MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Chess Room Newsletter

Issue #1052 | August 26th, 2024 | Gens Una Sumus!

GM Dimitri Komarov visits the club!
Contents

Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute
By Alex Robins

On July 22nd we had our Monthly Thursday Night Rapid, these have been a pretty big hit! In the over 1600, **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2401) won the tournament outright with a perfect score. In second place, we had a four way tie for second place between **Archit Dasika** (2227), **IM Elliott Winslow** (2147), **Jayden Wu** (2083), **Hayes Marvin** (1876).

In the under 1600 section, **Conrad Zborowski** (1164) also had a perfect score and took home first place. **Isaac Mays-Smith** (1165) and **Merlin Mackley** (962) were right behind him in second with 3.5 points.

Thanks to Senior Tournament Director Arthur Liou for running this tournament.

We ended July with a 2-day FIDE event tournament, our annual Wilkerson Memorial Tournament. **Dave Ram Mohan** (2203) took the over 2000 section by storm with a perfect score! MI coaches **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2401) and **IM Elliott Winslow** (2166) tied for second. Congratulations also to our under 2200 prize winners **Neil S Bhaduri** (2107) and **WFM Badamkhand Norovsambuu** (2108) and our under 2000 prize winner **Reyansh Gupta** (1808).

In the 1600-1999 section we had a three way tie for first between **Shreyank Krishnan** (1749), **Andrew Andi Wu** (1681), **Sarvagnya Brahmanapally** (1674) with all three scoring 3.5 points. The under 1800 and 1600 prizes were split four ways between **Avik Saha** (1532), **Anand Mahesh Wataney** (1401), **Ujwal Garine** (1775), **Colin Yi** (1723).

In the under 1600 section **Youcheng Ding** (1387) won it outright with a perfect 4 for 4. There was a two way tie for second between **Hugo Pu** (1365) and **Hayden Brongersma** (1359). The best under 1400 prize was split between **Ritwik Saha** (1286), **Avyukth Ganapathy Viswanath** (1355), and **Dhritee Desai** (1334). Finally, the under 1200 was also split three ways - congratulations to **Devika Eby** (2.0/1016), **Naga Abhiram Ponnaluri** (1145), and **Olivia Xu** (1059).This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior Tournament Director Scott Mason.

Lately we've been doing some adults-only 18+ tournaments and this month's was a success! In the over 1600 section **Matthew Larson** (2438) won it all with 3 points. **Christopher Pan** (2175) came in second place and **Hayden Karkainen** (2038), **Alexander Su** (2018), and **Michael Da Cruz** (2000) split third place. The best under 2000 prize went to **Xavier Negron** (1888) and the best under 1800 went to **Jeff Andersen** (1624)

In the under 1600 section Mechanics' regular **Albert Starr** (1500) tied for first with **Matthew Thayer** (unrated). **David Siegel** (1178) took third and we had a 5-way split for the under 1400 and under 1200 prizes between **Anushka Narasani** (1193), **Merlin Mackley** (962), **Tim Boldt** (1386), **Randy Wu** (1278), and **Sawyer Stults** (1182).

Our First Silman Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon wrapped up on August 20th and I'd like to give a big thank you to Silman's wife who donated copies of his books to give out as raffle prizes. Jeremy Silman will be remembered!

Congratulations to **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2401) and **Archit Dasika** (2227) for winning the tournament with 6 points each and taking in just over a grand splitting the first and second place prizes! In third place and the under 2200 prize, we had a five way tie with 5.5 points each between **Christopher Timothy Atkeson** (2162), **FM Andy C Lee** (2328), **Theodore James Coyne** (2204), **Michael Lin** (2149), and **Bradley R Diller** (2116). The under 1800 prize was split between **Max L. Ross** (1610) and **Yonathan Adamassu** (1750). The under 1400 prize went to both **Dominic A Vazquez** (1209) and **Binh Khac Nguyen** (1386). Finally the under 1200 prize went to **Saadit Ahmed** (unrated) and **Anthony Patrick Carion** (883). This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior Tournament Director Scott Mason. We hope to see you all at our next TNM which will be back to the usual sectioned format.

On August 3rd we held our first memorial tournament for local bay area chess legend IM John Grefe. In the top section, **Patrick Peiju Liu** (2229) took home first place with a perfect score. Second place had a four way tie going to **Sebastian Suarez** (2230), **Arun Dixit** (2221), **Kanwar Sethi Jr** (2041), and **Zhuoyuan Wu** (1997).

In the 1600-1999 section we had two players tie for first with 3.5 points each; **Kanishk Jain** (1925) and **Cailen J Melville** (1848). We also had a three way tie for third with 3 points each between **Jeremy Da Cawthon** (1999), **Advik Garg** (1749), and **Thomas Gu** (1700).

In the 1200-1599 section **Pranit N Pandhare** (1370) and **Olivia Xu** (1038) tied for first with 3.5 points each. We had another three way tie for third place with **Sohan Zaveri** (1457), **Arjuns Navaaneetha** (1160), and **Varad Yatin Korde** (1149) scoring a respectable 3 points each.

In the under 1200 section we had a clear winner with **Isaac Mays-Smith** (1165) going undefeated. Second place was split three ways by **Abhyuday B Khodpe** (1136), **Merlin Mackley** (962), and **Brody Chambers** (934) each winning 3 points.

Thanks to Senior Tournament Director Arthur Liou for running this tournament.

Our Monthly Scholastic Swiss had a great turnout, one of our biggest ever! The competition was fierce with **Adam Tennant** (958) winning the 800+ section with a perfect score! Second place went to **Abhi Arun Kumar** (817). Third place went to **Liam Martinez** (914). **Zane Chu** (1025) took fourth and **Arjun Patil** (1031) won fifth place.

In the 500-799 section **Si Hao Huang** (694) won the section outright with a perfect score! Second through fifth in order were: **Bryn Killingsworth** (740), **Zelan Fang** (607), **Sicheng Ao** (546), **Timothy Poon** (789).

In the under 500 we had a good amount of first time tournament players. Welcome and we hope to see you again! **Sergei Pimenov** (105) won this section with 4 points and I think his rating will climb! Second through fifth went in order to: **Yaoheng Li** (unrated), **Kayden Xu** (unrated), **Oliver Vankov** (316), and **Jack Abrams** (419).

Thanks to Senior Tournament Director Arthur Liou for running this tournament.

On Friday August 23rd we were visited by **GM Dimitri Komarov** (2476) who gave a lecture on Koltanowski to kick off our weekend of chess and played in our Friday Night Blitz. To nobody's surprise, **GM Dimitri Komarov** took the tournament with 6.5 points. **FM Tymur Keleberda** came in second place with 5.5 and there was a three way tie for third between **NM Daniel Cremisi**, **NM Dipo Chakraborty**, and **Robert Berry**. Robert Berry also took the u1800 prize and our Summer camper **Eli Albukirk** (1180) split the u1300 prize with **David Siegel** (1178). This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior Tournament Director Scott Mason.

Over the same weekend we had our 1st Koltanowski Memorial Tournament. Upon further research this title was mistaken as we have held tournaments in his honor in the past, this will be corrected next year in the tournament in his honor.

In the 2000+ tournament, **FM Tymur Keleberda** (2304) took a clear first place with 3.5 points. At his heels was a six way(!) split for 2nd with all six sharing the prizes for second, third, u2200, and u2000. Congratulations to **Vishnu Nanugonda** (2157), **Anthony Vladimir Ivanenko** (1969), **Hanchi Yao** (2105), **Vikrant Ganesan** (2049), **Sudeep Suresh** (1948), and **Reynash Gupta** (1837).

In the 1600-1999 section **Andrew Andi Wu** (1681) and **Ishaan Jain** (1384) split the first and second prizes with 3.5 points each. In third place we had another split with **Robert Crompton** (1767), **Michael Walder** (1976), **Colin Yi** (1698), and **Rayna Yan** (1651). The best u1600 was shared by two players with 2.5 points, **Rakshita Dhanasekar** (1547) and **Jiaming Zhao** (1555).

In the under 1600 section **Varad Yatin Korde** (1149) won with the only perfect score in the tournament. The prizes for second, third, and u1400 were split by three players with 3 points each. They were **Hugo Pu** (1359), **Binh Khac Nguyen** (1460), **Youcheng Ding** (1387). Finally the under 1200 prize was also split three ways by Elena **Hingyip Pang** (1070), **Anirudh Gutta** (1195), **Alexandra Zhuge** (1189).

Big congratulations to all of our winners and to Senior TD Scott Mason and International Arbiter Judit Sztaray for a smooth and successful tournament!

On August 29th, we had our Sizzling Summer Blitz which **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2403) won with 6.5 points. **IM Ladia Jirasek** was right behind him in second with 6 points (and is featured in an interview below). **Caleb Martinez Cespedes** (1849) had a strong showing and took third. **Robert Berry** (1671) took the under 1800 prize and **William Dillon** (1051) took the under 1300 prize. Thank you to Senior TD Scott Mason and International Arbiter Judit Sztaray as always for a smooth, quick, and professional tournament!

Interview with IM Ladia Jirasek

By Alex Robins

Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing IM Ladia Jirasek about his new youtube channel LRJchess. Check it out and enjoy the interview! Please like and subscribe to his channel for the sake of the algorithm! The channel can be found here.

Alex:

Hi Ladia, great to have you here, could you tell us a little bit about your new channel, how it started, and what your goals are for it?

Ladia:

So the channel is my walkthrough guide to chess starting at the very bare bones, the very basics, if someone has never seen what chess is before, if they have no idea what chess is, if they've only seen the pieces and that's it, this channel will be for them.

It starts exactly with how the pieces move, what the basic rules are and it goes from there because two things I've noticed is first with my book, I've started it as like assuming that people know how to play, know the rules, know how the pieces move and everything like that and go from there to then say, hey, these are all the things you need to know.

I know a lot of people that want to learn chess, but don't know how to do that. There are already so many great resources online, but I've had a bunch of private students for a long time and I feel like I wanted to give my view of how I think about this stuff and how I explain it. I think that I can help people learn how to play chess and also get better at chess. So that's my initial goal.

Alex:

How does the material on your channel connect with your recent book *How to Chess*?

Ladia:

I've seen with my book, a lot of people have emailed me and asked me questions about what they can do to improve, and I love answering all of those emails. But at the same time, I thought I could do something more. And I feel like this channel, at least right now in its infancy, covers the most basic knowledge.

But my entire goal with this is to not just be a beginner channel but to eventually have more in-depth, maybe opening theory or harder tactics or more specific ideas in the middle game. For example, how I would think about a position, or what people should be thinking about in the middle game, or the end game, to the point where my hope is that within for months or a year down the road when I have more videos, and I've outlined all the basics and I can finally go in deeper.

I can start getting people who are maybe intermediate level and want to want to level up to the advanced or expert level and to create videos on things that they would need to get better.

The majority of my students right now are around intermediate to advanced levels. But I have two beginner students and I feel like with what I'm teaching them and how they are understanding the game and how they're improving and what they're working on themselves - that this channel could be helpful for so many other kids, just like them, to help them improve.

Alex:

I love that and I plan on sharing your channel with some of our participants in our scholastic program.

Your book, *How To Chess*, which I think is really great - I've used quite a few of the chapters in there for inspiration for lessons. I've found it useful myself and the way that you selected the games I really like too. I was just curious, what the difference between the channel and the book is or if there's things you learned when you were putting together the book that are impacting what you're doing on the channel?

Ladia:

So the main ideas of the channel stem from my book, but I do understand that the evolution of who plays chess has gone more to an online way of learning.

With the book, I can have one example and a little bit of reading because I know if I start writing too much, it's gonna get boring really quickly. So, I have one example, I explain it, but that's not always enough to really drive home a point, especially in chess. You can't just say, this is this idea, or this is what an outpost is, or this is to remove the defender tactic, and then show them one example and expect them to get it right away.

If you were to show a lot more examples in a book that could drive away a lot of younger readers or people who may not be as into reading as me. So the idea of the chess channel is an extension of my book. It follows the same main ideas. I will use the same or similar examples, but then I'm also able to expand on those. I can show a second and third and a fourth example, I can give impromptu quizzes. For example, pause the video, solve these three questions or solve these three puzzles. Tell me your answers, we'll go over them and then I can explain them, which is not something I can do in the book without dedicating a whole section to that, which would then kind of throw out the balance of how the book was meant to be written.

Alex:

I don't actually know this for a fact, but I assume that you partially learned or improved in chess with books. And I'm just curious because so much has changed and so much is online now if you have an opinion about learning from a book versus learning from youtube videos or other online resources.

Ladia:

I definitely do and, and some might not be the overall agreed upon opinion. But, I have always been a very strong supporter of books. I know they're generally older and a lot of things have changed since the 1990s, 1980s even, I can't believe that's already 30-40 years ago.

But, a big part of my improvement and the majority of my chess training was that I would take a book, I would take a board, and I would play through the moves on the board. I would kind of cover up the moves in the book, try and guess what the move would be and try to figure out what I wanna do.

See the move, read the annotations, and then continuing, that was incredibly helpful. And I've probably read hundreds of chess books like that online. I mean, chess.com is a great resource. I've talked about it on my channel multiple times. I talk about it all the time. The lesson function, the drills functions just being able to play and analyze your games. That's so helpful and that's not something you can get from books.

But at the same time, there's a lot of ways to take the easy way out. Like you play a game and you just have the game analysis, tell you what you did wrong. What do you learn from that? Because you're probably not going to get to the same like 40th move and say, oh yeah, I should have moved my bishop here instead of there that doesn't help you. With a book, just being able to see whatever position you're in and trying to guess the move, you can then be the one that says, hey, I got all of these moves wrong. I need to do more work. Or, I got all of these correct and that's good, I should probably look for harder material and I'm ready for the next step.

So books, I feel like books challenge you and they make you stay more focused because it's older, it's analog. It's not as entertaining as online learning. Then again, you're playing chess, you gotta be able to sit there for hours on end, focusing on one thing. So I think books will teach you that part of the game but will also just help you improve your chess at the same time.

Alex:

Thank you for that insight. I am inclined to agree with you that I think that, just a personal aside, I know just for myself that the online tools can lead to sloppiness or laziness. It's so easy just to hit the computer analysis if you even do that or just hit the next game.

Or, I find when I'm doing puzzles on Lichess instead of doing puzzles over the board that I'll get impatient sometimes and just try a move. And I'm like, ok, great without having calculated it out, which if I'm doing on the board, I have to calculate it out.

Ladia:

As an aside, one of the ways I set up my private lessons is that if we are doing puzzles or something, the way I want them to think about that position is the same way they would think about it in a game.

So, so if they're, if they're saying, oh, I would play this, but I would ask them if they have a variation, they say no, I would, I would make them tell me a variation because they're not going to go to a game and just play that move in that position. They're going to think about the whole variation. So they're absolutely sure and then play it and then play it right.

Alex:

My next question was,, you know, I've found at the Mechanics' Institute here and especially in the scholastic community there's a lot of beginners that are struggling with or trying to take the next step to get past a beginner level and to a point where they're maybe intermediate.

I know that your videos in your book go beyond that too. But, I'm wondering if you have any advice or things that you think are important for them to learn or a specific philosophy behind teaching people that are kind of at that stage of progress?

Ladia:

So one, I have a lot of a lot of suggestions, I'll focus on the main one.

Biggest one is blunder checking. I think beginner to even 1500 level. This may be a stretch, but I kind of blend those strengths together where if you are 1000 or 1500 you have the same chance of winning the game. And it's really because everyone in that level just blunders a lot. It's not that they're bad players.

Editor's note: So there, you heard it from the master himself - always blunder check! Big thanks to IM Ladia Jirasek for sitting down for this interview with me. Please like and subscribe to [his channel](#). We here at the Mechanics' will be continuing to watch his career as a chess educator!

Annotated Games from the TNM
IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from round one of the 2024 SUmmer 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](#).

☐ **Bambou,Christophe** 2099
■ **Cremisi,Daniel** 2401
1st Silman mem TNM (3.1)   23.07.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

A close call for the eventual tournament winner. Bambou has a light attacking style, not at all concerned with sacrificial play. Easily underestimated. **1.e4** 6 **e6 2.d4** 20 **d5** 1 **3.e5** 9 **c5** 4 **4.c3** 7 **Nc6** 4 **5.Nf3** 6 **Qb6** 5 The classical approach to the Advance Variation of the French Defense. **6.Be2** 10 Same here.

[But even the Milner-Barry Gambit line has some new wrinkles: 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bd7 *(7...Nxd4?? 8.Nxd4 Qxd4 9.Bb5+)* 8.0-0 Nxd4 9.Nbd2!? with pretty good play for the pawn whichever way the knights go. *(9.Nxd4 Qxd4* has been played and analyzed for so long, with Black surviving well. *)*]

[But even more interesting, revolutionary even, is 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.0-0!! I don't know if Jesse Kraai invented this or not, but his video on it is eye-opening! Search for "An Easy System to Make French Players Squirm" and it will pop up.]

6...Nh6 24 **7.Bxh6** 21 **gxh6** 1:09
[7...Qxb2 8.Be3 Qxa1 9.Qc2]
8.Qd2 29 **Bg7** 49 **9.0-0** 12 **0-0** 46
10.Na3 21 **Bd7** 1:30 **11.Nc2** 17 **cxd4** 1:10 **12.cxd4** 1:02 **f6** 22 **13.exf6** 15 **Rxf6** 6 **14.b4** 29 C02: French: Advance Variation. **14...Raf8** 6:28

[Relevant: 14...a6± 15.a4 Rxf3 16.Bxf3 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Qxd4 Bxd4 19.Ra2 Rc8 20.g3 Kf7 21.Rd1 Bc3 22.Rc1 Rc7 23.Be2 e5 24.b5 a5 25.Bf3 Ke6 26.Bxd5+ Kxd5 27.Rac2 Bxb5 28.axb5 Kd4 29.Rd1+ Ke4 30.Re2+ Kf5 31.Rc1 1-0 Jones,G (2688)-Martirosyan,H
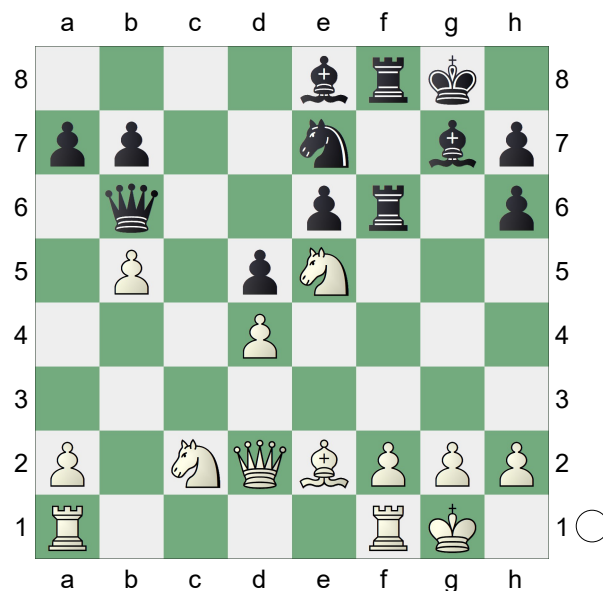
15.b5± 51 **Ne7** 52
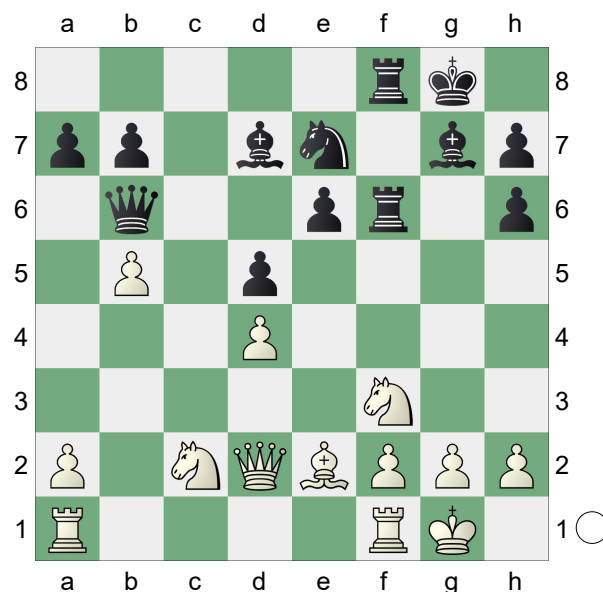
16.Ne5! 37 Repels Ng6. White is better.
16...Be8 43
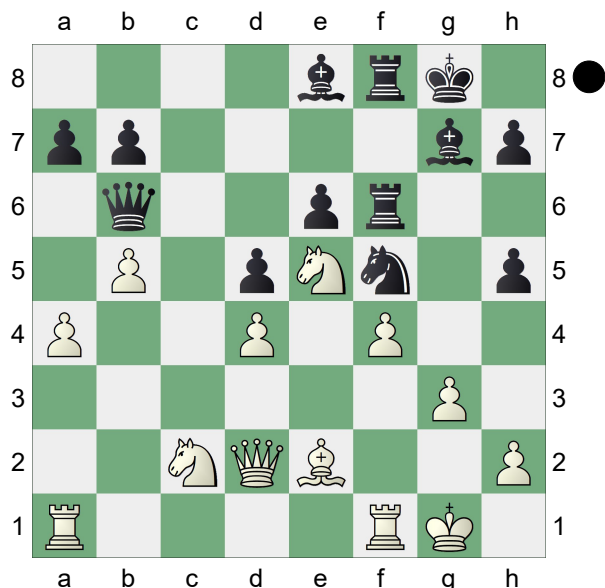[16...Bxb5? 17.Rab1+-]

17.g3! 1:30 **Nf5** 7:02
[17...Bxb5? 18.Rab1+-]
18.a4 2:56 **h5** 6:24 **19.f4** 18:31
[Better is 19.a5± Qd8 *(19...Qc7 20.Ne3±)* 20.Ne3]

(Diagram)

19...Nd6N 5:43
[19...h4±]
[Predecessor: 19...Qd8 20.Ne3 Nd6 21.Ng2 Nf5 22.Nf3 Bg6 23.Ngh4 Nxh4 24.Nxh4 R6f7 25.Nf3 Rc7 ½-½ (86) Sandipan,C (2563)-Rychagov,A (2557) Montreal Quebec op 2007 (4)]
20.Bf3 5:19
[20.Bd3±]
20...h4= 3:38 **21.Ne3** 1:53
[21.gxh4 Rxf4 22.Kh1 Bxe5 *(22...Rxh4 23.Bg4∓)* 23.dxe5 Rxf3-+ *(23...Nc4 24.Qg2+ Kh8 25.h5∓)*]
21...h5 2:56 **22.Kg2** 22:10
[22.gxh4? Rxf4 23.Nxd5 Qxd4+ *(23...exd5 24.Bxd5+ Kh7 25.Rxf4∓)* 24.Qxd4 Rxd4 25.Ne7+ Kh7-+]
22...Qd8 2:30 **23.Rac1** 57
[23.gxh4? Rxf4 24.Kh1 Qxh4∓ *(24...Rxh4 25.Rg1∓)*]
23...hxg3 1:17 **24.hxg3** 15 **h4** 50
25.N3g4± 3:32 White is much more active.
[25.gxh4? Rxf4 26.Nxd5 Rxh4-+ *(26...exd5 27.Bxd5+ Nf7 28.Rxf4∓)*]
25...Rf5 1:35 **26.Rh1↑** 1:26 Black is under strong pressure. **26...Ne4?** 5:29
[26...hxg3 27.Nh6+ Bxh6

28.Rxh6+-]
[26...Rh5±]
27.Bxe4+- 2:00 **dxe4** 2 **28.Rxh4** 2:29
[28.gxh4? Rxf4 29.Rhf1 e3 *(29...Bxe5 30.Nxe5 Rxf1 31.Rxf1=)* 30.Qxe3 Qd5+ *(30...Qxd4 31.Rxf4 Qxf4 32.Qxf4±)* 31.Rf3 Bh5-+ *(31...Qxd4 32.Rxf4 Qxf4 33.Qxf4±; 31...Rxd4 32.Kg3∓)*]
28...Rxf4 2:51
[⌐28...Rh5 29.Rch1 Rxh4 30.Rxh4 Rf5]
29.gxf4 9:19
[⌐29.Qa2 Bf7 30.Rch1 *(30.Nh6+ Bxh6 31.Rxh6 Qg5+-)* 30...Rxg4 31.Rxg4 Qxd4 32.Nxf7 Rxf7 33.Qxe6 Qd2+ 34.Kh3]
29...Qxh4 5 **30.Rh1** 17 **Qe7** 2:01
31.Qe3 1:07 Black must now prevent Qg3. **31...Rf5** 5:26 **32.Qxe4** 7:33 **Rh5** 4:31
[⌐32...a6 33.d5 axb5]
33.Rxh5 1:51 **Bxh5 34.d5** 4:19
[34.Kg3+- is more deadly.]
34...Qh4? 2:20
[34...a6± was necessary. 35.Kg3 exd5 36.Qxd5+ Bf7]
35.Nf2 3:31 d6 is the strong threat. A dynamic duo of knights. **35...exd5** 8:50
[⌐35...Bxe5 36.Qxe5 exd5 37.Qb8+ *(37.Qxd5+ Kf8+-)* 37...Kg7 38.Qxb7+ *(38.Qxa7 Qxf4 39.Qxb7+ Bf7+-)* 38...Bf7 39.Qxa7 Qxf4]
36.Qxd5+ 7 **Kh7** 1:10 **37.Nf7** 7:32
[37.Qxb7 Qxf4 38.Nf3 Qxa4=]
[37.Nf3+- Bxf3+ 38.Kxf3]
37...Bf6 7:30
[37...Kg6±]
38.Qxb7 2:01 **Kg8** 2:44
[38...Qxf4? 39.Ng5+ *(39.Qxa7 Bf3+ 40.Kf1 Qc1+; 39.Qe4+ Qxe4+ 40.Nxe4 Bxf7=)* 39...Kh6 40.Qh7+ Kxg5 41.Nh3+ *(41.Qxa7 Bf3+ 42.Kf1 Qc1+)* 41...Kg4 42.Nxf4+-]
**39.Nh6+** 1:19 **Kh8** 35 **40.Nf7+?** 1:03

[40.Qxa7? Qxf4∓]
[40.Qc8+!+- Kh7 41.Nfg4 Bxg4
42.Nxg4]
40...Bxf7= 1:59 **41.Qxf7** 2 **Qxf4** 12
42.Qh5+ 44
[42.Qxa7 Bd8 (*42...Bd4? 43.Qa8+
Kg7 44.Qf3+-*) 43.Qd7 Bc7 44.Qh3+
Kg8 45.Qg4+ Qxg4+ 46.Nxg4
Kf7+-]
[42.Qf8+ Kh7 43.Qf7+ Kh8 44.Qxa7
Bd4 45.Qa8+]
42...Kg7= 19 **43.Qg4+** 7 **Qxg4+** 1
44.Nxg4 3 KB-KN **44...Bc3** 52 **45.Kf3**
13 **Kf7** 5 **46.Ke4** 3 **Ke6** 6 **47.Kd3** 25
Be1 17 **48.Kc4** 10 **Kd6** 15 **49.Nf6** 31
Kc7 20 **50.Nd5+** 38 **Kb7** 5 **51.Nb4** 35
Kb6 3:18 **52.Nd3** 49 **Bd2** 16 **53.Nc5** 19
Be1 49 **54.Nb3** 15 **a6** 20 **55.bxa6** 13
Kxa6 6 **56.a5** 9 **Bxa5** 7 Black got a lot
of breaks after being totally lost!
½-½

	A01
☐ **Lee,Andy C**	**2328**
■ **Smith,Roger Christopher**	**1980**

1st Silman mem TNM (3.2) 23.07.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

Andy stayed true to 1.b3 all tournament,
playing it in all four of his games as
White! Here he outplays Roger Smith in
a still-early round 3. **1.b3 e5** 40:50
2.Bb2 8 **Nc6** 6 **3.e3** 7 **Nf6** 30 **4.Bb5** 14
d6 19 **5.Ne2** 3:34 **a6** 1:04 **6.Bxc6+** 28
A01: Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening.
6...bxc6 8 **7.d4** 3:32 **e4** 1:51 **8.c4** 32
The position is equal. **8...d5** 17 **9.Qc2**
2:59

(Diagram)

Bd6N 1:26
[Predecessor: 9...Bb4+ 10.Nd2 0-0
11.h3 Be6 12.Nf4 Qd7 13.Nxe6
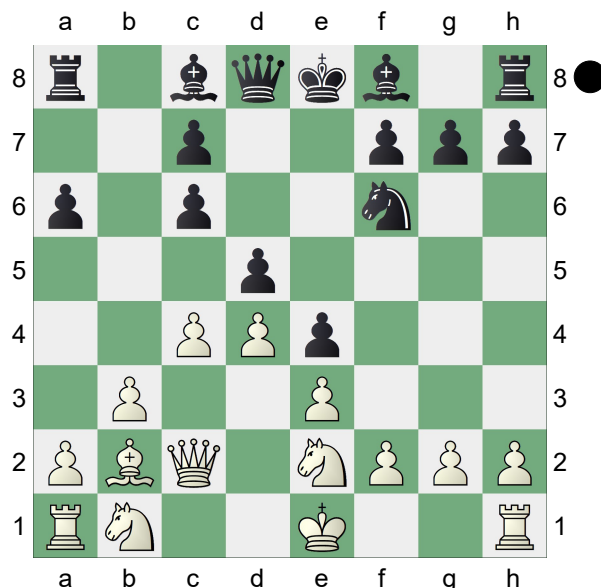
fxe6 14.Rc1 Rab8 15.0-0 a5
1-0 (42) Merriman,J (2206)-Landman,
A (1371) London Mindsports Rapid
2022 (7.10)]
10.Ba3 1:29 **Bxa3** 1:10 **11.Nxa3** 6 **0-0**
11 **12.Rc1** 6:09 **Qe7** 2:18 **13.Nb1** 43
Ra7 1:45 **14.0-0** 4:01 **Bg4** 2:12 **15.h3**
4:39 **Bd7** 1:31 **16.Nd2** 7:13
[16.Nbc3±]
16...Nh5 1:14
[16...Re8±]
17.cxd5± 3:48 **cxd5** 9 **18.Qc5** 42 **Qxc5**
23 **19.Rxc5** 9 **Nf6** 47
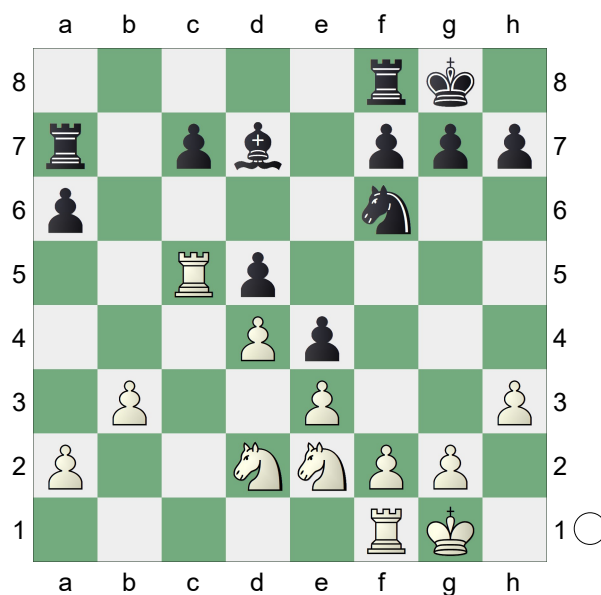
20.Rfc1 59
[⌂20.Nc3!]

