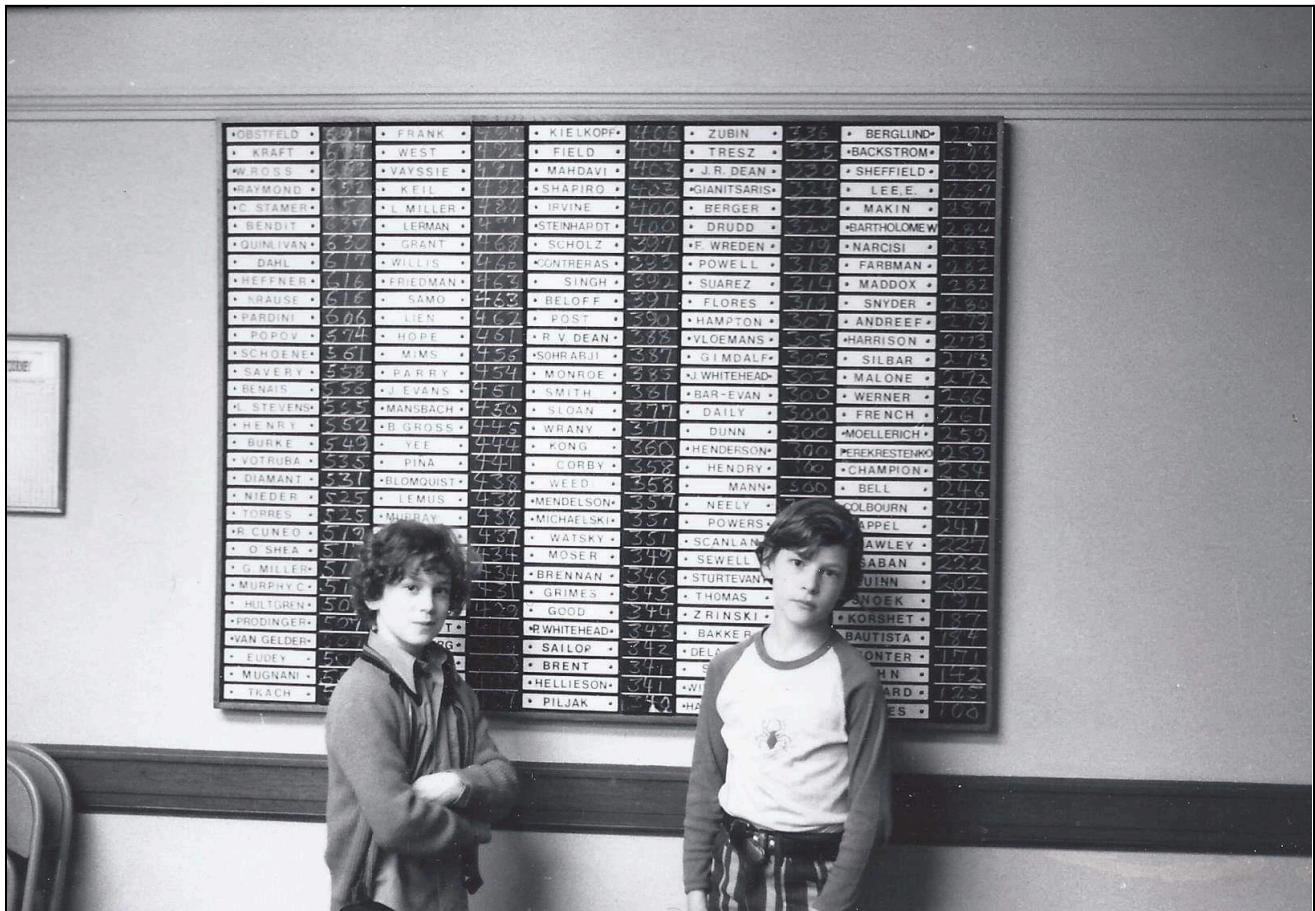


Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1048 | April 20, 2024 | Gens Una Sumus!



Paul Whitehead (left) and **Jay Whitehead** at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, 1972.

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FM Paul Whitehead

Farewell!



It's been an incredible run, but after nearly 13 years I am retiring from my position as Chess Room Coordinator at the Mechanics' Institute, and as the contributing editor of this newsletter started by IM John Donaldson in 1990.

I joined the Mechanics' Institute in late 1972 along with my brother, Jay, at the height of the "Fischer- boom." We were crazy about chess, and spent as much time as we could at the chess club, playing in tournaments and immersing ourselves in the colorful chess culture here. Forty years later(!) I was hired by John to succeed Steve Brandwein as the Chess Room Coordinator.

This decades-long association with Mechanics' Institute has brought me not only professional satisfaction, it has led to life-long friendships and memories I will carry forever. Much of this I have written about in the [past](#), but [playing](#) the legendary Mikhail Tal three blitz games at the club back in 1991 must stand out above all else.

And with that said - the play's the thing! I will end this short farewell with some pictures taken from my scrapbook, plus a small collection of memorable games I've played over the years at the Mechanics' Institute.

May we all meet again someday soon.

Paul Whitehead's retirement and story of Mechanics' Institute

It is with deep appreciation, recognition, and admiration that I share this message about Paul Whitehead's upcoming retirement from Mechanics' Institute on April 22. Paul has worked for Mechanics' Institute since 2012 and was first introduced to the Chess Club in 1972!

Paul shares, "I've had a fantastic time working here. It's unexpected to work here. I had taken a wide turn away from chess for many, many years. So to come back and be submerged into the chess world was surprising to me in a way, but it felt like home. I still find it remarkable that I still get to come in here."

Paul's family had been living in Europe and during a trip to New York City, Paul and his younger brother Jay were introduced to chess. This was at the height of the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match and influence. When the family moved to San Francisco, Paul and Jay immediately joined the chess club at Mechanics' Institute - which Paul says, "was like a dream, filled with fantastic characters and interesting people. The community was very welcoming."

Paul's chess talent was undeniable, and he won his US Junior Chess Champion title in 1978 and became a FIDE Master in 1983. Paul joined the staff at the personal request of Steve Brandwein and former Chess Director IM John Donaldson, following Steve's retirement. Paul had been living in Virginia at the time and knew this was an exciting opportunity to take.

During his years at Mechanics' Institute, Paul has kept the chess room humming - welcoming players and guests from all around the world on a daily basis, being a font of knowledge and current events, teaching classes, facilitating pre-TNM lectures, ensuring tournaments and activities run smoothly and professionally, producing the chess newsletter, supporting players and families, being the indefatigable simul master, and so much more.

Paul's absolute favorite highlight of Mechanics' Institute was playing against Mikhail Tal here, sharing that it was "just incredible." Among chess players, Tal is a legendary chess player and World Champion in 1960. Paul got to play him in three games during a blitz tournament and drew him in one game - a feat!

Paul will be moving to Virginia to be nearer to family on the East Coast, and looks forward to new adventures.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking Paul for all he has added to our Mechanics' Institute community! There's no one like Paul, and we are incredibly grateful for all you've done.

PS: Check out this film Paul wrote and directed in 2009 called [*The Charlottesville Kitchen Killers*](#) showing another creative side of our colleague! Paul shared that the Virginia Film Festival selected this feature and screened the film alongside fellow luminaries like John Waters!! Please be aware it's R-rated and contains violence.

-Alyssa Stone



CHESS VOICE

Price .30¢
OCT.-NOV. 1974



Jeremy Silman Co-winner of the Palo Alto Open and tied for 2nd place at the Sunnyvale Championship. Jeremy came here from southern California last year and tied with 1973 U.S. Champ John Greco at the Alameda County Chess Championship. When that Tournament was rated he received a master rating.



Paul Whitehead one of our younger chess players is a permanent fixture at the Mechanics Institute Chess Club playing speed chess. His end game study in this issue on the f and h pawns is worth reading.

Chess Voice 1974, with Jeremy Silman.



With GM William Lombardy, 2017.



My daughters playing at the club, 2003.



2014: Playing blitz with WIM **Iryna Zenyuk** (above) and a young **Hans Niemann** (below).



□ Whitehead, Jay

■ Whitehead, Paul

2nd Mechanics' Marathon

1973

Tournament Directors seemed to get a particular delight out of pairing Jay and I - we played probably a dozen games together, with Jay + 1 or 2 at the end.

This was our first game. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3

d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6

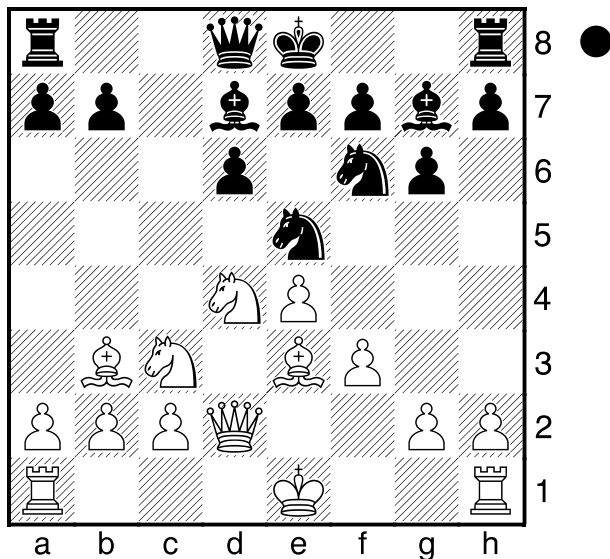
6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Bd7

9.Bc4 Ne5

[9...0-0]

[9...Rc8]

10.Bb3



Qb8!?N This seems to be the only time this move has ever been played!

11.0-0-0 b5 12.h4

[12.Bh6!±]

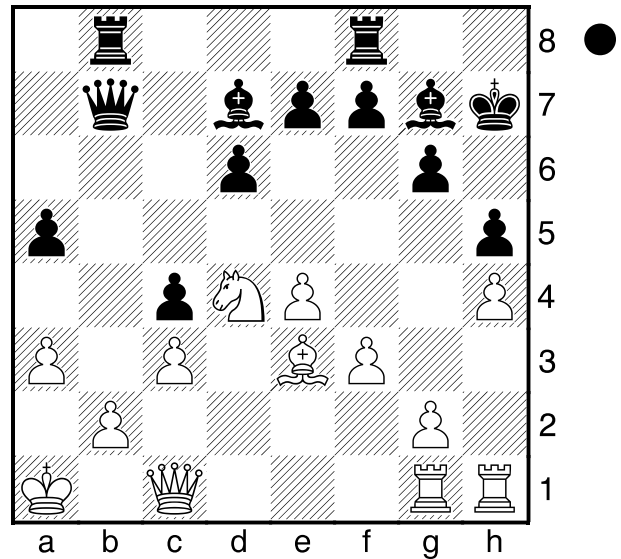
12...h5 13.Nd5 a5 14.a3 Nc4 15.Bxc4

bxc4 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Bg5 Bg7

18.Kb1 Qb6 19.Be3 Rb8 20.Qc1 Qb7

21.Ka1 0-0 22.c3 Kh7 23.Rdg1

(Diagram)



d5

[23...e5! 24.Nc2 f5!± was the way to go.]

24.exd5

[24.e5! Bxe5 25.g4 would have given white lots of play.]

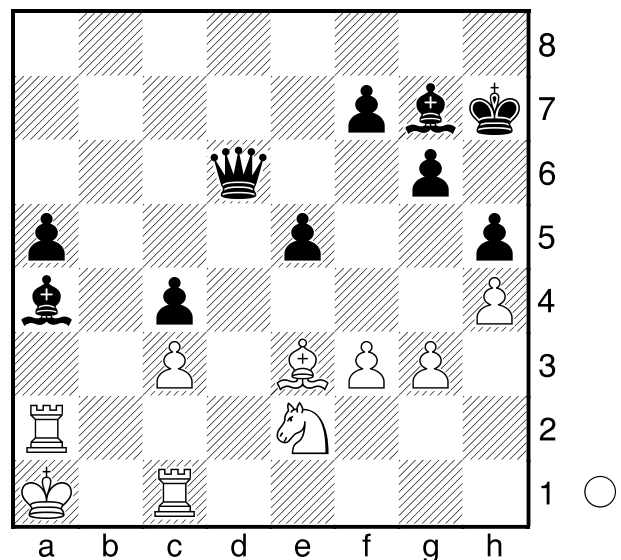
24...Qxd5 25.Qd2 Rb7 26.Rf1

White drifts, and black steadily gains a decisive advantage. 26...Rfb8 27.Rf2

Rxb2 28.Qxb2 Rxb2 29.Rxb2 e5

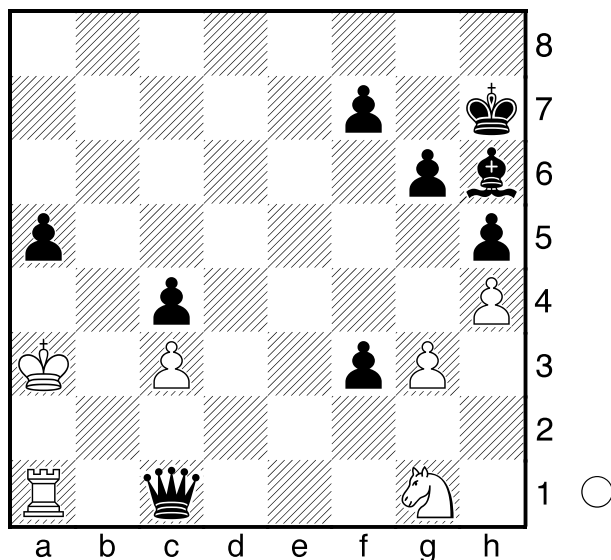
30.Ne2 Ba4 31.Rd2 Qe6 32.Rc1 Qe7

33.g3 Qxa3+ 34.Ra2 Qd6



35.Rxa4 Qd3 36.Ng1 Qxe3 37.Kb1 Bh6 38.f4 exf4 39.Ra1 f3 40.Ka2

Qd2+ 41.Ka3 Qxc1+



The f-pawn queens.

0-1

□ **Waterman,Dennis**

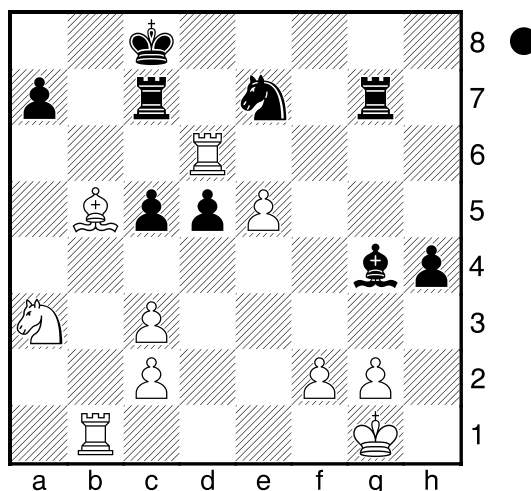
■ **Whitehead,Paul**

3rd Mechanics' Institute Marathon 1974

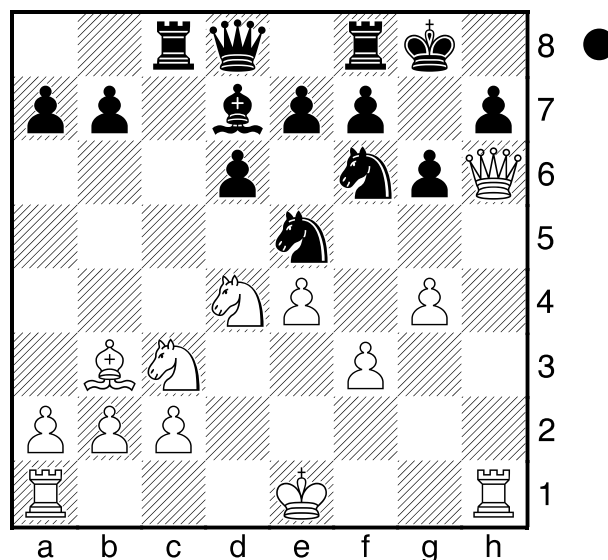
This game is seared into my memory - it made me a fighting, competitive player. Dennis Waterman was a strong master, and finding himself in a hopeless position pulled a draw offer out of his hat. He was the best player I had played up to that point, and I took the draw - which I regretted immediately. From that point on I was resolved to give no quarter, no matter who I was playing. **1.e4 c5**

[I gained revenge against Dennis four years later when he trotted out the French Defense: 1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Nf3 Ne7 8.a4 b6 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bd3 Nbc6 11.0-0 c4 12.Be2 f6 13.Re1 0-0-0 14.Ba3 Be8 15.Bf1 Bf7 16.Qb1 h5 17.Qb5 Nf5 18.Reb1 h4 19.h3 Bh5 20.Nd2 fxe5 21.dxe5 g5 22.a5 Nxa5 23.Bc5

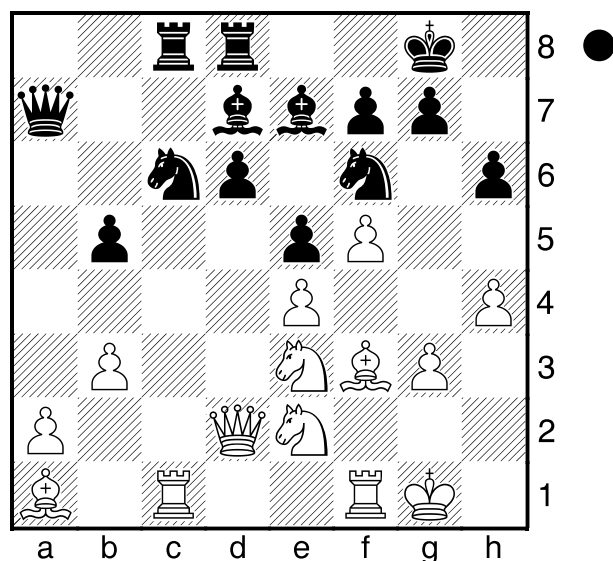
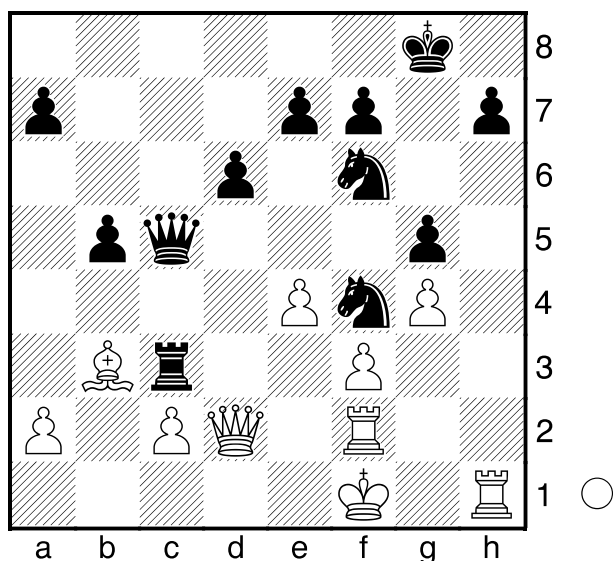
Qxc5 24.Qxc5+ bxc5 25.Rxa5 Rh7 26.Nxc4 Rc7 27.Na3 Rdd7 28.Bb5 Rg7 29.Ra6 g4 30.hxg4 Bxg4 31.Rxe6 Ne7 32.Rd6



1-0 (32) Whitehead, P-Waterman,D
Marin County Championship 1978]
2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Be3 0-0 9.Bb3 Bd7 10.Qd2 Rc8 11.h4 Ne5 12.h5 Nxh5 13.g4 Nf6 14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Qxh6



Rxc3! The classic Sicilian exchange sacrifice. **16.bxc3 Qa5 17.Qe3 Rc8 18.Ne2 Bb5 19.0-0 Bxe2 20.Qxe2 Rxc3 21.Rf2 Qc5 22.Kg2 g5 23.Rh1 Ng6 24.Kf1 Nf4 25.Qd2 b5**



Draw...!? White is busted.
1/2-1/2

□ De Firmian, Nick
■ Whitehead, Paul
San Francisco Bagby

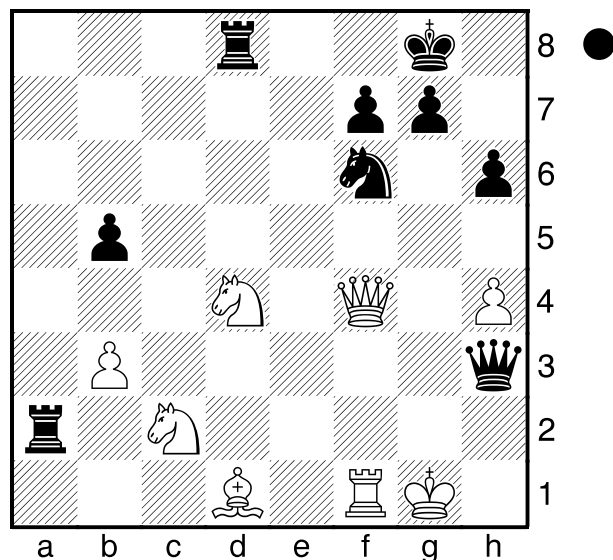
B47

1978

The longest game I have ever played, featuring the 50-move rule (and its reset!) and the notorious two knights vs pawn ending. I was lucky to escape with a draw. IM Elliott Winslow analyses the ending in some depth here: Mechanics' Institute Newsletter #852. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 h6 9.b3 d6 10.Bb2 Bd7 11.Nce2 Be7 12.c4 0-0 13.Qd2 Rac8 14.Rac1 Qb8 15.f4 Rfd8 16.f5 e5 17.Nc2 Ng4 18.h4 b5 19.Bf3 Nf6 20.cxb5 axb5 21.Ne3 Qa7 22.Ba1

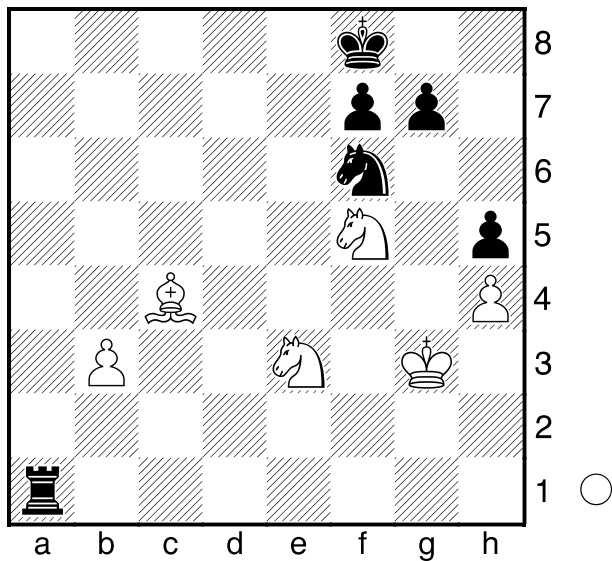
(Diagram)

d5! Black takes the initiative. 23.exd5 Bxf5 24.Kh2 Be6 25.Rxc6 Rxc6 26.Bxe5 Ra6 27.Bd4 Bc5 28.dxe6 Bxd4 29.e7 Qxe7 30.Nxd4 Qa7 31.Nec2 Rxa2 32.Kh1 Qc7 33.Bd1 Qxg3 34.Qf4 Qh3+ 35.Kg1

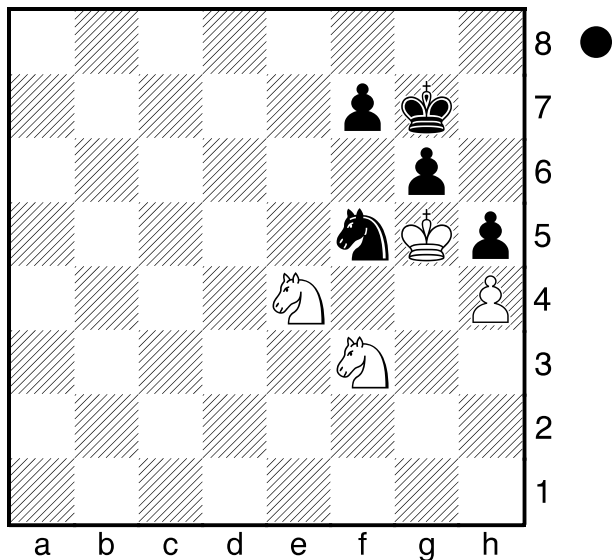


Kh8

[35...Qd3!± keeps white tied up.]
36.Rf3 Qd7 37.Be2 b4 38.Rf2 Qb7 39.Rg2 Qb6 40.Kh1 Qd6 41.Qxd6 Rxd6 42.Bc4 Kg8 43.Nf5 Rd1+ 44.Kh2 Kf8 45.Nxb4 Raa1 46.Nc2 Rac1 47.Nce3 Rh1+ 48.Kg3 h5 49.Ra2 Ra1 50.Rxa1 Rxa1

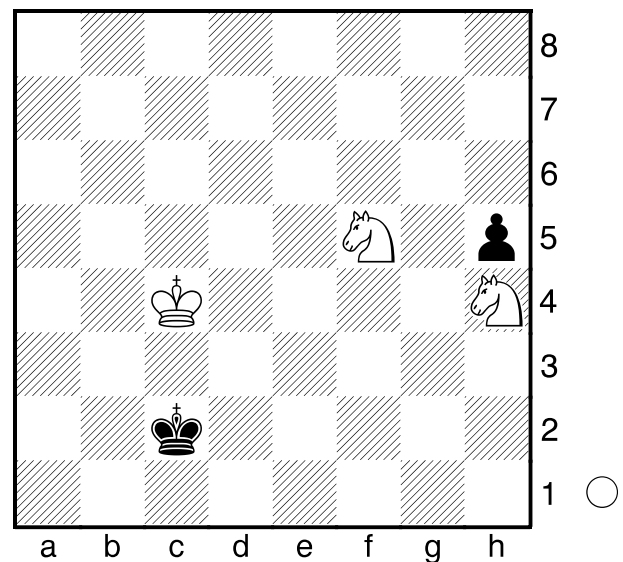


The position is equal. 51.b4 Rb1 52.b5 Ne4+ 53.Kf4 Nc3 54.Nd4 Ke7 55.Nef5+ Kf6 56.Nd6 Rb4 57.Nc6 Rxc4+ 58.Nxc4 Nxb5 59.N4e5 g6 60.Nd7+ Ke6 61.Nce5 Nd6 62.Nc5+ Kf6 63.Nf3 Nf5 64.Ne4+ Kg7 65.Kg5



Nxh4? Completely unnecessary - now white is winning! 66.Nxh4 Kf8 67.Kf6 Ke8 68.Ng5 Kd7 69.Ng2 Kd6 70.Nh4 Kd5 71.Nxf7 Ke4 72.Kg5 Kd4 73.Nd8 Ke4 74.Nb7 Kd5 75.Na5 Ke4 76.Nc4 Kd4 77.Nd2 Ke3 78.Nb3 Ke4 79.Nc5+ Kd5 80.Nd3 Ke4 81.Nf4 Ke5 82.Nfxg6+ Ke4 83.Kf6 Kd5 84.Kf5

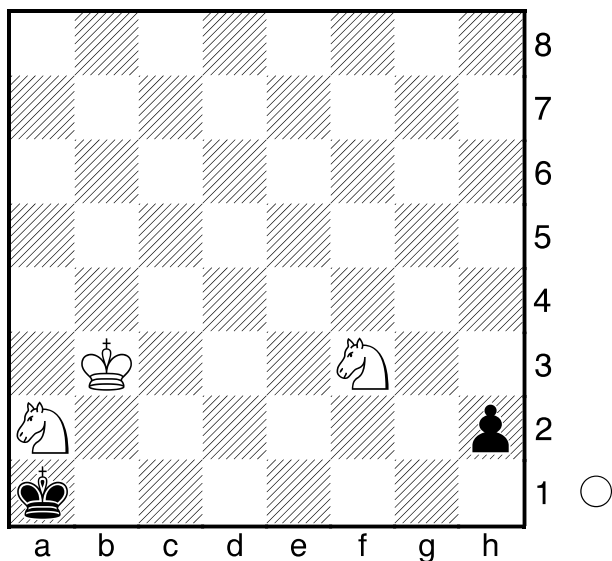
Kd4 85.Nf4 Ke3 86.Ke5 Kf2 87.Nfg2 Kf1 88.Ke4 Kf2 89.Ne3 Kg3 90.Nef5+ Kg4 91.Ke3 Kg5 92.Kf3 Kf6 93.Kf4 Ke6 94.Ne3 Kf6 95.Nd5+ Ke6 96.Ke4 Kd6 97.Nf4 Kc6 98.Kd3 Kc7 99.Ke4 Kc6 100.Ke5 Kc5 101.Nd3+ Kc4 102.Ke4 Kc3 103.Ne5 Kc2 104.Nc4 Kc3 105.Nd6 Kc2 106.Kd4 Kd2 107.Nc4+ Kc2 108.Ke3 Kc3 109.Nd6 Kb3 110.Kd3 Kb4 111.Kd4 Kb3 112.Ne4 Kb4 113.Nc3 Kb3 114.Nd5 Kb2 115.Kc4 Kc2 116.Ne3+ Kd2 117.Nef5 Kc2



118.Nf3! Now the 50-move rule starts up again after black's next pawn push...

118...h4 119.Ne3+ Kb2 120.Kb4 h3 121.Nh2 Ka2 122.Nc4 Ka1 123.Kc3 Kb1 124.Kd2 Ka1 125.Kc1 Ka2 126.Kc2 Ka1 127.Kb3 Kb1 128.Nb2 [128.Nd2+! is mate in 36 moves!] 128...Kc1 129.Kc3 Kb1 130.Nd3 Ka2 131.Kb4 Kb1 132.Kb3 Ka1 133.Nf4 Kb1 134.Ne2 Ka1 135.Nc1 Kb1 136.Nd3 Ka1 137.Nb4 Kb1 138.Na2 Ka1 139.Nf3 h2

(Diagram)



A long roller-coaster ride of a game!
1/2-1/2

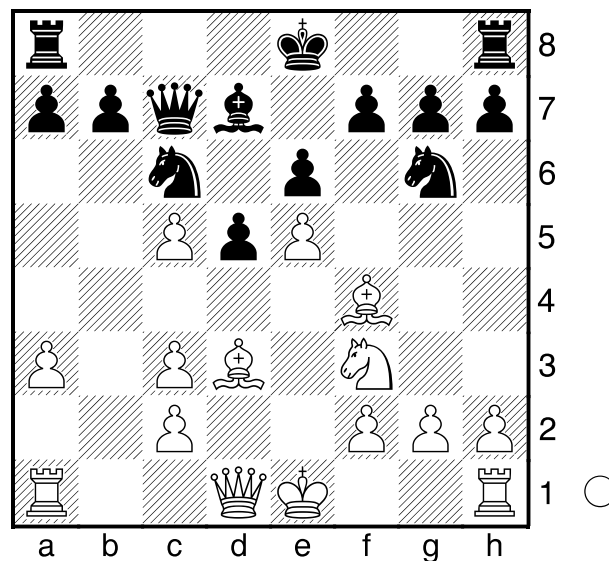
Whitehead, Paul A
McCambridge, Vincent
San Francisco Bagby

C19

1982

I had a good overall score against Vince, and always enjoyed playing against the French Defense. This game features a nice king walk up the g and h files. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Bd7 8.dxc5 Qc7 9.Bd3 Nbc6 10.Bf4 Ng6

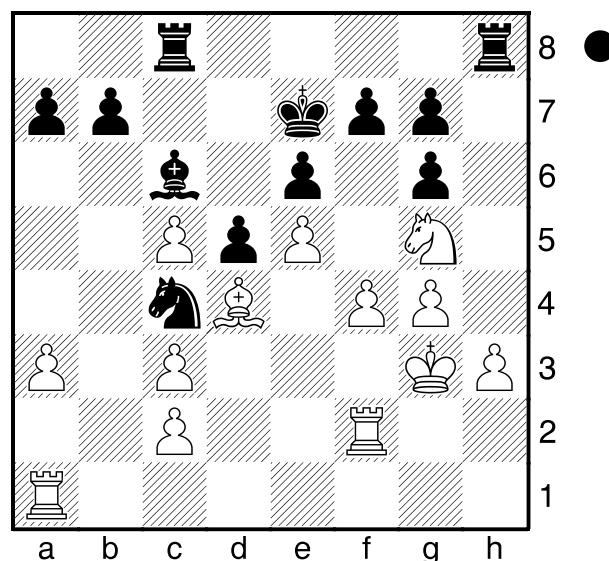
(Diagram)



11.Bxg6

[11.Bg3 Qa5 12.Qd2 Qxc5 13.h4 d4 14.Bxg6 hxg6 15.cxd4 Qc4 16.Rb1 b6 17.Qe2 Qc3+ 18.Qd2 Qc4 19.Qe2 Qc3+ 20.Qd2 1/2-1/2 (20) Nunn, J (2585)-Kortschnoj, V (2650) Brussels 1986]

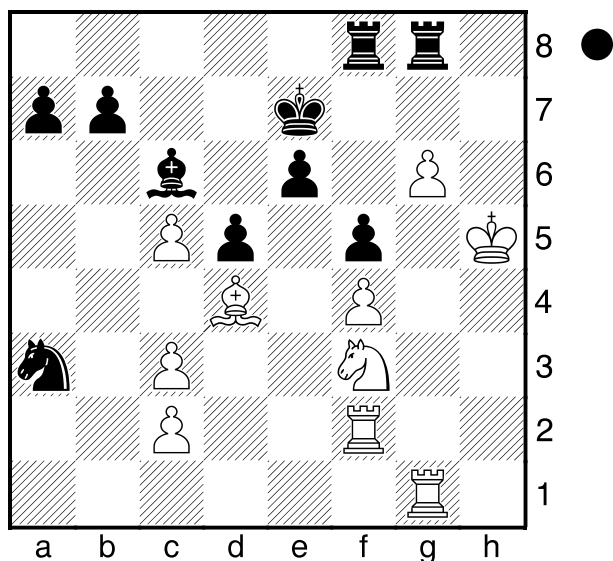
11...hxg6 12.0-0 Na5 13.Be3 Nc4 14.Bd4 0-0-0 15.Re1 Rh5 16.g4 Rh6 17.Kg2 Bc6 18.Rh1 Rdh8 19.h3 Qe7 20.Qc1 Rf8 21.Qg5 Qxg5 22.Nxg5 Ba4 23.Rac1 Kd7 24.f4 Bc6 25.Ra1 Ke7 26.Kg3 Rc8 27.Rh2 Rhh8 28.Rf2



f5?!

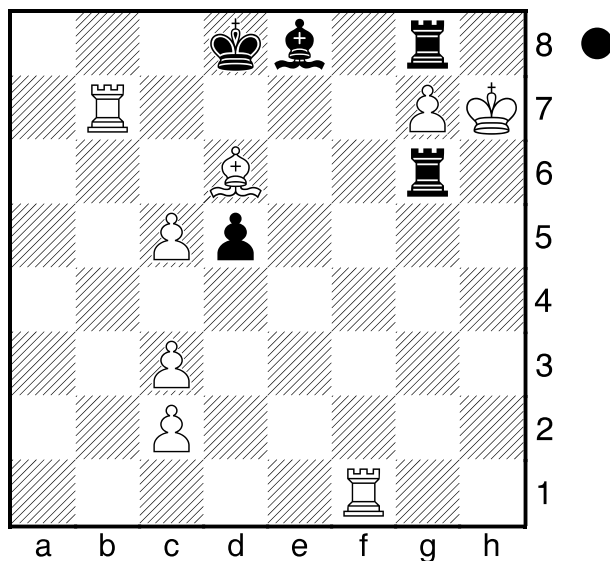
[28...Bd7 was a better way to stop white from playing f5.]

29.exf6+ gxf6 30.Nf3 Rhf8 31.h4 Rf7 32.g5 f5 33.h5! Thematic, and completely decisive. 33...gxh5 34.Kh4! Rg8 35.Rg1 Nxa3 36.g6 Rff8 37.Kxh5+-



Nc4 38.Ne5 Nxe5 39.Bxe5 Ra8 40.Kg5 a5 41.Rh2 Rae8 42.Rh7+ Kd8 43.Bc7+ Takes care of the a-pawn... 43...Kc8 44.Bxa5 e5 45.fxe5 Rxe5 46.Rc7+ Kb8 47.Rf7 f4+ 48.Kf6 Ree8 49.Bc7+ ...takes care of the f-pawn! 49...Kc8 50.Bxf4 Bd7 51.g7 Kd8 52.Bd6 Re6+ 53.Kg5 Be8 54.Rgf1! Re2 55.Rxb7 Rg2+ 56.Kh6 Rg6+ 57.Kh7!

(Diagram)



White wins a rook.

1-0

C85

□ **Whitehead,Paul A**

■ **Kane,George Francis**

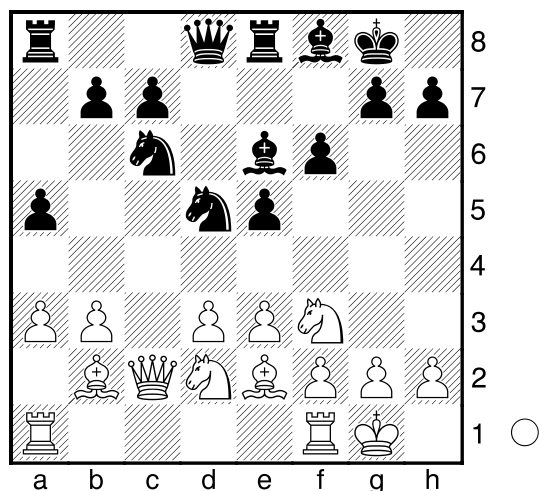
San Francisco Bagby

1982

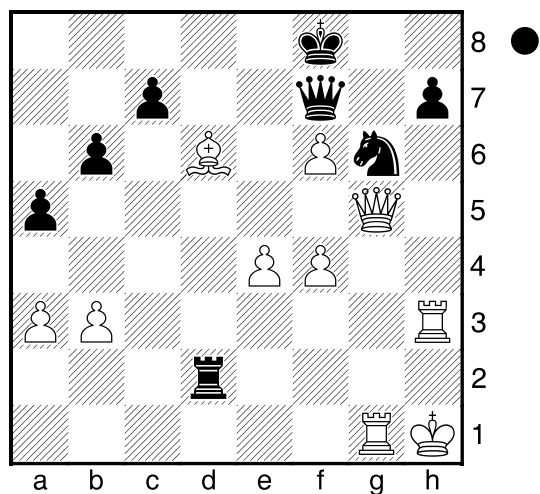
Chess is a game of ideas, and this game (and the next, vs Richard Lobo) pick up the thread of a fantastic attacking idea first played by Paul Morphy in 1857, and then resurrected by Bobby Fischer more than 100 years later. The idea is Kh1, Rg1, followed by g4 (or with black, ...Kh8, ...Rg8, ...g5.) **1.e4**

[1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.c4 Nf6 4.e3 Be7 5.a3 0-0 6.Qc2 Re8 7.d3 Bf8 8.Nf3 a5 9.Be2 d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nbd2 f6 12.0-0 Be6

(Diagram)



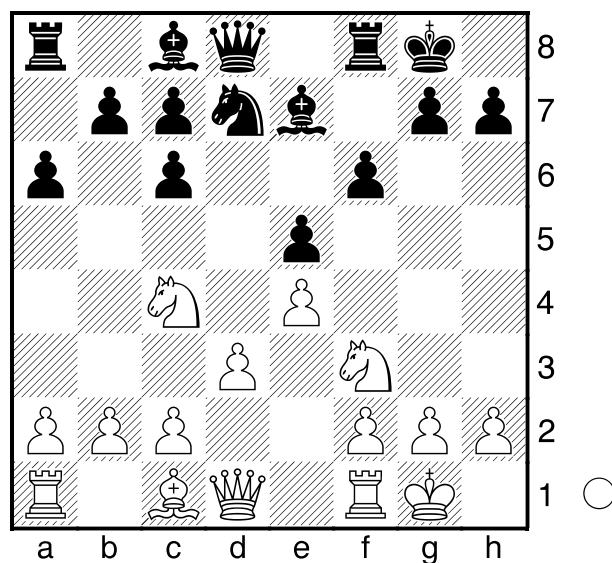
13.Kh1! Qd7 14.Rg1 Rad8 15.Ne4
Qf7 16.g4 g6 17.Rg3 Bg7 18.Rag1
Nb6 19.Nc5 Bc8 20.Nh4 Nd7
21.Ne4 Nf8 22.Nf5 Be6 23.Nc5 Ne7
24.Nxg7 Kxg7 25.g5 Nf5 26.Rf3 b6
27.gxf6+ Kh8 28.Nxe6 Rxe6 29.d4
exd4 30.Bc4 d3 31.Bxd3 Rxd3
32.Qxd3 Rd6 33.Qc4 Ne6 34.Be5
Rd8 35.h4 Nd6 36.Qg4 Nf8 37.h5
Ne8 38.e4 Rd2 39.Rh3 Kg8
40.hxg6 Nxg6 41.f4 Kf8 42.Qg5
Nd6 43.Bxd6+



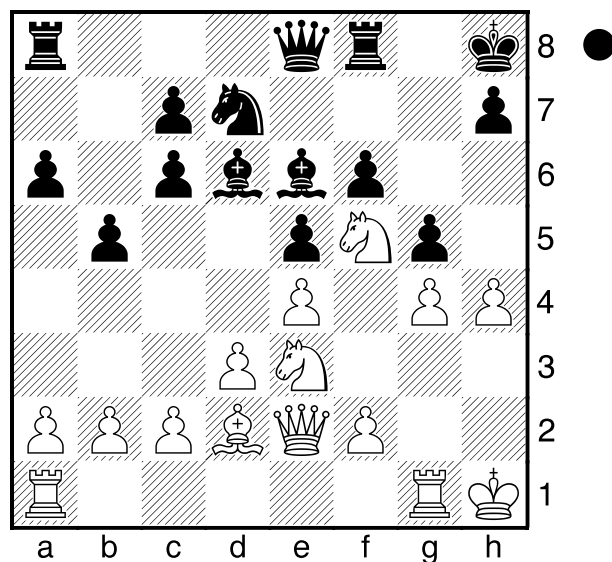
1-0 (43) Fischer,R-Andersson,U
Siegen 1970]

1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.d3 Nd7
8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Nc4 f6

(Diagram)



10.Kh1! Nc5 11.Rg1 Be6 12.Ne3 Qe8
13.g4 Bd6 14.Bd2 b5 15.Qe2 Nd7
16.Nh4 g5 17.Nhf5 Kh8 18.h4



White opens the h-file. Black is
curiously helpless against white's slow
build-up. 18...Rg8 19.Qf3 Bc5 20.hxg5
fxg5 21.Rg3 Nf8 22.Kg2 Ng6 23.Rh1
Nf4+ 24.Kf1 Rg6 25.Ng2 Rd8 26.Bc3

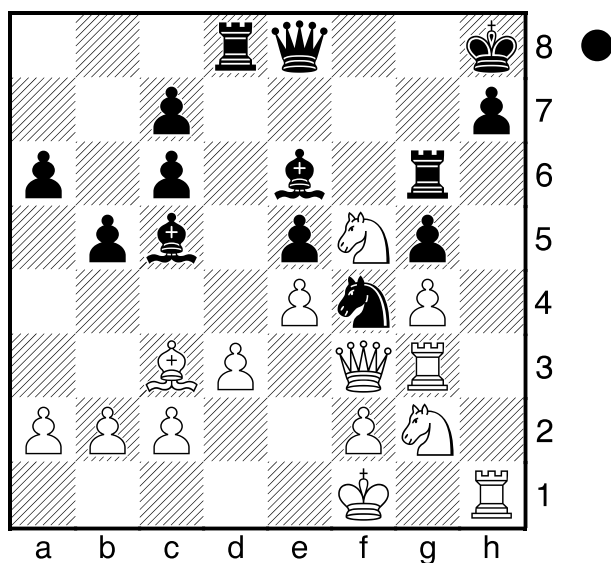
(Diagram)

□ Lobo, Richard
 ■ Whitehead, Paul A
 San Francisco Bagby

1982

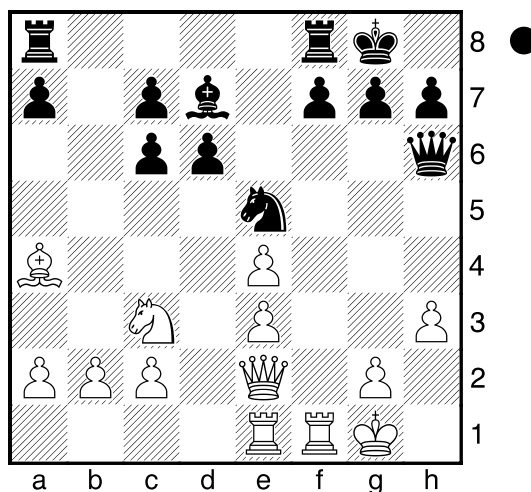
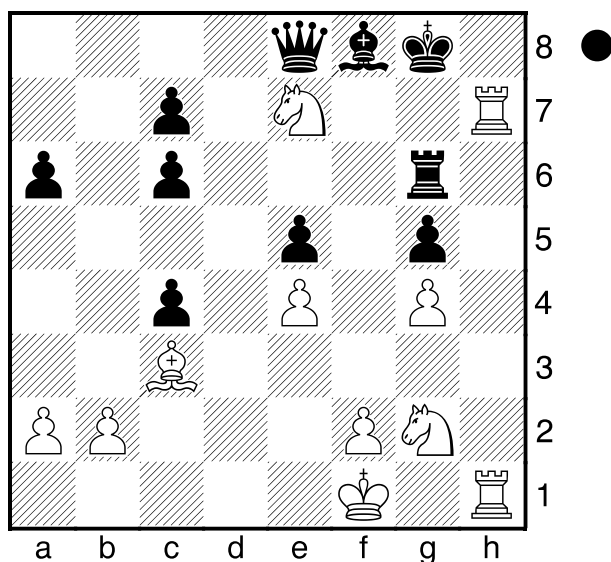
The companion game to the previous - I think they were played in consecutive rounds! **1.c4**

[1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bc5
 4.Bb5 d6 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7
 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Ba4 Qf6 9.0-0 Ne7
 10.Be3 Bxe3 11.fxe3 Qh6 12.Qd3
 Ng6 13.Rae1 Ne5 14.Qe2 0-0
 15.h3



Nxd3 Desperation. 27.cxd3 Rxd3
28.Qxd3! Bc4 29.Qxc4 bxc4 30.Rgh3
Bf8 31.Rxh7+ Kg8 32.Ne7+

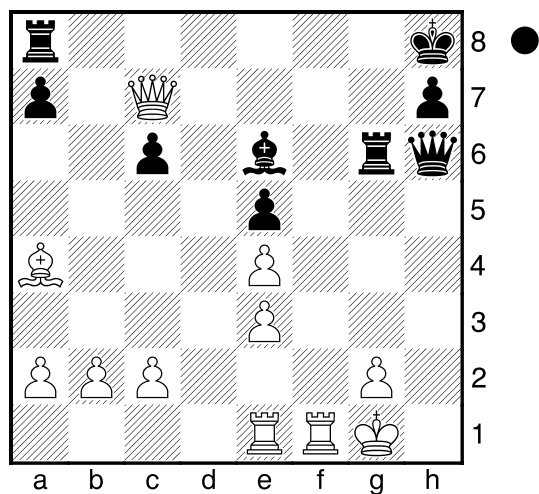
[The simplest. After 32.Ne7+ Bxe7
 33.Rh8+ Kf7 34.R1h7+ white is a
 rook and a piece ahead.]



