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Chess Room Newsletter



The San Francisco Scholastic Championship Returns in it's 18th year at a new location, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts!

Photo Credit: Greg Habiby

Issue #1059 | April 9th, 2025 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

Alex Robins

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club started off March with our **2nd Bobby Fischer Memorial**. As you may know, Fischer gave a simul at Mechanics in 1964 and we're keeping that memory alive. Check out his game against Mechanics' stalwart Max Wilkerson [here](#). The top section had a clear winner with **NM Ethan Guo** (2390) scoring 3.5 points. Second and third place were split in a five-way tie between **Hanchi Yao** (2199), **Laurie Qiu** (2192), **Yuvraj Si Sawhney** (2062), **Sudeep Suresh** (1973), **Jenny Qi** (1938) who each scored 3 points.

Full results can be found [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our next tournament of the month was the **22nd Powell Memorial** after a brief hiatus - one of our few weekends without tournaments. **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2388) took first place, again, with 3.5 points. Why haven't you signed up for his class yet? **NM Ethan Guo** (2244) took second place with three points and was followed by another five way split for third. Our third place winners in the top section were: **NM Austin Mei** (2330), **NM Vishva Nanugonda** (2234), **NM Sebastian Suarez** (2210), **Jashith Karthi** (2167), and **Jay Dave Jumar** (2012).

Full results can be found [here](#).

These tournaments were directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our flagship adult event for the month was our FIDE-rated **23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament**. Sign up early for these two day FIDE tournaments, they will sell out. First place was a clear win by **GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez** (2611) who managed a perfect score again after winning last month's two day tournament. In second and third we had a six(!) way tie featuring: **Ivan Zhou** (2170), **Zee Chin** (1964), **NM Aadit Bhatia** (2268), **CM Pranav Senthilkumar** (2201), **Neil Bhaduri** (2143), and **Ararat Bagdasarian** (2064).

Full results can be found [here](#).

These tournaments were directed by IA Judit Sztaray, IA Abel Talamantez, and National TD Scott Mason.

We had our first US champion of the year **GM Joel Benjamin Special Lecture & Blitz** visit of the year on April 3rd with Joel Benjamin lecturing and playing in a blitz tournament named in his honor. If you haven't already, check out his books from our library! Congratulations to **NM Richard Yi** (2597) for winning the tournament outright with six



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points. In second place, we had another six way tie with **GM Joel Benjamin** (2552), **IM Ladia Jirasek** (2433), **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2384), **NM Dipro Chakraborty** (2268), **Rohan Rajaram** (2220), and **Jay Kumar** (2037). A special shoutout to **Ladia** and **Dipro** for getting wins off of **GM Joel Benjamin**. Stay tuned for more upcoming events with GMs from across the Bay Area!

Full results can be found [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

For our Monthly Scholastic Swiss Tournament, **Arjun Patil** (1207) took home first in the over-700 section with a perfect score of 4 points. **Anna Bogdanova** (1103) and **Sai Vishnu Akash Maddi** (991) took second and third respectively with three points each. **Linus Dow** (918) came in fourth and **Wesley Lau** (936) came in fifth.

In our under700 section, **Yen Wen Jasmine Ho** (652) took first with 4 points and the tiebreak, and again barely sneaking past **Luke Sullivan Roldan** (543) and **Ravi Sekar** (549) who took second and third with three points each. Fourth and fifth went to **Kael Fong Hing** (620), **Mark Zhang** (238) respectively, with order determined by tie breaks.

A big thank you to all of our scholastic players and their families for participating in our monthly tournament and check out below to read about our Scholastic Championship.

Full results can be found [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

2025 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship Recap

Alex Robins

The San Francisco Scholastic Championship returned this year on March 29th and was a huge success. This year, we partnered with Yerba Buena Gardens and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts who graciously donated their space, time, and effort to help us make this event memorable. I'd also like to thank all of our volunteers and staff, the Bright Knights, the SFPL Bookmobile, IM Ladia Jirasek for helping us to make this event run smoothly and for providing a fun day full of chess and other activities. Thank you all and please read on for the results!

In the over800 section, **FM Shawnak Shivakumar** (2351) took first place with a perfect score. **Hayes Marvin** (1926) and **Johnathan Thomas** (1230) both also had perfect



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scores but took second and third place respectively after the tiebreaks. Fourth through tenth place were taken by players who scored three points each and were all decided on tiebreaks - another reminder to root for your opponents. Third through tenth respectively went to: **Stephen Zhu** (1457), **Hayden Brongersma** (1602), **Youting Long** (1426), **Zane Chu** (1113), **Aryaman Majumder** (1276), **Daniel Lin** (1176), and **Rohan Nohalani** (1154).

In the under800 section, **Kael Fong Hing** (620) was the only player with a perfect score and took home first. Congratulations Kael! **Alexander Hare** (352), **Neil Sharma** (614), **Lucian Liu** (unr.) were right behind Kael with 3.5 points each and took home second through fourth place. Fifth through tenth were again decided by tiebreaks and went in order to: **Michael Fine** (615), **Xiomara Alcantara** (756), **Om Palan** (596), **Annika Majumder** (665), **Thomas Wassman** (671), and **Augustine Pandolfo** (unr.).

In the Grades 9-12th section **Tyler Powell** won the section outright with a perfect 4 for 4. The next three places were taken by **James Moore** (a Mechanics' alumni), **Nathaniel Fowler**, and **Axel Pilette**. Fifth and sixth were taken by **Joshua Taylor** and **Armin Loftman** with 2.5 points each. **Arman Azadpour**, **JT Roeder**, and **Matthew Kwon** took seventh, eighth, and ninth respectively. **Allison Schindler** finished out the top ten with one point. Congratulations to all of our players!

In the Grades 6-8th section we again had a clear winner with **Ansh Shenvi Priolkar** winning with a perfect score of 4. Second place also had a clear winner with **Sahil Shivakumar** taking 3.5 points. Third through seventh were decided by tiebreaks and went to: **Jack Abrams**, **Linus Dow**, **Hugo Pu**, **Yen Wen Jasmine Ho**, and **Darren Ko**. Eighth place went to **Cong Hai (Beo) Nguyen** with 2.5 points and ninth and tenth went to **Wesley Yim** and **Joshua Gonzalez** with two points each.

The Grade 3-5th unrated section was our largest non-rated section with 61 players. First through third place participants each won all of their games. Congratulations to **Si Hao Huang**, **Liam Liu**, and **Jasper Zerr** for running the gauntlet undefeated! A special shoutout to Jasper who has been in both our afterschool program and summer camps! Third through tenth were decided by tiebreaks with each player scoring 3 points. In order, they went to **Bellasofia Huerta**, **Thomas Moore**, **Austin Chen**, **Bangjie Luo**, **Alan Chen**, **Hunter Indelicato**, and **Wesley Lin-Wills**. I've said it already but remember to root for your opponents!



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In the Grade K-2nd unrated section, **Raam Prasannakumar** and **Rosalyn Chu** both scored perfect scores and took home first and second place based on tie breaks - congratulations! There was stiff competition in the section and third through seventh were decided by tiebreaks with all the players scoring three points. Third through seventh place went to: **Mo Liu, Anika Aravind, Anais Mihelis, Tarun Prabhu, and Bennet Nyugen**. Our eighth through tenth place winners all were right behind them with 2.5 points and went in order to: **Richard Li, Gavin Liu, and Aadvik Nadiminti**.

We also had a team competition as part of our Scholastic Championship for the first time this year! Congratulations to **Emerald Hills Chess Club and School** who took the first place trophy home to the Tri-Valley. Second place was won by the **ChessGuru** team who brought the most players with an impressive 32 boards! Winning third for the city by the bay was the **Ingleside Chess Club** based out of the San Francisco Public Library. Our own **Mechanics' Institute** team celebrated bringing home the fourth place trophy. The fifth place prize went to the **Sanger Chess Club** who came all the way from Fresno County to put on an impressive performance.



Black to play and win! Photo Credit: Greg Habiby



NM Daniel Cremisi gave a simul out front!
Photo Credit: Greg Habiby



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Former Mechanics' Institute Chess Director, Abel Talamantez, brought his team from Hamilton. Photo Credit: Greg Habiby



Our camp alumni Wesley mid-move and up material. Photo Credit: Greg Habiby



Thank you to all of our players, families, staff, volunteers, and to Yerba Buena Gardens and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts for a fantastic day full of chess!

Photo Credit: Greg Habiby



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How to Notate Your Chess Games

Christian Brickhouse

Today we'll cover the least common answer to the question: what do baseball and chess have in common? Writing things down in your scorebook! If you ever find me at Oracle Park, you'll see me with my score book in hand, writing down weird symbols like 3U, 5-4-3, or IBB. And when you find me at a chess tournament, you'll see me with my score sheet in hand, writing down weird symbols like Ke2!, Na3, or axb8=Q#. I like writing down the games I watch because it lets me play it back later to tell stories, share with others, and learn from my mistakes.

For chess, notating your games to review later is one of the most important things you can do to get better. By going over your games and talking through your plans—successful and unsuccessful—you learn how to improve in the next game. For adult tournaments, notation is especially important because score sheets are used to settle disputes like draw claims or other issues.

Talking with new players though, notation is often brought up as a worry when thinking about tournament play, so by the end of this article you'll know the basics of how to notate a chess game in algebraic notation. We'll start with the names of the squares on the chess board and then the letters we use to abbreviate the piece names. We'll combine those skills to write down simple moves, and then learn symbols for more complex moves like capturing and castling.

The names of the squares

Every square has a single unique name. From behind the White pieces, columns are named alphabetically, left-to-right from "a" through "h" and the rows are numbered from closest to farthest from 1 to 8. So White's king starts on the square e1, and Black's queen starts on the square d8. The names of these squares do not change, no matter what color you are playing!

Test yourself!

What color is the h1 square? _____

Place a pawn on the following squares: e4, d5, e5, d4

What shape do they make? _____

The names of the pieces



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For pieces, writing the whole name would take too much time, so each piece has a single, unique letter to help us identify it.

- "K" is short for King.
- "Q" is short for Queen.
- "R" is short for Rook.
- "B" is short for Bishop.
- "N" is short for kNight.
- And nothing is short for pawn.

Those last two are confusing, but important! We already use K for king, so if we used it again for the knights, we could get confused. Instead, we use the second letter of knight, N. For pawns, we don't write anything, just the square they move to.

Test yourself!

Draw a line from the piece to the letter we use to shorten it



Q
K
R
B
N

Writing down simple moves

When a piece moves we write the letter of the piece followed by the name of the square it moved to. For example, Nc3 means that a knight moved to the c3 square. We figure out which knight from *context*. If it's White's move, we know it was a white knight. If it's Black's move, we know it's black's knight.

Sometimes two of the same pieces can move to the same square, like if two knights could both move to the same spot. So that our record is clear, we write the letter of the square it came from. For example, if knights are on c3 and g1, both could move to e2. We would write Nce2 if the knight on c3 moved. We would write Nge2 if the knight on g1 moved.

For pawns, we only write the square it moves to, so e4 means the pawn moved to e4.

Test yourself!

Based on the notation, write what piece moved to what square



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Notation	Piece	Square
Nc3	_____	_____
e4	_____	_____
Bf4	_____	_____
d5	_____	_____
Qc6	_____	_____
Ke2	_____	_____
Nbd7	_____	_____

Extra symbols and more complex moves

But chess is more than moving pieces to open squares! We have some special moves and situations that you should know how to write down too.

We use "x" to mean "capture" and we put it between the letter of the capturing piece and the name of the square the piece moved to. We do not write down what piece was taken. For example, Bxf3 means the bishop takes something that was on f3. If the capturing piece is a pawn, we write the letter of the column the pawn started on before the "x". For example, dxc4 means the pawn on d5 captures something that was on c4.

For castling we use the symbols "O-O" for castling short (kingside) and "O-O-O" for castling long (queenside).

We add a "+" at the end whenever a move puts the opponent's king in check but not checkmate.

We add a "#" at the end for checkmate.

When a pawn promotes, after writing the square the pawn moved to, we use "=" and the letter of the piece promoted to. For example, a pawn promoting to a queen on e8 would be written e8=Q.

Test yourself!

Based on the notation, describe in your own words what move was made

Notation	Description
Bxc4	_____
Ra1+	_____



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dx c4	_____
O-O-O	_____
Nf6#	_____
b1=N	_____
O-O+	_____
axb8=R+	_____

Now keep practicing!

If this is your first introduction to notation, keep practicing! A few paragraphs won't make you an expert all at once, but don't think you need to join a tournament to start notating. Try writing down your casual games, or find a game someone else is playing and notate that. Keep your score sheets around and try replaying old games you don't remember well—if you have trouble reconstructing the game from your notes, that will help show areas to improve. Coach Nate recommends notating a grandmaster game that a friend or coach is showing you, then look to see if your notation matches the game! All of these are good ways to get practice writing down chess games, and as you do it more and more, hopefully you start to see the beauty in scorekeeping!

Once you start looking at your games, you'll be ready to start analyzing them! In the last newsletter IM John Donaldson recommended the book *How to Analyze Your Games*, and NM Daniel Cremisi has been leading our Game Analysis class on Thursday nights. For more casual opportunities to share your analysis, the Monday Chess Cafe and the Sunday Women and Girls class are good opportunities to talk with other chess players about your analysis.

Annotated Games from the TNM

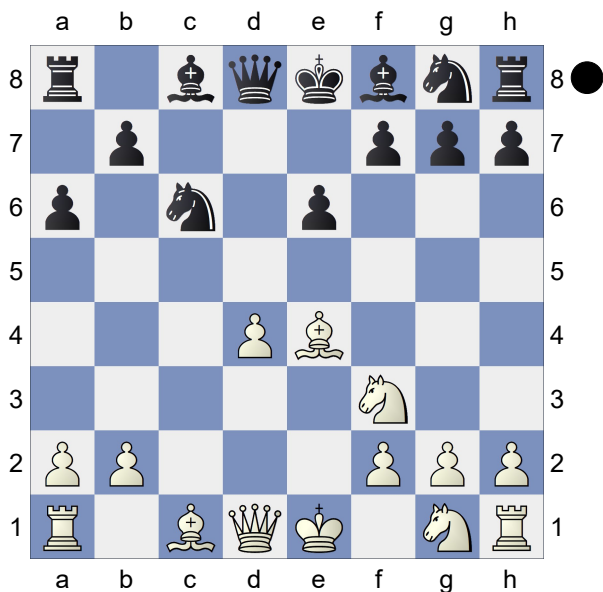
IM Elliott Winslow

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

□ **Paragiri,Reyansh** **C03**
■ **Cremisi,Daniel** **1981**
2390
 2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 04.03.25
[Winslow,Elliott]

Cremisi started out with a startling
 defense in Round 1! **1.e4 3 e6 2 2.d4**
34 d5 2 3.Nd2 47 a6 5 4.c3 59
 [4.Ngf3]

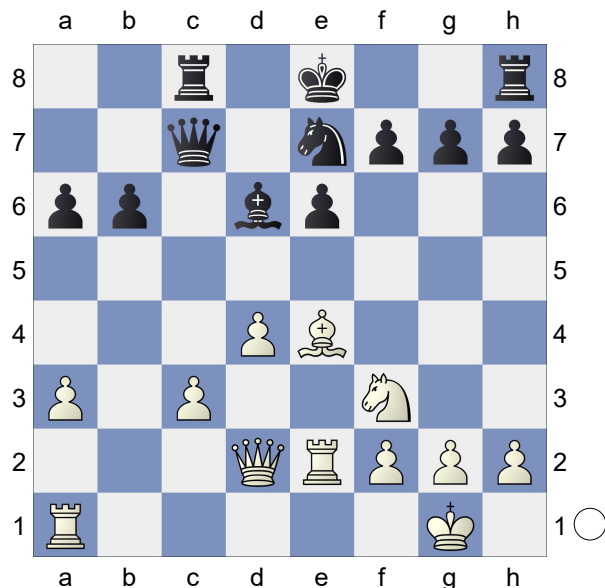
4...c5 1:49 5.Bd3 3:07 Nc6 1:47
 [Relevant: 5...cxd4 6.cxd4 Nc6
 7.Ngf3 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Bb4+ 9.Kf1
 Be7 10.a3 Nf6 11.h4 b5 12.Be3
 Bb7 13.Rc1 Na5 14.Nc5 Bd5
 15.Ne5 0-0 16.Rh3 Nc4 17.Bxc4
 bxc4 18.Qe2 a5 19.Nxc4 Bxc4
 20.Qxc4 Nd5 21.h5 Bg5 22.Kg1
 Bxe3 23.fxe3 Rb8 24.b3 h6 25.Rf1
 Qg5 26.Qe2 Rfc8 27.Qf2 Nf6
 28.Rg3 Qf5 29.Qe1 Rxc5 30.Rxf5
 Rxf5 31.e4 Rxh5 32.Qe2 Rhb5
 33.e5 Nd5 34.Qg4 g6 35.Qh4
 Sek,K (2373)-Maksimovic,B (2505)
 Chess.com INT 2025 0-1 (71)]
6.Ndf3 2:25 cxd4 3:14 7.cxd4 40 dxe4
1:36 8.Bxe4 31



Nf6N 2:25

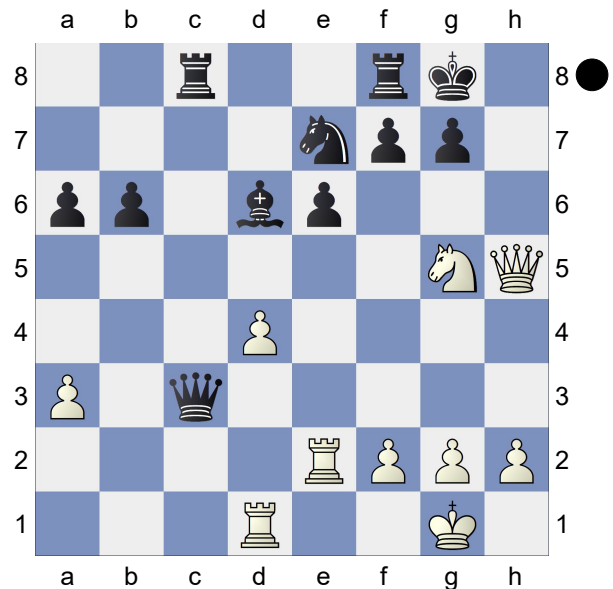
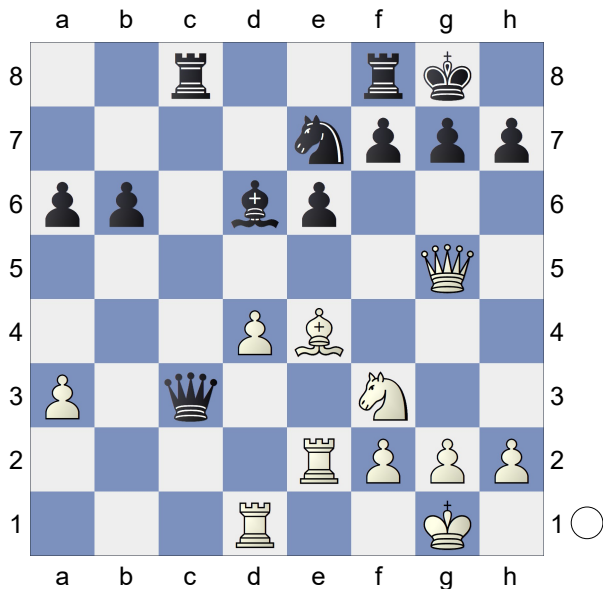
[Predecessor: 8...Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Qa5
 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Ne2 Bxd2+

12.Nxd2 Ne7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Nb3
 Qb6 15.Nf4 Rd8 16.Qc2 Bd7
 17.Rfe1 Nf5 18.Qc5 Qxc5 19.dxc5
 Rab8 20.f3 Rb5 21.Rad1 a5 22.Re4
 Kf8 23.Ne2 Ke7 24.g4 Nh4 25.Kf2
 Ra8 26.Ra4 e5 27.Rd2 Be6
 28.Nec1 Bd5 29.f4 Ng6 30.Re2 f6
 31.fxe5 Nxe5 32.Nd3 Bxb3 33.axb3
 Rxb3 34.Nxe5 fxe5 35.Rxe5+ Kf6
 36.Rf5+ Kg6 37.Rd4 Rxb2+ 38.Kg3
 Roldan Marques,M (1921)-
 Manzanares Lopez,A (1736)
 Salobrena 2021 ½-½ (88)]
9.Bc2 2:30 Bb4+ 2:26 10.Bd2 1:34
Qb6 1:02 11.Bc3 2:44 Nd5 3:29
12.Ne2 2:17 Bd7 3:44 13.0-0 3:50 Rc8
1:05 14.Qd3 6:16 Bd6 8:43 15.a3 4:57
Nce7 2:18 16.Rfe1 9:13 Bb5 3:43
17.Qd2 5:13 Bxe2 6:24 18.Rxe2 1:44
Nxc3 5:18 19.bxc3 22 Qc7 2:59
20.Be4 5:37 b6 3:37



21.Qg5!? 6:34 Qxc3 5:54 22.Rd1? 2:31
 [22.Rae1!± g6 (22...0-0?!
 and now the game continuation
 works!) 23.Qh6 Qxa3 24.d5!?± e5
 25.Qg7 Rf8 26.Ng5 f5 27.Bc2
 h5!?±]
22...0-0! 9:00

(Diagram)



Cremisi probably saw White's continuation and that he had an especially nice defense! **23.Bxh7+?** 2:41 If only it worked! But after a bit of tactics it's just that much worse for White. Perhaps <3 minutes was too cavalier a calculation (White still had well over half an hour on the clock).

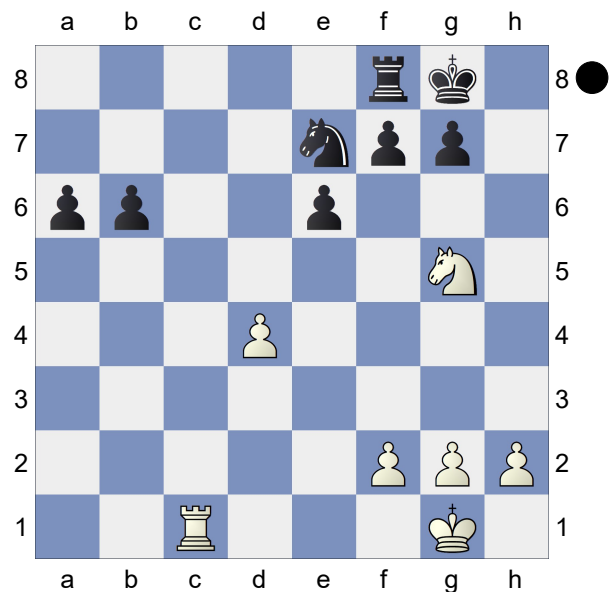
[Thankless defense is offered after 23.Re3! when 23...h6! 24.Rxc3 (best try) hxg5 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Bb7 Rc3 27.Bxa6 Rxa3 28.Bf1 Bf4+ is just a pawn more. The opposite colored bishops shouldn't matter.]

23...Kxh7 21 **24.Qh5+** 2 **25.Kg8** 25 **25.Ng5** 5

(Diagram)

Qd3! 1:32 White's back rank... Cremisi played this rather quickly, so (1) he'd already worked it out (2) there was no choice. **26.Re4!** 6 **Qxd1+!** 1:30 **27.Qxd1** 6 **Bxa3** 45 **28.Re1** 39 The best attempt, but this pawn-down ending is worse than he could have gotten earlier. **28...Rc1** 57 **29.Qxc1** 1:07 **Bxc1** 4 **30.Rxc1** 6

(Diagram)



Two connected passed pawns vs. White's well-blockaded IQP? Technical win. But of course there are a few little tactics... **30...a5** 1:04 4th best on the computer, but who's counting -- still routinely won. **31.Ne4** 20

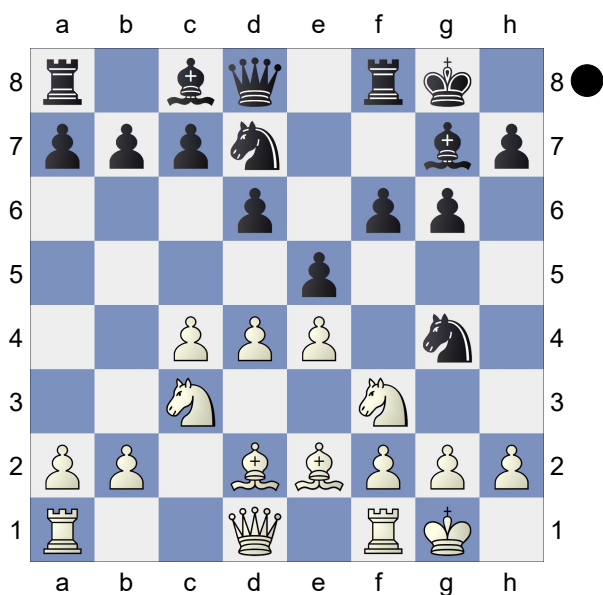
[31.Rc7 Rc8]

31...Ra8 1:10 **32.Kf1** 21 **Nf5** 37 **33.Rb1** 1:06 **a4!** 2:24 **34.Nc3** 21 **a3** 2:23 **35.Na2** 53 **Ra6!** 2:48 **36.Rb4** 1:15 **Ne7** 14 **37.Rc4** 1:43 **b5** 36 **38.Rb4** 11 **Ra5!** 16 In themselves Black's rook moves might look misdemeanorial (what happened to "active rooks"?), but for the detail that they are just winning as soon

as the knight joins in. 39.Ke2 14 Nc6 16
 40.Rb1 13 Nxd4+ 25 41.Kd3 5 Nc6
 1:06 42.Rc1 52 Ra6 2:00 43.Rb1 52
 b4 55 44.Kc4 12 Ra8! 1:15 45.Rd1
 1:34 Rb8 27 46.Rb1 40
 [46.Kc5 b3!]
 46...b3 15 47.Ra1 56 bxa2 8 48.Rxa2
 3 Rb2 10 49.Ra1 11
 0-1

□ Heiserman, Jimmy E94 2303
 ■ Gaffagan, Steven 1967
 2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 04.03.25
 [Winslow, Elliott]

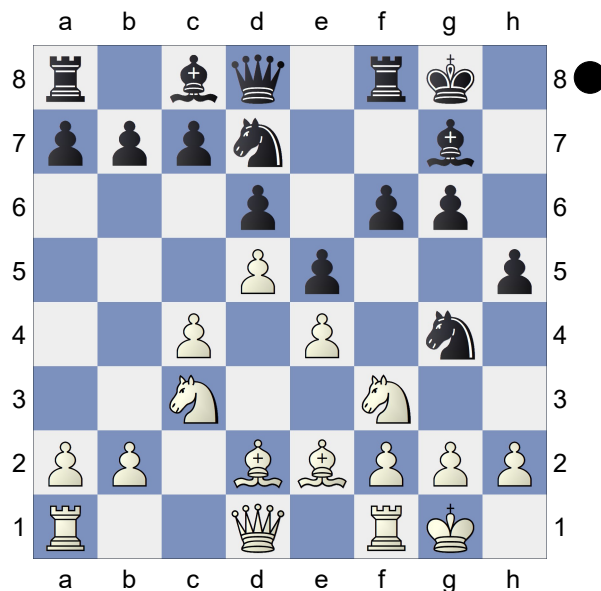
1.d4 2 Nf6 8:02 2.c4 11 g6 38 3.Nc3 8
 Bg7 5 4.e4 8 d6 3 5.Nf3 23 0-0 8
 6.Be2 15 Nbd7 17 7.0-0 21 e5 4 8.Be3
 40 Ng4 33
 [8...c6]
 [8...Qe7!? 9.Qc2 c6 10.d5
 (10.Rad1)]
 9.Bg5 15 f6 6 10.Bd2 3:57
 [10.Bh4]
 [10.Bc1]



10...h5 1:39
 [Relevant: 10...Re8 11.Qc2 c6

12.Rad1 Qe7 13.h3 Nh6 14.Rfe1
 Nf7 15.b4 exd4 16.Nxd4 f5 17.Nf3
 Nde5 18.Bc1 f4 19.Bxf4 Nxf3+
 20.Bxf3 Qf6 21.Ne2 Bxh3 22.Rd3
 Be6 23.Bxd6 Nxd6 24.Rxd6 Bf8
 25.Rd3 Bxb4 26.Rb1 Bc5 27.Rxb7
 Rab8 28.Rdb3 Rbd8 29.Rd3 Rxd3
 30.Qxd3 Rd8 31.Qc2 Qa1+ 32.Rb1
 Qe5 33.g3 Rf8 34.Nf4 Bc8 35.Nd3
 Qxg3+ 36.Bg2 Bd4 37.c5 Bh3
 38.Qc4+ Rf7 39.Rb8+ Qxb8
 40.Bxh3 0-1 Bluebaum, M (2647)-
 Nakamura, H (2736) Titled Tuesday
 intern op 30th Nov Chess.com INT
 blitz 2021 (9)]
 [10...Nh6]

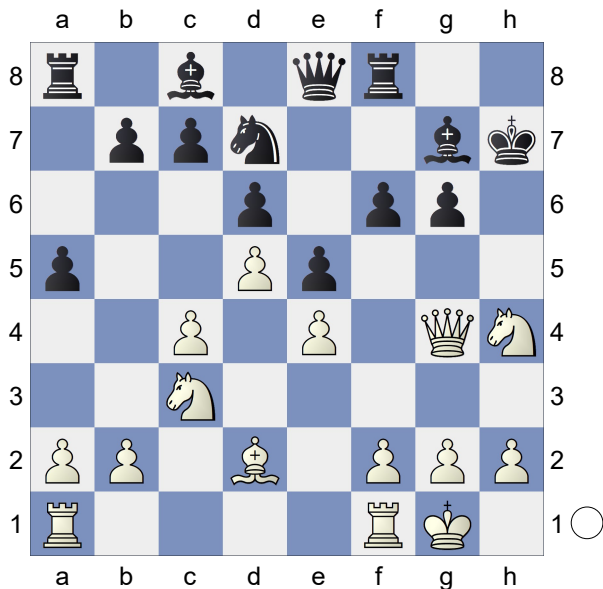
11.d5 3:19



a5N 3:14

[11...Kh7±]
 [11...Nh6±]
 [Predecessor: 11...Nc5 12.b4 Nd7
 13.Nh4 Kf7 14.Bxg4 hxd4 15.Qxg4
 Rg8 2 0-1 Ambrzykowski, L-Atasoy, M
 W-ch WS/O/1118 email ICCF email
 2018 "time forfeit" ??? Misreport???
 White dropped out?? (it happens) --
 White has mate in two!]

12.Nh4!+- 5:38 Kh7 8:35 13.Bxg4 5:08
 hxd4 45 14.Qxg4 23 Qe8 50
 (Diagram)



15.Nb5?! 5:18

[15.Qh3!

A) 15...Kg8

A1) 16.Qg3 g5 (16...Kh7
17.Nb5+-) 17.Nf5 Qh5 18.f3+-;

A2) 16.Qe6+ Qxe6 17.dxe6
Nc5 18.Nxg6 Re8 19.Nd5 Nxe6
20.f4+-;

B) 15...Rh8]

15...Nc5! 2:17 16.Qe2 25

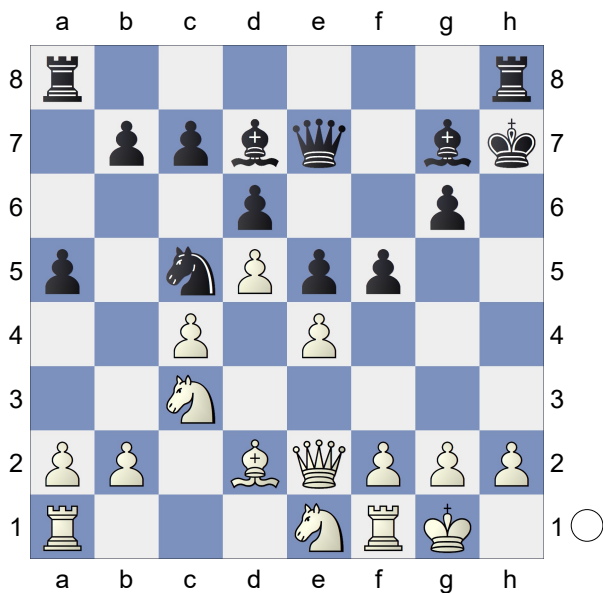
[⬜16.Qf3]

16...Qe7 1:09

[⬜16...Qd8]

17.Nf3 3:06 Rh8 11:23 18.Nc3 18:44

Bd7 6:36 19.Ne1 1:53 f5 11:54



20.exf5 4:25 Bxf5 7:01 21.g4 4:13 Bd7

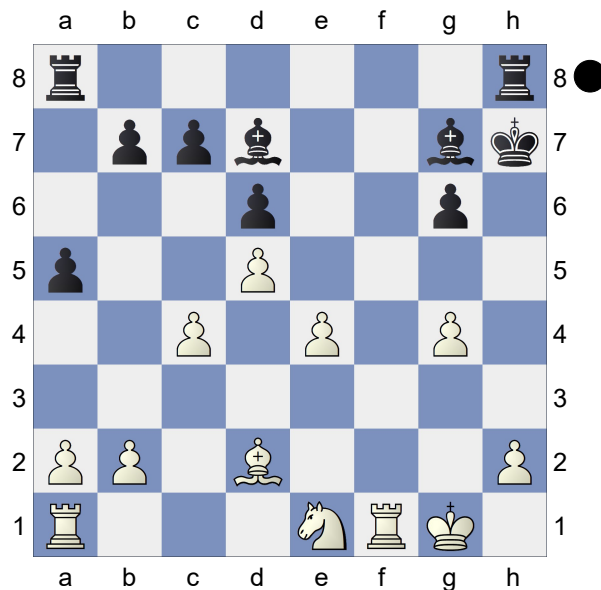
3:01 22.f3 1:58 e4 11:27 23.Nxe4 1:54

[23.Ng2!? Rae8 24.Rae1 Bd4+

25.Kh1 Kg8!± 26.Nxe4 Nxe4 27.fxe4
Be5 28.Bf4 g5 29.Bxe5 Qxe5 30.h4
Rh7! 31.Qf3 (31.h5 Qg3!±)]

23...Nxe4 14 24.Qxe4 10 Qxe4 2:41

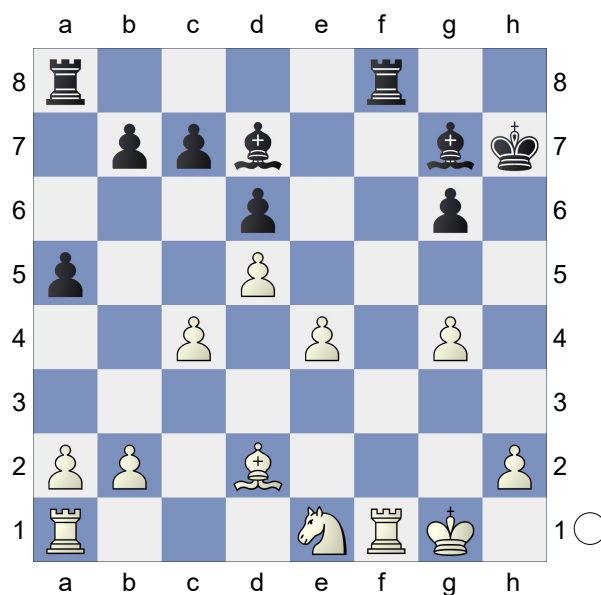
25.fxe4 4



Rhf8? 4:13

[25...Bxg4= 26.Rf7 Kg8! 27.Rxg7+!

