

Chess Room Newsletter



2026 Falconer Award Co-Winners FM Henry Deng and FM Shawnak Shivakumar
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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

Our first tournament to report on for March was our **March Scholastic Swiss**. In the 600+ section, **Bradley L. Harger (1209)** topped the field with a perfect score. **Aiden Smuckler (1036)** followed in second place with 3 points, while a three-way tie at 3 points was decided on tiebreaks with **Arnav Parisaboyina (943)** claiming third, **Blouin Morin (1116)** taking fourth, and **Rafael Max Petlin-Teisch (883)** securing fifth.

In the u600 section, **Michael Puterman (551)** also finished with a perfect score - congratulations! This time we had a four way tie at 3 points with tiebreaks deciding in order that **Iksha Nair (396)** took second, while **Lysander Gan (unr.)**, **Theodore Tissot-Dupont (402)**, and **David Mankin (245)** finished third, fourth, and fifth, respectively.

Congratulations to all of our players and we hope to see everyone at our Scholastic Championship!

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

The **3rd Shorman Memorial Tournament** was our next tournament of the month. If you're not aware, Richard Shorman was a longtime Bay Area chess coach with an encyclopedic memory of games and a wonderful photographer - including many events at Mechanics'. Unfortunately, the website hosting many of his photos is currently down - but hopefully will return in the future!

The top section **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2665)** finished with a perfect score to take first place. Close behind, **Sivavishnu Srinivasan (2147)** secured second place with 3.5 points. Behind them a large group tied at 2.5 points, with **NM Vedic Panda (2289)**, **NM Dmytro Dzhanhirov (2229)**, **Theodore Biyiasas (2156)**, **Rehaan Malhotra (2020)**, **Alexander Pn Ng (1976)**, and **Zee Chin (1963)** all finishing in the mix.

In the 1600-1999 section, **Ishaan Sinha (1676)** delivered another four for four performance to claim first place. **Kar Lun Cheng (1781)** followed with 3.5 points for second. **Austin Bo Chen (1726)**, **Ansh Ankit Doshi (1709)**, and **Youting Long (1687)** all split the prize for third place.

The u1600 section saw **Soham Mehta (1484)** take first place with a clean four

for four. A large group finished at 3 points, with **Jack March Soloway (1537)**, **Pranav Karthikeyan (1436)**, **Shlok Narayan (1414)**, and **Keshav Raman (1167)** all sharing the second and third place prizes.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our next tournament was our **March Adults Only Tournament** where our older players finally got a break from the kids. In the 1600+ section, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2665)** finished with 3 points, securing first place after a solid performance. A three-way tie at 2 points followed, with **Philip Daniel Johnson (1993)**, **Frederic Dutter (1900)**, and **Ryan Pan (1503)** sharing the remaining top placements after tiebreaks sorted the order.

In the ul600 section, **Andrew Xue (unr.)** had a great first tournament taking first place with a perfect score. **Richard Hack (1500)** followed closely with **2.5 points** for second place. A three-way tie at 2 points determined the final standings, with **Shahin Aghevli (1542)**, **Albert Martin Starr (1500)**, and **Kyle Weaver (1118)** sharing third place.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our next event of the month was a lecture and blitz from former Chess Room Director, Olympic Team Captain, International Master, acclaimed author, and Fischer historian **John Donaldson**. John taught us about Fischer's childhood and gave us a preview of his new book **Inside the Mind of Bobby Fischer**. Come by the office soon if you want to buy a copy.

In the tournament, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2665)** and **NM Daniel Cremisi (2345)** both finished on 6 points, splitting first place after strong, consistent performances that kept them ahead of the field throughout the tournament. Close behind, **IM John Donaldson (2370)** secured **third place** with 5 points, rounding out his own tournament. It was a great tournament and yours truly even got his first shot at a master over the board, but Daniel didn't hold his punches and it went about how you'd imagine – although I did get to flag Scott as he was about to drop mate so that's something.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Soon after we had our day of fast chess, which probably we'll be moving to every other month going forward. For the **Mechanics' Institute Monthly Rapid**, the top section saw **NM Daniel Cremisi (2345)** and **NM Justin Storn (2242)** both finish with 4 points, sharing first place. A three-way tie at **3.0 points** followed, with **Abhishek Mallela (2144)**, **Zee Chin (1963)**, and **Angela Zixi Wang (1614)** sharing second and third.

In the ul800 section, Mechanics' camp alumnus **Keshav V. Raman (1167)** delivered an excellent result, scoring 5 points to claim first place. **Sreyas Narayanan (1345)** followed with a solid 4 points for second place, continuing his consistent run of strong performances. A tightly packed group at 3.5 points rounded out the standings, with **Jimmy Sanchez (1579)**, **Samuel Lancaster (1442)**, and **Aneesh Banerjee (1491)** sharing third place after a competitive finish.

Later that same afternoon in the **Mechanics' Institute Monthly Blitz**, The 1800+ section was dominated by **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2665)**, who scored an impressive 7 points to take first place with a commanding lead. **NM Daniel Cremisi (2345)** followed in second place with a strong 5 point performance, while **Abhishek Mallela (2144)** secured third place on 4.5 points, completing a competitive top trio.

In the ul800 section, **Rithvik Prakki Prakki (1618)** led the field with 6 points, earning first place after a consistent and well-played event. Close behind, **Aneesh Banerjee (1491)** and **Thong Hoang Minh Vo (0)** both finished on 5.5 points, sharing the remaining top placements after a tight race that came down to tiebreaks.

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

These tournaments were directed by IA/Senior TD Abel Talamantez.

Our scholastic tournaments just keep getting more and more popular - and this month we decided we needed to hold two. So, in our **2nd March Scholastic Swiss**, in the 700+ section, **Kepler McTiernan (1098)** led the field with a perfect performance, securing first place through consistent play. **Bradley L. Harger (1209)** followed with 3 points for second place, while **Rafael Max Petlin-Teisch (883)** claimed third after finishing in the same score group. **Shane Davis (877)** and **Aiden Smuckler (1036)** rounded out the standings with 2 points each, taking fourth and fifth respectively after

tiebreaks.

In the u700 section, **Abraxas Coburn Chapman (635)** captured **first place** with 3 points, emerging at the top of a tightly contested group. **Preston Lung (679)**, **Angela Alcantara (517)**, and **Alejandra Calderon (414)** all finished on 3 points as well, with tiebreaks determining second, third, and fourth place. **Hunter Indelicato (447)** completed the top five with 2 points, securing fifth place.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our final tournament for the month was our sold-out **24th Pafnutieff Memorial Tournament**. The 2000+ section produced a shared first-place finish between **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2665)** and **Liam Liu (2087)**, each scoring 3.5 points at the top of a very competitive field. A large group followed just behind on 3 points, with **Reyansh Paragiri (2112)**, **David Jin (1936)**, **Daniel Cremisi (2345)**, and **Jay Kumar (2051)** all sharing the remaining prize but a special shoutout to Daniel for drawing Christopher! In the 1600–1999 section, **Ansh Shah (1513)** delivered a standout performance, finishing four for four to claim first place. **Wayne W. Ballantyne (1924)** followed closely with 3.5 points for second, while a four-way tie at 3 points determined the rest of the leaderboard between **Youting Long (1687)**, **Andrew Xue (1949)**, **Arjunsai Navaneetha Prabhu (1673)**, and **Necip Sayiner (1663)**. **Khesav Prabhu (1259)** also earned recognition as the top ul600 performer with 2.5 points.