Kh8! A move - and an idea - far ahead
 of it's time. 16.Nd1 g5 17.Nf2 Rg8
 18.Nd3 g4 19.Nxe5 dxe5 20.hxg4
 Bxg4 21.Qf2 Rg6 22.Qxf7 Be6
 23.Qxc7

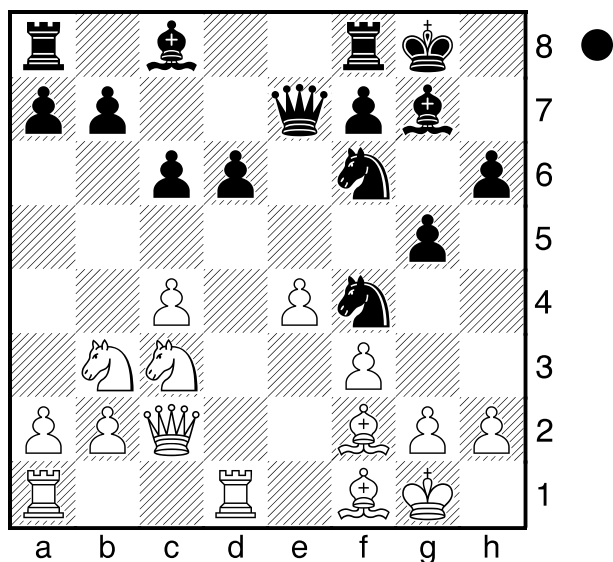
(Diagram)

1-0



Here Morphy announced mate in 5 moves: Rxg2+! 24.Kxg2 Qh3+ 25.Kf2 Qh2+ 26.Kf3 Rf8+ 27.Qf7 Rxf7# 0-1 (27) Paulsen, L-Morphy, P New York 1857]

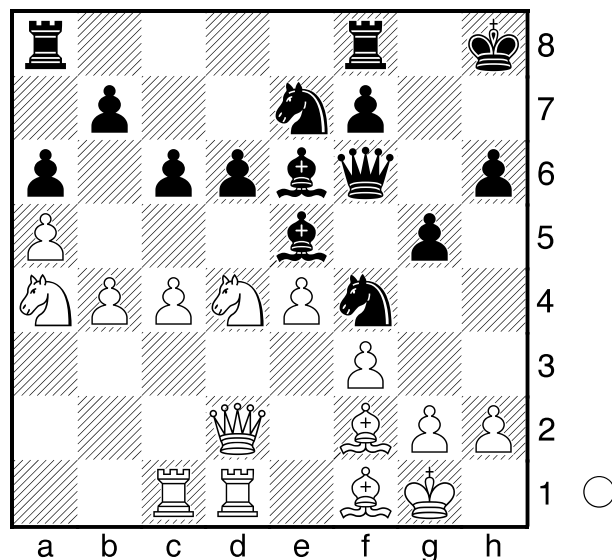
1...e5 2.Nc3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Nf3 Ngf6 5.e4 g6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qc2 c6 9.Rd1 exd4 10.Nxd4 Qe7 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Nc5 13.f3 Ne6 14.Nb3 Nf4 15.Bf1 g5 16.Bf2



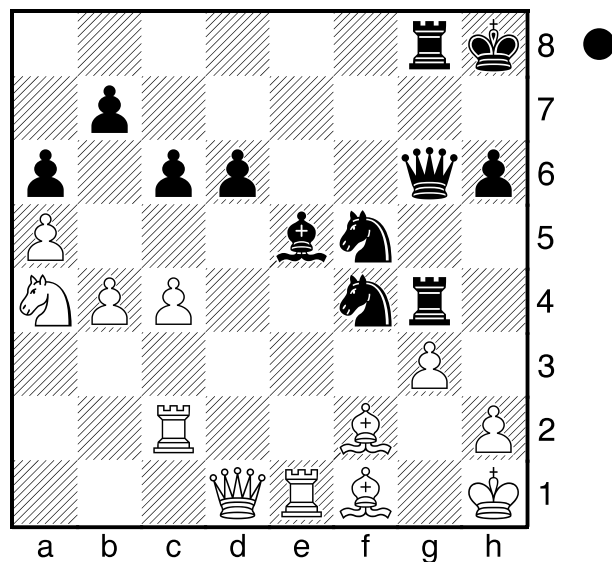
A difficult position to evaluate. White should be no worse, but he fails to find a plan of action, whereas black has a clear goal: attack down the g-file.

16...Nd7 17.Qd2 Be5 18.Nd4 Nb6 19.a4 Be6 20.b3 Qf6 21.Rac1 Nc8

22.a5 a6 23.Na4 Ne7 24.b4 Kh8!

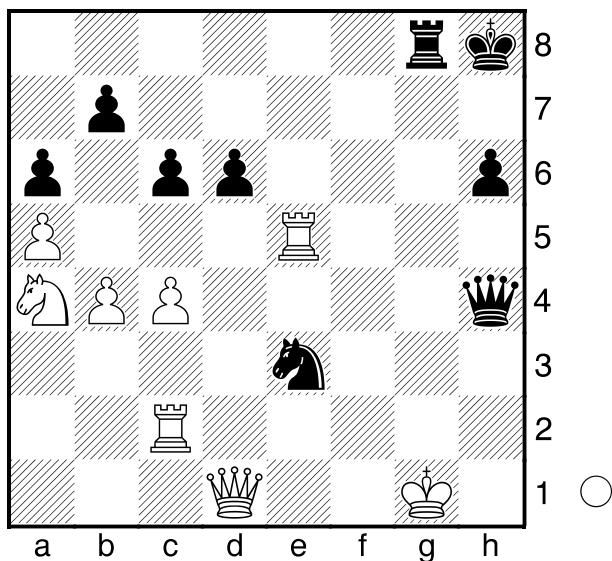


Black prepares his assault down the g-file, while white drifts. 25.Nxe6 Nxe6 26.Rc2 Rg8 27.Qe3 g4 28.fxg4 Rxc4 29.g3 Qg6 30.Re1 f5 31.exf5 Nxf5 32.Qd3 Nf4 33.Qd1 Rg8 34.Kh1



With every black piece pointed toward the white king, it's not surprising the game is about to end. 34...Nxc3+! 35.hxc3 Rxc3 36.Bxc3 Qxc3 37.Bg2 Nxc2 38.Rxe5 Qh4+ 39.Kg1 Ne3+

(Diagram)



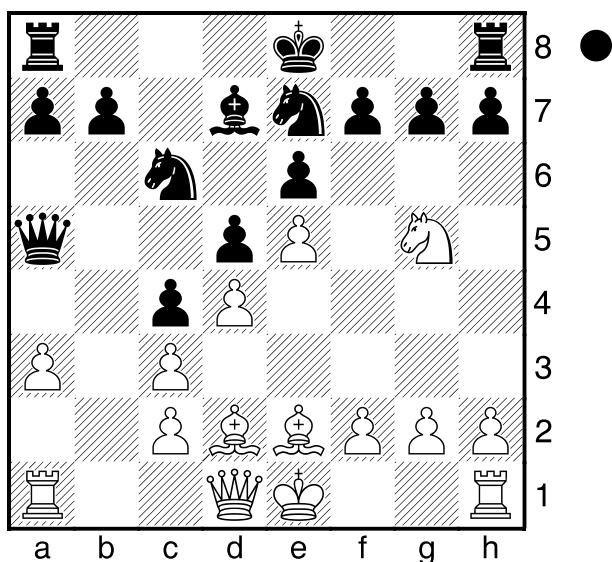
0-1

Whitehead, Paul A
 Rey, Guillermo
 San Francisco Bagby

C19

1985

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5
 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Qa5
 8.Bd2 Nbc6 9.Bd3 c4
 [Keeping the tension with 9...Bd7
 is also possible.]
 10.Be2 Bd7 11.Ng5



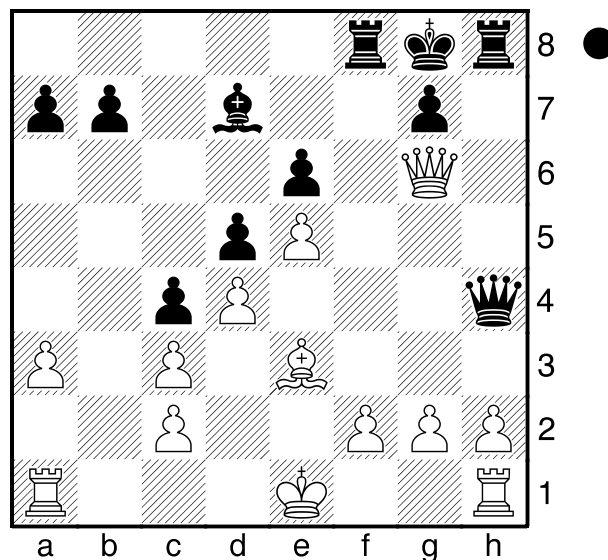
f6?!

[11...h6 12.Nh3 0-0-0 13.Nf4 g6]

12.Bh5+ Ng6

[12...g6 13.exf6±]

13.Nxh7! Kf7 14.Ng5+ I think Guillermo overlooked this. 14...fxg5 15.Qf3+ Kg8 16.Bxg6 Rf8 17.Qg3± Ne7 18.Qxg5 Qd8 19.Qg4 Nxg6 20.Qxg6 Qh4 21.Be3



Black's main issue is that he's 2 pawns down! He tries to seek refuge in a bishops of opposite colors ending.

21...Qe4 22.Qxe4 dxe4 23.d5!

The 1st line-clearing move. 23...exd5

24.Bxa7 Rf5 25.Rb1 Bc6 26.Bd4 Kf7

27.Ke2 Ke6 28.h3 Ra8 29.Ra1 Ba4

30.Rhb1 Rf7 31.Rb6+ Bc6 32.a4 Ra5

33.Ke3 Rf8 34.f3 exf3 35.gxf3 Rh8

36.Rg1 Kf7

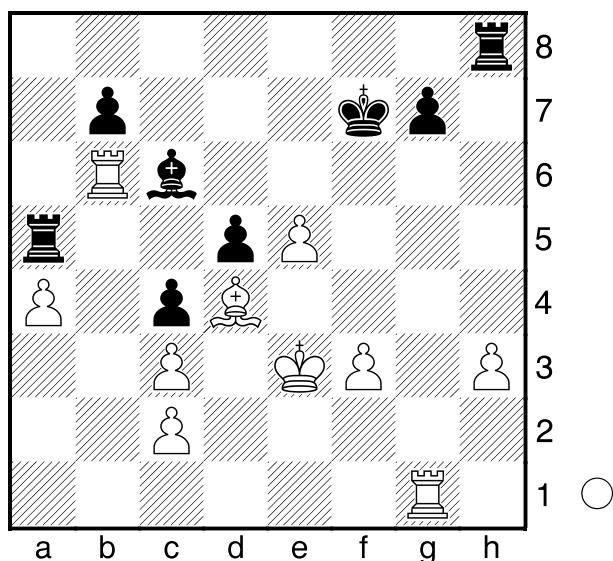
(Diagram)

Whitehead, Paul A

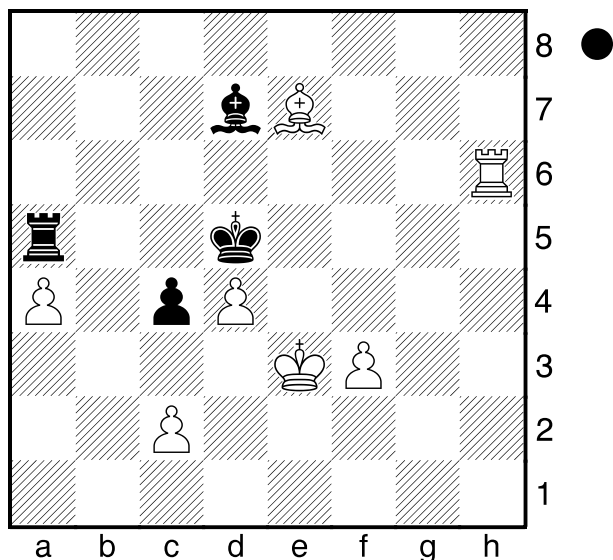
Biyiasas, Peter

San Francisco Bagby

1985



37.e6+! The 2nd line-clearing move.
37...Kxe6 38.Rxg7 Rxh3 39.Rgxb7
Kd6 40.Bf6! Threatens 41.Be7+. Black
 is caught in a mating net. **40...Rh6**
41.Be7+ Ke5 42.Rc7 d4+ 43.cxd4+
Kd5 44.Rd7+ Bxd7 45.Rxh6



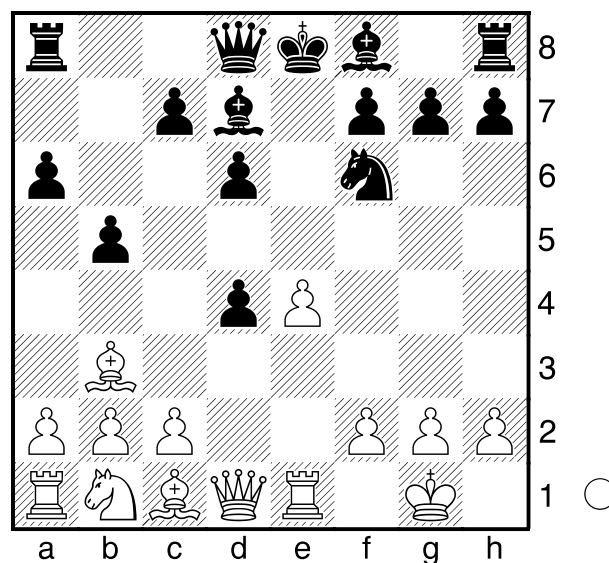
Nothing can be done against the dual
 threats of 46.Rd6 mate, or 46. Rh5+,
 winning black's rook.

1-0

A curious game where white sacrifices a
 pawn in the opening and then just keeps
 trading down at every opportunity - to a
 winning position! The real culprit here is
 black's exceedingly passive play. **1.e4**
e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6
5.0-0 Bd7 6.d4!? A dubious gambit.

[6.c3 is far more common here.]

6...Nf6 7.Re1 b5 8.Bb3 Nxd4 9.Nxd4
exd4



10.c3

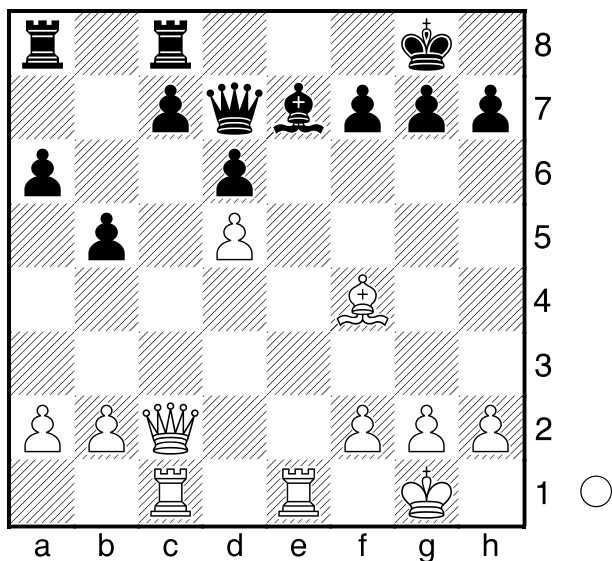
[10.Qxd4? c5-+ is the Noah's Ark
 Trap.]

10...dxc3 11.Nxc3 White has little
 compensation for the pawn. **11...Be7**

12.Bf4 0-0 13.Rc1 Bc6 14.Nd5

Here come some trades - lacking
 anything tactically, white tries to exert
 pressure down the c-file. **14...Nxd5**
15.Bxd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 Qd7 17.Qc2
Rfc8

(Diagram)



18.Qc6 Another trade, but I was confident that my pressure on the queenside and a big space advantage were more than adequate to keep the balance. **18...Qxc6 19.Rxc6 Bf6 20.b3 g5 21.Be3 Bd8?**

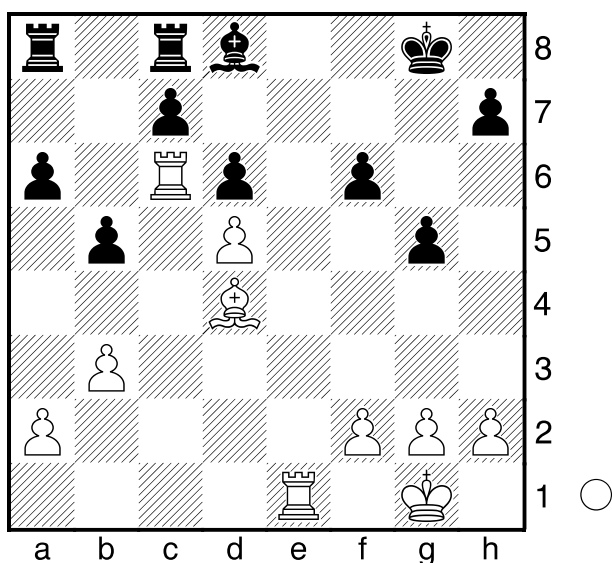
[21...Kg7=]

[21...Kf8=]

[21...a5=]

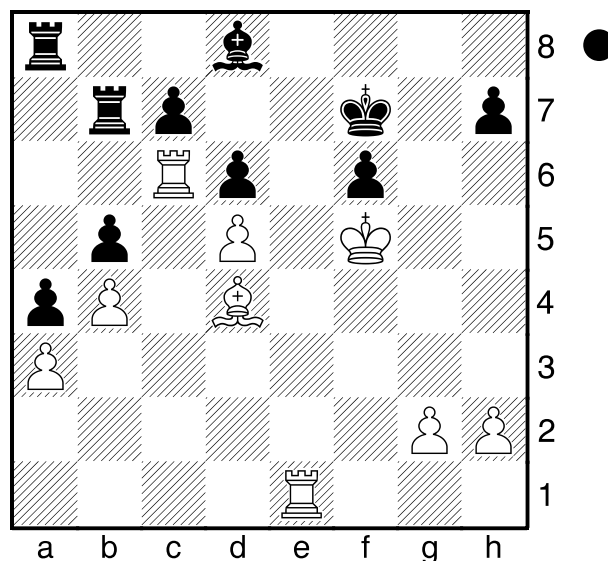
22.Bd4! f6?

[22...h5 23.Re8+ Kh7 holds.]

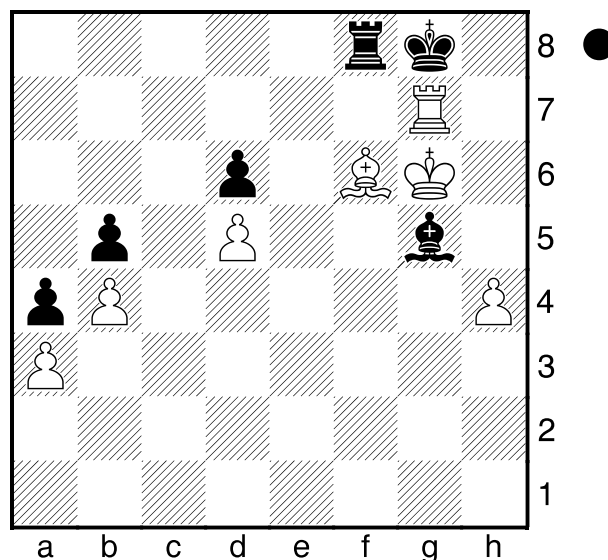


Black has ruined his position with his last two moves. **23.f4!** Opening up a

path for the white king. Black is now in serious trouble. **23...gxf4 24.Kf2 Rcb8 25.a3 a5 26.Kf3 Rb7 27.Kxf4 a4 28.b4 Kf7 29.Kf5+-**



Be7 30.g4 Rg8 31.h4 h5 32.gxh5 Rg3 33.Rc3 Rxc3 34.Bxc3 Rb8 35.h6 Bf8 36.Bxf6 Bxh6 37.Re7+ Kg8 38.Kg6 Rf8 39.Rxc7 Bg5 A joke move before resigning. **40.Rg7+**



1-0

□ Whitehead,Paul

■ Tal,Mikhail

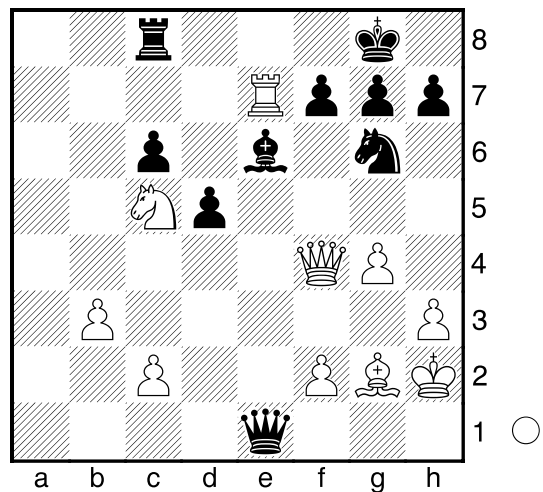
Pan-Pacific Blitz

1991

The opportunity of a life-time arose in 1991, when I found out that a big blitz tournament was being held at the Mechanics' Institute in conjunction with the Pan-Pacific GM Tournament (organized by the Mechanics' Institute and won by Eugenio Torre) - and the "Magician from Riga" Mikhail Tal was playing! I was fortunate enough to play 3 games with the former World Champion, and luckier still to draw a game - although I had my chances... **1.Nf3** Tal lit my cigarette before I played this move!

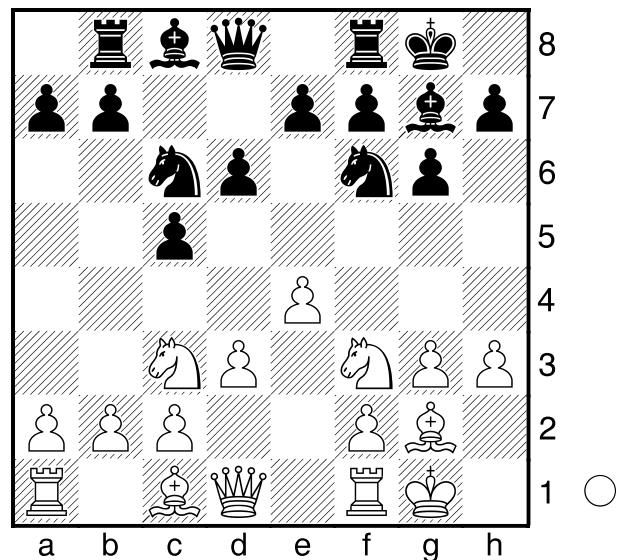
[Here is another recorded game from the tournament. Our 3rd game has been lost in the sands of time. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.g3 d6 7.Bg2 Bd7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Re1 Be7 10.a4 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.a5 d5 13.Be3 Rb8 14.Bb6 Qc8 15.Qd3 Bb4 16.Red1 Ng4 17.exd5 exd5 18.Qd4 Be7 19.Re1 Bf6 20.Qf4 Re8 21.Rxe8+ Qxe8 22.h3 Ne5 23.Na4 Nc4 24.Bd4 Bxd4 25.Qxd4 Nxa5 26.Nc5 Nc4 27.b3 Nd6 28.Rxa6 Nf5 29.Qf4 Rc8 30.Ra7 Qe1+ 31.Kh2 Be6 32.g4 1-0 (32) Tal,M-Whitehead,P Pan-Pacific Blitz 1991 (I lost on time, but Tal is close to winning: 32.g4 Nh4 33.Re7! Ng6

(Diagram)



34.Qxf7+! Bxf7 35.Rxe1+-
is one possible line.)]

**1...c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 Nf6
5.d3 0-0 6.e4 d6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.h3
Rb8**



9.Be3

[I've also played 9.Bg5 here, and if h6 then 10.Be3 b5 11.Qd2 hits the h-pawn.]

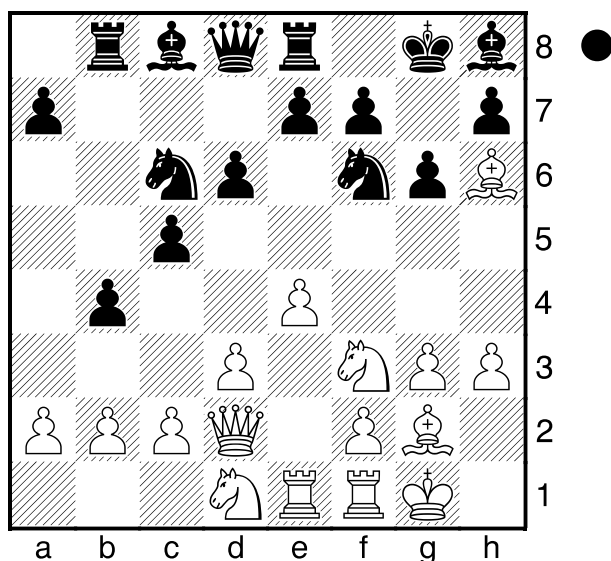
9...b5 10.Qd2 Re8

[If 10...b4 white can move the knight to d1, e2, or d5.]

11.Bh6 Bh8 12.Rae1 b4 13.Nd1

[13.Ne2]

[13.Nd5]



13...Qa5

[13...Ba6 14.Ng5 c4 15.f4 cxd3 16.cxd3 Qb6+ 17.Kh2 e6 18.e5 Nd7 19.Nxf7 Kxf7 20.f5 gxf5 21.Rxf5+ exf5 22.Bd5+ Ke7 23.Qg5+ Nf6 24.exf6+ Kd7 25.Qxf5+ Kc7 26.Qxh7+ 1-0 (26) Lutikov,A-Vladimirov,B Sverdlovsk 1957]

14.Ng5 Sacrificing a pawn vs Tal seemed to fit the occasion. 14...Nd4

[Maybe he should take it. But after 14...Qxa2 15.f4 Nd4 16.Ne3! Qxb2 17.e5 white has a strong initiative for the 2 pawns.]

15.f4 Bb7 16.a3 I didn't want to give him a second chance! 16...Qb6 17.Ne3 a5

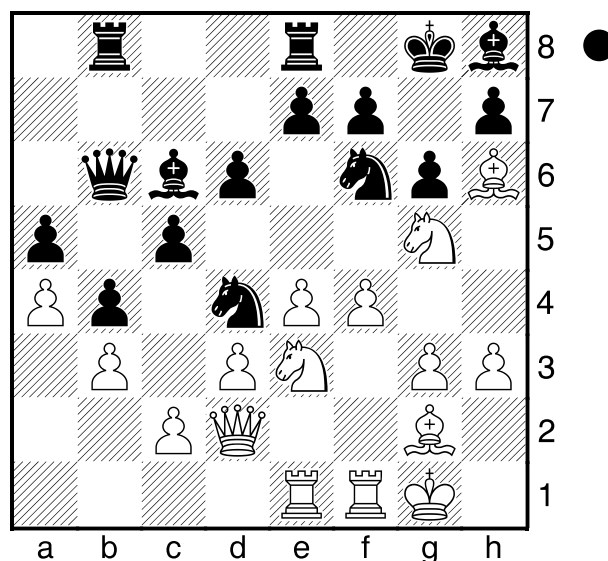
[Black should consider 17...c4! mixing it up.]

18.a4 Bc6

[18...c4!]

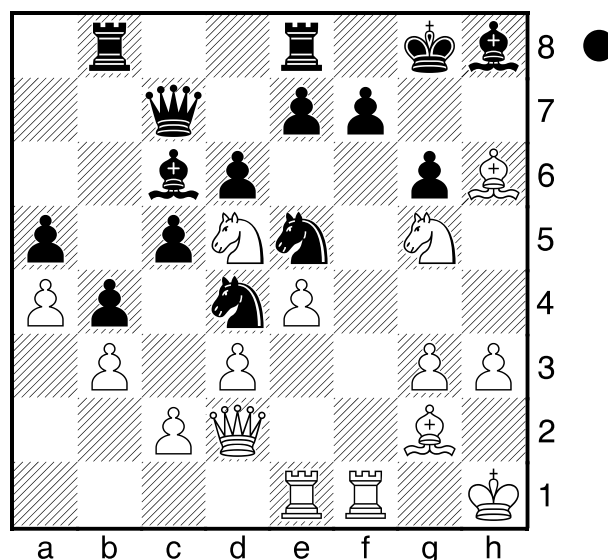
19.b3

(Diagram)



With the queenside locked down, white can go all-out on the kingside, but black's position is quite resilient. 19...Nd7

20.Kh1 Qc7 21.f5 A bit hasty, perhaps. 21...Ne5 22.fxg6 hxg6 23.Nd5



Bxd5 Maybe black shouldn't part with the bishop here.

[The cold-blooded 23...Qd8! intending ...e6 looks better.]

24.exd5 Bf6 25.Ne4 Bg7 26.Bf4 Qd7 27.Ng5 Bf6 28.Ne4 Bg7 29.Ng5 Bf6 30.Ne4 Bg7 31.Ng5 I was content to repeat moves, and when Tal offered a

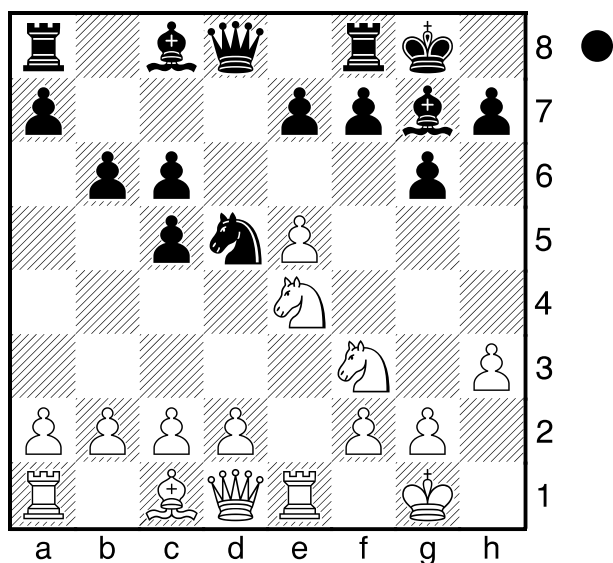
draw I was content with that also.
1/2-1/2

Whitehead, Paul A
Stearman, Josiah P
San Francisco Fall TNM

B31

2017

A nice thematic win against a very strong junior. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5** A move that has brought me some memorable victories. **3...g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.e5 Nd5 9.Ne4 b6 10.h3**



Qc7

[10...c4!=]

[10...Nc7 11.d3 Ne6∞]

11.d3 f5 12.Ng3 f4 13.Ne4

White is ready to boot the black knight around with c4, but black's next is an overreaction.

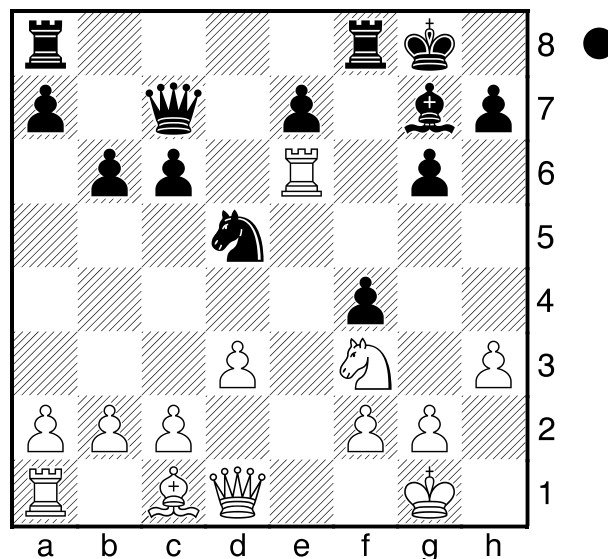
[13.Nf1?! clearly misplaces the knight, but 1-0 (60) Cvorovic,D (2425) - Degraeve,J (2540) Makarska 1997]

13...Bxe5?!

[13...Qb8! 14.c4 Nc7 15.Bd2±]

14.Nxc5! Bg7 15.Ne6 Bxe6 16.Rxe6±

(Diagram)

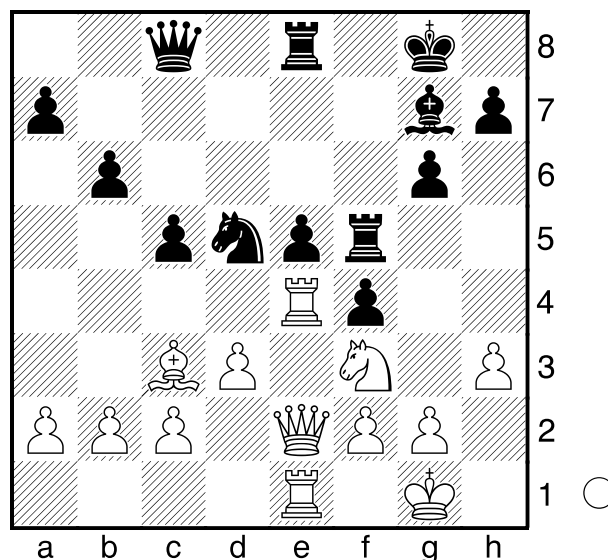


Rad8 17.Rb1 c5 18.Qe2 Qd7 19.Re4 e5 20.Bd2

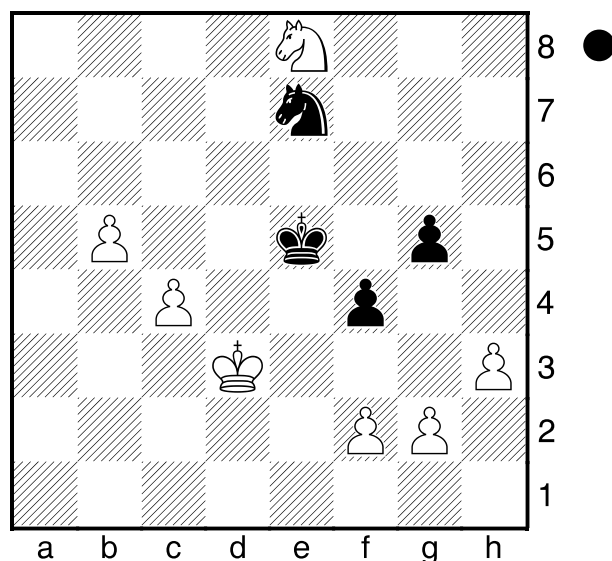
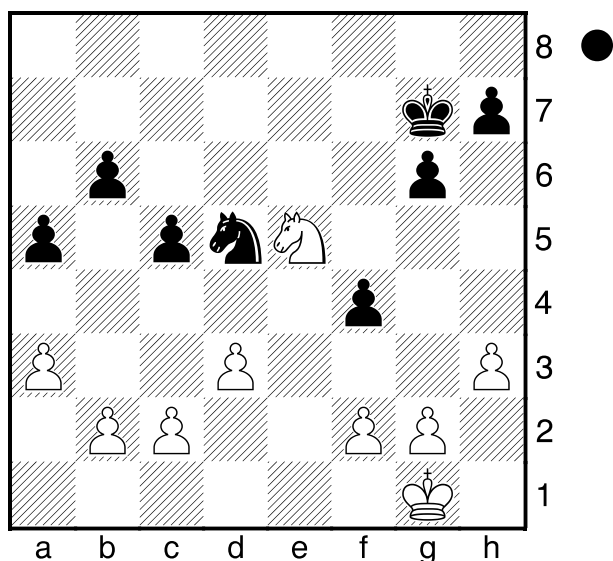
[20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Rxe5 f3! is just the kind of action black is looking for.]

20...Rf5 21.Re1 Re8 22.Bc3 Qc8

[22...Nxc3 23.bxc3±]



23.Qd1! Preparing to triple the major pieces on the e-file. **23...Qc7 24.R1e2 Bf6 25.Qe1 Kg7 26.a3 a5 27.Bxe5+-** Finally cashing in. **27...Bxe5 28.Rxe5 Rfxe5 29.Rxe5 Rxe5 30.Qxe5+ Qxe5 31.Nxe5**



The pawn up knight ending should be a relatively straight-forward win, but black makes white's task easier with...

31...a4?! This pawn now becomes a fixed target. 32.c4! Ne7

[32...Nb4!? doesn't quite work:
33.axb4 cxb4 34.Nf3! a3 35.bxa3
bxa3 36.Nd4+-]

**33.Kf1 Nc8 34.Ke2 Kf6 35.Nf3 Nd6
36.Nd2 Nf5 37.Nb1** Now targeting the pawn at a4. **37...Nd4+ 38.Kf1 Nb3
39.Nc3 Nc1 40.Nxa4** The b6 pawn is also about to fall. **40...Nxd3 41.Ke2 Nc1+ 42.Kd2 Nb3+ 43.Kd3 Ke5
44.Nxb6 g5 45.Nd7+ Kd6 46.Nf6 h6
47.Ng4** Now black loses a king-side pawn as well. Mild time-pressure on my part was black's reason for prolonging the game. **47...h5 48.Nf6 Ke5 49.Nxh5** Three pawns ahead should do the trick. **49...Nc1+ 50.Kd2 Nb3+ 51.Kc3 Nd4
52.b4 cxb4+ 53.axb4 Ne2+ 54.Kd3 Nd4 55.Ng7 Nc6 56.b5 Ne7 57.Ne8**

(Diagram)

The white knight reaches the 8th rank (!), so black resigns.

1-0

Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute

On March 16, Mechanics' Institute hosted our monthly double-header of **Scholastic Swiss** in the morning, **Quads** in the afternoon.

We had a great turnout for the Quads, with 69 players competing in 17 sections. The top Quad was won by **Daniel Cremisi** (2387) with a score of 2.5 points.

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

The monthly Scholastic Swiss had 19 players competing in two sections.

The 500+ section was won by **Yen Wen Jasmine Ho** (711) with a perfect 4-0 score. Tied for 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points apiece were **Kepler McTiernan** (1135) and **Aiden Lau** (626), while **Zane Chu** (794) and **Miles Lee** (560) split 4th and 5th with 2 points apiece.

The u500 section also saw a perfect score, with **Caleb Martinez** (unr.) going four-zip. Tied for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places with 3 points each were **Sicheng Ao** (101), **Bryn Killingsworth** (unr.), and **Adrian Levy** (326). Topping a 5-way tie for 5th place on tie-breaks was **Theodore Linehan** (374) with 2 points.

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

Both the March Quads and the March Scholastic Swiss were directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

On March 23, we hosted our second **ALTO (At Least Twenty One) Tournament**, with 32 players competing in two sections.

Daniel Cremisi (2387) scored a perfect 3-0 to take the top spot in the 1600+ section. Finishing in clear 2nd with 2.5 points was **Andy Applebaum** (2241). Tied for 3rd, best u2000, and best u1800 were **Jimmy Heiserman** (2322), **Ako Heidari** (1849), **Christopher Powers** (834), **Marlon Rigel** (1824), and **Robert Crompton** (1539) with 2 points apiece.

The u1600 section also saw a perfect score, with **Robert Turner** (1235) going 3-0. Tied for 2nd and 3rd were **Steven Whitney** (1246) and **Charlie Schaezlein** (1154) with 2.5 points each. **Bennett McCutcheon** (1154) and **Sawyer Stults** (1088) tied for best u1200 with 2 points apiece.

Complete results for the March ALTO (At Least Twenty One) Tournament can be found [here](#).

The March ALTO (At Least Twenty One) Tournament was directed by FIDE Arbiter **Scott Mason**.

On April 13, we hosted the **1st Richard Shorman Memorial**, honoring the much beloved Bay Area chess teacher, columnist and photographer who [passed away](#) last year.

A large turnout of 76 players competed in three sections, and a brilliancy prize in Shorman's name of

\$150 was gifted to **Hayden Karkainen** and **Svivavishnu Srinivasan** by his long-time friend **Kenn Fong** and judged by IM **John Donaldson**. Details in next month's newsletter.

The 2000+ section was won jointly by **Dylan Tang** (2267) and **Laurie Qiu** (2068), both scoring an undefeated 3.5 points from four games. Sharing 3rd place in a 4-way split were **Daniel Cremisi** (2389), **Jacob Chiang** (2270), **Vishva Nanugonda** (2150), and **Kanwar Sethi** (1940), each posting up a 3-1 score.

The 1600-1999 section saw a 2-way split for 1st and 2nd, with **Jeremy Cawthon** (1989) and **Rehaan Malhotra** (1662) scoring 3.5 points each. There was a 4-way split for 3rd place between **Zhuoyuan Wu** (1789), **Adam Mercado** (1781), **Tapas Natraj** (1780), and **Bowen Gui** (1639). All scored 3 points.

Tingshun Liu (1240) scored a perfect 4-0 to take 1st place in the under 1599 section. Scoring 3 points each, there was a 5-way split for 2nd and 3rd places between **Louka Waharte** (1416), **Stanley Kwok** (1236), **Noah Math** (1229), **Steven Whitney** (1195), and **Loida Guo** (1188). The top under 1200 prize went to **Ammar Alquatai** (unr.) who scored 2.5 points, while the 2nd place u1200 prize was split between **Joylin Li** (unr.) and **Rick Davis** (unr.) who both scored 2 points.

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

The 1st Richard Shorman Memorial was directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**.

The **2024 Spring Tuesday Night Marathon** ran from March 5 and ended on April 16. This FIDE rated 7-round Swiss had 89 players competing in four sections.