20...c6 27 **21.Ra5** 7:20
 [21.b4±]
21...Rb8 1:25 **22.Nc3** 33 **Kf8** 7:54
 [22...Ne8!±]
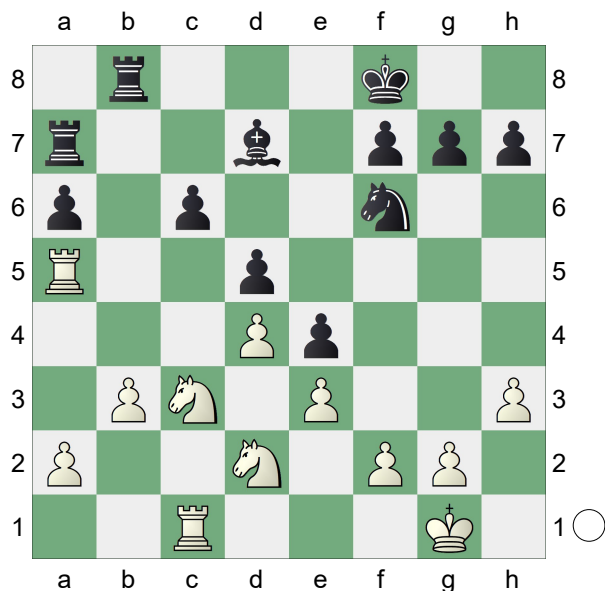
23.h4 8:09
 [23.f3!±]
23...Ne8= 1:51 **24.f3** 5:04 **f5** 1:11
25.Rc5 3:15 **Nd6** 1:19 **26.Na4** 1:24
Rb5 4:03 **27.Kf2** 2:07 **Nb7** 1:58
 [27...Rb8±]
28.R5c2± 21 **Ke7** 1:21 **29.Nb1** 35 **Nd8**
27 **30.Nbc3** 1:36 **Rb8** 51 **31.Nc5** 1:21
Be8 36
 [Black should play 31...a5]
32.Ne2 41 White has more active pieces.
Excellent horsemanship.
 [⌂32.g4]
32...Nb7 1:32 **33.Na4** 2:55 **Nd8** 33
34.Nf4 23
 [34.Nc5 simplifies Ne6 35.Nxe6
Kxe6 36.Nc3]
34...Kd6 1:07
 [⌂34...g6]
35.Rg1 1:45 **Rf7** 2:03
 [35...h6± was worth a try.]
36.Ke2 2:07
 [36.Nc5+- and White stays clearly on
top.]
36...Rf6 3:03 **37.Nc5** 1:48 **a5** 30

38.fxe4 3:25
 [Better is 38.Kf2±]
38...fxe4± 1:03 **39.g4** **Nb7** 3:42 **40.g5↑**
13 White is pushing. **40...Rf7** 2
This move loses the game for Black.
 [Black should try 40...Rf5±]
41.g6+- 1:44 **Rxf4** 3:28 **42.exf4** 17
Bxg6 5
 [42...hxg6 is a better defense. 43.Rg3
Nxc5 44.Rxc5 Ra8]
43.Rg5 4:10 **Nxc5** 1:09 **44.Rxc5** 23
Endgame. KRR-KRB **44...a4** 1:43 **45.f5**
18
 [45.bxa4 Rb4±]
45...Be8 1:49
 [45...axb3 46.axb3 *(46.fxg6? b2∓)*
46...Be8 47.Rxg7+-]
46.Rxg7 1:23
 [46.bxa4 Rb4±]
46...axb3 44 **47.axb3** 4
 [47.Rxh7? too greedy. b2
(47...bxa2? 48.Ra5+-) 48.Rh6+
Kd7-+]
47...Rxb3 1:17 **48.Rxh7** 1:28 **Rd3** 47
49.Ra5 1:49 White is clearly winning.
 [Don't play 49.Rh6+ Kc7 50.Ra5
Kb6+-]
49...Rxd4 57 **50.Ra8** 22 **Ke5** 3:43
 [⌂50...Bd7 51.Rd8 Ke5 52.Rhxd7
(52.Rdxd7 Rc4+-) 52...Ra4]
51.Rxe8+ 21 **Kxf5** 14 **52.Rf7+** 36 **Kg6**
42 **53.Rc7** 22
Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very
precise) /Black=0.30
1-0

A lot of the players seem to be falling
into a hole hear and there -- here Mike

Walder just lets himself get checkmated by Theo Coyne. I notice that my notes seem to be trying to keep the King's Indian Defense in play (and my hand does play it a lot, I can't stop it), hopefully not trying too hard! **1.d4** 3 **Nf6** 9 **2.c4** 4 **g6** 29 **3.Nc3** 10 **Bg7** 4 **4.e4** 7 **d6** 4 **5.h3** 12 Theo plays one of a big, loose-knit collection of responses to the King's Indian, let's call them The Family.

[5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 , the Classical Variation, *is* the **Main**Line**, and still going strong with ideas for both sides showing up. (6.Be3 gets the name "Larsen Variation" in Kotronias's King's Indian Repertoire series, it seems to be just plain less popular these days.; 6.h3 is the veritable Makogonov System. I've had some wonderful games on both sides, and I still have no idea what's going on.)]

[5.f3 is the Saemisch, which curiously has more affinity to The Family than the Classical: g2-g4 and/or h2-h4 are genetic traits.]

[5.Be2 0-0 6.Be3!? is the latest "favored child" of The Family. (6.Bg5 is the Averbakh, which might or might not still veer into "family" territory.; 6.h4!? I hesitate if not hasten to mention that Stockfish, in true modern computer fashion, has this move in it's top few! (sorry, between 6. Nf3 and 6.Be3 -- and others -- it isn't a medal winner). Caveat Emptor. (Or should I put that in hexadecimal?)) 6...e5 7.d5 The big star of this line is Alexey Sarana, although plenty of the super-elite have ventured this way: Aronian, Prag, Naka, Xiong, Duda, Rapport -- Martirosyanis a pretty big fan, too.. (Note that 7.Nf3 transposes into the Gligoric Variation, which remains a solid test of the KID's

soundness. Ah, maybe I show my game with Ladia next Tuesday (seems I'm doing the lecture before the game) -- unless he shows up, when it'd just provoke him to show all the games he's beaten *me* (no, he's only +1 after 13 games!)...)

A) 7...Na6 and now nobody can quite make up their mind which pawn to push and kingside: 8.g4 (or 8.h4);

B) 7...Na6!? 8.g4]

5...0-0 22 **6.Be3** 5

[6.Nf3 is back to the Makogonov]

[6.Bg5!? might as well be called the Suba Variation as he played dozens of games with it for decades. Maybe even exclusively against the King's Indian? Bareev and Yermolinsky also seem to have a habit.]
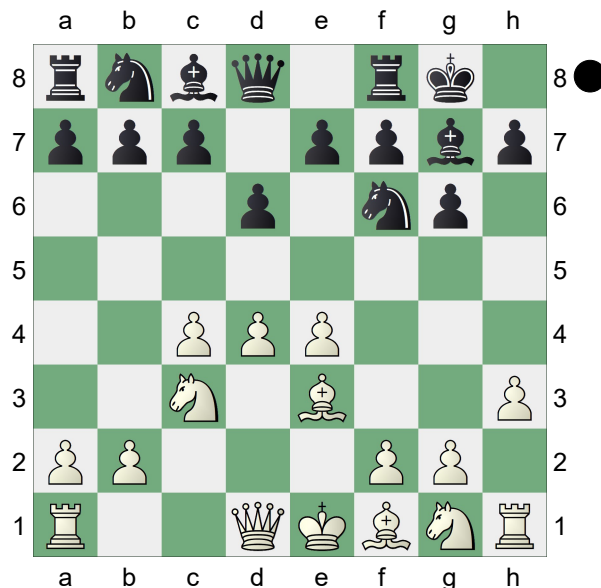
6...e5 1:11 Note that in pretty much *all* of the lines of The Family Black can "go Benoni" and forego ...e5 for ...c5, including here.

[6...c5 -- but how about I leave that for some other time; it's another story, if not tome.]

7.d5 6 Pretty much nobody fools around with anything else. **7...Na6** 55

[7...a5 first is a big question for Black in every line in The Family. Should Black worry that White gets in g2-g4-g5 and kicks that knight away before e4 can even be threatened? Does the threat, easily parried, matter? Can White get b2-b4 in before Black can secure the knight on c5? Does *that* matter??]

8.g4 21 The main move...

[unless you count over a thousand transpositions after 8.Nf3 (but 8.g4 scores better)]

[For that matter, 8.Bd3 Nc5 9.Bc2 compares well (with 8.g4, not 8.Nf3).]

8...Nc5 1:48 **9.f3** 10 Scores best and makes a sort of sense -- Solidify the center, get some development, then: h3-h4-h5 and ... well, as Fischer said (admittedly about the Yugoslav Attack against the Dragon Sicilian): "Sac, Sac, Mate!"

[The "Report | Novelty Annotation" button happens to notice a Carlsen game, which is fine by me: 9.Qc2 c6! 10.Nge2 cxd5 11.cxd5 Qa5?! Scores really bad! *(Stockfish favors 11...h5!?*) 12.Ng3 Bd7?! (*12...b5!±* Gambito!) 13.Rb1!± Best! Magnus is on it. Na4 14.Qd2 Nxc3 15.bxc3 b6 16.g5?! (*16.Rb3!?*) 16...Ne8 17.c4! Qxd2+ 18.Bxd2 f6 19.h4 fxg5 20.hxg5 Rf7 21.Ne2 Nc7 22.Nc3 Na6 23.Be3 Nc5 24.Kd2 Bf8 25.Bh3 Bxh3 26.Rxh3 Rc8 27.Rb4! Be7 28.Ke2 Bd8 29.Rh1 Na6 30.Ra4 Nc5 31.Ra3 a5 32.Rb1 Kf8 33.f3 Ke8 (*33...Nb7±* was necessary.) 34.Nb5 Rd7 35.Rh1 Kf8 36.Rc3 Kg8 37.Rcc1 Be7 38.Rh3 Bd8 1-0 (62) Carlsen,M (2852)-Naroditsky,D (2618) PRO League Prelim Chess.com INT rapid 2023 (1.3)]

9...a5 1:13 **10.Qd2** 54
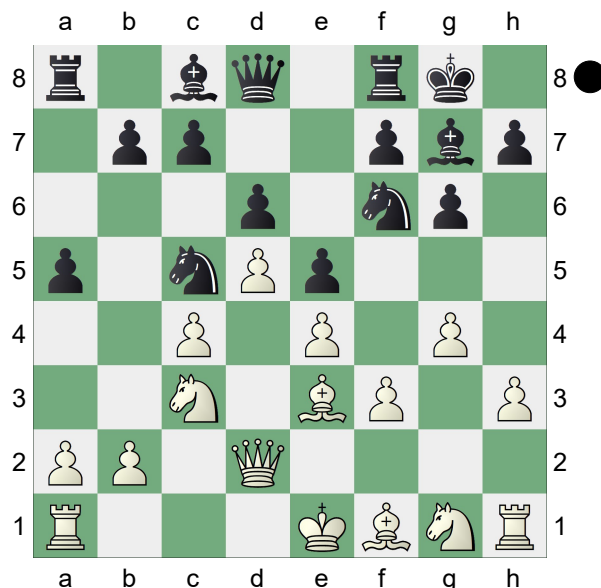
White is more than slightly better. According to Stockfish 16.1. Which hates the King's Indian. **10...Bd7?!** 1:21 Black can't totally nap in these positions with White's forces aiming towards Black's king.

[Everybody's computer goes for the immediate opening of the c-file (do you think White is castling kingside?) with ⌐10...c6

A) 11.dxc6?! bxc6 12.0-0-0 Black stops to defend but has plenty of forward moves coming 12...Nb7 13.c5? (*13.h4 h5 14.Bg5 Qb6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.gxh5 a4!⇄*) 13...d5! 14.exd5 cxd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5 when it's almost a stylistic selection: the numbers are all pretty much the same! (in the -1.90 range) Queens off with 16...Qxd5 is quite good (but so is keeping them on with *16...Qe7!©* -+; or *16...Qc7!©* -+) 17.Rxd5 Be6-+;

B) 11.0-0-0 cxd5 12.cxd5 (*12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxd5?! Ne6! 14.Qxd6 Qh4!∓* These pawn grabs usually just reverse the flow of the game from "White is up in space and can proceed on either side" to

"White grabs a pawn and comes under heavy fire in various directions"... *)* 12...Bd7 13.Kb1± White is still going to need to get the kingside mobilized (unless there's some flash mate -- see game!). Qe8!? *(13...Rc8)* 14.Qe2 *(14.h4!? b5 15.h5 b4 16.Nce2 a4 17.Ng3 a3 18.b3 Qe7 19.Bxc5 dxc5 20.d6 Qe8 21.h6 Bh8 22.Nf5 Bxf5 23.gxf5 Nd7 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.Bc4+ Rf7 26.Nh3 Bf6 27.Qd5 Ra7 28.Nf2 Nb6 29.Qxc5 Nxc4 30.Qxc4 Kh8 31.Nd3 Rf8 32.Nxb4 Bg5 33.Qc5 Raf7 34.d7 Qe6 35.Rd6 Be7 36.Rxe6 Bxc5 37.Nd3* <u>1-0 Zilka,S (2580)-Biolek,R (2452) CZE-chT 2122 Czech Republic 2021 (12.5)</u> *)* 14...Rc8;
C) <u>11.Nge2</u> cxd5 12.cxd5 Bd7 13.Nc1!± heads for d3 to oppose the knight at c5. Twelve games, 8½-3½, no Black wins. That's not promising. But! 13...Ne8 was four games, four draws.]

11.Nge2 12 Part of the plan: Ng3 and ... h5 will never be remotely good.
  [11.0-0-0]
11...a4 1:46
  [⌂11...c6]
  [11...Rb8!?]
12.Ng3?! 46
  [⌂12.0-0-0!]

(Diagram)

Damn computer! Actually makes this an inaccuracy. **12...Kh8??N** 6:03
I'd ask Mike what prompted this absurd move (he's in the next room!), but he's got tendonitis and is suffering enough.
  [Predecessor: 12...c6 12...h5 0.71 13.Be2?! *(13.h4±)*
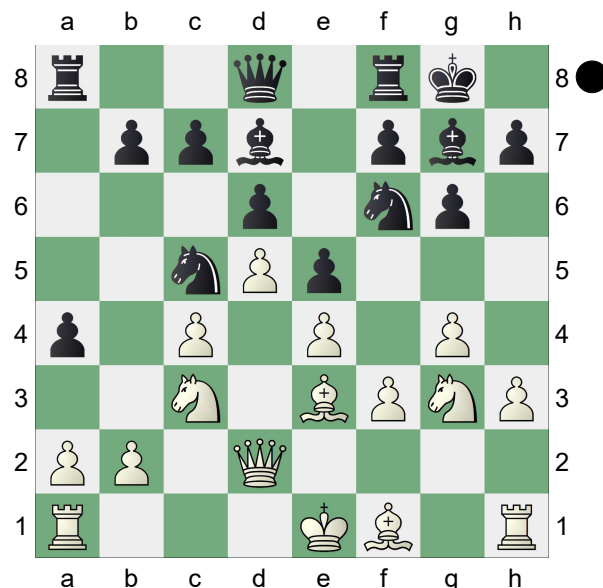
A) <u>13...cxd5!=</u> 14.cxd5 *(14.exd5 b6)* 14...Rc8 15.h4 Ne8 16.h5 Qe7 17.h6 Bh8 18.Kf2 b6 19.Rab1 Bf6 20.g5 Bh8 21.b4 axb3 22.axb3 f5 23.exf5 Bxf5 24.Kg2 Bxb1 25.Rxb1 Rf4 26.b4 Nd7 27.Nge4 Nc7 28.Bxf4 exf4 29.Qxf4 Be5 30.Qg4 Rf8 31.Nb5 Nxd5 32.Bc4 Qf7 33.Nbxd6 Ne3+ 34.Kh3 Qxc4 35.Nxc4 Nxg4 36.Kxg4 b5 37.Nxe5 Nxe5+ 38.Kg3 Rxf3+ 39.Kg2 Re3 40.Nf6+ Kf7 41.Ra1 Nd3 42.Ra7+ Ke6 43.Rxh7 Nf4+ 44.Kf2 Rh3 45.Rg7 Kf5 46.h7 Ne6 47.Rg8 Nxg5 <u>0-1 Blahynka,M (2378)-Kim,S (2295) Titled Tuesday intern op 26th Sep Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (10)</u>;
B) <u>13...Qa5</u> 14.g5± Ne8 15.h4 f5 16.gxf6 Nxf6 17.h5 cxd5 18.cxd5 *(18.Nxd5± Qxd2+ 19.Kxd2)* 18...Rfc8± 19.hxg6 hxg6 20.Nd1 Bb5 *(Black should play 20...Bf8±)* 21.Qxa5± Rxa5 22.Rc1 Bxe2 *(⌂22...Bd7)* 23.Kxe2± b6 24.Nf2 Rb5 25.Rc2 Rf8 26.Nh3 *(26.Rg1+-)* 26...Nh7 *(26...Na6± might work better.)* 27.Nf1+- Bf6 28.Nd2 Be7 29.Nc4 Ra8 30.Nf2

Rd8 31.Rg1 Kg7 32.Nd1 Nf6
33.Nc3 Rb4 34.Nb1 Nh5 35.Bd2!
Nf4+
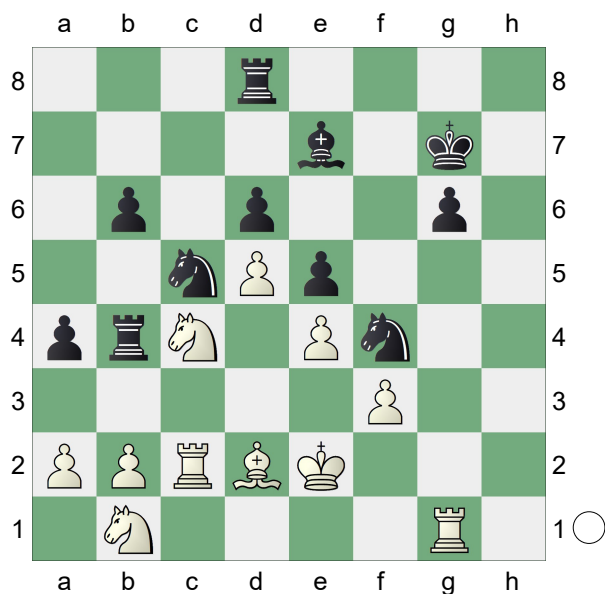
36.Kd1! Rxc4 37.Rxc4 Rh8
38.Rc2 Rh3
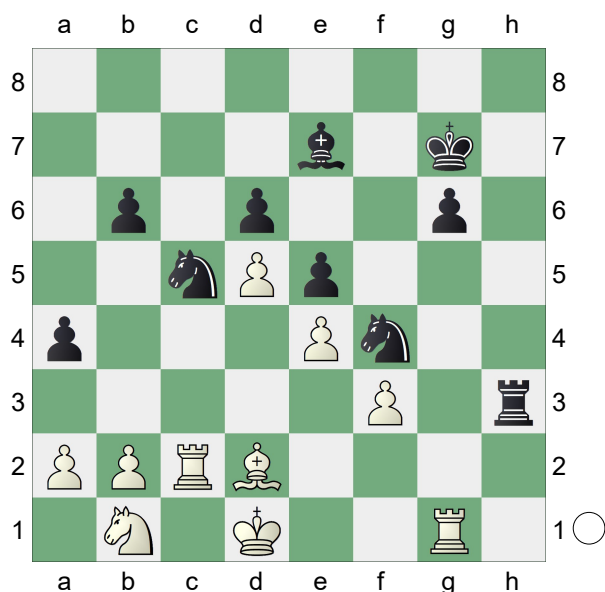
39.Rf1! g5 40.Nc3 Kg6 41.Be3
Nfd3 42.Rg2 1-0 (55) Lazavik,D
(2544)-Atakishiyev,E (2363) Titled
Tuesday intern op 25th Apr Early
Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (9)]
[12...h5!? Hard to believe. Maybe!
Black plans ...h4, ...Nh7 and ...Bf6,
taking over the dark squares!
   A) 13.Bg5 h4! 14.Nge2 *(14.Bxh4*
Nfxe4!∓ 15.Bxd8 Nxd2 16.Bxc7

Nxf3+ 17.Kf2 a3!!= when a funny
line is *18.Kxf3 axb2 19.Rb1 Ra3*
20.Nge2! e4+! 21.Kg2 Be5!);
   B) 13.gxh5 Nxh5 14.Nxh5 Qh4+
15.Kd1! Qxh5 16.Be2 a3! 17.b4
Na4! The point is 18.f4??
is fatal -- for White. Qh4]
13.h4+- 3:44 **h5** 7:52
  [Stockfish values 13...Kg8 -- heh]
  [13...Bxg4!? 14.fxg4 Nxg4
15.Bxc5+- *(15.h5 Nxe3 16.Qxe3*
Bf6 when is 17.Kd1! really best?)]
14.Bg5 5:42 **hxg4** 7:25
  [14...Kh7 " keeps fighting" (not really).
15.gxh5 Qe8]
15.h5 4:01
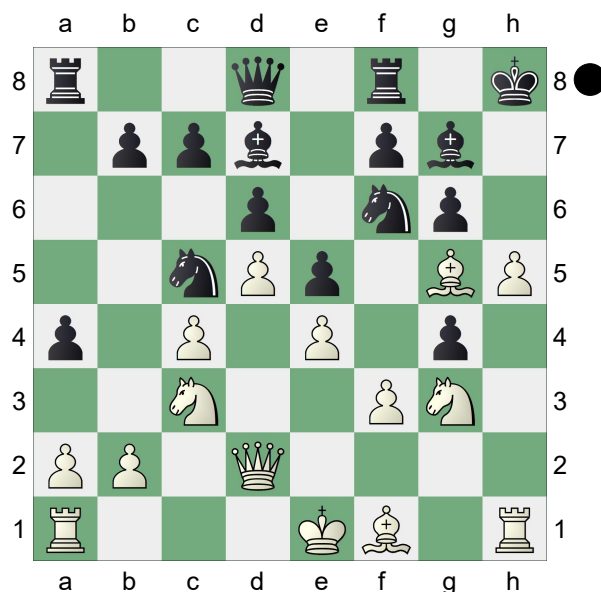
Kh7 9
  [Much worse is 15...gxf3?! 16.h6 Re8
(16...f2+? 17.Qxf2 Ng4 18.hxg7+
Kxg7 19.Qd2+-) 17.hxg7+ Kxg7
18.Bxf6+ *(18.Qh2 Rh8±)* 18...Kxf6
19.Rh7+-]
16.hxg6+ 8:42
  [16.Be2+-]
16...Kxg6? 9
  [16...Kg8!?± " is tougher" (Stockfish)
  or rather "less bad" (Winslow)
17.gxf7+ Kxf7! 18.Bg2 Rh8
19.0-0-0±]
17.Bh6 6:13 White threatens Qg5+ and

mate. **17...Ng8?!** 4:19
  [17...Nfxe4 18.Ncxe4 Rh8+-]
18.Nf5 1:28 Deflection **18...Bf6?!** 54
  [18...Bxf5+- 19.exf5+ Kxf5 20.Bxg7
  Kg6 21.Bxf8 Qxf8 22.fxg4 Qe7
  23.Bd3+ (23.Qh2 Qg5+-) 23...e4]
19.Qh2! 40 Weighted Error Value:
White=0.48/Black=1.06
1-0

		E12
□ **Gray,William**		**1918**
■ **Lee,Andy C**		**2328**

1st Silman mem TNM (4.1)   30.07.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

These notes to this exciting game are
sketchy (but enough to see that it could
and shouild have gone the other way!
So: Please see Andy's extensive notes
in his separate article in this newsletter!
1.Nf3 3:30:05 **b6** 19 **2.d4** 1:04 **Bb7** 19
3.c4 3 **e6** 1:08 **4.a3** 3:31 **Nf6** 3:49
5.Nc3 1:21 **Ne4** 5:57 **6.Qc2** 10:06 **d5**
19 **7.cxd5** 1:46
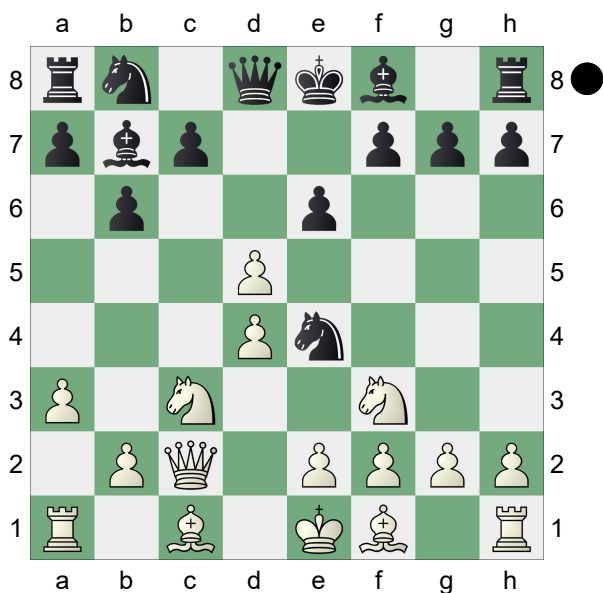
exd5N 2:11 **8.Bf4** 38 **Bd6** 4:27 **9.Bxd6**
13 **Nxd6** 11 **10.e3** 21 **0-0** 4:22 **11.Bd3**
46 **g6** 1:48 **12.h4** 3:53 **c5** 9:34 **13.h5**
5:12 **Qf6** 11:33 **14.hxg6** 10:33 **hxg6** 13
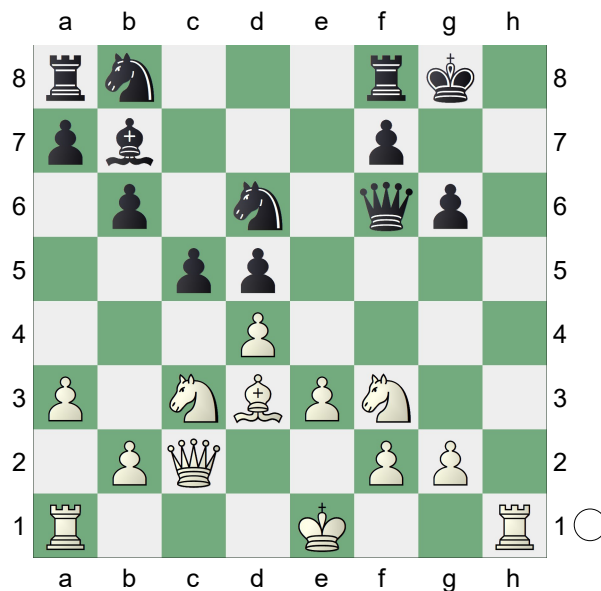
15.Ne5 2:49
  [15.0-0-0±]
15...cxd4 2:53 **16.exd4** 9:03
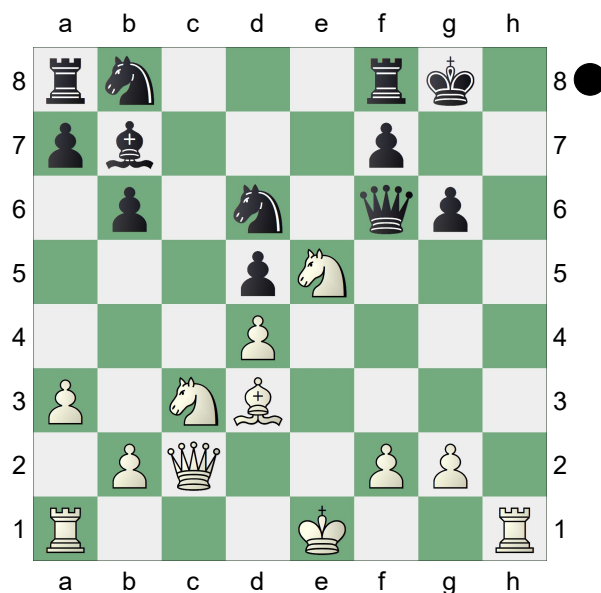
Re8?? 11:17
  [16...Nc6 17.Nxd5 Qe6 18.Nf4 Qf6
  19.Nd5 Qe6 20.Nc7 Qe7 21.Qc3!?
  (21.f4!?)]
17.0-0-0+- 20:57 **Nc6** 11:12 **18.Nxd5**
3:55 **Qg7** 1:31

(Diagram)

19.Nd7? 2:56
  [19.Ng4 Re6 20.Nc7 Nxd4 21.Nxe6
  Nxe6 22.Qe2]
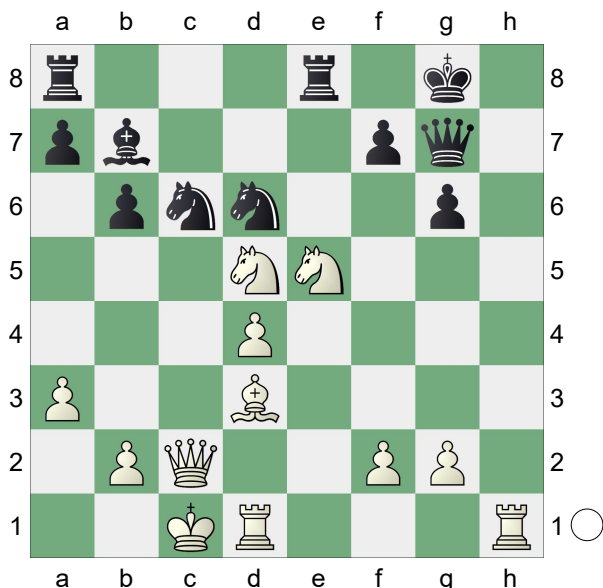
19...Re6! 2:34 **20.Rde1?** 10:09
[20.Nc7 Rc8 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Kb1! Qxd7 23.Qe2±]
20...Rae8‡ 10:02 **21.Rxe6 Rxe6** 1:26
22.Nb4? 4:36
[22.N5f6+ Rxf6 23.d5 Ne5 24.Nxe5 Bxd5 25.Qd2±]
22...Nxb4-+ 2:06 **23.axb4** 1 **Qxd4** 1:11
24.Rd1 2:09 **Qxb4** 2:25 **25.Qc7** 29 **Kg7** 6:27 **26.Qd8** 3:32 **Nc4** 44 **27.Qf8+** 1:41 **Qxf8** 7 **28.Nxf8** 1 **Kxf8** 20 **29.Bxc4** 4 **Rc6** 37 **30.b3** 2 **b5** 23 **31.Rd7** 2 **Bc8** 1:47 **32.Rxf7+** 11 **Ke8** 5 **33.Rxa7** 23 **bxc4** 5 **34.bxc4** 7 **Rxc4+** 16 **35.Kd2** 4 **Rc6** 59 **36.Ke3** 1:49 **Rf6** 32 **37.f3** 32 **Bd7** 25 **38.g4** 39 **Kd8** 2:33 **39.Ra5** 1:32 **Ke7** 12 **40.Ra7** 12 **Kd6** 55 **41.Ra6+** 21 **Bc6** 1:19 **42.f4** 14 **Re6+** 30 **43.Kf2** 2 **Kc5** 1:20 **44.Ra1** 1:55 **Re4** 22 **45.Rc1+** 30 **Rc4** 19 **46.Rxc4+** 1:00 **Kxc4** 5 **47.f5** 3 **g5** 1:58
0-1

