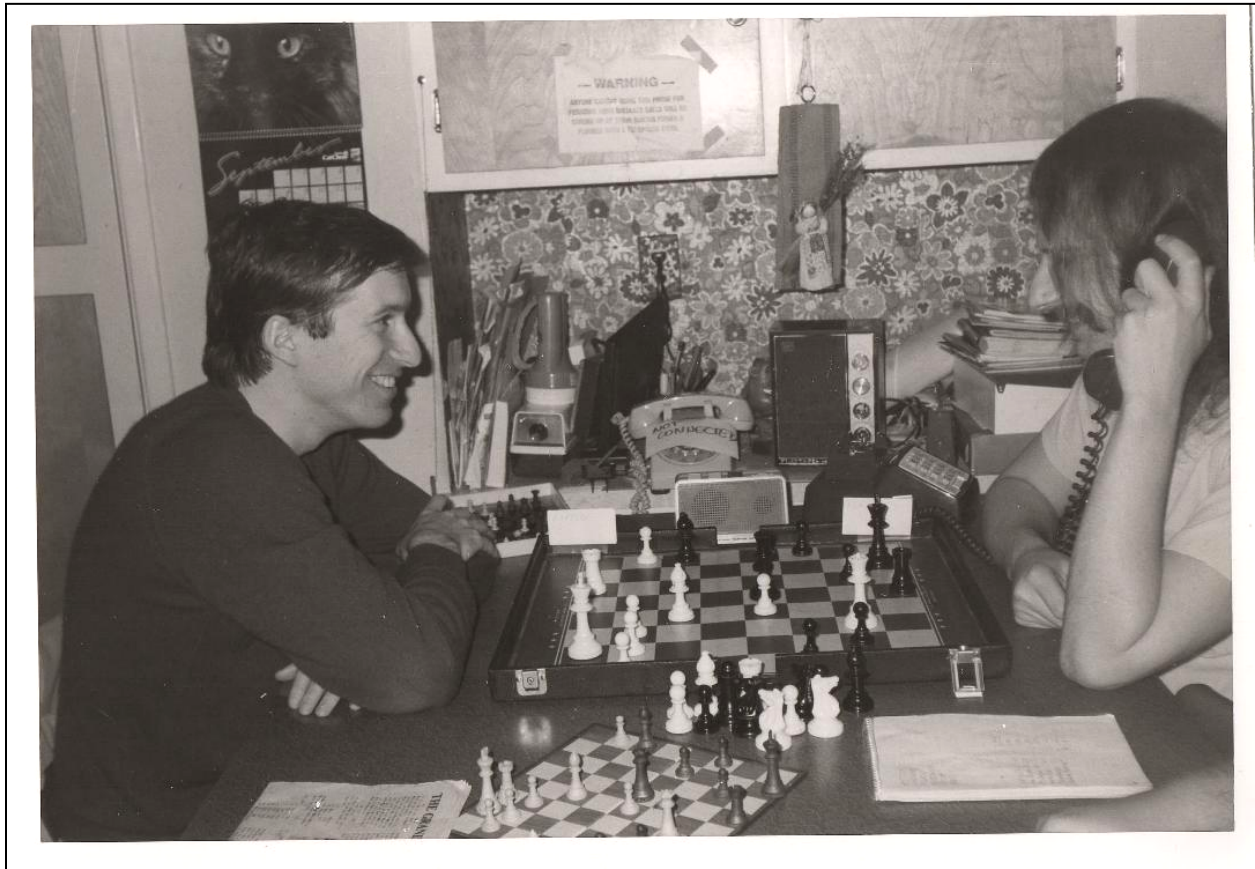


Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1047 | March 9, 2024 | Gens Una Sumus!



International Masters **Elliott Winslow** (left) and **Jeremy Silman** in the 1980's.
Location and photographer unknown.

Contents

[Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute](#) – [IM Elliott Winslow: Annotated Games from the TNM](#)
[Phillip Askentov: Alexander Seinkiwicz](#) – [Zorba Hughes: Chess vs Comedy](#) – [The Chess Scuttlebutt](#)
[Recent Games](#) – [IM John Donaldson: A History of the People's Tournaments](#)
[Richard Hack: Tales From the Chess Cafe](#) – [A New Puzzle in the Library](#)
[Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches](#) – [Tony's Teasers](#) – [Upcoming Events](#) – [Solutions](#) – [Contact Us](#)



Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

On February 10, Mechanics' Institute hosted our monthly double-header of **Scholastic Swiss** in the morning, **Quads** in the afternoon.

There was another great turnout for the Quads, with 62 players competing in 15 sections. **Alex Shrauger** (2127) won the top Quad with 2.5 points.

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

The monthly Scholastic Swiss had 29 participants in three sections.

Kolby Rodgers (864) took clear 1st in the 600+ section with a score of 3.5 from four games played. **Kepler McTiernan** (1126) and **Bradley Harger III** (827) tied for 2nd and 3rd with 3 points each. In clear 4th was **Bailey Shapiro** (593) with 3 points, and 5th place went to **Alex Alaniz** (830) with 2 points.

Yen Wen Ho (596) and **Xiomara Alcantara** (469) tied for 1st and 2nd places in the 400-599 section with 3.5 points each. In clear 3rd was Blaise Haudenschild (495) with 3 points, followed by a 4-way split for 3rd, 4th and 5th places between **Nicholas Sun** (638), **Josh Kyauk** ((520), **Ivan Pershin** (460), and **Theodore Linehan** (376), all with 2 points.

Miles Lee (344) scored a perfect 4-0 to take the top spot in the u400 section. In clear 2nd was **Alexander Hare** (unr.) with 3 points. Tied for 3rd and 4th were **Ethan Zhu** (unr.) and **Axel Ramirez** (240) with 2.5 points each, while clear 5th went to **Alejandra Calderon** (201) with 2 points.

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

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

The **2024 New Year Tuesday Night Marathon** ran from January 9, and ended on February 20. This FIDE rated 7-round Swiss had 77 players competing in four sections.

FM **Ruiyang Yan** (2357) took clear 1st in the 2000+ section with an undefeated 5.5 points, her 2nd TNM [victory](#) in the space of six months. Taking clear 2nd with 5 points was IM **Elliott Winslow** (2182), who [lost](#) to Yan in the 4th round. Tied for 3rd place and best u2200 with 4.5 points apiece were **Alex Shrauger** (2087), **Kristian Clemens** (1958), and **Sivavishnu Srinivasan** (1903).

Wilson Wong (1883) tore the field apart in the 1600-1999 section. His perfect 7-0 score was a full two points ahead of **Adam Mercado** (1752) and **Stanislav Perumov** (1731) who split 2nd and 3rd places. Tied for best under 1800 with 4.5 points each were **Nicolas Horde** (1571) and **Hayes Marvin** (1649).

There was a four-way tie for all the prizes in the 1200-1599 section between **William Fitzgerald** (1129), **Nicholas Morello** (1477), **Hector McKemey** (1410), and **David Tagatac** (1284). All scored 5 points and split 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and best under 1400.

Nikhil Sangani (1059) won the u1200 section with 5.5 points, followed closely by **Charlie Schaezlein**

(unr.) with 5 points. Tied for 3rd place and best under 1000 with 4.5 points each were **Merlin Mackley** (741) and **John Little** (unr.)

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

The 2024 New Year TNM was co-directed by FIDE Arbiter **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaaray**.

The **2nd Neil Falconer Memorial Tournament** was held over the weekend of February 24-25. This four round FIDE- rated Swiss with a time control of G/90+30 had a great turnout of 83 players competing in three sections.

Niko Pompe (2243) scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1st in the 2000+ section. Trailing a full point behind at 3 points each in a four-way split of 2nd, 3rd, best u2200, and best u2000, were **Theodore Biyiasas** (2142), **Yuvraj Sawhney** (1956), **Daniel Cremisi** (2398), and **Sebastian Suarez** (2208).

Serena Liu (1443) also scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1st in the 1699-2000 section. 2nd place went to **Marina Xiao** (1768) with 3.5 points, and 3rd place went to **Sri Ansh Dumpala** (1536) with 3 points. There was a six-way split for best u1800 and best u1600 between **Nursultan Uzakbaev** (1599), **Vivaan Pavuluri** (1532), **Andrew Wu** (1704), **Pavel Kolesnikov** (1688), **Gogo Dancig-Perlman** (1661), and **Aaron Feng** (1593), with 2.5 points apiece.

The u1600 section saw a three-way split for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places between **Zack Schuster** (1398), **Joshua Hua** (1300), and **Jinfeng Liu** (1293), all scoring 3.5 points. The best u1400 prize was split three ways between **Shanhuan Fan** (1283), **Eric Japson** (1396), and **Tao Ni** (1393), while the best u1200 prize went to **Arav Munjal** (1141), who also scored 3 points.

Complete results for the 2nd Neil Falconer Memorial can be found [here](#).

The top six boards were [broadcast](#) every round on Chess.com. A selection of games are annotated by IM Elliott Winslow and FIDE Arbiter Scott Mason below.

The 2nd Neil Falconer Memorial Tournament was directed by FIDE Arbiter **Scott Mason**.

The [2024 Falconer Award Winner](#), GM **Christopher Woojin Yoo** (2677), swept the field in the **February FIDE Blitz** held on Tuesday evening, February 27. His perfect 10-0 score was 1.5 points ahead of both **Arthur Ismakov** (2140) and **Hayden Karkainen** (2140), who split 2nd and 3rd places.

There was a four-way tie for best u1800 at 6 points apiece between **Na Chea** (1634), **Hoa Long Tam** (1721), **Gogo Dancig-Perlman** (1661), and **Thejas Prasad** (1652). The best u1300 prize was also split four ways. Scoring 5 points apiece were **James Kyle Craft** (1030), **Yedi Chan** (1272), **Maadhav Shah** (1210), and **Vedant Verma** (1189).

Right before the action, GM Yoo was awarded a prize for \$2690 - the equivalent of his Elo rating in December 2023 - for the Falconer Award by Mechanics' Institute Trustee and former Chess Room

Director IM **John Donaldson**. John noted it was the highest amount awarded to date, and a testament to GM Yoo's strength.

Also in attendance were Trustee **Richard Laiderman**, Mechanics' Institute CEO **Katherine Bella**, Senior Director of Programs and Community Engagement **Alyssa Stone**, Senior Director of Advancement **Tina Ahn**, and Communications Manager **Jimmy de Guzman**.



GM **Christopher Woojin Yoo** with Mechanics' Institute CEO **Katherine Bella** and Trustee **Richard Laiderman**.

GM Yoo also demonstrated his victory over GM Benjamin Gledura at a tournament in Saint Louis:

Reti/Zukertort A04

Gledura, Benjamin (2644) - **Yoo, Christopher Woojin** (2607), Saint Louis Spring-A, 2023.

1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.O-O e6 5.c4 Qb6 6.b3 d5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bb2 Be7 9.Ne5 O-O 10.Nxc6 Qxc6 11.Nc3 b5 12.Rc1 Bb7 13.e3 Qb6 14.Ne2 a5 15.Qc2 Rfd8 16.Nf4 g6 17.Rfe1 Rac8 18.Qd3 c4 19.Qb1 Ne4 20.d3.

20...Nd2! 21.Qc2 cxb3 22.Qxd2 Bb4 23.Qe2 Bxe1 24.Qxe1 bxa2 25.Ra1 b4 26.Rxa2 b3 27.Bd4 Qxd4



28.exd4 bxa2 29.Qa1 Rc2 30.Bf3 Re8 31.Kf1 Bc6 32.Bd1 Rd2 33.Bb3 g5 34.Bxa2 gxf4 35.Qc3 Ree2 36.Qxc6 Rxf2+ 37.Kg1 Rxa2 38.Qxd5 h6 39.gxf4 Rfc2 0-1.



Sixty-five players participated. Complete results for the February 2024 FIDE Blitz can be found [here](#).

The 2024 February FIDE Blitz was co-directed by FIDE Arbiter **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.

On March 2, Mechanics' Institute hosted the **1st Bobby Fischer Memorial Tournament**, and we had a fantastic turnout of 80 players who competed in four sections.

Quincy Chen (2022) and **Zee Chin** (1895) tied for 1st and 2nd in the 2000+ section with 3 points from four games. There was a four-way split for 3rd place with 2.5 points apiece between **Sricharan Pullela** (2200), **Alex Shrauger** (2158), **Aaron Thompson** (2036), and **Michael Xiao** (1849).

Jeremy Cawthon (1966) scored a perfect 4-0 to take 1st place in the 1600-1999 section. Four players tied for 2nd and 3rd with three points each: **Advik Garg** (1782), **Andrew Zou** (1753), **Marina Xiao** (1746), and **Ansh Shrivastava** (1689).

Asher Lou (1306) also scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1st in the 1200-1599 section, and there was another four-way split for 2nd and 3rd with 3 points each between **Zack Schuster** (1383), **Tobin Bennion** (1351), **Sreyshth Krishnan** (1296), and **Miles Cohen** (1280).

Finally, **Youting Long** (997) also scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1st in the u1200 section. There was a three-way split for 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points each between **Umar Rasyid** (1065), **Johan Kartiwa** (1017), and **Michael Simon** (unr.).

Complete results for the 1st Bobby Fischer Memorial Tournament can be found [here](#).

The 1st Bobby Fischer Memorial Tournament was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

The **2024 Spring Tuesday Night Marathon** kicked off on March 5 and runs until April 16. A whopping 85 players are competing in four sections.

Current standings for the 2024 Spring Tuesday Night Marathon can be found [here](#).

We are broadcasting our top six boards to the world! Follow the 2024 Spring Tuesday Night Marathon on chess.com [here](#).

The 2024 Spring Tuesday Night Marathon is co-directed by FIDE Arbiter **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Szta ray**.

IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from rounds six and seven of the 2024 New Year TNM, and round one of the Spring 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](#). Additionally, IM Elliott Winslow and FIDE Arbiter Scott Mason have selected and annotated games from the 2nd Neil Falconer Memorial Tournament.

Shrauger,Alex Hayden **B23**
2087

Yan,Ruiyang **2357**
 2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 13.2.24
[Winslow,Elliott]

Shrauger holds on against Ruiyang! At first he had a solid advantage out of the opening, but it slipped some, and it looked like maybe Ruiyang was going to work it into an ending grind -- but she cashed in on b4 too soon, letting Alex reduce the ending to rook and pawn vs. rook, drawn. Well defended! **1.e4 c5**

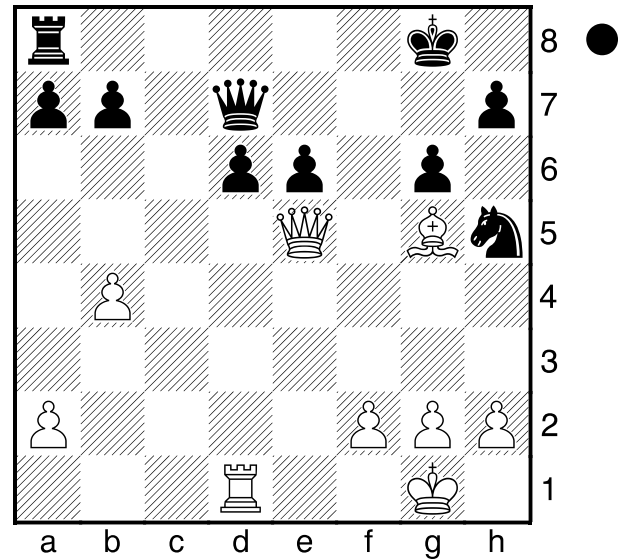
2.Nc3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qd3 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.0-0 Nf6 10.Nd5 0-0

11.Bg5 This line, or rather this complex has interested a number of theoreticians and players who have had enough or even too much of the Najdorf and Dragon analysis to move 35 and want to play chess. Interesting, as this is what Ruiyang herself seems to prefer, not heading into the sharpest lines as White.

11...Ne8! "is more profitable than 11...Nxd5 at the moment." (One of those Stockfish/Chessbase "AI" notes)

[Then there's 11...Nh5 12.c3 f5 13.exf5 Rxf5 14.Rfe1 e6 15.Nb4 Nxb4 16.cxb4 Bxb2 17.Rad1 Rd5= 18.Qe2 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Bg7 White came up with fantastic compensation after 20.Ne5! Bxe5 21.Qxe5

(Diagram)



d5?+- (21...dxe5! 22.Rxd7 b5!=) 22.g4± (22.Rc1!+-) 22...Ng7 23.Be3 (23.Bh6!) 23...a6 24.Bd4 Rc8 25.Rd3 Qc7 26.Rc3 Ne8 27.Qh8+ Kf7 28.Qxh7+ Kf8 29.Rxc7 Rxc7 30.Bc5+ Rxc5 31.bxc5 Nd6 32.cxd6 1-0 Svane,F (2618)-Giri,A (2775) Titled Tuesday intern op 25th Jul Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (10)]

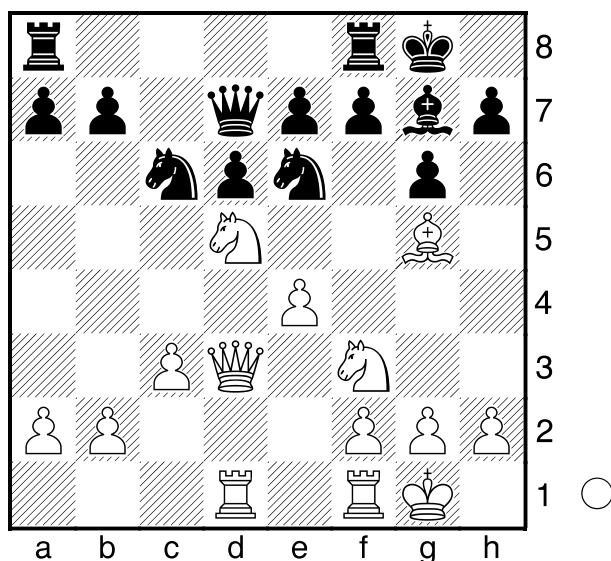
12.c3 Nc7

[12...e6! 13.Nb4 Nxb4 14.cxb4 Bxb2 (14...h6) 15.Rad1 Bg7 16.e5 d5 17.Qe3 Black could well be slightly better.]

13.Rad1± Now it's White with the add.

13...Ne6

(Diagram)



14.Bh4!?N One or the other.

[Grischuk tried 14.Be3 but Donchenko gradually neutralized the space plus: Rfd8 15.Rfe1 Rac8 16.h4 h5 17.Qe2 Nc7 18.Bg5 Re8 19.Qe3 b6 20.Bh6 Nxd5 21.exd5 Ne5 22.Bxg7 Nxf3+ 23.Qxf3 Kxg7 24.Rd4 e5 25.dxe6 Rxe6 26.Red1 Rce8 27.g3 Re1+ 28.Kg2 Qb5 29.R1d3 Qxb2 30.Rxd6 Qe2 31.Qxe2 R1xe2 32.a4 R2e5 33.Rd7 R8e7 34.Rxe7 Rxe7 35.a5 bxa5 36.Rd5 Kf6 37.Rxa5 Ke6 38.f3 Rc7 39.g4 hxg4 40.fxg4 Rc4 41.Kf3 Rxc3+ 42.Kf4 Rc4+ 43.Kf3 Rc7 ½-½ Grischuk,A (2758)-Donchenko,A (2636) Titled Tuesday intern op 22 Mar Early Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (8)]

14...Kh8 Too esoteric. How about some rook move to the center;

[Stockfish mentions 14...f6!?]

15.Rfe1 Starting to go White's way.

15...Rae8 16.Qe3

[16.a4]

16...b5 17.Bg3 f6 18.Nh4

[18.h4!?]

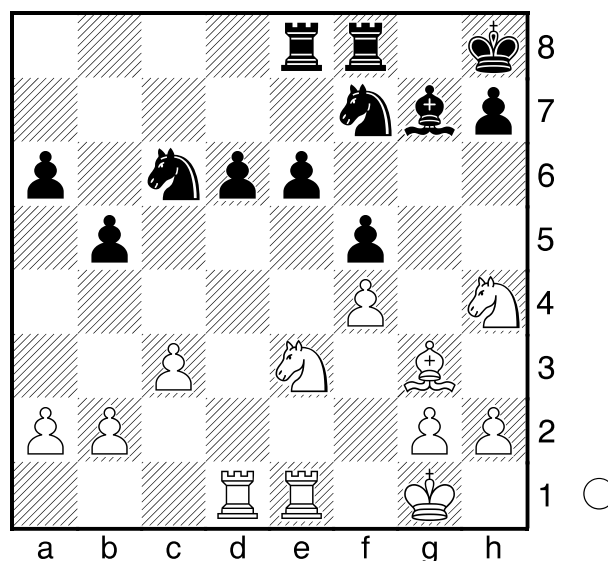
18...Ned8 19.Qe2 a6 20.f4

[20.a4! Qb7 21.f4]

20...e6 21.Ne3 f5

[21...Nf7 Arabesque.]

22.exf5 gxf5 23.Qh5 Qf7 24.Qxf7 Nxf7



Plausibly, the queens come off. **25.Nf3?**

[25.Nc2± restrains Black better.]

25...d5= 26.Nc2 Nd6 27.Ncd4 Nxd4 28.Nxd4 Ne4

[28...Bxd4+! 29.Rxd4 Ne4]

29.a4?!

[29.Bf2]

29...bxa4 30.Ra1 Bxd4+

[30...Rf7 31.Rxa4 Rb7 32.Ra2 Bxd4+ 33.cxd4 a5]

31.cxd4 Rb8 The knight is just too strong; White is fortunate to be able to hold. **32.Rxa4 Rb6 33.Rea1**

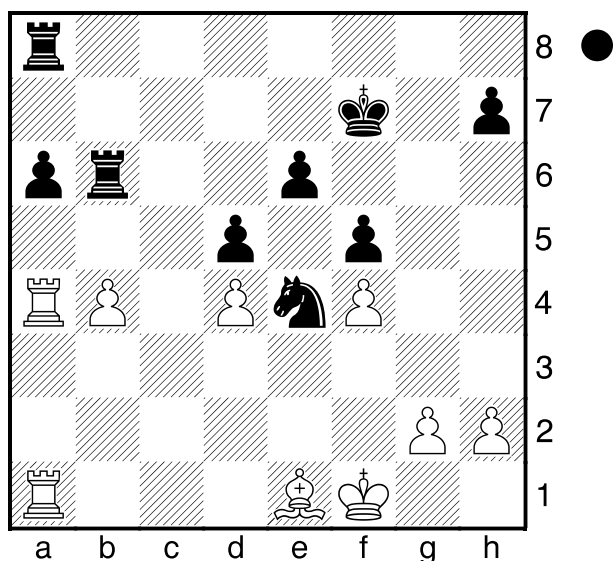
[33.Rc1]

33...Ra8

[33...Rc8!±]

34.Be1 Kg7 35.Kf1 Kf7 36.b4

(Diagram)



Black has some small advantage, not even enough to call it = over +, but she can't make it real. **36...Nd6 37.Ke2?!? Ke7?!**

[37...Nb5]

38.Ra5

[38.R4a3]

38...Kd7 39.Rc5 Nb7 40.Rc2 Nd6

41.Rc5 Rc8 42.Ra3 Rg8 43.g3?!

getting in the way of the rook and the bishop's scope;

[43.Kf1!]

43...Rc8 44.h3 h5 45.Kf3 Rbc6 46.g4

hxg4+ 47.hxg4 fxg4+ 48.Kxg4 Rg8+

49.Kf3 Rb6 50.Rca5 Ra8 51.Rc5?!

Nb5

[51...Nf5 It's starting to be something...]

[51...Rbb8!? and 52... Rh8]

52.Rd3 Rg8 53.Bf2

[53.f5!]

53...Na7?! goes after the b-pawn but it's quite even now. **54.Be1**

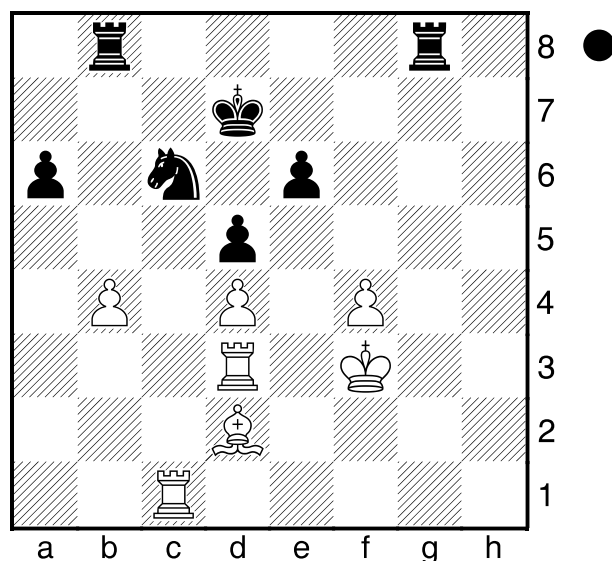
[after 54.Ke2!=]

54...Nc6? 55.Bd2 Rbb8

[55...Ne7!? f5 is the square!]

56.Rc1

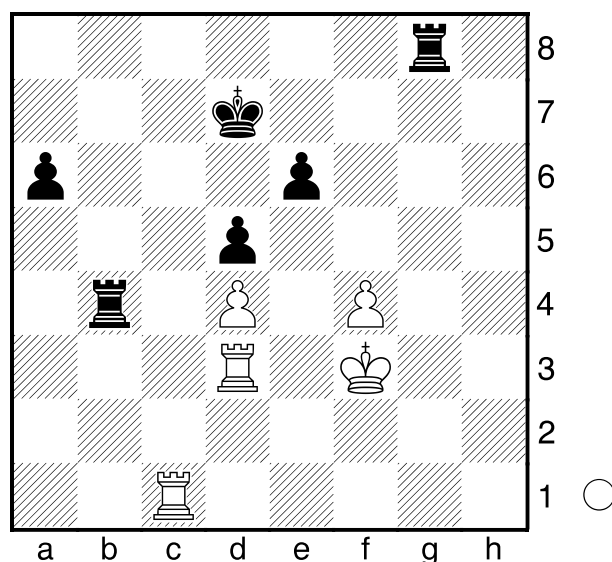
(Diagram)



Nxb4? Giving up on winning! 57.Bxb4

[57.Rdc3! is even more =]

57...Rxb4



58.Rdc3! Ke7 59.f5! Reduction!

59...Rxd4 60.Rc7+ Kf6 61.fxe6 Re8

62.R7c6 Rxe6 63.Rxe6+ Kxe6

64.Rc6+ Ke5 65.Rxa6= It's all "0.00"s

now. **65...Re4 66.Ra8 Kd6 67.Ra5**

Re8 68.Kf4 d4 69.Kf3 Kc6 70.Kf2

Re3 71.Rh5 Kd6 72.Ra5 Re8 73.Rh5

Kc6 74.Rg5 Re7 75.Rh5 d3 76.Rh3

Rd7 77.Ke1 Kc5 78.Kd2 Kc4

79.Rh4+ Rd4 80.Rxd4+ Kxd4 81.Kd1

Ke3 82.Ke1 d2+ 83.Kd1 Kd3

1/2-1/2

□ **Winslow,Elliott**

■ **Sant,Amit**

D35

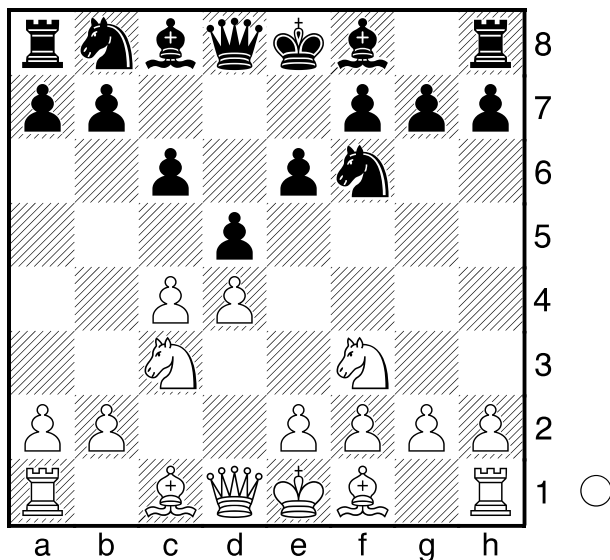
2182

1882

2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (6.2) 13.2.24

[Winslow,Elliott]

Winslow played a quiet line in the Queen's Gambit; Amit Sant, a new player to the TNM wars, injected some complication to the line but it backfired; it gently slid into a rook and minor piece ending where White was ahead in the race (and the extra pawn helped). A head scratcher. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6**



5.cxd5 This is known to be a lame version of the Exchange Variation. I live in fear of opponents knowing sharp lines better than me, so I avoided the Meran, the Botvinnik, the Moscow, various tricky Catalan-Slav hybrids, etc. It's Carlsen's fault, or rather the writers who declare "He makes something out of nothing!" So I think "I can do that!" and try to prove it. It *is* incredible how he dodges opening theory so well. It helps

that he has uncannily accurate instincts.

(Carlsen, not Sant.) **5...exd5 6.Bf4**

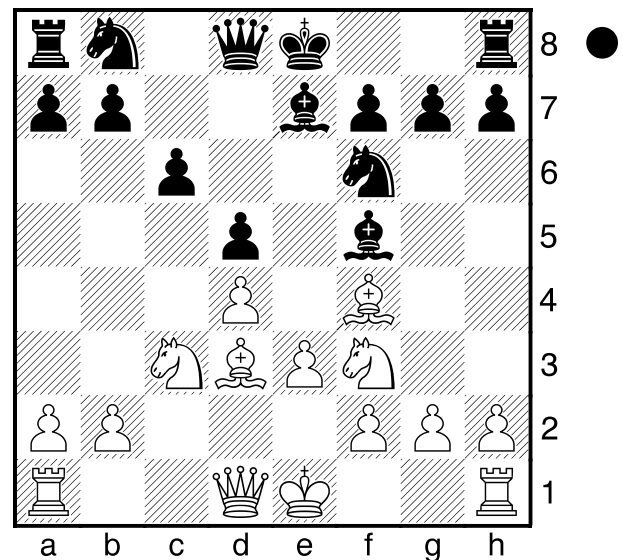
[6.Bg5 Be7 7.Qc2 g6! 8.e4!∞]

6...Be7 7.e3

[7.Qc2 g6 and ...Bf5 anyway. I

suppose that's better, the pawn move could be seen as a weakness after the light squared bishops come off. And in fact, with the bishop on g5 that's how a game I had went! I won a nice if dodgy (story of my life) battle against Kyron Griffith in a TNM just over a year ago, January 24th in fact. It *is* quite an exciting game, with ups and downs, and a psychological twist where Kyron tricked himself. It's in the archives, with entertaining notes by me of course.]

7...Bf5 8.Bd3



Bg6

[Of course Black should just trade!

See Magnus for details: 8...Bxd3

9.Qxd3 Nbd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rab1

Nh5 12.Bg3 Nxc3 13.hxc3 a5 14.a3

Nf6 15.b4 axb4 16.axb4 Ra3

17.Qc2 g6 18.Rb3 Rxb3 19.Qxb3

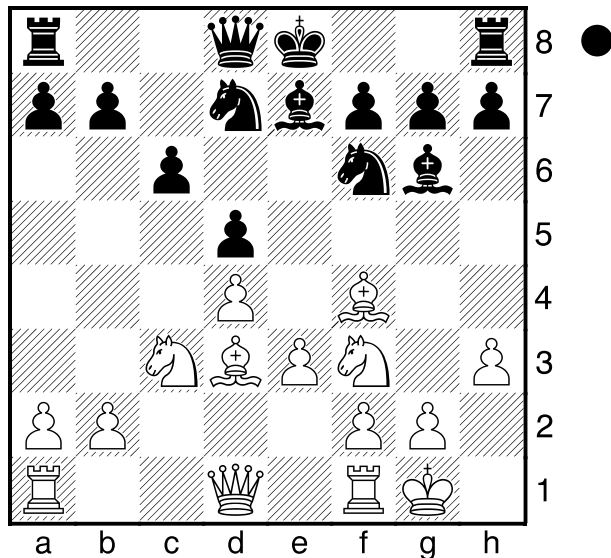
Qd6 20.b5 c5 21.dxc5 Qxc5 22.Rd1

Rd8 23.Ne2 Ne4 24.Nfd4 Qc4

25.Qb2 Qb4 26.Qa2 h5 27.Rc1 Bf6

28.f3 Nd2 29.Rc7 Nc4 30.Kf2 Re8

31.Rxb7 Nxe3 32.Qb3 Qd2
 0-1 Vachier Lagrave,M (2736)-Carlsen,
 M (2859) Speed Chess Chess.com
 INT blitz 2022 (3.38) Instructive!]
9.0-0 Nbd7 10.h3



Ne4?!IN This gets him into a bit of trouble, compounded on the next move. Again, trade and/or castle are normal and correct.

[Predecessor: 10...0-0 11.a3 a5
 12.Qc2 Nb6 13.Ne5 Bxd3 14.Qxd3
 Nfd7 15.Rab1 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 Qd7
 17.Rfc1 Qe6 18.Bg3 f5 19.Be5 Nc4
 20.f4 a4 21.Rc2 Rf7 22.Rf1 b5
 23.Na2 Qg6 24.Rf3 Bf8 25.Qc3 Rd8
 26.Nb4 c5 27.dxc5 Bxc5 28.Bd4
 Bxd4 29.Qxd4 Qf6 30.Nd3 Re7
 31.Qc5 Re4 32.Nf2 Re6 33.Nd3
 Re4 ½-½ Nguyen,H (2339)-Doan,T
 (2336) VIE-ch U13 Ho Chi Minh City
 2022 (6)]

11.Bxe4 Bxe4?! Now it gets serious.
 [It might seem odd at first, but
 11...dxe4! is more accurate -- after
 12.Nd2 f5 Black's light squared
 bishop is blocked on its current
 diagonal but has a future on the other
 two, plus it's unopposed -- and it
 does guard f5 <hint hint>. After
 letting Stockfish 16.1 (just out!) run for

25 ply it's giving White a serious plus,
 (12...Nf6?! 13.Be5) after 13.f3! exf3
 14.Nxf3! but it's still better than the
 game.]

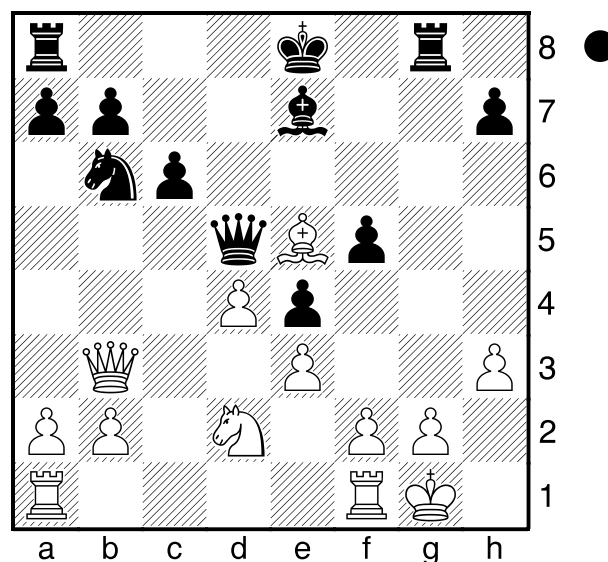
12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Nd2 f5 14.Qb3

[This new version might have some
 bugs. It has White's best as 14.Nc4
 Nb6 15.Nxb6 and makes it (+1.00) or
 so? I like what I did, unless there's
 something wrong with it I missed?]

14...Nb6 15.Be5

[Again with the 15.Nc4! Come *on*!]

15...Qd5! 16.Bxg7 Rg8 17.Be5



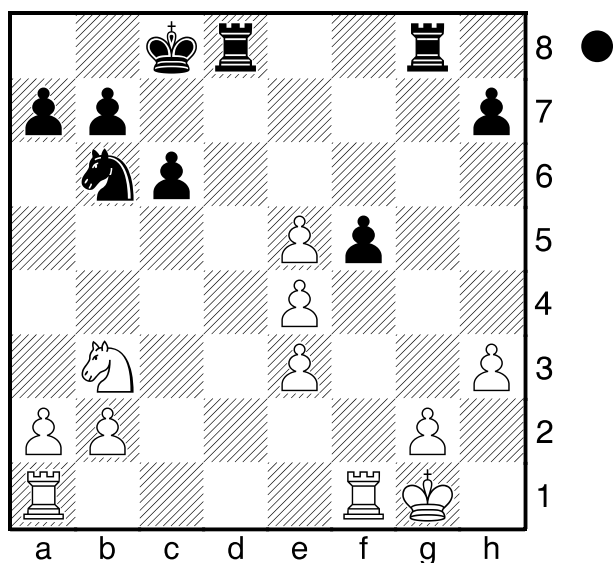
0-0-0?! Untangling the computer lines it
 appears that *this* is the explanation.

[17...Qxb3! 18.Nxb3 (18.axb3 Nd5
 and the knight gets into d3 via b4,
 as there's no a2-a3 for White any
 more.) 18...Nc4 19.Rab1 0-0-0
 (19...Nxe5 20.dxe5 c5 21.Rbd1
 could be troublesome.) 20.Bh2
 Stocky makes it (+0.66) or so.
 Dropping. (+0.59/26). I'm a pawn up.
 (Why 20.Bf4 is slightly worse than
 the other I don't know.)]

18.Qxd5?!

[More bewilderment on my part: Fish
 4x4^1 makes 18.f3! best, with a line
 that has Bd6 (18...exf3 19.Rxf3!;
 18...Bg5 19.Rae1) 19.fxe4 (19.Bxd6

might be the more sober way to go)
 19...Qxb3 20.Nxb3 Bxe5 21.dxe5

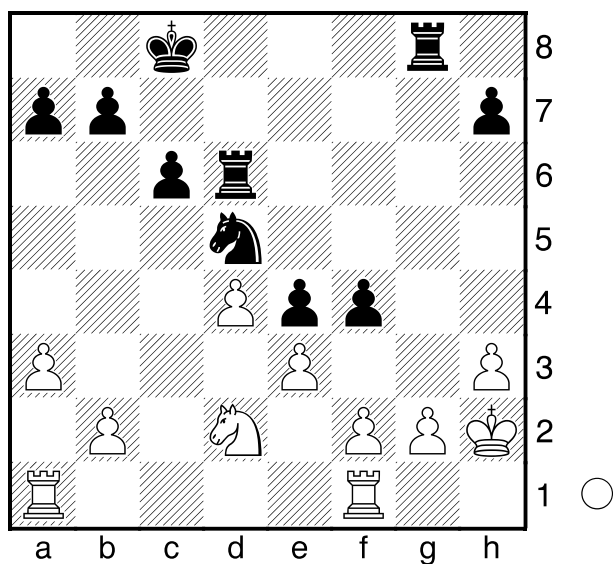


as won for White! As someone who grew up on Euwe and Kramer's "The Middle Game, Book One: Static Features" (published the year I was born), I find this is criminal.]

18...Nxd5 19.a3 Bd6?! And this is a mistake, or at least an inaccuracy? Looks like a sensible trade to me! Maybe the point is to weaken f4. 20.Bxd6 Rxd6 21.Kh2

[21.g3!?]

21...f4



Now I had a long line leading to a probably won double rook ending.

22.exf4!

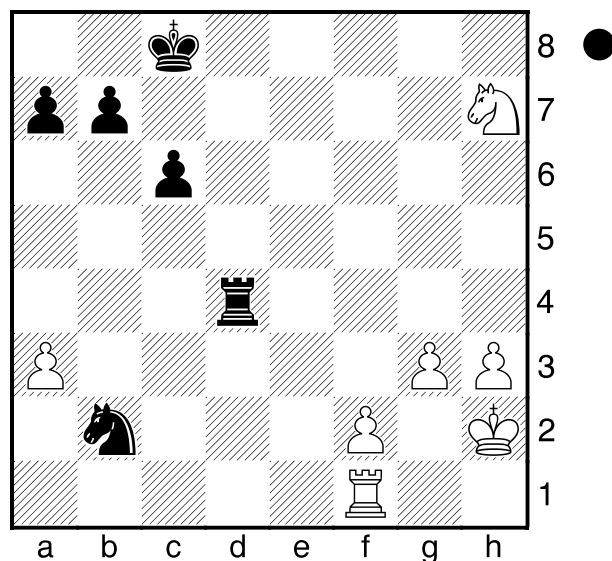
[22.Rae1 really is one of those "human" moves, not quite as good but simpler. Rdg6 23.Rg1 fxe3 24.fxe3 and Black must start defending.]

22...Nxf4 23.g3! Otherwise *Black* is better, acc. to SF. (Well, it was forced.)

23...Nd3 24.Nxe4 Rxd4 25.Rad1!

Rxe4

[25...Rgd8! Now I don't remember, was I playing 26.Ng5! (or 26.Nf6!) 26...Nxb2 27.Rxd4 Rxd4 28.Nxh7



So? Is this a win for White? Get the g-pawn going? The new team of Stockfish and Chessbase has *words* and says "White is better.Manoeuvre (European spelling) 31.Nh7-f6-e4, 34. Rc1 stops the pawn at c3." and other such mystical prognostications.]

26.Rxd3 Re2

[26...Rd8!?]

27.b4 Rge8 28.Rf3

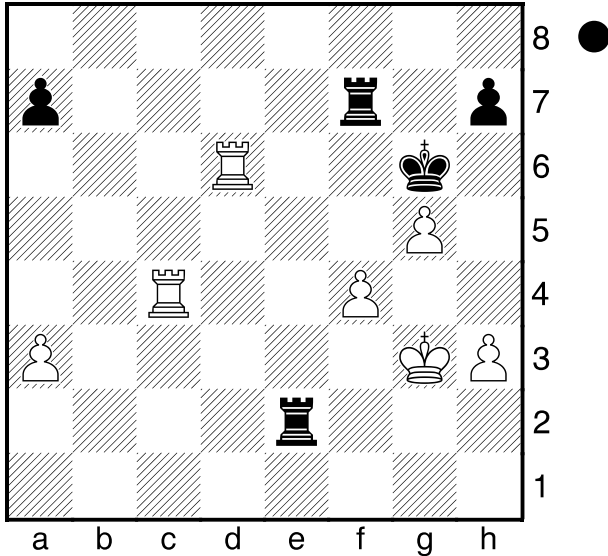
[28.g4!]

28...R8e7 29.g4 Kd7 30.Rd1+ Ke6

31.Kg3 b6 32.g5 Nothing has been too suboptimal for a while, and White is solidly winning, but now (was it time trouble?) Sant tangles up: **32...c5**

33.bxc5 bxc5 34.Rf6+ Ke5 35.Rc6 Rf7

[35...Rc2 36.Re1+ Kd5 37.Rxc5+]
36.Rxc5+ Ke4 37.Rc4+ Ke5 38.f4+ Kf5 39.Rd5+ Kg6 40.Rd6+



Kf5?

[40...Kg7]
41.Rc5+ (and mate next)
1-0

A22
1958
1903
 2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (6.3) 13.2.24
 [Clemens,Kristian]

(EW: A game between two promising Mechanics' regulars. Kristian is developing quite some sophistication in his conception as seen in his annotations here. Is his calculation strength still costing him? I don't know, but he compliments his opponent, young Srinivasan. For whatever reason, the balance was upheld and a draw fairly quickly was offered and accepted.) Shortly before this game, my opponent's live rating went above 2050. This was the third straight expert-rated player that

I faced. **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nb6 6.e3**

[6.Nf3 Nc6 7.e3 was our first game, in which I got a decent position and lost the endgame in time trouble.]

6...Be7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 c6 9.f4 N8d7

[9...exf4 10.Nxf4 N8d7 11.d4 Nf6 12.e4 Bg4 13.Qd3 Nh5 Galliamova - Kosintseva, Moscow 2012 14.Be3 Nxf4 15.gxf4]

10.fxe5 Nxe5 White used 6 min, Black used 9 so far **11.d4 Ng6 12.e4 f5**

This took me out of my preparation. I had to decide if this was correct or not and how to respond to it. While both sides have 5 pieces constructively developed (both knights, a bishop, the king, and one rook), I can easily develop my queen with check and connect rooks on the next move. So I decided to bank on activity and development and accept the isolated queen's pawn. **13.Qb3+ Kh8 14.Be3 fxe4 15.Bxe4 Qd6 16.Rxf8+ Nxf8 17.Bf4**

[17.d5 I didn't consider this move seriously enough, but it starts some real tactical complications that I probably wouldn't have wanted to risk against one of the club's top junior players. cxd5 18.Nxd5 Be6 19.Nef4 (19.Bf4 Qc5+ 20.Be3 Bxd5 21.Bxd5 Qxd5 22.Bxb6)]

17...Qe6 18.Bc7 Qxb3

[18...h6 19.Bxb6 axb6 (19...Qxb3 20.axb3 axb6 21.Rxa8) 20.Qxb6]

19.axb3 Nbd7 I evaluated this position as equal but maybe a little more promising for White: White's piece activity is balanced by his bad pawn structure. I decided to trade off one of my weak pawns immediately, before Black contested the d5 square.