In the 2000+ section FM **Ruiyang Yan** (2349) joined **Alex Shrauger** (2158) in a tie for 1st and 2nd places with a clutch last-round victory over IM **Elliott Winslow** (2197). Both players scored 5.5 points. A full point back with 4.5 points, Winslow shared 3rd and best u2200 with **Archit Dasika** (2220) and WFM **Natalya Tsodikova** (2149).

Michael Walder (1911) turned in a dominating performance in the 1600-1999 section. His perfect 7-0 score was a full point ahead of 2nd place finisher **Hayes Marvin** (1752). **Wilson Wong** (1928) and **Christopher Powers** (1834) shared 3rd place with 5 points apiece. Tied for best u1800 with 4.5 points apiece were **Anubhav Maheshwari** (1458), **Yonathan Admas** (1670), and **Hoa Long Tam** (1647).

Bennett McCutcheon (1154) scored 5.5 points in the 1200-1599 section to take clear 1st, and Mechanics' Institute chess coach **Danny Cao** (1174) took clear 2nd with 5 points. Tied for 3rd and best u1400 were **Dominic Vazquez** (1005) and **Romeo Barreyro** (1514) with 4.5 points each.

In the u1200 section Sanjay D'Mello (unr.) scored an impressive 6.5 points to take clear 1st. In clear 2nd with 6 points was **Charlie Schaezlein** (1154), while **William Dillon** (800) and **Adeline Christiana Ell** (594) shared 3rd and best u1000.

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

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

The 2024 Spring Tuesday Night Marathon was co-directed by FIDE Arbiter **Scott Mason** and International Arbiter **Judit Sztaray**.



FM Ruiyang Yan vs IM Elliott Winslow (foreground), and Marlon Rigel vs WIM Natalya Tsodikova.

Rayna Yan vs Jason Wang.



IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from rounds two through seven of the 2024 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](#).

Dasika,Archit **E97**
2220

Shrauger,Alex Hayden **2158**
 2024 Spring TNM: 2000+ (5.1) 02.04.24
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.d4 6:17 **Nf6** 3 **2.c4** 5 **g6** 2 **3.Nc3** 6
Bg7 1 **4.e4** 7 **d6** 2 **5.Nf3** 6 **0-0** 3 **6.Be2**
5 e5 3 **7.0-0** 7 **Nc6** 2 **8.d5** 7 **Ne7** 3
9.b4 8 **a5** 2 **10.bxa5** 49 **Rxa5** 4 **11.a4**
 36 Black has a pretty wide choice here.
 White's plan is enforce a5, get Black to
 play ...bxa5, then play on the dark
 squares. (c4-c5, xc7) **11...Ra8** 2

[11...b6 is a sort of all-purpose move.]

[Then there was this: 11...Nh5 12.Re1
 f5 13.Bd2 Nf6 At least Black gets the
 kingside play going, at least topically.
 14.Bd3 h6 15.Qb3 Kh8 16.Nh4 f4
 17.Nb5 Ra6 18.c5 g5 19.Nf5 Nxf5
 20.exf5 e4 21.cxd6 exd3-+
 1-0 Nepomniachtchi,I (2782)-Grischuk,
 A (2763) Wch Blitz Almaty 2022 (19)
 but]

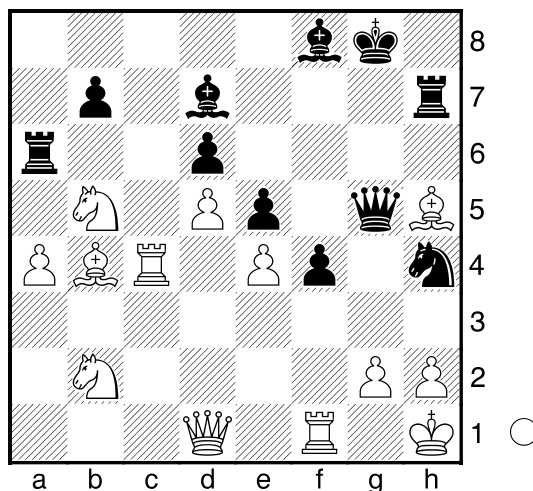
[11...Ne8 thinks about both attack (...
 f7-f5) and defence (xc7, d6) and has
 been seen in a hundred games.]

12.Ra3 7:56 Heading across the 3rd?
 There were other moves to further the
 plan (Ba3-b4, Nd2-b3, Be3/c5) **12...b6**
 6:21

[12...Nd7!?N New and interesting.
 13.Ne1 f5 14.Nd3 Nf6 15.f3 f4
 Now it's looking a bit more like a
 traditional Mar Del Plata variation, with
 the massive pawn-storm! 16.Rb3 g5
 17.c5 Ng6 18.Ba3 Rf7 19.cxd6 cxd6
 20.Nb2 h5 21.Nc4 Ra6 22.Nb5
 White is doing well, but loses the way
 in a few moves. Bf8 23.Rc3

(Stockfish at first prefers the plan
 seen recently in the MDP (9.Ne1):
 23.Kh1!? but then fades on g4!;
 23.Ncxd6 Bxd6 24.Nxd6 Rxd6
 25.Bxd6 Qxd6 26.Qc1± when the

rook and pawn (think of it as the one
 on d5!) create more threats than the
 two knights.) 23...Ne8± 24.Kh1 Rh7
 25.Bb4 Bd7 26.Nb2 White has
 slowed down g4!= 27.fxg4 Nf6?
 (27...hxg4!) 28.gxh5+- Nh4 29.Rc4?
 (29.Qc2; 29.g3) 29...Nhx5! 30.Bxh5
 Qg5



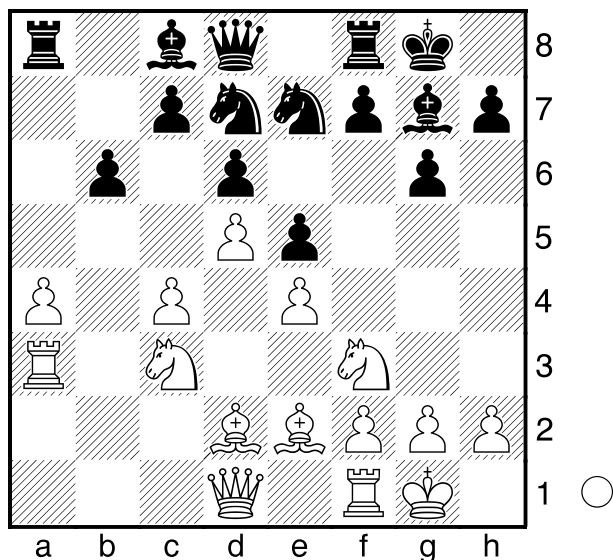
31.Bf3?? (31.Rg1! Rxh5 32.g3!±
 That same plan mentioned above --
 White hides behind the little h-pawn
 and uses the openings on the kingside
 (g-file mostly) better than Black.)
 31...Qg3!! Nice! 32.Kg1 Qxh2+
 33.Kf2 Nxf3 34.Qxf3 Rh3
 0-1 Esipenko,A (2680)-Perez Ponsa,F
 (2532) Chessable Masters Play In
 Chess.com INT rapid 2023 (5)]

[A high-level game: 12...Kh8 13.Re1
 Nd7 14.h3 Ng8 15.Bg5 Bf6 16.Be3
 Bg7 17.Qc1 f5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.Bg5
 1-0 (42) Vidit,S (2726)-Adhiban,B
 (2660) chess24.com INT 2021]

13.Bd2 5:35

[13.Nd2 Kh8 14.a5 c5 15.Bb2 Rxa5
 16.Rxa5 bxa5 17.Nb5 Nh5 18.Bxh5
 gxh5 19.Qxh5 Ng6 20.g3 a4 21.Ra1
 Rg8 22.Rxa4 Bd7 23.Nxd6 Qf6
 24.Nf3 Rb8 25.Nb5 Kg8 26.Bc3
 1-0 Mareco,S (2629)-Henriquez
 Villagra,C (2606) Mexican op 66th
 Villahermosa 2021 (7)]

13...Nd7 36



14.Qc2N 13:47

[One 2600 player made it this far: One 14.Re1 Nc5 (14...f5) 15.Be3 f5 16.Bxc5 dxc5 17.Ng5 Rf6 18.Bf3 Rd6 19.Nb5 Rf6 20.exf5 Bb7 21.Ne6 Qc8 22.Nexc7 gxf5 23.d6 Bxf3 24.Rxf3 e4 25.dxe7 1-0 Chigaev,M (2632)-Petrovskiy,V (2239) Wch Blitz Warsaw 2021 (19)] [14.a5!]

14...Nc5 2:15 15.Be3 16:23 f5

[15...Nb7!]

16.Bxc5 2:39 bxc5 8 17.Rb1± 5:06

fxe4?! 6:25 18.Nxe4 43 Nf5 5 19.Neg5 4:45

[19.a5!]

19...Bh6 14:06 20.Ne6 3:15

Sometimes this is the main theme in the Bayonet Attack -- not so convincing here.

20...Bxe6 6 21.dxe6 5 Qc8 4:19

22.Bd3 2:10 Ne7 40

[22...c6!]

23.a5 7:03 Qxe6 18:49 24.Be4 4:05 c6

47 25.Rb6 43 Qd7 4:41

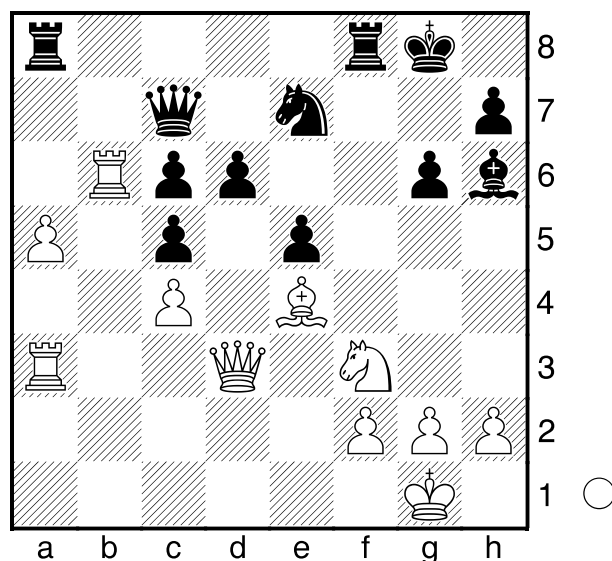
[25...Qc8! 26.g3 d5]

26.Qd3 5:03

[26.Qb1!]

26...Qc7 3:09

(Diagram)



27.Qb1?! 12:21

[27.Qb3!? covers d5 and a3]

27...d5± 8:05 When the center gets rolling, it can turn to Black's favor quickly.

28.Rb7 5:35 Qd6 1:34 29.cxd5? 2:55

[29.Qd1 Rfd8 30.Ne1!±]

29...cxd5 59 30.Rb6 4:37 Qd8-+ 1:23

31.Rd3 3:45

[Stockfish shows as "best" 31.Bxg6 Nxc6 32.Nxe5 Nxe5 33.Rxh6 Qe7-+ but Black should make it work in his favor.]

31...Rxa5 1:43 32.h4 2:07

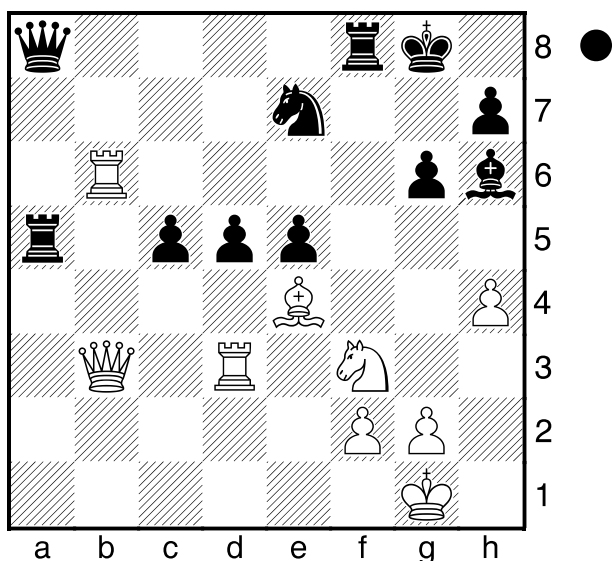
[32.Nxe5?? Qxb6]

32...Qa8 3:04

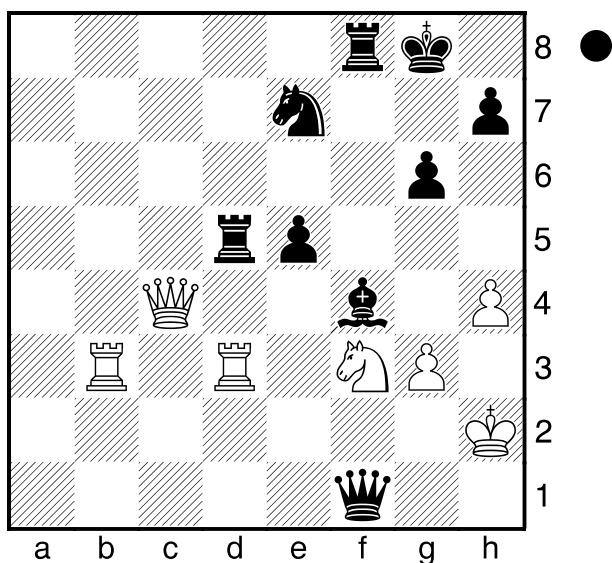
[32...Ra4]

33.Qb3? 1:33

(Diagram)



c4 1:33 34.Bxd5+ 7:08 Rxd5 4:23
35.Qxc4 53 Qa1+ 2:33 36.Kh2 33 Qf1
 12 Who is pinning whom? Black is now
 up a clear piece, but there's more to it
 than that.
 [36...Bf4+ is more accurate, but hey.]
37.Rbb3 2:02
 [37.Rd4 best try Qxc4 38.Rxc4 Nf5]
37...Bf4+! 24 38.g3 1:16 Qxf2+ 14
39.Kh1 15 Qf1+ 35 40.Kh2 3



Bxg3+! 24 with a nice checkmate
 coming.
0-1

B23
 2158
Yan,Ruiyang
 2349
 2024 Spring TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 09.04.24
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Alex had a lot of gifts this tournament:
 Rigel dropped a pawn in the opening, I,
 in a won position, didn't notice that his
 move threatened to take a bishop (he did).
 And this gamelet. 1.e4 1:08:37 c5 1:03
 2.Nc3 3 d6 6 3.Bb5+ 3 Bd7 4 4.Bxd7+
 3 Qxd7 5 5.d4 2 cxd4 5 6.Qxd4 4 Nc6
 5 7.Qd3 1 g6 12 8.Nf3 1 Bg7 8 9.0-0 4
 Nf6 2 10.Nd5 4 0-0 5 11.Bg5 2 Ne8 7
 12.e5 2 Kh8 8:04 13.Rad1 6:34 dxe5
 18:49 14.Nxe7 9:41 Qxd3 3:33 15.cxd3
 5 Nd8 19 16.Nd5 3:57 f6 30 17.Be3 10
 Ne6 4 18.Nc3 3:28 With this agreed
 draw Shrauger crossed over into Master!
 He opted to not play the last round,
 guaranteeing at least a tie for first, but
 also that his 2200+ rating would be
 published.
 1/2-1/2

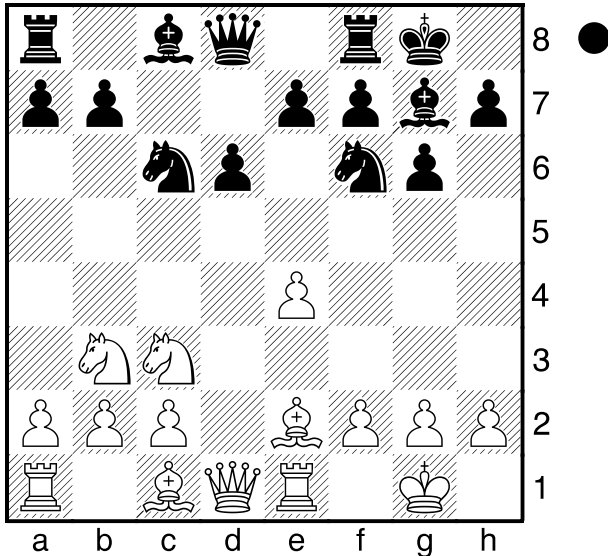
B70
 2349
Yan,Ruiyang
 2197
 2024 Spring TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 16.04.24
 [Winslow,Elliott C]

The situation: if either of us wins, that
 person ties with Shrauger for 1st-2nd
 (and as it turned out, the other (me) gets
 a share of 3rd-place). We've played quite
 a few times. I really wanted to win! **1.e4**
 2:59 **c5 1:24 2.Nf3 4 d6 1:31 3.d4 1:35**
cx d4 7 4.Nxd4 4 Nf6 6 5.Nc3 5 g6
 3:20 I was taking a risk here -- Ruiyang
 has played two ways, as she did here
 and the old 9.0-0-0 in the Yugoslav
 Attack. I haven't gone over the recent
 ideas the dozen or so times it takes me
 to remember things these days, so I was

still thinking I had it... <cough> **6.Be2**
12:26

[6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0
9.0-0-0]

6...Bg7 41 **7.0-0** 5 **0-0** 5 **8.Re1** 3
Her favorite line. **8...Nc6** 9 **9.Nb3** 4



a5 21 Is this too soon? Possibly.
[9...a6 could have come from a
Najdorf, and so that position has been
played quite a few times.]
[9...Be6 10.Bf1 when *now* a5!
11.a4 is the perfect time to play the
"freeing" (it's never that simple though)
d5! The best line is the sharp 12.Nc5
Qb6 13.exd5 Rad8 14.Be3 Qxb2
15.Qc1 Qxc1 16.Raxc1 Nxd5
17.Nxe6 fxe6 with plenty of play for
both sides, but nobody stands better.
That's one of the things I'd looked at
and promptly misremembered.]
[9...b6!? is another way to go.]

10.a4 2:49 The "automatic" response.
[But 10.Bb5!? could well be better.
Bg4!? (10...Be6 11.Bg5!) 11.f3 Bd7
could well be cutting edge (if seven
years ago). Here's a 2640 v 2640
battle: 12.Be3 Ne5 (12...Na7!
13.Bf1 b5=) 13.a4 Bxb5 14.Nxb5
Nc4 15.Bd4 e5 16.Qe2 Rc8 17.Bf2
d5 18.Nc5 b6 19.exd5 Nxb2 20.c4

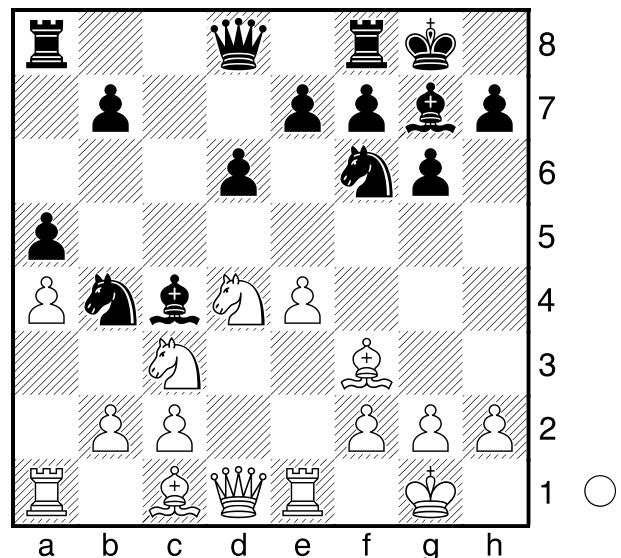
Nxc4 21.Qxc4 bxc5 22.Rad1 Nd7
23.Na7± White is doing well -- until he
isn't. (It's a rapid game) Rc7 24.Nc6
Qa8 25.Rb1 Nb8 26.Bxc5 Rfc8
27.Rxb8 Rxb8 28.Bd6 Rbc8 29.Bxc7
Rxc7 30.Rb1 Bf8 31.g3 Qa7+
32.Kg2 Qe3 33.Rb8 Qd2+ 34.Kh3
Kg7 35.Qe4 Bd6 36.Rb3 f5 37.Qd3
Qf2 38.Rb1 Kf6 39.Rf1 Qa2 40.Re1
Rb7 41.Re2 Qxa4 42.Nxe5 Qa1
43.Kg2 Bc5 44.Qa6+ Rb6 45.Nd7+
Kg5 46.Qc8 Qg1+ 47.Kh3 Qf1+
48.Rg2 Qxf3 49.Qd8+ Kh6 50.Qh4+
Kg7 51.Nxb6 h5 52.d6 Qg4+
0-1 Kovalenko,I (2640)-Fridman,D
(2640) Liepajas Rokade Super rapid
2017 (7)]

10...Nb4!? 1:43 I thought it was bad after
I played it

[10...Be6 when 11.Bb5!? is unique.
But 11...Nb4 might be best anyway!]

11.Bf3± 6:24 **Be6** 4:05 **12.Nd4** 9:54
[12.Nd5]

12...Bc4 1:43



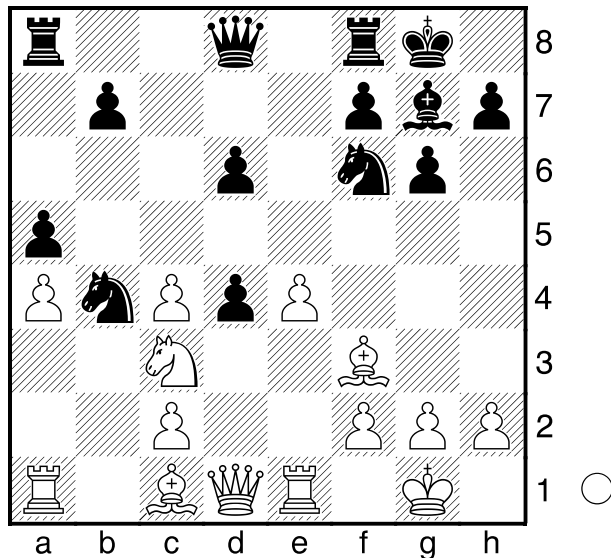
13.b3?! 8:40 Too loose, and subject to
tactics!

[13.Bg5]
[13.Ndb5]

13...e5!? 2:08

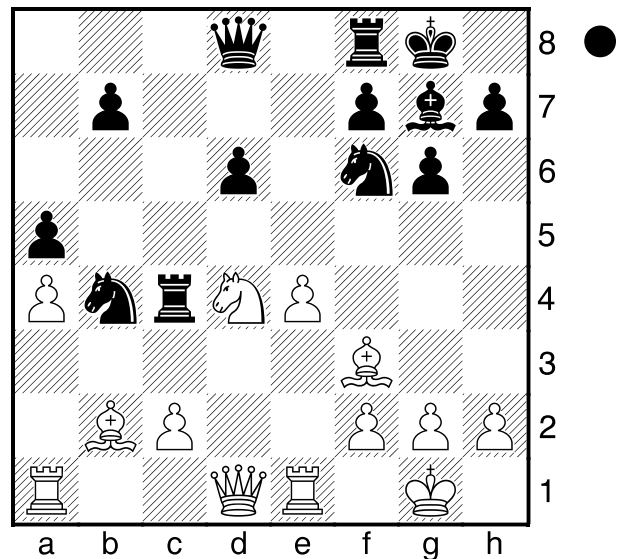
[Stockfish considers equally good (and

a lot saner): 13...Ba6 14.Ncb5 e5
 15.c3 exd4 or maybe not so sane!]
14.bxc4 26:21 I couldn't believe she'd
 play this! But it's best by box. Meanwhile,
 she's really burning the clock. **14...exd4** 8

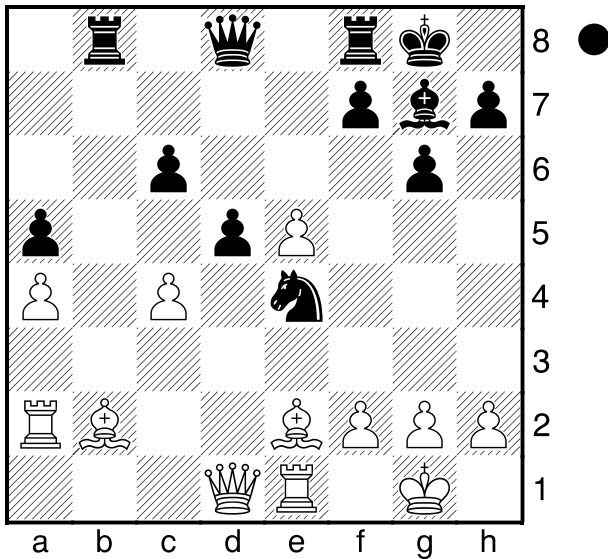


15.Nb5!= 3 as is this **15...Rc8** 4:02
 [15...Nd7 first is maybe better, so I
 can get to e5 in a hurry. 16.Nxd6??
 d3-+]
16.Bb2 2:24 played too fast.
 [16.Bf4!± Rxc4 17.Nxd6!?
 (17.Bxd6!? Nxc2!? 18.Rc1 Nxe1
 19.Rxc4 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Nh5!=)
 17...Rc7]
16...Rxc4?! 1:23 as was this!
 [Again 16...Nd7 is best; I had a hard
 time believing 17.Nxd6 Rc7! 18.Nb5
 Rxc4=]
17.Nxd4?! 1:33
 [17.Na3! and 18.Bxd4 is some plus
 for White.]

(Diagram)



17...d5! 2:55 Typical Sicilian. **18.Be2**
 17:35 Best again -- but these moves are
 costing her even more time. She had
 28:16 left to my 1:32:55. Over an hour
 advantage! **18...Rc8** 2:40 **19.c3** 5 **Nc6**
 1:06
 [19...Na6!? some little plus.]
20.Nxc6?! 1:51
 [20.exd5 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Nxd5=]
20...bxc6 19 **21.e5** 48
 [21.exd5 Qb6!±]
21...Ne4 5:24 **22.c4** 32
 [22.Bf3]
22...Rb8!? 7:35 (clock: 1:18:50
 remaining) I was envisioning some wild
 tactics but couldn't see them through to
 clarity...
 [22...Qb6! 23.Bd4 (23.Qd4 Qxd4
 24.Bxd4 c5 25.Bb2 Rb8!±
 so that ...d4 can be played) 23...c5
 and ...d4 24.Rb1! Qc7 25.Ba1 Bxe5
 (25...d4?? 26.Bg4+-) 26.Bxe5
 Qxe5±]
23.Ra2! 8:54 (clock: 16:33 remaining)
 Confession: I didn't expect this at all!
 Could she be thinking Qd1-a1, a la the
 famous Reti Opening maneuver!?
 [I expected 23.Rb1 which should
 (<ahem>) just transpose...]



23...Re8?! 16:26

[Compy considers 23...Rb4!? 2nd best. Aaaa!]

[Meanwhile, 23...Rxb2! Well of course that is what I was thinking about all that time! (and I had lots of extra time to think) 24.Rxb2 Bxe5

A) After a while I was even more worried about 25.Rb3 since I thought Bxh2+ failed. Just a moment though...

A1) 26.Kf1?? Qh4 27.Rg3 (27.Rf3? See 25.Rc2 below :-)) 27...Bxg3;

A2) 26.Kxh2! Black get a lot of pawns, and the e-file pin is quite annoying, and -- Black comes out okay! It *is* a Dragon after all... 26...Qh4+ 27.Rh3 Qf4+ 28.Kg1 Qxf2+ 29.Kh1 Ng5 It turns out that Black has compensation for a rook! 30.Ra3! (30.Rh2! Re8 31.cxd5 cxd5 32.g3! Ne4 33.Rg2 Qe3 34.Qc1 Nxc3+ 35.Kh2 Nf5 36.Qxe3 Nxe3 (!) 37.Rgg1 Nc2 38.Rc1 Rxe2+ 39.Rg2 Rxc2+ 40.Kxg2 Ne3+ 41.Kf2 Nc4 42.Rb1=);

B) But after all this is said and done, there's 25.Rc2 Bc3! 26.Rb3

imagined I should be going in that direction)

B1) 26.Rf1 d4 27.Bd3 (27.Bf3?! Nc5 28.Bxc6 Qf6 29.Qf3 Qxf3 30.Bxf3 Rd8 and it's really all about that d-pawn.) 27...Nc5 28.Rb3

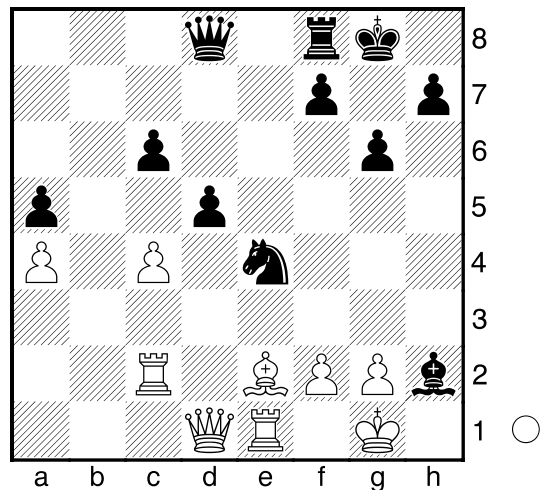
B2) 26.cxd5!? Bxe1 27.Qxe1 cxd5;

C) 25.Rb3 Bc3! 26.Rb3 is even stronger than on 25.Rc2 since ...Nc5 will hit the rook.;

D) 25.Rc2

D1) Again: Black keeps it going (but eventually just equality) with: 25...Bc3! 26.cxd5! (26.Rf1 d4! 27.Bd3 Nc5);

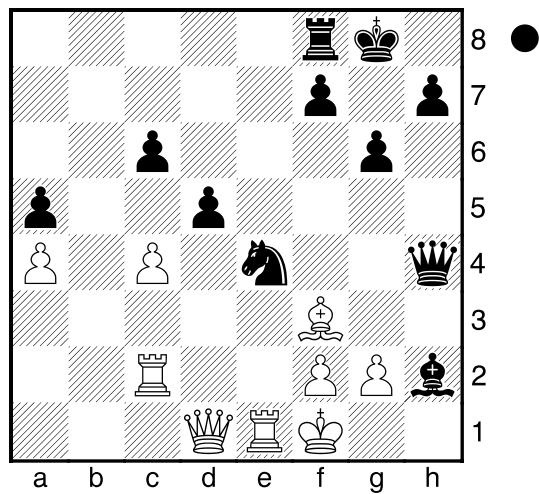
D2) 25...Bxh2+!?



This is of course the exciting line. I just couldn't see it through, plus it lets White take a draw. But there was a fair possibility that Ruiyang would be affected by her time shortage. Would it encourage her to take the draw on that alone? Had she seen there was no choice?? **|** certainly hadn't, and thought there was!

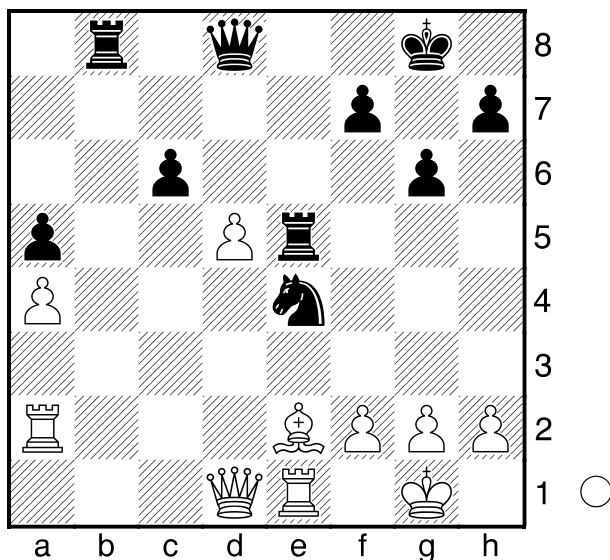
D2a) 26.Kf1?? This is what worried me -- I hadn't noticed that this flat-out LOSES. Qh4

27.Bf3 (27.Qd4 Ng3+
28.fxg3 Qxd4 mate soon.)



and now what I missed:
27...Qxf2+!! 28.Rxf2 Ng3#;
D2b) 26.Kxh2! Qh4+ 27.Kg1
Qxf2+□= Black has a
perpetual but nothing more.]

24.cxd5 3:25 Bxe5 14:34 25.Bxe5 13
Rxe5 36



26.dxc6? 1:25

[26.Qa1! Qxd5 27.Bc4! Qc5 28.Rc2
Qb4! 29.g3! Ree8=]

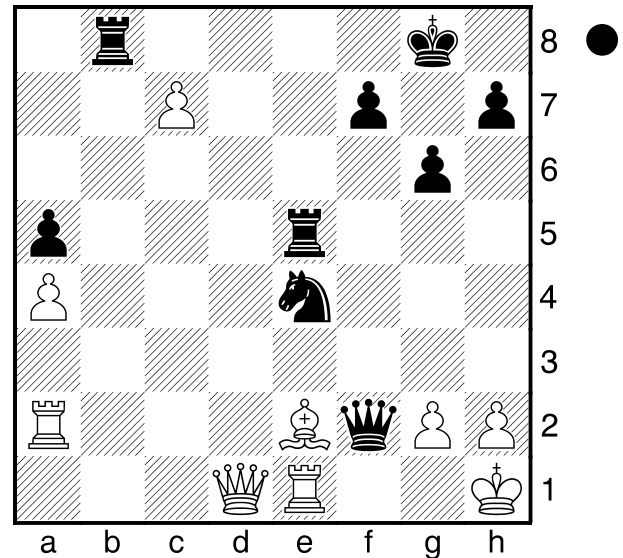
[26.Rc2]

[26.Qc1]

[26.Qd4]

26...Qb6 1:05 27.c7! 3:21 Qxf2+! 8:52

28.Kh1 4



Rbe8??+- 2:05 I'd forgotten the value of
the classic line by Nimzovich in his opus
My System: "The passed Pawn is a
criminal, who should be kept under lock
and key. Mild measures, such as police
surveillance, are not sufficient." Indeed.
Frankly, it's the best thing in the book.
Nimzovich felt compelled to state his
concepts so strongly, and some of them
are bunk -- but it's a great read
regardless.

[28...Rc8! 29.Rf1 (best) when any of
the queen retreats c5, b6 or a7 would
be a clear plus.]

29.Rc2 3:15 and Black falls apart.

29...Qe3 25:53 Sure, *now* I use my
time.

[29...Qh4 30.Bf1! Rc8 31.Kg1 Rxc7
32.Rxe4! Rxe4 33.Rxc7 Rxa4+-]

30.Rf1 25 Nc3 4:22 31.Qd7 51 Nxe2
1:18 32.Qxf7+ 2 Kh8 33.Qf6+ 2 Kg8 1
34.c8Q 26 Rf5 3:43 35.Qc4+ 1 Yech.
1-0

□ Lewis,Edward

■ Dasika,Archit

A11

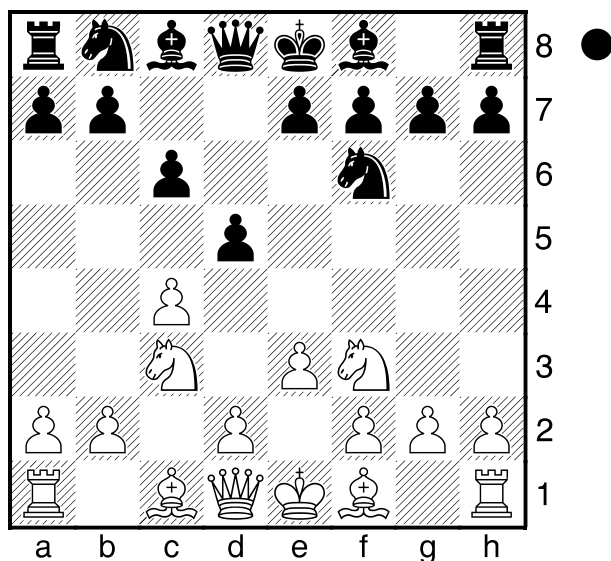
1967

2220

2024 Spring TNM: 2000+ (6.3) 09.04.2024

[Lewis,Edward/(Winslow,Elliott)]

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3



Ed Lewis variation 4...g6 Transpose

5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3

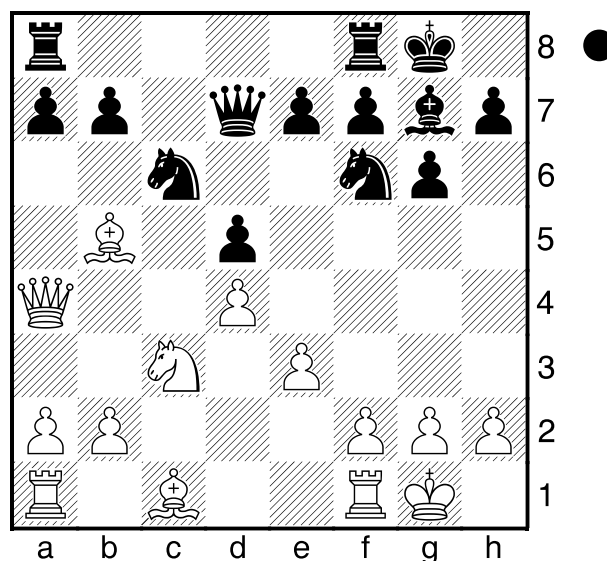
[Relevant: 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.Ne5 Bd7
8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.d4 e6
11.Na4 Bd6 12.Bd2 0-0 13.Rc1 Rc8
14.0-0 h5 15.h3 Ne4 16.Qe2 Bb8
17.Be1 Qd6 18.f4 Qe7 19.Nc5 Nxc5
20.Rxc5 Bd6 21.Rc2 c5 22.Bc3 c4
23.e4 dxe4 24.Qxe4 Rfd8 25.Kh1
Bb4 26.g4 Bxc3 27.bxc3 Qh4
28.Rg1 hxc4 29.Rh2 g3 30.Qe1
Qxf4 31.Rxg3 Rc6 32.Rhg2 Rb8
33.Rg4 Qd6 34.Qe4 Kf8 35.Rxg6
Ke7 1-0 Bachmann,A (2604)-Sasikiran,
K (2604) Chessable Masters Play In
Chess.com INT rapid 2023 (4)]

6...Bg7 7.Bb5+ Not needed here,
wastes time, Black is slightly better

7...Nc6 8.Ne5 Qd6 9.Qa4? Bd7?

[9...0-0 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bxc6 Rb8!
-2.00 White is up a pawn but not
castled, Black is better here]

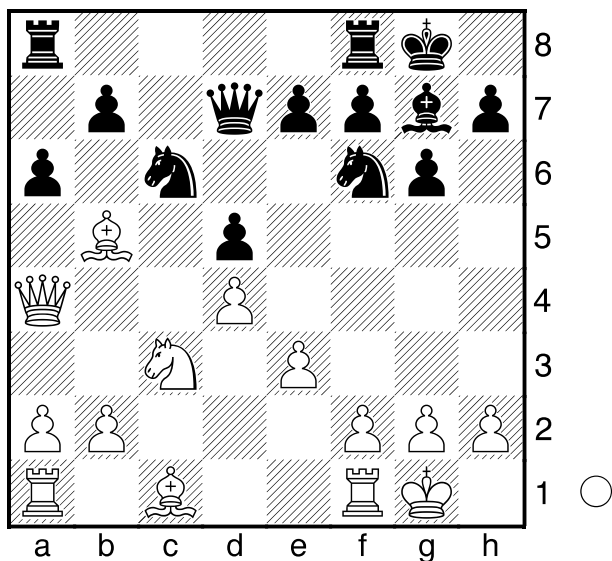
10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.d4 0-0 12.0-0



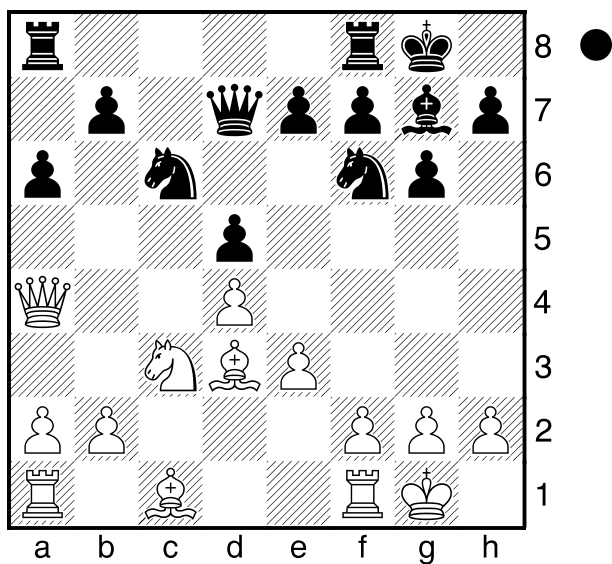
a6N

[Predecessor: 12...Rfc8 13.Bd2 a6
14.Bxc6 Rxc6 15.Rac1 Rac8 16.a3
Qf5 17.Qd1 b5 18.Qe2 Ne8 19.h3
Nd6 20.g4 Qe6 21.b3 R8c7 22.Qd3
h5 23.f3 f5 24.Ne2 Bh6 25.gxh5
gxh5 26.Rxc6 Rxc6 27.Kf2 Kf7
28.Rg1 Qf6 29.Kg2 Ne4 30.Be1
Rc8 31.Kf1 Rg8 32.Rxg8 Kxg8
33.a4 Nd6 34.axb5 axb5 35.Nc3
Qe6 36.f4 Kf7 37.Bd2 b4 38.Na2
Ne4 39.Nxb4 Qg6 40.Be1 h4
41.Nxd5 Ng3+ 42.Bxg3 1-0 Duda,K
(1572)-Potempa,D (2031) Duisburg
Grossenbaum op 2005 (2)]

(Diagram)

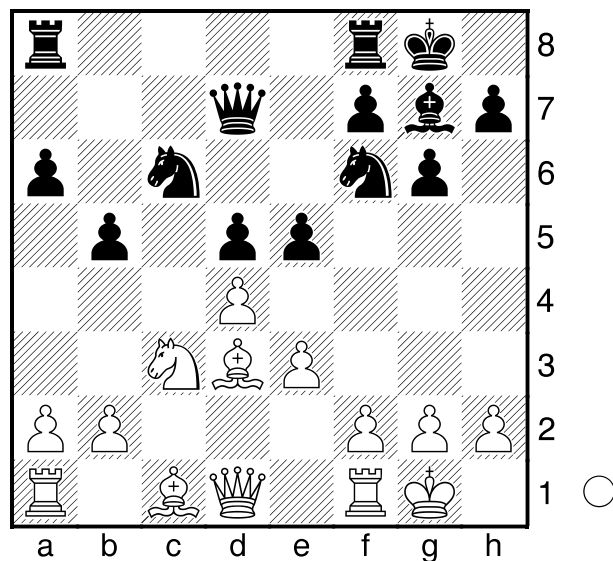


Pivotal moment **13.Bd3??**



Wrong answer **13...b5 14.Qd1 e5!**

(Diagram)



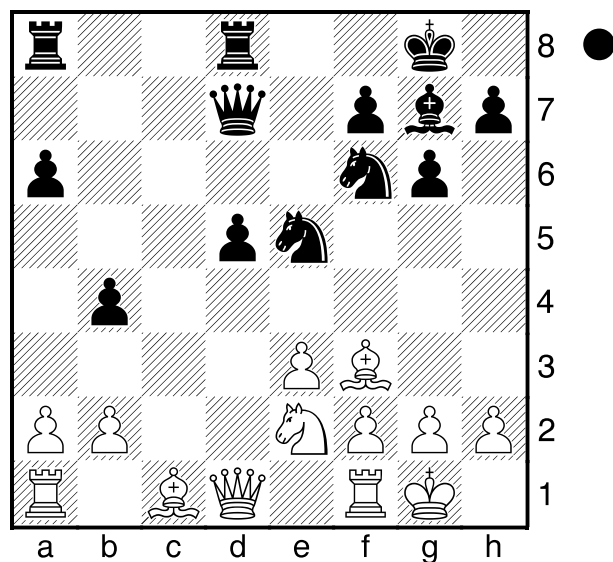
15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Be2 Rfd8

17.Bf3? -+ Black is better, White is trying to ease the position and find a scope of freedom that he had when he should have taken the knight on c6 and broken Black's pawn structure. **17...b4?!**

[17...Rac8]

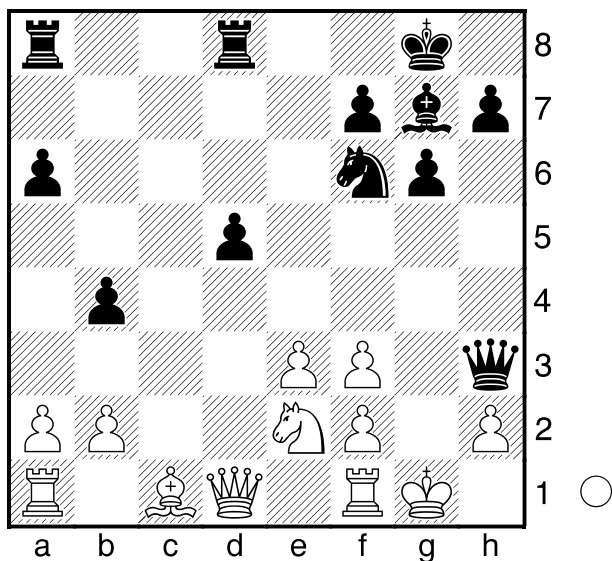
[17...Qf5]

18.Ne2

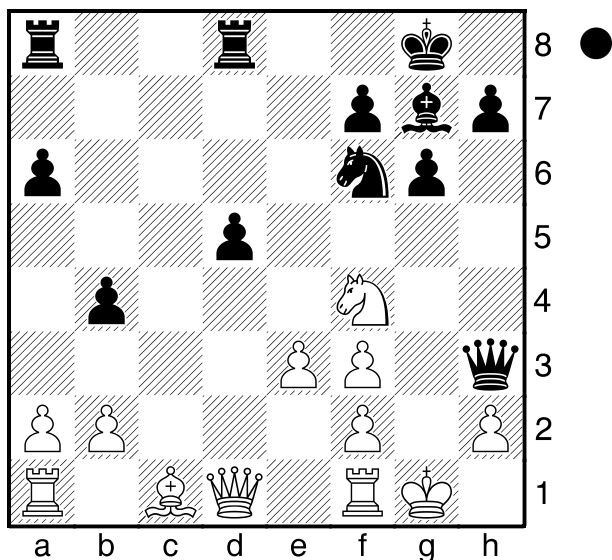


Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Qh3

(Diagram)



Black is relentless in his pursuit of the king's crown **20.Nf4**

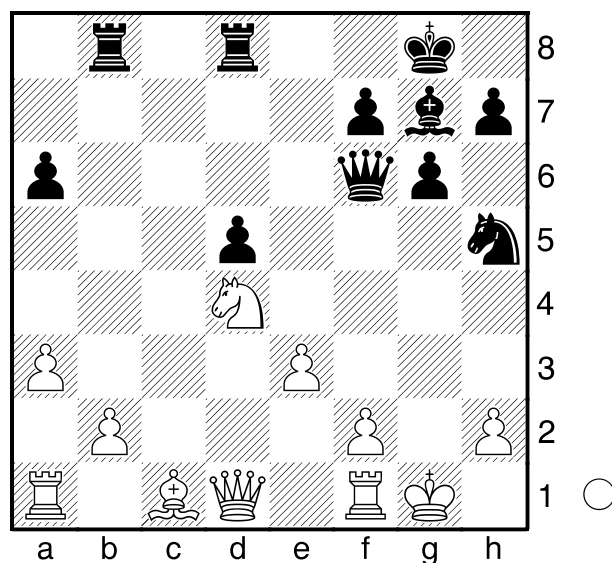


Since I have a worse position, time for some Ed Lewis razzle dazzle come get me play **20...Qf5 21.Qd3 Qg5+ 22.Kh1 Qh4 23.Ne2?!-+ Nh5 24.a3 b3! 25.Qxb3?**

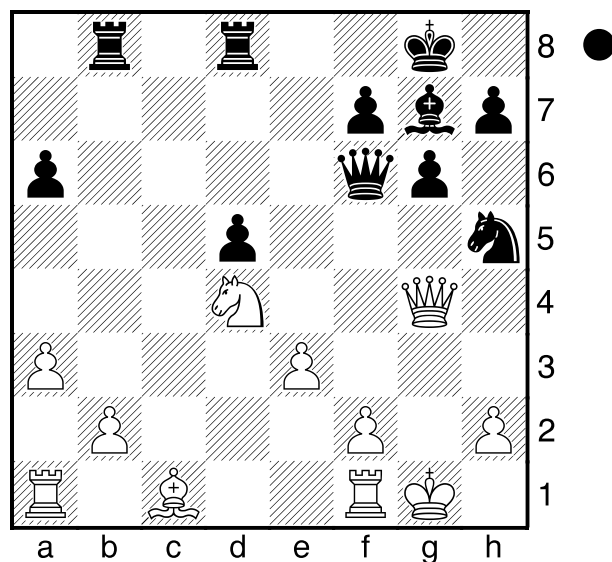
[(ew) 25.Kg2!± Rab8!]
25...Qh3!-+ 26.Qd1 Qxf3+ 27.Kg1 Rab8? 28.Nd4

[(ew) 28.Ng3! Qf6 (28...Qxd1 29.Rxd1 Nxc3 30.hxc3 Bxb2 31.Bxb2 Rxb2 32.Rd4 just another pawn-up drawn rook endgame.)