In the ul600 section, **Pranav Khandelwal (1361)** led the field with **3.5 points**, securing first place through steady and consistent play. **Anthony Maparara (1530)** and **Natalie Pietromonaco (1363)** both finished on 3 points, sharing the second and third after tiebreaks.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason and IA/Senior TD Abel Talamantez.

2026 Falconer Award Co-Winners FM Henry Deng and FM Shawnak Shivakumar

By Alex Robins

Editor's Note: Join us this coming Tuesday April 7th at 5:30pm for FM Henry Deng's Lecture "Mindsets During the Game".

The Falconer Award goes out every year to the highest rated scholastic player in Northern California. This year we were honored to host two Falconer Award winners and they joined the illustrious list of previous winners - seriously - check out the very strong and well known players that have won this award in the past 26 years. We're proud to add Henry and Shawnak to the list!

2000-2002: IM Vinay Bhat (3-time winner) — Became an IM in 2001, went on to become a GM in 2008.

2003: Michael Pearson

2004: Nicholas Yap (2-time winner)

2005–2006: Matthew Ho

2007: Nicholas Yap (2-time winner)

2008–2009: IM Sam Shankland (2-time winner) — Became a GM in 2011.

2010: IM Steven Zierk — Became a GM in 2018.

2011–2013: IM Daniel Naroditsky (3-time winner) — Became a GM in 2013.

2014–2015: IM Yian Liou

2016-2018: IM Cameron Wheeler — Became an IM in 2017.

2019: IM Andrew Hong (2-time winner) — Became a GM in 2021.

2020: IM Christopher Woojin Yoo (3-time winner) — Became a GM in 2022.

2021: No award (due to closures)

2022: GM Andrew Hong (2-time winner)

2023–2024: GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (3-time winner)

2025: IM Vyom Vidyarthi

2026: FM Henry Deng and FM Shawnak Shivakumar



GM Vinay Bhat, FM Shawnak Shivakumar, FM Henry Deng, Mason Duke, and IM John Donaldson pose in front of our iconic club ladder!



Shawnak gave a great us his immortal game - and we're looking forward to Henry's lecture on 4/7!



Shawnak challenges previous Falconer Award winner GM Vinay Bhat in a blitz game!

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 dxc4 4. e3 b5 5. a4 b4 6. Na2 e5 7. Bxc4 exd4 8. Nf3
Nf6 9. Qb3 Qe7 10. Ng5 Nd5 11. e4 Nd7 12. O-O Nc5 13. Qf3 Nf6 14. Nxf7 Rg8
15. e5 Nfe4 16. Nd6+ Nxd6 17. exd6 1-0

Vinay does not go easy on his Falconer Award colleagues!



Henry tapped in next for a shot at the GM

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Bd3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ne2 cxd4 8. Cxd4
f6 9. exf6 Nxf6 10. O-O Bd6 11. Nf3 Qc7 12. Bg5 O-O 13. Qc2 h6 14. Bh4 Nh5
15. Bh7+ Kh8 16. Bg6 Rxf3 17. gxf3 Bxh2+ 18. Kg2 Nf4+ 19. Nxf4 Bxf4 20. Bg3
Bd7 21. Rac1 Rf8 22. Qc5 Rf6 23. Bb1 Qd8 24. Qc2 Qg8 25. Rcd1 g5 26. Qc3
Qg7 27. b4 a6 28. a4 Ne7 29. Bc2 Be8 30. Rd3 Bh5 31. Rh1 Qf7 32. b5 axb5
33. axb5 Nf5 34. Bxf4 gxf4 35. Kf1 Nd6 36. Ke2 Bg6 37. Rd2 Bxc2 38. Rxc2
Nxb5 39. Qc5 Qd7 40. Qc8+ Qxc8 41. Rxc8+ Kg7 42. Kd3 Nd6 43. Rc7+ Rf7 44.
Rxf7+ Nxf7 45. Rc1 Nd6 46. Rc7+ Kf6 47. Rd7 Nf5 48. Rxb7 Nh4 49. Ke2 Nf5
50. Kd3 Nh4 51. Ke2 Nf5 52. Kd3 Nh4 53. Ke2 1/2-1/2

A huge congratulations to both of our winners! And also a big thanks to Vinay for reconstructing these games and playing this year's winners - but watch out, because I have a feeling Henry might win the Falconer again next year and be back for a rematch!

New Books by Thinkers Publishing reviewed

by International Master John Donaldson

Editor's Note: Join us for our [2nd Spy's Mate Rapid](#) on April 28th - with the prize pool sponsored by Thinkers Publishing!

The Belgian firm Thinkers Publishing (<https://thinkerspublishing.com/>) is known for putting out books on all aspects of the game and their latest offerings in early 2026 emphasize this variety. All the following books are sturdily produced hardbacks except Understanding before Moving 3: Sicilian Structures Part Three Dragon - Sveshnikov - Four Knights and AlphaBetChess - Volume 3: Rhyming Chess Chronicles which are paperbacks.

Openings

1. *The Modernized Slav Defense* by Zaven Andriasian 223 pages
2. *Understanding before Moving 3: Sicilian Structures Part Three Dragon - Sveshnikov - Four Knights* by Herman Grooten 476 pages
3. *Battling the Slow Italian Game* by Milos Pavlovic 230 pages
4. *Dragon Masters II Resurrection* by Andrew Burnett 291 pages

Games Collections

5. *Akiba Rubinstein* by Boroljub Zlatonovic 274 pages
6. *My Life in Chess Mastering the Sunshine State: My Chess Legacy in Florida* by Larry Storch 319 pages
7. *Pushing Horizons: The Chess Legacy of GM Vladimir Akopian* by Vladimir Akopian 352 pages

Tactics

8. *Andriasian's Tactical Workout Book* 313 pages

General

9. *The Lighter Side of Chess: Games, Goofs and Funny Facts* by Adrian Mikhalchisin and Georg Mohr 288 pages

10. *Business Checkmate* by Zeev Zohar 206 pages

11. *AlphaBet Chess - Volume 3: Rhyming Chess Chronicles* by Vishnu Warriar 59 pages

The Modernized Slav Defense by Armenian Grandmaster Zaven Andriasian is a timely book on this solid defense. There have been some excellent works on the Slav in the last twenty years by Avrukh, Lakdalawala and Vigus. That said, while the theory of the Slav doesn't change as quickly as in many other openings, an up-to-date guide is always welcome.

The present work offers much more than the title implies. It not only covers the Slav proper, focusing on 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5, but also examines all White's early alternatives including the Exchange Variation, lines with Qc2 and Qb3 and various gambits.