[19...Nfd7 20.Bf5 Kg8 21.Bxb6 Nxb6 22.Bxc8 Nxc8 23.d5 Bc5+ 24.Kg2 cxd5 25.Nxd5=]

20.d5 cxd5 21.Nxd5 # Now that I traded off my weak pawn on d5, I thought I stood better, since he only has two pieces in the game, while all my pieces are active. But my opponent reacted admirably for the next ten moves, showing why he has climbed the ranks so quickly- instead of panicking and losing material or lashing out, he calmly gets his pieces into the game, avoiding tactical pitfalls and outplaying me to the point where he could have won a pawn by move 32.

[21.Bxd5 Nf6 22.Bf7]

21...Bc5+ 22.Kg2 Ne6 23.Ba5 Ng5
With ideas of Bh3+ after moving the Nd7, which would push my king to h1 **24.Bf5 b6 25.Bd2**

[25.Nc7 Bb7+ 26.Kf1 Rf8]

25...Bb7 46 White: 58 min left, Black: **26.Nec3**

[26.Bxg5 Bxd5+ 27.Kh3 Ne5
28.Bg4 Nxg4 29.Kxg4 Bxb3±]
[26.Nef4 Nf6]

26...Nf6 Forced, since I'm attacking two pieces

[26...Bxd5+ 27.Nxd5 Rf8 28.Rf1 Nf6
29.Nxf6 gxf6 30.Bc3± This seems like a good position for the two bishops]

27.Bxg5 This crucially prevents Rd8, tripling against the Nd5. **27...Nxd5**

[27...Rd8 28.Bxf6 Bxd5+ 29.Nxd5
Rxd5 30.Bc3 Rxf5 31.Rxa7±]

28.Be4

[28.Nxd5 Bxd5+ 29.Kh3 Bxb3]

28...Ne3+

[28...Nxc3 29.Bxb7 Rb8 30.Rxa7
Nb5 31.Ra8]

29.Kf3

[29.Bxe3 Bxe4+ 30.Nxe4 Bxe3
31.Kf3 Bd4=]

29...Bxe4+ 30.Nxe4 # 30...Nc2

The previous phase of the game required a lot of calculation, and I started slowing down here and falling

behind on the clock. Just like in our last game, I realized I was losing a pawn. This was what some teachers call a "quiescence error": when I played 25. Bd2, responding to the threat on d5 by counterattacking g5, I saw the position after 30. Nxe4, evaluating it as at least equal for White. But I was wrong to stop my calculations there, because Black still has a threat, which he played here.

31.Rc1 Nd4+ 32.Kg2 Re8

[32...Nxb3 33.Rc3 Re8 34.Nxc5
Nxc5 35.b4 Na6 (35...Ne4

This was the move I missed in analysis, because I had trouble visualizing the resulting position.

36.Re3±) 36.Ra3 Nxb4 37.Rxa7

This was my plan if White played 32. Nxb3. The resulting endgame reminds me of the Spassky-Petrosian, 1st match game 1969, which Petrosian converted after some tactical flurries: <https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1106843>. With my better king and active rook, I thought I had decent chances of holding this endgame. I asked my opponent after the game if he had considered 32. Nxb3. He saw the line, but seemed to agree that it was unclear and opted for a different idea.]

33.Nxc5 bxc5 34.Rxc5 h6 35.Rd5 Re4

[35...hxc5 36.Rxd4 Re2+ 37.Kh3
Rxb2 38.Ra4 Rxb3 39.Rxa7=]

36.Be3 #

[36.Bf4 Nxb3 37.Kf3 Re7±

With a small edge for White- the bishop will be better than the knight as long as the queenside pawns aren't traded.]

36...Rxe3 Black offered a draw with 21 minutes left, I accepted with 12. The game might continue: 37. Rxe4 Rxb3 38. Rd2 Kh7 39. h4 Kg6 40. Rf2, freezing

the king. I can also leave the pawn on h2 and walk the king over to c2. This was another evenly played game in which I thought I had the upper hand, then Black had a chance to win a pawn, and then we entered an equal endgame.

Congratulations to Sivavishnu for becoming the club's newest expert!

[36...Nxb3 37.Bxa7 Re2+ 38.Kf3 Rxh2 (38...Rxb2 39.h3 , and I'll hope that he doesn't adequately defend g7/h6. Maybe I can play g4, h4-h5, Rg6, and put the bishop on the long diagonal to threaten Rxg7, Bxg7, and Rxh6, but of course Black will easily defend that threat.) 39.Bf2!

Computer move that I didn't see]

1/2-1/2

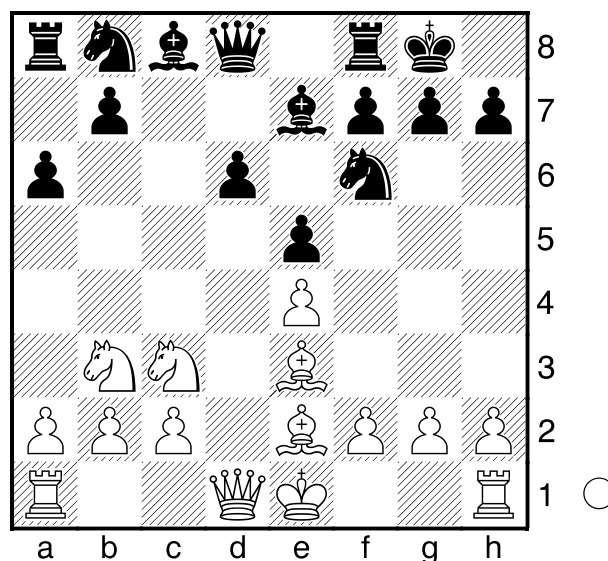
Vandenhoven, Clarke Raymond

Wong, Wilson
 2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (6.9)
[Wong, Wilson]

Wilson continued his domination of the 1600-1999 section. I might take issue with some of his thoughts (as expressed in his annotations), but his results can't be faulted! **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3** Last book move. **8...0-0**

[8...Be6 Mainline.]

(Diagram)



(EW: ?!) **9.g4** The best move. I didn't know what to expect after 6.Be2 but this makes a lot of sense, punishing Black's move order. I forgot the point of 8...Be6 was to get a quick center break if White played g4 too early. (EW: !=) **9...b5?!** I decided to be flexible with my light-squared bishop, going to long diagonal or e6-square to eye White's queenside.

[9...Be6 Best move. This really pushes White to play g5.]

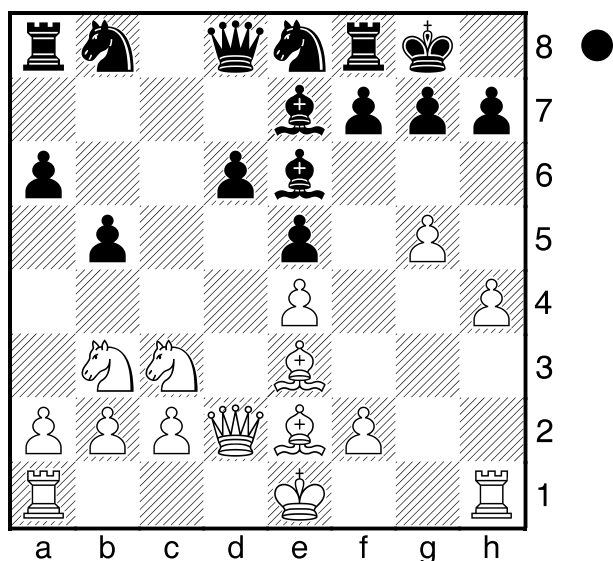
10.g5 Pushing f6-knight to a really bad square. **10...Ne8** Necessary to respond to Qd5. I avoid just losing my a8-rook. I plan to just let White push his pawns down the board and close the position later if possible. **11.h4** White has a straightforward plan of pushing g- and h-pawns and forcing lines open and checkmating my king. White also has d5-square for their knight which adds extra danger and makes it more difficult for Black to get king out. **11...Be6**

The more active diagonal, with actual targets, and also provides defense.

[EW: Everybody's Stockfish has 11...Nc7 12.Qd2 Qd7 as the line.]

12.Qd2

(Diagram)



White has all the trumps in the position. White has e5-square, stopped ...e5, got g-pawn pushing with tempo, and has bishop pair on most active squares. White will soon O-O-O and bring the other rook to g-file with a much faster attack than Black. **12...Nc6** I didn't think I had the luxury to take my knight on a journey considering I'm more behind in the attack in a normal Najdorf. White's bishop pair makes it very difficult for me to move my queenside pawns. (EW: Note Stockfish has White already winning!)

[12...Nd7 Stockfish's recommendation. Its common for this knight to then go ...Nb6, ...Nc4, then get traded and open b-file or support b4-pawn and march the pawns.]

13.0-0-0 Rc8 I want to provoke weaknesses in White's kingside but it isn't easy since I can't push my queenside pawns without dropping pawns. **14.Kb1 Nb4**

[14...f5 Stockfish's recommendation. I was worried about e- and f-files opening up and thought that would be very bad for me. 15.gxf6?! (15.exf5 Bxf5 This position looked horrible. My light-squares are horrible and my

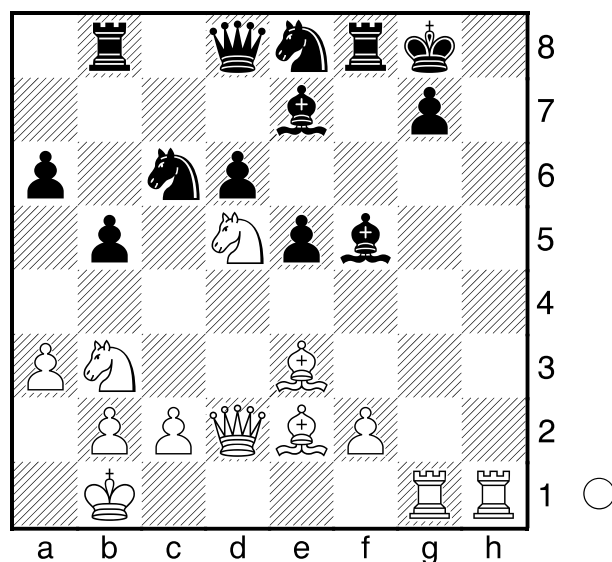
dark-squared bishop is doing nothing.) 15...Nxf6 Black equalizes.] **15.a3** I thought it was good to provoke this pawn move but its still very difficult for me to push my queenside pawns. **15...Nc6 16.Nd5** White has a dream knight in the middle of the board and I won't be able to dislodge it anytime soon. My pieces are awkwardly placed but I also need my e8-knight to protect my d6-pawn. I'm unable to retreat to the queenside with my king. **16...Rb8** I want to now focus on getting ...a5, ...a4, ...b4, to open files to White's king, but it'll be difficult since White can deflect one of my pieces by Nxe7, making ...a5 very difficult to get in. **17.h5 f5** Necessary. I don't want White to fork my pawns and force open files. **18.exf5 Bxf5 19.g6**

[19.f4 White could've gone for this and I would've let White trade pawns so I can get my knight on e5-outpost.]

19...hgxg6 White is forcing lines open and a g6-pawn is still dangerous so I just accept the pawn sacrifice and try to trade pieces.

[19...h6?? 20.Bxh6 gxh6 21.Qxh6 White is winning.]

20.hxg6 Bxg6 21.Rdg1 Bf5



I need to keep my bishop on b1-g7 diagonal to counter White's queen and counter an opposing light-squared bishop on that diagonal. **22.Bg4**

[22.f4 A good continuation. Black has a lot of difficulty evacuating the kingside, and opening files there gives White so many tactics to play for, as well as clearing the second rank for White's queen.]

[22.Rh5 There is a lot of pressure for Black to keep bishop on f5-square where it contests b1-g7 diagonal as well as covers the escape a6-f1 diagonal. Qc8 Freeing d8-square for bishop to avoid Qxc6 ...Qxc6 Nxe7+ royal fork tactic. 23.Qc3 Bd8 Black is overloaded. Black's position is just so bad that its easy to stumble into trouble like this. 24.Rxf5 Rxf5 25.Bg4 Kf7 26.Bxf5 Qxf5 27.Qxc6 White wins a piece.]

22...Qc8?? With the idea of 23...Bd8 to avoid overload tactics but Black's king position allows a removal of the guard followed by double-attack tactics.

[22...Bxg4 The best move is to just trade.]

23.Na5!+- A really nice removal of the guard tactic. **23...Bd8 24.Bxf5 Rxf5 25.Nxc6**

[25.Nb6!! Finally Black's king's weakness comes into play. Rxb6 (25...Bxb6 26.Qd5+ Black loses at least a piece.) 26.Qd5+ Black loses at least a piece.]

25...Qxc6 26.Bb6?? This is a game throwing blunder. White has an incredibly powerful d5-knight and dominates the board, but trades down for a bad rook.

[26.Qd3 Stockfish's recommendation. White improves his queen while gaining a tempo on Black's rook. Black's king is simply not safe and evacuating Black's king is likely

impossible. White's knight covers e7- and f6-squares, while White's queen can cover c8-h3 diagonal. Qd7

A sample continuation to show how horrible Black's coordination would be. 27.Rh3 Qf7 28.Rgh1 Qe6 29.Rh8+ Kf7 30.Qe4 It is only a matter of time before Black drops material. White has f4 up his sleeve as well.]

26...Rxb6 27.Nxb6 White traded his good pieces for Black's bad pieces.

[27.Qd3 e4 28.Qxe4 Qd7

(28...Rxd5?? 29.Qe6+ Kf8 30.Rh8#)]

27...Bxb6 White now doesn't have much material to work with in an attack. Black is safe enough to consolidate the extra material and grind out a win. **28.Qh6 Qd7** I thought this was the only defense since it covered e6-square and protects my rook and knight.

[28...Rf6 The only move that keeps an advantage. 29.Qh7+ Kf8 30.Qh8+ Kf7 31.Rh7 Rg6 32.Rxg6 Kxg6 33.Rh3 Kf7 34.Qh5+ g6 35.Qh7+ Ng7 36.Rc3 Black just manages to hold the position together but it'll be difficult to make progress with queens on the board.]

29.Qg6

[29.Qh8+ Kf7 30.Rh7 Ke6 31.Rhxf7 Nxf7 32.Rxg7 Qd8 33.Rg8 Qf6 34.Qh7 Qe7 35.Rg7 Qe8 36.Rg8 Qf7= White gets repetition.]

29...Qf7 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Qh8+ Ke7 32.Qh4+ Kd7 33.Qe4 d5 34.Qg4 Kc6

35.a4 Rxf2 36.Qc8+ Nc7 The knight is incredibly good at protecting a king against a queen. **37.axb5+ axb5**

38.Qh8 Ne8 I didn't want to give away the pawn, partly because its material, but also it does a job of keeping a file and rank closed. **39.Qh3 Qf5**

Trying to tie down White's pieces.

White's queen doesn't threaten anything from f3-square.

[39...e4 With the position held

together, Black could've start
marching the passed e-pawn.]

40.Qc3+ Kb7 White will have difficult
penetrating my position since my knight
and queen can easily cover the second
rank and c8-square. **41.Rc1 Nd6**
There were many moves that gave Black
a big advantage but this wasn't it. The
knight can hold my position together
from c7-square, then let my dark-
squared bishop get into the game.
Because I placed my knight on d6-
square, that knight became a liability and
a piece that needs to be guarded.
Because I didn't know how to make a
passed pawn work in a queens
middlegame, I decided I'd get my knight
to d2-square and make threats to White's
king.

[41...e4 The best move. I can freely
march my e-pawn down the board but
thought it would not be able to
promote, so all it would do is weaken
my control of center.]

[41...Bd4 42.Qb4 Nc7 43.Rhe1 Qf6
44.Rcd1 Bb6 45.Qb3 Rf3 46.Qa2
One way Black could've gone about
dominating the position with minor
pieces and rook dominating White's
queen.]

42.Qb3 Kc6 43.Qg3 Qf7? Stopping
any checks to free my d6-knight to go ...
Nc4, ...Nd2+. I however overlooked that
White's queen would be able to cover a7-
square. **44.Rhe1**

[44.Qxe5 Nc4 45.Qb8 White still
manages to stop Black's threat.]

44...Nc4 45.Qc3 d4 I had ~10 minutes
left so I made this quick move, knowing
that this would force queens off the
board and the queenless endgame is
easily winning.

[45...Bd4 This was an option to just
cleanly take b2-pawn for free and
further expose White's king, though I
was unsure how the game would

continue, since as long as White has a
queen, there is always the fear White
can get perpetual-check.]

46.Qd3 Nd2+ 47.Ka1 Qa7+

Forcing queens off the board and
destroying White's pawn structure.

[47...Bc5 I didn't want to spend time
looking for better moves since I saw
an easily winning endgame, but this
would've made the win faster. White
simply has to give up their queen to
not get mated.]



48.Qa3 Qxa3+ 49.bxa3 Nc4

This endgame is easily won. Black can
win a-pawn for free and push e- and/or g-
pawn, while supported my knight to
support promotion. White is tied down to
defense of c2-pawn, and if White pushes
c3, then d-pawn becomes passed, and
then Black would have connected
passed pawns, which makes White's
position completely hopeless. **50.Rg1
Rf7**

[50...d3 I overlooked that I could still
just push this pawn. 51.cxd3 Bd4+
52.Kb1 Rb2+ 53.Ka1 Rc2+ 54.Kb1
Nxa3#]

51.c3 d3 The game is effectively over.
White's only hope is I position my pawns
and pieces in such a manner as to allow
White's rook to trap my king, but I have
a very easy position to play and just
need to avoid walking myself into
checkmate. **52.Rg6+ Kc5 53.Rd1 e4
54.Rg5+ Kc6 55.Rg6+ Kb7 56.Re6
Rf4** I reached 5 minutes. The game
ended with a Vukovic's mate.

0-1

 **Toledo Guerrero, Fernando** **C29 1707**
 **Horde, Nicolas T** **1571**
 2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (6.14)
[Horde, Nicolas T]

(EW: Nicolas can be counted to comprehensively annotate his games, and this one was quite interesting! Some nice concepts! A lot of exclamation points!! Leading to a moderate upset win.)

) **1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.Qf3 Nc6**

[5...Nxc3 6.bxc3 c5 The "main" line but I've had my shares of games where White has all the fun launching a kingside attack]

6.Bb5 Nxc3 7.dxc3 Qh4+ 8.g3 Qe4+ 9.Be3?! Bf5! Fernando has used ~25 minutes so far so the only reasonable explanation that I had was that he was considering Be3 so I had a lot of time to think about my answer

[9...Qxe5?! 10.0-0-0 White has a big lead in development but it's playable]

[9...Qxc2 10.Ne2 Same, I am not too fond of positions where White has sacked a pawn but has all the fun]

10.Bd3 Qxf3 11.Nxf3 Be4!!

The point behind Bf5, Black is forcing a winning pawn structure endgame as the threat is simply Nxe5 **12.Bxe4**

[12.Be2? Nxe5]

[12.Rf1? Bxf3 13.Rxf3 Nxe5]

12...dxe4 13.Ng5 Nxe5 14.Nxe4

And the endgame favors Black because White can't create a passed pawn. It's a critical moment in the game because White threatens Bf4 **14...Be7?!**

I could not make f5 work so I switched gears and allowed the isolated pawn in exchange for control over the open files

[14...f5! 15.Ng5 Nc4 16.Bf4

I calculated that variation and misjudged that I don't have to take on b2 and can just 0-0-0 Nxb2?!

(16...0-0-0! Black has solved all their development problems) 17.Rb1 Ba3 18.Bxc7 0-0 Black is still winning but White has some counterplay on the queenside]

15.Bf4! f6 16.Bxe5 fxe5 17.0-0-0

Rd8! White can't exchange more pieces because the endgame is winning for Black **18.Rde1! Rf8 19.h4**

[19.Re2 In our post-mortem we both agreed that pushing the pawns is probably not the best plan and doubling rooks is better]

19...h5 20.Ng5 Bxg5+! I think he forgot that taking comes with check so he has to ruin his pawn structure even more **21.hxg5** It's the second and last critical moment of the game. White threatens e5 (with check) and h5. However, White's king is stuck on the queenside and their kingside pawns are too weak so I came up with a cute plan **21...Rf2!!**

I found refutations for both Rd5 and Rf5 so by elimination this is was the best move. The e5 pawn is anecdotic as the fight revolves around grabbing the g pawns now. It also forces White to find a difficult defense

[21...Rd5?! 22.c4! Why I did not like Rd5]

[21...Rf5 22.Rxh5 g6?? 23.g4! White is winning now]

22.Rxe5+ Kf7 23.Rd1??

[23.Rb5! That's what I thought he would play, the idea is to actively defend the 2nd rank and attack the 7th. Black is still better because of the activity but it's becoming difficult to defend b6 24.g6+!! The only move to save the game for White Kxg6 25.Rbxh5]

[23.g6+!! The critical defense in almost all variations that we both missed. The point is that White is going to take the h pawn and the rooks are active enough to generate

counterplay. It's still a difficult position to defend imo Kxg6 24.Rexh5]



23...Rxd1+?? He misjudged the endgame as this helps Black tremendously. The two g pawns are not defendable and Black is going to create two connected passers **24.Kxd1 Rf3!**

[24...Rg2?! 25.Re3! Black is still winning but it's becoming annoying]

25.a4 Rxg3 26.Rb5 b6

[26...h4 Also wins but allows some counterplay]

27.a5 h4 28.axb6 axb6 29.Rb4 h3 30.Rh4 Kg6 31.Ke1 Kxg5 32.Rh7 Kf4 33.Kf2 g5! 34.Rxc7 Rg2+ 35.Kf1 Kg3 36.Rh7 h2 The threat is Rg1+ followed by h1=Q
0-1

	D13
 Fitzgerald,William	1129
 McKemey,Hector Scott	1410
2024 New Year TNM: 1200-1599 (6.19)	
<i>[McKemey,Hector Scott/Winslow,Elliott]</i>	

(EW: Nice journalistic notes by Hector McKemey, a recent annotator of his games for the TNM bulletins and newsletter. And I've tossed in a comment or three.) **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 c5 4.c3**

[4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 d5 6.c4 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 exd5]

4...cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.e3 d5 7.Nc3 a6 Now the position more resembles a Slav exchange, although white has a knight on f3 and my light-squared bishop cannot develop to g4. **8.Qc2 Bd6 9.Bg3 0-0 10.a3 Re8**

[10...Bxg3 11.hxg3 Qd6 12.Bd3 h6 13.Na4 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Qxe5 16.Qc3 Qe7 17.Qd4 Rd8 18.0-0 Be6 19.Rac1 Rac8 20.Nb6 Rc6 21.Rxc6 bxc6 22.Rc1 Qb7

23.b4 Rb8 24.Na4 Nd7 25.f4 g6 26.f5 gxf5 27.Qf4 Re8 28.Qxh6 Ne5 29.Qg5+ Ng6 30.Nc5 Qa7 31.g4 fxe4 32.Bxg6 fxe4 33.Qxg6+ Qg7 34.Qxe8+ 1-0 Assaubayeva,B (2389)-Volkov,M (2128) Titled Tuesday intern op 27th July Chess.com INT blitz 2021 (10)]

[10...Qe7 11.Bd3 h6 12.0-0 Bxg3 13.hxg3 Rd8 14.Rad1 Bd7 15.Na4 Be8 16.Rc1 Nd7 17.b4 Rac8 18.Nc5 Nxc5 19.bxc5 e5 20.Bf5 Bd7 21.Rb1 g6 22.Bxd7 Rxd7 23.Rb2 e4 24.Nd2 Nd8 25.Nb1 Nc6 26.Nc3 Na5 27.Na4 Nc4 28.Nb6 Nxb6 29.Rxb6 Rcc7 30.Rfb1 Kg7 31.Qb3 h5 32.Qb4 Kh6 33.Rb3 Kg7 34.Rc3 Qd8 35.c6 bxc6 36.Rcxc6 Rxc6 37.Rxc6 a5 38.Qb5 Ra7 39.a4 Qd7 40.Rc5 Qg4 41.Qb3 Qe2 42.Qb8 Re7 43.Qd8 Re6 44.Rc8 Kh6 45.Qf8+ Kg5 46.Qxf7 Rf6 47.Qxd5+ Rf5 48.Qxe4 Rxf2 49.Qe7+ Kg4 50.Qh4+ 1-0 Leonardi, C (1878)-Unuk,L (1946) SLO-ch qual (Women) Ptuj 2012 (9)]

11.Bd3

[11.Be2!? anticipating ...e5: ready to put a rook on d1, covering d4 and pressuring P/d5.]

11...e5?!

[11...h6]

[11...Bxg3 12.hxg3 h6]

12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5

[13.Be2!? Now that Black has opened the game up but created a target on d5. (So a bishop on f3 would be aiming nicely)]

13...Bxe5 14.Bh4? h6?! The second best move in the position. I considered d4, breaking with my IQP and should have played it! Black is better and white has to tread carefully, for example:

[14...d4!]

A) 15.Ne4 dxe3

A1) 16.fxe3? Qa5+ 17.Qd2

(17.Kf1! Ng4±) 17...Qxd2+
18.Kxd2 Nxe4+ 19.Bxe4
Bxb2±;

A2) 16.Bxf6?? exf2+ 17.Kxf2
Bxf6 18.Rhe1± (18.Nxf6+);

A3) 16.0-0! Bg4±;

A4) 16.Nxf6+?? Bxf6 17.Bxf6
exf2+;

B) 15.0-0-0! Qb6!≠ 16.Na4 Qa7
17.f4 Be6!

B1) 18.Kb1 Rac8 19.Qe2 Bxf4!
20.exf4 Ba2+ (20...Bb3;

20...Bd7 21.Qd2! Bxa4 22.Bxf6
gxf6 23.Rc1 Rxc1+ 24.Rxc1
Qb6 25.Qf2= h6 26.Qh4! f5
27.Bxf5 Bb5 28.Bc2 d3

29.Qg3+ Double attack on d3/g8
Qg6 30.Qxg6+ fxg6);

B2) 18.fxe5 Rac8]

[14...Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 d4 16.cxd4
(16.0-0! dxc3) 16...Qxd4 17.Bxf6
Qxf6 A line I briefly calculated but I
didn't like losing my dark-squared
bishop.]

15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.0-0 b5 17.e4 Bb7
18.exd5 Bxc3 19.Qxc3 Qxd5 20.f3!
Rac8 21.Rae1 A very tricky move!

[21.Be4?! An interesting try, but I had
calculated either Qg5 or Qe6 and
figured I was better. I also looked at
this tricky exchange sacrifice. When
analysing, William noted Qf3, but it
fails to Qd4+ and Rc2--a thematic
move in this game with my strong
fianchettoed bishop on b7. I also saw
this Qg3 line to the end and figured it
was equal. Good thing this line didn't
happen, as likely William would've
found Qg3 with plenty of time on his
clock.

A) 21...Rxe4 22.fxe4 Qxe4
23.Qf3?? (23.Qg3! Rc2 24.Rf2
Qd4) 23...Qd4+ 24.Qf2 Rc2;

B) 21...Qe6 22.Qd2 (22.Rfe1
Rxc3) 22...Bxe4±]

21...Red8

[21...Rxe1 22.Rxe1 f5 23.Qd2
Another potential line William and I
discussed after the game.]

22.Be4 Qg5 23.f4! Qg4 24.Qa5?
Bxe4 25.Rxe4 Rd6?

[25...Rd3 A very deep move. When
my rook is on d6 it blocks the white
queen's fork on my c2 rook! 26.Qe1
-1.22 Rc2 -1.31 27.Re8+ Kh7
28.Qe4+ f5 29.Qxd3]

26.Rfe1?? My opponent's only real
mistake.

[26.Qe1 William and I analysed
afterwards and he mentioned he
should've just played this instead.
Black is pushing for the win but it
should be a draw.

A) 26...Qg6!?;

B) 26...Rc2 Now this line doesn't
work because my c2rook is a goner!
27.Re8+ Kh7 28.Qe4+ f5 29.Qf3
(29.Qxc2) 29...Qxf3 30.Rxf3 Rd1+
31.Rf1 Rxf1+ 32.Kxf1 Rxb2
Some line we quickly came up with--
riddled with mistakes lol.;

C) 26...Qd7!]

26...Rc2! Game may have continued...
[26...Rc2 27.g3 Qf3]

0-1

☐ **Massop,Daniel**

☒ **Schaezlein,Charlie**

2024 New Year TNM: u1200 (6.28)

[Winslow,Elliott]

B90

1143



0

It happens that even on the lowest
boards (that is, the "lesser" sections)
there can be fascinating happenings. I
might have missed this had Charlie not
noted in brief passing that his computer
showed that when his opponent resigned
it was "plus two." So I investigated... **1.e4**
c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 d6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 Nf6

[6...e6]
7.0-0 g6 8.Re1 Bg7 9.Nxc6 bxc6
10.e5 Ng4 11.exd6 Be5 12.h3 Nxf2
13.Kxf2 exd6 14.Qf3 Qh4+ 15.g3
Qxc4 16.Bh6 Kd8 17.Rxe5 dxe5
18.Qf6+ Kc7 19.Qxe5+ Kb7 20.Bf4
a5 21.Qxh8 Qc5+ 22.Be3 Qf5+
23.Kg1 Qf3 24.Qe5 Bxh3 Schaezlein
 notes that White is +2 in the final
 position!

[And indeed, after 24...Bxh3
 White can win, but he must toss in
 25.Qe7+!! (25.Qe4 Qxg3+ 26.Kh1
 Re8!! 27.Bf4 Qf2! 28.Be3 Qxe3
 Black has two extra pawns.) 25...Kc8
 (25...Ka6 26.Qe4 Qxg3+ 27.Kh1
 Re8 28.Qxc6#!) 26.Qe4 Qxg3+
 27.Kh1 and without the ...Re8
 resource Black is busted. Bd7 28.Bf4
 Qh4+ 29.Bh2 Qxe4+ 30.Nxe4
 does have three connected passed
 pawns, but with some care White will
 win.]

0-1

	B08
 Bambou,Christophe	2129
 Winslow,Elliott	2182
2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 20.2.24	
[Winslow,Elliott]	

Last round tournament strategy: a win
 ties for first with Ruiyang, who was
 already taking a bye. **1.e4**

[1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.e4 c6 4.Nc3
 d6 5.h3 Nd7 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 Nf6
 8.a4 a5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bf4 d5 11.e5
 Ne8 12.Qc1 Nc7 13.Bh6 Ne6
 14.Ne2 Nc4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.c3
 Qb6 17.Qc2 Ng5 18.Nxg5 Bf5
 19.Qd1 Nxb2 20.Qd2 Qxb3 21.Ng3
 Bd3 22.Rfc1 b5 23.Nf3 bxa4
 24.Ne1 Ba6 25.Nc2 Qb7 26.Rcb1
 Rab8 27.Qc1 Bc4 28.Nf1 Nd3
 29.Rxb7 Nxc1 30.Rxb8 Ne2+

31.Kh2 Rxb8 32.Rxa4 Bb3 33.Rxa5
 Bxc2 34.Rc5 Ba4 35.c4 dxc4
 36.Ng3 Nxg3 37.Kxg3 Bb5 38.Kf4
 e6 0-1 Feuerstein,A (2365)-Biyiasas,P
 (2435) Marshall CC New York 1977]

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

[Christophe has played 3.Bd3
 against me a couple times.]

3...g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0

Okay, how do you play for a win against
 the Classical (or "Modest") System?

6...Nbd7 7.e5! Ne8!± 8.Bc4

[Relevant: 8.Bf4 c6 9.Re1 dxe5
 10.dxe5 Nc7 11.Bg3 Ne6 12.a4
 Qa5 13.Bc4 Nb6 14.Ba2 Rd8
 15.Qe2 Nd5 16.Nxd5 cxd5 17.Red1
 b6 18.c3 Qc5 19.Nd4 Nxd4
 20.Rxd4 Be6 21.Rad1 h5 22.Qb5
 a6 23.Qe2 b5 24.a5 Qc7 25.Bxd5
 Rxd5 26.Rxd5 Bxd5 27.Rxd5 e6
 28.Rd1 Qxa5 29.Bh4 Qa4 30.g3
 Bxe5 31.Rd7 Bg7 32.Rxf7 Kxf7
 33.Qf3+ Kg8 34.Qxa8+ Kh7 35.Kg2
 Qa2 36.Qb7 Qd5+ 37.Qxd5 exd5
 0-1 Anton Guijarro,D (2703)-Svidler,P
 (2723) FIDE Steinitz Memorial
 chess24.com INT blitz 2020 (6)]

8...Nb6 9.Bb3 White is more active.

9...d5

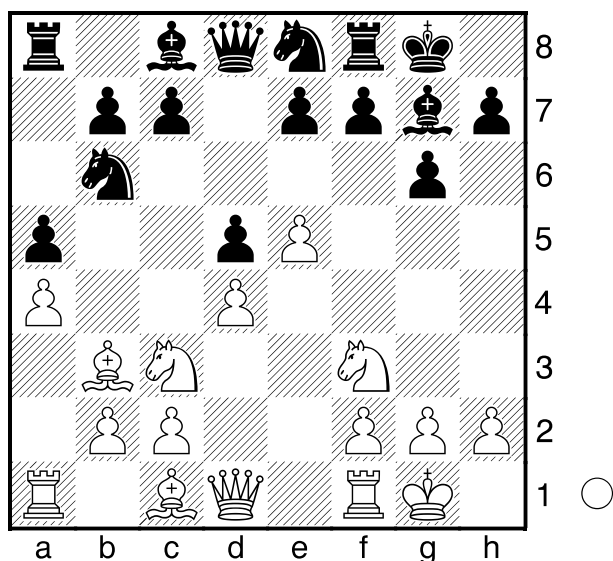
[9...dxe5 2-0]

[9...Bg4 2-0]

[9...c6±]

10.a4± White is better. **10...a5**

(Diagram)



11.h3N

[Predecessor: 11.Re1 c6 12.h3 Nc7 13.Ne2 Nc4 14.Ng3 b5 15.c3 b4 16.Bc2 bxc3 17.bxc3 Rb8 18.Nh5 Nb2 19.Qe2 Nc4 20.Nxg7 Kxg7 21.Bd3 Ba6 22.h4 Rb3 23.Qc2 Rb8 24.h5 Qd7 25.Bg5 Rfe8 26.Qc1 Ne6 27.Bh6+ Kh8 28.Ng5 Nxg5 29.Qxg5 Qe6 30.f4 Rg8 31.Re2 Bc8 32.Rf1 Rb7 33.hxg6 fxg6 34.f5 gxf5 35.Bxf5 Rxg5 36.Bxe6 Bxe6 37.Bxg5 Kg7 38.Ref2 Kg6 39.Bc1 Rb8 40.Rf8 Rxf8 1-0 Horvath,J (1832)-Lagergren,H (1838) W-ch WS/O/1196 email ICCF email 2019]
 [11.Be3 c6 12.Nd2 f5 13.Ne2 Nc7 14.c3 Ne6 15.Nf4 Qe8 16.Nf3 h6 17.h4 Kh7 18.g3 Rg8 19.Kg2 Bf8 20.Rh1 Nxf4+ 21.Bxf4 e6 22.Qe2 Nd7 23.Rh2 b6 24.Rah1 h5 25.Re1 Ba6 26.Qe3 Ra7 27.Bg5 Bg7 28.Rhh1 b5 29.Bf6 Nxf6 30.exf6 Bxf6 31.Qxe6 Be7 32.Ne5 bxa4 33.Bxa4 Bb5 34.Bxb5 cxb5 35.Nc6 Rc7 36.Qxe7+ Rxe7 37.Rxe7+ Qxe7 1-0 Ortmann,D (2165)-Millen,E Karl Mala Memorial op 02nd Griesheim 1998 (7)]
 [11.Ne1 c6 12.f4 Nc7 13.Ne2 Nc4 14.c3 b5 15.Bc2 b4 16.b3 Nb6

17.cxb4 axb4 18.Nd3 Na6 19.Bd2 Qc7 20.Bxb4 Nxb4 21.Nxb4 f6 22.Nd3 fxe5 23.fxe5 Rxf1+ 24.Kxf1 Nd7 25.b4 Nb6 26.Bb3 Bh6 27.Kg1 Bf5 28.Nb2 Rf8 29.a5 Nc8 30.Ng3 Be3+ 31.Kh1 Qa7 32.Nxf5 Rxf5 33.b5 Bxd4 34.b6 Bxb6 35.axb6 Qxb6 36.Nd3 e6 37.Rc1 Na7 ½-½ Garbuz,V (1917)-Ramien,D (2107) GER-ch U25-A Willingen 2016 (2)]

11...c6 12.Bf4

[12.Ne2±]

12...Nc7± 13.Qc1 Ne6 14.Bh6 f6

15.Ne2 Nc4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Bxc4 dxc4 18.Rd1 Nc7! 19.Ra3 Be6 20.Nf4 Qd7 21.Re3 Rae8

[Δ21...Bd5]

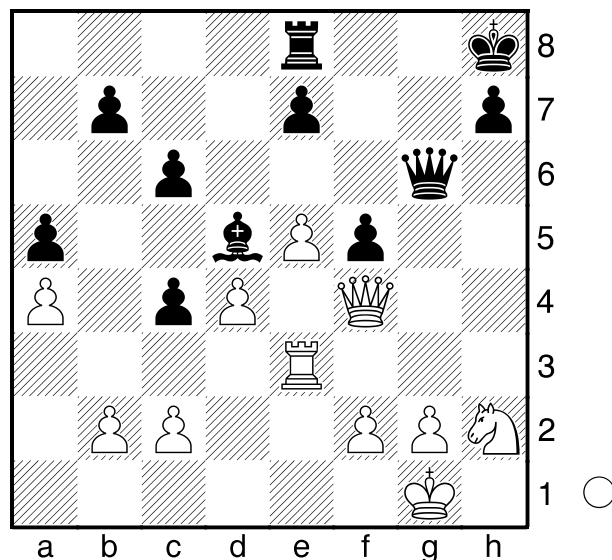
22.Rde1 Bd5 23.Nh2 f5

[23...Ne6± is more appropriate. 24.exf6+ exf6]

24.Rg3 Ne6 25.h4 Nxf4

[25...Nxd4?! 26.h5 Ne6 (26...Bf7? 27.e6+-) 27.hxg6 Nxf4 28.Qxf4±]

26.Qxf4 Qe6 Black is weak on the dark squares **27.h5! Rg8 28.Ree3 Kh8 29.hxg6 Rxg6 30.Rxg6 Qxg6**



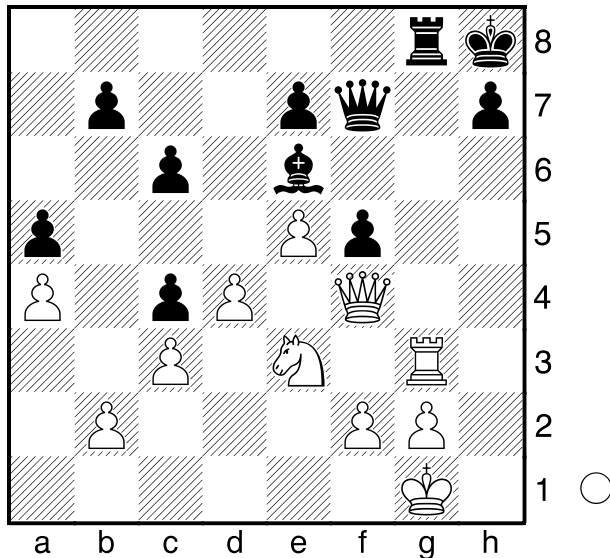
31.Rg3 Qe6 32.Nf1

[Don't play 32.Qg5?! Rg8 33.Qe3 Rxg3 34.fxg3 Be4=]

32...Qf7

[32...b5 33.axb5 (33.Qg5 Rg8±)
33...cxb5]

33.Ne3± Be6 34.c3 Rg8



35.Rxg8+

[35.Rh3!±]

35...Kxg8 Endgame. KQB-KQN

36.Qg5+ Kf8 37.g3 Qg6 38.Qf4 Ke8

39.Qh4 h6 40.f4 Bd5 41.Qh3 e6

42.Kf2 h5 43.Qf1 Kd7 44.Nxc4 Bxc4

The position is equal. 45.Qxc4= KQ-KQ

45...h4! 46.gxh4 Qg4 47.Qc5 Qxf4+

48.Ke2 Qe4+ 49.Kd2 Qg2+ 50.Kd3

Qd6+ is the strong threat. 50...Qf1+

51.Kd2 Strongly threatening Qd6+.

51...Qf2+ 52.Kd3 And now Qd6+ would

win. 52...Qf3+ 53.Kd2 Hoping for Qd6+.

53...Qf2+ Weighted Error Value:

White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.10

(very precise)

1/2-1/2



Srinivasan,Sivavishnu

Hao,Max

B90

1903

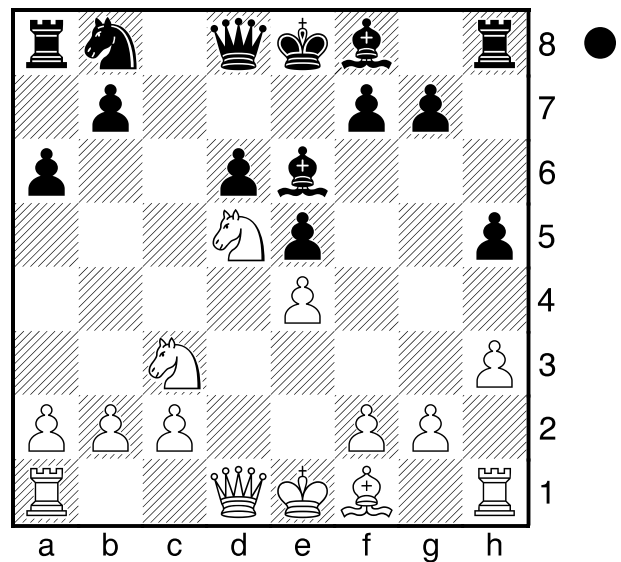
2068

2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (7.3) 20.2.24

[Winslow,Elliott]

Sivavishnu has a smooth win (well, some bumps) in a theoretical line against Max Hao's Najdorf to get into the prize money. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 h5 8.Bg5 Be6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.Nec3

[11.Qd3 was Anand's subtle theoretical improvement in 2017 which may still not be settled.]

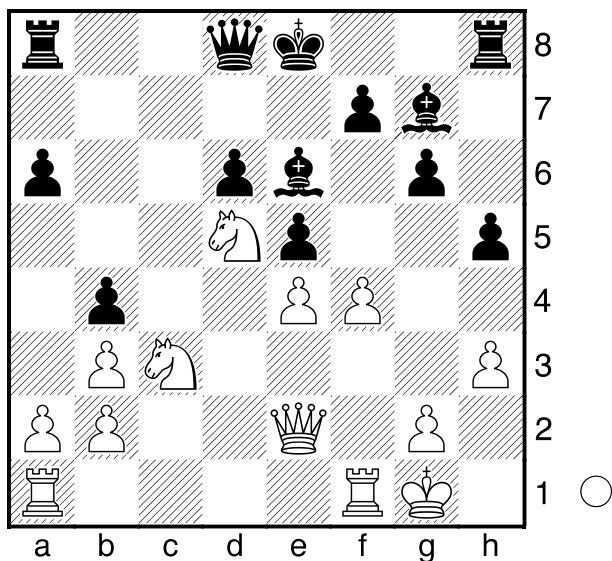


11...Nd7 12.Bc4 b5 13.Bb3 Nc5

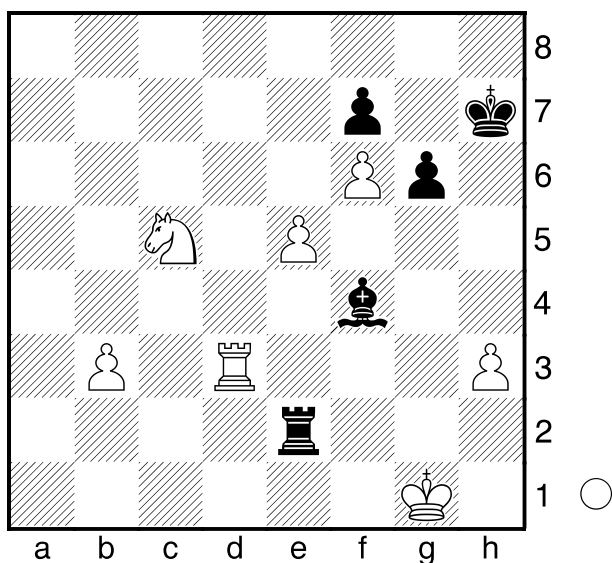
14.Qe2 g6 15.0-0 Bg7 16.f4 Nxb3

17.cxb3 b4

(Diagram)

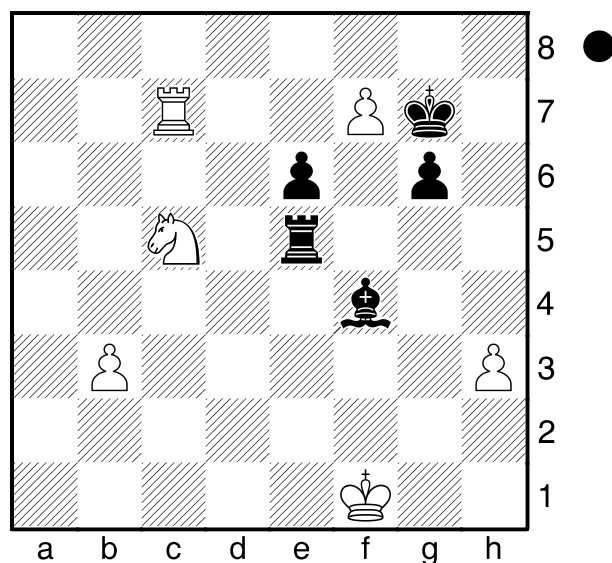


18.f5 Bxd5 19.Nxd5 0-0 20.Qd2 Kh7
21.f6 Bh6 22.Qxb4 Qd7 23.Rad1 a5
24.Qc3 Rfc8 25.Qd3 Rc5 26.Kh1 Qe6
27.Nb6 Rb8 28.Qxd6 Qxd6 29.Rxd6
Rc2 30.Nc4 a4 31.Nxe5 axb3
32.axb3 Rb7 33.Rf3 Rxb2 34.Rd7
Rxd7 35.Nxd7 Rb1+ 36.Kh2 Re1
37.e5 h4 38.g3 Re2+ 39.Kg1 hxg3
40.Rxg3 Rd2 41.Nc5 Bf4?! 42.Rd3
Re2



43.e6 fxe6 44.f7?
[44.Rd7+-]
[44.b4+-]
[44.Kh1+-]

44...Kg7 45.Kf1 Re3 46.Rd7 Re5
47.Rc7



Bh2??
[47...Re3!±]
48.f8Q+ Kxf8 49.Nd7+ Ke8 50.Nxe5
Bxe5 51.Rc4 Ke7 52.b4
1-0

D75
2145
1804
2024 New Year TNM: 2000+ (7.6) 20.2.24
[Diller,Bradley R]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nf3
0-0 5.Nc3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.d4 c5
8.0-0 Nc6 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.Ne5?!
[I was hooked on Ne5 having played
this in blitz many times before, but as
we shall see Ne5 gives Black an
advantage. I should have taken a
breath and opted for this solid
continuation which leads to equality:
10.Be3 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Qc4 12.Nxc6
bxc6 13.Qd2=]
10...Qxd4 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Be3 Qxb2
13.Rb1? Qxa2 14.Bxc6 Bh3?!
[14...Bf5 I missed this move when I
played 10 Ne5. This is clearly a

stronger continuation which give Black an advantage. 15.Bxa8 Qxb1 16.Qxb1 (16.Qa4 Qb6 17.Bf3-+) 16...Bxb1 17.Bf3 Rb8 18.Bxc5 a5 19.Ba7 Rb3 20.Rd1 Bf6

15.Bxa8 Bxf1?