29.Nxh5 gxh5 30.Qxh5=] 28...Qf6

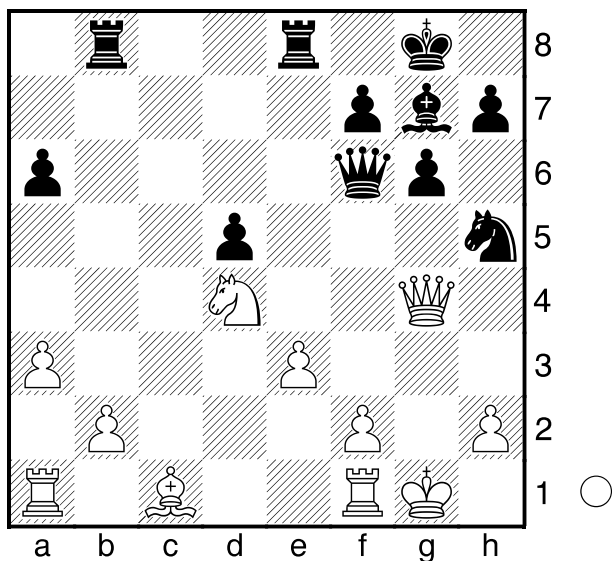


29.Qg4

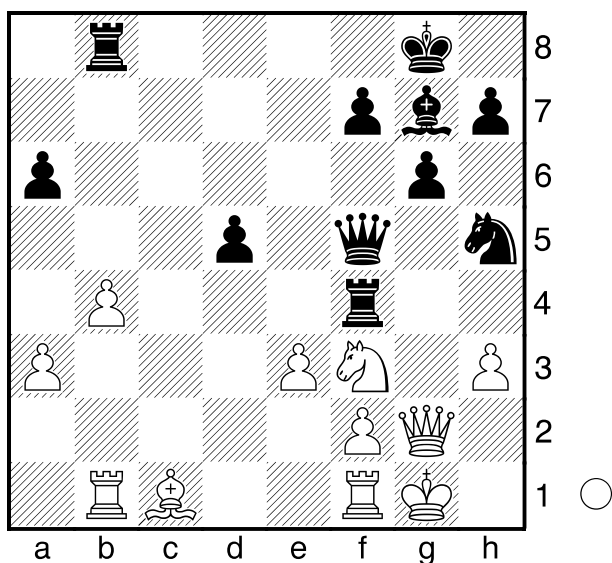


Finally gaining some freedom and taking over the white squares, black is still better in this position **29...Re8**

(Diagram)

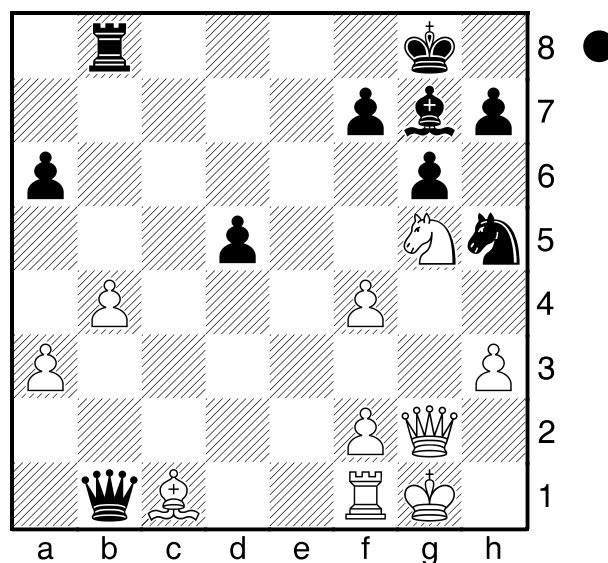


30.b4 White is finally trying to make space but black is precise in cramping the attempt. **30...Re4 31.Qg2 Qh4**
 [(ew) Off and on, Stockfish has 31...Nf4!-+ as the best move.]
32.Nf3 Qg4 33.Rb1 Qf5 34.h3
 NM Archit Dasika is a positional player with deep insight but the schematics of the squares in this position cannot be exploited by mere will **34...Rf4?! !?!**

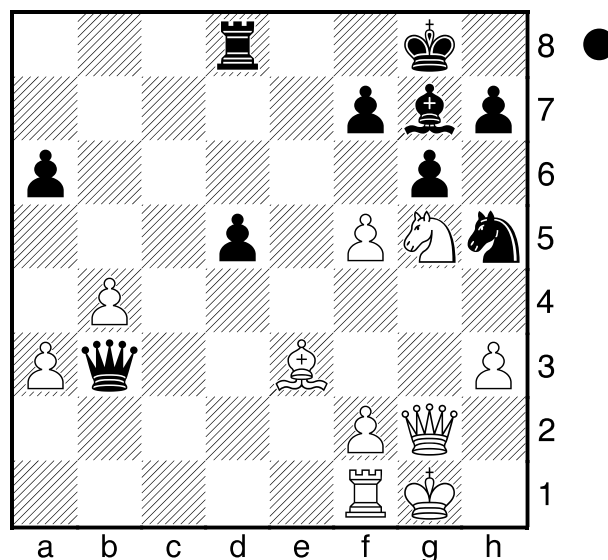


Fancy and forceful, but is it the right path to take? **35.exf4!?** **Qxb1 36.Ng5?!**
 [36.Ne5 is Stockfish's best, with good chances of achieving a balance. Bxe5

37.fxe5 Qd3!?



White attempts to distort the field, sacs are looming, but NM Dasika is not having any of it **36...Rd8 37.Be3 Qb3**
 [(ew) 37...Qa2! is better, for some reason I can't ascertain at first, but it's control of d2.]
38.f5!



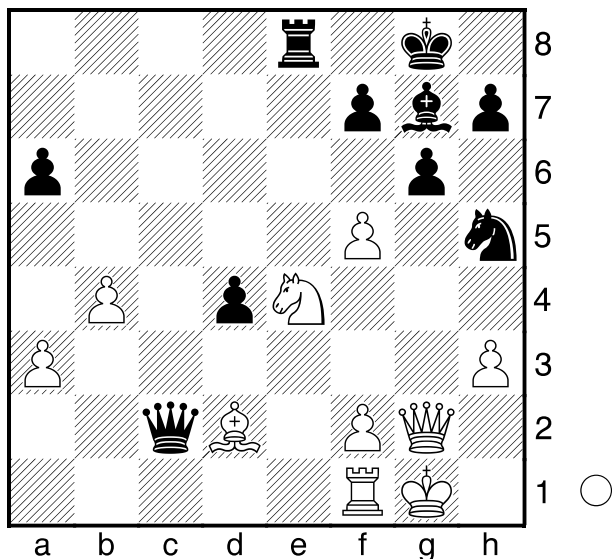
White is trying to mix it up and press forward in a worse position **38...d4**
 [38...Bf6!?

39.Bd2 Qc2 Just pure positional strength and awareness. Hitting the

Bd2 and the f5 pawn as punishment for distorting the field and being aggressive.
So: **40.Ne4** Tosses some more wood on the fire and distort the field even more!

40...Re8?

[40...Bf8!±]



41.f3??

[41.Nd6! Rd8 (41...Rf8) 42.Bg5! Bf6 (42...Rxd6?? 43.Qa8+ Bf8 44.Be7!+-) 43.Rc1!=]

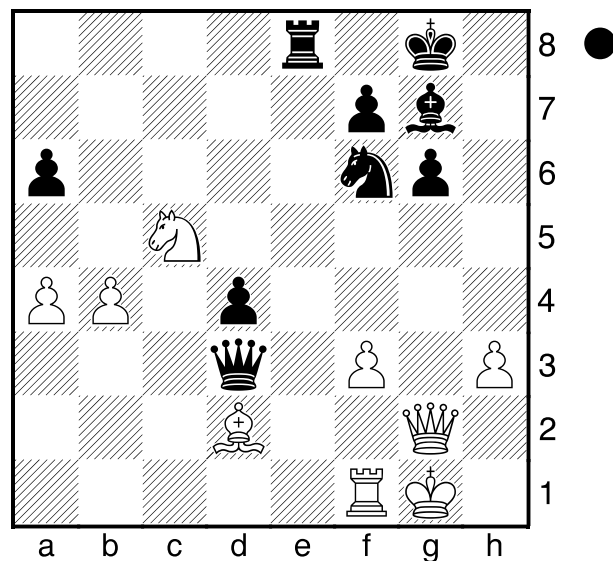
41...Qd3

[41...Qa2-+]

[41...d3!-+ (ew) Advanced passed pawn, safer king, weak a3-pawn: the plusses pile up to a winning position.]

42.fxg6 hxg6 43.a4 Nf6 44.Nc5

(Diagram)



Qc4 (ew) Seems sensible to hang on to the a-pawn,

[but 44...Qf5! 45.Nxa6 Nd5-+ starts to get nasty.]

45.Rc1 Qa2 46.Re1?!

[46.Qf2]

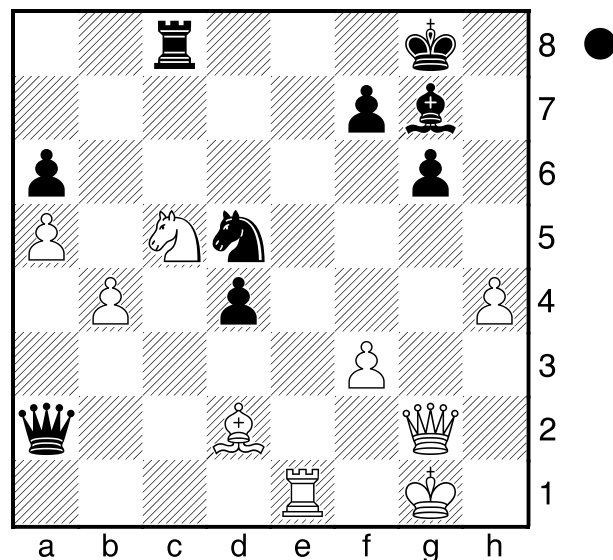
46...Rc8?!

[46...Rxe1+ 47.Bxe1 Qb1 48.Qe2 Bh6-+]

47.a5!? Nd5?!

[47...Nh5 48.f4 Bh6±]

48.h4!±

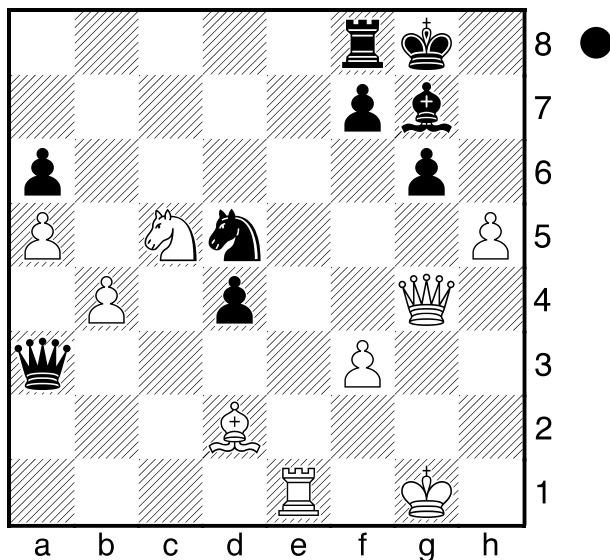


Qa3? 49.Qg4

[49.Qh3!± even]

49...Rf8= 50.h5?

[50.Qe4! Nc3 51.Qf4=]



Hard to believe that black is STILL better here **50...gxh5?** Finally a mistake from the positional monster

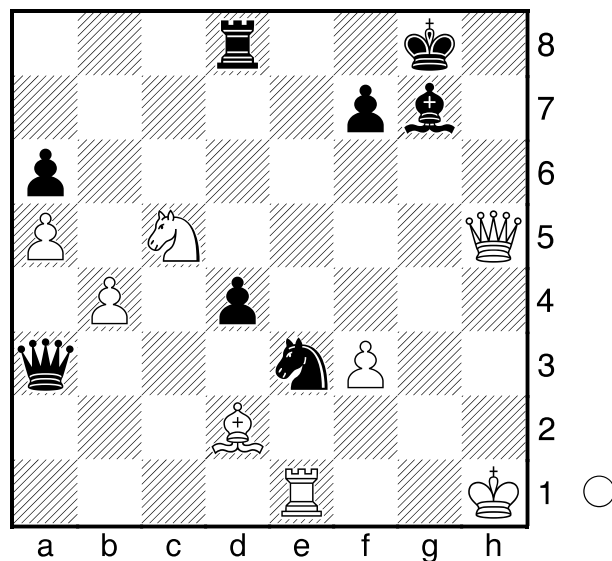
[50...Nf6 -0.97 51.Qxd4 Nxf5 52.Qd5 Qb2 53.Ne4! White holds together.]

51.Qxh5± 1.50 White is better! **51...Ne3**

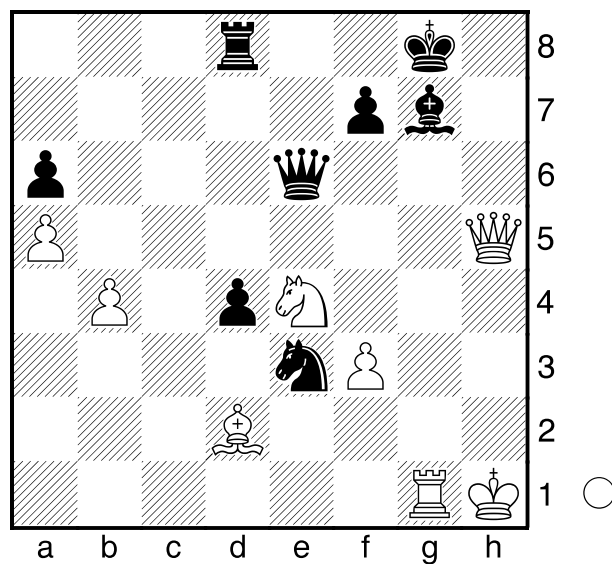
52.Kh1! Preparing to attack *Black's* king with everything left. **52...Rd8?!**

[52...Rc8! 53.Rg1! Rc6! 54.Nd7! Nc4! 55.Qd5!±]

(Diagram)

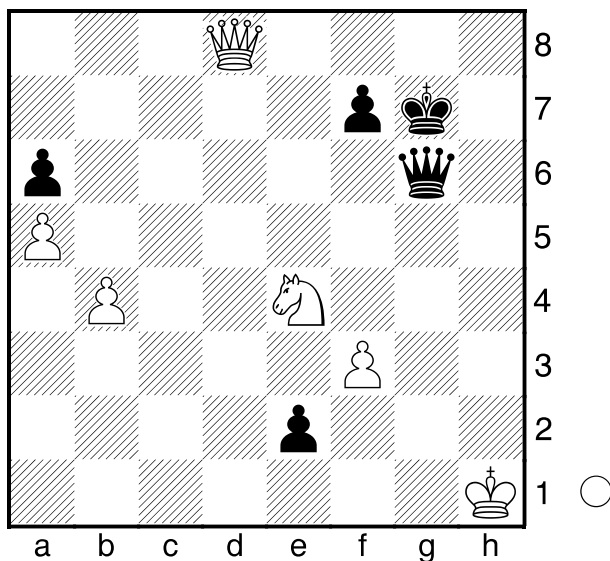


53.Ne4!+- Qb3 54.Rg1 Qe6



can you find the combo? **55.Bxe3 dxe3 56.Rxg7+! Kxg7 57.Qg5+ Qg6 58.Qxd8+- e2**

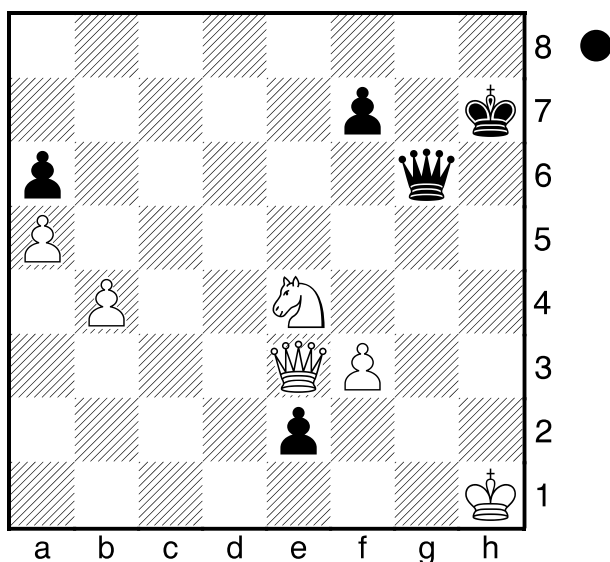
(Diagram)



59.Qd4+! (only move!) **59...Kh7**

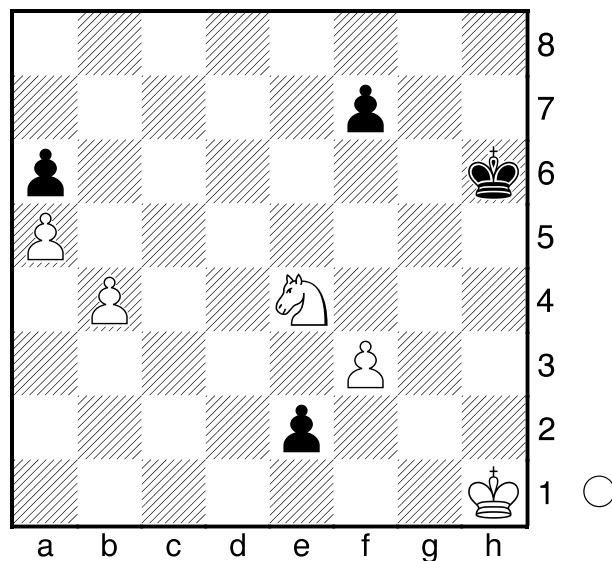
60.Qe3??

[60.Qf2! Again, the only move -- but it's a win. No more tricks!]



NM Archit Dasika has one last trick to save himself, 1 min on clock, and he finds it. **60...Qh6+! 61.Qxh6+ Kxh6**

(Diagram)



White resigns. Good game, interesting ideas.

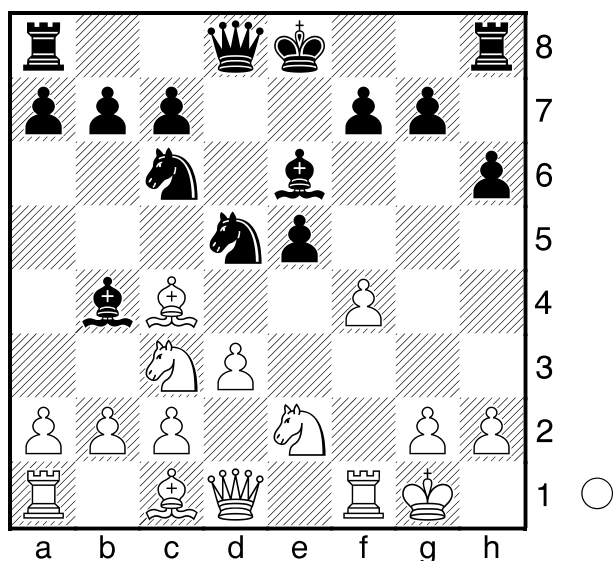
0-1

C28
 2149
Qiu,Laurie
 2064
 2024 Spring TNM: 2000+ (2.4) 12.03.24
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 h6 5.f4 Bb4 6.Nge2

[Relevant: 6.Nf3 d5 7.fxe5 Nxe4 8.dxe4 dxc4 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Bd2 c6 11.0-0-0 Be7 12.Ne2 Ne6 13.Be3 g6 14.Rd2 b5 15.Rhd1 Bb7 16.Rd7 Bc8 17.Rxa7 Rxa7 18.Bxa7 0-0 19.Bb8 Bc5 20.c3 Be3+ 21.Kc2 c5 22.Bd6 Bb7 23.Nd2 Ra8 24.a3 Bc6 25.Re1 b4 26.cxb4 Ba4+ 27.Kc3 Nd4 28.Nxc4 Bf2 29.Bxc5 Nb5+ 30.Kd2 Bxe1+ 31.Kxe1 Re8 32.Kd2 f6 33.Nb6 Bb3 34.exf6 Rxe4 35.Nc3 Nxc3 1-0 Pridorozhni,A (2500)-Agibileg,U (2445) Ugra-Mongolia m Khanty-Mansiysk rapid 2023 (3.2)]

6...d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Be6
 (Diagram)



9.Bb5?

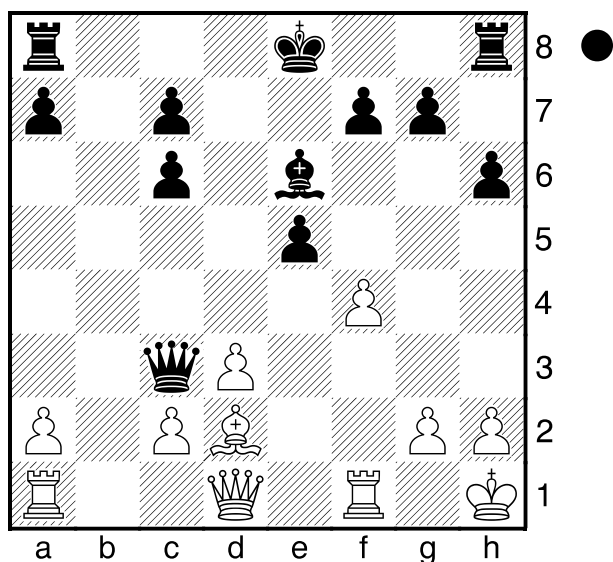
[9.Kh1 Nxf4! 10.Nxf4 exf4 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Qh5+ Kd7! 13.Bxf4±]

9...Nxc3

[9...exf4=]

10.bxc3 Bxc3! 11.Bxc6+ bxc6

12.Nxc3 Qd4+ 13.Kh1 Qxc3 14.Bd2



Qd4!?N

[Predecessor: 14...Qc5 15.f5 Bd7 16.Qe1 f6 17.Bb4 Qd4 18.c3 Qxd3 19.Rd1 Qc4 20.Rd4 Qf7 21.Bc5 Rg8 22.Qe2 g6 23.Rfd1 Bxf5 24.Qa6 exd4 25.Qxc6+ Qd7 26.Qxa8+ Kf7 27.Qxa7 d3 28.Bd4

Be4 29.Rd2 Qc6 30.Rf2 Ra8

31.Rxf6+ Qxf6 32.Qxc7+ Qe7

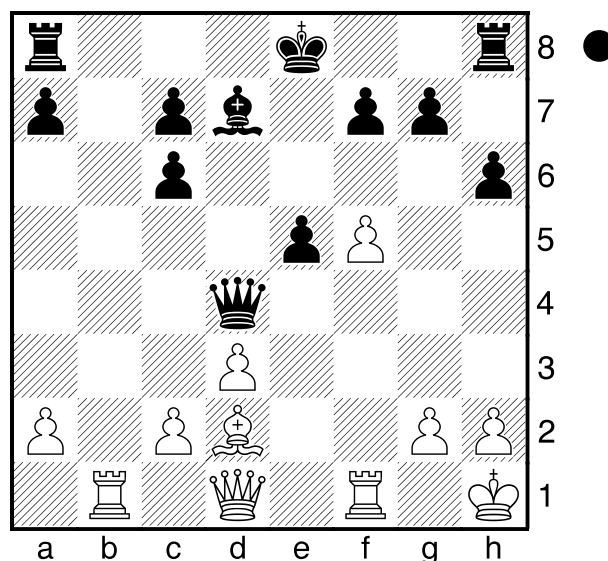
33.Qc4+ Qe6 34.Qc7+ Ke8

0-1 Dopita,B (2100)-Kriz,L (2099) CZE-ch opA U18 Frymburk 2002 (7)]

15.f5!?

[15.Qf3]

15...Bd7 16.Rb1



f6!?= Looks almost suicidal at first, but Black keeps it together.

[16...Qd5!? 17.Rb7 c5 18.Rxc7 Qd6

19.Qf3 Qxc7! 20.Qxa8+ Qc8 21.Qd5

0-0 22.f6 Bc6 23.Qxe5 Qg4=

sharp!]

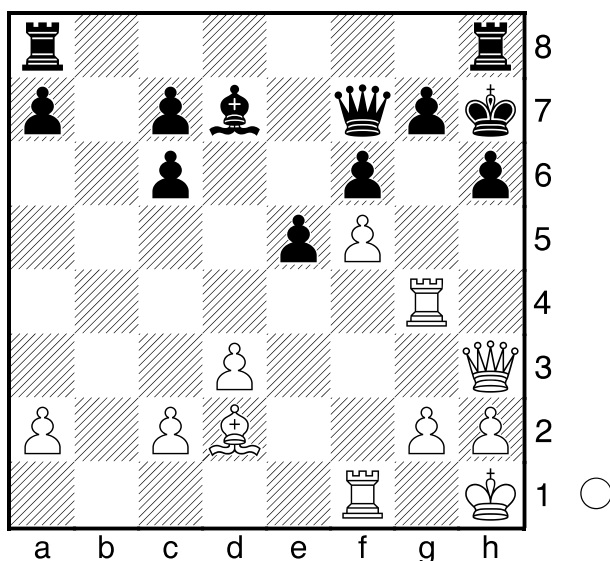
17.Rb4 Qd5 18.Qh5+?! Qf7 19.Qf3

0-0

[19...Qxa2!?]

20.Rg4 Kh7 21.Qh3 Rh8

(Diagram)



22.Rh4?! Qf8?! 23.Qg3 Be8 24.Qe3
 Rb8 25.Qxa7 Rb2 26.Rc4 Bf7
 [26...Qd6]
 27.Bc1?
 [27.Rxc6=]
 27...Bxc4 28.Bxb2 Bd5 29.c4 Bf7
 30.Qxc7 Bh5 31.h3 Be2
 [31...Qc5!]
 32.Rf2 Bxd3 33.Qxc6 Qb4
 [33...Qb8!]
 34.Kh2 Qxc4 35.Qf3 Rb8
 [35...Rc8]
 36.Qh5 Qc5 37.Rd2 e4 38.g3 Qb4
 39.Rg2 Qb6 40.Bc1 e3 41.Rb2 Qc7
 42.Rxb8 Qxb8 43.Bxe3 Qb2+ 44.Kg1
 Qb1+ 45.Kg2 Qc2+ 46.Bf2 Be4+
 47.Kf1 Qb1+ 48.Be1 Bxf5 49.Qf3
 Bxh3+ 50.Kf2 Qxa2+ 51.Kg1 Qb1
 52.Kf2 Qc2+ 53.Kg1 Bf5 54.Qf2 Qb1
 55.Kh2 Be4 56.g4 Qd1 57.Qg3 Qe2+
 58.Bf2 Bf3 59.Kg1 Bxg4 60.Be3 Bf5
 61.Qf4 Bg6 62.Bd2 Qd1+ 63.Kf2 Bd3
 64.Ke3 Qe2+ 65.Kd4 Bg6 66.Kc5
 Qe7+ 67.Kc4 Qe6+ 68.Kb4 Qc6
 69.Bc3 Qd5 70.Bb2 h5 71.Bd4 Qg5
 72.Qf2 h4 73.Be3 Qg4+ 74.Bf4 Bf5
 75.Qh2 Kg6 76.Kc5 Kh5 77.Bd6 h3
 78.Bf8 Qg2 79.Qf4 h2 80.Qe3
 0-1

□ Walder, Michael S

■ Ploquin, Phil

A22

1911

1573

2024 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (2.12)

[Winslow, Elliott/(Tactical Analysis 6.4)]

In the 1600-1999 section it was Michael Walder from start to finish -- the ride was bumpy, critical mistakes were made in many games by both sides, but in the end he won **every** game to score the only 7-0 we've seen in a while (or at least that I can remember!). I asked for his best game from the tournament and this was one of his picks. it's

quintessential Walder. 1.c4 e5 2.g3

A move order Mike favors, to get to fianchetto (or "reversed Dragon") lines while avoiding the quixotic 2.Nc3 Bb4!? (which has been slightly suspicious these days). 2...d5!?

[2...Nc6]

[2...Nf6]

[2...c6!?]

3.cxd5 Nf6 4.Nc3

[4.e4?! c6! gets more than enough for the pawn.]

[Trap 4.e4 Nxe4?? 5.Qa4+]

4...Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nxc3?! A few 2700s have played this, but it's rare. (Dubov being the standout, but Xiong a few times as well.)

[5...Nb6 is way more common, 12587 to 2263 in Mega 2023 (need to upgrade before 2024 is over :-). And even has a tiny plus score! A consistent 49.2% for White. (6.Nh3 scored 65.8% over 19 games -- could that mean anything?)]

6.bxc3 c6?! Looks like a good idea, blunting the fianchetto, but passive and developmental. (I try to coin a new word every submission.) 7.Nf3 Bd6

8.0-0

[8.d4± might well be superior, putting it to Black directly.]

8...0-0 9.d3 Mike tries to keep it British, but

[again, 9.d4 Nd7 10.Qc2 Re8
11.a4±]

9...Nd7

[ChessBase's "Report | Opening Novelty" function already doesn't find any grandmaster games (FM vs. IM), and it's online: 9...Qe7 10.Nd2 Be6 (10...f5!?) 11.Ne4 Ba3 12.Bxa3 Qxa3 13.Qc1 Qxc1 14.Rfxc1 Nd7 15.c4 Rab8 16.a4 a5 17.Rcb1 Rfd8 18.Nd2 Kf8 19.Rb2 Ke7 20.Rab1 Nc5 21.Bxc6 Kd6 22.Ne4+ Nxe4 23.Bxe4 Kc7 24.Rxb7+ Rxb7 25.Rxb7+ Kd6 26.Rb6+ Kc5 27.Rb5+ Kd4 28.Rxa5 Rb8 29.Rb5 Rc8 30.e3+ Kc3 31.Rxe5 Bd7 32.a5 Rb8 33.Kg2 Rb1 34.Re7 f5 35.Rxd7 1-0 Severino,S (2364)-Yarmonov,I (2391) IPCA-ch Online Lichess.org INT rapid 2020 (9)]

10.a4

[No, wait -- here are some GMs! For a few moves at least. 10.Qc2 Qe7 11.Nd2 f5 12.Nc4 Bc5 13.Rb1 ½-½ Adorjan,A (2570)-Mikhalchishin,A (2480) Dortmunder Schachtage-12 1984 (3)]

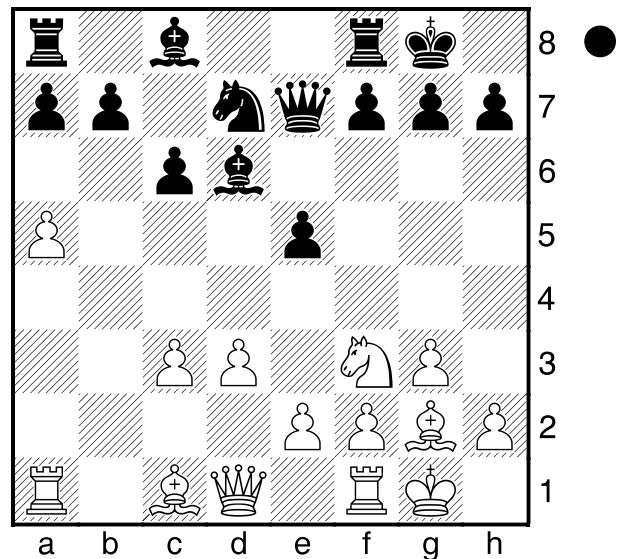
10...Qe7?

[10...a5 11.Qc2±]

11.a5

[11.Nd2 Nf6 12.Nc4 Bc5 13.a5±]

(Diagram)



11...a6N 0.98/27

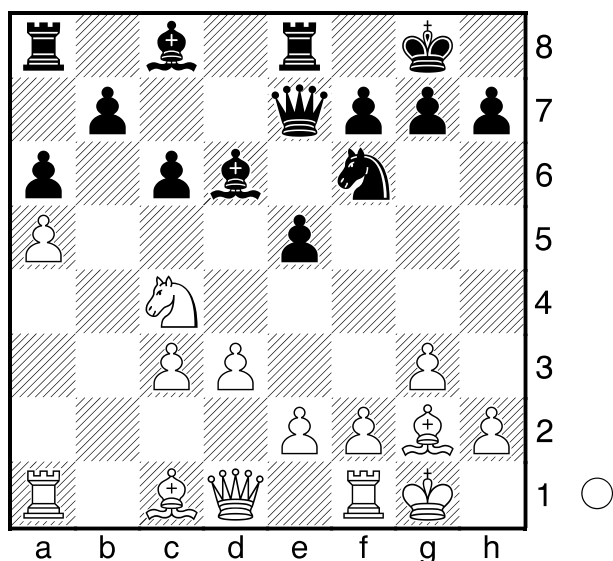
[11...Nf6 0.54/26 12.Nd2 Be6
13.a6±]

[Last reference: 11...Rb8 12.Nd2 Nc5 13.Nc4 Ne6 14.Be3 c5 15.Qb3 Bd7 16.Rfb1 Bc6 (This can't end well) 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Qa4 Qc7 19.a6 Qd7 20.Rb7 Rxb7 21.axb7 Bb8 22.Na5 Nd8 23.Bxc5 Re8 24.Be3 Nxb7 25.Qxc6 Re7 26.Rb1 1-0 Pape,M (2235)-Rychlik,K (2093) Hessen-ch Seniors op 08th Bad Sooden-Allendorf 2012 (7) Textbook!]

12.Nd2± Nf6 13.Nc4 Hoping for Nxd6.

13...Re8

(Diagram)



Black's queenside is compromised, but how to break in? **14.Nb6** A choice of bishops for the knight.

[Stockfish finally goes with 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 15.Qc2± when a central/kingside pawn expansion (e2-e4, f2-f4) will leave White with positional advantages everywhere (central pawns, dark-square control, latent kingside attack).]

[Actually it was a tie -- waiting for the decision with 14.Qc2 is also excellent.]

14...Rb8 15.Nxc8 Rbxc8± So Mike rids Black of the bishop that would otherwise be holding up b7. **16.Qb3 Rc7 17.Ba3?** 0.09/29 Throws away the advantage! Here's how to look at it: White's central advance could overrun Black; the only stop to e2-e4 and d3-d4 (after rooks to the center of course) is ...c5 -- and then Black's bishop starts to look rather bad -- and f2-f4 could still take over anyway.

[17.Rd1± 0.95/28]

[17.Rb1]

[17.e4!?]

17...Bxa3= 18.Rxa3

[18.Qxa3 Qe6!= Black still has counterplay.]

18...Qe6?! "If White doesn't want to

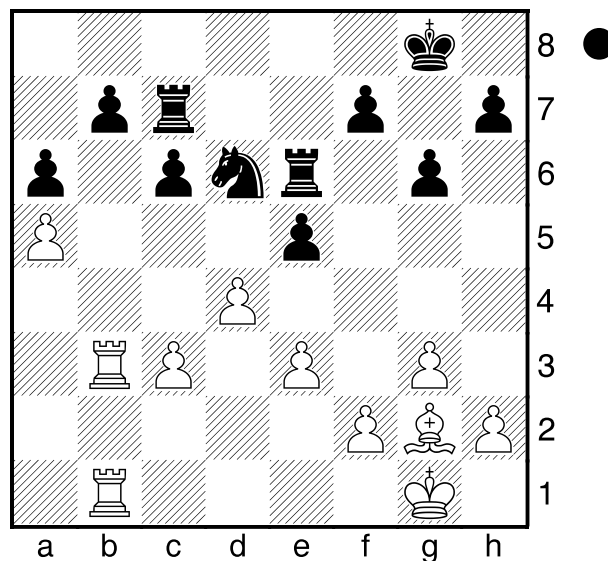
trade queens, then I'll offer the trade" looks good on paper...

[18...e4!= Stockfish is adamant: this is one of those "everywhere it's 0.00" positions.]

19.Qxe6± "On second thought..."

19...Rxe6 20.Rb1 Ne8 21.Rab3 Nd6

22.e3 g6 There have been lots of alternatives, all similarly evaluated in the "+0.15 to +0.22" range. **23.d4**



Mike makes his move. **23...exd4?**

0.58/28 Black should just sit tight. King up or over, maybe rook back.

[23...Rd7± 0.13/32 should be considered. (TA)]

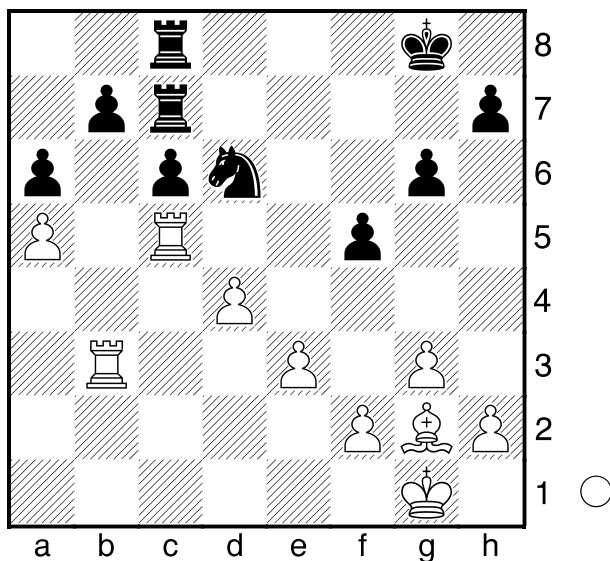
24.cxd4± The difference is d4-d5 and ... cxd5 won't leave a weak pawn on c3.

24...Re8 25.Rc1 f5 26.Rc5 Rec8?! 1.19/27

[26...Ree7 0.68/29 27.h3±

(TA). Well, maybe. There are plenty of maneuvers to be tried along with some kingside expansion.]

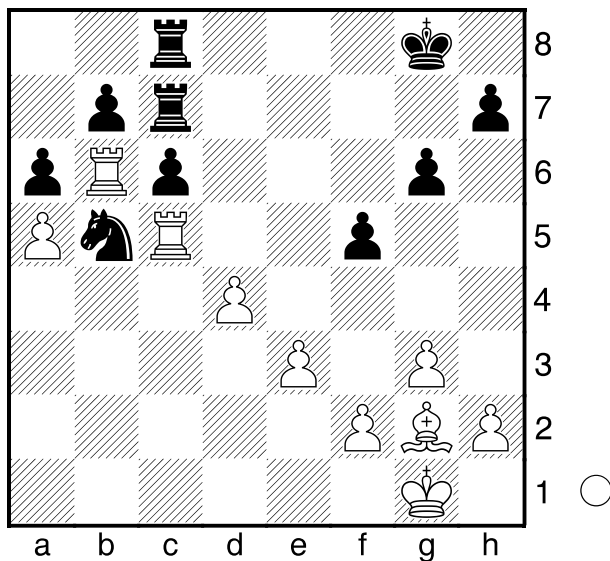
(Diagram)



27.Rb6± Strongly threatening d5.

27...Nb5? 2.83/28

[27...Rf7 0.97/28 when somewhat surprising is 28.Bd5!? cxd5 29.Rxd6 The TA gave this "+-" but maybe Black can hold on after Rxc5 30.dxc5 Rc7 31.Rxd5 Kf7 32.f4 Ke6 33.Re5+ Kd7 34.h3 Kc6 35.g4 Rf7 It's no fun for Black! And Stockfish finally concedes: +- it is. 36.Kf2 Kb5 37.Re6! Kxc5 38.Rb6 Rd7 39.Kg3 Still, I'm skeptical. But still not having fun.]



Black cannot hold the game after this.