(27.Rf4 Bxb2; 27.Rxc7?? Bd4+
28.Kg2 Rf8+-)]



26.Nd3?! 4:55

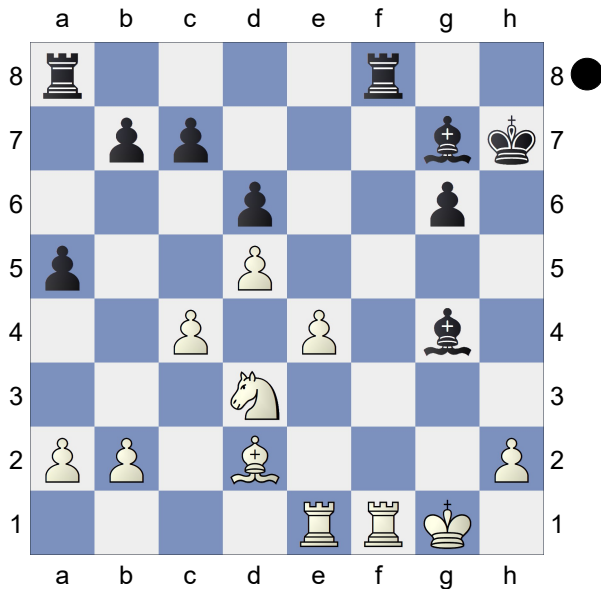
[26.h3! Bxb2 27.Rb1 Bd4+ 28.Kg2

Rxf1 29.Kxf1 Rf8+ 30.Ke2!±]
 [26.Nf3!? Bxg4 27.Ng5+ Kg8
 28.Bc3 Bh6! 29.h4 Be2 30.Rxf8+
 Rxf8 31.b3± a4 (31...Rf4)]

26...Bxg4 1:49

[26...Bd4+! 27.Kg2 Bxg4= 28.Nf4
 Rae8 29.Ne6 Bxe6 30.Rxf8 Rxf8
 31.dxe6 Kg7!=]

27.Rae1 9:06



Bd4+? 5:33

[27...Rxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Rf8+ 29.Kg2
 a4!±]

28.Be3! 5:29

[28.Kg2? Rxf1 29.Kxf1 (29.Rxf1??
 Be2) 29...Bh3+ (29...Rf8+ 30.Kg2
 Rf3 31.Nf4! Rf2+ 32.Kg3 Bh5±)
 30.Ke2 Bg4+]

28...Rxf1+ 53

[28...Bg7]

29.Kxf1 7 Rf8+ 1:41

[⚡29...Bf6]

**30.Kg2 3:26 Bg7 4:07 31.Bf4 37 b6?!
 3:38**

[31...Bd4 32.c5 Bh5 33.cxd6 cxd6
 34.Bxd6? (34.h4!±) 34...Rf3! 35.Ne5
 Rf4!±]

32.h3 2:33 Bd7 18 33.b3 49 Bd4 44

34.Kg3 54 Kg7 44 35.e5?! 3:28

[35.h4!±]

35...g5 10 36.Bxg5 1:16 dxe5 16

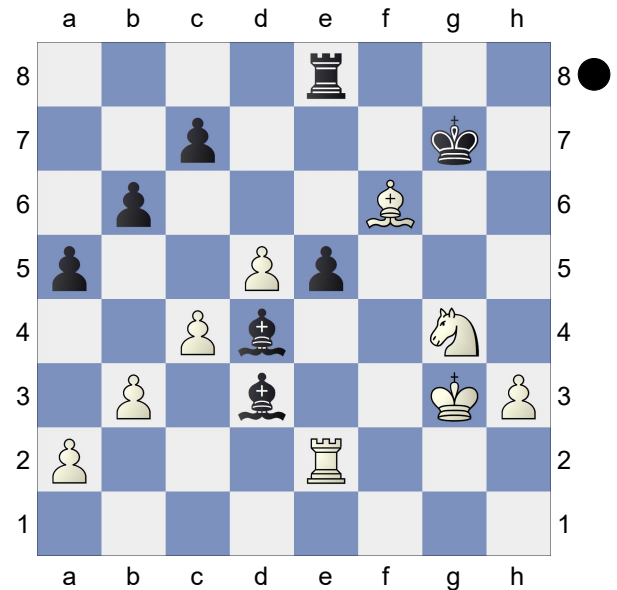
37.Re2 1:19 Re8 55 38.Nf2 1:33 Bf5

42 39.Ng4 1:34 Bd3 12

[39...Kg6 40.Be3 Bc3±]

40.Bf6+? 2:11

[40.Rg2! Bf1 41.Rd2±]



40...Kh7? 58

[40...Kg6= 41.Nxe5+ Kxf6 42.Ng4+
 Kf7]

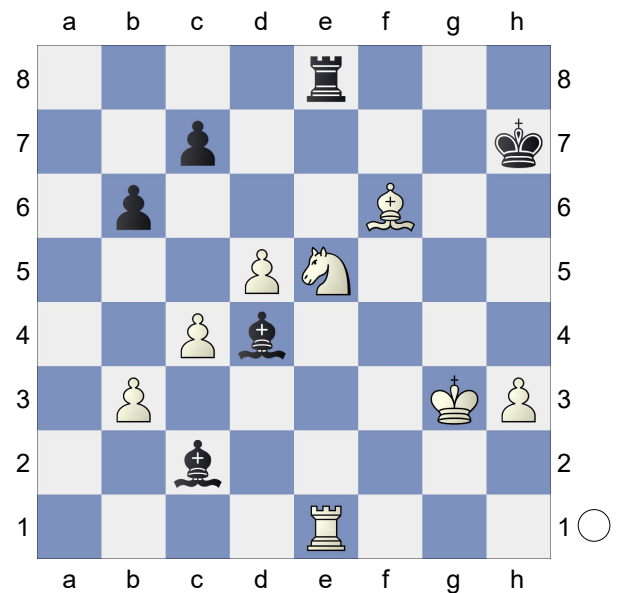
41.Re1!+- 2:16 a4 37

[41...Bf5 42.Nxe5 Bc3 43.Re2 Rf8
 44.Be7 Re8 45.Nc6 Bd7 46.Kf2]

42.Nxe5 19

[⚡42.Bxe5]

42...axb3 25 43.axb3 10 Bc2 19



44.b4? 20

[44.Nf3!]

44...Ra8? 30

[44...Rf8!± 45.Nd7!? Rxf6 46.Nxf6+ Bxf6 47.Kf4 Kg6 48.Re6 Ba4 49.b5 Kf7 50.Rc6 Bd8 51.h4 Bd1! 52.c5 bxc5 53.d6 cxd6 54.b6 Bxb6 55.Rxb6=]

45.Ng4+- 28 Ra3+ 13 46.Kf4 1:01 Bxf6

46 47.Nxf6+ 4 Kg6 12 48.Re6 15 Bf5

59 49.Rc6 13 Bxh3 11 50.Ne4+ 28

Kh5 51 51.Ng3+ 26

1-0

□ Walder, Michael

■ Dzhanhirov, Dmytro

2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 04.03.25

[Tactical Analysis 7.0]

Everything might have been different if Walder had cashed in his significant advantage in Round 1 against

Dzhanhirov! 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5

4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 Bb5

7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.b4!± Bxe2?!

[8...Bxf2+! doesn't lose the piece after all! But White is still somewhat better:

9.Kf1 Bc6! (9...Bd7? 10.c4!) 10.a4!

(10.c4? dxc4) 10...a6 11.Na3

White is better but it's uncomfortable.]

9.Qxe2± This could be considered as

"comfortable but bad." 9...Bf8 10.a4

White is better.

[⊞10.0-0]

10...Ne7 11.0-0 Nd7?! 0.96/27

[11...a6± 0.58/31]

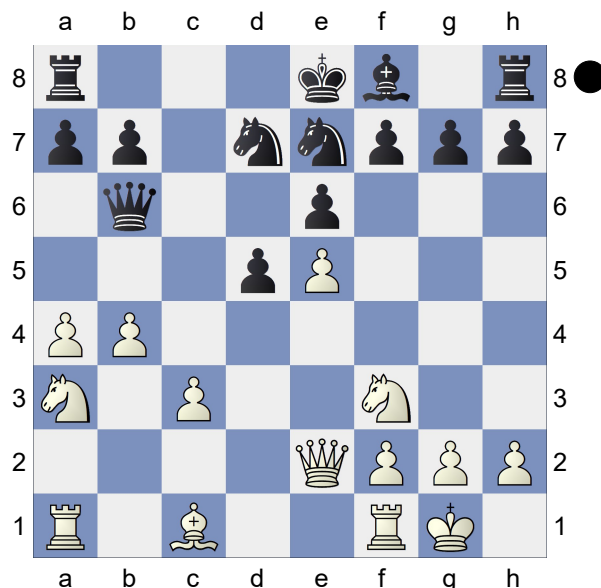
12.Na3 87

(Diagram)

12...Ng6?!N 1.71/28

[Predecessor: 12...a6 13.Bd2?!]

(13.Rd1±) 13...Nc6 14.Rfe1 Be7



15.Nc2 0-0 16.h4 Rae8 17.a5 Qd8

18.c4 Bxh4 ½-½ Gueci, T (2228)-

Coles, R (2084) Biel HTO 57th 2024

(4)]

[12...Nc6± 0.78/32 is as good as it gets.]

13.Be3 0.74/32

[13.h4+- 1.71/28]

13...Qd8±

[13...Qc6 14.Nd4 Qb6 (14...Qxa4?

15.Nab5+-) 15.f4]

14.Bd4 Be7 15.g3 0-0 16.h4↑

Black is under strong pressure. 16...Re8

17.h5 Ngf8 18.Nc2 0.40/32 70

[18.h6± 0.76/26]

18...f5? 1.67/25

[18...f6± 0.40/32]

19.Kg2 1.18/31

[White should try 19.a5+- 1.67/25

Nb8 20.Be3]

19...h6 1.58/32

[⊞19...a5 1.18/31]

20.Ne3 Nh7 2.26/27

[20...Qc7± 1.38/33]

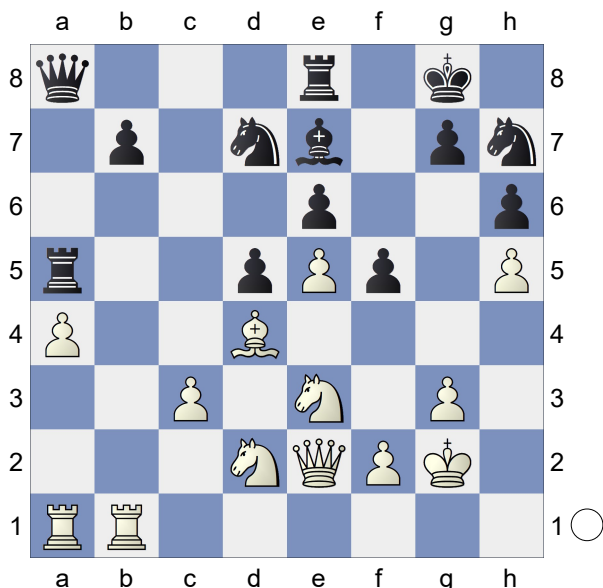
21.Nd2 a5 22.bxa5 0.89/32

[⊞22.Rfb1! 1.48/24]

22...Rxa5 23.Rfb1 Qa8 1.20/30

[Black should try 23...Nc5± 0.61/31]

(Diagram)



24.c4 -0.12/30

[24.Nb3!± 1.20/30 Ra6 (24...Rxa4 25.Qb5±) 25.Qb5]

24...dxc4= 25.Qf3? -1.85/28

[25.Nf3= -0.12/39]

25...Rb8 -1.29/32

[25...Bc5-+ -1.85/28 26.Bxc5 Nxc5 (26...Nxe5 27.Qxb7 Rxc5 28.Qxa8=) 27.Ndxc4 Ng5 (27...Rxa4 28.Nb6=)]

26.Bc3 -2.93/27

[26.Nexc4? Ng5 (26...Rxa4 27.Rxa4 Qxa4 28.Rxb7=) 27.Rb5 Nxf3-+]

[26.Kh2♣ -1.29/32 keeps fighting.]

26...Ng5-+

[26...Nxe5 27.Qe2 (27.Bxe5 Rxe5 28.Ndxc4 Ng5♣) 27...b5+ 28.f3♣]

27.Qd1 -3.99/28

[♠27.Qe2 -2.78/31 b5+ (27...Rxa4 28.Rxa4 Qxa4 29.Qxc4♣) 28.f3]

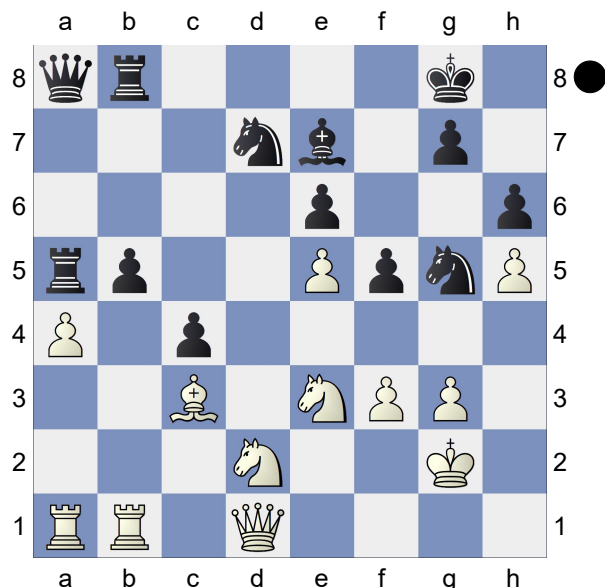
27...b5+ 28.f3

(Diagram)

Rxa4 -0.15/37

[28...b4!-+ -4.54/29 29.Nexc4 bxc3 30.Rxb8+ Nxb8 31.Nxa5 cxd2 (31...Qxa5? 32.Nc4-+)]

29.Ndxc4? -5.71/29 Rxa1 Black is



clearly winning. 30.Rxa1 Qc6 31.Ra7 bxc4 32.Rxd7 Bc5 33.Kf2 Bxe3+ 34.Kxe3 Rb3 35.Rd8+ Kh7 0-1

□ **Cawthon,Jeremy David**

B22

■ **Boyer,John**

1970

1598

2025 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (1.10)
[Winslow,Elliott]

Bumpy start for Jeremy. Or more accurately, a smooth rise to a winning position and then -- a horrible blunder leaving him slightly worse -- but he won again anyway, with a well-played king hunt. 1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3 Qd8 is more profitable than 9...Qd6 at the moment. 10.Be3 0-0 B22: Sicilian: 2 c3. 11.Ne5

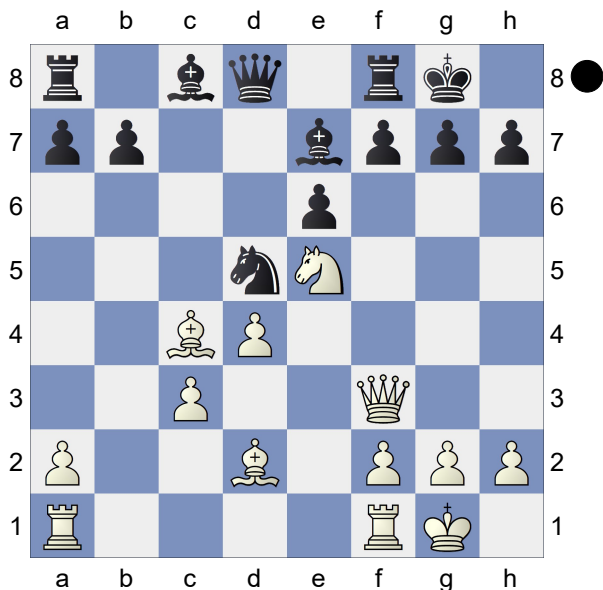
[Relevant: 11.a3 b6 12.Qe2 Bb7 13.Rac1 Rc8 14.Rfd1 Bd6 15.Bg5 Ne7 16.Ne5 Ng6 17.h4 Be7 18.h5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Nd5 20.Qe4 g6 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Qf4 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 f5 25.exf6 Qxf6 26.Qxf6 Rxf6 27.Rc8+ Kg7

½-½ (27) Martinez Alcantara,J
(2598)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2773)
Chess.com INT 2022]

11...Nb4 12.Bc4 Nbd5 The position is
equal. **13.Qf3 Nxc3**

[13...b6= feels stronger.]

14.bxc3± Nd5 15.Bd2



b6N White is much more active. The
black rooks are passive.

[Previously played was 15...Bf6
16.Bd3 Bxe5 17.dxe5 Ne7 18.c4
Ng6 19.Rfe1 a5 20.Rab1 Rb8
21.Bc1 b6 22.c5 Bb7 23.Be4 Bxe4
24.Qxe4 bxc5 25.Be3 Qc7 26.Rbd1
Rfd8 27.f4 Ne7 28.Rxd8+ Rxd8
29.Rc1 Rd5 30.Qc4 Qc6 31.h3 h5
32.a4 Nf5 33.Bf2 Rd2 34.Qb5 Qe4
35.Qxc5 Qxf4 36.Re1 Qxa4
37.Qc8+ Kh7 38.Qb7 Qf4 39.Bc5
Rd5 40.Bf2 Rd2 41.Rf1 Kg6 42.Qb1
Re2 43.Qd3 Qe4 44.Qc3 Ne3
0-1 (44) Hrzic,I (2280)-Andrijevic,M
(2321) Belgrade 2013]

16.Nc6?! It was better to just build an
attack.

[16.Bd3±]

16...Qd6?!

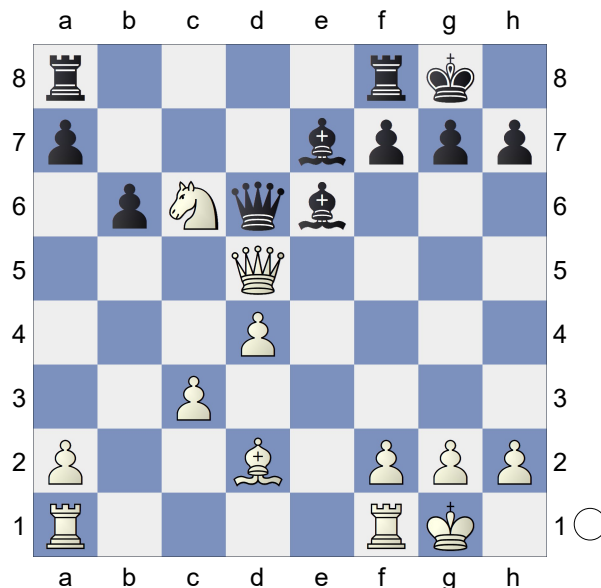
[Black had 16...Qc7!± since 17.Nxe7+
Nxe7! (17...Qxe7 18.Rfe1
with a clear advantage bordering on

won.) 18.Qxa8 Bb7 19.Qxa7 Ra8
20.Qxa8+ Bxa8 21.Be2± White has
the bishops to go with the material
advantage.]

17.Bxd5?

[White should play 17.Nxe7+± Qxe7
as above (17...Nxe7?? 18.Qxa8+-)]

17...exd5= 18.Qxd5 Be6



White's advantage is nominal at best.

19.Qf3 Bf6 Now the shoe on the other
foot: a strong pair of bishops can often
compensate for a pawn. **20.Bf4 Qd7**
21.Ne5 Qe7?

[21...Bxe5= and Black has nothing to
worry. (The newest Stockfish 17.1
makes it +0.12 -- not to worry at all.)
22.dxe5 (22.Bxe5 f6±) 22...Rac8]

22.d5!+- Bf5 23.Rfe1 Qc5

[23...Bxe5 24.Bxe5 Qd7 25.h3]

24.Rad1 Bc2

[24...Rae8 25.h3 b5]

25.Rd2 Ba4 26.Rd4 Bb5

[26...Bxe5 27.Rxe5 (27.Rxa4
b5±; 27.Bxe5 Bd7±) 27...Bd7]

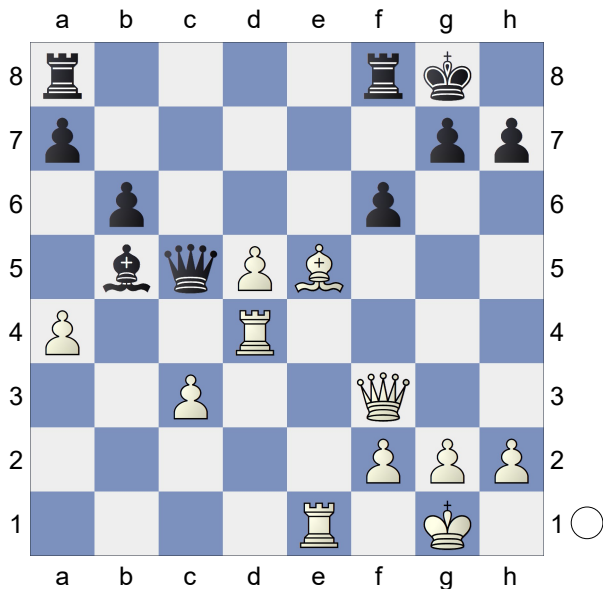
27.a4 Bxe5 28.Bxe5

[28.Rxe5?! Bd7 29.h3 f6]

28...f6

[28...Bd7 29.Qg3 f6]

(Diagram)



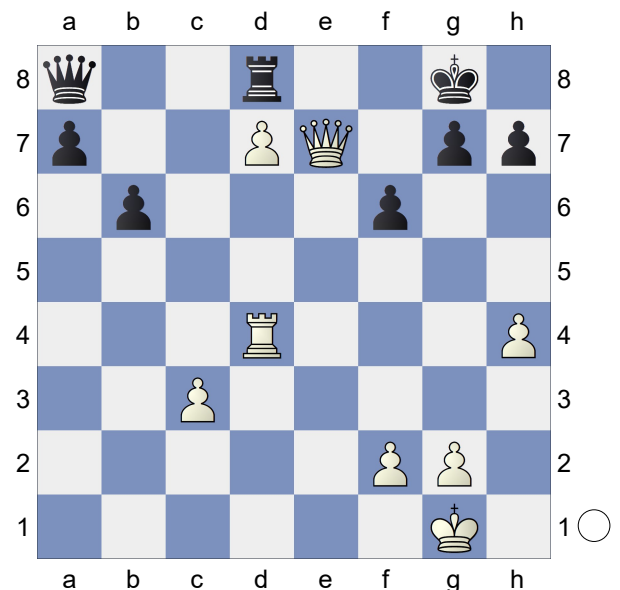
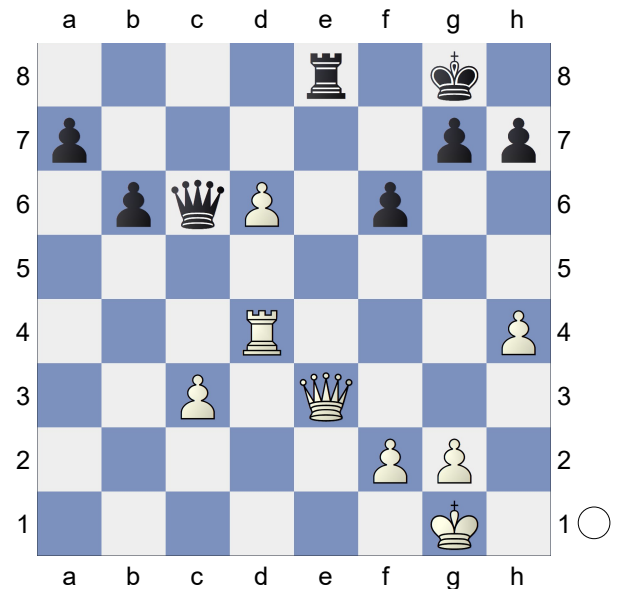
29.Bd6! Double Attack 29...Rfe8
 [29...Rae8 30.Rde4]
30.Re6
 [30.Bxc5? Rxe1#]
 [30.Rxe8+ Rxe8 31.Rd1 (31.Bxc5? Re1#) 31...Qxd6+-]
30...Qxd6
 [30...Rxe6 was necessary. 31.dxe6 (31.Bxc5? Re1#) 31...Bc6]
31.axb5! Rac8 32.Qe3
 [32.Rxd6? Re1#]
32...Qd7 33.h4
 [Less strong is 33.c4 Rxe6 34.dxe6 Qc7+-]
33...Qxb5
 [33...Qf7 34.g3 f5]
34.d6 Qc6 35.Rxe8+ Rxe8 Endgame

(Diagram)

KQR-KQR 36.d7! Rd8 37.Qe7 Qa8

(Diagram)

38.Re4??
 [38.Rg4 mates rather quickly: Rxd7 (38...g6 39.h5! Qd5 40.hxg6 Qd1+ 41.Kh2) 39.Rxg7+ Kh8 40.Rxh7+ Kg8 41.Qxd7 Qf8 42.Re7 (42.Qxa7 b5+-) 42...f5 43.h5 (43.Qxa7 Qf6

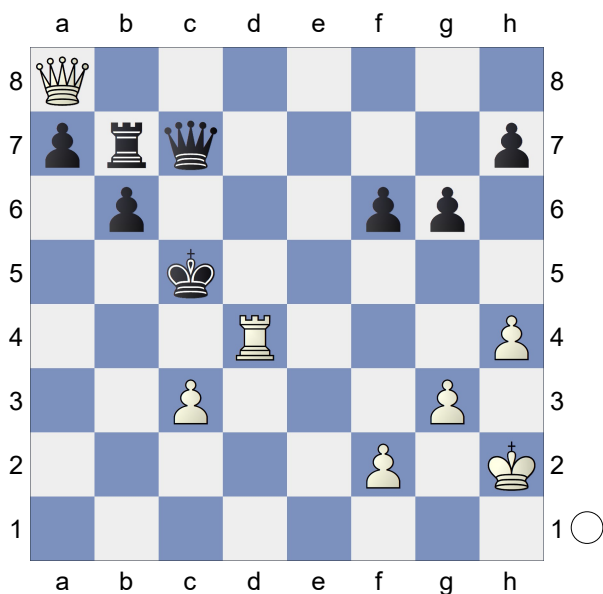


44.Re8+ Qf8 45.Rxf8+ Kxf8 46.h5 f4 47.h6 Ke8 48.h7 Kf8 49.h8Q#;
 43.Re8 Qxe8 44.Qxe8+ Kg7 45.Qe7+ Kh6 46.Qg5+ Kh7 47.h5 Kh8 48.h6 Kh7 49.Qg7#]

38...Rxd7! 39.Qe6+ Kf8 40.Rc4?! Qd8=

[40...Qe8!]
41.Kh2 Qe8 42.Qc6 Qe5+ 43.g3 Qd5
 [43...Re7]
44.Qc8+ Ke7= 45.Rg4 g6 46.Qh8 Qf7 47.Re4+ Kd6 48.Qb8+ Rc7 49.Ra4 Kc5 50.Qd8 Qd7 51.Qf8+ Qe7 52.Qa8 Rb7 53.Rd4 White has compensation. 53...Qc7?

[53...Rd7= (and others) would have kept the balance.]



54.Qe8!± White wants to mate with Qe6.

54...b5?+-

[54...Qf7 55.Qa4 Rc7± (55...a5?

56.Qa3+-) 56.Qa3+ Kc6 57.c4±

Black's king exposure is more significant than the pawn Black is up.]

55.Qe6

[55.Qe3! will win Black's queen. Kc6

56.Qe6+ Kc5 57.Rd5+ Kc4

58.Rd7+ (58.Rd6+! is mate (in 19) "instead")]

55...Qe5 Prevents Rd5+ 56.Qa6 Qc7

[56...Qe7 57.Rb4 Qc7]

57.Qxf6+-

[57.Qa3+!]

57...Qe7 58.Qa6 Rd7?! 59.Rb4! Qe2

60.Qc8+ Kb6 61.Qxd7 Qxf2+ 62.Kh3

Qf1+ 63.Kg4 Qe2+ 64.Kg5 Qe5+

65.Kh6 Magnificent play by Cawthon!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.26/
Black=0.72

1-0

□ **Cremisi, Daniel**

■ **Agrawal, Varun**

2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 11.03.25

[Winslow, Elliott]

D30

2388

1933

1.d4 Nf6 8 2.c4 5 e6 4 3.Nf3 23 d5 15

4.g3 12 Catalan!? 4...c5 3:41

And into the Tarrasch Defense. 5.cxd5

1:15 exd5 1:05 6.Bg2 54 Nc6 1:32

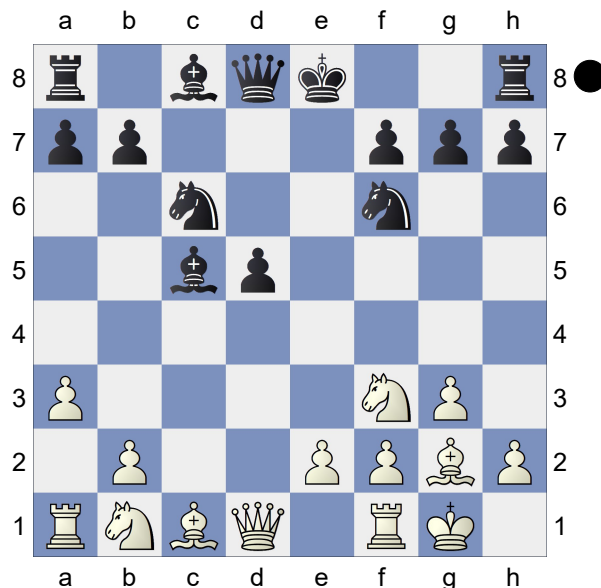
7.0-0 35 Be7 19

[7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 isn't quite what Dubov -- and others -- have been playing with success the last couple years. Max Hao almost pulled it off against me a couple years ago, but played an expensive slow move or two.]

8.dxc5 38

[8.Nc3 0-0 Old Main Line]

8...Bxc5 43 9.a3 22



a5?! 1:58

[Relevant: 9...Ne4! 10.Nfd2 (10.b4

Be7 11.Bb2 Bf6) 10...f5 11.b4 Be7

12.Bb2 Bf6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Nb3

0-0 15.e3 Be6 16.N1d2 Ne5 17.Nf3

Nc4 18.Qd4 Qe7 19.Rfc1 Bf7 20.h4

a6 21.Ne1 Rad8 0-1 (44) Tabatabaei,

M (2685)-Nakamura, H (2780) FIDE

Grand Swiss Douglas 2023 (4)]

10.Qc2 2:32 Be7 55

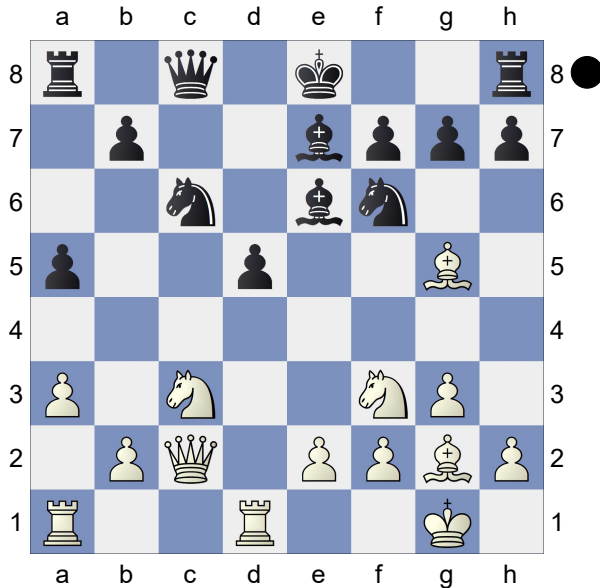
[10...Bb6!±]

11.Rd1± 1:43 Be6 2:22 12.Nc3 4:04

Qc8 4:24

[12...0-0±]

13.Bg5+- 4:02



Black is losing a pawn for nothing...

13...0-0 5:23 14.Bxf6 1:04 Bxf6 6

15.Nxd5 1:01 Bxd5 19 16.Rxd5 6 Qe6 4:01

[16...Rd8 17.Rad1 Qe6 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.Rxd8+ Nxd8 20.Ne1 Qb6 21.Nd3 g6 22.Qc8 Qe6 23.Qxe6 fxe6 24.Kf1 Kf7 25.Ke1 Ke7 26.Kd2 Kd6 27.Kc2 b6 28.Kb3 Nf7 29.f4 g5 30.Be4 h6 31.Bg6 Nd8 32.Ne5 Bxe5 33.fxe5+ Kxe5 34.Kc4 Kd6 35.Be8 e5 36.b4 axb4 37.axb4 Ne6 38.e3 Ng7 39.Bg6 Ne6 40.Be4 Nc7 ½-½ Gyerpal,A (2193)-Sevcikova, L (2036) Piestany Slovakia op-A 2022 (8)]

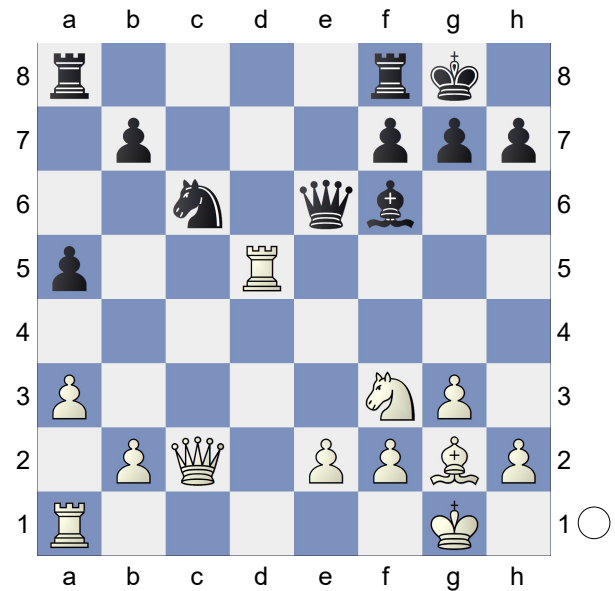
(Diagram)

17.Rad1N 1:29 Not trying too hard.