Andriasian chooses to meet 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 with 4...Bg4 but 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 by 4...e6, transposing into the Semi-Slav. The author has selected 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bd6 as his Meran variation. All of White's tries after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 (7.Be2, 7.Bd3, 7.e4, 7.b3 and 7.g4) are covered making this book useful to not only Slav players but those who play the Semi-Slav.

The biggest difference between the present book and that by Avrukh is that after:

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 he proposes 8...Nbd7 (or 8...0-0) 9.Qe2 0-0 10.e4 Bg6 11.Bd3

Andriasian recommends 11...Re8.



Searching for the position after **11.Bd3** in Mega Database 2026 one can see that **11...Bh5** (Avrukh's choice) is by far the most common move here followed by **11...h6**. While **11...Re8** is not unknown, it is decidedly less common with most of the top games played by Andriasian!

While **11...Re8** and **11...Bh5**, both aiming for ...e5, can transpose after **12.Bd3 Bh5 13.Bf4 Re8 / 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Bf4 Bh5**, play normally is a bit different after **11...Re8**, with Black gaining the option of ...Nf8 to defend h7. Placing the rook on e8 protects the e-pawn if Black recaptures with ...fxg6 after an exchange on light-squared bishops on g6. It also means the rook will not be on the half open f-file in the event of a capture on that square. Black sometimes plays ...f6 with the idea the rook on e8 defends the e-pawn after exf6.

Andriasian's main line goes **11...Re8 12.e5 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Nd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Qb5 Be7!**

15...Qe7 16.Bg5 f6 17.exf6 gxf6 18.Bh4 was better for White in T. Petrosian-Andriasian, Asrian Memorial 2018.

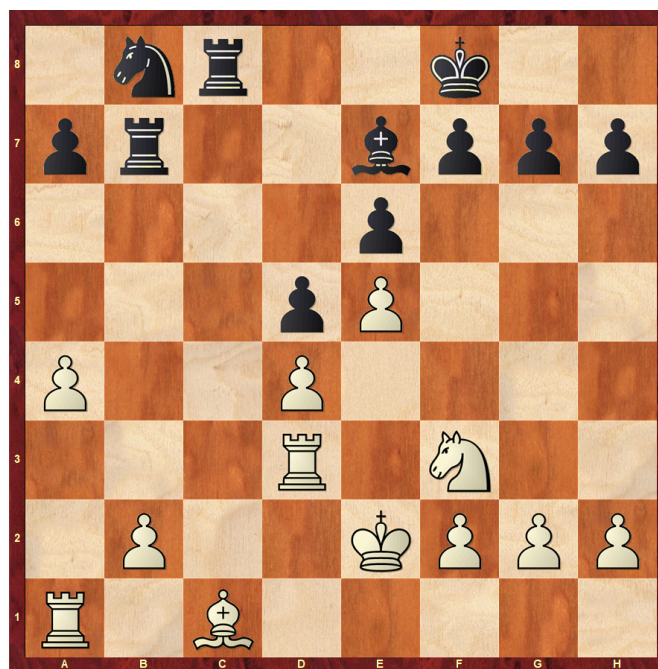
16.Qxb7

16.Bd2 Nb6 17.b3 a6 18.Qd3 Nd7 intending ...Nb8-c6, a typical redeployment in this variation.

16...Rb8 17.Qa6

17.Qxa7?? Qc8 traps the queen.

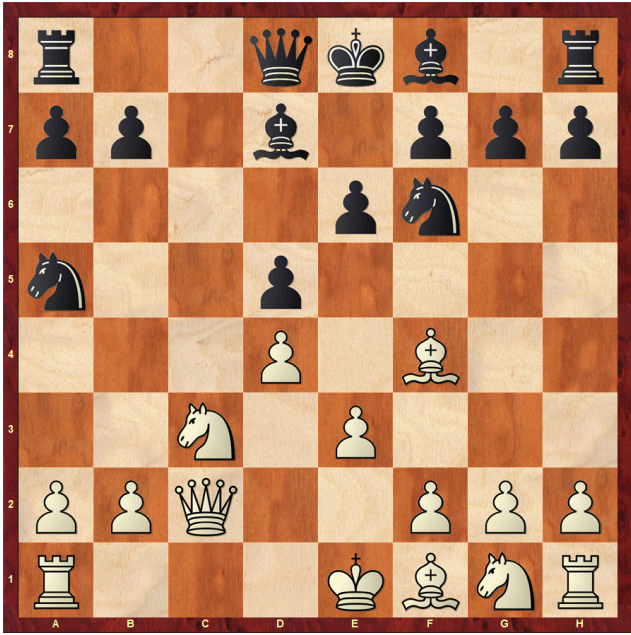
17...Qc7 18.Qd3 Rec8 19.Rd1 Qc2 20.Rd2 Qxd3 21.Rxd3 Rb7 22.Kf1 Kf8
23.Ke2 Nb8



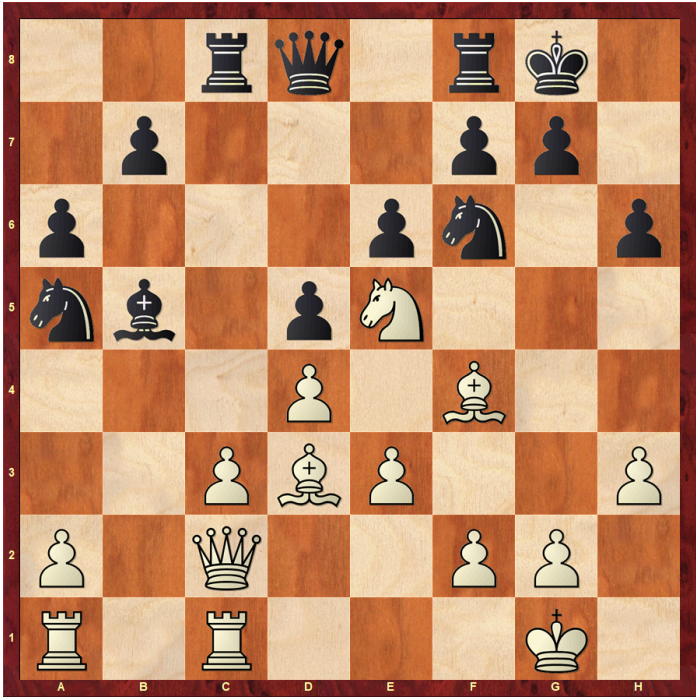
Andriasian believes Black has full compensation for the pawn with ...Nc6-b4 to follow.

One trendy line in the Exchange Slav that has been causing Black problems is the variation that arises after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bf4 Nc6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Qb3 Na5 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qc2 e6

Andriasian believes the following sequence solves Black's problems.



10.Bd3 Rc8 11.Nf3 Bb4 12.O–O O–O 13.Ne5 h6 14.h3 a6 15.Rfc1 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Bb5!



The Modernized Slav Defense offers Black a theoretically dependable, rock-solid defense against 1.d4. Note, however, that the author, while a long-time Slav adherent, uses it selectively. He doesn't play it to draw but accepts White can force one if he wishes in various lines in the Exchange Variation or 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.O-O Nbd7 9.Qb3 a5 10.Na2 Be7 11.Qxb7. When Andriasian finds himself in a must win situation he doesn't play the Slav. Of course, Black can vary with ...a6 in the Exchange variation and 8...O-O in the main line, but that is another matter.