[15...Rxa8 16.Re1 Bc3 17.f3 Bxe1 18.Qxe1 a5 19.Bxc5

16.Bd5! I saw this shot when I embarked on the dubious 10 Ne5. To my fortune, my opponent validated my course of action by playing the only variation which loses material! **16...Qxe2**

[16...Bxe2 17.Bxa2 Bxd1 18.Rxd1+-]

17.Qxf1 Qxf1+ 18.Kxf1 e6 19.Bf3 Rc8 20.Rb7 a5

[20...Bd4 21.Ke2 Bxe3 22.Kxe3 a5 23.Ra7 Rb8 24.Rxa5+-]

21.Ra7 c4

[21...Bb2 22.Rxa5 c4 23.Be4+-]
[21...Bc3 22.Bh6 c4 23.Bc6 Bb4 24.Bd7 Rd8 25.Bg5 Rb8 26.Bf4 Rd8 27.Bg5 Rb8 28.Rc7 c3 29.Ba4+-]

22.Rxa5 c3 23.Ra8 Rxa8 24.Bxa8 h5 25.Ke2 f5 26.Kd3 Kf7 27.Bc6 Bf6 28.h4 e5 29.Bd5+ Kg7 30.Kxc3 f4 31.gxf4 exf4+ 32.Bd4 Bxd4+ 33.Kxd4 Kf6 34.Ke4 f3 35.Kf4 1-0

Wong, Wilson

Cooper, Lee

C11

1883

1691

2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (7.8)

[Wong, Wilson]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.0-0-0 a6 11.Qf2

[11.Kb1 Alternative.]

[11.h4 Alternative.]

11...Qa5 12.Kb1 Na4 13.Nxa4 Qxa4

14.h4 Last move in masters database.

The center is fixed so it seems logical to go for a kingside attack. Black can at any point open the position with ...f6, so I have to be well positioned to take advantage of the pawn structure change. With Black breaks with ...f6 and recaptures with a piece, I'll either get to pressure backward e6-pawn or Black will push ...e5 and I'll have d5-pawn to play against. **14...f6** Black attacks White's center and White is forced to take. When White trades their e5-pawn, Black's dark-squared bishop gets a beautiful diagonal, and Black also can play ...e5 to give life to their light-squared bishop. This seems like a good way to play, because otherwise Black's light-squared bishop looks very sad in this position.

[14...Bd7 Mignon, Frédéric - Skripko, Vasily Alexandrovic, 1/2-1/2, WC35/sf07, 2011, <https://lichess.org/y77dbTPZ> One master game in the position followed with Black finishing development then attempting ...f6 break. In general, a closed position helps the player who is behind in development to catch up and this is what Black did in this game - first finishing development, then attempting to get counterplay against White's center.]

15.exf6 Black is accepting 3 pawn islands and a backward e6-pawn, but will get lots of activity. With the center now mobile, I'll be changing gears to playing against Black's center pawns and potential threats to my king. **15...Bxf6**

[15...Rxf6 Stockfish likes this recapture a lot better. This recapture seems to apply pressure down f-file, but also gives dark-squared bishop something meaningful to do, like ... Bd6. Black can easily trade e6-pawn for f4-pawn. Black's c6-rook being on

the 6th-rank can counter a Qg3, if White wants to try prevent ...e5 pawn-break.]

16.g3? I didn't want to give up my light-squared bishop by playing Bd3 so I made this funny looking move. Black can easily get ...e5 in then I can blockade the d5-pawn, but it's another thing to be able to capture it. This position leaves my position so vulnerable and takes a lot of moves to rearrange my pieces to be productive.

[16.Bd3 The most natural developing square that also benefits from Black's king only having two pawns sheltering it, so a follow-up move like Ng5 could provoke weaknesses that help my pawns break through. It was so very wrong for me to hang onto my bishops for dear life, when I had such a strong developing move with this. It isn't even the end of the world if Black wants my bishop, since it helps further develop my d1-rook, with possibilities of playing against an isolated d5-pawn.]

16...e5 A great time to open the position up. Black's pieces are very active, while mine are pinned or undeveloped. Because I don't want to initiate trading pawns, it's also possible for Black's center pawns to push further. **17.Bc5** 17.Rxe5 Be6 or 17...Nb4 stops me from winning a pawn so I stopped calculating there, missing a much stronger move.

[17.b3! It's hard to make sense of what is going on in this engine line but it starts with a bunch of tempo gaining moves, that help White rapidly develop. Qe4 18.Bc5 Bg4 19.Bg2 exf4 20.Rde1 Qf5 21.Bxf8 White wins an exchange, but the position is a big mess. Black has an insanely powerful dark-squared bishop and there are holes all over White's king position. White does have the

exchange, and shattered Black's strong center, but White will have to do a lot of defending, which looks very unpleasant.]

17...Be7?? This just blunders a pawn.

18.Bxe7 Nxe7 19.Nxe5 White has an octopus knight in the middle of the board with no dark-squared bishop to oppose it. **19...Qe4** My opponent showed a very strong eye for my pinned pieces throughout the remainder of the game. e5-knight is pinned. **20.Nf3** I'm not sure about this. I had a magnificent horsey on a dark-square, and now I'm allowing it to be traded off for Black's dark-squared bishop. There were other ways to untangle instead of moving my horsey.

[20.Re1 There was an option to trade my two rooks for Black's queen I didn't catch in the game, but even if I did, I have a strong bias for more pieces. Qxh1 21.Bg2 Qxe1+ 22.Qxe1]
[20.Rh2 Protecting my queen, with Bd3 on the table. The only painless way for Black to remove my knight would be to trade theirs, but then without knights, it should be very easy for me to blockade d5-pawn and rearrange my pieces to win it.]

20...Bg4 21.Bg2 I'm also fine getting an unopposed light-squared bishop which x-rays d5-pawn. **21...Qa4 22.Rd4 Qa5 23.Ne5** I have a strong knight, but I'm unable to win d5-pawn as long as Black defends it with both their minor pieces. I could force Black to passively defend, but then what? **23...Be6 24.Rhd1**

[24.Qd2 I wasn't sure if I could convert the position with queens off the board, but with queens on the board, my king is definitely not taking part in the action, so it isn't so simple what to keep on the board. I don't trust my technique enough to play queens off. Qxd2 25.Rxd2 Nf5 26.Rd3

I wasn't confident in converting from this position.]

24...Rac8 25.g4 This was the only thing that came to mind to make progress in the position. I want f5 next, and am keeping my eye on potentially setting up a Greco's mate if the condition allows for Rxd5 ...Bxd5 Bxd5 ...Kh8 Ng6+ ...hxxg6 Qh4#. **25...Qc7 26.Qe2**

[26.Re1 A more economical way to defend my knight. Nc6 27.Nxc6 Qxc6 28.Rxe6 Qxe6 29.Bxd5 Black has to be careful not to lose queen like this.]

26...Rfe8 I'm overworking my queen, who has to guard c2-square and e5-knight. Black also x-rays my queen. There is also vulnerability for my d5-knight which can't recapture g4-pawn if Black's knight opens the e-file. My queen is beyond overworked. **27.R4d3**

[27.f5 I dismissed this since I thought it failed tactically. Nxf5 28.gxf5 Bxf5 29.Bxd5+

A) 29...Kf8 This position left me stumped. I didn't see how I was salvaging my knight. 30.Re4! I didn't think this rook move was possible, but Black actually can't capture with the bishop without getting mated. Rxe5 (30...Bxe4 31.Qf2+ Ke7 32.Qf7+ Kd6 33.Bxe4+ Kc5 34.Rd5+ Kb6 35.Qf2+ Qc5 36.Nd7+ White wins.) 31.Rxe5 Qxc2+ (31...Bxc2+ 32.Ka1 Bxd1 33.Qf2+ Qf7 34.Qxf7#) 32.Qxc2 Bxc2+ 33.Kc1 Bb3+ 34.Kd2 Bxd1 35.Kxd1 White is up a bishop.;

B) 29...Kh8 30.Nf7+ Qxf7 31.Bxf7 Rxe2 32.Rd8+ Re8 33.Rxe8+ Rxe8 34.Bxe8 White is up a rook.]

27...Nc6? 28.Nxc6? This is just wrong. Black offered up a pawn and I fumbled my calculation.

[28.Bxd5 Bxd5 (28...Nxe5 29.fxe5 Bxd5 30.Rxd5 Also up a pawn here.;

28...Nb4 29.Bxe6+ Rxe6 30.Rc3 White just won the pawn for free.) 29.Rxd5 This would just give White another pawn.]

28...bxc6 This takes the pressure off White's position.

[28...Qxc6 29.Qd2 Simple enough.]

29.Qf3 I want to play on the kingside. Activity in major piece endings is too important. My goal will be to get my kingside pawns moving and for the pawns to restrict Black's king, pushing Black to have to babysit against back-rank threats. If I could manage to trade all major pieces, this is an easy bishop ending. If all pieces somehow get traded, Black has too many weaknesses and can't stop all my threats since queenside pawns are weak, White has a kingside majority, and White can freeze the queenside with b4 then win the pawns.

29...Bf7 30.f5 It's super duper slow, but I want g5, h5, g6, to get to Black's king.

30...Re4 Black showing the power of rook on the open-file, while my rooks look goofy. Black might be able to hold by penetrating my position with major pieces and put me on defense. **31.Rd4** Keeping control of f4-square, while my queen supports my kingside pawn pushing. My plan is super slow, but its hard to get things going when I have to worry about my back-rank. **31...Rce8 32.c3?** This just lets Black's doubled rooks penetrate my position and harass me. My thinking was to fix my back-rank problem, and when Black's e4-rook moves, I can offer a queen trade. My kingside pawns are super weak, but I can target Black's a6-pawn with my rook then push my a-pawn.

[32.Rxe4 I should've just traded a pair of rooks when possible. Black's rooks are far stronger when doubled, since it could harass my queen, or threaten to double on my 2nd-rank.]

32...Re3 33.Qf4 Qb6 34.Rb4

Black let me reclaim some initiative for free. **34...Qd8 35.g5** My pieces are better placed than a few turns ago and now I resume my kingside pawn storm.

35...Bh5 36.Rc1 Re2 37.Bf3?

This is silly since it still leaves Black with doubled rooks, which is a big problem for White.

[37.Bf1 R2e4 38.Rxe4 Rxe4

I stopped calculating here and wasn't sure where to put my queen, so didn't go for this, which makes no sense, since its still a fine place to be. My bishop is on a far more useful diagonal too.]

37...Bxf3 38.Qxf3 Qe7 39.f6 Qf7

40.h5 R2e5 41.Qg4 Re1 42.Rf4

Rxc1+ 43.Kxc1 White's king is safe, but Black has back-rank issues. **43...Re4**

My opponent had ~3 minutes on the clock so was pressured to move.

44.Rxe4 All pieces are coming off the board and the resulting position is a winning endgame. **44...dxe4 45.Qc8+**

Qf8 46.Qxf8+ Kxf8 47.fxg7+ Kxg7 48.Kd2

1-0



Babayan,Gagik

C50

1709



Marvin,Hayes Alexander

1649

2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (7.10)

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.Bc4

Nc6 5.d3 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6

[Relevant: 7.Bh4 Be7 8.a4 d6

9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Nd5 g6 11.h4 Bg7

12.h5 g5 13.Ne3 Ne7 14.Nd2 c6

15.g4 d5 16.Bb3 Kh8 17.Ndf1 Qa5+

18.Qd2 Qxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Rd8 20.Ng3

dxe4 21.Nxe4 f5 22.gxf5 Nxf5

23.Nxf5 Bxf5 24.Rae1 a5 25.Nc5 b6

26.Ne6 Bxe6 27.Bxe6 Rf8 28.Rhf1

Rad8 29.Re4 Rd4 30.c3 Rd6

31.Bg4 Rfd8 32.Be2 c5 33.Kc2 Kg8

34.Kb3 Kf7 35.Kc4 Rf8 36.Re3 Ke7

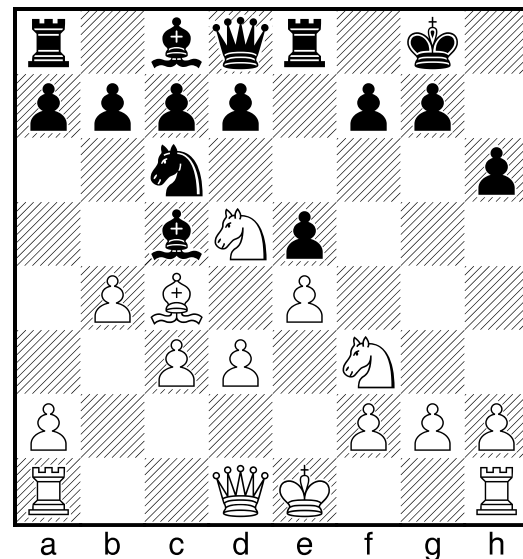
1/2-1/2 Rapport,R (2748)-Aronian,L

(2727) Siquefield Cup 10th Saint

Louis 2023 (8)]

7...Qxf6 8.Nd5 Qd8 9.c3

(scores better than 9.0-0) 9...Re8 10.b4



Bf8N

[Here comes one of those embarrassing "Predecessor"

references: 10...Bb6 11.Nxb6

(11.Qb3±; 11.a4±) 11...axb6=

12.d4?? exd4 13.cxd4? Rxe4+

14.Be2 Nxb4 0-1 Wolf,C (816)-Billing,

T (1116) GER-chT U14 Girls

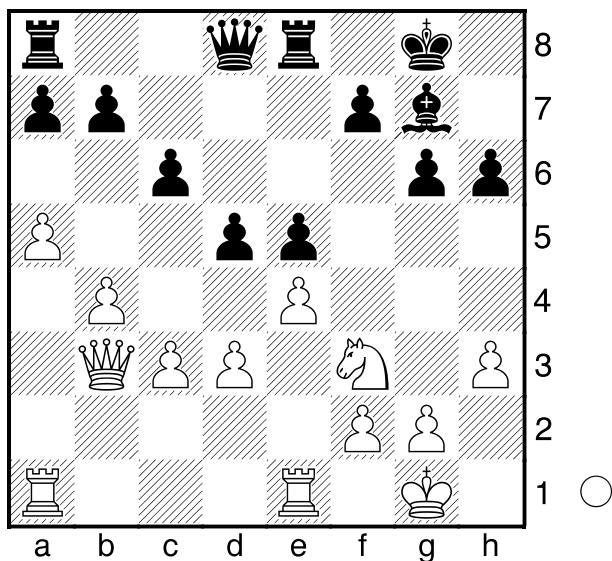
Greifswald 2001 (2.3)]

11.0-0 d6 12.h3 g6 13.Re1 Bg7

14.a4 Be6 15.a5 Ne7 16.Qb3 Bxd5

17.Bxd5 Nxd5 18.Qxd5 c6 19.Qb3 d5

(Diagram)



20.Rad1

[20.c4±]

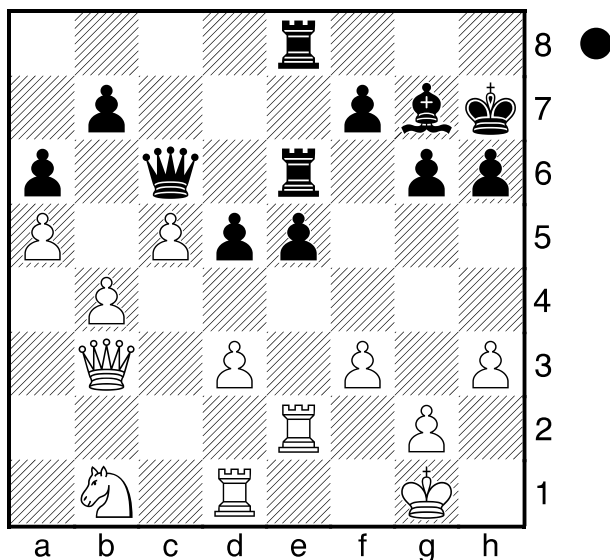
[20.h4±]

20...a6 21.c4 Qd6 22.exd5?!

[22.h4!?]

22...cxd5= 23.c5 Qc6 24.Nd2 Re6

25.f3 Rae8 26.Re2 Kh7 27.Nb1



e4? 28.dxe4?

[28.fxe4! dxe4?! (28...Qd7 29.Kh1;
28...Bd4+ 29.Kh1 dxe4 30.dxe4
Bg7) 29.d4!]

28...dxe4 29.Rxe4?

[29.f4! Qc7! 30.g3 Rd8]

29...Rxe4 30.fxe4 Qxe4+ 31.Rf1?!

[31.Qxf7 Rf8 32.Qd5 (32.Qb3 Qe2
Black has a winning attack.)

32...Qxb4+ White's pawns are the
weak ones.]

31...Qe3+?= gives all the advantage
away.

[31...f5]

[31...Qd4+]

[31...Rd8! 32.Kh2 (32.Qxf7? Rf8)

32...f5]

32.Qxe3 Rxe3 33.Nd2

[33.Rxf7!? Re1+ 34.Kf2 Rxb1

35.Rxb7!= Rb3! 36.b5 Rc3!

(only move) 37.c6 axb5 38.c7 h5!

39.a6 Kh6= when ...Bd4 is just in
time.]

33...f5 All the other defenses (or
counterattacks) are equal as well:

[33...Re2]

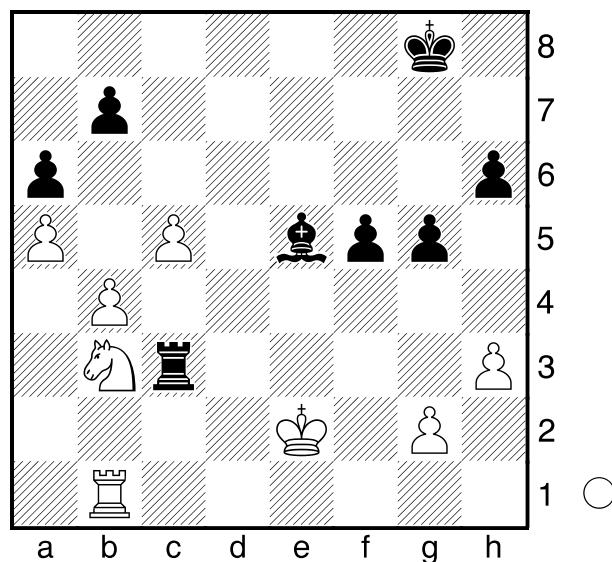
[33...Rd3]

[33...Kg8]

[33...Re7]

34.Rb1 Rc3 35.Kf1 Kg8 36.Ke2 g5

37.Nb3?! Be5



38.c6?

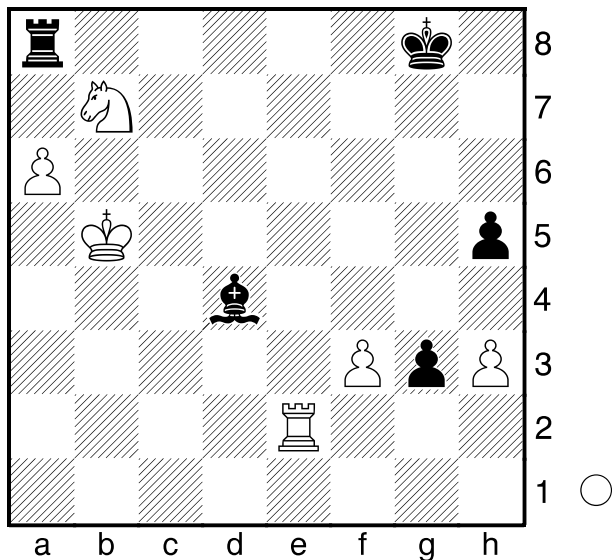
[38.Nc1]

[38.Nd2 Bf4 39.Nf3 Rc2+ 40.Kd3
Rxc2]

38...Rxc6 39.Nc5 Bd6?

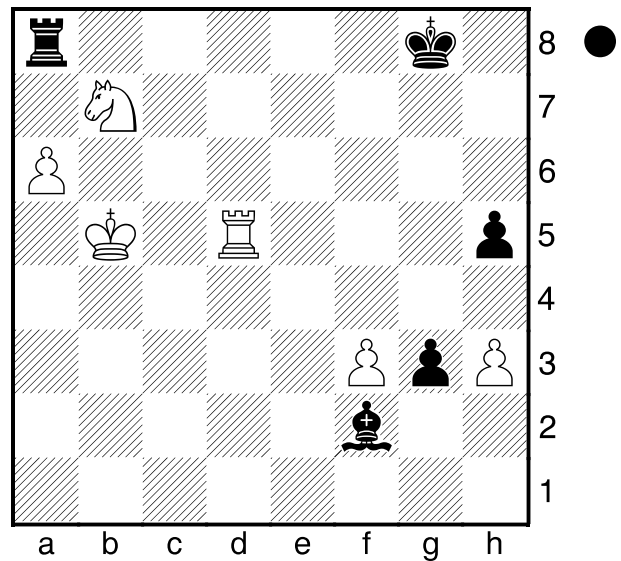
[39...Rc7!]

40.Nxb7 Be7 41.b5 Re6+
 [41...axb5 42.Rxb5 f4=]
42.Kd3 f4?
 [42...axb5 43.Rxb5 f4=]
43.Kc4?
 [43.b6+-]
43...h5?!
 [43...axb5+ 44.Kxb5 Re5+ 45.Kc6
 Re6+ 46.Kd7 Kf7 47.Rb5 Ra6!±]
44.bxa6
 [44.b6!?]
44...Rxa6 45.Kb5 Ra8 46.a6 Bf6
47.Rd1
 [47.Rb4!]
47...g4!± 48.Rd3
 [48.Na5! f3 49.gxf3 gxh3 50.Nc6]
48...f3!? 49.gxf3 g3! 50.Rd2
 [50.f4 h4 51.Rd2]
50...Bc3= 51.Re2 Bf6 52.Rd2 Bc3
53.Re2 Bd4



54.Rd2??
 [54.Nd6 Bf2 55.Re5=]
 [54.Nc5=]
 [54.h4=]
54...Bf2+ 55.Rd5

(Diagram)

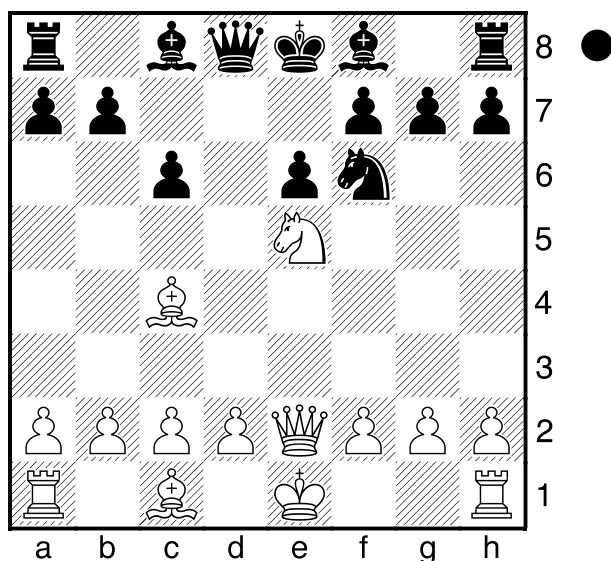


Be3! One of two only winning moves
 [55...Kf7! was the other.]
56.Rd6 Kg7! 57.Rd7+ Kg6 58.Rd6+
Kg5 59.Nd8 And the scoresheet is a bit
 muddled, but it looks like White resigned
 right now.
0-1

B11
 1571
 1425
 Horde,Nicolas T
 Smets,Ray
 2024 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (7.11)
 [Horde,Nicolas]

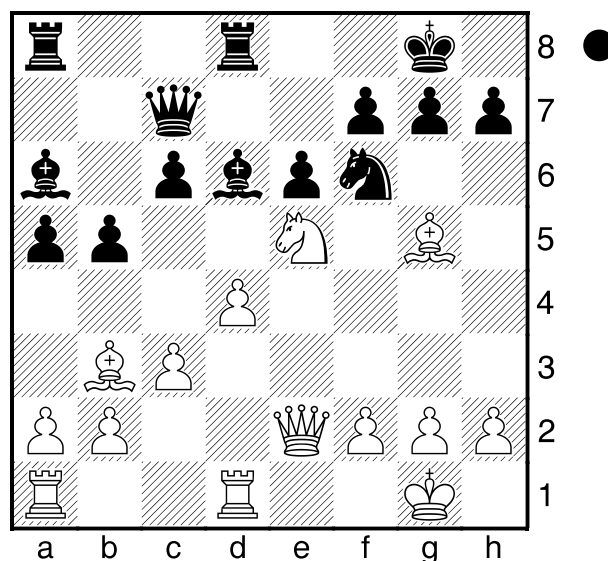
1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 Ray told me after the
 game he prepped for the exchange
 because this is what I played in previous
 TNM. Unfortunately for him today I was
 in the mood for the two knights **2...d5**
3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qe2
 [5.Nxf6+ exf6 I've always preferred
 the Black side of the Tartakower]
5...Nxe4 6.Qxe4 Nd7 7.Bc4 Nf6
8.Ne5 e6 9.Qe2

(Diagram)



b5! 10.Bb3! I spent 15 minutes to properly calculate that taking on c6 with the knight is a very bad idea
[10.Nxc6? Qc7! 11.Bd3 (11.Bxb5?? a6 12.Ba4 Bd7 13.Qc4 Nd5! 14.0-0 Nb6 And White is losing a piece) 11...a6 12.Ne5 Nd5 13.0-0 Bb7
Black has tremendous compensation for the pawn and SF gives it -1]
10...Qc7 11.0-0 Bd6 12.d4 a5 13.c3 0-0 14.Bf4! Covers the knight after c5
[14.Bg5?! Nd5! It turns out I have seen this position in the previous Blitz world championship by a 8-year old kid... (Bodhana vs Nurgul)]
14...Ba6?! "Threatens" b4 but the bishop is misplaced on a6 and would had been better on b7 **15.Rfd1 Rfd8 16.Bg5!**

(Diagram)

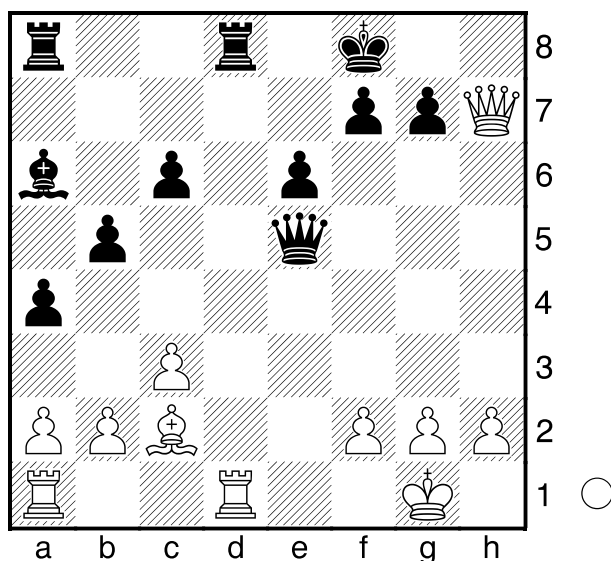


a4! Removes the bishop from the dangerous a2-g8 diagonal
[16...Be7?? 17.Nxf7! If Black is not careful]

17.Bc2 Be7 18.Bxf6?! Not sure why I did not follow with Qf3 which was what I intentionally planned, this just trades pieces and releases the pressure on Black
[18.Qf3 That was my initial though. not sure why I switched gear, Black is very passive Rac8 19.Qh3
A) 19...h6 20.Bxh6! gxh6
21.Qxh6 (21.Rd3 Bf8 22.Rg3+ Kh8 23.Rf3 Bg7 24.Rxf6 Bxf6 25.Qxh6+);
B) 19...g6 20.Qf3 Kg7]

18...Bxf6 19.Qe4 Bxe5 20.Qxh7+ Kf8 21.dxe5 Qxe5

(Diagram)



I don't mind those type of positions where it's simple and almost equal but White has a lot of ideas to outplay Black
22.Qh8+!?

[22.Re1 Qf6 23.Rad1 Bb7
 With a slight pull for White but not too much]

22...Ke7 23.Qh4+ The point behind Qh8, the plan is to redirect the queen to the queenside with tempo **23...g5**

I wasn't convinced about this move because Black's king is stuck in the center of the board. In our post-mortem he thought it was a clever move and SF agrees with it but now both players need to be precise to maintain the balance

24.Qg4! Rh8 25.h3 Bb7?

Way too slow

[25...Rh4?! I thought this was the critical move 26.Qf3 Bb7 27.Qd3!
 White maintains the initiative]

[25...c5! 26.Qf3 Rac8 (26...Qf4)]

26.Re1!? Not the most precise

[26.Qb4+! Kf6 27.Rd7! c5 28.Qxb5]

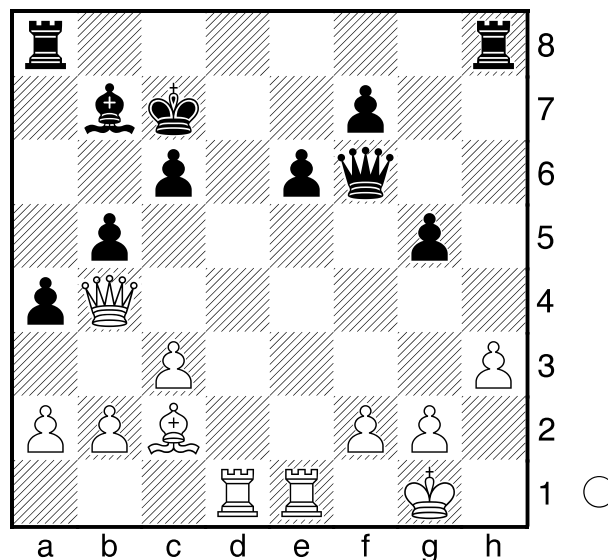
26...Qf6? Now White infiltrates and Black's king is way too vulnerable in the center

[26...Qf4! 27.Qe2]

27.Qb4+! Kd7 28.Rad1+

[28.c4]

28...Kc7



29.Rd6!? SF does not like it but I think it's good for a human, White simply activates all their pieces

[29.Qd6+ Kb6 30.Rd5! It was under my radar but with the bishop instead, but then the question is "then what".

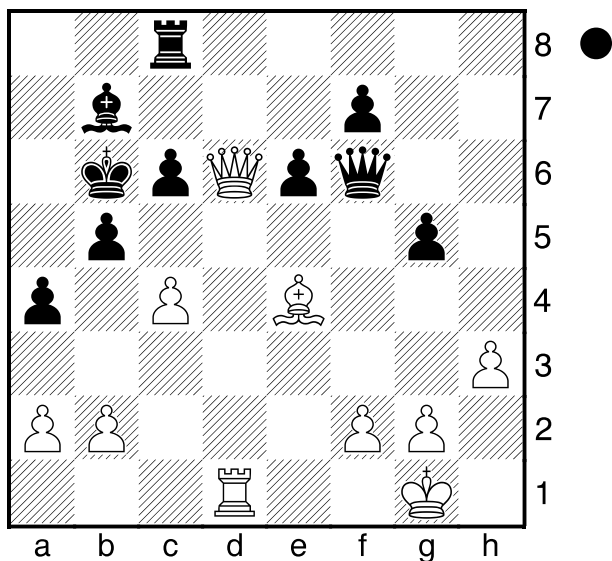
SF gives a brilliant finish Rac8 (30...Ra6 31.Rf5!!) 31.Rxb5+!! Kxb5 32.Re4 Blacks has to give up the queen to stay alive]

29...Rhd8 30.Red1! Rxd6 31.Qxd6+ Kb6 32.Be4?! Rc8

[32...Qf4! 33.Qd3 f5 34.Bf3 g4 35.hxg4 fxg4 36.Be4 Rf8 White is 37.Rd2 White is still slightly better but Black is finding counterplay]

33.c4!

(Diagram)



All of White's pieces are on ideal squares so it's just a steamroller from now on

33...Ka7??

[33...Qf4 34.c5+ Ka6 35.Qxf4 gxf4 36.Rd6]

34.Qc5+ Kb8 The most resilient defense

[34...Ka6 35.cxb5+ cxb5 36.Bxb7+ Kxb7 37.Rd7+ Rc7 38.Rxc7+ Ka6 39.Ra7#]

[34...Ka8 35.cxb5 cxb5 36.Qxc8+ Ka7 37.Qxb7#]

35.cxb5 cxb5 36.Qxb5 Rc7 37.Bxb7 Rxb7 38.Qe8+ Kc7

[38...Ka7 39.Qxa4+ Kb8 40.Qe8+ Ka7 41.Rd8]

39.Rd7+ Kb6 40.Rd6+ Black resigns 1-0

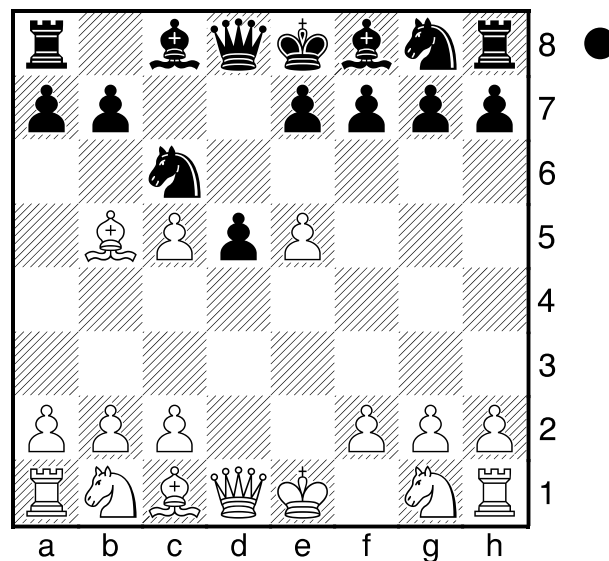
□ Dolan, Kevin
■ Land, Sean

2024 New Year TNM: u1200 (7.25)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5
[3...Bf5]

4.dxc5 Nc6 5.Bb5

(Diagram)



Bf5?

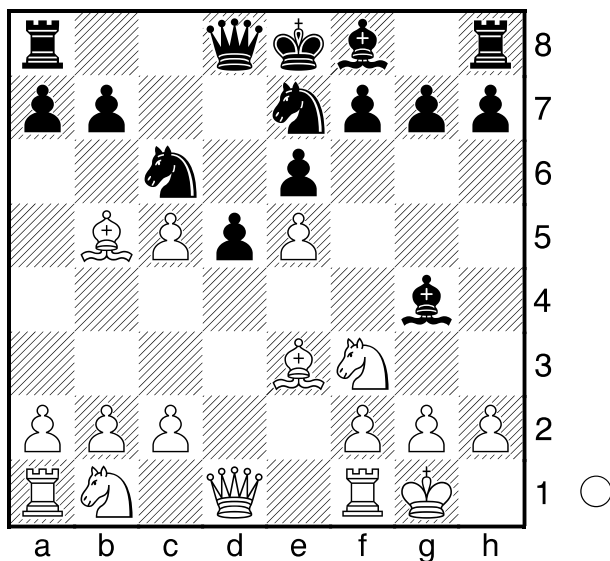
[Relevant: 5...e6 6.Be3 Nge7 7.c3 Bd7 8.Bxc6 Nxc6 9.f4 Qc7 10.Nf3 Na5 11.b4 Nc4 12.Bd4 b6 13.cxb6 axb6 14.0-0 Be7 15.Nfd2 0-0

16.Nxc4 dxc4 17.Nd2 Rfd8 18.Qe2 b5 19.Ne4 Bc6 20.f5 exf5 21.Rxf5 Rxd4 22.cxd4 Qd7 23.Rff1 Qxd4+ 24.Nf2 Qd5 25.Nh3 Bxb4 26.Ng5 Qd2 27.Qg4 h5 28.Qg3 h4 29.Qg4 Be7 30.Nf3 Qd7 31.Qxd7 Bxd7 32.Rfd1 Bf5 33.Nd4 Bg4 34.Nxb5 Bxd1 35.Rxd1 ½-½ Jakovenko, D (2752)-Granda Zuniga, J (2641) EU-Cup 34th Porto Carras 2018 (5.4)]

6.Nf3 e6 7.Be3 Bg4 8.0-0 Nge7

(Diagram)

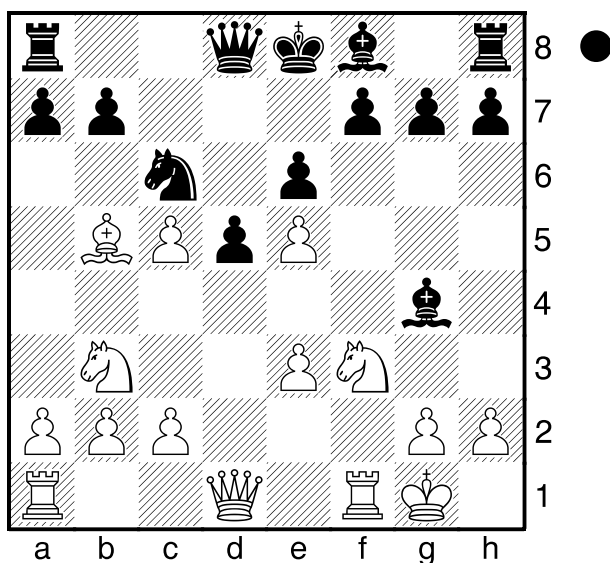
B12
1146
868



9.Nbd2N

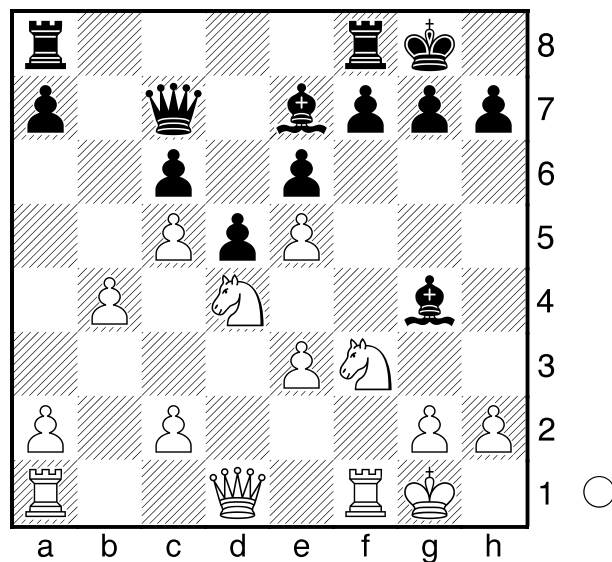
[Predecessor: 9.c3 a6 10.Ba4 a5 11.Nbd2 Nf5 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qa4 Bxf3 14.Qxc6+ Ke7 15.Nxf3 Nxe3 16.fxe3 Rc8 17.Qb5 f6 18.c4 Kf7 19.Ng5+ Kg6 20.Nxe6 Qe7 21.cxd5 h5 22.Qd3+ Kh6 23.exf6 gxf6 24.Qf5 Rg8 25.Qxf6+ Kh7 26.Qxe7+ Bxe7 27.Rf7+ 1-0 Vlassov,N (2283)-Leve,N (2128) Titled Tuesday intern op 09th Aug Early Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (8)]

9...Nf5 10.Nb3 Nxe3 11.fxe3

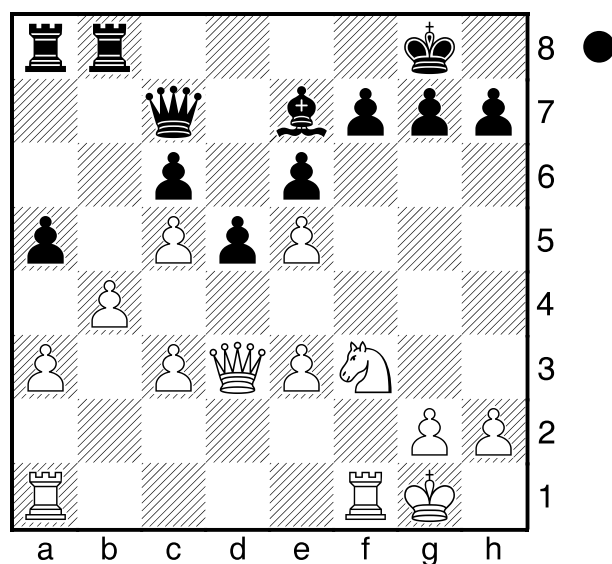


Be7 12.Nbd4 Qc7 13.b4 0-0 14.Bxc6

bxc6±

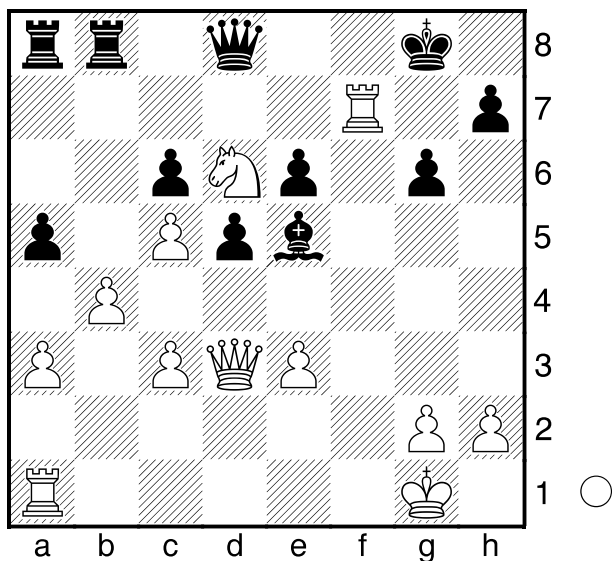


15.Qd3 Bxf3 16.Nxf3 a5 17.a3 Rfb8 18.c3



Bf8? 19.Ng5! g6 20.Nxf7 Bg7 21.Nd6 [21.Qd4] 21...Bxe5 [21...axb4! 22.cxb4 Bxe5] 22.Rf7 Qd8

(Diagram)



23.Raf1

[23.e4!+- Bxd6 24.Raf1!±]

23...Bxd6?

[23...Qh4!= 24.g3 Bxg3]

24.cxd6 Qb6

[24...Qxd6 25.Rxh7! e5 (25...Kxh7 26.Rf7+ Kh6 27.Qd4 6 and mate in) 26.Rff7+- Stockfish took a bit to find mate in 20 (!)]