There are more incisive moves:

[17.Rb5 Rac8 18.Qb3

trading queens but keeping rooks on,



securing b2, picking on b7]

[17.Ng5!? is probably the best technique: Black has to trade his

bishop, so no opposite colored bishops stories. But it looks like

there's a problem at first: Bxg5

18.Rxg5 Nd4 wins back the pawn,

but... 19.Qd1 Nxe2+ 20.Kf1+-

The knight is on a ridiculous square!

Rae8 (20...Rfe8 21.Rd5! Qa6

22.Qd3) 21.Rd5 Re7 22.Qd2

Still, engine evaluation or not, this is

pretty far into the future with no

decision. Cremisi's choice might

permit a lot of rooks coming off, but

White is still up a clear pawn.]

[And there was even a previous game

from here! At least Cremisi did better

than in that one: 17.Rc5 Nd4

18.Nxd4 Bxd4 19.Rb5 Rac8 20.Qd2

Rfd8 21.e3 Bc3 22.Qe2 Rd2

23.Qh5 Rxb2 24.Rxb2 Bxb2 25.Bh3

Qb6 26.Bxc8 Bxa1 27.Qd5 g6

28.Bxb7 Bb2 29.a4 Bc3 30.Bc6

Qc7 31.Bb5 Qe5 32.Qd7 Bb4

33.Bc4 Qe7 34.Qd5 Kg7 35.Kg2

Bc3 36.g4 h6 37.h3 Bb4 38.Bb3

Qf6 39.h4 g5 40.h5 Bc3 41.Qd7

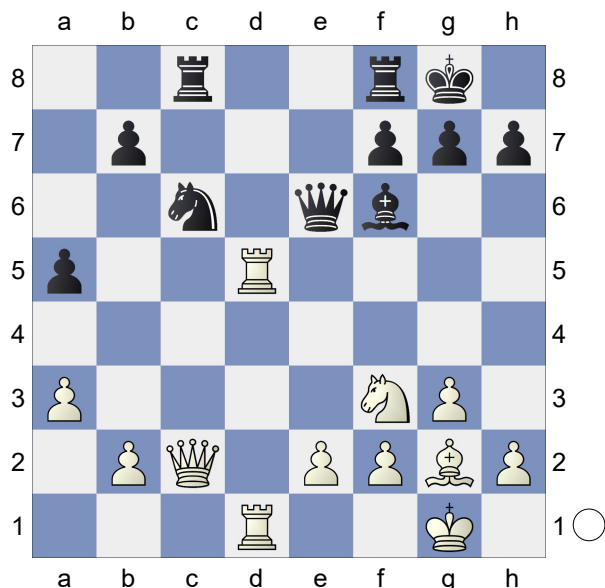
Bb4 42.Kf1 Bc3 43.Qe8 Bb4

44.Qd7 Qe7 45.Qd5 Bc3 46.Bc4

Qc7 47.Bb3 Bb2 48.Ke2 Bc3
 49.Kd3 Be5 50.Ke4 Bc3 51.Bc4 Bf6
 52.Kf3 Bc3 53.Kg2 Be5 54.e4 Bf6
 55.Bb3 Be5 56.Bc4 Bf6 57.Bb3 Be5
 58.Bc4 Bf6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Kantor,G (2514)-
 Horvath,D (2377) HUN-chT 1718
 Hungary 2017 (6.8)]

17...Rac8?! 1:28

[17...Rfd8!? 18.e4!? h5 19.h4 g6
 20.Qb3 Qe7 21.Qb5! is just over into
 winning land.]



18.Rh5? 3:55

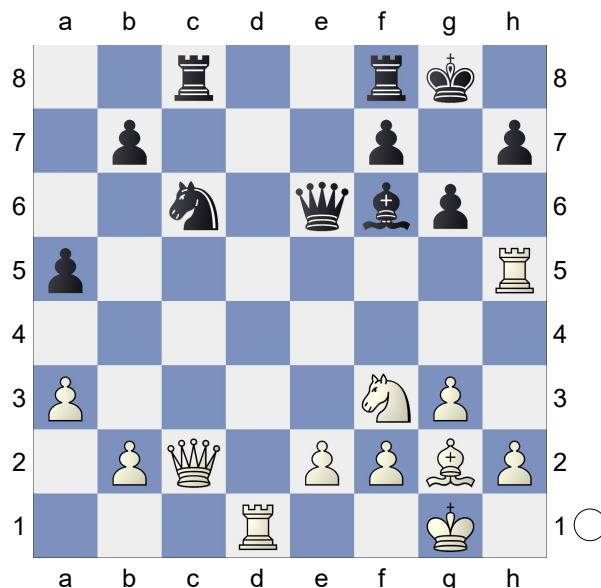
[18.Ng5! Definitely the best. Like
 before, White forces the minor but
 significant win of bishop for knight
 Bxg5 19.Rxg5 and now 19...Nd4?
 fails pretty easily: 20.Qe4! Nxe2+
 21.Kf1 Qh6 22.Rxa5 At least the
 knight has a safe square -- c1!]

18...g6!± 52

(Diagram)

19.Bh3!? 1:11

[19.Rc5 goes for a maybe not
 winnable 4 vs. 3 with knight vs. bishop
 (and a few majors): b6 20.Bh3! Qxh3
 21.Rxc6 Rxc6 22.Qxc6 Bxb2
 23.Qxb6 Bxa3 24.Qxa5±]



**19...Nd4!± 37:23 20.Nxd4 3:16 Rxc2 21
 21.Bxe6 1:35**

[21.Nxe6 is typical computer --
 "better" but those opposite colored
 bishops are still there. gxh5 22.Nxf8
 Kxf8 23.Kf1±]

21...Bxd4! 1:33 22.Rxa5 4:31

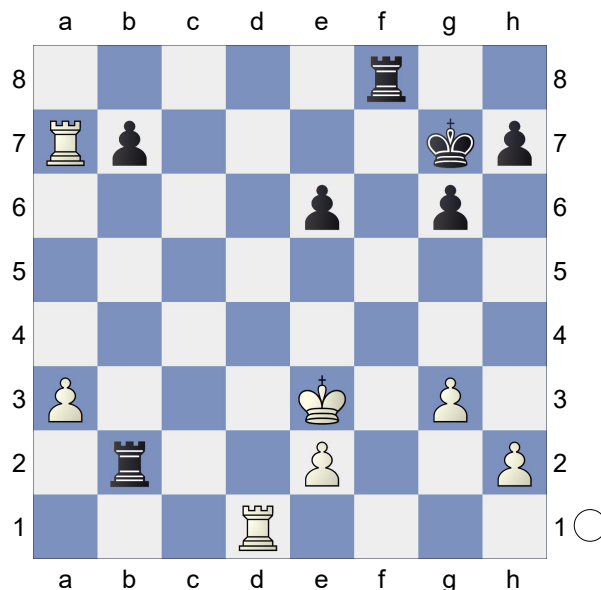
[22.Rb5= is marginally better says
 Stockfish 17 (0.18/24) Bxb2 23.Bb3
 Rxe2 24.Rxb7 Bxa3 25.Rdd7 Kg7]

22...Bxf2+ 7:09

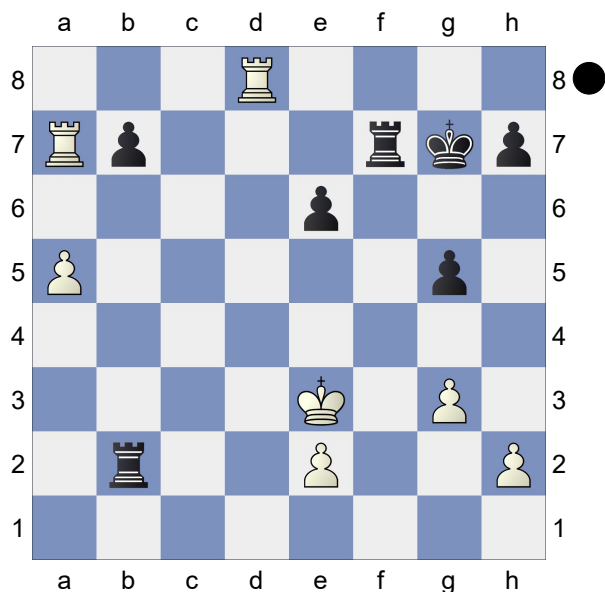
[22...Rxe2 achieves "0.00" a few
 ways.]

23.Kxf2 7 fxe6+ 2 24.Ke3 45 Rxb2 5

25.Ra7 2:33 Kg7 2:32

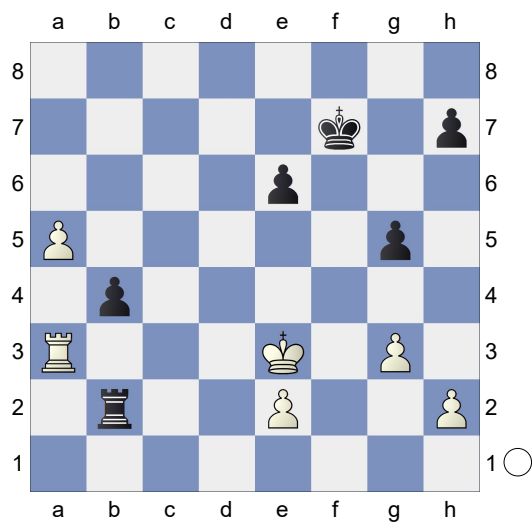


Totally drawn, but you still have to play it. Unfortunately for Agrawal, he still is showing the phenomenon we saw in his play last TNM, namely played quite well in the complications, but sank like a rock in the endgame. **26.a4 3:09 Rf7 7 27.a5 59 g5 5:41 28.Rd8 9:32**



b5??+- 5:23 Well he didn't waste too much time screwing it up! **29.Rxf7+ 4:21 Kxf7 2 30.Ra8?? 2:46** But he's not alone!

[Too bad Cremisi didn't see the nice 30.Rd2 Rb3+ 31.Rd3 Rb2 32.Ra3 b4



33.a6!!] 30...Rb4?! 18

[One learns early on that "rooks

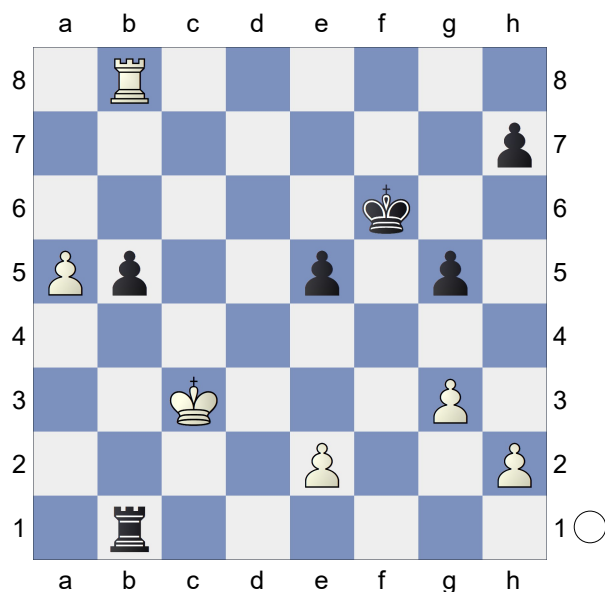
belong behind passed pawns"...

30...Ra2 31.a6!? (31.Kd4 Rxe2 32.a6 Ra2 33.Kc5 b4! 34.Kxb4 e5=) 31...Ra4 32.a7 (threatening Rh8) Kg7! (only move) and that the king needs to (and can) avoid the skewer threat.]

31.Rb8 4:02 Kf6 6:25 32.Kd3 1:35 e5? 2:51

[32...Rb2!± isn't so easy to find.]

33.Kc3+- 5:38 Rb1 7



34.e4! 1:50 The king watches the b-pawn, the rook keeps the a-pawn on the board, there's no counterplay: it's slipped into a win. **34...Rc1+ 4:36**

35.Kb4 27 Rb1+ 51 36.Kc5 29 Rc1+ 6

37.Kb6 51 Different writers call this different things; I like the "umbrella" (Black's b-pawn shields White's king)

37...b4 50 38.Ka6?! 2:20

[38.a6 b3 39.Ka7 is that much faster.]

38...Rc4 31 39.Rb6+ 24 Kf7 21 40.Kb7 56 Rxe4 29 41.a6 13 Rd4 1:28 42.a7 38 Rd8 1:58 43.a8Q 47 Rxa8 4

44.Kxa8 5 With the Black king cut off there is absolutely no chance now.

44...b3 16 45.Kb7! 29 e4 18 46.Rxb3 9 Ke6 4 47.Kc6! 5 h5 27 48.Kc5 5 Ke5 26 49.Kc4 4 h4 6 50.gxh4 5 gxh4 13

51.Ra3 10 Kf4 6 52.Kd4 17
1-0

□ Krishnan,Sreyshthaa

■ Cawthon,Jeremy David

2025 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (2.5)

[Winslow,Elliott]

D12

1579

1970

Meanwhile: Jeremy marches on ... 1.c4
c6 6 2.Nf3 4 d5 2 3.e3 7 Nf6 6 4.d4 5
Bf5 1:04 5.Nc3 34 Nbd7 40

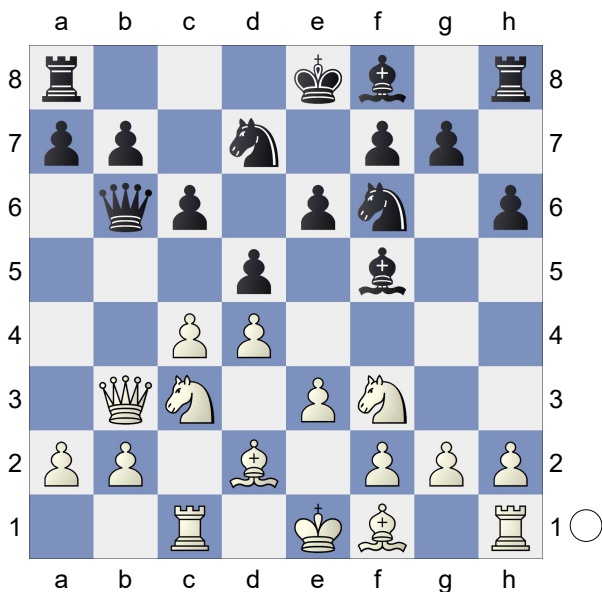
[One usually sees 5...e6 , into which
we transpose in a moment.]

6.Bd2 1:11 h6 23 7.Rc1 3:00 e6 9

8.Qb3 1:25

[8.h3 Bd6 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Qe7
11.Re1 Bh7 12.Bf1 dxc4 13.Bxc4
e5 14.e4 exd4 15.Nxd4 Rad8
16.Bf1 Bc5 17.Nb3 Bb6 18.Qc2
Ne5 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Rxe3 Nfd7
21.f4 Ng6 22.Qf2 Nc5 23.Nxc5
Qxc5 24.g3 Rd7 25.Re2 Rfd8
26.Qxc5 1-0 (26) Ghasi,A (2496)-
Santos Flores,A (2191) Chess.com
INT 2024]

8...Qb6 29

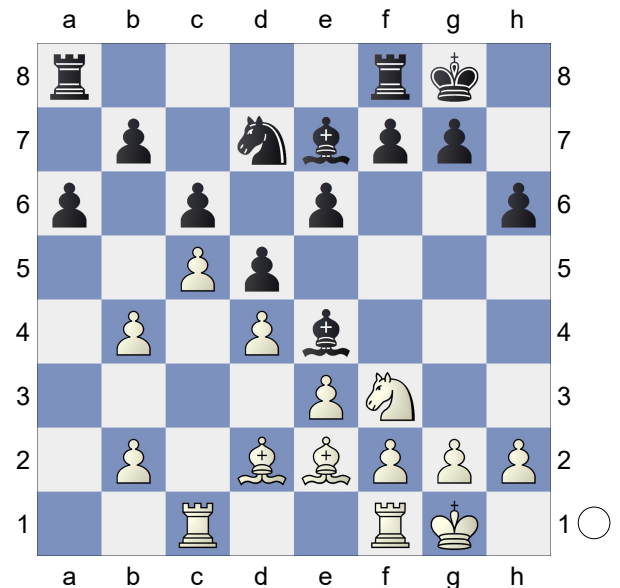


9.c5N 26 When the rook is still on a1
this works nicely; White can still get in

b4-b5 with the better queenside
structure and prospects. But on c1
Black just gets in ...a6 and a blockade.

[9.Be2 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rfd1
Rfe8 12.Be1 Ne4 13.Nd2 Nxc3
14.Qxc3 Bb4 15.Qb3 Be7 16.Qc3
Bb4 17.Qb3 Be7 18.Qc3 ½-½ (18)
Deutsch,E (2363)-Raznikov,D (2354)
Petah Tikva 2010]

9...Qxb3 2 10.axb3 17 Be7 17 11.Be2
1:19 0-0 23 12.0-0 17 Ne4 58 13.Nxe4
1:14 Bxe4 3:12 14.b4 2:01 a6 4



The queenside is frozen, and it's Black
with the bishop in action on the kingside.

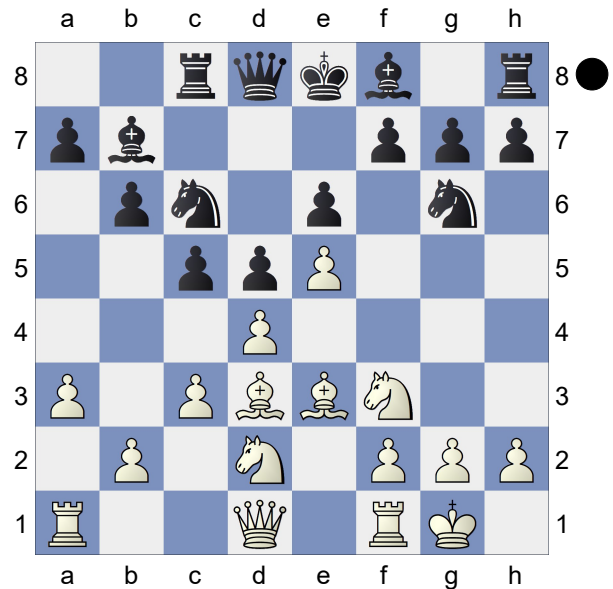
15.Bc3 1:14 Bh7 2:13 16.Rfd1 3:13
Rfe8 1:29 17.Nd2 1:28 Bf6 1:09
18.Nb3 1:54 Bd8 3:18 19.Na5 5:13
Bxa5 37 20.bxa5 51 f6 48 21.b4 2:12
e5 32 22.Bg4 1:59 Nf8 2:12 23.g3 5:31
Re7 58 24.Kf1 2:40 f5 1:45 25.Be2
1:27 e4 4 26.Kg2 1:02 g5 16 27.h3
1:12 Ne6 1:24 28.f3 2:19 exf3+ 53
29.Bxf3 31 Bg6 22 30.Rf1 2:09 Rae8
42 31.Bd2 48 Ng7 33 32.Rce1 1:18
Re6 8:04 33.Kf2 8:46 Bh5 1:08 34.Kg2
1:52 Bxf3+ 16 35.Rxf3 15 Kh7 21
36.Ref1 1:24 Kg6 10 37.g4 53 fxg4
4:26 38.hxg4 1:18 R8e7 12 39.Rf5
6:02 Ne8 44 40.Kg3 2:50 Re4 39
41.Rf8 2:48 R4e6 3:56 42.R8f5 49 Nf6

1:11 43.Bc1 1:58 Ne4+ 2 44.Kg2 15
 Rf6 10 45.Rxf6+ 2:06 Nxf6 2 46.Kg3
 15 Ne4+ 3 47.Kg2 19 Rf7 19 48.Rxf7
 45 Kxf7 3 49.Kf3 35 Kg6 9 50.Bb2 56
 h5 18 51.Bc1 36 hxg4+ 24 52.Kxg4 8
 Nf6+ 1:04 53.Kg3 1:02 Kf5 17 54.Kf3
 10 Ne4 7 55.Ba3 35 g4+ 16 56.Kg2 18
 Nf6 52 57.Bc1 38 Ke4 25 58.Kg3 13
 Kd3 15 59.Kf4 48 Ke2 1:04 60.Kg3 28
 Kd1 2:11 61.Bb2 Kc2 50 62.Ba3 11
 Kd2 2:26 63.Kf4 32 Ke2 9 64.Bc1 1:24
 Kf2 4 65.e4 9 dxe4 19 66.Be3+ 18
 Kg2 13 67.Ke5 1:16 Nd5 1:39 68.Kxe4
 14 Nxe3 36 69.Kxe3 5 g3 3 70.d5 8
 Kf1 47 71.dxc6 13 bxc6 28 72.b5 10
 cxb5 10 73.c6 4 g2 3 74.c7 4 g1Q+ 7
 75.Kf3 8 Qc5 8 76.c8N 16 Qxc8 10
 77.Kg3 5 Qf5 7 78.Kh4 18 Qg6 5
 79.Kh3 5 Qg5 4 80.Kh2 5 Qh4# 5
 0-1

□ Karwat,Joseph C02
 1315
 ■ Bayaraa,Bilguun 1503
 2025 Spring TNM: u1600 (2.6) 11.03.25
[Winslow,Elliott]

And in the Under-1600 section we find a similar standout result: Joseph Karwat has a perfect 5-0. Had it not been for this game, maybe Bilguun Bayaraa might be repeating her previous TNM victory. But with this "changing of the guard" (and after five rounds) it's Karwat's tournament. Newsflash: Or should have been! Round 6 yet to be entered... 1.e4 3 c5 7 2.c3 8 d5 6 3.e5 32 Nc6 35 4.d4 2:07 e6 1:03 5.Nf3 1:04 b6?! 3:56 Quite a bit slower than all of Black's main moves. And in fact for quite a while in this game both players aren't so sure where the strategy lies. Then on move 22 the game goes haywire, to Karwat's drastic favor...

[5...Qb6]
 [5...Bd7]
 [5...Nge7]
 [5...Nh6!?]
 6.Bd3 3:59 Bb7 3:08 7.0-0 1:03
 [Relevant: 7.a3 h6 8.0-0 g5 9.h3
 Bg7 10.b4 Nge7 11.Re1 Qd7
 12.Nbd2 c4 13.Bc2 b5 14.a4 a6
 15.Nf1 Nf5 16.g4 Nfe7 17.Ng3
 0-0-0 18.Nh5 Bf8 19.h4 gxh4
 20.Nxh4 Ng8 21.axb5 axb5 22.Bf4
 Be7 23.Ng2 f6 24.exf6 Nxf6
 25.Nxf6 Bxf6 26.Rxe6 Qxe6 27.Bf5
 Qxf5 28.gxf5 h5 29.Qe2 Rde8
 30.Qf3 h4 31.Qxd5 h3 32.Qd6 Rh7
 33.Re1 Be5 34.Rxe5 Nxe5 35.Bxe5
 Rxe5 36.Qxe5 hxg2 Ponkratov,P
 (2624)-Fedoseev,V (2701) Chess.com
 INT 2022 1-0]
 7...Nge7 2:30 8.Be3 5:05 Ng6 1:58
 9.a3 10:49 Rc8 4:14 10.Nbd2 4:36

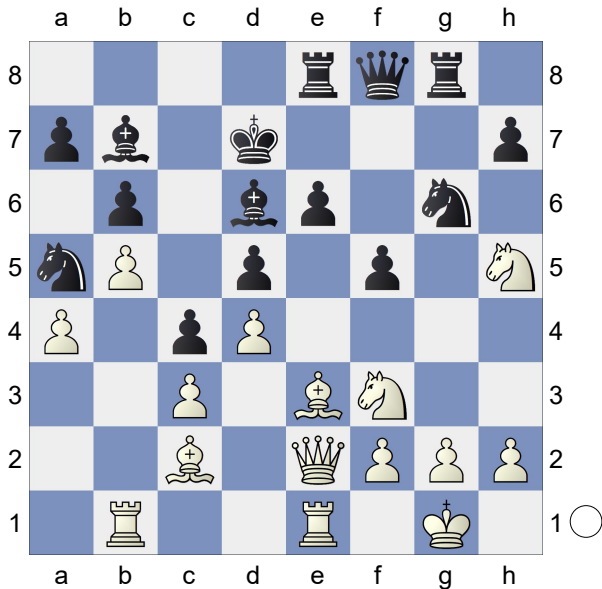


Be7N 3:33

[Predecessor: 10...f6 11.Qb1 Kf7
 12.exf6 gxf6 13.Re1 Bd6 14.h4 Qg8
 15.b4 cxd4 16.cxd4 h6 17.Qd1 f5
 18.Nb3 Qg7 19.Qe2 Rce8 20.b5
 Nd8 21.h5 Nf4 22.Bxf4 Bxf4 23.Nh4
 Bd6 24.Ng6 Rhg8 25.Qf3 Qf6 26.a4
 Kg7 27.a5 Bb8 28.Rec1 Nf7 29.Ra2
 Rc8 30.Rac2 Rxc2 31.Rxc2 Rc8

32.Qd1 Qd8 33.a6 Rxc2 34.Qxc2
Bc8 35.f4 Qc7 36.Nd2 Qxc2
37.Bxc2 Bd7 38.Bd3 Nd6 39.Nf3
Bxb5 40.Bxb5 Bergeron,P (1929)-
Falardeau,R (1818) Montreal 1992
0-1]

11.Rc1 3:45 f5 9:06 12.exf6 3:00 gxf6
1:52 13.b4 6:13 c4 1:38 14.Bc2 2:48
Kd7 6:46 (!) 15.b5 2:19 Na5 3:49
16.a4! 19 Qf8 1:46 17.Qe2 1:29
[17.Ne1!± Nf4]
17...Re8 5:56 18.Rfe1?!± 3:48
[18.Ne1!±]
18...Bd6 1:06 19.Nf1 2:17 Qg7 5:33
[19...Kc8]
20.Ng3 3:53 Rhg8 8:21 21.Nh5± 4:54
Qf8 4:34 22.Rb1 5:47 f5???- 5:00



Positional suicide! 23.Bh6??-+ 1:38
I waded through the old scoresheets,
but both of them agree: this is the
position and the move. 23...Qf7??+-
7:38 24.Bg5+- 2:13 Back on track. And
now a nice mini-combo, and there's no
saving it. 24...Be7 1:46 25.h4 5:50 Bc8
5:29 26.Nf4!? 6:17 Bxg5? 3:42
27.Nxg6 1:00 Qg7 9:17 28.Nge5+ 47
Kc7 1:00 29.hxg5 34 h6 31 30.g6 34
Nb7 28 31.g3 2:35 Nd6 26 32.Kg2 30
Ne4 30 33.Bxe4 1:13 dxe4 11

34.Qxc4+ 1:26 Kb7 12 35.Nh4 2:00
1-0

□ Horde,Nicolas T

B04

■ Dutter,Frederic

1568

1900

2025 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (2.18)

[Winslow,Elliott]

"Fritz" Dutter is still firing away. His
"Draw with White, Win with the Alekhine
Defense" strategy is a testament of sorts.
Here Nick Horde, who usually takes his
game fairly seriously, gets tossed
aside... 1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6
4.d4 d6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.h3

[At the top it's all the Voronezh

Variation: 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7

8.Rc1 0-0 9.b3 but it's no sure thing:
both Naka and Wei Yi scored the full
point not so long ago with 9...Bf5]

6...g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6

10.d5 Ne5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Nc3

[12.Nd2 Bf5 13.Nf3 Bg7 14.Nd4

Bd7 15.Be3 Na4 16.Qd2 a5

17.Rfe1 Nc5 18.Bh6 Qb6 19.Bxg7

Kxg7 20.Bf1 Rfe8 21.Re3 Qb4

22.Qc2 e5 23.dxe6 Nxe6 24.Nxe6+

Rxe6 25.a3 Qc5 26.Qc3+ Kg8

27.Rd1 Rxe3 28.Qxe3 Be6 29.Qd4

Qxd4 30.Rxd4 Rd8 31.c5 d5 32.f4

Kf8 33.Kf2 Ke7 34.b4 axb4 35.Rxb4

Rd7 36.Ke3 d4+ 37.Rxd4 Rc7

38.Rb4 Rxc5 39.Rxb7+ Kf6 40.a4

Rc3+ 41.Kd4 Ra3 Paravyan,D

(2612)-Kourkoulos Arditis,S (2556)

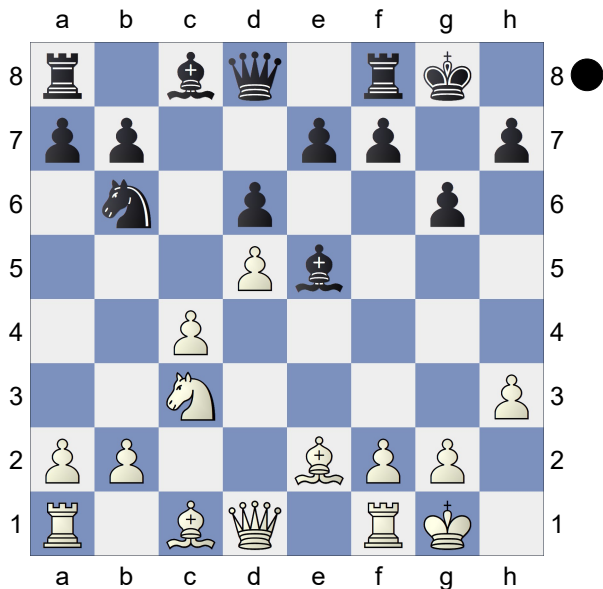
Chess.com INT 2024 ½-½]

(Diagram)

12...e6N

[12...Bg7 13.Rb1 Bf5 14.Bd3 Qc8

15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.Be3 Nxc4 17.Bd4



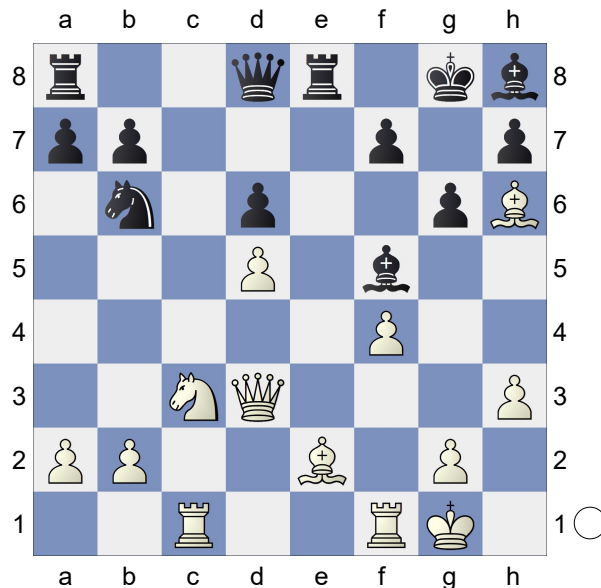
[16...Bxc3!? wins a pawn but it's always a dodgy to give up that bishop like this (for us humans). 17.bxc3 Nxd5 18.Qxd5 Qb6+ 19.Rf2 Rxe2 20.Qd4]

17.Qd3

[17.Bg5 Bf6 18.Qd2]

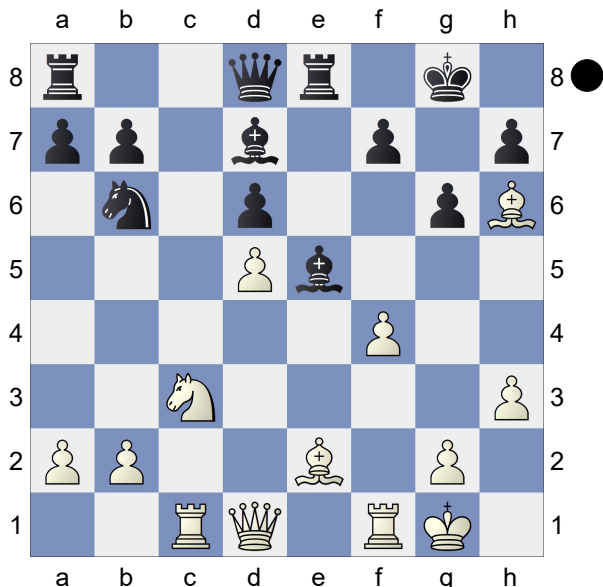
17...Bf5

[17...Qf6!?]



Bxd4 18.Qxd4 Qc8 19.Ne4 Ne5 20.f4 Qc4 21.Qe3 Nd7 22.f5 Kg7 23.Kh1 Qxd5 24.Rbe1 Qe5 25.Qg5 Rae8 26.Ng3 h6 27.Qg4 Qb5 28.Nh5+ Kh7 29.fxg6+ fxg6 30.Rxf8 Nxf8 31.Ng3 Qa5 32.Rf1 Qxa2 33.Qd4 Nd7 34.Ne2 Ne5 35.Nc3 Qc4 36.Qf2 Kg7 37.Ne2 b6 38.Nd4 Nd7 39.b3 Qd5 40.Rd1 a5 41.Qb2 Nf6 42.Rd3 Crandall,D (1486)-Nichols,C (1261) IECC email 2001 0-1]

13.Bh6 Re8 14.Rc1 exd5 15.cxd5 Bd7 16.f4



Bh8

18.Qf3??

[18.Qd2 is still an even game! Keeping Black's bishop out of d4 is necessary.]