Max Hao demonstrated his comfort with Catalan lines in this win over higher-rated Luke Widjaja when an elementary blunder happened. **1.d4 d5** 6:46 **2.c4** 6 **e6** 2 **3.Nf3** 3 **Nf6** 4 **4.g3** 10 **Be7** 4 **5.Bg2** 3 **0-0** 7 **6.0-0** 11 **dxc4** 29 **7.Qa4** 4
[7.Qc2]
7...a6 6 **8.Qxc4** 3 **b5** 5 **9.Qc2** 3 **Bb7** 3 **10.Bd2** 3 This has all been known and worked out for quite a while, going back to a Polugaevsky-Lengyel game in the mid-60s, then a rash of Sosonko games in the 70s and 80s. **10...Be4** 31
This move has completely taken over the oeuvre. **11.Qc1** 3 As has this.
11...Bb7 42 Testing the waters?
[11...c6]
[11...Nbd7]
[11...Ra7!?]
12.Rd1 5
[12.Be3 Nd5 13.Nc3 Nd7 14.Rd1 Rc8 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Ne1 c6 17.Nd3 Qb6 18.Qc3 b4 19.Qd2 a5 20.Rdc1 ½-½ Kasparov,G (2710)-Karpov,A (2700) World-ch30-KK1 Karpov-Kasparov +5-3=40 Moscow 1984 (8)]
12...Qc8 27 **13.Bg5** 2:41
[Stockfish 16.1: 13.Bf4 c5 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Nbd2 Nbd7 16.Nb3 Bb6 17.Ne5 Bxg2 18.Qxc8 Rfxc8 19.Nxd7 Nxd7 20.Kxg2 Nc5 21.Nxc5 Bxc5 22.Rac1 Be7 23.g4 Kf8= Equal -- very equal.]
13...Nbd7 2:12
[13...c5!? 14.dxc5 Nbd7 15.b4 *(15.Nbd2)* 15...a5=]
14.Ne5 2:45

[14.Nbd2 c5]
14...Bxg2 6:45 **15.Kxg2** 3
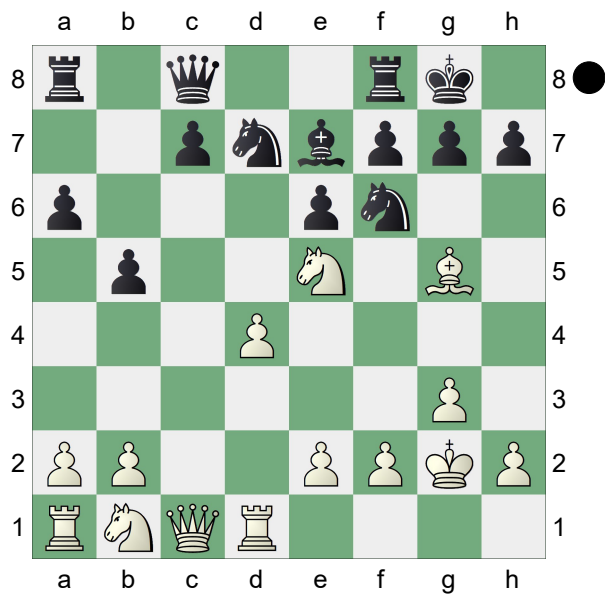
The position is equal. **15...Nxe5?!** 4:30
   [15...c5= with the tiniest of fractional
   advantages (-0.12) -- for Black.
   16.Nxd7 Qxd7! 17.dxc5 Qc6+ 18.f3
   Rfc8]
16.dxe5± 9 **Nd5** 3
   [After 16...Qb7+ 17.f3 Nd5
   it just transposes 18.Bxe7 Nxe7
   19.Qc5]
17.Bxe7 6:36 **Nxe7** 8 **18.Qc5!** 3
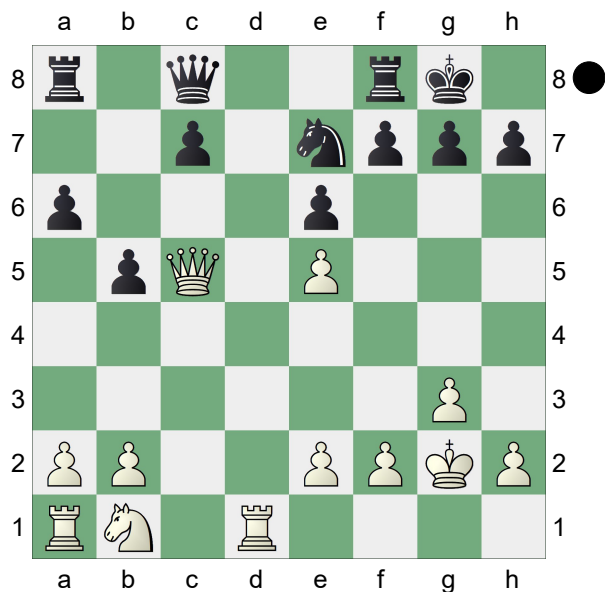
Nd5N 4:55 Black is weak on the dark
squares
   [Predecessor: 18...Qb7+ 19.f3 Nd5

20.Nd2 Qb6 21.Qxb6 Nxb6 22.Rac1
Rfd8 23.b3± Nd5 24.Kf2 b4
1-0 (57) Dang,H (2193)-Vu,P (2051)
VIE-chT Ho Chi Minh City 2015 (6.
15)]
19.Nd2 14:07 **Qb7** 5:57 (-> ...Nf4+)
20.Nf3± 33 This extra possibility might
be enough to call this for White.
20...Rac8 4:22 **21.Rd4** 3:24
   [21.Rac1!]
21...a5 14:51 **22.a3** 6:49
   [22.Rad1]
22...c6 2:21 **23.Rad1** 2:29 **Nb6** 1:18
24.b3 59 White has more active pieces.
   [24.Rg4±]
24...a4!± 3:33 **25.b4** 7 **Nc4** 1:04
26.Ng5 1:49 aiming for Ne4.
   [26.Rd7?! Qb6=]
   [26.Nd2! Nxa3 27.Ra1 Rfd8!
   28.Rd6! Nc4 29.Nxc4 bxc4
   30.Rxa4±]
26...Qb8! 4:43 **27.Ne4** 19:30
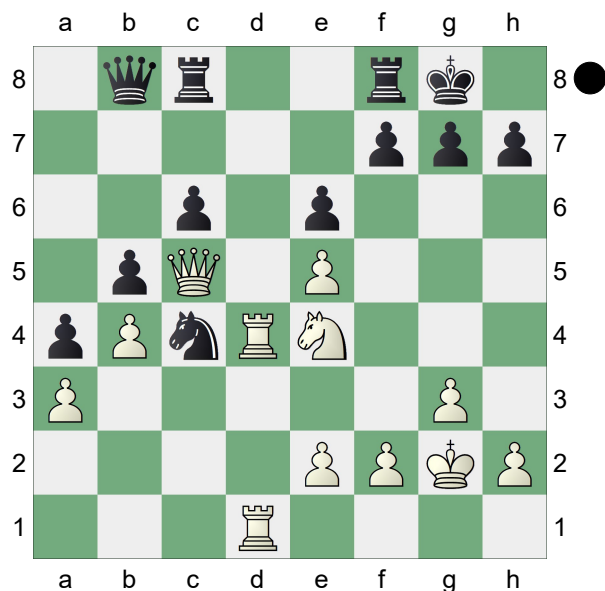
Qxe5?? 3:49 Loses the game.
   [27...Nxe5 28.Nd6 Nd7 isn't enough
   of a plus for White to call it ± (+/=).]
28.Rxc4!+- 8 And that's pretty much
that. **28...Qb2** 5:27 **29.Rcd4** 44 **Qxa3**
4:34 **30.Qe7** 17 White mates. **30...Rce8**
1:21
   [30...Qb2 31.Nf6+ gxf6 (*31...Kh8*

32.Rd8) 32.Rg4+ Kh8 33.Rdd4]
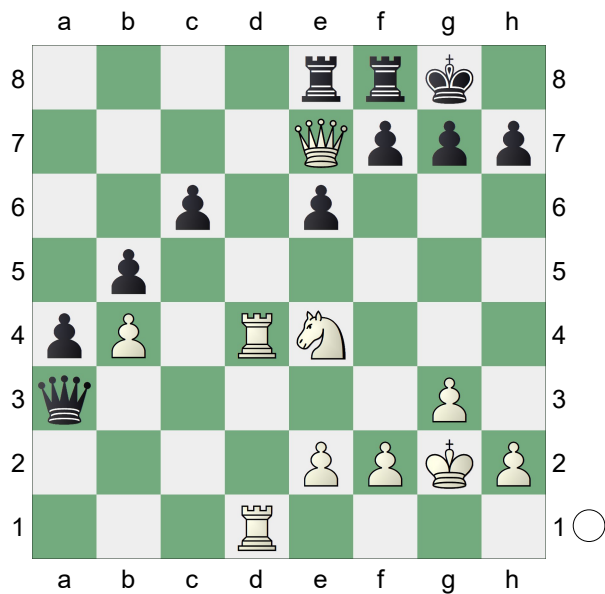
31.Nf6+! 3 **gxf6** 39
   [31...Kh8 32.Nxe8]
32.Rg4+ 2 **Kh8** 6 **33.Qxf6#** 2
Almost too easy. Still, well done Max!
1-0

		A25
□ **Diller,Bradley R**		**2116**
■ **Parsons,Stephen**		**1859**

1st Silman mem TNM (4.6)   30.07.2024
[Diller,Bradley R]

Brad Diller has been sending in some pretty good notes to his games -- sometimes the result of his work with Gadir Guseinov (who, by the way, is available to coach yet more TNMers). Here is one example. Brad did make the money, by the way... **1.c4 Nf6** 12 **2.g3** 8 **e5** 23 **3.Bg2** 31 **Bc5** 1:09 **4.Nc3** 37 **a6** 2:04 **5.e3** 2:02 **Nc6** 4:06 **6.Nge2** 45 **d6** 1:27 **7.0-0** 1:06 **0-0** 18 **8.h3** 4:20 **Bf5** 6:05 **9.d4** 1:50 **Ba7** 54 **10.g4** 15:46 **Bd7** 12:24

(Diagram)
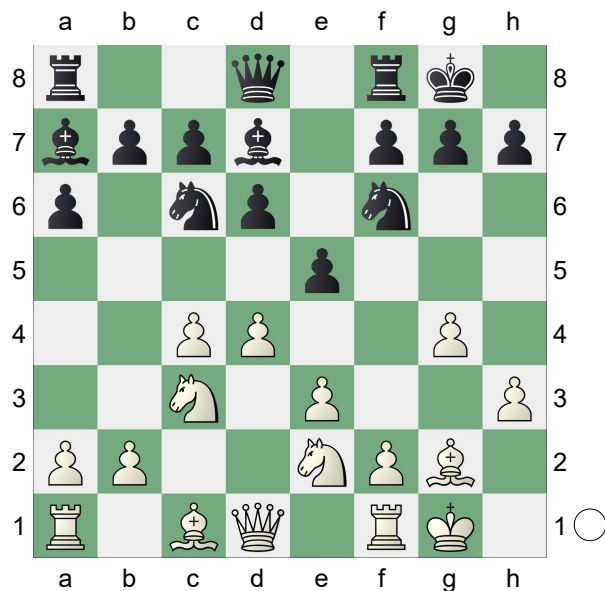
11.b3 4:37 **Rb8** 2:06 **12.dxe5** 6:09
   [⌂12.a4 This was a better move to keep the tension and prevent the freeing move b5.]
12...Nxe5 3:35 **13.Nf4** 1:07 **Nfxg4!?** 1:46 **14.hxg4** 1:52
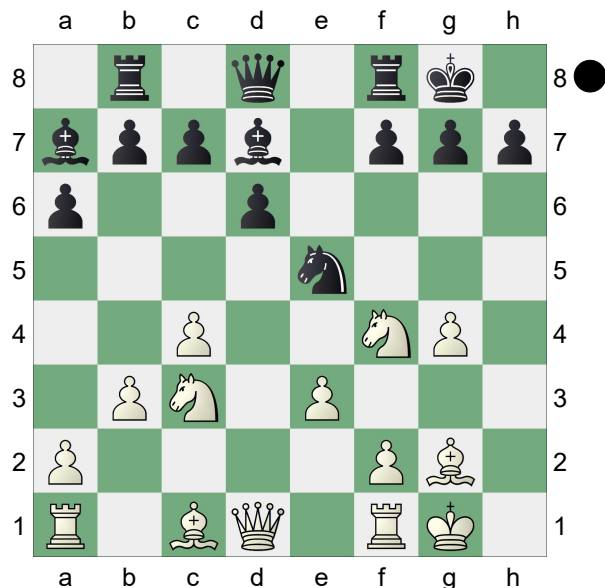
Nxg4? 6
   [⌂14...Qh4! 15.g5 Bg4 16.f3 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Qxf4 18.Ne4 Bxe3+ 19.Bxe3 Qxe3+ 20.Kg2± I may be slightly better according to the engine, but black has great piece activity and my king is weak.]
15.Qf3!+- 2:45 **f5** 1:35 **16.Bb2** 8:37 **Rf6** 4:11 **17.Rfe1** 9:53 **Rh6** 1:10 **18.Nh3?**

1:24 This was a serious error allowing Ne5 and the subsequent f4 pawn sacrifice, liberating his light squared bishop. While the knight on h3 defends against h-file intrusions, the knight is poorly placed on the flank.

[18.Nce2! This was a simple move to respond to Ne5 with the simple Bxe5 and respond with Qg3 against the sally Qh4. Qe7 *(18...Ne5 19.Bxe5 Bc6 20.Nd5 dxe5 21.Qxf5+-; 18...Qh4 19.Qg3+-)* 19.Rad1 c6 20.Bd4 Bxd4 21.Nxd4]

18...Qh4? 2:22

[18...Ne5 19.Qd1 f4 20.Nxf4 Qh4∞ With strong compensation]

19.Qf4? 6:51

[⌓19.Ne2 Rg6 20.Nef4 Rh6 21.Re2 c6+-]

19...Rg6 6:14 **20.Kf1** 32

[⌓20.Re2]

20...Rf8 4:28

[⌓20...Re8=]

21.Rad1 11:58 **c6?** 3:38

[⌓21...Re8=]

22.Ba3! 3:54 **c5?** 5:09 This was a terrible mistake ceding the d5 square and smothering his dark-squared bishop.

[⌓22...Bb8! 23.Rxd6 *(≤23.Bxd6? Bxd6 24.Rxd6 Nxe3+ 25.Rxe3 Qxf4 26.Nxf4 Rxd6∓)* 23...Bxd6 24.Bxd6 Re8 25.c5±]

23.f3? 1:06 This was another lemon. Although the knight is pinned, it cannot be taken because the queen is pinned after the capture. In addition, I virtually checkmated the queen because Qf3 is no longer available. Simply, 23 Nd5 which I played afterwards secures a winning advantage. **23...Bc6** 18:38

[23...d5 This was an interesting try to activate the dark squared bishop, but I get more than enough compensation for the queen. 24.fxg4 Bb8 *(24...fxg4 25.Ke2+-)* 25.Bxc5 Bxf4

26.Nxf4+-]

24.Nd5!+- 32 Finally! **24...Re6** 1:47
25.Kg1 6:56 **Rg6** 7:24 **26.Bb2** 1:08
Bb8 2:31 **27.e4** 2:25 **fxe4** 2:25
28.Qxe4 2 **Re8** 5:22 **29.Ne7+** 1:57
Rxe7 1:05 **30.Qxe7** 1 **Qxe7** 26
31.Rxe7 1 **Nf6** 33 **32.Nf4** 30 **Rg5** 33
33.Ne6 1:27 **Rg6** 3 **34.Kf2** 19 **d5** 24
35.cxd5 1:28 **Bg3+** 10 **36.Kg1** 1:17
Nxd5 38 **37.Rxg7+** 16 **Rxg7** 8 **38.Nxg7**
20 **Nf4** 58 **39.Nf5** 25 **Ne2+** 25 **40.Kh1**
2 **Bf4** 56 **41.Ne7+** 24 **Kf7** 27 **42.Nxc6**
7 **Ng3+** 31 **43.Kg1** 1:02 **bxc6** 5 **44.Bf1**
25 **h5** 24 **45.Bxa6** 12 **h4** 30 **46.Kg2** 4
Nf5 7 **47.Kh3** 35 **Bg3** 14 **48.Bc4+** 41
Ke7 2:32 **49.Rd2** 15 **Nd6** 43 **50.a4** 13
Kd7 13 **51.Re2** 26 **Kc8** 1:16 **52.Be5** 8
Nf5 54 **53.Be6+** 28
1-0

The key meeting of the top two rated players had a decisive result! Cremisi met Andy Lee's 1.b3 with classical chess, and in a few moves the opening transposed into a King's Indian with two interesting features: (1) White was *two* moves up on a KID (Black played ...e7-e6-e5, and White/Black was Black/White) (2) those two moves were used to play b2-b3 and Bc1-b2, all but worthless against the closed center. In short, Black was already better, and White's expansion on the kingside (in a familiar chase of Black's bishop) led to weaknesses rather than an attack. **1.b3** 3 **Nf6** 11 **2.Bb2** 7 **e6** 8 **3.g3** 3:02 **d5** 37 **4.Bg2** 22 **c5** 19 **5.Nf3** 49 **Nc6** 31 **6.0-0** 1:10 **Bd6** 2:12
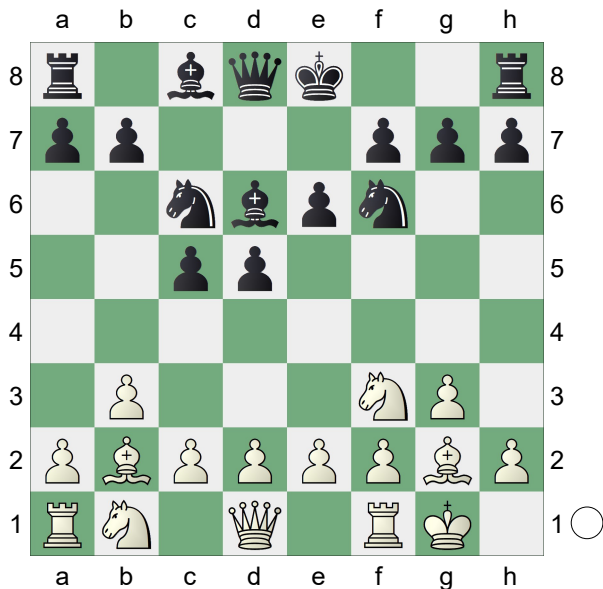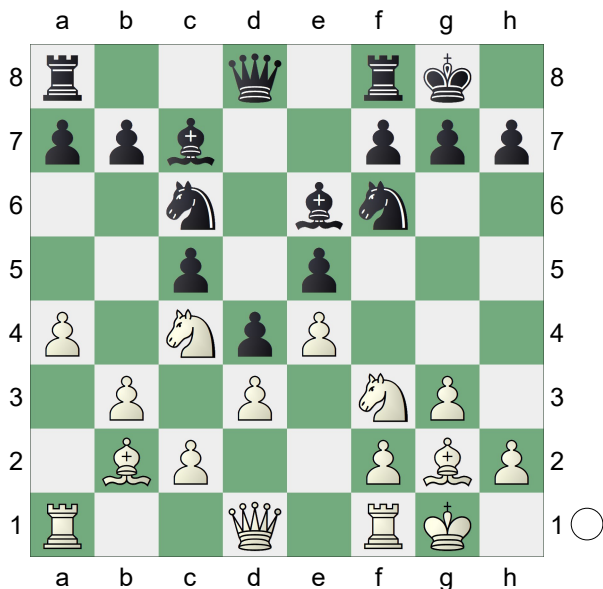
7.d3?! -0.45/19 9:40
  [7.d4!= 0.23/23]
7...e5∓ 1:22 **8.Nbd2** 2:05 Black is
already slightly better. There is no future
in White's first two moves. **8...0-0** 2:11
9.e4 54 **d4** 15 **10.Nc4** 1:53 **Bc7** 22
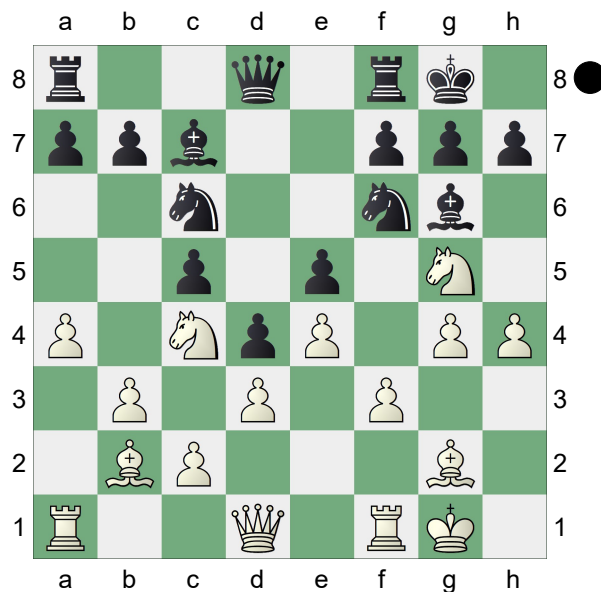**11.a4** 6 **Be6** 1:28

12.Ng5N 7:19
  [Predecessor: 12.Qd2 h6 13.Rae1
  a6 14.Qd1 b5 15.axb5 axb5
  16.Ncd2 Nd7 17.Nh4 0-1 (30) Tisaj,D
  (2287)-Ponkratov,P (2623) Chess.
  com Bullet op1 Chess.com INT blitz
  2020 (13)]
12...Bg4 4:38 **13.f3!** 30 **Bh5** 59 **14.g4**

7:25 **Bg6** 25 **15.h4** -0.85/23 55
  [15.Nh3∓ -0.31/27]

15...h5 0.30/28 1:32
  [15...Nd7!∓ -0.85/23 Threatens to win
  with ...h6. 16.Bc1 h6]
16.Nh3 -0.15/26 2:57
  [⌂16.Bc1 0.30/28]
16...a6= 2:17 **17.g5** 3:11 **Nd7** 43 **18.f4**
1:39 **exf4** 34 Strongly threatening ...b5.
19.Nxf4 -1.69/23 5:21 This move loses
the game for White.
  [19.a5!∓ -0.37/24]
19...Bxf4-+ 3:09 **20.Rxf4** 7 **Qc7**
-1.32/26 2:10
  [Black should play 20...b5-+ -1.75/23
  White must now prevent ...Qc7.
  21.Nd2 Qc7]
21.Qd2 -2.10/22 8:14
  [21.Bc1∓ -1.32/26]
21...b5 1:36 **22.axb5** -3.30/23 22
  [⌂22.Na3 -2.01/25 bxa4 23.bxa4
  (23.Nc4 axb3 24.cxb3 Rfb8∓)]
22...axb5 2 **23.Na3** 1:51 **Ra5** 52
24.Raf1 2:38 **Rfa8** 3:59 **25.Qc1** 8:27
Nde5 1:34 **26.Bh3** 32 **Nb4** 1:14 **27.Qd2**
7:04 **Rxa3** 59 Black is clearly winning.
28.Bxa3 6 **Rxa3** 3 **29.Bf5** 3:18 **Bxf5** 57
30.Rxf5 1:06 **g6** 1:29 **31.Rf6** 5:08 **Qd7**
3:57 **32.Qh2** 3:58 **Nbc6** 3:49 **33.R6f4**

43 **Ra2** 1:29 **34.Kh1** 2:57 **Ng4** 1:56 **35.Qg3** 4:11 **Nce5** 1:08 **36.Rc1** 36 **Qa7** 3:33 **37.Rff1** 2:04 **Qb7** 7:19 **38.Qf4** 53 **Qe7** 1:01 **39.Qg3** 1:41 **Qe6** 53 **40.Rf4** 40 **Ne3** 2:44 **41.Rf6** 52 **Qg4** 10 **42.Qxg4** 49 **hxg4** 1:36 **43.Rb6** 2:27 **g3** 37
0-1

		D50
☐ **Winslow,Elliott**		**2166**
■ **Hao,Max**		**2035**

1st Silman mem TNM (5.4)   07.08.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

Max Hao took smooth advantage of my lapsing into a chess coma to position himself for a run at the money. **1.Nf3** 57 **d5** 9 **2.d4** 25 **Nf6** 5 **3.c4** 14 **e6** 4 **4.Nc3** 14 **c5** 7 **5.cxd5** 9:06 **cxd4!?** 1:21
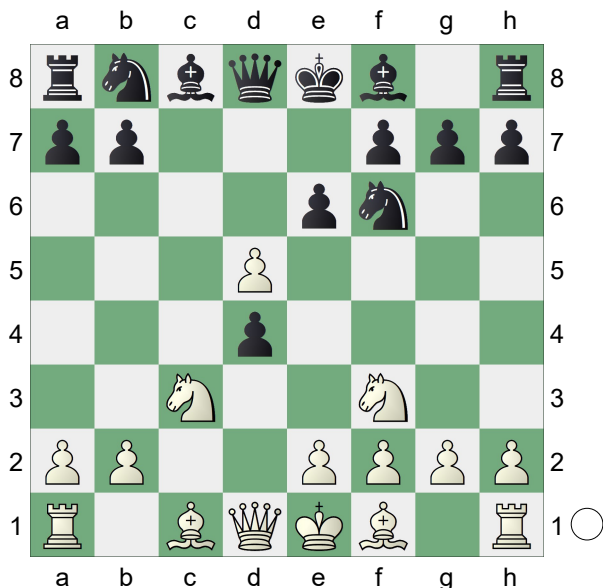
An epidemic of games! It's almost enough to want to give up the Queen's Gambit (No! I didn't say that!). **6.Qxd4** 4:13 **exd5** 9 **7.Bg5** 2:16
[7.e4!? has also seen a rash of games, as White players try to salvage any advantage at all (unsuccessfully). dxe4 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Ng5 Be6 10.Nxe6+ fxe6 11.Bg5=]

7...Be7 8 **8.e3** 1:59 **0-0** 53 **9.Bb5** 2:18
[Normal, and extremely current, is 9.Be2 By current, I mean *on the same day* !! Giri-Niemann blitz games here: Nc6 10.Qd3 h6 11.Bh4 Qb6 better than 11...Be6. 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Rfd1 Be6 14.Nb5 Rac8 15.Nbd4 Nxd4 (*15...Bd7 16.h3 Re8 17.Rab1 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 g5 19.Bg3 Bc5 20.Bf3 Ne4 21.Bxe4 Rxe4 22.Nf3 Be6 23.Be5 Ra4 24.a3 Qa6 25.Qd2 Be7 26.Nd4 Rac4 27.Nxe6 fxe6 28.Qd3 Re4 29.Qxa6 bxa6 30.Bd4 g4 31.hxg4 Rxg4 32.Rbc1 Rc4 33.Rxc4 dxc4 34.Rc1 Kf7 35.Rxc4* <u>1-0 (48) Giri,A (2746)-Niemann,H (2711) Utrecht Blitz m 2024 (10)</u>)
16.Nxd4 g5 17.Bg3 Ne4
   A) <u>18.Bf3</u> Bf6N *(Previous: 18...Nxg3 19.hxg3 Kg7 20.Nf5+ Bxf5 21.Qxf5 Qf6 22.Qd3 Rc7 23.Bxd5 Qxb2 24.Rab1 Qf6* <u>0-1 (45) Lazavik,D (2553)-Sadhwani,R (2603) Chess.com U20 Speed Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (2.24)</u>) 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Qxe4 Bxd4 21.exd4 Qxb2 22.Be5 Qc2 23.Qxb7 Bd5 24.Qa6 Qe4 25.Qf1 Rc2 26.Re1 Qf5 27.Rec1 Rdc8 28.Rxc2 Rxc2 29.a3 Bc4 30.Qe1 Re2 31.Qf1 Ra2 32.Qe1
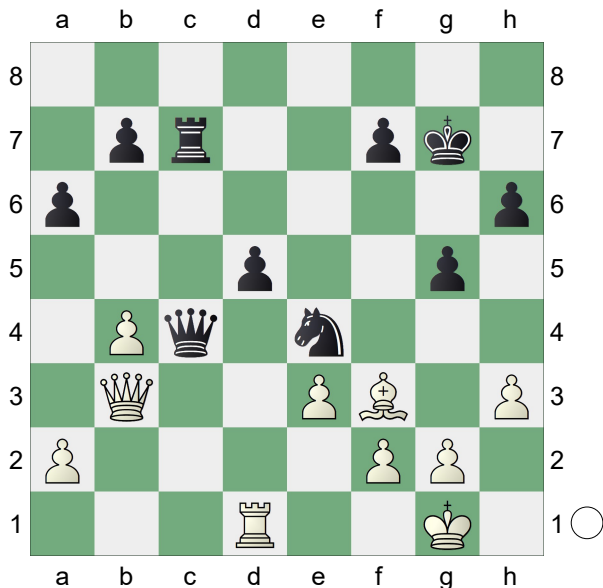
(Diagram)