25.d7

[25.Re7 Re8 26.Rff7 Rxe7 27.Rxe7 Rf8 28.Qd4]

25...axb4 26.cxb4 c5 27.Qc3 d4 28.exd4 cxd4 29.Qh3 h5 30.Qd3 1-0

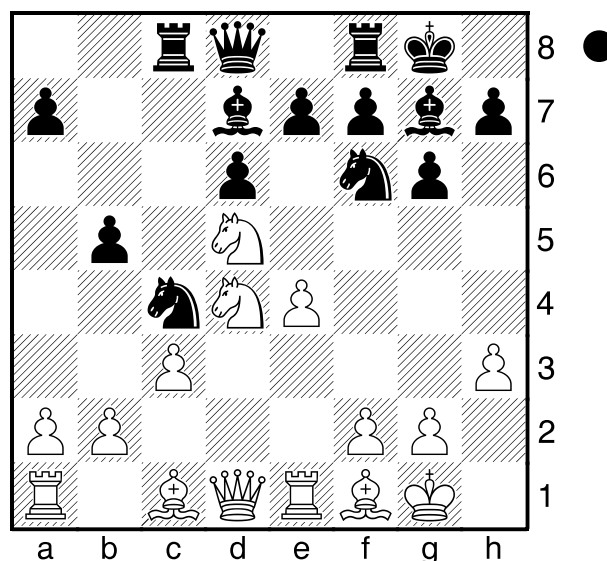
B70
2349
2006
 2024 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 05.03.24
 [Winslow,Elliott]

On the surface another controlled win by Ruiyang, but a closer look paints a different story: Jones missed chances to turn White's casual weakening of the kingside into a dangerous attack. But once White got in pawn to e4 (the second time), it was "dragon jailed" (and

the knight on f4 was harmless) -- and White was just a pawn up (or in other words, *two* pawns up on the queenside). **1.e4 6 c5 12 2.Nf3 7 d6 7 3.d4 4 cxd4 3 4.Nxd4 7 Nf6 22 5.Nc3 7 g6 11 6.Be2 1:07** Even with the standard Dragon move order Ruiyang isn't provoked into the Yugoslav Attack lines! She's committed to Karpov-style positional play. **6...Bg7 7 7.0-0 7 0-0 15 8.Re1 11 Nc6 23 9.Nb3 9 Bd7 47 10.Bf1 12 Rc8 17**

[Relevant: 10...a5 11.a4 Nb4 12.Nb5 Rc8 13.c3 Nc6 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bf4 Ng4 16.h3 Nge5 17.N3d4 Kh7 18.Be3 Nxd4 19.Bxd4 g5 20.b3 f5 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Bxe5 Bxe5 23.Bd3 Qd7 24.Ra2 Kh8 25.Bxf5 Qxf5 26.c4 Rf6 27.Nd4 Qh7 28.Nf3 Bc3 29.Re3 Bb4 30.Rae2 e5 31.Nh2 Rcf8 32.Rf3 Rxf3 33.Nxf3 Bc5 34.Nh2 Qf5 35.Ng4 h5 36.Ne3 Qg6 37.Nd5 g4 38.hxg4 hxg4 39.g3 Qf5 40.Ne3 0-1 Postny,E (2573)-Bacrot,E (2647) Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Sep Early Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (8)]

11.h3 7:24 Ne5 3:53 12.Nd5 22 Nc4 5:56 13.c3 7:18 b5 4:36 14.Nd4 2:42



e6?!N 15:48

[Predecessor: 14...a6 15.Qb3 e5
16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Nf3 Be6 18.Qc2
d5 19.Bh6 dxe4 20.Rad1 Qb6
21.Bxf8 exf3 22.Bh6 fxg2 23.Bxg2
Bf5 24.Qe2 Qe6 25.Bd5 Qe7
26.Bg2 Bg5 27.Bxg5 Qxg5 28.b3
Bxh3 29.Qf3 Bg4 30.Qg3 Nd2
31.Rxe5 f5 32.f4 Qd8 33.Bd5+
1-0 Meribanov,V (2411)-Kuleshov,K
(2076) BLR-ch 1st stage Minsk 2016
(2)]

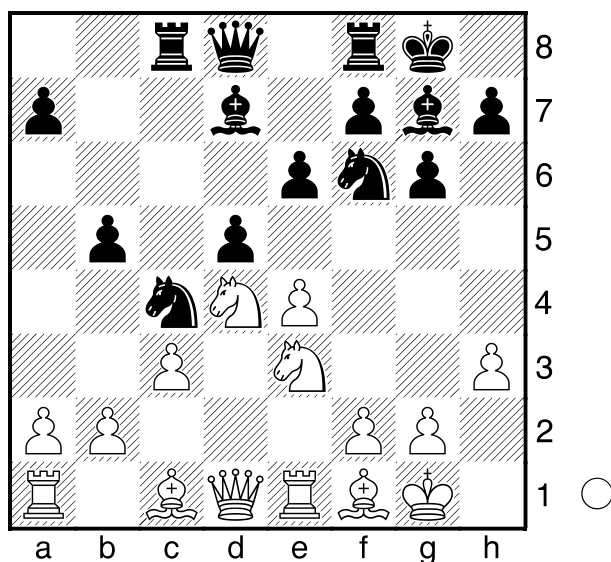
[14...Nxd5! 15.exd5 Rc5 (15...Bf6)
16.Nb3 Rc8 Draw? Stockfish thinks
it's (0.00). 17.Re4 e5 18.dxe6 fxe6
19.Nd4 Qb6=]

15.Ne3 11:03

[15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.b3 Nb6 17.Bb2±
is Stockfish 16.1's best line (+0.53/23),
but it *does* require Ruiyang to move
a bishop off its original square...]

15...d5 2:05

[15...Qc7]



Black wasn't required to play the
"freeing move" just yet. **16.exd5** 2:54
Nxe3 4:55

[16...exd5=]

17.fxe3? 13:04 I had to check the
scoresheet to see that she really did
this! (The Mechanics now has DGT

boards running on the top six boards!
Thus the "time used" per move, and
maybe even accurate time scrambles...)

[17.Bxe3 Nxd5 18.Nxb5 Nxe3
19.Rxe3 Bxb5 20.Bxb5 Qb6 21.Qb3
Rb8 22.Ba4 a5!? The pressure on
the queenside keeps it close to even.]

17...Nxd5? 5:58 White lives after this!

[17...exd5! 18.Bxb5 Bxb5 19.Nxb5
Ne4+ For the price of a pawn or two,
White has buried the bishop, and
exposed her king to ...Be5-b8, ...h7-h5,
kick the knight and ...Qd6. Black is
just better.]

18.Nxb5?! 1:17

[18.e4! Nc7 19.Be3= SF 16.1: (+0.
12/22)]

18...Qb6? 2:53

[18...Bxb5! 19.Bxb5 Qb6 (19...Be5)]

19.Nd4 2:35 **e5?!=** 1:45

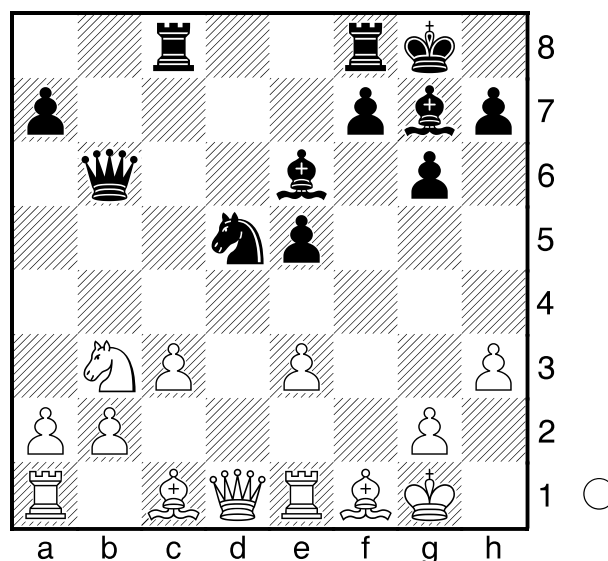
[19...Rfd8+]

20.Nb3?! 1:07

[20.Nf3!=]

20...Be6 57

[20...Nf6!]



21.Kh1? 10:16



[21.Qd3]

[21.Qe2]

21...a5? 5:22

[21...e4!±]
22.e4!± 1:18 Nf4?! 2:44

[22...Nf6]
23.Be3! 1:25 Finally! Into the game!
23...Qb8 3:38 24.Qc2 1:13 a4?! 2:04
25.Nc5+- 14 a3 27 26.b4 4:06 Rfd8 22
27.Qa4 9:19 Bf8 12:50 28.Nxe6 1:54
Nxe6 1:36 29.Qxa3 6
1-0

	Clemens,Kristian	D13
	Dasika,Archit	2004
		2220
2024 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 05.03.24		
<i>[Clemens,Kristian]</i>		

(EW: Another thoughtful submission from Clemens, this time a personal confession how he was confounded by Dasika's high-level play.) **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bf4 a6 7.e3 Bg4 8.Be2 e6 9.0-0 Be7**

[9...Bd6 10.Bxd6 Qxd6 I've seen this idea from Black in many games. I think my opponent's treatment of this opening is better (in fact, better than almost any of my previous opponents' play in this opening).]

10.h3 Bh5 I was already up ten minutes on the clock here. **11.Rc1 0-0 12.Ne5 #**

[12.Na4 Ne4 13.Nc5 Nxc5 14.dxc5 felt like giving away the center for compensation (a4, b4-b5) which will take a while to show up, if it ever does. That's why I didn't continue with my standard Na4-c5 idea.]
[12.Qb3 Na5 13.Qa4 b5 14.Qd1 is suggested by the engine, but I really don't like the idea of giving him so many tempi on the queenside when I haven't really accomplished much with my pieces.]

12...Nxe5?!

[12...Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Rc8 is what I've expected, when Black has gotten rid of my strong bishop and should be totally fine]

13.Bxh5

[13.Bxe5 Bxe2 14.Qxe2=]
[13.dxe5 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Nd7 15.Rfd1 Seems pretty equal, but I don't think this is so difficult for Black to play. I think the e5 pawn is more of a burden than an attacker.]

13...Nc4 14.Be2 b5

[14...Nxb2 15.Qb3 Nc4 16.Bxc4 dxc4 17.Qxb7±]

15.b3 Nd6 Now that the position became more tactical, my play slowed down, and I took 18 minutes on my last 4 moves to bring me to 1:27. **16.a4** Undermining the c4 square and immediately clarifying the situation on the queenside. It was important to fight for c4, since I no longer have a knight on e5 that can cover that square, and I don't want to have to worry about ...Ba3 ideas. **16...b4 17.Na2 Qb6 18.f3?! #** To me, this seemed like a natural way to deactivate both of his knights. But I overlooked his very active next idea here. **18...Nh5 19.Be5**

[19.Bh2 Nf5 20.Qd2 Bg5 (20...Nhg3 21.Bxg3 Nxg3 22.Rfe1 Rfc8 23.Bd3=) 21.f4 Bf6 22.Bxh5]

19...Nf5 20.Qd2 Nhg3 21.Rfe1

[21.Bxg3 Nxg3 22.Rfe1 I thought my dark squares were too weak for this to be worthwhile.]

21...Nxe2+ 22.Rxe2 Rfc8 23.Ree1

Bg5 A spectator might think that my opponent prosaically outplayed me by positional means, as expected from a master playing an expert in the first round. But during the game, I had the feeling that I was being outcalculated at almost every turn. My opponent simply kept posing problems, and I found it very difficult to predict his moves in the

middlegame. **24.f4** I spent 20 minutes on this move, and I think I still missed the best continuation. I felt sure that my bishop wouldn't get trapped, and of course I really didn't want to give up the e4 square (that's why I played f3 in the first place), but my misevaluation of the variation after g4 caused me to go wrong here.

[24.g4 Bxe3+ 25.Rxe3 Nxe3 26.Qxe3 f6 27.Bf4 # I saw this position, but I thought the eventual loss of the c-file and my rather unemployed bishop made this position bad for White. To be honest, I still don't see much of a future for any White piece except the knight.]

24...Be7 My opponent took seven minutes on this move and was up 54 - 28 on the clock. From here to the end of the game, he sped up considerably in my worsening time trouble, and I simply couldn't keep up.

[24...Bd8 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.g4 Ng3 27.Qxb4 Qxb4 28.Nxb4 Ba5! I missed this move in analysis: 29.Bd6 Ne4 30.Be7+]

25.Rxc8+ Rxc8 26.Rc1 Rc6

[26...Rxc1+ 27.Qxc1 f6 28.Bc7 Qb7 29.Ba5 was my rather optimistic analysis.]

27.Rxc6

[27.Kf2 f6 28.g4 Nh4 29.Rxc6 Qxc6 30.Bb8 Qb7+]

27...Qxc6 28.g4 Ng3 29.Kg2

[29.Qc1 Ne2+]
[29.Nxb4 Bxb4 30.Qxb4 Qc1+ 31.Kg2 h6 32.Kxg3 Qg1+ 33.Kf3 Qf1+ 34.Kg3=]

29...Ne4 30.Qc1 Nc3 31.f5 f6

[31...exf5 32.gxf5 h5]

32.Bg3 exf5 33.gxf5 a5 Somehow I had the impression that my opponent wasn't expecting my next move, but it's more likely that he wasn't afraid of it and had already seen it. **34.Be1 Qd7**

35.Bxc3

[35.Qc2 Nxa2 36.Qxa2 Qxf5]
[35.Nxc3 bxc3 36.Qxc3 Bb4 37.Qc1 Bxe1 38.Qxe1 Qxf5 39.Qxa5=]

35...bxc3 36.Qxc3 Qxf5 # Around here, I felt like my opponent was playing so quickly I barely had time to write my moves down, although I think that's a bit of an exaggeration, looking at the time notes on my scoresheet. This is a sharp position in which I really could have used the 20 minutes I burned a few moves before. **37.Nc1**

[37.Qxa5!! Again, my calculation wasn't quite up to the task. I had seen this idea earlier, but I simply didn't have enough time to figure out if it really drew by force or not. Qc2+ 38.Kf3 Qxa2 39.Qxd5+ Kf8 40.Qa8+ Kf7 41.Qd5+]

37...Bb4 38.Qc6? This is a nightmare scenario for a knight vs. bishop endgame: queens still on the board, my knight trapped on the rim, and my king open. The transparent threat of Qe8+ is easily stopped.

[38.Qd3 Qg5+ 39.Kf3 (39.Kf2 Qh4+ 40.Kg2 g6 41.Ne2 Be1) 39...Qg1 40.Ne2 Qh1+]

38...Qe4+ 39.Kf2 Bd2! I totally missed this move in time trouble. I thought it ended the game immediately, but in analysis after the game I discovered a saving line: **40.Ne2**

[40.Qc8+ Kf7 41.Qc7+! The only move that allows White to defend e3 from the other side. Kg6 (41...Qe7 42.Qxe7+ Kxe7 43.Nd3 I would be thrilled to escape to this endgame.) 42.Qg3+ Kh6 43.Ne2 and once I trade queens, the endgame is pretty interesting, but I think White should hold without much trouble.]

40...Qxe3+ 41.Kf1 Qf3+ 42.Kg1 Be3+ 43.Kh2 Qxe2+ 44.Kg3 Qf2+ 45.Kg4 Qf4+ I came away very impressed by my

opponent's practical play: keeping all four minor pieces on the board in the opening, active play on the kingside in the middlegame, forcing me to make important decisions like f3, Ree1, and f4, and finally speeding up significantly after I burned too much time on one critical decision. I had several chances to equalize the game at various points, but my calculation speed just wasn't good enough, and my misevaluation after ... Bg5 cost me 20 minutes that I really could have used.

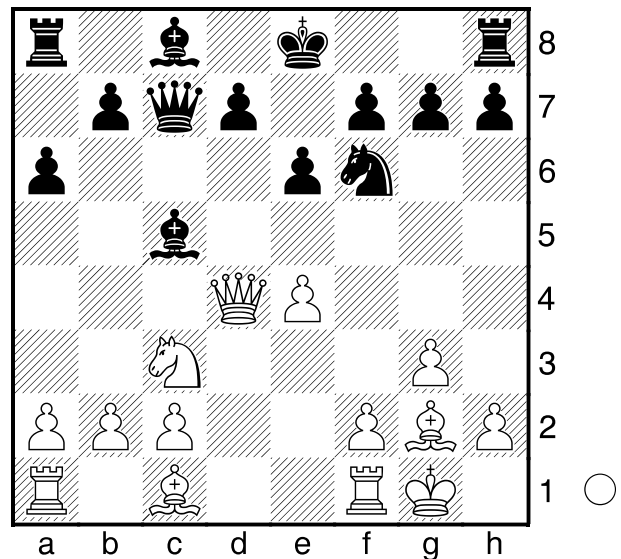
0-1

Riese,Kayven
 Shrauger,Alex Hayden
 2024 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 05.03.24
[Winslow,Elliott]

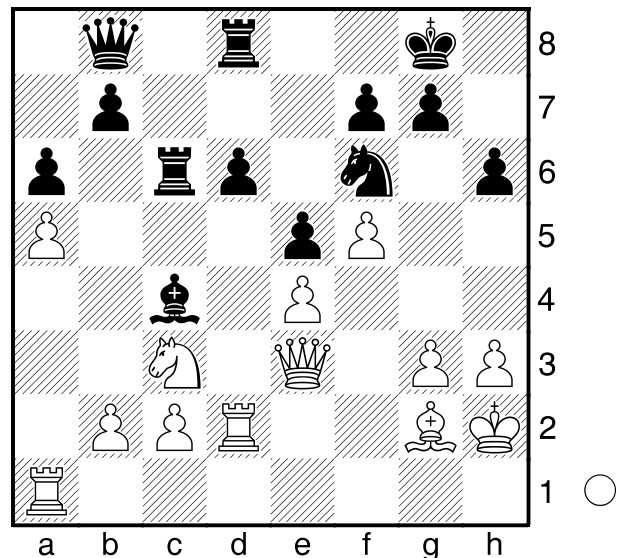
Alex Shrauger is improving -- in his previous Mechanics tournament he drew a difficult ending against Ruiyang; he's a tough opponent (when he shows up! He missed his last round in that TNM.). Riese seemed unsure of how that Fianchetto Taimanov Sicilian goes, but got back on track, and when Alex fumbled the queenside play (cornering his own bishop!) was *winning* after 25. f6; then *something* went wrong, and again, and the ending was a disaster.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bc5

(Diagram)

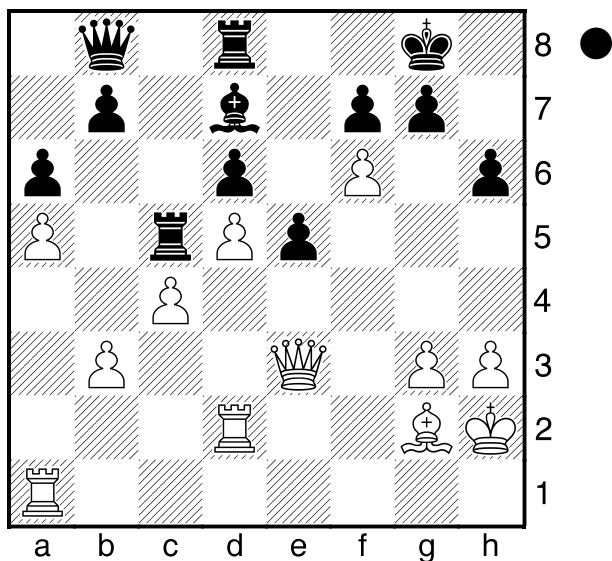


10.Qd3 h6 11.Be3 Bxe3 12.Qxe3 d6 13.h3 e5 14.a4 0-0 15.Rfd1 Be6 16.a5 Rac8 17.Kh2 Rfd8 18.f4 Bc4 19.f5 Qb8 20.Rd2 Rc6?



No retreat for the bishop now! **21.b3+- Bb5 22.Nd5! Nxd5 23.exd5 Rc5 24.c4 [24.f6] 24...Bd7 25.f6!+-**

(Diagram)



b5 26.axb6

[26.Rf2!]

26...Qxb6 27.Rda2?!

[27.fxg7 Kxg7 28.Rf2 Rf8 29.g4+-]

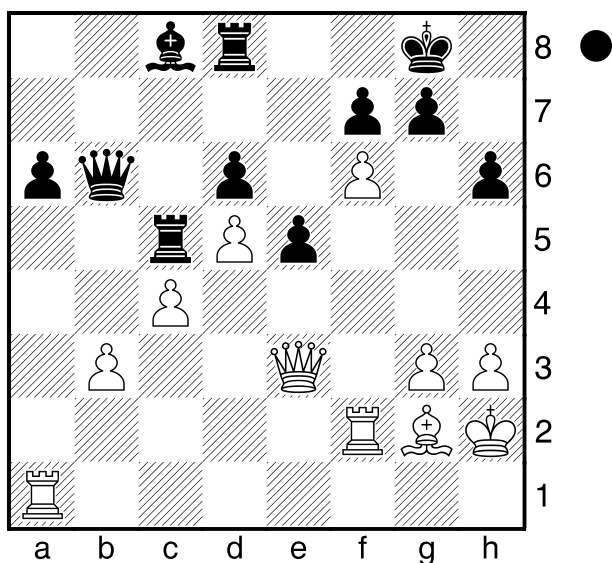
27...Bc8

[27...Ra8!±]

28.Rf2?

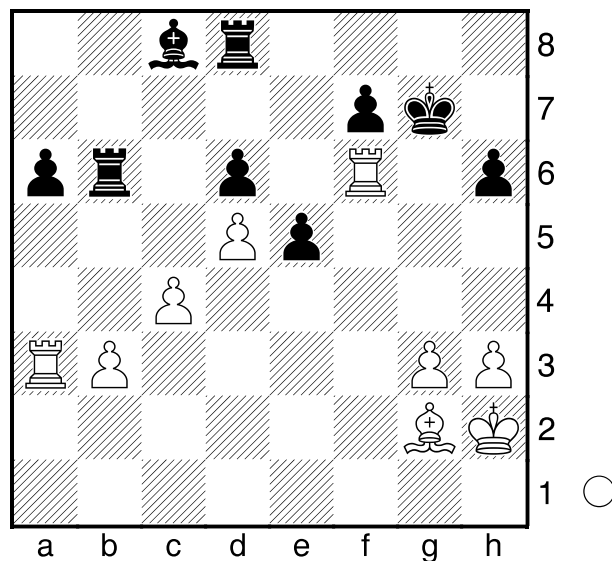
[28.Re2]

[28.Re1]



28...Rb5!= 29.Qxb6 Rxb6 30.Ra3 gxf6 31.Rxf6 Kg7

(Diagram)



32.Rf2?!

[32.c5!=]

32...f5 33.Bf3 Re8 34.Bh5 Re7

35.Re2 Kf6 36.h4 e4 37.Kg2 Ke5

38.Re3 Rg7 39.Kf2 f4 40.gxf4+ Kxf4

41.Rc3 Bg4 42.Be8 Bf3 43.c5 dxc5

44.Rxc5 e3+ 45.Kf1 e2+

0-1

A88

□ **Lamstein,Joshua**

1733

■ **Crompton,Robert**

1539

2024 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (1.15)

[Winslow,Elliott]

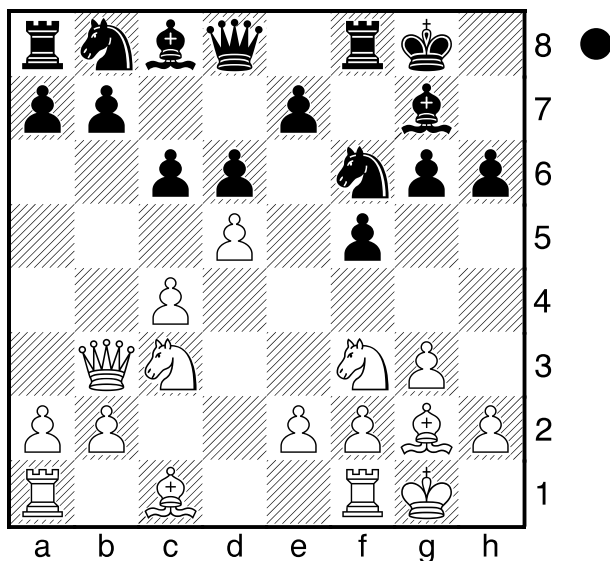
Here's an interesting game from further down, with a curious mate at the end.

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 d6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qb3 h6

[Relevant: 8...Kh8 9.Bf4 Nh5 10.Bd2 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Bg5 Qc7 13.Rae1 e4 14.Nh4 Na6 15.Rd1 Be6 16.Qc2 Rae8 17.b3 Qf7 18.Qc1 Bf6 19.Na4 Qe7 20.Bxf6+ Qxf6 21.Qh6 g5 22.Qxh5 Bf7 23.Ng6+ Bxg6 24.Qh6 b5 25.cxb5 cxb5 26.Rd7 bxa4 27.Rfd1 Nc5 28.Rxa7 axb3 29.axb3 Rf7 30.Rxf7

Qxf7 31.Qxg5 Qxb3 32.Qf6+ Kg8
 33.Rd6 Qf7 34.Qd4 Ne6 35.Qd5
 Nf8 36.Qd4 Qg7 37.Qd5+ Kh8
 38.e3 0-1 Harsha,B (2557)-Nakamura,
 H (2768) Titled Tuesday intern op
 02nd Aug Early Chess.com INT blitz
 2022 (8)]

9.d5

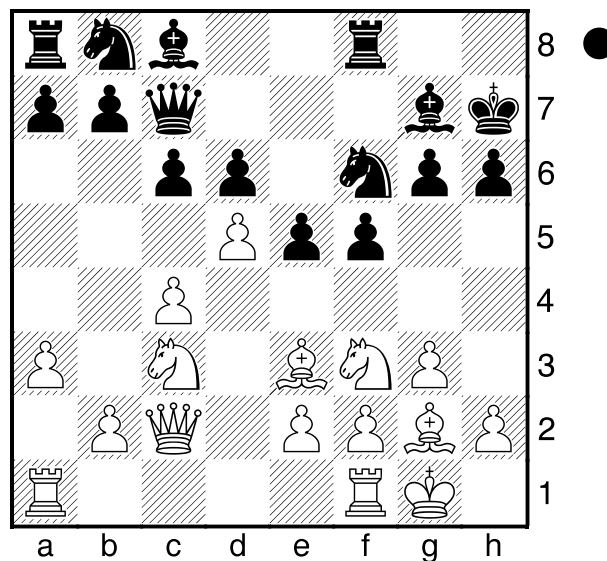


Qc7N

[Predecessor: 9...cxd5 10.cxd5 Nbd7
 11.Be3 Ng4 12.Bd4 Nge5 13.Rad1
 Kh7 14.Rfe1 b6 15.Qc2 Nxf3+
 16.exf3 f4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qe4
 Rf7 19.Qd4+ Kh7 20.Ne2 fxf3
 21.fxf3 Nf6 22.Nf4 Bd7 23.Re3 Qc7
 24.Rde1 Re8 25.g4 Bc8 26.h4 h5
 27.Qd3 Rg7 28.gxh5 Bf5 29.hxg6+
 Bxg6 30.Nxg6 Kh6 31.Nf4 e5
 32.Ne6 Rxe6 33.dxe6 Rxd2+
 34.Kxg2 Nh5 35.Qf5 Qg7+ 36.Qg5+
 1-0 Klisowski,B (1392)-Witkowski,J
 POL-ch U15 Qual Jastrzebia Gora
 2021 (3)]

10.Be3 e5 11.Qc2 Kh7 12.a3

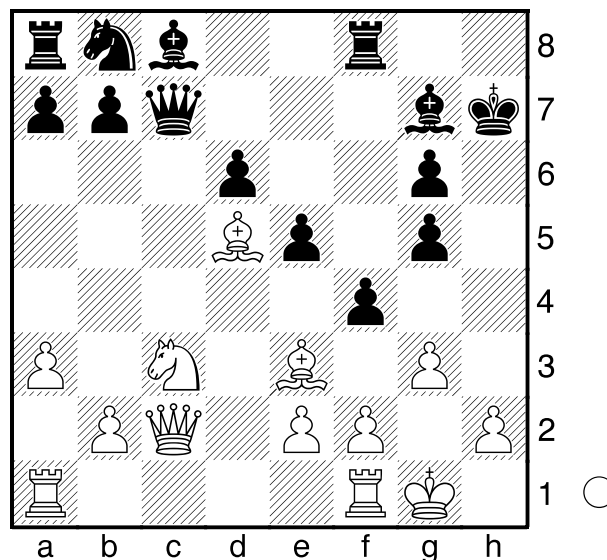
(Diagram)



cxd5 13.cxd5 Nxd5

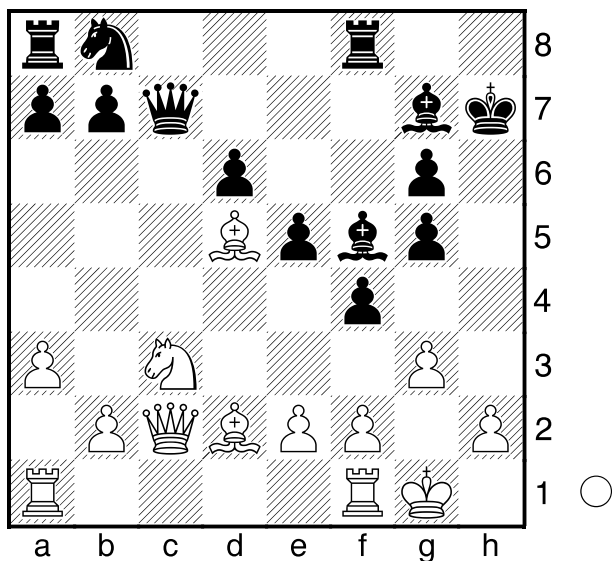
[13...Ng4! 14.Rac1! (14.Bd2 f4)
 14...Na6 15.Qd2 Qe7+]

14.Ng5+! hxg5 15.Bxd5 f4



16.Bd2 Bf5

(Diagram)



Stockfish 16.1 doesn't think much of Black's extra pawn. **17.Qb3?!**

[17.Qa4]

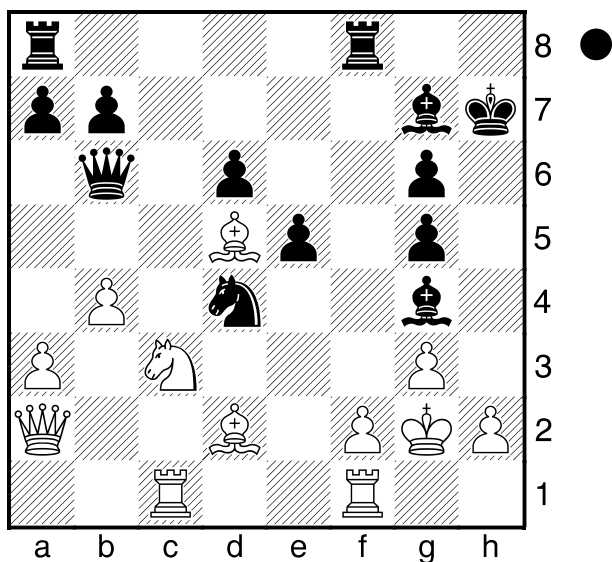
17...Nc6 18.Rac1 Nd4 19.Qd1 Qb6?!

[19...Qd7!±]

20.b4 Bg4 21.Kg2 f3+ 22.exf3 Nxf3

23.Qc2 Nd4 24.Qa2?!

[24.Qd3]



24...Ne2??

[24...e4! 25.Bxe4 Rae8= 26.h3! Bf3+ 27.Bxf3 Nxf3 28.Be3 Qc6]

25.Nxe2??

[25.Be3 Nxc3 26.Rxc3 Qb5

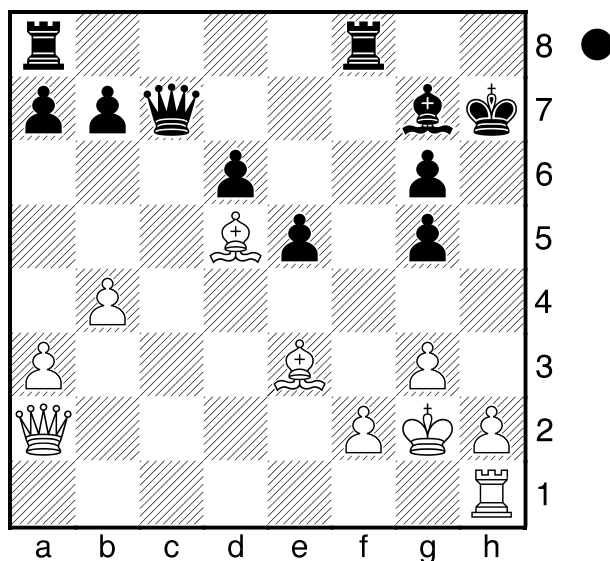
27.Rfc1!+-]

25...Bxe2= 26.Be3 Bxf1+ 27.Rxf1 Qc7=

[27...Qb5=]

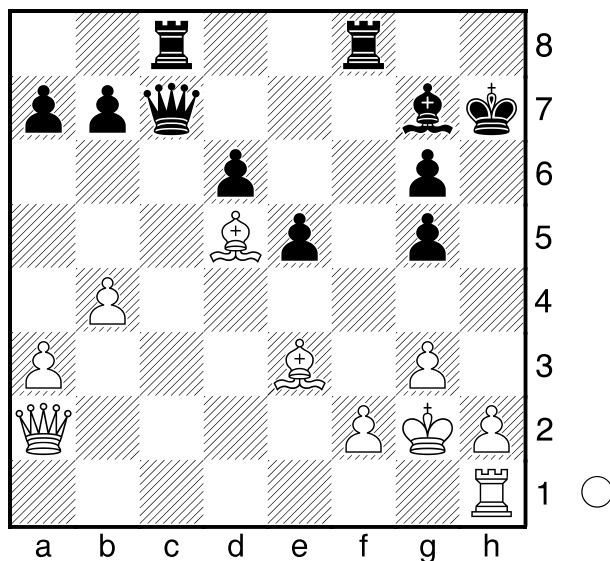
28.Rh1

[28.Bxg5]



28...Rac8??

[28...Bf6=]



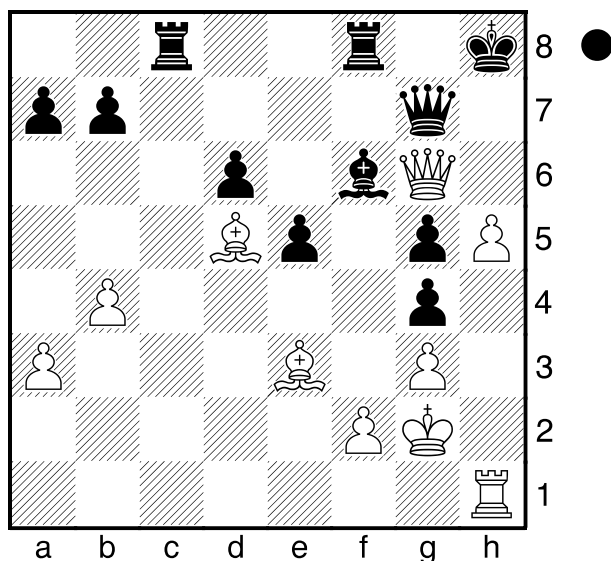
29.h4! g4 30.h5!+- g5 31.Qb1+?!

[31.Be4+! Kh8 32.Qe6! Rf6

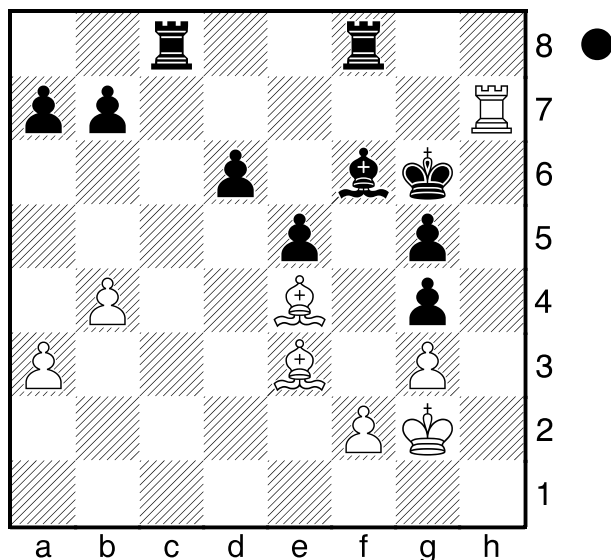
33.Qxg4 Rcf8 34.h6!]

31...Kh8 32.Qg6 Bf6± 33.Rc1?!

[33.Qf5]
 [33.Bxa7!?]
33...Qg7± 34.Rh1?
 [34.Rxc8 Rxc8 35.Qe4 b5
 36.Qxg4±]



34...Qxg6??
 [34...Bd8 35.Qxd6 Rf6 36.h6! Rxd6
 37.hxg7+ Kxg7 38.Bxb7 Rb8 39.Be4
 Bb6±]
35.hxg6+ Kg7 36.Rh7+ Kxg6 37.Be4#



1-0

Babayan, Gagik **B07**
Chan, John **1683**
2024 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (1.17)
[Winslow, Elliott] **1503**

John Chan goes his own way. Maybe he's given up on the Hippotamus Proper (look up "Hippopotamus Defence"), but now he's found the Pribyl Defence and is tripping us all up. Well, this time anyway... **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6** What is this, the Czech Defence? The Pribyl? It's been seen over 20,000 times in the Mega database. Carlsen has faced it twice plus a transpo, times avoiding the main move:

[3...g6 is the Pirc Defence, well over 100,000 games. Wesley So played it quite a few times late last year, and even Carlsen has tossed in half a dozen games over the last couple year. With predictable results. For Carlsen, not the opening. I've played it a fair amount over my 58 years of tournament play; let's just say my score with it is a lot better than my play!]

[3...e5 4.Nf3 (4.Nge2 c6 was the move order of Carlsen-Movsesian, below.) 4...Nbd7 is the eternal Philidor Defence, via the modern move order. Mostly it's been 5.Bc4 (Once GOAT got a bug in his book (opening that is) and played 5.Rg1 Be7 6.g4 but his spaceship fell apart on reentry against Philidor specialist Bortnyk: h6 7.Be3 c6 8.a4 a5 9.g5 hxg5 10.Nxg5 exd4 11.Qxd4 Ne5 12.f4 Nfg4 13.0-0-0 Bxg5 14.fxg5 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Rxh2 0-1 Carlsen,M (2864)-Bortnyk,O (2604) Titled Tuesday intern op 23rd Aug Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (9)) 5...Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.a4 has seen a few Carlsen games, and

he's won them all.]

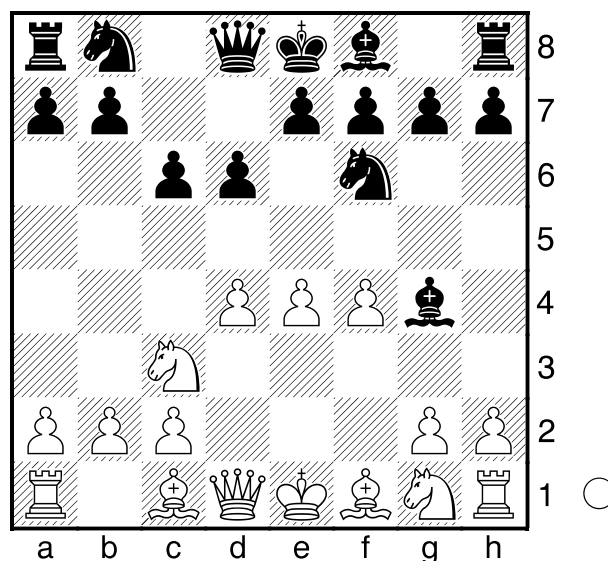
4.f4 Recommended by many 1.e4 repertoire authors.

[4.Nge2 e5 5.g3 b5 6.Bg2 Bb7
7.0-0 Nbd7 8.h3 h5 9.a3 Be7
10.Be3 a5 11.d5 (11.Qd2 b4
12.Nd1 0-0 13.axb4 axb4 14.Rxa8
Qxa8 15.b3 Re8 16.dxe5 dxe5
17.f3 Rd8 18.Nf2 Nc5 19.Qxb4
Nfd7 20.Qc3 Ba6 21.Ra1 Qb7
22.Nc1 h4 23.g4 Ne6 24.Qa5 Ra8
25.Bf1 Nb8 26.Bc4 Qc8 27.Ncd3
Nd4 28.Bxd4 exd4 29.Kg2 Ra7
30.Qh5 Bd8 31.Ne5 Bxc4 32.Rxa7
Be6 33.Nxf7 Bf6 34.Qh8#
1-0 Carlsen,M (2802)-Movsesian,S
(2721) Wch Blitz 5th Moscow 2010
(4)) 11...b4 12.dxc6 Bxc6 13.Nd5
Nxd5 14.exd5 Bb5 15.axb4 axb4
16.Qd2 Rb8 17.Ra7 0-0 18.Rfa1
Nb6 19.b3 h4 20.g4 Bxe2 21.Qxe2
Bg5 22.Be4 Bxe3 23.Qxe3 Nd7
24.R1a6 Nc5 25.Rc6 Rb5 26.Bf5
Rb6 27.Rc8 Qf6 28.Rc6 Rbb8
29.Kg2 g6 30.Qxc5 gxf5 31.Qxd6
Qxd6 32.Rxd6 fxg4 33.hxg4 Rbc8
34.Rc6 Rxc6 35.dxc6 Rc8 36.c7
Kf8 37.Kh3 Ke7 38.Kxh4 Kd7
39.Kg5 Rg8+ 40.Kf5 Rg6 41.c8Q+
Kxc8 42.Rxf7 Rc6 43.g5 1-0 Carlsen,
M (2837)-Bologan,V (2732) Wch Blitz
6th Astana 2012 (7)]

4...Bg4

[4...Qa5 right away is far and away
the common move. Thousands vs.
hundreds or less.]
[But it is interesting that 4...Qb6!?
after 400 games has pretty much an
even score!]

(Diagram)



This gets rough treatment, but Chan
persists. **5.Nf3** This position has
happened a couple times previously at
the Mechanics'.

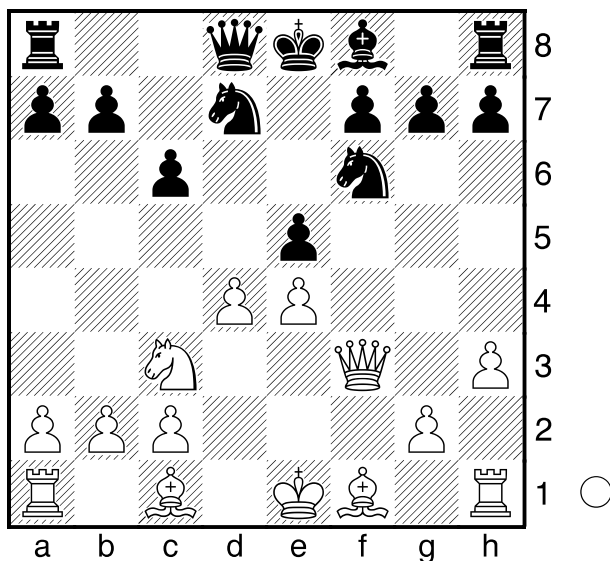
[Stockfish 16.1 (just out!) has a
different opinion: 2nd best is 5.Qd3]
[and 1st best: 5.Qd2!]

5...Nbd7

[5...Qa5 6.Bd3 e5 7.Be3 exf4
8.Bxf4 Nbd7 9.0-0 0-0-0 10.Qd2
Bxf3 11.Rxf3 Qb4 12.Bf1 c5 13.Rd3
c4 14.Rh3 Nb6 15.a3 Qa5 16.b4
Qa6 17.d5 Nbd7 18.Be3 Ne5 19.a4
b6 20.Nb5 Kb8 21.Qd4 Rc8
22.Nxa7 Nfd7 23.Nc6+ Rxc6
24.dxc6 Nxc6 25.Qxc4 Qxc4
26.Bxc4 Nxb4 27.Rb1 Kc7 28.Bxf7
Nc6 29.Bd5 Be7 30.Bxb6+
1-0 Yermolinsky,A (2601)-Acosta,M
(2066) Frisco Masters San Francisco
2000 (6)]
[5...e6!?± Fish approved! 6.h3
(6.Be3 d5 7.e5 Nfd7 8.h3 Bxf3
9.Qxf3 c5 10.0-0-0 cxd4 11.Bxd4
Nc6 0-1 Postlmayer,J (2347)-
Begmuratov,A (2395) Titled Tuesday
intern op 23rd May Early Chess.com
INT blitz 2023 (10)) 6...Bxf3 7.Qxf3
Qb6?! (7...d5) 8.Qd3? (8.e5!±)
8...Nbd7? (8...d5=) 9.Be3 Qc7?!