18...Bd4+ 19.Kh1 Re3 20.Qf2 Rxh3+ 21.gxh3 Bxf2 22.Rxf2

[22.Rxf2 Qh4]

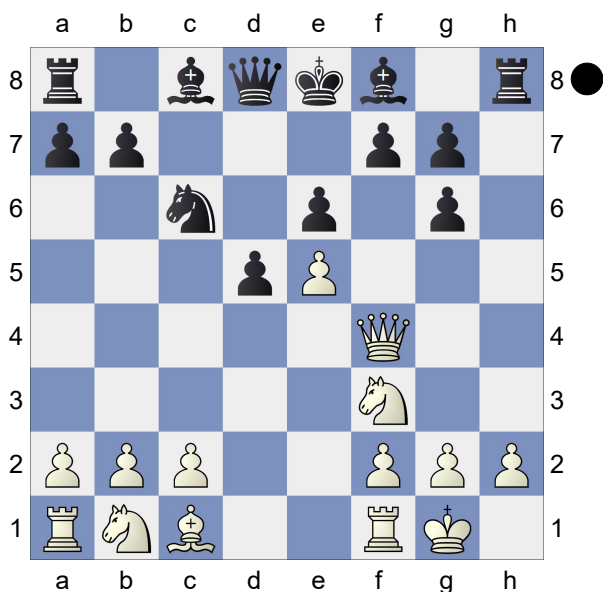
0-1

C02
 ◻ **Dzhanhirov,Dmytro** **2235**
 ◼ **Cremisi,Daniel** **2388**
 2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 18.03.25
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Dmytro Dzhanhirov, from Ukraine, is warming to the Bay Area, and this TNM he's really showing through. He started with 4 wins, including against the top

two players by rating! Here is the first, against Cremisi. An epic and impossibly difficult struggle: Bishops of opposite colors with rooks, limited pawns, subtle timing issues, theoretical endgame questions -- and the last game to finish.

1.e4 25 e6 22 2.d4 38 d5 3 3.e5 9 c5 13 4.Nf3 cxd4 4 5.Qxd4 6 Nc6 34 6.Qf4 17 Nge7 2:39 7.Bd3 18 Ng6 44 8.Bxg6 7 hxd6 24 Black is slightly better. (-0.22/20) 9.0-0 13



Be7N 0.13/26 2:36

[Predecessor: Δ 9...f6 -0.15/23

10.Qg3 Kf7 11.c4 dxc4 (11...Rh5

-0.08/19) 12.Bf4 Be7? (12...Ne7 $\bar{f}$)

13.Nc3 Qb6?! 14.Ne4 Qxb2 15.exf6

gxf6 1-0 (24) Schleef,H-Skowronek,J

Theme 22307-G1 freechess.de 2020

16.Bd6!±]

10.c4 10:47 dxc4 6:54 11.Nc3 53 Qa5

11:04 12.Ne4 -0.25/27 6:13

[Δ 12.Rd1 0.16/29]

12...Rh5 4:49 13.Bd2 18:50

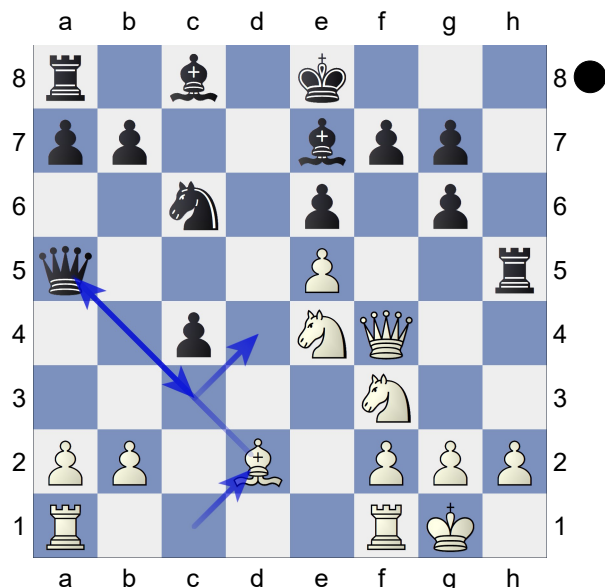
(Diagram)

White sacrificed a pawn **13...Rf5! 7:06**

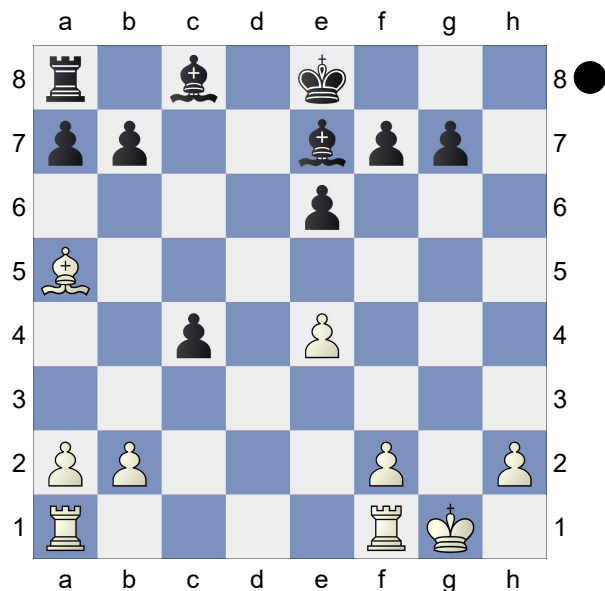
Deflection **14.Qg4 16:45 Nxe5 11:42**

15.Qxf5 3:34 gxf5 3:50 16.Bxa5 34

Nxf3+ 0.48/28 23



[16...Nc6= -0.24/24 17.Bc3 fxe4]
17.gxf3± 7 fxe4 7 18.fxe4 11



Bd7 27

[18...e5]

[18...b6]

19.Bc3 46 f6 48 20.Bd4 1:37 a6 1:30

21.f3 48 e5 4:27 22.Be3 15 Kf7 29

(Diagram)

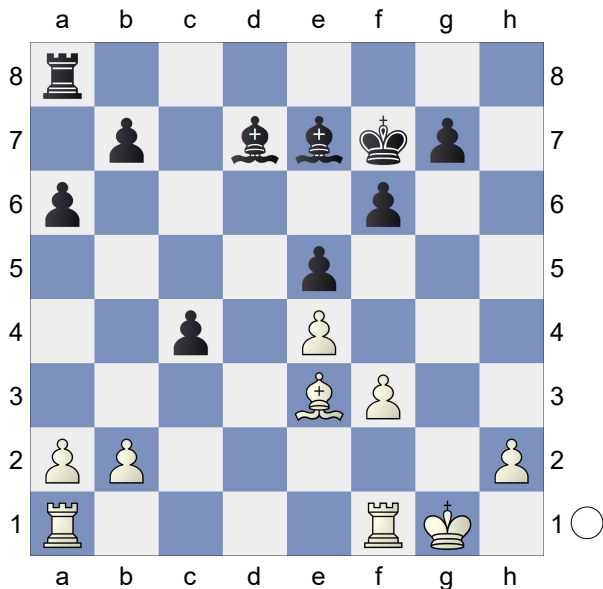
23.Kf2?! 1:03

[23.Rfd1=]

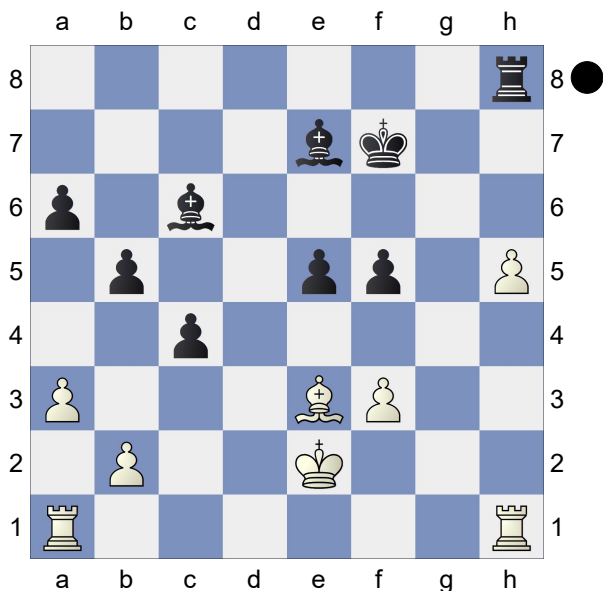
23...Rh8 59 24.Rh1 23 g6 1:09

[Δ 24...f5]

25.h4 12:00 b5 1:52 26.a3 1:10 Bc6



1:04 27.Ke2 6:01 f5 1:47 28.exf5 1:35
gxf5 4 29.h5 4:07



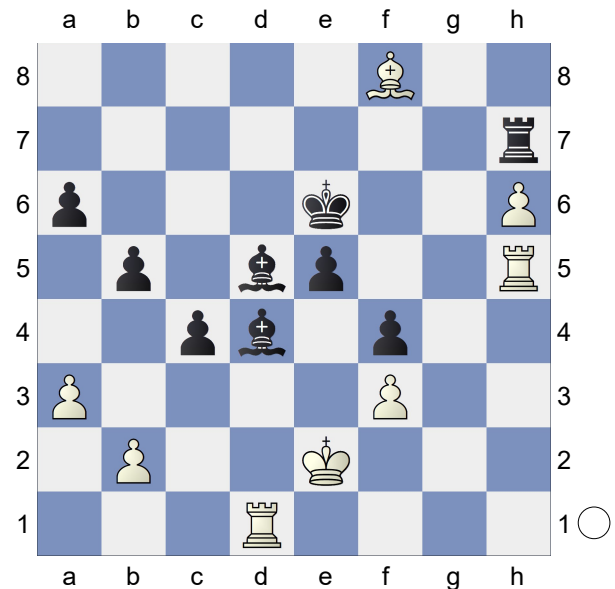
Bf6? 2.57/22 1:22 Cremisi starts to lose
his way.

[29...f4!± 0.34/29 30.Bb6 Rh6
0.13/28]

30.Rad1+- 3:46 Ke6 4:23 31.Bc5 2:12
Bd5 9 32.h6 1:06 Rh7 2:06 33.Rh2
2:32 f4 3.73/23 5:28

[33...a5 2.42/26 34.Rh5 Rd7]

34.Bb4 34 Bg5 10:33 35.Rg1 2:12 Bf6
1:05 36.Bc3 41 Ke7 4:24 37.Rd1 42
Ke6 1:00 38.Rh5 19 Bc6 1:37 39.Bb4
49 Bd5 21 40.Kf2 18 Bd8 5:42 41.Bf8
1:42 Bb6+ 26 42.Ke2 1:24 Bd4 14



43.Rd2?! 1:59

[43.Rg5+-]

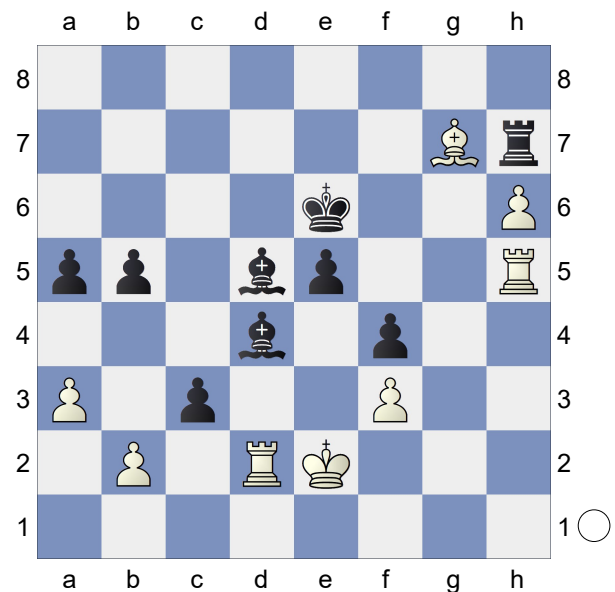
[43.Bg7!? Bxb2 44.Rg1 Ke7

45.Bxe5+-]

**43...a5± 1:29 44.Bg7 30 c3?! 2.09/33
1:48**

[44...b4± 1.35/30 keeps fighting.]

[44...b4 45.Rg5 bxa3 46.bxa3 c3
47.Rxd4 exd4 48.Re5+ Kd6 49.Kd3
Bxf3 50.Rf5 c2 51.Rf6+ Ke5
52.Kxc2+-]



45.Rxd4? 0.56/32 50 Dzhangirov also
doesn't find the most accurate
conversion.

[45.bxc3+- 2.09/33 Bxc3 46.Rg5!+-
(46.Rc2)]

45...exd4± 35 46.bxc3 7 dxc3 42

47.Bxc3 4 Bc4+? 2.00/34 1:01

[47...b4 0.59/41 48.axb4

A) 48...Bc4+?!]

A1) 49.Ke1 axb4 50.Bg7 b3
51.Re5+ Kd6 (51...Kd7 52.Kd2
b2 53.Kc2) 52.Re8+-;

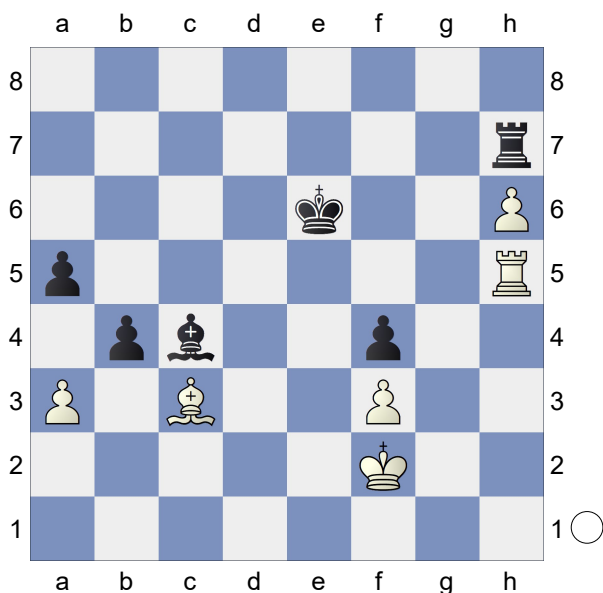
A2) 49.Kf2 axb4 50.Bxb4 Bd3;

B) 48...axb4 49.Bg7 b3 50.Kf2
Bc4 51.Re5+ Kd7 52.Re1 Kc6±]

48.Kf2 0.56/34 30

[48.Ke1!+- 2.00/34 Why this is the
winning move isn't clear -- but the
king might be needed to contain
Black's queenside pawn(s).]

48...b4!± 56



49.axb4 59 axb4 7 50.Bxb4 0.19/33 11

[50.Bg7!± 0.64/33]

50...Bd3!= 16 51.Bf8 26 Rb7 14

52.Bg7 34 Bh7 36 53.Re5+ 25 Kf7 14

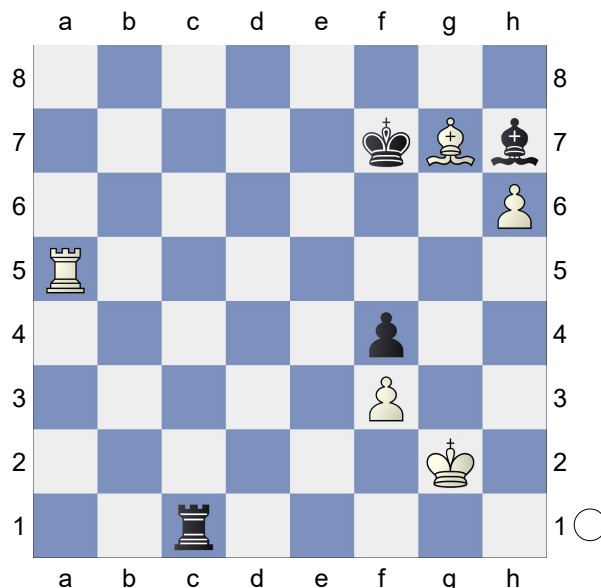
54.Ra5 27 Rc7 1:55

[54...Kg6= 0.00]

55.Kg2 27 Rc1? 1.34/26 37

[55...Rd7= 0.16/42]

(Diagram)



56.Ra7+ 0.17/38 1:04

[56.Be5!± 1.34/26]

56...Kg8? 2.12/27 15

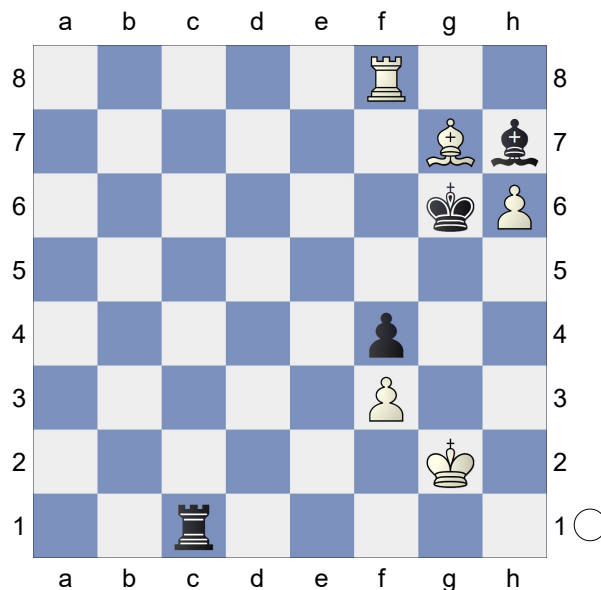
[56...Kg6!= 0.17/38 and Black is
okay.]

57.Ra8+?! 13

[57.Be5! Rc2+ 58.Kh3 Bf5+

59.Kh4+-]

57...Kf7± 2 58.Rf8+ 6 Kg6 16



59.Rxf4± 0.28/40 8 Somethings gone
wrong -- Black now has good chances to
draw.

[59.Rh8!± 0.95/29 is the computer
move, with a much higher evaluation,
but it's still no walk in the park.]

59...Rc5 12 60.Rb4 1:07 Rc2+?!

1.23/28 39

[60...Bg8= 0.25/37]

61.Kg3± 16 Rc7?+- 4.30/27 35

[61...Rc1± 1.23/38 is more resistant.

62.Rb6+ Kh5]

62.Rb6+ 26

[62.f4!]

62...Kf7 7 63.Kg4 33 Bd3?! 42

[63...Rc1]

64.f4 32 f5 would now be deadly.

64...Be4 10.71/21 1:55

[Δ64...Rc4 5.04/28 65.Be5 Rc1

66.Rb7+ Ke6]

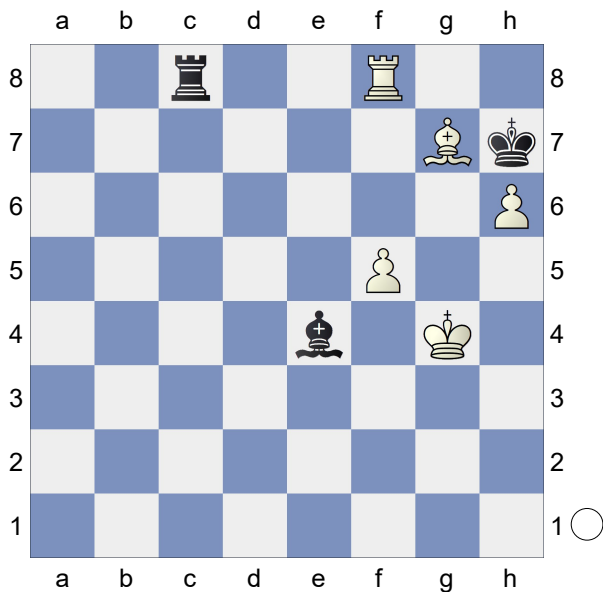
65.Rf6+- 56

[65.f5]

65...Kg8 33 66.Rf8+ 19 Kh7 1 67.f5 22

[67.Kg5 #18]

67...Rc8!? 28



68.Rf6 11.66/26 20

[68.Rxc8?? Bxf5+ 69.Kxf5=]

[Δ68.Rf7 #21/30 Kg8 69.Re7 Bd5

70.Be5 Bf7 71.h7+]

68...Bc2 43 69.Kg5 27 Bb1 49 70.Rb6

27 Be4 10 71.Re6 14 Bd3 26 72.Re7

29 Kg8 1:18 73.Bf6 25 Weighted Error

Value: White=0.26/Black=0.38

1-0

□ Heiserman, Jimmy

E90

2303

■ Dzhanhirov, Dmytro

2235

2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 25.03.25

[Winslow, Elliott]

The two leaders meet, and it's Heiserman's turn to suffer at Dzhanhirov's hand. Dmytro goes into King's Indian "crouch", where White has the big space advantage and Black can only wait to see what White comes up with. As it turned out, Heiserman came up with a blunder, recovered, then the game got bumpy -- until it all went bad for White. 1.d4 2:25 Nf6 10 2.c4 7 g6 6 3.Nc3 5 d6 20 4.e4 5 Bg7 7 5.h3 12 0-0 10 6.Be3 12 This and Be2/Be3 are quite the rage (when White players aren't beating up on the KID every which other way). 6...b6 2:01 Experimental.

[One mostly sees 6...e5 a normal King's Indian plan -- but it scores bad, Stockfish hates it, Carlsen avoided it -- King's Indian players have it rough in this line!]

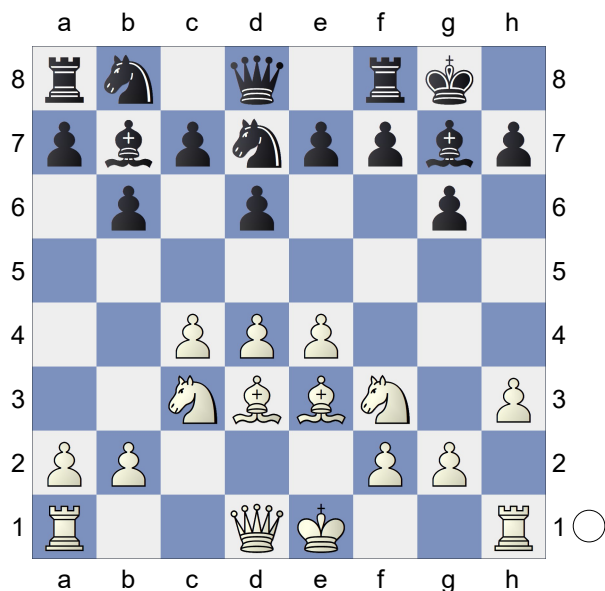
[6...c5!? 7.d5! (Taking the pawn with 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bxc5 Nc6≠ bears comparison to the Saemisch line with f3 instead of h3.) 7...e6 8.Nf3± is typical Benoni play, or rather lack of it, for Black.]

[I mentioned Carlsen: here's his game here: nothing about it inspires. 6...Nc6 7.d5 Nb4 8.a3 Na6 9.Bd3 Nc5 10.Bc2 Nfd7 11.Nge2 a5 12.0-0 Nb6 13.b3 e5 14.Rb1 Ncd7 15.Bd3 Nc5 16.Bc2 Ncd7 17.Bd3 f5 18.f3 Nc5 19.b4 Nxd3 20.Qxd3 Nd7 21.c5 axb4 22.axb4 Nf6 23.Ra1 fxe4 24.fxe4 Rxa1 25.Rxa1 Nh5 26.Rf1 Rxf1+ 27.Kxf1 Qf6+ 28.Bf2 Nf4 29.Nxf4 exf4 30.Nb5 Qa1+ 31.Ke2 Qb2+ 32.Kf3 g5 33.cxd6 h5

34.Bd4 g4+ 35.hxg4 Bxg4+ 36.Kxf4
Qxg2 37.Bxg7 Kxg7 38.e5 Kh6
39.Qe3 cxd6 40.Nxd6 Qxd5 41.Ne4
Kg6 42.Qb6+ Qc6 43.Qxc6+
½-½ (43) Schitco,I (2503)-Carlsen,M
(2829) Budva 2023]

7.Nf3 1:38 Bb7 51 8.Bd3 4:55 Nfd7
4:50

[8...Nbd7 9.0-0 e5 10.Bc2 exd4
11.Nxd4 Re8 12.f3 a6 13.Re1 Ne5
14.b3 c6 15.Qd2 b5 16.cxb5 cxb5
17.Rad1 Qc7 18.Nce2 Rac8 19.Bb1
Qe7 20.Ng3 Red8 21.f4 Nc6
22.Nxc6 Bxc6 23.Bd4 h5 24.Qe3
Re8 25.e5 Nd5 26.Qf2 dxe5
27.fxe5 Nc7 28.Bc5 Qg5 29.Rf1
Rxe5 30.Bd6 f5 31.Bxe5 Bxe5
32.Ne2 Ne6 33.Rc1 h4 34.a4 Nd4
35.Bd3 Nxb3 36.Rxc6 Rxc6 37.axb5
axb5 38.Qf3 Lysyj,I (2589)-Fedoseev,
V (2676) Chess.com INT 2023 0-1]

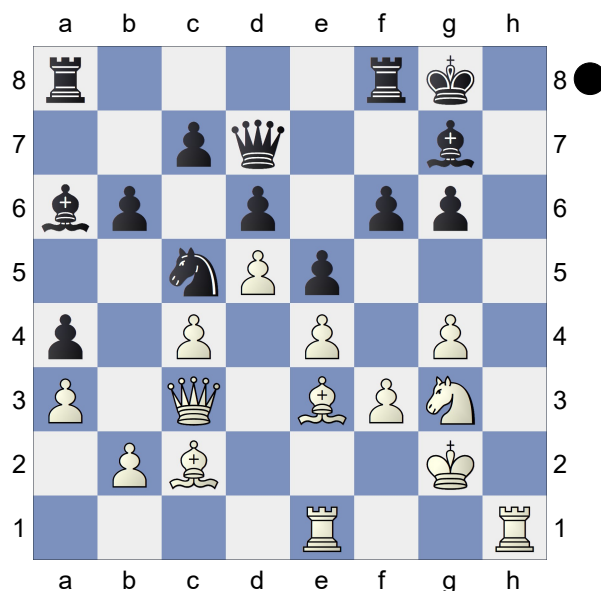


9.Qd2N 8:49

[9.0-0 Na6 10.a3 e6 11.b4 Nab8
12.Qd2 c5 13.d5 cxb4 14.axb4 Na6
15.Rfb1 Nc7 16.Nd4 Ne5 17.Be2
Qc8 18.f4 Nd7 19.Nc6 Bxc6
20.dxc6 Nb8 21.b5 Rd8 22.Ra2
Ne8 23.g4 Nxc6 24.bxc6 Qxc6
25.Bd4 e5 26.fxe5 dxe5 27.Be3

Rxd2 0-1 (27) Thommen,J (1659)-
McClure,D (2135) ICCF email 2023]

9...Nc6 9:10 10.0-0 16:50 e5 6:37
11.d5 3:41 Nb4 4:09 12.Bb1 1:41 a5
14 13.a3 2:00 Na6 6 14.Bc2 4 Qe7
3:36 15.g4 6:55 f6 1:16 16.Ne2 1:55
Rf7 4:28 17.Ng3 20 Nf8 1:34 18.Kg2
2:00 Bc8 33 19.Ne1 3:34 Qe8 2:34
20.f3 1:18 Nc5 2:57 21.Nd3 38 Nxd3
28 22.Bxd3 8 a4 2:17 23.h4 1:17 Nd7
2:44 24.Rae1 4:28 Nc5 1:12 25.Bc2 7
Ba6 1:39 26.Qc3 8:20 Qd7 9:19 27.h5
2:43 Rff8 15:34 28.hxg6 2:19 hxg6 1
29.Rh1± 50

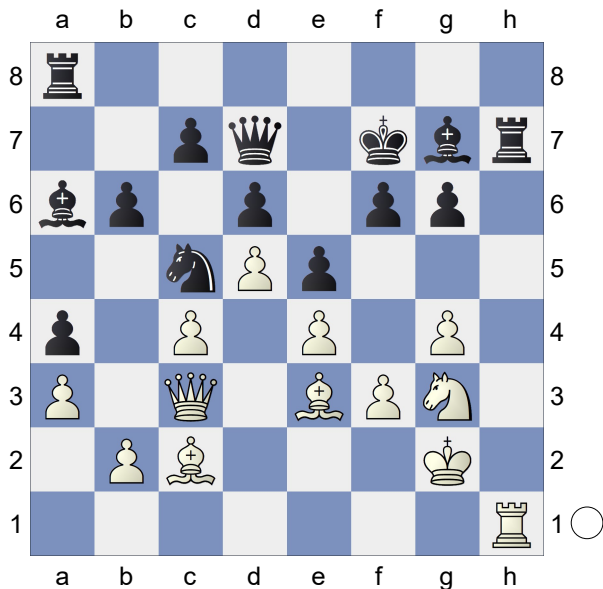


Kf7 33 30.Rh7 1:04 Rh8 13 31.Reh1 5
Rhx7 1:05

(Diagram)

Here the game went, of course, 32.Rxh7
-- but the DGT board screwed up
(probably Heiserman slid his rook up the
board, and it decided it had had enough
halfway there!). 32.Rh4 5

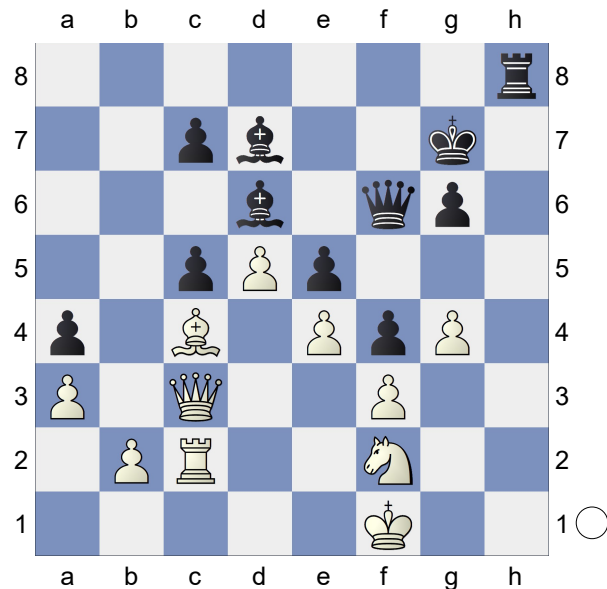
[32.Rxh7 Kg8 33.Rh1]
32...Rh6 33.Rxh6 Kg8 5:08 34.Rh1 12
(Now we're back on track, with an extra
move in. Let's keep the funky move
order so that the move times are still
there.) 34...b5 4:13 35.Bxc5?! 15:01



[35.Qa5!±]
35...dxc5 24 36.Bd3 35 Rb8 6:33
37.cxb5?!= 6 Bxb5 7 38.Bb1 8 Qd6
3:35
 [38...Ba6]
39.Ba2 49 Bd7?! 23
 [39...c4=]
40.Rc1 2:32 Bf8 4:05 41.Rc2 19 Kg7
30 42.Nf1 31 Be7 41 43.Ne3 24 Bb5
1:09 44.Bc4 29 Bd7 1:09 45.Be2 4:25
Rb3 36 46.Qd2 5 f5 42 47.Bc4 1:19 f4
1:16 48.Nd1 39 Rb8 16 49.Nf2 1:14
Qf6 46 50.Kf1?! 1:11
 [50.Qc3=]
50...Rh8?! 15
 [50...Qh4!⌘]
51.Qc3?! 1:48
 [51.Qa5!=]
51...Bd6⌘ 28

(Diagram)

52.Ke1?? 28
 [52.Rc1 Rh2 53.Ke2⌘]
52...Rh2!-+ 38 53.Re2?! 1:03
 [53.Kd1 Qh4 54.Nd3 Rh3-+]
53...Qh4 12 White can't stop Black's
next few moves. 54.Qc2 22 Qg3 15
55.Rd2 33 Qxf3 24
 [55...Qg1+ 56.Bf1 Bb5 57.Nd3

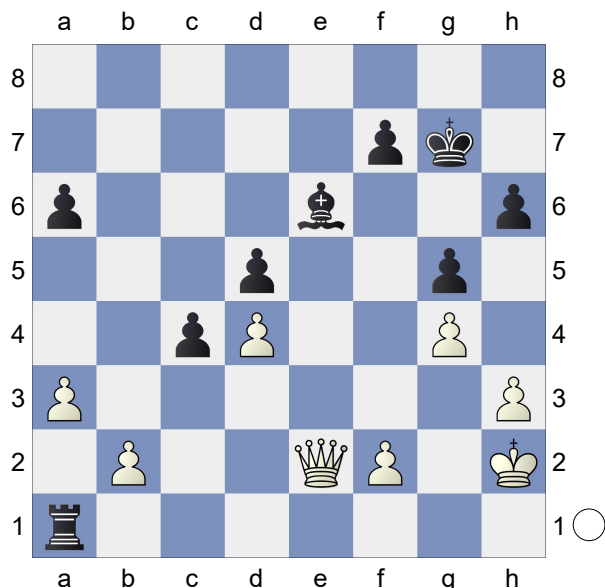


Qg3+ 58.Rf2 c4]
56.Be2? 8 Qxf2+ 11
0-1

D35
 ◻ **Cremisi, Daniel 2388**
 ◼ **Bayaraa, Chinguun 2161**
 2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 25.03.25
 [TA]

Cremisi bounces back, taking a bit of revenge from Bayaraa after Chinguun's miracle defense last TNM. This time also a win of a nominal amount of material, but this time Cremisi didn't let up. Well, some! But both sides were far from flawless. Daniel in the end. **1.d4 d5 51**
2.c4 24 e6 39 3.Nc3 4 Nf6 6 4.cxd5
14 exd5 5 5.Bg5 5 Be7 14 6.e3 4 0-0
6 7.Bd3 7 Nbd7 52 8.Qc2 5 Re8 47
9.Nge2 13 In some ways a more interesting deployment than to f3; White has the possibility of f2-f3 and e3-e4, with a dangerous flow of central pawns. I thought it was that simple for many years; now I know a bit better... **9...c5**
5:02 Certainly sharper than the classical style of 9...c6. I happened to have that position in the last round of the 1967 U.S.