<u>Qxf2+ 0-1 Giri,A (2746)-Niemann,H (2711) Utrecht Blitz m 2024 (4);</u>
   B) <u>18.Be5!?</u>
      B1) <u>18...Bd7</u> 19.h3 f6 20.Nf3 Bf5 21.Bd4 Qb4 22.Qb3 (*22.Bxa7 Ng3 23.Qb5±*) 22...Qxb3 23.axb3 a6 <u>½-½ (67) Koneru,H (2553)-Ju,W (2568) Tata Steel India rapid (Women) Kolkata 2023 (1);</u>
      B2) <u>18...Nc5</u> 19.Qa3N (*19.Qb1*
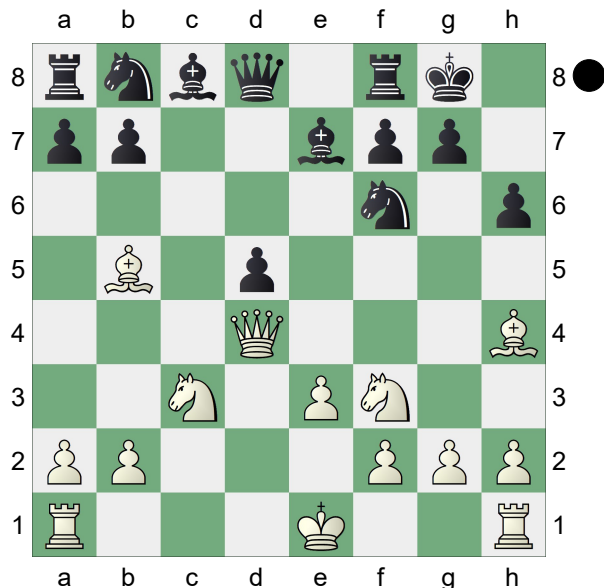
9...h6 1:23 **10.Bh4** 44
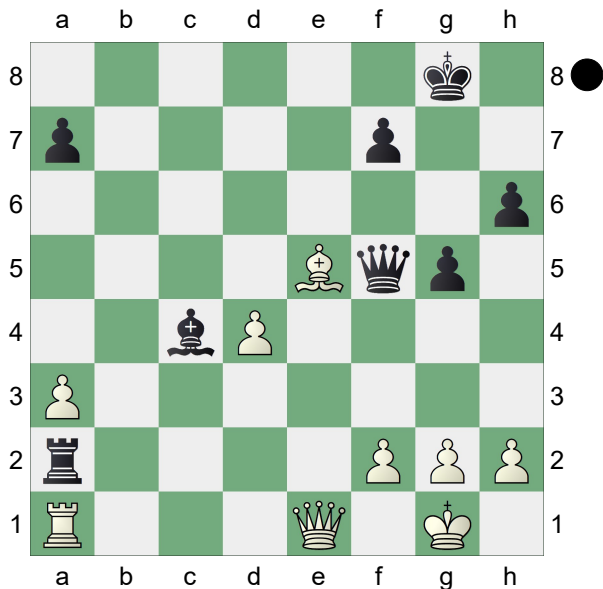
Nd7 20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.Bd4 Ne5 22.h3 Rc7 23.a3 Nc6 24.Bg4 Qd6 25.Bc3 ½-½ (31) Xu,Y (2531)-Suleymanli,A (2586) FIDE World Cup Baku 2023 (1. 1)) 19...Bf8 20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.Bd4 a6 22.h3 Rc7 23.Rac1 Rdc8 24.b4 Ne4 25.Rxc7 Rxc7 26.Qb3 Bg7 27.Bg4 Qc6 28.Bxg7 Kxg7 29.Bf3 Qc4

a6!? 4:33

  [10...Nc6

    A) <u>11.Bxc6</u> bxc6 12.0-0 c5! *(12...Be6)*;

    B) <u>11.Qa4!?</u> Be6!? *(11...Ne4; 11...Bd7)*]

11.Ba4 2:15

  [⌓11.Be2]

11...Nc6 6:13 **12.Bxc6** 2:38

  [12.Qd3=]

12...bxc6 4 **13.0-0** 14

30.Qxc4? *(30.Rxd5!±)* 30...Rxc4 31.a3 Nf6?! *(31...a5=)* 32.Bxd5± Nxd5 33.Rxd5 Rc1+ 34.Kh2 Rc3?! *(34...Rc2 35.Kg3 b6 36.Rd3±)*
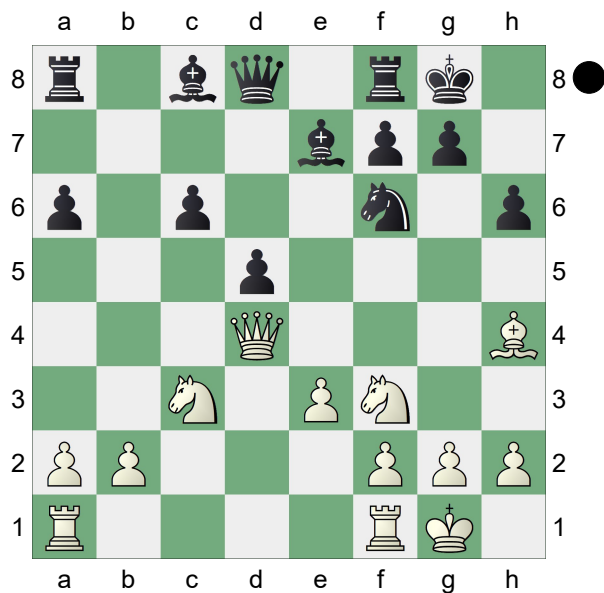
c5!?N 40

[Predecessor: 13...Be6 14.Na4 g5
15.Bg3 Ne4 16.Rac1 c5!∓
1-0 (63) Keymer,V (2607)-Wagner,D
(2576) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th
Sept Chess.com INT blitz 2021 (6)]

14.Qd3 1:11 **Be6** 6:31 **15.Rfd1** 3:29
Qd7 3:22
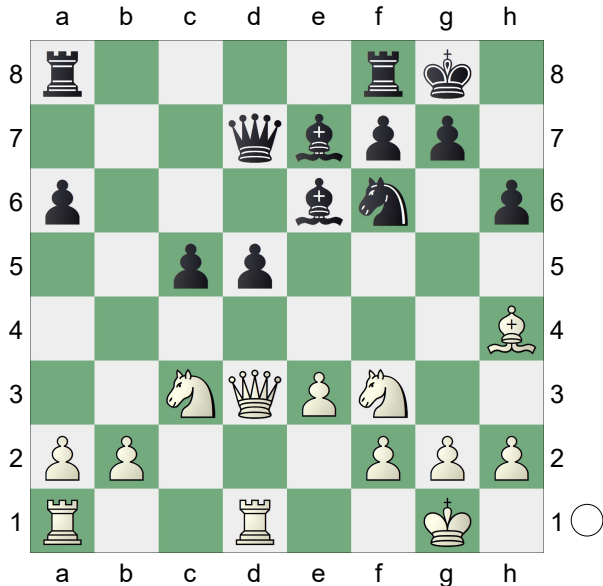
16.Bxf6 7:30 **Bxf6** 5 **17.Nxd5** 16 **Bxb2**
42 This pair of bishops is nice. **18.Rab1**
9 **Qxd5** 1:32 **19.Qxd5** 1:29

[Reject 19.Rxb2 Qxd3 20.Rxd3
Rab8 21.Rxb8 Rxb8∓]

19...Bxd5 4 **20.Rxb2** 3:42 **Rab8** 2:50
21.Rc2= 3:11 **Rfc8** 9 **22.Kf1** 1:02 **Be4**
1:57 **23.Rc4** 4:05 **Rb4** 1:01 **24.Rc3**
6:41 **c4** 6:47 **25.Rdc1** 1:54 **Rb1** 6:54
26.Rxb1 6:03 **Bxb1=** 4 Endgame. KRB-
KRN **27.a3** 24 **Bd3+** 5:06 **28.Ke1** 39 **f6**
46 **29.Nd2?!** 1:52

[29.Kd1!= stays alive]

29...Kf7∓ 25 **30.f3** 1:30

[⌂30.Kd1]

30...Ke6-+ 55 **31.Kd1** 9:37 **Kd5** 1:55
Strongly threatening ...Re8. **32.Kc1?**
1:35

[32.Nb3]

(Diagram)
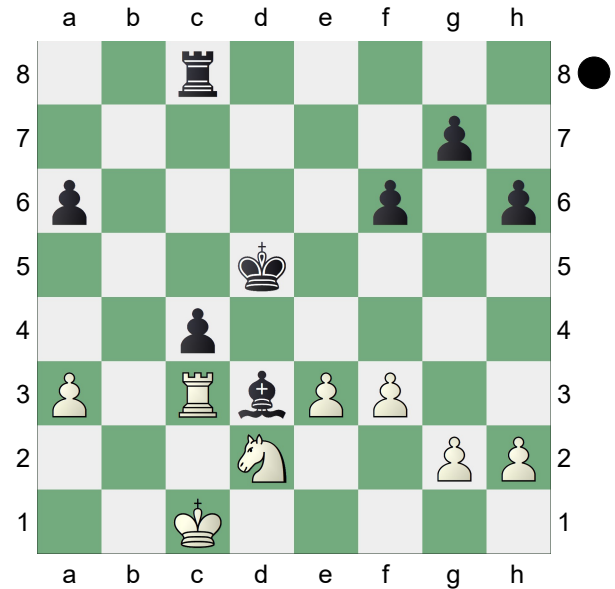
32...f5 2:02 White must now prevent ...
f4! **33.g3** 5:03

[⌂33.Nb3]

33...Re8 39 Black is clearly winning.
34.f4 1:10 **g5** 2:18

[34...Rxe3 35.Nxc4 Kd4 36.Nxe3
Kxc3 37.Nd5+ Kb3 38.Kd2∓]

35.a4 2:08 **gxf4** 39

[Weaker is 35...Rxe3 36.Nxc4 Re2
37.Rxd3+∓]

36.gxf4 5 **Kc5** 1:45 aiming for ...Kb4!

[Less strong is 36...Rxe3 37.Nxc4
Kd4 38.Nxe3 Kxc3 39.Nd5+ Kd4
40.Kd2∓]

37.Kb2 6:31 **Kb4** 21 **38.Nb3** 2:47 **Rxe3**
43 **39.Nc1** 8 Prevents Re2+ **39...Rh3** 40
40.Nxd3+ 24

[⌂40.Na2+ Kc5 41.Rc1]

40...Rxd3 15
0-1

Here another contender lost his balance
in the penultimate round. Theo Coyne

was doing fairly well in this game but drifted into a worse endgame, difficult to play for both sides -- eventually Cremisi locked up the win. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3** Rare these days.

[When I was growing up with the Queen's Gambit the move order was 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 *(But Black could play 4...Bg4!? with a smooth development of all hands.)* 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 a6]

3...Nf6 No move-order niceties for Theo. He just heads for the classical main line.

[The nicest thing about 3.e3 is how cleanly attempting to hold the pawn gets crushed: 3...b5? 4.a4 c6 *(4...a6 5.axb5)* 5.axb5 cxb5?? 6.Qf3]

[The reason nobody played 3.e3 for so long is 3...e5! when 4.dxe5 Qxd1+ 5.Kxd1

A) This has been interesting for me, I always thought the point was 5...Be6 but apparently better (both in frequency and results, and Stockfish eval) is to develop knight before bishop, just like the proverb says.;

B) 5...Be6 6.Nd2! Nc6 7.Bxc4! *(7.Ngf3 0-0-0∓)* 7...Nxe5 8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.Ke2± isn't much, but it *is*.;

C) 5...Nc6! 6.Nf3 Be6 7.Nbd2 0-0-0∓]

[On 3...e5 White can instead play 4.Bxc4!? exd4 5.exd4 with the "other" Isolated Queen Pawn formation. The "other" is that Black has a c-pawn, not an e-pawn, as in so many openings (other Queen's Gambits, Nimzoindians, etc.) -- the current formation comes from the Petroff, the Exchange French, and of course here. I've personally played 3.exd5 against the French, just because my opponent apparently likes to play

the French! The difference (especially in the French) means Black has freedom for both his bishops.
In fact, according to Stockfish (which has been running as I've been typing), best is 5...Bd6 when White's advantage is less than "usual." (like +0.20 or so.)]

4.Bxc4 e6 5.Nf3 (A plus: no ...Bg4 line.) **5...c5 6.0-0 a6 7.Bb3** An interesting move.

[Classical was 7.Qe2 b5 8.Bb3 Bb7 9.Rd1 Nbd7]

[When Spassky traded in his brass knuckles for kid gloves, he started the annoying trend of 7.dxc5 and off came the queens in all likelihood. I wonder if Carlsen has any history of winning endgames after this -- I don't want to look.]

[Nine days *after* our game, Shankland played 7.Re1 b5 8.Bf1 against Fedoseev and drew. This wasn't the first occasion of this, but really? Is there a point? It looks like the best answer is cxd4 when 9.Nxd4 shows what little feist there is for the position. Stockfish gives White the sort of advantage that still merits "=".]

[7.a4 A major line is Nc6 8.Qe2 cxd4 9.Rd1 when White is going to play 10. exd4 next -- Black can sabotage the IQP position even happening with d3!? but 10.Bxd3! keeps some dynamic possibilities. Note: Qc7 11.Nc3 Bd7 12.e4 Ng4 13.Nd5! exd5 14.exd5+ Ne7 15.Bc4 Qd6 16.Rd4 1-0 (28) Vera Gonzalez Quevedo,R (2534)-Arencibia Rodriguez,W (2542) CUB-ch Holguin 2002 (8)]

7...b5 Natural, but **8.a4!** Black struggles a bit with those pawns. White has scored 3-2 over 1200 or so games in the Mega database. **8...Bb7 9.Qe2 Nbd7**

[9...b4!? Anand used this to defeat

Yusupov 27 years ago. White kept the tension too long and Black got in ...c4 and ...c3; bxc3 b3 with a passed pawn the survived. 10.Nbd2 Be7 11.Nc4 0-0 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.Bd2 Nbd7 14.Nfe5 Rfd8 15.Rac1 a5 16.Be1 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Nd7 18.f4 Ba6 19.Qc2 Bxc4 20.Qxc4 Nb6 21.Rxd8+ Qxd8 22.Qb5 g6 23.Bd1 c4 24.Bf3 Rb8 25.Qxa5 c3 26.bxc3 b3 27.Rb1 Qd3 28.Rxb3 Qxe3+ 29.Kf1 Bc5 30.Qb5 Rd8 31.c4 Rd3 32.Qe8+ Kg7 <u>0-1 Jussupow,A (2640)-Anand,V (2765) Dortmund SuperGM 25th 1997 (3)</u>]

10.Na3

[Relevant: 10.Rd1 Qc8 11.e4 Bxe4 12.d5 c4 13.dxe6 fxe6 14.Ng5 cxb3 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Nf6 17.Qf3 Bc5 18.Be3 Bxe3 19.Qxe3 0-0 20.axb5 Ng4 21.Qc3 Qb8 22.Qg3 Qxg3 23.fxg3 axb5 24.Ra3 Ne3 25.Rc1 Rxa3 26.Nxa3 b4 27.Nb5 Rd8 28.Kf2 Nd1+ 29.Ke2 Nxb2 30.Rb1 Nd3 31.Ke3 Nc5 32.Nd4 e5 33.Nc6 Rd3+ 34.Ke2 e4 35.Nxb4 Rc3 36.Nd5 Rc2+ 37.Ke3 b2 38.Kd4 Na4 39.Rf1 Rd2+ <u>0-1 (57) Anton Guijarro,D (2694)-Alekseenko,K (2702) Chess.com Rapid Wk5 Swiss Chess.com INT 2022 (2)</u>]

10...c4 11.Bc2

(Diagram)

Bxa3?!N

[Predecessor: 11...Ne4 12.Nd2 Ndf6 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.f3 Nf6 15.b3 cxb3 16.Bxb3 b4 17.Nc4 a5 18.e4 Inhibits Nd5. Threatens to win with d5. Be7 19.Rd1 d5! would now be deadly. 0-0 20.Be3 Ba6 21.Qf2 Rc8 22.Rac1 Qc7? *(22...h6=)* 23.d5+- exd5 24.Nb6 d4? *(24...Qb8)*
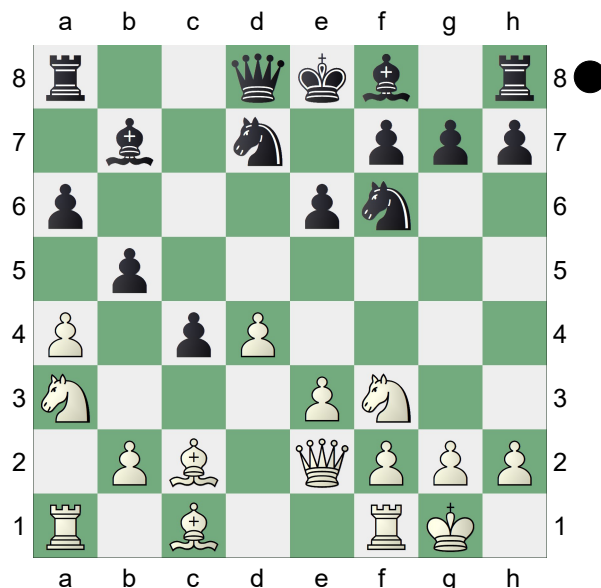
25.Rxc7+- dxe3 26.Qc2 e2 27.Nxc8 exd1Q+ 28.Qxd1 Bd8 29.Ne7+ *(⌂29.Rxf7)* 29...Kh8 30.Qd6 <u>1-0 Dos Santos,R (2376)-Mazziotti Irigoyen,G (2311) Buenos Aires-ch qual 2006 (8.11)</u>]

[11...Be7!?∓]

12.bxa3

[⌂12.Rxa3 b4 Strongly threatening ...Bxf3. 13.Ra1=]

12...Ne4?!

[12...Be4!=]

13.Qe1

[13.Nd2!±]

13...c3 14.Rb1?!

[14.Bxe4 simplifies Bxe4 15.Qxc3 0-0 16.axb5 Bxf3 17.gxf3 axb5 18.e4]

[14.axb5!?]

14...Bc6?!

[14...0-0]

[14...f5]

15.axb5 axb5

(Diagram)

16.Bd3=

[16.a4!± bxa4 17.Ba3]

16...Qa5?!

[16...0-0]
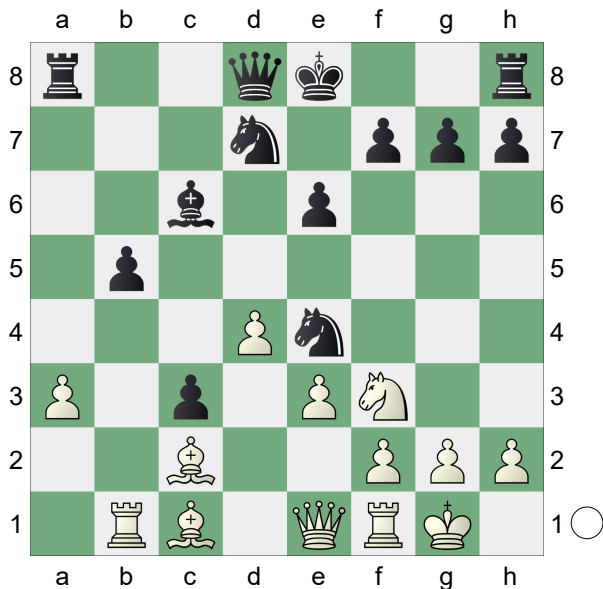
17.Rb3

[17.Rb4!±]

17...0-0 18.Bxe4 Bxe4 19.Qxc3 Qxc3

[19...Qa6=]

20.Rxc3⩲ Rfc8 21.Rb3

[21.Rxc8+ Rxc8 22.Bd2±]

21...Nb6?!

[21...Bc2! ∆ ...Bd3]

22.Bd2⩲

[But not 22.Rxb5 Bd3 23.Rxb6
Bxf1∓]

[⌓22.Re1]

**22...Bd5 23.Rxb5⩲ Nc4 24.Bb4 Nxa3
25.Rc5 Nc4 26.Rc1 Rxc5 27.Bxc5
Ra2?! 28.h4 f5**

[28...Bxf3± should be considered.
29.gxf3 *(29.Rxc4 Be2±)* 29...Nb2
30.Bd6 h6 31.Rc2 Ra1+ 32.Kg2
Nd3 33.Rc8+ Kh7 34.Rc3 Ne1+
35.Kg3]

29.Rb1

[White should try 29.h5±]

(Diagram)

29...Bxf3?!

[29...h6!⩲]

30.gxf3

[⌓30.Rb8+! Kf7 31.gxf3
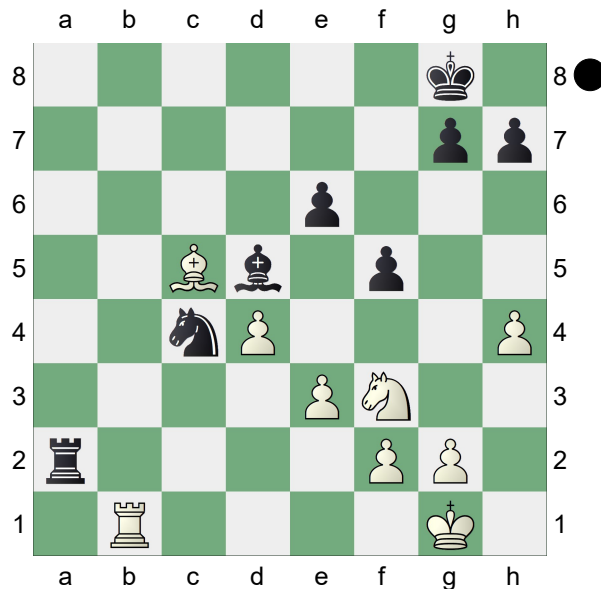
when White's advantage is closer to
"winning" than "not so clear"]

30...Rb2

[30...Nb2±]
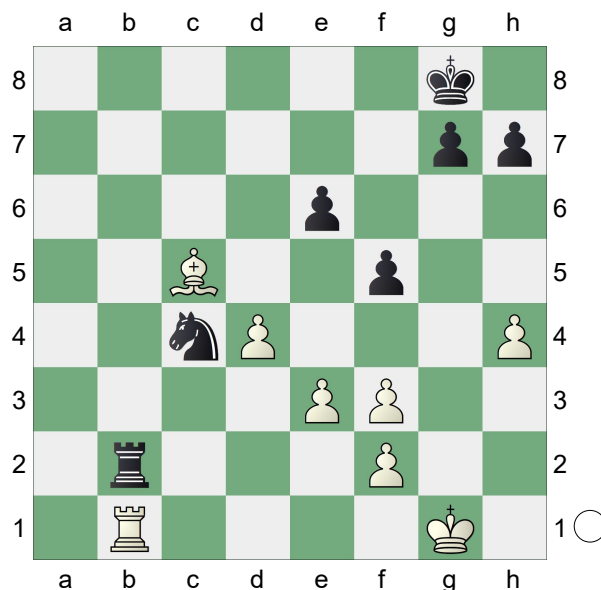
**31.Ra1!+- Rb7 32.Kg2 h6 33.Ra8+
Kf7**

[33...Kh7 34.Re8]

34.h5 Mate in one, anyone? **34...g6
35.Rf8+?!**

[35.hxg6+ Kxg6 36.Ra6 Kf7 37.d5
exd5 38.Bd4! It's the f-pawn White
wants!]

35...Kg7± 36.Rc8?!

[36.hxg6]

36...gxh5! 37.Bf8+ Kf7 38.Bxh6! Nb6?

[38...Nb2± was necessary. 39.Rh8 Kg6]

39.Rh8 Kg6 40.Bf4+- Nd5
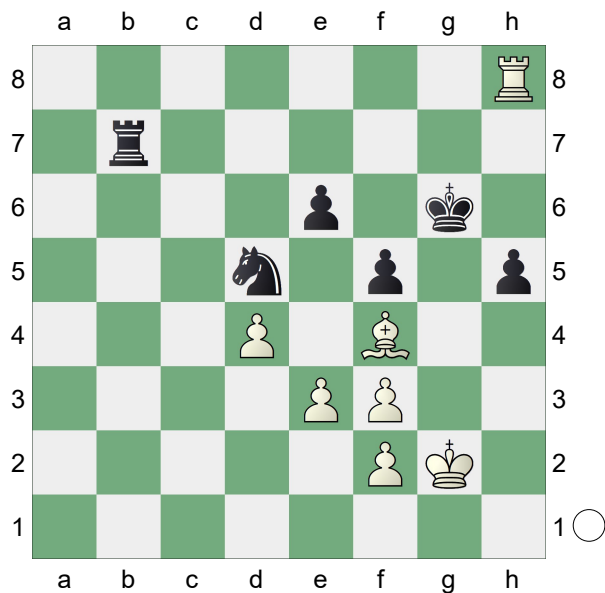
41.Be5! Rh7

[⌓41...Rb2 42.Kg3 Rc2 43.Rg8+ Kf7 44.Rg7+ Ke8]

42.Rb8 h4

[⌓42...Kf7 43.Kh3 Nf6 44.Rb7+ Kg6]

43.Kh3+-
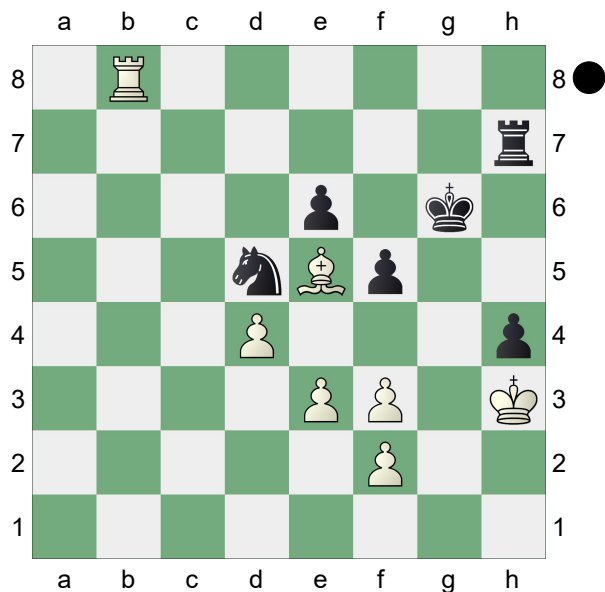
Nc3 44.Rb6 Kf7 45.Rb7+ Kg6 46.Rxh7 Kxh7 47.Kxh4 Kg6 48.Kg3 Nd5 49.Kg2 Kf7 50.Kf1 Ke8 51.Ke2

Kd7 52.Kd3 Ke7?

[52...Kc6 is a better defense. 53.e4 Ne7]

53.e4+- Nb6 54.Bc7 Nd7?

[54...Nc8 55.Kc4 Kd7]

55.Ke3+- Kf6 56.Kf4 Nf8 57.Bd8+ Kg6 58.Ke5

[⌓58.exf5+]

58...Kf7 59.exf5 exf5 60.Kxf5 Ne6 61.Bf6

[⌓61.Bb6]

61...Nf8 62.Be5 Nd7 63.Ke4 Ke6 64.f4 Nb6 65.Bc7

[⌓65.f5+]

65...Nc8 66.d5+ Kd7 67.d6 Na7 68.f5 1-0

This was the other critical game. Max Hao outplayed Archit Dasika and was on the verge of setting up a chance to win the tournament, but couldn't put it away. So close! With his attention to modern opening theory and (mostly) excellent strategical command, he stands a promising light for the future. **1.d4** 3 **d5** 4 **2.Nf3** 4 **Nf6** 3 **3.Bf4** 17 **c5** 4 **4.c3** 23 **Nc6** 3 **5.e3** 37 **Qb6** 2 **6.Qc2** 3:18 **g6** 1:10

[Relevant: 6...Nh5 7.Be5 e6 8.Nbd2 Bd7 9.Be2 Rc8 10.Qb3 f6 11.Bg3 Nxg3 12.hxg3 g6 13.0-0 Kf7 0-1 (72) Le,T (2567)-Duda,J (2731) Titled Tuesday intern op 02nd Apr Early Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (11)]
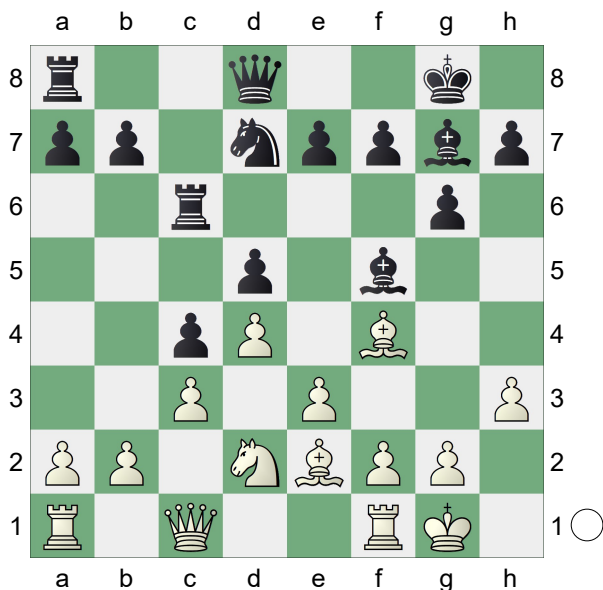
(Diagram)
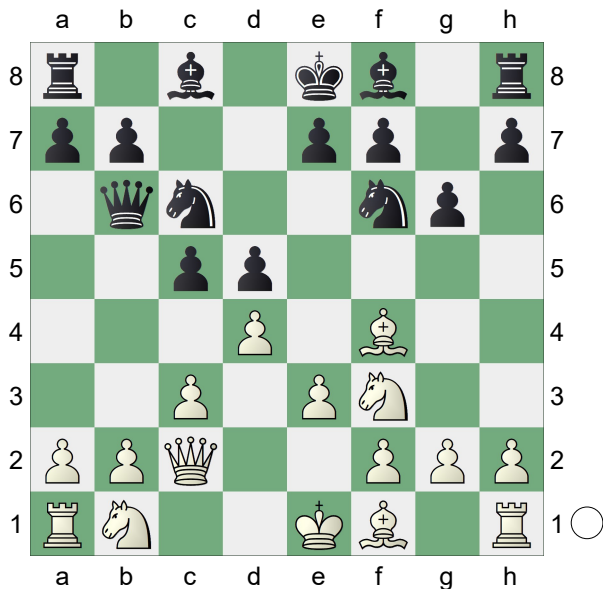
7.Bd3 -0.36/28 3:10

[7.Nbd2= 0.09/27 is more appropriate, keeping other options for the bishop.]

7...c4 13 **8.Be2** 26 **Bf5** 5 Black has an edge. **9.Qc1** 7 **Bg7** 51 **10.Nbd2** 19 **0-0** 1:21 **11.h3** 40 **Rfc8** 5:20 **12.0-0** 1:15 **Qd8** 8:06 **13.Ne5** 6:40 **Nd7** 9:05 **14.Nxc6** 5:12 **Rxc6** 17
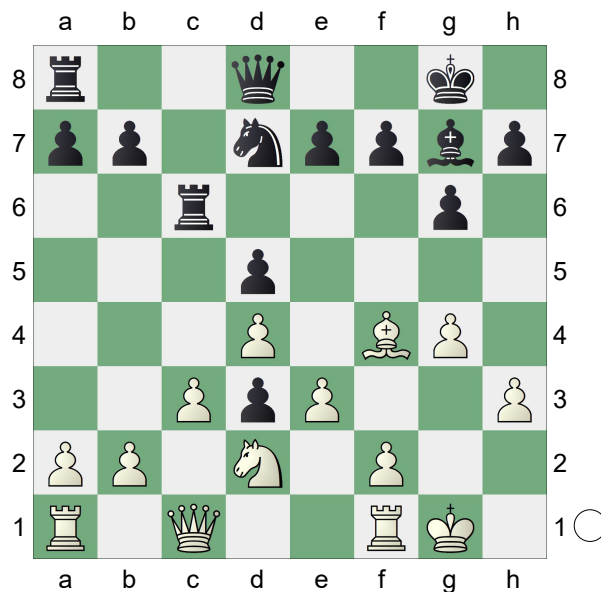

15.g4!?N 3:06 White had to do something!