28.d5+- That's it. Black crumbles. The partnership of rook, bishop on the long diagonal, and passed a-pawn (when all the pawns are traded off or fall) is too much. **28...cxd5 29.Bxd5+ Kf8**

30.Rxc7 Rxc7 31.Bxb7 Rc2?! 4.70/28

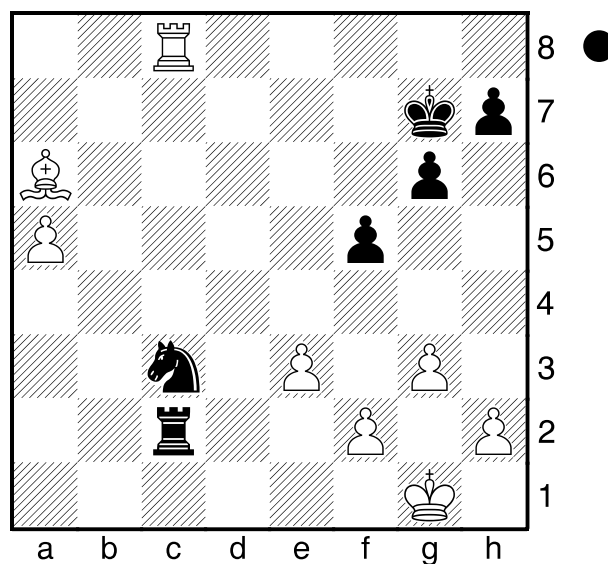
[31...Rc1+ 3.03/34 was worth a try.

32.Kg2 Nc7 33.Bxa6 Rc5 34.Rb8+

Ke7 35.Bd3 Rxa5 36.Rh8 h5

37.Rh7+ Kd8 38.Rh6+- (38...Ra6 39. Bxf5)]

32.Bxa6 Nc3 33.Rb8+ Kg7 34.Rc8



Black's hoped-for counterplay is stymied.

34...Kf6 35.Kg2 Ra2 36.Rxc3 Rxa5

37.Rc6+ Kg7 38.h4 Ra4 39.Bc4 Ra7

40.Bd5 Ra5 41.Rc7+ Kh8 42.e4 fxe4

43.Bxe4 Ra3 44.h5 Ra4 45.f3

62.83/34

[♞45.h6 #50/30 TA]

45...Rd4 46.hxg6 hxg6 47.Bxg6 Rd6

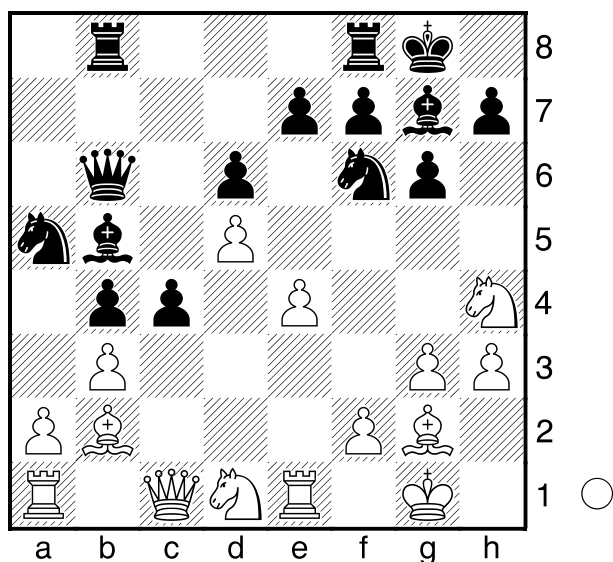
48.Be4 Kg8 49.g4 Rd8 50.g5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) / Black=0.30. Mike excels in such positions; better to find something sharper against the English! Now I have to see how Dubov played... :-)

1-0

☐ **Rigel, Marlon** **E63**
☒ **Tsodikova, Natalya** **1824**
 2024 Spring TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 16.04.2024
[Winslow, Elliott]

Natalya tied for 3rd-5th and might have finished higher had she held it together against me (I was worse). Here's her last-round win against Marlon Rigel, in one of her favorite openings, the King's Indian, Panno Fianchetto. **1.d4 6 Nf6 8 2.c4 7 g6 10 3.g3 5 Bg7 7 4.Bg2 7 d6 19 5.Nf3 16 0-0 8 6.0-0 4 Nc6 8 7.Nc3 9 a6 12 8.b3 10 Rb8 52 9.d5 35 Na5 4:25 10.Qc2 2:57 c5 1:48 11.Bb2 1:03 Bf5 3:10 12.Qc1 4:01 b5 1:30 13.cxb5 51 axb5 12 14.Nh4 44 Bd7 56 15.e4 2:18 Qb6 2:35 16.h3 1:32 b4 4:30 17.Nd1 4:29 Bb5 3:21 18.Re1 4:04 c4 41**



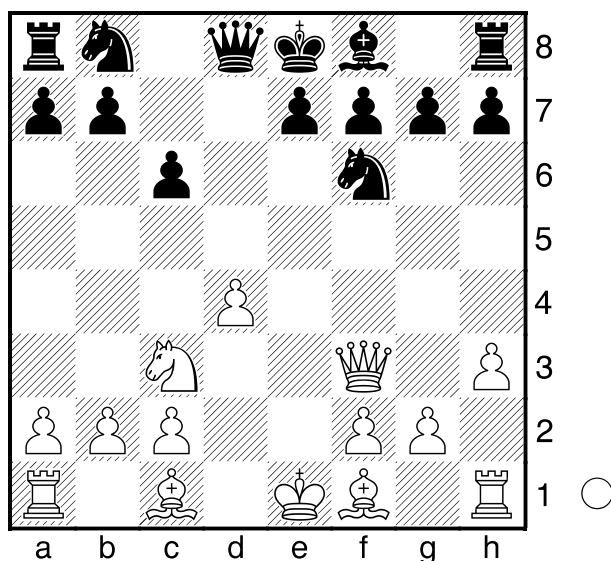
19.bxc4? 23 Nxc4-+ 28 20.e5?! 1:03 Nxe5 4:06 21.Bxe5 3:00 dxe5 10 22.Rxe5? 26 Nh5 4:31 [22...Nd7!] 23.Rxh5 53 gxh5 48 24.Nf5 1:45
 White seems to get some counterplay going, but objectively it's a mirage.
24...Qf6 1:51 Taking the rook wasn't so bad either. **25.Nxg7 3:48 Kxg7 33**

26.Ne3 51 Rfc8 2:44 27.Qd1 4:22 Bd3! 8:02 28.Rc1 7:10 Bg6 51 [28...Rxc1! 29.Qxc1 b3 30.axb3 Rxb3 31.Qd2 h4-+] 29.Rxc8 40 [29.Rc6! Qb2!] 29...Rxc8 3 30.Bf3 1:56 Qb2 3:15 31.Kg2 1:32 Rc1 2:19 32.Qe2 3:36 Qxe2 32 33.Bxe2 7 Ra1 48 34.Bc4 1:07 Be4+ 2:03 35.f3 16 Bb1 54 36.h4 3:59 Bxa2 43 37.Bd3 1:57 Bb1 1:58 38.Bc4 3:14 Ra3 2:59 39.Kf2 39 b3 2:34 40.Nd1 43 Bc2 43 41.Ne3 1:41 b2 1:06 0-1

☐ **Horde, Nicolas** **B01**
☒ **Marvin, Hayes Alexander** **1642**
 2024 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (7.9)
[Horde, Nicolas/Winslow, Elliott]

(EW) This was Hayes's tournament, were it not for the little detail of Walder running over everyone including him. He won the rest of his games, though, taking clear second, a healthy prize -- plus 89 rating points. He's an enthusiastic player, often seen before the round playing speed chess in the Annex, and attends advanced camps at the Mechanics. We must take him and his Center Counter seriously! His last-round opponent, prolific chess annotator (Botvinnik: best way to improve is write up your games) Nicolas Horde, sent in his game just as I was writing this up, the last game for the Newsletter. I'll add more than a few comments, mostly the opening... **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 c6**

(Diagram)



8.Bf4

[(ew) Negi in his "Grandmaster Repertoire" book sticks to the obvious 8.Be3 e6 9.Bd3!? keeping Black guessing which side White will castle on. The idea is to meet Bb4 with 10.0-0!]

8...e6

[8...Qxd4? 9.Nb5! Shaw, in *his* Grandmaster Repertoire" book (2016), had this as a novelty; White is 9-0 in the database since then.]

9.0-0-0 Nbd7

[Okay, I thought to click on "Novelty Annotation" and *this* is what comes up under "Relevant": a Bullet game! Oh come ON! Oh, wait, it's Magnus (vs. Vietnamese superstar Tuan Le)... 9...Bd6 10.Be5 Qc7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qxf6 Rg8 13.Ne4 Be7 14.Qe5 Qb6 15.Nf6+ Bxf6 16.Qxf6 Nd7 17.Qh4 Qa5 18.a3 h5 19.Be2 Rxc2 20.Rhg1 Qd5 21.Bxh5 Kf8 22.Qf4 Rxc1 23.Qxf7# 1-0 Carlsen,M (2835)-Le,T (2557) Bullet Chess Winners Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (2.3) D'oh!!]

[9...Bb4 is the "theoretical" move; both books continue:

A) 10.Ne4?! Nxe4 11.Qxe4 Qd5

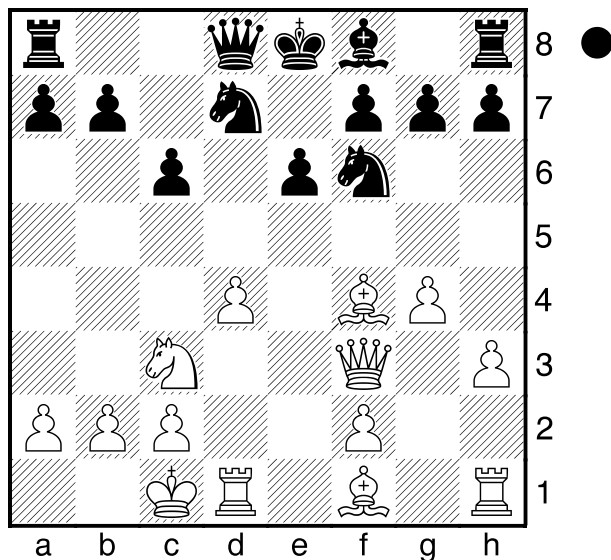
is fine for Black and even 5-4 in the database;

B) Shaw gives 10.Ne2 "!"± (that's += if you can't see it) Qd5! 11.Qxd5 (11.Qb3!? Qxb3 12.axb3 Nd5 13.Be5± 16.01 (+0.21/d42) Stockfish) 11...cxd5 12.c3 Be7 13.Ng3 (13.Kb1 Ne4 14.Be3 but not by much) 13...Nc6 14.Bd3 0-0?! (14...a6= quite even, thinking ...b5, ...h5, even ...Kd7) 15.Rhe1 Rfc8 16.Kb1 Ne8 17.Nf1± Bd6 18.Bc1 Rab8 19.Nd2?! (19.a4) 19...Na5?! (19...b5) 20.b4?? (20.Nb3±) 20...Rxc3-+ 0-1 Sethuraman,S (2623)-Bartholomew,J (2447) PRO League Stage Chess.com INT rapid 2017 (5);

C) 10.Kb1 Bxc3 11.Qxc3 (11.bxc3!? Qd5 12.c4 Qxf3 13.gxf3± with quite an unbalanced position. (+0.28/d35)) 11...Nd5 12.Qg3 Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Nd7 and here *both* books have their say: Negi (he gave this to show why he preferred 8.Be3!) says: "13...Nd7= when there is no reason why White should be better with so many minor pieces having been exchanged"... while Shaw gives 14.g4 and: "White has more space and a bishop against a knight. There is no way for Black to claim equality, so he will have to suffer for a long time. I know a lot of 1.d4 players who would sell their grannies to get such a position out of the opening." Interesting! We haven't been getting the *latest* 1. e4 repertoire books, so I don't know the end of this paper war. But Stockfish (16.1) has it at 0.16/d30. And praxis: not much in the database, but Bartholomew, a major Center Counter proponent,

drew as Black vs. J.Jackson
(2371).]

10.g4



More forthright than the usual 10.Kb1.

10...Be7N

[Predecessor: 10...Nd5 11.Nxd5
cxd5 12.c4 Rc8 13.Kb1 Nf6 14.cxd5
Nxd5 15.Bb5+ Rc6 16.Be5 f6
17.Bxc6+ bxc6 18.Bg3 Bd6 19.Rhe1
Kf7 20.Qe4 Qd7 21.Rd3 g6 22.Rb3
Bxg3 23.fxg3 Re8 24.h4 Re7 25.h5
Qd6 26.hxg6+ hxg6 27.g5 f5
28.Qh4 Nb6 29.Qh7+ Ke8 30.Qxg6+
Kd7 31.Qf6 Kc7 32.g6 Nd5 33.Qg5
Rg7 34.Rh1 Qd7 35.Ra3 Kb7
36.Rh8 Nb6 37.Rd3 Kc7 38.Qf6
Nc8 39.Qe5+ Nd6 40.Ra3
1-0 Vlassov,N (2283)-Lehtosaari,M
(2176) Titled Tuesday intern op 06th
Jun Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023
(10)]

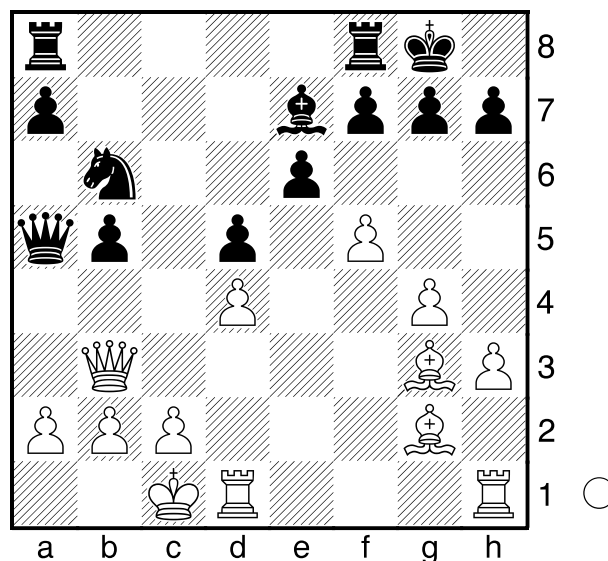
(ew) And now I leave it to Nicolas (so I
can get these games in the
Newsletter!)... **11.Bg2?!** (NH) The
incorrect plan, the bishop is much better
on d3 if White castles kingside.

[11.g5 The first move I considered but
I decided to develop a piece instead.
Nd5 12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.h4 And it's an
improvement of our game]

11...Nd5 12.Bg3 The idea is just to
vacate the f file to continue the pawn
storm

[12.Nxd5 cxd5]

**12...Qa5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Qb3 b5
15.f4 0-0 16.f5 Nb6**



Nothing outstanding, both sides are
attacking where the pawn structure
dictates **17.fxe6?!** It's not bad but it
stops White's attack on the kingside in
favor of central play. I was not too
convinced it was the right idea.

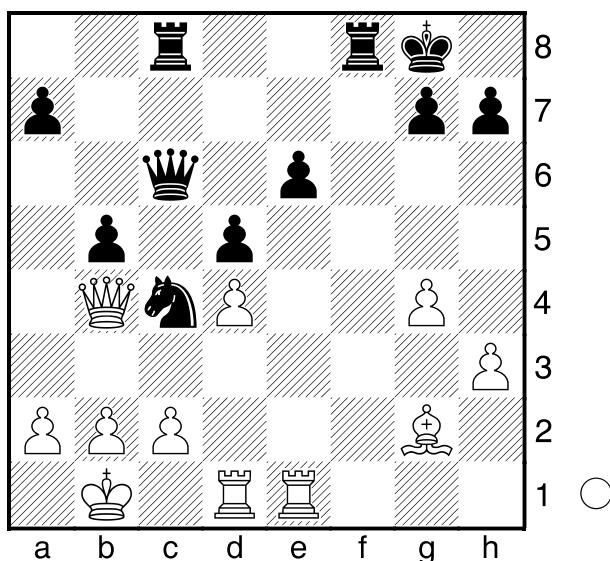
[17.h4 I seriously considered the h4-
g5-f6 plan which I think was the best
"practical" idea. White does not mind
getting rid of all the kingside pawns to
open all the files. But today I decided
to make my life complicated.]

17...fxe6 18.Be1 I could not find a plan
for White, while Black's attack plays by
itself. I decided to trade the minor pieces
to enter the endgame where Black has a
structural weakness but it's too easy to
play for them.

[18.Rhe1 Rae8 19.h4 And the game
continues.]

**18...Qa6 19.Kb1 Nc4 20.Bb4 Bxb4
21.Qxb4 Qc6 22.Rhe1 Rac8!**

(Diagram)



White's idea was Qc5 to offer an exchange of queens so this prevents it.

23.c3??

[23.Qc5? Qb7! 24.Qb4 a5

White has just lost a tempo]

[23.Re2! Ne3 24.Rc1! There are

back rank mate threats. Nxf2

25.Rxf2 Rf3 I thought I was too

passive and Black can simply double

on the f-file so I discarded that

variation but it was White's only

defense (!).]

23...Rf2! Hence why Re2 was critical, I overlooked that move under pressure and now White's position collapses

24.b3 Nd2+ 25.Kc1 Qxc3+ 26.Qxc3

Rxc3+ 27.Kb2 Ne4+ 28.Ka3 Rxf2

29.Kb4 Setting up one last trick

29...Rg2

[29...Rxa2 30.Rxe4 dxe4 31.Kxc3

Black is still winning]

30.Kxb5 Rxa2 31.Kb4 Rb2 32.Rc1

Rcxb3+ 33.Ka4 Nc3+ I wanted to

resign but I was impressed with how he

played **34.Ka5 Ra3#**

0-1

□ **McCutcheon, Bennett**

■ **Fitzgerald, William**

B10

1154

1343

2024 Spring TNM: 1200-1599 (1.27)

[Winslow, Elliott]

Bennett McCutcheon (but for a "missing" 'a' a very chess-famous name!) had a splendid result. Four wins and a draw from the first five games put him in ahead of the field, then he happened to have an opponent who couldn't make the game -- and even with an unplayed last round he took clear first when Danny Cao couldn't convert a pawn up out of the opening. Bennett takes home the tournament win, a chunk of change, and an impressive 224 rating point gain!

This first round win was a bumpy start though... 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

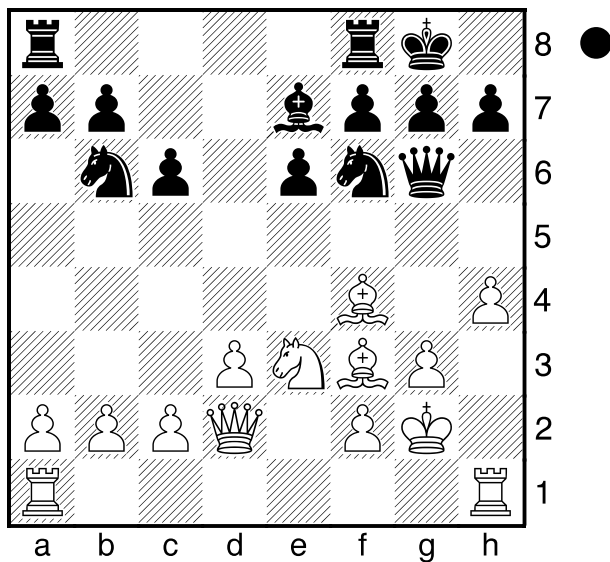
[14.Nd6 Bxd6! 15.Bxd6 Rfd8

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

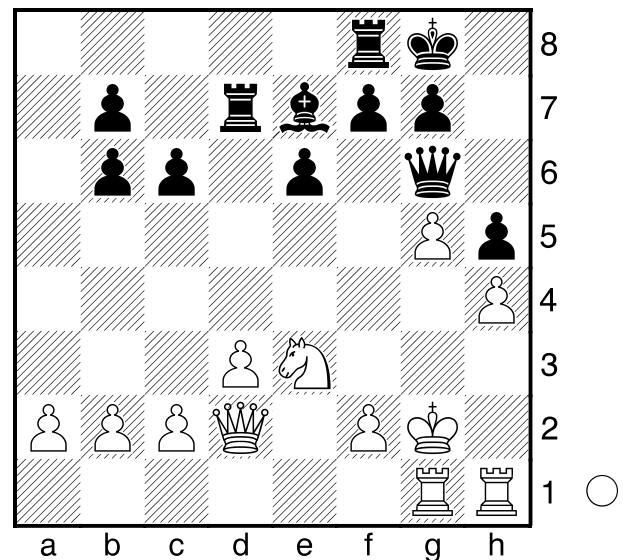
20.gxf6 Qxf6 21.Rae1 Bd6)]

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!

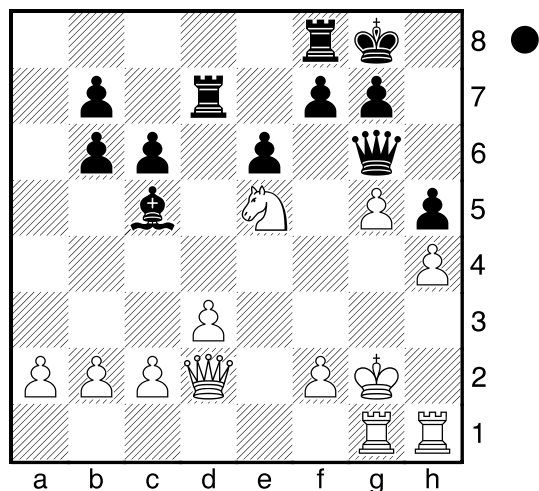
25.Qxe6+ Kh7 26.Nd7 Rxd7!

27.Qxd7 fxg5-+; 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?



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!]

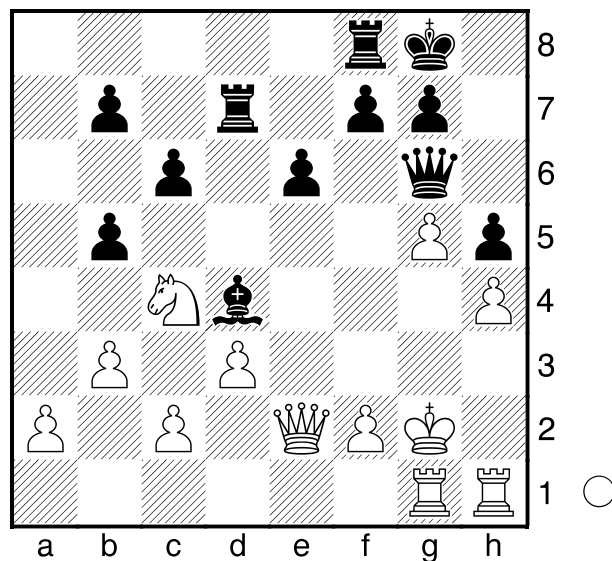
24.b3?

[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+]

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.Ng3! Rxa2 28.Rc1+]

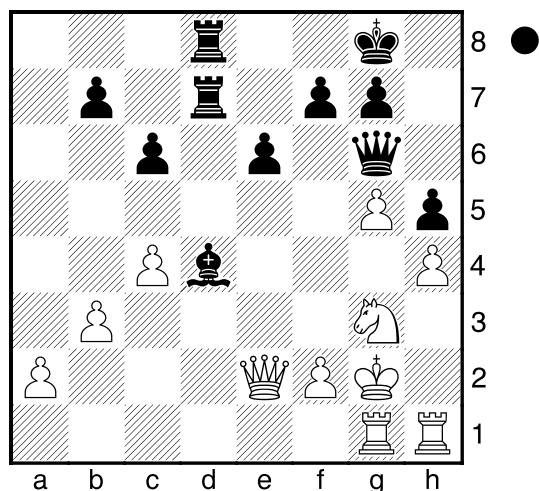
27...bxc4 28.dxc4

[28.bxc4 Bc5]

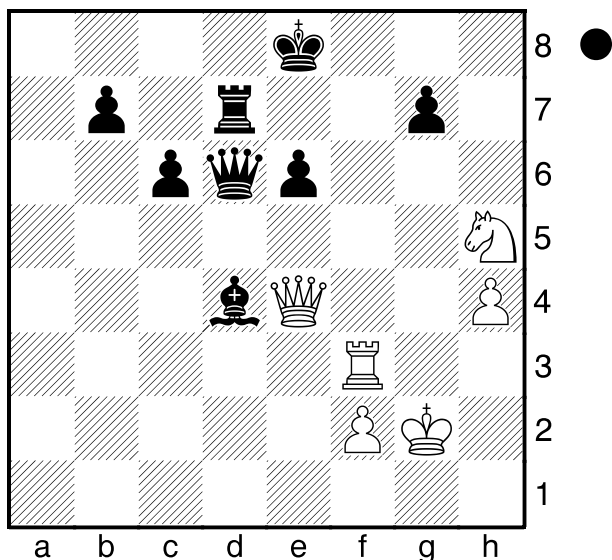
28...Qb1!?

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

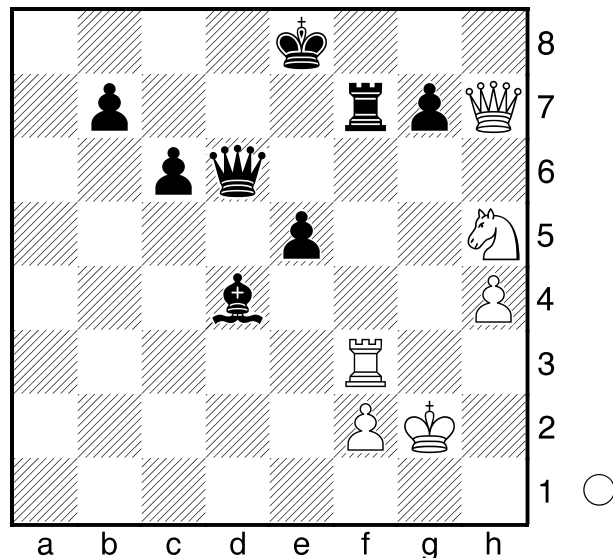
(Diagram)



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 Rf7??
 [40...Re7 41.Nxg7+ Kd7 42.Qf5+
 Kc7 43.Qg4 Qd7 44.Nf5



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

D11
 Vazquez, Dominic A **1005**
 Cao, Danny Du Uy **1174**
 2024 Spring TNM: 1200-1599 (7.21)
 [Cao, Danny Du Uy/Winslow, Elliott]

This battle, critical for the standings,
 was no boring Slav or Catalan (Sorry,
 Slav and Catalan fans. :-)) **1.d4 d5 2.c4**
c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Bf5 5.Bg2 e6
6.0-0 h6 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.Qb3 Qb6
9.Qxb6?!

[9.c5! is often best in this sort of
 standoff, and this one is no exception -
 - except there is no advantage. Qxb3
 (9...Qa6!?=) 10.axb3 a6 11.b4
 Rd8= The point is White can't get in
 b4-b5, creating weaknesses in the

Black pawns, because Black has already played ...Nbd7 so he can dodge the pin of the a-pawn.]

9...axb6 10.b3 Bb4 11.Bd2

[11.Bb2 will be safer.]

11...0-0?!

[11...Ne4? 12.Nxe4]

[11...Ba3]

[11...dxc4! 12.bxc4 Ba3 13.Bc1

Ne4 14.Ne4 Black is still pressing.]

12.Rfe1? Bad on its own,

[but also because White might have restabilized after the tactical 12.Nxd5!

A) A bit more complicated is

12...Nxd5 13.cxd5 Bxd2 14.dxc6!

but Bc3! 15.cxb7! (15.cxd7 Bxa1

16.Rxa1 Rad8 17.Ne5 f6 18.Nc4

Rxd7 and that's why the a-rook to

d8, else now White would have a

knight fork.) 15...Rab8! 16.Rac1

Bb2 17.Rc7 Rfd8 and it's -- even!;

B) 12...exd5 13.Bxb4 Rfe8 14.e3

dxc4 15.bxc4 Ra4 16.a3 c5=

and the pawn at c4 falls.]

12...Ba5?! 1:32

[12...Ne4? 13.Nxe4]

[12...Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Ne4 14.Bb2]

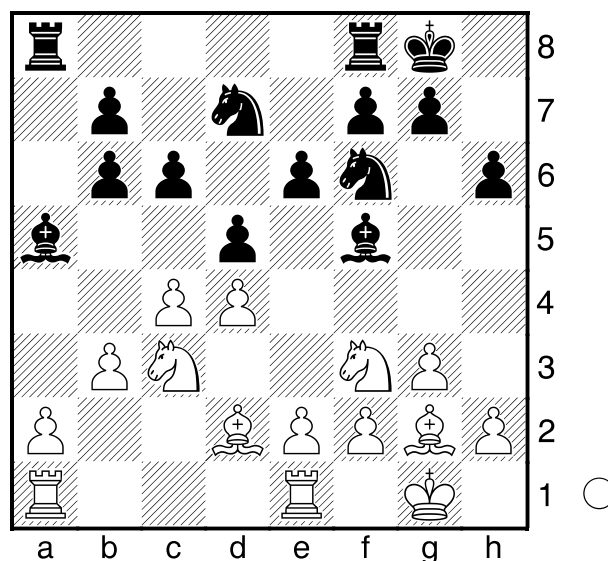
[12...Ba3!]

[12...dxc4 13.bxc4 Ra7!

when pressure on White's pawns

yields a clear advantage.]

(Diagram)



White, 1:23 Black **13.Na4? Bxd2?! 14**

Good, except that

[13...dxc4!-+ is better: 14.bxc4

(14.Bxa5 Rxa5 15.Nc3 cxb3

16.axb3 Rfa8) 14...Bxd2 15.Nxd2

Rxa4]

14.Nxd2 dxc4 15.Nc3

[15.Nxc4 b5 16.Nab6 Nxb6 17.Nxb6

Ra6]

15...cxb3 16.axb3 17 Black is clearly better with that extra pawn, but it's not easy to make it work. **16...b5**

[16...Ra6 17.Na4 b5 18.Nc5 Nxc5

19.dxc5]

[16...Bc2 17.b4]

[16...Nd5! 17.Nce4 Bxe4 18.Nxe4

N7f6 19.Nd6 Rad8 20.Nc4 b5 17

(or even better 20...Nb4)]

17.e4

[17.b4]

17...Bg6 18.f4 Ra6?

[18...Nb6]

[18...Rfd8]

19.Rxa6= bxa6 20.e5?! 18

[20.b4]

[20.Ra1]

[20.f5]

20...Nd5 21.Nxd5 cxd5

[21...exd5 22.e6 fxe6 23.Rxe6]

22.Rc1 Nb6

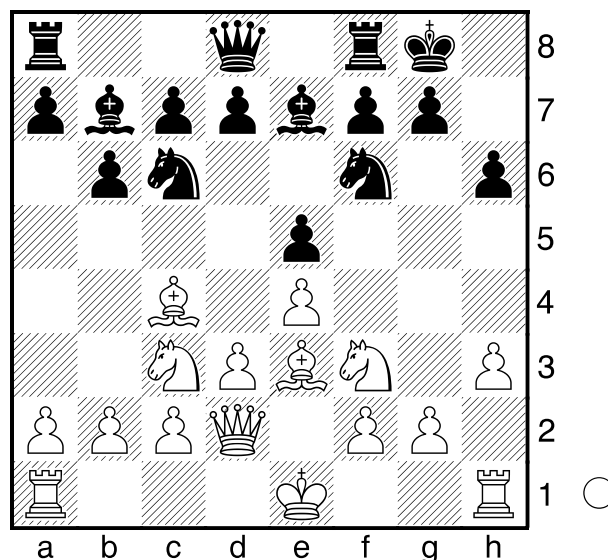
□ **D'Mello, Sanjay**

■ **Smith, Daniel**

2024 Spring TNM: u1200 (3.36) 19.03.24
[Winslow, Elliott]

Unrated Sanjay D'Mello has been dutifully sending in his moves for the bulletin -- No annotations, or rather very few, but something is right: he had a 5-0 surge after a 2nd-round draw to edge out Charlie Schaezlein and William Dillon by a half point, beating them both along the way -- and 4th-5th players Sawyer Stultz and Paul Blum as well! His provisional rating is 1422 -- no more under 1200 section for him! Well done!

1.e4 This was the other win in that 5-0 series. In a wild and confusing game, he launched a sacrificial kingside assault that came through after a few testy moments! **1...e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.d3 h6 6.h3 0-0 7.Be3 b6 8.Qd2 Bb7**



9.Bxh6!?

[9.a3 Na5 10.Ba2 d5 11.Bxh6!?]

9...gxh6

[9...Na5!? 10.Qg5 Ne8 11.Qg4 Nxc4 12.dxc4 Bb4 13.Nh4!± Kh8 (13...Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Kh8 15.Bg5

[22...Be4 23.Nxe4 dxe4 24.Bxe4 Nb6 25.Rc6 Nd5 26.Bxd5 exd5 27.Rxa6]

[22...Ra8 23.Rc7 Nf8]
23.Rc6 Rb8 24.Rc7 Rc8 25.Rb7 Na8 26.Bf1 Kh7

[26...Nc7 27.Ra7]
27.g4 Rc2 28.f5 Rxd2
[28...exf5 29.gxf5 Bxf5 30.Rxf7 Rxd2 31.Rxf5]

29.fxg6+ Kxg6 White 54 min... Black 22 min **30.Ra7 Nb6 31.Rxa6 Nd7**

32.Bxb5 Nf8 33.Ra4 Nh7
52 min White, 17 min Black **34.h4 h5**
51 min White ... 14 min Black
[34...f6 35.Be8#]

35.g5 Kf5
[35...f6 36.Be8+ Kf5 37.Bxh5 g6 (37...fxe5 38.dxe5 Kxe5)]

36.Be8 Kg4
[36...f6 37.Bxh5]
37.Bxf7 Kg3 41 min White, 8 min Black
38.Bxh5

[38.Ra1 Kxh4 39.g6 Ng5]
38...g6 39.b4 gxh5 40.Ra3+ Kxh4 41.g6 Rc2

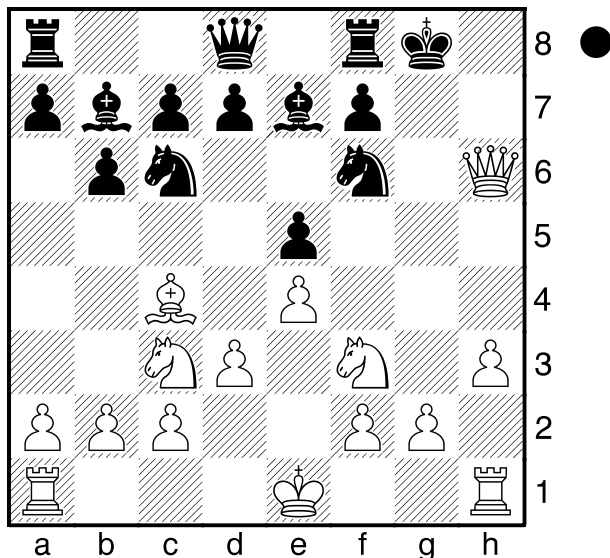
[41...Rc2 42.gxh7 (42.Ra7)]
42.gxh7 Rc8 Black at 3 min 50 sec... stopped notating... remaining moves from White scoresheet **43.b5 Kg5 44.Rg3+ Kh6 45.Rg8 Rc1+ 46.Kf2 Kxh7 47.Rg1 Rc2+**

[47...Rxc1 48.Kxc1 Kg7 49.b6]
48.Ke3 Rb2 49.Rh1 Kh6
[49...Kg6 50.Kf4]

50.Rf1 Rxb5 51.Rf6+ Kg7 52.Rxe6 Rb3+ 53.Kf4 h4 Black had stopped notating... White started notating incorrectly... so from memory onwards **54.Kg4 h3 55.Rf6** White 38 min, Black at 2 min; White offers draw...Black accepts, grabbing 2nd place (but a win would have been a tie for first!). In any case: well done Danny!

1/2-1/2

Nf6 16.Qe2 Qe7 17.Nf5 Qe6
 18.Bxf6 Qxf6±) 14.Bg5!± (14.Bd2?
 Nf6)]
10.Qxh6

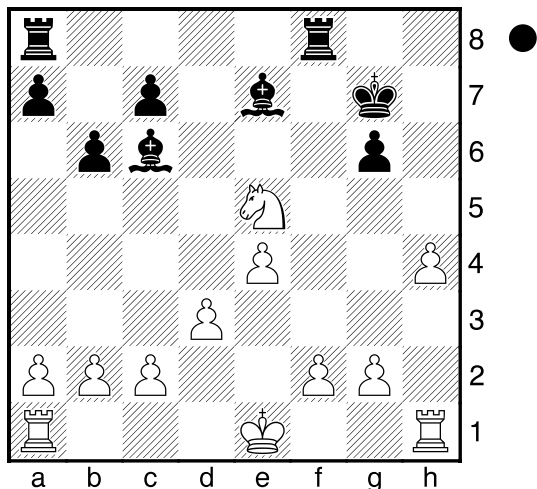


Nh7?

[10...d5!

**A) 11.Qg5+ Kh8 (11...Kh7
 12.exd5) 12.Nxd5 (12.exd5
 Nd4±) 12...Nxd5 13.Qh5+ Kg7
 14.Bxd5 Qd6;**

**B) 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Qd6
 13.Qh5 Kg7 14.h4 Qg6 15.Qxg6+
 fxg6 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.Nxe5**



11.Qg6+??

[11.h4!+- Stockfish 16.1 sees "Mate in

Eight" unless Black gives up bishop,
 then queen(!) on h4. And I'm sure that
 will eventually pop up with a "#" and
 a number after it.]

11...Kh8 12.Bxf7 Rg8?

[12...Bb4! 13.Qh5 Qe7 14.Bd5
 (14.Bg6 Rf6! pushes White back.)
 14...Qe8!±]

13.Bxg8 Qxg8 14.Qh5!

Keeping queens on the board even with
 rook and *three* pawns for bishop and
 knight -- after all, whose king is
 exposed?

[14.Qxg8+± is still pretty good!]

14...Nb4?! 15.Nxe5! Rf8 16.Ng6+-

Kg7 17.Nxe7 White is up an awful lot of
 material now, and wins routinely.

17...Qe6 18.Nf5+ Kh8 19.Kd2 Rf6

20.g4 Nc6 21.g5 Rg6 22.h4 Ne5

23.f4 Nf7 24.Ne7 Rh6 25.gxh6 Qxe7

26.Rhg1 Qf6 27.Rg4 Nxh6 28.Rag1

Nxg4 29.Rxg4 Qe6 30.Nd5 Bxd5

31.exd5 Qf6 32.f5 Qe5 33.Qg6

1-0

B03

□ **Vandenhoven,Clarke**

1629

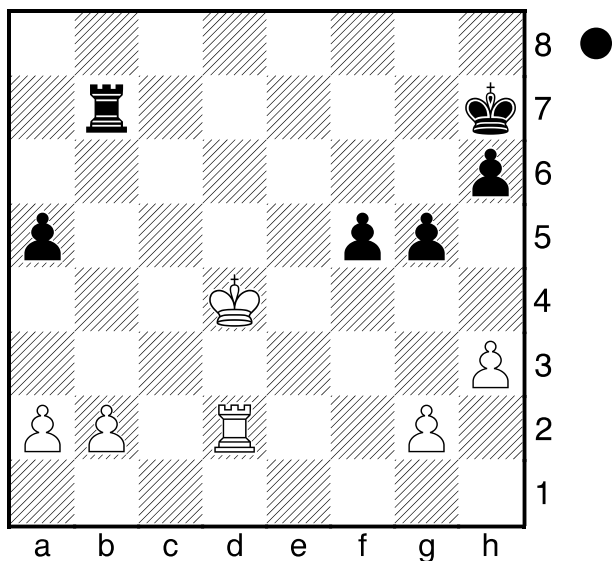
■ **Babayan,Gagik**

1683

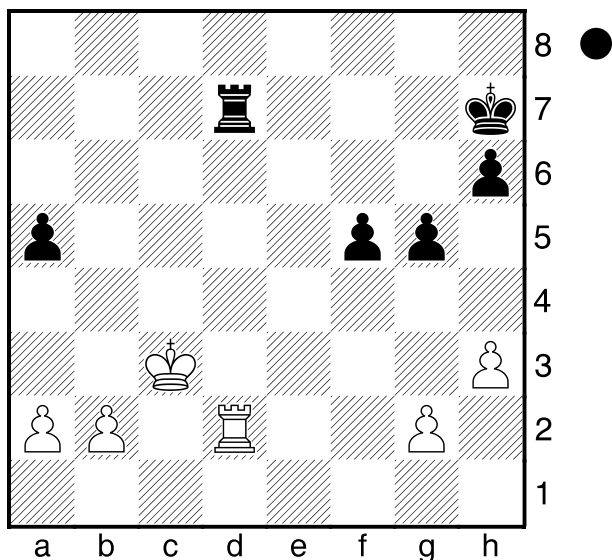
2024 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (7.16)

[Winslow,Elliott]

(Diagram)

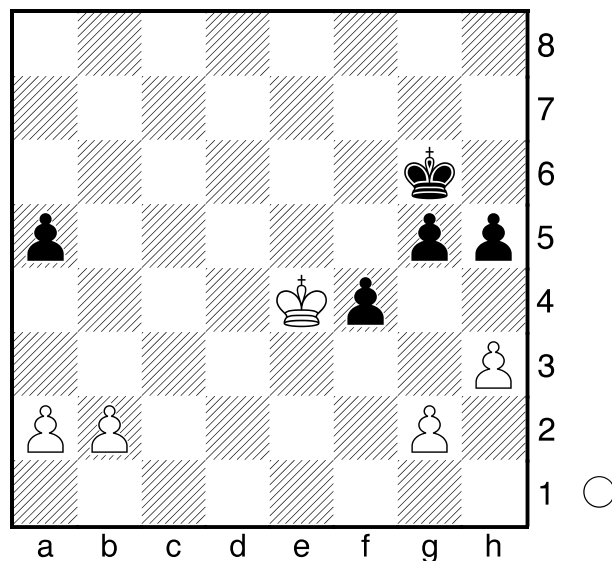


I have to give this ending from the last round for its instructional value. There are a lot of chess proverbs, and this game hit quite a few in just a few moves.
46...Rd7+ 47.Kc3=



Rxd2?? "All rook endings are drawn" is the old joke, obviously not true. But a better one is "Don't go into a pawn ending unless you know the result." (Or something like that.) In other words, Calculate! In fact *any* rook move along the 7th rank would draw. Any. **48.Kxd2+-** The problem is another "proverbial" advantage in the ending: the Outside

Majority -- which if played right becomes an Outside Passed Pawn. *If*. **48...f4 49.Kd3!** White starts out excellently! Another ending proverb: Centralize the King. White gets there first. **49...Kg6 50.Ke4 h5** White's king stops Black's kingside majority from healthily turning into a passed pawn.



51.a3?? Ayaaa! Another proverb: Push the Candidate First. Or some version of Don't Allow One Holding Two.

[51.b3+- is the almost automatic method, FOLLOWED by 52.a3 and 53. b4.]

[51.h4+-]

[51.Ke5+-]

51...a4!+- (only move) And there it is. Suddenly *BLACK* is winning! **52.Ke5**

[52.h4 Kf6! (only move again) (note that Chessbase weirdly doesn't allow one to put "!" and "box" (the "only move" symbol) in the same suffix to a move. Sure I could put it in a note...)

53.hxg5+ Kxg5 54.Kf3 Kf5 55.g3 (55.Kf2 Kg4 56.Ke2 Kg3 57.Kf1 f3 58.gxf3 Kxf3 59.Kg1 Kg3 Black can just play ...h4-h3-h2, "stalemate" the White king -- except then the b-pawn must move, ...axb3 (don't forget en passant if b2-b4!), and ...b3-b2-b1Q

checkmate.) 55...fxg3 56.Kxg3 Kg5-+
White could run to the kingside, but
it's pitifully slow.]

52...h4!! (Only move) The amazing thing
is that the path to victory for Black is
also to seemingly cripple the majority as
well! But Gagik finds the way! It is
actually Zugzwang -- if it were Black's
move instead of White's, it would be a
draw. **53.Ke4**

[53.Ke6 doesn't help: g4! (only move)
queens a pawn. 54.hxg4 Kg5!
(mate in 16) happens to be faster than
...h3 or ...f3 right away.]

[53.-- Kh6 54.Kf5 (or 54.Ke4=)
54...Kh5 and now 55.Ke4!
is yet another only move -- and it
draws.]

