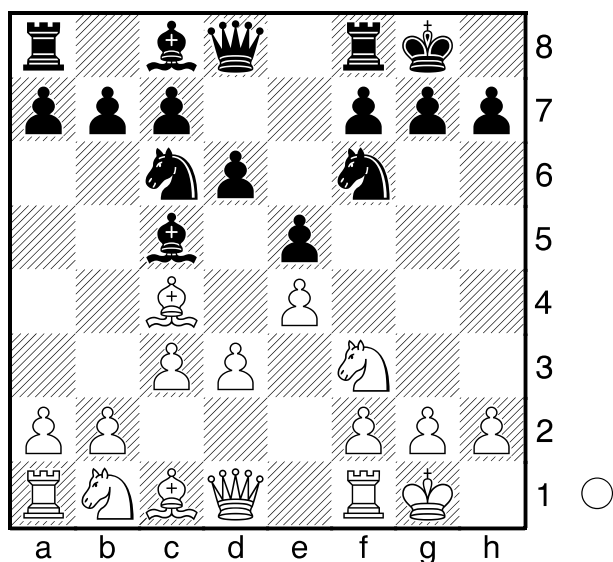
**Kh8 84.Ke7 Kh7 85.Kf7 Kh8 86.Qg7# 1-0**

**Fitzgerald, William** **C54**  

**Tagatac, David M** **1129**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 1200-1599 (2.19) **1284**  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

William Fitzgerald is tied for 1st-2nd with Nick Morello after five rounds, but it's been a learning experience: Here David Tagatac teaches him not to tangle up his queen and light-squared bishop in an Italian game! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3**

[ 4.d3 ]  
 [ 4.a4 ]  
**4...Nf6 5.d3**  
 [ 5.d4 ]  
**5...0-0 6.0-0 d6**



**7.Be3** There were subtler ways to play. (Note the strongest White player to try this is 2476, which might mean something.)

[ 7.h3 ]  
 [ 7.Re1 ]  
 [ 7.Nbd2 ]  
 [ 7.Bg5 ]  
 [ 7.a4 ]

**7...Bxe3** And the same could be said for this.

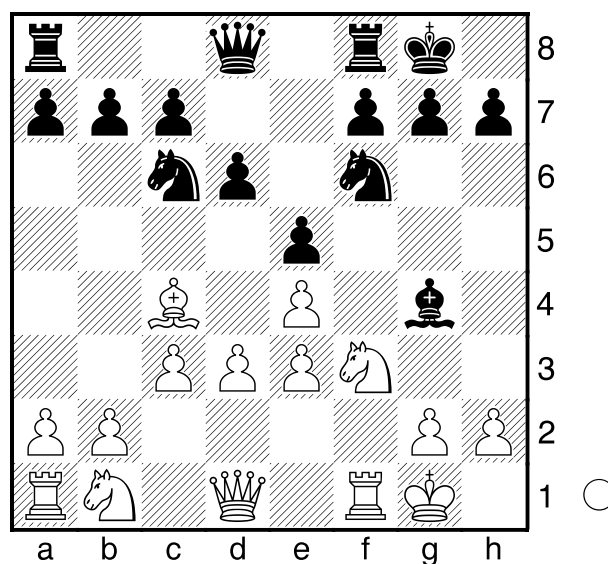
[ 7...Bb6!? ]

## 8.fxe3 Bg4

[ 8...Na5 9.Bb5 c6 10.Ba4 ]

[ 8...Ne7!? ]

[ Relevant: 8...Ne7 9.Nbd2 c6 10.Bb3  
 Ng6 11.Qe1 d5 12.exd5 cxd5 13.e4  
 Re8 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Ne4 Ndf4  
 16.Rd1 Be6 17.Bxe6 Rxe6 18.g3  
 Nd5 19.Nfg5 Re7 20.Qf2 Qb6  
 21.Qxb6 axb6 22.a3 Ne3 23.Rfe1  
 Nxd1 24.Rxd1 Rd8 25.Nf2 f5  
 26.Re1 h6 27.Nf3 Rde8 28.Nd2  
 Nh8 29.Nc4 Re6 30.Ne3 g6 31.Nd5  
 Rd6 32.c4 Nf7 33.d4 e4 34.Nd1  
 Kf8 35.N1c3 Rc8 36.b3 Re6 37.Nf4  
 Rd6 38.Nfd5 0-1 Langner, L (2380)-  
 Song, M (2421) Titled Tuesday intern  
 op 24th Nov Chess.com INT blitz 2020  
 (4) ]



## 9.Qb3?

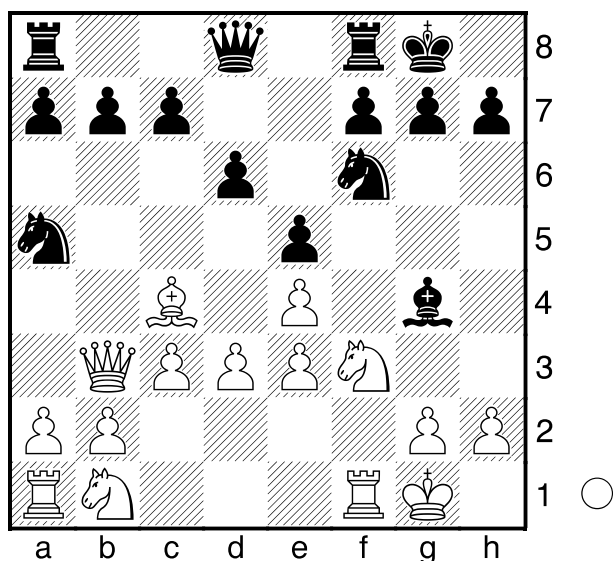
[ 9.Nbd2 ]

[ 9.Qe1!? ]

[ 9.a4!? ]

## 9...Na5!

(Diagram)



Black is already clearly on top! **10.Qb4N**  
It may well be that ...c5 "for free" favors White, but clearly this whole mess is thanks to mucking up the white bishop with the queen adding to it.

[Let's look at the only other game to reach here, not the finest performance, a FIDE 930 player vs. one with no rating, the Berlin Under-14 Championship of 2011: 10.Qa4 Nxc4?! ( 10...c6! 11.Bb3 b5 12.Qa3 Qb6 13.Re1 Bxf3 14.gxf3 d5 15.Qxc4 d5?! ( 11...Be6! ) 12.exd5 Nxd5? 13.Qe4?? ( 13.Qxg4 Nxe3 14.Qe4 Nxf1 15.Kxf1± ) 13...Bxf3?? ( 13...f5 14.Qxe5 Re8 15.Qg3 Nxe3 16.Rf2 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Ng4 18.Re2 Qd6 Stockfish stuns us again, declaring Black to be (-3.44), i.e. WINNING. 19.g3 Qc5+ 20.d4 Qb5 ) 14.Rxf3 ( 14.Qxf3= ) 14...Re8 ( 14...Nf6! 15.Qf5 e4 15.Rf5?? ( 15.Nd2= ) 15...f6?? ( 15...Nf6-+ 16.Qc4 b5! 17.Qxb5 Rb8 ) 16.Nd2 c6 17.Raf1 Qb6 18.Nc4 Qc5 19.Kh1 b5 20.b4 Nxc3 21.bxc5 Nxe4 22.dxe4 bxc4 23.Rc1 Rab8 24.Rff1 Rb4 25.h4 Reb8 26.Kg1 Ra4 27.Rf2 Rb5 28.Rd2 Rxc5 29.Rdc2

Kf7 30.Kf2 c3 31.Rxc3 Rxc3 32.Rxc3 Rxe4 33.g3 Ra4 34.Rxc6 Rxa2+ 35.Kf3 g5 36.Rc7+ Kg6 37.hxg5 fxg5 38.Rc6+ Kf5 39.g4# 1-0 Nguyen,P (830)-Hopmann,A Berlin-ch 2011 U14 Vorrunde 1 2010 (5.11) ]

**10...c5 11.Qa4 Qb6?!**

[ 11...Nxc4! 12.Qxc4 Be6 ( 12...b5!? 13.Qb3 c4! ) 13.Qb5 c4! Well okay, the "free" ...c5 came in quite handy. ]

**12.Nbd2 Bxf3**

[ 12...Bd7!? ]

[ 12...Nxc4 13.Nxc4 ( 13.Qxc4? Be6 14.Qa4 Qxb2 13...Qc7 13...Qc7 13...Qc7 ]

**13.Nxf3**

[ 13.Rxf3! Qxb2 14.Qd1 and another surprise by SF16, Black has next to no advantage, even taking the 2nd pawn is "0.00": Qxc3 15.a4 Nc6 16.a5! sets up a repetition on the queen. ]

**13...Nxc4 14.Qxc4 a6?!=**

[ 14...Qxb2! 15.Rab1 (or the other rook) b5! and however White gets the pawn back, Black has the further shot 16.Qxf7+!? ( 16.Qxb5 Qxb5 17.Rxb5 c4! ) 16...Rxf7 17.Rxb2 c4! with some annoying plus in the ending.

**A) 18.d4** exd4 19.exd4 Nxe4 20.Rc1 a6 21.a4 bxa4 22.Rb4 d5 23.Rxa4 Rb7 24.Rb4 Rxb4 25.cxb4 Rb8 26.Ra1 Rxb4 27.Ne5 ( 27.Kf1 ) 27...c3;  
**B) 18.dxc4** bxc4 19.Nd2 ]

**15.Rfb1?**

[ 15.Qb3! ]

[ 15.Rf2 ]

**15...Qa7?**

[ 15...Ng4! 16.Qb3 Qxb3 17.axb3 Nxe3 18.h3 ( 18.Nd2 d5 ) 18...f5 19.Kf2 Ng4+ ]

**16.Kf2??**

[ 16.a4 Ng4 17.Re1 b5 18.axb5 axb5 19.Rxa7 bxc4 20.Rxa8 Rxa8

21.d4 Nf6 22.Nd2 Ra2 23.Rb1=  
 Passive but adequate. ]  
**16...b5** Now it's over. **17.Qb3 Ng4+**  
**18.Ke2** Frying pan => Fire **18...c4**  
**19.Qc2 Qxe3+ 20.Kd1**  
 [ 20.Kf1 cxd3 is really no better. ]  
**20...Nf2+**  
**0-1**

 **Halle,Zachary**  
 **Sangani,Nikhil**

2024 New Year TNM: u1200 (2.26)  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

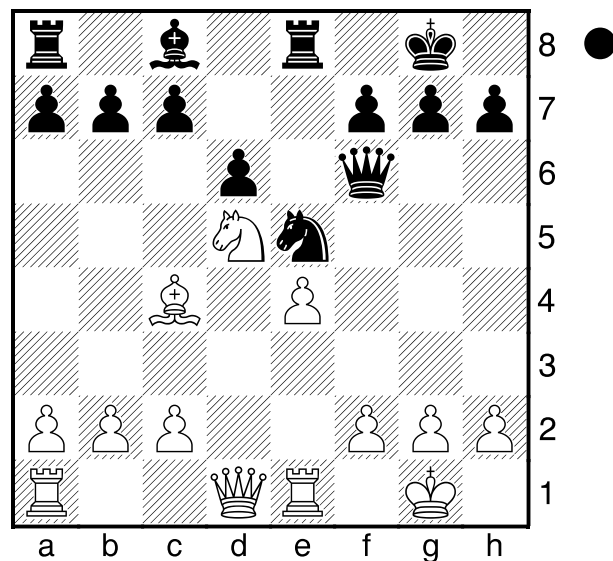
**C45**  
**610**  
**1059**

Nikhil Sangani is a full point ahead of Andrew Singer and John Little in the Under-1200 section. Here he plays a crisp finishing combination in a Scotch Four Knights. I confess I don't know him or Zachary Halle by sight, but hope to attach faces to names during my usual between-move wanderings next Tuesday! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bc5**

[The usual move (seen at every level, including the absolute top of chess!) is 5...Bb4 when it continues 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9.0-0 0-0 This is one of those "They play both sides" positions. ]

**6.Be3 Bxd4 7.Bxd4 d6 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Re1 Ne5 12.Nd5**

(Diagram)



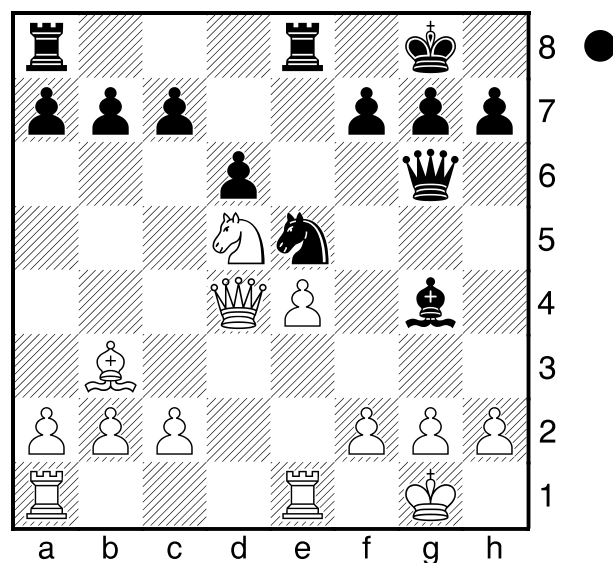
### Qg6N

[Chessbase dares to give a "Relevant" game, but I like Nikhil's move more.

**12...Qd8** 1-0 Diaz,A (1337)-Santiagouel, J (1645) Eastern Asia-ch U20 Batangas 2019 (8) ]

### 13.Bb3 Bg4 14.Qd4?

[ **14.Nf4!? Bxd1 15.Nxg6 Bxc2 16.Bxc2** ]



**14...Nf3+ 15.gxf3 Bh3+**  
**0-1**



Yan,Ruiyang  
Sant,Amit

B45  
2357  
1882

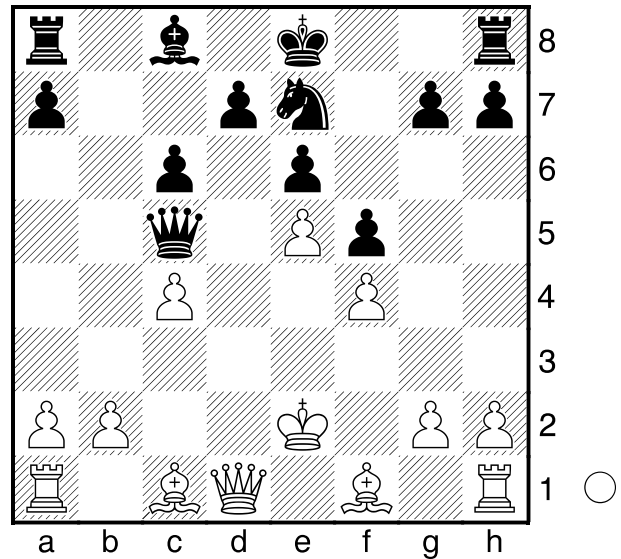
2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 23.1.24  
[Winslow,Elliott]

Ruiyang again, taking a point almost out of the opening from Amit Sant. This Four Knights Sicilian variation after 6. Nxc6 gets almost masochistic for Black -- that backward d-pawn! That queen getting booted around! But White has their share of weird maneuvering: 11. Ke2!? Still, if you're playing this line for either side, you better know what you're doing. It appears that, more or less, Ruiyang does. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 Qc7 9.f4 Qb6 10.c4 Bb4+ 11.Ke2 f5 12.Nf2 Ne7**

[Relevant: 12...Qa6 13.Kf3 Nc7 14.h4 Be7 15.Kg3 Bb7 16.Be3 c5 17.Qh5+ g6 18.Qe2 0-0-0 19.Nd3 Qc6 20.Qf2 d6 21.exd6 Bxd6 22.Bxc5 Bxc5 23.Nxc5 e5 24.fxe5 Rhe8 25.Re1 f4+ 26.Kh2 Qb6 27.Kg1 f3 28.Nxb7 Qxb7 29.Rh3 Ne6 30.Rxf3 Nd4 31.Rf7 Qb6 32.c5 Qxc5 33.Ba6+ Kb8 34.Rb7+ Ka8 35.Rxh7 Rxe5 36.Rxe5 Qxe5 37.Qf7 Qe3+ 38.Kh1 Qe1+ 39.Bf1 Qe6 40.Qb7# 1-0 Durarbayli,V (2625)-Sarana,A (2693) Titled Tuesday intern op 12th Sep Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (5) ]

**13.Nd3 Bc5 14.Nxc5 Qxc5**

(Diagram)



### 15.Be3?!N

[Calmer and very good is the grandmaster move 15.b3 Qb6 ( 15...Bb7 ) 16.Qd6 c5 17.Ba3 Ng6 18.Bxc5 Nxf4+ 19.Ke3 Qxd6 20.Bxd6 Ng6 21.b4 Bb7 22.h4 Kf7 23.h5 Ne7 24.b5 g5 25.hxg6+ hxg6 26.Rxh8 Rxh8 27.Rd1 Nc8 28.Bc5 Ke8 29.a4 Rh4 30.a5 Re4+ 31.Kf2 Rxe5 32.Bd4 Re4 33.a6 Ba8 34.c5 e5 35.b6 axb6 36.cxb6 Nxb6 37.Bxb6 Rb4 38.Bc7 1-0 Navara,D (2724)-Vocaturo,D (2615) Prague Czech IT mate rapid 2019 (2) ]

### 15...Qa5??

[Oh just take the pawn! 15...Qxc4+ 16.Kf2 Qe4 ( 16...Qb4 ) 17.Bd3 Qb4 18.Qb3 Nd5 ]

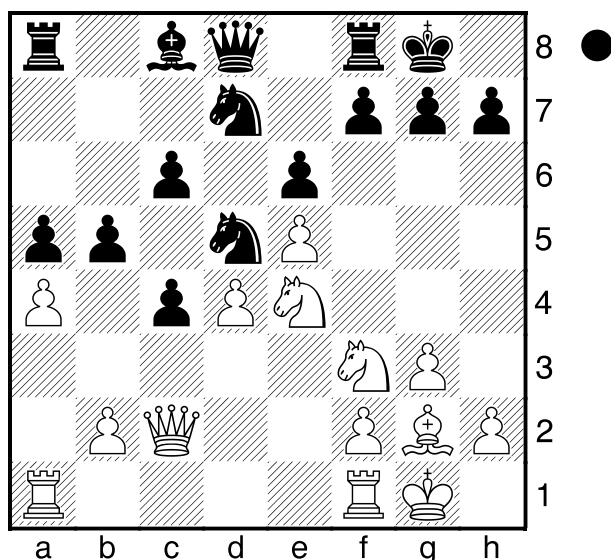
**16.Kf2+-** White has the best of it all, and it's downhill quickly. **16...c5 17.a3 Bb7 18.Qd6 Rc8 19.Be2 Qc7 20.Rhd1 Qxd6 21.Rxd6 Rc7 22.b4 cxb4 23.axb4 0-0 24.Bxa7 Nc8 25.Rd2 Nxa7 26.Rxa7 Rfc8 27.b5 Be4 28.Rxd7 1-0**

 **Dasika,Archit**  
 **Hao,Max**

**E04**  
**2235**  
**2068**

2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 23.1.24  
[Winslow,Elliott]

Archit Dasika has won a couple TNMs lately but it doesn't look like it'll be happening this one. Max Hao plays the latest Bogo-with-a5 to Dasika's inevitable Catalan, and shows he knows very well what he's doing. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.Bg2 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 a5 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qc2 Bxd2 9.Nbxd2 b5 10.a4 c6 11.e4 Nbd7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne4**



**Nb4!N** Already Black stands better, if you trust computers in unbalanced positions like this.

[Predecessor: 13...h6 14.Nd6 Ba6 1/2- (43) 1/2 Sharnarhi,V (1847)-Liyanage,R (2210) Asia-ch Rapid U20 Jamshedpur 2023 (2) ]

**14.Qe2 Qb6 15.Rfd1 Ba6 16.Nfg5 h6 17.Qh5 Nd5 18.Nh3 c5 19.axb5 Bxb5 20.g4 f5 21.exf6 N7xf6 22.Nxf6+ Nxf6 23.dxc5 Qc7 24.Qg6 Be8 25.Qc2 Nxc4 26.Rd6 Qxc5 27.Rxe6 Qc7 28.Qe4 Qxh2+ 29.Kf1 Qg3 30.Qxa8 Rxf2+ 31.Ke1 Rxc2+ 32.Kd1**

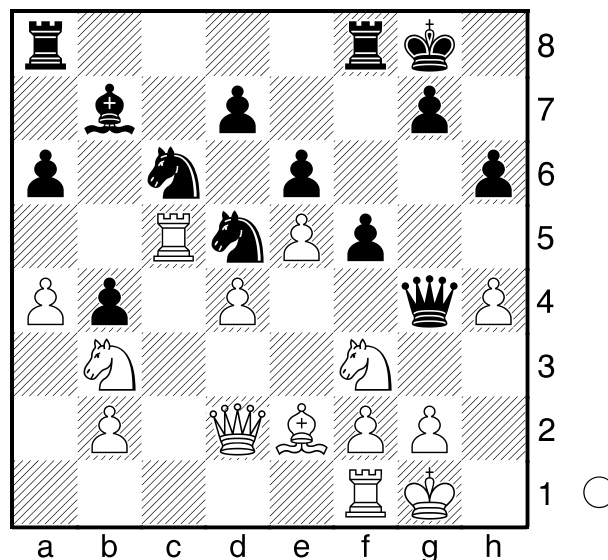
**Qd3+ 33.Ke1 Qd2+**  
**0-1**

 **Bambou,Christophe**  
 **Xue,Tianhao**

**B22**  
**2129**  
**1905**

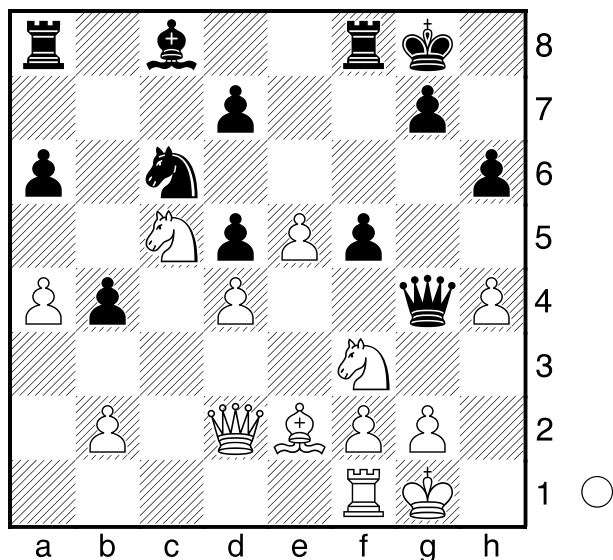
2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.3) 23.1.24  
[Winslow,Elliott]

Christophe Bambou is confronted by Tianhao Xue: Girls Under-10 World Cadet Champion and a recent arrival with her family in the Bay Area. She was moving along purposefully until she allowed a typical Bambou Blow that threw piece values into disarray... **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 b6 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.Bd3 Be7 9.Bd2 0-0 10.h4 f5 11.Bg5 a6 12.Rc1 b5 13.a4 b4 14.Nb1 Nc6 15.Nbd2 Na5 16.0-0 h6 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Rc5 Nc6 19.Nb3 Qf7 20.Qd2 Qh5 21.Be2 Qg4**  
[ 21...Nce7!? 22.Na5 Ra7 23.Nxb7 Rxb7 24.Rfc1± ]



Tianhao's intentional play (looking for ... Nf4) has a flaw... **22.Rxd5!±**  
Second nature for Bambou. **22...exd5**

## 23.Nc5 Bc8



Black can still hope to make something of that bishop, but White doesn't have to help her. **24.g3?**

[ 24.Rd1 ]

**24...Qg6?**

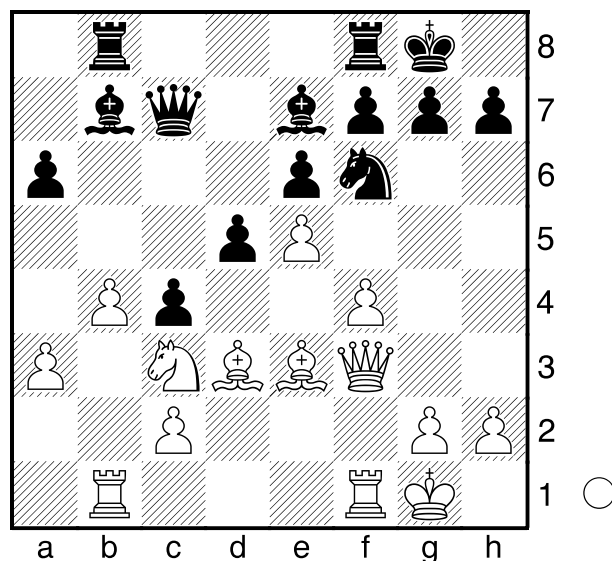
[ 24...f4! 25.Nh2 Qg6 26.g4 d6̄ ]

**25.Nd3!±** Back on track. White's knights rule. **25...a5 26.Nf4 Qf7 27.Rc1 Bb7 28.Rc5 Ne7 29.Rc7 Bc6 30.e6 dxe6 31.Ne5 Qe8 32.Bh5 Qd8 33.Nxe6 Qd6 34.Nxc6 Qxe6 35.Nxe7+ Kh7 36.Qc2 Rf6 37.Bf3 Rd8 38.h5 Qb6 39.Nxf5 Kh8 40.Nxg7 Qxd4 41.Ne6 1-0**

**Srinivasan,Sivavishnu** **B48**  
 **Shrauger,Alex Hayden** **1903**  
**2087**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (3.4) 23.1.24  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

Sivavishnu Srinivasan has his signature line in the Taimanov Sicilian. Here it doesn't bring victory against Alex Shrauger on a tear. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.a3** Just Say No to Getting Pinned. **7...Nf6 8.f4 d6 9.Nxc6?!**

White could just develop and castle on one side or another. Admittedly then a2-a3 looks more and more like a shot in the air... **9...bxc6 10.Qf3 Rb8 11.Rb1 Be7 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 Bb7 14.b4 d5 15.Bd3 c5 16.e5 c4**



**17.Bd4!?**

[ 17.exf6! Bxf6 18.Bxh7+! Kxh7 19.Ne2 Kg8 20.Bd4± ]

**17...cxd3 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qxd3 Rbc8 21.Rb3 Qc4**

[ 21...d4! ]

**22.Qg3+?! Kh8 23.Ne2 f5**

[ 23...Rg8 ]

**24.Qh4 f6 25.Rh3 Rf7 26.Qh5 Rg7 27.Rg3 Rxc3**

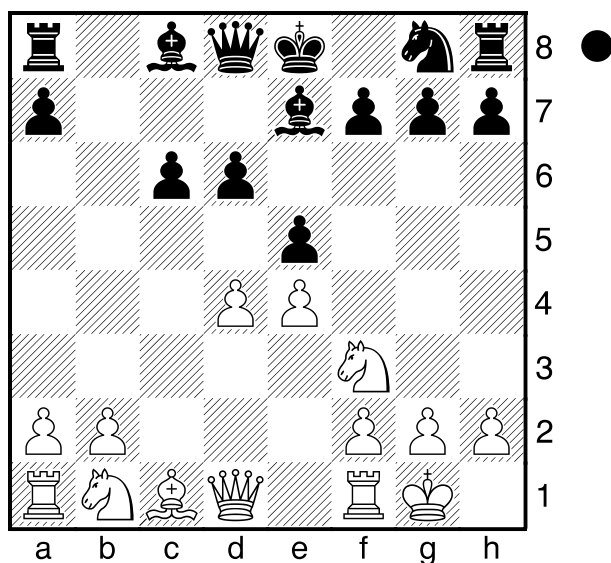
[ 27...d4̄ ]

**28.Nxg3 Rf8 29.Qh6 Rf7 30.h3? Qxc2̄ 31.Nh5 d4 32.Rf2 Qc6 33.Nxf6 Rg7 34.Kh1 Qc8 35.Qh4 Qd8 36.Rd2 Rf7 37.Qf2 Qxf6 38.Rxd4 Rg7 39.Qb2 Rxc3 40.Rd8+ Rg8+ 0-1**

**B51**  
**1900**

□ **Dutter,Frederic**  
■ **Vandenhoven,Clarke Raymond**  
2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (3.9)  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

A fantastic game! Probably Black's play wasn't sound, but White lost his way more than once, finally fatally. This game left Vandenhoven at 3-0, but he has had to take two byes since. He could still take first, and certainly is in position for a prize. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.Bxc6+ bxc6 5.0-0 e5 6.c3 Be7 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4**



**f5?!** A wild move! But it's objectively debatable.

[Simple chess dictates 8...exd4 9.Nxd4 Bd7 with some opening advantage for White in space and quicker deployment, but the bishops can still hope to outplay knights later in the game. ]

**9.Qa4?**

[ 9.dxe5! fxe4 10.Nd4! opening up possibilities with Qh5+ favors White almost to winning. Let's take a walk down a computer fantasy: Qc7 11.Bf4! dxe5 ( 11...d5 12.Nc3 and Rc1 and Qa4, the pressure on the

pawns and the squares around them is too much. ) 12.Qh5+ g6 13.Qxe5 Qxe5 14.Bxe5 Bf6 15.Re1 Bb7! 16.f4! 0-0-0 17.Nb3! Bxe5 18.fxe5 Rd5 19.Nc3 Rxe5 20.Nxe4 Kc7 21.Nec5+- and Black is caught with pieces still on original squares. Re7 22.Na5 Bc8 23.b4!+- The c-pawn will be targeted by 24.Rec1 (or 24.Rf1 and 25.Rac1) (and then Na6+!). ]

**9...fxe4 10.Qxc6+**

[ 10.Ng5!? Bd7 11.dxe5!? Bxg5 12.Bxg5 Qxg5 13.e6 Nf6= 14.exd7+ Kxd7 15.Na3!? ]

**10...Bd7 11.Qxe4 Nf6 12.Qc2 Rc8**

[ 12...e4!± sets up the advanced pawn in the center around which Black's play will revolve. ]

**13.Qb3?!**

[ 13.Nc3= e4 14.Nd2 d5 15.f3 Qb6 16.Nb3 Bf5 17.fxe4 Bxe4 18.Qe2 0-0 19.Bf4± White gets his pieces out! ]

**13...e4 14.Nfd2 d5 15.Nc3 Be6**

**16.Qb5+**

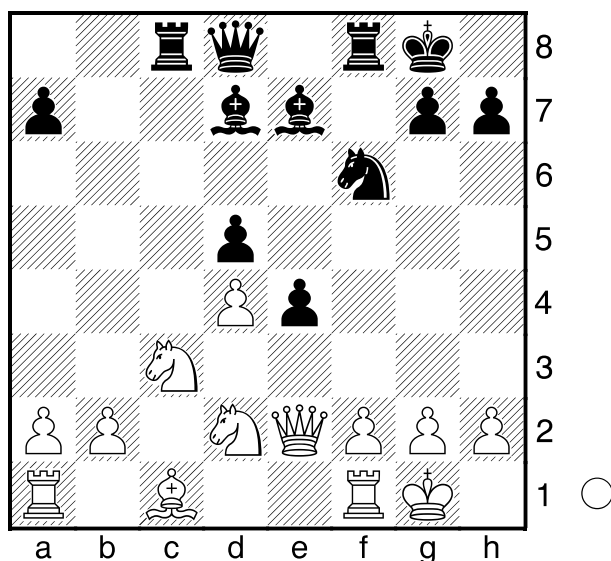
[ 16.Ncxe4?? Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Rb8-+ ]  
[ 16.f3! Qd7!

**A) 17.Qd1** 0-0! 18.fxe4 dxe4 19.Ndxe4 Nxe4 20.Rxf8+ ( 20.Nxe4?! Rxf1+ 21.Kxf1 Qc6 22.Nc3 Bc4+ 23.Kg1 Rf8 24.Be3! Rf1+± ) 20...Rxf8 21.Nxe4 Bc4 22.Nf2= when according to Stockfish (always interesting!) Black has various ways to press White via his development plus and active pieces, but no advantage. Instructive!;

**B) 17.Qb5!** Qxb5 18.Nxb5 Rc2! (or the other way around) 19.Nxa7 0-0! and again, if Black keeps playing actively the best White can do is equalize. ]

**16...Bd7 17.Qe2 0-0!±**

(Diagram)



Black is well situated to start making threats on the kingside, while White has to be careful. **18.f3**

[ 18.Nb3 Bg4 19.Qb5 a6!!

Computer move -- Black uses the pawn to pick up momentum for aiming everything at the kingside.

20.Qxa6 ( 20.Qa5 Qd6 ) 20...Ra8  
21.Qc6 Bd7 22.Qb7 Rb8 23.Qa7  
Bd6 24.Nc5 ( 24.Bg5 Rf7 ) 24...Bc8  
25.Bg5 h6 26.Bh4 Rf7! 27.Qa3  
Bxh2+! 28.Kh1! ( 28.Kxh2? Ng4+  
29.Kg3 Qd6+ 30.f4 exf3+  
and mate! ) 28...Bc7 Black has way  
more than enough for the pawn. (or  
28...Bf4 )]

**18...Bd6?**

[ 18...Qb6!± ]

[ 18...Bb4 is good as well ]

**19.f4?**

[ 19.fxe4! Qb6 20.Kh1!

**A) 20...Bxh2!?** 21.Kxh2 Ng4+  
22.Kg3! Qd6+ 23.e5 Qg6  
24.Rxf8+ Rxf8 25.Nf3! fends off  
the danger, when the best Black  
has is Nxe5+ 26.Ng5! ( 26.Kf2  
Nxf3 27.gxf3 Bg4 28.Be3!= )  
26...Nd3 27.Qe7!;

**B) 20...dxe4 ]**

**19...Bg4 20.Qe3 Be6 21.h3?! Nh5**

**22.Ne2 Qh4 23.Qf2 Qf6 24.g3 Bxh3  
25.Re1 Rc2 26.Qe3 Qg6 27.Qb3 Nxf4  
28.Nxf4 Bxf4 29.Nf1  
0-1**

**B12**

**Hollon,Nick 1341**

**Fitzgerald,William 1129**

2024 New Year TNM: 1200-1599 (3.22)

[Hollon,Nick/Winslow,Elliott]

A very instructive game! At some point it looks like Black is taking over, undermining White's pawns -- but there is a possibility lurking underneath, like a hidden room, which only shows up on a computer screen... **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5** A bit stodgy, "hoping" it's turning into a French? **4.c3**

[ The dynamic move is 4.dxc5 , blowing things up a bit! ]

[ At least as common (at the very highest levels!) is 4.Nf3 ]

**4...Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 Bxf3**

[ Everybody plays 6...e6! Maybe White will play h2-h3 anyway... ]

**7.Bxf3 e6 8.0-0 Qb6**

[ And here, overwhelmingly more common is 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 and \*now\* Qb6 In fact, White is in trouble. ]

**9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.b4 Be7 11.Re1±**

(EW: Stockfish makes this the best move!) **11...a5?** EW: On one level this looks like the right plan, taking advantage of White's extended pawns. But on another level...