[Predecessor: 15.f3 -0.87/25 0-1 (66) Watson,J (1843)-Walker,S (2043) London Classic rapid op 11th 2019 (3)]

15...Bd3!? 11:36

[15...Be6 16.Qc2± (or *16.a4!?* right away)]

16.Bxd3 2:39 **cxd3** 5

The intention is ...e5, when it all starts to make sense. **17.Nf3?!** 52

[17.Qd1 e5 18.dxe5 Bxe5 19.Bxe5 Nxe5 20.Nf3 Nxf3+ 21.Qxf3 Qb6 22.Rad1 Qxb2 23.Rxd3 Qxa2 24.Rxd5= Rf6!]

[17.Qb1 e5 18.dxe5 Bxe5 19.Qxd3 Nc5! 20.Qe2 Bxf4 21.exf4 Rf6 22.Qe3 Ne6 23.f5 gxf5 24.gxf5 Rxf5 Black has a better posted rook and knight, to compensate the pawn structure.]

17...f6! 1:46 **18.Qd1!** 17:30 **e5∓** 1:55 Black has some pressure. **19.Bg3?** -1.56/22 1:35

[White had to play 19.dxe5 fxe5 20.Bg5 Qe8 21.e4! dxe4 22.Qb3+ Kh8 23.Nd2 h6 24.Be3 White finds play in spite of the scary mass of Black pawns in the center.]

19...e4∓ 2:52 **20.Nd2** 7 **Nb6** 3:02

[20...f5! Black could take advantage of the stable center (for the moment!) and further erode White's king cover. 21.Kh2 fxg4 22.Qxg4 *(22.hxg4 Bh6* Stockfish has this bordering on winning. Seems enigmatic to me! *)*

22...Rb6 23.Rab1 Qe7 Black pushes out the queen (...Nf6) and the center stays.]
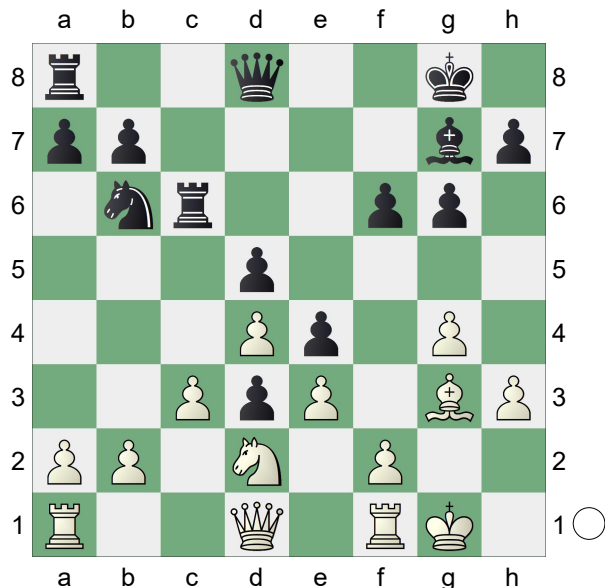
21.f3! 2:38 **f5** 2:19 **22.gxf5?** -2.24/26 3:20 (Too soon, opening the g-file when Black could get there first.
[22.Kh2∓ -1.39/23]
22...gxf5-+ 8 **23.Kh2** 1:52 **Rg6** 2:17
24.Rg1 2:03 **Bh6** 4:28 **25.Qe1** 2:22
[The lesser evil is 25.f4 , sealing things up but making a pawn of his bishop. Next could come some queenside play with a2-a4. But Black can shut that down with ...a5, when the pawn at d3 looms over everything else.]
25...Qg5 4:03 **26.Bf2** 3:22 **Qh5** 1:00
27.Rxg6+ 36 **hxg6** 3

(Diagram)

Hao has handled this phase exemplarily.
28.Qg1?! 38 **Kf7?!** 2:11
[28...f4! breaks in right now. 29.fxe4 (29.b3 Nd7) 29...fxe3 30.Bxe3 Qe2+ 31.Bf2 Kh7!-+]
29.Qg3 1:01 Looking for an annoying entry on c7 **29...Rh8** 4:34
Perhaps Black should anticipate that:
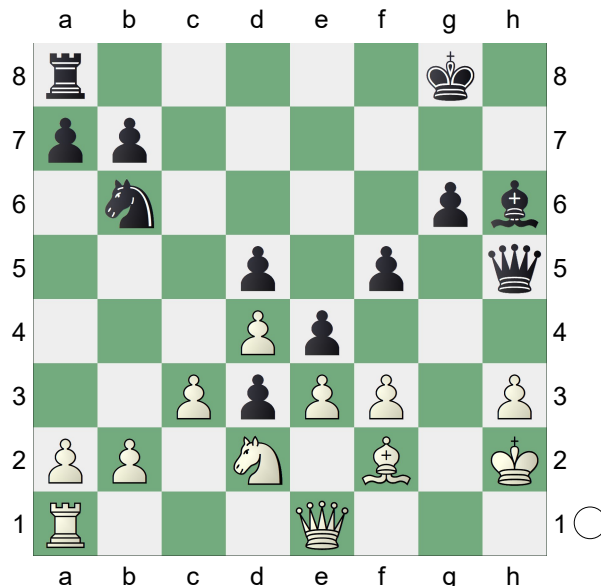
[29...Rc8]
[29...Re8]
30.Rg1 3:09 **Nd7** 5:57
[30...Bf8!?]
[30...Bg5!?]
31.h4!? 3:49 These are desperate times!
[31.Qd6?? Bf4+]
[31.Rg2]
31...Bf8?! 0.00/29 10:27 Max used a full third of his remaining time and lost his way. The efficient solution to White's queen entry was there.
[31...Rc8-+ -2.61/22 Strongly threatening ...Nf6, when there is no entry of value, and Black still has ideas in the center (...f4) and the kingside. 32.Re1 (32.Qd6 Nf6∓; 32.a4 Nf6 33.Kg2 and now Re8 Again, compact defense, combined with pressure on e3. White's doing anything with the pawn on f3 (fxe4 or f4) just works in Black's favor.) 32...Nf6 (or even 32...g5! right now.)]
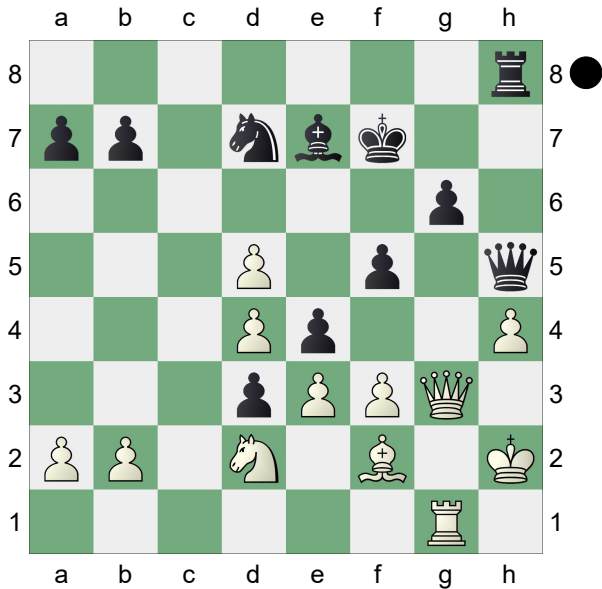**32.c4?** -2.33/22 4:19
[32.Qc7!= 0.00/29 Ke8 (32...Ke6? 33.Bg3!±) 33.Qc8+ Ke7 34.Qxb7 appears to work.]
32...Be7?! 1:58
[32...Bb4! 33.Qc7 Ke7 34.Bg3 exf3! it's still White who is caving in here.]
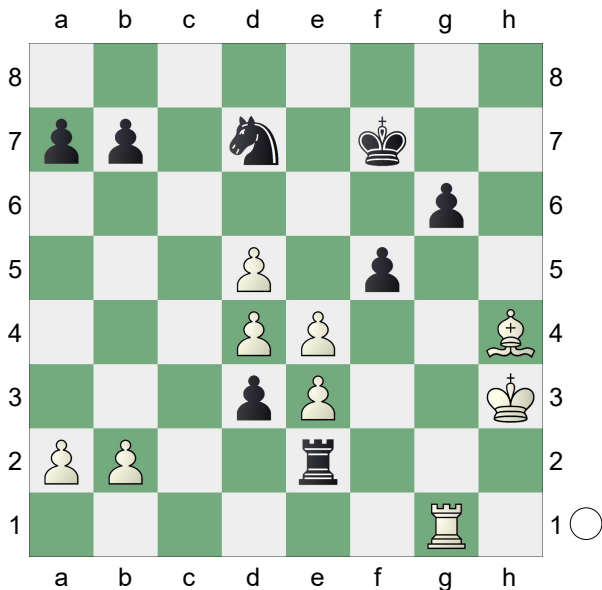
33.cxd5 2:15

Best chance, and putting it to Max to notice changed circumstances.

33...Qxh4+? -0.09/26 8:12
[33...Bxh4? 34.Qxh4 Qxh4+ 35.Bxh4 Rxh4+ 36.Kg3=]
[33...Rc8!!-+ -1.46/25 ...Rc2 is the strong threat. 34.Be1 *(34.fxe4 Rc2∓)* 34...Rc2 35.fxe4 *(35.Rg2? Nf6∓)* 35...Bxh4! 36.Qxh4 Rxd2+! 37.Kh3 Qxh4+ 38.Bxh4 *(38.Kxh4 Rd1)* 38...Re2!-+

White may now be the one with a mass of pawns, the king and knight can handle them -- meanwhile, the d-

pawn lives... 39.e5 *(39.exf5 gxf5 40.Rd1 Rxe3+)* 39...Nb6 40.d6 d2 Note 41.d5?! Rxe3+ 42.Kg2 Rxe5-+ Admittedly that wasn't easy to find! Clock ticking and all.]
34.Qxh4 7 **Bxh4** 3 **35.Bxh4** 57 **Rxh4+∓** 33 **36.Kg3** 39
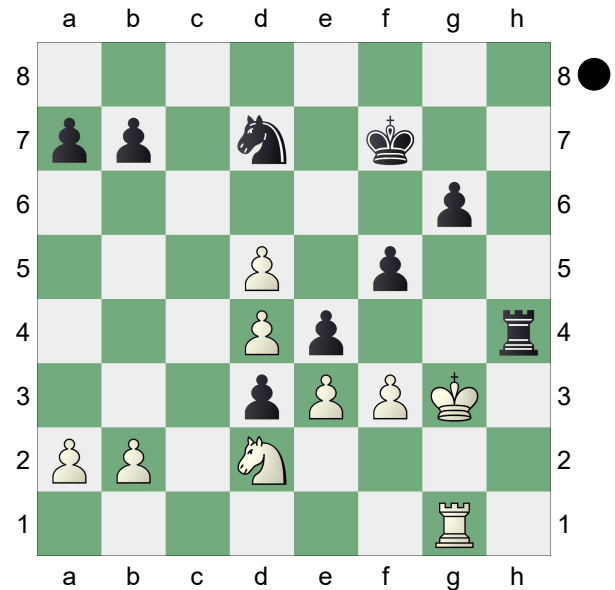
Just in time. No entry for Black's rook just now. **36...g5** 10 **37.fxe4** 39 **fxe4** 55 **38.Rc1!** 1:05 **Nf6** 3:41 **39.Rc7+** 1:12 **Ke8** 1:04 Hoping for ...Rh1. **40.d6!** 1:33 **Rh1** 29 White must now prevent ...Rd1.
[40...b5]
41.Re7+! 2:51
[41.Rxb7? Rd1 42.Nc4 d2∓]
41...Kd8 1:48
[41...Kf8 42.Nxe4 *(42.Re6 Kf7 43.Re7+ Kf8; 42.Kg2 four lateral rook moves draw)* 42...Nxe4+ 43.Rxe4 Rg1+ 44.Kh2 d2 45.d7 Rh1+ 46.Kg3!? Rg1+=]
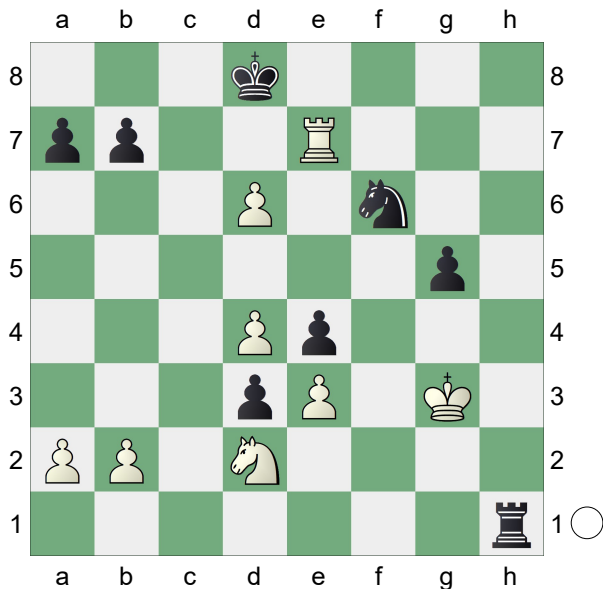

(Diagram)

Keeping the d-pawn in view. **42.Rf7!** 46
[42.Nxe4 Nxe4+ 43.Rxe4 d2-+]
[42.Rxb7? Rd1 43.Nc4 d2
  A) 44.Ne5 Rc1 *(44...Kc8)*;
  B) 44.Rb8+ Kd7 45.Rb7+ Kc8

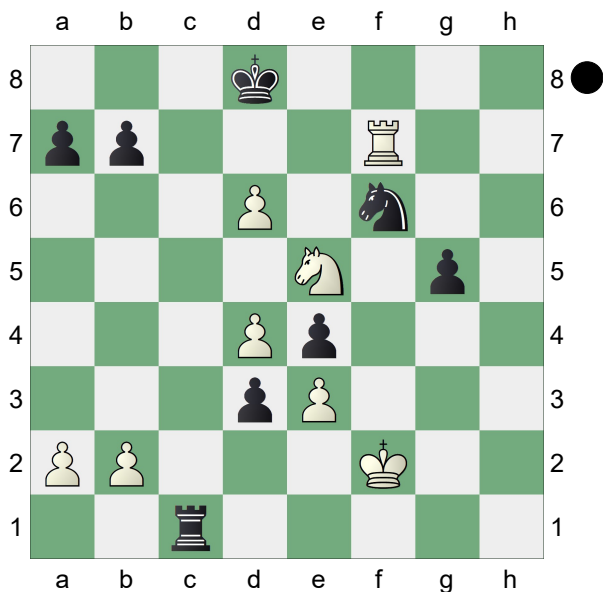46.Rc7+ Kd8 47.Nxd2 Rxd2-+
48.Rxa7 Rd3!]

42...Rd1 1:21
[42...Ne8 43.Nxe4 Re1 44.d7=
*(44.Kf2? Re2+ 45.Kf3 g4+ 46.Kxg4
Rxe3-+; 44.Nc5=)*]

43.Nc4 1:32 **Rg1+** 5:51 Many moves
draw.
[43...Ne8!? even is a winning try still,
but 44.d7□ *(44.Rxb7? Nxd6
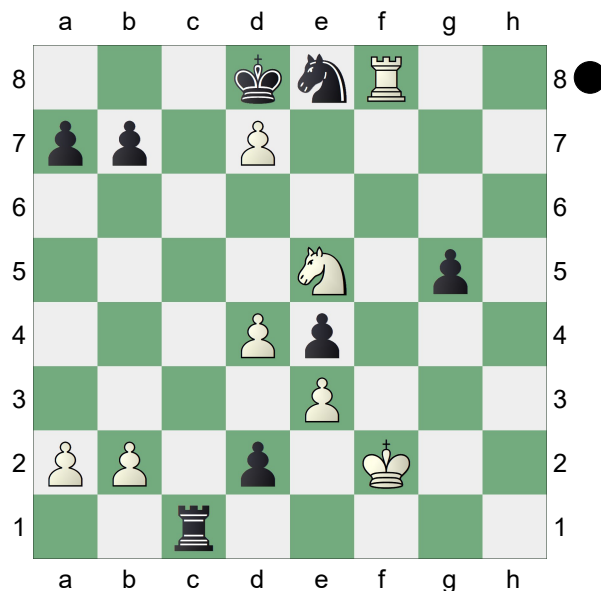45.Nxd6 d2-+)* 44...d2 45.Nxd2! Nd6
46.Rf2! keeps the balance.]

44.Kf2 23 **Rc1!** 6 **45.Ne5** 2:00

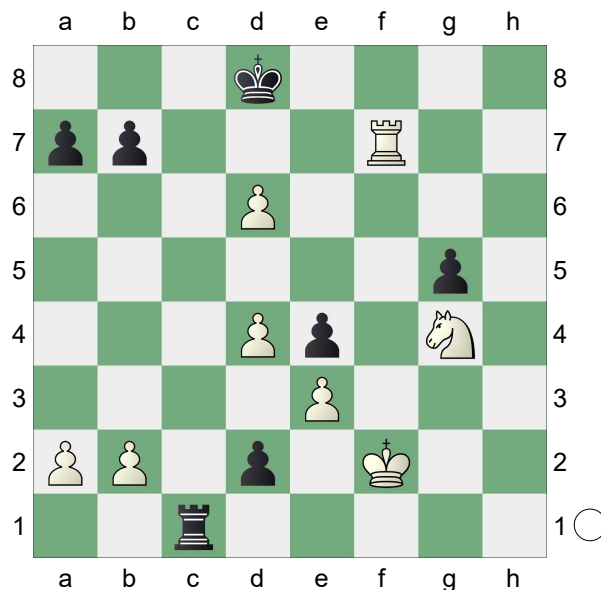Repels Ng4+ while setting up a mate.
Black has *one* move to hold (!):

45...Ng4+?? 6.98/34 1:00 And with just
over a minute on his clock, he panics.
(Archit had 20 minutes or so.)
[45...Ne8! 46.d7 *(46.Rf8)* 46...d2
47.Rf8

Rf1+! 48.Kxf1 d1Q+ 49.Kg2 Qe2+
50.Rf2 Qxe3 51.Rf8 Qd2+=
(51...Qe2+=)]

46.Nxg4+- 33 **d2** 2

47.Ne5! 17 White gets there first.
47...Rf1+ 6 **48.Kxf1** 5 **d1Q+** 5 **49.Kg2**
1:09 A narrow reprieve for Dasika, and
something acute for Hao to study where
he went wrong.

[49.Kg2 Qe2+ 50.Rf2]
1-0

<div align="right">**D02**</div>

☐ **Marvin,Hayes Alexander**   **1876**
■ **Lee,Andy C**   **2328**
1st Silman mem TNM (6.3)   13.08.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

Another case of the lower-rated player never quite righting their game and eventually succumbing -- this time Hayes Marvin, a regular at anything chess at the Mechanics'. For Andy, it was his positioning to leap into the top prizes -- if only he won his last game. Please excuse the computerized notes!
1.d4 2 **d5** 10 **2.Nf3** 7 **Nf6** 11 **3.Bf4** 5 **e6** 13 **4.e3** 6 **c5** 14 **5.c3** 3 **Nc6** 20 **6.Nbd2** 6 **cxd4** 53 Nowadays more popular than 6...Bd6. **7.exd4** 8 D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4. **7...Nh5** 6 **8.Bg5** 40
   [Relevant: 8.Be3 1-0 (62) Firouzja,A (2737)-Nihal,S (2669) Bullet Chess Losers Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (4. 7)]
   [8.Be3 simplifies Bd6 9.Bd3 Nf4 10.Bxf4 Bxf4 11.0-0]
8...f6 2:37

<div align="center">(Diagram)</div>

9.Ne5 -0.45/29 48 **g6∓** 6:50 **10.Bh4** 57 **Bd6** 11:12 **11.Bb5** -1.77/22 7:04
   [11.Be2∓ -0.45/25 Nf4 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.0-0]
11...Qb6-+ 10:10 **12.Bxc6+** 4:43 **bxc6** 12 **13.Nd3** -2.02/21 6:46
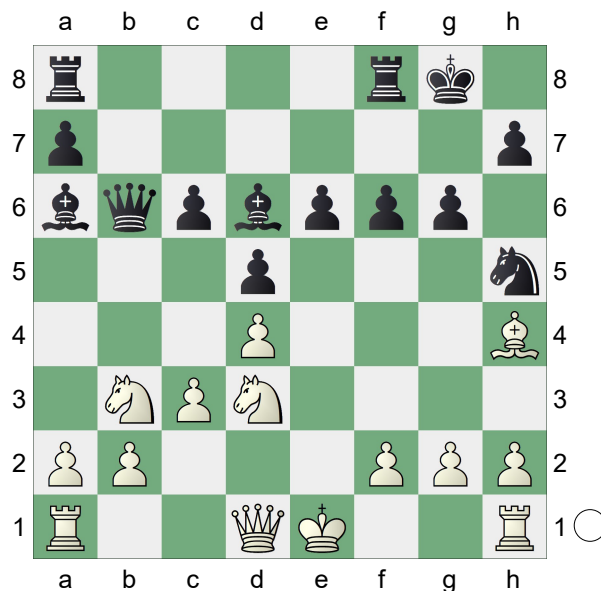   [13.Nef3∓ -1.54/25]
13...Ba6 1:22 **14.Nb3** 31 **0-0** -1.39/27 6:58
   [14...e5-+ -1.87/24 ...0-0 would now
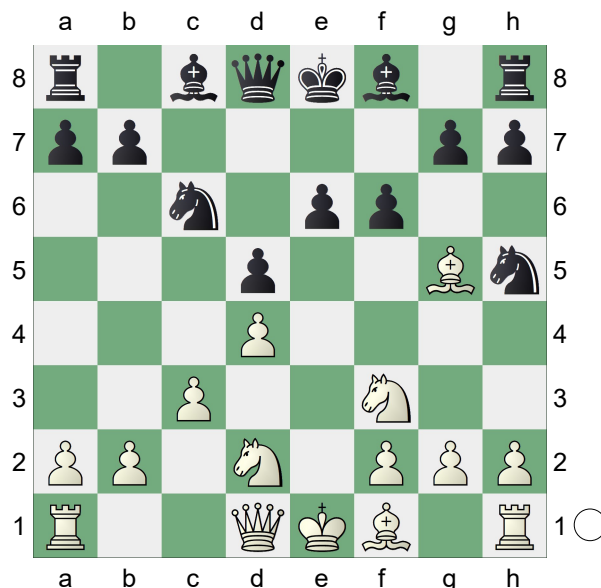
be deadly. 15.0-0 0-0]


15.Nbc5N 8:48
   [Predecessor: 15.Bg3 -1.98/20 15.Nbc5 -1.44 1-0 (38) Breed,G (1744)-Balje,J (2183) Calvia Amateur op 19th 2022 (3)]
   [Predecessor: 15.Bg3 e5 16.Ndc5 Nxg3 17.hxg3 exd4 18.Nxa6 Rae8+ 19.Kf1 Qxa6+ 20.Kg1 dxc3 21.bxc3 1-0 (38) Breed,G (1744)-Balje, J (2183) Calvia Amateur op 19th 2022 (3)]
15...Bxc5 4:44 **16.Nxc5** 58 **Qxb2** 1:30 **17.Rb1** 13:54

[17.Nxa6? loses. Qxc3+ 18.Kf1 Qc4+ 19.Qe2 Qxd4 20.Qxe6+ Kh8-+]

17...Qxc3+ -0.65/21 1:37
[Black should play 17...Qa3∓ -1.02/27 Threatens to win with ...e5. 18.Nxa6 Qxa6]

18.Qd2∓ 9 **Qxd2+** 59 **19.Kxd2** 3 **Bc8** 2:47 **20.Rhe1** 4:45 **g5** 47 **21.Bg3** 1:03 **Nxg3** 28 **22.hxg3** 7:30 **Re8** 4:08 **23.f4** 1:43 **h6** 33 **24.a4** 3:56 White is on the road to losing. **24...Kf7** 2:17 **25.Re3** -1.81/21 8:27
[White should try 25.a5!∓ -0.69/23]

25...Rg8-+ 5:26 **26.f5** -3.07/23 7:37
[26.Re2 -1.86/25 was necessary.]

26...exf5 4:44 **27.Rbe1** 48 **f4** 51 **28.Re7+** 32 **Kg6** 19 **29.Rc7?** -4.72/22 55
[29.gxf4 -2.91/26 is a better defense. Rb8 (29...gxf4? 30.Rf1-+) 30.fxg5]

29...fxg3 3:19 **30.Rxc6** 57 **Rb8** 2:00 **31.Nd3** 1:55 **Rb7** 7:29 **32.Rec1** 5:02 **Bd7** 4:40 **33.Rd6** 1:24 **Bf5** 2:49
[Less strong is 33...Bxa4 34.Rf1 Rf8 35.Rf3-+]

34.Rf1 3:56 **g4** 3:10 **35.Nf4+** 3:49 **Kg5** 32 **36.Rxd5** 52
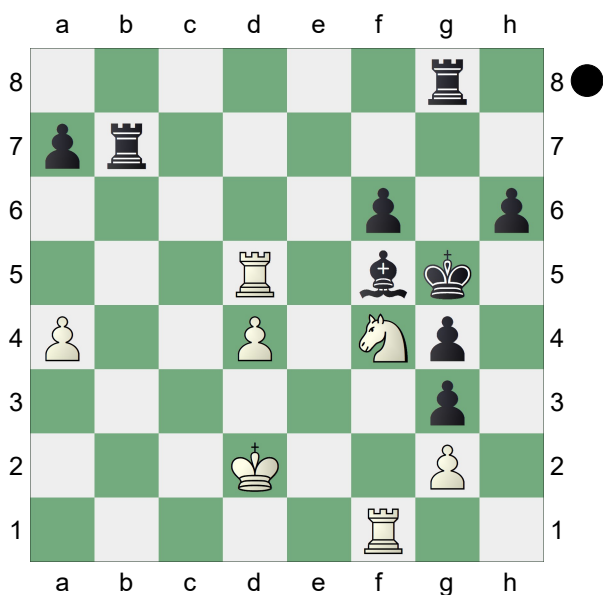
aiming for Nd3. **36...Rb2+** 1:15 **37.Kc3** 32 **Rc2+** 20 **38.Kb4** 41 **Rb8+** 1:04

39.Ka5 42 Hoping for Nd3. **39...Rf2** 51 **40.Ne6+** 1:38 **Kg6** 8 **41.Re1** 1:20 **Bxe6** 46
[41...Rxg2? perishes. 42.Nf4+ Kf7 43.Nxg2+-]

42.Rxe6 8 **Rxg2** 55 Endgame. KRR-KRR **43.Re4** 36 **h5** 34 **44.Re1** 1:08 **Rf2** 23 **45.Rc5** 1:43 **g2** 41 And now ...Rf1 would win. **46.Rg1** 34 **h4** 37 **47.Rc3** 27 **Rb6** 30 **48.d5** 35 **Rd2** 16 **0-1**

B96
□ **Ivanenko,Anthony Vladimir** 1969
■ **Lin,Michael** 2149
1st Silman mem TNM (6.5) 13.08.2024
[Winslow,Elliott]

A theoretical line of the Najdorf with 6. Bg5 by theory student Tony Ivanenko against Michael Lin, but this time rating mattered -- setting Lin up for a run to the money. **1.e4** 4 **c5** 2 **2.Nf3** 6 **d6** 3 **3.d4** 11 **cxd4** 7 **4.Nxd4** 4 **Nf6** 3 **5.Nc3** 14 **a6** 3 **6.Bg5** 15 **e6** 5 **7.f4** 9 **Nbd7** 43 **8.Qe2** 47 **Qc7** 1:14 **9.0-0-0** 1:34 **Be7** 42 **10.g4** 3:44 **b5** 32 **11.a3** 34 11.Bg2 is the modern continuation.
11...Rb8 9 **12.Bxf6** 8:25
[Relevant: 12.Bh4 h6 13.Bg2 b4 14.axb4 Rxb4 15.Be1 Qb6 16.Bf2 Nc5 17.b3 Bb7 18.h4 g6 19.g5 hxg5 20.hxg5 Rxh1 21.Bxh1 Nh5 22.Qe3 Qc7 23.Kb2 Bf8 24.Bf3 Bg7 25.Bxh5 gxh5 26.f5 Be5 27.Bg3 Bxg3 28.Qxg3 e5 29.Nde2 Nxe4 30.Nxe4 Bxe4 31.Nc3 Bxf5 32.Rf1 Bg6 33.Qf3 Qb7 34.Qe2 Qc6 35.Rd1 a5 36.Nd5 Re4 37.Nf6+ Kf8 38.Nxe4 Bxe4 39.Qd2 Ke7 40.c4 Bg6 41.Qxa5 1-0 Firouzja,A (2777)-Bok,B (2621) Titled Tuesday intern op 26th Sep Late Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (7)]

12...Nxf6 54 **13.g5** 1:18 **Nd7** 39 **14.h4** 52 **b4** 2:00 **15.axb4** 34 **Rxb4** 3
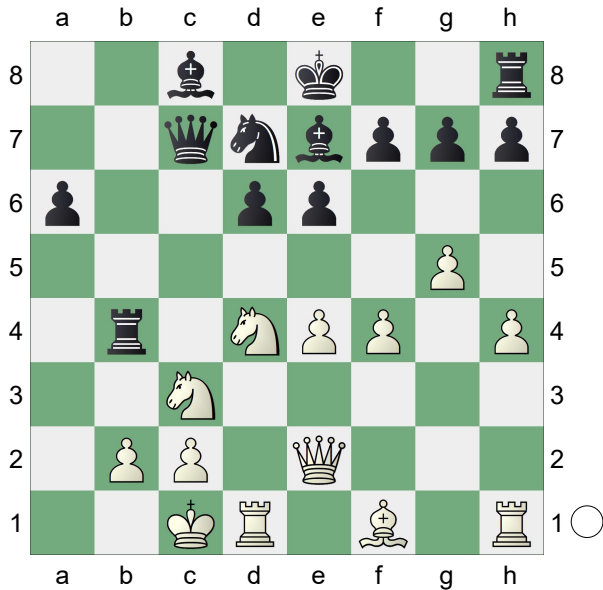
16.Nf5N 9:26
[Predecessor: 16.f5 Nc5 17.Bh3 Qb6 18.fxe6 fxe6 19.Rhf1 Rxb2 20.Qf3 Rb4 21.Qf7+ Kd8 22.Qxg7 Re8 23.Rf7 Bd7 24.Rxe7 Rxe7 25.Qf6 Qa5 26.Qf8+ Kc7 27.Qxe7 Qa3+ 28.Kd2 Rxd4+ 29.Ke2 Qxc3 30.Rxd4 Qxd4 31.Qxh7 Nxe4 0-1 Pichot,A (2630)-Giri,A (2776) Carlsen Inv Prelim chess24.com INT rapid 2021 (3)]
16...Qa5 7:38 **17.Nxe7** 2:51 **Kxe7** 6:06 **18.Kb1** 8:36 **Nc5** 1:54 **19.f5** 9:22 **Qa3** 9:39 **20.Nd5+** 58 **exd5** 1:02 **21.exd5+** 6 **Kd8** 33 **22.c3** 13 **Bxf5+** 31
0-1

Last round, Board 1, the only two players with 5½. A win guarantees clear first. The ratio draw->win vs. draw->loss seems to favor some caution, but other games effect the prizes. The game remains relatively balanced, but interesting nonetheless. **1.d4 d5** 6 **2.c4** 21 **e6** 15 **3.Nf3** 27
[3.Nc3 c6 4.e4 *(4.Nf3)* 4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4 7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8.Be2 Marshall's more exotic gambit (don't forget the one in the Ruy!), was seen over in Berkeley earlier in the month, in Kalonaris-Poehlmann, Walter Browne Memorial FNM, 9 August 2024 (0-1, 28 when White misplayed the queenside attack).]
3...c6 1:14 **4.Qc2** 1:13 The positional line, avoiding any unbalancing pawn-grab on Black's part.
[4.Nc3 allows the no less complicated Noteboom Variation, dxc4!? (isn't it interesting how ...e6 and ...c6, seemingly intending to hold a pawn on d5 or dear life, are in fact preludes to something completely different?) when the established continuation (although there are alternatives) goes 5.a4 Bb4 6.e3 b5 7.Bd2 a5 8.axb5 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 cxb5 10.b3 Bb7 11.bxc4 b4 12.Bb2 Nf6 with some drastic and unique pawn structure aspects. Kramnik showed a fondness for this line years ago.]
4...dxc4 1:35 **5.Qxc4** 19 If ...e6 were instead ...Nf6, then Black's standard move here would be 5...Bf5 with a comfortable Slav development, but here Black must engage in the Meran-like maneuvers: **5...b5** 8 **6.Qc2** 41 **Bb7** 23 I still cringe when I see this deployment -- but Black is successful with it more often than not. **7.e4** 1:10 White keeps the option for the queen knight.
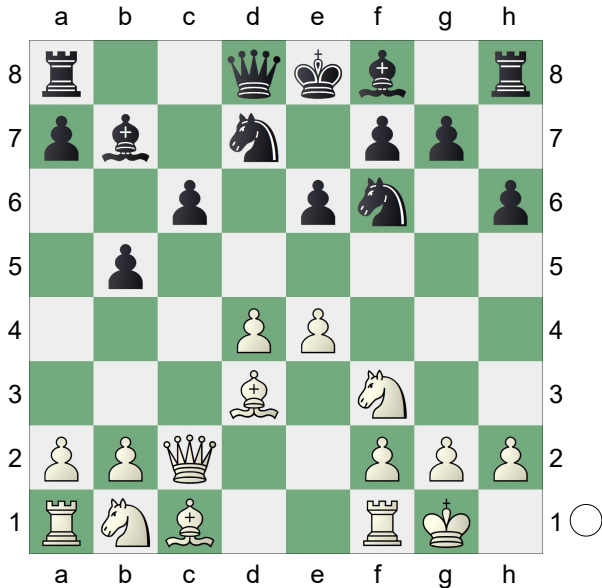[7.Nc3]
7...Nf6 2:25
[Relevant: 7...a6 0-1 (36) Kukhmazov, A (2498)-Sevian,S (2697) Titled

8.Bd3 1:11 **Nbd7** 1:56 **9.0-0** 4:27 **h6** 2:42

[9...a6 is more likely connected to the logical plan of ...c5, and thus better.]