53...Kf6 (once again the only move,
but totally won. **54.Kf3 Kf5 55.Kf2 g4**
and if nothing else, that same
pseudostalemate forcing White to move
the b-pawn. Very instructional!
0-1

Alex Robins

2024 San Francisco Scholastic Championship



As our diligent readers may already know, last month we held our annual [San Francisco Scholastic Championship](#) on March 30th and it was a great success. We all want to give a huge thank you to our Chief Arbiter **Judit Sztaray** and Tournament Directors **Scott Mason, Richard Koepcke, Arthur Liou, Vincent Ng, Michael Hsu, IM Guillermo Rey, Borbala "Bori" Sztaray, Neha Sharan, Eric Lai, Dawson Wu, Sheng Jian, Kenn Fong, Yinze Tan, Bily Yu, Dennis Tocol, Hong Guan, Jaime Ng, Kenneth Fung, Duane Miller, Michelle Woo, Mariela Haro, Claude Matthew Lucero Villamor, and Kumiko Komori**. We could not put on a tournament without them. We are also extremely grateful to our volunteers. We had **348** players show up with their families from all around the Bay! In addition to the tournament itself, IM **Ladia Jirasek** and **Lauren Goodkind** volunteered their time and expertise to give players games and provided game analysis to our lucky scholastic players. FM **Paul Whitehead** also headed the simul with special guest appearances from IM **Ladia Jirasek** and **Leon Alston**, and help from **David Olson**. We are also deeply appreciative to all our support volunteers including Trustees **Lindsey Tonsager** and IM **John Donaldson, Edwin Ng, Gabriel Ortega Tanguay, Paul Blum, Christian Brickhouse, Kory Cogdill, Korey Reynolds, Lilli Paratore, Chris Robins**, and all the **Bright Knights volunteers**; and staff including **Alex Robins, Andy Talajkowski, Nico Chen, Phin Horowitz, Jimmy de Guzman, Zorba Hughes, Tina Ahn, Kathy Bella**, and event organizer **Alyssa Stone**.

The event also received a wonderful write up in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) and we had an extra special visit from San Francisco **Mayor London Breed**!

The competition was stiff at the top of each section and had to be decided by tiebreaks. We would like to offer sincere congratulations to all of our players who were just barely edged out of the top 10 in each section. Tiebreaks are decided by the strength of opponents in the tournament - so we would like to loosely quote our colleague Judit Sztaray that this is another great reminder to be sincere when you wish your opponent good luck!

First place in the +1000 Section went to FM **Shawnak Shivakumar** (2326) with a perfect score of 4 out of 4. **Hayes Marvin** (1752) came in a close second with 3.5. Third place through tenth place had 3 points each and had to be decided by tiebreaks and went in order to: **Harrison Qian** (1351), **John Wang Xia** (920), **Richard Jiang** (1175), **Ethan Wangche Gao** (1473), **Kanav Maheshwari** (1005),

Benjamin Quach (1237), **Asher Ruiqing Luo** (1306), **Kingsley King** (1353). A special shout out to Hayes as he regularly plays in our tournaments and has participated in our camps – good job Hayes!

First place in the 500-999 Section was a tie all the way down and was awarded jointly to **Kyle Tega Yu** (555) and **Emanuel Cabrera** (797) who both scored a perfect tournament. Third place through sixth place were tied with 3.5 points each and in order went to **Zane Chu** (794) **Wesley Wongchenko** (816), **Naman Jain** (861), Noah T Chiu (773). All the players at seventh through tenth place scored 3 points out of four and went to: **Dylan Wan** (822), **Alessandro Huerta** (804), **Sairaghav Kumar** (600), and **Emily Shiyuan Liu** (832). Wesley has been in our scholastic program and we'd like to congratulate him for a strong showing!



FM **Shawnak Shivakumar**, the winner of the 1000+ section.

In the under 500 Section, we had two players with a perfect score who were placed according to tiebreak rules. They were **Sanvi Singh** (245) and **Matthew Tang** (338). Congratulations to both for a perfect score! In third through tenth place with 3.5 points each were **Brian Luo** (241), **Kriss Diaz** (480), **Raymond Liu** (368), **Ivan Pershin** (462), **Sriniketh Srikanti** (433) **Si Hao Huang** (unr.), **Anis Rebouth** (unr.), **Edwin Mazariegos** (381). We'd like to personally say congratulations to **Matthew Tang** who has been in our scholastic program for a few years now!

The 9th-12th Grade Non-Rated Section also had a two way tie with a perfect score that had to be

decided by tiebreak, with **Changlin Zeng** in first and **John Diepenbrock** in second. In third through sixth all the players had 3 out of 4. They went in order to: **Anthony Alvarez, Alex Yuen, Hans Barrueto-Zhao, and Leonard Isakov**. In seventh with 2.5 points came **Preston Cheng**. The players in eighth through tenth place all scored 2 out of 4 for the day. They were, in order: **Aiden Yuen, Ryder Kalengkongan, and Axel Pilette**.



The grade 6th-8th Grade Non-Rated Section had an undisputed winner and the only player with 4 out of 4 in their section, **Sahil Shivakumar**. **Ruyi Hu** and **Julian Reddick** finished in second and third with 3.5 out of 4. **Smaidh Saxena, Phenix Liang, Snehin Shankar Dasgupta, Ansh Shenvi Priolkar, James Moore, Nolan Woo, and Jalen Wong** were ranked fourth through tenth and all came in with 3 out of 4 points. Congratulations to all of our scholastic program participants in this section!

In the 3rd-5th Grade Non-Rated Section **Sicheng Ao** was the winner, just barely sneaking past **Yinou Hu** and our camper **Derek Ko**, both of whom had perfect scores. **Linus Dow** and **Archer Lee** came in fourth and fifth with a respectable 3.5 out of 4. Sixth through tenth place players all scored 3 out of a possible 4 and included, in order: **Joshua Gonzalez, Santiago Echevarria, Siyuan Li, Ronald Zeng and Ronan Peterson**. Derek, Ronald, and Ronan have all been playing in our scholastic program and I see a bright future in tournaments for all of them!

In the K-2nd Grade Non-Rated Section we had **Byron Li** in first and **Raam Prasannakumar** in second,

both with a perfect score. **James Rodnick** and **Hudson Kim** had a strong performance in third and fourth with 3.5 out of 4. Fifth place through tenth place, each with 3 points and in order: **Hunter Indelicato**, **Charlotte Cella**, **Andrew Lo**, **Matthias Wassman**, **Edward Chiang** and **Kara Won**. Congratulations to all of our K-2nd players - it's great to see children starting in tournaments so young! A special congratulation to **Charlotte Cella** who regularly comes to our camps!



Finally, in addition to our individual sections we also had school and chess clubs competing with their players in our Combined Team Competition. First place went to **Starr King Elementary**. Second place went to **Menlo-Atherton High School**. Third place went to **Fallon Middle School**. Fourth place went to the **Sanger Chess Team**. Fifth place went to one of our scholastic program schools **Alice Fong Yu** - big congratulations to the whole team! Sixth place went to the **Town School for Boys**. Seventh place went to **Hamilton K-8**, led by former MI Chess Room Director **Abel Talamantez**. Congratulations to all of the players from Francisco and to their organizer **Wilson Skinner**. Eighth place went to **Children's Day School**. Ninth place went to **Holy Name**. Last, but not least, we had **West Portal Elementary** in tenth. We'd also like to give a special shout out to our scholastic program school **Francisco Middle School**, who finished in eleventh place.

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

Alyssa Stone

Report From San Quentin

On Tuesday, March 5, a small group of Mechanics' Institute staff including CEO Kathy Bella, Lead Tournament Director Judit Sztaray, Chess Room Coordinator Paul Whitehead, Senior Director of Advancement Tina Ahn, and myself arrived at an unexpected place: San Quentin Rehabilitation Center to the north of San Francisco.

We joined [San Quentin SkunkWorks](#) in hosting the first organized chess tournament - called Pawns to Progress - held within the carceral facility and California's oldest prison. About 50 players formed teams of two - one incarcerated resident with one San Quentin staff member - for a three-round tournament. Well over 100 spectators joined to watch, analyze, and discuss the event.

IA Judit Sztaray ran the tournament brilliantly and smoothly, all while having to manually pair the rounds *by hand* since computers are not allowed by outside visitors. Suffice to say, this was not our usual tournament flow. Judit skillfully and seamlessly wove between players ensuring games were fair and completed properly. Brava to Judit!

There was so much excitement in the giant auditorium throughout the event.

Much of the excitement was also for incarcerated residents to see FM Paul Whitehead again, who had taught a chess class the week prior to a group of close to 60 in the dining hall. Over the din of a busy kitchen and surrounded by six 20-foot sepia-toned murals depicting California history, the participants sat in absolutely rapt concentration, hanging on every tactic and tip that Paul shared in hopes of improving their game. Individuals asked for clarification on the regulations and strategies of chess and as Paul confirmed a variety of game rules, turned to buddies across the hall to call out, "See! I told you so!"

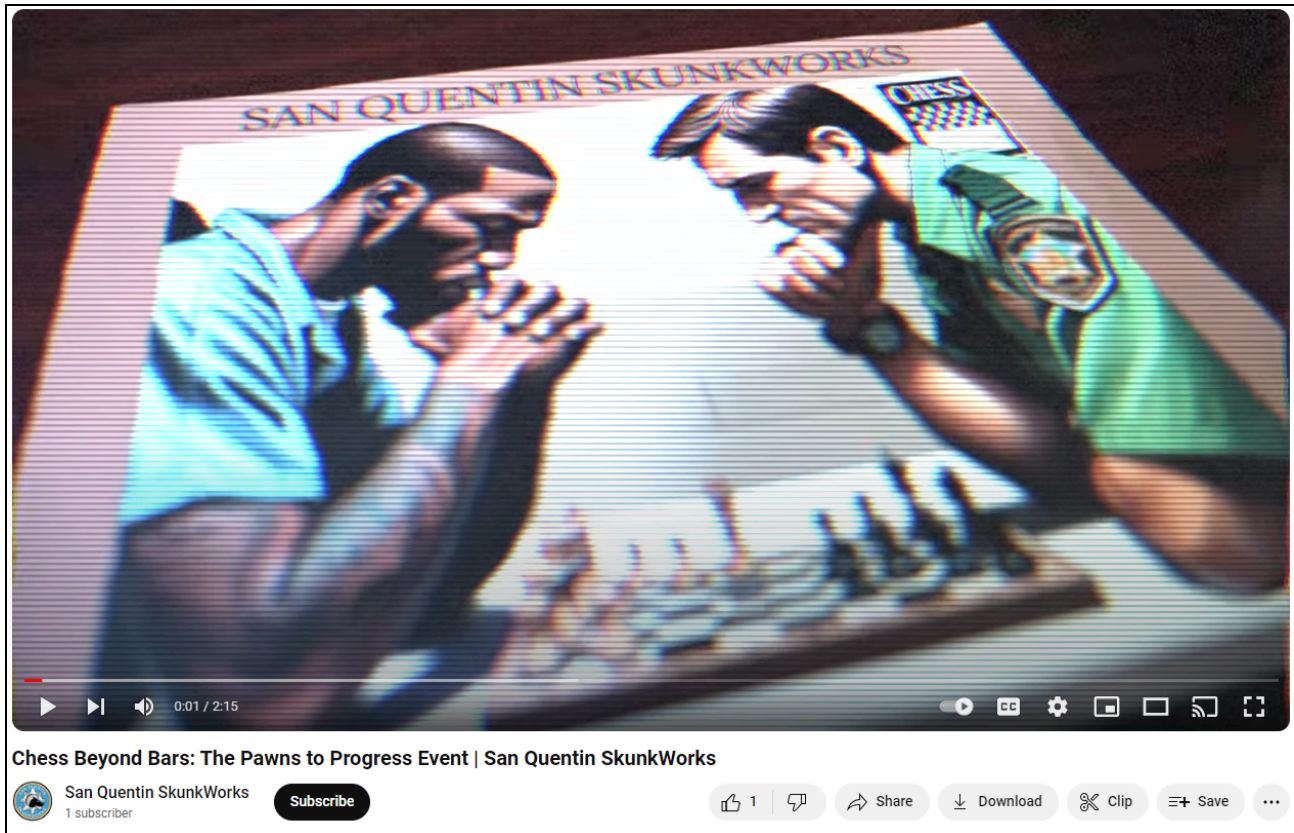
"At its core, Pawns to Progress is more than an event. It's an avenue where incarcerated people, corrections officers, and members of the broader community collaborate," said Kyle Winchell, a co-founder of SkunkWorks, formerly incarcerated at San Quentin. Unlike traditional chess tournaments, the event featured an innovative format where prison staff and community members were paired with an incarcerated person to form a team. Each team then competed against similar pairs. This setup, informed by SkunkWorks' research on the effects of games in carceral settings, is designed to break down barriers, promote mutual respect, and encourage a spirit of positive interactions in a competitive yet friendly environment.

San Quentin SkunkWorks is an innovation lab powered by incarcerated people that researches, crafts, and builds transformative criminal justice programs. This event, part of SkunkWorks' transformative gaming initiative, seeks to transform prison culture and improve rehabilitative outcomes by using the power of gameplay to transcend traditional barriers.

Following the tournament, all attendees gathered in small group discussion circles to reflect on the day, engage in conversation, and consider the impact of bringing together individuals from all walks of life over the chess board.

The feedback we received from incarcerated residents, officers and staff, and fellow visitors was overwhelmingly positive and appreciative.

A short [video of the event here](#) was created by Forward This Productions, an incarcerated film crew dedicated to changing hearts and minds from San Quentin Rehabilitation Center.



While this might have been the first official chess tournament at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, our institutional histories have interesting parallels. Mechanics' Institute and San Quentin both opened in 1854 - being a reaction to the Gold Rush era, albeit taking different forks in the road. Mechanics' Institute was founded as an educational and cultural center for out-of-work gold miners to receive vocational and skills training for new career pathways, as well as being a place to stay out of trouble.

We are proud to have partnered with San Quentin for this program and share in the transformative power of chess.

In 1975, right around my 15th birthday, I gave a 20-board simultaneous exhibition at San Quentin. Accompanied by my father (who had arranged the event) and good friend Jeremy Silman, the experience left a powerful and indelible impression on me.

Returning almost 50 years later, to play chess and converse freely with incarcerated individuals and correction officers, to listen to their stories and see the circumstances in which they live and work, was an honor and privilege. Many of the men I spoke with expressed a desire to play chess 'outside'.

I believe one day we will see a fair few of them at the Mechanics' Institute.

- Paul Whitehead

The Chess Scuttlebutt

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

[EvoChess](#) is a website where you can play numerous variations of the Royal Game.

Garry Kasparov is listed as a [terrorist](#) by Moscow.

A stroke survivor uses chess to [rehabilitate](#).

WGM Jennifer Shahade will enter into [mediation](#) with the USCF after massive fallout from her [resignation](#) as Director of the US Chess Women's Program.

More articles [here](#) and [here](#) on the impact of AI on chess, on learning, and its influence on humanity.

Eleven-year old prodigy Devanshi Chowdada taught a chess [workshop](#) at a library in Illinois.

Can chess help in staving off [dementia](#)?

Hamilton K-8 School in Novato (whose [chess program](#) is coached by former Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director Abel Talamantez) is one of 10 schools [receiving](#) Title 1 Grants from the USCF.

A chess set was designed to [honor](#) two famous Hungarians: actress Zsa Zsa Gabor and escape artist Harry Houdini.

Paralyzed man plays chess with a [brain-chip](#).

Chess phenom [Lisa Lane](#) passes away aged 90. Was she the [inspiration](#) for the Queen's Gambit?

The [Gift of Chess](#) raises over \$10,000 in a 13-mile [charity walk](#) across New York City.

The chess-themed *War Is Over! Inspired by the Music of John & Yoko*, won the 2024 Oscar for Best Animated Short. Watch the trailer [here](#).

The San Francisco Giants have caught "[chess fever](#)".

You are what you eat in "[Echo Chess](#)".

Magnus Carlsen sensationally [loses](#) to 10 year-old Argentinian FM Faustino Oro, the '[Messi of Chess](#)'.

A classic example of the pot calling the kettle black: former World Champion Vladimir Kramnik has been [caught](#) cheating on Titled Tuesday and was subsequently [banned](#) on chess.com.

"Chess has spoken." GM Hans Niemann [wins](#) the 2024 Grenke Open.

[Really Bad Chess](#) is yet another variant, with totally random starting positions - including pawns on the back rank.

Ranae Bartlett [chosen](#) as the new USCF Executive Director.

Check out a new chess-themed fragrance, designed to make [“intellectuals smell good.”](#)

A new TV series starring Al Pacino is [lambasted](#) for depicting inmates at Auschwitz taking part in a gruesome human chess game.

12-year old Yagiz Erdogmus from Turkey becomes the fourth [youngest](#) Grandmaster in history.

Igor Rausis, infamous for having been caught cheating and subsequently [stripped](#) of the GM title, has [died](#).

Find your [“mate”](#) at the Los Angeles Chess Club.

A chess club was [kicked out](#) of a rented venue for bringing their own sets.

“Chess is not a gendered sport.” Actress who posted a picture playing chess is [trolled](#) online.

FIDE turns 100 years old on July 29, and will attempt a [Guinness World Record](#).

[“Shoegate”](#) scandal engulfs the 2024 Candidates Tournament in Toronto.

Watching GM Hikaru Nakamura [replay](#) his games from the Candidates is a must-see.



RIP Peter Andrews (1938-2024). Co-founder of CalChess and proprietor of the legendary chess parlor [Fiddler's Green](#) in San Francisco, Peter gave your humble editor his first job.

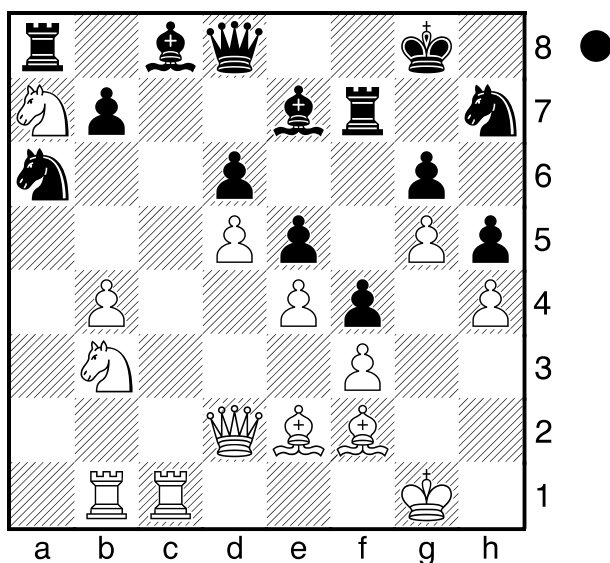
Finally, a terrific [write-up](#) in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on the 2024 Scholastic Championship held in Golden Gate Park on March 30. See above for our report.

Recent Games

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

Zatonskih, Anna **E80**
2348
 Paikidze, Nazi **2319**
 American Cup Women Champions 2024 (1.1)

A game featuring a long, sustained attack on the white king. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.e4 e5 5.Be3 g6 6.f3 Bg7 7.d5 Nh5 8.Nge2 f5 9.Qd2 f4 10.Bf2 0-0 11.Nc1 a5 12.Be2 Nc5 13.g4 Nf6 14.h4 h5 15.g5 Nfd7 16.b3 Qe7 17.Rb1 c6 18.0-0 Rf7 19.Rd1 Bf8 20.a3 cxd5 21.cxd5 Qd8 22.b4 axb4 23.axb4 Na6 24.Nb5 Be7 25.Nb3 Nf8 26.Rdc1 Nh7 27.Na7

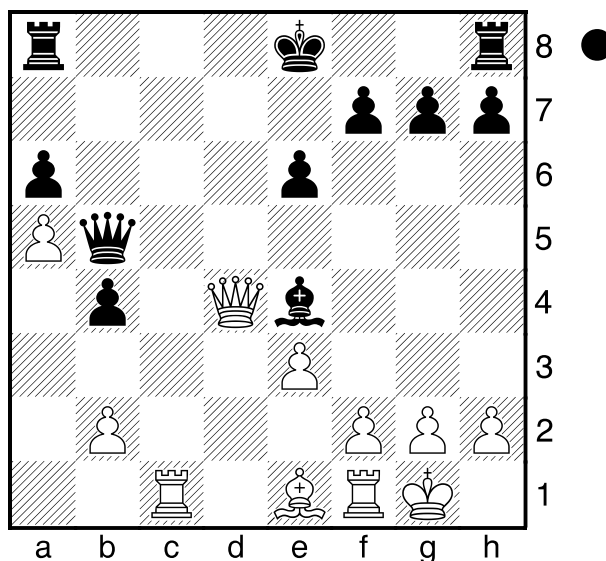


Black is in trouble, therefore:
 27...Bxg5!? 28.Nxc8 Bxh4 29.Bxh4 Qxh4 30.Bxa6?!
 [30.Nxd6!+-]
 30...Rxa6 31.Qg2 Qd8 32.Rc3 g5 33.Rbc1 g4 34.Nd2 Ra2 35.fxg4 Rg7 36.Kf1 Nf6 37.Ke1 hxg4 38.Qg1 Ne8 39.Kd1 Qh4 40.Nb6 Nf6 41.Nbc4 g3 42.Nf3 Qh5 43.Ncd2 Ng4 44.Rc8+ Kh7 45.R1c7 Nf2+ 46.Ke2 Rxd2+ 47.Kxd2 Qxf3 48.Kc2 Qxe4+ 49.Kb3 Qxd5+ 50.Ka3 Qh1 51.Rc1 Qxg1 52.Rxg1 f3 53.Rc2 e4 54.Kb3 d5 55.Rd2 Rg5 56.Rc2 Kg6 57.Kc3 Nh3

58.Rh1 g2
 0-1

Tokhirjonova, Gulrukhbegim **D26**
2365
 Yu, Jennifer **2279**
 American Cup Women Champions 2024 (1.3)

White crashes through on the dark squares. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 a6 6.0-0 b5 7.Be2 Bb7 8.a4 b4 9.Nbd2 Nbd7 10.Nb3 Bd5 11.Bd2 c5 12.Rc1 Ne4 13.Be1 Qb6 14.Bd3 Be7 15.Bxe4 Bxe4 16.dxc5 Nxc5 17.a5 Qb5 18.Nxc5 Bxc5 19.Nd4 Bxd4 20.Qxd4

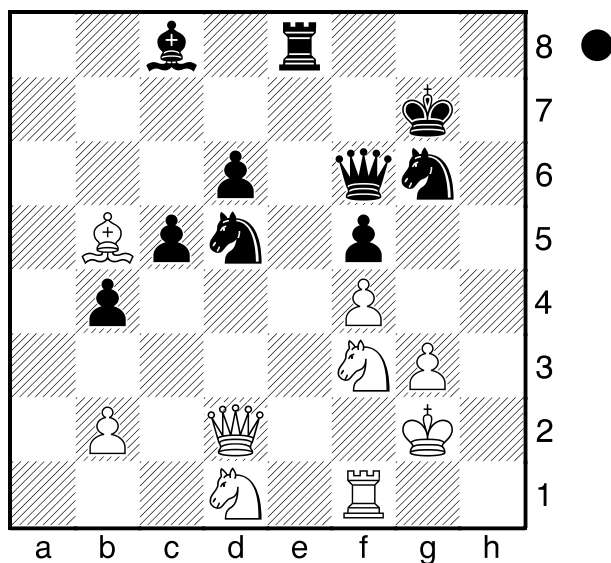


Bd3 21.Bxb4 Rd8 22.Qxg7 Qxb4 23.Qxh8+ Kd7 24.Qf6 Bxf1 25.Qxf7+ Qe7 26.Rc7+
 1-0

So, Wesley **A65**
2757
 Shankland, Sam **2674**
 American Cup Open Champions 2024 (1.3)

Black's 36th move gets him out of a tight spot. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 c5 4.d5

d6 5.e4 e6 6.Ne2 Bg7 7.Nbc3 exd5
8.cxd5 0-0 9.Ng3 a6 10.a4 Nbd7
11.Be2 Rb8 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bf4 Ne5
14.Qd2 h5 15.0-0 Nh7 16.Bh6 h4
17.Nh1 f5 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.f4 Nf7
20.Nf2 Nf6 21.Bd3 Re8 22.Rae1 Bd7
23.exf5 gxf5 24.Rxe8 Nxe8 25.Nh3
Qf6 26.Kh1 Nc7 27.Ng5 Re8 28.Nf3
b5 29.axb5 axb5 30.Bb1 Nh8 31.g3
hxg3 32.hxg3 b4 33.Nd1 Ng6 34.Kg2
Bc8 35.Bd3 Nxd5 36.Bb5

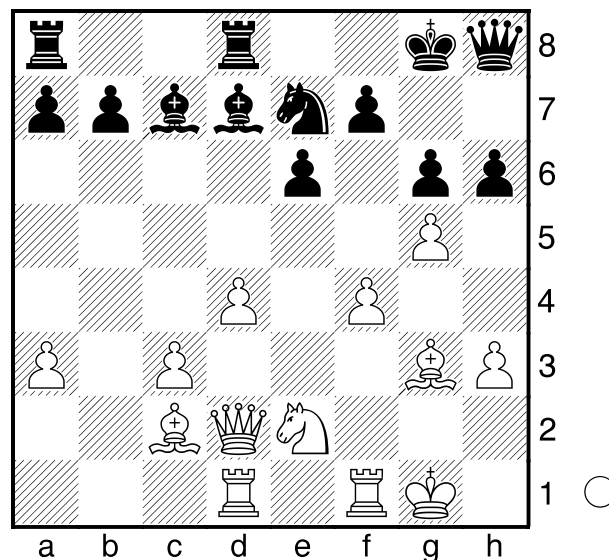


Ndxf4+! 37.gxf4 Re4 38.Kf2 Rxf4
39.Rg1 Qh4+ 40.Ke2 Qe7+ 41.Kf2
Qh4+ 42.Ke2 Qe7+ 43.Kf2 Qh4+
1/2-1/2

□ **Robson,Ray** **E48 2696**
■ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2749**
American Cup Open Champions 2024 (1.3)

A pretty breakthrough sacrifice leads to
a vicious attack and a winning endgame.
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0
5.Bd3 c5 6.Nge2 d5 7.cxd5 cxd4
8.exd4 Nxd5 9.a3 Ba5 10.0-0 Nc6
11.Bc2 Bc7 12.Qd3 Qh4 13.h3 Nf6
14.Be3 Rd8 15.Qd2 h6 16.f4 Nd5
17.Bf2 Qf6 18.Rad1 Nxc3 19.bxc3

Ne7 20.g4 Bd7 21.Bg3 g6 22.g5 Qh8

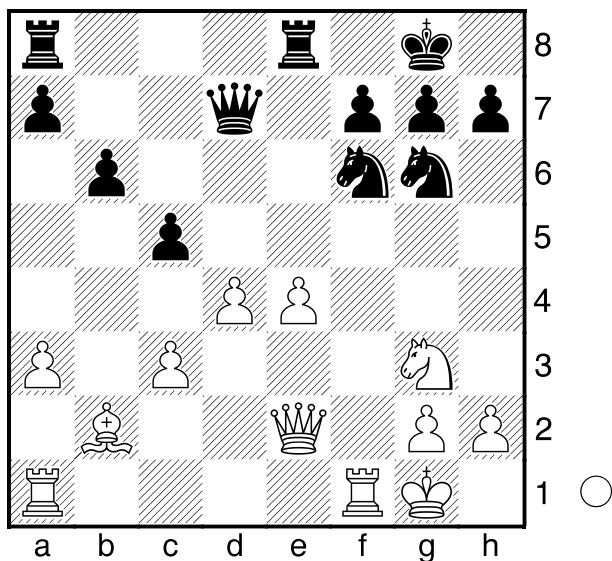


23.f5! Bxg3 24.fxg6 Bd6 25.Rxf7 hxg5
26.Rh7 Qf6 27.Rf7 Qh8 28.Qxg5
Qxh3 29.Rh7 Bh2+ 30.Kf2 Rf8+
31.Ke1 Qf1+ 32.Kd2 Bf4+ 33.Nxf4
Qxf4+ 34.Qxf4 Rxf4 35.Rxe7 Rf2+
36.Kc1 Bc6 37.Rxe6 Rc8 38.Rd2 Rf3
39.c4 Rxa3 40.d5 Be8 41.Rde2 Bd7
42.Re7 Rd8 43.Rh2 Rg3 44.Rhh7 Bc8
45.Reg7+ Kf8 46.Rc7 Kg8 47.g7 Rh3
48.Rxc8 Rxc8 49.Rxh3 Rxc4 50.Rg3
1-0

E49
□ **Krush,Irina** **2421**
■ **Paikidze,Nazi** **2319**
American Cup Women Champions 2024 (2.1)

A classic exchange sacrifice breaks
open the kingside. 1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5
3.d4 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 Nf6 6.e3
0-0 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 c5 9.Ne2 b6
10.0-0 Ba6 11.f3 Re8 12.Ng3 Bxd3
13.Qxd3 Nc6 14.Bb2 Qd7 15.e4 dxe4
16.fxe4 Ne5 17.Qe2 Ng6

(Diagram)

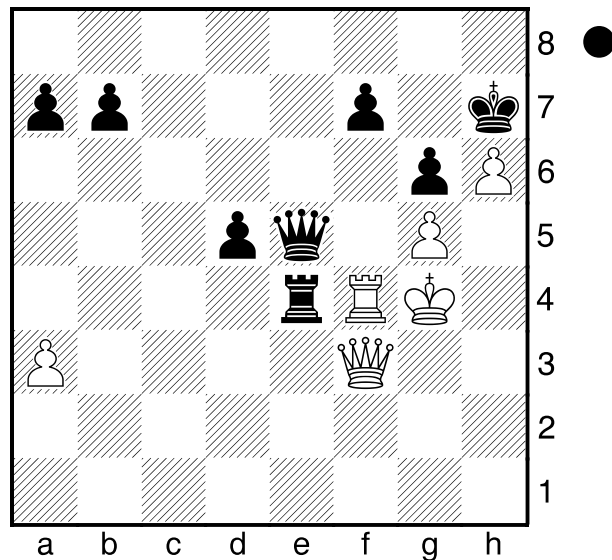


18.Rxf6! gxf6 19.Nh5 Re6 20.d5 Rd6
21.c4 Ne5 22.h3 Qe7 23.Rf1 Re8
24.Ng3 Qf8 25.Nf5 Kh8 26.Qh5 b5
27.Nh6 Kg7 28.cxb5 c4 29.Ng4 Qe7
30.Nxe5 c3 31.Bxc3 Qc7 32.Nc6 Rxe4
33.Qg5+ Kf8 34.Bxf6 Rf4
1-0

D35
 □ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2804**
 ■ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2749**
 American Cup Open Elimination 2024 (2.1)

A razor-sharp struggle with a sudden end. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Nge2 h6 8.Bf4 Nbd7 9.Ng3 Bh7 10.h4 Bb4 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 0-0 13.f3 Re8 14.a3 Bf8 15.Kf2 g6 16.Nge2 Bg7 17.g4 h5 18.Rag1 hxg4 19.fxg4 c5 20.h5 cxd4 21.exd4 Ne4+ 22.Nxe4 Rxe4 23.Qf3 Qb6 24.Kg3 Qxb2 25.Rg2 Rc8 26.h6 Bxd4 27.Nxd4 Qxd4 28.Rd1 Qf6 29.g5 Qf5 30.Rc1 Rce8 31.Bd2 Qe6 32.Rh1 Kh7 33.Rh4 Qd6+ 34.Bf4 Ne5 35.Qb3 Re7 36.Rf2 Qc6 37.Rh1 Nc4 38.Rf3 Ne5 39.Rf2 Qe6 40.Rh4 Nc4 41.Rf3 Nd6 42.Bxd6 Qxd6+ 43.Rhf4 Rxf4 44.Rxf4

Re4 45.Qf3 Qe5 46.Kg4

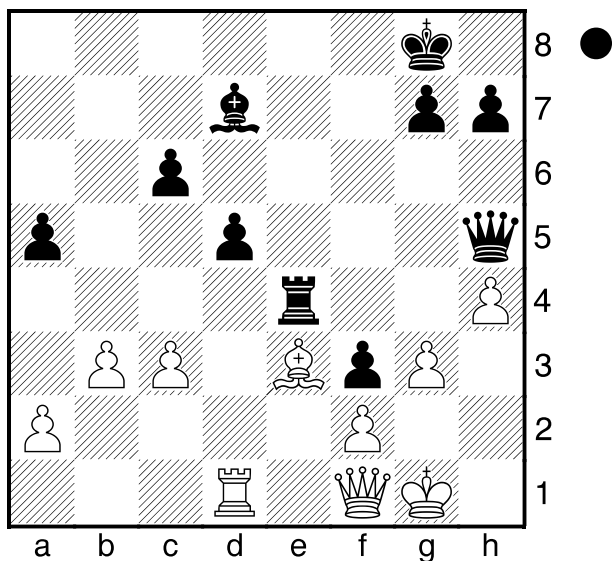


Qf5+
0-1

C54
 □ **Sevian,Samuel** **2697**
 ■ **So,Wesley** **2789**
 American Cup Open Elimination 2024 (2.2)

A rook sacrifice leads to a light-square mating net. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Re1 a5 8.h3 Be6 9.Bb5 Ba7 10.Nbd2 Ne7 11.Nf1 Ng6 12.Ng3 c6 13.Ba4 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.d4 exd4 16.Nxd4 Qc7 17.Ngf5 Rae8 18.Bb3 Bd7 19.Bxd5 cxd5 20.Ng3 Rxe1+ 21.Qxe1 f5 22.Nge2 f4 23.Nf3 Ne5 24.Ned4 Bxd4 25.Nxd4 f3 26.g3 Qd6 27.b3 Nc6 28.Nxc6 bxc6 29.Qf1 Qe5 30.Bd2 Qh5 31.h4 Re8 32.Be3 Re4 33.Rd1

(Diagram)

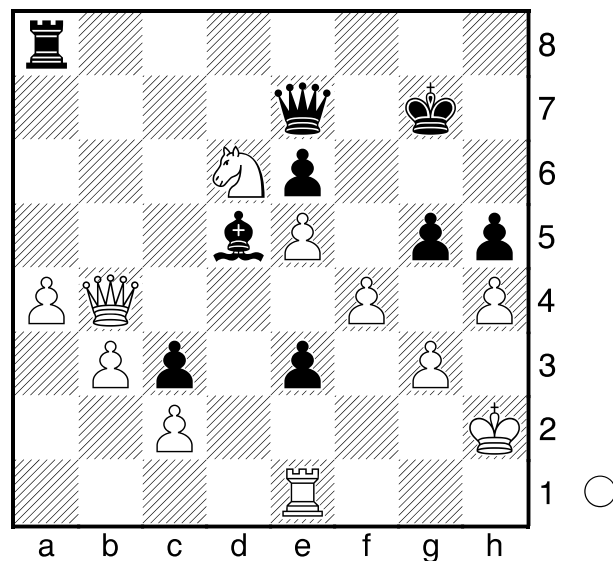


Rxh4! 34.gxh4 Qg4+ 35.Kh2 Qxh4+
36.Kg1 Bh3 37.Rd4 Qh5 38.Qd3 Bg2
0-1

Krush,Irina **C00**
 Lee,Alice **2421**
2356
 American Cup Women Champions 2024 (3.1)

The white knight has the final say. 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Be7 5.d3 0-0 6.Nbd2 c5 7.e4 Nc6 8.Re1 a6 9.e5 Nd7 10.Nf1 b5 11.h4 Bb7 12.N1h2 Rc8 13.Ng4 c4 14.d4 c3 15.b3 a5 16.a3 Qe8 17.Qd3 h5 18.Ngh2 b4 19.a4 Nd8 20.Bg5 f5 21.exf6 Nxf6 22.Ne5 Ne4 23.Bxe7 Qxe7 24.f4 Rf6 25.Nf1 Nf7 26.Qe2 g6 27.Bxe4 dxe4 28.Ne3 Nxe5 29.dxe5 Rf7 30.Rad1 Rd8 31.Kh2 Kg7 32.Nc4 Rxd1 33.Rxd1 Rf8 34.Nd6 Rd8 35.Qb5 e3 36.Re1 Bd5 37.Qxa5 Ra8 38.Qxb4 g5

(Diagram)

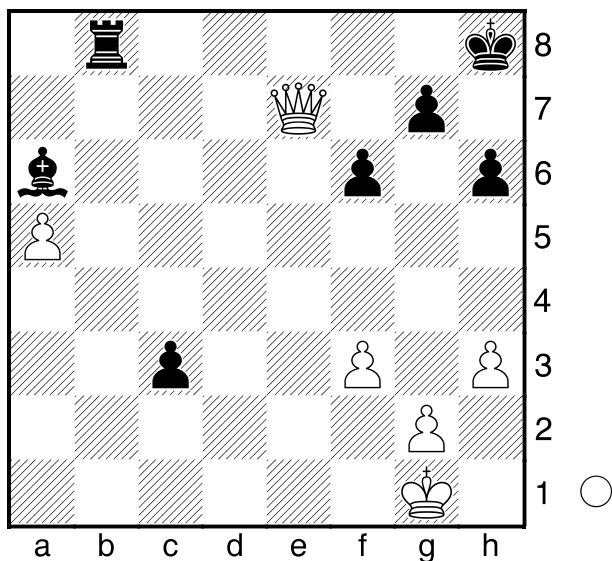


39.Nf5+
1-0

Caruana,Fabiano **C65**
 So,Wesley **2804**
2789
 American Cup Open Elimination 2024 (3.5)

An unusual mistake by the US Champion at a critical moment leads to defeat. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nbd2 Nd7 7.0-0 a5 8.Nc4 Qe7 9.Be3 f6 10.Qd2 b6 11.a3 Qf7 12.b4 Be7 13.bxa5 b5 14.Nb2 0-0 15.c4 Nc5 16.Qc3 Ne6 17.d4 exd4 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.Bxd4 c5 20.Be3 b4 21.axb4 cxb4 22.Qb3 Ba6 23.Rfc1 Qe6 24.Nd3 Qxe4 25.Nc5 Bxc5 26.Bxc5 Rfb8 27.f3 Qf5 28.Bf2 c5 29.Rd1 Rd8 30.Rd5 Rxd5 31.cxd5 Rc8 32.Rc1 c4 33.Qxb4 Qxd5 34.h3 h6 35.Qe1 Kh7 36.Rd1 Qb7 37.Bd4 Rd8 38.Rb1 Qc8 39.Qc3 Rd6 40.Qc2+ Kh8 41.Ba7 Rd8 42.Qc3 Rd3 43.Qe1 Rd8 44.Qe7 c3 45.Rb8 Qxb8 46.Bxb8 Rxb8

(Diagram)



47.Kf2??

[47.Qd6! Rb1+ 48.Kh2 c2 49.Qxa6 c1Q 50.Qa8+ Kh7 51.Qe4+=]

47...c2 48.Qe3 Rc8 49.Qc1 Bd3

50.Ke3 Bg6 51.a6 Ra8 52.g4 Rxa6

53.h4 Rd6

0-1

□ **Robson,Ray**

E51

2696

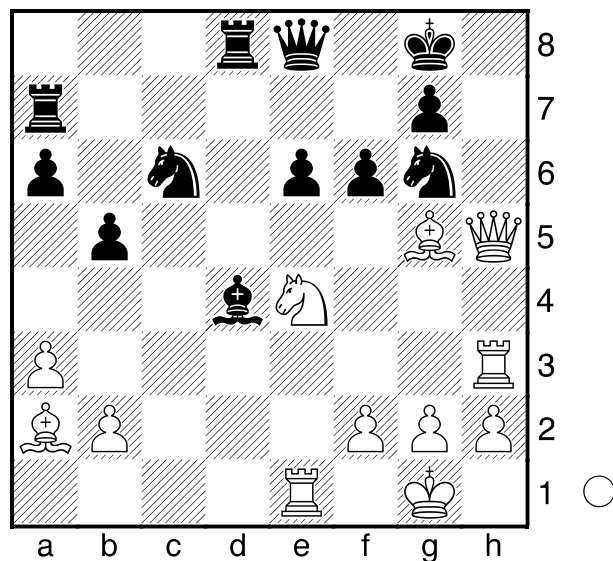
■ **So,Wesley**

2789

American Cup Open Elimination 2024 (4.2)

White's 22nd move starts a blitz attack on the black king, aided by the lurking bishop on a2. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.a3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 Be7 8.Nf3 c5 9.0-0 a6 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Qe2 b5 12.Ba2 Bb7 13.e4 Qc7 14.e5 Nfd7 15.Bf4 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nc6 17.Ne4 Ndx5 18.Qh5 Bd4 19.Rad1 Rfd8 20.Rd3 Qe7 21.Rh3 h6 22.Bg5! Qe8 23.Bxh6 Ng6 24.Bg5 f6 25.Re1 Ra7

(Diagram)



26.Nxf6+! Bxf6 27.Rxe6 Qf7 28.Rxf6 gxf6 29.Qxg6+ Kf8 30.Rh8+ **1-0**

□ **So,Wesley**

A08

2789

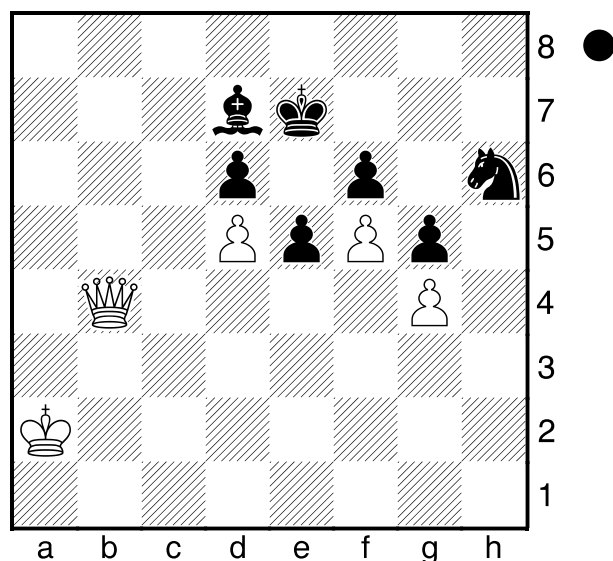
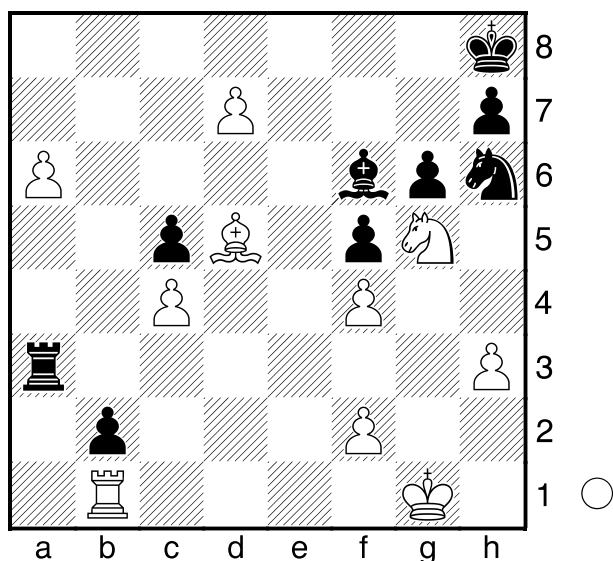
■ **Robson,Ray**

2696

American Cup Open Elimination 2024 (4.4)

So gains his revenge after 12.e6! split the board in two. 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.0-0 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.Nbd2 Nc6 7.e4 0-0 8.Re1 b6 9.c3 dxe4 10.dxe4 Ng4 11.e5 Rb8 12.e6 f5 13.Ng5 Nce5 14.h3 Nh6 15.Ndf3 Nd3 16.Bf4 Nxf4 17.gxf4 Bb7 18.Qd7 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Bf6 20.Rad1 b5 21.Qxa7 Qb6 22.Rd7 Qxa7 23.Rxa7 b4 24.c4 b3 25.a4 Bxb2 26.Rxe7 Bf6 27.Rd7 b2 28.Rb1 Rfd8 29.a5 Rxd7 30.exd7 Rb3 31.Bd5+ Kh8 32.a6 Ra3

(Diagram)



33.Rxb2! Rxa6 34.Rb8+ Kg7 35.Ne6+
1-0

Nf7 47.Kb3 Be8 48.Qb8 Bd7 49.Qc7
Ke8 50.Kb4 Ke7 51.Ka5 Ke8 52.Kb6
Ke7 53.Qc4 Be8 54.Kc7 Bd7 55.Qb4
Be8 56.Qb7 Bd7 57.Qb8 e4 58.Qb4
Be8 59.Qxe4+ Ne5 60.Qb4 Nf7
61.Qb8 Bd7 62.Qa8 Ne5 63.Qd8+ Kf7
64.Qxd7+
1-0

□ Lee,Alice A56 2356
■ Krush,Irina 2421
American Cup Women Champions 2024 (4.3)

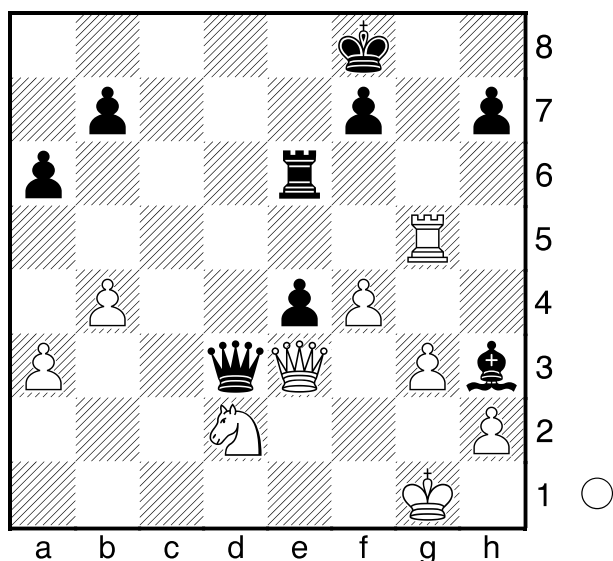
□ So,Wesley E32 2757
■ Aronian,Levon 2722
American Cup Open Champions 2024 (4.4)

Alice Lee breaks through the fortress
and wins the Women's American Cup.
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 4.Nc3 d6
5.e4 Nbd7 6.Nge2 g6 7.Ng3 h5 8.Bd3
h4 9.Nge2 Bh6 10.Bxh6 Rxh6 11.Qd2
Rh8 12.a3 Kf8 13.0-0-0 Kg7 14.g3 a6
15.f4 Ng4 16.Rdf1 hxg3 17.hxg3 Ndf6
18.Kb1 Bd7 19.f5 Rb8 20.a4 Nh2
21.Rd1 Nf3 22.Qc1 Ng4 23.Rxh8
Qxh8 24.Rh1 Qd8 25.Ng1 Nxg1
26.Rxg1 Qf6 27.Rf1 Rh8 28.Be2 Nh6
29.g4 g5 30.Bd1 Ng8 31.Qe3 Qh6
32.Ne2 b5 33.Ng3 f6 34.axb5 axb5
35.Qa3 Kf7 36.Qa7 Ke7 37.Rh1 Qxh1
38.Nxh1 Rxh1 39.cxb5 Rxd1+ 40.Ka2
Rd4 41.b6 Rxe4 42.b7 Rb4 43.b8Q
Rxb8 44.Qxb8 Nh6 45.b4 cxb4
46.Qxb4

Aronian wins the American Cup Open in
a tense final game. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.e4 c5 6.e5
cxd4 7.a3 Ba5 8.exf6 dxc3 9.b4 Bc7
10.fxg7 Re8 11.Nf3 d5 12.Qxc3 e5
13.cxd5 e4 14.Nd4 Be5 15.Bb2 Nd7
16.Bb5 a6 17.Bxd7 Bxd7 18.0-0 Qh4
19.g3 Qh3 20.f4 Bf6 21.Qe3 Bg4
22.Rf2 Rad8 23.Nb3 Rxd5 24.Re1
Bxb2 25.Rxb2 Qh6 26.Rd2 Qd6
27.Rxd5 Qxd5 28.Nd2 Bf5 29.Nf1
Bh3 30.Nd2 Re6 31.Rc1 Kxg7
32.Rc5 Qd3 33.Rg5+ Kf8

(Diagram)

(Diagram)



34.Qc5+?