Understanding before Moving 3: Sicilian Structures Part Three Dragon - Sveshnikov - Four Knights by Herman Grooten is the final (massive!) volume in a trilogy designed to teach the core ideas of different variations of the Sicilian. The present work covers the Dragon, Accelerated Dragon, Sveshnikov, Kalashnikov, and Four Knights. Grooten offers theoretical overviews, then presents carefully and comprehensively annotated games, and concludes with exercises to test what the reader has learned. This is a great series that will benefit a wide range of readers from 1600 to 2400.

Battling the Slow Italian Game by Milos Pavlovic is a detailed treatment of an opening variation that is hugely popular in Grandmaster chess today. The present work deals with the position that arises after 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 with Pavlovic organizing his coverage around the development of Black's king bishop: (1) 4...h6 (envisioning fianchettoing the bishop on g7); (2) 4...Be7; and (3) 4...Bc5. This through and up to date work, aimed at players 2000 and up follows up the author's previous work *Battling the Aggressive Italian Game: Calm Precision Against Fierce Attacks* which covered 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 and 4.d4 as well as 3...Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4.

Dragon Masters II Resurrection by Scottish Fide Master Andrew Burnett is the second volume of a trilogy that examines the Dragon variation of the Sicilian (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6) from an historical perspective. The present work covers the period from 1974 to 1995, tracing the ups and downs of the opening from Korchnoi's loss with it to Karpov in

the 1974 Candidates Final (which turned out to be a defacto World Championship match) to Kasparov's successful rehabilitation of it in his 1995 World Championship match with Viswanathan Anand. Along the way the games of Dragon heroes like Tarjan, Mestel, Sosonko, Velimirovic, Miles, Ernst, and Tiviakov are extensively annotated.

Two nice touches in this book are the inclusion of long forgotten games from a tournament held in Utrecht in 1986 which pitted Dutch amateurs against the likes of Jan Timman and Tony Miles and Robert Huebner's clock simul against the best German junior players the same year. Both were thematic events in which the use of the Dragon was compulsory.

This book is not a theoretical guide to the Dragon. If you are looking for an inspirational work that explains the ideas behind the Dragon and how the opening has developed, *Dragon Masters II Resurrection* is the book for you.

Serbian International Master Boroljub Zlatonovic pays homage to Akiba Rubinstein in his book which takes a novel look at the games of the great Polish player. This work takes a different approach from the monumental 2023 English language work *Akiba Rubinstein* by Yury Razuvaev and Valery Murakhveri that combined biographical information with games. The present work, which is closer to Zenon Franco's *Rubinstein Move by Move* (Everyman Chess 2015), focuses exclusively on Rubinstein games.

Zlatonovic organizes his book around five chapters: Endgame Masterpieces, Centralization, Strategic Concepts, Activity & Harmony, and Logic & Psychology, and uses 64 of Rubinstein's games, which he has extensively annotated (almost exclusively with words), as teaching tools. This book should appeal to a wide audience, primarily players rated from 1600 to 2200.

Thinkers Publishing is known for giving first time authors an opportunity and this risk taking has paid off in the publication of *My Life in Chess Mastering the Sunshine State: My Chess Legacy in Florida* by USCF Life Master Larry Storch.

This book charts the career of a late comer to the game (Storch didn't start playing until he was 23) who became one of the best players in Central Florida and a USCF Life Master.

This book includes over 100 well-annotated games including battles against such well-known players as Michael Rohde, Arnold Denker and Josh Waitzkin. Storch was a long-time 1.d4 player who stuck to certain variations throughout his career (for example 9.Nd2 in the Classical King's Indian) making this book a useful way for amateur players to pick up useful tips on how to construct an opening repertoire.

My Life in Chess Mastering the Sunshine State: My Chess Legacy in Florida doubles as a history of not only Storch's career, but that of Orlando chess and the surrounding area. Photos, a record of all the events Storch played in and player and ECO indexes round out a first-rate effort.

Pushing Horizons: The Chess Legacy of GM Vladimir Akopian is a worthy tribute to an outstanding player. Akopian, who is perhaps best known for finishing second behind Alexander Khalifman in the 1999 FIDE World Championship knockout in Las Vegas, is a former World Junior Champion who was a key member of the Armenian Olympic teams which won the 2006, 2008 and 2012 Chess Olympiads plus the 2011 World Team Championship.

This book is divided into two parts. The first half consists of 25 games against some of the very best in the history of chess (Tal, Smyslov, Kasparov, Karpov, Kramnik etc.). These are presented with detailed notes that include not only explanatory prose and concrete variations, but background stories behind the games that make for fascinating reading. Akopian has also included fifty fragments from his games, again with excellent notes.

All this could have been a book in itself, but then comes over 160 pages of endgame studies and problems composed by Akopian. Before reading this book I was aware that Jan Timman, Pal Benko and Vassily Smyslov had the distinction of not only being world class players but also world class composers – now add Grandmaster Vladimir Akopian to this select list.

This is a wonderful book that will be appreciated by a wide range of chess players from tournament competitors to those who love studies and problems.

The Lighter Side of Chess: Games, Goofs and Funny Facts by Grandmasters Adrian Mikhalchisin and Georg Mohr is the rare chess book whose pages can be read in any order while lying on one's couch. As the title implies this is a book to be enjoyed but it is much more. After reading this volume one cannot help but realize that at the chessboard anything is possible. The number of blunders presented in this book, by the best of the best, will give hope to even the lowliest club player.

Time pressure explains some of the howlers but others defy a logical answer. Mikhalchisin and Mohr, who have a deep knowledge of Soviet and Eastern European chess, have provided many examples of individual and mutual mass hallucinations that will leave one scratching their head.

The stories which appear in *The Lighter Side of Chess: Games, Goofs and Funny Facts* are of different types. Some tales, especially from the distant past, like those on Leonardo and Napoleon for example, are to be enjoyed, not closely examined for their historical accuracy.

Other tales will add to the chess culture of the reader. They will learn Grandmaster Ratmir Kholmov, who served as a sailor in the Soviet navy during World War Two, was taken prisoner by the Japanese. That Milan Matulovic was not only was dubbed j'adoubovic for taking back a move against fellow Grandmaster Istvan Bilek at the 1967 Sousse Interzonal but also answered to the name Dr. Marinelli when out on his assignments.

One interesting chapter deals with name changes that have bedeviled the compilers of Mega Database since it's inception. Everyone knows Garry Kasparov was once Garry Weinstein. Here are a few others mentioned by the authors.

Istvan Farago was previously Fridman

Teimour Radjabov was Sheinin (that is father's family name, but he has always used that of his mother)

Sergei Komliakov was Popa (this name refers to someone's posterior in Russian slang which might explain the name change.)

Andras Adorjan was Joha (reviewer - this should be Jocha)

Miguel Najdorf (Moishe became Miguel when he settled in Argentina)

Vladimir Peresipkin changed to Gulakov and back again!

Mikhail Krasenkov was Azos

Sadly, the understandable motivation behind many of these changes appears to have been an attempt to avoid anti-Semitism.