[ 11...a6! ]

**12.Be3?±**

[ EW: Stockfish 16 (the only 3600 player in my household) sets the record straight on this position: 12.b5!! Qxb5 (best) 13.Na3!!

**A) 13...Bxa3 14.Bxa3+-** when the bishops and the backward



queenside spell disaster for Black.  
 Rd8 ( 14...Qa6 15.Rb1! Nge7  
 16.c4! (reminds me of one of the  
 first games in "Selected Games of  
 Mikhail Tal" by Hajtun, which will be  
 hard to find now!) Stockfish has  
 Black in trouble, losing. 0-0!  
 (best try again) 17.cxd5 exd5  
 18.Bc5 Rad8 19.e6! Bad news  
 everywhere Black looks. ) 15.Rb1  
 Qa6 16.Qe2!! Qxe2 17.Bxe2! Rd7  
 ( 17...Nxe5 18.Bd1! ) 18.Rb6  
 ( 18.Rb2!? might be even better )  
 18...Nxe5 19.Reb1 Black's ship will  
 not be permitted to sail.;

**B) 13...Qc5 ]**

**12...Qc7 13.b5?! Nxe5 14.Bf4??  
 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Bd6 16.Bxd6 Qxd6  
 17.a4 Nf6 18.Nd2 0-0 19.Qe3?**

Lets the knight in **19...Ng4**

[EW: 19...Rfc8! is honestly even  
 better. ]

**20.Qh3?!**

[EW: 20.Qg3! Qxg3 21.hxg3  
 lets White suffer on. ]

**20...Qf4 21.Re2 Rac8 22.Ra3 d4  
 23.c4 Rxc4 24.g3 Rc1+ 25.Kg2 Qd6  
 26.Rd3??**

[ 26.Qxg4 Qxa3 27.Qxd4-+  
 White gives up the rook for a knight  
 and a dangerous passed pawn. Black  
 is still winning, but White survives for  
 now. ]

**26...Ne5 27.Rxe5 Qxe5 28.Nf3 Qe2  
 29...Qf1# is fatal.**

**0-1**

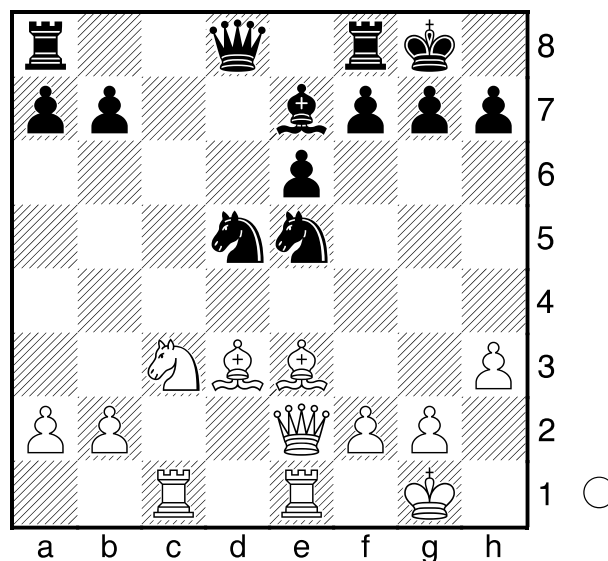
□ **Sangani,Nikhil**  
 ■ **Mackley,Merlin Ethan**

**B21  
 1059  
 741**

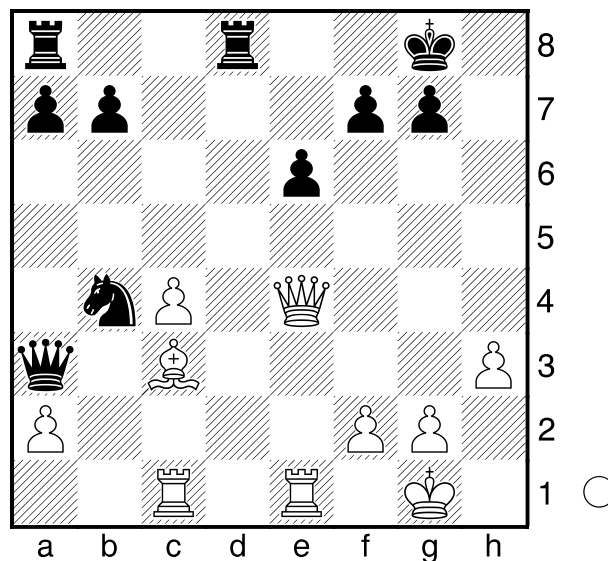
2024 New Year TNM: u1200 (3.26)  
 [Winslow,Elliott]

It appears that, if you are playing Nikhil  
 Sangani, you had better take extra care

of your king -- as you don't know when  
 it's going to suddenly come under  
 blistering attack. 1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4  
 3.Nf3 d6 4.c3 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.0-0  
 Bg4 7.Re1 dxc3 8.Nxc3 e6 9.Be3 Be7  
 10.Rc1 0-0 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Ne5  
 13.Qe2 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5



**15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qxe5  
 Bf6 18.Qe4 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Qa5 20.c4  
 Nb4 21.Bd2 Rfd8 22.Bc3 Qa3**



**23.Qg4 g6 24.Qh4 f5 25.Qh8+ Kf7  
 26.Qg7+ Ke8 27.Rxe6#  
 1-0**

□ Winslow,Elliott

■ Yan,Ruiyang

D32

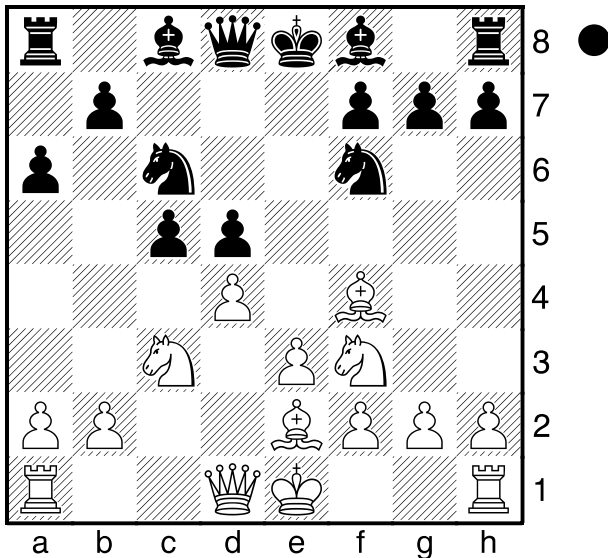
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2357

2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 30.1.24

[Winslow,Elliott]

I'm more than unhappy with this game. Not just the result (grrr!), but how I completely lost concentration over and over: Moves 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 25, and \*what\* the heck was 27.Nb2??. And \*\*then\*\*, after all that, she leaves the door open for me to draw on move 59! (Please ignore our little gaff on move 53. ) Well, there are two more rounds left, and she has a bye already in Round 7, so -- well, maybe. And then the next TNM... :- ) 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 a6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bf4 c5 7.e3 Nc6 8.Be2



**h6** Taking the "not losing a tempo with ... Bf8-d6xc5" a bit far, but it seems to be the fad these days. Starting with 4...a6. (Carlsen and others have played 4...h6!? -- and look at our own Board 3!)

[ 8...c4!? 9.0-0 Bb4 10.Bg5 Be6 11.Ne5 Qa5 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Na4 0-0 15.b3 Rab8 16.Qc2 Rfc8 17.bxc4 dxc4 18.a3 Bd6 19.Bxc4 Bf5 20.Qd1 Bg6

21.Nc5 Bxc5 22.dxc5 Rd8 23.Qf3 Qxc5 24.Bxa6 Ra8 25.Bb7 Ra7 26.Qxc6 Qe7 27.Ba6 Rda8 28.Bc4 Be4 29.Bd5 Ra6 30.Qc4 Ra4 31.Qb3 Rxa3 32.Rxa3 Rxa3 33.Bxf7+ Kf8 34.Qe6 Bxg2 35.Kxg2 Qxf7 36.Qd6+ Qe7 37.Qb8+ Qe8 38.Qf4 Qc6+ 39.Kg3 Ra5 40.h4 Kf7 41.Rd1 Ra8 42.e4 Re8 43.f3 Rg8+ 44.Kh2 Qc5 45.Qd2 Qe5+ 46.f4 Qxe4 47.Qa2+ Ke7 48.Qa7+ Ke8 49.Qb8+ Kf7 50.Qc7+ 1-0 Carlsen,M (2855)-Mamedyarov,S (2762) Meltwater Tour Final chess24.com INT rapid 2021 (2.4) ]

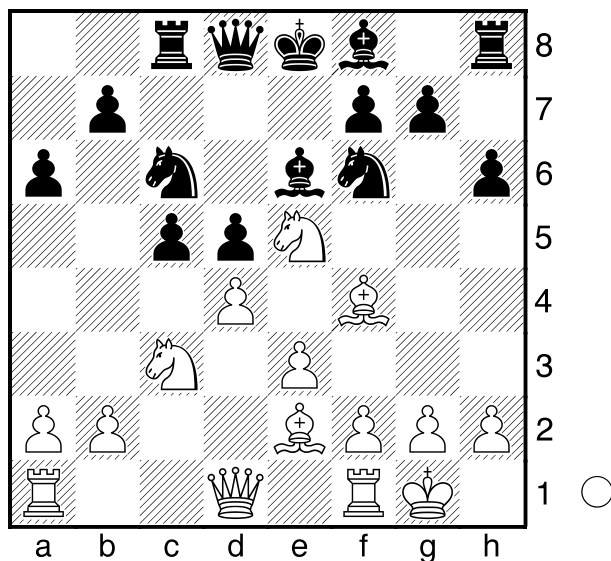
**9.0-0 Be6 10.Ne5** White is slightly better.

[ 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Rc1 Ba7 12.Ne5 0-0 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Na4 d4 15.exd4 Bxd4 16.Rxc6 Ne4 17.Bf3 Nxf2 18.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 19.Kxf2 Qf6 20.Bc7 Rad8 21.Bxd8 Rxd8 22.Qc2 Qf4 23.Kg1 Rd2 24.Qc3 Bd5 25.Rc8+ Kh7 26.Rd8 Rxd8 27.Bxg2 Bxg2 28.Kxg2 Qg5+ 29.Kf1 Qxd8 30.Nc5 Qh4 31.h3 a5 32.a3 Qf4+ 33.Ke1 g5 34.Qd3+ Kg8 35.Kd1 Qf2 36.b4 axb4 37.axb4 h5 38.Qd8+ Kh7 39.Qxg5 Qf1+ 40.Kd2 Qxh3 41.Ne4 Qh2+ 42.Ke3 Qh3+ 43.Kd4 Qd7+ 44.Qd5 Qa7+ 45.Kc3 Qa3+ 46.Kc4 Qc1+ 47.Kb5 Qf1+ 48.Ka5 Qa1+ 49.Kb6 Qg1+ 50.Kb7 Qg6 51.Ng5+ Kg7 52.b5 h4 53.b6 f6 54.Ne6+ Kh6 1-0 Kotic,D (2495)-Mihajlovic,V (2370) MNT-chT Tivat 2011 (1.5) ]

**10...Rc8**

[ 10...Qa5 11.Qb3 Qb4 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qxb4 cxb4 14.Na4 Ne4 15.Rfc1 Bd7 16.f3 Nd6 17.Nc5 Nb5 18.a4 bxa3 19.bxa3 Bxc5 20.Rxc5 Ke7 21.a4 Nd6 22.Ra5 Rhb8 23.Rxa6 Rxa6 24.Bxa6 Ra8 25.Bxd6+ Kxd6 26.Bd3 c5 27.dxc5+ Kxc5 28.a5 Bc8 29.Kf2 Kb4 30.a6

Kc5 31.Ra5+ Kd6 32.Ke2 Bd7  
 33.Kd2 Rc8 34.a7 Bc6 35.e4 dxe4  
 36.Bxe4 Bxe4 37.fxe4 Ra8 38.Kd3  
 Kc6 39.Kc4 Kb6 40.Kb4 Kc6  
 41.Ra6+ Kc7 42.Kb5 Kb7 43.Ra1  
 1-0 Thorn,E (2366)-Cederstam Barsk,  
 C (2332) SWE-chB Uppsala 2022 (3) ]  
 [ 10...cxd4 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxd4  
 c5?! 13.Qa4+ Bd7 14.Qb3± ]



### 11.dxc5N

[ Asleep as usual: I should play  
 11.Nxc6! Rxc6 ( 11...bxc6??  
 12.Bxa6+- ) 12.dxc5 ( 12.Be5!?)  
 12...Bxc5 13.Be5 0-0 14.Bf3 Nd7  
 15.Bd4 Nb6 16.Bxc5 Rxc5 17.Qd4±  
 0-1 Rustemov,A (2525)-Fedoseev,V  
 (2701) Titled Tuesday intern op 26th  
 Apr Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (6)  
 Rc4 18.Qd2 d4 19.Rfd1 Rb4 20.b3  
 Nd7 21.Ne2 Qe7 22.Nxd4 Ne5  
 23.Rac1 Rb6 24.Qc3 Nxf3+ 25.Nxf3  
 Bg4 26.Qc7 Qf6 27.Qg3 Bxf3  
 28.Qxf3 Qb2 29.Ra1 Rc6 30.Rdb1  
 Qa3 31.g3 Rfc8 32.Rd1 Qb2  
 33.Qd5 Rf6 34.Rf1 Rc2 35.Qd8+  
 Kh7 36.Qd3+ g6 37.Qd4 Rxf2  
 38.Rxf2 Rxf2 39.Qxb2 Rxb2 40.Rd1  
 b5 41.Rd7 Kg7 42.e4 Rxa2 43.e5  
 Re2 44.Rd5 Re3 45.b4 Re4 46.Rd6

Rxe5 47.Rxa6 Re4 48.Rb6 Rxb4  
 49.h4 Rb2 50.Kf1 b4 51.Rb7 h5  
 52.Rb6 b3 53.Rb7 Kf6 54.Rb5 Ke6  
 55.Kg1 Kd6 56.Rb7 Kc5 57.Kf1 Kc4  
 58.Rc7+ Kd3 59.Rd7+ Ke3  
 0-1 Rustemov,A (2525)-Fedoseev,V  
 (2701) Titled Tuesday intern op 26th  
 Apr Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022  
 (6) ]

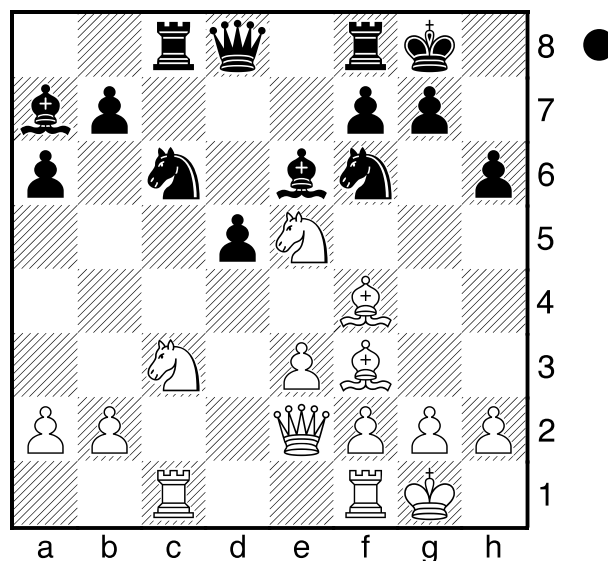
**11...Bxc5 12.Bf3** Insufficiently thought  
 through -- keeping an eye on a6, so that  
 Nxc6 has to be captured with the rook,  
 is more logical.

[ 12.Nxc6 Rxc6 13.Be5 ]

**12...0-0 13.Rc1 Ba7**

[ 13...Qe7 ]

**14.Qe2**



**Qa5! 15.Rfd1 Rfd8 16.Nxc6 bxc6**

**17.b3** This will bite White in a few  
 moves.

[ 17.Be5 Nd7 18.Bg3 Nf6 draw? ]

**17...Bc5!?** White has trouble avoiding  
 losing an exchange!

[ 17...d4 18.exd4 Bxd4 19.Ne4  
 ( 19.Na4 isn't so bad, rim or not )

19...Nxe4 20.Bxe4= White's structural  
 advantage is on paper only; Black is  
 fine. ]

**18.Na4**

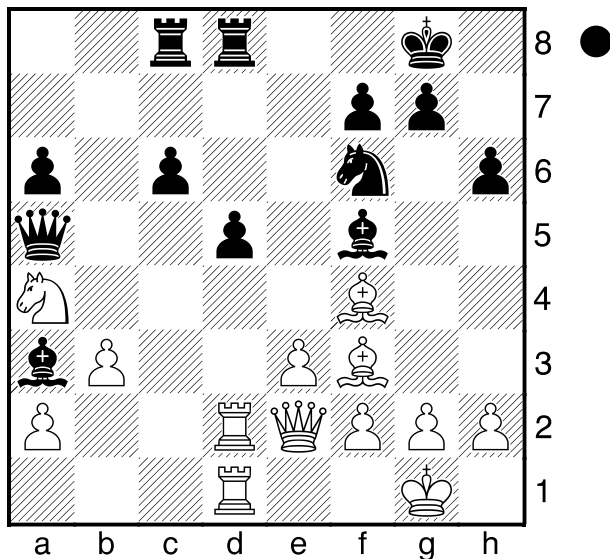
[ 18.Be5! Ba3 19.Bxf6 gxf6

( 19...Bxc1? 20.Bxd8 Qxc3 21.Bb6± )  
 20.Rc2 Bf5 21.e4 ( 21.Bg4!? Bxc2  
 22.Qxc2 White has full compensation  
 with Black's dreadful pawns. )  
 21...dxe4 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Nxe4  
 Here also the broken pawns give  
 White some bit of pull -- as soon as he  
 deals with the pin. Qe5 24.g4! Bxe4  
 White has nothing much whichever  
 way he recaptures. 25.Qxe4 Qxe4  
 26.Bxe4 c5= ]

**18...Ba3** **19.Rc2?**

[ 19.Ra1 is lame, but probably the way  
 to go. Black is "more equal" than  
 White. c5! ]

**19...Bf5** **20.Rcd2**



**Re8!** This move got to me: It dodges Be5,  
 so that 21...g5 and 22...g4 really is a  
 problem.

[ But maybe more accurate was  
 20...Bb4 21.Rb2 Re8 ]

**21.g4** Well something had to be done!

**21...Bg6** even better: **22.h4 Ne4**

Good, but

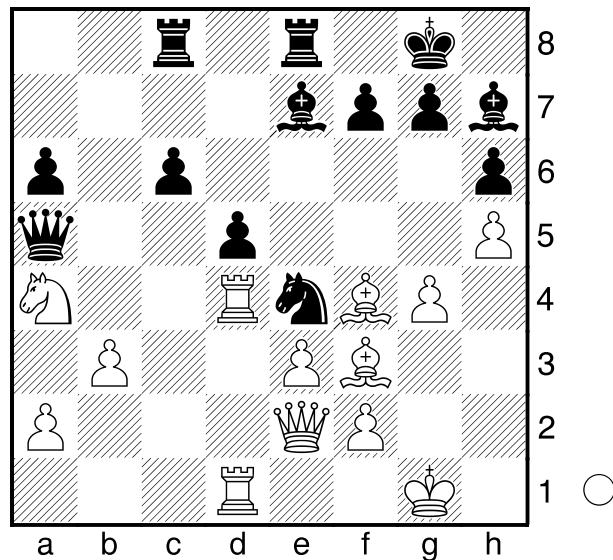
[ 22...Bb4 23.Rd4 ( 23.Rb2 Rcd8 )  
 23...c5 24.Rxd5 Nxd5 25.Bxd5 c4 ]

**23.Rd4 Be7?** Permitting White to relieve  
 all the pressure.

[ Black should play 23...Bb4 ]

[ Or even 23...Re6! ]

**24.h5= Bh7**

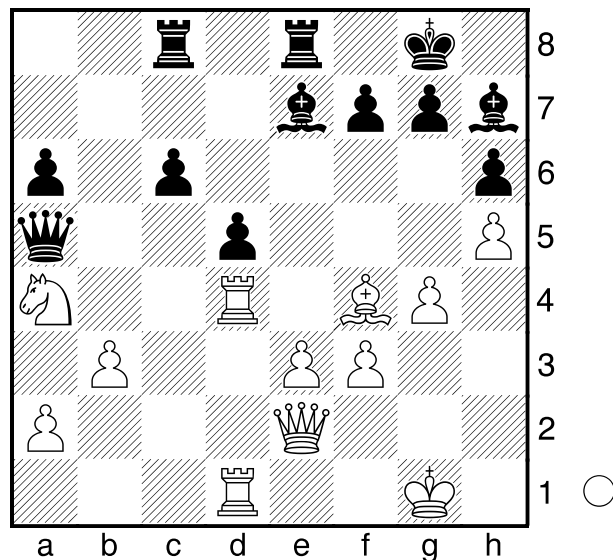


**25.Bxe4**

[ 25.Qe1!= Qxe1+ (necessary)  
 ( 25...Qb5 26.Bxe4! dxe4 27.Nc3  
 Qb6 28.Rd7± ) 26.Rxe1= Rcd8  
 27.Bc7 Rc8 28.Bf4 ]

**25...Bxe4** Black is back in the saddle...

**26.f3 Bh7**

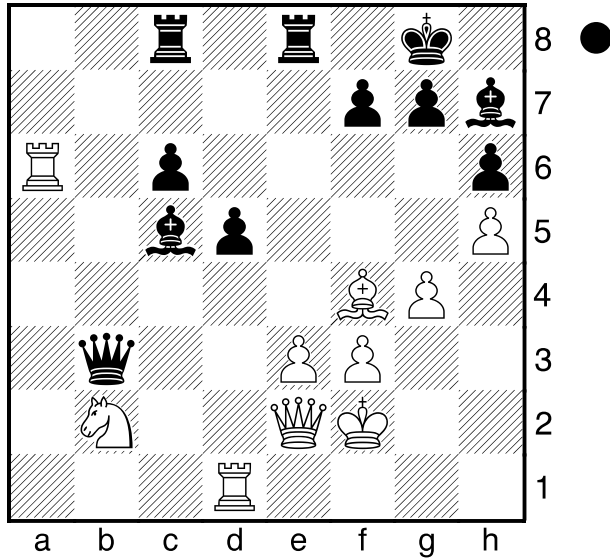


**27.Nb2?**

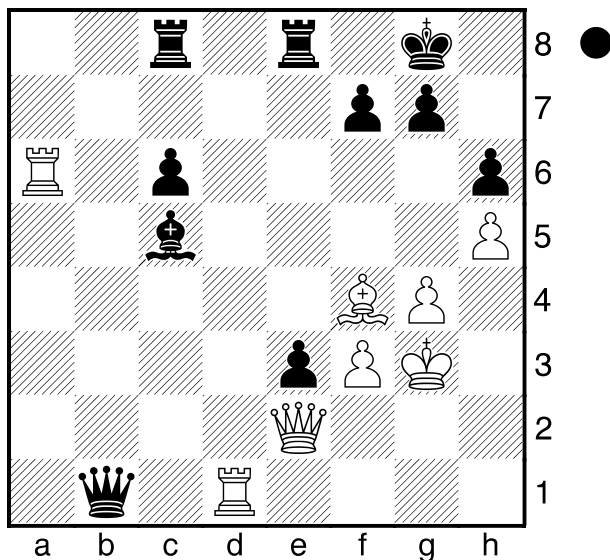
[ 27.Qd2 was best of the betters.  
 Qxd2? ( 27...Qd8; 27...Qb5 )  
 28.R4xd2= ]

**27...Qxa2+** Totally overlooked. White  
 crumbles. **28.Ra4 Qxb3 29.Rxa6 Bc5**

30.Kf2

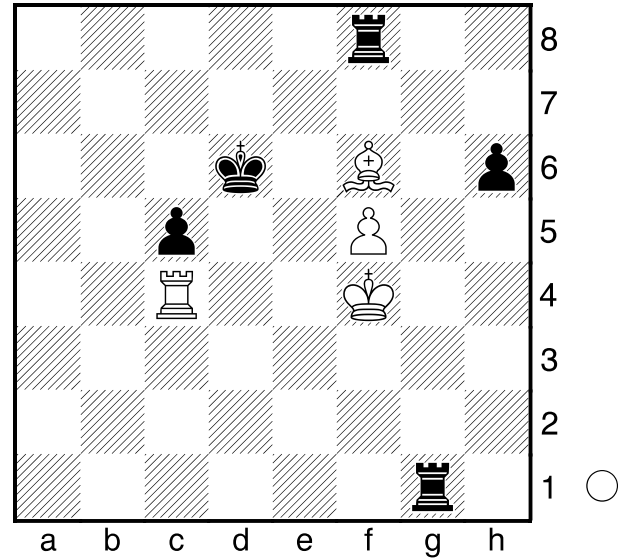


d4! 31.Nd3 dxe3+ 32.Kg3 Bxd3  
33.Rxd3 Qb1 34.Rd1

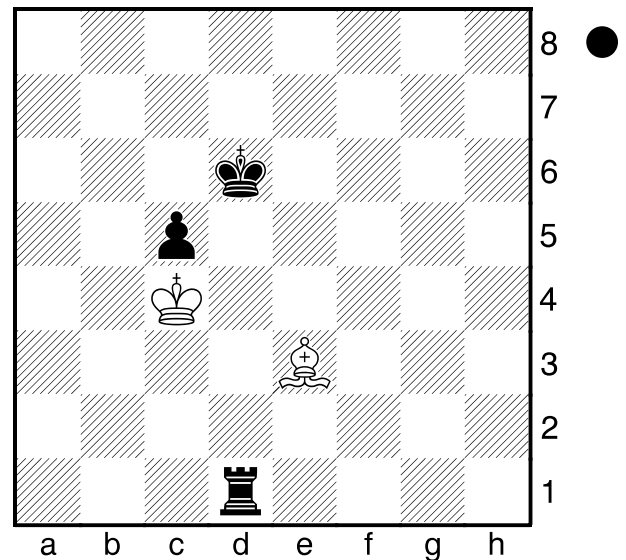


Qxd1! 35.Qxd1 e2 36.Qe1 Bb4!  
37.Qxb4 e1Q+ 38.Qxe1 Rxe1 39.Ra4  
c5 40.Rc4 Rd1 41.Be3 Rd5 42.f4 Kf8  
43.Kf3 Ke7 44.g5 That minute and a  
half on this move put me under 4  
minutes (3:55). 44...Kd6 And Ruiyang  
had (5:36) 45.Kg4 Rd3 4:07  
Ruiyang took a minute and a half for this  
move, now 46.Bc1 hxxg5 47.Kxxg5  
Rd5+ 48.f5 (3:02) 48...Rd1 (3:29)  
49.Bb2 Rg1+ 50.Kf4 f6 51.h6 gxh6

52.Bxf6 Rf8



53.Bg7?? Rf1+?? 54.Ke4 R8xf5  
55.Bxxh6 Rh5! 56.Be3 Rh4+  
[ 56...Re5+ 57.Kd3 Rf3 ]  
57.Kd3 Rd1+ 58.Kc3 Rxc4+ (2:00)  
59.Kxc4 (1:49)



59...Rd5?? Played after 16 seconds  
(including the delay) -- and a blunder!  
[ 59...Kc6 removes White's last gasp:  
60.Bg5 Rd4+ 61.Kb3 Rg4 62.Bf6  
Kd5 63.Bh8 Rg3+ 64.Kc2 Kc4  
65.Kd2 Kb3 ]  
60.Bf2??  
[How did I miss 60.Kb5!= Black can't

undo the mess she's in now: White has e3, f2 and g1 for the bishop to keep an eye on Pc5, which can't move without getting taken, leading to rook vs. bishop: it's a surprising draw! ]

60...Kc6 61.Be3 Re5 62.Bf2 Re4+  
63.Kd3 Ra4 64.Kc3 Kd5 65.Bg1  
Ra3+ 66.Kb2 Rg3  
0-1

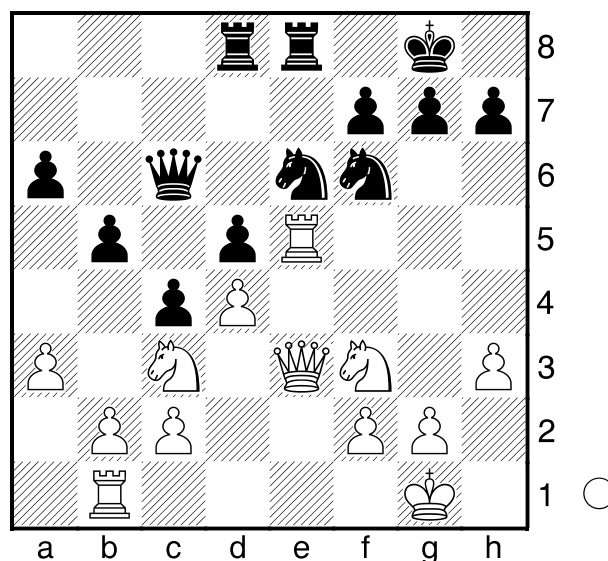
Shrauger,Alex Hayden  
Hao,Max

C10  
2087  
2068

2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 30.1.24  
[Winslow,Elliott]

In a sort of Exchange French (transposition), things are stable as they usually are, Black even has space on the queenside, but a couple of wrong-minded trades land Hao in hot water in a knight ending. Shrauger falters once or twice but so does Hao, and it goes to White. 1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.Bf4 a6 11.Qd2 c4 12.a3 Re8 13.Ne5 Nf8 14.h3 Ne6 15.Bh2 Qb6 16.Nf3 Rad8 17.Rab1 Bd6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Re5 b5= 20.Qe3?! Qc6

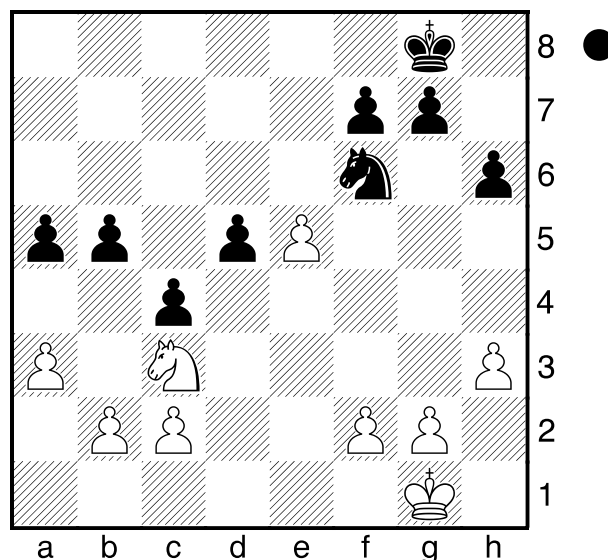
(Diagram)



If anyone is better it's Black here. 21.Re1 a5

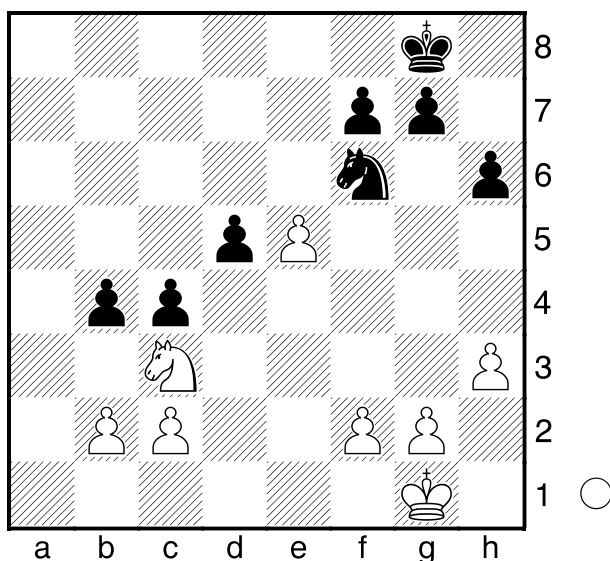
[ 21...Nd7 ]  
22.Ng5 Nxg5?!  
[ 22...Nf8 ]

23.Qxg5± h6 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8  
25.Rxe8+ Qxe8 26.Qe5 Qxe5??  
27.dxe5+-



b4  
[ 27...Nd7 28.f4! ]  
28.axb4 axb4

(Diagram)



## 29.Na2?

[ 29.exf6 bxc3 30.bxc3 is indeed won: gxf6 31.Kh2! Kf8 ( 31...Kg7 32.Kg3 f5 33.Kf3 Kf6 34.Kf4 Ke6 35.h4 Kf6 36.h5 Ke6 37.f3 Kf6 38.g4 It's Zugzwang. ) 32.Kg3 Ke7 33.Kf4 Ke6 ( 33...Kd6 34.g4 Kc5 35.h4 d4 36.Ke4 ) 34.g4 It's a king and pawn ending, you have to calculate and calculate. It's won, "trust me" (and Stockfish). ]

## 29...Nd7?

[ 29...b3! 30.cxb3 cxb3 31.Nc1 Nd7 32.f4 g5! ( 32...Nc5 33.Kf2 d4 34.Ke2 f5 35.exf6 gxf6 36.Kd2 Kf7 37.Ne2 Na4 38.Nxd4 Nxb2 39.Nxb3± ) 33.fxg5 Nxe5 34.Nxb3 hxg5 It appears to draw. ]

**30.Nxb4+- Nxe5 31.Nxd5 f6 32.f4 Nc6 33.Kf2 Kf7 34.Ne3 Na5 35.Kf3 g5 36.f5 Ke7 37.Ke4 1-0**



**Sant,Amit**



**Dasika,Archit**

**D12**

**1882**

**2235**

2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (4.4) 30.1.24  
[Winslow,Elliott]

A second loss in a row (in one of his favorite lines) sent Dasika packing, while Sant got a clump or ratings points (+70 so far by SwissSys's approximation!). But Amit took a 5th-round bye, so for him making the prizes will be problematic. I'll figure out where Archit went wrong later (in my own preparations, since I play this line for White!). 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4.c4 c6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Bg4 7.Qb3 Qc7 8.h3 Bh5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Bd2 Nc6 11.Rc1 Be7 12.g4 Bg6 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Bg2 0-0 15.f4 Na5 16.Qd1 Qd7 17.g5 Nh5 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Bxa5 Ng3 20.Rg1 Nf5 21.Qb3 Bd6 22.Kf2 b6 23.Bd2 Rad8 24.Rge1 Bb8 25.Kg1 Rfe8 26.Qd3 Ng3 27.Rc3 Kh7 28.Kh2 Ne4 29.Bxe4 Rxe4 30.Rec1 Qf5 31.Kg2 Rde8 32.Rf1 f6 33.gxf6 Qxf6 34.h4 Qf5 35.Rf3 Bd6 36.Rc6 Bb8 37.Qf1 Qd7 38.Rc2 Rf8 39.Kg3 Bd6 40.Qh3 Rf5 41.Qg4 Be7 42.Bc1 Qd6 43.Rff2 Rh5 44.Rh2 Qb4 45.Bd2 Qb5 46.Qf3 Qd3 47.Rc3 Qb1 48.Rc6 Qxb2 49.Qg4 Bf6 50.Qd7 Re7 51.Qc8 Bxh4+ 52.Rxh4 Rxh4 53.Rc2 Qb1 54.Kxh4 Rf7 55.Bc1 Rf5 56.Kg4 Rh5 57.f5 Rxf5 58.Rh2+ Rh5 59.Rxh5+ gxh5+ 60.Kxh5 Qg6+ 61.Kh4 Qe4+ 62.Kg5 Qe7+ 63.Kh5 g6+ 64.Kg4 Qe4+ 65.Kg5 Qg2+ 66.Qg4 Qc2 67.Qd7+ Kh8 68.Kf6 Qf2+ 69.Kxg6 Qg2+ 70.Kf6 Qf1+ 71.Qf5 Qh1 72.Qc8+

**1-0**

**Wong, Wilson** **C42**  

**Marvin, Hayes Alexander** **1883**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (4.10) **1649**  
*[Wong, Wilson]*

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3** I'm unsure how to approach the Petroff and avoid draw-ish lines so I opted to just keep the center closed and be ready to play a slower maneuvering game, and build a large enough advantage over a long game to convert. **3...Bc5** This hangs a pawn but maybe opponent wanted to set up a fishing pole trap. **4.Nxe5** Black will be under lots of pressure to make something happen now since Black is giving up their center pawn, while White still has both. **4...Nc6** Main move in high rated online games. **5.Nxc6** Trading makes the most sense to me, just trying to finish development as soon as possible then secure the extra pawn. 5.Nf3 is also commonly played, but that seems like a really bad idea to me since it wastes time, and keeps pieces on the board, when White wants to reduce attackers and consolidate. **5...dxc6** Black has a nice development lead and open lines, but White will be in time to O-O. **6.Be2??** I thought this was the only move, as passive as it is, and it looked like black would be able to win back the pawn. This move went from winning to equal. White had many alternatives, including h3, Qe2, f3, and the odd looking Qf3.