42.f4? 0.72/24 2:02 gxf4± 13 43.Qe5+
7 Kh7 4:23 44.Qxf4 13 Rd1 2:00



Wards off Qd2 **45.Kg3 1:22 Rd3+ 15**
46.Kh4 6 a5? 3.41/24 1:07
 [46...Kg6± 1.03/29 47.a4 Rb3]
47.a4+- 2:44 h5 9:23 48.gxh5 2:04
 [48.Kxh5 Rxb3+ 49.Kg5 Rh6=]
48...Rxb3+ 47 49.Kg5 2 White is clearly
winning. 49...Rb3 1:11 50.Kf6 2:27
Rh3 4:19 51.Qd2 5:00 White wants to
mate with Qg2. 51...Rh4 3:41 52.Ke7
2:58
 [52.Qxa5 Rf4+ 53.Ke5 Re4+
 54.Kd6 Rxd4+-]
52...Rxb3 3:54
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.22
 (precise) /Black=0.36
53.Qxa5 16
1-0

E91
 1901
 2169
 2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (4.3) 25.03.25
 [Winslow, Elliott]

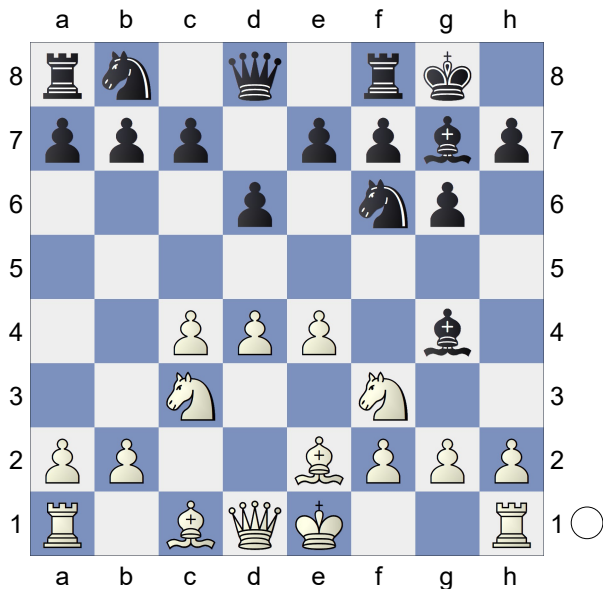
Natalya Tsodikova is the only player left, among the pack tied for 1st, with no losses! She started with two half-point byes, and this game sandwiched between them. Another case of "it could

have been quite a different story," as Anthony Ivanenko was well on his way to winning Round 4 before disaster struck. Unfortunately for Tony after beating me in Round 2, he lost three(!) straight. This was the middle: **1.d4 3 Nf6 11 2.c4 6 g6 6 3.Nc3 4 Bg7 6 4.e4 5 d6 9 5.Nf3 5 0-0 14 6.Be2 8** The Classical Variation of the King's Indian Defense has so much development (with so many discoveries and directions) that it will probably never be eclipsed by any of those come-lately attempts to put Black off (I mentioned the h3/Be3 and Be2/Be3 systems earlier). And Ivanenko thrives on "the more complicated the better" -- so it's no surprise that here we are. **6...Bg4!? 54**

[Of course the Main Line remains 6...e5]
 [6...Nbd7 for those who want to avoid any queen exchange ("on principle" for a KID player) 7.0-0 e5]
 [6...Na6 sometimes gets Igor Glek's name attached to it, is the only move here with a plus score in the database! It is a more subtle evasion of the queen exchange lines (White can do it, but it's far less dangerous) after, say 7.0-0 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Qxd8 Rxd8]
 [6...c5 Back to the Benoni!? "Magnus was here." And also Cebalo and especially Guseinov, who both have a lot of 6...Bg4 games as well.]

(Diagram)

It took a lot of searching (for me at least) to find the name of this line. I know John Donaldson used to be quite fond of it and I think even had a book on it. On short notice I find it called the Simagin Variation but he played it a



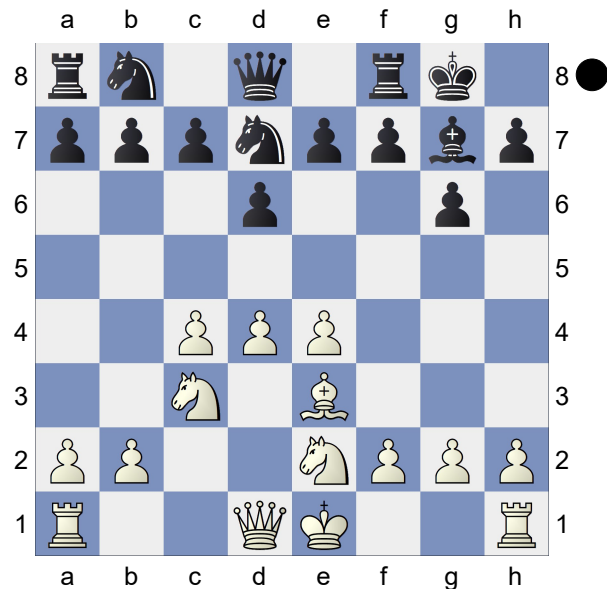
couple times in the Mega Database. The most prolific practitioner might well be Gadir Guseinov. Black keeps things unclear in the center for now, compared to so many King's Indian lines. **7.Be3 16 Nfd7 1:08** Can Black really muster enough pressure on d4 to exact a concession? **8.Ng1!?** 2:23 Well, that's one! This competes for main response

[8.Rc1 (most played) is natural and sensible, thinking about pawn health should Black ever have ...Bxc3, plus envisioning c-file play in ...e5; d5 scenarios.]

[Boris Avrukh came up with 8.d5!/? against Gadir, so that Nd4 can be a more appropriate knight move. c5 (8...Na6 is probably better) 9.0-0 Na6 10.Ng5! with a quick win: Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Nc7 12.f4 b5 13.cxb5 a6 14.bxa6 Qc8 15.e5 dxe5 16.f5 Nf6 17.fxg6 hxg6 18.Qc4 Nxa6 19.d6 Qg4 20.Nce4 Nxe4 21.dxe7 1-0 (21) Avrukh,B (2614)-Guseinov,G (2552) Mallorca 2004 CBM 104 [Avrukh,Boris]]

8...Bxe2 55 9.Ngxe2 6

(Diagram)



c5 4:37

[9...e5!? 10.d5 f5 11.f3 Bh6! 12.Bf2! it might well be Black who misses the bishop more -- after ...f4 and ...g5-g4-g3 and h3. How can you sacrifice your way in to White's king with no bishop!? But Black has done well enough (50%) after Nf6]

10.0-0 11

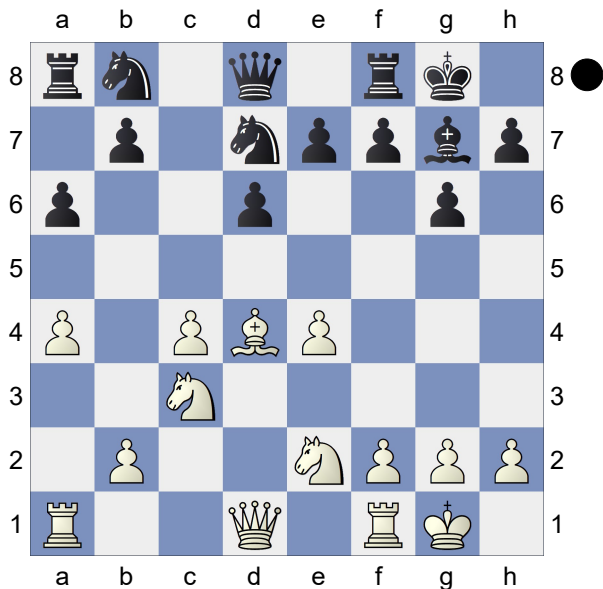
[10.dxc5!/? is +6 =1 -1 in the database (all master games)!]

10...a6 6:34 11.a4 11:58

[Relevant: 11.dxc5 Nxc5 12.a3 Nc6 13.b4 Nd7 14.Qb3 Nce5 15.Rac1 Rc8 16.Nd5 e6 17.Ndf4 Qc7 18.c5 dxc5 19.Bxc5 Nxc5 20.Rxc5 Qb6 21.Rfc1 Rxc5 22.Rxc5 Rd8 23.h3 h6 24.Qe3 Nd7 25.Rc2 Qxe3 26.fxe3 Nf6 27.Ng3 h5 28.e5 Nd5 29.Nxd5 exd5 30.Rd2 Bxe5 31.Ne4 Bb2 32.Rd3 Rc8 33.Nc5 Rc7 34.Na4 Be5 35.Nc5 b6 36.Nxa6 Rc1+ 37.Kf2 Rc2+ 38.Kf1 h4 39.Rxd5 Bg3 40.Rd1 Rf2+ Galchenko,M (2440)-Fedorov,A (2478) St Petersburg 2022 0-1 (63)]

11...cxd4 4:09 12.Bxd4 6

(Diagram)



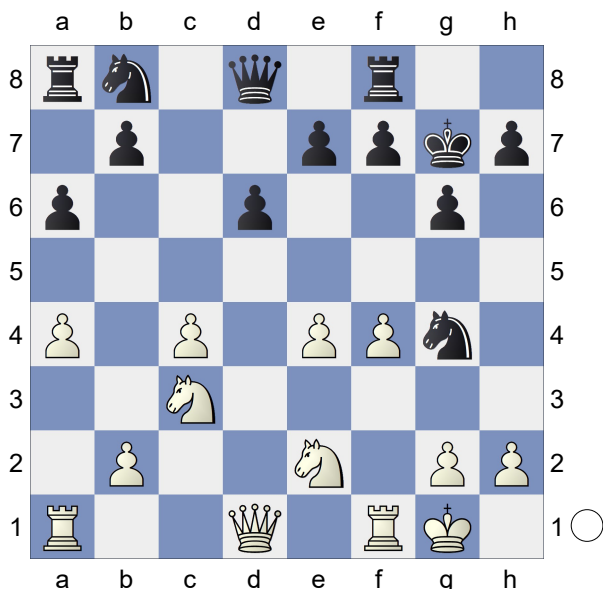
Ne5N 6:07

[Predecessor: 12...Nc6 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.b3 Nc5 15.Rb1 Qa5 16.f3 Nd7 17.Kh1 Qc5 18.Qd2 Nde5 19.h3 Nb4 20.f4 Nd7 21.e5 f5 22.Nd4 Kg8 23.Ne6 Qa5 24.Nxf8 Nd5 1-0 (24) Gavrilov,A (2445)-Berend,F (2345) Pardubice 1997]

13.f4! 10:28

[13.b3 Nbc6 14.Be3 Ng4 15.Bf4 is also some plus -- a Maroczy Bind with White trying to keep it all together.]

13...Ng4 3:10 14.Bxg7 16 Kxg7 3

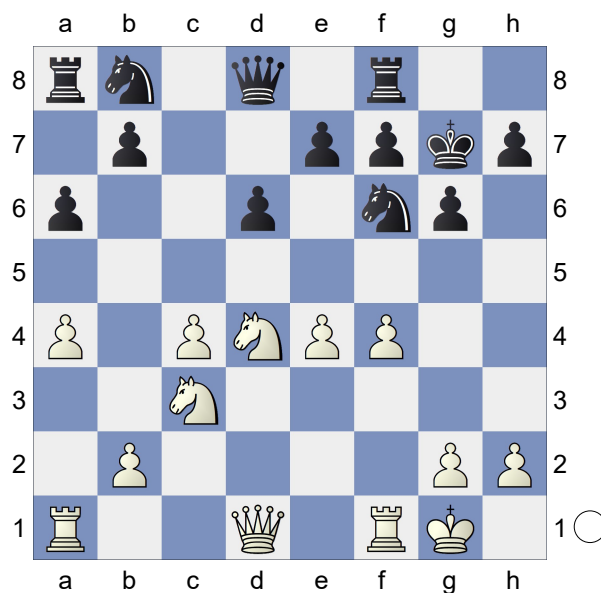


15.Nd4 16:59

[15.Nd5! 16.h3! (16.Nec3!? exd5 17.Qxg4 dxc4 18.Rad1) 16...Nf6 17.Nxf6 Qxf6 18.Qd2 could be best of all]

15...Nf6?! 11:28

[15...Ne3! 16.Nf5+! (16.Ne6+ fxe6 17.Qd4+ e5 18.Qxe3 exf4 19.Rxf4 Rxf4 20.Qxf4 Nd7 slightly favors Black even) 16...Nxf5! (16...gxf5 17.Qd4+±) 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Qd4+ f6 19.Qd5 Qd7 20.Rad1 is good compensation for a pawn, but not a lot more.]



16.e5!± 3:39

[16.f5!± Nbd7 17.Nd5 (17.Qe2) [16.Nd5 Nxe4?! (16...e6! 17.Nxf6 Qxf6±) 17.f5]

16...Ne8?! 1:18

[16...dxe5 17.fxe5 Ng8 18.Ne4 Nh6 19.Ra3 Nc6 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Nc5!± suddenly "goes positional" on the queenside.]

17.e6± 11:37 f6?+- 7:12

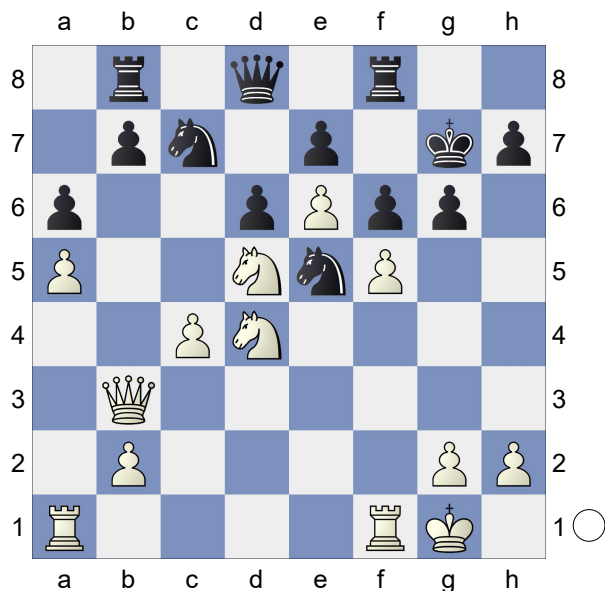
[17...f5]
[17...Nc6 18.Nd5]

18.Nd5 5:13

[18.f5 just as good]

18...Nc6 2:28 19.f5+- 2:23 Ne5 13:25 20.Qb3 6:02

[20.Ra3!]
20...Rb8 3:55 21.a5?! 1:21
 [21.fxg6+- keeps Black's kingside loose.]
21...Nc7?! 1:35



22.Rfc1? 6:06 And with this final inaccuracy, all of White's advantage disappears.

[22.fxg6]
22...Nc6± 4:09
 [22...Nxd5! 23.cxd5 b6=]
23.Qd3 4:52 Nxd4 6:35 24.Qxd4 9 gxf5?± 1:45
 [24...Nxd5 25.cxd5 b6±]
25.Nf4 2:41
 [25.Ra3]
25...Kh8 1:47 26.Ra3 2:06 Rg8 50

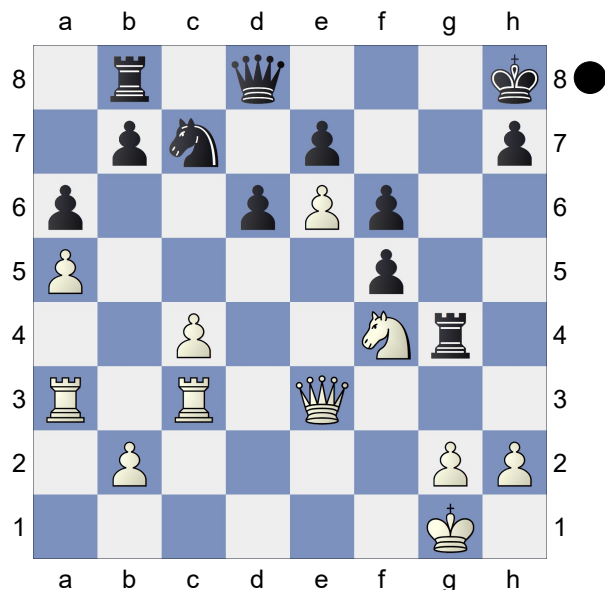
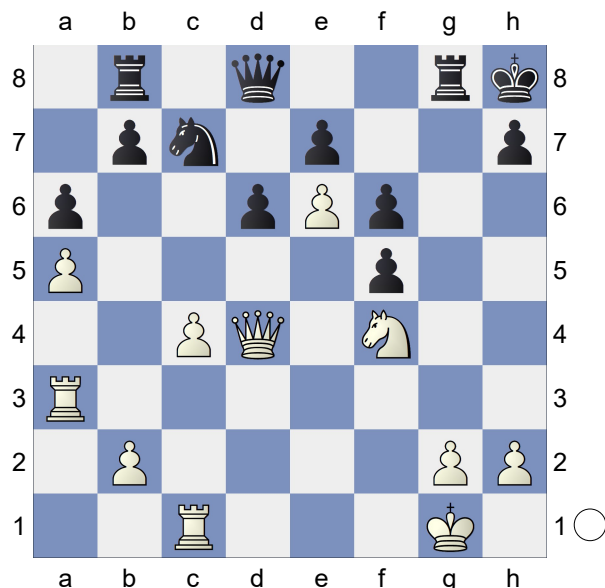
(Diagram)

27.Rcc3? 33 Entertaining, but loses the advantage again.

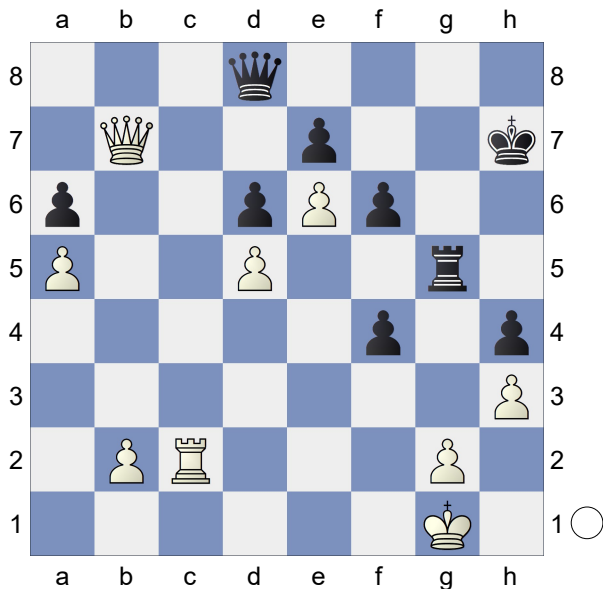
[27.Rg3!±]
27...Rg4= 57
 [27...d5!=]
28.Qe3 2:15

(Diagram)

Qg8? 1:57



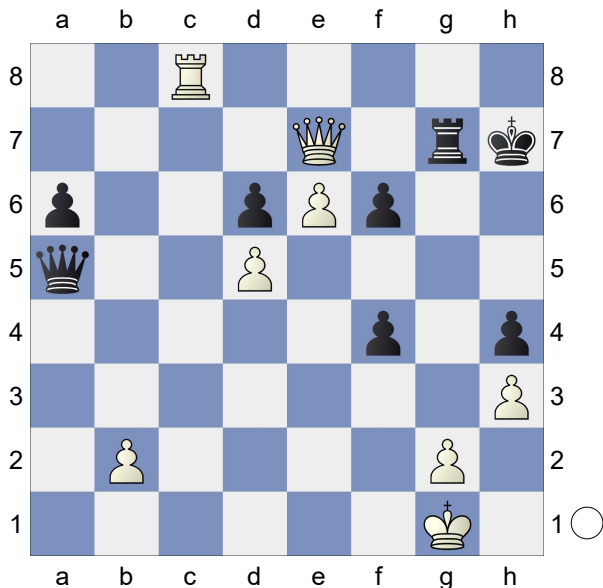
[28...d5! 29.Rd3 7]
29.h3!± 4 And White is on it again.
29...Rg5 38 30.Rab3 4:00 h5?!+- 4:18
 [30...Ne8 31.Rd3 Nc7 32.c5]
31.Rc2 37
 [31.c5]
 [31.Kh1]
31...h4 1:25 32.Qa7!? 4
 [32.Qe1 Qh7 33.Qf2]
32...Kh7 1:16 33.Rxb7 14
 White recovers the pawn with a very won game!
33...Rxb7 1:14 34.Qxb7 5 Qd8+- 34 35.Nd5?! 1:12
 [35.b4]
35...Nxd5 2:02 36.cxd5 8 f4 4:08



37.Rc8?? 3:38 Critical! But now Black has threats requiring White to take a perpetual:

[37.Qxa6+- wins, for example Qb8 38.Qd3+ Kg7 39.Kh2 Rg3 40.Qe4 f3 41.Qxh4 Rxc2+ 42.Rxc2+ fxc2 43.b4+-]

37...Qxa5 20 38.Qxe7+ 27 Rg7

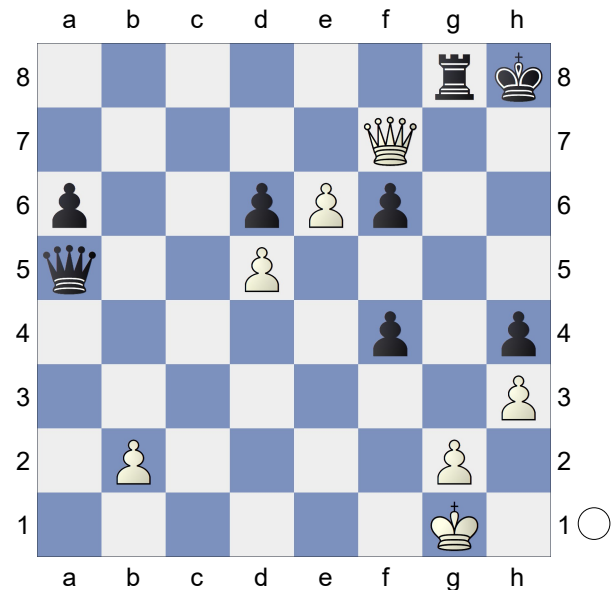


39.Rh8+! 3:45 draws, but of course something has gone horribly wrong for White. **39...Kxh8 2 40.Qe8+ 6 Rg8 15 41.Qh5+ 12 Kg7 19 42.Qf7+ 4 Kh8 2:24**

[42...Kh6

A) 43.Qxf6+= Rg6 44.Qxf4+=

(44.Qf8+=; 44.Qxh4+=);
B) 43.Qxg8 Qe1+ 44.Kh2 Qe5!=]



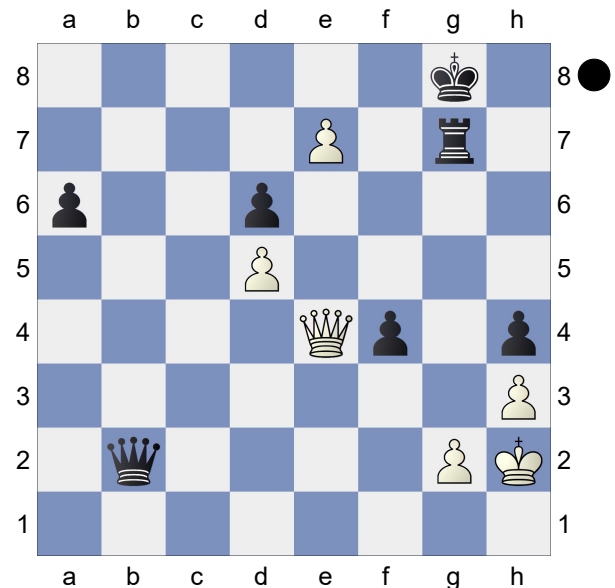
43.Qxf6+?? 10

[43.Qh5+=]

43...Rg7-+ 33 44.Qf8+ 13 Kh7 8

45.Qf5+ 11 Kg8! 22 46.Qe4 2:09 Qa1+

55 47.Kh2 28 Qxb2 25 48.e7 15



Qxg2+ 21 49.Qxg2 6 Rxc2+ 5

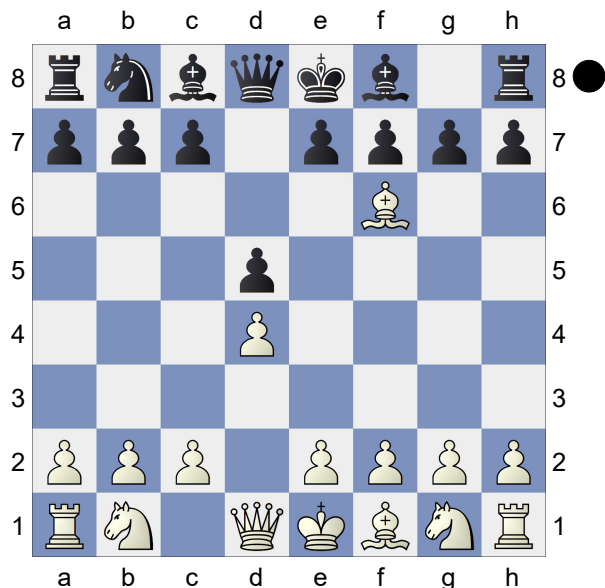
50.Kxc2 11 Kf7 51.Kf3 16 a5 10

Sometimes miracle saves provide the momentum for later rounds: true here. **0-1**

Dzhanhirov, Dmytro **D00**

Tsodikova, Natalya **2235**
2169
 2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (5.1) 01.04.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.d4 47 Nf6 18 2.Bg5 15 d5 16 3.Bxf6
7



One definite thing with the Trompowski:
 White can enforce imbalance!

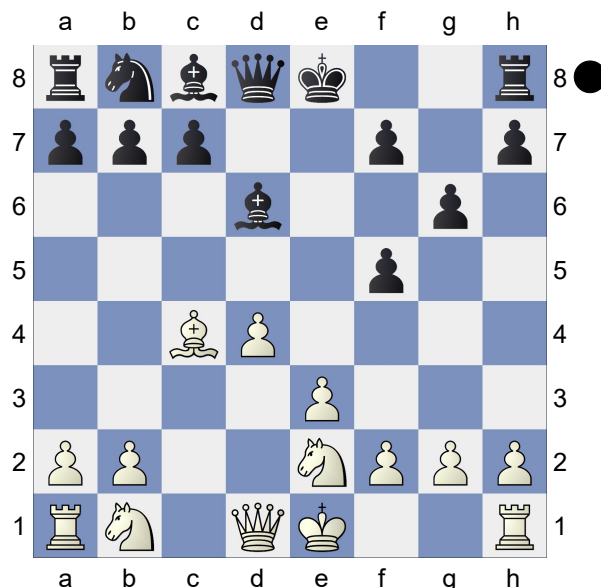
Objectively though (well, via engines!):
 nothing much. **3...exf6 18 4.e3 7 Bd6**
51 5.Bd3 8 f5 31 6.Ne2 2:00

[6.Nd2 c6 7.Ne2 Qh4 8.c4 dxc4
 9.Nxc4 Bc7 10.Qc2 g6 11.g3 Qe7
 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nc3 Rd8 14.Rad1
 Be6 15.Rfe1 Nd7 16.Nd2 Nb6
 17.a3 a5 18.Ne2 Nd5 19.Nc3 Nb6
 20.Ne2 a4 21.Nc3 h5 22.h4 Qf6
 23.Bf1 Qe7 24.Bg2 Ra5 25.Bf3 Bd6
 26.Bg2 Bb8 27.Bf3 Nd7 28.Nxa4 g5
 29.b4 Rxa4 30.Qxa4 gxh4 31.gxh4
 Qxh4 32.Kf1 Nf6 33.Ke2 Ne4
 34.Rg1+ Kf8 35.Bxe4 fxe4

Mamedyarov, S (2770)-Fedoseev, V
 (2687) Lichess.org INT 2021 1-0]

6...g6 1:59 7.c4 13 dxc4 1:09 8.Bxc4
25

(Diagram)



0-0N 58

[8...Nd7 9.Nbc3 c6 10.h4 Nf6
 11.Nf4 b5 12.Be2 Bxf4 13.exf4 0-0
 14.0-0 Be6 15.Bf3 Qd6 16.Qc1
 Rac8 17.Rd1 Rfd8 18.g3 Re8
 19.Qc2 a5 20.Rac1 Qb8 21.Qd3
 Bc4 22.Qc2 Red8 23.b3 Be6
 24.Qe2 Qb7 25.Qe5 Nd5 26.h5
 Re8 27.h6 f6 28.Qd6 Rcd8 29.Qc5
 Rc8 30.Re1 Nb4 31.Re3 Kf7 32.a3
 Nd5 33.Rxe6 Kxe6 34.Nxd5 cxd5
 35.Bxd5+ Qxd5 36.Re1+ Qe4
 37.Rxe4+ fxe4 38.Qxb5

Huber, P (2189)-Nikitenko, M (2374)
 Riga 2018 1/2-1/2]

9.Nbc3 1:00 c6 35 Black has been fine
 out of the opening, and it's starting to be
 conspicuous. The doubled pawns are of
 no consequence; the two bishops could
 well turn out to be. **10.h3 3:48**

Thinking about g2-g4? Otherwise
 unnecessary. **10...Nd7 2:48 11.Qc2?!
 12:34**

[11.a4]

11...Nf6 2:26

[11...b5! 12.Bb3 a5 13.a3 Ba6+
 is an initiative on the queenside,
 revolving around ...c5.]

12.Rd1 4:21

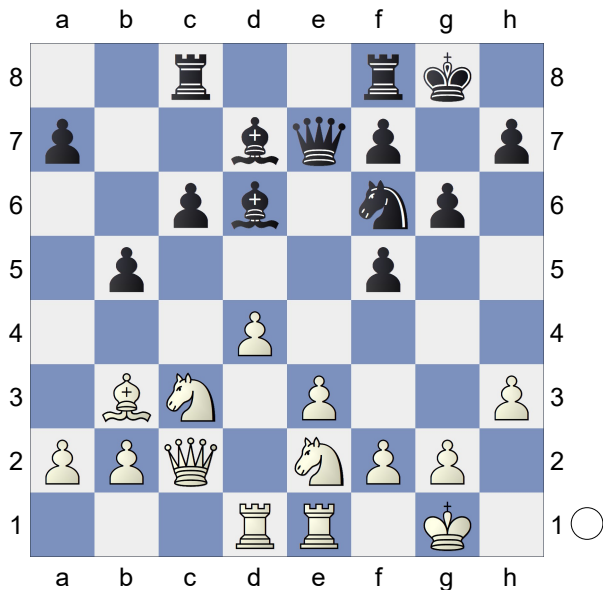
[12.a4!?]

12...Qe7 4:26

[12...b5!?]

13.Bb3 14:12 Bd7 6:23 14.0-0 4:57

Rac8 6:14 15.Rfe1 1:44 b5 1:48



Black creeps forward, as it turns out on both sides of the board. 16.Nf4!? 3:56

Bxf4?! 19:02 White's knight was no threat. 17.exf4 29 Qd6 17 18.g3 59

[18.Re5!]

18...h5!? 4:01 Another probe 19.Re5 5:40

[19.h4!?]

19...h4 49

[More accurate was first *another*: 19...a5]

20.Qe2? 2:51

[20.gxh4!?]

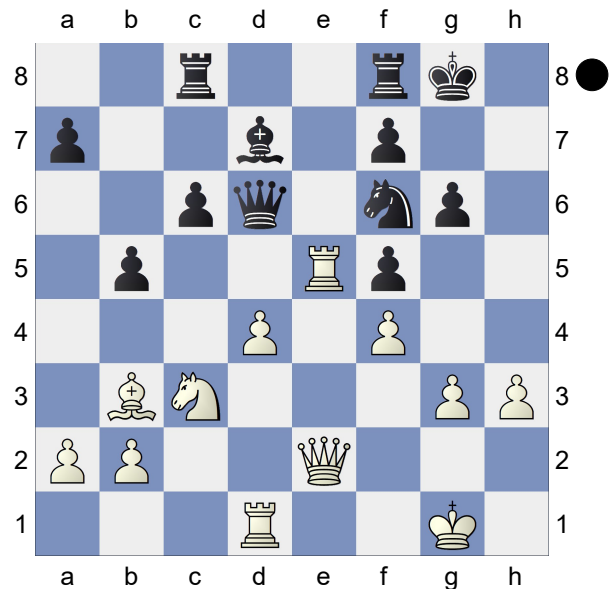
[20.g4!? a5 (20...fxg4??)]

20...hxg3 1:48 21.fxg3 12

(Diagram)

Certain static assessments might make Black worse here: bad bishop, doubled pawns, e-file, likelihood of enforcing d4-d5 ... but Stockfish 17.1 (update if you can!) has it (-1.56/27) for a clear plus Black! Worth trying to understand!

21...Rfe8+ 2:08 And in the time it took me to put together that last note, the



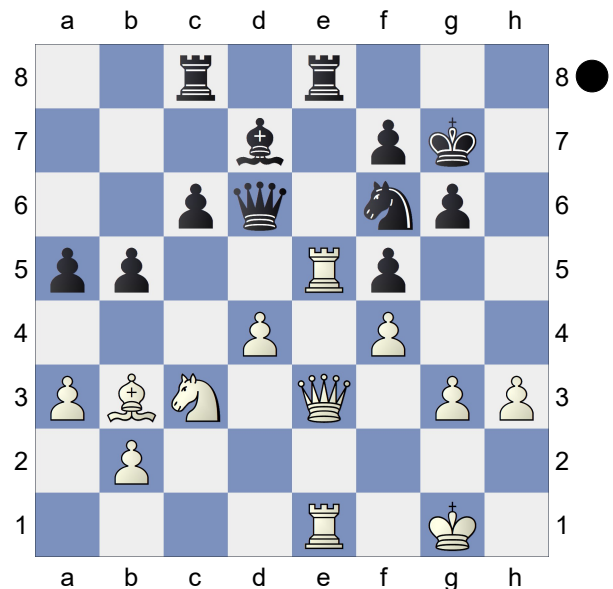
engine decided Black was *winning* after this --

[as well as after 21...Kg7+-]

22.Qe3 7:31 a5 3:57 This is not so necessary now

[22...Kg7]

23.a3 1:03 Kg7 10:39 24.Re1 10:34



Be6? 7:54 A tactically justified but positionally faulty alteration of the game. There was no progress for White (Re7 Rf8; Qe5 ... well maybe), and now...