10.Be2 Be7 11.Bf3 (11.g4!) 11...e5
 12.d5 (12.g4!) 12...a6 (12...exf4!
 13.Bxf4 Ne5=) 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.0-0
 0-0 15.f5= 1-0 Dutter,F (1900)-Chan,J
 (1560) MI Felix German TNM:
 1600-1999 San Francisco 2022 (2.
 10)]

6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3± e5 8.fxe5 dxe5

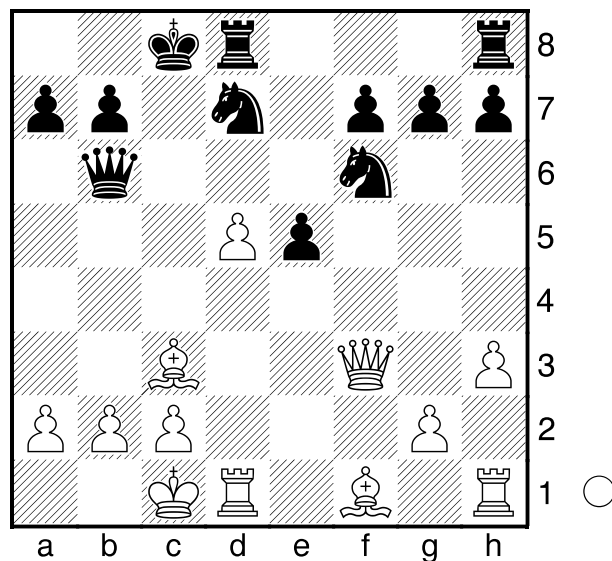


9.d5N

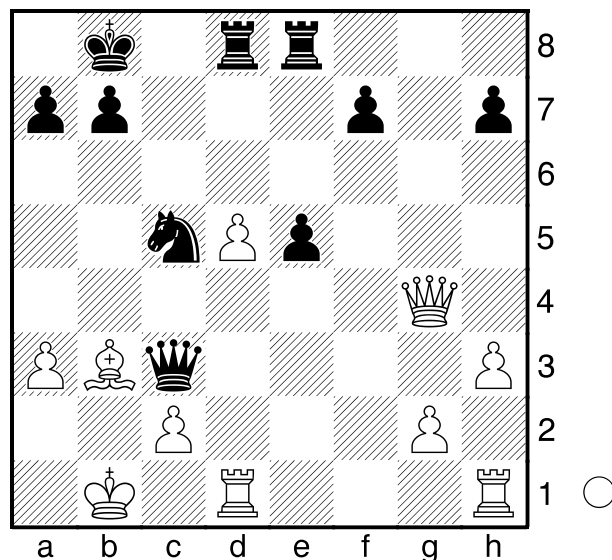
[Predecessor: 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Qf2
 Be7 11.Bd2 Qb6 12.Qxb6 axb6
 13.Be2 0-0 14.0-0 Bc5+ 15.Kh1 b5
 16.a3 Rad8 17.Bg5 Ned7
 1/2-1/2 Shim Ng Min,F (1246)-Raines,D
 (1156) IECC CL0-2017.00 email IECC
 email]

**9...Bb4 10.Bd2 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 cxd5
 12.exd5 Qb6 13.0-0-0 0-0-0**

(Diagram)



**14.Bc4 Qc5 15.Bb3 Qd6 16.a3 Rhe8
 17.Qe3 Qc5 18.Qg5 Ne4 19.Qxg7
 Nxc3 20.bxc3 Qxc3 21.Kb1 Nc5
 22.Qg4+ Kb8**



23.Qc4?

[23.Qb4±]

23...Qxc4 24.Bxc4 Ne4+- Look at all
 those knight forks! John never let it go,
 and took down the win. **25.Rd3 Nf2
 26.Rhd1 Nxd1 27.Rxd1 Rd6 28.Rf1
 f6 29.g4 h6 30.Rf5 a6 31.Kc1 Kc7
 32.a4 Kb6 33.Rh5 Rh8 34.Kd2 Kc5
 35.Kc3 b5 36.axb5 axb5 37.Bb3 b4+
 38.Kd3 Rb6 39.Rf5 Rg8 40.Rh5 Rg6**

41.Ke4 Rd6 42.Kf5 Rg5+ 43.Rxg5
 hxg5 44.Ke4 Rb6 45.Kd3 Rb8
 46.Ke4 Rf8 47.Kf5 Kd6 48.Bc4 Kc5
 49.Bb3 Kd4 50.d6 e4 51.Ba4 e3
 52.Bb5 Kc5 53.Bd3 Kxd6 54.Ke4
 Re8+ 55.Kf3 Kd5 56.Ke2 Kd4 57.Bf5
 Rh8
 0-1

☐ **McCutcheon,Bennett**

■ **Fitzgerald,William**

2024 Spring TNM: 1200-1599 (1.27)

[Winslow,Elliott]

A *very* interesting game -- it wasn't so clear who was attacking whom! Throwing your pawns up at your opponent's king, when they're in front of *your* king, always ask for trouble. But McCutcheon managed to survive, Fitzgerald, in spite of some nice moves ,couldn't come up with the accuracy needed to make the counterattack work, and --somehow -- White won. Ignore the missed mate in two. :-) 1.e4 c6 2.g3 Let's just say this hasn't caught on. 2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5!?

[3...cxd5]

4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Bg2 While this is rare for the Caro Kann, consider the similar line in the Sicilian, with Black's c-pawn on c5. That position is noteworthy. 5...Qe4+?! Discourages 6.Qe2 as the c-pawn hangs (although White gets some sort of weird development comp with 7.Na3), but loses time itself to Nc3 or d3.

[5...Qe6+ minimizes White's edge, such as it is: 6.Kf1 Bh3± (+0.39 or so -- Stockfish 16.1)]

6.Kf1 Nf6 7.d3 Bxf3?! Sure White's bishop will be "biting on granite" (c6), but the Two Bishops are capitalized for a reason. Any queen move is somewhat better.

[Then again, SF's preferred retreat is

7...Qf5 when 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Bxf3± happens anyway. (h2-h3 is useful) e5 10.Kg2 Nbd7 11.Nd2 Bc5]

8.Bxf3 Qf5 9.Kg2 e6 10.Bf4 Nbd7
 11.Nd2 Be7

[11...Nd5= A bishop comes off.]

12.Nc4 0-0 13.Qd2 Nb6 14.Ne3

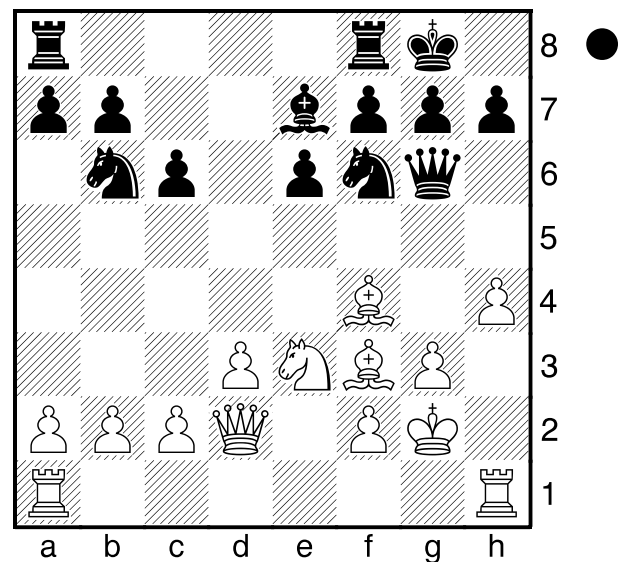
[14.Nd6 Bxd6! 15.Bxd6 Rfd8

16.Qf4!? Qg6= /± (0.28/23)

(16...Nbd5!? 17.Qxf5 exf5

is playable too, but a smidgeon worse than that)]

14...Qg6 15.h4!?



Nh5?! A knight to d5 initiates another trade, minimizing any attack. ± 16.Bxh5?

[16.Bg5±]

[16.Bc7! Nd5 17.Nxd5 cxd5

(17...exd5?? 18.Qe2+-

wins a piece!) 18.Qe2 Nf6 19.c4±

and the bishops have a say, especially the UB (unopposed bishop, on f3).

And don't forget h4-h5-h6 for kingside annoyance.]

16...Qxh5 17.g4?!

[17.Qd1 equal, whether exchanging or not.]

17...Qg6± Certainly precarious, but White's king could end up on the wrong side of this -- those pawns are only so stable. This is more Stockfish's "opinion"

than mine -- I'd be concerned for Black's safety too! **18.g5?!**

[18.Qe2! f5 (18...Qf6?? 19.Bg5)
19.h5 Qf6 (19...Qf7) 20.gxf5!? exf5
21.a4! a5 22.Qf3 Black is still fine
(but anyone's game to play for).]

18...h5! William goes for locking it up,
although it does limit his queen for a bit.

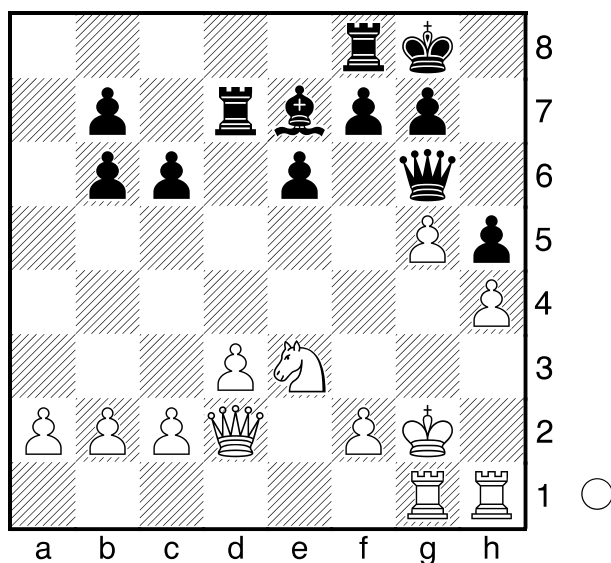
[Maybe right away 18...e5! 19.Bg3
(19.Bxe5 f6!⚡) 19...h5! (19...f5
20.gxf6 Qxf6 21.Rae1 Bd6)]

19.Rag1?! Rad8⚡ 20.Bc7 Rd7

21.Bxb6?!

[21.Bg3]

21...axb6



22.Nc4? So enticing! But it's *lost* !?!

22...Bc5!⚡

[22...Rd5⚡]

[22...Rd4! Avoiding the knight fork

23.Rh3! is best (23.Nxb6?! f6!!

Remember White's king! 24.Qe3 Bc5!

25.Qxe6+ Kh7 26.Nd7 Rxd7!

27.Qxd7 fxe5+; 23.Qe2 Rxh4!)

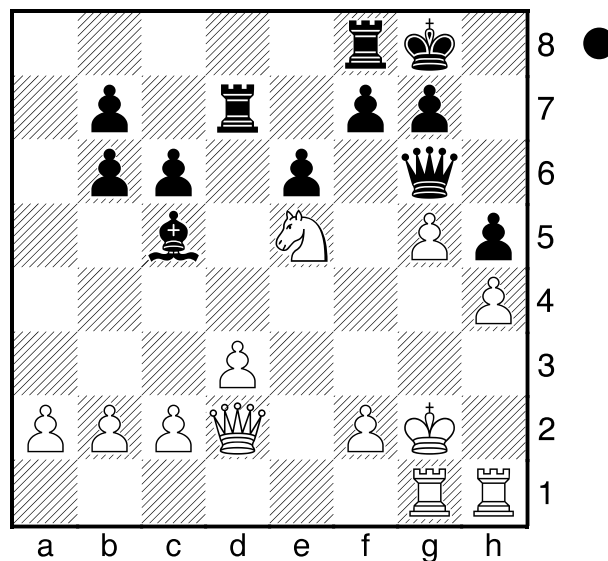
23...b5! 24.Ne5 Qf5 25.Qe3 Rd5+

Not easy to appreciate! But White has
compromised the kingside without
gain. Note 26.d4 Qxc2⚡+]

23.Qe2

[23.Ne5?

(Diagram)



Qe4+! A very nice point! 24.dxe4
(24.Nf3? Qg4+) 24...Rxd2 25.Nd3
Rxc2 26.Rc1! Rd2! makes the most
of it. Black is close to winning (but
not quite! says Stockfish 16.1 at first,
but at depth 31: -+!).]

23...Bd4?

[23...Rd4!]

24.b3?

[24.Re1= /⚡ -- time to give up on the g-
file!]

24...b5

[24...Rd5!]

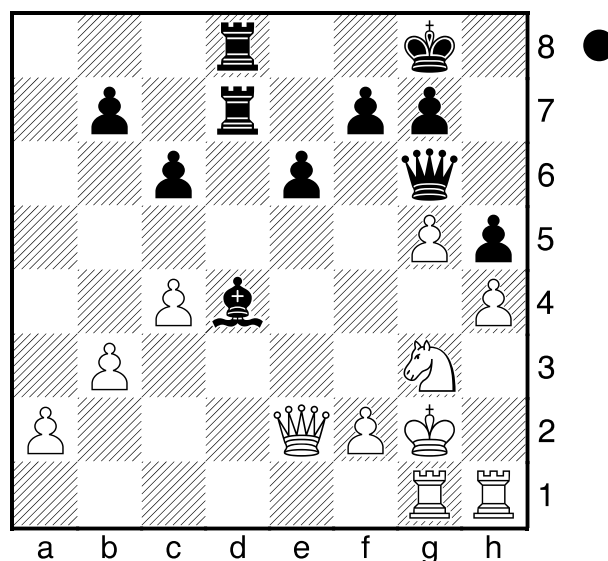
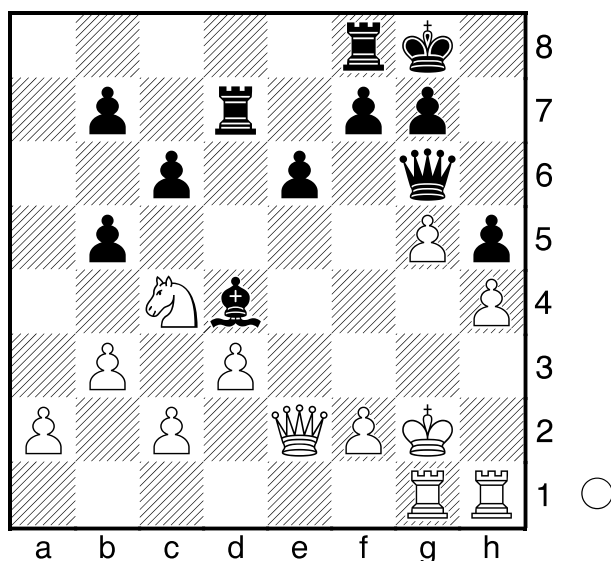
[24...e5!? 25.Nxe5?? Re8 26.Nxg6

(26.f4 Bxg1) 26...Rxe2 27.Nf4

Rxf2+ 28.Kg3 Rxc2+- 29.Rg2 Rc5!

30.Nxh5 Be5+ Black takes pawns
even faster than White.]

(Diagram)



Perhaps time trouble was affecting the play now. **25.Nd2?!**

[25.Ne5! Bxe5 26.Qxe5 Rd5 27.Qe4 (27.Qe3)]

25...Rfd8?!

[25...Ra8!? It's not so much the pawn as the access.]

[25...b4! locks down the a-pawn for taking and appears best.]

26.Nf1

[26.Ne4 27.Ng3]

26...Ra8 The move lost is a big difference!

[26...Qf5! 27.Ng3 Qd5+ 28.Qf3 Ra8 29.Nxh5 Rxa2 30.Rc1 Qxf3+ 31.Kxf3 Rd5 32.Ng3 Rc5 27.c4?]

27.c4?

[27.Ng3! Rxa2 28.Rc1 27...bxc4 28.dxc4]

27...bxc4 28.dxc4

[28.bxc4 Bc5]

28...Qb1!?

[28...Rad8!-+ 29.Ng3?!

(Diagram)

Bxf2! 30.Qxf2 Rd2 31.Ne2 Qe4+]

29.Ng3! Qxa2 30.Rd1?!

[30.Qf3! Rad8! (30...g6)]

30...Qxb3+ 31.g6!? Ra5?

[31...Rf8]

[31...c5]

[31...e5]

32.gxf7+= Kxf7 33.Nxh5?

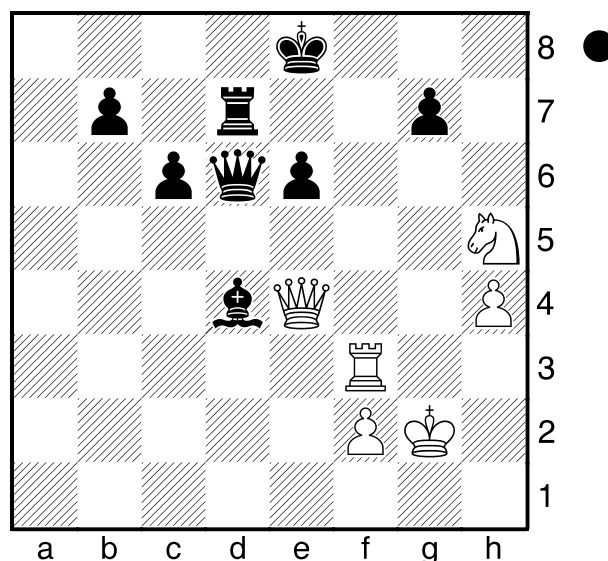
[33.Rd3=]

33...Ra2!-+ 34.Rd2 Rxd2 35.Qxd2

Qxc4-+ 36.Qf4+ Ke8

[36...Kg8!]

37.Rh3 Qd5+ 38.Rf3 Qd6 39.Qe4



e5? 40.Qh7 40.Rf7??

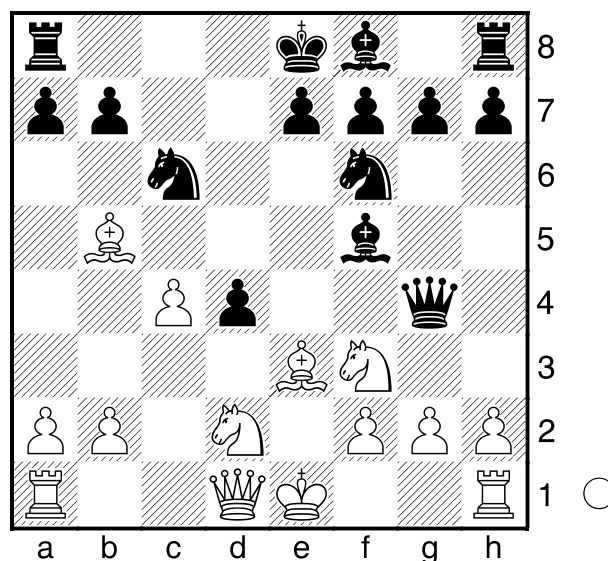
[40...Re7 41.Nxg7+ Kd7 42.Qf5+
Kc7 43.Qg4 Qd7 44.Nf5 $\bar{7}$]
41.Nxg7+!+- Kf8? 42.Rxf7+?
[42.Qh8+ Ke7 43.Qe8#]
42...Kxf7 43.Nf5+ Ke6 44.Qg6+ Kd5
45.Qxd6+ Ke4 46.Ng3+ Kd3 47.Qa3+
Kc2 48.h5 c5 49.Nf5 b5 50.Qa2+
Kc3 51.h6 b4 52.h7 b3 53.Qb1 b2
54.Nxd4 exd4 55.h8Q c4 56.Qh3+ d3
57.Qe3 Kb4 58.Qb6+ Ka4 59.Qa2#
1-0

Bambou, Christophe **B22**
2129
 Yang, Vian **1942**
 2nd Falconer Memorial Tournament (2.9)
[Winslow, Elliott]

Christophe Bambou lost his first game, and took two byes on Sunday, but in between was this interesting runaround of a game. Both players found a lot of "best moves" after they both erred around move 15, but Vian Yang lost his way finally. **1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bb5 cxd4 8.c4 Qe4**

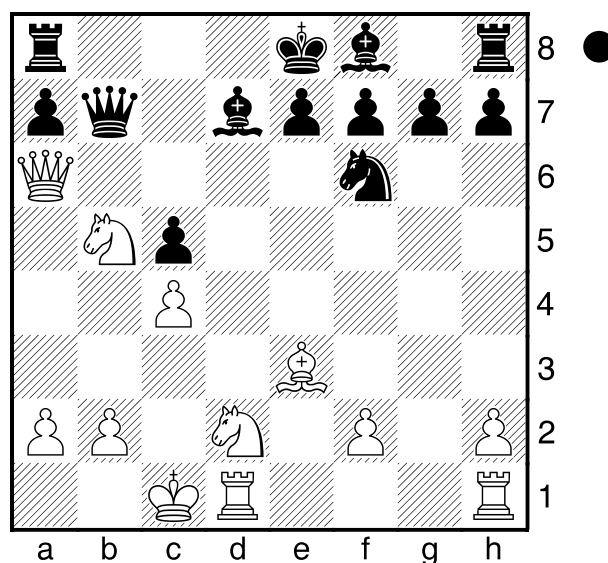
[8...Qd7=]
 [Relevant: 8...Qd6 9.Qxd4 a6 10.Qxd6 exd6 11.Ba4 Be7 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Nc3 Ng4 15.Bd4 Ne5 16.0-0-0 0-0-0 17.c5 Nc4 18.cxd6 Bxd6 19.Bxg7 Bf4+ 20.Kb1 Rhg8 21.Bf6 Bf5+ 22.Ka1 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rxd1 24.Rd4 Rg1+ 25.Nd1 Nb6 26.Bb3 Bxh2 27.a4 Nd5 28.Bxd5 cxd5 29.Ka2 Rg4 30.Kb3 Rxd4 31.Bxd4 h5 32.Bf6 Kd7 33.Ne3 Ke6 34.Bh4 Be5 35.Nxf5 Kxf5 36.Kc2 Kg4 37.Bg3 Bxg3 38.fxg3 ½-½ Ragger, M (2601)-Sarana, A (2688) EU-ch Rapid Zagreb 2023 (10)]
9.Nbd2 Qg4

(Diagram)



10.Bxc6+N

[Predecessor: 10.Nxd4 Qxg2 11.Nxf5 Qxh1+ 12.Nf1 e6 13.Nd4 Bb4+ 14.Ke2 0-0 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Qa4 Bc5 17.Ng3 Qxa1 0-1 Quirke, J (1986)-Vivaan, V (1774) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Nov Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (11)]
10...bxc6 11.Qa4 Bd7 12.Nxd4 Qxg2 13.0-0-0 c5
 [13...g6 14.N2b3 Ne4 15.Nc2]
14.Nb5 Qb7 15.Qa6!



Bc6?

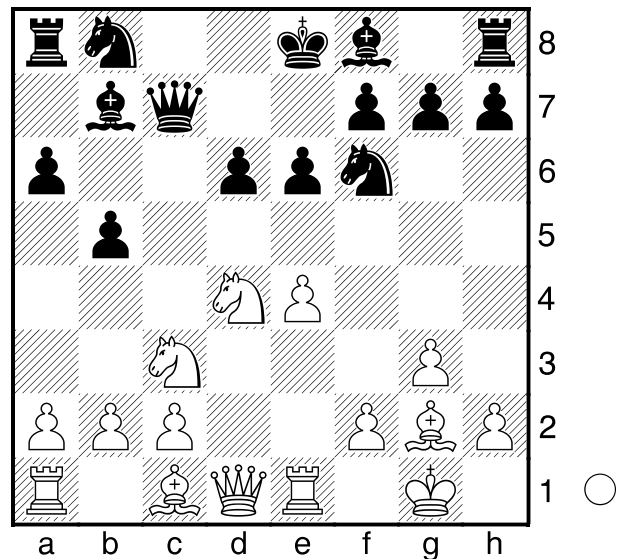
[15...Rb8! 16.a4! e6 17.Qxb7 Rxb7

18.Nb3 a6 19.Na5 Rxb5! 20.axb5
 axb5±]
16.Ne4?!
 [16.Qxb7! Bxb7 17.Rhe1+-
 White just has too many threats.]
16...Rc8! 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Qxb7
Bxb7 19.Nxa7 Bxh1 20.Nxc8 Bf3
21.Rd2 e6?
 [21...f5±]
 [21...Rg8±]
22.Nd6+- Bxd6 23.Rxd6 Rg8
24.Bxc5 Rg4 25.Rd4 Rg1+ 26.Kc2 e5
27.Rd6 f5 28.a4 Ra1 29.Ba3 Rf1
30.Rd2 Rh1 31.b4 Rxh2 32.a5 e4
33.b5 Rh6 34.a6 f4 35.a7 e3 36.fxe3
fxe3 37.Rd5 Be4+ 38.Kc3 Bxd5
39.cxd5 e2 40.a8Q+ Kd7 41.Qb7+
1-0

Pompe,Niko **B43**
 Suarez,Sebastian **2243**
 2nd Falconer Memorial Tournament (3.2)
[Winslow,Elliott] **2208**

Sebby walks into a hole in his chess knowledge; Niko gives it a nice flourish.
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 a6 4.d4
cx d4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.g3 b5
 [6...Nf6 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.0-0 Nxd4
 9.Qxd4 Bc5 is, if I recall, the "Modern Line" -- and Black might just be okay.]
7.Bg2 Bb7 8.0-0 d6 9.Re1 Nf6

(Diagram)

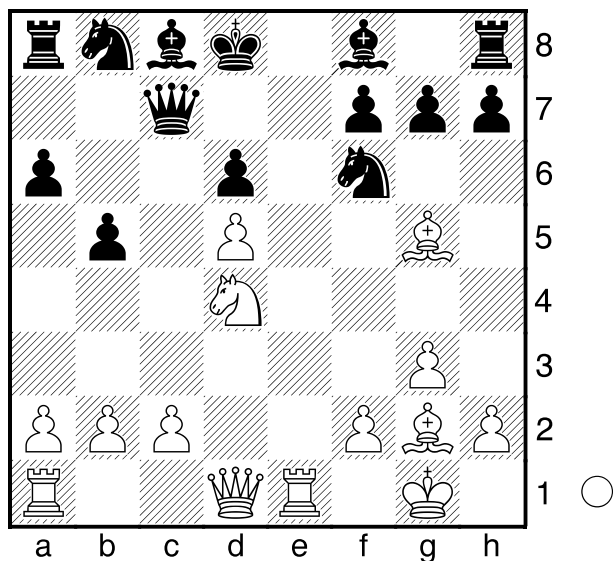


This position has occurred over four hundred times -- White scores over 70% if they just know about the stock sacrifice in this position: **10.Nd5!** And alas for Sebby, Pompe does. Note that without this shot, Black comes out okay.

[Really, stronger is probably 10.a4! bxa4 (10...b4 (Stockfish gives this and the game move *not* in the top 5, just chucking the pawn!) 11.Nd5) 11.Nd5! (11.Rxa4) 11...exd5 12.exd5+ Kd8 13.Rxa4 Nbd7 14.Nc6+ Bxc6 15.dxc6 Nc5 16.Rc4 Ne6 17.Bd2 Be7 18.Rb4 d5 19.Rb7 Qxc6 20.c4 Qxb7 21.cxd5 Nxd5 22.Bxd5 Qc8 23.Qa4 Bc5 24.Qa5+ Ke7 25.Bxa8 Rd8 26.Bb7 Qxb7 27.Qxc5+ Ke8 28.Bb4 Kd7 29.Qf5 Kc8 30.Bc3 g6 31.Qf6 Rd7 32.Qh8+ Rd8 33.Qf6 Rd7 34.h4 h5 35.Qh8+ Rd8 36.Qe5 Qd5 37.Qf6 Rd7 38.Qh8+ Kb7 39.Qe8 g5 1-0 Dubov, D (2702)-Bharath,S (2479) Chess.com Rapid Wk17 Swiss Chess.com INT 2022 (9)]

10...exd5 11.exd5+ Kd8 12.Bg5 Bc8
 [12...Nbd7 this position has happened a couple dozen times in the big database -- but 13.Nc6+! puts Black

in the fire: Bxc6 (13...Kc8 14.Bxf6
Nxf6 15.Bh3+) 14.dxc6 Nc5
when almost everything going forward
wins.]



13.Re3N

[The only move played here previously
is ♖13.Bxf6+ gxf6 14.Qh5+- Ra7
15.Re3 Qd7 16.Rae1 Bg7 17.Re6
Qc7 18.R6e4 f5 19.Nxf5 Bxf5
20.Qg5+ f6 21.Qxf5 Qf7 22.Bh3
Rd7 23.Qf4 Qxd5 24.Bxd7 Nxd7
25.Rd4 Qb7 26.Qxd6 Re8 27.Rxe8+
Kxe8 28.Qe6+ Kd8 29.Qg8+
1-0 Van Schoor,K-Borja,M
Olympiad-14 Final C Leipzig 1960
(10)]

[Stockfish goes with 13.Rc1!+-
and 14.c4 next.]

[but it equally likes 13.c4!!+-
right away!]

13...h6?!

[13...Be7 14.Rc3!]

14.Bxf6+ gxf6 15.Qf3

[15.Qh5!]

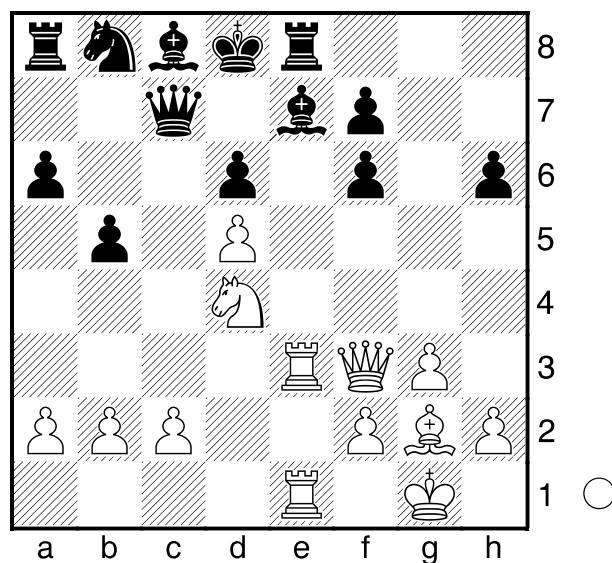
[15.Qe2!?]

15...Be7?!

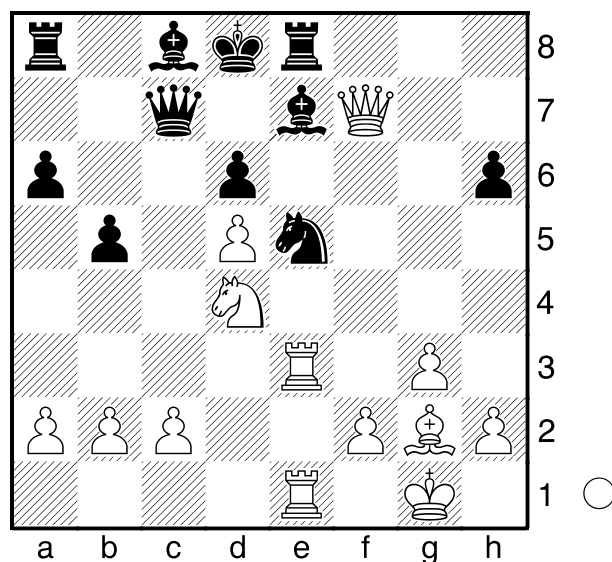
[15...Bg7]

[15...f5]

16.Rae1 Re8



Now Pompe close out with some
fireworks: **17.Qxf6! Nd7 18.Qxf7 Ne5**



19.Rxe5 dxe5 20.Nc6+ Kd7 21.Qe6#
1-0

E20
 ◻ **Cremisi,Daniel** **2398**
 ◼ **Pompe,Niko** **2243**
 2nd Falconer Memorial Tournament (4.1)
 [Winslow,Elliott]

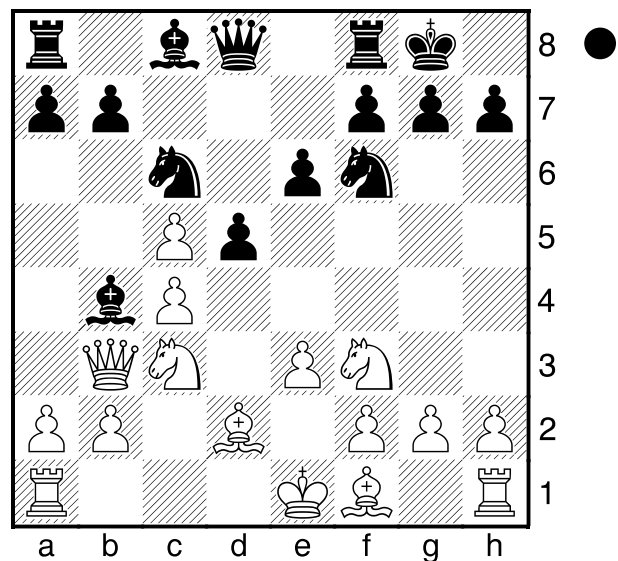
The decisive last-round game between
the two highest rated players, also the

two 3-0s. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4**
Pompe played this in Round 2 as well. I
don't get it. Black looks to what? "Lose"
a bishop for a knight, without even
giving White doubled pawns in
compensation? (cxd5 is always available.
) See the classic Botvinnik-Capablanca,
AVRO 1938 for historical reference, and
Shankland-Sanikidze, 42nd ol Baku
2016 for a big win by the Bay Area's best
as the U.S. wins the Olympiad -- and in
between a huge World Championship
game, Anand-Carlsen, 2013. **4.Bd2**
And this too -- An unambitious square,
intending to recapture on another
unambitious square. **4...Nf6 5.e3 0-0**
6.Qb3

[Relevant: 6.a3 Be7 7.Nf3 Nbd7
8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0 cxd4
11.exd4 Nb6 12.Ba2 Bd7 13.Ne5
Rc8 14.Qd3 Na4 15.Bb3 Nxc3
16.bxc3 Bc6 17.Rfe1 Nd7 18.Nxf7
Rxf7 19.Bxe6 Nf6 20.c4 Bd7
21.Bxf7+ Kxf7 22.Bb4 Bf8 23.d5
Qc7 24.Rac1 Qf4 25.Bxf8 Kxf8
26.c5 Ng4 27.Qg3 Qxg3 28.hxg3
Nf6 29.Re5 a6 30.f3 Bb5 31.g4
Nd7 32.Rf5+ Kg8 33.c6 bxc6
34.dxc6 Rxc6 35.Rd1 h6 ½-½
Nepomniachtchi,I (2771)-Caruana,F
(2795) Sinquefield Cup 10th Saint
Louis 2023 (4)]

6...c5 7.dxc5 Nc6 8.Nf3

(Diagram)



Re8N

[Predecessor: 8...Bxc5 9.Qc2 Qe7
10.a3 Bd6 11.Be2 dxc4 12.Bxc4 b6
13.0-0 Bb7 14.e4 Rac8 15.Bd3
Rfd8 16.Bg5 Ne5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5
18.Rfe1 Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 Be5 20.f4
Bxc3 21.bxc3 h6 22.Bh4 Qd6
23.Re3 Qxf4 24.Rh3 Bxe4 25.Bxf6
Bxd3 26.Rxd3 Rxd3 27.Qxd3 Qxf6
28.Rc1 Rd8 29.Qe4 Qe7 30.a4 Rd5
31.g3 Qg5 0-1 Adianto,U (2554)-
Drozdovskij,Y (2587) WMSG Blitz 1st
Beijing 2008 (4)]

9.Be2 dxc4 10.Qxc4 e5 11.Ng5 Qe7
12.Nce4 Bxd2+ 13.Nxd2 e4 14.h4 h6
15.Nh3 Be6 16.Qa4 Rad8 17.Rd1?!

[17.Nxe4! Bxh3! 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6
19.gxh3! (19.Rxh3? Qxb2-+)
19...Rd2! (19...Qxb2 20.Rd1 \bar{f})
20.Rd1! Rxb2 21.Qc4 \bar{f}]

17...Bxh3 18.Rxh3 Qxc5 19.Qb5?!

[19.g4 Rd5 20.Rg3 b5 21.Qb3 Ne5
22.g5 Nd3+! 23.Bxd3 Rxd3
24.gxf6! \bar{f}]

19...Qe7-+ 20.Rg3 Frankly, this rook is
just out of play. Watch Black utilize the d-
file with his "extra" rook. **20...Rd5**
21.Qb3 Rd8 22.Nb1 Rxd1+ 23.Bxd1
Qd6 24.Be2 Ne5 25.Kf1 Rc8 26.Nc3
Qd2 27.Kg1 Qe1+ 28.Kh2 Qxf2

29.Qxb7 Re8 30.Qb5 Re6 31.Qb8+ Kh7 32.h5 Qf5 33.Kg1 Nxh5 34.Bxh5 Qxh5 35.Qxa7 Qh4 36.Ne2 Rd6 37.Qa4 Rd2 38.Kf1 Nd3 39.Kg1 Rxe2 40.Rh3 Qf2+ 0-1

Suarez, Sebastian **B90**
2208
 Hao, Max **2068**
 2nd Falconer Memorial Tournament (4.2)
[Winslow, Elliott]

Sebby comes back with a tough struggle against another Mechanics' regular (although we haven't seen Suarez as often lately), only finally decided by a tactical oversight. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 h5 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0-0** Let's call this the Main Line a couple years ago... **10...Qc7**

[Relevant: \triangle 10...Rc8 11.Kb1 Be7 12.h3 Qc7 13.Bd3 h4 14.f4 b5 15.Rhe1 0-0 16.g4 exf4 17.Bxf4 Ne5 18.Nd4 b4 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Nxd5 21.Be4 Nc4 22.Qf2 Nxf4 23.Qxf4 d5 24.Qxc7 Rxc7 25.Bxd5 Nb6 26.Bb3 g6 27.Ne6 fxe6 28.Rxe6 Kg7 29.Rxb6 Rf3 30.Rh1 a5 31.Ra6 Rc5 32.Ra7 Re5 33.a4 bxa3 34.bxa3 Kh6 35.a4 Bb4 36.Rf7 Ree3 37.Rxf3 Rxf3 38.Bd5 Rc3 39.Be4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ So, W (2760)-Vachier Lagrave, M (2736) Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (2.28)]

[10...Be7 11.Kb1 Rc8]

11.Kb1 b5

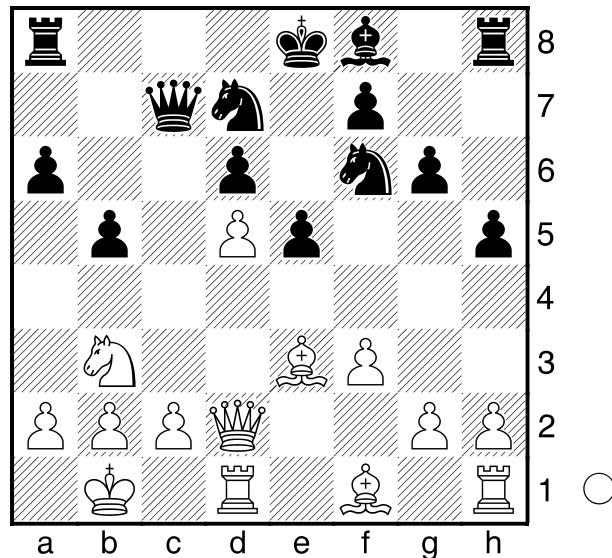
[11...Be7]

12.Nd5! Bxd5 13.exd5 g6?!

Hoping for threats on b2 that never quite realize while the lessening of the d6 defence does.

[13...Nb6 14.Bxb6 Qxb6 15.Qb4

Nd7 16.Na5 g6 17.Nc6± Bg7! Intending ...Qc5 or ...Qc7 and finally getting the king away. 18.Qxd6?? Bf8-+]

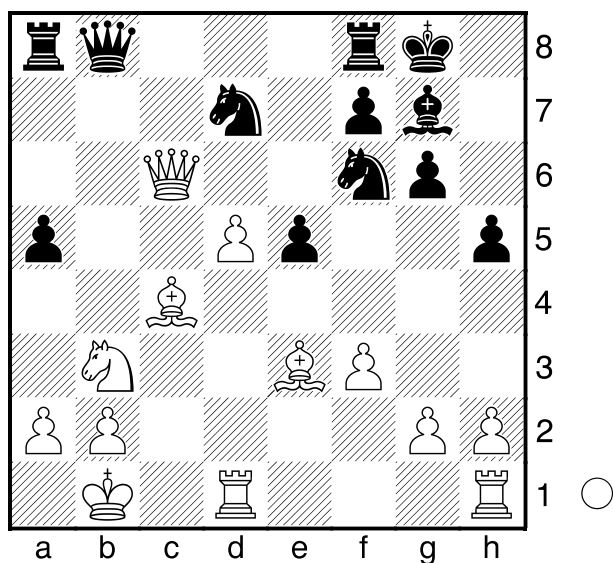


14.Qa5N

[A weak "Predecessor": 14.Be2 Bg7 15.Na5 0-0 16.Nc6= (16.c4±) 16...Rfe8 17.Rc1 Nb6 18.Bxb6 Qxb6 19.c4 bxc4 20.Rxc4 e4 21.Rb4 Qf2 22.Rb7 exf3 23.Ne7+ Rxe7 24.Rxe7 fxe2 25.Rxe2 Qf5+ 26.Qc2 Qxd5 27.Rd1 Qb5 28.Rxd6 Rb8 29.Rc6 Nd5 30.Rc8+ Rxc8 31.Qxc8+ Kh7 32.Qc2 Nc3+ 0-1 Sanchez, R (1989)-Ferreira, V (2128) Titled Tuesday intern op 22 Mar Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (5)]
 [14.c4 bxc4 15.Rc1 Nb6 16.Na5 Bg7 17.Bxc4 Nxc4 18.Nxc4± (18.Rxc4±)]

14...Qb7 15.c4 bxc4 16.Bxc4 Bg7 17.Qa3 0-0 18.Qxd6± a5 19.Qc6 Qb8

(Diagram)



20.Ba6?

[20.d6!±]

[20.Qa4]

[20.Qb5]

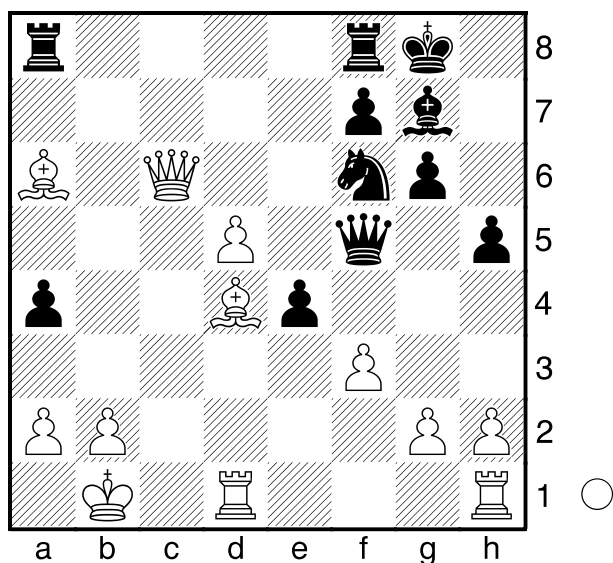
20...a4!= 21.Nd2?

[21.Nc5! e4! 22.Nxa4! Re8 23.Bd4 exf3 24.gxf3 Ne5±]

21...e4?!

[21...Nb6! 22.Nc4! Nbxid5!± 23.Bc5! Nc3+ 24.Kc2 Nxd1 25.Bxf8 Ne3+ 26.Nxe3 Qxf8±]

22.Nc4 Ne5 23.Nxe5 Qxe5 24.Bd4 Qf5



25.Ka1?

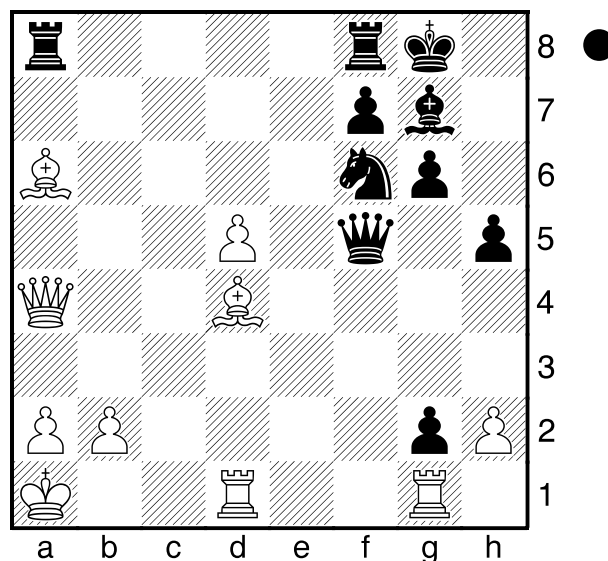
[25.g4!?]

[25.d6 exf3+ 26.Bd3 Qf4 27.Bc2 fxg2 28.Qxg2=]

25...exf3±

[25...a3!±]

26.Qxa4? fxg2-+ 27.Rhg1



Qe4?!

[27...Rfd8! eliminates the d5-pawn and is, perhaps somewhat surprisingly, just won for Black. 28.Qc4 (28.Rxg2 Rd6 Now it's not so surprising.)

28...Nxd5 29.Bb7 (29.Bxg7 Ne3; 29.Rxg2? Ne3!) 29...Bxd4 30.Qxd4 Nf4-+]

28.Qc6± Qf5?