*[ 6.h3 Stockfish's recommendation and the best performing move. I didn't even consider this. This simple pawn move is really effective in killing Black's attacking ability, and its much safer to make this pawn move since I haven't O-O yet. ]*

**6...Qd4** It looks like White will be able to win back the pawn and still have active

pieces. **7.0-0 h5** I suspected Black would go for the fishing pole setup.

*[ 7...Nxe4 Black had a chance to bail out into an equal position. ]*

**8.d3** White's top priority is to not get checkmated. The h-file will open for Black so White needs to develop and trade in a manner so that White doesn't get mated by ...Qxh2#. Black's c5-bishop will be effective in keeping White's king from being able to flee in the short-term.

**8...Ng4 9.Bxg4 hxg4** Black is eyeing h2-square with their queen. **10.Bf4** White needs to protect h2-square.

**10...Bd6 11.Qd2** The top priority is to protect h2-square. When Black's queen tries to reroute to focus h2-square, f2-pawn will be unpinned, allowing f4, giving White a flight square. **11...g5**

**12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.g3** White is totally safe. Black won't be able to stop an eventual f4 and tripling on h-file would take too long. **13...Qf6** Black temporarily stops f4, but White will be able to break free, and there is no attack on h2-square. h2-square is too easily defendable for White. **14.e5** Deflecting Black's queen and freeing e4-square for White's c3-knight. **14...Qh6 15.f4** White's king is safe and White will start counterplay on kingside. My main goal will be to develop both my rooks while keeping my king safe, and maybe get my knight to f6-square. Black's f7- and g4-pawns can possibly be targeted depending on where Black's light-squared bishop is or if it gets swapped off. **15...gxf3 16.Rxf3 Qh5** This wastes time doing nothing.

*[ 16...Be6 Black could continue development. ]*

**17.Raf1 Be6 18.Ne4 0-0-0 19.Nxg5 Bd5 20.Rxf7 Qg4 21.Qf4** Not the best, but this gives back a pawn but gets queens off the board. I had to worry about potential ...Rxxh2 tactics in the position, and it looked like material could



drop after ...Qd4 so I thought this was a good decision. The ending should be easy to win since I have 2 on 0 kingside pawns, more active pieces, and Black is nowhere near ready to get counterplay. **21...Qe2 22.Qf2 Qxe5 23.Qf5+ Qxf5 24.R7xf5** This endgame is easily winning. My rooks are more active and my knight can't be challenged. I can improve my pieces, making it really difficult for Black to do anything, and it shouldn't be hard to get into a position where Black has nothing better than to trade. A minor piece endgame should be easily winning, just marching down my kingside pawns, so it is beneficial for me to trade any number of rooks. **24...Rh5 25.h4** I need to kill Black's counterplay then I will be free to march my kingside pawns down the board. Getting my rooks on the 7th will kill Black's king activity and possibly tie Black to a defensive position. I think b3 at some point is a good idea to kill Black's bishop and to freeze the queenside. **25...c5 26.b3** The idea is to freeze the queenside, giving me time to improve my rooks and further tie down Black. Once Black has no counterplay, I'll improve my king and have it support my kingside pawns. **26...b6 27.Re1 Bc6 28.Re7 Re8 29.Rxe8+ Bxe8 30.Rf8 Kd7 31.Ne4 Rh6 32.Nf6+ Ke7 33.Rxe8+ Kxf6** This is completely winning since there are pawns on both sides, it would take Black too long to push those pawns down, and Black won't be able to blockade connected passed pawns. I'm not 100% sure what the best way to go about converting this ending than to just have my king support my kingside pawns march up the board. I think pushing h-pawn ahead of g-pawn is the way, with my rook checking Black's king if Black tries to sit in front of my backward kingside pawn. Still, marching my pawns and king up the board is a

very slow process, giving Black time to target my queenside pawns with their rook, but in the current position, Black's pawns haven't moved far and it would take awhile for Black to get their rook to the second rank. **34.Kg2 Rh7 35.Kh3 Rg7 36.g4 Rf7 37.h5**

[ 37.g5+ I wasn't sure what to do after this, but Black's rook being on the same file lets this work since I can skewer Black's king. Kf5 38.Re2 ]

**37...Kg5 38.Kg3**



[ 38.Re5+ Kf4 I kept not seeing this resource during the game. ]

**38...Rf1 39.Re5+ Kh6 40.Re6+ Kg5?**

[ 40...Kg7 I think this ending with two connected passed pawns is a win, but if time is a factor, and Black had pawns of their own, I think I need my rook to make progress, checking Black's king out of the way. ]

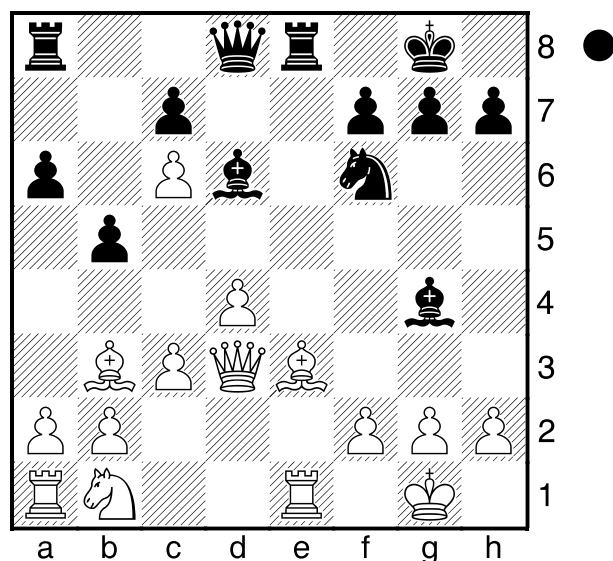
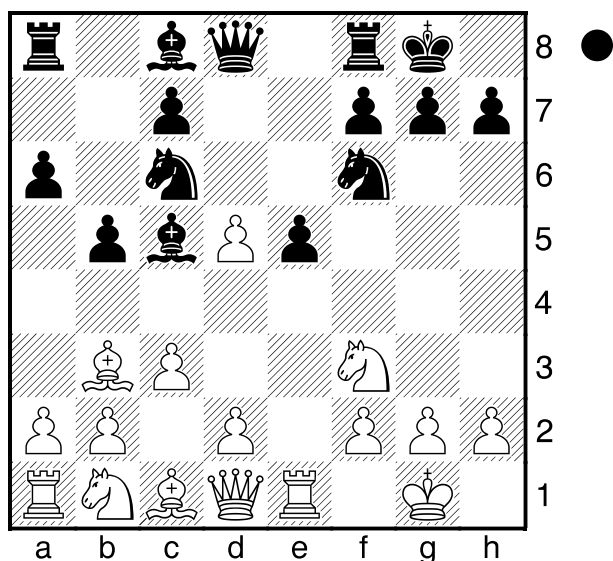
**41.Rg6#**

**1-0**

	<b>Tirouvingadame,Arivoli</b>	<b>C89</b>
		<b>1732</b>
	<b>Casares,Nick</b>	<b>1600</b>
2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (4.16)		
<i>[Winslow,Elliott]</i>		

Oli faced an unusual Arkhangel/Marshall hybrid, which doesn't seem all that bad. But Casares's 9...e4?, similar to the Steiner Variation (if I remember names correctly), just left him a lot of pawns down. And the piece sacrifice on move 14 didn't start any fire, either. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.Re1 0-0 8.c3 d5!?** [ 8...d6 9.d4 Bb6 ] **9.exd5**

(Diagram)



**e4?**

[ 9...Nxd5 10.d4! exd4 11.cxd4 Bb6  
12.Nc3 Be6 13.a4± ]

**10.dxc6**

[ 10.d4!?+- ]

**10...exf3 11.d4 Bd6 12.Qxf3?!±**

[ 12.g3!+- (+1.76) but four games,  
0-4. ]

**12...Bg4?!**

[ 12...Re8 13.Bd2 Bg4 14.Qd3  
Rxe1+ 15.Bxe1 Qe7 16.Nd2 Re8  
17.Nf1 ( 17.f3 Bf5!± ) 17...Be2  
18.Qe3! Qd8 19.Qd2± ]

**13.Qd3! Re8 14.Be3!**

[ Relevant: 14.Rxe8+ Qxe8 15.Be3  
Qxc6 16.Nd2± Nd5?! 17.Bc2?!  
( 17.Qe4 Be6 18.Nf3 ) 17...g6  
18.Ne4 Bf5 19.Qd2?! Nxe3 20.Qxe3  
Re8?? 21.Nf6+ 1-0 Ostry,M-Engel,T  
Klatovy op-B 2013 (5) ]

**14...Bxh2+?N**

[ Predecessor: 14...Bh5 15.Nd2 Bg6  
16.Qf1 Ne4 17.Nxe4?! Bxe4± 18.d5  
Qh4 19.g3?! ( 19.h3 ) 19...Qh5±  
½-½ Poels,G (1568)-Plu,G (1669)  
Tessenderlo CC-ch 0708 2007 (5) ]  
[ 14...Ne4 15.Nd2 Nc5 16.Qc2 Nxb3  
17.axb3+- ]

**15.Kxh2 Qd6+ 16.Kg1 Rad8 17.Nd2  
Qxc6 18.Bg5 Rd6 19.Bf4 Rdd8  
20.Nf3 Be6 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.Ne5  
Qd5 23.Qf3 c5 24.Qxd5 Nxd5 25.Be3  
c4 26.Bg5 Rc8 27.Re4 b4 28.cxb4  
c3 29.bxc3 Nxc3 30.Ree1 Nd5  
31.Rab1 Rc2 32.a3 Rf8 33.Nf3 Nc3  
34.Ra1 Ne2+ 35.Kh1 Rf5 36.Be3  
Rh5+ 37.Nh2 g5 38.Rxe2 Rxe2 39.g3  
Rc2 40.Kg2 Rc7 41.Ng4 Rf7 42.Rc1  
a5 43.Rc8+ Kg7 44.b5 a4 45.b6 Rb7  
46.Rc7+  
1-0**

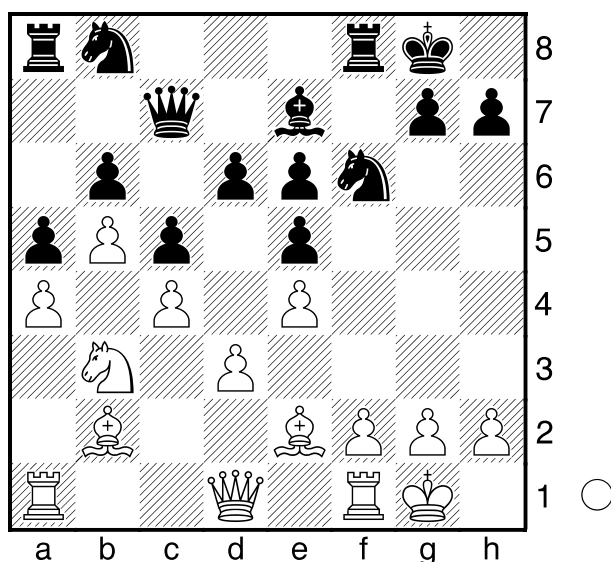
(Diagram)

**Starr, Albert Martin** **A00**  

**Fitzgerald, William** **1500**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 1200-1599 (4.20) **1129**  
*[Winslow, Elliott]*

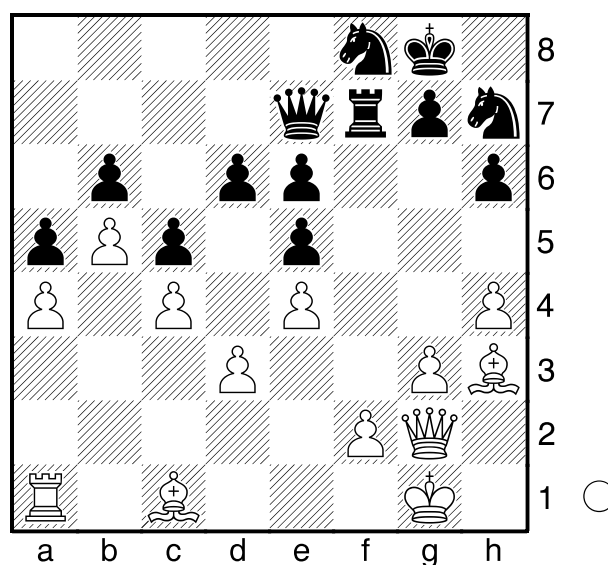
A lot of maneuvering in this Orangutan (Starr's calling card) lead nowhere, until White's f2-f4 opened a line into the queenside squares behind the b-pawn -- which Fitzgerald jumped on! Nice endgame play by Black there. **1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.e3 Be6 4.d3 Nd7 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Be2 Ngf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 c6 9.c4 b6 10.a4 Qc7 11.e4 c5 12.b5 a6**

[ 12...Rfb8 ]  
 [ 12...Ne8 ]  
**13.Ng5 Nb8 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Nb3 a5**

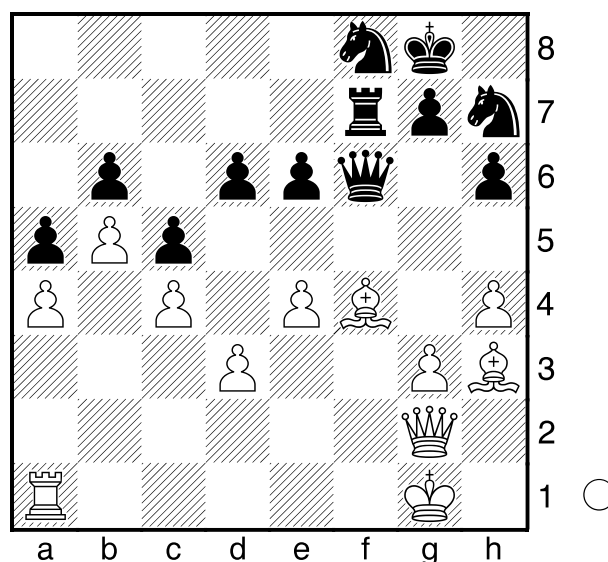


**16.Nd2 Nbd7 17.Nf3 h6 18.g3 Nh7**  
 [ 18...Rf7 19.Nh4 g5 20.Ng2 Rg7 ]  
**19.Re1?**  
 [ 19.Ne1 ]  
**19...Rad8**  
 [ 19...Kf7!? ]  
**20.Bf1**  
 [ 20.Rf1 ]  
**20...Rf7 21.Re3 Bg5 22.Nxg5 Nxg5**  
**23.h4 Nh7 24.Bh3 Ndf8 25.Rf3 Rdd7**  
**26.Bc1 Rxf3 27.Qxf3 Rf7 28.Qg2**

[ 28.Qh5 Nf6 29.Qe2 ]  
**28...Qe7**

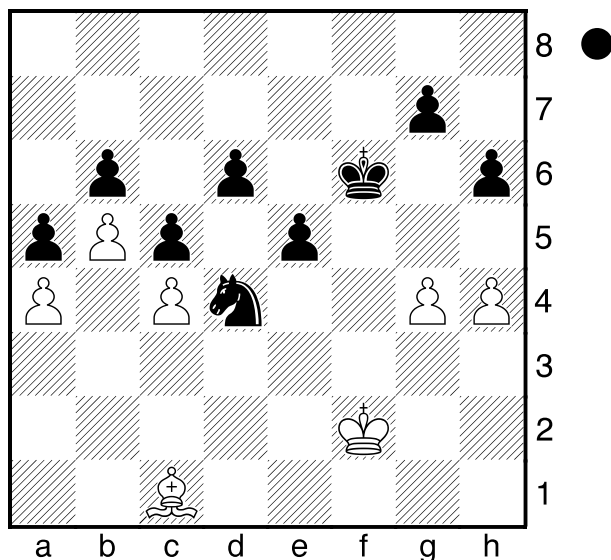


**29.f4? exf4 30.Bxf4 Qf6**

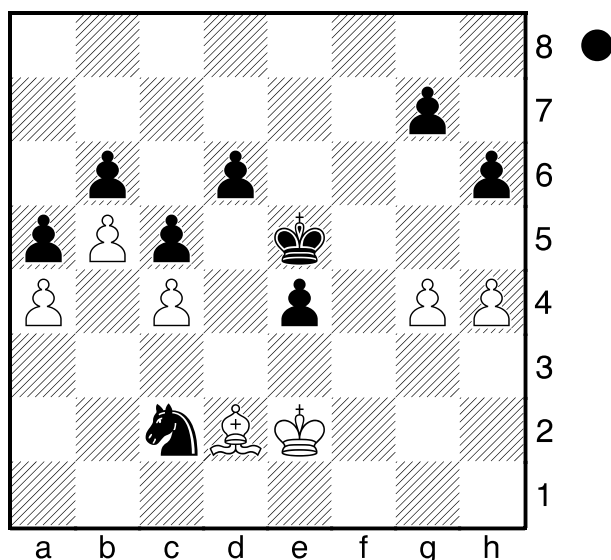


**31.Rf1**  
 [ 31.Ra2 Qd4+ 32.Qf2 Qxd3 33.Qe2+ ]  
**31...Qd4+ 32.Kh2 Qxd3+ 33.Rf2 e5!**  
**34.Bd2 Rxf2 35.Qxf2 Qxe4**  
 [ 35...Qxc4 ]  
**36.Bf1 Nf6 37.Be2 Ng4+ 38.Bxg4 Qxg4 39.Qf1 Qd4 40.Qc1 Qf2+ 41.Kh3 Qf5+ 42.Kh2 Ne6 43.Qd1 Nd4 44.Be3 Qc2+ 45.Qxc2 Nxc2 46.Bc1 Kf7 47.g4 Kf6 48.Kg3 Nd4**

## 49.Kf2



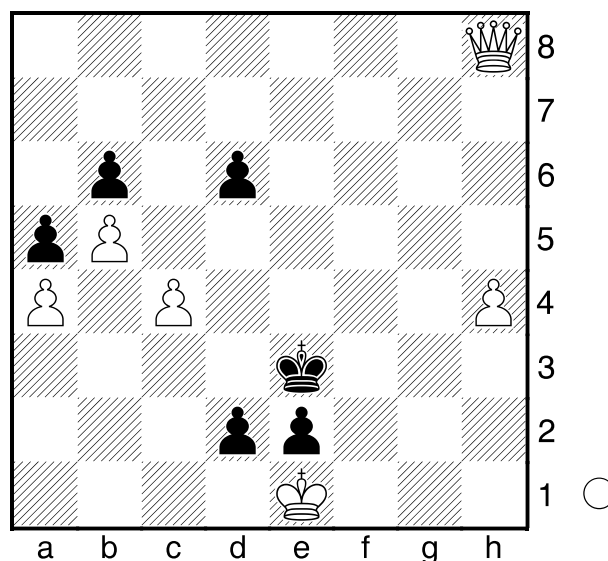
**e4 50.Ke3 Ke5 51.Bd2 Nc2+ 52.Ke2**



**e3! 53.Bc3+ Ke4 54.Bxg7 Nd4+ 55.Ke1 Nf3+**

[ 55...Kd3 56.Bxd4 cxd4 57.g5 e2 58.Kf2 ( 58.gxh6 Ke3 59.h7 d3 60.h8Q d2#

(Diagram)



) 58...Kd2 ]  
**56.Ke2 Ng1+**  
 [ 56...Nd4+ 57.Bxd4 cxd4 58.g5  
 hxg5 59.hxg5 d3+ 60.Ke1 Kf5 ]  
**57.Kf1 e2+! 58.Ke1 Kd3 59.Bxh6**  
**Nf3+ 60.Kf2 e1Q+ 61.Kxf3 Qxh4**  
**62.g5 Kxc4 63.Ke3 d5 64.Kd2 Kb3**  
**65.Kc1! Qe1#**  
**0-1**



**Sangani, Nikhil**



**Massop, Daniel**

2024 New Year TNM: u1200 (4.27)  
 [Winslow, Elliott]

**B21**

**1059**

**1143**

Another Sangani Morra Gambit attack, this time though on the queen on the queenside. Nikhil took a 1st-round half point bye, then tore through the field 4-0 before two more half-point byes to finish the tournament. He might not take first (Singer and/or Little could score more than a point in those rounds to pass him by), still his dashing style (and over 100 rating point gain!) are noteworthy! **1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bf4 Bb4 7.Bc4 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nb5 Ng6 10.Bc7 Qf6**

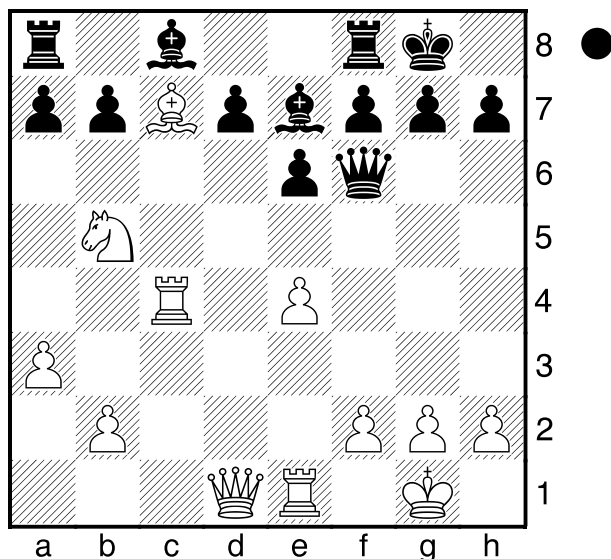
11.a3 Be7 12.Re1 Nge5

[ 12...d6!= ]

13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Rc1?!

[ 14.Bf1!± ]

14...Nxc4 15.Rxc4



d5?!

[ 15...Qxb2! 16.a4 a6 17.Nd6 b5= ]

16.exd5 exd5?!

[ 16...Qxb2 17.d6 Bh4 18.Rxh4 Qxb5 19.h3± ]

17.Rf4 Qxb2?!

[ 17...Qa6 18.Rxe7 Qxb5 19.Be5± ]

18.a4!+- Bg5

[ 18...Bf6 19.Bd6! ( 19.Re2 Qa1= ) 19...Rd8 20.Rb4+- ]

19.Re2 Qxe2 20.Qxe2 Bxf4 21.Bxf4 Bd7 22.Nc7 Rac8 23.h3 Bxa4 24.Nxd5 Rfe8 25.Qg4 Rc6 26.Bg5 Rg6 27.Nf4 Ra6 28.Nh5 Bd7 29.Qg3 Rg6 30.Nf4 Rb6 31.Nd5 Rg6 32.Nf4 Rb6 33.h4 h6 34.Nd5 Rb1+ 35.Kh2 hxg5 36.Qxg5 Kf8 37.h5 Be6 38.h6 gxh6 39.Qxh6+ 1-0

B06

□ Bambou,Christophe 2129

■ Shrauger,Alex Hayden 2087

2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (5.1) 6.2.24

[Winslow,Elliott]

With Ruiyang taking a bye (and another one in the final round), the mice did play, with some squeaky play on the top boards. Here Bambou and Shrauger confound themselves (and me next to them!), trading off almost naive mistakes if not just blunders. Alex prevailed. 1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Nbd2

[Yet another 2640 India teenager draws Nakamura here (NOT a blitz game!): 6.Na3 cxd4 7.Nb5 Na6 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Qxd4 0-0 10.Be2 b6 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Qh4 Qc6 13.Nbd4 Qc8 14.Bh6 Nc5 15.Rfe1 a6 16.Ne5 b5 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Ndxf3 Ne6 19.h3 Rb8 20.Re2 Rb7 21.Rae1 Rb6 22.Re3 Rd6 23.R3e2 Rb6 24.Re3 Rd6 25.R3e2 Rb6 ½-½ Sadhwani,R (2641)-Nakamura,H (2780) FIDE Grand Swiss Douglas 2023 (2) ]

6...cxd4 7.Bc4 Qd8 8.Nxd4 Nf6

The pawn isn't worth it.

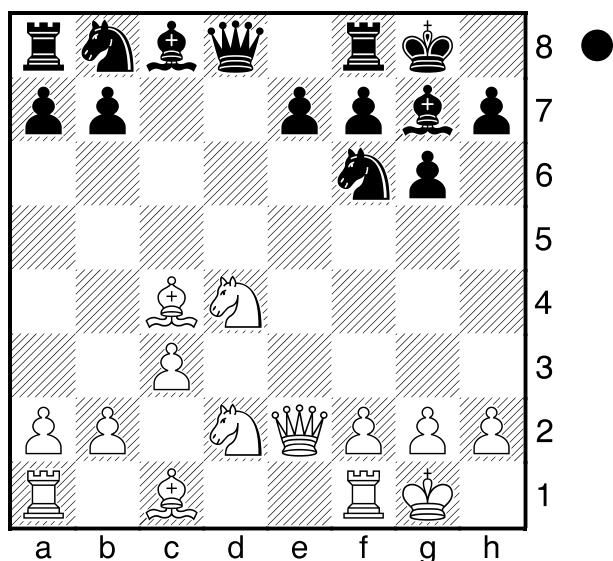
[ 8...Bxd4 9.cxd4 Qxd4 10.0-0± says You-Know-What ]

9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2

[Most played 10.N2f3 ]

[Comp prefers 10.Re1 ]

(Diagram)



Nepo has played. I was sitting next to Shrauger on Board 2, watching this game go back and forth. Black is the first to find a pothole: **10...Re8N**

[ 10...Nc6= ]

[ 10...Bg4 11.N2f3 Qc7 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Nxf3 Nc6 14.Be3 Na5 15.Bd3 Nd5 16.Bd2 Rac8 17.Rad1 Nc4 18.Bc1 e6 19.g3 b5 20.h4 b4 21.cxb4 Nxb4 22.Bb1 Ne5 23.Nxe5 Qxe5 24.Qxe5 Bxe5 25.Rd7 a5 26.Rfd1 Nd5 27.Ra7 Rb8 28.Be4 Bxb2 29.Bxd5 exd5 30.Bh6 Rfd8 31.Rxa5 d4 32.Bg5 Rdc8 33.Rd5 h5 34.Kg2 Ra8 35.Rd2 Bc1 36.Re2 Bxg5 37.hxg5 Ra4 38.Rd7 Rca8 39.Ree7 Rf8 40.Re2

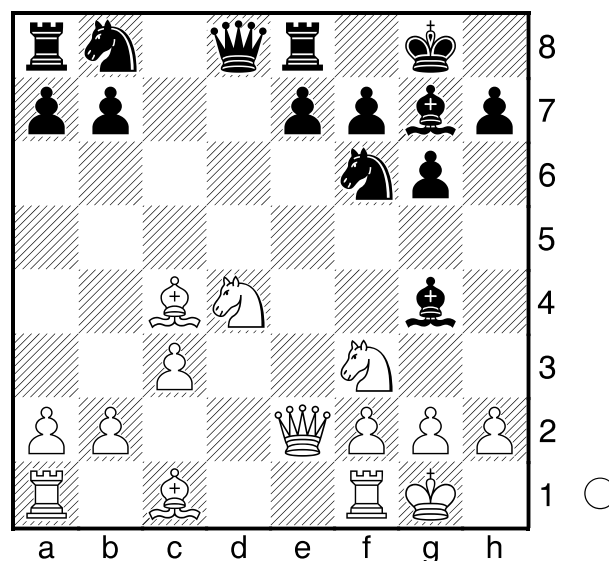
½-½ Nepomniachtchi,I (2771)-Vakhidov,J (2599) Wch Rapid Samarkand 2023 (11) ]

**11.N2f3±** aiming for Rd1. **11...Bg4??**

Really!? This is Tactics 101.

[ I admit, White is doing well and in fact, given time Stockfish makes it ±. Still... 11...Bd7± seems best, but 12.a4! keeps asking "questions" of Black. ]

(Diagram)



**12.Bxf7+!+- Kxf7 13.Ne5+ Kg8**

[ 13...Kf8 14.Nxg4 e5 15.Nb5 adds exposed king to Black's pawn down. ]

**14.Nxg4 Nxg4**

[ 14...e5 15.Qc4+ Kh8 16.Ne6 ]

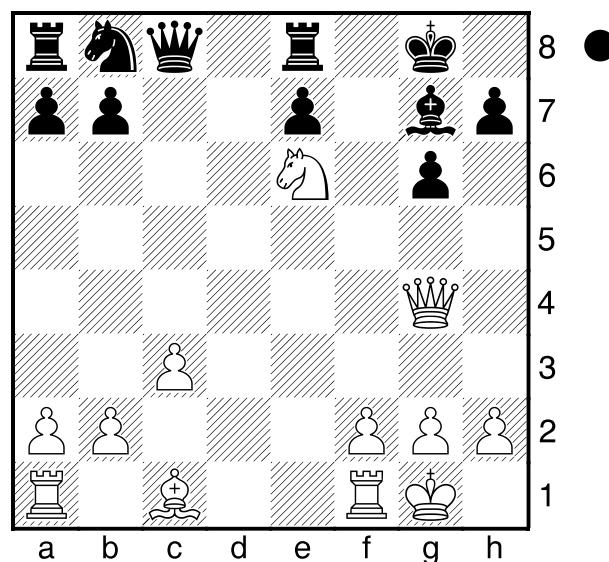
**15.Qe6+?! Small improvement on the immediate recapture.**

[ 15.Qxg4?! Bxd4 16.cxd4

( 16.Qxd4?! Qxd4 17.cxd4 Nc6± )

16...Qd5! If Black's e-pawn weren't so sick this would be a draw (bishop like a pawn). ( 16...Qd7 17.Qe4! )]

[ But! 15.Ne6! Qc8 16.Qxg4



puts Black into critical; no play at all for the pawn. ]

**15...Kh8 16.Qxg4 e5**

[ 16...Bxd4! still makes sense. ]

**17.Bg5**

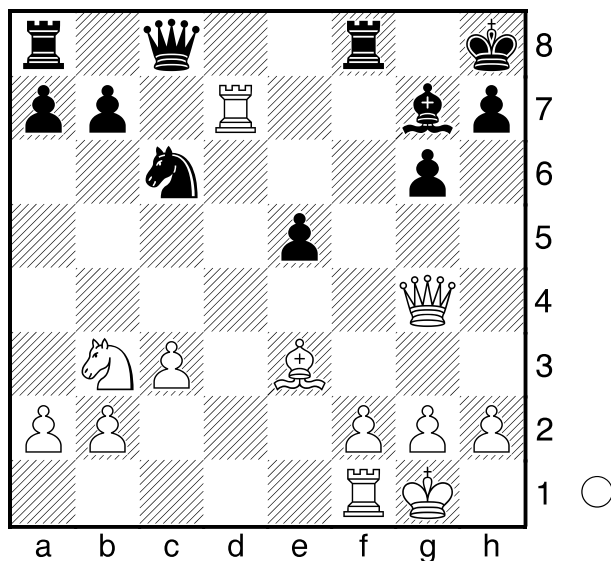
[ 17.Nb5! ]

**17...Qb6 18.Nb3 Nc6 19.Rad1+- Rf8**

**20.Be3 Qc7 21.Rd7** Forget that both

players played inaccurately (per

Stockfish) on every move... **21...Qc8**



Black actually has a threat... **22.Rfd1??**  
...which this misses!

[ 22.Qh3 (yech) maintains the winning pawn, sort of: Nb8 23.Rd6 Qxh3

24.gxh3 Nc6± (+- really) ]

[ I liked 22.Qd1+- sitting there watching. (Me, not the queen.) ]

[ 22.Qe6!+- even works -- in fact is best! ]

**22...Nb8!=** I thought "Now Black is better!" but Stockfish thinks it's dead (0.00) even. **23.Nc5! b6?!** Looks like an effective deflection; actually leaves White with some plus!