10.h3N 10:00 White is also afflicted with the irrelevence bug. But at least there is a plan: prepare Be3, control c5. Good luck with that!

[Predecessor: 10.Qe2 0-1 (44) Nguyen,T (2228)-Bach,N (2231) VIE-ch (Women) Hanoi 2024 (5)]

10...Be7 1:47 Black is playing too passively. **11.Be3** 2:36 It's all about ... c5.

[11.Nc3!?]

11...a6 1:18 **12.Nbd2** 2:51 **Rc8** 4:17

13.Nb3± 1:28 White does have a solid bind on Black's single attempt for freedom (...c5 of course). **13...0-0** 1:12

14.Rfc1 3:23

[14.Nc5! secures a healthy positional plus.]

14...Re8 2:39 Aha, ...e5. There's a Groucho Marx quote: "Those are my principles -- if you don't like them I've got some more." **15.a4** 4:09 **Bf8** 2:00

16.Qe2 5:19 **e5** 6:08
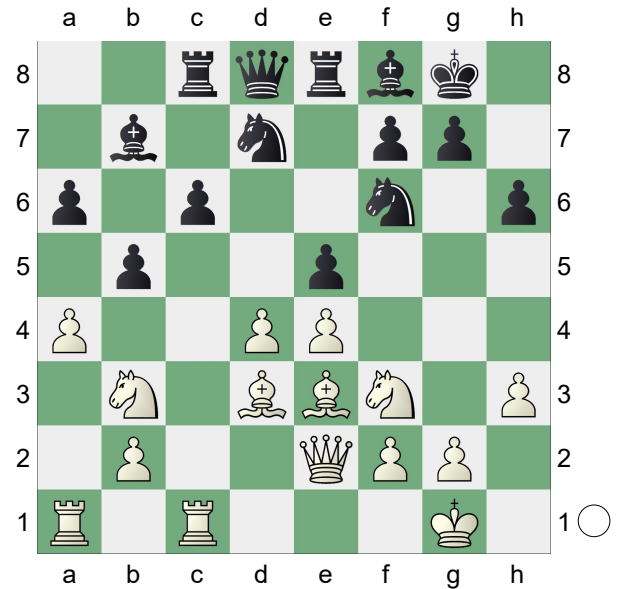
The problem for Black is, this still doesn't free that bishop on b7. **17.axb5?** 2:58 But this does it for him!
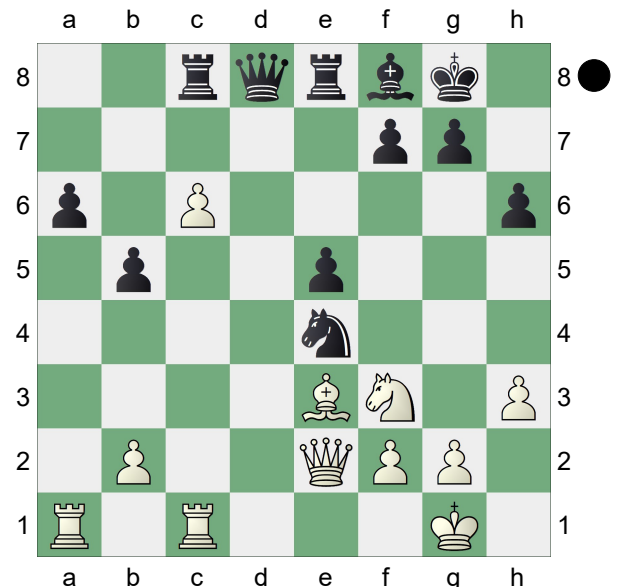
[17.dxe5! Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.f4 *(Maybe even better is 19.Rd1!?)* 19...Re8 20.e5 Nd5 21.Nc5!± keeps up the bind.]

17...cxb5 1:57 Simple Chess (good book by Michael Stean).

[Not so simple but vying for a fuller equality is 17...exd4!?]

18.Nc5 9:47 **Nxc5** 3:00 **19.dxc5** 17 **Bxe4=** 9:43 Black has certainly broken out! **20.Bxe4** 52 **Nxe4** 4 **21.c6** 1:04
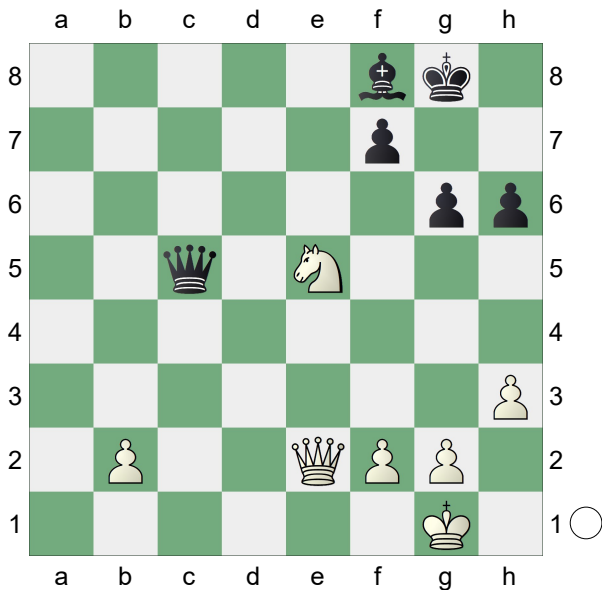
White keeps that advanced and

dangerous pawn, but Black manages to play around it. **21...Qd5** 7:17
[21...Nd6]
22.Rxa6 1:57 **Re6** 58 **23.Ra5?!** 8:08
[23.Rb6 Rexc6 *(23...Nd6?! 24.c7! Re7 25.Rc5 Qe6 26.Qc2 Qd7 27.Nxe5 Rxe5 28.Rxe5 Nc4 29.Rh5! Nxb6 30.Bxb6 g5±* is a bit desperate for Black *)* 24.Rcxc6 Rxc6 25.Rxb5± Nc5 26.Bxc5 Rxc5 27.Rxc5 Qxc5 28.Nxe5 g6

would be the critical continuation. Enough to win? Stockfish: "not quite." But White can keep up the torture.]
23...Nd6 1:45 **24.Rc5** 9:29 **Qe4** 1:12 **25.Qc2** 36 **Qxc2** 4:17 **26.Rxc2** 4 **Nc4** 1:50 **27.Rxb5** 1:15 **Rexc6** 26 **28.b3** 7:32 **Nxe3** 16 **29.Rxc6** 5 **Rxc6** 9 **30.fxe3** 5 **f6** 1:11 **31.Nd2** 2:32 **Rc2** 2:46 **32.Nc4** 9 **Kf7** 2:01 **33.Kh2** 3:42 **h5** 4:49 **34.h4** 59 **Ke6** 7:53 **35.Rb6+** 1:25 **Kf7** 1:03 **36.Rb5** 16 **g6** 4:08 **37.Rb7+** 2:06 **Ke6** 2:05 **38.Rb6+** 17 **Kf7** 3:55 **39.Rc6** 2:33 **Re2** 1:06 **40.Kg3** 1:15 **Re1** 1:34 **41.Kf3** 29 Archit had some chances but nothing concrete. A fine finish to a tough tournament for them both.
**½-½**

An important game. Andy could have tied for 1st-3rd with Cremisi and Dasika had he won. And Atkeson, who took a half-point bye the round before, might have regretted it -- *he* could have also tied for the top prizes with a win here. But as it went: a draw with the balance never terribly upset, and a big tie for 3rd-7th with the Under-2200 prize included. Still, pretty good!. **1.b3** 52 **g6** 1:03 **2.Bb2** 9 **Nf6** 9 **3.Bxf6** 14 **exf6** 7
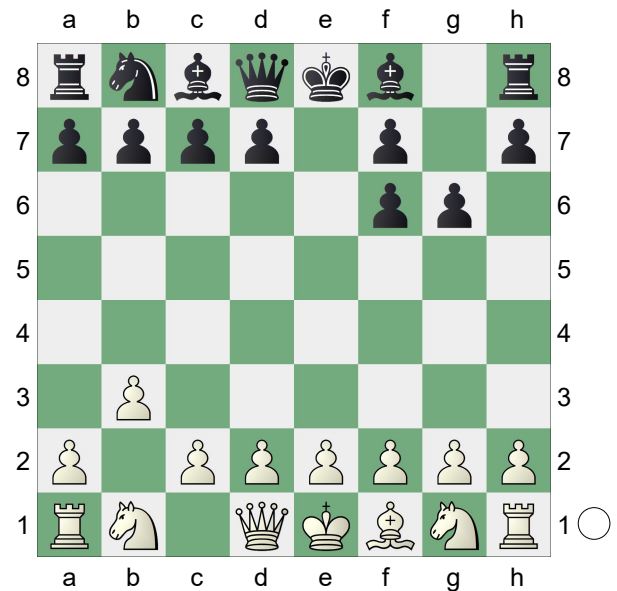
I've been on the Black side of this more than once over the decades. I never really believed giving Black the only dark-square bishop was worth it. Personal preference. **4.c4** 7 **Bg7** 25 **5.Nc3** 7 **0-0** 1:09 **6.g3** 1:15 **d6** 5:07
[Relevant: 6...f5 7.Bg2 d6 8.e3 Nd7 9.Nge2 Nf6 10.d4 h5 11.0-0 h4 12.b4 Rb8 13.b5 Be6 14.Qd3 hxg3 15.hxg3 Ng4 16.Rac1 Qg5 17.Rfe1 Qh6 18.Nf4 Qh2+ 19.Kf1 g5 20.Nfd5 Rbe8 21.Nxc7 Rc8 22.N3d5 Kh8 23.Nxe6 fxe6 24.Ne7 f4

25.exf4 gxf4 26.gxf4 Rxf4 27.Ng6+ Kg8 28.Nxf4 Qxf4 29.Rc2 Rf8 30.Qe4 Qg3 31.Ree2 e5 32.Ke1 Qh4 33.c5 d5 34.Qxd5+ Kh8 35.c6 bxc6 36.bxc6 1-0 (41) Jobava,B (2578)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 10th Jan Late Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (8)]

7.Bg2 16 **c6** 3:45 **8.Rc1** 3:19 **f5** 49 **9.e3** 2:19 **Nd7** 37 **10.Nge2** 23 **Nf6** 1:52 **11.0-0** 8:01 **Re8** 1:36 **12.d3** 54 **Bd7** 8:36 **13.b4** 5:49
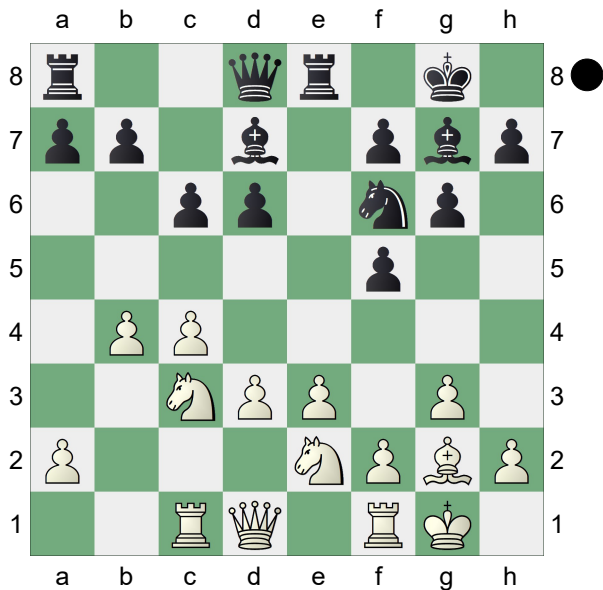

g5?!N 20:01

[Predecessor: 13...h5 is the solid approach. 14.b5 *(14.h4!* with "not quite enough to call it a ± advantage" (+0.31/d26 on my poor computer) *)* 14...Qc7 *(14...h4* Now it's Black in a similar state, the better side of equal *)* 15.Qb3 *(15.h4±)* 15...Nh7 16.Nf4 ½-½ Venkatesh,M (2428)-Laxman,R (2413) Johor op 4th 2017 (5)]

14.Qd2 9:28 **Bh6** 4:29 **15.b5** 5:29 **Kh8±** 6:28 Black looks for some kingside play but it never really happens. **16.bxc6** 4:08 **bxc6** 31 **17.Rb1** 1:10 **Qc7** 5:02

(Diagram)

18.Nd4?! 8:59
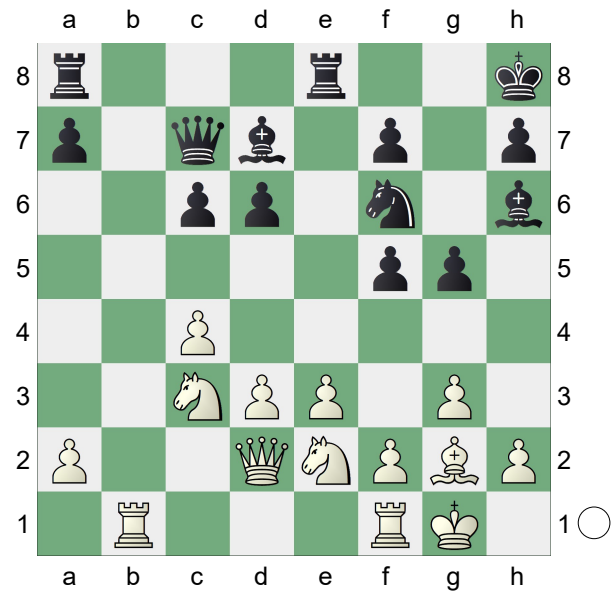
[18.Rb3 Rab8 19.Qb2 Rxb3 20.axb3±]

18...Ng4 12:16 **19.Nce2** 8:20 **Ne5** 4:25 **20.Rb3** 5:23 **Rab8** 57 **21.Rfb1** 14 **Rxb3** 50 **22.Rxb3** 19 **Rb8** 4:43

[22...Bg7±]

23.Qc3 2:00

[23.f4!]

23...Bg7 35 **24.Qc2** 3:46 **Rxb3** 6:52 **25.Nxb3** 25 **c5** 32 **26.f4** 2:07 **Ng4** 1:27 **27.Qd2** 27 **h6** 1:45 **28.h3** 41 **Nf6** 20 **29.Nc3?!** 3:10
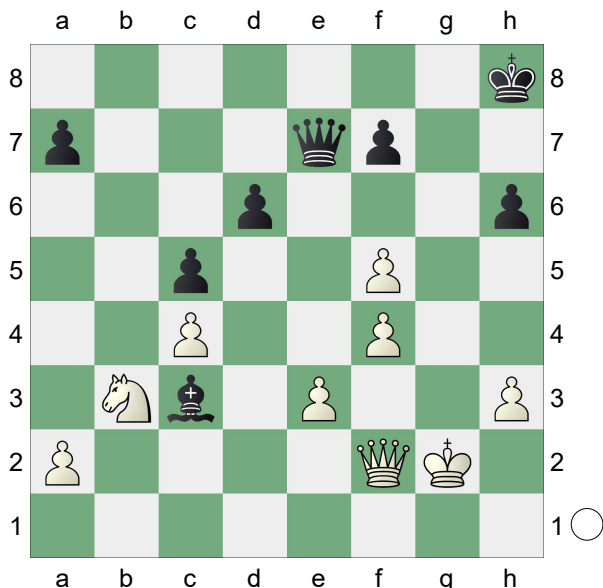
[Last chance for something: 29.Qa5±]

29...Bc6= 1:11 **30.Qf2** 48
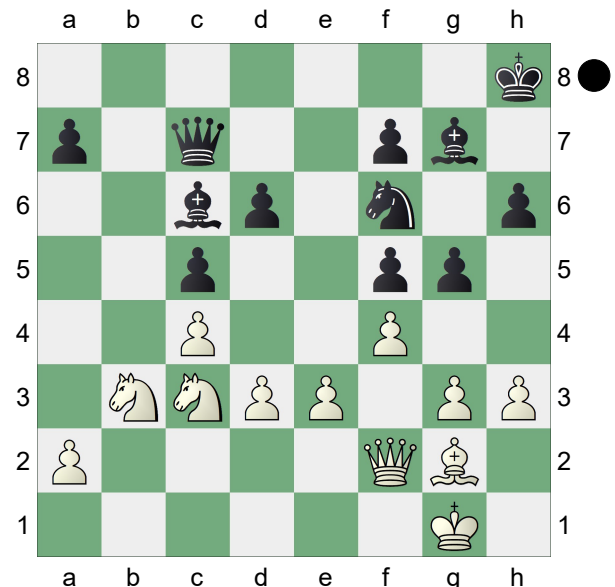
gxf4 2:26

[30...g4!? 31.Qe2 gxh3 32.Bxh3
Ng4=]
31.gxf4 3:48 **Ne4?!** 1:21
[31...Qb6]
32.dxe4 3:10 **Bxc3** 11 **33.exf5±** 18
**Bxg2** 32 **34.Kxg2** 1:11 **Qe7** 2:06

Capablanca's maxim notwithstanding
("Q+N > Q+B"), here the bishop working
both sides compensates for the pawn,
as White can't easily find a good square
for the knight. **35.Qf3** 24 **Qf6** 1:17
36.Qd5 1:07 **Bb4=** 38 Now for some
reason Stockfish makes it "0.00"
everywhere. **37.Kf3** 1:47 **Qh4** 30
38.Qxf7 4:03 **Qxh3+** 11 **39.Ke2** 1:25
Qg4+ 1:07 **40.Kf2** 2:19 **Qh4+** 23
41.Kg2 1:15 **Qg4+** 14
½-½

	E46
□ **Lin,Michael**	**2149**
■ **Walder,Michael**	**1976**

1st Silman mem TNM (7.4)   20.08.2024
[Tactical Analysis 6.4]

Michael Lin jumped into the money with
this somewhat atypical theoretical line of
the Nimzoindian, when Michael Walder
sent his knight into enemy territory,

didn't sacrifice on the right square, after
which the evaluation ping-ponged
around until Black overlooked an
unusual queen to the corner move,
blundered badly, and White finally got
things under control. Lin's result (only
one loss, but to William Gray at 1920)
actually left his rating essentially
unchanged! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3
Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 c6**
[Relevant: 5...d5 6.a3 Be7 7.cxd5
exd5 8.Nf4 Re8 9.Bd3 Bd6 10.0-0
c6 11.f3 c5 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Ncxd5
Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Be6 15.Nf4 Qb6
16.Nxe6 Rxe6 17.Bc4 Re7 18.Kh1
Bxe3 19.Bxe3 Rxe3 20.Qd5 Qc7
21.Rae1 Rxe1 22.Rxe1 Nc6 23.Qe4
g6 24.Rd1 Rd8 25.Rxd8+ Qxd8
26.Qd5 Qf6 27.Qd2 b6 28.f4 h5
29.g3 Nd4 30.Bd5 Nf5 31.Be4 Nd6
32.Bd5 h4 33.Kg2 Qf5 34.Kf3 hxg3
35.hxg3 1-0 Maghsoodloo,P (2723)-
Nepomniachtchi,I (2767) FIDE World
Rapid Team Almaty KAZ 2024 (5.2)]
6.a3 Ba5 7.b4 Bc7 8.e4 The position
is equal. **8...d5** 8...d6 is not played
anymore. **9.e5**
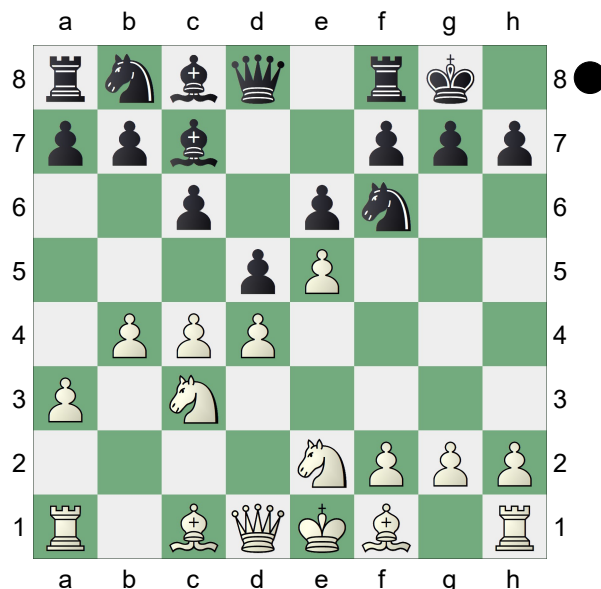
Ng4?!N
[Predecessor: 9...Nfd7= 10.h4
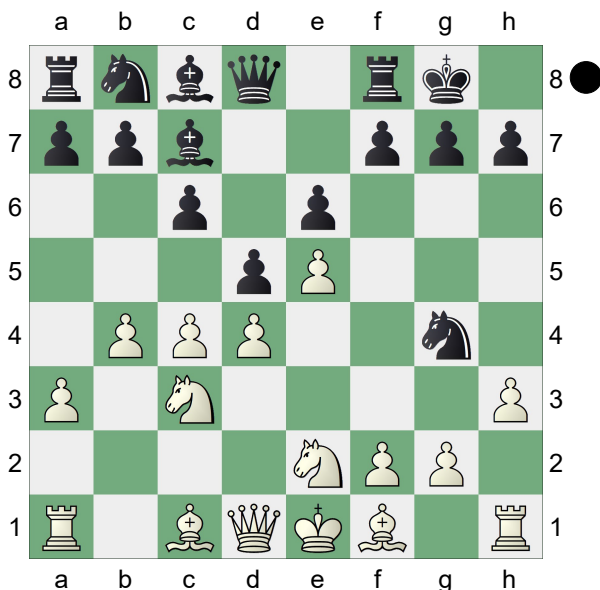(10.Nf4=; 10.cxd5 exd5 11.f4=)

10...f6 11.Nf4 Nb6= (-0.06 to -0.41)
12.h5 fxe5! 13.Ng6! exd4! 14.Nxf8
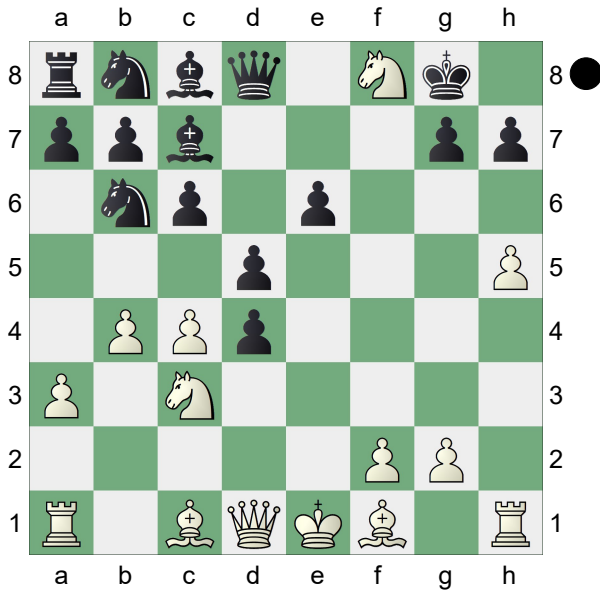
dxc3?? (*14...Qxf8 15.Qxd4 h6=*)
15.Nxh7! Kxh7 16.Bd3+ (*16.Qc2+!*)
16...Kg8 17.h6 dxc4 18.Qg4 Qf6
19.Bh7+ Kf7 20.Bg6+ Kg8 21.hxg7
Qxg7 22.Bh6 Qe5+ 23.Kf1 Nd5
24.Be8+ 1-0 Nihal,S (2693)-Andreikin,
D (2729) Titled Tuesday intern op
06th Feb Late Chess.com INT blitz
2024 (7)]
10.h3
[10.Ng1!± Nh6 (*10...Qh4? 11.g3+-*)
11.Nf3±]

10...Nxe5?
[10...Nxf2! 11.Kxf2 f6⇄ /=]
11.dxe5+- Bxe5 12.cxd5?
[12.g3+-]
12...exd5= 13.Be3 Re8 14.Nd4 Qf6?
[14...b6= 15.Rc1 c5 16.bxc5 bxc5]
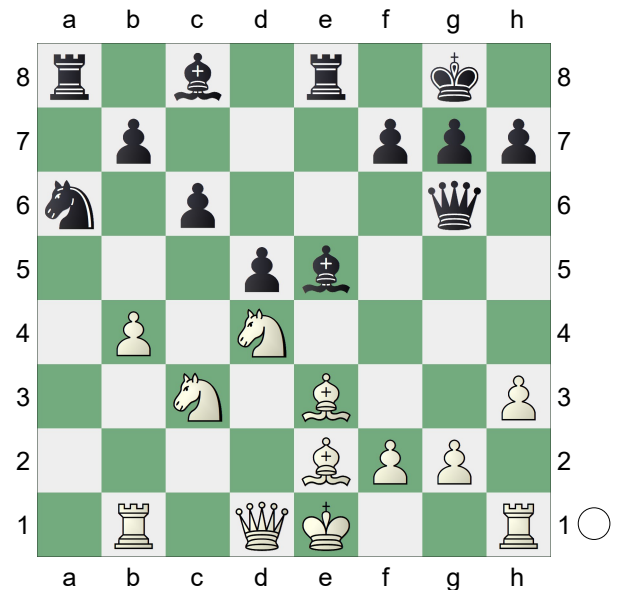**15.Be2+- a5** Threatens to win with ...
axb4. **16.Rc1**
[⌂16.b5]
16...axb4± 17.axb4 Na6 18.Rb1
[18.Ra1±]
18...Qg6
[18...Nc7!= 19.0-0 Ne6 20.Nxe6
Bxe6]

19.Kf1
[19.0-0!±]
19...Qd6
[19...Bd6!= keeps the balance.]
20.Qb3
[20.Bxa6± Bd3 is the strong threat.
Rxa6 21.Qd2]
20...Qf6
[20...Bxd4= 21.Bxd4 Bf5]
21.Qd1
[21.Rd1±]
21...Bd6= 22.Bxa6
[Better is 22.Qd2=]
22...Rxe3∓ 23.Bd3! Ra3
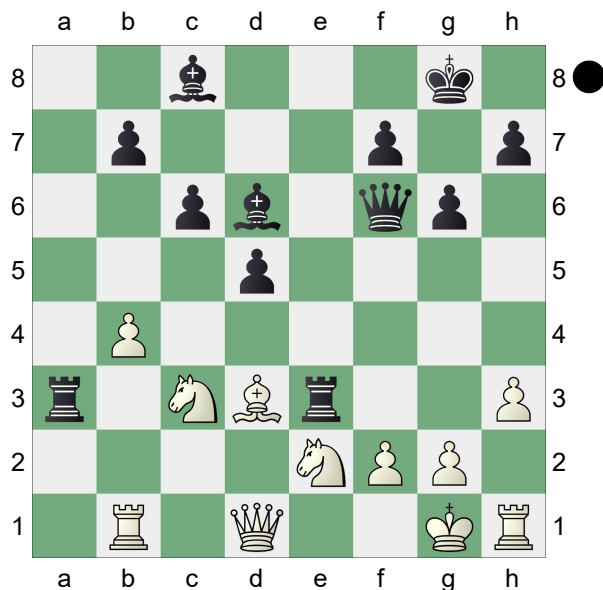[23...Qxd4? 24.Bxh7+ (*24.fxe3?*