[28...Ng4 29.Bxg7 Kxg7±]

29.Rxg2

[29.d6=]

[29.Bb7=]

29...Nxd5! 30.Bxg7□ Nb4!= 31.Qc4?! Kxg7

[31...Rxa6 32.Qxb4 Kxg7 33.a3 Re8±]

32.Qxb4 Rxa6 33.Qd4+ Kg8

[33...Kh7]

34.Rf2 Qe6 35.Qd5 Qb6 36.Rdf1 Ra5

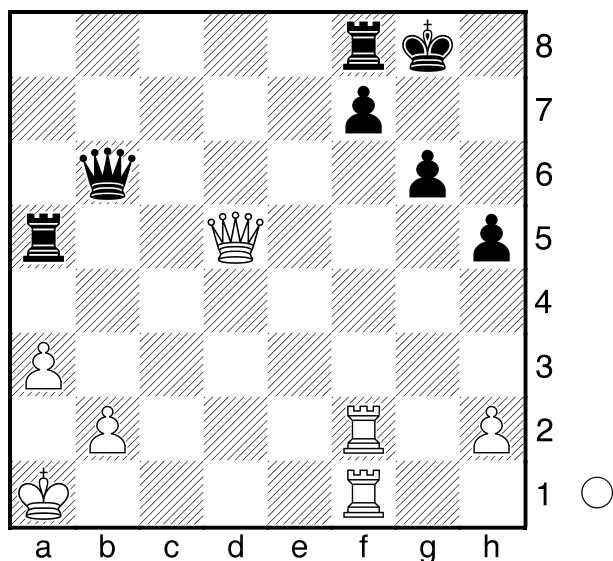
37.Qc4 Rc5 38.Qf4± Rc7 39.Qf6

[39.a3]

39...Rc6

[39...Rfc8 40.a3 Qb3 41.Kb1 Qd3+]

42.Ka1 Qd5]
40.Qf4 Rc7 41.Qf6 Rc6
 [41...Rfc8]
42.Qf3?! Rc7
 [42...f5 43.Qf4 Kh7 43...f5]
43.a3
 [43.Qf6! Rfc8!]
43...Ra7
 [43...f5]
44.Qd5
 [44.Qf6]
44...Ra5
 [44...Rd8!]



45.Qa2= actually best! **45...Ra7??**
 [45...Qc7]
 [45...Qb7]
 [45...Qa7]
46.Rf6+- Qb5 47.Rxg6+ Kh7 48.Rgf6
Kg7 49.R6f5 Qe2 50.Rg1+
1-0

C63
1593
1443
 2nd Falconer Memorial Tournament (4.11)
 [scott]

In this final round game, the winner of the 1600-1999 section, Serena Liu, plays very solidly and doesn't miss any tactical opportunities. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5** The Schliemann Defense, which is essentially playing the Kings Gambit from the black side. The reasoning is that Whites bishop on b5 is less effective than it would be on c4 providing Black the opportunity for a quick counterattack. **4.Bxc6**

[4.Nc3 is the most common move and generally considered the main line.]

4...dxc6 5.Nxe5!?

[5.Nc3 would be a more solid alternative.]

5...Nf6 6.exf5?! Development would be preferred. The capture only helps Black develop quickly. **6...Bxf5 7.0-0 Bd6**

8.Re1 0-0 9.d4 Nd7 10.c3!?

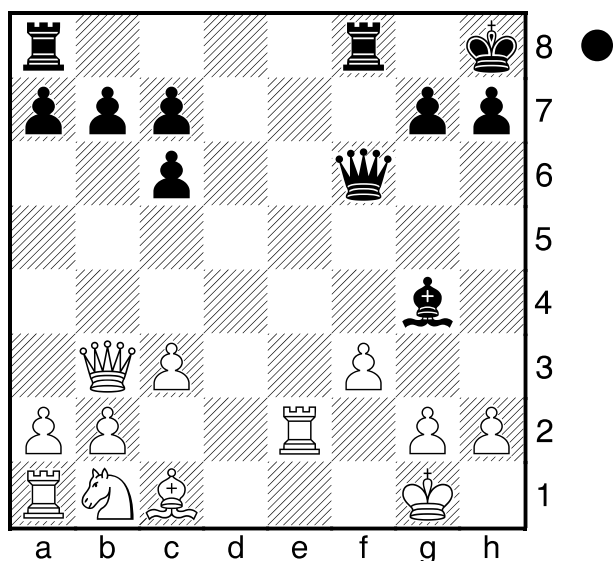
[Better was 10.Bf4 with White having a slight edge due to Blacks queenside pawn structure.]

10...Nxe5 11.dxe5 Bxe5?! 12.Qb3+ Kh8 13.Rxe5 Qf6 14.Re2?

[14.Rxf5 Qxf5 15.Be3± and the two minor pieces will be better than the rook with a long term advantage for white.]

14...Bg4 15.f3

(Diagram)

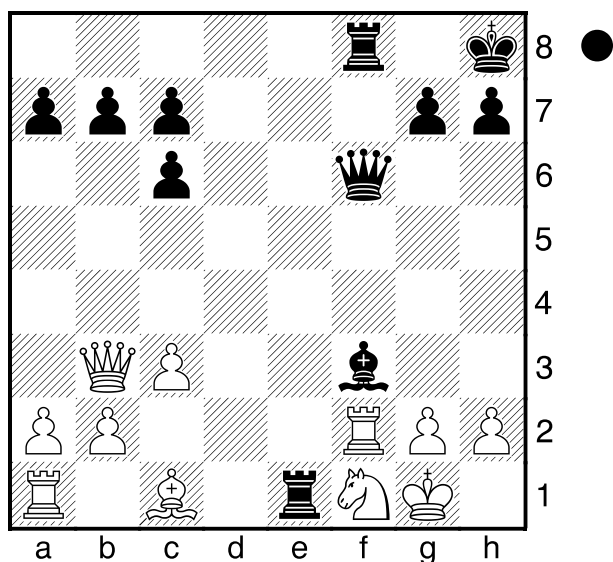


Bxf3! 16.Rf2

[16.gxf3 Qxf3 threatening mate on f1
17.Qd1 Rae8 18.Rd2 Qe3+
19.Kh1 Qe1+ 20.Qxe1 Rxe1+
21.Kg2 Rxc1 and Black is better since
White's queenside pieces are not
getting into play anytime soon and
Black will be able to win the knight in
short order.]

16...Rae8 17.Nd2 Re1+ 18.Nf1

[18.Rf1 Bxg2! 19.Kxg2 Qg5+
20.Kh3 Re3+ 21.Nf3 Rxf3+ 22.Rxf3
Rxf3#]



18...Be2! 19.Be3

[19.Rxf6? Rxf1+ 20.Rxf1 Rxf1#]

19...Rxa1! 20.h3

```
[ 20.Rxf6 still fails to Rxf1+ 21.Rxf1
Rxf1# ]
```

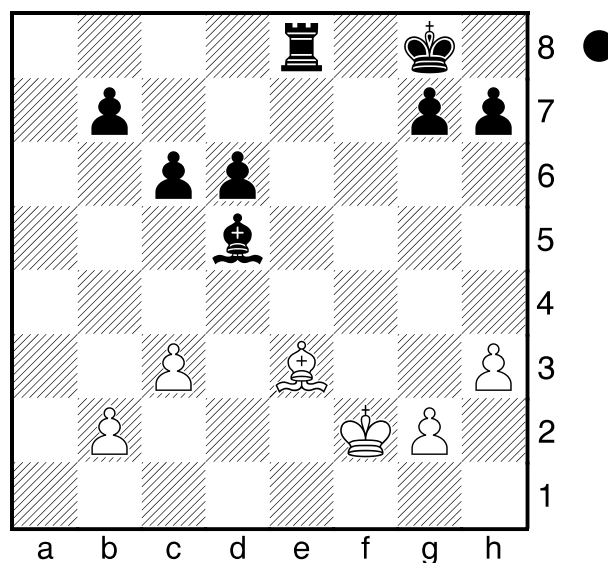
20...Rxf1+ 21.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 22.Kh2

Bc4-+ Black is up a rook with a continuing attack. Serena plays very patiently forcing a queen trade not giving her opponenent any chances.

23.Qc2 Qe2 24.Qe4 Qd3 25.Qe5

Qd6! Trading queens while fixing the pawns. **26.Qxd6 cxd6 27.Kg3 Bxa**

28.Bxa7 Re8 29.Kf2 Bc4 30.Be3 Kg8
31.Kf3 Bd5+ 32.Kf2



Bxg2! picking up the queenside pawns.

33.Bf4 Bxh3 34.Bxd6 Rd8 35.Bf4 h6

36.Kg3 Bf1 37.Kf2 Bb5 38.Ke3 g5

39.Bc7 Re8+ 40.Kf3 Re2 41.c4 Bxc4

42.b3 Bb5 43.b4 Rb2 44.Bd6 h5

45.Bc5 g4+ 46.Kg3 Rb3+ 47.Kg2 h4

48.Kh2 g3+ 49.Kg2 Rb2+ 50.Kg1 h3!

51.Kh1 h2

[faster was 51...Bd3 52.b5 Rb1+
53.Bg1 Be4#]

52.Bf8!? **Rb1+**

[Hoping for 52...Kxf8 stalemate]

53.Kg2 h1Q+ 54.Kxg3 Rb3+ 55.Kf4

Qh4+ 56.Ke5 Re3+ 57.Kd6 Kxf8

58.Kc5 Qc4+ 59.Kb6 c5 60.Ka7 Ra3+

61.Kb6 Qe6+ 62.Kc7 Qc6+ 63.Kb8
b6 64.bxc5 Ra8#
0-1

Pavuluri,Vivian D48
1532
 Xiao,Marina 1768
 2nd Falconer Memorial Tournament (3.12)
[scott]

Marina Xiao took clear second in the 1600-1999 section. In this game Marina builds an initiative targeting White's queenside pawns and breaks through with White's king still in the center. **1.d4**

d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6

Marina chooses a Semi-Slav which usually prioritizes king side development and figuring out how to best liberate the c8 bishop later. **5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Be2 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.a3!?**

[9.e4 is the most common taking more space in the center.]

9...Bd6 10.Ne4!? Since Black lacks space, White really shouldn't allow Black to trade off pieces since it only helps them. **10...Nxe4!** The position is equal. **11.Bxe4 Bb7 12.b4!?** This move allows Black to target the queenside pawns.

[Δ12.0-0]

12...a5! 13.Bd2 Nf6 14.Bc2 axb4!

15.Bxb4 Bxb4+ 16.axb4 Nd5

White is going to have a difficult time defending the b-pawn. **17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Ng5**

[18.Qb1 Qa3 19.0-0 Qxb4±]

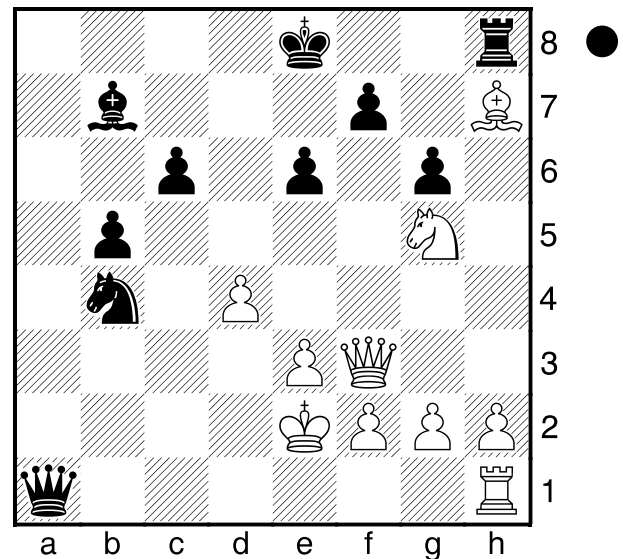
18...Nxb4 19.Bxh7?! g6 Keeping the Bishop out of play. **20.Qf3?**

[Δ20.0-0 was Whites best chance to hang on.]

20...Qa1+ 21.Ke2!?

[21.Qd1 Qxd1+ 22.Kxd1 Ke7 23.Kd2 f6-+]

(Diagram)



Setting a trap **21...Qb2+!**

[Not falling for 21...Qxh1? 22.Qxf7+ Kd8 23.Nxe6+ Kc8 24.Qc7#]

22.Kf1 Qb1+! 23.Ke2 Qd3+ 24.Ke1 Nc2#

0-1

Harish,Vidyuth D00
1566
 Dumpala,Sri Ansh 1536
 2nd Falconer Memorial Tournament (4.14)
[scott]

Placing 3rd in the 1600-1999 section, Sri Ansh Dumpala wins this last round game with a nice tactic near the end after building up kingside pressure. **1.d4 d5 2.Bf4** Welcome to the London System! **2...Nf6 3.e3 c6 4.c3 e6 5.Nd2 Bd6 6.Bg3 Bxg3!?** Generally, trading the bishop just opens the h-file for White which can help with Whites attack. **7.hxg3 h6 8.Ngf3 Nbd7 9.Bd3 Qe7 10.e4!?** This gives Black an opportunity to improve their position through gaining central space and trades.

[10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Nd7 12.f4± White is slightly better and would have

a long term space advantage. White's bishop is superior to Blacks and the d6 square is screaming out for the White knight.]

10...dxe4

[10...e5 is a move worthy of consideration since it opens up room and gives the Bishop some options.]

11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 Nf6 13.Bc2 Nd5 14.Ne5! Black's bishop will remain locked behinds the pawns for the time being. **14...a6 15.Qf3 Qf6 16.Qe4 Bd7 17.c4! Nc7 18.Bb3!?** Castling either direction would have been preferred. **18...a5 19.a4 Qe7 20.0-0 h5 21.Ra3 h4 22.Bd1 Qg5 23.Qf4?!**

[23.f4 Qe7 24.g4± And Black doesn't have any good options for active play.]

23...Qxf4! Restoring equality 24.gxf4 Na6 25.Re3 Nb4 26.f5 Rd8 27.fxe6 Bxe6 28.f4! Kf8

[28...Rxd4? 29.f5 Bxc4 30.Nxc6+ Kd7 31.Nxd4 Bxf1 32.Kxf1+- and White would gain a piece]

29.f5 Bc8 30.Re4 Rh6 31.Bb3 h3 32.Rf3 hxg2 33.Kxg2 Rhd6?

[33...c5 34.d5 Re8± And Black would be better since now their Bishop is much better than Whites and the tactics favor black. 35.Kf2 Nd3+ 36.Rxd3 Bxf5 37.Rde3 Bxe4 38.Rxe4-+]

34.Ng6+?

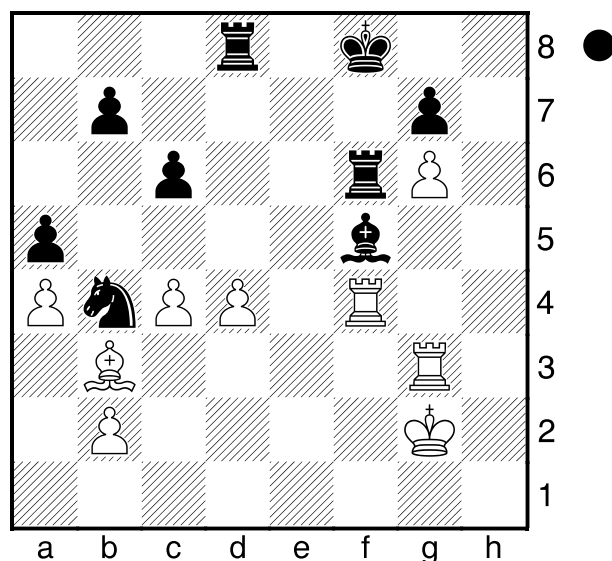
[34.c5! Rxd4 (34...Rh6 35.Nxf7+-) 35.Ng6+! Kg8 (35...fxg6 36.fxg6+ Bf5 37.Rxf5#) 36.Rh3 and Black will get mated.]

34...fxg6! 35.fxg6+?

[35.c5□ Rd5 36.fxg6+ Rf5=]

35...Rf6 36.Rg3 Bf5! 37.Rf4

(Diagram)



Bh3+!

[37...Bh3+ 38.Kxh3 Rxf4 And Black is up a full rook.]

0-1

E62
 1398
 1261
 2nd Falconer Memorial Tournament (3.21)
 [scott]

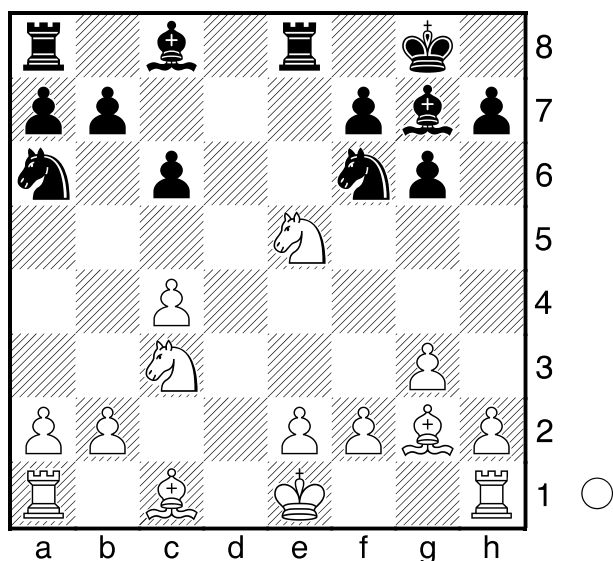
Zack Schuster was one of three players tied for first in the under 1600 section. This game he demonstrates how, after getting a material advantage, steadily trading down pieces into a won bishop ending. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Nb5!?**

[9.Nxe5 Is the most common here with]

[9.0-0 also having been played before.]

9...Na6 10.Nxe5 c6 11.Nc3 Re8

(Diagram)



12.Nxc6!? An interesting combination.

12...bxc6 13.Bxc6 Be6 14.Bxa8 Rxa8

White emerges with a rook for two pieces but with a few extra pawns.

15.0-0

[15.b3? Ne4±]

15...Bxc4 16.Rb1 Nb4 17.b3 Be6

18.e4 Ng4

[18...Rc8 would have put White under a lot of pressure.]

19.Bb2 Nd3 20.Ba1 Ngxf2?!

[20...Bd4 This would have put more pressure on Whites position. When ahead two peices for a rook you want to use the extra piece to go after weaknesses. Trading down gives away much of the advantage.]

21.Rxf2 Bd4 22.Nd1! Bb6 23.Kg2

Nxf2 24. Nxf2 Black has won back a few pawns and has the two bishops.

However, Black ultimately is still down a pawn and White plays to trade pieces and get the pawns moving. **24...Rc8 25.Bf6 Rc2 26.Rb2! Rxb2** Trades help the side ahead in material. Black should have held onto the rook and not traded.

27.Bxb2 Kf8 28.Nd3 a5?! The pawn really should have remained where it was for now. On a5 it is on the same color as White's bishop so both the

knight and Bishop can attack it. can only defend with one piece. **29.Nf4 Ke7?**

30.Nxe6! Given the opportunity, White trades down and now is winning.

30...Kxe6 31.Kf3 h5 32.Bc3

White keeps pressure on the Black pawn which put keeps Black's bishop limited in scope since it is the only defender of the a-pawn. **32...Bc7 33.h3 Kd7 34.g4!** Zack puts his pawns on the opposite color of his bishop. Black's bishop can't attack the pawns and White's bishop has more mobility.

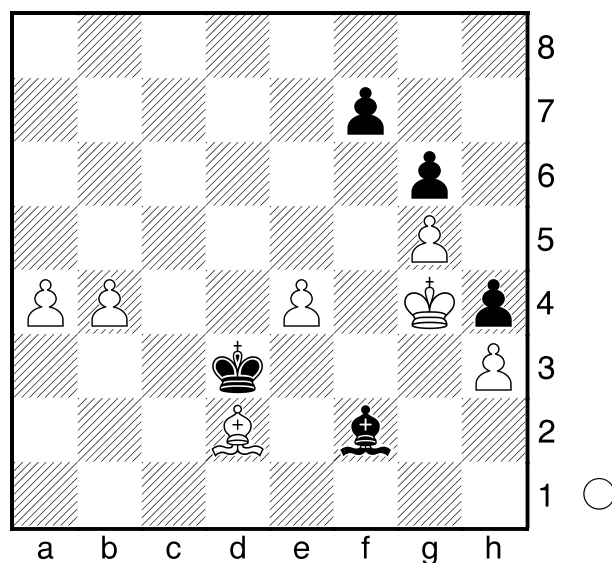
34...h4?!

[34...hxg4+ A basic endgame principle is when behind, trade pawns not pieces. It would have been better to trade the pawn.]

35.Bf6 Bg3 36.Bc3 Bc7 37.g5 Kc6

38.Kg4 Bg3? It would be better to give up the h-pawn. **39.Bxa5** White now has

two unstoppable connected passed pawns. **39...Kb5 40.Bc3!** Controlling the key squares and keeping the Black king out. **40...Kc5 41.a4 Bf2 42.b4+ Kc4 43.Bd2 Kd3**



**44.Kf3! Bg3 45.Bf4 Kc4 46.Bxg3!
hxg3 47.b5 g2 48.Kxg2 Kc5 49.Kg3
Kb6 50.Kf4
1-0**

□ **Starr,Albert**

■ **Liu,Jinfeng**

A00

1500

1293

2nd Falconer Memorial Tournament (4.23)

[scott]

Jinfeng Liu, one of the winners of the Under 1600 section, gets a quick win in the final round. **1.b4** The Polish Opening also called the Orang-Utan. White plays to throw Black off from the start. The downside is this doesn't aim for direct occupation of the center and it give Black a choice of many possible setups. But, it also forces Black to think from the beginning since not too many would be booked up for it. **1...Nf6 2.Bb2 d5 3.e3 Bf5** Black picks a London formation. **4.d3 e6 5.b5!?** One must assume this was to restrict the options of Black's queen knight. **5...c6 6.c4?!** Opening up the game with most of your pieces still on their home squares is "risky".

[6.a4 would have been preferred as it opens up the rook as well.]

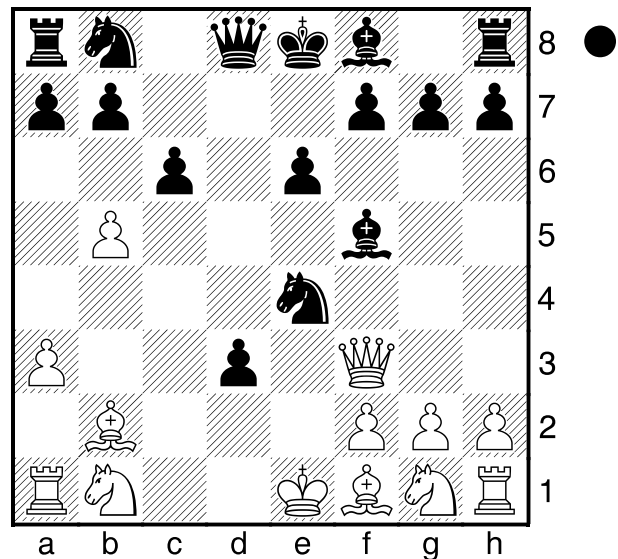
6...dxc4! 7.Qf3?

[7.dxc4 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Ne4 9.Ke2 Nd7 10.f3 Nec5 11.e4 Bg6 and Black would be better but with queens off the board, White would have more opportunities to right the ship.]

7...cxd3 8.e4?? Nxe4 9.a3

[9.Bxd3 Ng5 10.Qe3 Qxd3 11.Qxg5 Qxb5-+ Was the only option to try to survive.]

(Diagram)



9...d2+ 10.Nxd2

[10.Kd1 Nxf2+ 11.Qxf2 Bc2+ 12.Kxc2 d1Q+ 13.Kc3 Qa5+ 14.Kc4 cxb5#]

10...Qxd2# A nice miniature from Jinfeng.

0-1

Phillip Askentov

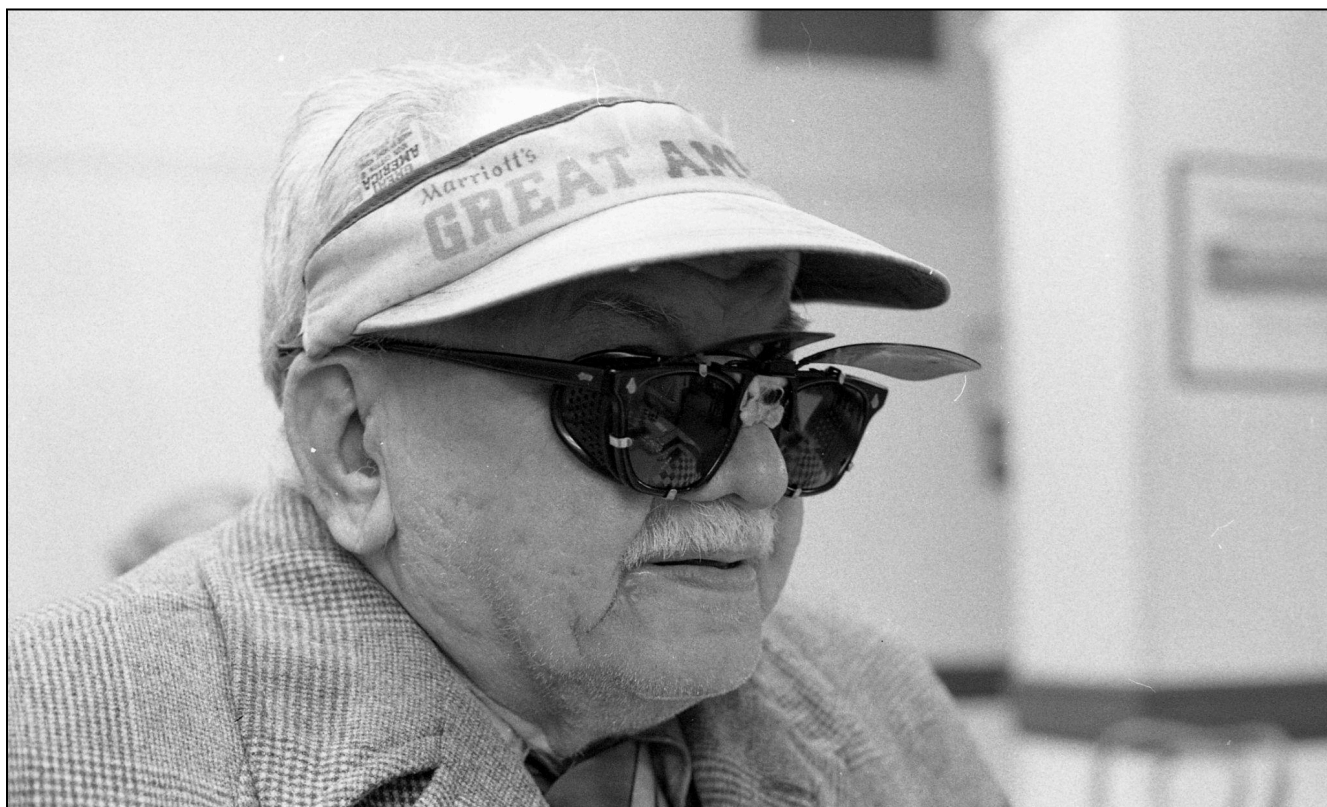
Oral Chess History: Alexander Sienkiwicz

(Editor's note: Alexander Sienkiwicz was a colorful character who was always in the Chess Room in the 1970's and 1980's when I arrived - and well before that. He was a problemist, and was always cracking jokes along the lines of: "Take the knight off and mate in the corner.")

PHIL: Was Sienkiwicz the One who claimed He won the Chess Championship of China way back when - which was probably played in a Bar frequented by Europeans!?!; there was a German Beer Manufacturing Town then - I think it's the Origin of Tsingtao Beer!
Luck, Walt

From Phil's history files:

Walt, You got it! One of the stories he told me was how he and Alekhine went to China on the lam and when they got there, very few people knew how to play chess. Being chess enthusiasts, and strictly in the interest of promoting the game, Sienkiwicz and Alekhine were more than happy to teach them the game - playing for small wagers just to maintain interest. Sienkiwicz took a few students on the side giving them private instruction (for a small fee), so they too could learn to play as well as Alekhine. His students would then go play Alekhine for slightly higher wagers - again simply to maintain interest in the game. When Sienkiwicz's students complained he was not as good as Alekhine (because they constantly lost money to Alekhine) and therefore were no longer going to take lessons from him, something needed to be done. Hence: the Great Chinese Chess Championship!



Alexander Sienkiwicz at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, c.1985. Photograph by Alan Benson, courtesy of [chessdryad](http://chessdryad.com).

I understand the entry fees were moderate and ALL monies were generously returned to first and second place winners. Not too surprisingly Sienkiwicz won, thereby 'proving' he could beat Alekhine and was an instructor of great magnitude. This encouraged his students to take yet more lessons (however at slightly heftier prices, because now Sienkiwicz was Champion of China). And naturally what followed was yet higher stakes in the games with Alekhine. And yes, most of this did take place in a bar. I'll save the boozing and womanizing parts of this story for another time, because I would never besmirch any chess players in public - myself knowing how upstanding and dedicated all chess players are to the game. However, after a while both Alekhine and Sienkiwicz arrived at the same conclusion at the same time, to wit: leaving China (without taking much time to pack) for a more healthy climate was a strong move. They did that...

Again, the above is from Sienkiwicz to me circa 1973, and there is no documentation to support this piece of chess history. However, oral history has now become accepted by professional historians as having roots in truth. As an afterthought (in my humble opinion) Sienkiwicz was a master in his prime and probably a solid 2200, or a bit more. I don't know if any of our group played him. I did and found his knowledge interesting, sporadic, and flawed due to age and other afflictions, but I believe he once was a very good player.

Zorba Hughes

Chess vs Comedy

Comedy has my heart. Chess has my head. Let me explain. I love to make people laugh. That's my addiction. But chess left an impression on me. I saw two old Black men playing it one day in the park in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. It intrigued me. The way they moved pawns effortlessly. Trying to out maneuver one another; making sure not to get caught in a trap. Back and forth in an ebb and flow. Call it art, science, whatever - I was fascinated.

Comedy on the other hand, I'd been doing since I was 15 years old. Being an only child, I needed to occupy my time. As many Gen Xers will attest to, I was a latch key kid at 6, 7 years old. Mom was a nurse. So when I got off the bus after school, I was to come straight home, let myself in, and under no circumstances was I to let anyone else in, relative or not. Don't care if it's Jesus (which is weird because we had his picture hanging up in the hallway). So I made a sandwich, sat, and looked at TV.

Mom was an album collector. R & B. I was looking through her collection and saw Bill Cosby, Jimmy Walker, Rudy Ray Moore, and Redd Foxx. I was only supposed to listen to Cosby, and Jimmy Walker didn't appeal to me. But Redd Foxx did. He's a natural at laughter. Della Reese called him "God's Pure Humor." I played that album until I wore it out. There were two talk shows on when I was a kid that fascinated me: Mike Douglas and Johnny Carson. Carson came on late at night. I had to listen to him from the other room. If you made it on there, you were big time. I heard these people on there telling jokes. I didn't know you could do that. There was Richard Pryor, Robin Williams, but who caught my fancy was Rodney Dangerfield. He told one liners. I listened to him relentlessly. I taught myself to write jokes.

As I said before, both of these arts have a grip on my creative side. May I never have to choose between them.

The Chess Scuttlebutt

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

Ukrainian children are seeing the war out with donated toys and [chess sets](#).

Jennifer Shahade on the [vicissitudes](#) of being a whistle-blower.

Superstar Derrick Rose on [chess in the NBA](#): "It's kind of a cult-like thing."

WIM Namoi Bashkansky works at Harvard to [align](#) AI with human values.

Chess will make its [first appearance](#) at the African Games.

Check out the community blogs [page](#) on lichess, with content covering everything under the sun.

Likewise, chess.com has an active blogger [community](#). Mechanics' Institute member Renate Otterbach [writes](#) there, and she also pens [articles](#) for FIDE.

Carlsen [wins](#) the Freestyle (FischerRandom) G.O.A.T. tournament in Germany, and World Champion Ding Liren finishes last.

A [medical emergency](#) and good sportsmanship during a HS team match in Chicago.

Scouts are taking up chess in [Wyoming](#) and [Detroit](#).

Eight-year old Ashwath Kaushik of Singapore becomes the youngest player to [defeat](#) a Grandmaster.

The title of "Best Chess Streamer" goes to a [gentleman](#) who said, "I couldn't care any less."

FIDE launches a [ChessMom](#) initiative, to support women chess professionals with infant children.

["Magnus and Me"](#) - a freestyle rap inspired by the Freestyle G.O.A.T. tournament.

[Glory To The Queen](#) (2020) is a fascinating full-length documentary on GM Nona Gaprindashvili, GM Maya Chiburdinidze, WGM Nana Alexandria and WGM Nana Ioseliani - four women from Soviet Georgia who dominated womens' chess for decades.

World-wide, black chess players are [rising](#) in the ranks.

Finally, with schools [blocking](#) students' access to chess websites, here are some funny work-arounds:
<https://superhardalgebraproblems.com/>, <https://justdoinghomework.com/>,
<https://www.schoolschoolschool.com/>.

Recent Games

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

Kaushik,Ashwath

Stopa,Jacek
 22nd Burgdorfer Stadhaus Open (4)

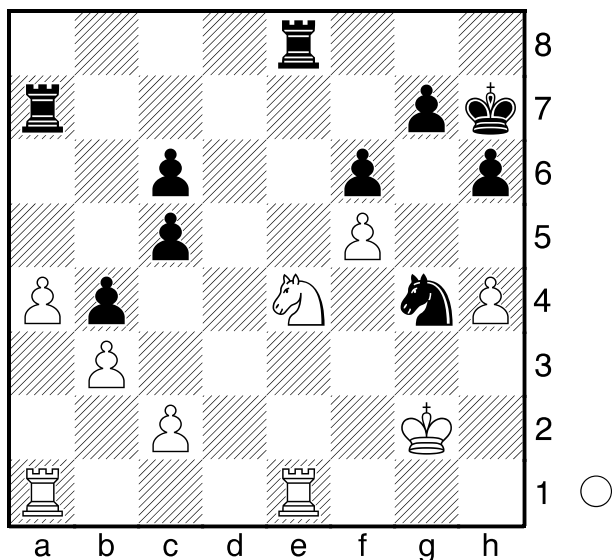
C41
1892
2351

Gukesh D

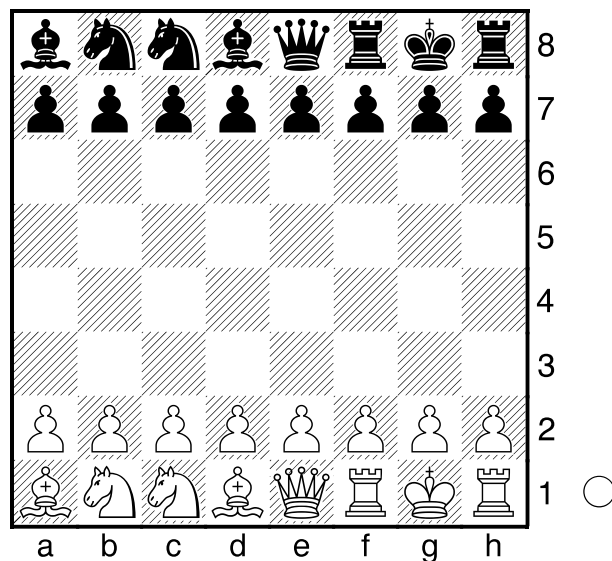
Firouzja,Alireza
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge Rapid 2024 (1.1)

2725
2759

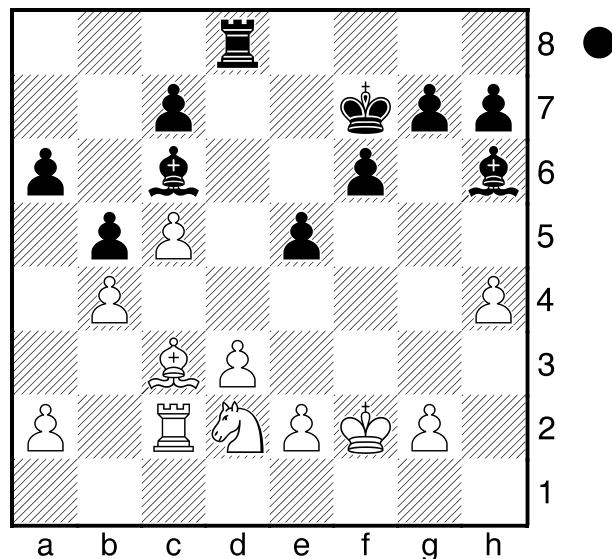
The game heard around the world, as GM Stopa falls victim to an eight-year old. 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 c6 8.a4 a5 9.Re1 h6 10.Ba2 Re8 11.Be3 Bf8 12.Qd2 Qc7 13.Nh4 Nh7 14.Ng6 exd4 15.Bxd4 Nc5 16.f4 Be6 17.Nxf8 Nxf8 18.f5 Bxa2 19.Rxa2 f6 20.Qf4 Nfd7 21.Nd1 Ne5 22.Ra3 Kh7 23.Nf2 Qf7 24.g4 Qc4 25.Qd2 b6 26.Kg2 Ra7 27.h4 d5 28.b3 Qb4 29.Qxb4 axb4 30.Raa1 dxe4 31.Bxc5 bxc5 32.Nxe4 Nxg4




33.Ng5+ fxc5 34.Rxe8 Nf6 35.Rc8 g4
 36.Rxc6 Rd7 37.a5 Rd2+ 38.Kg3 Rd4
 39.Rxf6 gxf6 40.a6 Rd8 41.a7 Ra8
 42.Kxg4 Kg7 43.Kf4
1-0

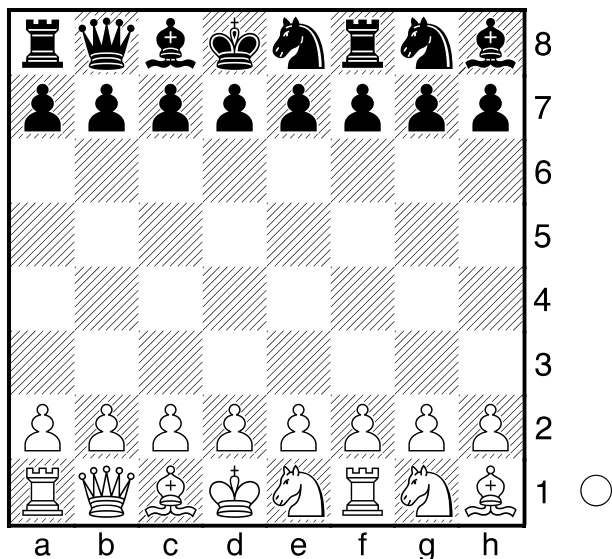


An entertaining game from start to finish, with black's king joining the party later in the evening. 1.b4 b6 2.c4 e5 3.f4 exf4 4.Rxf4 Bg5 5.Qg3 f6 6.Rf2 Nd6 7.c5 Ne4 8.Bb3+ Rf7 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Qb3+ Qe6 11.Qxe6+ dxe6 12.h4 Nxf2 13.Kxf2 Bh6 14.Nb3 Bd5 15.Rc1 b5 16.Nd4 a6 17.Rc2 Nc6 18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.d3 e5 20.Bc3 Rd8 21.Nd2



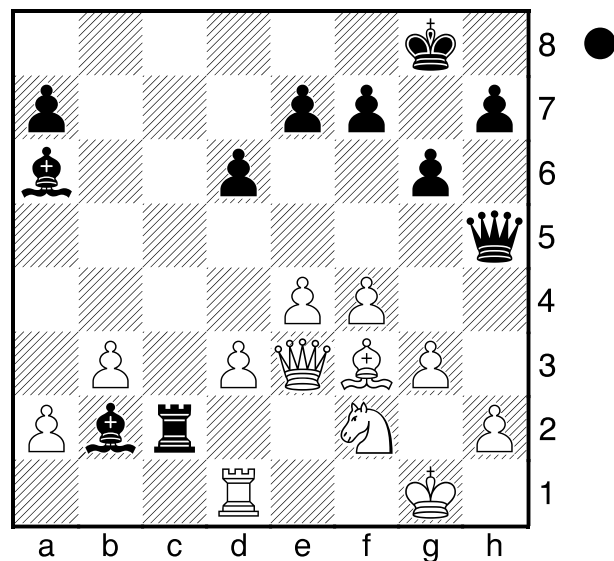
Ke6 22.Nf3 Kf5 23.e4+ Kg4 24.Bxe5
 Rxd3 25.Bxc7 Bxe4 26.Re2 Bxf3
 27.gxf3+ Rxf3+ 28.Kg2 Rc3 29.Re4+
 Kf5 30.Re7 Rc2+ 31.Kf3 Rxa2 32.Bg3
 Ra3+ 33.Kg2 Rc3 34.Ra7 Kg4 35.Be1
 Rc2+ 36.Kf1 Kf3 37.Rxa6 Be3
0-1

 Firouzja,Alireza **2759**
 **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2727**
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge Rapid 2024 (4.2)



Black's blows on the 23rd, 25th, and
 26th moves leave white's game in ruins.
 1.g3 c6 2.c4 g6 3.f4 Ngf6 4.e4 d6
 5.d3 Nc7 6.Qc2 0-0 7.Nef3 b5 8.cxb5
 c5 9.Bg2 Qxb5 10.Nh3 Ng4 11.0-0
 Ba6 12.Rd1 Rab8 13.Rb1 Ne6 14.b3
 Nd4 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Qe2 Ne3
 17.Bxe3 dxe3 18.Qxe3 Rfc8 19.Rbc1
 Bb2 20.Rc4 Qh5 21.Rxc8+ Rxc8
 22.Nf2 Rc2 23.Bf3

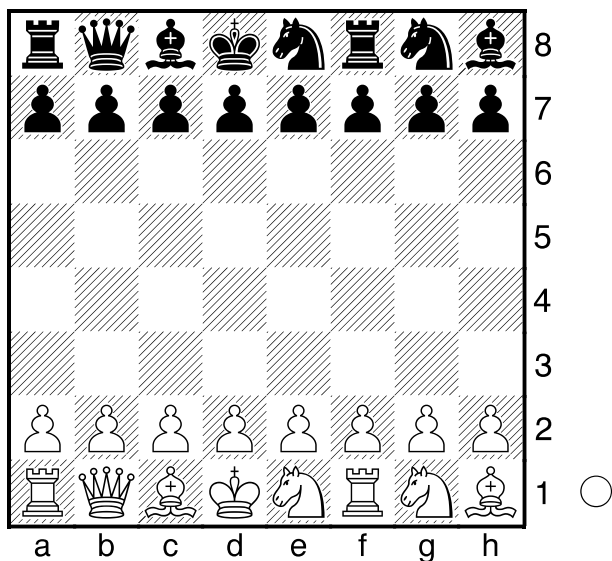
(Diagram)



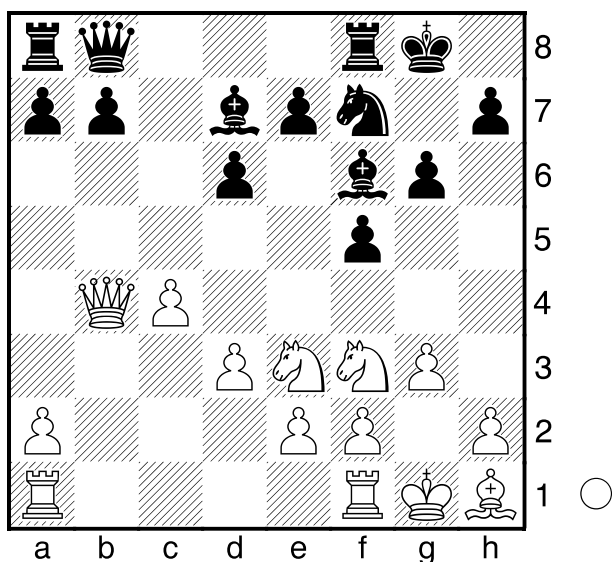
Bd4! 24.Qxd4 Qxf3 25.Re1 Bxd3!
 26.Qe3 Bxe4! 27.Qxf3 Bxf3 28.h4
 Rxa2 29.g4 e6 30.Re3 Bd5 31.Rc3
 Kg7 32.Rc7 h5 33.gxh5 gxh5 34.Rd7
 Kg6 35.Rxd6 Kf5 36.Rd7 f6 37.Nd3
 Bxb3 38.Nb4 Ra1+ 39.Kf2 a5 40.Nd3
 a4 41.Ra7
0-1

 Gukesh D **2725**
 **Ding,Liren** **2780**
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge Rapid 2024 (4.3)

(Diagram)



A powerful exchange sacrifice on the 12th move leads to lasting pressure. 1.c4 g6 2.g3 c5 3.Ngf3 Nd6 4.d3 f5 5.Nc2 Nf7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.b4 cxb4 8.Qxb4 d6 9.Bb2 0-0 10.Ne3 Bd7 11.Bxf6 Bxf6



12.Nd5! Bxa1 13.Nxe7+ Kg7 14.Rxa1 Ne5 15.Qc3 Re8 16.Nd5 Qd8 17.Nd4 Kf7 18.Rb1 Rb8 19.Qa3 Bc6 20.h3 Kf8 21.Nb5 Bxb5 22.Rxb5 Nc6 23.e3 Kf7 24.Qb2 Ne5 25.Nf4 g5 26.Bd5+ Kf6 27.Ne2 Kg6 28.d4 Nd7 29.Qb1 Nf6 30.Bxb7 Qd7 31.g4 Re7 32.Bc6 Rxb5 33.cxb5 Qe6 34.Ng3 Kf7

35.Nxf5 Rc7 36.Qb4 d5 37.Qa5
1-0

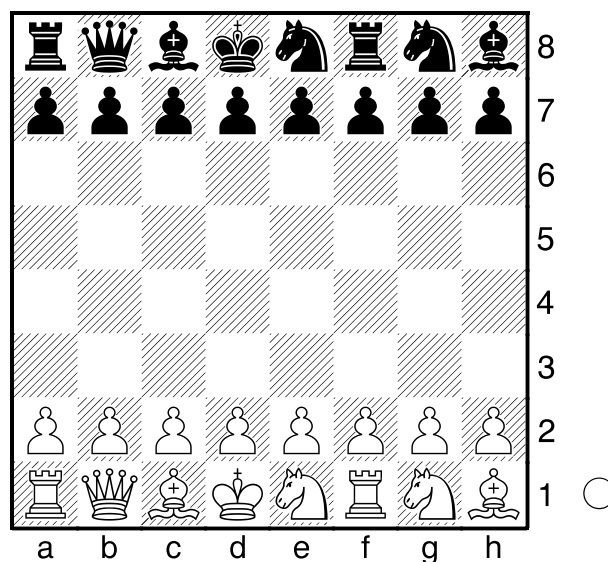
□ Carlsen,Magnus

2830

■ Aronian,Levon

2725

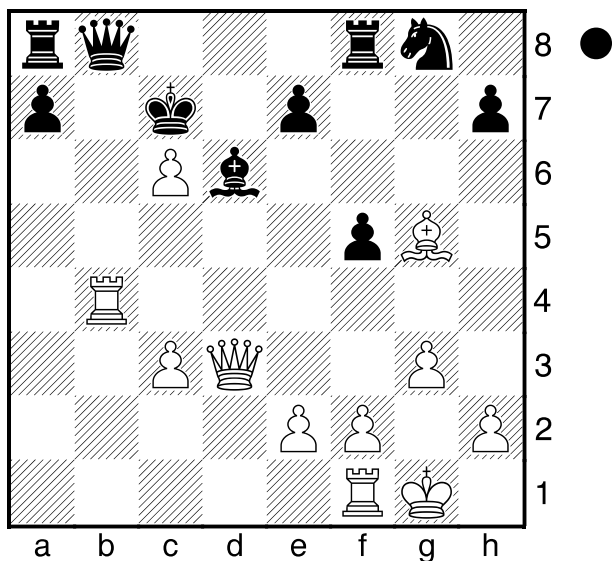
Freestyle GOAT Challenge Rapid 2024 (4.4)



Under pressure as early as move nine, black cracks and goes down quickly.