[ 23...Nxd7 24.Nxd7 Rf7 25.h3= ]

**24.Ne6??**

[ 24.Qe4!= and White is okay. Nxd7 25.Nxd7 Re8 26.h4 when Black is surprisingly uncomfortable! This is just the sort of thing Bambou excels in,

sacrifices somewhere between combinations and positional compensation. (Not to mention the "unnecessary" part :-)) Some moves now even lose outright: Kg8?? 27.Rd6!+- White keeps moving forward; Black can hardly move in any direction. ]

**24...Nxd7+- 25.Nxg7 Nf6?!±**

[ 25...Nc5!+- ]

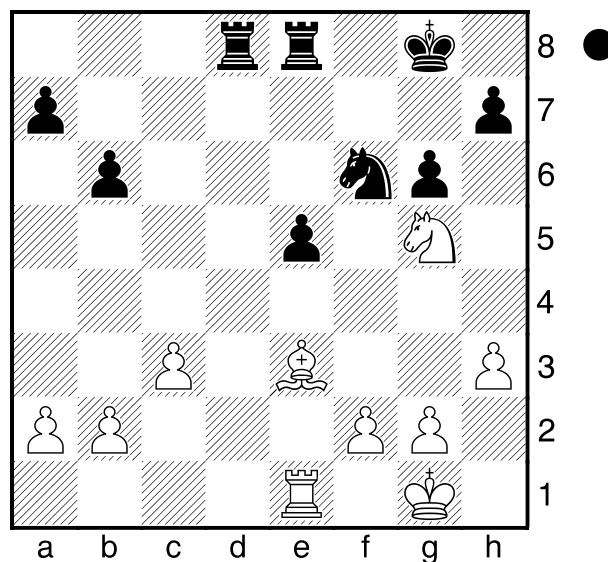
**26.Qxc8 Raxc8 27.Ne6 Rfe8 28.Ng5 Kg8 Best!**

[ 28...e4?? gives the bishop d4, \*after\* 29.Rd6!+- h6 30.Nf7+ Kg7 31.Bd4! It's going to be too many pawns for the Exchange. ]

**29.h3** Dodges Ng4 **29...Rcd8↑**

Black starts to take over with the rooks.

**30.Re1**

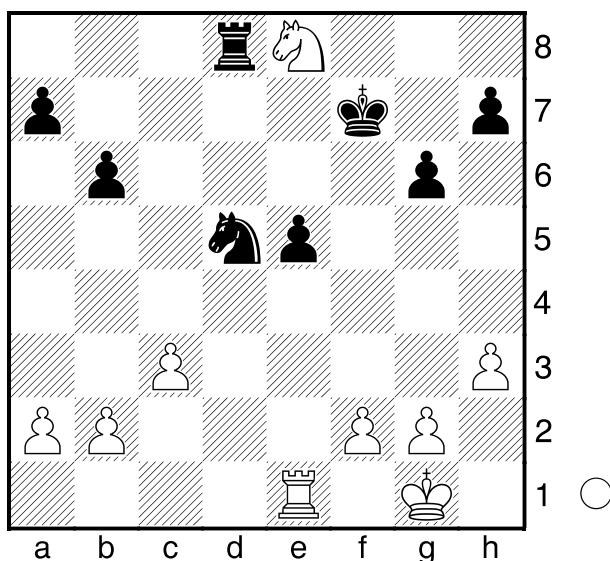


**Nd5?**

[ 30...Rd3!± 31.Nf3 e4 and \*then\* ... Nd5. 32.Nh2 Nd5 33.Bh6 isn't quite lost, but Black is well on top. ]

**31.Ne4!= Nxe3 32.Nf6+ Kf7 33.Nxe8**  
White is completely recovered. **33...Nd5**

(Diagram)



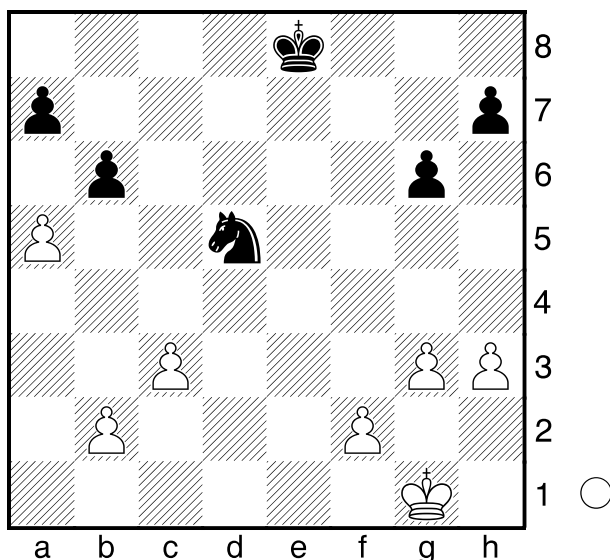
**34.Rxe5??** Pretty much that's the last mistake, no more opportunities.

[ 34.c4!= and White stays safe. ]

**34...Rd7!-+** Back in the hole. **35.g3**

[ 35.c4 doesn't make much of a difference ]

**35...Ne7 36.a4 Kxe8** The pawns won't help. **37.a5 Rd5! 38.Rxd5 Nxd5**



Black is clearly winning. **39.axb6 Nxb6!** Cleanest.

[ 39...axb6?! 40.Kf1-+ ]

**40.b3 a5**

[ 40...Nd5 41.c4 Nb4 42.Kf1 Nd3 shuts it down, as does the game

continuation. ]

**41.Kf1 Nd5 42.c4 Nc3 43.Ke1 Ne4 0-1**

**E62**  
**2068**  
**2182**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (5.2) 6.2.24  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

This game was interesting and difficult for us both! So many missed opportunities, finally capped by a dreadful blunder by Max. I wonder if I would have noticed if he hadn't reacted to his own move! Probably! But anyway, worth the price of admission. The win keeps me in the hunt for a prize. **1.d4**

**Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 c6**

[ I can think of only one player who could seriously play 6...c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 for a win for Black; his initials start with RJ and end with F. ]

[ For many years, decades, I always played 6...Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 and had a lot of fun, but I have to admit a well-prepared White player will present a high wall to climb. ]

[ 6...Nc6 7.0-0 a6 is interesting, but for two problems: (1) White has so many ways to play (2) I have no idea what Black is doing with plans of ...b5. That bishop on g2, aiming at the knight on c6, the rook on a8 -- what is Black thinking!? ]

[ 6...Nc6 7.0-0 e5 has been a new thing from an old thing. **8.d5**

**A) "Old" is 8...Ne7 9.e4**

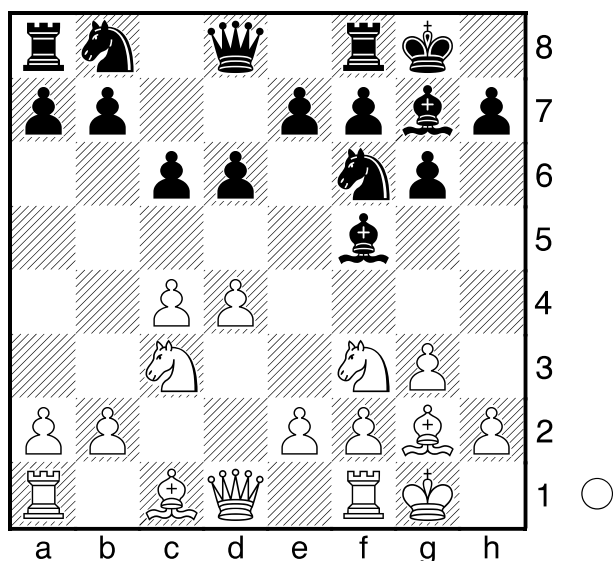
with the silly knight on e7. ( **9.c5!? Ne8!?** );

**B) 8...Nb8!?** 9.e4 a5 trying to turn c5 into a new home for a knight. I've had some nice games with this, but White players have aimed their



engines' beams at it and White is better -- again. ]

## 7.0-0 Bf5



Where did I get this from? I thought it was ChessBase Magazine but now I can't find it there. New In Chess? Informant? I know I started reading an article but I didn't get very far in it. I don't really know what Black is doing here either! Often it's a piece trade on e4 and some relaxed play, but in many of the lines White avoids that easy-going strategy. Caruana plays it a lot. Sure, I can play like the off-and-on second best player in the world. (For maybe three moves.) **8.Nh4** One of many plans for White, and the most popular. It does get in e2-e4 anyway, although that knight might wonder what it's doing there at some point in the game. As this game went, I was concerned it might be participating in checkmating my king...

[White isn't exactly under any pressure and can do and has done almost everything, even fairly successfully:

8.Ne1 ]  
[ 8.b3 ]  
[ 8.Re1 ]  
[ 8.Qb3 ]  
[ 8.Ng5 ]

[ 8.Bf4 ]

[ 8.Bg5 ]

**8...Be6!** Stockfish 16 likes it in 2024; Black is certainly provoking White to advance the d-pawn, and more people have than not.

[Last century Larsen and Kavalek liked 8...Bd7 against the likes of Karpov and Portisch. You'd think some knight would want to go there; I just notice now that for the rest of this long game \*nothing\* touched that square. ]

## 9.Qd3

[ 9.d5 cxd5 10.cxd5 Bd7 ( 10...Bc8!? Seriously!? With a better result than 10...Bd7!?!? )]

## 9...Na6

[ 9...d5!= 10.cxd5 ( 10.b3 Na6 11.a3 c5 )]

## 10.e4± Qc8

[ △10...Rb8 ]

## 11.a3

[White should play 11.b3± ]

## 11...Bh3 12.f4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 e5

## 14.dxe5

[ 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.d5 ( 15.dxe5 Ng4± ) 15...Nc5= ]

## 14...dxe5 15.f5! Nc5 16.Qc2 a5

## 17.Bg5 a4 18.Rad1 Qc7 Repels Rd6

## 19.h3 Nb3

[ 19...Rad8± ]

## 20.Be3

[ 20.Nf3!± Time to get that knight back towards the center. ]

## 20...Qa5

[ 20...b5± ]

**21.Qf2± Qa6** I may have to rethink my continued use of this opening variation.

## 22.Nf3 Rfe8 23.fxg6

[ 23.g4!± ]

## 23...fxg6± 24.Qe2 Qa5

[ 24...c5± ]

## 25.c5± h6?

[ 25...Qa6± ]

## 26.Qc4+- Kh7 27.Nh4

[ 27.Qf7 Rf8 28.Qc4 ( 28.Qxb7 Rab8± ) 28...Qc7 29.Nxa4 Nd4± ]  
[ 27.Nxe5+-

**A) 27...Rxe5?** 28.Rxf6 Re7  
( 28...Bxf6 29.Qf7+ Bg7 30.Rd7 Rg8 31.Bxh6! Kxh6 32.Qxg8 )  
29.Rf7+-;

**B) 27...Nd5** 28.exd5 ( 28.Nxd5 cxd5 29.Rxd5 Rxe5± ) 28...Rxe5  
29.Bf4 ]

**27...Rf8** Against Qf7

[ 27...Qc7± 28.Nxa4 Nd4 ]

**28.g4**

[ 28.Rd6?! Qa6 29.Qxa6 Rxa6± ]  
[ 28.Nf3!+- has better winning chances. ]

**28...Qa6 29.Qxa6 Rxa6 30.Nf3 Raa8 31.Nxe5**

[ 31.g5± hxg5 32.Nxg5+ Kg8 33.Ne6 ]

**31...Rfe8!** Black puts up resistance

**32.Nc4 Nxe4 33.Nb6! Nxc3 34.bxc3 Rad8 35.Bd4?**

[ 35.Nxa4? Rxd1 36.Rxd1 Rxe3+- ]  
[ 35.Rxd8= remains equal. Rxd8 36.Rf7 ( 36.Nxa4 Na5= ) ]

**35...Bxd4**

[ Better is 35...Re2+!± 36.Rf2 Rxf2+ 37.Kxf2 Nxd4 ( 37...Bxd4+ 38.cxd4 Nxc5 39.d5± ) 38.cxd4 Rxd4 ( 38...Bxd4+ 39.Kf3± ) ]  
[ 35...Nxd4! ]

**36.cxd4 Kg7** Threatening ...Re2+.

**37.Nxa4 Nxd4 38.Rfe1 Rxe1 39.Rxe1** Endgame. KRN-KRN **39...Ra8 40.Nb6 Rxa3 41.Re7+ Kf6 42.Rxb7 Ne6**

Threatens to win with ...Kg5! **43.h4**

[ 43.Nd7+ Kg5 44.Kf2 Nf4± ( 44...Rxh3 45.Rb6± ) ]

**43...Nf4+ 44.Kf2 Ke6 45.Rc7 Nd3+**

**46.Kg2 Ne5** And now ...Rc3! would win.

[ 46...Nxc5? 47.Rxc6+ Ke7 48.Rxc5+- ]

**47.Rc8 Rc3 48.Re8+ Kf6 49.Rd8!**

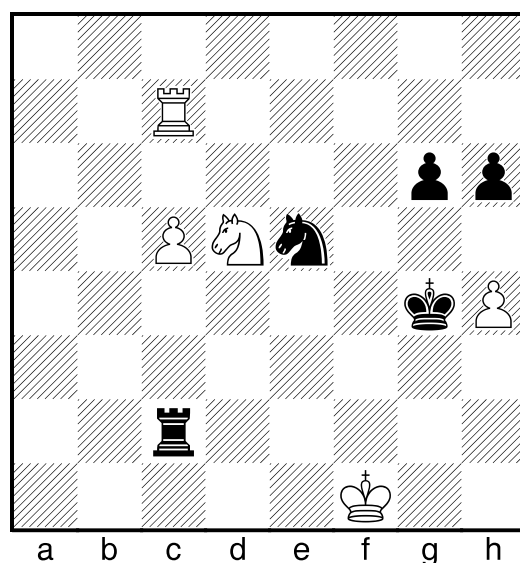
**Nxg4** aiming for ...h5!

[ 49...Rxc5 50.Nd7+ Ke7 51.Nxc5± ]

**50.Rd6+ Kf5 ...Rc2+** is the strong threat. **51.Rxc6 Ne5 52.Rc7**

[ 52.Rd6= ]

**52...Kg4+- 53.Nd5 Rc2+ 54.Kf1**



Black must now prevent Ne3+.

**54...Rd2?**

[ 54...Kxh4 55.Ne3 Rc3 56.Nd5± ]  
[ 54...Kg3!+- ( → ...Nf3! ) 55.Ne3 Rh2 ]

**55.Nc3**

[ 55.Ne3+= Kf3 ( 55...Kxh4 56.Re7= ) 56.Re7 ]

**55...Kxh4**

[ 55...Rc2± 56.Re7 Kf5 ( 56...Rxc3 57.Rxe5 Kxh4 58.Ke2± ) ]

**56.Re7= Rc2 57.Ne4**

[ 57.Rxe5= Rxc3 58.Ke2 ]

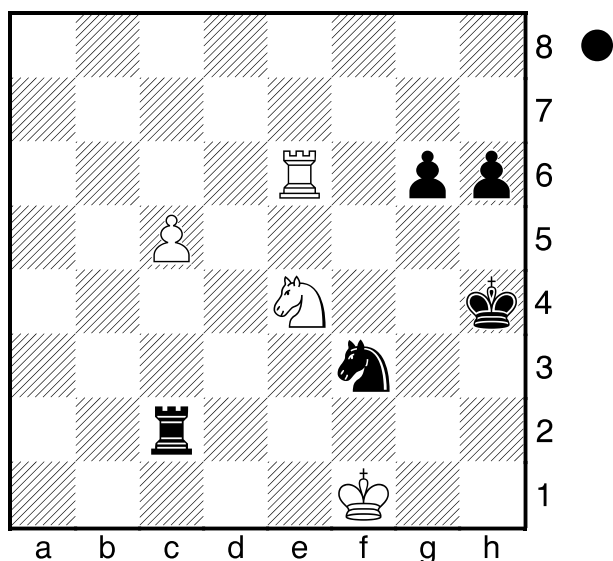
**57...Nf3?**

[ 57...Nd3+- Hoping for ...g5! 58.Rd7 Nf4 ( 58...Nxc5? 59.Rc7+- ) ]

**58.Re6?**

[ 58.Rf7!= and White stays safe. Ne5 59.Rf6 ]

(Diagram)



**58...Kg4?**

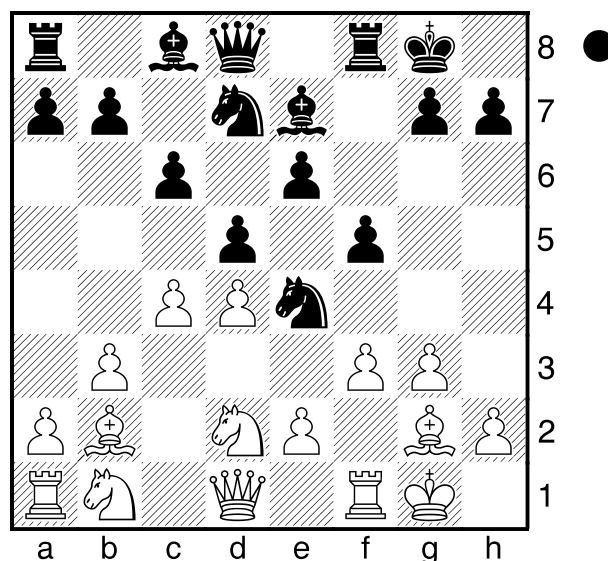
[ 58...Ng5!-+ 59.Nxg5 ( 59.Rxg6? too greedy. Kh5-+ ) 59...Kxg5 ]

**59.Rxg6+ Kf5 60.Rxh6 Kxe4 KRN-KR**  
**61.Re6+ Kd5 62.Re3 Nd4 63.Re8**  
**Kxc5 64.Rc8+ Nc6 65.Ke1 Rh2**  
**66.Rf8 Ne5 67.Kf1 Kd4 68.Rf2 Rh8**  
**69.Ke2 Ra8 70.Rf4+ Kd5 71.Rf8??**  
**Rxf8**  
**0-1**

**Diller,Bradley R** **A93**  
 **Clemens,Kristian** **2145**  
**1958**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (5.3) 6.2.24  
*[Winslow,Elliott]*

Another strategical achievement followed by poor time management costs Brad Diller the win -- at least this time a draw. The five-second delay is quite difficult for a lot of players to adjust to. But the particulars of the Mechanics' Chess Room being open this late on Tuesday evening require the games not being at all open-ended. Solution? Training games, Brad! Break out the ten-second timer for those rapid transit games! Even I never played in any of those (what they

used to play before blitz chess came along). **1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.b3 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d4 c6 8.Bb2 Ne4** Clemens plays differently than Ruiyang in Round 2. **9.Nfd2 f5!** And now it's a Stonewall Dutch -- but usually White's knights are already on d3 and e5. **10.f3**



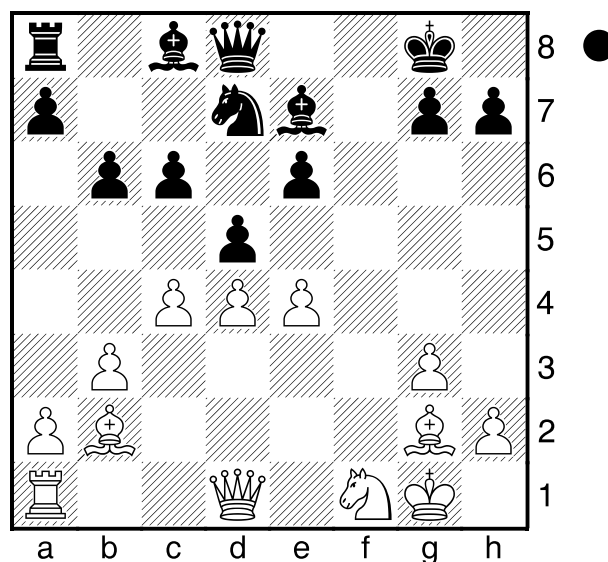
**Nxd2 11.Nxd2 b6 12.e4 fxe4?**  
 Brings White's bishop alive.

[Black should try 12...f4=]

**13.fxe4**

[ 13.Qe2!? might improve. ]

**13...Rxf1+ 14.Nxf1**



**Ba6??** Black caves in rather early in the game.

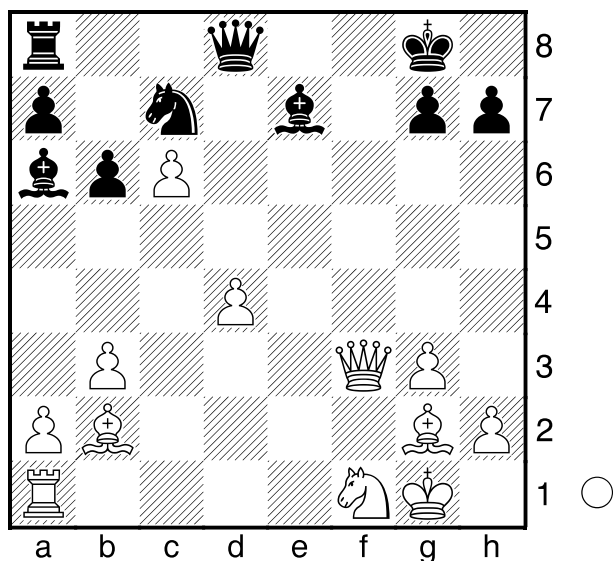
[ 14...Nf6± ]

[ 14...dxc4± ]

**15.exd5+- exd5 16.cxd5 Nf6**

[ 16...cxd5 is less hopeless. ]

**17.dxc6 Nd5?! 18.Qf3 Nc7**



**19.d5?!**

[ 19.Ne3 intends Nd5 to break the blockade(s). ]

**19...Bc5+ 20.Kh1 Qe7 21.Nd2 Rd8**

**22.Ne4**

[ 22.Qf5 ]

**22...Nxd5 23.Nxc5?!**

[ 23.Re1! ]

**23...bxc5 24.Qh5! Nc7**

[ 24...Nb4!? ]

**25.Qe5 Qf7 26.Qxc5**

[ 26.Re1 ]

**26...Rd2 27.Qc3 Rd3 28.Qe1**

[ 28.Qa5! Bb5 29.Be5 Qh5 30.Re1 Rd1 31.h4 ]

**28...Rd8**

[ 28...Qh5 29.Qf2 ( 29.h4 ) ]

**29.Rd1 Re8 30.Qc3 Qe7 31.h3 h6**

**32.Kh2** No need to be so cautious!

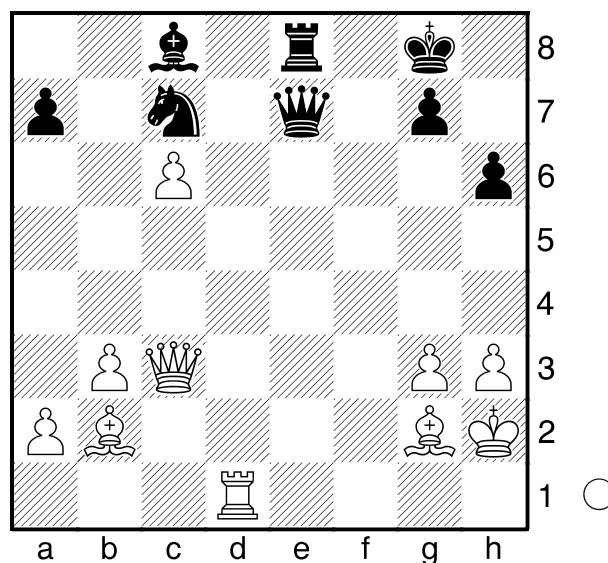
[ 32.Rd7 Qe1+ 33.Kh2 ( 33.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 34.Kh2 also wins ) 33...Qxc3

34.Bxc3 Ne6 35.Rxa7 ( 35.Bd5 )

35...Bc8 36.Bd5 Kh8 37.Bc4

-- it's futile. ]

**32...Bc8**



**33.Re1!?** Yes, but there are so many more preparatory moves that could be made (and might be better):

[ 33.Rd2 ]

[ 33.a4 ]

[ 33.b4 ]

[ 33.h4 ]

**33...Be6**

[ 33...Ne6 34.Bd5 ]

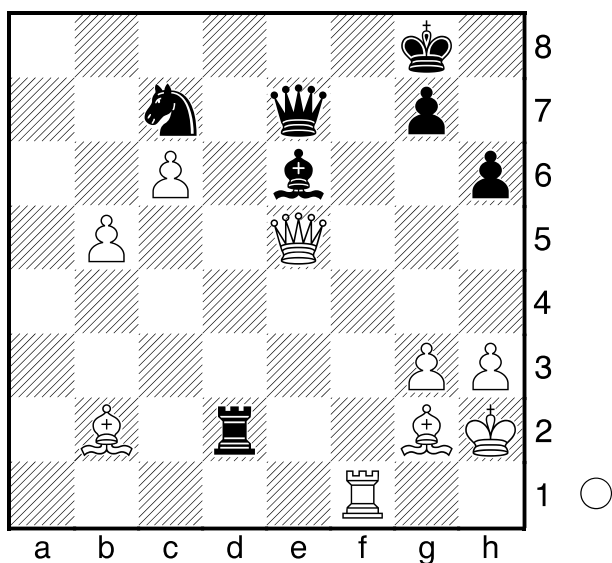
[ 33...Qf7 34.Rxe8+ Nxe8 35.Qc5 ]

**34.a4 Qf7 35.b4 a6 36.Qc5 Rd8**

**37.Rf1 Qe8 38.Qe5 Qe7 39.b5 axb5**

**40.axb5 Rd2**

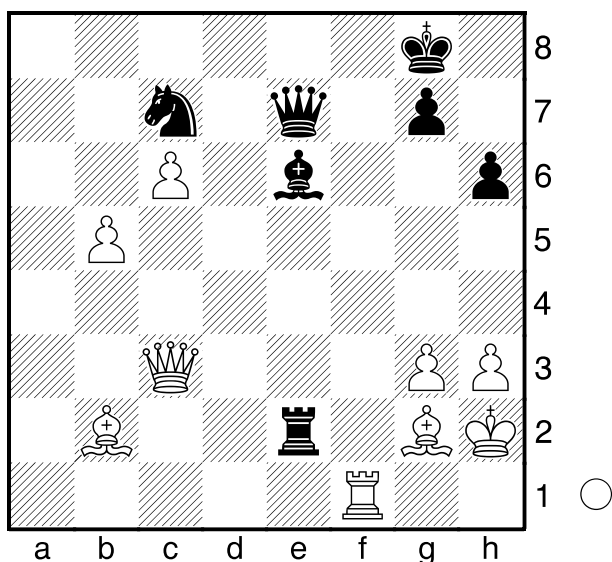
(Diagram)



### 41.Qc3?!

[ 41.b6 Bd5 42.Rg1 Qxe5 43.Bxe5 Na6 44.c7+- Kh1 will break the spell. ]

### 41...Re2!



Black is putting up more of a fight than the position should have allowed.

**42.b6??** And it's White's turn to lose the thread.

[ 42.Rd1+- Intending Rd8+!

**A) 42...Bd5** 43.Rd2! Rxc2+ ( 43...Ne8!? 44.Ba1! ) 44.Rxc2 Nxb5 45.Qe5! Qxe5 46.Bxe5 Bxc6 47.Rc2 Stockfish thinks this is won for White; it's not going to be

easy!;

**B) 42...Nd5** 43.Qf3! Rxb2 44.Rxd5 Bxd5 45.Qxd5+ Kf8 46.Qf5+ Kg8 47.h4 And this too: +4 but still work. ]

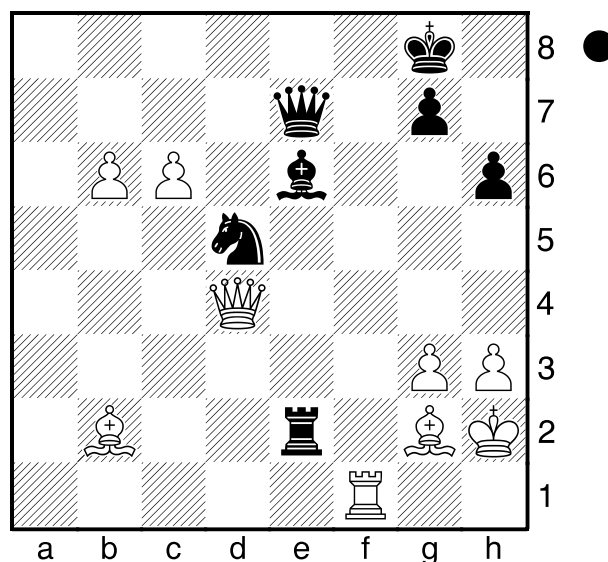
[ 42.Qxg7+!? Qxg7 43.Bxg7 Kxg7 ( 43...Bd5 44.Rg1 Nxb5 45.Bxh6 Bxc6 46.Kh1+- ) 44.b6 Bd5 45.Rg1 Na6 46.c7 Bb7 47.Kh1+- ]

### 42...Nd5?

[ 42...Bd5!= 43.Rg1 Ne8 It's a standoff, equality. ]

**43.Qd4** Many queen moves are winning here.

[ But not 43.b7?? Nxc3! 44.b8Q+ Kh7= 45.Bxc3 Bd5 ( 45...Rxc3+ 46.Kxc3 Bd5+ 47.Kf2 Qc5+ ) 46.Rg1 Qe4 47.Qb2! Rxb2 48.Bxb2 when most queen moves draw. ]

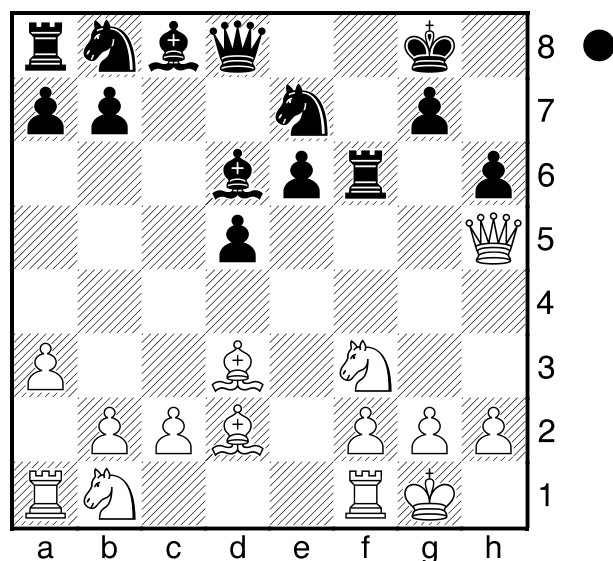
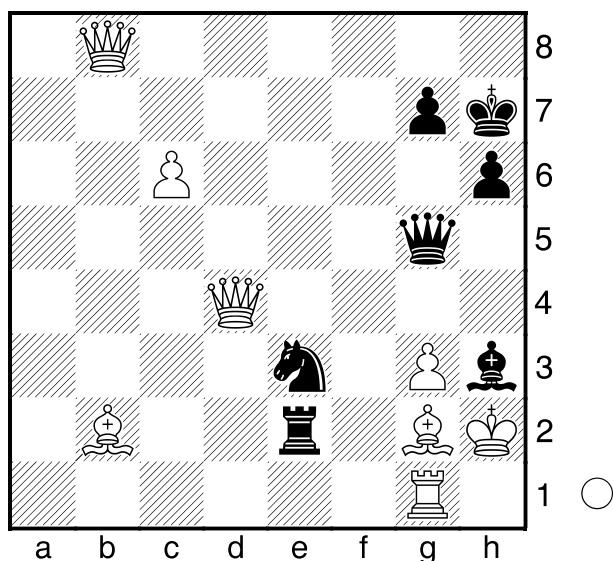


The threat is b6-b7. **43...Ne3** 44.Rg1 **Qg5?!**

[ There really is no defence: 44...Bd5 45.b7 Nf1+!? 46.Rxf1 Rxc2+ 47.Kh1 Bxc6 ( 47...Rd2+ 48.Qxd5+ ) 48.b8Q+ Kh7 49.Qbd6+- ]

**45.b7! Bxh3!? 46.b8Q+ Kh7**

(Diagram)



### 47.Qe4+??

[ 47.Qd3+! mates in a dozen or so: Bf5 48.Qxe2 Ng4+ 49.Qxg4! It's easy to give up your queen when it's totally an extra piece... Bxg4 50.Qe8 is mate in 10... ( 50.Rf1 also in; 50.Be4+ mate in ) ]  
[ 47.Kxh3 isn't half bad (i.e. totally big double-digit Stockfish sees mate) either. ]

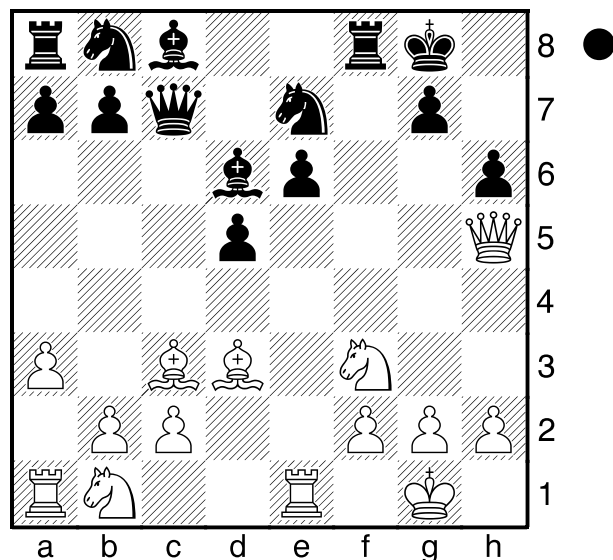
47...Bf5= ( → ...Ng4+). The position is equal. 48.Qh4 Ng4+! 49.Kh1 Nf2+ 50.Kh2 Ng4+ 51.Kh1 Nf2+ 52.Kh2 Ng4+ An interesting game.  
1/2-1/2

**Wong,Wilson** **B12**  
 **Smets,Ray** **1883**  
**1425**  
 2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (5.9)  
*[Wong,Wilson]*

Since Wilson Wong is running away with his section, we'll run (with) another of his games, with his excellent annotations as well! 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 e6 5.a3 Bxc5 6.Qg4 Ne7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Bd3 f5 9.exf6 Rxf6 10.Qh5 h6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Bd2

### Last theoretical move. 12...Qc7

Black supports a later ...e5 but I think its better to develop minor pieces first, and its important to free up the back-rank to free a8-rook. 13.Bc3 A key part of this game will revolve around whether Black can get ...e5 in, and if possible, also attacking Black's king, since Black's kingside pawn structure is weak and White has an amazing bishop pair eyeing Black's kingside. 13...Rf8 14.Re1



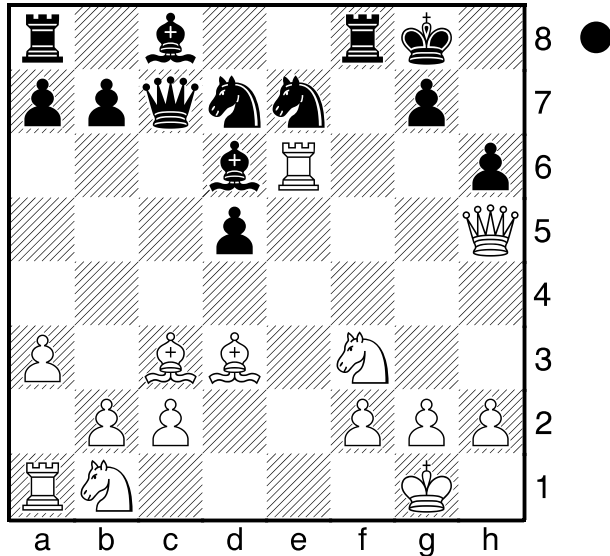
White stops Black from pushing 14...e5. Black should still try their best to develop. 14...Nd7 This just blunders a

pawn. Black's knight was better placed on c6-square where it didn't obstruct c8-bishop supports a potential later ...e5, and contests central squares.