[34.Kf2!=]

34...Rd6+- 35.Rh5 Qxd2 36.Rxh3 b6
0-1

□ Maghsoodloo,Parham

■ Perunovic,Milos

Austrian Bundesliga 2023-24 (7.22)

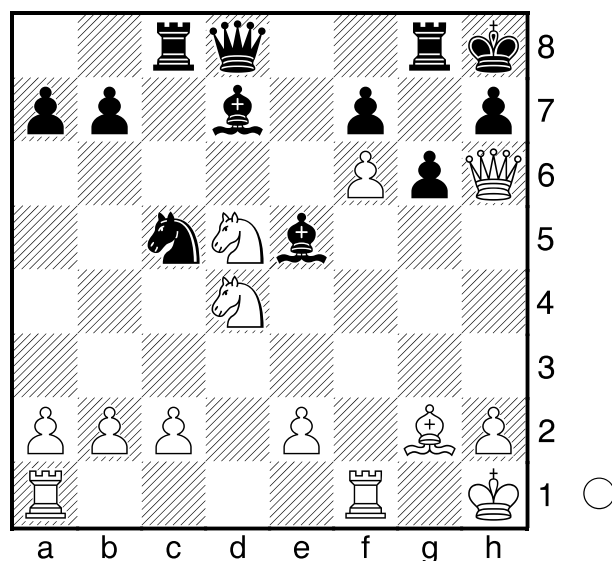
D02

2717

2535

A slaughter from beginning to end. 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 cxd4 5.0-0 e6 6.Nxd4 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.f4 exf4 10.gxf4 g6 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Nd4 Rc8 13.Kh1 Nc5 14.f5 Bd7 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Nxd5 Be5 17.Qd2 0-0 18.f6 Kh8 19.Qh6 Rg8

(Diagram)



20.Nf3!

[20.Nf3 Bxf6 21.Nxf6 Qxf6
22.Ng5+-]

1-0

□ Donchenko,Alexander

■ Ragger,Markus

Austrian Bundesliga 2023-24 (9.1)

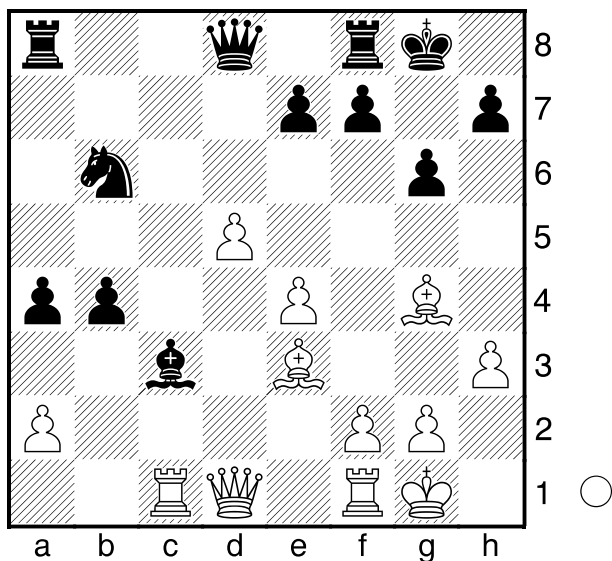
D85

2631

2605

A lovely exchange sacrifice for dark square dominance and a sustained initiative. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Be3 Bg4 9.Qa4+ Nd7 10.Be2 0-0 11.Rd1 cxd4 12.cxd4 Nf6 13.d5 b5 14.Qb4 a5 15.Qb1 b4 16.0-0 Nd7 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Nb6 19.Qb3 Rc8 20.Rc1 Bc3 21.Bg4 a4 22.Qd1 Ra8

(Diagram)



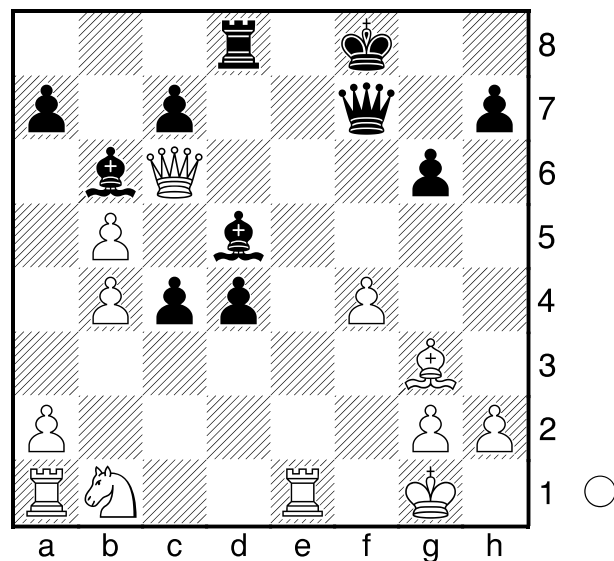
23.Rxc3! bxc3 24.Qd4 Re8 25.Rc1 Nd7 26.Rxc3 Nf6 27.Bf3 Qa5 28.e5 Nxd5 29.Bxd5 Rad8 30.Rc5 Qe1+ 31.Kh2 e6 32.Bh6 a3 33.Rc1 Rxd5 34.Qa4 Qxe5+ 35.Bf4 Qd4 36.Qxe8+ Kg7 37.Be3 Qe5+ 38.g3 Rd3 39.Bc5 Qd5 40.Bf8+
1-0

□ Livaic, Leon
■ Vitiugov, Nikita

Austrian Bundesliga 2023-24 (9.27)

Her majesty gets trapped behind enemy lines. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.b4 Bb6 7.e5 d5 8.exf6 dxc4 9.Qe2+ Be6 10.b5 Nb4 11.fxg7 Rg8 12.cxb4 Qf6 13.Qe4 Rxg7 14.Bf4 Rg4 15.Qxb7 Rd8 16.Qc6+ Kf8 17.Be5 Qf5 18.0-0 Rg6 19.Bg3 Bd5 20.Nh4 Qg5 21.f4 Qe7 22.Nxg6+ fxg6 23.Re1 Qf7

(Diagram)



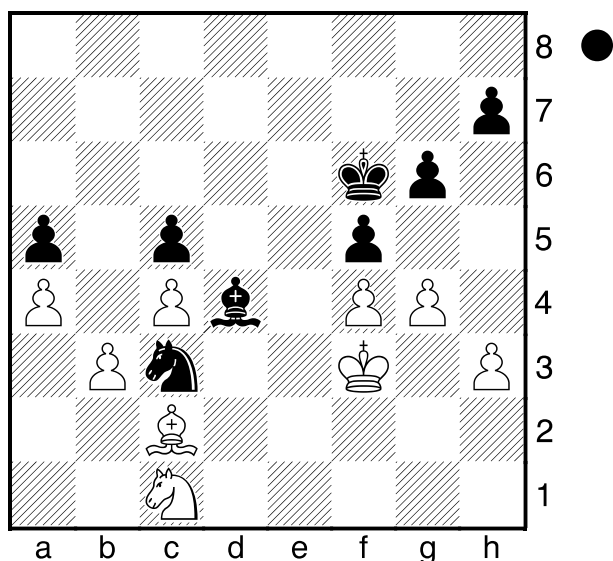
0-1

□ FaustinoOro
■ MagnusCarlsen
Live Chess Chess.com

B04
2955
3246
23.03.2024

Carlsen sensationally blunders a piece to the 10-year old "Messi of Chess." 1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.e4 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.c4 Nb6 6.Nc3 d6 7.exd6 exd6 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Bg4 10.b3 Nc6 11.Be3 Re8 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Rb8 14.Qd2 Ne7 15.Rad1 Nf5 16.Rfe1 Nxe3 17.Rxe3 Rxe3 18.Qxe3 Qe8 19.Qxe8+ Rxe8 20.Bxb7 c5 21.Nb5 Re7 22.Bf3 a6 23.dxc5 dxc5 24.Nd6 Rd7 25.Ne4 Rxd1+ 26.Bxd1 Bd4 27.Kf1 Kf8 28.Ke2 Ke7 29.f4 f5 30.Nf2 a5 31.Nd3 Nc8 32.Kf3 Nd6 33.Ne1 Ne4 34.Bc2 Nc3 35.a4 Na2 36.g4 Kf6 37.Nd3 Nc3 38.Nc1

(Diagram)



Na2?? 39.Nxa2 Bb2 40.gxf5 gxf5
41.Bd3 Ke6 42.Ke2 Kf6 43.Kd2 Ke6
44.Nc3 Kf6 45.Nd5+ Ke6 46.Kc2 Bf6
47.Nxf6 Kxf6 48.Kd2
1-0

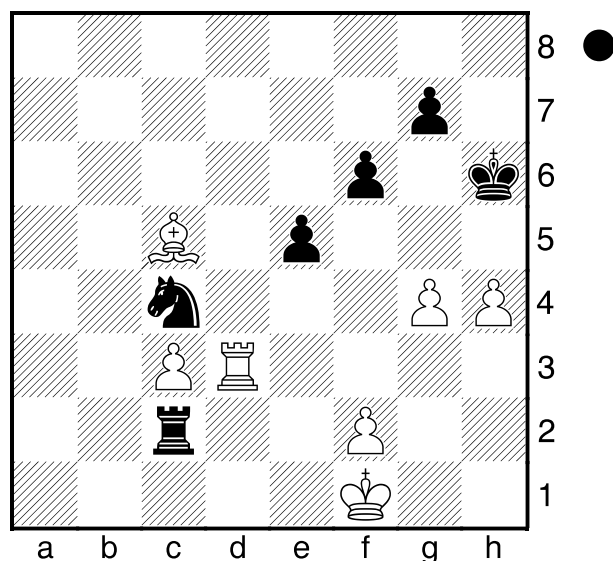
□ Rapport,Richard
■ Carlsen,Magnus

B12
2720
2830

GRENKE Chess Classic 2024 (1.2)

Another incredible one-move mistake by Carlsen. 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 Qa5+ 7.c3 e6 8.a4 c5 9.dxc5 Qxc5 10.Nf3 Qc7 11.Na3 Bxa3 12.Rxa3 Nd7 13.0-0 Ne7 14.Re1 Rc8 15.Qd1 a6 16.Bg5 Ng6 17.a5 0-0 18.Ra4 Rce8 19.Rd4 Ndx5 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.Bf4 f6 22.Qxh5 Qf7 23.Qxf7+ Nxf7 24.Bh2 Kh7 25.g4 Nd8 26.Bd6 Rg8 27.Rb4 Nc6 28.Rxb7 Nxa5 29.Rd7 Nc4 30.b3 Nd2 31.Re2 Nxb3 32.Be7 Kh6 33.Kf1 e5 34.Rb2 Na5 35.Rb6 Nc4 36.Rxa6 Ra8 37.Rxa8 Rxa8 38.Rxd5 Ra2 39.Bc5 Rc2 40.Rd3

(Diagram)



Nd2+?? 41.Rxd2
[41.Rxd2 Rxd2 42.Be3+-]
1-0

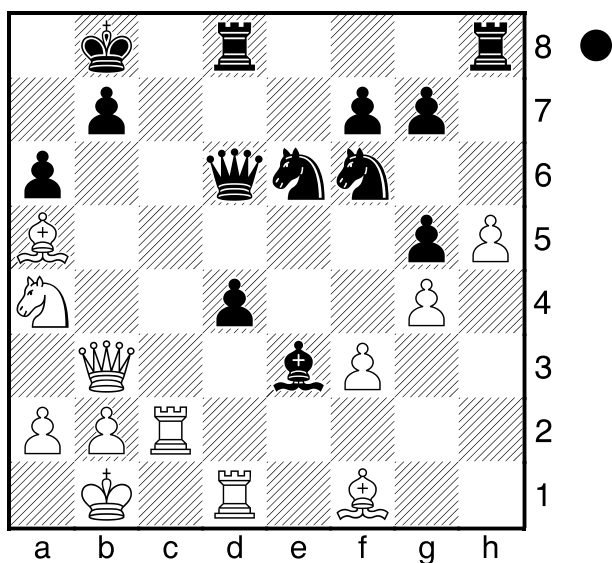
□ Carlsen,Magnus
■ Ding,Liren

D35
2830
2762

GRENKE Chess Classic 2024 (3.2)

The first Classical game between the current and the former World Champion ends in a tense draw. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nc3 c6 6.Bf4 Bf5 7.e3 Nbd7 8.Nh4 Be4 9.f3 Bg6 10.g4 Be7 11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.Qc2 Nf8 13.0-0-0 Ne6 14.Bg3 Bd6 15.Be1 Qc7 16.Kb1 0-0-0 17.h4 Kb8 18.Rg1 a6 19.Rg2 g5 20.h5 c5 21.dxc5 Bxc5 22.Na4 Bxe3 23.Qb3 d4 24.Rc2 Qd6 25.Ba5

(Diagram)



Qd5! 26.Bxd8 Qxb3 27.axb3 Rxd8
 28.Nc5 Nd5 29.Bd3 Nb4 30.Nxe6 fxe6
 31.Rc5 Rd5 32.Rc4 a5 33.Be4 Rd6
 34.Rc5 b6 35.Rc4 e5 36.Rxb4 axb4
 37.Kc2 d3+ 38.Rxd3 Rxd3 39.Kxd3
 Bc1 40.Kc4 Kc7 41.Kd5 Kd7 42.Kxe5
 Ke7 43.Kf5 Bd2 44.Kg6 Kf8 45.Bd5
 Bc1 46.Bc4 Bd2 47.Bd5 Bc1 48.Bc4
 Bd2
 1/2-1/2

□ Ding,Liren

■ Keymer,Vincent

GRENKE Chess Classic 2024 (4.3)

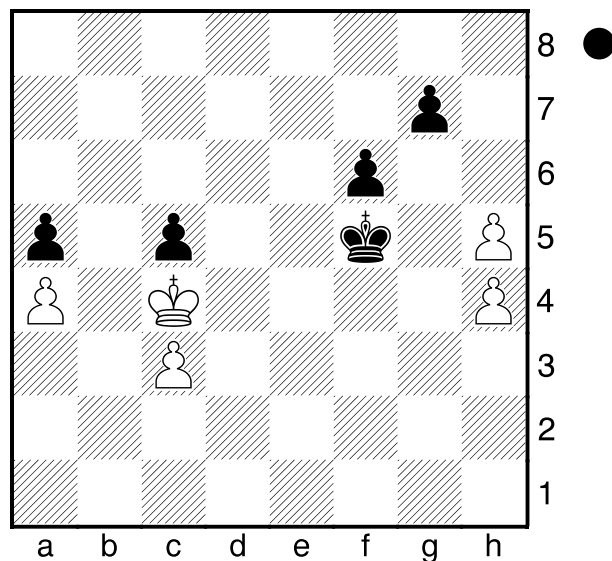
E32

2762

2738

Even the world's strongest
 Grandmasters can misplay king and
 pawn endings. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6
 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 d6 5.Qc2 0-0 6.Bd2
 b6 7.e4 c5 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 cxd4
 10.Nxd4 e5 11.Nf5 Bxf5 12.exf5 Nc6
 13.0-0-0 Rc8 14.Qd3 Qc7 15.Qxd6
 Qxd6 16.Rxd6 Ne4 17.Rd7 Nxc3
 18.bxc3 Rfd8 19.Rxd8+ Nxd8 20.Be2
 Kf8 21.Rd1 Ke7 22.Rd5 f6 23.Kc2
 Nb7 24.Kb3 Nc5+ 25.Kb4 Rd8 26.a4
 Ne4 27.f3 a5+ 28.Kb3 Nc5+ 29.Ka3
 Rd6 30.Bd1 Na6 31.Bc2 Nc7

32.Rxd6 Kxd6 33.Be4 Na6 34.g4 Nc5
 35.h4 h5 36.gxh5 Ke7 37.Bc6 e4
 38.fxe4 Kd6 39.Bd5 Ke5 40.Bc6
 Nxe4 41.Bxe4 Kxe4 42.Kb3 Kxf5
 43.c5 bxc5 44.Kc4



Ke4?

[44...Kg4! 45.Kxc5 f5 46.c4 f4
 47.Kb6 f3 48.c5 f2 49.c6 f1Q 50.c7
 Qc4 51.Kb7 Kxh5 52.c8Q Qxc8+
 53.Kxc8 Kxh4-+]
 45.Kxc5 f5 46.c4 f4 47.Kb6 f3 48.c5
 f2 49.c6 f1Q 50.c7 Qf5 51.Kb7 Qd7
 52.Kb8 Qd6 53.Kb7 Qd7 54.Kb8
 Qxa4 55.c8Q Qd4 56.Qg4+ Kd5
 57.Qd7+ Ke4 58.Qg4+ Kd5 59.Qd7+
 Ke4
 1/2-1/2

□ Carlsen,Magnus

■ Rapport,Richard

GRENKE Chess Classic-TB 2024 (2.1)

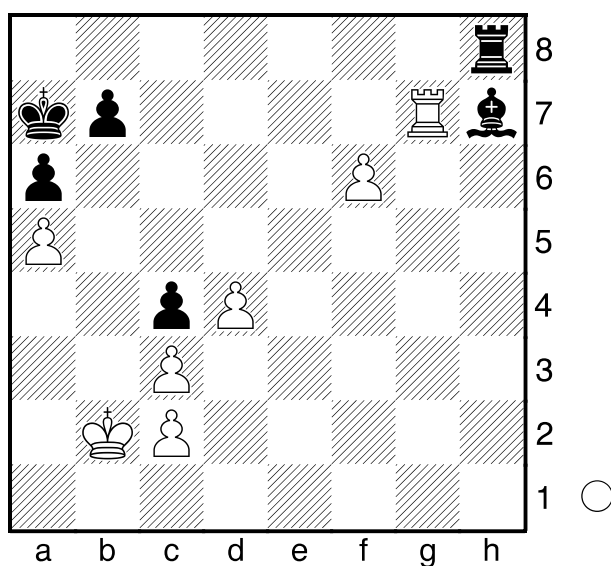
C18

2830

2720

Black is curiously helpless at the end of
 another Carlsen masterpiece. 1.e4 e6
 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3
 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Bd3
 Qa5 9.Bd2 c4 10.Be2 Rg8 11.a4
 Nbc6 12.Qh3 h6 13.Bh5 Bd7 14.Ne2

g6 15.Bg4 h5 16.Bf3 Nf5 17.g4 hxg4
18.Bxg4 0-0-0 19.Bxf5 exf5 20.Bg5
Rde8 21.Kd2 Rh8 22.Qf3 Nd8 23.Bf6
Rh6 24.h4 Ne6 25.h5 g5 26.Rae1 f4
27.Reg1 Rg8 28.Nxf4 Rxf6 29.exf6
Nxf4 30.h6 Ne6 31.h7 Rh8 32.Qe3
Qd8 33.Rxg5 Nxc5 34.Qxg5 Kc7
35.Qg7 Be6 36.Re1 Kb6 37.Re5 Qc8
38.f4 a6 39.Kc1 Ka7 40.f5 Bd7 41.a5
Qf8 42.Kb2 Qc8 43.Rxd5 Bc6 44.Re5
Bd7 45.Qxf7 Bxf5 46.Rc5 Qe6
47.Qxe6 Bxe6 48.Rc7 Bf5 49.Rg7
Bxh7

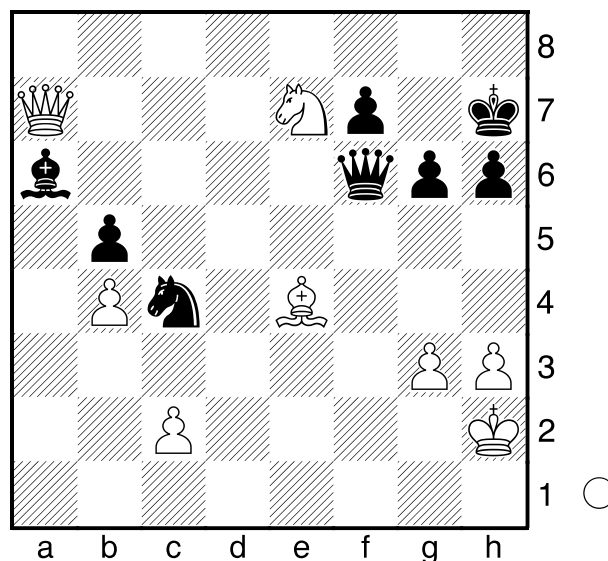


50.f7 Bd3 A joke move, but there's
nothing else. 51.cxd3
1-0

□ Niemann,Hans Moke **B50**
2676
■ Svane,Frederik **2617**
GRENKE Chess Open 2024 (8.4) 1.4.24

A pretty combination seals the deal. 1.e4
c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.h3 Be7
5.g3 d6 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3
Rb8 9.a4 a6 10.Be3 b5 11.axb5
axb5 12.Nd2 d5 13.exd5 exd5 14.Bf4
Rb6 15.Ra8 h6 16.Nb3 Ra6 17.Rxa6
Bxa6 18.Re1 Re8 19.Be5 Nxe5

20.Rxe5 c4 21.Nd4 Bc5 22.Nc6 Qd6
23.Rxe8+ Nxe8 24.Nxd5 Kf8 25.Nc3
cxd3 26.Qxd3 Qf6 27.Qd2 Nd6 28.b4
Nc4 29.Qe1 Bxf2+ 30.Qxf2 Qxc3
31.Qc5+ Kg8 32.Ne7+ Kh8 33.Kh2
Qf6 34.Qa7 Kh7 35.Be4+ g6

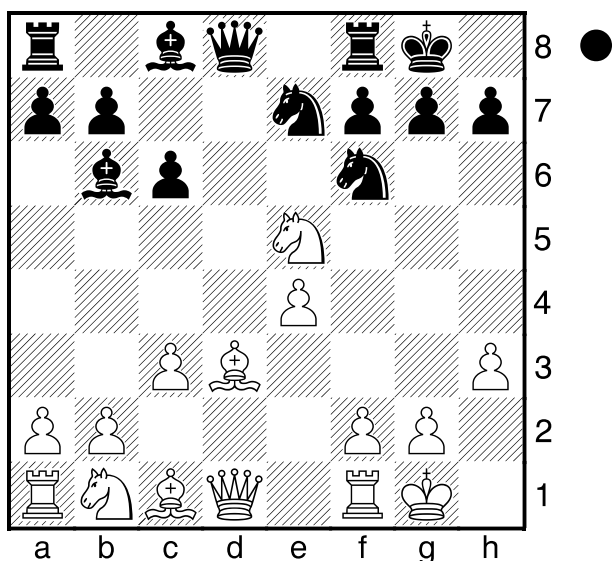


36.Bxg6+! Kg7
[36...fxg6 37.Nd5+ Qg7 38.Nf6+
Kh8 39.Qb8+ Qg8 40.Qxg8#]
37.Bd3 Nd6 38.Nd5 Qe5 39.Qxa6
Qxd5 40.Qa1+ f6 41.Qa7+ Kf8
42.Qb8+ Ke7 43.Qa7+ Kd8 44.Qe3
Qg5 45.Qxg5 fxe5 46.Kg2
1-0

□ Nakamura,Hikaru **C65**
2789
■ Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi **2727**
FIDE Candidates 2024 (2.2) 04.04.2024

White's queenside pieces never got out
of the box. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5
Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.h3
Ne7 8.d4 c6 9.Bd3 Bb6 10.dxe5
dxe5 11.Nxe5

(Diagram)



Bxh3! 12.Nc4?

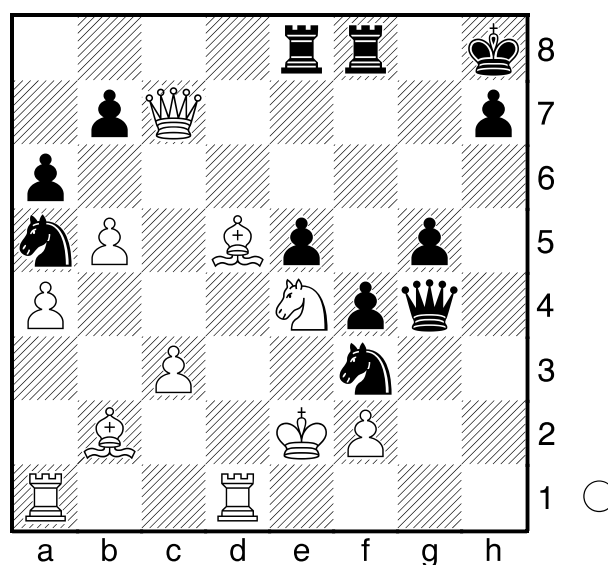
[12.gxh3 Qb8! 13.Bf4 (13.Nc4?? Qg3+-) 13...Bc7 14.Bg3 Bxe5 15.f4 Bc7∞]

12...Bg4 13.Qc2 Bc7 14.e5 Nd7 15.Bxh7+ Kh8 16.Bd3 b5 17.Ne3 Nxe5 18.Be2 f5 19.f4 Bb6 20.Kf2 Nd5 21.Rh1+ Kg8 22.fxe5 Qg5 23.Ke1 Bxe3 24.Bxg4 Qxg4 25.Bxe3 Nxe3 26.Qe2 Qg3+ 27.Kd2 Rad8+ 28.Kc1 Qg5 29.b3 Nf1+ 0-1

□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **C65 2758**
 ■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2760**
 FIDE Candidates 2024 (2.3) 04.04.2024

A wild game with both kings under fire.
 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d5 7.exd5 Qxd5 8.Bc4 Qd8 9.b4 Be7 10.Nbd2 a6 11.a4 Bf5 12.Qc2 Nd5 13.Ne4 Bg4 14.Qa2 Nb6 15.Bb3 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Qxd3 17.Kg2 Qd7 18.Rd1 Qe8 19.h4 Nc8 20.h5 Kh8 21.h6 g5 22.Qd2 Nd6 23.Bb2 Nf5 24.Qd7 Nh4+ 25.Kf1 f5 26.Ng3 Nxf3 27.b5 f4 28.Ne4 Na5 29.Be6 Qg6 30.Qxe7 Qxh6 31.Bf7

Qh3+ 32.Ke2 Qf5 33.Bd5 Rae8
 34.Qxc7 Qg4

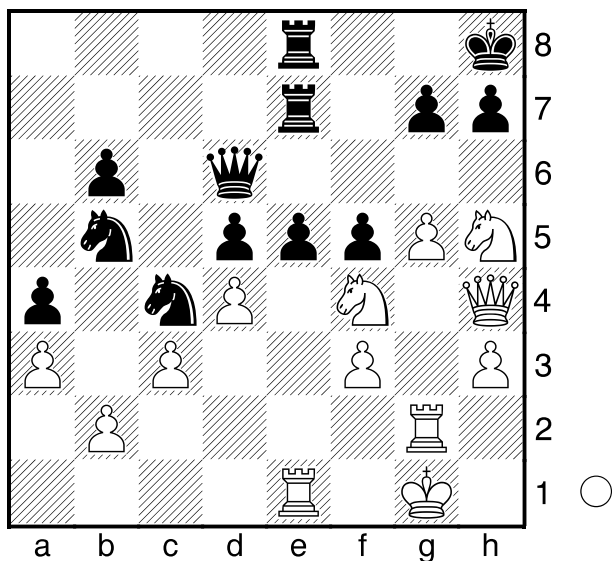


35.Kd3! Rd8 36.c4 Rxd5+ 37.cxd5 Qh3 38.Ng3 Nc4 39.Qxc4 fxc3 40.fxc3 axb5 41.axb5 Rc8 42.Rh1 Qd7 43.Qe4 Kg8 44.Ke3 Nd4 45.Bxd4 1-0

□ **Tan,Zhongyi** **B13 2521**
 ■ **Vaishali,Rameshbabu** **2475**
 FIDE Womens Candidates 2024 (2.1)

A peaceful start - then white's forces gravitate towards the kingside... 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 a6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.h3 Bf5 8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 e6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Rfe1 0-0 13.a3 Qc7 14.Na2 Rac8 15.c3 Ne4 16.Qe2 Na5 17.Nb4 Nb3 18.Rad1 a5 19.Nd3 a4 20.Nfe5 Na5 21.f3 Nd6 22.Nf4 Nac4 23.Ned3 Rfe8 24.Qf2 Re7 25.Re2 Rce8 26.Rde1 b6 27.g4 Nb5 28.Qh4 Qd6 29.Nh5 f6 30.g5 f5 31.Rg2 Kh8 32.Ndf4 e5

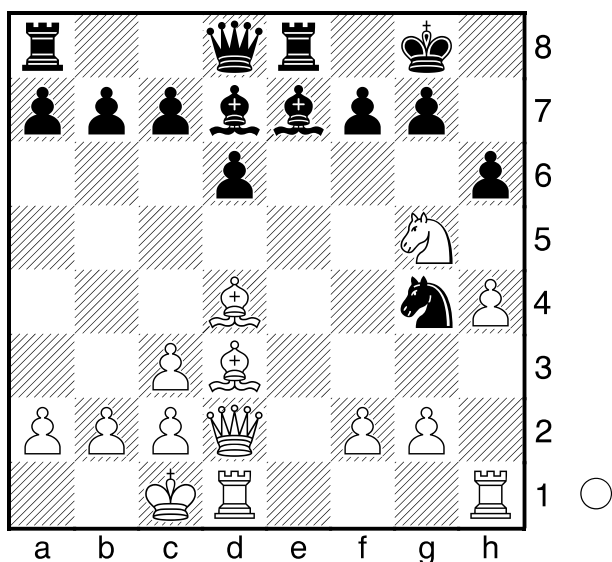
(Diagram)



33.Nf6! gxf6 34.Ng6+
1-0

□ Vaishali,Rameshbabu C42 2475
■ Salimova,Nurgyul 2432
FIDE Womens Candidates 2024 (3.4)

Fortune favors the bold. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3
Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3
Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2
Nd7 9.0-0-0 Nf6 10.Bd4 Bd7 11.h4
Re8 12.Ng5 h6 13.Bd3 Ng4

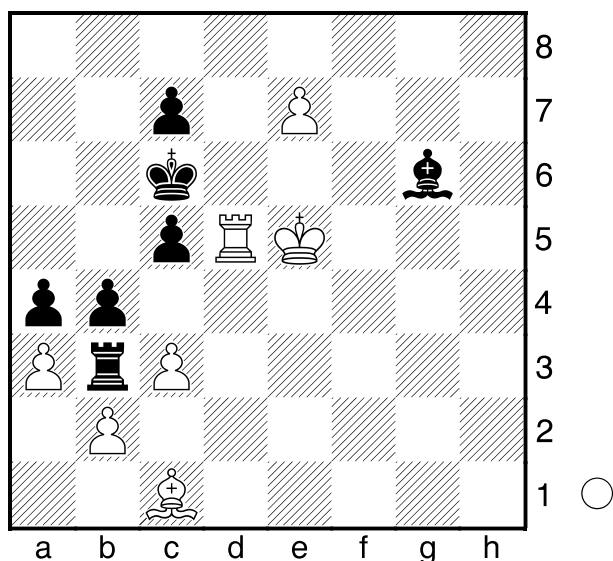


14.Nxf7!? Kxf7 15.Bc4+ Kf8 16.Qd3
Bg5+?
[16...Bf6 17.Qh7 Be6 18.Bxe6 Rxe6
19.Qf5 Nxf2!=]
17.Kb1?!
[17.hxg5+-]
17...Ne5?
[17...Bf6]
18.Bxe5+- Bf6 19.Bxd6+ cxd6
20.Qxd6+ Qe7 21.Qxd7 Qxd7
22.Rxd7 Re4 23.Bd5 Re2 24.Rf7+
Ke8 25.Rxb7 Rd8 26.Bc4 Red2
27.Re1+ Kf8 28.Kc1 R2d7 29.Rxd7
Rxd7 30.g3 Be7 31.h5 Bc5 32.Re5
Bb6 33.a4
1-0

□ Nepomniachtchi,Ian C67 2758
■ Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi 2727
FIDE Candidates 2024 (4.2) 07.04.2024

An intricate tour de force by Nepo. 1.e4
e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4
5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5
8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 Bd7 10.h3 h6
11.g4 Ne7 12.Nh2 g5 13.f4 gxf4
14.Bxf4 Be6 15.Ne4 b6 16.Nf3 c5
17.Nf6 Kc8 18.Kg2 Kb7 19.Kg3 a5
20.a3 a4 21.Rad1 Nc6 22.c3 Be7
23.Nh4 h5 24.g5 Ra5 25.Rde1 Rb5
26.Bc1 Rb3 27.g6 fxg6 28.Nxg6 Rd8
29.Nxe7 Nxe7 30.Nxh5 Rd3+ 31.Rf3
Rxf3+ 32.Kxf3 Bxh3 33.e6 b5 34.Bg5
Nd5 35.e7 Bd7 36.Rd1 Kc6 37.Ke4
Be8 38.Rxd5 Bxh5 39.Bc1 Bg6+
40.Ke5 b4

(Diagram)

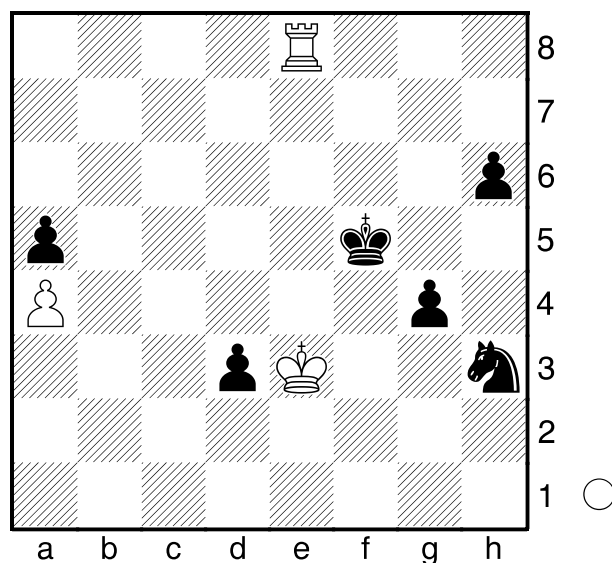


41.Kf6! Be8 42.Rd8 bxa3 43.bxa3 Bd7
44.Kf7
1-0

☐ **Firouzja,Alireza** **C54** **2760**
☒ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2789**
 FIDE Candidates 2024 (5.2) 09.04.2024

A tense nail-biter, with a cute tactical finish. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 h6 6.b4 Be7 7.Qb3 0-0 8.a4 d6 9.Nbd2 Nb8 10.d4 exd4 11.cxd4 a5 12.e5 Nh5 13.b5 Nf4 14.g3 d5 15.Bf1 Ne6 16.Bg2 c6 17.0-0 Nd7 18.Bb2 Nb6 19.bxc6 bxc6 20.Bc3 c5 21.Rfb1 Ra6 22.dxc5 Bxc5 23.Qb5 Qc7 24.Rc1 Qa7 25.Qe2 Bd7 26.Bf1 Nc4 27.Nb3 Bb6 28.Rd1 Qa8 29.Bg2 Nc5 30.Nxc5 Bxc5 31.Nh4 Nb6 32.Bd4 Bxd4 33.Rxd4 Ra7 34.h3 Rc7 35.g4 Qc8 36.Qd2 Rc5 37.Qf4 Re8 38.Nf5 Bxf5 39.gxf5 Qc7 40.Re1 Nd7 41.e6 Qxf4 42.Rxf4 Nf6 43.Rd4 Kf8 44.Rd2 fxe6 45.fxe6 Ke7 46.Rb2 Rec8 47.Bf1 Ne4 48.Bd3 Nc3 49.f4 d4 50.Rg2 g5 51.f5 Nd5 52.Re4 Nb4 53.f6+ Kxf6 54.Rf2+ Rf5 55.Rxf5+ Kxf5 56.e7

Nxd3 57.e8Q Rxe8 58.Rxe8 Nf4
59.Kf1 d3 60.Kf2 Nxh3+ 61.Ke3 g4

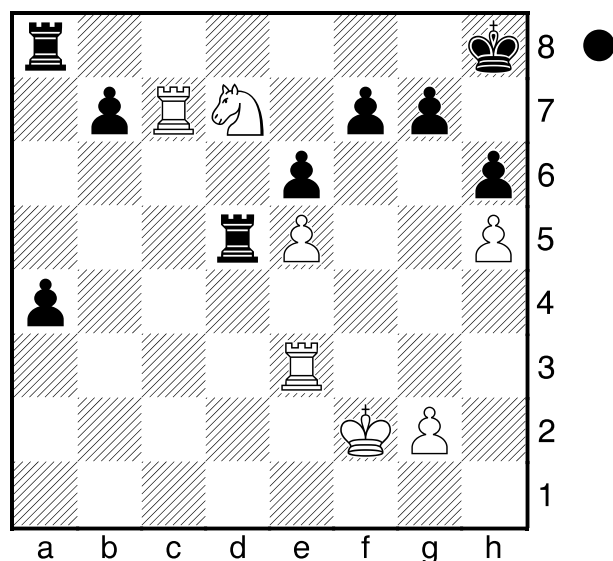
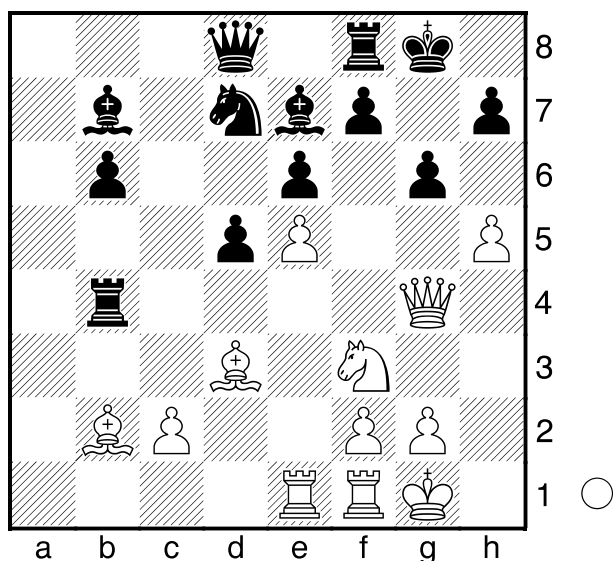


62.Kxd3??
 [62.Rf8+=]
 [62.Rd8=]
62...g3 63.Rf8+ Ke6
 [63...Ke6 64.Rg8 g2! 65.Rxg2
 Nf4+--+]
0-1

☐ **Tan,Zhongyi** **D05** **2521**
☒ **Muzychuk,Anna** **2520**
 FIDE Womens Candidates 2024 (6.2)

A brilliant attacking game from start to finish. 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 c5 5.b3 Nc6 6.0-0 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.Nbd2 Rc8 9.a3 Be7 10.Ne5 cxd4 11.exd4 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.Qg4 g6 14.b4 a5 15.Nf3 0-0 16.Rae1 axb4 17.axb4 Ra8 18.h4 Ra4 19.h5 Rxb4

(Diagram)



20.Nd4! g5 21.Bc3 Ra4 22.f4 Qc8
23.Bb2 Nc5 24.f5 exf5 25.Bxf5 Qd8
26.h6 Bc8 27.e6 f6 28.Bxh7+ Kxh7
29.Qf5+ Kh8 30.Nc6 Qe8 31.Qxg5
Rg8 32.Rxf6 Bxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kh7
34.Ne7 Re4 35.Rxe4 Nxe4 36.Nxg8
Qxg8 37.Qf7+
1-0