[24...Rf8+]

[24...Rcd8! 25.Kg2 Rf8+-

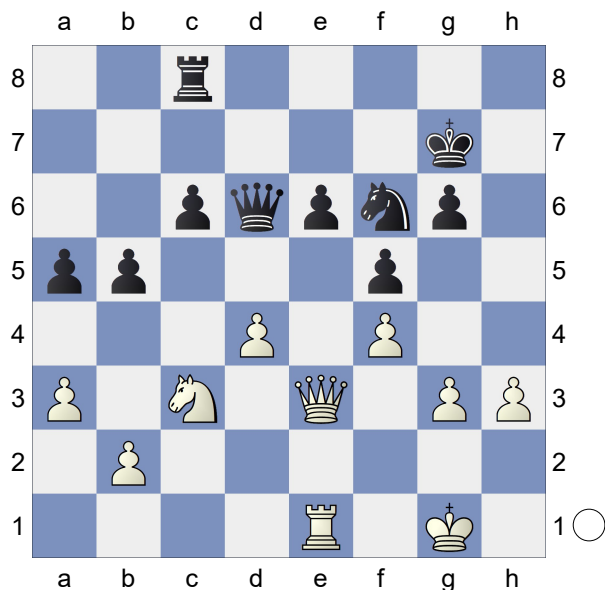
Two factors, one staticky one almost crude: (1) that d-pawn isn't so easy

to solve. d4-d5 either runs into ...c5 when it's hard to improve while Black has a fluid majority (2) Black could just try to utilize the a8-h1 diagonal for checkmate (!).]

25.Bxe6 19:26 Rxe6 30

[25...fxe6 26.a4!= (0.00/43) when Black's plus evaporates to nothing in the time I took to type this.]

26.Rxe6 1:25 fxe6 19



27.Qxe6?! 41

[27.Qe5! Rd8 28.Ne2 now Black can keep queens on (moving to e7 or d7) but again: next to nothing.]

27...Qxd4+ 26 28.Qe3 6 Qxe3+ 1:53

29.Rxe3 1 Kf7 17

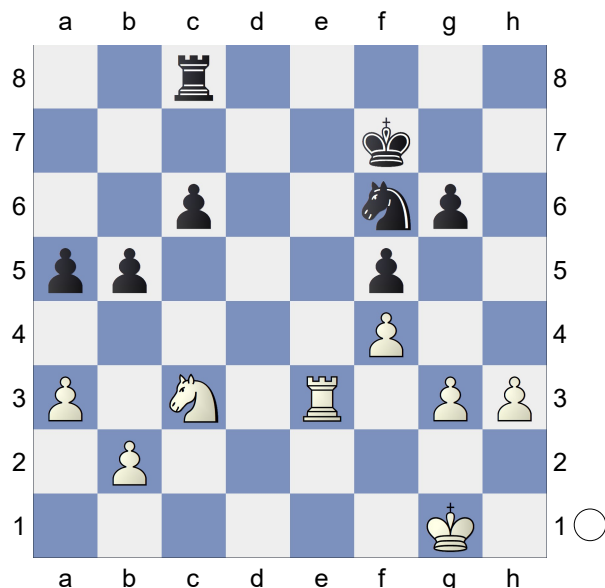
(Diagram)

With accurate defense White should hold. Unfortunately for Dmytro, the trials of this game have reduced his clock time to 3:24 (that's minutes and seconds) vs. Natalya's 20 minutes. Right now it's "0.00" everywhere (at depth 49!)... **30.Kf1 2:02**

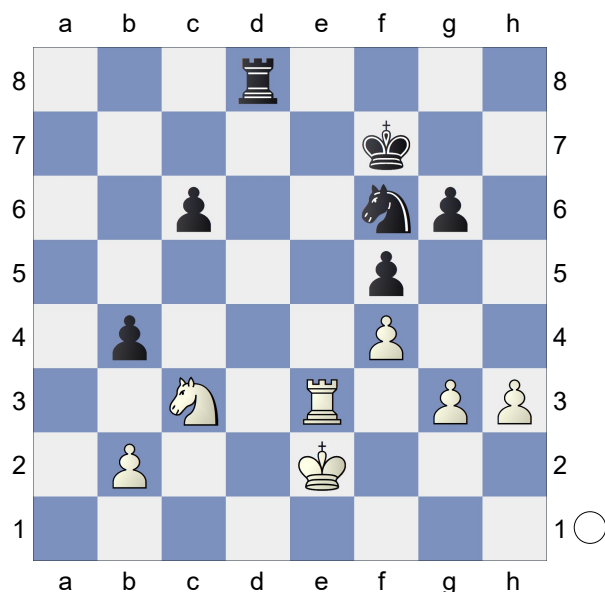
[30.Re5 Nd7 31.Re1 Nf6= (31...Nc5 32.Re5 Nd3 33.Re2)]

30...Rd8 1:50 31.Ke2 53 b4 1:09

32.axb4 1:05 (under a minute left)



32...axb4 2



33.Na2?± 34

[33.Nb1=]

[33.Na4=]

33...c5 1:58 34.Rd3?+ 35 Re8+ 1:25

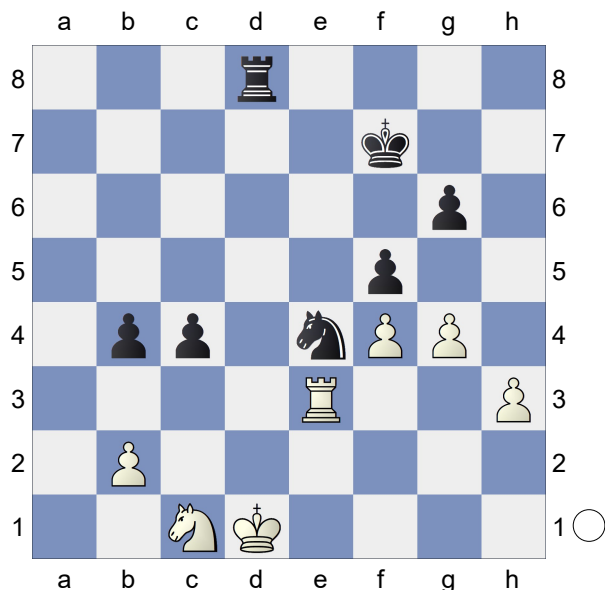
The eval jumps to -3.74 or so. Without ever a change in the material balance, Tsodikova is winning. *Very* impressive!

35.Re3 7 Ne4! 3:23 She's been taking her time, but still has 13 minutes left.

Dmytro has been pacing somewhat moving with 30 seconds left (and another 30 added every move) but it's only enough time to move by inertia.

36.g4 25 (Neither good nor bad)

36...Ra8 2:04 37.Nc1 8 c4! 28 38.Kd1
1:24 Rd8+ 33
[Also on a par is 38...Ra1]



I think White lost on time but I'm not sure. In any case, in spite of the equal material, White is quite lost. A hiccup or two, but otherwise a splendid game by Tsodikova, rewriting the tournament race completely!

0-1

□ Heiserman, Jimmy E25 2303
■ Ivanenko, Anthony Vladimir 1901
2025 Spring TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 18.03.25
[TA/Winslow, Elliott]

NM Jimmy Heiserman started out slow with a draw with Chinguun Bayaraa, but came back here. Ivanenko essayed the Nimzoindian only to run into 4.f3 and a complicated battle. Heiserman kept up the tension and Tony did lose his way, but in a rook and knight "NQE" ("Not Quite an Endgame" as Glenn Flear calls it), where White was a move ahead in the checkmating game. Tense and exciting. 1.d4 2 Nf6 8 2.c4 5 e6 6

3.Nc3 14 Bb4 7 4.f3 7 The Kmoch Variation often leads to highly unusual and delicate situations, if Black avoids the classical approach. See the iconic and extremely famous Botvinnik-Capablanca, AVRO 1938. 4...d5 27

[4...c5]

[4...0-0]

5.a3 25 Bxc3+ 1:53

[5...Be7]

[5...Bd6]

6.bxc3 6 c5 10 7.cxd5 17 Nxd5 7

[7...exd5 8.e3 0-0 (8...Qc7!?

9.Ra2!) 9.Bd3 b6 10.Ne2 Re8!?

11.0-0 Ba6 12.Ng3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3

Nc6 14.Bb2! (14.Ra2 Qd7 15.Re2

Rad8 16.Bb2 h5 17.Ree1 h4

18.Nh1 h3 19.g4 Nh7 20.Ng3 Ng5

An early occasion of sending the h-

pawn into the fray. Obviously White

wasted time. 0-1 (52) Elijanov,P

(2732)-Bologan,V (2655) Poikovsky

Karpov 15th 2014 (5)) 14...h5

(14...c4 was played dozens of times

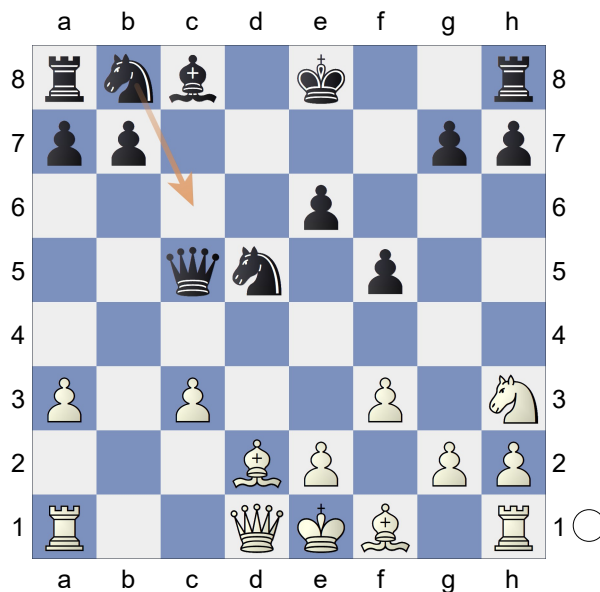
before Shankland,S-Sanikidze,T,

Baku Olympiad 2016, which capped

Sam's streak into the 2700s.)]

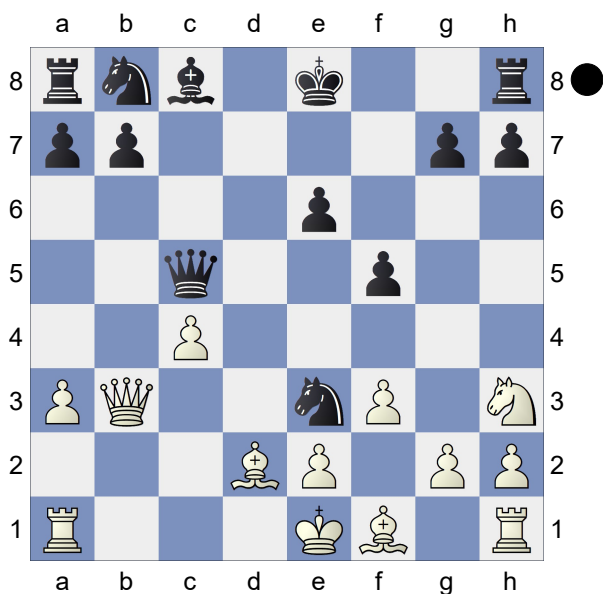
8.dxc5 1:33 f5 41 9.Nh3 1:13 Qa5 4:28

10.Bd2 40:29 Qxc5 1:14



11.c4! 54 Ne3 10:05 12.Qb3 55

[12.Qc1!? scores a lot better but really isn't any better (or worse).]



12...Qd4N 15:39

[12...Nxf1 13.Kxf1 Nc6 14.Bb4 Nxb4 15.axb4 Qe7 16.g3 0-0 17.Kg2 e5 18.c5+ Be6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (40) Caspi,I (2471)-Soffer,R (2442) ISR-chT Israel 2024 (4.35)]

13.Rc1 8:21 A sharp opening

[13.Qxe3 Qxa1+ 14.Kf2 0-0 $\neq$]

13...Nxf1 13

[13...f4?! 14.Bc3 (14.Nxf4 Nxf1 15.Rxf1 0-0 $\pm$) 14...Qb6 15.Qb5+ (15.Qxb6 axb6 16.Nxf4 0-0 $\pm$) 15...Bd7 (15...Qxb5? 16.cxb5 0-0 17.Bb4+- Deflection) 16.Qg5+-]

14.Rxf1 9

[14.Bc3 simplifies Qb6 15.Qxb6 axb6 16.Kxf1 Kf7 17.Bb2]

14...0-0 1:09

[$\triangle$ 14...Qh4+ 15.Rf2 Nc6 16.Bg5 Qh5 (16...Qd4) 17.Bf4 0-0 18.Bd6 Rf7 19.c5]

15.Nf4?! 7:50

[15.f4!? h6 (15...Rd8 16.Bc3! Qb6 17.Qa2! Nd7 18.Rf3 Nf6 19.Qa1 $\pm$) 16.c5 Nd7 17.Be3 Qe4 18.Rf3 Nf6 19.Nf2 Qd5 20.Qb2]

15...Rd8 7:22 16.Be3 3:15 Qe5?!

0.78/25 22

[16...Qf6= 0.18/26]

17.Kf2 $\pm$ 1:06 Nc6 10:53 18.Rfd1 3:11

[18.c5!?]

18...Bd7 1.74/22 1:19

[18...Re8 $\pm$ 0.72/23]

19.h4 1.12/27 9:44

[19.c5+- 1.74/22]

19...Rac8 1.91/25 6:44

[19...Qf6 $\pm$ 1.12/27 is a better defense.]

20.Nd3 3:48

[20.g3!]

[20.Qxb7!?]

20...Qc7 4:23 21.c5 3:44 Kh8 1:52

22.Nf4? 0.20/30 3:21

[White should try 22.Rb1+- 1.64/28]

22...e5= 8:18 23.Nd5 3:09 Be6! 26

24.Nxc7 4

[24.Bg5? Qf7 25.Bxd8 Rxd8+-]

24...Bxb3 5 25.Rxd8+ 3 Rxd8 8

26.Rb1 $\uparrow$ 1:13 White is more active.

26...Na5 0.71/22 2:59

[26...Bc4= 0.11/27 (0.00/29)]

27.Ke1 0.28/31 1:24

[27.c6! $\pm$ 0.71/22 bxc6 28.Bxa7]

27...f4? 4.88/23 2:12 This costs Black the game.

[27...Bg8= 0.28/31 and Black has nothing to worry.]

28.Bd2+- 16 Deflection 28...Nc4 2:56

29.Rxb3 10 Rxd2 4 30.Rxb7 29 h6 10

31.Ne6 3:58

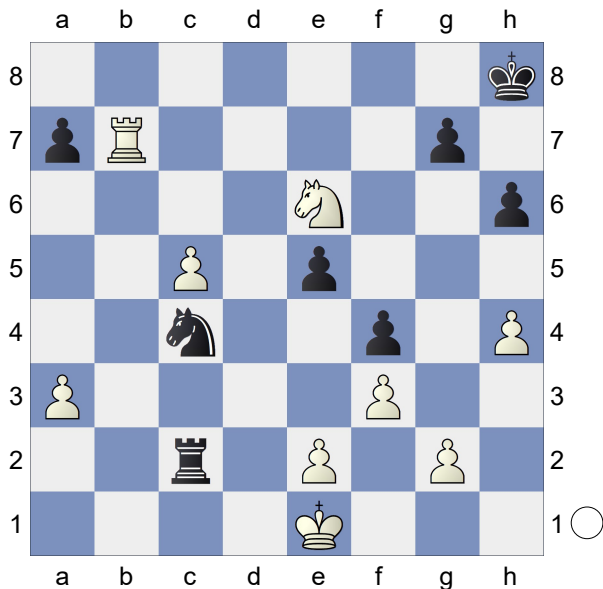
[31.Rxa7 Rc2 32.Nd5 (32.Ra8+ Kh7 $\pm$ 33.Nd5) 32...Rc1+ 33.Kf2 Nb2+- 34.Ne7 Nd1+ 35.Ke1 Ne3+ 36.Kd2]

[31.h5! Rc2 32.Nd5 Ne3 (32...a6 33.c6) 33.Ne7! g5 (33...Nxc2+ 34.Kf2+-) 34.c6]

31...Rc2 1:31

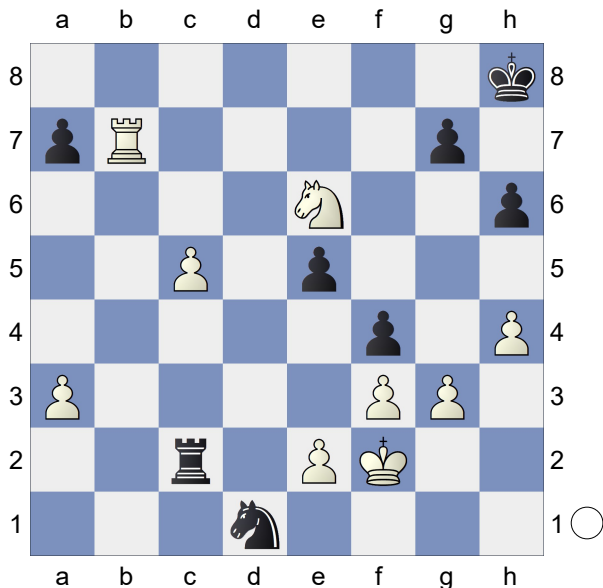
(Diagram)

32.Kf2! 12 White stays ahead of Black's

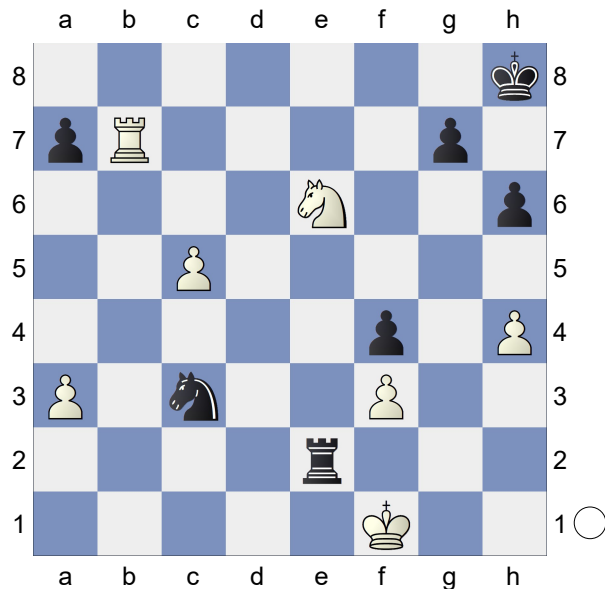


plan of trapping White's king -- by one move.

[32.Nxg7?? Rc1+ 33.Kf2 Ne3-+]
32...Ne3 2:08 33.g3! 24 Nd1+ 35
 [33...g5 34.hxg5 hxg5 35.Rb8+ Kh7
 36.Nxg5+ Kg6 (36...Kh6 37.gxf4
 exf4 38.Ne6) 37.gxf4 exf4 38.Nh3]



34.Ke1! 10 Nc3 4.95/23 3:41
 [34...Ne3 2.93/27 35.g4 (35.Rxg7
 Rxc5 36.gxf4 Ra5+-; 35.gxf4 Ng2+
 36.Kf2 Nxf4+-) 35...Nc4]
35.gxf4 10
 [35.Nxg7? fxg3]
35...Rxe2+ 5 36.Kf1 5 exf4 57

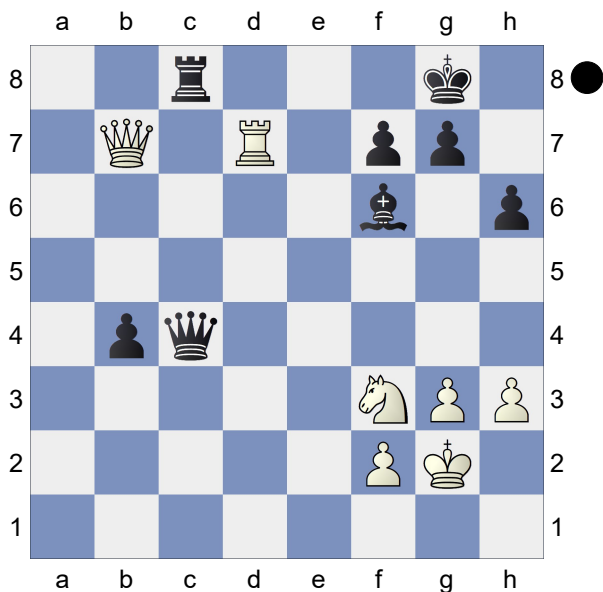


37.c6! 12 Rxe6 1:08 KRN-KR
 [37...Rc2 38.c7]
38.c7 3 Rc6 32 39.Rb8+ 4 Kh7 25
40.c8Q 5 Rxc8 5 41.Rxc8 3 Nb5 8
42.a4 7 Nd4 47 43.Kf2 1:12 Kg6 30
44.Rc7 27 a5 1:07 45.Rc5 9 Kf6 1:12
46.Rxa5 12 g5 47.Ra6+ 10 Ke5 1:16
48.Rxh6 5 gxh4 1:08 49.Rxh4 6 Nb3
12 50.a5 16 Nc5 36 51.Ke2 6.91/27 39
 [Δ51.Rh6 #21/32]
51...Kd5 57 Weighted Error Value:
 White=0.35/Black=0.69
1-0

D53
 1558
 1711
 2025 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (5.16)
 [Abraham,Michael David]

EW: This was an up-and-down game! It could have been just a smooth "bad move loses" but it took quite a turn! **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 a6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.e3 (This is not blitz... I will NOT capture on f6.) 7...0-0 8.Bxc4 Nbd7 9.0-0 Nb6 10.Bd3 h6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Qc2 c6 13.Rad1 Nd5 14.Nxd5 (Well, I want to keep my**

light squared bishop even if it means letting his get into the game too)
14...exd5 15.h3 Re8 16.Rfe1 Qd6 17.e4 dxe4 18.Rxe4 Rxe4 19.Bxe4 Be6 20.Kf1 (me struggling to find a concrete plan of any type) **20...Qb4 21.d5** (took me an embarrassingly long time to find) **21...cxd5 22.Bxd5 Rc8 23.Qe2 Bxd5 24.Rxd5 Qxa4**
 (I almost resigned here but decided to give my opponent the opportunity to make mistakes.) **25.g3 Qa1+ 26.Kg2 Qxb2 27.Rd2 Qb4 28.Rd7 b5 29.Qa2** (the first glimmer of hope for me) **29...Qc4 30.Qxa6 b4 31.Qb7**



b3? (Perhaps black had relaxed too much at this point)

[31...Rc6! (EW: Acc. to Stockfish 17.1 the **only** move to get a serious advantage!)]

32.Nd2 Qc2 33.Qxb3 (I almost captured with the knight but was hoping he wouldn't notice the threat on f7. He didn't.) **33...Qf5?! 34.Qxf7+** (I was torn about whether to capture with the rook or queen but decided I wanted both pieces on the 7th rank) **34...Kh7 35.g4 Qf4 36.Nf3 Rc3 37.Qd5 Qb4??**

(EW: Losing!!) **38.Rb7??±**

[38.g5+-]

[38.Rf7+-]

[38.Qf5+! Kh8 (38...Kg8 39.Qe6+ Kh8 40.Qe8+ Kh7 41.g5!+-) 39.Ne5+-]

38...Qf4 39.Ra7 Rc8 40.Qd3+ Kh8 41.Qd7 Rf8 42.Nh4 Qe4+ 43.Nf3 Bc3 44.Qb7 Qe2 45.Kg3 Bd4 0-1

D00
1600
1446
 2025 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (5.20)
[Siegel,David]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c5 (The Accelerated London System, Steinitz Countergambit)
3.e3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Nbd2 cxd4 6.exd4 e6 White did not hang a pawn here:

[6...Nxd4?? 7.Nxd4! Bxd1 8.Bb5+]

7.c3 Nf6

[7...Bd6 is probably a better move.]

8.h3 Bh5 9.Qb3 Qc8 I thought I might be getting crushed here, so I thought for a long time before playing Qc8. The computer actually preferred Bd6 again for Black, and if White tries to take the b-pawn Black allegedly has compensation.

10.Nh4 h6 11.Bh2 Be7 I thought that **12. g4 Nd7 13. gxh5 Bxh4** looked ok for Black, but we both missed that (12. g4 Nd7 13. Ndf3!) gives White an advantage. **12.Bd3 Ne4 13.Nhf3 Nxd2 14.Nxd2 f6** I finally had some breathing room. My thought behind f6 was to prevent (15. g4 Bg6 16. Bxg6 fxg6) from creating a backwards pawn on e6, and it also retains some flexibility on playing e5 vs f5. However it did weaken the White squares around my king. **15.Qc2 0-0 16.0-0 e5 17.Bf5 Qc7 18.Rfe1 Bd6 19.Be6+ Kh8** I avoided the bishop trade because I didn't want to simplify

the position yet. I liked the idea of the d-file opening up with my bishop eyeing d1 and e2, and the knight tactics on d4 seemed favorable. **20.Bxd5 Nxd4 21.Qd3 Nc6 22.Bb3 Ne7** I wanted to be able to respond to a future Bc2 mate threat with Bg6, but this does place an absurd number of black pieces on black squares. **23.Ne4 Rad8 24.Qc4 Qxc4 25.Bxc4 Bc7** It seems like Black has control over the d-file and White cannot put a rook there, or even lift one to the second rank, because of the White bishop on h5. The computer suggestion (26. f3) helps White to regain control with an equal score (=0.0), but it does weaken king safety a bit. The game continuation (26. Nc5) has a similar computer score, but requires more precise followup to maintain equality. **26.Nc5 Rd2 27.b4 Bb6 28.Ne4**
 [The computer suggestion for move 28 is wild: 28.Bf4!]
28...Rb2 I made some calculations and took a deep breath... this was a committal move... **29.Bg3?! (-0.41 → -1.21)** Inaccuracy.
 [29.a4 was best: a5 30.bxa5 Bxa5 31.Rab1 Rxb1 32.Rxb1 Rc8 33.Nd6 Rc6 34.g4 Bg6]
29...f5 30.Nd6?? (-1.00 → -4.11) Blunder. Nc5 was best.
 [30.Nc5 f4]
30...f4 All the tactics work for Black now. **31.Rxe5? (-3.84 → -6.36)** Mistake. Bh4 was best.
 [31.Bh4 Ng6 32.Nxb7 Nxh4 33.Nc5 Rf5 34.Ne4 Rg5 35.Nxg5 hxg5 36.Rf1 e4]
31...fxg3 32.Rxh5 Rxf2 33.Nf7+ Kh7 34.Ng5+ Kg6 35.Bf7+? (-8.13 → Mate in 8) Checkmate is now unavoidable. **35.Kh1** was best.
 [35.Kh1 hxg5 36.Rh7 Kxh7 37.Bf1 Kh6 38.a4 Ra2 39.Re1 Rf8 40.Bd3

g6]
35...Rxf7+
0-1

E90
1204
1044

□ **Le,Thu Anh**
 ■ **Singer,Andrew**
 2025 Spring TNM: u1600 (2.29) 11.03.25
 [Le,Thu Anh]

(EW) Thu continues her inspection of her games, which often takes interesting turns! (I didn't say always sound though :-)
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.Bd3 e6 8.Nf3 Na6

[8...exd5

A) 9.cxd5

A1) 9...a6 10.a4 Nbd7
 (10...Nh5!?);

A2) 9...b5!?;

B) 9.exd5 Re8+ 10.Be3 Bh6

11.0-0 Bxe3 12.fxe3 Nbd7!?!
 it's all a long-known line; at least it's quite unbalanced!]

9.a3

[9.0-0! Nc7 10.a4 Na6 11.Ra3]

9...exd5 10.cxd5 Nc7 11.0-0 Re8

[11...b5!? 12.Re1!]

12.Bg5 My prep ends here. At this point White should have a comfortable +1-ish advantage. **12...Qd7 13.Qd2**

Decided to follow through with trading the DSB. I also considered Qe2 or a4 to stop ...b5

[13.Qe2]

[13.a4 I wasn't sure about giving Black's knight an outpost on b4.]

13...c4

[13...b5]

14.Bxc4

[14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Bxc4 Bg7

White wins a pawn here, but Black gets good counterplay with the DSB.

So I thought I'd rather trade out and weaken their K-side.]

14...Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Rxe4 16.Ba2 b6 17.Bh6?!

[17.Rfe1±]

17...Bb7

[17...Ba6 Much better eye-sight.]

18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Rfe1

[19.Ng5 Re7 20.Qd4+ Kg8 21.Ne4 Looks strong for White.]

19...Rae8 20.Rxe4 Rxe4 21.Rc1 Re7

22.Qd4+ f6 23.Ng5?? A tempting move, but is actually a blunder. I thought well, if he finds the right sequence, it'd be a draw and if he doesn't, then I win. But there is a win for Black!

[23.Qd3 Qa4]

[23.Qd1]

23...h6?? Black missed the win here.

[23...Nb5 24.Ne6+ Rxe6 I calculated this sequence and concluded that it's winning for White. However, I missed ...QxNe6 \$1 (24...Qxe6 Black wins a piece here. 25.dxe6 Nxd4) 25.dxe6] [23...Nxd5 I also saw this sequence and thought it would be a draw.

24.Bxd5 Bxd5 25.Qxd5 fxe6

26.Qxg5]

[23...Re5 Cutting off the pin doesn't work because White gets the passed pawn through. 24.Ne6+]

[23...Bxd5=]

[23...Nxd5=]

[23...Nb5! and 24...fxg5 next: and if 24.Ne6+ the unexpected Qxe6!-+ just wins a piece! (24...Rxe6??+-)]

24.Ne6+

[24.Rxc7 Qxc7 25.Ne6+ Rxe6 26.dxe6 Fancy, but relieves all pressure for Black.]

24...Nxe6 25.dxe6 Qb5??

[25...Qd8 is a lot better but ultimately also losing: 26.Bd5 (26.Re1; 26.Rd1 d5 27.Qa4) 26...Bxd5 27.Qxd5]

26.Qxd6! Qe8 27.Rc7 Kf8 28.Rxb7 1-0

A03

□ **Chen,Bowie**

■ **Cao,Danny Du Uy**

2025 Spring TNM: u1600 (2.31) 11.03.25

[Cao,Danny Du Uy]

1.f4 d5 2.c4 Bg4

[2...d4]

[2...c6]

[2...e6]

3.cxd5 Qxd5

[3...Nf6]

4.Nc3 Qd6 5.d3 Nf6 6.Qa4+ c6 7.e4 e5 8.h3 Bd7

[8...Bh5 9.g4]

9.Nf3 Qb4

[9...exf4 10.Bxf4 Qb4]

10.Qc2 Bc5

[10...exf4 11.Bxf4 Be7]

11.Nxe5 0-0 12.Nc4 Bd4

[12...b5 13.a3]

13.Bd2 Bxc3

[13...Be6 14.Ne2 (14.Nd5 Qxb2) 14...Qc5]

14.Bxc3 Qe7 15.0-0-0 c5

[15...b5 16.Na5]

16.Be5 Nc6

[16...Qe6]

17.Bd6 Qd8 18.Bxf8 Kxf8 19.Nd6 b6

20.f5 Nd4 21.Qc4 Qe7 22.e5 Bxf5??

[22...Nh5!]

A) 23.e6 fxe6 24.fxe6 Bxe6;

B) 23.f6

B1) 23...Qe6 24.Qxe6 Nxe6 (24...Bxe6 25.fxg7+ Nxg7);

B2) 23...Qxe5 24.Qxf7#;

C) 23.g4!±]

[22...Ne8 23.f6 Qxe5 (23...Qe6 24.Qxe6 Bxe6 25.Nxe8 Kxe8 26.fxg7 Ke7) 24.Qxf7#]

23.Nxf5+- Qxe5

[23...Nxf5 24.exf6 Qe3+]
24.Nxd4 Qe3+ 25.Kb1 cxd4 26.Qb4+
Kg8 27.Re1 Qf4 28.Be2 Nd5 29.Qb5
Qg5 30.Qc6 Rd8 31.Bf3 Nc3+
32.bxc3 Rf8 33.Rhf1 dxc3 34.Bd5
Qd2 35.Qb5 c2+ 36.Ka1 Qc3+
37.Qb2 Qd2 38.Rc1 Rc8 39.Rxf7!
[39.Rxc2 Rxc2 40.Bxf7+ Kh8
41.Bb3]
39...Rc3
[39...Kh8]
[39...Qd1 40.Rf1+ Kh8 41.Rfxd1]
40.Rf2+ Kh8 41.Rf8#
1-0



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Since 1854

A Shoutout from Thunder Chess in Gothenburg

Brjann Sigurgeirsson

My name is Brjann Sigurgeirsson. I make computer games for a living, and I've visited San Francisco for the Game Developers Conference in March every year for well over a decade now. A few years ago, my game industry colleague George – who is also a big chess fan – suggested that we do something different that year. Rather than discussing our business at the conference, how about finding a chess board somewhere and playing a few games while we negotiate our deals?

I really liked the idea, but I didn't expect him to find something as unique as the Mechanics' Institute... and its amazing chess club. We happened to get there before lunch one day, and fully expected the club to be closed in the daytime. But to our surprise the door was open. We tentatively entered, introduced ourselves and asked if we could sit down and play. We were greeted very warmly by Alex Robins and FM Paul Whitehead, and I had one of my greatest chess experiences ever.

We've since been back at the club every year, and have made a point of conducting our joint business meetings at the Mechanics' Institute. We typically nail down our business deals quickly – so that we have more time for hammering each other over the board! We also get to chat with Alex about chess – of course – but also about gaming in general.

Partly inspired by my experiences at Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, in 2022 I decided to found my own club back home in Gothenburg, Sweden's biggest city after Stockholm. Not many people start proper chess clubs these days, and I was still playing for my boyhood club – but I wanted to create something new and fresh, and I wanted to incorporate the welcoming attitude of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club. And as you well know, kindness always wins: after just three years Thunder Chess is already Gothenburg's strongest chess club, and on its way to becoming also one of the biggest. Our "love all, serve all" philosophy attracts veterans and newcomers alike.

It's certainly humbling to represent one of Europe's youngest chess club on my visits to the oldest chess club in America, and also one of the oldest in the world. Although there's an impressive age difference between the clubs, our drive and love for the game is the same. As long as you have a board, borders don't matter.



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Since 1854

Having known Mechanics' Institute Chess Club and Alex for a few years now, I would very much like to invite all chess players in the Bay Area to visit our club in Gothenburg whenever you happen to swing by. You'll find more information at www.thunderchess.se!

Editor's note: One of my favorite things about chess is how you end up meeting people you may not have crossed paths with otherwise. It's been a pleasure to see Brjann and George every year and now our readers have a place to play in Sweden.

Annotated Games from the 23rd Pafnutieff Memorial

NM Sricharan Pallela

A selection of games from the 23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament annotated by NM Sricharan Pallela. Scroll down to the next page for the games and annotation!