[ 14...Nbc6 Natural development move is also the best move. ]

[ 14...Bd7 Natural development move is also the best move. ]

### 15.Rxe6



Easy exchange sacrifice, in view of 15...Nf6 16.Rxf6 gxf6 17. Qxh6. Material is equal, but Black has no shelter, which gives White more chances to win more material, while Black tries to secure their king. **15...Nf6**

[ 15...Rxf3 Stockfish's recommendation. I thought this looked horrible, giving up another 1-2 pawns, but then Black would have no shelter. The upside of the position would be Black has lots of pieces developed, while White's king looks a little naked.

**A) 16.Qxf3** I thought this was worse, hanging h2-pawn and giving back the exchange after d7-knight moves. It looked like material would've been equal, so I didn't see why this was any good. Bxh2+ 17.Kh1 Ne5 This looked no good to

me. 18.Rxe5 Bxe5 19.Qh5

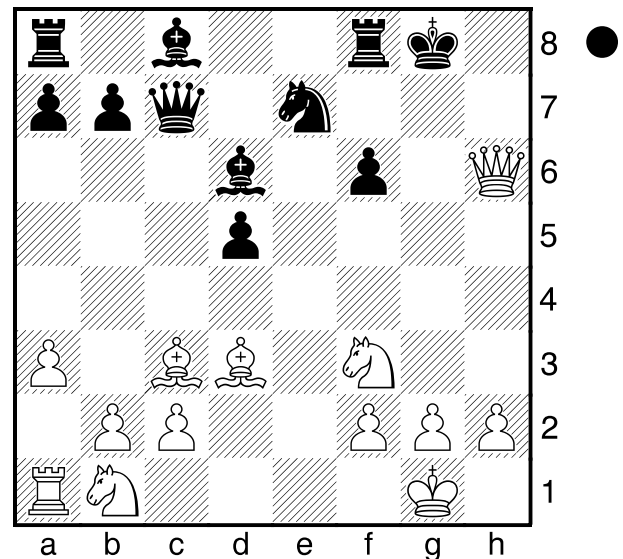
I didn't think it was possible to even have mate threats in this position.

White wins material due to M1 threat. g5 Stockfish recommends this to stop the M1 20.Qe8#.

( 19...Bxc3 20.Qe8# ) 20.Qxh6 Nc6 21.Qxg5+ When the dust settles, White is up two passed-pawns and the safer king.;

**B) 16.gxf3** I thought this was necessary, keeping h5-queen's position to handle the d7-knight moving discovery-attack. ]

### 16.Rxf6 gxf6 17.Qxh6



White has a winning advantage. Minor pieces in this semi-open position, especially White's bishop-pair gets lots of value. Black's two rooks are not worth 5 points in this position. **17...Kf7**

[ 17...Bf5 This was what I expected Black to play, developing and countering at the same time. Black is still going to lose material, but Black needs to get pieces into the game, and swap off White's most dangerous pieces. 18.Bxf6 Rxf6 19.Qxf6 Bxd3 20.Qe6+ Kg7 21.cxd3 Qc1+ 22.Qe1 Qxb2 23.Nc3 Rc8 24.Ne2 White is winning, but the position is

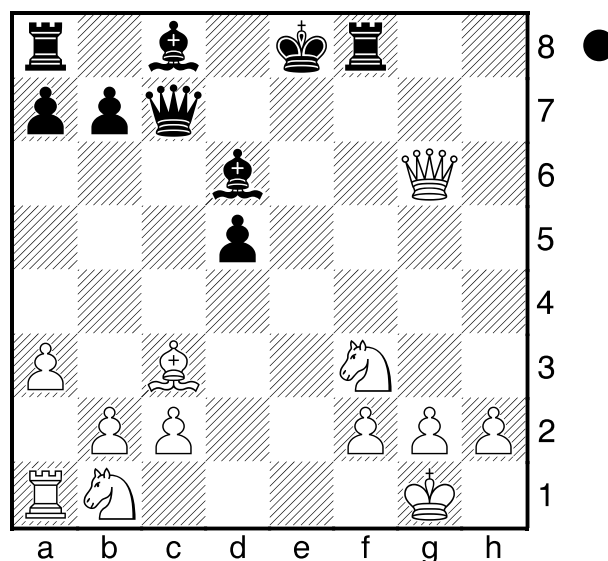
still complicated. All of Black's pieces are active, while White has two weak/loose pawns that could get scooped up, and White needs to improve e2-knight and a1-rook. Material-wise, White is up two pawns, but its two weak pawns, so this could've been a fighting position. ]

**18.Qxf6+** This was a very lazy move. White increases material lead, but there are still too many pieces on the board for a guaranteed win if White continues to be sloppy in conversion. Black does have two rooks, which gains strength with more pieces and pawns being traded off, so White still needs to make the most of well developed pieces and Black's unsafe king.

[ 18.Bxf6 I didn't play this because I didn't like having slightly loose pieces and I didn't see how this would translate to more material won. The position looked very chaotic with moves like ...Ng8 in the air, though in this position that would lead to Black getting mated. Black has ...Ke8 which I wasn't sure how to follow up, not noticing the improved c3-square for my knight and e1-square for my rook to pin d7-knight. Bg4 Loose pieces. ( 18...Ng8 Knight moving leads to mate. 19.Qg6+ Ke6 20.Bf5#; 18...Bf5 Black can't evacuate center or kingside without losing material. 19.Nc3 Bxd3 20.cxd3 Ke8 21.Re1 Qc5 22.Qg5 Kd7 23.d4 ) 19.Bxe7 Kxe7 20.Qh4+ ]

**18...Ke8 19.Bg6+ Nxc6 20.Qxg6+**

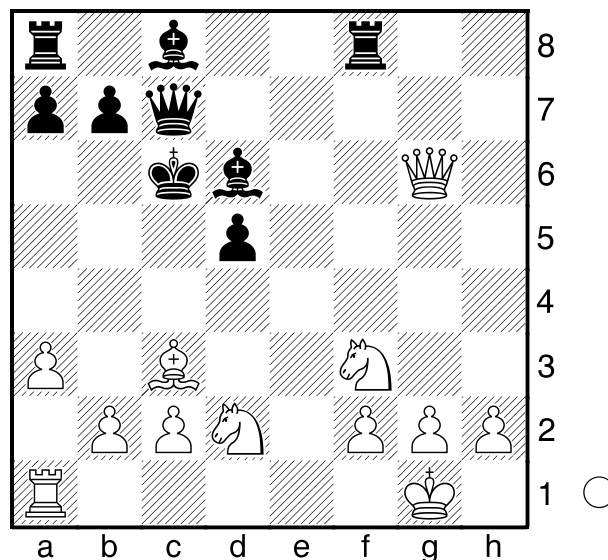
(Diagram)



White won another pawn and simplified with tempo. **20...Kd7**

[ 20...Kd8 I liked this square more so that it didn't shut in c8-bishop, while still able to defend with ...Be7. The position is still really bad, but there is a sliver of hope with rooks, bishop-pair, and queen with all lines open to attack White's king. 21.Bf6+ Be7 22.Bxe7+ Qxe7 ]

**21.Nbd2 Kc6**



Note that Black is walking into a pin. There are no squares here for Black to escape to, unless Black then opens a



flight-square with ...a6 or ...a5. **22.Bb4**  
I ended up settling for this move since it freed up c-file for c4, which would open c-file to skewer Black's king or free c4-square for my knight.

[ 22.Ne5+ Wins extra 3 points of material, leading to +4 pawn endgame. Kb6 23.Nec4+ dxc4 24.Nxc4+ Qxc4 25.Qxd6+ Qc6 26.Qb4+ Qb5 27.Qxf8 ]

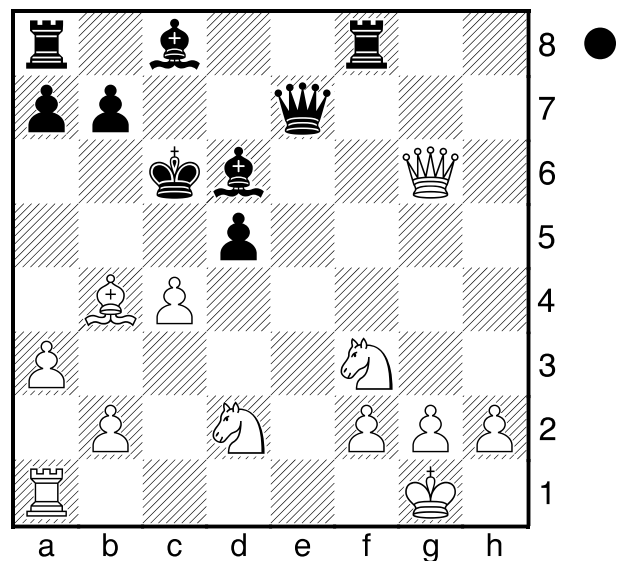
[ 22.Nd4+ Black can't avoid material loss in multiple ways, from c-pawn going down the board or a combination including Nc4+ fork. Kb6 23.Bb4 Rd8 24.c4 a5 c-pawn forks and gets priority since it'll attack Black's queen. ( 24...dxc4

Black's pieces are on forkable squares. 25.Bxd6 Rxd6 26.Nxc4+ Qxc4 27.Qxd6+ Ka5 28.Re1 Bd7 29.b3 Re8 30.Re5+ Rxe5 31.Qxe5+ Qb5 32.Nxb5 ) 25.c5+ Ka7 26.cxd6 Qb6 27.Bc3 ]

[ 22.Re1 I discarded this move because there were no entry points for my rook. I thought my 22.Bb4 Rd8 23.c4 plan looked stronger. ]

**22...Qe7** I missed this, I thought Black was going to defend the piece with f8-rook since it's more economical, and this queen sits on an open-file, but this move has a few benefits, including freeing c7-square for Black's king, as well as supporting ...Rf6 to break the pin. **23.c4**

(Diagram)



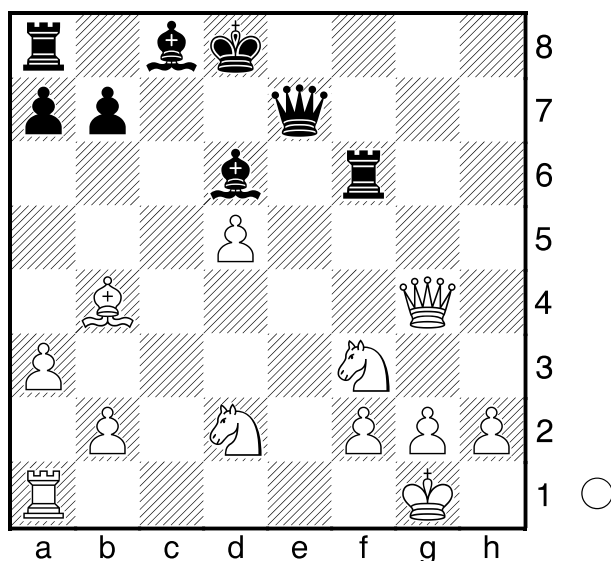
Opening another file, one that Black's king is on. If Black tries to run away, the file will still be opened, but White will also have a passed pawn, which is another piece to use in an attack or to make threats, supported by minor pieces and a 1st-rank rook. **23...Rf6**

[ 23...Kc7 Stockfish's recommendation. Black breaks a pin. Black can get a little closer to a simplified endgame with more traded pieces, which makes their two rooks marginally stronger than the current position that favor minor pieces that are able to maneuver the position effortlessly.

24.cxd5 Bxb4 25.axb4 ]

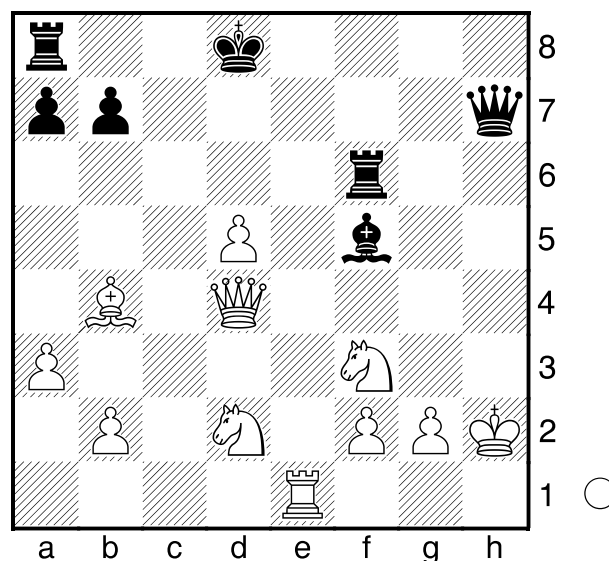
**24.cxd5+ Kd7 25.Qg4+ Kd8**

(Diagram)



**26.Qd4** I'm proud I found this. While its easy to just swap pieces, 2N+R vs. 2R+B in an open position isn't 100% clearly a sure win to me. My minor pieces and queen are worth more in this position where Black's king is unsafe, I have a passed pawn that can be better supported, and Black's rooks has difficulty navigating the board, and are performing at a tiny fraction of their full strength. **26...Bf5 27.Re1 Bxh2+** At this point, my opponent had ~15 minutes left. The entire game was very hard after the pawn blunder and Black had to defend all game. This is a fine Hail Mary, hoping for 28.Nxh2, or for White to carelessly get back-rank mated. **28.Kxh2 Qh7+**

(Diagram)



## 29.Qh4

[ 29.Kg1 (EW: It so happens that this is just as good for White, if not better!) Rh6 (EW: Now White is very much winning after 30.Be7+ (other defences work as well) followed by a queen check on a4 or c5. Don't forget ...Kf7; Ng5+!) ]  
 [(EW: 29.Nh4 is up there as well.) ]  
 [After 29.Qh4 Black resigned. The f6-rook is pinned, and if Black avoids queen trades, there is Bc3. I thought forcing queens off would lead to resignation, and while White is almost certainly going to win, I still need to play accurately in the unbalanced material endgame. Black would finally be able to get the other rook into the game. Qxh4+ 30.Nxh4 6.04  
 White still has to play from this position. There are points where Black's rook can penetrate into the position, like c2-square, but its a miserable task since White has 3 passed-pawns and more pieces. The pawns can also support outposts. ]

1-0

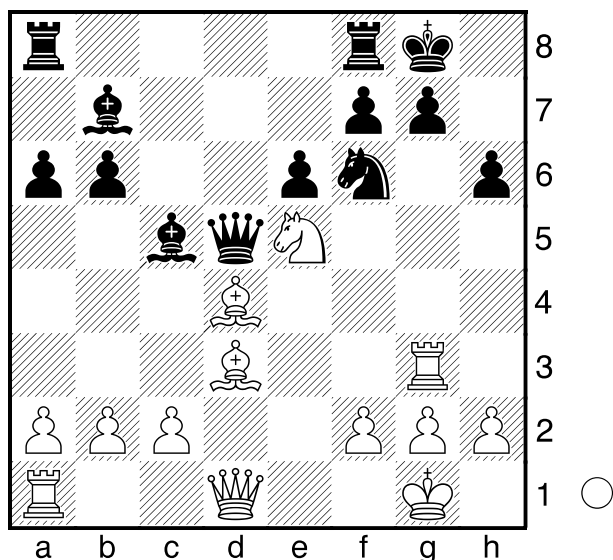
**B46**  
**1752**  
**1732**

[ 5...Nc6 ]  
[ 5...d6 ]  
[ 5...Bb4!? ]

[ 6.e5!± ]

[ 6...Qc7 ]  
[ 6...Bb4 ]

[ 16...Kh8 17.Bc4 Qe4 18.c3 Rad8  
19.Be2 0.1 according to lichess ]



[ 17.Bc3! Bd6 18.f4± keeping aim at Black's king provides a real advantage (19.Ng4 is the main thought). ]

**17...Nh5??** An unfortunate oversight, allowing a little queen sacrifice. Black

had two excellent moves instead:

[ 17...e5!

**A) 18.Qc1** Kh8! 19.Bxe5 Qxc6+  
20.Be4 ( 20.b4 Be7 21.Qf4 Rfe8  
22.Qf5 Bc8!-+ ) 20...Bxf2+!  
( 20...Qe6 21.Bxb7 Qxe5 22.Bxa8  
Rxa8-+ ) 21.Kh1 ( 21.Kxf2 Nxe4+  
22.Kg1 Nxc3 ) 21...Qxe4! 22.Bxf6  
( 22.Qxh6+ Qh7! ) 22...Bxc3  
23.Qxh6+ Qh7 24.Bxc3+ Kg8;

**B) 18.Qd2!** Eyeing f2 makes a difference. 18...Kh8! 19.Bxe5! Qxc6 (or 19...Qe6 when White has a number of moves that are equal.) 20.Be4! (the only move now) Qxe4 (20...Qe6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Bxb7 Rad8 23.Rd3 Qxb2 24.Rd1 Rxd3 25.Qxd3 a5 equals) 21.Qxh6+ gxh6 22.Bxf6+ Kh7 23.Rg7+ Kh8 24.Rg6+ Kh7 25.Rg7+ Kh8 26.Rg6+ Kh7 27.Rg7+ Kh8 repetition draw ]

[But! After some grinding, our computers (Lichess for Oli, Stockfish 16 for ECW) give 17...Ne8! some advantage for Black! Not enough to call it = over + though, after

**A) 18.Qg4?** leads to wild calculations that eventually favor Black after f5! 19.Qg6 Rf7! 20.Bc4! Qxc4 21.Ne5 Rf6! 22.Nxc4 Rxg6 23.Rxg6 Bxd4 24.Rxe6! b5! ( 24...Bd5 25.Nxb6 Bxe6 26.Nxa8 Bxb2 27.Rb1 Bd4+ but not as good ) 25.Rd1! ( 25.Ne3 Kf7+ ) 25...Bxf2+! 26.Kxf2 bxc4 27.Rd7 Be4 28.Ree7 Bxc2 29.Ra7 Rb8 30.Reb7 Rc8 31.Re7 ( 31.Rxa6 Be4 32.Rbb6 Nf6+ and ...c3 and it's Black with the attack on White's king and pawns ) 31...Bd3 32.a4 Kh7 -1.6 according to lichess and Stockfish;

**B) 18.Bxc5!** Qxc5 19.Nd4 Rd8  
20.c3 ( 20.Nb3 Qc7 21.Qg4 f5  
22.Qc4 Qxc4 23.Bxc4 Kf7

-0.2 on Stockfish ) 20...Nf6

-0.1 according to lichess ]

**18.Qxh5!** White sets up the classic  
Cascading Rook Plus Two Bishops  
checkmate. **18...Qxh5?**

[ 18...Bxd4 19.Ne7+ avoids mate for  
now but that's about it. ]

**19.Rxg7+ Kh8 20.Rh7+ Kg8 21.Rh8#**  
**1-0**

□ **Morello,Nicholas**

■ **Tagatac,David M**

**A48**

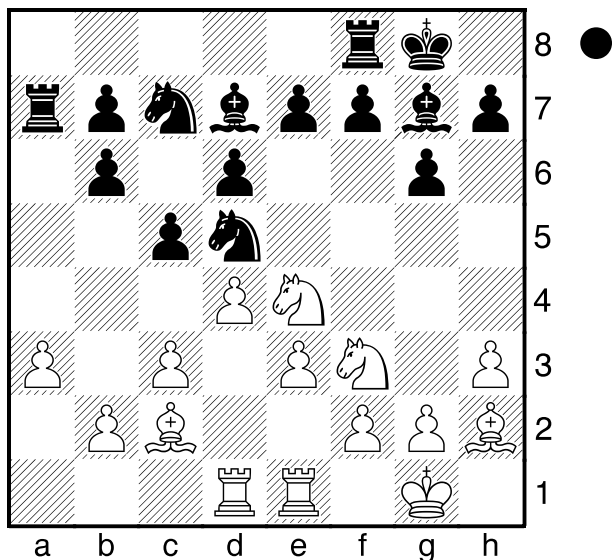
**1477**

**1284**

2024 New Year TNM: 1200-1599 (5.18)

[Winslow,Elliott]

Both players sent in the moves, and in a  
followup email Nick said "There were a  
few moves we were both very curious  
about, especially 18. Nxd6." No kidding!  
What a sequence, leading to a LOT of  
pawns for a knight. It boiled down to that,  
and White brought it home. **1.d4 Nf6**  
**2.Bf4 c6 3.c3 d6 4.h3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7**  
**6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 Na6 8.0-0 Qb6 9.Qb3**  
**c5 10.Re1 Be6 11.Qxb6 axb6**  
**12.Nbd2 Nc7 13.a3 Ra4 14.Bc2 Ra7**  
**15.Rad1 Bd7 16.Ne4 Nfd5 17.Bh2**



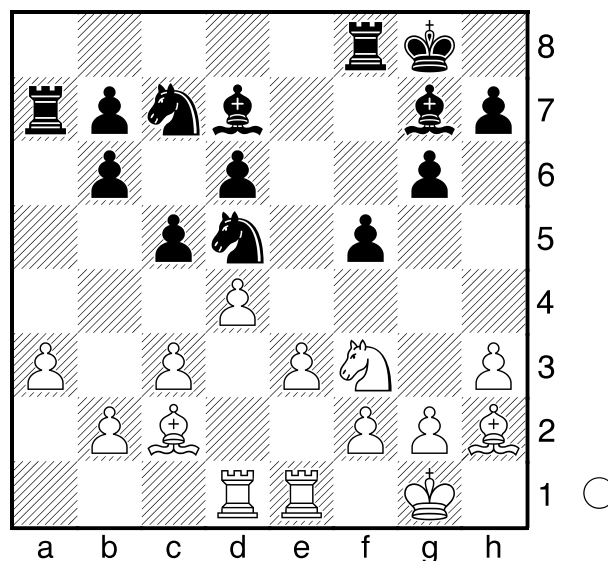
**f5?**

[ 17...cxd4 18.c4 Nf6 19.exd4 Nxe4  
20.Rxe4 Re8= ]

**18.Nxd6!**

[ 18.dxc5!? fxe4! 19.cxd6! exd6  
20.Bxe4± ]

**18...exd6**



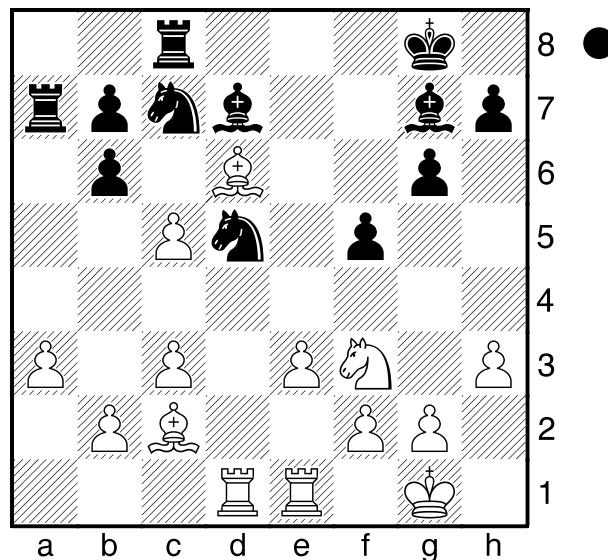
**19.Bxd6**

[ 19.dxc5! bxc5! 20.Bxd6 Ba4!  
21.Bxa4 Rxa4 22.Bxf8 Bxf8± ]

**19...Rc8?**

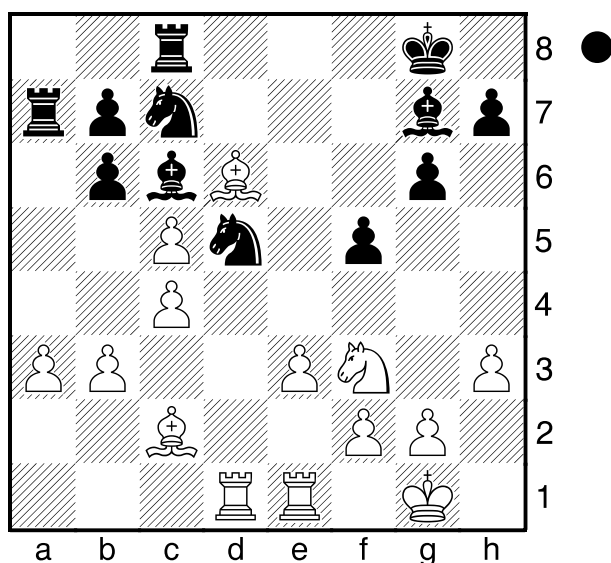
[ 19...c4! 20.Bxf8 Bxf8 21.Ne5  
Be6± ( 21...Ba4± ) ]

**20.dxc5!±**



**Ba4! 21.b3**

[ 21.Bxc7! Nxc7 22.cxb6! Bxc2!  
23.bxa7! Bxd1 24.Rxd1 Nb5 25.Rd7  
Nxa7 26.Rxb7± ]  
**21...Bc6 22.c4!**



**Nc3?**

[ 22...bxc5!? ]

[ 22...b5!? 23.cxd5 Nxd5 24.Nd4  
Bxd4 25.Rxd4 ]

**23.cxb6+-** The complications dissipate,  
and Black goes downhill from here.

**23...Rxa3 24.Bxa3 Na8 25.Rd3 Nxb6  
26.Bb2 Ne2+ 27.Rxe2 Bxb2 28.Red2  
Re8 29.Rd8 Bf6 30.Rxe8+ Bxe8  
31.Nd4 Kf7 32.Nb5 Be5 33.f4 Bf6  
34.Nd6+ Ke6 35.Nxe8  
1-0**

□ **Harris, Clarence**

**B10  
1400**

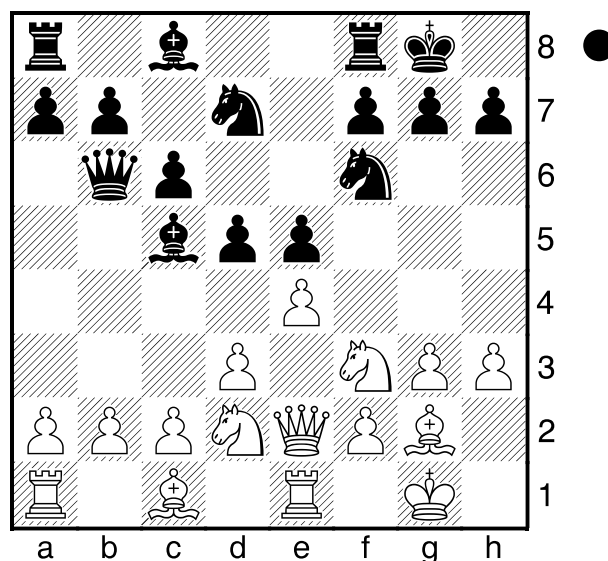
■ **Hilliard, Michael R**

**1462**

2024 New Year TNM: 1200-1599 (5.25)

[Winslow, Elliott]

An interesting game in the always-  
difficult Kings Indian Attack vs. the Caro  
Kann -- note the missed defence on  
move 29! **1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5  
4.Ngf3 Bd6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0  
Nbd7 8.Re1 Qb6 9.h3 Bc5 10.Qe2**



**d4?!** Black's pieces are going to take a  
lot of repositioning to get any  
appropriate queenside pawn play in  
motion.

[ 10...Re8 ]

**11.Nc4 Qc7 12.Nh4?!**

[ 12.c3!± ]

**12...Bb4?!**

[ 12...b5!± ]

**13.Rf1 b5 14.Nd2**

[ 14.a3 Bc5 15.Nd2 g6 ( 15...Re8 ) ]

**14...Bb7**

[ 14...g6= 15.f4 ( 15.a3 Be7 ) ]

15...Nh5 ]

**15.a3 Ba5 16.b4?!**

[ 16.f4! ]

**16...Bb6 17.Ndf3**

[ 17.f4!± ]

**17...a5! 18.Bd2**

[ 18.bxa5= ]

**18...c5 19.Nf5 Rfe8**

[ 19...c4!?± ]

**20.N3h4 g6 21.Nh6+ Kg7 22.Bg5 c4**

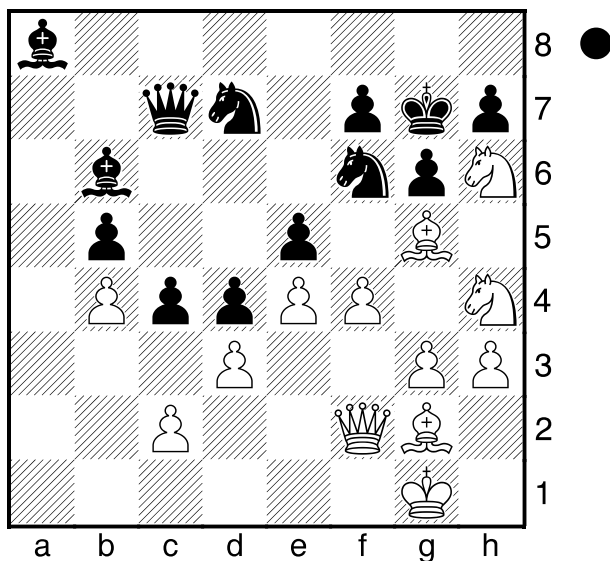
[ 22...axb4 23.axb4 cxb4± ]

**23.f4± axb4 24.axb4 Rxa1 25.Rxa1**

**Ra8 26.Rxa8 Bxa8 27.Qf2**

[ 27.Kh2± ]

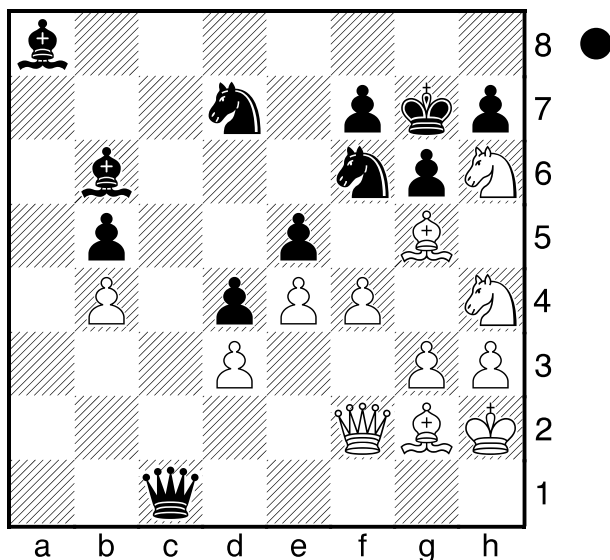
(Diagram)



**27...cxd3?**

[ 27...Bxe4! 28.fxe5 Qxe5 29.Nxf7  
Kxf7 30.Bxf6 Nxf6! 31.Bxe4 Qe7  
32.Nf3 Kg7 ]

**28.cxd3 Qc1+ 29.Kh2**



**Qe3??**

[ 29...Bc7!= (only) 30.Qa2 ( 30.N4f5+  
gxf5 31.Qa2 Bd5 etc. below )  
30...Bd5!! (only) 31.N6f5+ ( 31.exd5  
exf4 already favors \*Black\* ) 31...gxf5  
32.Nxf5+ Kg6 33.Ne7+ Kg7  
34.Nxd5 ( 34.Nf5+= ) 34...Nxd5  
35.Qxd5 exf4 36.Bxf4 Bxf4 37.Qxd7  
Be5= 38.Qe7 Qc7! ]

**A) 39.Qg5+ Kh8 40.h4 f6 41.Qg4  
Qc3 ( 41...Qc2 );**

**B) 39.Qxc7 Bxc7 Classic drawn  
bishop of opposite colors ending. ]  
30.N6f5+ gxf5 31.Nxf5+ Kf8 32.Nxe3  
dxe3 33.Qe2 Kg7 34.f5 h6 35.Bxe3  
1-0**



## GM Sam Shankland Lecture

There was a terrific turnout of 60+ people who showed up for GM Sam Shankland's book-signing and lecture on January 16 before round two of the New Year TNM. Among those attending were Grandmasters **Vinay Bhat** and **Jacek Stopa**, International Masters **Mark Heimann** and **Elliott Winslow**, and Mechanics' Institute CEO **Katherine Bella**.

Sam's new book is [\*Theoretical Rook Endings\*](#), and the topic of the lecture was the Vancura Position - analysis of which often stumped the strongest players in the room!

Sam wrote us afterwards:

"It felt great to visit Mechanics' Institute again after some time away. It has been 20 years since I first walked through its doors, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunities the chess club gave me in my early developmental years. I was delighted to see that the Tuesday Night Marathon is still healthy and strong, and to see that so many more people are enjoying chess in the oldest club in the United States."



## 2024 Falconer Award

In 1999, [Neil Falconer, by then longtime Mechanics' Institute Trustee](#), established the Falconer Award at the Institute which awards a cash prize to the highest-rated junior player under Age 18 in Northern California.