The author's mention the Curse of the House of Stein – Bronstein, Rubinstein and Stein were among the greatest players in the history of the game but never became World Champion.

There is an entire chapter devoted to draws which is filled with dozens of humorous incidents, several involving Sammy Reshevsky who is one of the all-time greats but never a model for good sportsmanship.

On page 223 the authors write:

Reshevsky was notorious for incidents that would have damaged another's reputation. Playing GM Fedosevich, he offered a draw. The opponent said he would think. With 20 minutes left, he accepted. Reshevsky exploded: *My offer is no longer valid – the situation has changed; you have little time!*

This captures the big picture but misses the details. It was John Fedorowicz who was facing Reshevsky at Lone Pine in 1981. John was already a strong player (a 2435 rated International Master) but would not receive the GM title for another five years.

Here is what really happened as related by International Master Mark Ginsburg -

<https://nezhmet.wordpress.com/tag/sammy-reshevsky/>

Sammy Reshevsky was quite the opportunistic SOB (some would say weasel). In time trouble, he had a whole "palette" of tricks. In one charming move, he would offer a draw; the opponent would tank and accept, then he would deny having offered it. The action: in Lone Pine, his opponent Fedorowicz goes nuts and gets the TD. The

result: despite witnesses backing John up, the TD (a friend of Sammy) goes with Sammy and the game continues. Sammy loses - Karma!

Reshevsky did indeed lose on time, on the last move of the time control. While enjoyment may be the primary focus there is plenty of instructive material with numerous examples of ingenious stalemates saving the day, artistic yet practical studies

Andriasian's Tactical Workout Book: 700 Armenian Tactics is a unique book in that all the exercises are taken from great Armenian players. The chapters of this challenging book are: Play like a 2500, Play Like a 2600, Play Like a 2700, Play Like the Author, Play Like the Legends. Complete solutions round out a solid work.

Business Checkmate by Zeev Zohar is not a chess book with chess in it but rather a book that uses chess as a learning tool. The author writes:

By deeply observing the 64 squares of the chessboard, the different pieces and the variety of playing styles, one can learn many ways to succeed in business: strategies, tactics, and having the right mindset. A universe of knowledge about business, management, marketing and entrepreneurship is hidden within the game of chess, a pastime which has influenced humankind more than any other.

AlphaBetChess - Volume 3: Rhyming Chess Chronicles by Vishnu Warriar is the third volume in a series designed to help kids learn chess. Each letter of the alphabet is paired with a key chess term, such as A for Attraction, B for Bishop, and C for Checkmate, brought to life through colorful illustrations and whimsical stories.

The Chess Archives Part 3: 1995 Pan Pacific Grandmaster Invitational
By Christian Brickhouse



A photo of the display board outside Mechanics' Institute circa February 1995. It advertises the Pan Pacific and includes a letter from Governor Pete Wilson and a Proclamation from the City and County of San Francisco

In this 3rd part, we will use the archives to build on the first two parts of our series and look at the 1995 Pan Pacific Grand Master Invitational. As we saw in parts 1 and 2, the archives on the 1987 and 1991 editions have lots of information on securing players, the lead-up to the event, and the day-to-day life of players and spectators. Thumbing through the 1995 archives however shows a subtle change in emphasis: the financial and political aspects of running an international chess tournament.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

CULTURE IN COMMUNITY

57 POST STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94014

In a letter from Neil Falconer to Val Zemitis, dated January 12, 1995, we learn that the budget grew significantly and needed greater financial support. Unlike other letters from Falconer to Zemitis like 12/12/1990 (Part 1) or 7/23/1992 (below), this one lacks a personal tone. I suspect it was a letter sent to many potential donors, and Zemitis was just one. Falconer admits that the budget is 40% larger than the 1991 tournament and that various committees are soliciting prominent members of local ethnic and cultural organizations to sponsor particular players. These efforts seem to have been successful. In this 1/12/1995 letter, Falconer says the organizing committee is trying to sponsor Xie Jun, Maurice Ashley, and Sofia Polgar. A list of donors is available in the archives (but not reproduced here) and shows these solicitations were somewhat successful. I was able to identify a local politician with cultural ties to Ashley who gave money at a level consistent with travel, lodging, and appearance fee costs.

<small>Established 1814</small> MECHANICS' INSTITUTE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE LIBRARY <small>57 POST STREET, SAN FRANCISCO 94104</small>	<small>MEMBERSHIP</small> <small>(415) 421-1768</small>	<small>LIBRARY (415) 421-1750</small>	<small>SECRETARY</small> <small>(415) 956-2280</small>
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January 12, 1995

Mr. Val Zemitis
Amber Publishing Co.
436 Citadel Drive
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Val:

I am writing to solicit your support of the Mechanics' Institute third Pan-Pacific International Grandmaster Chess Tournament, to be held in San Francisco from February 21-March 4, in commemoration of the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945.

You were most generous in supporting our 1991 tournament. The forthcoming tournament will be bigger and better than ever. From abroad, we will have Victor Korchnoi, (three times the "almost"-world-champion), Robert Huebner from Germany, John Nunn from England, Jonathan Tisdall from Norway, and Xie Jun, women's world champion from China and Sofia Polgar (one of the 3 famous Polgar sisters) from Hungary. From the U.S. we will have Nick deFirman, Larry Christiansen, Walter Browne, (all former U.S. Champions---Walter some 6 times!---), plus Boris Gulko, the new U.S. Champion, Josh Waitzkin, the new U.S. Junior Champion, and Maurice Ashley, the talented African American IM from New York. (Xie Jun, Sofia Polgar, Waitzkin and Ashley are all IMs, and will be extending themselves, trying to earn a grandmaster norm.)

The budget for this world-class event is some 40% greater than in 1991. We have raised a good deal of the necessary money, but still have a good ways to go. (We have a committee in Chinatown trying to raise the funds necessary to bring Xie Jun here, are seeking funds from the African American community to bring Ashley here, and are soliciting some prominent Hungarian Americans in the Bay Area to help us bring Sofia Polgar here. You will recall her sister, Zsuzsa, from our 1991 tournament---she won the brilliancy prize!)


We believe these tournaments are very valuable from a number of different perspectives: they help put San Francisco on

the chess map world-wide; they re-emphasize the role of San Francisco as a city of international importance culturally; they help rising young players advance their careers; and they provide to both the chessplaying and the non-chessplaying public an example of vigorous but friendly competition among players from around the world---all of world-class caliber---each striving to the utmost to excel.

For our last tournament you made a generous donation. We hope you will do the same (or even more!) this time. We plan to arrange events where donors can meet these famous players first hand.

Your check should be made to Mechanics' Institute but should be specifically ear-marked for this tournament.

If you have any questions, please call me at my law firm (415-777-3999) or my home (510-283-6229).