Qxc3 25.Qc2 Qf6+ 26.Ke1 Qg5-+)
24...Kxh7 25.Qxd4+-]
[23...Be5∓ 24.Nce2 Ra2 *(24...Bxd4*
25.Nxd4 Re8 26.Qd2±)]

24.Nde2?
[24.Kg1= Re8 *(24...Qxd4?*
25.Bxh7+ Discovered Attack *Kxh7*
26.Qxd4+-) 25.Nce2]

24...g6 ...Bg3! would now be deadly.
[24...Rxc3 25.Nxc3 Bg3 26.Rb2
Qxc3 27.Rd2∓]

25.Kg1

Rxd3 **26.Qxd3=** aiming for Nxd5!
26...Bf5 27.Nxd5
[27.Qf3 looks sharper. Qe5 28.Rf1
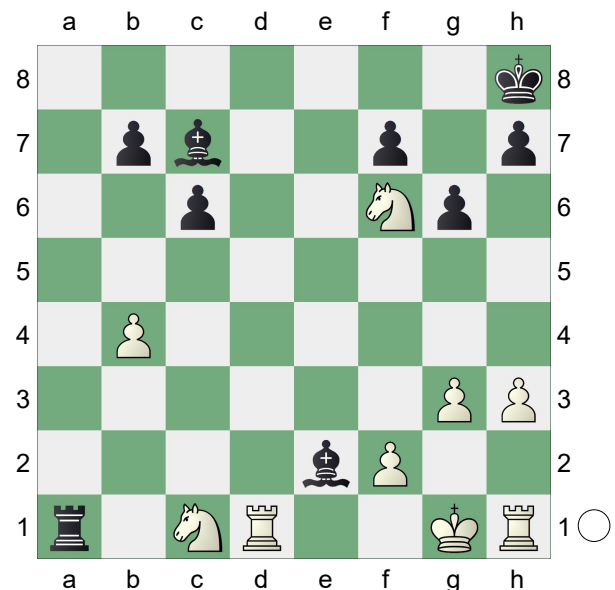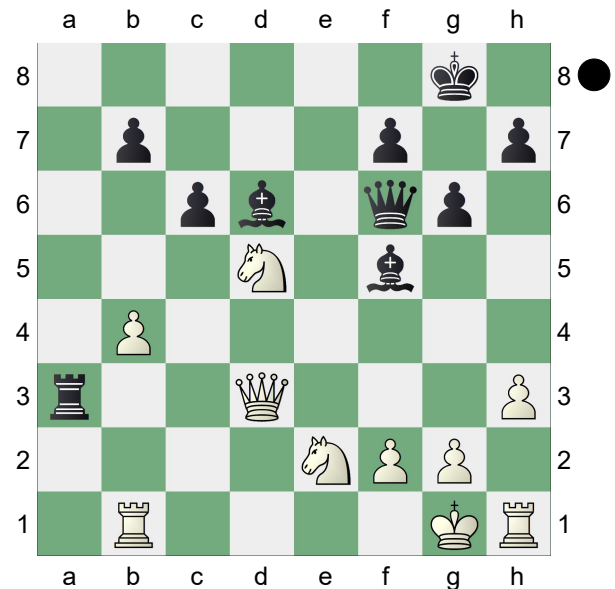Bxb4 29.Rc1]

(Diagram)

27...Bxd3?? A strong pair of Bishops.
[27...Qa1!= and Black stays safe.
28.Nf6+ Qxf6 29.Qxa3 Bxb1]
28.Nxf6++- Kh8 29.Rd1 Bc7 30.Nc1
Ra1 31.g3 Be2

(Diagram)

32.Kg2! Bxd1 33.Rxd1 Bb6 34.Rd7
Rxf7! would kill now. **34...Rxc1?**


[34...Kg7+- 35.Ne8+ *(35.Rxb7 Kxf6*
36.Rxb6 Rxc1±) 35...Kf8]
35.Rxf7 The classic Arabian R+N mate.
1-0

Another Diller entree, which propelled
Brad into the money. **1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6**
[Liren-Balogh, Tromsoe ol 2014 was

the model game against the reversed Alapin. Note that the move order was slightly different, where 2...Nf6 3.Bg2 was played before 3...c6, but the thematic ideas of Ding's play are still applicable. Notes are from Kapnisis, Spyridon. 2...Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 d5 6.cxd5 Qxd5
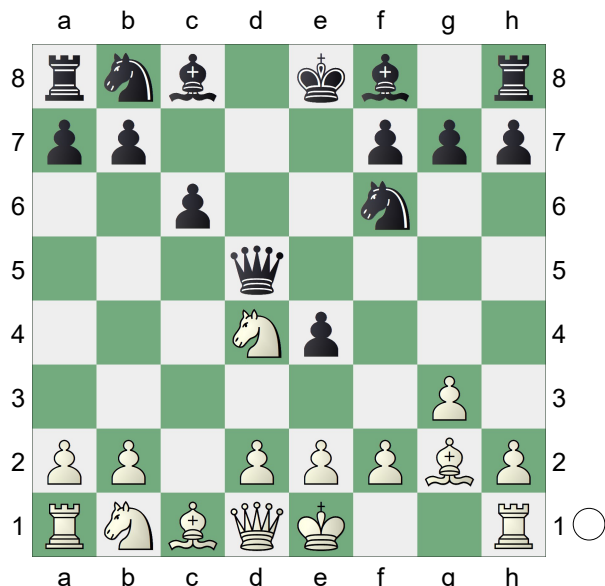
A) 7.Nc2!? is the other major option for white.

A1) 7...Bc5 8.Nc3 Qe5 *(8...Qf5!?)* 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nxe4!? *(10.b4 Bb6 11.Bb2±)* 10...Nxe4 11.d4 Qe7? *(11...Nxf2! 12.Rxf2 Rd8! 13.Bf4 Qe7∞)* 12.dxc5± 1-0 (57) Nepomniachtchi,I (2792)-Caruana,F (2820) chess24.com INT 2021;

A2) 7...Qh5 8.h3 Prophylaxis against Bh3 and Bf5 Qg6 9.Nc3

A2a) 9...Bc5 10.b4 Bb6 11.Bb2 *(11.a4!?)* 11...0-0 12.Ne3 Re8∞ 1-0 (28) Firouzja,A (2778)-Mamedyarov,S (2757) Saint Louis USA 2022;

A2b) 9...Na6 10.Ne3 *(10.h4!?)* 10...Bc5 *(10...Bd6!? 11.Qc2 0-0 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 f5♔)*

11.Qc2 *(11.Qa4!?)* 11...Nb4 12.Qb1∞ 0-1 (48) Alsina Leal, D (2513)-Lorenzo de la Riva,L (2435) Barcelona 2021;

A2c) 9...Bd6 10.h4!? *(10.Ne3 0-0 11.b3 Na6 12.Bb2 Re8 13.a3 Nc7∓ 0-1 (69) Pancevski,F (2514)-Postny,E (2601) Patras 2019; 10.b3 0-0∓ 1-0 (46) Pantsulaia,L (2558)-Sturua,Z (2529) Tbilisi 2021)* 10...h5 11.d3 exd3 12.0-0 0-0 13.Qxd3 Qxd3 14.exd3∞;

B) 7.e3 White weakens the light squares in order to keep his knight in the central d4 square.

B1) 7...Bg4 8.Qc2 *(8.Nc3 Bxd1 9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.Kxd1 1/2 (32) Saric,I (2667)-Naiditsch, A (2643), Batumi 2019)* 8...Na6 9.Nc3 Nb4 10.Qb1 Nd3+ *(10...Qc4 11.Bxe4 c5 12.b3±)* 11.Qxd3 exd3 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.b3± The pawn on d3 is more of a weakness than an asset for black.;

B2) 7...c5?! 8.Nc3 Qe5 9.f4 *(9.Ndb5!?±)* 9...Qe7 *(9...exf3 10.Nxf3 Qc7 11.0-0 Be7 12.d4±)* 10.Ndb5 Bf5 11.Qa4 Nc6 12.d3! exd3 13.e4↑;

B3) 7...Na6 8.d3 *(8.Nc3 Qe5 9.0-0± White will play f3 and we will get a position similar to the one we get in the game.)* 8...Bb4+ 9.Nc3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Nc5 11.dxe4 *(11.c4 1-0 (34) Firouzja,A (2778)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2792) Saint Louis 2022)* 11...Ncxe4 12.0-0±;

B4) 7...Bc5 8.d3 *(8.Nc3 Qe5 9.d3 exd3 10.Qxd3 0-0 11.0-0 Rd8∞ 1/2 (68) Safarli,E (2604)-Pranav,V (2366) Belgrade 2021)*

B4a) 8...Bxd4 9.exd4
(9.dxe4!? Nxe4 10.exd4
Qa5+ 11.Nd2±) 9...Qxd4
10.dxe4 Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1±
½-½ (37) Miroshnichenko,E
(2624)-Roiz,M (2668) Werder
Bremen 2011;
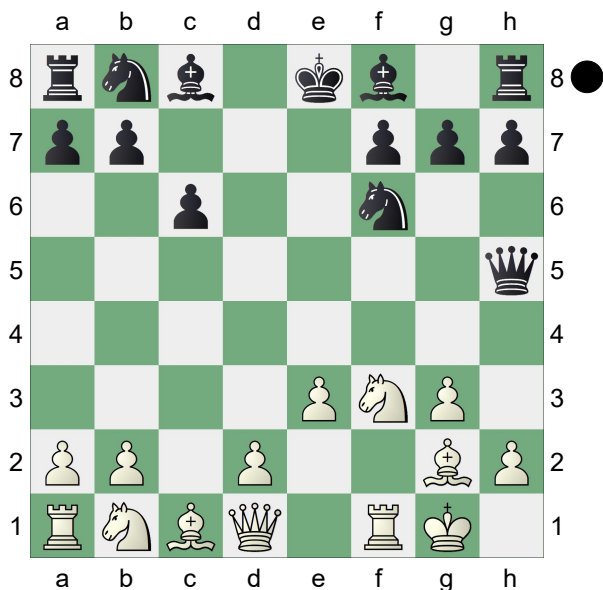**B4b)** 8...Qe5 9.dxe4 Nxe4
10.0-0 0-0 11.b3±;
B5) 7...Qe5
B5a) 8.d3!? exd3 (8...c5!?)
9.Nd2 Bc5 10.Nc4 Qh5
11.Qxh5 Nxh5 12.Nb3 Be7
13.Bd2 0-0∞ 1/2 (49)
Shankland,S (2717)-Xiong,J
(2684) Saint Louis 2019;
B5b) 8.f4
B5b1) 8...Qe7 9.Nc3
(9.d3!?) 9...g6 10.Qc2
Bg7 11.Nxe4 Nxe4
12.Qxe4 Qxe4 13.Bxe4
Bxd4 (13...0-0♔) 14.exd4
Na6♔;
B5b2) 8...exf3 9.Nxf3 Qh5
10.0-0

Be7?! (10...Bd6!?
it makes more sense to
develop the bishop to d6 in
order to keep the e file open
for the rook in order to stop/

put pressure on e4. 11.d4
0-0 12.Nc3 Re8∞) 11.Nc3
0-0 12.d4
B5b21) 12...Bh3
Exchanging the light-
squared bishops won't
help black reach equality.
13.e4 Nbd7 14.Qb3±
White's space advantage
is obvious and black is in
no position to put white's
center under attack.;
B5b22) 12...Na6
This seems like the
appropriate square for
the black knight in order
to keep the d file open
and allow a more
harmonic development.
13.e4 Rd8
B5b221) 14.Ne2!?
Nxe4 (14...Bg4
15.Qb3 Qb5 16.Qxb5
cxb5 17.h3±) 15.Nf4
Qb5 16.Re1 f5 17.Bf1
White gets a
dangerous initiative.;
B5b222) 14.Bf4 Bg4
15.Qb3±;
B5b23) 12...Be6 13.e4±
B5b231) 13...Na6!?
14.Ne2 (14.Bf4
Rfd8∞) 14...Qb5
(14...Nxe4 15.Nf4
Qb5 16.Nxe6 fxe6
17.Re1±) 15.Nf4 Nc7
16.Qc2 Rad8 17.b3
Bg4∞ With the idea of
Ne6.Black keeps the
balance by applying
pressure to d4;
B5b232) 13...Nbd7?!
1-0 Ding,L (2742)-
Balogh,C (2637)
Tromsoe ol 2014 (3.

2)]

3.Nf3 e4 4.Nd4 d5 5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.e3
   [⌂6.Nc2 is the recommended line championed by Shankland's chessable course, but I opted for e3 which is not as well analyzed but still played by leading GM's. Ding vs. Balogh above was my model game.]

6...Nf6 7.Nc3 Qe5 8.f4 exf3 9.Nxf3 Qc7
   [⌂9...Qh5 See analysis cited earlier. 10.Bg2 Bd6 11.d4 0-0±]

10.Bg2 Bd6
   [⌂10...Bb4 was better threatening capture of the knight to weaken support of the center pawns if the pawns advance to d4 and e4. 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qc2 Nbd7±]

11.0-0 h5? This flank attack is doomed to fail because Black is behind development and the imminent advance of the center pawns will completely stifle his ill-fated attack. **12.e4!** This simple move threatening to fork the minor pieces, followed by d4 completely stops the attack before it gets off the ground.

12...Ng4
   [⌂12...Nh7 13.d4 0-0 14.Be3+-]

13.d4 h4 14.e5 Be7 15.gxh4 Nh6 16.d5 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Bg4 18.Ne4 Nd7 19.e6! This pawn sacrifice is crushing as the black king is trapped in the center and is helpless against the piece onslaught. **19...fxe6 20.dxe6 Bxe6 21.Nfg5 Bd5 22.Nxc5 Bxg2+ 23.Kxg2 Nxc5 24.Re1+ Kf8 25.b4 Nf5 26.bxc5 Nxh4+ 27.Kh1**
**1-0**

I was going to try to include at least a game by the class prize winners, but too many were recipients of unplayed points, which made their successes hard to highlight. Dominic Vazquez on the other hand was paired up in every round (after a half point bye in Round 1) and had a couple upsets on the way to tying for the under 1400 prize (with Binh Nyac Nguyen). And quick kudos to Yonathan Admassu for making the top 1800 prize (with Max Ross) via this upset win over Hector Viadiu. All it took was a couple nice tactical shots and some good moves between. **1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 b6 3.a3 Bb7 4.d4 d5 5.Nf3** Not quite a Petrosian Queen's Indian! **5...dxc4 6.e4 Nf6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Bxc4 Be7 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Qe2 c6 11.Bd2 Nxc3 12.bxc3 b5 13.Bd3 Nb6 14.Rfb1 Qd7 15.Ng5 h6 16.Ne4 a6 17.Qg4 g5 18.Qh5 c5**
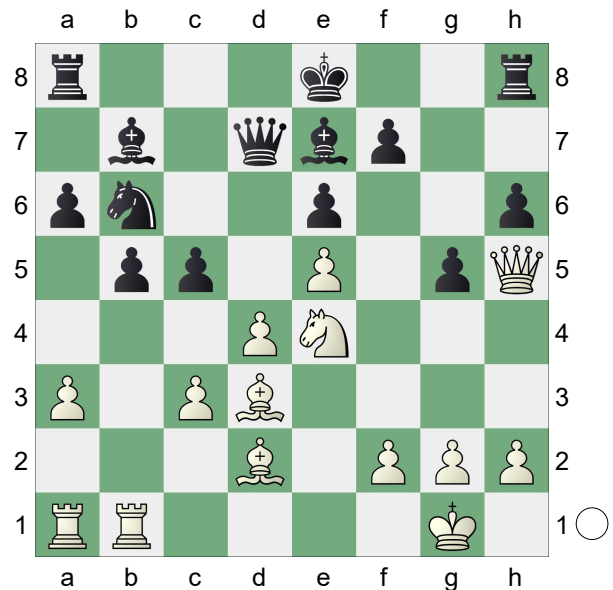
19.Nxg5! Bxg5 20.Bxg5 Rg8 21.Qxh6 cxd4 22.Bh7 Qd5 23.f3 dxc3 24.Bxg8 c2 25.Bxf7+ Kd7 26.Rc1 Nc4 27.Qh7

Qd4+ 28.Kh1 Qxe5
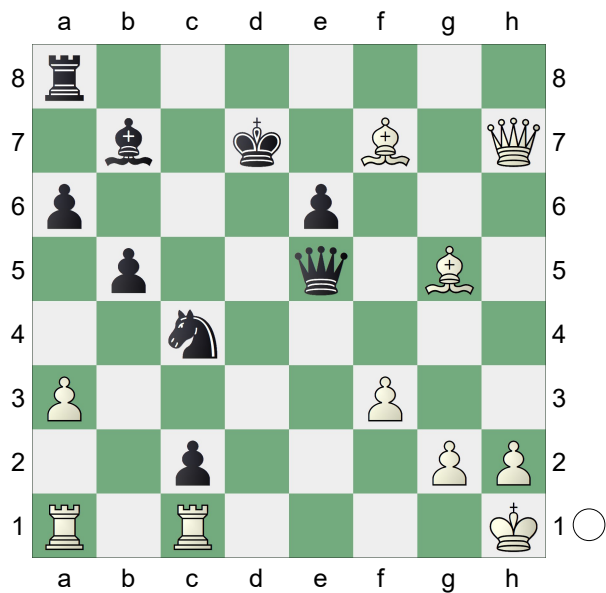
29.Be8+! Kc8 30.Qd7+ Kb8 31.Bh4
Ka7 32.Bf2+ Ne3 33.Bxe3+ Qxe3
34.Rxc2 Qe5 35.Rd1 Qh8 36.Bg6 Rb8
37.Be4 Qe5 38.Rc7
1-0

Annotated TNM Game from FM Andy Lee
FM Andy Lee

Editor's Note: The following is reproduced in full from FM Andy Lee's substack. Recently Andy has written up all of his games from the First Silman Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon. For this newsletter, I've selected game 4: if you're interested in reading more, please check out his substack here. A big thank you to FM Andy Lee for sharing this for our publication and for helping to get out the word about our Tuesday Night Marathon.

If you've read the first three installments in this series about my return to tournament chess, you're probably aware that I've been aiming for positions with clear strategic ideas, eschewing opening theory and complex tactics. This has been an intentional choice, with the goal of ridding myself of a number of bad habits:

1. Seeking out complicated opening variations despite having only a superficial knowledge of the underlying ideas or theory.
2. Making decisions based on hubris about my tactical ability rather than objectively assessing risk in the middlegame.
3. Struggling to transition between the middlegame and endgame, particularly when it comes to converting a winning ending into a full point.

By shifting to offbeat but basically sound opening lines and emphasizing positional play I'm hoping to work on some of these weaknesses while preserving enough time and energy to play the endgame well. That didn't happen this week—all three bad habits are fully on display—and I was lucky to emerge unscathed. On the other hand, this game is far more interesting and entertaining than any of the games from the first three

rounds, so dig in and enjoy the jumble of tactics and missed opportunities that follows.

William Gray (1918) - Andy Lee (2328), Tuesday Night Marathon (4), 7/30/24

1 Nf3 b6. If it works with the white, why not give it a go with black? I spent some time preparing for 2 e4 and 2 c4, but of course I didn't bother to think about the variation the appeared on the board: 2 d4 Bb7 3 c4 e6 4 a3 Nf6. It's hard to avoid opening theory, and we've just moved from a position that has occurred a few hundred times in the database to one that has occurred more than 6,000 times: the Petrosian Variation of the Queen's Indian Defense. This would be a reasonable choice if I knew something about this line, but I don't. Black most frequently transposes into a Dutch after 4 … f5, but I was worried about 5 Nc3 Nf6 6 d5, killing the bishop. 5 Nc3 Ne4:
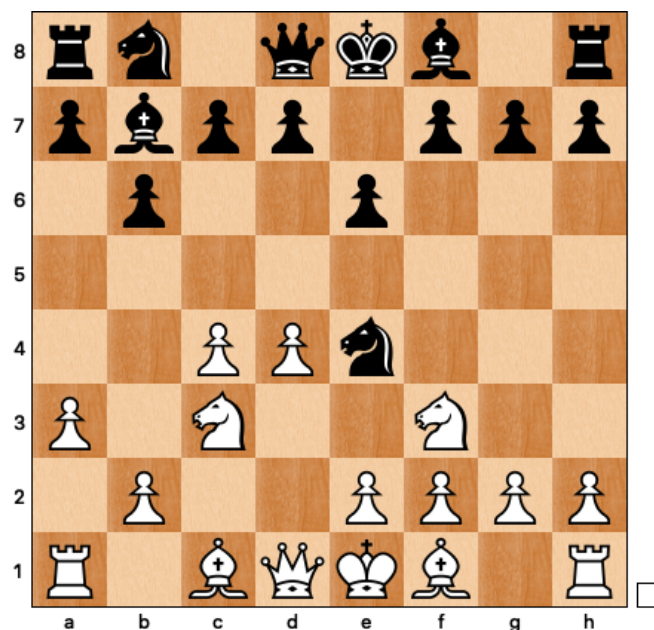
Here we go, something stranger than the almost automatic 5 … d5 6 cxd5 Nxd5, and, fortunately for me, not objectively worse[1]. What theory exists from this point says that white usually plays 6 Nxe4 Bxe4 7 Nd2 Bb7 8 e4 with the big center, but with a pair of minor pieces exchanged black doesn't have to worry as much about running out of space and has the kind of flexible structure I've been aiming for all tournament long. White instead played 6 Qc2, and rather than playing the sensible 6 … Nxc3 7 Qxc3 Be7 8 g3 Bf6 (again, maximum positional flexibility), I conflated this variation with the main line (Bad Habit #1), and played the anti-positional 6 … d5?! 7 cxd5 exd5 8 Bf4 Bd6 9 Bxd6 Nxd6 10 e3 00 (I wanted to play 10 … Nd7 but was concerned that after 11 Nb5! Nxb5 12 Bxb5 00 13 Bxd7 Qxd7 white has a stable long term advantage that will be hard to break) 11 Bd3:
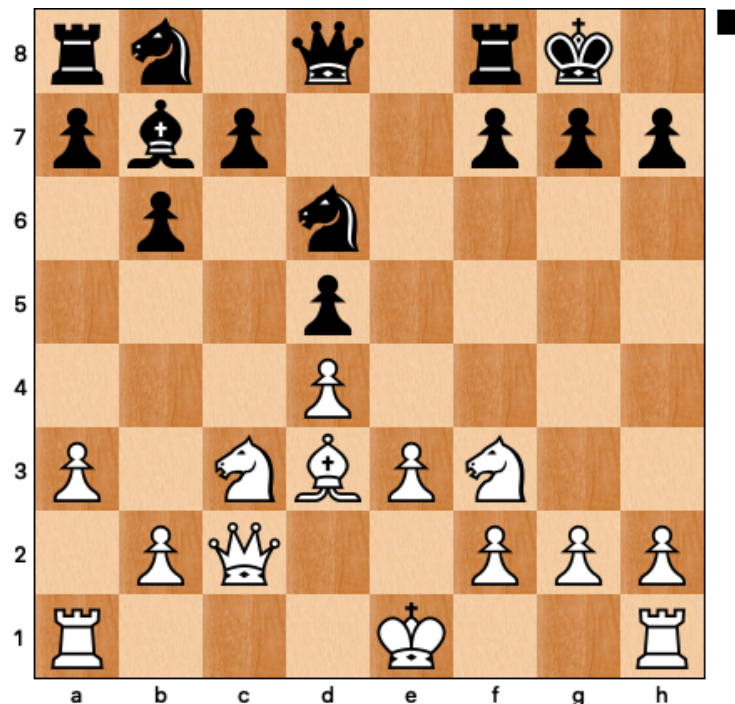
The impression that I get from this diagram is that black has been playing Fischer Random and white has been developing his pieces normally from the traditional starting position. The knight on d6 is usually good in these kinds of Carlsbad structures, but what about the passive Bb7? The lack of defenders on the kingside?

There are a few different ways to deal with the threat of Bxh7+, most obviously 11 … h6, but here comes Bad Habit #2 with 11 … g6?, creating the perfect conditions for a white attack: 12 h4 c5 (I spent some time on 12 … Qe7 13 h5 Ne4, but 14 Ne5! creates serious problems) 13 h5! and now I was sad to discover that 13 … c4 fails, not to 14 hxg6? cxd3 15 gxh7+ Kh8, but to 14 Bxg6! hxg6 15 hxg6 Qf6 16 g7! Qxg7 17 Rh3, winning material:
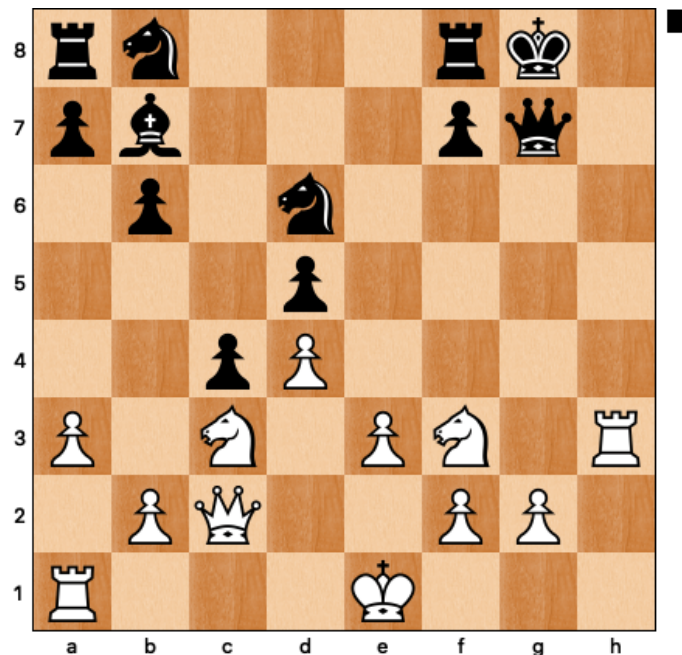

This was the first inkling I had that I might be getting crushed, but since pawns don't move backwards there's little choice other than to dig in and

try to make the attack as difficult to conduct as possible. I played 13 …
Qf6 to support g6, but after 14 hxg6 hxg6 15 Ne5 the black position is
critical:
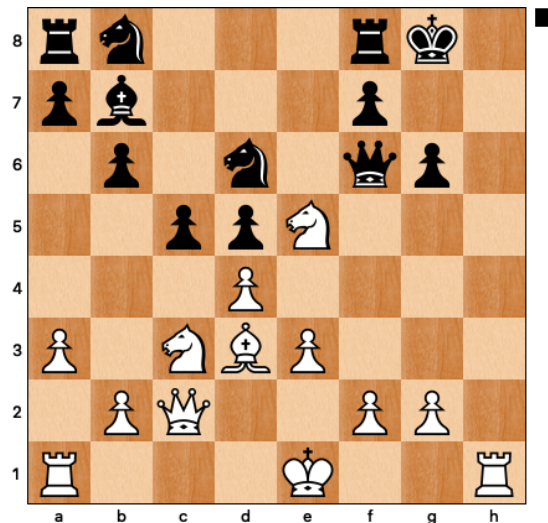
What's to be done? 15 … c4 is met by 16 Bxg6! fxg6 17 Rh6. 15 … Nc6
drops the d-pawn or the exchange. 15 … Kg7 16 Rh6? is not good due to
16 … cxd4! (16 … Kxh6? 17 Ng4+) 17 cxd4 Nc6, but simply 16 000! brings
the last white piece into play. All that's left is some counterplay in the
center: 15 … cxd4 16 exd4 Re8. An unhappy improvisation. I'd originally
planned 16 … Kg7 but realized at the last second that since I'd already
traded on d4 white can play 17 Qd2 and win on the spot. 16 … Ne4 17
Nxe4 dxe4 18 Bxe4 Rc8 19 Qd3 Bxe4 20 Qxe4 Nc6 was my bailout
option, but I couldn't quite bring myself to sacrifice a pawn, and the
computer refutes it comfortably anyway: 16 … Ne4 17 Nxe4 dxe4 18 Qc7!
Bd5 19 Ng4! Qxd4 (19 … Qe6 20 Be2! with either Qf4 or Qh2 next) 20
Nh6+ Kg7 21 Nf5+! is really nice:
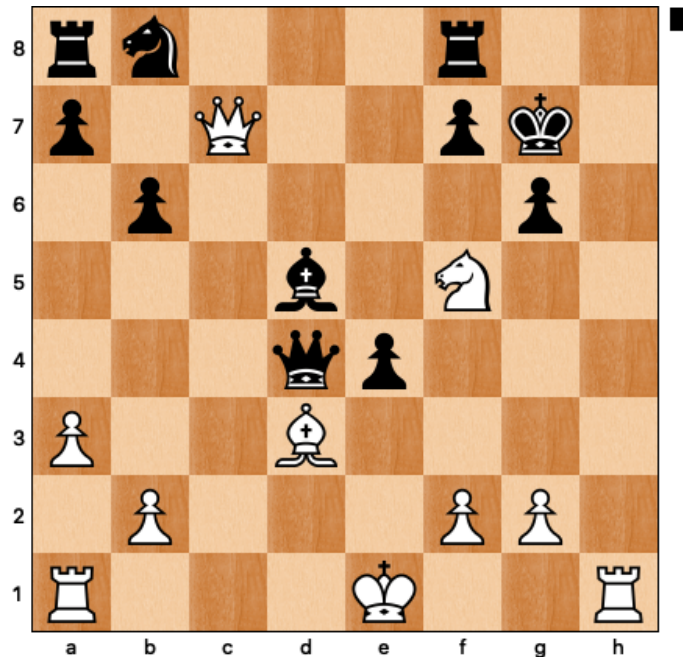
The point is that 21 ... gxf5 22 Qg3+ Kf6 23 Rh6+ Ke7 24 Qd6+ Ke8 25 Bb5+ is curtains. The cool Qc2-c7-g3 board geometry isn't easy to see, but it's a good reminder that even the positions that seem safe are actually on the brink of disaster.