**Neil Falconer's** engagement with Mechanics' Institute spanned nine decades, from his first visit in 1938 as a Berkeley High School student to the end of his life on April 5, 2014, just after celebrating his 91st birthday.

A native Californian, Neil first joined the Institute in 1945 after finishing his service in the U.S. Army and soon after established himself as one of the strongest chess players in California, finishing third in the state championship in 1946. When former World Champion Max Euwe visited the Mechanics' Institute in 1949 Neil was one of those who held him to a draw. That same year, Neil graduated from the Boalt School of Law at UC Berkeley, passed the bar, and started working at the firm where he would later rise to named partner - Steinhart and Falconer. New responsibilities did not slow down Neil's rise as a chess player, and in 1951 he won the California Open title at Santa Cruz.

Joining the Board of Trustees in 1973, Neil immediately became a member of the Chess Committee and also served as Board President, first in 1988 and again from 1993 to 1995. Neil performed his role with distinction and was so successful that the events were able to attract players the caliber of former World Champion Mikhail Tal, the great Viktor Korchnoi, and Womens World champions Zsuzsa Polgar and Xie Jun.

Neil did not confine his role to top-level chess. Ahead of his time, he teamed up with the New York based American Chess Foundation in the 1980s and 1990s to bring chess instruction to under-resourced inner-city schools in San Francisco, Oakland, and Richmond.

In 1999 Neil established the Falconer Award at the Mechanics' Institute which awards a cash prize to the highest-rated junior player under 18 in Northern California. Grandmasters Vinay Bhat, Sam Shankland, and Daniel Naroditsky are among those who have won the Falconer Award, which has awarded more than \$35,000 to support excellence in chess.

This year's Falconer Award is presented to **Grandmaster Christopher Woojin Yoo** for the second year in a row, a 17-year-old American Grandmaster from Northern California. Christopher was the highest-rated player under 18 by his December 2023 rating, with a rating of 2690.

Yoo made waves as the youngest International Master in American history in February 2019, before being surpassed by Abhimanyu Mishra. In 2019, he won Gold in the 4th Youth Chess Composing Challenge (open to composers age 22 and under) and Bronze in the 7th FIDE World Cup in Composing, making him the youngest, at age 12, to ever medal in the event. Yoo tied for first place at the 2021 Charlotte Open, won the US Junior Chess Championship, defeated GM Wesley So at the 2022 US Chess Championship, and tied for first place at the 2022 US Masters with a rating of 2653



then claiming the 2022 US Masters title after winning a blitz playoff. Yoo was named Young Chess Player of the Year in 2023 by US Chess. He finished 2nd in the 2022 American Continental Championship qualifying him for the 2023 FIDE World Cup.

GM Christopher Woojin Yoo continues a long list of now celebrated players:

2000-2002 Vinay Bhat  
2003 Michael Pearson  
2004 Nicholas Yap  
2005-2006 Matthew Ho  
2007 Nicholas Yap  
2008-2009 Sam Shankland  
2010 Steven Zierk  
2011-2013 Daniel Naroditsky  
2014-2015 Yian Liou  
2016-2018 Cameron Wheeler  
2019 Andrew Hong  
2020 Christopher Woojin Yoo  
2021 no award was given out due to closures  
2022 Andrew Hong  
2023-2024 Christopher Woojin Yo



GM Christopher Yoo demonstrates a game at the 2023 Falconer award ceremony.

# Zorba Hughes

## How Chess Saved My Life

I've played the game of chess on and off since I was a teen. Something about the 64 squares and those 32 black and white pieces intrigued and captured my imagination. To out-wit and maneuver opponents fascinated me. Even the names of openings. The London system. Ruy Lopez, the Philidor, Colle, the Pirc. The execution of these forenamed openings mystify me still to this day.

I moved to San Francisco 14 years ago. I was low on funds. Just got out of a five-year relationship. So I decided to stay in a shelter. Let me tell you, I've never been to jail or prison, but men's shelters seem to be a few steps below that and one step from hell.... At this time I was more square than a Rubick's cube. I don't recommend them for anyone trying to keep their sanity. I was using them to help get myself together. Trying to get back on my feet. Using their program for housing.

While I was there, there was this guy named Ron that loved to test my patience. A short, roly poly insecure little buck-toothed jerk of a man who always would pick on me. One day I was going outside, Ron was coming in. I just so happened to ask this guy who was with Ron what the weather was like and Ron goes: why don't you take your b\*\*\*ch ass outside and see. All his boys around him laughed because they had the IQ of a gnat. The chromosome for humor was missing from them as well as their hairlines. I felt that was unnecessary. I had about enough of this guy. I'm no tough guy but I can fight. I have a temper to make a Rottweiler tremble like a leaf on a windy day. That night just before lights out, I was at the end of my bunk bed. These metal WW2-issued uncomfortable bunk beds. But good enough to decommission someone for life. Ron had his back turned to me talking s\*\*t per usual. I was thinking how he had been bothering me for months. How easy it would be to flip this bunk bed over on him. End him and the trouble he brought me. Consequences: irrelevant. I'm pretty strong. Especially when I'm angry. Gradually, I was lifting the end of the bunk bed up. Building my nerve up to flip the whole thing on him. Either severely hurting him, or worse. This would be a temporary solution to my problem. Not to mention the men in there would know not to mess with me. Stay out my way. They respect crazy.

So I continued lifting the end of this bunk bed up, getting that hulk strength. By now everyone in the room was noticing what I was about to do. Everyone except Ron. It's now or never: exterminate this problem swift in a hurry or stop fronting. My adrenaline was pumping me up. Just as I was about to change the course of my life for the worse, a guy I knew grabbed me by the shoulder and goes: "Wanna play chess?"

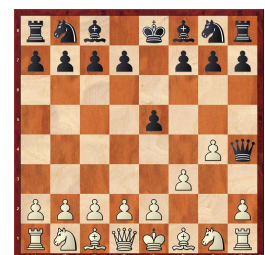
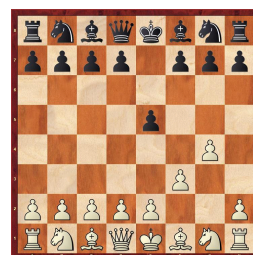
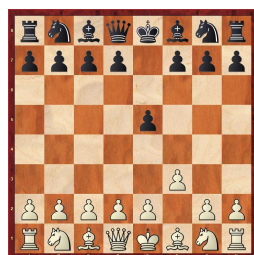
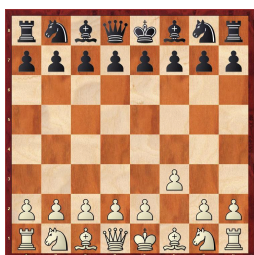
Suddenly all the energy and breath I could muster seeped out of me like air out of a balloon. We spent the rest of the time until lights out playing. I slept peaceful that night. A few weeks went by and the program I was enrolled in to get housing found me a place. I thought how I would've ruined this moment had not my friend intervened. I never heard from him or Ron ever again. That was until 5, 6 years ago. I was going to Safeway to get food and who should I happen to see sitting on the ground in

front of the store asking for change? Ron!!! He didn't recognize me because I had grown a beard. I still held a grudge worse than a scorned woman toward him. I thought I should just stomp him like a roach. As I ran through different scenarios in my head to eliminate this person, Ron asked me for a dollar. It shook me back to reality. Here I had bettered my situation and I wanted to do bodily harm to this individual still. That's dumb. I let it go, told him I didn't have a dollar and walked off. Went in the store. Never saw Ron again. I heard that the guy that saved me from ruining my life that day had passed on. I wish him a peaceful and blessed journey. If this is true, I owe him and chess a debt of gratitude for keeping me from making what would've been a grave mistake. Today, I am a chess instructor to elementary school kids.

That's how chess saved my life.



[CinemaLit](#) host **Matthew Kennedy** (left) with Mechanics' Institute Chess Coach **Zorba Hughes** (right) before the screening of *Searching For Bobby Fischer*.





## The Chess Scuttlebutt

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

The Terminator [takes on](#) The Incredible Hulk at chess.

Chess.com has an [anti-cheating](#) staff of 30 employees.

A chess set that [disappears](#) as you play.

GM Ju Wenjun's [victory](#) over GM Alireza Firouzja at Tata Steel was the first time in 7 years that a woman had defeated a top-10 player in classical chess.

An amusing article on the topic of [resigning](#) in chess by GM Avetik Grigoryan.

["Chess Play Zones"](#) have arrived in the San Francisco Bay Area.

FIDE debuts ["Swiss Queens Wednesday"](#) to showcase women's chess.

Hans Niemann has been [banned](#) from events at the St. Louis Chess Club for a year.

Hans' [response](#) was swift.

You have only [5 seconds](#) to find the odd chess piece.

Chess is [muscling](#) in on the Seattle bar scene.

A famous Hollywood [actor](#) plays chess in prison.

[Checkmate Violence](#) helps kids in Philadelphia make the right moves.

18 year old Indian star IM Divya Deshmukh [calls out](#) sexist spectators at Tata Steel.

Chess.com made an attempt to [buy](#) the World Championship cycle.

Magnus Carlsen and Hans Niemann [play](#) their first game together after their shoot-out in St. Louis.

Chess is a [slam-dunk](#) in the NBA.

A great [profile](#) of Jude Acers, New Orleans chess mega-star and former Bay Area resident.

Finally, find your "chess personality" by taking [this](#) quiz.

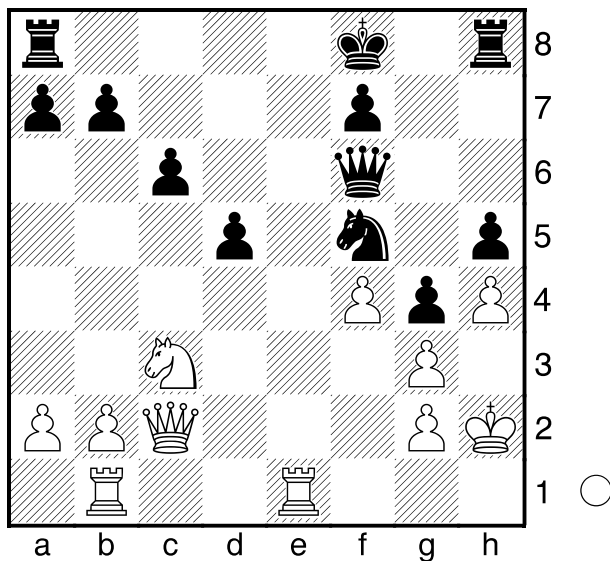
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## Games from 86th Tata Steel Masters and Challengers.



A selection of games from Tata Steel Masters won by GM **Wei Yi**,  
and the Challengers, won by GM **Leon Mendoca**.

 **Yilmaz, Mustafa** **D38**  
 **Santos Latasa, Jaime** **2665**  
**2615**  
 86th Tata Steel Challengers 2024 (1.7)

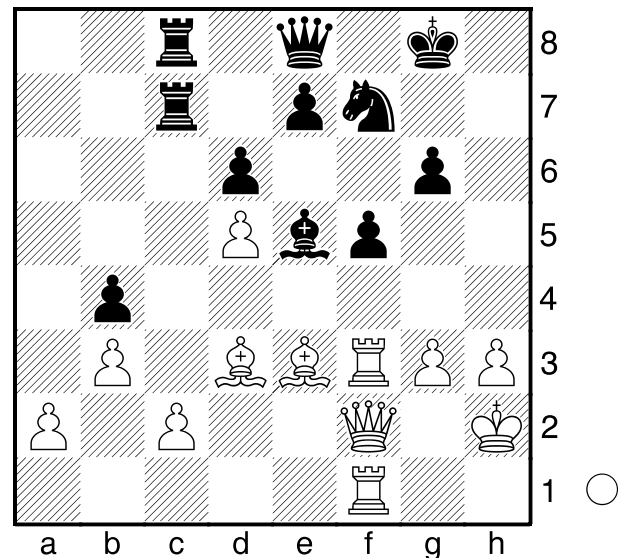
White fails to spot an easy tactic and gets smoked. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bf4 Ne4 7.Rc1 Nc6 8.e3 g5 9.Bg3 h5 10.h4 g4 11.Ng1 Nxc3 12.fxg3 Bd6 13.Nge2 Ne7 14.Nf4 c6 15.Bd3 Bxf4 16.exf4 Bf5 17.0-0 Qb6 18.Bb1 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nf5 20.Kh2 Qxd4 21.Re1+ Kf8 22.Qc2 Qf6



23.Re5? Nxh4! 24.Rbe1 Ng6 25.Rf5  
 Qd6 26.Qd3 h4 27.Qd4 hxg3+  
 28.Kxg3 Re8 29.Rxe8+ Kxe8 30.Qxa7  
 f6 31.Qxb7 Qe6 32.Ne4 dxe4 33.Ra5  
 Qd7 34.Ra8+ Ke7 35.Rxh8 Nxh8  
 36.Qb4+ Kf7 37.Qxe4 Ng6 38.a4 f5  
 39.Qc2 Qe6 40.Qc3 Qe4  
**0-1**

 **Beukema, Stefan** **B06**  
 **Roebers, Eline** **2428**  
**2381**  
 86th Tata Steel Challengers 2024 (2.5)

Black succumbs to white's massive kingside buildup. 1.d4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 c5 4.dxc5 Qa5+ 5.Nc3 Qxc5 6.e4 Bg7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.Be3 Qc7 10.h3 Nc6 11.Qd2 Ne5 12.Qc1 Bd7 13.b3 Rfc8 14.Qa3 Qb8 15.f4 Nc6 16.Nd5 b5 17.Rad1 b4 18.Qc1 Qb5 19.Qd2 Nxd5 20.exd5 Nd8 21.Nd4 Qa5 22.f5 Rc7 23.Rf2 Rac8 24.Rdf1 Bb5 25.Nxb5 Qxb5 26.Be4 Rc3 27.Kh2 Be5 28.Rf3 Qe8 29.Qf2 f6 30.fxg6 hxg6 31.Bxa7 f5 32.Bd3 Nf7 33.Be3 R3c7

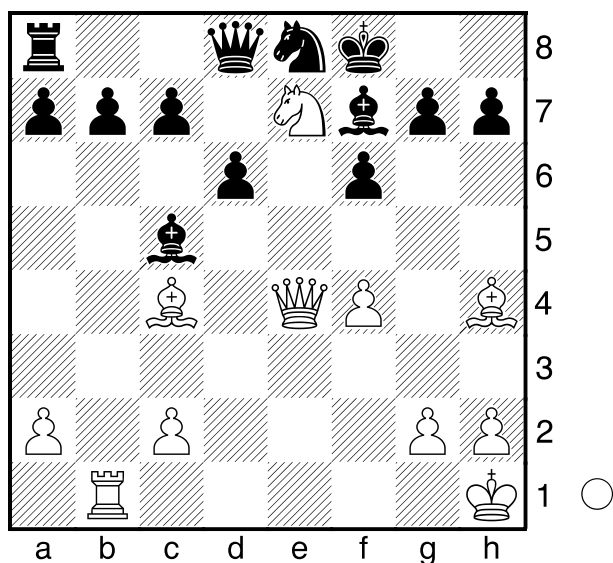


34.Rxf5! gxf5 35.Qxf5 e6 36.dxe6 Nh8  
 37.Bh6 Ra8 38.Qg4+ Bg7 39.Rf7 Rxf7  
 40.exf7+ Qxf7 41.Bc4  
**1-0**

**Firouzja,Alireza** **C67**  
**2759**  

**Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2740**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters (2.5) 14.01.2024

White goes all-in with a double pawn sacrifice to target black's king. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0 9.d4 Bf6 10.Re1 Re8 11.Bf4 Rxe1 12.Qxe1 Ne8 13.Nc3 Bxd4 14.Nd5 d6 15.Bg5 f6 16.Bh4 Bxb2 17.Rb1 Be5 18.f4 Be6 19.Bc4 Bd4+ 20.Kh1 Bf7 21.Qe4 Bc5 22.Ne7+ Kf8

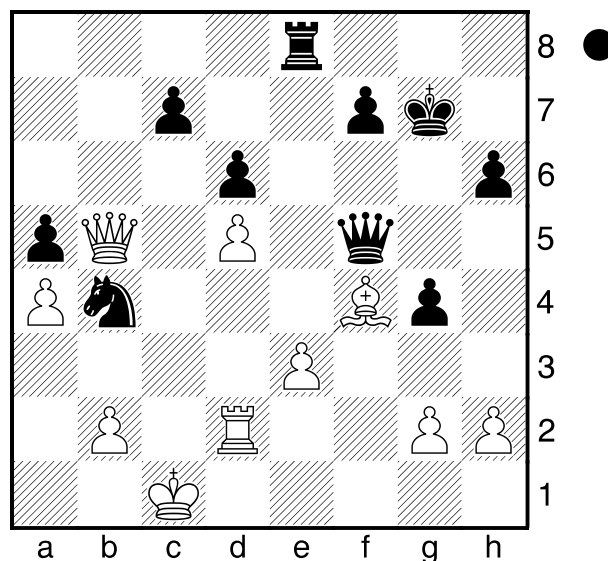


23.Qxh7! Bxc4 24.Re1 Qxe7 25.Rxe7 Kxe7 26.Qe4+ Be6 27.f5 Rd8 28.g4 c6 29.g5 Kf8 30.fxe6 Ke7 31.gxf6+ gxf6 32.Qg4 d5 33.Qg8 Bd4 34.Bg3 Be5 35.Bxe5 fxe5 36.h4 e4 37.h5 d4 38.Qf7+ Kd6 39.e7 Rc8 40.Qf4+ Kxe7 41.Qxe4+ Kd7 42.Qxd4+ Nd6 43.h6 **1-0**

**Gukesh,D..** **C54**  
**2725**  

**Ding,Liren** **2780**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters (3.5) 15.01.2024

Black's queen and knight conduct a deadly raid behind enemy lines. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 d6 6.a4 a5 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 Ba7 9.Na3 Qe7 10.Nb5 Bb6 11.Qb3 g5 12.Bg3 0-0 13.0-0-0 Nh5 14.d4 exd4 15.Nbxd4 g4 16.Nh4 Bxd4 17.cxd4 Qxe4 18.Rhe1 Qh7 19.Rd2 Bd7 20.Bd3 Qg7 21.Bf5 Bxf5 22.Nxf5 Qg5 23.Qb5 Rfe8 24.Re3 Ng7 25.Nxg7 Kxg7 26.d5 Rxe3 27.fxe3 Nb4 28.Qxb7 Re8 29.Bf4 Qf5 30.Qb5



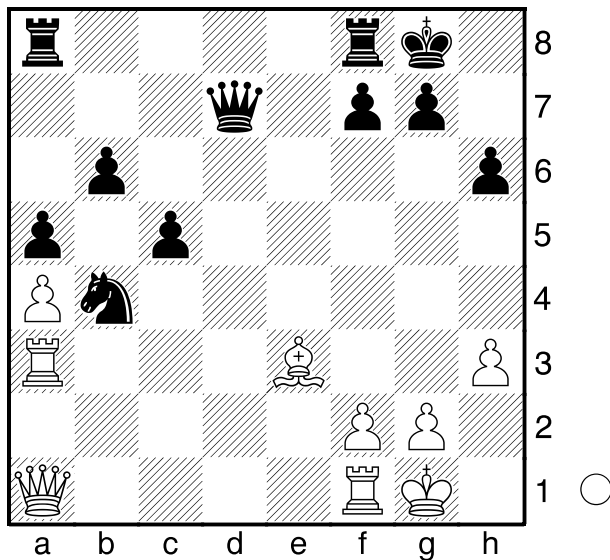
Na2+ 31.Kd1 Qb1+ 32.Ke2 Qg1 33.Kd3 Nb4+ 34.Kd4 Qe1 35.Rd3 Qe2 36.Rc3 Qd2+ 37.Kc4 Re4+ **0-1**

**Maurizzi,Marc`Andria** **D45**  
**2572**  

**Beukema,Stefan** **2428**  
 86th Tata Steel Challengers 2024 (3.5)

White's dark-squared bishop wrecks havoc on the kingside. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6

3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Be2  
Bd6 7.a4 0-0 8.0-0 dxc4 9.Bxc4 a5  
10.h3 Qe7 11.Qc2 h6 12.Ne2 Nd5  
13.e4 Nb4 14.Qb1 e5 15.Ng3 exd4  
16.Nf5 Qf6 17.N3xd4 Be5 18.Be3 c5  
19.Nf3 Bxb2 20.Ne7+ Qxe7 21.Qxb2  
Qxe4 22.Bb5 b6 23.Ra3 Qc2 24.Qa1  
Qg6 25.Bxd7 Bxd7 26.Ne5 Qe6  
27.Nxd7 Qxd7

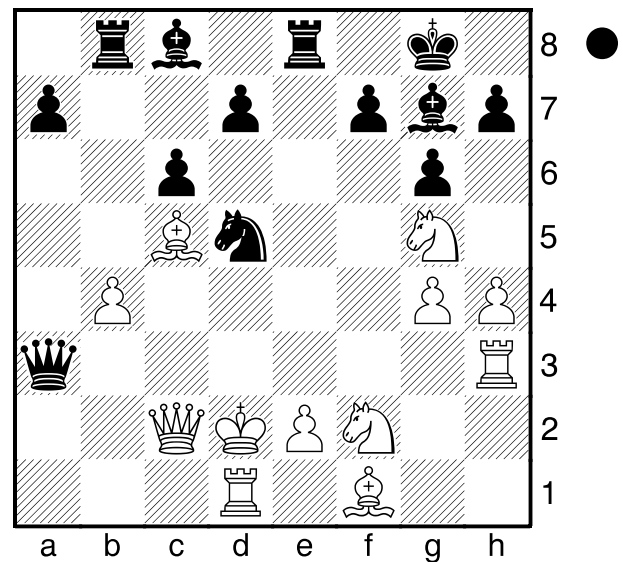


28.Bxh6! f6 29.Rd1 Qe6 30.Re3 Qf5  
31.Rg3 Rf7 32.Rd6 c4 33.Bxg7! Rxg7  
34.Rxf6 Qh7 35.Qe5 c3 36.Qe6+ Kh8  
37.Rxg7  
**1-0**

**A22**  
 **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2740**  
 **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2727**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters (3.7) 15.01.2024

Black's 3rd and 4th moves take the gloves off, and we are treated to a mind-blowing bout of punch and counter-punch. 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 e4 4.Ng5 c6 5.Qa4 Qe7 6.f3 exf3 7.Nxf3 g6 8.d4 Bg7 9.c5 0-0 10.Bf4 Na6 11.Bd6 Qe3 12.Nd1 Qe6 13.Nf2 Re8 14.h4 b6 15.Ng5 Qf5 16.g4 Qd5 17.0-0-0 bxc5 18.dxc5 Nxc5 19.Qc2

Qxa2 20.Bxc5 Rb8 21.b4 Qa3+  
22.Kd2 Nd5 23.Rh3

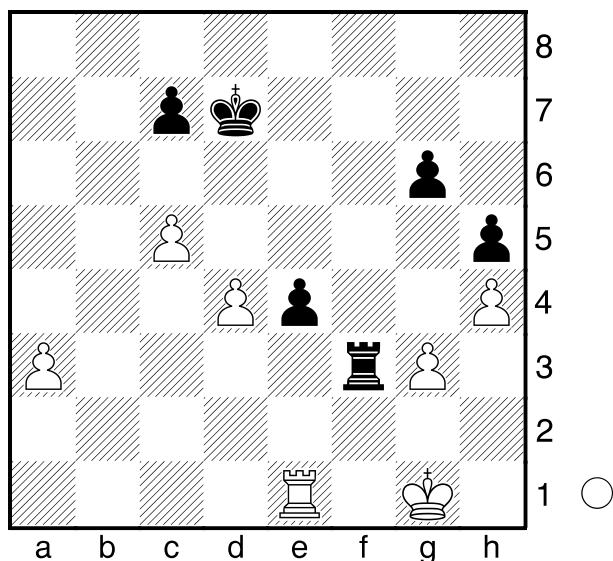


Re3!! 24.Nfe4 Rxh3 25.Bxh3 h6  
26.Nf3 Nxb4 27.Qc1 Qa5 28.Ke3 d5  
29.Ned2 h5 30.Kf2 hxg4 31.Nb3 Qc7  
32.Qd2 gxf3 33.Bxc8 fxe2 34.Kxe2  
Qxc8  
**0-1**

**C01**  
 **Ju,Wenjun** **2549**  
 **Firouzja,Alireza** **2759**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (5.3)

An historic victory, as the Women's World Champion takes down one of the World's top ten players. 1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.c4 Nf6 6.c5 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.Be3 Nc6 11.Nbd2 Re8 12.Bb5 Ne4 13.Qa4 Nxd2 14.Nxd2 Bg5 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Rae1 Bxe3 17.Rxe3 Rxe3 18.fxe3 Qe8 19.Re1 f5 20.Qa6 f4 21.Qf1 fxe3 22.Qd3 e2 23.Nf3 Qf7 24.Ng5 Qg6 25.Qxg6 Bxg6 26.Rxe2 h6 27.Nf3 Be4 28.Ne5 a5 29.Nxc6 a4 30.Re3 Ra6 31.Nb4 Rg6 32.g3 h5 33.Ra3 Kf8 34.Kf2 Rf6+ 35.Ke2 Rg6 36.h4 Ke8 37.Re3 Kd7 38.a3 Re6

39.Kd2 Rf6 40.Ke2 Rf8 41.b3 axb3  
42.Rxb3 Bg2 43.Re3 Be4 44.Na2 Rb8  
45.Nc3 Rb2+ 46.Ke1 Rb3 47.Kf2 Bh1  
48.Nd1 Rb8 49.Re5 g6 50.Re1 Be4  
51.Nc3 Rf8+ 52.Kg1 Rf3 53.Nxe4  
dxe4

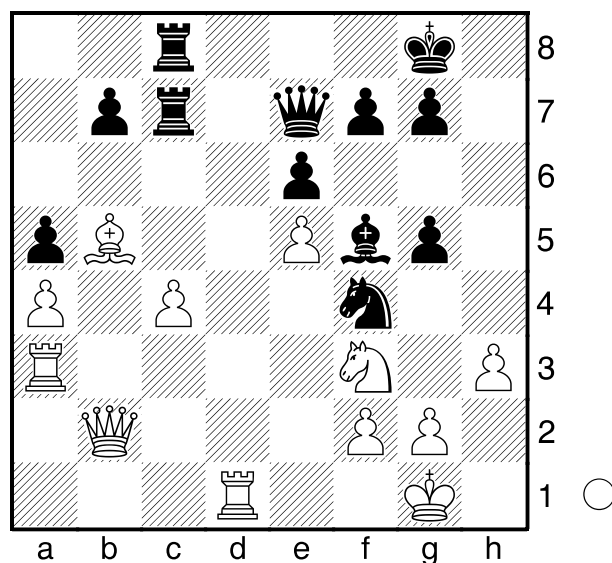


54.Kg2! Rxa3 55.Rxe4 Rd3 56.Kf2 c6  
57.Kg2 Rd1 58.Kf3 Rf1+ 59.Ke3 Rf7  
60.Rf4 Rg7 61.Kd3 Ke6 62.Rf8 Ra7  
63.Ke4 Ra1 64.Rd8  
**1-0**

**Roebers,Eline** **B12**  
 **Niemann,Hans Moke** **2381**  
**2692**  
86th Tata Steel Challengers 2024 (5.3)

A see-saw battle, but once white's rook landed on d6 it was pretty much all over.  
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Be3 Qb6  
5.Qc1 e6 6.Nf3 Ne7 7.a4 a5 8.Nbd2  
h6 9.Be2 Bh7 10.Nb3 Na6 11.0-0  
Nb4 12.Bd1 Nf5 13.Bd2 Be7 14.Ne1  
0-0 15.c3 Na6 16.Nf3 Bg6 17.h3 c5  
18.dxc5 Nxc5 19.Nxc5 Bxc5 20.Bf4  
Rac8 21.Be2 d4 22.Bb5 Rfd8 23.Qe1  
dxc3 24.bxc3 Ne7 25.Qe2 Nd5 26.Bd2  
Rc7 27.Rfc1 Rdc8 28.Ne1 Be7 29.Qf3  
Bg5 30.Bxg5 hxg5 31.Ra3 Qc5 32.c4

Ne7 33.Qc3 Bf5 34.Nf3 Nd5 35.Qb2  
Nf4 36.Rd1 Qe7



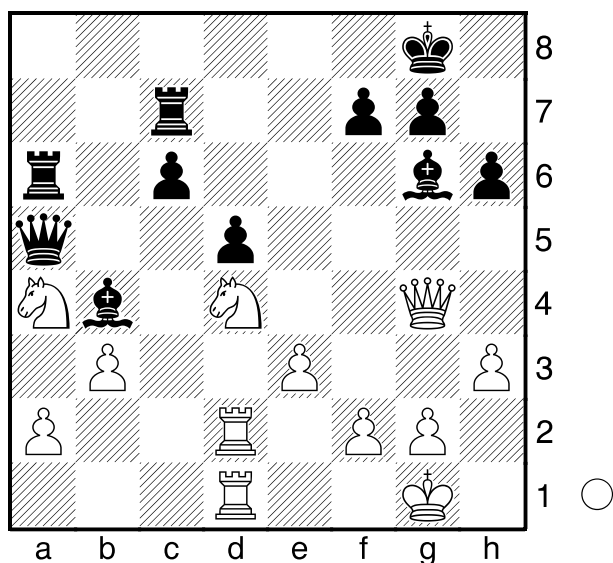
37.Rd6! Rd8 38.Qd2 Rcc8 39.c5 f6  
40.Bc4 fxe5 41.Nxe5 Kh7 42.Re3 Nd5  
43.Bxd5 Rxd6 44.cxd6 Qxd6 45.g4  
Rc5 46.gxf5 Rxd5 47.Qe2 exf5  
48.Qh5+ Qh6 49.Qf7 Rd1+ 50.Kh2 f4  
51.Qf5+ Kg8 52.Qc8+ Kh7 53.Qc2+  
Kg8 54.Rc3 Rd8 55.Qb3+ Kh7 56.Nf7  
**1-0**

**Gukesh D** **D50**  
 **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2725**  
**2769**  
86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (5.6)

With 2 bishops vs 2 knights, black is in the game despite his pawn minus. Then he overlooks a shot, and suddenly it's game over. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5  
4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 cxd4 6.Qxd4 exd5  
7.Bg5 Be7 8.e3 0-0 9.Bb5 Nc6  
10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Rd1 a6 12.Bxc6 bxc6  
13.Ne5 Rc8 14.0-0 Be8 15.Qxa6 h6  
16.Bh4 Ra8 17.Qe2 Ne4 18.Nxe4  
Bxh4 19.Nc3 Bf6 20.Nd3 Qa5 21.Rd2  
Bd7 22.Rc1 Rfb8 23.Qf3 Bc8 24.h3  
Ba6 25.Qf5 Bc8 26.Qh5 Be6 27.Nf4  
Bd7 28.Qd1 Bf5 29.Nfe2 Bg6 30.Nd4



Ra6 31.b3 Be7 32.Na4 Rc8 33.Qg4  
Rc7 34.Rcd1 Bb4?