Very truly yours,

Neil E. Falconer
President

Letter from Neil Falconer to Val Zemitis requesting donations to support
the 3rd Pan Pacific

These donations were not enough to fund the tournament, and for \$12,500 the video game company Mindscape was given first-billing over the Mechanics' Institute as title sponsors in order to save the tournament. Jim Eade, the Mechanics' Institute Chess Director at the time, described the sponsorship as coming at "nearly the last moment" in his article for the *California Chess Journal* (vol 9, no 3, March/April 1995). The donor list gives a receipt date of February 24, 1995—three days after the tournament started—but it was certainly secured before programs went to print because the tournament programs have Mindscape as the title sponsor before Mechanics' Institute.

part of the event. I sincerely hope we made you proud.

Even with all this talent we were running in the red. Finally, at nearly the last moment, Eric Schiller delivered Mindscape, formerly the Software Toolworks, of Navato, as a title sponsor. Glen Hendrickson joined our team and we were set. Glen scored a ton of



Zsuzsa Polgar

points with the players and staff during the tournament and has made more than a few friends as a result of his good will and hospitality.

Organizing is one thing, and operations is another. The tournament room was under the command of the venerable GM George Koltanowski. Carolyn Withgitt and Tom Dorsch worked as "assistant" TD's, but were, in fact, indispensable. These individuals took two weeks out of their lives for expense money, if that. I can not imagine a more dedicated team of directors. They were the ones in the hot seat during the competition, but there was never any doubt that everything was under control. Things only go that smoothly when professionals are involved.

They worked so smoothly in part because of all the volunteer helpers. People were pitching in every day. The Mechanics' Institute and the Horse-shoe coffee house supplied the bulk of

the labor and these people really came through for us. Along with the volunteer help, people pitched in financially as well. Epsilon Consulting Corp. contributed the brilliancy prize, won by Korchnoi, and a donation for the best played game was made in honor of Max Wilkerson, the Mechanics' chess room director. Max has worked long and hard for chess and chess players and never seems to get the recognition he deserves. It was heart warming to see this donation made in his honor. Max was once again a steady oak during the tournament, pitching in whenever and wherever he was needed.

The other aspect of operations was the press room, which was managed and manned by Eric Schiller and Bill Haines. The two of them put in a month's worth of hours into those two weeks and the effort produced results. Our sponsors were named in newspapers from New York to London and we were even on television! I dare to believe that fund raising will be considerably easier next time around, now that we have in hand such a fat portfolio of positive press.

Not that everything was peaches and cream, of course. In fact, our start was less than auspicious. The opening ceremonies were to be held on a yacht cruising the bay and I arranged for three limos to be at the hotel half an hour before departure to take the players and staff to the marina. As fate would have it, everyone seemed to have invited just "one more" to come along and, in fact, only two limos actually got there on time. I foolishly bought the doorman's assurances that the other limo was coming "any minute" and the result was utter humiliation for me. I had the dubious distinction of watching the yacht pull out from the marina along side Boris Gulko, Maurice Ashley, and Victor Korchnoi, who naturally wanted to know how the opening ceremonies were going to proceed without them!

Wait! There's more. One of the six display terminals went on the fritz and we could only show five of the games to the opening day audience. Imagine trying to decide which game wouldn't be shown! Furthermore, one of the

digital display clocks, purchased just before the tournament and supposedly tested for functionality decided to blank out during Ashley-Korchnoi. The spectators and participants were understandably perplexed when Korchnoi jumped up during play and yelled, "Nothing!".

However, once the opening day gremlins decided to depart for other ports, we were able to bask in the glow of top flight chess played by some of the best players in the world. The players were complete ladies and gentlemen away from the board, but were uncompromising warriors upon it. This was not the place to look for a friendly draw. The competition was intense throughout the tournament, but the cream quickly rose to the top and stayed there. Gulko, Nunn, and Korchnoi were among the leaders right out of the chute and jockeyed for position for the remainder of the tournament. Indeed, only a late defeat of Gulko by de Firmian and a final round slugfest between Korchnoi and Nunn settled matters once and for all.

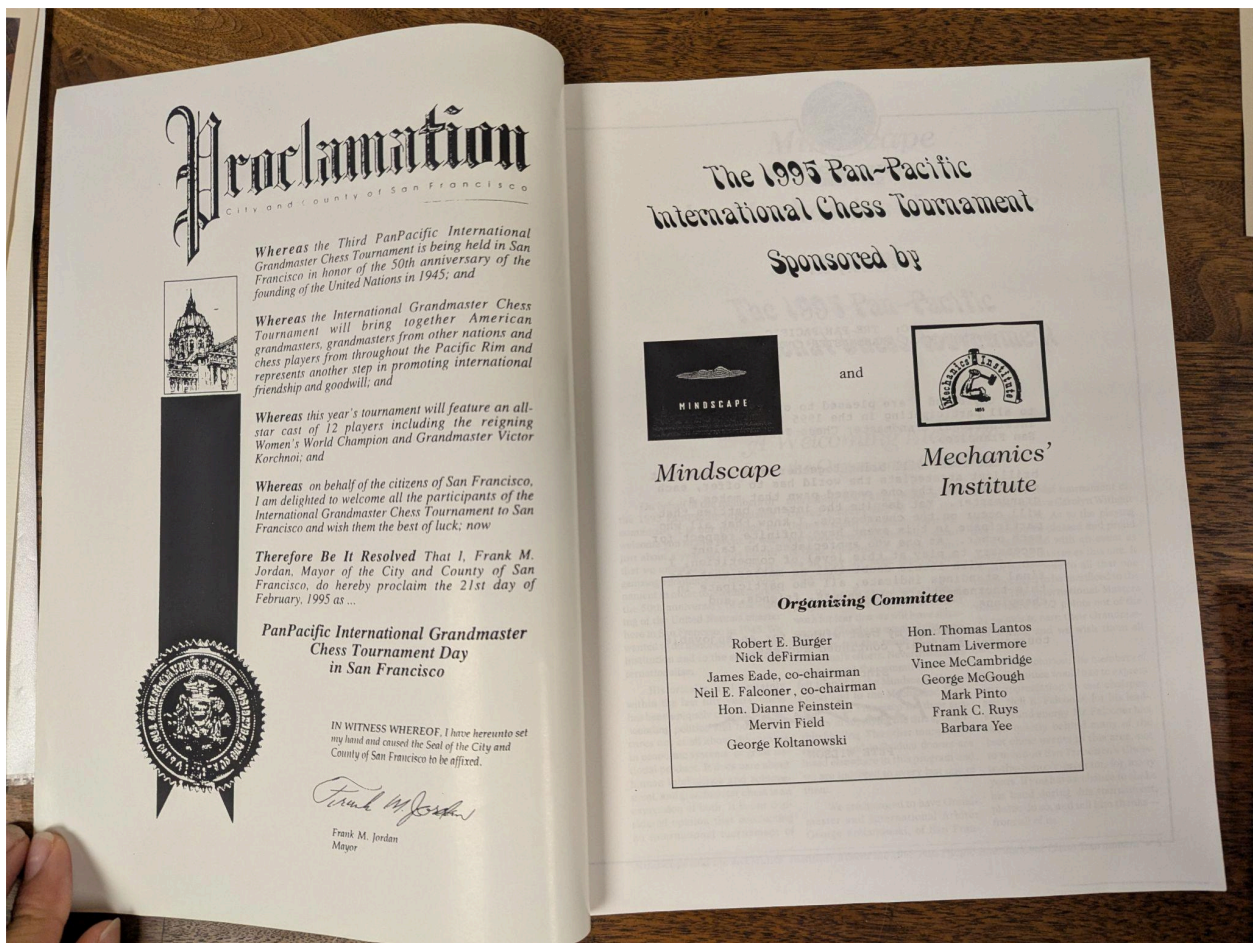
The players were complete ladies and gentlemen away from the board, but were uncompromising warriors upon it.