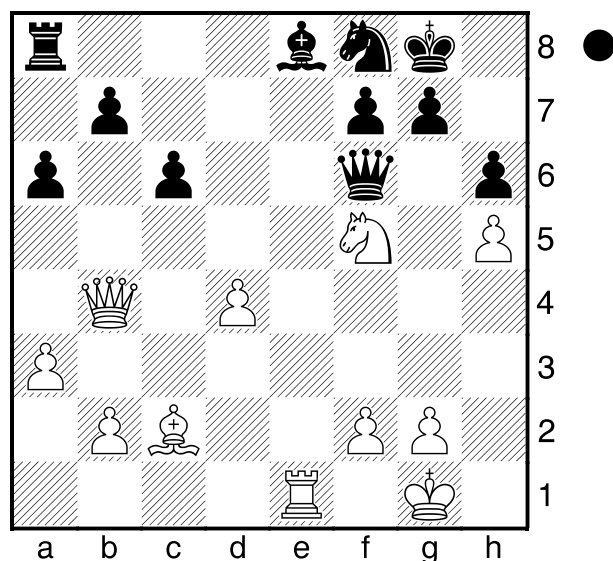
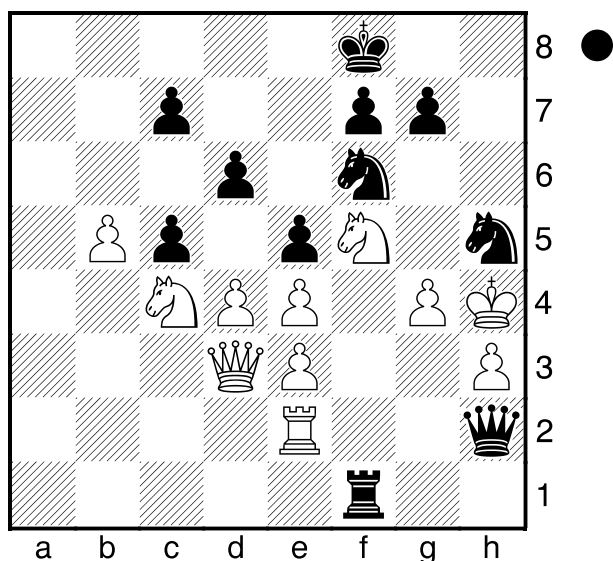
Kh7? A decisive loss of time.
[36...a3 37.Rxa3 Rd8! (37...Rxa3?
38.Rc8+ Kh7 39.Nf8+ Kg8 40.Ng6+
Kh7 41.Rh8#) 38.Nc5 Rxe5=]
37.Rf3!+- a3 38.Rxf7 Kh8 39.Nf8! a2
40.Ng6+
1-0

□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **D02**
■ **Gukesh D** **2760**
FIDE Candidates 2024 (7.1) **2743** 11.04.2024

□ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **C55**
■ **Gukesh D** **2727**
FIDE Candidates 2024 (8.2) **2743** 13.04.2024

White bamboozles black in mutual time trouble. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Nbd2 Qb6 6.Rb1 cxd4 7.exd4 Bd7 8.c3 Bb5 9.h4 Nbd7 10.Rh3 Be7 11.h5 h6 12.a4 Bxf1 13.Kxf1 0-0 14.Kg1 Qc6 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nd7 17.Rg3 Kh8 18.a5 Qc7 19.Nf3 Qxa5 20.c4 Rg8 21.Ra1 Qb4 22.b3 Nc5 23.Nd4 Ne4 24.Re3 Qc5 25.Rc1 Rgd8 26.b4 Qxb4 27.cxd5 Nxf2 28.Kxf2 Rxd5 29.Re4 Rad8 30.Be3 Bc5 31.Qb3 Qxb3 32.Nxb3 Bxe3+ 33.Rxe3 a5 34.Rc7 a4 35.Nc5 Ra8 36.Nd7!
(Diagram)

Black's major pieces sneak into white's position via the a-file and then the 1st rank, culminating in a brilliant finish. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 a6 5.0-0 h6 6.a4 Bc5 7.Be3 d6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.c3 Re8 10.b4 Bxe3 11.fxe3 Be6 12.b5 Nb8 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 14.Qc2 Nbd7 15.d4 Qe8 16.Rae1 axb5 17.axb5 Ra5 18.c4 Qa8 19.h3 Re8 20.Kh2 b6 21.Rf2 Ra2 22.Qd3 Ra3 23.Qb1 Qa4 24.Nh4 Ra8 25.Nf5 Kf8 26.Ref1 Ra1 27.Qd3 Qb4 28.Rxa1 Rxa1 29.c5 bxc5 30.Nc4 Qe1 31.Re2 Qg1+ 32.Kg3 Nh5+ 33.Kh4 Ndf6 34.Nxh6 Qh2 35.Nf5 Rf1 36.g4
(Diagram)



Rxf5! 37.exf5
 [37.Rxh2 g5#]
37...Qg3+ 38.Kg5 Nh7+
0-1

b5? Black is busted in any case.
34.Ne7+ Kh8 35.Nd5!
1-0

□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **C78**
2789
 ■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
 FIDE Candidates 2024 (8.3) 13.04.2024

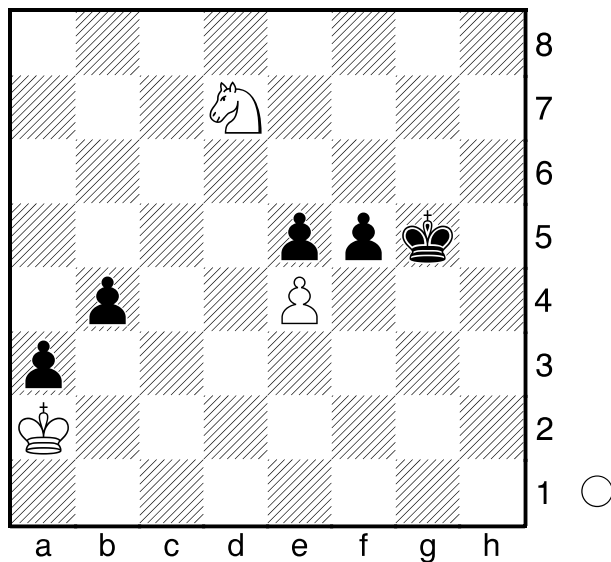
□ **Goryachkina,Aleksandra** **D14**
2553
 ■ **Lei,Tingjie** **2550**
 FIDE Womens Candidates 2024 (10.3)

Black loses focus in the middle game and white pounces. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 Bc5 6.0-0 d6 7.c3 0-0 8.Re1 Ne7 9.Nbd2 Ng6 10.Nf1 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Bb3 c6 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 Nf6 15.h3 Bxd4 16.cxd4 Nd5 17.Bc2 Be6 18.Ng3 Ndf4 19.Re4 Nd5 20.a3 Re8 21.Bd2 Nf6**
 [21...Qb6]
22.Bg5 h6 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.Qd2 Qg5 25.Re3 Nf4 26.h4! Qd5
 [26...Qxh4 27.Re4 g5 28.Rae1±]
27.Re4 Ng6 28.Rae1 Nf8 29.Re5 Qd8 30.h5 Bd7 31.Rxe8 Bxe8 32.Nf5 Qf6 33.Qb4

(Diagram)

A heart-breaking loss by the top seed.
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Bf4 Nc6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Bb5 e6 8.Nf3 Nd7 9.0-0 Rc8 10.Ne5 Ndx e5 11.Bxe5 a6 12.Bxc6+ Rxc6 13.Rc1 f6 14.Bg3 Be7 15.Na4 Rxc1 16.Qxc1 Kf7 17.Qc3 h5 18.h3 h4 19.Bh2 Qd7 20.Nb6 Qb5 21.Qc7 Qxb2 22.Bd6 Re8 23.Rc1 Kg6 24.Bxe7 Rxe7 25.Qc5 Kh6 26.a4 a5 27.Nc8 Rd7 28.Qc3 Qb4 29.Qc5 Kh7 30.Qa7 Qd2 31.Qc5 Bd3 32.Nb6 Rd6 33.Qxd6 Qxc1+ 34.Kh2 Bf5 35.Nd7 Qc2 36.Nf8+ Kh6 37.f3 Qf2 38.Qf4+ g5 39.Qc7 Qg3+ 40.Qxg3 hxg3+ 41.Kxg3 e5 42.e4 dxe4 43.fxe4 Bc8 44.d5 Kg7 45.Ne6+ Kf7 46.Kf2 b6 47.g3 Bd7 48.h4 gxh4 49.gxh4 Bxa4 50.h5 Bb5 51.Ke3 a4 52.h6 Kg6 53.Kd2 Kxh6 54.d6 Kh5 55.Nf8 Kg5

56.d7 Bxd7 57.Nxd7 a3 58.Kc2 b5
59.Kb3 b4 60.Ka2 f5



61.Nxe5?

[Loses. 61.exf5! Kxf5 62.Nc5 e4
63.Na6 e3 64.Nxb4 e2 65.Nc2=]

61...Kf4 62.Nd3+ Kxe4 63.Nxb4 f4

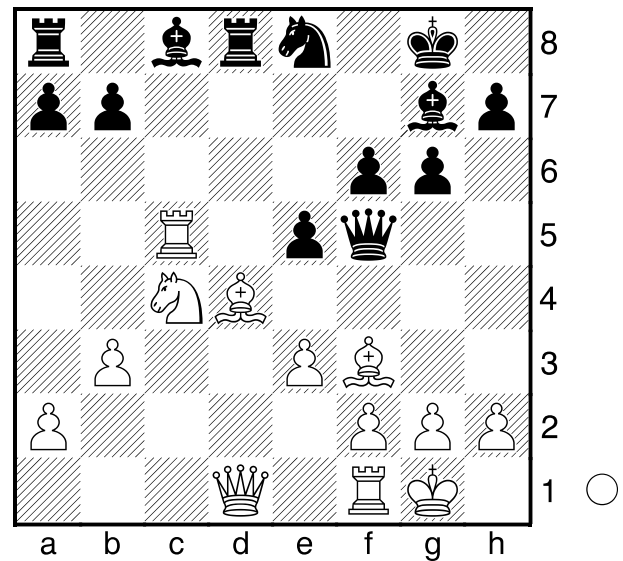
64.Na6 f3 65.Nc5+ Ke3

0-1

D04
 Firouzja,Alireza **2760**
 Abasov,Nijat **2632**
 FIDE Candidates 2024 (11.4) 17.04.2024

With a single stroke white solves the
 issue of multiple pins in the center. 1.Nf3
 Nf6 2.b3 c5 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.e3 g6 5.d4
 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0
 Nxd4 9.Bxd4 d5 10.Nd2 Qd6 11.c4
 Rd8 12.cxd5 Qxd5 13.Bf3 Qf5 14.Rc1
 Ne8 15.Rc5 e5 16.Nc4 f6

(Diagram)



17.Rd5!+- Rxd5 18.Bxd5+ Kh8 19.Bc5
 Qd7 20.Bf3 Rb8 21.Bxa7 Ra8 22.Nb6
 Qxd1 23.Rxd1 Rxa7 24.Rd8

1-0

Recent Pictures



First Friday Chess Socials on March 1 (above) and April 5 (below).





WIM **Sabrina Chevannes** (far right) with the Bentley School Chess Club. The author of [*The Batsford Book of Chess for Children*](#) stopped by to play chess with the kids and attended our April Chess Social.



GM **Dmytro Komorov**, on vacation from Canada, also stopped by during the April Chess Social.



Clark Vandenhoven pinch hitting for FM Paul Whitehead during a recent TNM lecture.

TNM regulars
Gagik Babayan
and **Rayna Yan**.



IM John Donaldson

Books, Books, and More Books!

The rise of online courses offered by Chessable and others has led some to predict the end of chess books, particularly with so many youngsters showing a marked preference for electronic learning. This may happen in the future but, for now, publishers show no signs of slowing down. Witness the bumper crop of recent offerings.

A. Russell Enterprises, Inc. (<https://www.russell-enterprises.com/>)

1. *Oops! I Resigned One More Time!* by Ian Rogers (paperback, 176 pages, \$19.95)

One of the more original books of the last few years was *Oops! I Resigned Again!* by the Australian Grandmaster Ian Rogers. Dozens, if not hundreds, of puzzle books have been published over the years, but this one was different. It consisted solely of games where a player resigned in a position in which they were either drawing or winning when they gave up!

Mega Database, which makes millions and millions of games available with a few keystrokes, is an amazing labor-saving device, but there are no tools that could have enabled Rogers to quickly find the examples he did. Instead, he had to collect them the old-fashioned way, one at a time, over many years.

Rogers' book, which offered interesting back stories to go with the tricky puzzles, met with a positive reception. Now we have a sequel, *Oops! I Resigned One More Time!* (Russell Enterprises 2023, 176 pages, \$19.95). Like its predecessor, it is the rare book that players of all levels will appreciate.

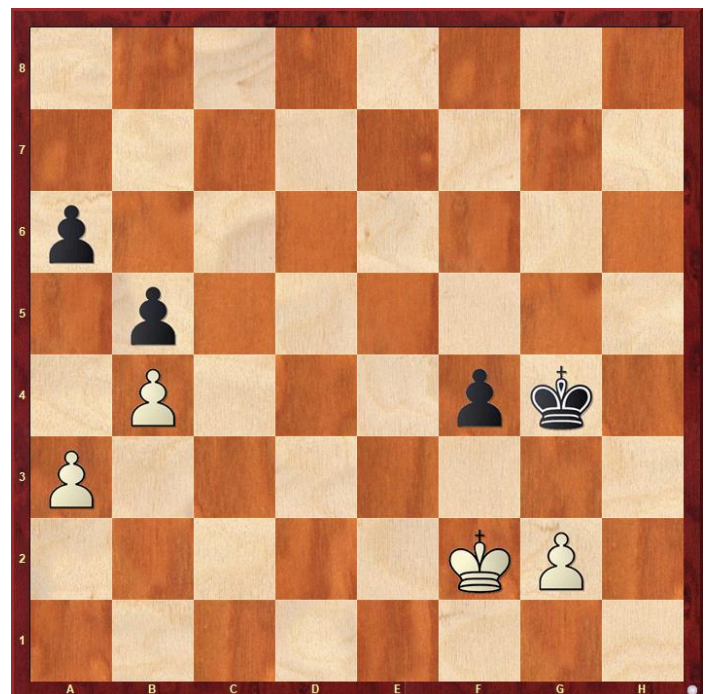
Studying this book will undoubtedly make one more alert to the need to stay calm and collected no matter what the circumstance. Witness the following example that should be essential endgame knowledge for all:

Hillarp Persson - Ragger

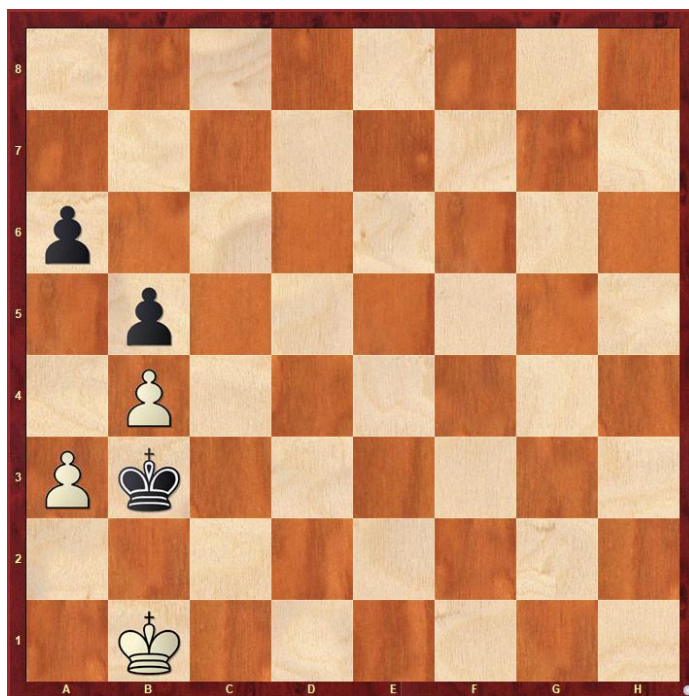
Helsingor Politiken Cup 2015.

White resigned here, in view of ...Kg3 and ...f3 followed by marching the king to b3.

What did he miss?



1.Kg1! Kg3 2.Kf1 f3 3.gxf3 Kxf3 4.Ke1 Ke3 5.Kd1 Kd3 6.Kc1 Kc3.



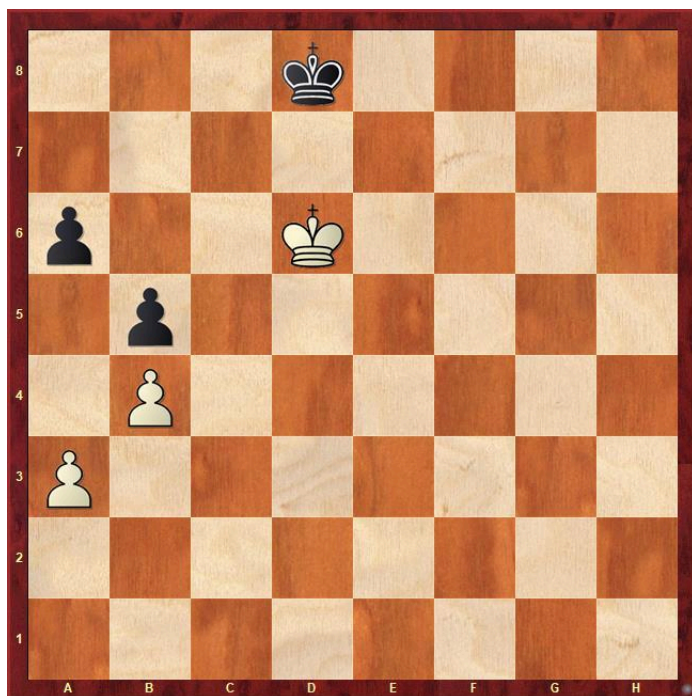
7.a4! The idea to remember. **7...Kxb4 8.axb5 axb5 9.Kb2.** White gains the opposition and draws. Both 5.a4! and 6.a4! also drew.

Rogers also mentions the following game, played two years earlier, where black found the saving resource:

Nesterovic - Brkic

Sarajevo, 2013.

1...a5! 66...Kc8 67.Kc6 Kb8 (67...a5! draws as well.) 68.Kb6 a5 also drew. **67.bxa5 Kc8 68.Kc6 Kb8 69.Kb6 Ka8 70.a6 Kb8 71.a7+ Ka8 72.Ka6 b4 73.axb4 ½–½**



2. *Endgame Corner: 450 Instructive Endgame Exercises* by Karsten Mueller and Alex Fishbein (paperback, 336 pages, \$29.95)

Twenty years ago, one could point to an absence of good books on the endgame. That is no longer the case. The 21st century has seen a number of high-level works on the final phase of the game. These have included both manuals and exercise books. The current offering, from two well-known experts in the field, belongs firmly in the latter category. The 450 positions to solve, with detailed solutions, comes with a scoring system to provide extra motivation. All players will benefit from this book, but those rated below 2200 will find it challenging.

One of the best pieces of advice ever offered was to eat more vegetables. One could add to this, solve more endgame exercises!

3. *Double Trouble Scandinavian Style: Two Repertoires for Black* by Marek Soszynski (paperback, 176 pages, \$24.95)

Polish Correspondence master Marek Soszynski offers two very different repertoires using the Scandinavian Defense. The first is **1.e4 e5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6** followed by **...g6** and the second **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6** with **3.d4 Nxd5 4.Nf3** met by **...Bf5** and not **...g6**. Earlier alternatives are covered including a transposition into the Panov-Botvinnik attack after **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.d4 cxd5**, a line that more commonly arises from the Caro-Kann. The author provides many well-annotated illustrative games.

B. Gambit Publications (www.gambitbooks.com)

4. *Secrets of Queen Endings* by Ferenc Berkes and Tibor Karolyi (paperback, 384 pages, \$29.95)

Hungarian IM Tibor Karolyi had made a name for himself as the author of a number of outstanding game collections on World Champions including works on Kasparov, Karpov, and Tal. Here, he tackles a new subject in collaboration with his countryman, Ferenc Berkes (peak FIDE 2706).

The two have chosen to write on one of the toughest subjects, queen and pawn endgames. Why the toughest? Because these endings can be extremely complicated. It is no accident that their secrets were long hidden, emerging only with the rise of powerful chess engines. Unfortunately, while they can analyze in tremendous depth, explaining things in a way humans can understand is not currently part of their job description. Hence the need for a book of this kind, where the two Hungarians serve as interpreters. This need is especially important now in a time when games are played to a finish in one session.

Karolyi and Berkes have written the definitive work on the subject. Positions range from queen and pawn versus queen to those with queens and multiple pawns on the board. Stronger players will find the examples of queen and four pawns versus queen and three pawns on one side of the board especially valuable as they tend to crop up with some frequency and lend themselves to typical methods of play.

Secrets of Queen Endings is by far the best book on the subject and highly recommended with the caveat that this is a very advanced book.

C. New in Chess (www.newinchess.com)

5. *Winning Chess Middlegames: Volume 2 An Essential Guide to 1.e4 Pawn Structures New in Chess* by Ivan Sokolov (paperback, 288 pages, \$27.95)

Ivan Sokolov was a world class player whose second act as a coach and author is arguably even more impressive. He has made a reputation in the latter field for his ability to explain tough subject matter in a way that is useful to both professional players and ambitious amateurs. This is particularly true of his works devoted to the middle game and his most recent book is no exception.

Winning Chess Middlegames: Volume 2 An Essential Guide to 1.e4 Pawn Structures covers the Rauzer Sicilian where Black has doubled f-pawns, the Maroczy Bind, the Hedgehog, the Sveshnikov as well as the Winawer variation of the French (where White plays **4.e5**), the Italian, The Petroff, and the Ruy Lopez. The subject matter is dealt with through 47 well-annotated games that offer a balance between specific variations and clear explanatory prose. The book concludes with a series of exercises with detailed solutions.

Those who play either side of the lines covered in this book or have ever been curious about how to handle them will want to get this book. Sokolov is able to zero in on the essential elements of a position like few other authors. This book is highly recommended to all players from 2000 on up.

D. Thinkers Publishing (<https://thinkerspublishing.com>)

6. *The Life and Games of Dragoljub Velimirovic: Volume 1* by George Mohr & Ana Velimirovic (hardback, 317 pages, \$56)

The name of Dragoljub Velimirovic (1942-2014) is synonymous with razor sharp play. He was an attacker's attacker who favored **1.e4** as White and the Modern Benoni, King's Indian, and Dragon Sicilian as Black. Like fellow Yugoslav Grandmaster Albin Planinc, it was never clear if Velimirovic realized pieces were allowed to retreat. This was seemingly never a thought for a man who lived to sacrifice pieces and pawns.

Despite playing many brilliant games, no books have been dedicated to Velimirovic but now that gap has been filled thanks to his daughter, Ana Velimirovic-Zorica, and Grandmaster Georg Mohr. The two have written a fitting tribute, aided by a manuscript Velimirovic worked on but did not live long enough to complete.

This volume, the first of two, covers the "Yugoslav Tal" from the start of his career in the 1950s to 1975 when he was a well-established Grandmaster. It features not only carefully annotated games but lots of anecdotes and stories that allow one to get to know the subject better. What shines out is Velimirovic's love for chess, hard work ethic and tremendous imagination. These characteristics made him the ideal coach and second for Svetozar Gligoric. One might not think this was a match made in heaven as the player's styles were not identical, but the relationship was highly beneficial for both individuals.

As a youngster, this reviewer remembers reading a story that it was Velimirovic's mother who invented the famous attack (**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qe2** followed by **0-0-0** and the advance of the g-pawn) and not her son. As one might suspect, this story was inaccurate, but it had more than a grain of truth to it. As Mohr explains, it was Dragoljub's mother, Jovanka, a top Yugoslav female player between the World Wars, who first tested it in correspondence games with the encouragement of her son. We should all have such a mother!

The Life and Games of Dragoljub Velimirovic is a book that belongs in every chess player's library.

7. *DragonMasters, Volume 1* by Andrew Burnett (hardback, 404 pages, \$50)

Like the Velimirovic book, this work by the Scottish Fide Master is very much a labor of love, as he pays homage to a long list of heroes who played the Dragon. The present volume, the first of a projected two-part series, covers the period from 1850-1976 through 73 well annotated games which includes the forgotten game Fischer-Munoz Leipzig 1960, likely the last time Bobby lost to a FIDE untitled player and to the Dragon. Curiously, Fischer came out of the opening and early middlegame with a clear advantage but then lost his way. In this game, the Ecuadorian master put his queen on e5, a maneuver Bobby subsequently became fond of (Larsen-Fischer 1971 from game two of their Candidates Match is probably the best-known example). Other classic Dragon games in this volume put under the microscope include Rauzer-Botvinnik, Leningrad 1933 (...e5 and ...d5!) and Karpov-Korchnoi from their 1974 Candidates Final.

If you play the Dragon, or want to, this book will provide inspiration.

8. *The Modernized Trojan Knight 1.Nc3* by Bruno Dieu (hardback, 470 pages, \$50)

The opening move **1.Nc3**, sometimes referred to as the Van Geet or Dunst after the Dutch master Dick Van Geet and the American Theodore Dunst who both played it regularly, can go two ways. It can be used as a transpositional tool that aims to steer into other openings like the Vienna (**1.Nc3 e5 2.e4**), the Sicilian (**1.Nc3 c5 2.e4**) or the Veresov, Barry, or Jobava if White answers **1...d5** with **2.e4**. It can also be an independent opening and that is what the French Fide Master Bruno Dieu advocates for in this book.

The Modernized Trojan Knight 1.Nc3 often proposes to play **1.Nc3** combined with an early **d4** or **e4**. For example, after **1.Nc3 e5** with **2.Nf3 Nc6** or **1.Nc3 c5 2.Nf3 d5** White plays **3.d4**. While after **1.Nc3 d5** White answers **2.e4**. The latter is arguably the most important variation in the book and is allocated over 200 pages.

While the author's focus is on creating an independent opening, he is also flexible enough to point out when it is better to transpose into conventional lines. For example after **1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 e6** he comes down strongly on the side of playing **3.d4** with a transposition into the French. He does examine **3.g3** as one of the marginal lines he covers, but doesn't have much faith in it.

1.Nc3 has not yet found a lot of love at the top level in classical chess but in blitz and rapid it has seen testing, particularly by the Azeri Grandmaster Shakhriyar Mamedyarov. One expects to see more of this opening move as elite players look for opportunities to set new problems for their opponents. *The Modernized Trojan Knight 1.Nc3* breaks new ground and is currently the best guide to this unique opening.

9. *Sharpen Up Your Chess* by Armin Juhasz (hardback, 378 pages, \$45)

The young Hungarian International Master and trainer has written an improvement book primarily aimed at players rated from 1800-2200. All phases of the game are covered from opening to endgame with plenty of exercises with detailed solutions.

10. *Tournament Battle Plan: Outprepare Your Opponent* by Danny Gormally (hardback, 349 pages, \$50)

There are many authors out there but only one Danny Gormally. The former English Olympiad team member, with a peak rating of 2573 FIDE, examines topics not normally covered in chess books that some readers, especially younger ones, might not appreciate. That said, there is no denying he is an entertaining and instructive writer when it concerns matters on the chess board.

This latest book by Gormally is yet another good read which is full of instructive tips and insights that are presented in a colorful fashion. Adult players rated from 1800 on up will find *Tournament Battle Plan: Outprepare Your Opponent* helpful.

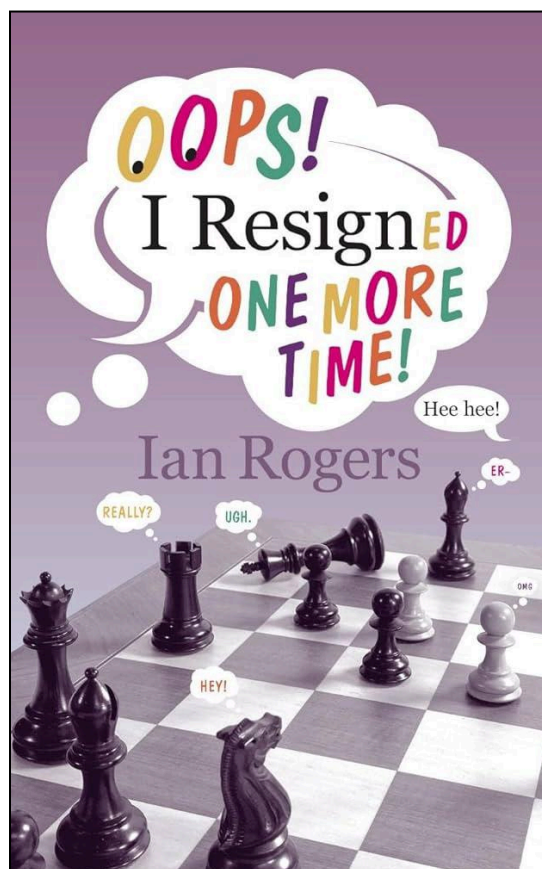
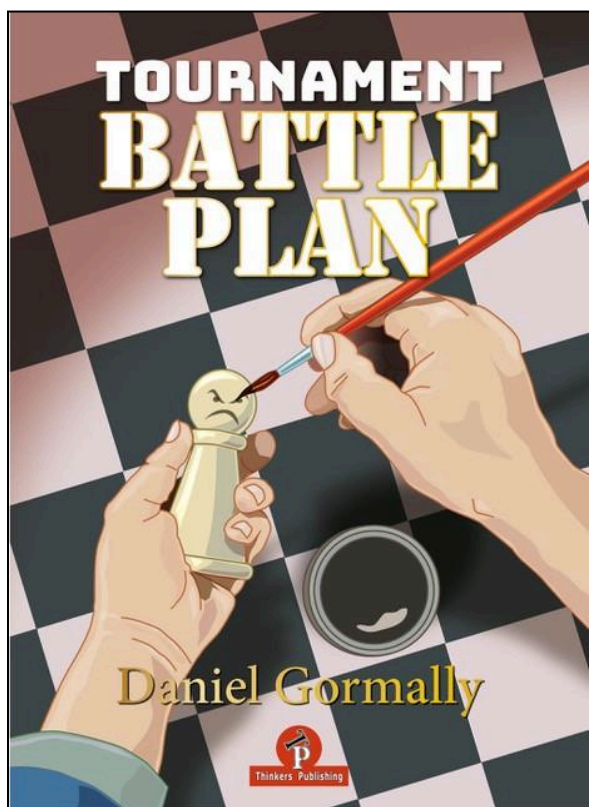
11. *365 Endgame Lessons for Novices: Daily Bite-Sized Steps to Endgame Mastery* by Hans Brunthaler (paperback, 282 pages, \$39)

Many endgame books are too overwhelming for lower rated players both in the amount of material offered and its complexity. That is not the case with this book which provides a daily endgame position to solve for a year accompanied by a detailed solution. Players in the rating range 1400-2000 will find this work useful.

12. *The Modernized Barry Attack* by Vladimir Okhotnik (paperback, 203 pages, \$35)

Those who like to play **1.d4**, but don't want to face the King's Indian or Grunfeld, might want to consider the Barry Attack (**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3**). Played on and off by a number of top players including Levon Aronian, its true champion is the English Grandmaster (and KID defense devotee) Mark Hebden who has used it for over three decades with excellent results.

Here, the Ukrainian Grandmaster Vladimir Okhotnik provides a comprehensive and up to date survey of this line which ranges from the hyper aggressive to the overly positional. Those looking to take up **1.d4**, but who want to limit the theory they have to master, will find this book helpful.



Zorba Hughes

Grow up

Adults do not like to play kids in chess. They would rather floss sharks teeth than lose to a young whippersnapper. Why? Because the idea of being outwitted by a person barely taller than a raccoon sticks in your gourd longer than government peanut butter does to your ribs. You study books like you are about to take the bar exam, only to have some young, fledgling upstart who's biggest worry in life is completing the next level of Halo come along and put more middle game combinations on you than Master Lock. You get steamed up like a pot of greens. You forget this is a child, and want more revenge than Montezuma.

But alas, it's not to be. Why? because you're old!! You forget where you placed your reading glasses. You searched high and low looking for them throughout your house. They're not on the night stand or in the breast pocket of your shirt. They didn't fall between the cushions of your couch. Just as you give up looking, you scratch your head in bewilderment and confusion, that's when you realize they've been on top of your head the whole time! And you think you're going to strategically beat a kid that has more time than a death row inmate to improve their game? The younger you start playing chess, the stronger you become. Bobby Fischer started at 6. Was a grandmaster by 15. Magnus was 13.

So take defeat in stride. Remember the next time you play a child in chess, whether you are winning or losing, don't take it personally. Remember one thing: Grow up.

Richard Hack

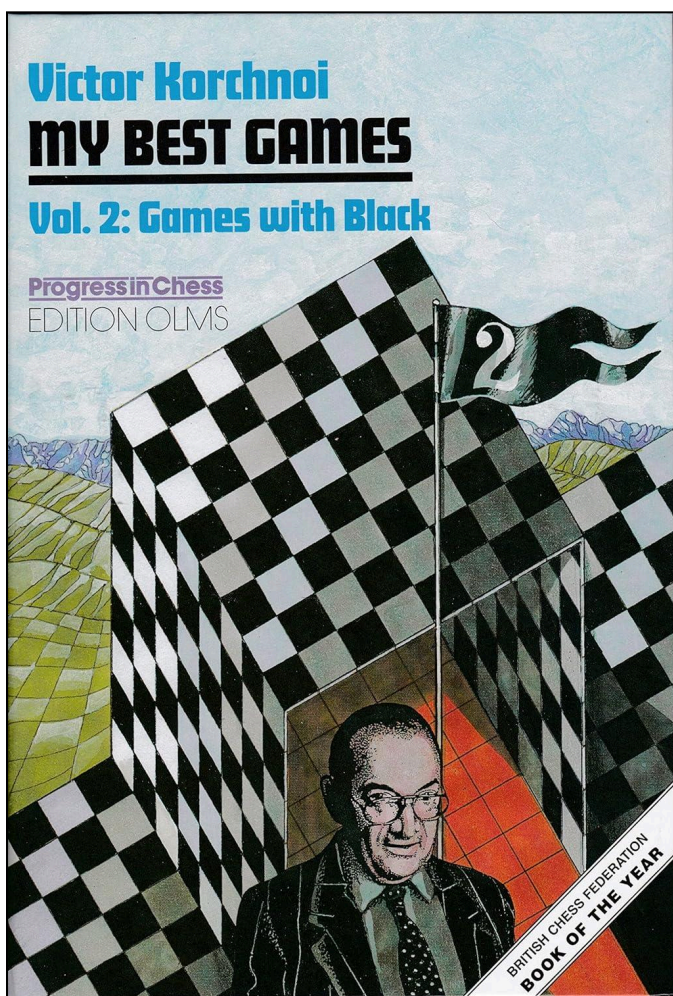
Tales From the Chess Cafe

There was once a guy who found chess to be something that brought true order into his life at an unbalanced time. When things were mixed up, and no clear move available, he wanted a retreat but couldn't stop playing altogether, there was never any good reason for that. In days of promise when the White Sox had Dick Allen at first base for almost three years, he would go to Jimmy's Woodlawn Tap on 55th St., and while sipping through a stein or two, play somebody (usually worse) two or three games if they had the spirit for it. Jimmy's was a haven when hard knocks were tapping, gently rapping on the chamber door—the chess kept Poe's raven away and kept his mind focused on what was possible, both the definite and the speculative. A departed spouse was already making room for others like and unlike her to occupy strong squares on the board of life.

He moved from the South Side to the North, from Jimmy's to the Oxford Pub on Lincoln Avenue and all kinds of coffee shops and taverns on the somewhat smaller North Side, where you could also look at life and play a good game. Then he drove way out west again to find even more chess and life in San Francisco, another cultural capital unlike no other, despite a similar unwillingness to do much about official corruption. People keep coming here every day, and their manifest dreams combine with and supplant the ones others have played out. A good deal of it continues to gather about the Mechanics' Institute, a venerable center of knowledge and enterprise. Its Chess Social hour on April 5 again brought in two dozen animated aficionados.

Victor Korchnoi, My Best Games, Vol 2: Games with Black, opening comment on a game with Fischer from the 1962 Candidates Tournament, after 1. e4 d6: "In the years when I was beginning my chess

career, this opening was called 'irregular.' Later, names were conferred on it—in the USSR it was called the 'Ufimtsev Defence,' and in the West—the 'Pirc Defence.' I had occasion to meet both of these players at the board, and I can testify that they understood chess! But by virtue of originality of character, they preferred not the standard, well-tried paths, but their own, even if they were slightly dubious . . ." (Zurich: Edition Olms, 2001, p. 30.)



In life as in chess, performance ratings fluctuate with each official game. How does the ego respond? Maybe with jokes, gripes, and woodshedding. Players have the opportunity to study books in the library's extensive chess collection and take in lectures, courses, and simuls given by GMs Nick de Firmian, Alex Yermolinsky, Sam Shankland, and others; IM John Donaldson, a prolific author and scholar and former captain of the U.S. team; the irrepressible FM Paul Whitehead; and numerous guest speakers on their trips to Land's End, which looks west to Oceania and East Asia.

The hops of a knight, or an open bishop streaking across the board; the advance of a pawn with a dagger in each hand, a simple exchange or sacrifice opening the castled king's position. The sliding of a rook onto an open h-file, check, followed by the queen taking the lead down that file, as the team on offense begins to apply ultimate pressure. However it comes out, the loose pieces are collected again and rearranged in battle formation on some 40 chess tables.

Near the end of April we sadly bid adieu to Paul Whitehead, chess room coordinator, who began his association with Mechanics' Institute 51 years ago, when he and his brother Jay were kids approaching expert, then master level. He has put his own stamp on the history of this cultural institution. We will miss his five-day-a-week presence, but look forward to future visits and news from the East Coast.

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.



Rowson - Franklin, St. Peters de Beauvoir, 1995. Black to play.

Puzzle 119 from *The Batsford Chess Puzzle Book* (2003), by Leonard Barden.

1...Rg6! threatens 2...Rg1#, and 2.Rxg6 would drop the queen after 2....Qxe4. That leaves **2.Bg2**, which loses to a pretty queen-sacrifice: **2...Qxh3+!! 3.Bxh3 Rg1#**.

Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

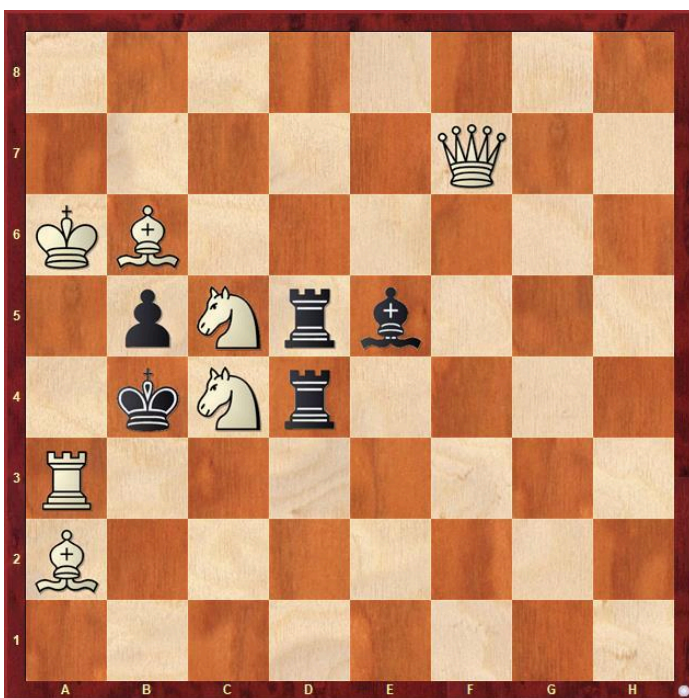
Are you interested in joining the team at Mechanics' Institute? The Institute is currently seeking Scholastic Chess Instructors for the upcoming school year. Qualified candidates should have a foundational knowledge of chess and should be familiar with or willing to learn chess instructional techniques. 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)

Tony's Teasers



1. E. Hassberg, 1945.
White to play and mate in 2.



2. E. Hassberg, 1948
White to play and mate in 2.

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](#).

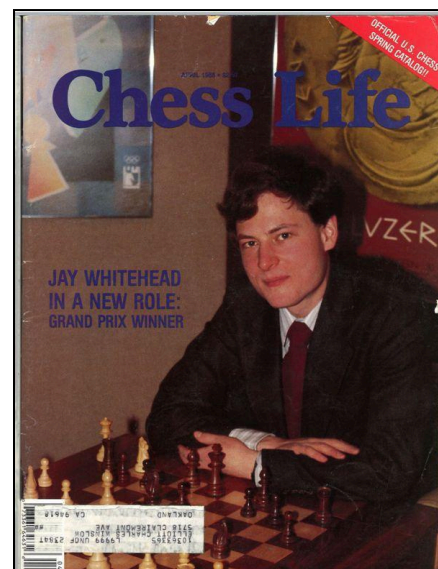


Tournaments in May

Register for all tournaments at milibrary.org/chess



2nd Ray Conway Memorial Saturday, May 4 10:00 am 4 Rounds G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
Summer Tuesday Night Marathon Tuesdays, May 7 - June 18 6:30 pm 7 Rounds G/120;d5	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
18th Brandwein/Schutt/Whitehead Memorial Blitz Saturday, May 11 2:00 pm 6 Rounds DSS G/4+2	Members and Non-Members \$15
Monthly Scholastic Swiss Saturday, May 18 10:00 am 4 Rounds G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
Monthly Quads Saturday, May 18 3:00 pm 3 Rounds G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40



Left to right: Steve Brandwein, Ray Schutt, and Jay Whitehead.



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



Play chess in the oldest club in the United States!



Tournaments in June

Register for all tournaments at milibrary.org/chess

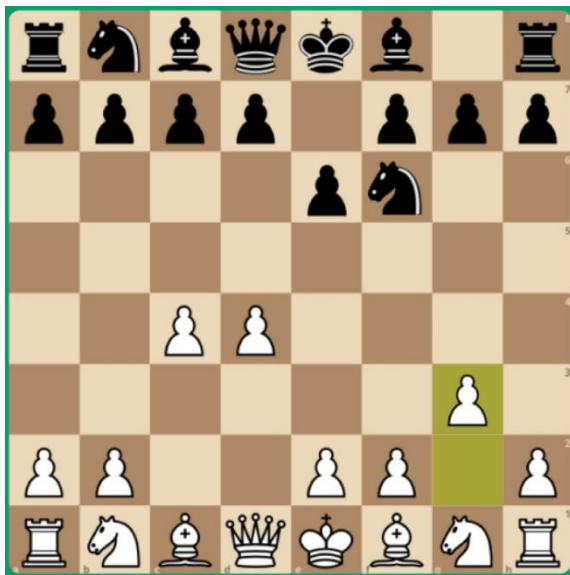


Summer Tuesday Night Marathon Tuesdays, May 7 - June 18 6:30 pm 7 Rounds G/120;d5	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
1st Mike Goodall Memorial Saturday, June 1 10:00 am 4 rounds G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50
Monthly Scholastic Swiss Saturday, June 15 10:00 am 4 Rounds G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$35
Monthly Quads Saturday, June 15 3:00 pm 3 Rounds G30;d5	Members \$30 Non-Members \$40
58th Arthur Stamer Memorial Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23 10:00 am 4 Rounds G/90+30	Members \$70 Non-Members \$100
2024 Summer Celebration Blitz Tuesday, June 25 7:00 pm 5 Rounds DSS G/3+2	Members \$20 Non-Members \$30
23rd Henry Gross Memorial Saturday, June 29 10:00 am 4 rounds G/40;d5	Members \$40 Non-Members \$50



Arthur Stamer (left) was the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Director from 1951 to 1964.
Henry Gross (center) was California State Champion in 1952.
Charles Bagby (right) sat on the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute.

In-Person Opening Intensive with GM Jacek Stopa: Catalan Opening



Come and join GM Jacek Stopa for his new set of one day intensive classes on openings! For the second session, this course will explore some of the most modern lines of the very popular Catalan Opening from White's perspective. The Catalan is a rich and complex opening with a reputation for deep strategic play.

Due to the extensive nature of the opening, the focus of this session will be on the most interesting lines. The variations to be covered are useful for a player who wants to avoid the very main lines. They offer a comfortable opening edge for White, and many yield a straightforward advantage in endgames.

Strategic principles will be discussed, real game examples from both the more classical time periods as well as cutting-edge theory will be shown. This opening is a popular choice among some of the highest-rated players in the world and is therefore a good choice for club/tournament players. Time for analysis and discussion will be provided.

The course is targeted at players USCF 1600+, but all are welcome. Please note this class is geared towards experienced club players.

Saturday, May 18th
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Members: \$150
Non-Members: \$200
Register via the QR Code!
Or visit
milibrary.org/chess/online



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**



Join the Chess Room for Chess Socials!

5:00-6:00 pm

First Fridays of the month:

April 5

May 3

June 7

July 5

August 2

September 6

October 4

November 1

December 6

Unwind from the week with fellow chess players. We'll have rousing game replays on the big screen, snacks, and lively conversation. Stick around for CinemaLit at 6:00 pm. All ages and community welcome.

Questions? Contact chessroom@milibrary.org



Solutions

Tony's Teasers:

1. **E. Hassberg**, 1945. **1.Rc7!** Intending 2.Rxa7#. Black is pinned all over the place. If **1...a6**
2.Qb4#. Or **1...Ka6** **2.Rxa4#**.
2. **E. Hassberg**, 1948. **1.Qf2!** Threatens 2.Qb2#. **1...Rd2** **2.Ba5#**.

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>