The game continued 17 000 (17 Kf1 is possible, although not really necessary. During the game I thought I had a clever refutation: 17 ... Ba6 18 Nxd5 Qf5 19 Nc7 Rxe5, only to notice 20 Nxa6, and all of black's pieces are hanging.) 17 ... Nc6 (Sacrificing a pawn and inviting all kinds of craziness, but black has to complicate matters. Note that 17 ... Qf4+?! 18 Kb1 Qxd4 19 Nxg6! wins easily.) 18 Nxd5 Qg7 (the queen has to stay on the kingside: 18 ... Qd8? 19 Qd2! is impossible to defend) and we've reached a critical moment. Take a look at the diagram below and try to find white's winning move:
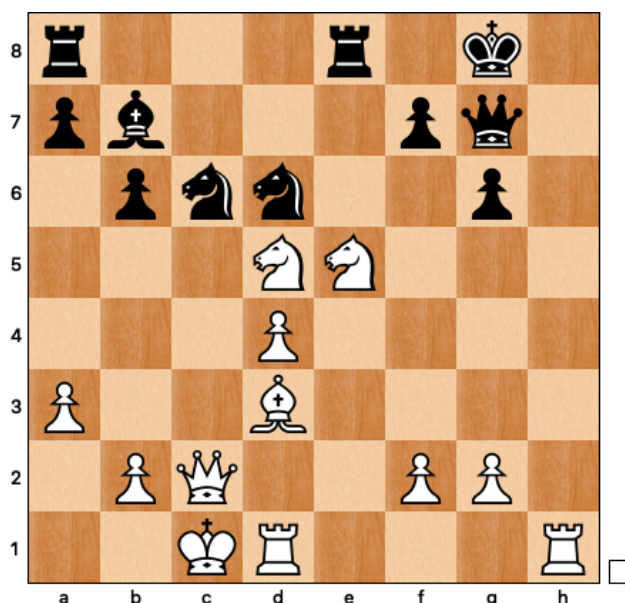
There are a lot of tempting knight hops. Let's start with the worst and work our way up to the best:

- 19 Nc7? Nxd4 20 Nxe8 Qxe5 and black is winning.
- 19 Nxc6?! Bxc6 20 Qxc6 (20 Nc7 Rac8 21 Qxc6 Rxc7! transposes) 20 … Rac8 21 Nc7 Rxc7! 22 Qxc7 Rc8 23 Qxc8+ Nxc8 is a roughly equal ending, in which white's material advantage is counterbalanced by the strong queen and knight duo.
- 19 Nd7?! Re6 was played in the game; we'll return to it later.
- 19 Ng4! is similar to what was played in the game, but just a little more crafty. I assumed that 19 … Nxd4 20 Ngf6+ Kf8 21 Nh7+ Qxh7 held everything together, but it turns out that we both missed 21 Nd7+! Kg8 22 N5f6+, winning the black queen. This means 19 … Re6 is forced, and now 20 Nc7 picks up the exchange.

The problem with white's choice in the game is that after 20 Nc7 Nxd4 21 Nxe6 fxe6 the Nd7 is vulnerable and black has some compensation. With the knight on g4 white's attack still rages. White took a different approach, playing 20 Rde1?! Rae8 (Forced, since both 20 … Rxe1+? 21

Rxe1 Qh6+ 22 Kb1 Kg7 23 N5f6 and 20 … Nxd4? 21 Rxe6 fxe6 22 N5f6+ Kf7 23 Qa4 are quite horrible. I wanted to make the extravagant 20 … Nb4? work, but 21 Rxe6! refutes.) 21 Rxe6 Rxe6:
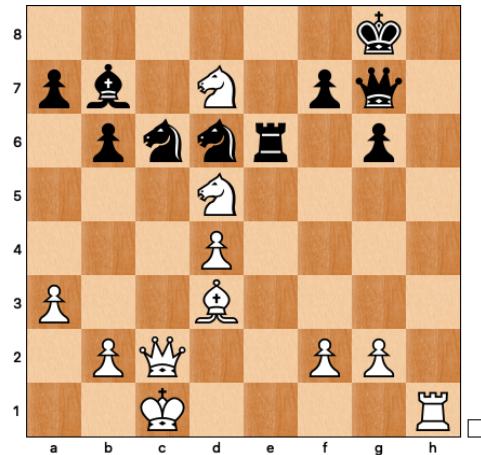

Another inflection point in this wild game; we were both running low on time as well. I can understand white's lack of enthusiasm for 22 Nf4 Re7 23 d5 Ne5 24 Nxe5 Qxe5; although the position is balanced, black's position is much easier to play. 22 Qc3 Nxd4 23 N5f6+ Rxf6 24 Qxd4 is another interesting idea that I glanced at during the game.

The computer has a more compelling suggestion, again beyond the reach of most human imaginations: 22 N5f6+! Rxf6 23 d5! The point is that after almost all knight moves white has Qc7, resuming the attack in light of black's badly tangled pieces and back rank problems. The computer assures me that the only correct defensive move is 23 … Ne5!, returning the piece immediately to gain a little more time.

My feeling at the board was that the tide had already turned; my opponent confirmed this by playing the shaky 22 Nb4? Nxb4 23 axb4 Qxd4 24 Rd1 Qxb4 and black now is in control. After 25 Qc7 I wasted a

lot of time working out the details of 25 ... Nc4[2] instead of playing the obvious 25 ... Kg7 right away:
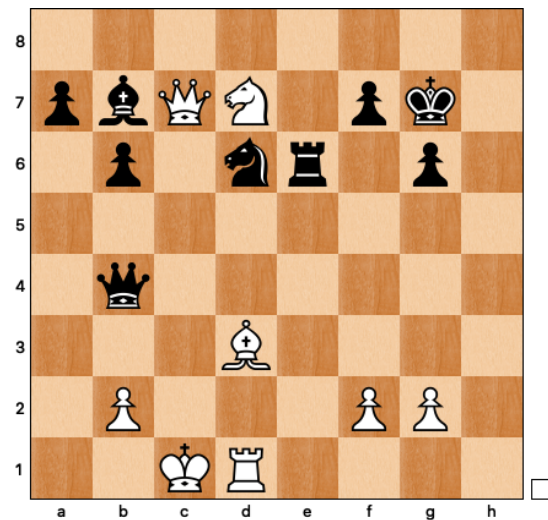
I'd already worked out 26 Qd8 Nc4! 27 Qf8+ (only move) 27 ... Qxf8 28 Nxf8, but here the extra time would have come in handy; perhaps I would have stopped and noticed 28 ... Rc6! 29 Be4 Rc7! 30 Bxb7 Ne3+ 31 Kd2 Nxd1 32 Kxd1 Rxb7. Nothing can save the white knight; black will emerge up a full rook. Instead, it was full steam ahead: 28 ... Kxf8?! 29 Bxc4 Rc6 30 b3 b5 31 Rd7:
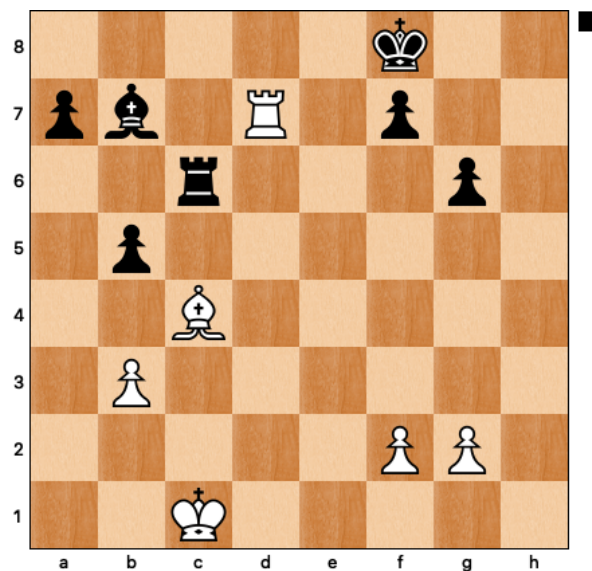
I'd seen this position quite a ways back in my analysis, which ended before Rd7 with the evaluation: black's up a piece, the game is over. The problem is that black isn't going to have many pawns remaining, so instead of moving the bishop, 31 … bxc4! seems like the most pragmatic solution. After 32 Rxb7 cxb3+ 33 Kb1 Rc2 34 f3 Rxg2 35 Rxb3 black is up two pawns and should win without any particular trouble.

A quick reminder about Bad Habit #3: this is where I run out of energy and focus after a long tactical melee and struggle to convert winning positions. I had the idea that I was winning a piece and the game stuck in my head, so I continued 31 … Bc8?! 32 Rxf7+ Ke8 33 Rxa7 bxc4 34 bxc4 Rxc4+ 35 Kd2:
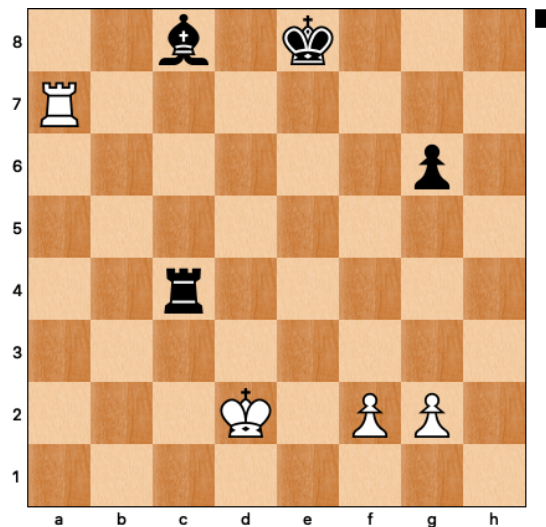
There are some worthy options: 35 … Rg4 to force the white pawns to dark squares; 35 … Re4 to cut off the white king. My brain froze up instead; I knew that there was a lot still to do to convert this position and I couldn't begin to figure out how: 35 … Rc6 36 Ke3 Rf6 37 f3 Bd7 38 g4 (white is aggressively placed to try to trade the last black pawn) 38 …

Kd8 (38 … Ke7 39 f4!) 39 Ra5 Ke7 40 Ra7 Kd6 41 Ra6+ Bc6?! (an admission that I am out of patience, there's no reason not to repeat moves, get a little time, and try to find something better) 42 f4 Ke6+ 43 Kf2! Kc5 44 Ra1 (for now, white chooses not to suffer in the theoretically drawn but very unpleasant R+B vs. R ending after 44 f5 Rf6 45 Ra7 gxf5) 44 … Re4 45 Rc1+ Rc4?:
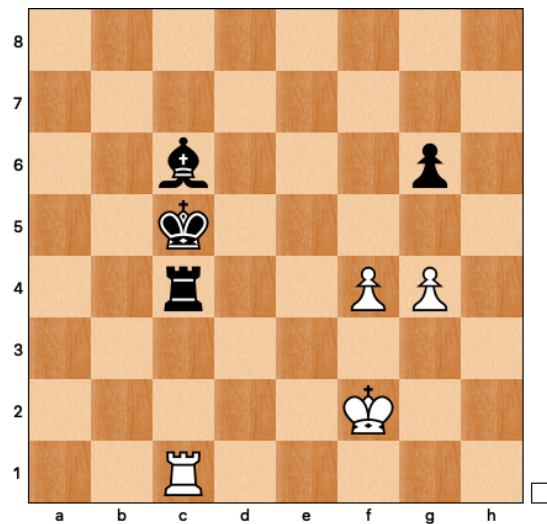
I blocked the check as soon as the following thought popped into my head: a blunder! — now he's got to trade rooks or the f-pawn hangs. The problem is 46 Rxc4+ Kxc4 and the careful 47 Kg3! Kd4 48 Kh4 Ke4 49 f5 liquidates the final black pawn. But after a valiant resistance, playing on the increment, my opponent made the last mistake: 47 f5? g5! White Resigns, the g-pawn survives.

That game doesn't do wonders for my ego, but it was both exciting and interesting. Somehow I'm the last perfect score remaining in the event, so the games will get more difficult the rest of the way. Time to do some endgame practice before next week rolls around.

Chess Collector

Zorba Hughes

Some people collect cars,books,stamps.

I collect chess sets. (I used to collect girlfriends but this is a whole lot safer).

All kinds of sets. Wooden ones, glass ones, themed ones, big ones, small ones, plastic ones, old ones. I go online to the marketplace and craigslist to find sets people want to abandon; purchase them, and give them new homes.

I even have some to match my dog and cat, as well as my outfits. The weighted ones are the best to me. The feel, and aesthetics of them are beautiful beyond words.

I carry a set with me everywhere I go. The reason being, in case some patzer talks trash, we can settle it like two gunslingers in the old west.

64 squares, 32 pieces,make the first move, I'm going to show you who the beast is as I always say. (I made that up. Copywritten by the way)

I want to visit the chess museum in St. Louis and check out the ones from around the world. It might be weird a thing to collect; But if you really love something it doesn't seem unusual to you, don't be ashamed if you have a proclivity for such a passion.

Just enjoy the fun it can be.

Editor's Note: I don't find it strange at all.

Seven New Books from Thinkers Publishing
IM John Donaldson

The Belgian publisher Thinkers Publishing (https://thinkerspublishing.com/) has seven new books out that cover different aspects of the game and which are geared at different levels of players.

They are:

1. *The Modernized Semi-Slav* – Milos Pavlovic (2024, figurine algebraic, hardcover, 176 pages, list price $40)

2. *Delchev's Practical Opening Repertoire – Volume 1 – The Scandinavian, Pirc & Modern Defenses* by Aleksander Delchev (2024, figurine algebraic, hardcover, 314 pages, list price $52.95)

3. *The Modernized London System* by Milos Pavlovic (2024, figurine algebraic, hardcover, 264 pages, list price $52.95)

4. *The Modernized Flank Attack* by Christian Bauer & Pierre Laurent-Paoli (2024, figurine algebraic, 364 pages, list price $54.95)

5. *Moves 3 to 10 – Understanding the Opening Phase for Improving Chess Players* by Nery Strasman (2024, figurine algebraic, hardcover, 264 pages, list price) $52.95

6. *Thinkers' Chess Academy with GM Thomas Luther – Vol. 5 – 365 Steps to Tactical Mastery* by Heinz Brunthaler (2024, figurine algebraic, hardcover, 264 pages, list price $44.95)

7. *The Imparable Logic and Psychology in Chess* by Boroljub Zlatanovic (2024, figurine algebraic, hardcover, 264 pages, list price $52.95)

One of the more advanced works in these new offerings is *The Modernized Semi-Slav* by the Serbian Grandmaster Milos Pavlovic. This opening book, written from Black's perspective, provides a complete repertoire against 1.d4 d5 2.c4 using the Semi-Slav with the Meran its chief focus.

This opening can be reached via a variety of different move orders including 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 and 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6, but Pavlovic prefers the more combative sequence 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 which takes away the possibility of White employing the Exchange Slav to quiet the game and discourages the first player from heading for the Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit as Black has not yet played …Nf6.

The price Black pays for using this move order is allowing White to play 4.e4 after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6. After 3...c6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ the first player has a choice. Magnus Carlsen resurrected 6.Nc3 in his 2013 World Championship with Viswanathan Anand but Pavlovic shows a clean route to equality via 6.Nc3 e5 (Anand played 6…c5) 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Qa5 9.Bd2 Nf6 10.Nf3 Nbd7 11.Be2 0–0 12.0–0 Ne4 13.Qc2 Nxd2 14.Nxd2 Nf6 15.Nf3 exd4 16.cxd4 Bg4 17.Rab1 Rad8 18.Rxb7 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Rxd4.
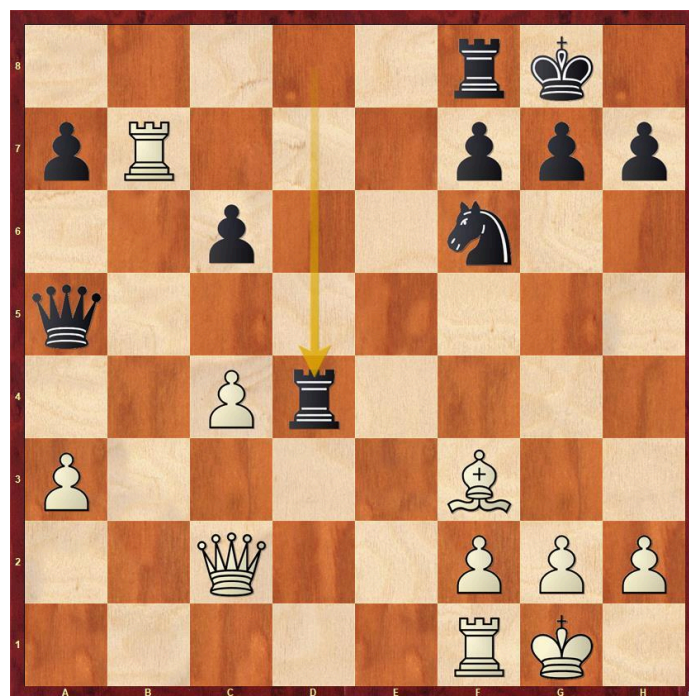
More dangerous is 6.Bd2 6...Qxd4 7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ which introduces a tricky gambit named after Frank Marshall. White can play 8.Ne2 and 8.Be2, both of which are subjected to detailed analysis in this book.
The bulk of the *Modernized Semi-Slav* is devoted to the Meran (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5) a flexible and dynamic counter attacking system. After a quick look at 8.Bb3 and 8.Be2, Pavlovic focuses his

attention on the main lines starting with 8.Bd3 Bb7. He proposes to meet the old main line 9.e4 b4 10.Na4 c5 11.e5 Nd5 12.0-0 with 12…h6 (instead of the more popular 12…cxd4 which has more or less been worked out to a forced draw) continuing his analysis with 13.Bd2 Rc8 14.Qe2 Be7 15.Rfc1 cxd4 16.Rxc8 Qxc8 17.Rc1 Qb8 18.Bb5 a6 19.Bxd7+ Kxd7 20.Nc5+ Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rc8 22.Qc4 Rxc5 23.Qxc5 Qc7 24.Qxd4 a5
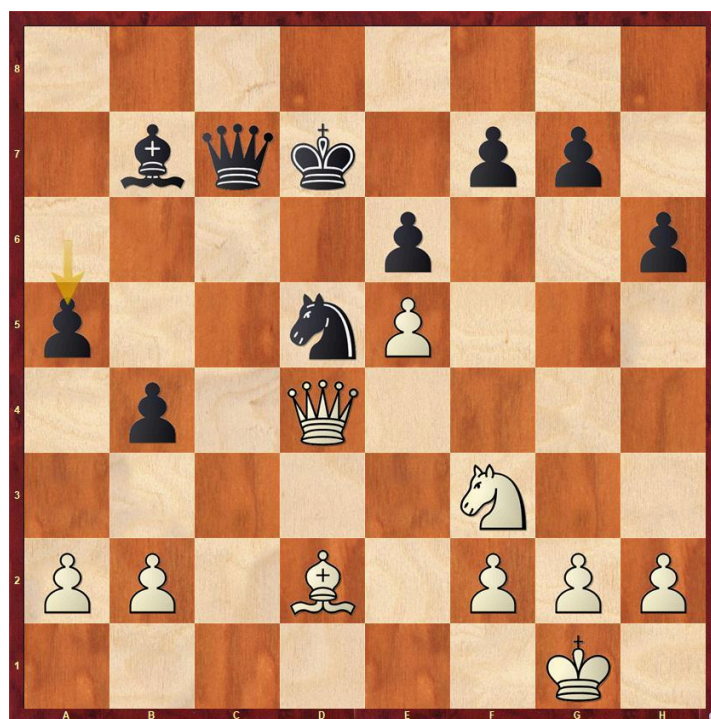
and Black was doing fine in Norguet-Ruiz Vidal, correspondence 2015. Note how Black has no bad minor pieces which is characteristic of the Meran and one of its appealing features. Also note that Pavlovic references many correspondence games, which are the gold standard these days.

The Modernized Semi-Slav covers in depth White's attempt to sidestep the Meran with the popular 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 as well as sidelines such as 5.Qb3, 5.Qd3 and 5.g3. This leaves only 5.Bg5 which could lead to the Moscow (5…h6), the Cambridge Springs (5…Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5) or Botvinnik (5…dxc4), all of which could be the subject of a book on their own.

Pavlovic, whose philosophy in this book is to focus primarily on the newest development, advocates for none of these lines, but instead for a Classical Queen's Gambit Declined approach with 5…Nbd7 6.e3 Be7, a variation used by no less

than Magnus Carlsen.

This was a bit of a shock to this reviewer, who like others that learned chess in the 20th century, was taught Black should not commit to an early …c6 in the Classical variation of the Queen's Gambit. The rational for this was that after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 White's most precise move was 7.Rc1, discouraging Black from playing …c5 and that 7.Qc2, possibly followed by castling queenside, should be met by 7…c5.

From this one might think that 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Be7 should be strongly met by 7.Qc2, but Pavlovic is not convinced. He continues 7…h6 8.Bh4 0-0 9.0-0-0 ("the sharpest and most direct of all lines" according to the author).

Here Black would lose a critical tempo with 9…c5 and has committed to …h6 but it turns out he has an adequate resource in 9…b5!? 10.c5 b4 11.Na4 Ne4!?. Pavlovic doesn't mention it, but Black's idea on 10.cxb5 is 10…c5! with excellent play for the sacrificed pawn. This idea is analogous to the variation 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Bd2 0-0 8.0-0-0 b5!? 9.cxb5 c5.

The Modernized Semi-Slav is a useful addition to the literature on this opening and provides plenty of food for thought for those who are experienced with this opening. Newcomers to the Semi-Slav will also find this book helpful but may wish to use it in conjunction with older works on the opening as a book this size cannot fully address sidelines.

A chess player today, who had been away from the game the past decade, would be shocked by many of the changes that have occurred. One of the biggest developments has been the use of the London System by the world elite. Formerly only seen in amateur chess and the games of World Championship Challenger Gata Kamsky, the London is now a frequent visitor to top level tournaments and the subject of numerous books, the latest of which is *The Modernized London System* by Grandmaster Milos Pavlovic. This hefty book of around 250 pages focuses almost exclusively on positions reached after 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 (about 25 pages are devoted to 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4) so those who wish to use the London as a complete system will need to consult another work which covers 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 lines where Black does not commit to an early …d5.

The Modernized London System provides comprehensive coverage for both

sides and includes plenty of prose to explain key ideas and point the student in the right direction. Pavlovic is good about pointing out the numerous transpositions that arise in the London System.

Club players looking to pick up a 1.e4 repertoire that is manageable but still packs a punch will find *Delchev's Practical Opening Repertoire – Volume 1 – The Scandinavian, Pirc & Modern Defenses* by Bulgarian Grandmaster Aleksander Delchev quite helpful. This book, which is aimed primarily at players in the 1800-2300 range, is arranged around model games with plenty of explanatory prose backed up by pertinent analysis.

The Modernized Flank Attack by French Grandmasters Christian Bauer and Pierre Laurent-Paoli, examines the advance g2-g4 and its impact on modern chess in fifty extremely well-annotated games. This instructive book, which should appeal to a wide range of players from 1800 on up, can be studied as a modern middle game primer or enjoyed as a game collection.

Unlike earlier books in this review, *Moves 3 to 10 – Understanding the Opening Phase for Improving Chess Players* by Nery Strasman and *Thinkers' Chess Academy with GM Thomas Luther – Vol. 5 – 365 Steps to Tactical Mastery* by Heinz Brunthaler are aimed at lower rated players. The former seeks to instill basic opening principles in newcomers to the game who often find the opening the most intimidating phase. It does so by presenting positions to solve from the beginning phase of the game, an approach first used by Grandmaster Larry Evans in his book *What's the Best Move* a half a century ago but seldom if ever used since. Emphasis is placed on understanding, not memorization. Those pressed for study time will especially appreciate the author's practical approach.

Thinkers' Chess Academy with GM Thomas Luther – Vol. 5 – 365 Steps to Tactical Mastery by Heinz Brunthaler seeks to instill tactical knowledge with a rather novel approach as the author explains:

"This book helps to eliminate hours of game study and provides bite-sized lessons and tasks that you can implement each day to improve your chess game over the course of a year. We've collected an array of typical positions and situations that are frequently seen on the board so that you can better anticipate common mistakes, as well as teach you how you can exploit your opponent's mistakes. If you make 5-10 minutes of chess study a daily habit, you will improve your chess game and your "chess brain" by opening your mind to planning and

moves you wouldn't otherwise see on the chess board."

The Imparable Logic and Psychology in Chess by Boroljub Zlatanovic deals with a topic in chess that has not been traditionally well-covered. The author, a well-known chess pedagogue, offers a wide range of advice, but one point he makes will bring great benefit to a new generation of players introduced to the game by online play and fast time controls is: "Understanding and logic are everything you need with static positions on the board." This observation can be translated in various ways, but one is that in many positions trying to calculate long and sharp variations is counterproductive and judgment is more important.

Beautiful Chess Isn't Just for Grandmasters

By Pablo Cardenas

It's my guilty fantasy to imagine a wise chess player, who sits alone atop the highest mountain in Tibet, staring longingly at a chess board. Stopping on occasion, of course, to bathe, eat, sleep, and drink, this player spends their days arranging the pieces onto different squares in an attempt to master every conceivable position. Only after this player believes themself to be unbeatable will they descend from their spot on the mountain to claim their rightful position over the rest as the strongest player in the world!

This fantasy isn't meant to dramatize the hours of grueling preparation that professional chess players go through in order to be successful. For whatever craft(s) that a person chooses to dedicate themselves to will of course require time, patience, and practice. Rather, I choose to focus on the positive lesson that a player may draw from this kind of story. In that no matter how strong or unbeatable a chess player may believe themselves to be, there is always someone stronger. One who sets the bar even higher for the rest of us to aspire towards. There is always someone better waiting to come down from the mountain.

Along my own chess journey, this lesson has helped me to stay humble. I've learned to never underestimate the opponents I play against and that with every game, I aim to give it my all. From the Mechanic's Institute in San Francisco to the bustling streets of New York and Los Angeles, to the neighborhood ice cream shops of Boston, I've come to enjoy the thrill of discovering that anyone can be great at chess. Even in defeat, one quality that keeps me from succumbing to the woes of losing is the relief my opponent feels for after the game is done. Their victory feels earned; their win came after they fought out of the binds I had set. Beads of sweat drip from their face. But in

the end, their spark for the game had been reignited after having played for a long time what they claimed to be, "boring chess". A sense of respect not shown to anyone else but me.

For example, I have provided two games, both of which I came out victorious, against players who I feel made me work for my victory. These were played in two different tournaments in San Diego County at the North County Chess Club in Oceanside. I hope to credit both the players I faced and ask that you keep an eye on them should either one choose to pursue chess more seriously in the future. After reviewing the games using Chess.com, I found out that the analysis rated the accuracy of my first game at 91% while the second game had my moves rated with an accuracy of 96%. While not perfect in terms of their execution, I hope that you find these games enjoyable and that you are motivated to continue pushing yourself.

Game # 1 (August 1, 2024)

Time Format: 90 minutes, 5 second delay

Location: North County Chess Club, Oceanside, CA

White: Jasen Giondomenico (1060 USCF)　　　　Black: Pablo Cardenas (1163 USCF)

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 c6 4. e3 e6 5. a3 Bd6 6. Nf3, Bxf4 7. exf4, Nd7 8. Bd3, Qc7 9. Ne5 a6 10. Qf3 c5 11. Qe3 O-O 12. O-O cxd4 13. Qxd4 Qc5 14. Qxc5, Nxc5 15. Be2 Rd8 16. b4 Nce4 17. Nxe4 Nxe4 18. Bf3 Nd2 19. Rfd1 Nxf3 20. Nxf3 Bd7 21. Rd2 a5 22. Rad1 axb4 23. axb4 Rac8 24. Ne5 Ba4 25. Rc1 Bb3 26. Nd3 Bc4 27 Ne5 f6 28. Nxc4 Rxc4 29 Re2, Kf7 30 Rce1, Re8 31 f5 e5 32 Rb1 Ra8 33 b5 Rc5 34 Rd2 Ra2 35 Rc1 Rxb5 36 c4 Rxd2 37 cxb5 d4 38 h3 d3 39 Rc7+ Ke8 40 Rxb7 Rd1+ 41 Kh2 d2 42 Kg3 Rc1 43 Rxg7 d1=Q 44 b6 Qb3+ 45 Kh2 Qxb6 46 Rg8+, Kf7 0-1

Game # 2 (July 11, 2024)

Time Format: 90 minutes / 5 second delay

Location: North County Chess Club, Oceanside, CA

White: Pablo Cardenas (1018 USCF)　　Black: Andrew Legrady (1222 USCF)

1. c4 e6 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 d5 4. d4 c6 5. cxd5 exd5 6. Bg2 Bf5 7. a3 Bd6 8. Bg5 h6 9. Bxf6 Qxf6 10. e4 dxe4 11. Nxe4 Bxe4 12. Bxe4 O-O 13. Ne2 Re8 14. Bd3 c5 15. O-O Nc6 16. dxc5 Bxc5 17. Qc2 Bb6 18. Bh7+ Kh8 19. Be4 Qe5 20. Bf3 Rad8 21. Kg2 Nd4 22. Nxd4 Bxd4 23. Rae1 Qf6 24. Rxe8+ Rxe8 25. Qa4 Re6 26. Bxb7 Re2 27. Bf3 Rxb2
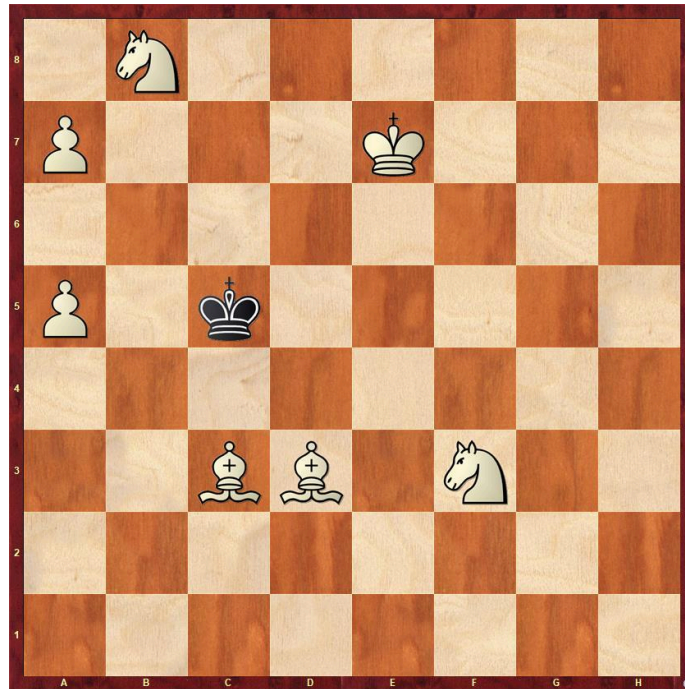
28. Qe8+ Kh7 29. Qe4+ g6 30. h4 Qb6 31. h5 Rxf2+ 32. Rxf2 Bxf2 33. hxg6+ fxg6 34. Qe7+ Kh8 35. Qf8+ Kh7 36. Bd5 1-0

Tony's Teasers

Tony Lama

Unknown

White to play and mate in 2.

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.

Solutions

For Tony's Teaser: **1. Na6+ and either Kc6 or Kd5 both lead to 2.a8Q#**

For the Puzzle in the Library: **Qe5!!**

White's position looks bad, but it only *looks* that way. The central position of the Queen in a battery and the passed pawn hemming in the Black King all work together. No matter how Black responds, disaster awaits. Try to save the Rook? After Rg8 then Qb8+, Kf7, e8Q+, Rxe8, Qxe8 and checkmate will soon follow. Played in the game Rxh3+.

From: Koltanowski vs Milesi, *Blindfolded Simultaneous Exhibition* Basel, Switzerland 1937.

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.
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