I worried that the IMs had been overmatched and that their confidence might've been shaken, but I was reassured by all of them that they were thrilled to be a part of the tournament and that they all felt that they could only profit by competing against this type of field.

In any case, it was hard not to enjoy oneself during this tournament. Along with a Bay cruise, the players were treated to dinners, cable car tours, the daily hospitality suite, and a sampling of the San Francisco night life through the locals' eyes. They got a decent pay day and a great time, but they earned it by their play. We'd love to have all of them back, and we like to think they'd like to do it all over again, too.

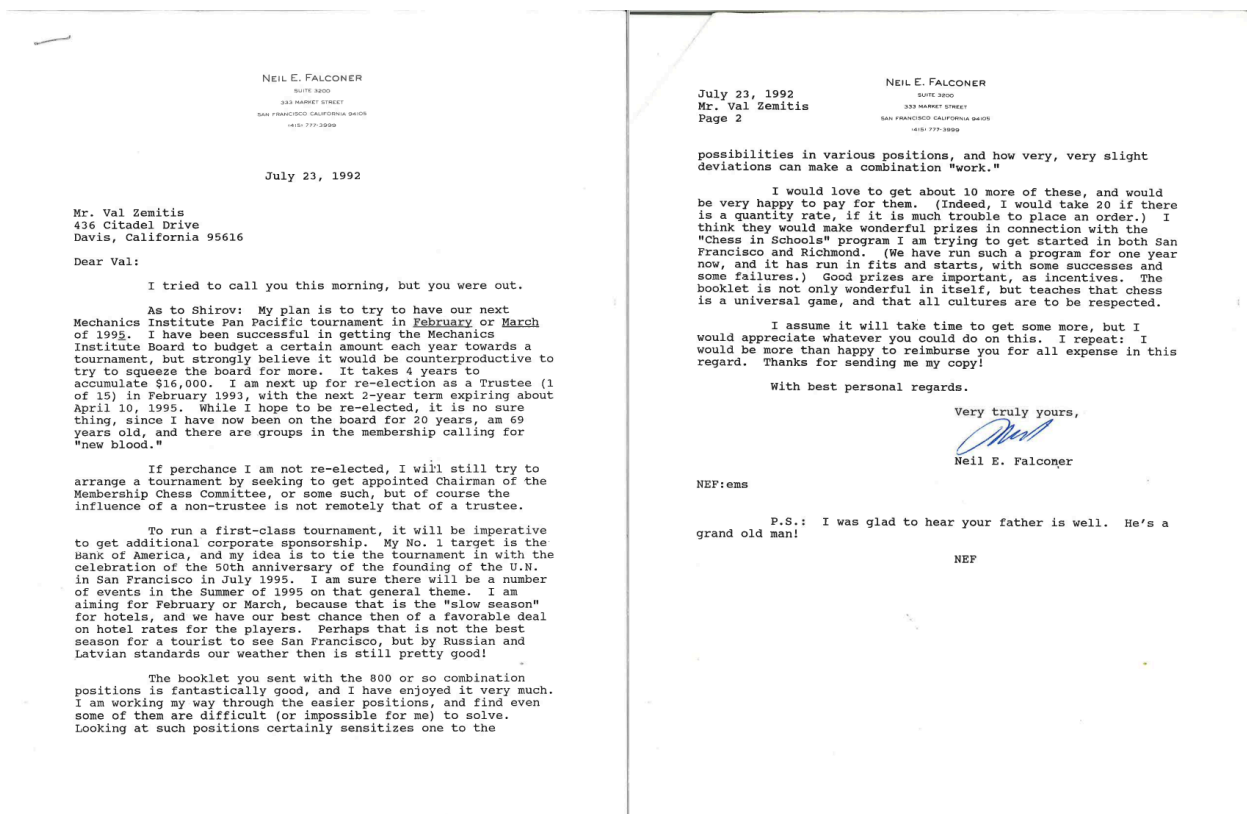
Excerpt of Jim Eade's article after the 3rd Pan Pacific in *Cal Chess Journal*,
March/April 1995

The programs also changed significantly for 1995 with a glossy cover, bound spine, and multi-page spreads with photos and biographies of each player. This was a significant increase in the production value of the programs, with each one costing \$3. In parts 1 and 2 we looked at the programs for 1991 and 1987, and those objects were printed on 8 ½ by 11 paper folded in half and tucked together—they were not even staple bound.



Page 1 and 2 of the 3rd Pan Pacific program. The proclamation is a copy of the one hanging on the display board in the header image. Notice that the organizing committee contains a sitting senator and congressional representative.

We have another letter from Neil Falconer to Val Zemitis, dated July 23, 1992, which tells of the internal and global political constraints leading up to the 1995 tournament. Falconer admits to spending significant social capital to convince the Board of Trustees to set aside \$16,000 (worth about \$38,000 today) which were a significant burden on the Mechanics' Institute. He also speculates that he might not be on the Board much longer, and to get re-elected may need to be more conservative in the budgets he proposes. Falconer would serve another 20 years on the Board.

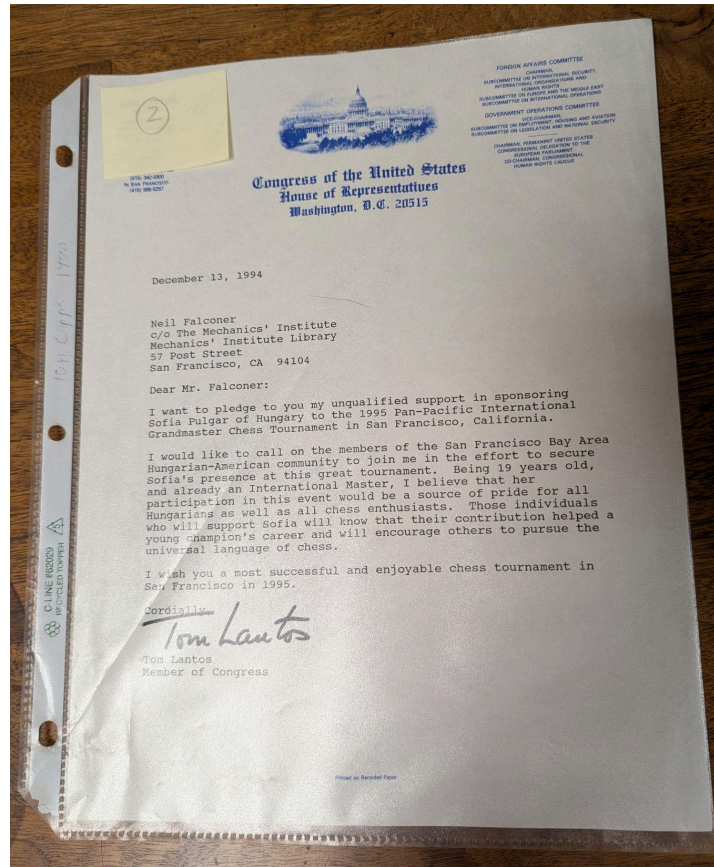


Letter from Neil Falconer to Val Zemitis, July 23, 1992, describing early organizing of the 3rd Pan Pacific a few months after the end of the 2nd (1991) Pan Pacific.