□ Suresh,Sudeep

■ Kodihalli,Kaustubh

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (1..
[Sricharan Pullela]

D12

1809

1992

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5

5.Nc3 e6 So far a very traditional and calm semi slav, but things are about to get messy! 6.Nh4!? First chance to grab the bishop, white doesn't hesitate!

[6.Bd3 May have been the more safe approach in a low time control game followed by Bg6 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.b3 Bd6 9.Bb2=]

6...Be4

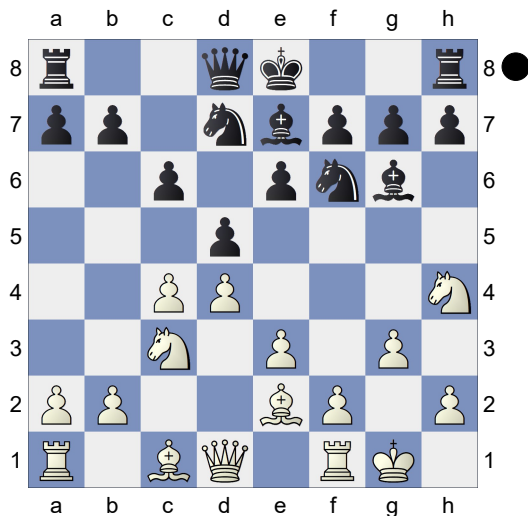
[6...Bg6 Is generally the better approach, allowing the opening of the rook in the case of a capture

A) 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.Qb3↑ Qb6

9.Bd2 (9.Qxb6 axb6 10.f3)

9...Nbd7 10.Be2=;

B) 7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.g3=



7.f3 Bg6 8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.Rb1?!

I find this move somewhat confusing to understand since the b pawn push on the queenside doesn't seem to have that much energy behind it

[9.Qb3 seems like the more direct approach Qb6 (9...Qc7 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Bd2) 10.Be2 Nbd7 11.0-0

dx c4 12.Bxc4 (12.Qxc4 e5∞)

12...Be7 13.a4↑]

[9.g3 Bd6 10.Kf2 Nbd7 11.Kg2

Qe7 12.Bd2 0-0 13.cxd5 cxd5

14.Qb3 Nb6 15.Nb5 Rfc8 16.Nxd6

Qxd6 17.Bb4 Qc7 18.Be2 Nc4

19.Rhc1 e5 20.Qc3 e4 21.b3 a5

22.Ba3 b5 23.bxc4 b4 24.Bxb4

axb4 25.Qxb4 Rab8 26.Qd2 dxc4

27.a4 c3 28.Qe1 Rb2 29.Kg1 Nd5

30.fxe4 Nxe3 31.Bd3 Ng4 32.Rc2

Qb6 33.Kh1 Qxd4 34.Rd1 Rxc2

0-1 (34) Hansen,E (2573)-Bartel,M

(2622) Berlin 2015]

9...Nh5 Perfect opportunity taken from black-Kodihalli now has his eyes on the g3 square 10.Rg1?! A somewhat comedic coincidence, both rook moves ended up making white's position slightly worse for their own reasons!

[10.Qb3 This move consistently strikes me as the best option since it is the most forward attacking move and almost puts pressure in the center Qc7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Ne2 controlling the g3 square-white still has control in the center and a relatively safe king]

10...dxc4 11.g3? This move prevents Qh4 which is a reasonable idea to fear, however in the long run there doesn't seem to be much for black due to the lack of development

[11.Bxc4 Qh4+ I suppose this may have been the only move white was fearing, but the queen and knight alone can't really do much 12.Kd2 a6! (Crazy stockfish lines!) (12...Qxh2 13.Kc2 Nd7 14.Bd2 Bb4 15.Rc1∞; 12...b5 13.Be2 a5 14.Kc2 Na6 15.a3 Qd8! shortly after the queen realizes it's lost purpose on h4 and returns to the home square 16.Ne4 Qb6↑) 13.a3 b5 14.Be2 c5 15.Kc2 cxd4 16.Qxd4 Qxh2 17.f4!! Qxg1

18.Bf3∞ And the whole rook is trapped!]

11...b5 When given the first opportunity black immediately latches onto the pawn
 12.Bg2 Nf6 13.Rh1 Nbd7 14.Kf2 Rc8
 15.e4?! Weakens the d4 pawn
 [15.a3 Be7 16.h4̄]

15...Nb6 Queen to the same square would've been better to put pressure on the d4 pawn 16.Be3 Be7 17.Qc2 Qc7
 18.Rbd1 Kf8? While the move seems a bit odd, after some thought the idea does become more clear-to keep the rook on the h file while moving the king out of the center. However, the rook doesn't actually serve a purpose there anymore since the h2 pawn is securely guarded, thus rendering the h8 rook too passive

[18...0-0 To safeguard the king and relocate the rook 19.Bf1 a6 20.a4 c5̄ And black starts crashing through on the queenside and center-]

19.Bf1 e5?!
 [19...a6 strengthens the queenside and prepares the c5 break 20.a4 Rh5 21.Bf4 Qb7 22.g4 (22.h4 b4 23.Nb1 c5̄) 22...Rh4 23.Bg3 Rh8 24.h4↑]

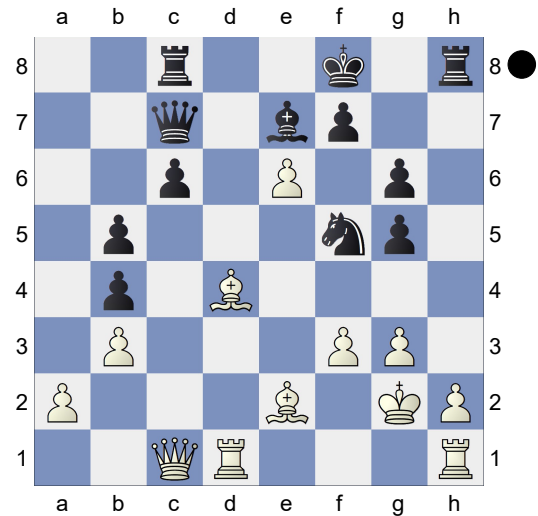
20.d5? With such a flimsy center, this isn't the ideal approach

[20.Be2 developing and trying to keep a modest center was definitely the better approach exd4 21.Bxd4 g5 (21...c5 22.Nxb5±) 22.Kg2 g6 23.b3 b4 24.e5 Nh5 (24...Nfd5 25.Nxd5 cxd5 26.e6 Rh7 27.exf7 Qc6! 28.Rhe1 Qe6 29.Bf1 Qh3+ 30.Kg1 Qf5=) 25.e6 Ng7 26.Na4 Nf5 27.Nxb6 axb6 28.Qxc4 b5 29.Qc1∞

(Diagram)

]

20...cxd5 21.exd5 Bc5 Perfectly taking



advantage of the weak king in the center

22.Qe2 b4 23.d6 Qc6

[23...Bxd6 24.Nb5̄]

24.Ne4 Nxe4+ 25.fxe4 Bxd6

White may have had a chance to play on here but I would also agree that the position is quite difficult to look at for white, down 2 pawns and black has a crushing edge in the center and queenside. A well played victory for Kodihalli!

0-1

□ Sethi,Kanwar

■ Guo,Ethan

B51

1925

2078

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (2..
 [Sricharan Pullela]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.c3 Ngf6 5.d3 a6 6.Ba4 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Bc2 0-0 9.Nbd2 b5 10.a4 Bb7 11.Re1 Qc7 12.Qe2 Rfe8 13.Nf1 Bf8 14.d4 cxd4 15.cxd4 bxa4 16.Rxa4 Bc6 17.Ra1 d5 18.e5 Ne4 19.Ng3 Bb5 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 Nxg3 22.hxg3 Qc4 23.Qxc4 dxc4 24.Bd2 Nb6 25.Rec1 Rec8 26.Ba5 Rc6 27.Nd2 Rac8 28.Kf1 g6 29.Ke2 Be7 30.Bxb6 Rxb6 31.Rxc4 Rcb8 32.b3 h5 33.Rc7 Kf8 34.Ra7 Bb4 35.Nc4 Rb5

36.R1xa6 Be7 37.Rc6 R8b7 38.Rxb7
 Rxb7 39.Rb6 Ra7 40.Ke3 g5 41.Nd6
 Ra1 42.Rb7 Rg1 43.Kf3 Rd1 44.Ke3
 Rg1 45.Rb8+ Kg7 46.Re8 Bf8 47.Ne4
 Ba3 48.Nf6 Rb1 49.Rb8 h4 50.gxh4
 gxh4 51.Kf4 Rf1 52.Kg5 Bf8 53.f4
 Rg1 54.Kxh4 Rxc2 55.Nh5+ Kg8
 56.b4 Rh2+ 57.Kg4 Rg2+ 58.Kh3 Rg1
 59.Kh2 Rd1 60.b5 Rxd4 61.b6 Rd2+
 62.Kg3 Rd3+ 63.Kg4 f5+ 64.exf6 Kf7
 65.Ra8 Rb3 66.Ra7+ Kg6 67.Rg7+
 Bxc7 68.fxc7 Kf7 69.Nf6 Kxc7 70.Nd7
 Kg6 71.Nc5 Rxb6 72.Nxe6 Rb1
 73.Nf8+ Kf7 74.Nd7 Ke6 75.Nf8+ Kd5
 76.Kf5 Rb7 77.Ng6 Rf7+ 78.Kg5 Ke4
 79.Kg4 Rf5 80.Kh4 Kf3 81.Ne7 Rxf4+
 82.Kg5 Ke4 83.Ng6 Rf5+ 84.Kg4 Rf1
 85.Kg5 Kd5 86.Nf4+ Ke5 87.Ng6+
 Ke4 88.Ne7 Rf7 89.Ng6 Kd5 90.Nf4+
 Kd6 91.Ng6 Ke6 92.Nf4+ Ke7
 93.Ng6+ Ke8 94.Nf4 Kf8 95.Ng6+ Kg7
 96.Nf4 Ra7 97.Ne6+ Kf7 98.Nf4 Ra5+
 99.Kg4 Kf6 100.Nh5+ Kg6 101.Nf4+
 Kh6 102.Kh4 Rg5 103.Nh3 Rg7
 104.Nf4 Kh7 105.Nh5 Rg1 106.Ng3
 Kg6 107.Kg4 Ra1 108.Kf4 Ra4+
 109.Ne4 Ra5 110.Ng3 Kf6 111.Ne4+
 Ke6 112.Ng5+ Kd5 113.Kf5 Ra1
 114.Kf4 Rf1+ 115.Nf3 Kc4 116.Ke4
 Ra1 117.Ne5+ Kc3 118.Kd5 Ra5+
 119.Kd6 Ra6+ 120.Kd5 Kb4 121.Nc6+
 Kc3 122.Kc5 Ra4 123.Kd5 Rc4
 124.Kd6 Rh4 125.Kd5 Rh5+ 126.Ne5
 Rh4 127.Nc6 Kd3 128.Ne5+ Ke3
 129.Nc4+ Kf3 130.Ne5+ Kg3 131.Nd3
 Rh5+ 132.Ke4
 1/2-1/2

□ **Widjaja,Luke**

■ **Bhaduri,Neil S**

B11

2203

2071

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (2..
[Sricharan Pullela]

**1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4
 Nf6 5.Qe2** Interesting approach to this
 system of the Caro-Kann. Generally I
 see Nxf6, leading to a more dynamic
 pawn structure and open board play:

[5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Bc4 Bd6 7.Qe2+
 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 Bd6 10.c3 Na6
 11.Qc2 Re8 12.Nd2 Nc7 13.Bd3 g6
 14.Ne4 Bf8 15.Bd2 f5 16.Ng3 Nd5
 17.Rfe1 Be6 18.Nf1 Bd6 19.h3 Nf4
 20.Bxf4 Bxf4 21.Nd2 Bd5 22.Rxe8+
 Qxe8 23.c4 Be6 24.Nf3 Qd7
 25.Rd1 Rd8 26.Qa4 a6 27.Qb4 Bb8
 28.Be2 Qc7 29.b3 g5 30.Qd2 f6
 31.g3 f4 32.g4 h5 33.Qd3 hxg4
 34.Nxg5 Bc8 35.Ne4 f3 36.Bxf3
 gxf3 37.Nxf6+ Kh8 38.Kf1 Bxh3+
 39.Ke1 Qe7+ 40.Kd2 Qxf6 41.Kc1
 Bf4+ 42.Kb2 Rxd4 43.Qc3 Rd2+
 0-1 (43) Karjakin,S (2773)-Navara,D
 (2737) Saint Louis 2017]

5...Nxe4 6.Qxe4 Qa5 7.Bd3!?

Seems to be preparing a potential
 kingside initiative for later **7...Nd7 8.b4
 Qd5 9.Qe2 Nf6 10.h3 Bf5**

[10...Qe6 seems slightly better as
 white's attacking prospects are
 eliminated without queens 11.0-0
 Qxe2 12.Bxe2 e6=]

11.Bc4 Qd6 12.0-0 Qxb4 Risky but
 does prevent a potential b5 break which
 would become a problem later in the
 game

[12...e6 13.b5 Be7 14.a4↑]

13.a4 Qa5? Clearly trying to avoid the b
 file and a3-f8 diagonal, but too slow for
 a position with such minimal
 development

[13...e6 14.d3 (14.Ba3 Qa5

15.Bxf8 Rxf8 16.Nd4 0-0-0=)

14...Qd6 15.Re1 Be7 16.Rb1 b6

17.Ne5 Nd5 18.Nxc6! Bf6

(18...Qxc6 19.Bb5) 19.Rb3 0-0∞]

14.Ba3 e6 15.Bxf8 Kxf8 White is now down a pawn but has plenty of compensation-a weak black king and a slight lead in development with a lot of open lines- **16.Rfb1 b6**

[16...Qc7 would've placed the queen in a less vulnerable position 17.Qe5!?

Qxe5 18.Nxe5 b6 19.d3 (19.Nxc6 Bxc2 20.Rb2 Be4 21.Ne5 g5 22.a5 Kg7 23.f3 Bd5 24.axb6 axb6

25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Rxb6=) 19...Rc8

20.g4 Bg6 21.h4 Nd5 22.Bxd5 cxd5 23.a5↑]

17.Nd4 Qc5 18.Nxf5?! Exchanging pieces doesn't seem like the best option here

[18.Nf3 Be4 19.d4 Qd6 20.Ng5↑ Keeping white's options open and leaving room to play a5 break]

18...exf5 19.Re1 Re8 20.Qd3 Ne4

21.Re2? This move puzzles me since it appears to want to double rooks the push the knight on e4 but this only seems to exchange pieces which isn't in white's best interest

[21.Qd7! strikes me as a good attacking shot Qxc4 22.d3 Qd5 (22...Qc3 23.dxe4 g6 24.Qxa7 Rxe4 25.Red1 Kg7 26.Qxb6 Rb4=) 23.Qxa7↑ Nd6 (23...Nf6

(Diagram)

) 24.Rxe8+ Nxe8 25.Qxb6

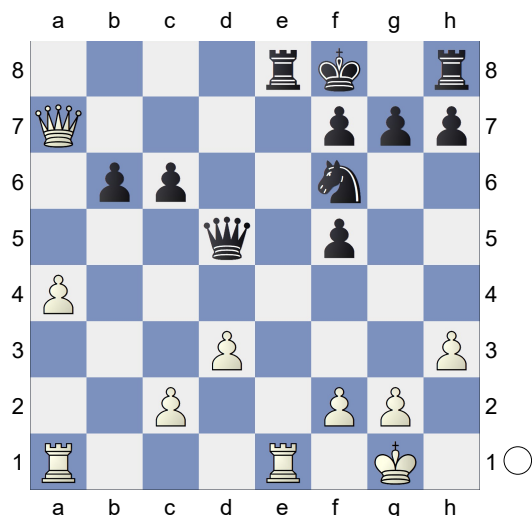
And now white has something tangible to play for Qe5 26.Rb1↑]

21...g6 22.Qb3 Re7?

[22...Qd4

A) 23.Rd1 Rd8 24.Bxf7 Nc3! 25.Re8+!!

A1) 25...Rxe8 26.Bxe8 Kxe8



(26...Nxd1 27.Qf7#) 27.Qxc3;

A2) 25...Kg7 26.Rxh8 Kxh8

27.Re1 Qxd2∞ and black is winning but a rather complex and open board;

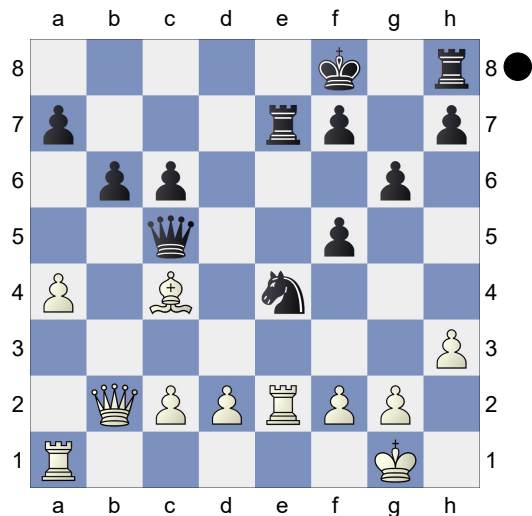
B) 23.Rb1 Rd8 24.c3 (24.d3

Nc3-+) 24...Qf6 25.d4 Rd7

26.Rbe1 Kg7⚡]

23.d3?

[White misses the sleek 23.Qb2



Rg8 24.d3 Nd6 25.Rae1

now leaving black very vulnerable on the dark squares and the f7 pawn seems much more reachable through f6 Rxe2 26.Rxe2 Nxc4 27.dxc4 Qd6 (27...Qxc4 28.Re3! And black is somewhat out of moves because the king can't move but must get out of the way in order to mobilize the rook!)

28.Re3 Qd1+ 29.Kh2 Qd6+=]
23...Nf6 24.Rae1 Rd7 25.Qb2 Qd4
26.Qc1 Kg7 27.Re7 Rhd8 28.c3 Qd6
29.R7e2 a6 An interesting and
 methodical approach, slowly pushing
 the queenside and solidifying the space
 and material advantage **30.Bxa6!?**

perhaps a bit too energetic

[30.d4 may have given better
 chances after b5 31.Bd3 Nd5

32.Re5 with some space and activity]

30...Ra8 31.Bc4 Rxa4 32.Re3 Ra3
33.Qb2 b5 34.Bb3 Raa7 35.Qe2 Qa3
36.Qc2 Re7 37.c4

[37.Rxe7 was a better option followed
 by Rxe7 38.Rxe7 Qxe7 and 39.Kf1
 where black is now forced to win a
 very difficult endgame with just a
 pawn extra but so much life left in the
 position and the extra pawn being a
 doubled pawn Qe5 40.Qb2 (40.Qd2
 Qh2 41.Ke2 Qxg2 42.Qe3 Nd5+;
 40.g3 f4 41.Kg2 fxg3 42.fxg3 Qe3
 43.Ba2 h5→) 40...Qh2 41.Qa2
 Qh1+ 42.Ke2 Qxg2 43.Qa7±]

37...Rxe3 38.Rxe3 Qa1+ 39.Kh2 b4
40.Qd2 c5 And now black's path to the
 win is solidified with the solid passed
 pawn and extra pawn on the kingside
 while white's bishop gasps for air behind
 the stone wall of pawns **41.Re1 Qd4**
42.Kg1 Rd7 43.Bc2 Ra7 44.Bb3 Ra3
45.Qc2 Nd7 46.Re7 Ra1+ followed by
 Qd6 winning the rook. A great win for
 Bhaduri fighting against the somewhat
 topsy turvy opening and ending the
 game smoothly!

0-1

B60
2018
Aadit Bhatia
2106

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (3..
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6

[2...Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6
 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Qa5 7.Qd2 Nf6
 8.f3 d6 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.Nb3 Qc7
 11.Nb5 Qb8 12.Bh6 0-0 13.h4 a6
 14.N5d4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Qc7 16.h5
 Rac8 17.Bd3 e5 18.Nf5 Bxf5
 19.exf5 e4 20.fxe4 Bxh6 21.Qxh6
 Ng4 22.Qd2 Ne5 23.Kb1 Qe7
 24.Rdf1 gxf5 25.exf5 f6 26.Rh4 d5
 27.Be2 Qc5 28.Rd4 Rfd8 29.Rc1
 Nc6 30.Rg4+ Kh8 31.Rf4 Rc7
 32.h6 Qf8 33.Rh4 Re7 34.Bd3 Ne5
 35.a3 d4 36.Be2 Red7 37.Bd3 Rd6
 38.Rd1 Qg8 39.Qe2 b5 40.b3 R8d7
 41.Re4 Qg5 42.Rxe5 Qxh6 43.Re8+
 Kg7 44.Re1 Qh4 45.Re7+
 1-0 (45) Justus,I (2017)-Sremanak,S
 (2209) Liptovsky Mikulas 2007]

3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6

6.Bg5 Qb6 Not as commonly played but
 definitely a viable option for black

[6...e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 h6 9.Nxc6
 bxc6 10.Bf4 d5 11.Qe3 Bb4 12.Be2
 0-0 13.e5 Nd7 14.Qg3 Kh8 15.Qh3
 Kg8 16.Rd3 Be7 17.Rg3 Bh4
 18.Bxh6 g6 19.Rg4 Bxf2 20.Rf1
 Bc5 21.Bg5 Be7 22.Bxe7 Qxe7
 23.Qh6 Nxe5 24.Rh4 1-0 (24) Wang,
 H (2709)-Ivanchuk,V (2726) Huaian
 2017]

7.Nb3

[7.Be3!? a6 (7...Qxb2 8.Ndb5±)
 8.Nb3 Qd8 9.f3±]

7...Bd7 8.Be3 Now exposing why Qb6
 isn't as popular of a choice, since white
 is able to better organize his pieces with
 tempo

[8.Be2 e6 9.0-0 Rc8 10.Be3 Qc7

11.f3 a6 12.Na4 Nb4 13.Nb6 Nxc2
 14.Rc1 Nxe3 15.Rxc7 Rxc7 16.Qd4
 Nxf1 17.Kxf1 e5 18.Qd2 Be7
 19.Na5 0-0 20.b3 Be6 21.Nac4 Rc6
 22.a4 Rd8 23.Nd5 Bxd5 24.exd5
 Rc5 25.Ne3 Rdc8 26.g4 g6 27.h4
 Ne8 28.g5 Ng7 29.f4 exf4 30.Ng4
 Nf5 31.Qxf4 Rc1+ 32.Kf2 R1c2
 33.Nh6+ Nxh6 34.gxh6 Bf8 35.Qe4
 Rb2 0-1 (35) Cruz Ravina,F (2320)-
 Fernandez Garcia,J (2357) Granada
 2014]

8...Qc7 9.f3

[9.Nd5 seems tempting after Nxd5
 10.exd5 Ne5 11.Be2 e6 (11...g6
 12.f4 Nc4 13.Bd4 Rg8 14.0-0C)
 12.dxe6 fxe6 13.f4↑ Ng6 14.Qd2
 followed by long 0-0-0 and white
 seems to have a comfortable spacial
 and activity edge]

9...g6 10.Qd2 Bg7 11.0-0-0

And now both sides have reached
 something of a Dragon Sicilian, but
 black is still severely behind in
 development and therefore white is
 clearly better here from the get go
11...h5!? Preventing Bh6 instantly
12.h4?! I'm not fan of this move since it
 severely limits white's mobility on the
 kingside

[12.h3 seems better followed by

A) 12...h4 13.Kb1 a6 14.f4 Rc8
 (14...Nh5 15.Nd5±) 15.a3 b5
 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Nd8
 18.Be2;

B) 12...Rc8 13.Kb1± a6 14.f4
 Be6 15.Rg1↑]

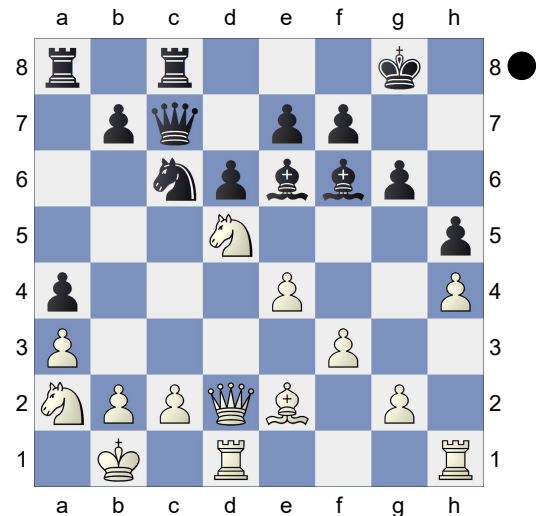
12...0-0 13.Be2 Ne5 14.Bd4 Rfc8

15.Bxe5 This move comes across as
 very strange to me-the bishop definitely
 has a brighter future than the knight so
 the exchange doesn't seem justified to
 any extent

[15.Kb1 is much better, just keeping
 things simple and clean

A) 15...Bc6 16.Rhg1 a6 17.g4
 hxg4 18.f4 Nf3 19.Bxf3 gxf3
 20.f5→ Nxe4 21.Qe3 f2 22.Rg4
 Nxc3+ 23.bxc3 (23.Bxc3 Bd7-+)
 23...Bd7 24.Bxg7 Bxf5! 25.Qh6
 f6∞;

B) 15...a5 16.a3 a4 17.Nc1 Be6
 18.N1a2 Nc6 19.Bxf6 Bxf6
 20.Nd5⇝



and both sides have their chances]

15...dxe5 16.Kb1 Be6 17.Rhg1 Rab8
18.g4 hxg4 19.fxg4 b5 20.Bf3 a5

And while the engine gives black a very
 slight edge, for most players, they would
 assume black is near winning in a
 heartbeat purely based off the
 queenside mobility, double bishops, and
 the b and c file domination. White is left
 with absolutely nothing tangible to play
 for- **21.g5 b4! 22.Ne2??**

[22.Na4 the blockade is necessary to
 keep black's attack under control Nh5
 23.Nbc5∞ with chances to keep
 equality]

22...Ne8 23.Bg4

[23.h5]

[23.Qd3]

[23.a4]

[23.Na1]

23...Bxg4 24.Rxg4 Nd6 25.Qc1 Qd7

Somewhat unnecessary, black has the
 leverage here to go directly with the

attack:

[25...a4 26.Nd2 Rb6 27.Rg3 (27.h5 Rc6 28.c3 a3 29.Rg3 axb2 30.Qxb2 bxc3 31.Nxc3 Rxc3-+) 27...Rc6 28.c4 Nxc4 29.Nxc4 (29.Rf1 a3 30.Qc2 Nxd2+ 31.Qxd2 Rc2→) 29...Rxc4 30.Qd2 Qc6-+]

26.Rdg1 Nc4 Again a4 is the faster option to the win, however this still gets black close enough **27.R4g3 a4 28.Rd3 Qb7 29.Nd2 Nxd2+ 30.Qxd2 Qxe4 31.Rd7 b3 32.Nc3 bxc2+ 33.Qxc2 Qe3 34.Rc1 e4 35.Ka1 a3**

And despite only being down a few pawns, white is getting mated soon! A crushing victory for Bhatia showcasing some great attacking and conversion technique near the end!

0-1

□ Guo,Ethan

■ Chin,Zee

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (3.. [Sricharan Pullela]

C54

2078

1795

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c3 a6 7.a4 Ba7 8.Nbd2 h6 9.Re1 0-0 10.h3 Nh5 11.Nf1 Qf6 12.N1h2 Ne7 13.Ng4 Bxg4 14.hxg4 Nf4 15.d4 Neg6 16.Be3 c6 17.g3 Ne6 18.Kg2 exd4 19.cxd4 c5 20.d5 Ng5 21.Nxg5 hxg5 22.b3 Ne5 23.Be2 Qg6 24.f3 f6 25.Kf2 Kf7 26.Rh1 Rh8 27.Qd2 Rh6 28.Qa5 Rc8 29.Rag1 Qh7 30.Rxh6 Qxh6 31.Kg2 Qg6 32.Bf2 Ke7 33.Rh1 Kd7 34.b4 Nf7 35.b5 Ne5 36.bxa6 b6 37.Qb5+ Ke7 38.a5 Rb8 39.Rb1 Qe8 40.Qxe8+ Kxe8 41.axb6 Rxb6 42.Bb5+ Kd8 43.Be1 Nc4 44.Rb3 Ne3+ 45.Kh2 c4 46.Rb1 Rb8 47.Kg1 Nc2+ 48.Bf2 Bxf2+ 49.Kxf2 Na3 50.a7 Ra8 51.Bc6 Rxa7 52.Rc1 Kc7 53.Ke3 Ra6 54.Rc3

Kb6 55.Kd4 Ra7 56.f4 gxf4 57.gxf4 Nb1 58.Rxc4 Nd2 59.Rb4+ Kc7 60.Rb2 Nf3+ 61.Kc4 g5 62.e5 dxe5 63.Kc5 Ra5+ 64.Kb4 Ra1 65.fxg5 fxg5 66.Re2 Nd4 67.Rxe5 Nxc6+ 68.dxc6 Kxc6 69.Rxg5 Kd6 70.Kc4 Rd1 71.Ra5 Ke6 72.g5 Kf7 73.Kc3 Kg6 74.Kc2 Rd6 75.Rc5 Rd8 76.Re5 Rd6 77.Kc3 Rd8 78.Kc4 Rd1 79.Rd5 Rxd5 80.Kxd5 Kxg5 81.Ke4 1/2-1/2

□ Zhang,Nathaniel A13 2025

■ Senthilkumar,Pranav 2041

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (3.. [Sricharan Pullela]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.e3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.b3 One of my favorite and most versatile ways of playing the Reti! **5...0-0 6.Bb2 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.d4 Bg4!?**

[Generally while preparing this opening, I see 8...b6 followed by ideas like 9.Bd3 (9.dxc5 bxc5 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.a3 Bb7) 9...Ba6 10.0-0 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Nc6 12.Rad1=]

[8...Nc6 9.Be2 Bg4 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.0-0 a6 12.h3 Be6 13.Bd3 Qe7 14.a3 Rad8 15.Ne2 Ne4 16.b4 Bd6 17.Rc1 a5 18.b5 Nb8 19.Qa4 Nd7 20.Nf4 Ndc5 21.Qd4 f6 22.Bc2 g5 23.Nxe6 Nxe6 24.Qd3 f5 25.Nd2 g4 26.Nxe4 fxe4 27.Qc3 Kf7 28.hxg4 Rg8 29.f3 Qh4 30.fxe4+ Ke8 31.e5 Qxg4 32.Rf2 Bc5 33.Bf5 Qg3 34.Bxe6 Bxe3 35.Qxe3 Qxe3 36.Bxg8 d4 37.e6 Ke7 38.Bf7 d3 39.Bf6+ Kd6 40.Rd1 Rc8 41.e7 Kc5 42.Bh4 Kxb5 43.Kh2 Qe4 44.Bf6 Ka6 45.Rf3 Qe2 46.Rdxd3 Rc2 47.Rg3 Rc8 48.Rd8 1-0 (48) Howell, D (2689)-Kazhgaleyev,M (2582)

Batumi 2018]

9.Be2 Bxf3?! I am not a fan of this move-moving the same piece twice in the opening and making the unprovoked capture

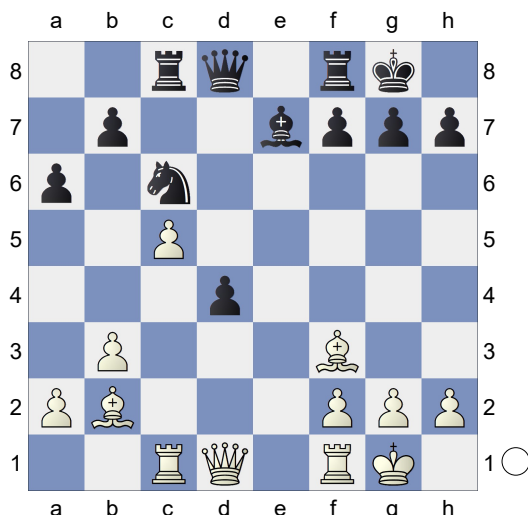
[9...Nc6 10.dxc5 (10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 cxd4 12.exd4 Qd7=) 10...Bxc5 11.0-0 Qd7=]
[9...b6]
[9...Ne4]
[9...a6?!]

10.Bxf3 cxd4 11.exd4?!

[11.Qxd4 Appeals to me better, maintaining the pawn structure and putting pressure on d5 Nc6 12.Qd2 d4 (12...Bb4? 13.a3 Bxc3 14.Bxc3±) 13.exd4 Nxd4 14.Bxb7 Rb8 15.Be4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 Bb4≡]

11...Nc6 12.0-0 Qd7

[12...Rc8 13.Rc1 a6 (13...Qd7 14.Re1 Rfe8 15.Qd2 Bb4) 14.Na4 Ne4 15.Nc5 (15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.d5 Nb4 17.Rxc8 Qxc8 18.d6 Bg5 19.Qd4 Bf6 20.Qxb4 Bxb2 21.Qxe4±) 15...Bxc5 (15...Nxc5 16.dxc5 d4



17.Bxc6 Rxc6 18.Qxd4 Qxd4 19.Bxd4 Rd8 20.Rfd1±) 16.dxc5 Re8 17.Re1 Ne5 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Rxe4 Qxd1+ 20.Rxd1 (20.Rxd1 Rxc5?? 21.Rxe5 Rxe5 22.Bxe5 Rxe5 23.Rd8+ Re8 24.Rxe8#)]

13.Rc1 Qf5 Activating the queen and taking a stronger hold on central squares

14.a3 Nd8 15.g3 Ne6

A smart rerouting of the knight, eventually moving to g5 and taking control of the weakened light squares

16.h4? I'm not a fan of this move as it's clear black is planning something on the kingside-why create weaknesses there?

[16.Bg2 Ng5 (16...Rac8 17.Qd2 Ne4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.d5 Ng5 20.d6↑) 17.Qc2 Qxc2 18.Rxc2 Nge4 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Re1±]

16...g5 17.hxg5 Nxc5 18.Bg2 Kh8

19.Re1 Bd6 20.Nb5 Bxc3? Premature

[20...Rad8 21.Nxd6 Rxd6 22.Rc2 Nh3+ 23.Kf1]
[20...Bf4!? 21.gxf4 Qxf4 22.Rc3 Ng4 23.Qc2 Rae8≡]
[20...Bb8]

21.fxg3 Rg8 22.Rc3 Nfe4 23.Qc2

Rg6 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.d5 f6 26.Nd4

Qg4 27.Qe2?