35.Nxc6! Rxcxc6 36.Rxd5 h5 37.Qf4  
Rd6 38.Rxd6 Bxd6 39.Rxd6 Rxd6  
40.Qxd6 Qe1+ 41.Kh2 Qxf2 42.Nc3  
Qc2 43.Qd4 Bd3 44.Nd5 Be4 45.Nf4  
g6 46.a4 Bf3 47.Qd3 Qf2 48.e4 Bd1  
49.Nxg6  
**1-0**

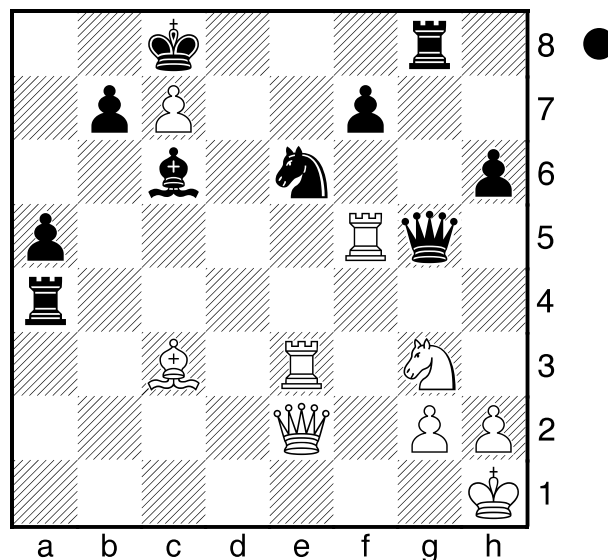
□ **Van Foreest,Jorden**  
■ **Gukesh D**

**C45**  
**2682**  
**2725**

86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (6.2)

Both players ride the tactical whirlwind,  
but after black finds 36...Bxg2+! white is  
the one blown away. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3  
Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qf6 5.Nb3  
Qg6 6.f3 Bd6 7.Nc3 Nge7 8.f4 Bb4  
9.f5 Qf6 10.Bd3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Qxc3+  
12.Bd2 Qf6 13.0-0 d6 14.Kh1 Bd7  
15.a4 Ne5 16.Qe1 N7c6 17.Rb1 a5  
18.Nc1 Nb4 19.Qg3 h6 20.Ne2 g5  
21.fxg6 Qxg6 22.Qf2 Nbx d3 23.cxd3  
Nxd3 24.Qd4 Rg8 25.Ng3 Nc5 26.e5  
Ne6 27.Qb2 Bc6 28.exd6 0-0-0  
29.dxc7 Rd4 30.Rbc1 Rh4 31.Rc3  
Nc5 32.Re3 Rxa4 33.Rf6 Qg7 34.Bc3

Qg5 35.Qe2 Ne6 36.Rf5



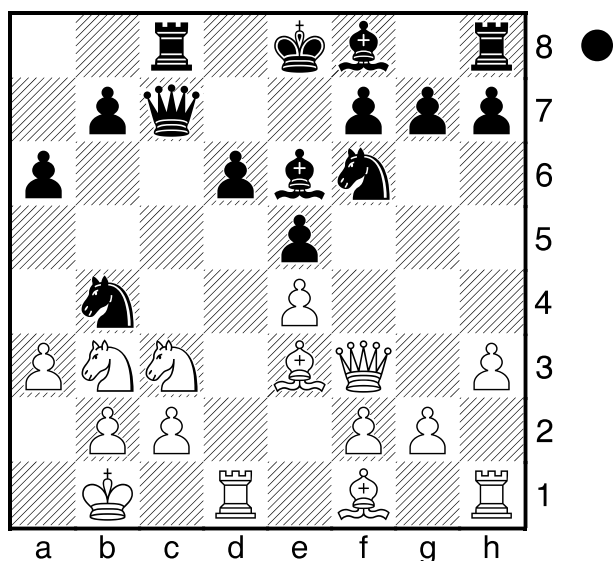
Bxg2+! 37.Kg1 Qxf5 38.Nxf5 Bf3+  
39.Kf2 Bxe2 40.Ne7+ Kxc7 41.Be5+  
Kb6 42.Nxg8 Bh5 43.Nxh6 Nc5  
44.Kg3 Ne4+ 45.Kf4 Bg6  
**0-1**

□ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **B90**  
■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2742**  
**2759**

86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (7.3)

Black goes bonkers with 12...Nxc2!? and  
it almost works. However, when white  
returns (some) material later on, he is  
simply lost. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4  
cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 Nc6  
7.Be3 e5 8.Nb3 Be6 9.Qf3 Nb4  
10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Kb1 Qc7 12.a3

(Diagram)

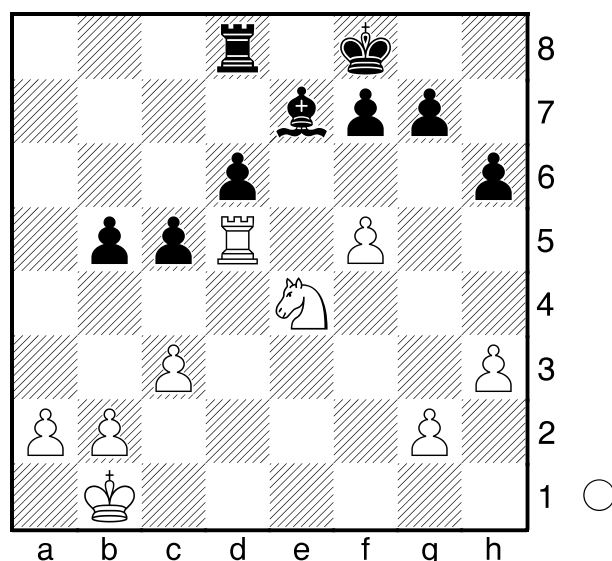


Nxc2!? 13.Kxc2 Qc6 14.Nd2 Qa4+  
15.Kd3 Rxc3+ 16.bxc3 d5 17.Ke2  
dxe4 18.Qg3 Nd7 19.Ke1 f5 20.Be2  
g6 21.h4 Be7 22.Bg5 f4 23.Bxf4 exf4  
24.Qxf4 Rf8 25.Qxe4 Qxe4 26.Nxe4  
Bxa3 27.h5 Bf5 28.Rd4 Ne5 29.hxg6  
Bxg6 30.Bh5 Nc6 31.Rd5 Ke7  
32.Bxg6 hxg6 33.Rh7+ Ke6 34.Rdd7  
b5 35.f3 Rc8 36.Rb7 b4 37.cxb4  
Bxb4+ 38.Ke2 a5 39.Rhg7 Ne5  
40.Ke3 Rc6 41.f4 Ng4+ 42.Kd4  
**1-0**

**Abdusattorov, Nodirbek** **C42**  
 **Giri, Anish** **2727**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (7.4) **2749**

The Uzbek phenom gives a masterclass in positional play: good knight vs bad bishop, exploitation of the d5 square, outside passed pawn - all with small tactics guiding the play. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.c4 Be7 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.dxc3 0-0 8.Bd3 Nd7 9.Be3 Nf6 10.h3 b6 11.Qc2 Bb7 12.0-0-0 h6 13.Rhe1 Re8 14.Bd4 c5 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Bh7+ Kh8 17.Be4 Bxe4 18.Rxe4 Qd7 19.Nd2 a6 20.Kb1

Bg5 21.Nf3 Bf6 22.Qd3 b5 23.Rxe8+  
Qxe8 24.Nd2 Qe6 25.Ne4 Be7  
26.Qd5 Rd8 27.cxb5 axb5 28.f4 Kg8  
29.f5 Qxd5 30.Rxd5 Kf8

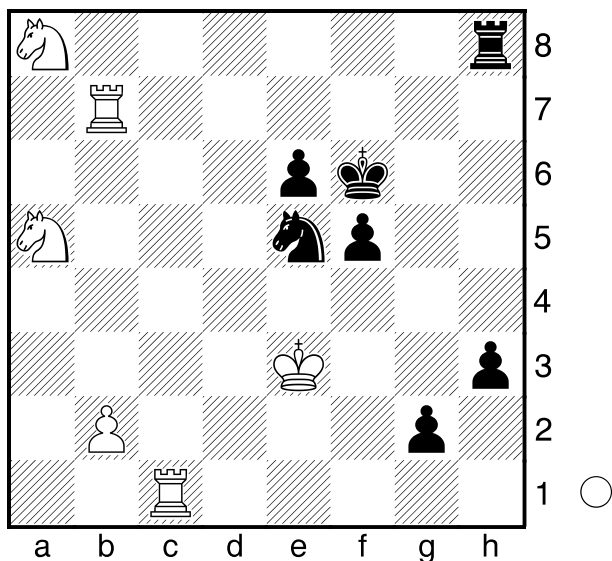


31.b4! Ke8 32.Kb2 Rd7 33.g4 Kd8  
34.c4 bxc4 35.bxc5 dxc5 36.Rxd7+  
Kxd7 37.Kc3 Kc6 38.Kxc4 Kb6 39.a4  
Kc6 40.Nf2 Bd8 41.Ne4 Be7 42.a5  
Bd8 43.a6 Be7 44.Nc3 Bg5 45.Nb5  
Be3 46.h4 Kb6 47.a7 Kb7 48.h5 Ka8  
49.Kd5 Kb7 50.Kd6 c4 51.Kd5 Bxa7  
52.Nxa7 c3 53.Nc6 c2 54.Na5+ Kc7  
55.Nb3 Kd7 56.g5 Ke7 57.gxh6 gxh6  
58.Ke5 f6+ 59.Kd5 Kd7 60.Nc1  
**1-0**

**Yilmaz, Mustafa** **D27**  
 **Dardha, Daniel** **2665**  
 86th Tata Steel Challengers 2024 (8.2) **2602**

Black's blitzkrieg on the kingside pays off, and two passed pawns overcome the lack of a rook and a knight. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Bxc4 e6 6.0-0 c5 7.Nc3 b5 8.Be2 Bb7 9.dxc5 Nc6 10.Qxd8+ Rxd8 11.Bd2 Bxc5 12.Rfc1 Bd6 13.Be1 Ke7 14.Nd2 Ne5 15.Nb3 Rb8 16.Na5 Ba8 17.a4

bxa4 18.Nxa4 h5 19.Bxa6 h4 20.h3  
 g5 21.f3 Nd5 22.Bd2 Bb4 23.Bxb4+  
 Rxb4 24.Kf2 f5 25.Ra3 g4 26.f4 Nxf4  
 27.exf4 Rxf4+ 28.Ke3 Re4+ 29.Kf2  
 gxh3 30.Nb6 Rf4+ 31.Ke3 Re4+  
 32.Kf2 Rf4+ 33.Ke3 Rb4 34.Nxa8  
 hxg2 35.Rb3 h3 36.Bb7 Rxb7  
 37.Rxb7+ Kf6

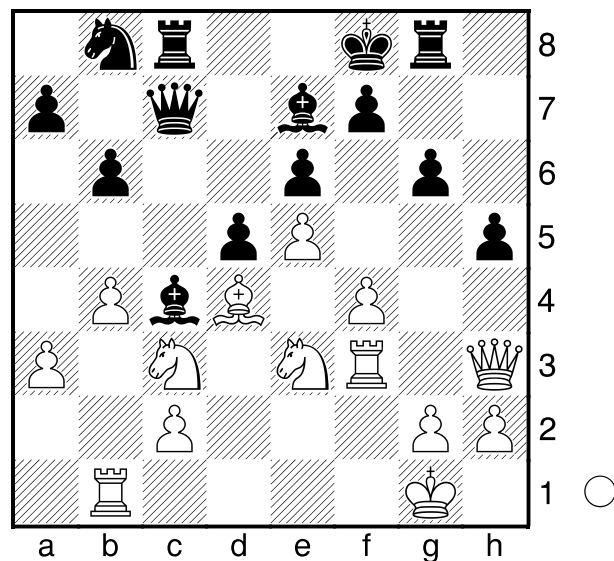


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Divya Deshmukh 2420  
 Roebers,Eline 2381  
 86th Tata Steel Challengers 2024 (8.6)

A classic breakthrough sacrifice sealed  
 black's fate. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3  
 Bb4 4.Nge2 Nf6 5.e5 Nfd7 6.a3 Be7  
 7.f4 c5 8.Be3 b6 9.Ng3 cxd4 10.Bxd4  
 Nc6 11.Bb5 Qc7 12.Bxc6 Qxc6 13.0-0  
 g6 14.b4 Ba6 15.Rf3 h5 16.Rb1 Bc4  
 17.Nf1 Rc8 18.Ne3 Qc7 19.Qe1 Rg8  
 20.Qg3 Kf8 21.Qh3 Nb8

(Diagram)

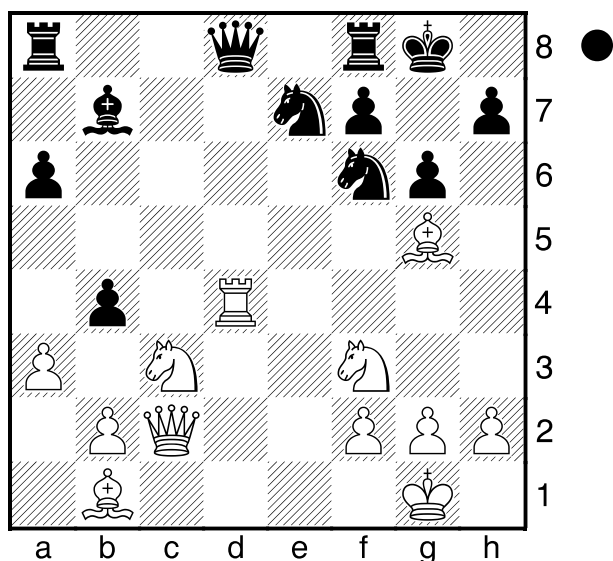


22.f5! gxf5 23.Nxf5 exf5 24.Qxf5 Rg7  
 25.e6 f6 26.Qxh5 Nc6 27.Be3 Bd6  
 28.Qh8+ Rg8 29.Rxf6+ Ke7 30.Rf7+  
 1-0

D40  
 2759  
 2780  
 Firouzja,Alireza  
 Ding,Liren  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (8.6)

On the 18th move black simply had to  
 interpose a knight on d5. White ended up  
 with 2 bishops vs a rook - too much for  
 black to handle. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6  
 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.a3  
 dxc4 7.Bxc4 a6 8.Ba2 b5 9.Qc2  
 cxd4 10.exd4 Bb7 11.d5 exd5  
 12.Bg5 Be7 13.Rd1 d4 14.0-0 0-0  
 15.Rfe1 b4 16.Bb1 g6 17.Rxe7 Nxe7  
 18.Rxd4

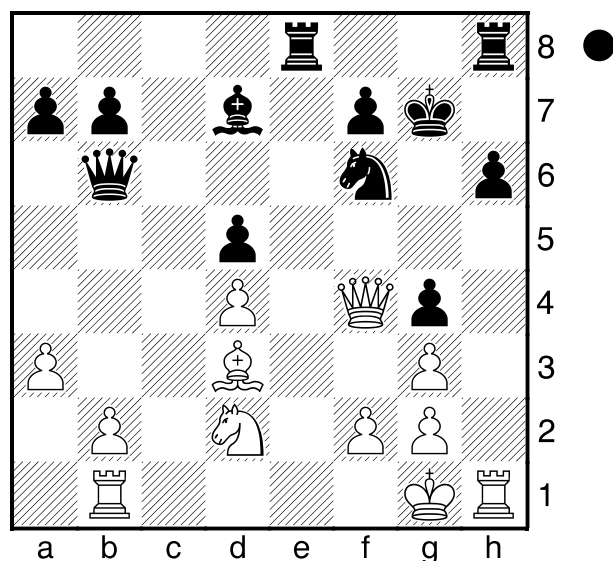
(Diagram)



**Qc7? 19.Ne4! Qxc2 20.Nxf6+ Kg7  
21.Bxc2 Rac8 22.Ng4! Ng8**  
[ 22...Rxc2 23.Bf6+ Kg8 24.Nh6# ]  
**23.Bb3 bxa3 24.bxa3 Rc3 25.Rb4  
Bxf3 26.gxf3 Rxf3 27.Ne3 h6 28.Bd1  
Rxf2 29.Bxh6+ Nxh6 30.Kxf2 Rd8  
31.Ke2 Rd6 32.Bb3 Rf6 33.a4 Rc6  
34.Bc4 f5 35.Rb7+ Kf6 36.Rh7 Ng4  
37.Nxg4+ fxg4 38.Bd3 Rb6 39.Ra7  
Rb2+ 40.Ke3 Rxh2 41.Rxa6+ Ke5  
42.Ra5+ Kf6 43.Kf4  
1-0**

**Donchenko,Alexander** **D38 2643**  
 **Firouzja,Alireza** **2759**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (9.1)

Black's manoeuver of the bishop on the 26th move turns out badly. After the g and h pawns drop it's all over. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Bb4 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.e3 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Ne4 10.Nd2 Nxg3 11.hxg3 Nb6 12.Bd3 Be6 13.a3 Bd6 14.Qf3 g4 15.Qe2 c6 16.Rh5 Nd7 17.e4 Nf6 18.exd5 cxd5 19.Rh1 Kf8 20.Qe3 Kg7 21.Nb5 Rc8 22.Nxd6 Qxd6 23.Kf1 Qb6 24.Rb1 Bd7 25.Kg1 Rce8 26.Qf4



**Bb5? 27.Bf5 Be2 28.Rh4 Qb5 29.Rc1  
Bd3 30.Rc5 Qa6 31.Bxg4 Re1+  
32.Kh2 h5 33.Bf3 Rh6 34.Rc7 Rh7  
35.Bxh5  
1-0**

**Maghsoodloo,Parham** **D32 2740**  
 **Warmerdam,Max** **2625**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (9.4)

A stunning turn around at the 11th hour.  
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qd1 exd5 7.Qxd5 Qc7 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Qd3 Be6 10.e3 a6 11.Ng5 Nb4 12.Qb1 Bc4 13.Nge4 0-0-0 14.Nxf6 gxf6 15.Bxc4 Qxc4 16.Qe4 Qxe4 17.Nxe4 f5 18.Ng3 Nc2+ 19.Ke2 Nxa1 20.Bd2 Bg7 21.Rxa1 f4 22.Nf5 Bxb2 23.Rb1 Ba3 24.exf4 Rhe8+ 25.Be3 Bf8 26.g4 b5 27.Kf3 Rd3 28.Ng3 Ra3 29.Ne4 Rxa2 30.Nf6 Rxe3+ 31.fxe3 Rxh2 32.Nd5 Kb7 33.Rc1 Bd6 34.e4 Rh3+ 35.Ke2 h6 36.e5 Bb8 37.Rd1 a5 38.Ra1 a4 39.Rb1 Kc6 40.Nb4+ Kb6 41.Kd2 Rh4 42.Nd5+ Ka5 43.Rc1 Rh2+ 44.Kd3 a3 45.Rc8 Ba7 46.Rc7 Rh3+ 47.Ke4 Bf2 48.Rxf7 Bc5

49.Rc7 a2 50.Rc8 Ka4 51.e6 Ra3?

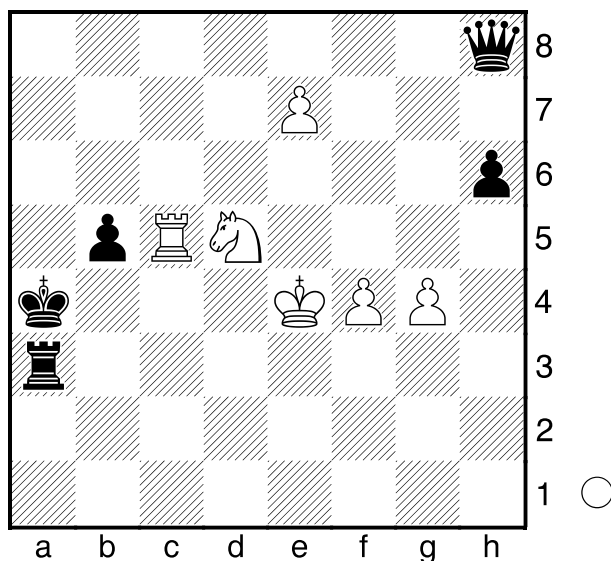
[ 51...Ba3-+ ]

[ 51...Bd6-+ ]

52.Rxc5 a1Q 53.e7 Qh8??

[ 53...Qb1+= ]

[ 53...Qe1+= ]



54.Rc8!! Qh7+

[ 54...Qxc8 55.Nb6+- ]

55.f5 Rg3 56.e8Q Rxc4+ 57.Ke5  
1-0

Wei,Yi

Nepomniachtchi,Ian

86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (9.6)

C24

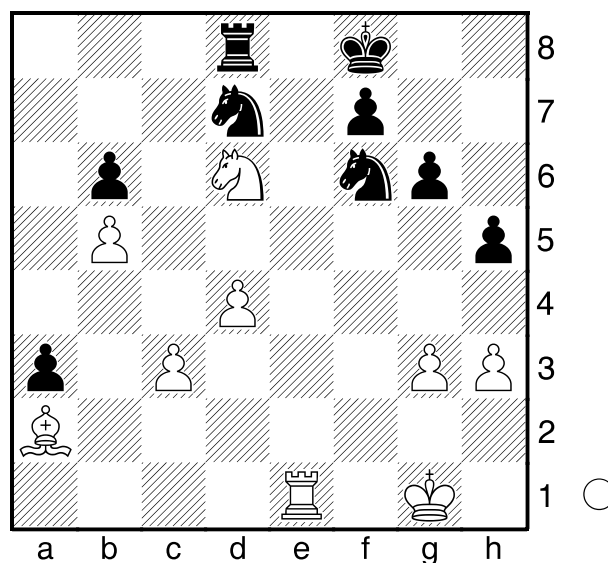
2740

2769

White's king walks up the board to victory in a powerful positional display by the winner of Tata Steel. 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Nbxd2 a5 8.a4 Nbd7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Re8 11.exd5 cxd5 12.Nb1 b6 13.Nc3 Bb7 14.Nb5 Qb8 15.d4 e4 16.Nd2 Bc6 17.c4 Bxb5 18.axb5 Qf4 19.g3 Qf5 20.cxd5 Rad8 21.f3 exf3 22.Qxf3 Qg5 23.Nc4 h5 24.d6 Kf8 25.Re7 Rxe7 26.dxe7+ Kxe7 27.Re1+ Kf8 28.Nd6 Qd2

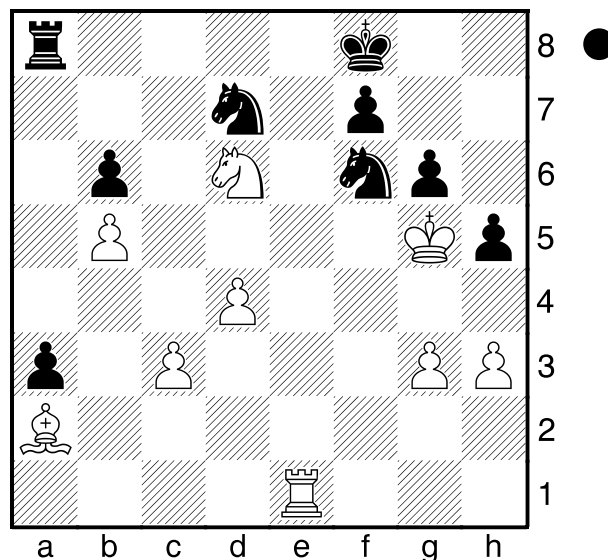
29.Qc3 Qxc3 30.bxc3 g6 31.h3 a4

32.Ba2 a3



33.Kg2! Ra8 34.Kf3 Ra5 35.Kf4 Ra8



36.Kg5



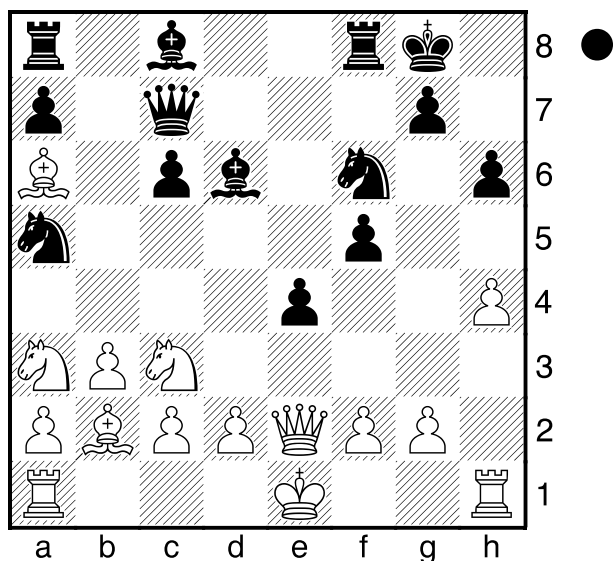
Rd8 37.Bxf7 Nb8 38.Kxf6 Rxd6+

39.Be6 Nd7+ 40.Kxg6 Ne5+ 41.Kf6

1-0



 **Praggnanandhaa R** **C58**  
 **Ju,Wenjun** **2743**  
**2549**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (9.7)23.1.24

Black was unable to find her way in a complicated middle-game. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Nd5 9.h4 Qc7 10.b3 h6 11.Ne4 f5 12.Nec3 Nf6 13.Bb2 Bd6 14.Na3 e4 15.Qe2 0-0 16.Ba6**

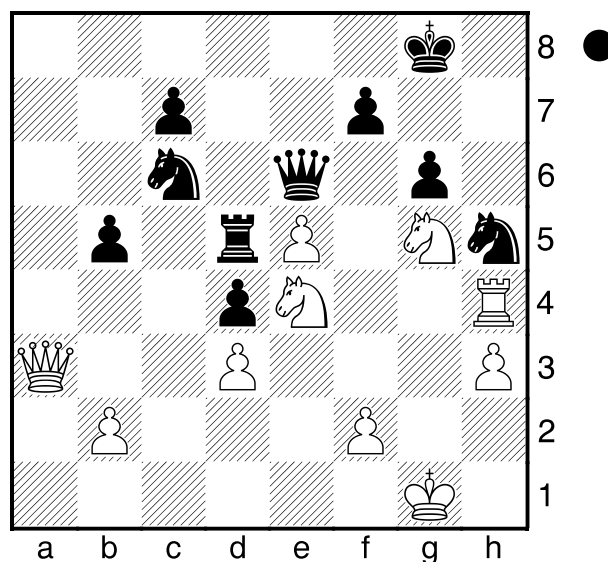


**Be6?**

[ 16...Bxa6 17.Qxa6 Ng4! keeps the white king in the center. 18.Rf1 Nh2! 19.Rh1 Ng4 ]  
**17.Nc4 Bb4 18.0-0-0 Nb7 19.Bxb7 Qxb7 20.f3 Rae8 21.Ne5 c5 22.Rhe1 exf3 23.gxf3 Nh5 24.Rg1 c4 25.Nxc4 Qe7 26.a3 Bxc3 27.Bxc3 Qxh4 28.Qe5 Qe7 29.Rde1 Qd7 30.Nd6 Re7 31.Qh2 Nf6 32.Qxh6 Qxd6 33.Bxf6**  
**1-0**

 **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **C84**  
 **Ding,Liren** **2769**  
**2780**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (10.7)

Nepo takes revenge on Ding in their first encounter after the 2023 World Championship match. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.a4 Bd7 10.Ba2 h6 11.h3 Re8 12.Be3 Rb8 13.Nbd2 Bf8 14.g4 Be6 15.Bxe6 Rxe6 16.axb5 axb5 17.g5 hxg5 18.Nxg5 Re8 19.Kh2 d5 20.Rg1 d4 21.cxd4 exd4 22.Bf4 Bd6 23.Bg3 Bxg3+ 24.Rxg3 Qd6 25.Kg1 Ra8 26.Rxa8 Rxa8 27.Qb3 Qd7 28.Ndf3 Rb8 29.Qc2 Rb6 30.e5 Nh5 31.Rg4 Rb8 32.Qc5 Rd8 33.Ne4 Qe6 34.Rh4 Rd5 35.Qa3 g6 36.Nfg5!**  
 [ 36.Nfg5 Qxe5 37.Qa8+ Nd8 38.Rxh5! gxh5 39.Qxd5!+- ]



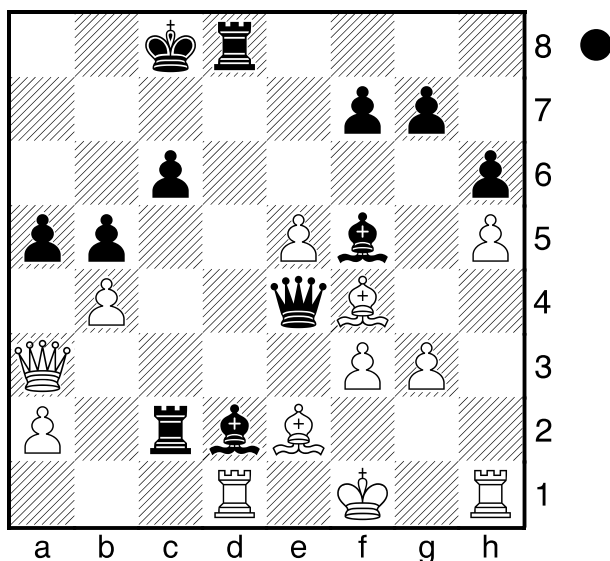
**1-0**

**Beukema,Stefan** **A20**  
**2428**  

**Niemann,Hans Moke** **2692**  
 86th Tata Steel Challengers 2024 (11.1)

A crisp attacking game with a nice finish.

1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.Nf3 e4 4.Nd4 d5  
 5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.Nc2 Nf6 7.Nc3 Qe5  
 8.Bg2 Be7 9.Ne3 Na6 10.Qc2 Nb4  
 11.Qb1 Nbd5 12.Nxe4 Nxe3 13.dxe3  
 Bf5 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.e4 Bb4+ 16.Kf1  
 Be6 17.Bf4 0-0-0 18.Qc2 Rd4 19.e5  
 Qe7 20.b3 Rhd8 21.h4 h6 22.Bf3 Bd2  
 23.e3 Rd3 24.h5 Qd7 25.Be2 Bf5  
 26.Qc5 b6 27.Qc4 b5 28.Qc5 Rc3  
 29.Qa3 a5 30.Rd1 Rc2 31.b4 Qd5  
 32.e4 Qxe4 33.f3

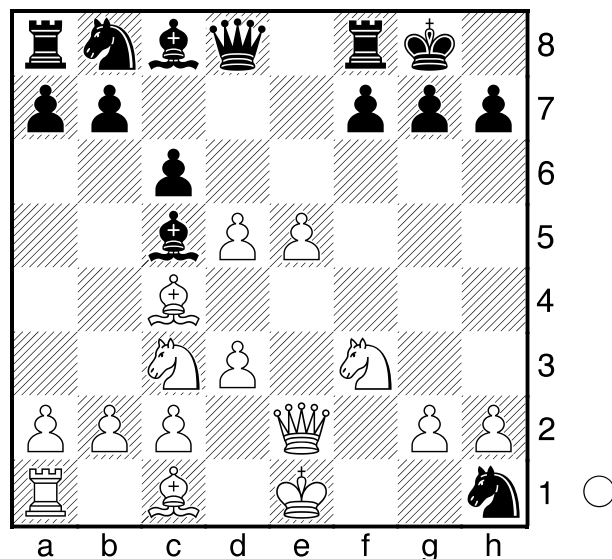


Qxe2+!  
 0-1

**Wei,Yi** **C27**  
**2740**  

**Warmerdam,Max** **2625**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (11.2)

A swashbuckling game right out of the  
 19th century. 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3  
 Bc5 4.Nc3 c6 5.f4 d5 6.exd5 Ng4  
 7.Nf3! 0-0 8.fxe5 Nf2 9.Qe2 Nxh1



10.Bg5! Qa5 11.d6 Bg4 12.Be7 Nd7  
 13.e6 Ba3 14.exf7+ Kh8 15.0-0-0  
 Qxc3 16.bxa3 Bxf3?

[Unnecessary. 16...a5! to encircle the bishop on c4. ]

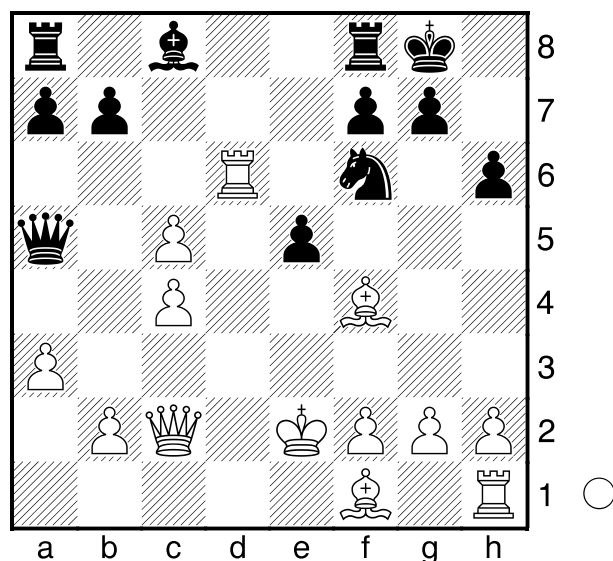
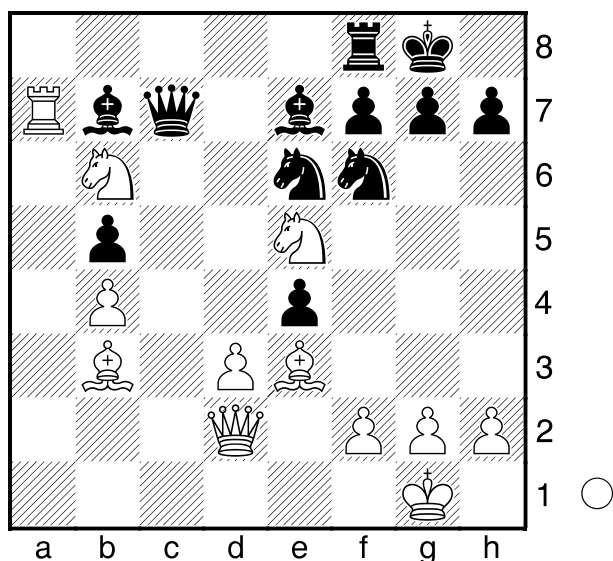
17.gxf3 Ne5 18.Kb1 Qd4 19.Rxh1  
 Nxc4 20.dxc4 Qb6+ 21.Kc1 Rxf7  
 22.Rd1 Rff8 23.d7 Rg8 24.Qe5 Rad8  
 25.f4 c5 26.Bxd8 Qxd8 27.Qxc5  
 1-0

**Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **C55**  
**2727**  

**Ju,Wenjun** **2549**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (11.3)

A classic sacrifice takes advantage of  
 the pin on the a2-g8 diagonal and the  
 over-loaded black queen. White finishes  
 the attack with remarkable patience and  
 precision. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4  
 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Bb3 a5 7.c4  
 d6 8.Be3 Nd7 9.Ba4 Nb4 10.a3 Na6  
 11.Nc3 c6 12.Bc2 Nac5 13.b4 Ne6  
 14.Qd2 Nf6 15.Na4 axb4 16.axb4 b5  
 17.cxb5 cxb5 18.Nb6 Rxa1 19.Rxa1  
 Bb7 20.Bb3 d5 21.Ra7 dxe4 22.Nxe5  
 Qc7

(Diagram)



23.Nxf7! Kxf7 24.Qa2 Qc6 25.Rxb7  
Qxb7 26.Bxe6+ Ke8 27.dxe4 Qxe4  
28.Nd5 Bd8 29.h3! Rf7 30.Qa6 Nxd5  
31.Qc6+ Kf8 32.Qd6+ Ke8 33.Bxd5  
Qe7 34.Qc6+  
1-0

20.Bxh6?  
[ 20.Be3± ]  
20...Qxc5 21.Rxf6 Qe7! 22.Bxg7  
Kxg7 23.Rf5 Rd8 24.h4 Bxf5 25.Qxf5  
Rd4 26.Ke1 Rad8 27.Be2 Qd6  
28.Qg5+ Kf8 29.Qc1 Qg6 30.g3 Rd2  
31.Rh2 Rc2 32.Qe3 Rxb2 33.Kf1  
Rdd2 34.Qc5+ Kg8 35.Qc8+ Kg7  
36.h5 Qb1+ 37.Kg2 Rxe2  
0-1

□ Maghsoodloo,Parham D37 2740  
■ Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi 2742  
86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (11.7)

After a wild opening white overlooks the defensive shot 21...Qe7! and is unable to recover. 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.a3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.e3 Nc6 9.Qc2 Qa5 10.Rd1 h6 11.Nd2 d4 12.Nb3 Qb6 13.Na4 Bb4+ 14.Ke2 Qa6 15.Nxd4 Nxd4+ 16.exd4 Bd6 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.dxc5 e5 19.Rd6 Qa5

(Diagram)

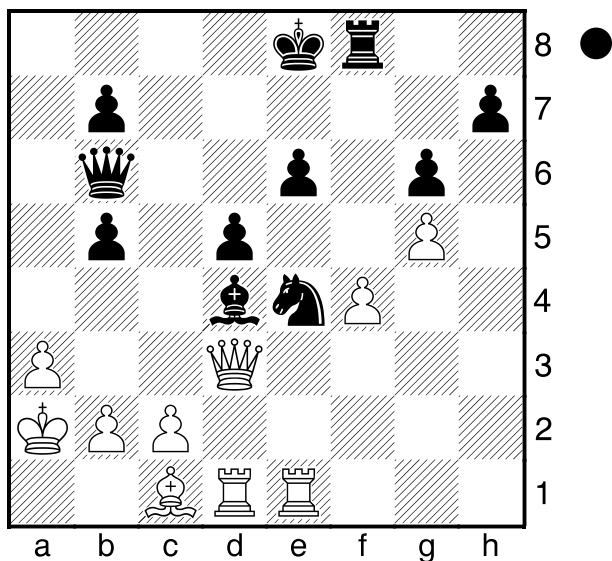
□ Firouzja,Alireza B13 2759  
■ Nepomniachtchi,Ian 2769  
86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (12.2)

White's ultra-sharp play combined with black's inability to find a safe spot for his king are the main features of this rout.