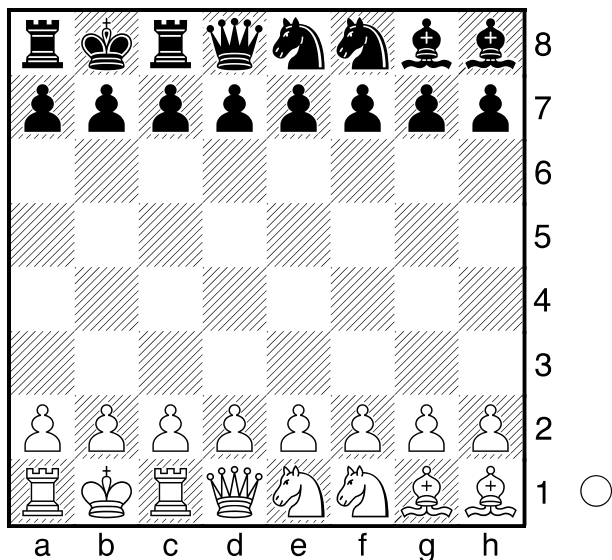
1.c3 g6 2.d4 b5 3.Nd3 Nd6 4.Nc5 f5 5.g3 c6 6.Nf3 Nf7 7.Ng5 Nxd5 8.Bxd5 Bg7 9.Bf4 d6 10.Bxc6 g5 11.Bxg5 dxc5 12.Qd3 Kc7 13.d5 Be5 14.a4 Bb7 15.0-0 bxa4 16.Rxa4 Bd6 17.b4 Bxc6 18.dxc6 cxb4 19.Rxb4

(Diagram)



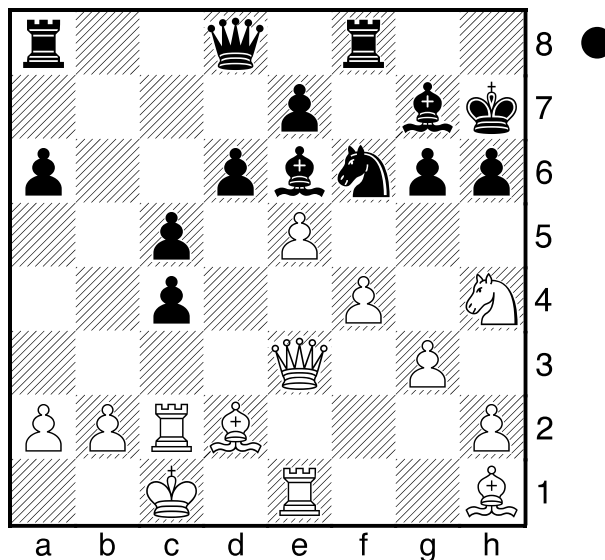
1-0

Caruana, Fabiano **2804**
 Gukesh D **2725**
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge Rapid 2024 (5.2)



Black gets driven pillar to post in this sharp attacking game. 1.c4 c5 2.f4 g6 3.Qa4 f5 4.g3 d6 5.Rc2 Nd7 6.0-0-0 Nef6 7.d3 Qc7 8.e4 fxe4 9.dxe4 Be6 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Ng5 Bg4 12.Re1 h6 13.Nf3 a6 14.Qb3 Kh7 15.Ne3 Be6

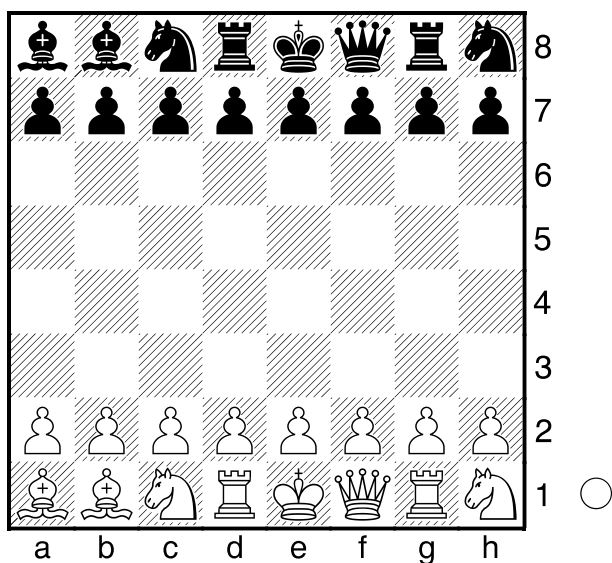
16.Nd5 Qa5 17.Be3 b5 18.Bd2 Qd8 19.Qe3 Bg7 20.Nh4 bxc4 21.Nxf6+ Nxf6 22.e5



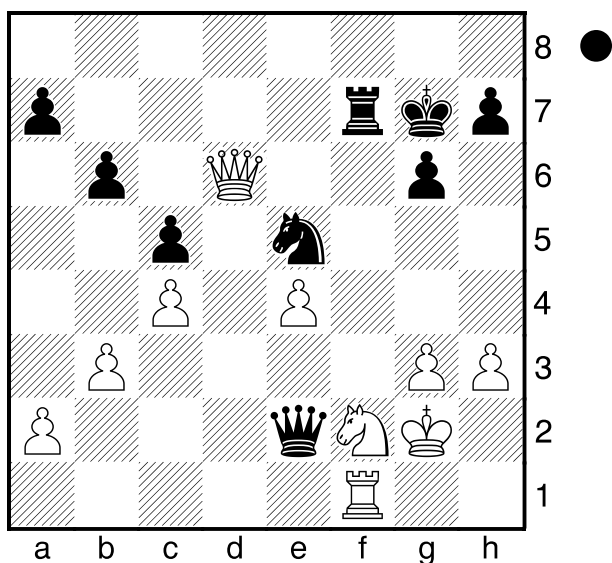
dxe5 23.Bxa8 Qxa8 24.Qxe5 Bf7 25.Bc3 Qc6 26.f5 g5 27.Ng6 Re8 28.Nxe7 Qb7 29.Rce2 Bh5 30.Rd2 Bh8 31.Rd6 Ng4 32.Qe4 Qxe4 33.Rxe4 Bxc3 34.bxc3 Nf2 35.Ree6 Bf7 36.Nd5
 1-0

Gukesh D **2725**
 Abdusattorov, Nodirbek **2727**
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge Rapid 2024 (6.1)

(Diagram)

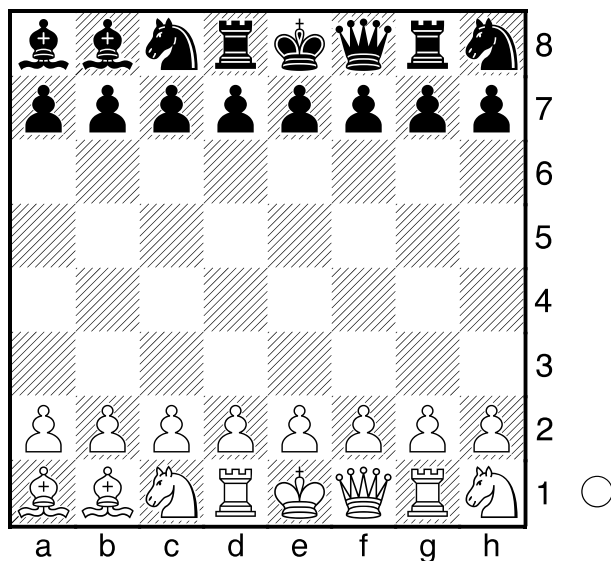


The winner of the Freestyle GOAT Rapid shows his tactical acumen. 1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Qg2 f5 4.b3 Bc7 5.0-0 e5 6.e3 Ne7 7.d4 b6 8.f3 Nf7 9.dxe5 Bxe5 10.Bxe5 Nxe5 11.e4 fxe4 12.Bxe4 Bxe4 13.fxe4 Qh6 14.Nd3 Qe3+ 15.Nhf2 N7c6 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Rd5 d6 18.Qh3 0-0 19.Qe6+ Rf7 20.Kg2 Qe2 21.h3 Kg7 22.Rxd6 Rxd6 23.Qxd6

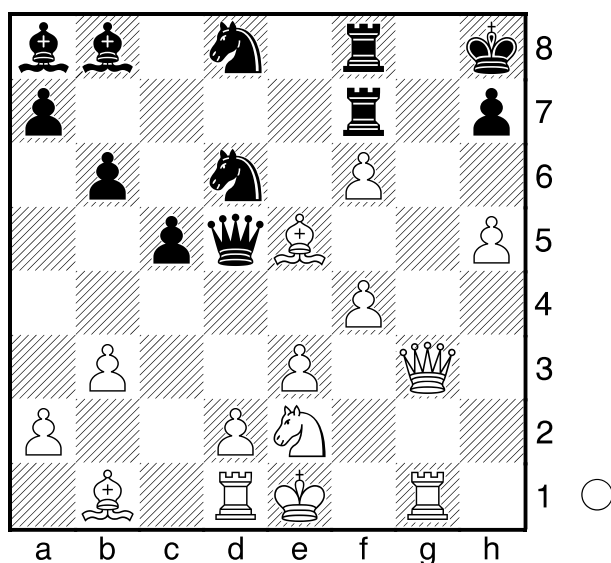


Nd3! 24.Kg1 Nxf2 25.Qe5+ Kh6 26.Qe6 Qf3 0-1

Aronian, Levon 2725
 Ding, Liren 2780
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge Rapid 2024 (6.2)

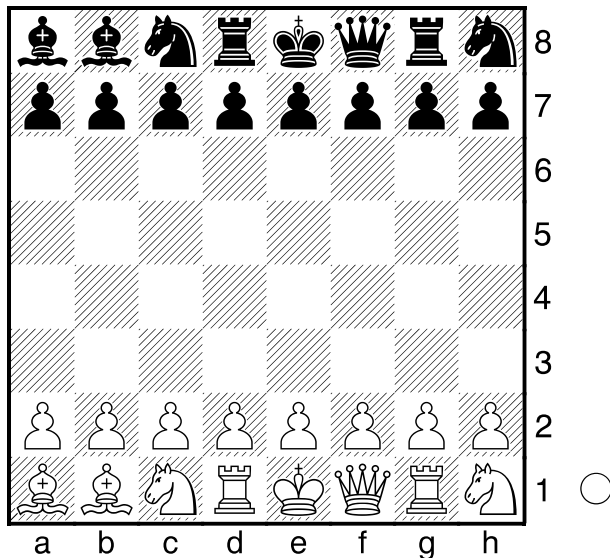


The World Champion is routed in this charming miniature. 1.c4 Ng6 2.f4 c5 3.e3 b6 4.b3 f6 5.Qf2 Qf7 6.g4 d5 7.cxd5 Qxd5 8.h4 0-0 9.h5 Nh8 10.Ne2 Nf7 11.Nhg3 Ncd6 12.Nf5 Rd7 13.Nxg7 Kxg7 14.g5 e5 15.gxf6+ Kh8 16.Qg3 Nd8 17.Bxe5 Rdf7

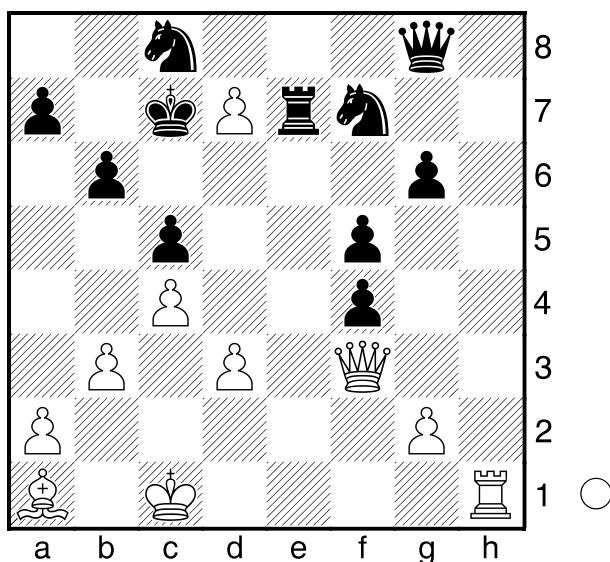


18.Qg7+!
1-0

Firouzja,Alireza **2759**
 Keymer,Vincent **2743**
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge Rapid 2024 (6.4)

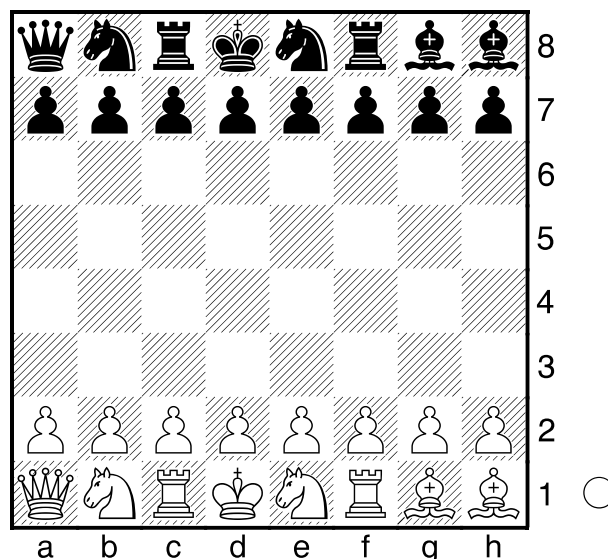


A game with many humorous moments.
 1.c4 c5 2.Bxh7 Bxh2 3.Ng3 Bxg1
 4.Qxg1 f6 5.b3 b6 6.e4 e5 7.Nce2
 Ne7 8.f4 d6 9.0-0-0 Nf7 10.Bxg8
 Qxg8 11.Qe3 0-0-0 12.Rh1 g6 13.Nc3
 f5 14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Re8 16.Ne2
 Kb7 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Qf3 Nc8 19.Nf4
 exf4 20.d6+ Re4 21.d7 Kc7 22.d3
 Re7



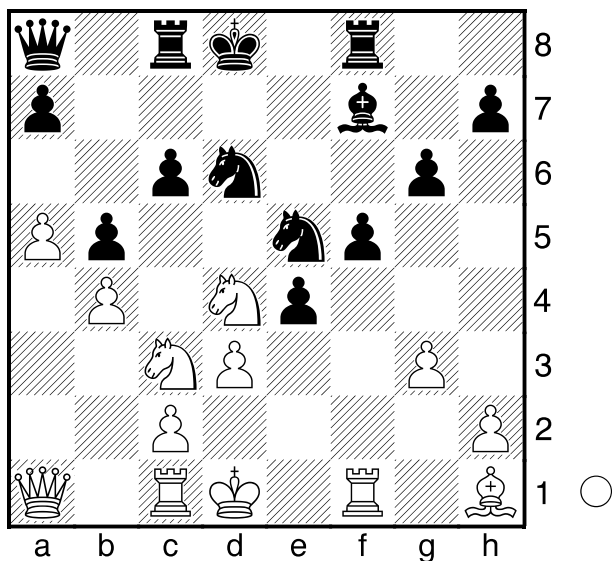
23.dxc8N Qxc8 24.Bf6 Rd7 25.Rh7 g5
 26.Qe2 g4 27.Qe6 Nd6 28.Rh8 Qb7
 29.Be5 Qc6 30.Bxf4 b5 31.cxb5 Qxg2
 32.Bxd6+ Rxd6 33.Rh7+
1-0

Keymer,Vincent **2743**
 Gukesh D **2725**
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge Rapid 2024 (7.4)



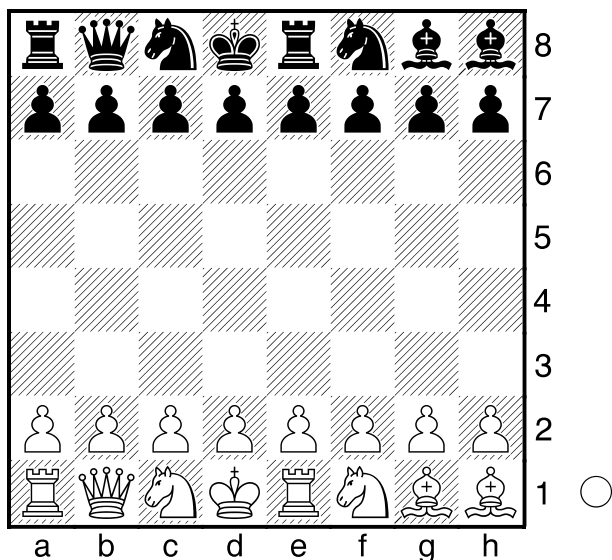
Black's king comes under a deadly
 center crossfire. 1.g3 g6 2.f4 f5 3.a4
 d5 4.a5 Nd6 5.Nc3 c6 6.Nf3 Nd7
 7.d3 b5 8.b4 Bf7 9.Bd4 Bxd4 10.Nxd4
 e5 11.fxe5 Nxe5 12.e4 dxe4

(Diagram)



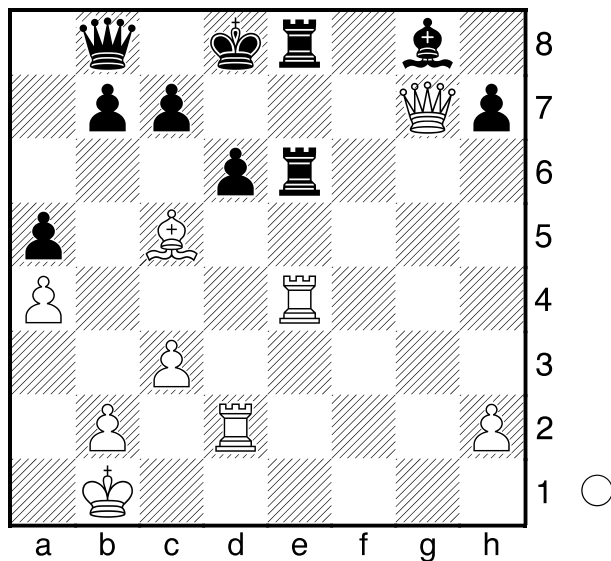
13.Nxe4! Nxe4 14.dxe4 0-0-0 15.0-0-0
Bc4 16.Rfe1 fxe4 17.Bxe4 Rfe8
18.Bg2 Qb7 19.Bh3+ Nd7 20.Rxe8
Rxe8 21.Nxc6 Bd5 22.Ne5
1-0

Aronian,Levon **2725**
 Keymer,Vincent **2743**
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge KO 2024 (1.2)



A beautiful miniature by Aronian in
Classic time-control Fischer Random!

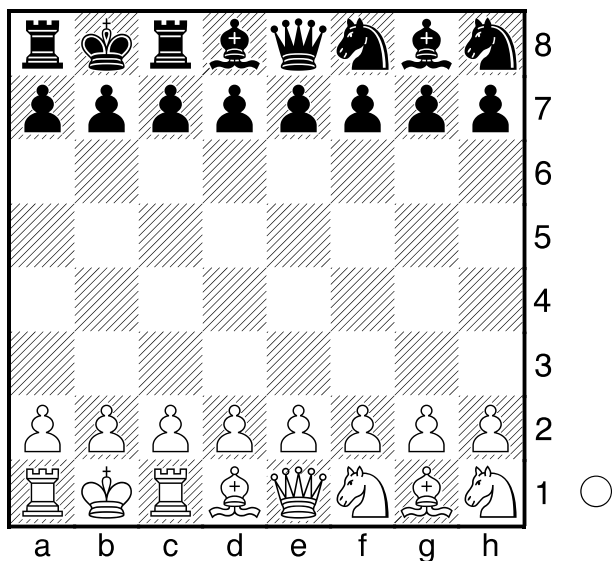
1.d4 f5 2.c3 g6 3.Nd2 Nd6 4.g3 e5
5.dxe5 Bxe5 6.f4 Bg7 7.Qd3 a5 8.a4
Ne6 9.Ncb3 g5 10.0-0-0 gxf4 11.Nc5
Bh6 12.Kb1 fxg3 13.Qxg3 Bxd2
14.Rxd2 Nxc5 15.Bxc5 Ra6 16.e4
fxe4 17.Bxe4 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 Rae6
19.Qg7 d6



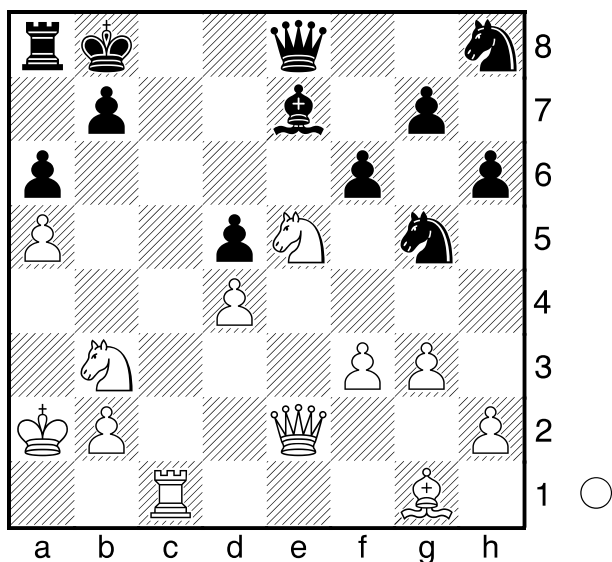
20.Rxd6+!!
1-0

Carlsen,Magnus **2830**
 Firouzja,Alireza **2759**
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge KO 2024 (1.4)

(Diagram)



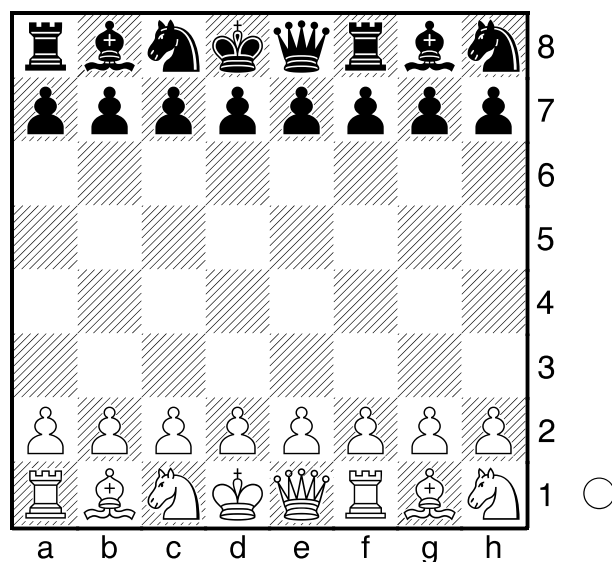
White leaves his knight hanging on e5 for 10 moves! 1.e4 h6 2.d4 Bh7 3.f3 e6 4.a4 Be7 5.a5 a6 6.Nf2 d5 7.Nd2 Nd7 8.Nd3 Nf6 9.c4 Ng6 10.Ba4 Qd8 11.Qe2 Nh5 12.g3 c6 13.Bc2 Nf6 14.exd5 exd5 15.Ne5 Nh8 16.Bxh7 Nxh7 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.Rxc8+ Qxc8 19.Nb3 Ng5 20.Ka2 Qe8 21.Rc1 f6



22.h4 Nh3 23.Qc2 Bd6 24.Be3 Ka7 25.f4 Rd8 26.Nc5 Qb5 27.Qb3 Qxa5+ 28.Kb1 Qb5 29.Qxb5 axb5 30.Ne6 Rg8 31.Rh1 Kb8 32.Rxh3 fxe5 33.dxe5 Be7 34.Rh1 Kc8 35.Rc1+

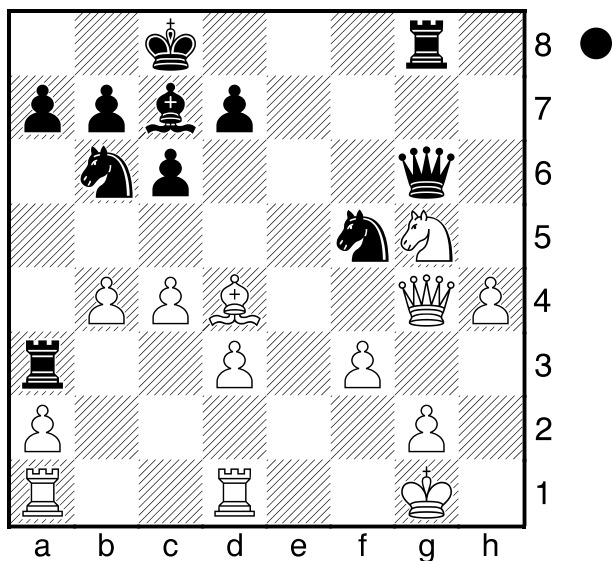
Kd7 36.f5 Bd8 37.Rc5
1-0

□ Ding,Liren 2780
■ Firouzja,Alireza 2759
Freestyle GOAT Challenge KO 2024 (2.1)



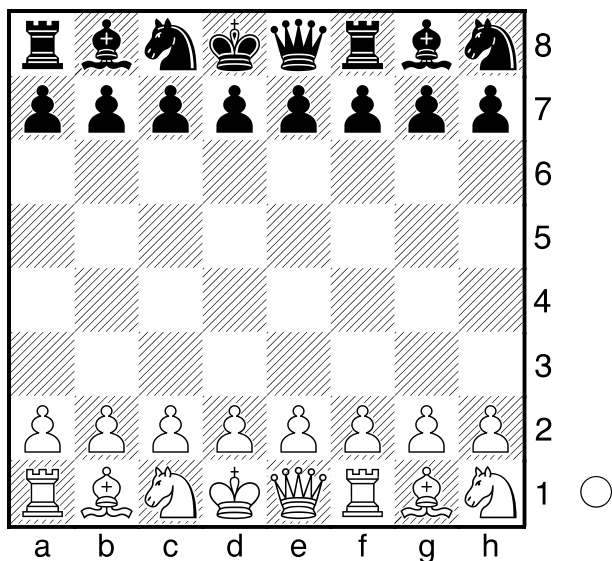
White loses a piece on the 6th move and never recovers. 1.d4 f5 2.c3 c6 3.f3 e5 4.Nd3 Ng6 5.Ng3 f4 6.Nh5? Nge7! 7.Qh4 g5 8.Qxg5 Rf5 9.Qg4 Rxh5 10.dxe5 Bc4 11.Nxf4 Rxe5 12.Bd4 Ra5 13.0-0 Nb6 14.Rd1 Bc7 15.b4 Ra3 16.Bxh7 0-0-0 17.Bd3 Qf7 18.Nh3 Bxd3 19.exd3 Rg8 20.Ng5 Qg6 21.h4 Nf5 22.c4

(Diagram)



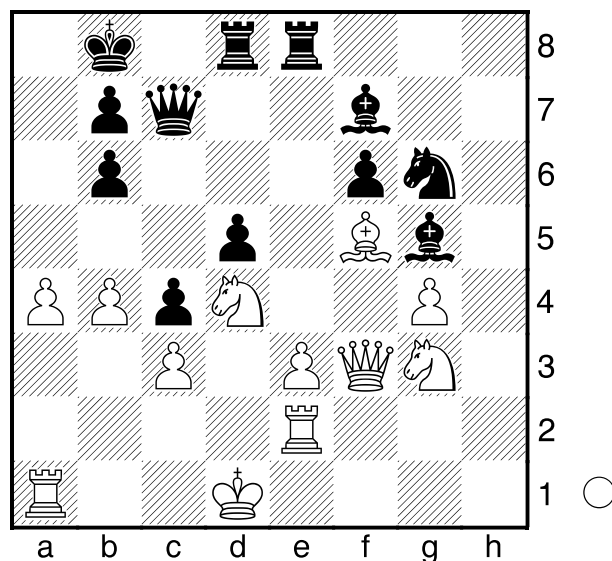
Nd5! 23.cxd5 Nxd4 24.dxc6 bxc6
25.Qe4 Qd6 26.Kf1 Qh2
0-1

□ Carlsen, Magnus 2830
■ Abdusattorov, Nodirbek 2727
Freestyle GOAT Challenge KO 2024 (2.1)



Black's backward d-pawn and impotent
bishops are exploited in classic Carlsen
fashion. 1.g4 e5 2.Ng3 f6 3.d4 Nb6
4.Nd3 d6 5.f3 exd4 6.Bxd4 c5 7.Bf2

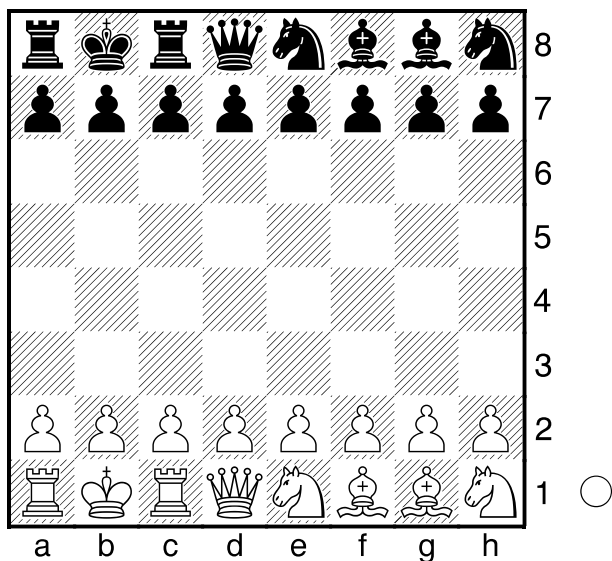
c4 8.Bxb6+ axb6 9.Nb4 d5 10.c3 Bf4
11.Nh5 Bh6 12.f4 0-0-0 13.Ng3 g6
14.e3 Qd7 15.Qe2 Rfe8 16.Nc2 Bf8
17.b4 Be6 18.h3 h5 19.Nd4 hxd4
20.f5 Bf7 21.hxd4 Qc7 22.Qf3 Bh6
23.Re1 Bg5 24.a4 gxf5 25.Bxf5+ Kb8
26.Re2 Ng6



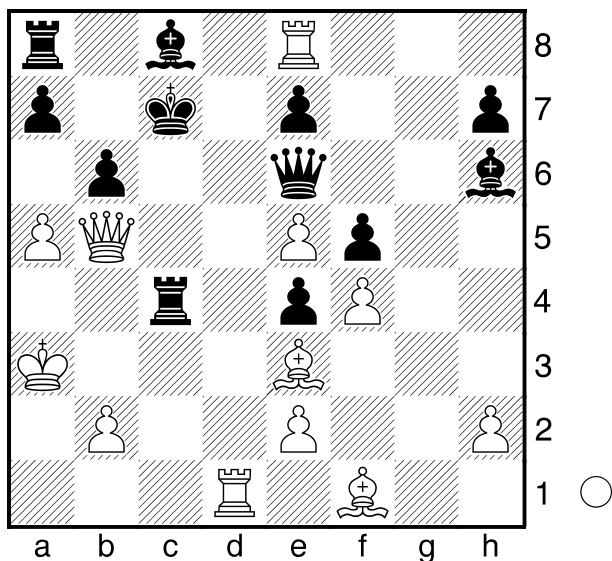
27.Bxg6! Bxg6 28.Ngf5 Qe5 29.a5
Qe4 30.Qxe4 Rxe4 31.axb6 Rxd4
32.Rea2 Rg1+ 33.Ke2 Rxa1 34.Rxa1
Re8 35.Rh1 Rf8 36.Nd6
1-0

□ Caruana, Fabiano 2804
■ Aronian, Levon 2725
Freestyle GOAT Challenge KO 2024 (2.2)

(Diagram)

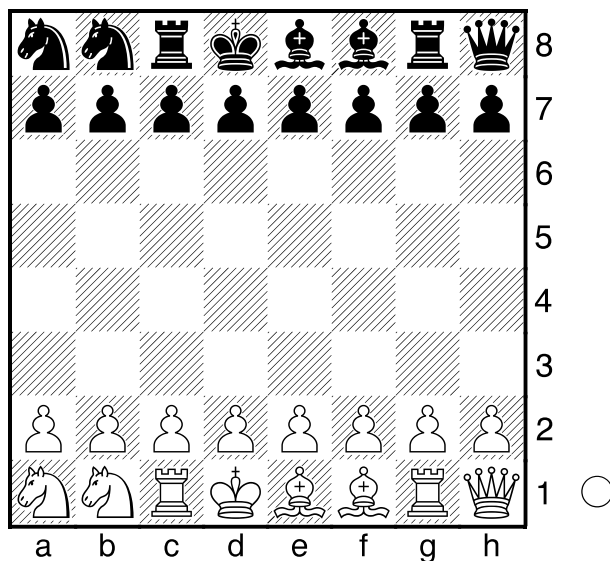


Black is tied down on the 1st rank and destroyed. 1.d4 d5 2.f3 g6 3.Nd3 Nd6 4.g3 f5 5.Nhf2 Bh6 6.f4 Nhf7 7.Ne5 Ne4 8.Nxe4 dxe4 9.Qe1 Nxe5 10.dxe5 c5 11.Rd1 Qe8 12.a4 Rc7 13.Qa5 Be6 14.Bxc5 Qc6 15.Rd8+ Bc8 16.Be3 Qxc2+ 17.Ka2 b6 18.Qa6 Qc6 19.Rad1 Qe6+ 20.Ka3 Rc6 21.a5 g5 22.Re8 gxf4 23.gxf4 Rc4 24.Qb5 Kc7



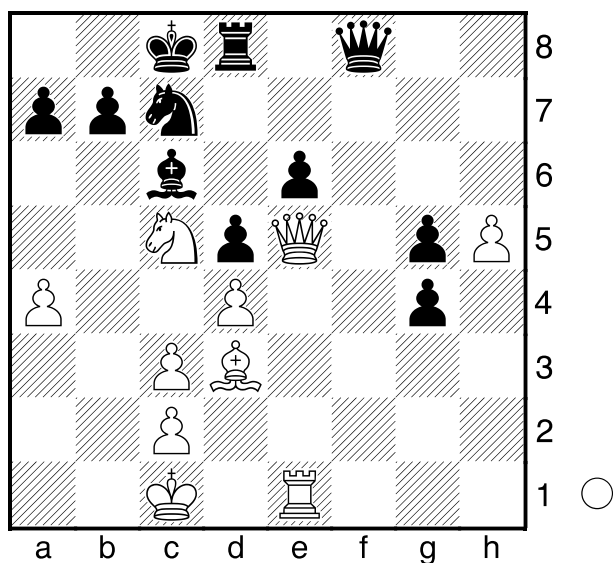
25.Rd6! exd6 26.Bxb6+ axb6 27.Qxb6+ Kd7 28.Qd8+ Kc6 29.Rxe6 Bf8 30.Rxd6+ Bxd6+ 31.Qxd6+ 1-0

Carlsen,Magnus 2830
 Caruana,Fabiano 2804
 Freestyle GOAT Challenge KO 2024 (3.2)



Another masterclass from Carlsen in converting positional trump cards. 1.g4 c6 2.0-0-0 g5 3.h4 h6 4.d4 d5 5.e4 0-0-0 6.Nb3 Nc7 7.Nc3 e6 8.Bd2 Be7 9.f4 Nd7 10.exd5 cxd5 11.fxg5 hxg5 12.h5 Nb6 13.Bd3 Qh6 14.Rgf1 Rf8 15.Qg1 Bc6 16.Be1 Bd6 17.Bg3 Bxg3 18.Qxg3 Nc4 19.Rde1 Nd6 20.Nc5 f5 21.Qe5 Ne4 22.a4 Nxc3 23.bxc3 fxg4 24.Rxf8 Qxf8

(Diagram)



25.Qxc7+! Kxc7 26.Nxe6+ Kd6
27.Nxf8 Rxf8 28.h6 Bxa4 29.Re5 a6
30.Rxg5 Bb5 31.Rg6+ Kd7 32.Bxb5+
axb5 33.Rxg4 Rf1+ 34.Kd2 Rf2+
35.Kd1 Rh2 36.Rg7+ Kc6 37.h7 b6
38.Ke1 b4 39.cxb4 Kb5 40.c3 Kc4
41.Rc7+ Kd3 42.Kf1 Ke3 43.Kg1 Rh6
44.Kg2
1-0

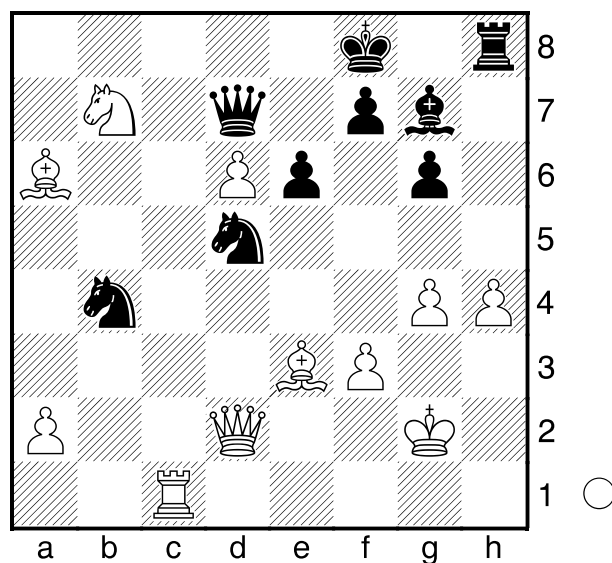
□ **Niemann,Hans Moke**
■ **Tari,Aryan**

D02
2692
2623

Djerba Festival Masters 2024 (1.2)

Unable to complete his development,
black is blown away. 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6
3.g3 Bf5 4.Nh4 Be4 5.f3 Bg6 6.c4 c5
7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.cxd5 cxd4 9.e4 dxe3
10.Nc3 Rh5 11.Bb5+ Nbd7 12.g4 Rh3
13.Bf1 Rh8 14.Bxe3 g5 15.Bxg5 g6
16.d6 Qb6 17.Rc1 a6 18.Qd2 e6
19.Rd1 Bg7 20.Be3 Qa5 21.Be2 Ne5
22.Kf1 Nfd7 23.Kg2 Rc8 24.Rc1 Qd8
25.Ne4 Nc6 26.h4 Kf8 27.b4 Nf6
28.Nc5 Nd5 29.Nxb7 Qd7 30.Bxa6
Ncxb4 31.Rxc8+ Qxc8 32.Rc1 Qd7

(Diagram)

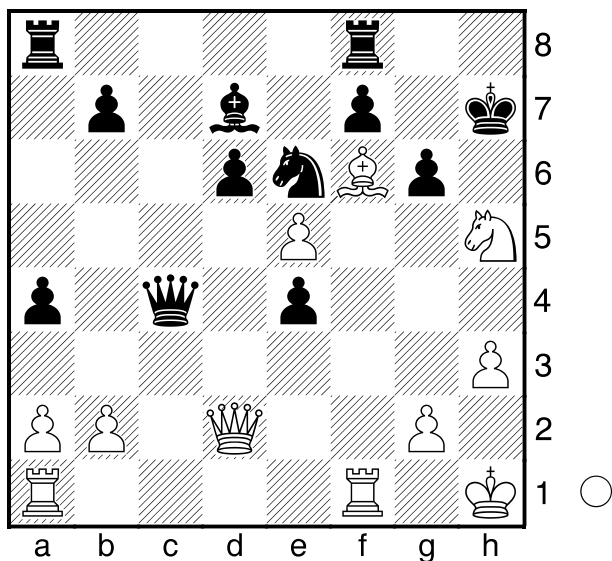


33.Rc7! Nxc7 34.Nc5 Qd8 35.Bg5
1-0

□ **Eljanov,Pavel** **E71**
■ **Kadric,Denis** **2695**
2579
German Bundesliga 2023-24 (11.1)

A beautiful final move cooks black's
goose. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6 5.h3 e5 6.d5 a5 7.Bg5 Na6
8.Bd3 Bd7 9.Nge2 h6 10.Be3 h5
11.Qd2 a4 12.0-0 0-0 13.Kh1 c6 14.f4
cxd5 15.fxe5 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 dxe4
17.Bg5 Qc8 18.Nd5 Qxc4 19.Nf6+
Bxf6 20.Bxf6 Kh7 21.Ng3 Nc5
22.Nxh5 Ne6

(Diagram)



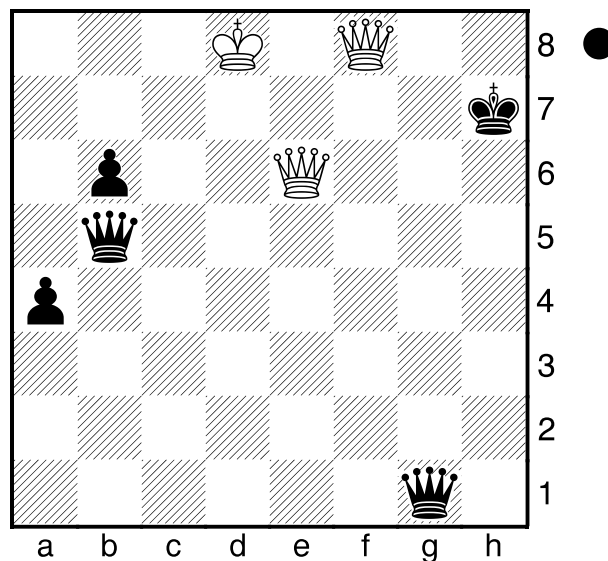
23.Bg7!
1-0

Abasov, Nijat
Nakamura, Hikaru
German Bundesliga 2023-24 (11.25)

D30
2641
2788

Black queens first! A long and complicated fight between two participants of the upcoming Candidate's Tournament. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 a6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Bxe7 Qxe7 6.Nbd2 Nf6 7.g3 c5 8.dxc5 0-0 9.Bg2 d4 10.Nxd4 Rd8 11.N4b3 a5 12.a4 Nfd7 13.0-0 Nxc5 14.Nxc5 Qxc5 15.Ne4 Qc7 16.Qc2 Na6 17.Rfd1 Bd7 18.Ng5 f5 19.e4 h6 20.Nf3 fxe4 21.Qxe4 Nc5 22.Qc2 Bc6 23.Re1 Bxf3 24.Bxf3 Rd4 25.Rad1 Rad8 26.Rxd4 Rxd4 27.Re3 Qd7 28.Bh5 Rd3 29.Qe2 b6 30.Bg6 Rxe3 31.Qxe3 Qd1+ 32.Kg2 Qg4 33.Bd3 Qd1 34.Be2 Qxa4 35.Qe5 Kh7 36.Qd6 Qb3 37.Qd2 e5 38.Bg4 Qxc4 39.Bf5+ g6 40.Bb1 Qd4 41.Qe2 e4 42.h4 h5 43.f3 e3 44.f4 Qd2 45.Kf3 Nb3 46.Qxe3 Nd4+ 47.Ke4 Qxb2 48.Kd5 Nf5 49.Bxf5 Qb5+ 50.Kd6 Qxf5 51.Qe7+ Kg8

52.Qe5 Qf8+ 53.Kc6 Qc5+ 54.Kd7 a4 55.g4 hxg4 56.h5 Qf8 57.hxg6 Qg7+ 58.Kd8 Qxg6 59.f5 Qg5+ 60.Ke8 g3 61.Qe6+ Kh7 62.f6 g2 63.f7 Qb5+ 64.Kd8 g1Q 65.f8Q

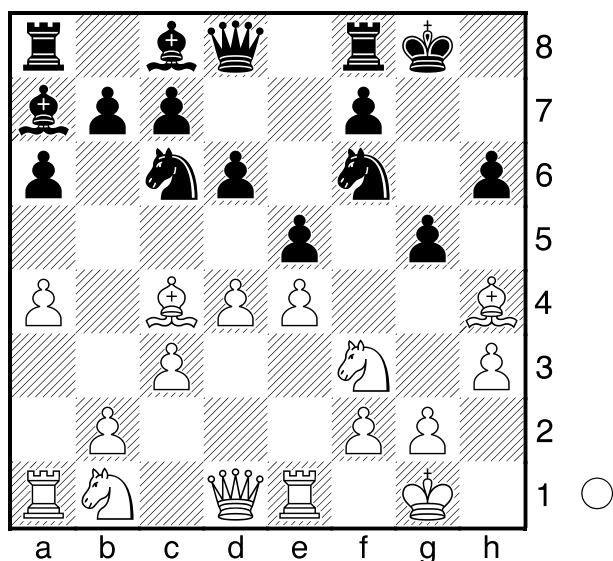


Qd4+ 66.Kc7 Qbc5+ 67.Qxc5 Qxc5+ 68.Kb7 a3 69.Qf6 b5
0-1

Praggnanandhaa R
Keymer, Vincent
Prague Festival Masters 2024 (1.5)

Fortune favors the brave. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.0-0 a6 6.c3 Ba7 7.a4 d6 8.Re1 0-0 9.h3 Nh5 10.Bg5 Nf6 11.d4 h6 12.Bh4 g5

(Diagram)

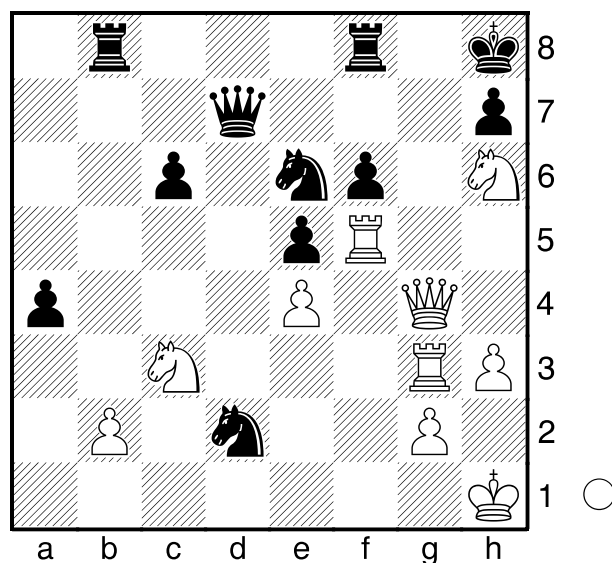


13.Nxg5!? hxg5 14.Bxg5 Kh7 15.Qf3 Kg6 16.Bh4 exd4 17.Qg3+ Kh7 18.Bg5 Rh8 19.Nd2 Qg8 20.e5 Nh5 21.Qh4 Qg6 22.Bf6 Rg8 23.Bd5 Bf5 24.Bf3 Rae8 25.g3 Kh6 26.g4 dxc3 27.bxc3 Nxe5 28.g5+ Qxg5+ 29.Bxg5+ Rxg5+ 30.Kh2 Ng6 31.Qxg5+ Kxg5 32.Rxe8 Nhf4 33.Bxb7 a5 34.Ra8 Bb6 35.Nc4 Bxf2 36.Rxa5 d5 37.Rf1 Bb6 38.Nxb6 cxb6 39.Rb5 Bxh3 40.Rxf4 Nxf4 41.Rxb6
1-0

Maghsoodloo,Parham **D00** **2740**
Pragganandhaa R **2743**
 Prague Festival Masters 2024 (2.5)

Persistent pressure leads to a nice finish.
 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 Bf5 4.c4 e6 5.Qb3 Nbd7 6.Nc3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 Nb6 8.Be2 a5 9.a3 c6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.f3 a4 12.Qd1 Nfd7 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.e4 Bg6 15.Nh3 0-0 16.0-0 f6 17.f4 e5 18.dxe5 fxe5 19.f5 Bf7 20.Qe1 Nc5 21.Qg3 Bc4 22.Rae1 Rad8 23.Nf2 Bxe2 24.Rxe2 Nc4 25.Ng4 Kh8 26.Rf3 Rd4 27.h3 b5 28.f6 gxf6 29.Ref2 Nd7 30.Nh6 Nd2 31.Re3 Qe6 32.Qh4 Nc5

33.Rf5 b4 34.axb4 Rxb4 35.Qg4 Rbb8 36.Rg3 Qd7 37.Kh1 Ne6?