[27.Rf1 White doesn't need to overprotect a the rook does a great job at covering everything- Nh3+ 28.Kh2 Ng5 29.Nf5 Rag8 (29...Qh3+ 30.Kg1 Nf3+ 31.Rxf3 exf3 32.Rc8+) 30.Rc8 Rh6+ 31.Kg1 Nf3+ 32.Rxf3 exf3 33.d6!!

And amidst all the chaos, white is able to send his pawn to homebase!]

27...Nf3+ 28.Nxf3?? An absolutely tragic mistake, going from completely winning to slightly better, to now completely lost. Zhang went through the whole eval spectrum in this game!

[28.Rxf3 exf3 29.Qxf3 Qxg3+ 30.Qxg3 Rxg3+ 31.Kf2+- And white should be able to convert this long term with two pieces for a rook]

28...Qxg3+ 29.Kh1 exf3-+ 30.Qd2

Qh4+ and white is shortly getting mated!

A great quick turn around win for

Senthilkumar heading into round 4!

0-1

☐ Corrales Jimenez,Fidel

D44

2533

■ Yang,Vian

1946

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (1..
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6

5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 And this

begins the delve into one of the most
complicated openings known to man...

7...h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5

10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.exf6 Bb7 12.g3

Qb6 The first deviation off the absolute

main line 13.Bg2 0-0-0 14.0-0 c5

15.d5 b4 16.Na4 Qa6

[16...Qb5 17.a3 Nb8 18.axb4 cxb4

19.Qg4 Bxd5 20.Rac1 Qxa4

21.Rxc4+ Kb7 22.Rfc1 Na6 23.Rd4

Bc5 24.Re4 Bb6 25.h4 Qb3 26.Bf4

Qxb2 27.Re2 Qxf6 28.Be5 Qg6

29.Bxd5+ exd5 30.Qf3 Rxh4 31.Bf6

Qh5 32.Re7+ Ka8 33.Qg2 Bxf2+

34.Kxf2 Rh2 35.Bd4 Qf5+ 36.Kg1

Rxg2+ 37.Kxg2 Rd7 0-1 (37)

Melkumyan,H (2662)-Sasikiran,K
(2666) Yerevan 2018]

17.a3 Bxd5 18.Bxd5 Ne5 19.Qe2

Rxd5 20.axb4 cxb4 21.Nc3 Qd6

22.Ra6!?! Interesting choice from

Corrales, deciding to exchange into a
simplified position with extreme pawn
imbalance on opposite sides instead of
taking the exchange sacrifice-

[22.Nxd5 Qxd5 23.f3☐ Bc5+

(23...Nd3 24.Be3 Bc5 25.Bxc5

Qxc5+ 26.Kg2 Rd8 27.Ra6 Rd5

28.Qe4 Kb7 29.Rfa1 Kb8 30.Qh7

Ne5 31.Rxa7 Qxa7 32.Qg8+ Kb7

33.Rxa7+ Kxa7 34.f4 Rd2+ 35.Kh3

Nd7 36.Qxf7 c3 37.bxc3 b3

38.Qxe6 b2 39.Qa2+ Kb6 40.f7 Kc5

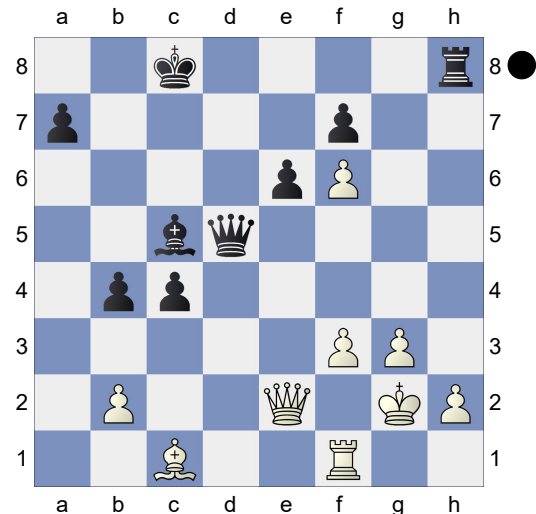
41.g4 Kd6 42.g5 Ke7 43.g6

1-0 (43) Harikrishna,P (2666)-Van

Wely,L (2675) Philadelphia 2011)

24.Kg2 Nd3 25.h4∞ (25.Rac1!?

Nxc1 26.Bxc1



Rd8 27.h4 a5 28.g4∞) 25...Rd8

26.Rfd1 Kb7☐ And black's activity
proves enough for the exchange]

22...Qxa6 23.Nxd5 exd5 24.Qxe5 Qe6

25.Qd4 Qh3 26.Bh4 Bd6 27.Rd1?!

White's first slip up of the game, giving
black a chance to take the initiative

[27.Qxd5 Rxh4 28.Qc6+ Bc7

29.Qe8+ Kb7 30.Qb5+ Ka8

31.Qc6+= After playing so many
moves of theory and liquidating so
much in accordance to the engine,
endings like these are usually to be
expected]

27...Rxh4!! 28.Qxh4 Qxh4 29.gxh4-+

and according to the engine, Yang has
a completely winning position against a
2500+ rated Grandmaster! 29...c3??

And unfortunately black completely
switches the evaluation with one move!

[29...Kd7! 30.Rxd5 b3 31.h5

(31.Kf1 Kc6 32.Rd1 a5 33.h5 Be5

34.Rb1 Kb5 And black is on track to

convert the advantage on the

queenside, proving that the bishop

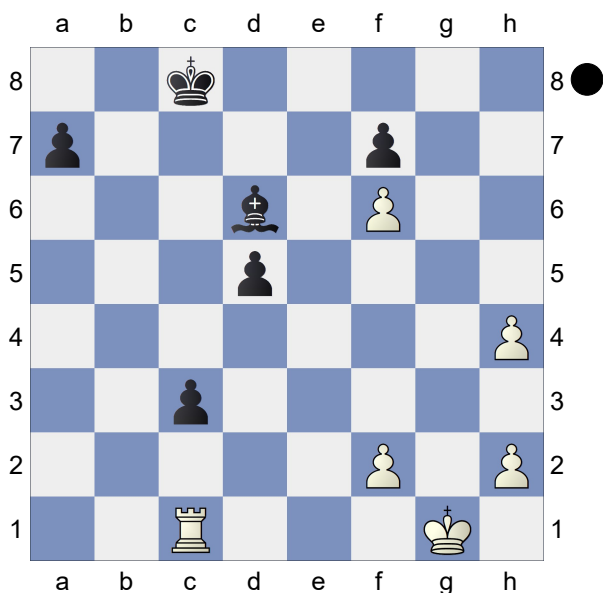
can overrule the rook in an open

board!) 31...c3 32.bxc3 Kc6 33.Rd1

a5 34.h6 Be5 35.h7 Bxf6 36.Rb1
a4 37.Kg2 Kc5 38.h4 Kc4 39.Ra1
Kb5 40.Rb1 Bxc3 41.Rc1 Bg7+
and white's pawns prove too
discoordinated to beat the lone
bishop]

30.bxc3 bxc3 31.Rc1?!

[31.h5 would've locked up the bishop
first, giving white an easier win- Bf8
(31...Be5 32.Rxd5 Bxf6 33.Kf1
and unlike when black was winning
earlier, white is now able to coordinate
the rook and pawns together to be
able to make something happen on
the kingside) 32.Kf1 a5 33.Ke2 a4
34.Rxd5 a3 35.Kd3 a2 36.Ra5+
and white starts collecting]



31...Be5 32.Kf1 Kd7 33.Ke2 Ke6
34.Kd3 Kf5 35.Rg1 Bxf6 36.h5 a5
37.h6 a4 38.h7?? and once against the
ball is in Yang's court!

[38.Rg8 the rook is much better
placed defending from behind while
supporting the h pawn until the
promotion square a3 (38...d4
39.h7+-) 39.Ra8 Kg6 40.Rxa3 Kxh6
41.Ra6 Kg6 42.Rd6 d4 43.Ke4∞
however white is winning in the long
run here since black is stuck]

38...a3 39.Kc2 d4 40.Kd3 a2 41.h4
c2 42.h5 Bh8 43.Ra1 Kg5
and a seemingly simple move ends up
giving the game up once again!

[43...Bf6!! Turn out in this case,
black's advantage isn't significant
enough for a win, but not lacking
enough to be lost-both sides have to
sit tight! 44.Rg1 Kf4 45.Ra1
(45.Kxc2?? d3+-+) 45...Kf3 46.Rc1
Be5 47.Ra1=]

44.Kd2 d3? and black is once again
completely lost, but this time, Corrales
doesn't take it to lose it-

[44...Kxh5 45.Rxa2 Kg6 46.Ra7 d3
47.Rc7 Kxh7 48.Kxd3 c1Q 49.Rxc1
Kg6 and the way to a win is much
more difficult with so little pawns left
on the board]

45.Rxa2 Kh6 46.Ra3 Bb2 47.h8Q+!
Bxh8 48.Rxd3 Kg5 49.Rg3+ Kh4
50.h6 And white is about to collect the
last pawn and promote. An incredibly
topsy turvy game that ultimately finishes
in Corrales taking home the win.
However without a doubt, this is a great
game for both sides!

1-0

□ Yang,Vian

■ Zhou,Ivan

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (4..
[Sricharan Pullela]

D73

1946

2079

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg7
5.Bg2 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Ne5 Ne4
8.Qb3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Nxc6 bxc6
11.e3 Bf5 12.f3 Nd6 13.Qa4 Qb6
14.b3 e5 15.Bb2 exd4 16.Bxd4 Bxd4
17.Qxd4 Qxd4 18.exd4 Nb5 19.Rd1
Bxb1 20.Rdxb1 Nxd4 21.Rd1 Ne6
22.Rac1 Rac8 23.f4 f5 24.b4 Kf7
25.Rd3 Ke7 26.Re1 Kd6 27.b5 Nc5

28.Rd2 Ne4 29.Bxe4 fxe4 30.Rxe4
 cxb5 31.Red4 Rc5 32.Kg2 a5 33.g4
 Ke6 34.Kg3 b4 35.Kh4 h6 36.Re2+
 Kd6 37.Red2 Rb5 38.Rb2 Kc5
 39.Rbd2 Rd8 40.f5 gxf5 41.gxf5 a4
 42.f6 b3 43.axb3 axb3 44.f7 Kd6
 45.Rb2 Rf8 46.Rf4 Rb7 47.Rf3 Kc5
 48.Kh5 Rfxf7 49.Rxf7 Rxf7 50.Rxb3
 Rf6 51.Kg4 Kc4 52.Rf3 h5+ 53.Kg3
 h4+ 54.Kg4 Rxf3 55.Kxf3 Kc3 56.Ke2
 h3 57.Ke1 Kc2

0-1

□ **Gupta,Eshan**

■ **Widjaja,Luke**

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (1..
[Sricharan Pullela]

C54

1830

2203

Bb7 12.Nxd6 Qxd6 13.e4 e5 14.dxe5
 Qxe5 15.Be3 Rad8 16.Qc2 Rfe8 17.f4
 Qe6 18.e5 c5 19.Bf2 Nd5 20.Nxd5
 Bxd5 21.Bh4 Rc8 22.Bg4 Qc6
 23.Rad1 Rc7 24.Rd2 c4 25.Qd1 Be6
 26.f5 Nxe5 27.fxe6 fxe6 28.Rd6 Qc5+
 29.Bf2 Qb4 30.Rxe6 Rce7 31.Qd5 Nf7
 32.Bh4 g5 33.Rxf7 Rxe6 34.Bxe6
 Qc5+ 35.Qxc5 bxc5 36.Re7+ Kf8
 37.Rxe8+ Kxe8 38.Bxg5 c3 39.bxc3
 a5 40.Be3 Ke7 41.Bxc5+ Kxe6 42.Bb6
 Kd5 43.Bxa5 Kc4 44.g4 Kb3 45.h4
 Kxa4 46.g5 Kxa5 47.h5 Kb5 48.g6
 hxg6 49.hxg6 Kc4 50.g7 Kxc3 51.g8Q
 Kd3 52.Qg4 Kc3 53.Qe4 Kd2 54.Qf3
 Kc2 55.Qe3 Kb1 56.Qd2 Ka1 57.Kf2
 Kb1 58.Ke3 Ka1 59.Kd3 Kb1 60.Kc3
 Ka1 61.Qb2#

1-0

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3
 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 a6 8.Bb3
 Ba7 9.Nbd2 Ne7 10.Re1 Ng6 11.Nf1
 Be6 12.d4 Qc8 13.Ng3 c5 14.Bg5
 Ne8 15.h4 c4 16.Bc2 f6 17.Be3 Bg4
 18.Nf5 Kh8 19.Qd2 d5 20.Nh2 dxe4
 21.Nxg4 Qxf5 22.f3 Qh5 23.Nh2 exd4
 24.Bxd4 Bb8 25.Bxe4 Nxh4 26.Nf1
 Nd6 27.Bf2 f5 28.Bd5 f4 29.Be6 Ndf5
 30.Qd5 Qg6 31.Bxh4 Nxh4 32.Bg4
 Ba7+ 33.Kh1 Qb6 34.Nh2 Rad8
 35.Qxc4 Nxg2 36.Re6 Qxb2 37.Re2
 Qxa1+ 38.Kxg2 Qg1+

0-1

D45

2041

1817

□ **Senthilkumar,Pranav**

■ **Paragiri,Reyansh**

23rd Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament (1..
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.e3 c6 4.d4 Nf6
 5.Nc3 Bd6 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0 dxc4 8.a4
 Nbd7 9.Nd2 Qc7 10.h3 b6 11.Nxc4



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Three New Books by Russell Enterprises

IM John Donaldson

The World's Most Boring Chess Book: The Isolated d-pawn in the Endgame by Ian Rogers and Laszlo Hazai (2025, 272 pages, paperback, \$24.95)

The Real Bobby Fischer: A Year with the Chess Genius by Petra Dautov (2025, 192 pages, paperback, \$19.95)

How Not to Play Chess by Eugene Znosko-Borovsky (2025, 112 pages, paperback, \$14.95)

Russell Enterprises, Inc. (<https://www.russell-enterprises.com/>), founded by Hanon Russell, will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its founding next year. Known for its eclectic catalogue, which runs the gamut from opening books to endgame manuals, to game collections, to works on chess history, the Connecticut based publisher's primary focus has been on chess improvement. Russell Enterprises, LLC has also republished a number of classics, offering them in algebraic notation for the first time. The latest offerings reflect this diversity.

The World's Most Boring Chess Book: The Isolated d-pawn in the Endgame by Grandmasters Ian Rogers and Laszlo Hazai doesn't have an inspiring title but fills a major gap in the chess literature – something few books can claim.

As the subtitle states, the book is devoted entirely to isolated pawn structures in endgames. This is a subject only a handful of other works have examined as a part of their coverage of IQP structures. These include *Isolated Pawn* by Mikhalechishin, Srokowski and Braslavsky (1994), *Winning Pawn Structures* by Baburin (1998) and *Isolani Strategy* by Beliavsky, Mikhalechishin and Stetsko (2012). *The World's Most Boring Chess Book* is the first book devoted solely to the subject of the isolated pawn in the endgame.

The authors have adopted a systematic approach to their subject, arranging their material according to the pieces featured. There are chapters on pawns endgames as well as those with knights, bishops, knights and bishops, rooks, major pieces, single rook and minor pieces, double rooks and minor pieces, double rooks and multiple minor pieces, queens and minor pieces and major and minor pieces.

The chapter on single rook and minor pieces gets the most pages but all the various piece combinations are well-covered through the careful examination of 80 game



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fragments which are presented with detailed analysis accompanied by instructive prose. The latter offers tips on how to play certain types of positions. These timely tips are likely to be retained by the student long after the actual analysis has become a blur. A case in point is the following position from the game Torre-Farago, Polanica Zdroj 1977.



The authors write:

Positions with White having a c3-pawn rather than an e3-pawn should, in theory, be easier to for Black to defend, because holding back the c4 advance with ...b5 is safer than the equivalent ...f5 holding back e4.

Yet even here the defense is very challenging. Black's two main defensive methods involve:

- (a) Ensuring that as many pawns as possible are exchanged so that even if c4 and cxd5 wins a pawn, the extra pawn will be so close to the black king that the ending is unwinnable; and
- (b) Being prepared to abandon the d5-pawn in order to find counterplay along the e-file with one or both rooks.

Five pages of analysis of this ending follow.



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Who is this book aimed at? That is a good question! Co-author Ian Rogers, when first approached by Laszlo Hazai about collaborating, suggested the subject of the book was so boring that it would only sell 10 copies. To this Hazai replied, "but those 10 will be very strong players." That seems a little pessimistic, but it is true the material is challenging and technical. That said, players over 2200 and lower rated but highly motivated players will get a lot out of this book. They will improve their endgame skills and positional understanding as well as how to play specific IQP positions. This is a book that needed to be written, much like *Secrets of Queen Endings* by Berkes and Karolyi.

Highly Recommended

More books have been written about Bobby Fischer than any other player in chess history. The total is now well over 100 and growing, this despite the fact Fischer died nearly two decades ago.

Many of these books are devoted to the 11th World Champion's games, but a fair number of biographical works have also appeared, most notably by Frank Brady. Inside the category of Fischer biographies there is a special sub-group written by individuals who spent time with Bobby after he became World Champion. The best known of these is *Bobby Fischer Comes Home* by Grandmaster Helgi Ólafsson. Another, by fellow Icelander Gardar Sverrisson, is *Bobby Fischer: The Final Years. A Personal Memoir*. Yet another is *The Greatest Secret of Bobby Fischer: The Final Truth About the Greatest Chess Player of All Time* by Nenad Nesh Stankovic. In the pipeline are remembrances by Shernaz Kennedy (to be published by New in Chess) and Harry Sneider (Bobby's physical trainer in the 1970s).

None of these titles were the first to cover Fischer's dark period. This distinction belongs to Petra Dautov (née Stadler; 1961-2020) who wrote an account of her time with Bobby which was published in German with the title *Bobby Fischer – wie er wirklich ist – Ein Jahr mit dem Schachgenie* in 1995. Thirty years later, an English translation is available thanks to the efforts of Petra's husband, Grandmaster Rustem Dautov, and Russell Enterprises.

This book, as the title states, deals primarily with Fischer's life from April 1990 to roughly April 1991, a period we know little about as he was long gone from the chess world and would not return to the arena until 1992. It also covers a visit Petra made to Southern California in 1988 to see Bobby.



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How did this come about? An amateur chess player in Germany, Petra had made friends with Boris Spassky, a frequent participant in that nation's chess league, the Bundesliga. During one of their conversations, she expressed interest in meeting Bobby Fischer and at the time Boris thought this a good idea (he would later come to regret this decision). He played matchmaker and after a few calls between Bobby and Petra, they met at LAX airport. Thus begins one of the most unusual chess books of all time.

What follows is a detailed account of her life with Bobby, not as a romantic partner, though he likely wished this, but as a sort of friend/defacto manager. We learn of Bobby's love of old school Los Angeles restaurants like Philippe's and The Original Pantry Café, the latter sadly now closed. Later, his love of German food and beer, fruit juices, spas and Birkenstocks is duly noted, but much of this information is interspersed between a depressing account of what it was like to be Bobby's manager.

Dealing with the minutiae of daily life was never a strong point of Bobby's and he was always looking for people to help. During much of the 1970s and 1980s that role was filled by Claudia Mokarow, but she moved from Los Angeles to Texas in the late 1980s, leaving Fischer to fend for himself. Petra found herself taking on Claudia's role and soon grew weary of it.

Though there are some positive things about Bobby that are noted (his love for animals and babies stand out), there is plenty of darkness in this book as Petra does not sugarcoat Bobby's thoughts.

Fischer's love for Adolf Hitler is nothing new and is mentioned on a number of occasions in this book – unfortunately, untreated mental illness rarely improves over time. To her credit, Petra stands up to Bobby, never granting credence to the evil he espouses.

Nazis, Hitler and Jews are not the only things on Bobby's mind if Dautov is to be believed. During her visit to Southern California, she quotes Bobby as saying:

"There are Black people everywhere. More and more of them. You have to be careful with negroes."

"No, no, not at all. I love them, but you have to control them, just like dogs. I love dogs too."

Is this quote accurate? Even remotely so? This is the question to be asked, not just here but throughout the book. We can't listen to a recording of their conversations, because Petra didn't tape Bobby. It's not just a question of her word against Bobby's, but also of



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how good a memory she had. Fischer is quoted dozens of times if not more. Can you remember what you had for dinner a week ago, much less what your friend said verbatim two years earlier?

It's possible Petra kept a diary, but if so, it is never mentioned. This book was written several years after their last meeting when she had grown profoundly tired of Bobby. Could that have influenced the tone of the book?

These are all questions that are impossible to answer with absolute certainty, but some factual errors make this reviewer uneasy. Read the following purported conversation:

"I also have to call my mother," he said. It was her birthday a few days ago and I haven't contacted her yet. She speaks German well, perhaps you would like to congratulate her as well? She'd love that."

"Gladly. When was her birthday?"

"31st March."

"The same as mine. Isn't her first name Regina?"

"Yes."

"That's my middle name."

"That's wonderful. You must tell her that. Perhaps we could also pay her a visit. She lives near San Francisco. My sister also lives there."

"That would be great. Do you get on well with your mother?"

"Oh yes, very well. She is a bit unusual. She always carries plastic bags around with her and collects everything that she finds. Then she's always digging around in the bags to see what she has in them."

I liked that. It sounded interesting at least. "How come your mother speaks German?"

"She studied in East Germany a few years ago. She actually wanted to go to Cuba, but she didn't get a place there. She studied medicine, probably the oldest student in history." He laughed.

"Where was she born then?" I asked innocently.



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His expression darkened and he answered reluctantly. "In Russia. But she wasn't there long," he hastened to add.

I was surprised. Of course, I couldn't have imagined that he would have a mother who was born in Russia, wanted to study in Cuba and ultimately had gone to the former DDR.

My interest was awakened, so I asked; "And your sister? Do you also get on well with her?"

"Not any more. I lived with her for a while, but then she threw me out of the house."

"Why would she do that?" I asked, shocked.

"She's mad. She married a Jew, and I told her the truth about Jews."

"Could it not be that she married a Jew because she is a Jew herself?" I knew it was a risky question.

"That's what she says and so does my mother. But it's complete nonsense. No, only he is a Jew and she was absolutely mad to marry him. I always tried to open her eyes. Finally, she said that she would throw me out if I didn't stop. And that's what happened." He smiled, somewhat sheepishly.

"Well, there are people who don't want to know about your ideas," I tried to break it to him diplomatically. Then I asked: "Does she have any children?"

"Yes, two. But now she is divorced. Being married to a Jew was bound to fail. She should have listened to me."

The problem with this is Bobby's mother Regina was born in Switzerland, not the Soviet Union. Regina did live in Moscow in the 1930s, and her daughter Joan was born in Moscow. Did Petra confuse things? That seems more likely than Bobby getting it wrong.

Speaking of Joan, she had three children, not two. She and her husband Russell Targ never divorced. Again, it seems much more likely Petra made these mistakes and not Bobby. This begs the question: how many more things did Petra misremember?

The real question this reviewer would like answered is why this book was ever written? Reading it, one can't help noticing that Petra seldom has anything good to say about Bobby. Why did she hang out with him for so long?



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Dautov says goodbye to Bobby and passes him off at the end of the book. This is just when things get interesting. It's known that Fischer stayed for several months as a house guest at a countryside inn in Bavaria owned by Kaspar Bezold, a friendly host and dedicated chess amateur. Bezold's 18-year-old son Michael, who will be awarded the Grandmaster title in the future, is rated around 2300 FIDE at the time of Bobby's visit.

GM Bezold has been quoted as saying he presented a number of endgame studies to Fischer who solved most of them almost instantly. A few took a while, but Bobby always found the solution. One wonders what else they studied and what advice was offered to the youngster. What lasting impact did Bobby have?

Fischer also worked with future Grandmaster Marcel Sisniega and Peter Leko, the latter when he was already a world class player. Did Bobby enjoy working with promising young players? An article along these lines would have made for much pleasanter reading than *The Real Bobby Fischer: A Year with the Chess Genius*.

Those with a strong interest in Bobby Fischer, warts and all, may want to read this book, others can safely pass.

The Russian born French player Eugene Znosko-Borovsky (1884-1954) not only has one of the most memorable names in the history of chess but was also a fine player (wins over Capablanca, Euwe, Rubinstein and Bogoljubow) and an excellent writer. A number of his books have been translated from French into English including the cleverly named *How Not to Play Chess*. This book was first published in 1934 and now appears for the first time in English with algebraic notation.

One might wonder what a book written almost 100 years ago could offer today, but International Master Sal Matera in his introduction to this book makes the case Znosko's classic is still relevant. Indeed, some of the advice he offers, is timeless. Here are a few of his tips:

- Do not memorize opening variations; instead, understand the ideas behind the main lines of play.
- Do not entangle yourself in a maze of calculations; instead, whenever your opponent's moves are not forced, ask yourself what plan your opponent may form to counter yours.
- Do not relax in the hour of victory; instead, beware of carelessness once the end game is reached.
- Do not omit to blockade an enemy passed pawn; instead, mechanically stop its advance with a piece, the less valuable the better.



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Concrete examples reinforce the solid advice offered here and make *How Not to Play Chess* a useful primer for players from beginner to 1600.

Different Squares

By Richard Hack

At a familiar website, the name of a tournament near the top of the list was appealing: Aeroflot Open in Moscow, March 1-6. Well over 500 games. Some of these highly interesting when I started to open them up; Niemann and many others. It looks like a high-flying event. How long will it take to work through this one, if I do?

How *The Godfather*, the movie, was once played by a joker at the Chess Social

hour on March 7: "I said that I would see you because I heard that you were a serious man, to be treated with respect. But I must say no to you--and I'll give you my reasons. It's true, I have a lot of friends in politics, but uh, they wouldn't be friendly very long if they knew my business was chess, instead of gambling, which they regard as a harmless vice--but chess is a dirty business!"

"Oh, Don Corleone!" Sollozzo says.

"It makes--it doesn't make any difference to me what a man does for a living, you understand, but your business is uh, a little dangerous."

They thought the Don was growing soft. It's why the maturing youngbloods made the move toward his king then. People evaluate each others' agility and nerve. Our annotations often mention fear: "So-and-so couldn't allow the move" or "I was afraid that"

On a day of surprises, there was a big game on a small board. Yapping across the table were silly accusations not received as comical. Not only did one player nearby adjust two of his opponent's pieces for no reason other than to disturb the peace even before Black's fourth move. The player of Black stared at the opponent and surrendered to what the situation demanded. Instead of just throttling or braining the talkative, needling foe, he leaned over very close to those big eyes for the first and last time, and spoke harshly at a very low volume: "Stop now! You need to practice your listening skills." Instead of putting a foot under the table, finding the front edge of the other chair and slowly pushing it backward, and maybe over. Others might have laughed, too, and the interruption would have ended. But the escalation would almost certainly require official attention.



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For fans of a certain chess variant, there was a mention of Bughouse Square in Chicago. A place known for people sounding off on causes of all kinds, from good to crackpot, for at least six decades of the 20 th century and even today. Located on Washington Square Park, facing the Newberry Library, a large research library in Chicago at 60 W. Walton, about ten blocks into Chicago 's Near North--and some 6 blocks from Lake Shore Drive. From there the next block north begins the 44-block stretch of Lincoln Park up along Lake Michigan. (There is also a larger Washington Park on the South Side, between 51 st and 60 th Streets, at the western edge of the University of Chicago, whose chess teams have compiled one of the leading records in national competition.)

Their website says, "The Newberry Library Award is presented annually to recognize achievement in the humanities in the tradition of the Newberry, which has cultivated the life of the mind since its founding in 1887." It is bordered by Clark St. and Dearborn, Walton Place and Washington Place, and is a block south of the beginning of Lincoln Park, which stretches 44 blocks up the lake shore. There is a photo showing a bronze plaque there that reads:

Washington Square Park 1842

Also Known As

BUGHOUSE SQUARE

Chicago's Premier Free Speech Forum

Re-Dedicated July 27, 1996

Chicago Park District The Newberry Library.

A photo from 2017 shows a speaker and part of the audience, with a sign posted in the ground saying:

OPEN SOAPBOX

Curated by the Society of Smallness

Come one, come all! The Open Soapbox is available

for airing grievances and spreading good news.

Just get in line! @Bughouse2017."

Two ladies nearby in green dresses and pelerines from the 1840s, one holding up a sign that says "Four minutes." That's twice as much as the two allowed for each Public Comment before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and with much more choice in subject matter.



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Equality is often seen on the chessboard. To play an excellent game a player needs some good luck and always humility of judgment to acknowledge what is objective in the studied search for proper evaluation and the full meaning of the evolving position to try to choose the right moves.

Paul Whitehead said once at our Chess Café, “I’ve known 1300 players who took more pleasure from the game than many who were much higher rated.” Jazz beat from a radio or a pen on the side of a clipboard riding the 9 San Bruno bus. Headed to the Vision Academy, a kid’s chess club in late afternoon that’s challenging to teach; but every so often during every one-hour weekly session, they play full games or just variants like Fox and Geese, or Fox and Chickens, and some on the edge out of earshot play a game with special moves that tell a secret story known from their own lives.

Some get pretty good at it; some also have to be coached in how to double on an open file, then come down to their 7th rank to check the king at his right front corner, and when he moves away, slide down to the 8th rank to complete the maneuver that wins with checkmate or capturing everything or resignation.

From the bus window going south to Industrial, there appears a wall on the right side of the street with a large black-and-white poster: the word NOUS above the face of a girl. Nous means “us” in French, but here it more likely means understanding or mind; sometimes thought or reason, perception, the mind’s eye, awareness. In colloquial British English, nous also denotes good sense, which is close to one everyday meaning it had in Ancient Greece. The nous performed a role comparable to the modern concept of intuition. That’s from Wikipedia. The face on the poster might say we are each understanding and innocent; strong and capable enough to give, to arrange, to further your project, and vulnerable enough to defend when necessary.



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The Marshals of Chess

Aaron Adams

Several members of the Mechanics Institute have formed an online club and have been playing and training together weekly. Our membership includes ~25 players most of which are in the 800-1600 USCF range.

Our club activities include both routine and special events:

- Thursday Night Rapid (Arena style) w/video chat
- Studying course materials (usually via Chessable Classroom)
- Sparring openings + set positions and reviewing model games

We continue to look for new players to join our club. If you are interested, you can contact me at:

Aaron Adams

email: adamsae@comcast.net



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Tony's Teasers

Karel Traxler, 1906.

Mate in 3.





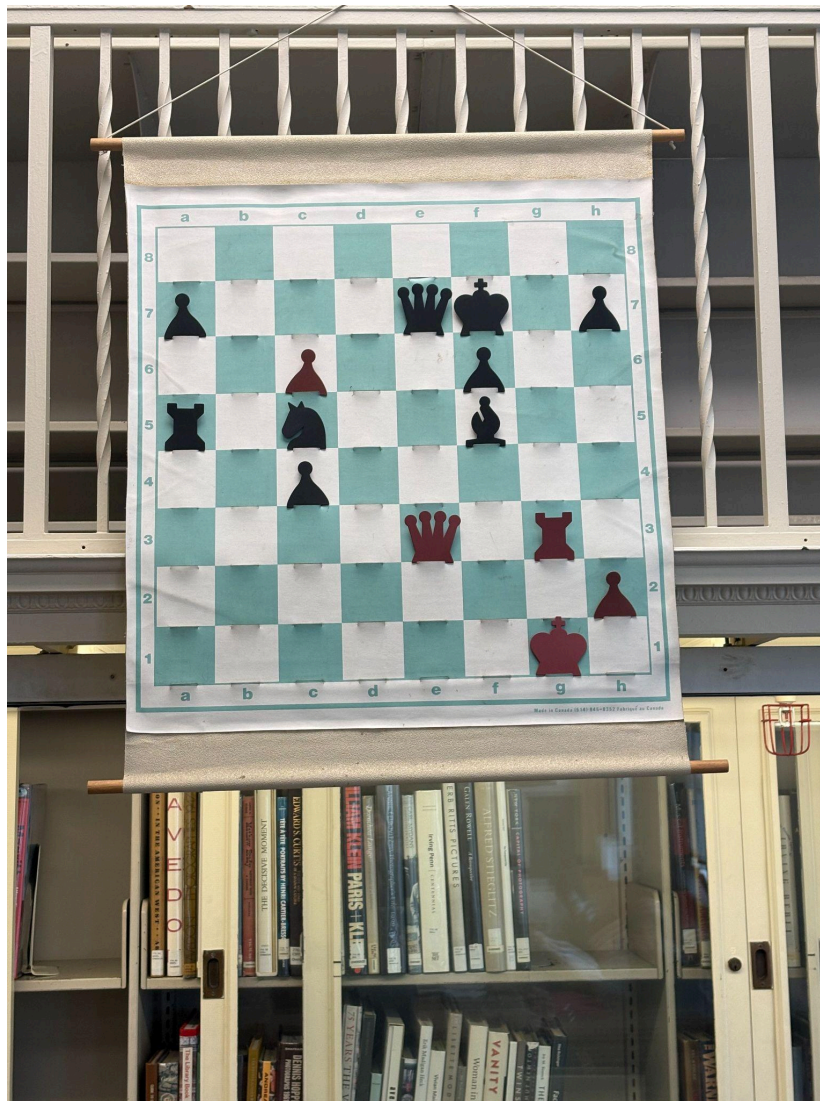
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A New Puzzle in the Library

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.

White to move and win material





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Solutions

For Tony's Teaser:

1.Qf8!

1...Kxe5 2.Kf6, Kxf4 3. Qb4#

1...Kd4 2. Qe8, Kc4 3.Qa4#

For the Puzzle in the Library:

1.Rg7+!

After this Black will lose their Queen no matter what!

From *Winning Chess* by Irving Chernev and Fred Reinfeld, p.99.

793.1C52.1

Basement Chess Special Collections.



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Contact Us

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

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

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