1.Nc3 Nf6 2.d4 d5 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 a6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nc6 9.0-0-0 e6 10.g4 Bd6 11.Be3 Qa5 12.Kb1 Nb4 13.Bc1 Rc8 14.a3 Nc6 15.g5 Nd7 16.h4 Qb6 17.Bh3 Nxd4 18.Qe3 Be5 19.f4 Rxc3 20.Qxc3 Nb5 21.Qf3 Bd4 22.Ka2 g6 23.h5 Nc5 24.Bf1 Ne4 25.Bxb5+ axb5 26.hxg6 fxg6 27.Rhe1 Rf8 28.Qd3

(Diagram)





Black is losing a piece, as any bishop move loses to 29.Rxe4.

1-0

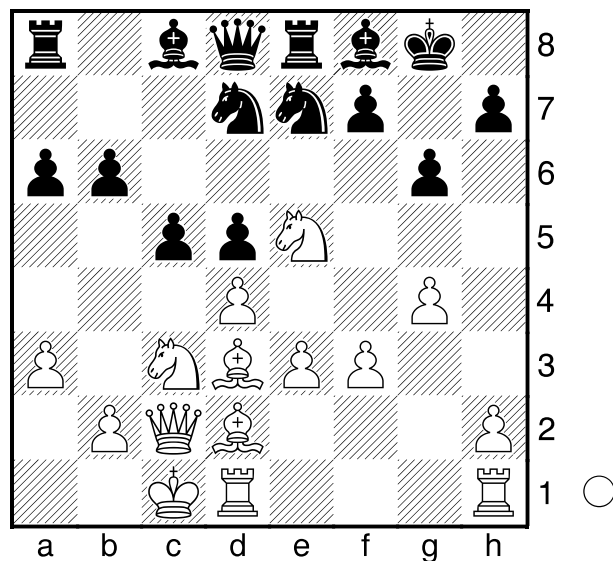
**Maghsoodloo,Parham**  
 **Gukesh D**

86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (13.2)

White's wild play falls just short. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qa4+ Nc6 6.e3 0-0 7.Qc2 b6 8.Bd2 Re8 9.a3 Bf8 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Ne5 a6 13.g4 g6 14.f3 c5 15.0-0-0 Nd7

(Diagram)

**D38**  
**2740**  
**2725**



16.Nxf7!? Kxf7 17.h4 b5 18.h5 c4 19.Bf1 Bg7 20.e4 Nf8 21.hxg6+ hxg6 22.Be3 Rb8 23.Qh2 Rb7 24.Be2 b4 25.axb4 Rxb4 26.Bh6 Bxh6+ 27.Qxh6 Qa5 28.Kc2 Qb6 29.Qf4+ Ke6 30.Rb1 Kd7 31.exd5 Bb7 32.Qf7 Rb8 33.d6 Qxd6 34.d5 Ba8 35.Rh8 Bxd5 36.Nxd5 Qxd5 37.Rxf8 Qe5 38.Kd1 Rxf8 39.Qxf8 c3 40.Ke1 Rxb2 41.Rd1+ Ke6

0-1

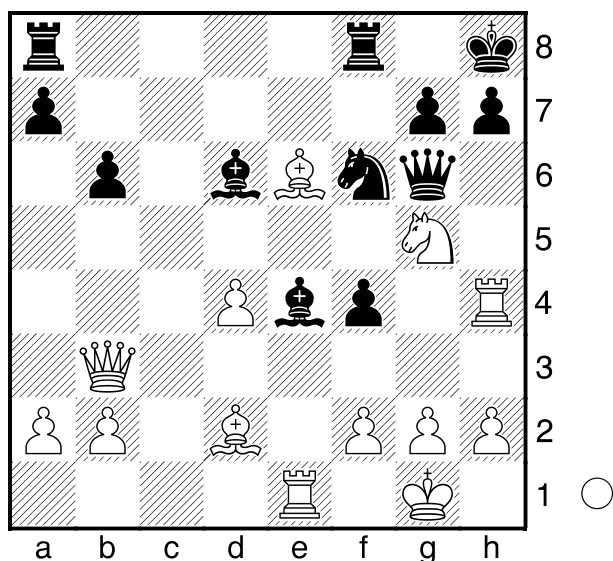
**Wei,Yi**  
 **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi**

86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (13.3)

**D05**  
**2740**  
**2742**

A beautiful sustained attacking game by Wei Yi knocks out the leader of the tournament and sets the stage for the playoffs. 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 e6 5.Bd3 Nbd7 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Qc7 9.e4 cxd4 10.cxd4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 b6 12.Bg5 Nxe4 13.Rxe4! Bb7 14.Rc1 Qb8 15.Rh4 f5 16.Bc4 Qe8 17.Qb3 Kh8 18.Re1 Be4 19.Bxe6 Qg6 20.Bd2 Nf6 21.Ng5 f4

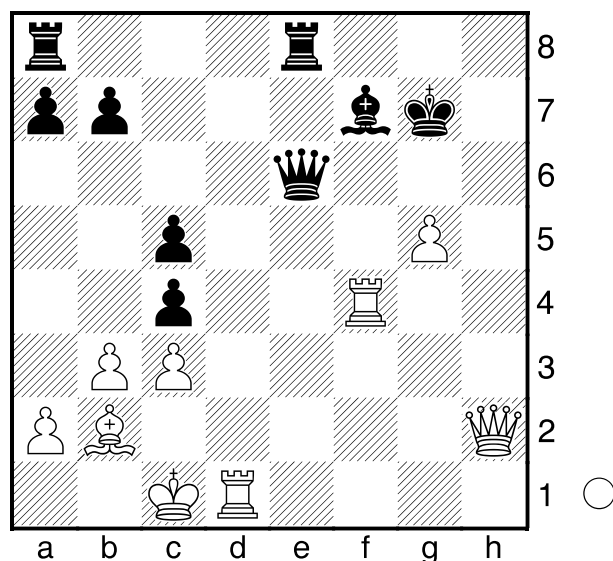
(Diagram)



22.Rxh7+! Nxh7 23.Nxe4 f3 24.g3 Be7  
25.d5 Rad8 26.Qa4 a5 27.Qc6 Bb4  
28.Bxb4 axb4 29.h4 Ra8 30.Nd6 Ra7  
31.Qxb6 Rxa2 32.Qc7 Nf6 33.Nf7+  
Kh7 34.Ne5 Qh6 35.Qc2+ g6 36.Nxg6  
Rfa8 37.Ne5+ Kg7 38.Qc7+  
1-0

**Giri,Anish** **A13**  
 **Warmerdam,Max** **2749**  
**2625**  
 86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (13.5)

White throws the kitchen sink at black.  
An accumulation of small errors in defense led to a beautiful finish. 1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.b3 e6 4.Bb2 Bd6 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 c5 7.g4!? Nc6 8.g5 Ne4 9.h4 Re8 10.Qc2 Nxc3 11.dxc3 g6 12.h5 Ne5 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.0-0-0 Bg7 15.f4 e5 16.hxg6 hxg6 17.Bd3 exf4 18.exf4 Qc7 19.Rh4 dxc4 20.Bxg6! fxg6 21.Qxg6 Kf8 [ 21...Qc6! ] 22.f5 Qf7 23.Qd6+ Kg8 24.f6 Qg6 [ 24...Bf5! ] 25.Qf4 Qf5 26.Qg3 Be6 27.fxg7 Bf7 28.Rf4 Qe6 29.Qh2 Kxg7  
(Diagram)

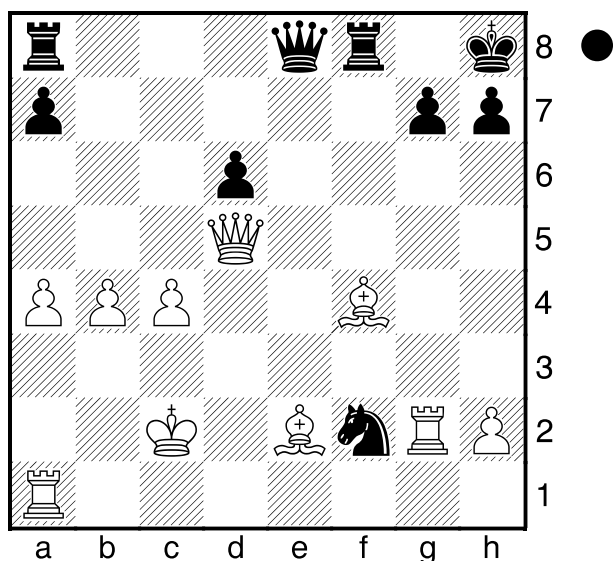


30.Rxf7+! Qxf7 31.g6 Qe6 32.Rd7+  
1-0

**Mendonca,Leon Luke** **B45**  
 **Divya,Deshmukh** **2608**  
**2420**  
 Tata Steel Challengers (13.5) 28.01.2024

The winner of the Challengers is gifted a point in the final round when his opponent succumbs to temptation. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 Qc7 9.f4 Qb6 10.c4 Bb4+ 11.Ke2 f5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Be3 Qd8 14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.Qxd6 Bb7 16.Kd1 c5 17.Qxc5 Be4 18.Be2 d6 19.Qd4 0-0 20.b4 Qe8 21.a4 e5 22.Qd2 exf4 23.Bxf4 Bxg2 24.Rg1 Ne4 25.Qd5+ Kh8 26.Kc2 Nf2 27.Rxg2

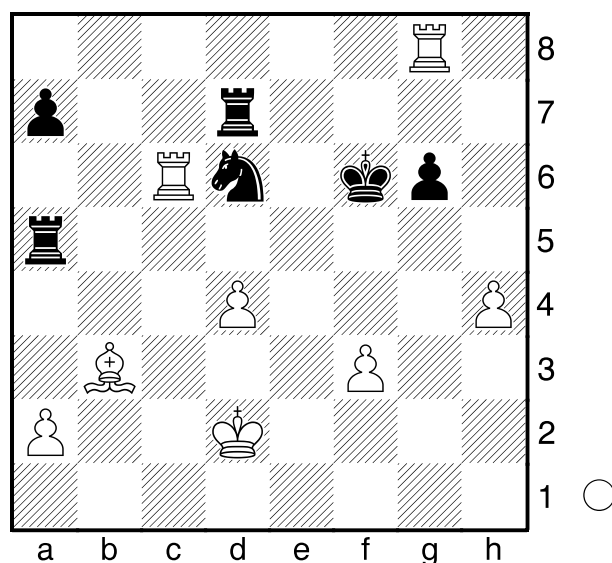
(Diagram)



## Qxe2+?

[ 27...Rxf4!± ]

**28.Bd2 Rac8 29.Re1 Rxc4+ 30.Kb3 Rf3+ 1-0**



## 58.Re8! Kf5

[ 58...Kg7 59.Re6+- ]

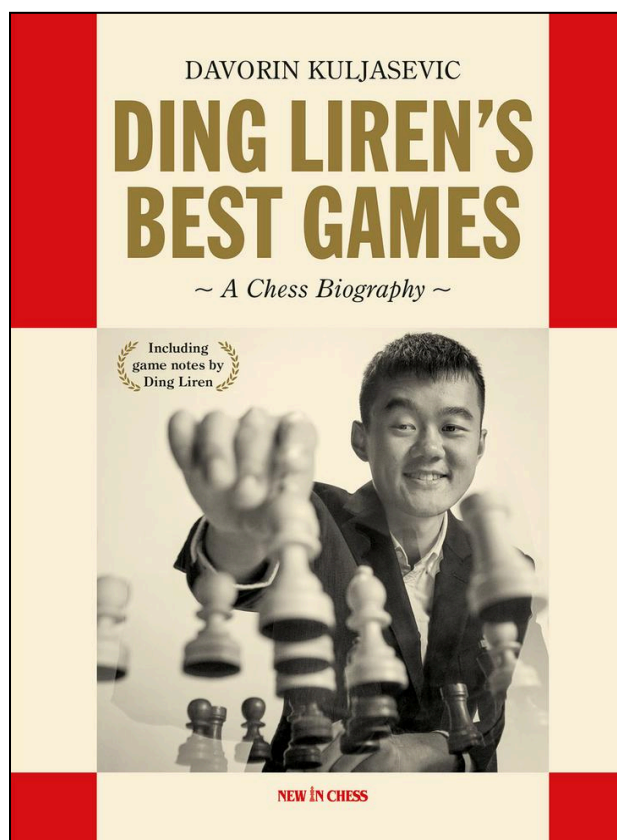
**59.Be6+** This was a blitz game!  
**1-0**

	<b>Wei,Yi</b>	<b>2740</b>
	<b>Gukesh D</b>	<b>2725</b>
86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (18.1)		

The final game of Tata Steel: a positional masterpiece by Wei Yi. 1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.b3 Bd6 5.Bb2 Nc6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.g3 0-0 8.Bg2 Qe7 9.0-0 Ne5 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 11.Bxe5 Qxe5 12.Nc3 c6 13.b4 h5 14.h3 Bf5 15.b5 d4 16.exd4 Qxd4 17.bxc6 bxc6 18.Qf3 Be6 19.Qe3 Qd7 20.Kh2 h4 21.gxh4 Rfe8 22.Qg5 Qd6+ 23.Qg3 Rad8 24.Rad1 Bc4 25.Rg1 Nh5 26.Qxd6 Rxd6 27.Bf3 Nf6 28.Rg5 Kf8 29.Rc5 Bd5 30.Nxd5 Nxd5 31.d4 Rf6 32.Rd3 Nb4 33.Rb3 Nd5 34.h5 g6 35.hxg6 fxg6 36.Kg3 Ne7 37.Be4 Rd6 38.Rc4 Red8 39.Rbb4 Kf7 40.Kf3 Kf6 41.Ke3 R8d7 42.Rb8 Re6 43.Kd3 Red6 44.Rf8+ Kq7 45.Rb8 Kf6 46.Kc3 Re6 47.f3

## IM John Donaldson

### Two New Books by New in Chess



Today players are blessed with a number of tools to learn openings. Books, online courses, videos, databases, and more provide a bewildering number of choices leaving all but professionals feeling overwhelmed.

Skillfully navigating this data overload and separating the wheat from the chaff is what German International Master Christof Sielecki has become famous for. His *Keep It Simple* series provides amateur players with opening repertoires that are manageable, practical, and internally consistent, while still packing some punch.

His latest book *Keep it Simple 1.e4 - 2.0* (New in Chess 2023, 630 pages, hardback, \$34.95) is almost twice the size as the previous edition which was published in 2018.

The new work differs markedly from the original. Volume one recommended the Scotch Four Knights (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4) and now the suggested answer to 1...e5 is the Ruy Lopez (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3).

Another big change is that the French is now met with the Tarrasch (1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2) and not the Exchange variation (1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5) as previously advocated. On the other hand, the Exchange variation (1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3) now gets the nod against the Caro-Kann, replacing the Two Knights Variation (1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3). Against the Pirc the Austrian Attack (1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4) replaces 4.Be3.

Some recommendations have been retained. The suggestions against the Sicilian, **3. c3** vs... **2...e6**, **3.Bb5+** vs. **2...d6**, and **3.Bb5** vs. **2...Nc6** are the same as in the first edition as is the Exchange variation against the Alekhine Defense (**1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6**).

Sielecki's new repertoire not only packs more punch (which partially explains the book's increased size!) but is internally consistent in three ways. The first and most obvious is that White cannot get move ordered. There are few worse ways to begin a game than having your opponent trick you into an opening you don't play. For example, in this book **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6** is met not by **3.d4** and an open Sicilian (not part of the repertoire), but **3.c3**.

*Keep it Simple 1.e4 - 2.0* is also internally consistent in that the opening suggestions are on the same page. Sielecki is not proposing passive lines against some openings and razor-sharp ones against others, nor is he suggesting learning long complicated lines to meet openings that one is rarely going to meet.

The overreaching structure behind the author's repertoire are certain pawn structures that come up again and again, the most important of which is center building with c3 and d4. This is a recurrent theme in both the Rossolimo Sicilian and Ruy Lopez. Another that crops up quite frequently is d4 and e5 versus ...d5 and ...e6.

*Keep it Simple 1.e4 - 2.0* is an invaluable tool for those rated 1800 to 2300 who want to play 1.e4 but don't have the option of quitting their day job. There is plenty of explanatory prose to make this book accessible to the lower end of this rating group. There are also plenty of well thought out opening suggestions to make it interesting for master level players and above. They will benefit from using the lines in this book as a starting out point for further investigations.

All in all, this is another great volume in Sielecki's series!

Davorin Kulajasevic is another author who has made a name for himself the past few years. He has written a number of well-received works that have mostly focused on the improvement side of chess. His latest book, *Ding Liren's Best Games* (New in Chess 2023, 326 pages, paperback, \$27.95) breaks new ground for the Croatian Grandmaster and should add to his reputation.

To this reviewer's knowledge, this is the first book on Ding Liren and the reader is treated to 58 well-annotated games of the current World Champion as well as an extensive biography. Some of these games have been annotated by Ding himself.

Most readers will find their knowledge of the Chinese superstar will increase markedly after reading this book as he is not known for making a lot of noise. Kulajasevic dubs Ding Liren the "humble world champion" and indeed, even accounting for language difficulties and cultural differences, he is among the most modest to wear the crown.

Kulajasevic used charts to outline key points in his earlier works and he follows that practice in his current book as well, using the device to track the evolution of Ding Liren's opening repertoire this century from beginning player to World Champion.

This book, which features an extensive bibliography, ends with a series of exercises that allows the reader to test their abilities compared to the World Champion.

*Ding Liren's Best Games* should appeal to a wide audience of players.

## Richard Hack

### Tales from the Chess Cafe

"An unhappy sort of move. Black has treated this difficult variation with a certain lack of finesse." Nimzo's comment to Menchik's 10...Bf8 one move after developing the KB to e7 in their game at Carlsbad, 1929.

January 22, 2024: "What is a patzer?" asked a Café participant. Several replies followed: "A weak player." "It's German." "In Britain we call them fish." "We use that word here, too."

We watched games 20 and 21 of a 25-game online match between Slycology and Adamsae. Among the commenters Elliott Winslow, Mike Walder, and Sophia Rohde.

"And you'll lose on time deciding which piece to take." "These are rules of thumb with exceptions." "You just have to be flexible." "Castle as late as you can, but not too late!" In the second game: "Are you doing the notes?" "Yeah." "Good; try and stay away from engines as much as you can." "...c5 is a good move, I think." "You have the advantage on the queenside, kingside, and center; plus the two bishops." "If I were Black here, I would look at any kind of a shot out of my predicament." "Look here—he acquiesced in being crushed."

Two games by Mike Walder, losing to Ruiyang Yan as Black, beating Mark Paetz as White. "I've been playing my openings really well, getting an advantage, then . . ." Paul suggested a class called Reverse Aging for \$9.99 per session, where "they go back in time and get stronger."

Then two Tata Steel games quickly at our 5:30 pm closing time. "Gukesh got dinged in an entertaining game," Gukesh-Ding, 0-1. Then Ju vs. Firouzja, 1-0, sparking the comment, "The first time in seven years that a woman player has beaten a top ten player." (I did a few searches, but couldn't confirm it.) "Firouzja never equalizes here as Black; White keeps a nice pull."

We heard about some players allegedly pre-arranging draws. It was said that a FIDE Master got a FIDE norm by drawing most of his games in ten moves in a tournament south of here. "They all played the same variation in the draw club." I thought of the 1962 Candidates Tournament, where five of the eight were Soviet GMs, three of whom repeatedly played quick draws with each other. I believe this kind of cheating has occurred many times, but I don't really know how common it is.

On January 29, we started with a chess problem that Nakamura took 20 minutes to solve, while Elliott took only seven minutes. The first game we looked at was Walder vs. Zhuoyuan Wu, a Maroczy bind. White got passed a and b pawns, the latter of which migrated to the c-file. White gave up his queenside pawns to pick up Black's kingside pawns and won easily.

We watched Alexey against a young teen player who extended the game unnecessarily. "I'll talk to them if they resign at a reasonable spot; but not if they want to waste my time that way." After that, we saw the 23rd game in the online series between Aaron Adams and Slycology. The score so far is 13-10 in favor of Aaron (12 wins, nine losses, two draws). "You can only offer a draw on your time, then hit the clock." White had pawns at c4, d5, and f4 when Black moved . . . c5. With two bishops, White didn't play dxc6 e.p., which would have given his light-squared bishop room to roam.

Finally we saw two wins by Elliott against Maxwell Young and Katherine Zhuge, both of which he

finished with checkmate. Then a discussion at the very end about the rule against writing down notes during a game and how this is why we are no longer supposed to write our next move on the score sheet until after we actually move on the board. This is a fairly recent rule; a former Mechanics' Institute Chess Club director told me it came about because a group of low-rated players wanted to exercise some power in the federation.

Game commentary by Victor Korchnoi: "In principle the maneuvers of both sides, as always, are aimed at achieving a better coordination of their pieces. And of course at hindering the actions of the opponent's pieces. . . . In time trouble there are no heroes – young and old alike make mistakes. . . . I have to admit that I did not see this simple move either during the game, or later, when I began analyzing it." [My Best Games. Vol. 2: Games with Black (Zurich: Edition Olms, 2001, pp. 128, 130).]

Chess Café, February 5: Alexey's event February 8, 2024 at 10:00 am Pacific Time:

<https://wom.europechess.org/online-seminar-what-recent-research-studies-tell-us-about-females-in-chess/>. The proceedings should still be up after that time.

Concerning the servers at Azerbaijan, Mike Walder noted that Gadir Guseinov said they caused him to lose time off his clock. Others chimed in saying that online chess is not played everywhere, and that US Chess says they're trying to get more servers around the world. It was said that in general PDF slows down servers.

Charles James asked why didn't US Chess disclose the names of some 50 players they caught cheating on Chess.com? Mike said, "They play hardball . . ." Charles: "It depends on how many engines you're using. Some evidence is circumstantial." Mike: "I understand Hans got over \$1m from Chess.com." Charles: "I don't believe that." Mike: "He threw a big party at a villa in South America that cost thousands." Paul: "Cheating has always gone on, and I don't see how we're going to get rid of it. Half of chess news now is about cheating. It may die down for a while, then flares up again." At 4:23 pm he ended the discussion by asking, "Shall we look at some chess games, folks?"

We began with another Slycology vs. Aaron Adams game and worked on it for half an hour. It began 1. e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.f3. Someone said they've never seen the latter move before, but this sequence does bring up 15 games on Chessgames.com, though at least 10 of them are played by Mike J. Surtees, primarily in English Championships from 2004 to 2013. Mike Walder said there are three third moves Black often uses here: e5, e6, or Nc6. He added that for an Alekhine Defense player, 3...Nf6 is a great move. Aaron said he closed the gap in this match with a long winning streak; even though Sly is rated 200 points higher, "he always plays the same opening." In other games Aaron has played the Trompowsky so his match opponent couldn't play the Budapest.

Here again Paul observed, "When you have the two bishops, you want to open things up. The biggest sin of the amateur player is to look at his own moves and not the opponent's. I know I'm criticizing your play, but White's has been much worse. Haphazard play, getting him into trouble." At move 16 both sides have a passed d-pawn. At 20.Nf3?, he said, "You've got to look to the future development of a piece. You can't play 'hope' chess, just hoping the opponent will play a certain move. 'Hope' is a terrible concept in chess. . . . Figure these things out; otherwise you'll spend too much time on positions that are easy." Then: "1.f3 may be the worst opening move on the chessboard."

The next game was Walder vs. James M. Critelli, a FIDE master since 2005. An English Opening that began 1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.d4 f5 4.Nf3. An interesting battle won by our man Walder. Then an online game by others, a Najdorf Sicilian. "With your R on c8, play ...Qb6 instead of ...Qc7. You want the

queen behind the rook in this position.” The players were thelord1323 vs. mnewcomb. I still wonder about the name of the White player. Are there 1300 players with that handle? Was 1323 a big year in religious history? Or does it make his opponent worry about committing some sort of blasphemy if they beat “thelord” here?

At our lively Chess Social on the first Friday of February (as every month), we met Aaron Smith of the Santa Cruz Chess Club, an affiliated club with Chess.com, which meets at 6:00 pm on Tuesdays at Abbott Square in Santa Cruz. For further information, call Aaron at 518-522-7178.

Finally, I want to reference issue 795 of this newsletter. It is dated August 11, 2017 and has some background on Elliott Winslow, William Lombardy, et al. It has interesting photos, a John Collins quote about Fischer at the top, and a link to a one-hour lecture: “2001 US Champion IM John Grefe gives an introduction to the King's Indian Defense.” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4QICAFz49Y>) There is also a photo of the strong lineup for the 1976 U.S. Junior Closed in Memphis: Mark Diesen, Michael Rohde, Jonathan Tisdall, Ken Regan, Yasser Seirawan, Ron Henley, John Fedorowicz, and Nick de Firmian. Six of these became GMs and the two others became IMs. (<https://www.milibrary.org/chess-newsletters/795>)

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The Chess Cafe is a meeting place to talk about chess, life, and everything in between. [Join](#) FIDE Master and Chess Room Coordinator Paul Whitehead and a revolving cast of folks from around the country in a fun and casual atmosphere to discuss the latest chess developments and for the pure love of the game. The Chess Cafe is suitable for all levels of players and free for everyone.

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**White to move and win.**

This puzzle was presented at the Chess Cafe on February 5 by NM **Michael Walder**. Michael is coached by GM **Gadir Guseinov**, and Michael often shares Gadir’s “homework” assignments with the Cafe participants. Unfortunately there is no attribution, so if anyone out there knows what game this is from, or who composed the position, please let us know.

Solution next month!



## A New Puzzle in the Library

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



Calculation is the theme this week. Puzzle by Steven Dunlap.

Steven writes: "The *order* in which you make moves matters as much, if not more, than the moves you make." Taking the white knight with 1...Rxh8? allows 2.Kxd1. But rescuing the bishop first with 1...Bh5! keeps the knight trapped, where it can be taken on the next move.

The white knight is not going anywhere!

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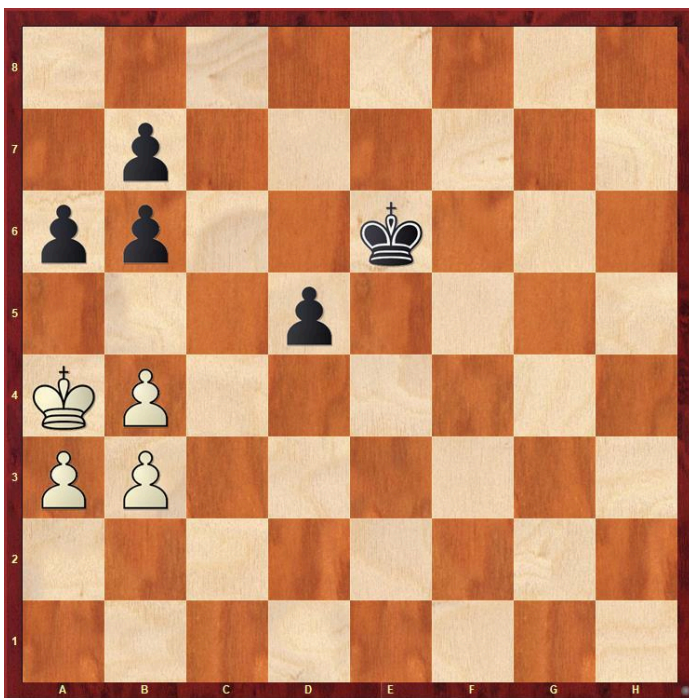
## Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

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

## Tony's Teasers



1. **O. Wurzburg**, 1905.  
White to play and mate in 3.



2. **T. Lama**, 2024.  
Black to play and mate in 5.





MECHANICS'  
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Since 1854

Free Event

# 2024 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship

## a Free Community Event in Golden Gate Park!

**Saturday, March, 30 | 10:00 am**

**Golden Gate Park County Fair Building**  
1199 9th Avenue, San Francisco, CA

**Free community event | Registration required**

*Whether it's your first tournament or  
you're a seasoned veteran join us  
for a fun day full of chess!*

### **YOUTH SECTIONS**

4 Unrated Sections (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12)

3 Rated Sections (u500, 500-999, & 1000+)

**FOR MORE EVENT INFORMATION  
& REGISTRATION (SCAN QR CODE)**

**Follow the Links Here:**

[www.milibrary.org/chess/calendar](http://www.milibrary.org/chess/calendar)

**Questions?**

[chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)



## Tournaments, Classes, and Events

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' Institute 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](#).

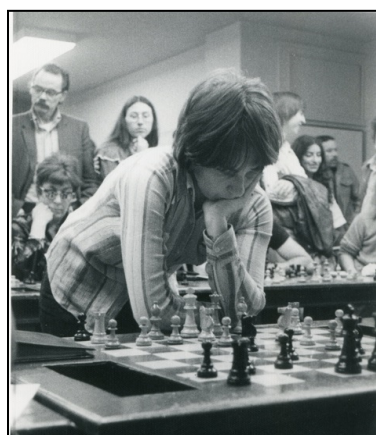


Offerings for adults and advanced players can be found [here](#).



# January & February Tournaments

Register for all tournaments at [milibrary.org/chess](https://milibrary.org/chess)



<b>23rd Burger Memorial</b> Saturday, January 6 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>New Year Tuesday Night Marathon</b> Tuesdays, January 9 - February 20 6:30 pm   7 Rounds   G/120;d5	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
<b>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</b> Saturday, January 20 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
<b>Monthly Quads</b> Saturday, January 20 3:00 pm   3 Rounds   G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
<b>At Least Twenty-One Tournament</b> Saturday, January 27 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/60;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>1st Alla Kushnir Memorial</b> Saturday, February 3 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</b> Saturday, February 10 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
<b>Monthly Quads</b> Saturday, February 10 3:00 pm   3 Rounds   G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
<b>2nd Falconer Memorial (FIDE-Rated)</b> Saturday & Sunday, February 24 - 25 10:00 am   4 rounds   G/90+30	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
<b>February FIDE Blitz</b> Tuesday, February 27 7:00 pm   5 round double Swiss   G/3+2	Members \$20 Non-Members \$30



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



Play chess in the oldest club in the United States!





# Tournaments in March

Register for all tournaments at [milibrary.org/chess](https://milibrary.org/chess)



<b>1st Bobby Fischer Memorial</b> Saturday, March 2 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>Spring Tuesday Night Marathon</b> Tuesdays, March 5 - April 16 6:30 pm   7 Rounds   G/120;d5	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
<b>Monthly Scholastic Swiss</b> Saturday, March 16 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
<b>Monthly Quads</b> Saturday, March 16 3:00 pm   3 Rounds   G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
<b>At Least Twenty-One Tournament</b> Saturday, March 23 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/60;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
<b>Scholastic Chess Championship</b> Saturday, March 30 10:00 am   4 Rounds   G/30;d5	Free!



# **Free Women's Online Chess Class by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams**



**Coached by FIDE Trainer Sophie Adams, this class is for women and girls looking to develop their chess skills with a community of women. Knowledge of piece movements and mates is expected, but not required. Registration is needed so we may send the links for players to join.**

**Every Sunday  
on Zoom  
from  
10 am to 12 pm**

**Register at  
[milibrary.org/chess](https://milibrary.org/chess)**

**Questions?  
[chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org) / (415) 393-0110**





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Since 1854

## **Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!**

Free and encouraged for MI Members

**5-6pm**

**First Fridays of the month:**

January 5

February 2

March 1

April 5

May 3

June 7

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!

Questions?

Contact [chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)



## Solutions

### Tony's Teasers:

1. **O. Wurzburg**, 1905. **1.Ba1! c5** (1...Kd5 leads to a nice geometric mate: 2...Kxe4 3.Qf3#)  
**2.Nc3! Kd4 3.Qe4#.**
2. **T. Lama**, 2024. White is helpless as black tightens the noose with **1...Kd6! 2.b5 Kc5 3.b4+**  
(3.bxa6 b5+ 4.Ka5 b6#) **3...Kc4 4.bxa6 bxa6 5.b5 axb5#.**

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## Contact Us

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](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org)

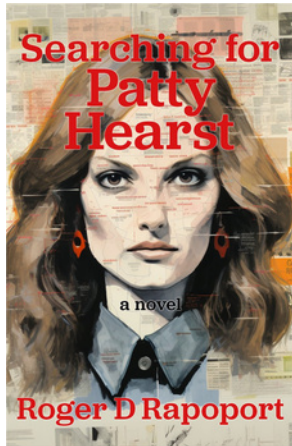
With more than 3,000 books and periodicals, Mechanics' Institute boasts one of the largest chess book collections in the U.S.



You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!  
<https://www.milibrary.org/chess>

# Mechanics' Institute Schedule of Events

See our website for a full listing of events



Friday, February 2  
6:00 pm

CinemaLit: *Loving*

Thursday, February 8  
6:00 pm

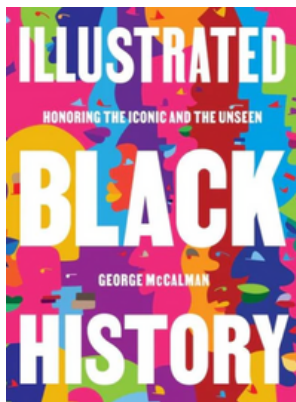
*Searching for Patty Hearst* with Roger Rapoport

Friday, February 9  
6:00 pm

CinemaLit: *Judas and the Black Messiah*

Saturday, February 10  
10:00 am

Family Story Hour



Saturday, February 10  
1:00 pm

Writers' Meet

Thursday, February 15  
6:00 pm

*Illustrated Black History* with George McCalman and Tonya Foster

Friday, February 16  
6:00 pm

CinemaLit: *The Landlord*

Friday, February 23  
6:00 pm

CinemaLit: *BlackKklansman*

Wednesday, February 28  
6:00 pm

Storytelling Showcase with Corey Rosen

Thursday, February 29  
6:00 pm

*Making a Way Out of No Way* with Arnold Grisham



Learn about events and register! [milibrary.org/events](https://milibrary.org/events)

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