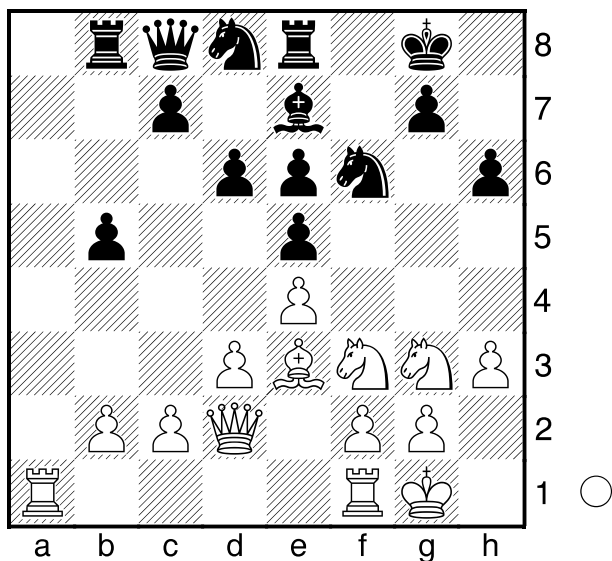


38.Rxf6!
1-0

Giri,Anish **C84** **2749**
Artemiev,Vladislav **2711**
 5th Shenzhen Longgang Masters 2024 (1.3)

Black's pieces are unable to come to the aid of the king in this nice slow-burning attack. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 Rb8 9.axb5 axb5 10.Nc3 d6 11.h3 h6 12.Be3 Re8 13.Qd2 Be6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Ne2 Qc8 16.Ng3 Nd8

(Diagram)

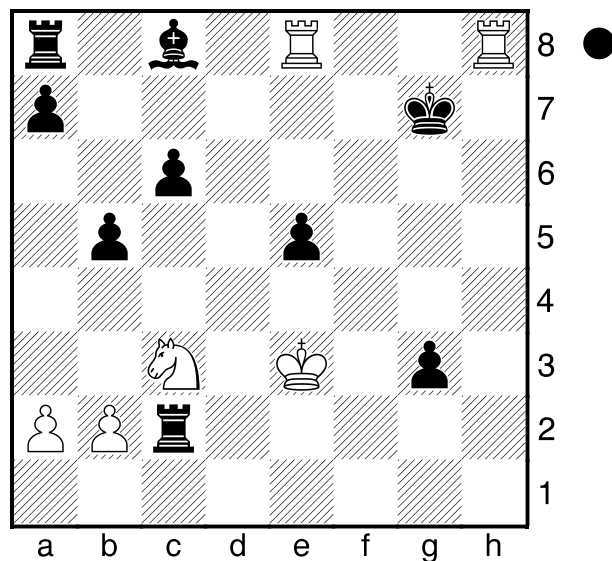


17.Bxh6! gxf6 18.Qxh6 Nf7 19.Qg6+ Kf8 20.Nh2 Ra8 21.Rae1 Bd8 22.Re3 Nh8 23.Qh6+ Kf7 24.Rf3 Rg8 25.Nh5 Rg6 26.Qxh8 Be7 27.Qh7+ 1-0

Praggnanandhaa R **E71 2743**
 Rapport, Richard **2717**
 Prague Festival Masters 2024 (3.1)

Black escapes with a win by the skin of his teeth. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3 Nc6 7.d5 Ne5 8.f4 Ned7 9.Nge2 c6 10.Ng3 Ne8 11.Be2 e6 12.dxe6 fxe6 13.h4 Bf6 14.Bd3 Nc5 15.Bc2 Qa5 16.Qd2 Qb4 17.0-0-0 Qxc4 18.h5 b5 19.e5 dxe5 20.Bxc5 Qxc5 21.Nge4 Qe7 22.Nxf6+ Qxf6 23.g3 exf4 24.hxg6 fxg3 25.g7 Rf7 26.Rxh7 e5 27.Rh8+ Kxg7 28.Rxe8 Qf4 29.Rh1 Qxd2+ 30.Kxd2 Rf2+ 31.Ke3 Rxc2 32.Rhh8

(Diagram)

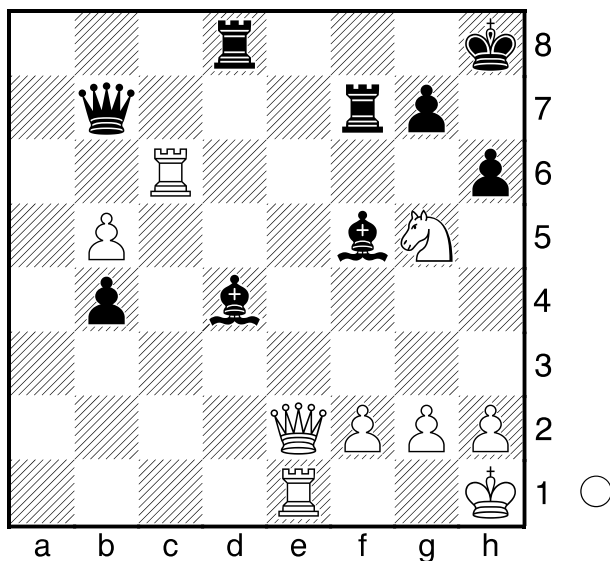


Be6!! 33.Rxa8 g2 0-1

Abdusattorov, Nodirbek **C54 2727**
 Navara, David **2679**
 Prague Festival Masters 2024 (3.3)

White exploits the back-rank weakness in this topsy-turvy game. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.b4 Bb6 7.a4 a5 8.b5 Ne7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.0-0 Ng6 11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Qb3 c6 15.Re1 Nb4 16.Ne4 cxb5 17.axb5 Bf5 18.Nfg5 Qd7 19.Ba3 Rad8 20.Bxb4 axb4 21.Nc5 Qc7 22.Rac1 Nf4 23.Bxf7+ Kh8 24.Qf3 h6 25.Nxb7 Ne2+ 26.Qxe2 Qxb7 27.Rc6 Bxd4 28.Kh1 Rxf7

(Diagram)



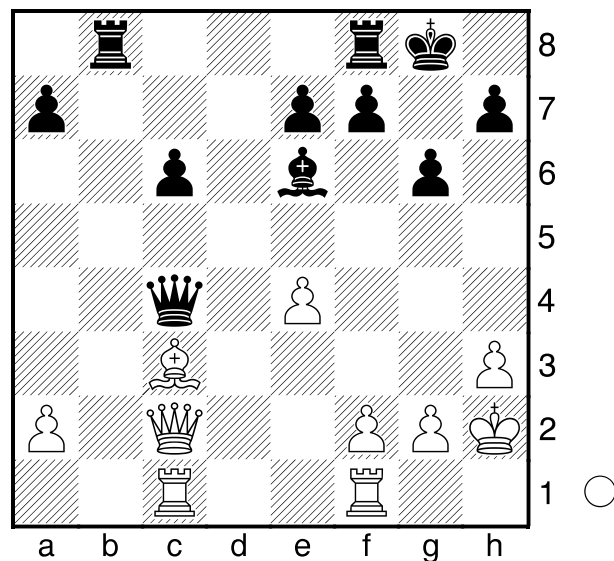
29.Rd6! Rc8 30.Nxf7+ Qxf7 31.Rxd4
b3 32.b6 Rc2 33.Qf3 b2 34.b7 Qf8
35.Rdd1 Rc5 36.Qb3
1-0

Dubov, Daniil **D85**
2708

Giri, Anish **2749**
 5th Shenzhen Longgang Masters 2024 (2.3)

A game that illustrates the power of opposite colored bishops in the attack.
 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5
 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bxc6 bxc6
 11.Qc2 cxd4 12.cxd4 Bg4 13.Ne5
 Qxd4 14.Bb2 Qb6 15.Rab1 Bxe5
 16.Bxe5 Qa5 17.Bc3 Qc5 18.h3 Be6
 19.Kh2 Rab8 20.Rbc1 Qc4

(Diagram)



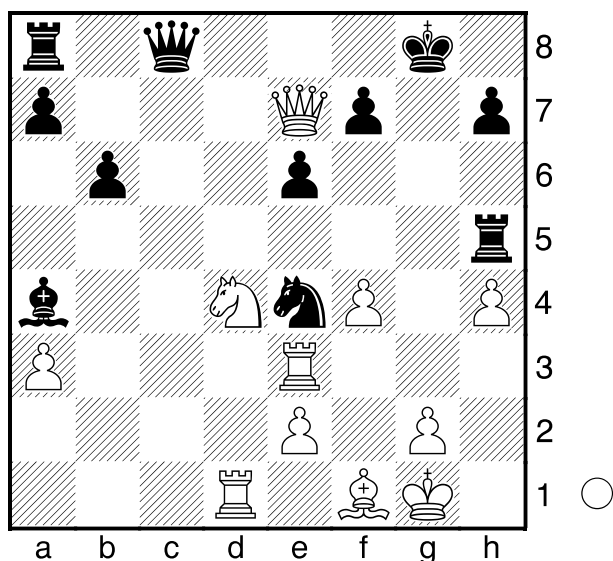
21.f4! Qxa2 22.Qd1 Bc4 23.Rf3 f6
 24.Qe1 Qe2 25.Qh4 Bd3 26.e5 Be4
 27.Rg3 Rb1 28.Rxb1 Bxb1 29.exf6
 exf6 30.Bxf6 Qe6 31.Be5 Be4 32.Ra3
 Qd7 33.Qf2 Qe7 34.Qe3 Rf7 35.Bb2
 Qb4 36.Rb3 Qc4 37.Rb8+ Rf8
 38.Qxa7 Qf7 39.Qd4 Qxf4+ 40.g3
1-0

Nguyen, Thai Dai Van **E36**
2632

Maghsoodloo, Parham **2740**
 Prague Festival Masters 2024 (6.3)

White's rooks creep up to the 3rd rank with devastating effect. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 dxc4 7.Qxc4 b6 8.Nf3 Ba6 9.Qa4+ Qd7 10.Qc2 0-0 11.Bg5 c5 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.dxc5 Rc8 14.Rd1 Qb7 15.h4 Nd7 16.Qd2 Nxc5 17.Qh6 Ne4 18.Rh3 Rc5 19.Nd4 Qc7 20.f3 Ng3 21.b4 Rh5 22.Qxf6 Qc3+ 23.Kf2 Nf5 24.f4 Nd6 25.Kg1 Ne4 26.Qe7 Qc8 27.b5 Bxb5 28.Re3 Ba4

(Diagram)



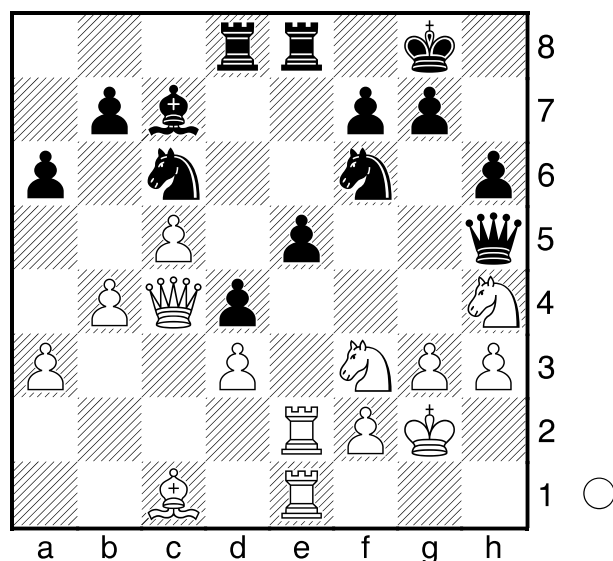
29.Rdd3! Qc5 30.Rg3+ Kh8 31.Qxf7
Rg5 32.Rxg5
1-0

Maghsoodloo, Parham **A14**

Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi **2740**
 Prague Festival Masters 2024 (7.4) **2742**

Black's queen finds herself trapped in quite an unusual matter. 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Be7 5.c4 0-0 6.b3 c5 7.e3 Nc6 8.Bb2 d4 9.exd4 cxd4 10.Re1 Re8 11.d3 Bb4 12.Nbd2 e5 13.a3 Bd6 14.b4 Bf5 15.c5 Bc7 16.Nc4 a6 17.Qc2 Qd7 18.Rad1 Bg4 19.Rd2 Qf5 20.Nh4 Qh5 21.h3 Be6 22.Rde2 Bd5 23.Nd2 Bxg2 24.Kxg2 Nd5 25.Ndf3 Rad8 26.Qc4 Nf6? 27.Bc1 h6

(Diagram)



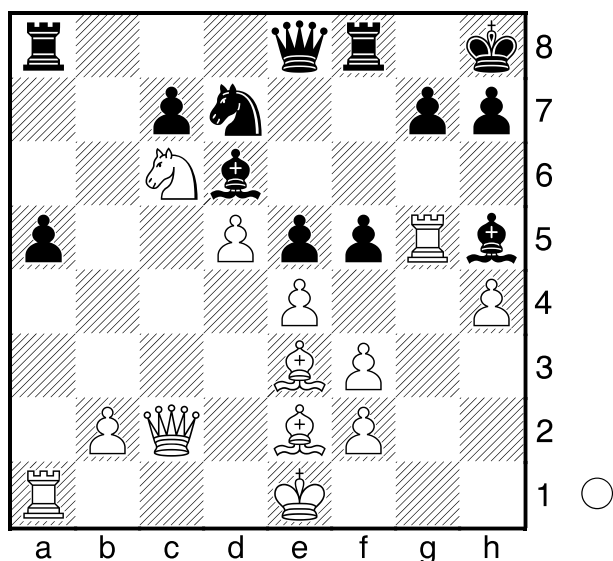
28.Re4! Nxe4 29.Rxe4 g5 30.g4 Qxh4
31.Nxh4 gxh4 32.Bxh6
1-0

Keymer, Vincent **D07**

Abdusattorov, Nodirbek **2743**
 Prague Festival Masters 2024 (7.5) **2727**

White's king never finds shelter from the storm. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.d5 Ne5 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Be3 a6 8.h3 Nxf3+ 9.gxf3 Bh5 10.Bxc4 e5 11.Be2 Bd6 12.Qb3 b5 13.a4 bxa4 14.Qxa4+ Nd7 15.Rg1 0-0 16.Qc2 a5 17.Nb5 Qe7 18.Na7 f5 19.Nc6 Qf7 20.h4 Kh8 21.Rg5 Qe8

(Diagram)

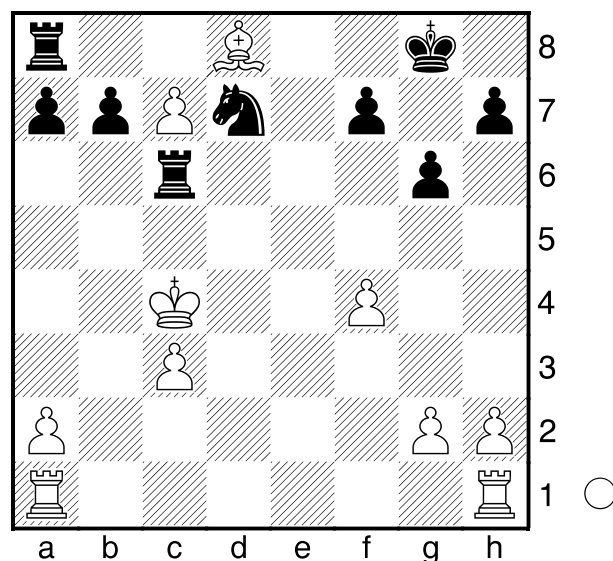


22.Kd1 h6 23.Rg1 a4 24.Rxa4 Rxa4
25.Qxa4 fxe4 26.fxe4 Bxe2+ 27.Kxe2
Qh5+ 28.Kd3 Qf3 29.Kc2 Nf6 30.Qc4
Nxe4 31.Rf1 Nf6 32.Rd1 Ng4 33.Re1
Nxf2 34.Bxf2 Qxf2+ 35.Re2 Qf1
36.Qe4 Rf4 37.Qe3 Rc4+ 38.Kb3
Rhx4
0-1

Xu,Xiangyu **D70**
 Dubov,Daniil **2623**
5th Shenzhen Longgang Masters 2024 (6.1) **2708**

The remarkable wanderings of the white king distinguish this game. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.d5 Ne5 9.f4 Ng4 10.Bb5+ c6 11.dxc6 0-0 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.c7 Rf8 14.Bc5 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Bd7 16.Bxd7 Nxd7 17.Bxe7 Rfe8 18.Bd8 Rxe4+ 19.Ne2 Ne3 20.Kd2 Nc4+ 21.Kc2 Rxe2+ 22.Kd3 Re6 23.Kxc4 Rc6+

(Diagram)

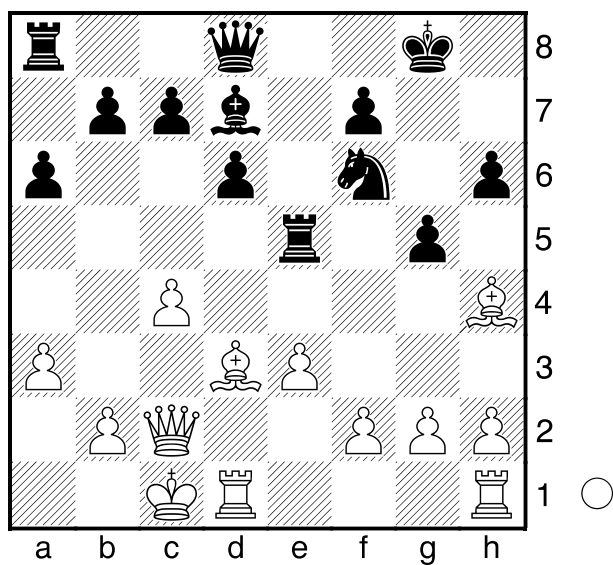


24.Kd5! Nb6+ 25.Kd4 Rc8 26.Rab1
Rd6+ 27.Ke4 Na4 28.Kf3 Nc5
29.Rhe1 Re6 30.Rxe6 Nxe6 31.Rxb7
Nxd8 32.cxd8Q+ Rxd8 33.Ke2 Rc8
34.Kd3 Rd8+ 35.Kc2 Re8 36.c4 Kf8
37.Rxa7 Re2+ 38.Kb3 Rxc2 39.a4
Rxb2 40.a5 Rh1 41.a6 Kg7 42.Rd7
Rb1+ 43.Ka2 Rb8 44.a7 Ra8 45.Kb3
h5 46.Kb4
1-0

Gukesh D **E33**
 Keymer,Vincent **2725**
Prague Festival Masters 2024 (8.2) **2743**

Black's weakened kingside gets ripped to shreds. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 d6 5.Qc2 0-0 6.Bg5 Nc6 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Qxc3 h6 9.Bh4 Re8 10.0-0-0 Bd7 11.e3 e5 12.Qc2 a6 13.Bd3 g5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Rxe5

(Diagram)



16.f4! Rc5 17.b4 Rc6 18.fxg5 Ng4
 19.Bh7+ Kf8 20.Rhf1 Qe7 21.g6 f6
 22.h3 d5 23.hxg4 Rxc4 24.Rxf6+ Ke8
 25.g7 Rxc2+ 26.Bxc2 Qxg7 27.Bg6+
1-0

IM John Donaldson

A History of the People's Chess Tournament 1974-2019

The People's Chess Tournament (or People's Open as it was commonly called) has a storied place in Bay Area chess. Started in the aftermath of the Fischer boom, it began in Hayward, but quickly moved to Berkeley, where it found a home for roughly 30 years. This century, it bounced around with events held in both the South Bay as well as its traditional home in Berkeley.

Many older Bay Area players have fond memories of these events which were often held on the UC Berkeley campus on the second floor in the Pauley Ballroom. The venue for this event, with the players serenaded by the famous bongo drummers of Berkeley, was not to be confused with the typical sterile environment of a weekend Swiss at a chain hotel!

It helped that this was the rare tournament site blessed with natural light (floor to ceiling windows) until the sun went down. The spacious skittles area made it popular with players, parents, and spectators who also appreciated the many eating options on Telegraph Avenue. Out of town players enjoyed the possibility to browse for used chess books at Moe's Books (they still have an excellent selection, as does Pegasus book store on Solano).

Among the US Champions or future US Champions who participated in the People's Open were **Walter Browne, Larry Christiansen, Nick de Firmian, John Grefe, Yasser Seirawan, and Sam Shankland**. Dozens if not hundreds of Grandmasters and International Masters played over the years making it the strongest annual event in the Bay Area.

The People's Open had many tournament directors. The late Alan Benson and Mike Goodall organized and directed many of the early events, with Andy Lazarus, Don Shennum, Alan Glascoe, Richard Kopecke, Judit Sztaray, and Abel Talamantez succeeding them.

The People's Open ended with the start of the pandemic. Will it be born again?

The following is a list of winners and the number of players who participated. The results for 1984 and 1986 have proven hard to track down. The author would love to hear from anyone with information about them.

1974 - Ruben Rodriguez (199 players)

1975 - Walter Browne (over 100 players)

1976 - Peter Biyiasas, Walter Browne and John Grefe (220)

1977 - Walter Browne (168)

1978 - Larry Christiansen and Nick de Firmian (142)

1979 - Eugene Meyer (216)

1980 - Paul Cornelius, John Donaldson, and Charles Powell (196)

1981 - James Tarjan (209)

1982 - Jeremy Silman and John Grefe (111)

1983 - Jeremy Silman (209)

1984 - Result unknown

1985 - Igor Ivanov and Kamran Shirazi

1986 - Cris Ramayrat and Elliott Winslow

(This is an educated guess as no results were published. The latter scored 5-1 beating Kamran Shirazi in round 6.)

1987 - Cris Ramayrat and Jay Whitehead
1988 - Nick de Firmian, Cris Ramayrat, Marc Leski, and Dov Gorman (about 180)
1989 - Nick de Firmian (213)
1990 - Nick de Firmian and Vince McCambridge (close to 200)
1991 - John Donaldson, John Grefe, Marc Leski, Larry Remlinger, and Vladimir Strugatsky (219 with 29 masters)
1992 - Walter Browne (193)
1993 - Nick de Firmian and Renard Anderson (200+)
1994 - Richard Kelson, Victor Baja, and Burt Izumikawa (152)
1995 - John Donaldson (210)
1996 - Dmitry Zilberstein and Artak Akopian (226)
1997 - John Donaldson, Robin Forman, and Walter Shipman (160)
1998 - Tigran Ishkhyanov and Vinay Bhat (170)
1999 - Vinay Bhat (141)
2000 - Camilla Baginskaite (130)
2001 - Mauro Casadei (131)
2002 - John Donaldson and Dmitry Zilberstein (160)
2003 - Ricardo De Guzman and John Donaldson (157)
2004 - Ricardo De Guzman (152)
2005 - Ricardo De Guzman (144)
2006 - Michael Aigner (60)
2007 - Craig Mar, Walter Shipman, and Nicholas Yap (126)
2008 - Michael Aigner (79)
2009 - David Pruess (104) Note: this event was only four rounds.
2010 - Ricardo De Guzman (98)
2011 - Ricardo De Guzman (176)
2012 - Ricardo De Guzman and Kesav Viswanadha (135)
2013 - No Tournament
2014 - Faik Aleskerov (177)
2015 - Eugene Yanayt (161)
2016 - Parimarjan Negi (168)
2017 - Conrad Holt (170)
2018 - Yiping Lou, Prasanna Raghuram, and Jack Zhu (147)
2019 - Gergely Antal (194)

Multiple Winners

De Guzman and Donaldson – 6 times

de Firmian – 5 times

Browne – 4 times

Grefe and Ramayrat – 3 times

Aigner, Bhat, Leski, Shipman, Silman, and Zilberstein – 2 times

Tournament Location

Berkeley – 1976-2007, 2009, 2016, 2017, 2018

Concord – 2010

Fremont – 2011

Hayward – 1974 and 1975

Pleasanton – 2012

Santa Clara – 2008, 2014, 2015, 2019

Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Cafe

On Friday, March 1, 2024, the day after Leap Day, the Chess Social at the Mechanics' Institute went on as scheduled despite the sudden heavy rain coming down in late afternoon that lasted on and off well into the night and the next two days. At one point 14 games were being played at once, with four to six other people talking, welcoming, and visiting the center table laden with Chessmen cookies and others, M&M's, and now and then a beautiful pastry, as well as cream crackers from Chinatown, salami and Italian provolone from Molinari's Deli, and a bit of wine and beer bought from the CinemaLit room down the hall at the north end of the building.

This first Friday event lasts from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, and lingers a bit after that as several games and conversations continue even after the sounds down the hall of a brief talk and then the evening's film begin to filter in. On Post Street near Montgomery and Market with the end of the day shift downtown, the chess room had a sense of getting close to half-full with people of all ages and levels engaged in spirited talk and laughter over the board, especially on the two rows of chess tables next to the office. An old opponent of mine was up for a game, and we played five of them, ending 3-2 in his favor with very little talk. It was fun to try out ideas and take more chances than usual. It was quick play with or without a clock on many boards, and he and I felt free to linger long over certain moves, trying to meet that high challenge of finding the right path in the dozens of positions a game presents you with—significant, problematic, marking time or just bland, flavored with repartee, good humor, practical pessimism, and careful taking of one step at a time with a plan in mind.

The poetry of attack, defense, and pawn promotion. Can you see a basic path for advancing to your goal? Your opponent can see too and block your plans. How many times a game do you overlook moves? Forgive yourself for being at whatever rating level you find you're at if it's not your highest. Acceptance of imperfection, but still trying to find dramatic moves and beautiful piece patterns that can lead you along a winning path to a perfect final sequence. There's a great deal of art in the arrangement of a winning position, and it often ain't over till it's over.

Chess Café on February 12, 2024: 15 players assembled on the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, the man who won the war and freed the slaves. Game 1 was Grefe-Tarjan. "I learned so much from John Grefe," said Paul Whitehead. "A positional and aggressive style. Dig the center here—it's full of tension." Finally Black takes on d5. After some exchanges White wins a pawn. "Black gets the b-file, but there's not enough here. He has weak pawns all over the board." White soon offers an exchange of rooks, and the finish looms all too clearly now.

After scrutinizing a profoundly puzzling problem, we went to Michael Walder's 5th-round TNM game with Black against Mechanics' Institute regular Sivavishnu Srinivasan, quite an accomplished young player, who unfortunately came 45 minutes late to the game. "He's rated 2052 now and was 1600 about six months ago," said Mike. He and Paul agreed it was nice to have an isolated queen pawn in this middlegame position; but near the end Black had pawns at e6 and f7, while White had b5, and each player had a dark-squared bishop and a rook. "I played the last dozen moves with one second on my clock and was not aware of time." He finally flagged when the end was near.

Charles James played chess at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center when it was still known as San Quentin State Prison (Newsom announced its renaming, etc., one year ago). "It was against 6 guys chained up in a room off the main yard." Paul mentioned that he is going to San Quentin next week, where incarcerated individuals will be paired with guards and staff, and collectively they'll play as two teams. "Once I went with Silman and we had a bunch of sets stolen."

Alexey mentioned that she had given a simul Saturday at the Claremont Library. "Before Covid, 77 showed up; last week there were 112. The first ten to arrive played; others got on the waiting list." She played 18 people from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, with a personal result of 13 wins, 1 loss, and 4 draws. The others watched or played with each other.

Sophia said Oslo is the best place to visit for chess clubs, with 5 or 6 of them in the same area. She has an 11th-grade student who's already an IM. She does community service for 9th-graders and up. She said that TDs have to know the concept "safe play" by June 1; this means recognizing things that could be a problem in a tournament. As for the Marshall Chess Club, she said it has pretty good management. It's on a landmark block now (West 10th St. between 5th and 6th Avenues) and deserves landmark funding from the City of New York. Part of it used to be rented to a psychologist, but they were sold out every weekend and needed space. It's in a brownstone that rents apartments on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors.

We looked at Edward Lasker vs. George Thomas, a Dutch Defense with a queen sacrifice at h7 by White. "Everybody should know this," said Paul. The Black king is driven out all the way to White's back rank, where Ke2 discovers mate from the rook at a1.

"Dumbed-down computers make a stupid mistake no human would make." Ramesh advises that no one below master level should use them. "They're for preparing an opening, helping with analysis."

Paul's kids and grandchildren live near Richmond, Virginia, where he's moving in April.

We took February 19 off for Presidents' Day, but I managed to bus from the chess club at Alvarado Elementary in Noe Valley to downtown only ten minutes late for the February 26 meeting. Puzzle 1 was by Korolkov in 1951. No. 2 was a kind of Greek gift without a White bishop at c1. "I've got some muddled thinking going on here, too, I must say."

Merlin Mackley tied for 3rd with John Little in the Under1200 section of the New Year TNM which concluded on February 20 and split the combined prizes for 3rd Place and Best Under 1000. Elliott comes in. Then Sophia: "I got through the Amateur Team East. Our school had four teams, including an all-girls team... Chess24 is gone; Chess.com bought them. Magnus paid a lot of money to Chessable. Did he have a connection to 24 also?" Paul: "Schoolschooolschool.com takes you to Chess.com." SR: I got tired of kids playing chess during Zoom class. We've got the High School Nationals, then the Girls; Passover; the Middle School Nationals on Mother's Day.

She's a fan of a football team in London called Crystal Palace. Given that lots of NFL and NBA players in the U.S. play chess, she would like to see these bigtime sports back chess the way soccer pays for the Schachbundesliga (Chess Bundesliga, currently led by the team SC Viernheim) and two other chess leagues in France and Italy. Record-setting Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola ("The Catalan has presided over the most successful period in the Club's history, lifting 10 trophies and winning every competition on offer in England during his five years at the Etihad Stadium." Mancity.com) and one of the German owners are big on chess. In reply to a question about the Norwegians, she said they only compete 4 times a year. I myself never played soccer until I went to college; and I continued to look down on it ("They keep running around and nothing ever happens!") until I saw a Rodney Dangerfield movie where he coached a girls' soccer team. Sports prejudice! But would we really want the spineless yahoos who own and govern much of U.S. professional sports to mess around with chess? We then looked at a recent game from the Chess Bundesliga: Nijat Abasov (2641) vs. Hikaru Nakamura (2788).

On Tuesday, February 27 we had our Open FIDE Blitz with 65 entrants (five rounds of two G/3 contests, one as White, one as Black). GM Christopher Woojin Yoo won it with a perfect 10-0 score,

followed by Arthur Ismakov and Hayden Karkainen at 8.5, Elliott Winslow at 8.0, and Mark Heimann, Varun Krishnan, and Alex Schrauger at 7.5. Many Mechanics' Institute veterans showed up, and it was announced there would be 3 more blitz tourneys before the end of the year. Just before the tournament GM Yoo was given the Falconer Award (first won from 2000-2002 by GM Vinay Bhat) and made a short presentation at a demo board.

USChess.org: "Grandmaster Christopher Woojin Yoo has won the prestigious 2024 Falconer Award given annually by the Mechanics' Institute to the highest-rated player under the age of 18 in Northern California. The Falconer Award is named in honor of the late Mechanics' Institute Trustee Neil Falconer, himself a strong tournament player, holding a 1900+ rating up to age 85. This is the 17-year-old Yoo's third (and second consecutive) time winning this award. In 2019, Yoo became the youngest American to earn the IM title (to be surpassed by GM Abhimanyu Mishra later), and has since won a number of events. Some of Yoo's work can be seen as a contributor to Chess Life Online, where he has contributed annotations to the dramatic seventh game of the 2023 FIDE World Chess Championship."

Wikipedia: "A Game at Chess is a comic satirical play by Thomas Middleton, first staged in August 1624 by the King's Men at the Globe Theatre. The play is notable for its political content, dramatizing a conflict between Spain and England.... Instead of personal names, the characters are known as the White Knight, the Black King, and so forth. Yet the play unmistakably alludes to Anglo-Spanish diplomacy under King James I of England, especially the failed marriage negotiation between Prince Charles and the Spanish Infanta Maria Anna of Spain. The play is satirical of King James, and it was shut down after only nine days. The play was stopped after nine performances (6–16 August, Sundays omitted), but not before it had become "the greatest box-office hit of early modern London." The Privy Council opened a prosecution against the actors and the author of the play on 18 August, on the grounds that it was then illegal to portray any modern Christian king onstage. The Globe Theatre was shut down by the prosecution, though Middleton was able to acquit himself by showing that the play had been approved by the Master of the Revels, Sir Henry Herbert. After James I's death, the play was printed in multiple editions, but Middleton never wrote another full play."

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.



White to move and win.

Last month's puzzle from the Chess Cafe.
The solution is given below.

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.



Carrisa Yip - Ruiyang Yan, U.S. Womens' Championship, St. Louis 2023. Black to play. White is helpless after **1....Rf1! 2.Rg3+ Kf6**. If now **3.Rgg1** then **3...Rd1+!** decides. White gave up her rook to eliminate the pawn on e2 in the vain hope that the pawns on b5 and c6 would amount to something, but after **3.Rf3+ Rxf3 4.Rxe2 Rc3+ 5.Kb1 Rb3+**, White resigned. This was Carissa Yips' only loss in the tournament where she became the 2023 U.S. Women's Champion.

Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

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



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
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)**

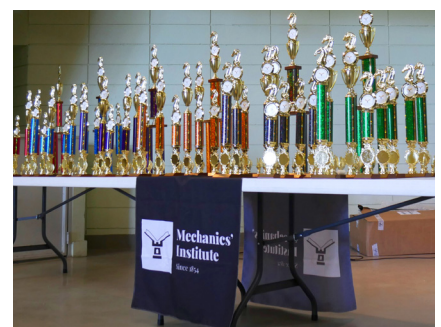


Follow the Links Here:

www.milibrary.org/chess/calendar

Questions?

chessroom@milibrary.org





MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Spring Break Scholastic Chess Camp



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

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

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

Find Out More and Register at:

milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess

415-393-0110

chessroom@milibrary.org

Spring Break Camp

Monday-Friday

April 8-12 (Ages 6 and up)

Cost:

\$500 Members

\$600 Non-Members

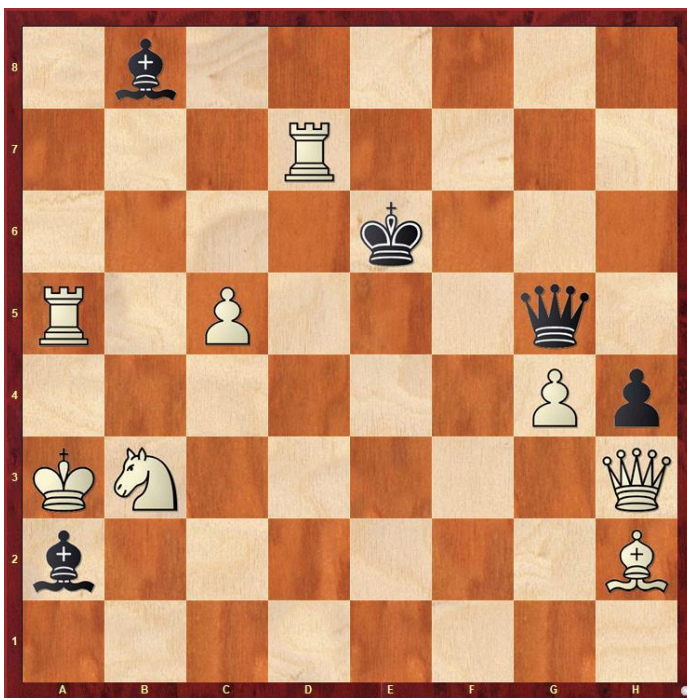
All camps run from 9:30am-3:30pm

(Pro-rated Half-Days Are Available)

Tony's Teasers



1. **E. Hassberg**, 1943.
White to play and mate in 2.



2. **T. Lama**, 2024.
White to play and mate in 4.

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](#).



Tournaments in March

Register for all tournaments at milibrary.org/chess



1st Bobby Fischer Memorial Saturday, March 2 10:00 am 4 Rounds G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
Spring Tuesday Night Marathon Tuesdays, March 5 - April 16 6:30 pm 7 Rounds G/120;d5	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
Monthly Scholastic Swiss Saturday, March 16 10:00 am 4 Rounds G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
Monthly Quads Saturday, March 16 3:00 pm 3 Rounds G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
At Least Twenty-One Tournament Saturday, March 23 10:00 am 4 Rounds G/60;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
Scholastic Chess Championship Saturday, March 30 10:00 am 4 Rounds G/30;d5	Free!





Tournaments in April

Register for all tournaments at milibrary.org/chess



Spring Tuesday Night Marathon Tuesdays, March 5 - April 16 6:30 pm 7 Rounds G/120;d5	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
1st Richard Shorman Memorial Saturday, April 13 10:00 am 4 Rounds G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
Monthly Scholastic Swiss Saturday, April 20 10:00 am 4 Rounds G/30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
Monthly Quads Saturday, April 20 3:00 pm 3 Rounds G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
2024 Spring Splash Blitz Tuesday, April 23 7:00 pm 5 Rounds DSS G/3+2	Members \$20 Non-Members \$25
23rd Addison Memorial (FIDE-rated) Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28 10:00 am 4 Rounds G/90+30	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100



IM William Addison (1933-2008) served as the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director from 1965 to 1969.



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



Play chess in the oldest club in the United States!

Solutions

Chess Cafe Puzzle:

1.Ra6!! Intending simply **2.Ra5!** The main idea is that after **1...bxa6** Other tries lose also, due to the coordination of white's attacking forces. **2.Bc2!!** Black will run out of moves: **2...a5 3.Kc3! a4 4.Kd3! a3 5.Kc3 g4 6.g3!** Not **6.Kd3? Qb2! 7.Nxb2 Kxb2**, and Black wins! **6...Qxc2+** Everything else loses as well. **7.Kxc2 a2 8.Kb3! Kb1 9.Na3+ Ka1 10.Nb5 Kb1 11.Nc3+**, and wins.

Tony's Teasers:

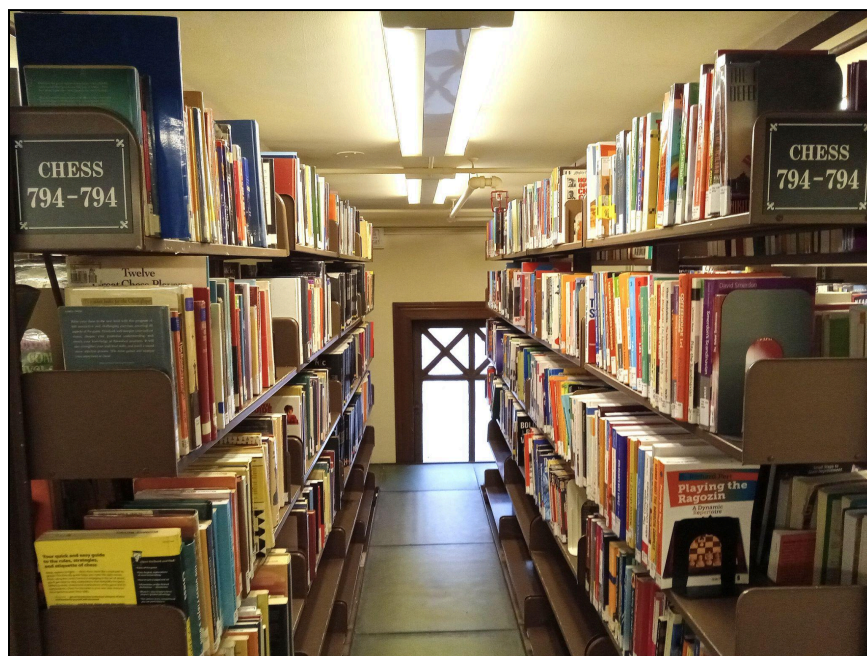
1. **E. Hassberg**, 1943. Pinned pieces everywhere. **1.Bc2!** Threatens **2.Qf6#**. **1...exf2+** Other tries also fail: **1...Bxe6 2.Nxe6#**. **1...bxc4 2.Qf6#**. **1...dxc4 2.Qd6#**. **1...Bh2 2.fxe3#**. **2.e3#**.
2. **T. Lama**, 2024. **1.Qd3!** A powerful centralization, with the devastating threat of **2.Ra6+**. Black can only prolong the agony with either: **1...Qc1+ 2.Nxc1 Bb1**. To stop **3.Qf5#**. **3.Ra6+ Bd6 4.Raxd6#**, or **1...Qf4 2.Ra6+ Bd6 3.Raxd6+ Ke5 4.Qd4#!**

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

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>

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**

**Questions?
chessroom@milibrary.org / (415) 393-0110**



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

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