In this 7/23/1992 letter, Falconer states that he wants to tie the 1995 tournament to celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the UN. For context, the UN was founded in San Francisco in 1945 following the end of World War II, and this letter was written 7 months after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. The Cold War

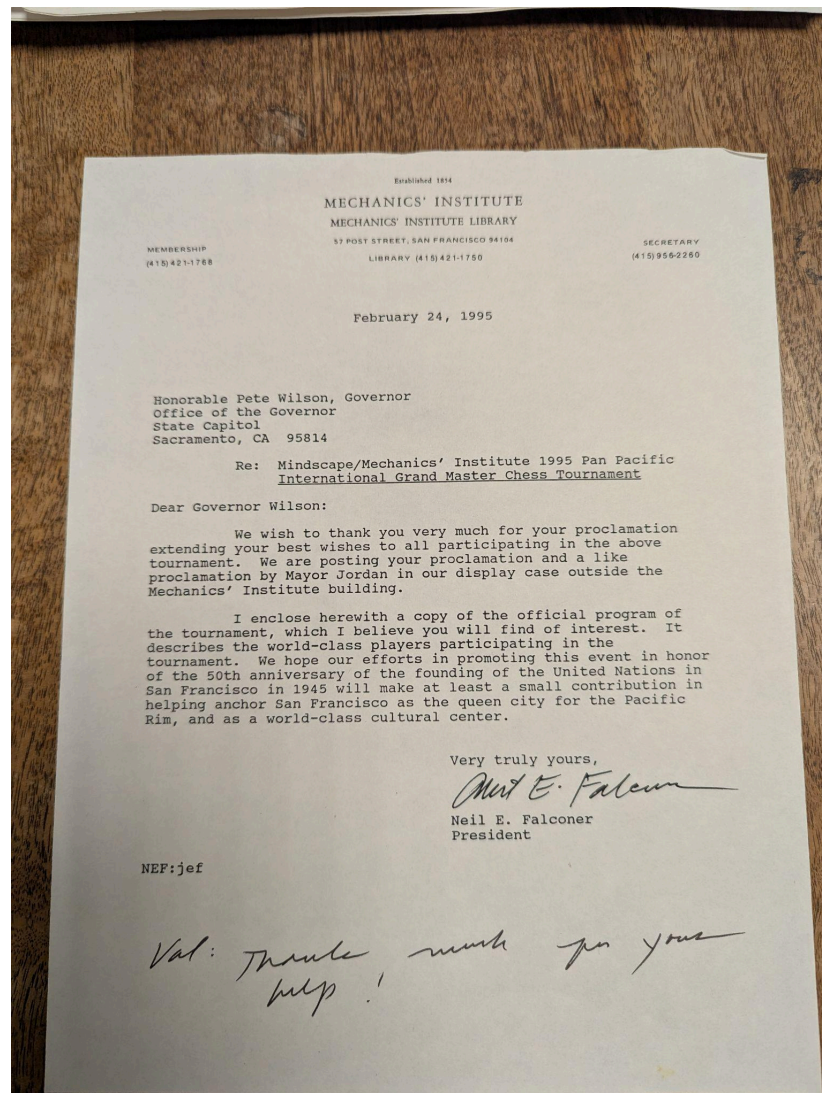
era influenced chess significantly with the Fischer-Spassky match being seen as a Cold War proxy, and the Karpov-Korchnoi matches pitting Karpov, the Soviet “golden boy” against Korchnoi, the defector; Korchnoi would appear in the 1995 Pan Pacific.

The 1995 folder is the first time I notice our archive showing national politicians involved in the planning of the event. Dianne Feinstein served on the organizing committee for the 1995 tournament, and the planning timeline coincides with her transition to state and federal office after serving the city of San Francisco. She won a special election for Senate 4 months after Falconer’s 7/23/1992 letter and won her first full Senate term 2 months before Falconer’s 1/12/1995 letter. The archive also contains a letter from US House Representative Tom Lantos dated December 13, 1994 who pledged his support to the tournament. Lantos served all of San Francisco for the 11th Congressional District until 1993 when redistricting moved him to District 12 serving San Mateo County and the southwestern portion of San Francisco. He was also a member of the 3rd Pan Pacific organizing committee.



Letter from US House Representative Tom Lantos to Neil Falconer,
December 13, 1994.

Lastly we have a letter from Neil Falconer to then-Governor Pete Wilson dated February 24, 1995 where Falconer thanks Wilson for his support and wishes that the tournament helps “anchor San Francisco as the queen city for the Pacific Rim, and as a world-class cultural center”. Local and state-level politicians had always been involved in the tournament, with the mayor, city supervisors, and governor issuing proclamations and sending letters for both the 1987 and 1991 tournaments, but the level of involvement here stands out in the archives.



Letter from Neil Falconer to Governor Pete Wilson, February 24, 1995, thanking Wilson for supporting the tournament.

An archive is built by people, and what gets archived depends on what people think is worth saving. It's not an objective record of facts, but a subjective view of what people thought was worth protecting. Having spent over 3 months looking through the archives, comparing objects, and doing research on the subject, I noticed a shift in what kinds of things got archived for the 3rd Pan Pacific. There were more photos in this folder, but also more financial documents and political correspondence. It is the only

time a photocopy of a donation check appears in this box. Falconer's letters were less about securing players and more about securing dignitaries. The usual stuff is in there, but when looking back on the last Pan Pacific, these firsts stand out.

The tournament was successful in putting on a world-class chess tournament and it was the most grand of the three. The 1995 Pan Pacific brought some of the biggest names in chess to California, rivaling the renown of the 1987 and 1991 tournaments. It tapped into a historic celebration of San Francisco's history, and brought together a diverse group of players from around the world in the spirit of the United Nations. The obvious question left is why this was the last Pan Pacific? The archives don't tell us outright, but they paint a picture of a tournament that grew quickly and was hard to top.

So what next for our coverage of the Pan Pacifics? First I'd like to talk with organizers and players about what organizing the event was like. I've already been in touch with Guillermo Ray about his San Francisco International Tournaments in the early 1980s that set the stage for the 1987 Pan Pacific, and Vinay Bhat told me about side events he played in during the 1995 Pan Pacific which seem completely absent from the archive. Second, I plan to do a more thorough search of magazines from the Pan Pacific. While working on these 3 parts, I've seen coverage of the tournament in the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and California Chess Journal, but there may be coverage in other periodicals like Chess Life and New in Chess. This will take some time, so while coverage may slow down, there's plenty still to be done. For now, if you have any memories of the Pan Pacifics, get in touch!

Understanding Plateaus and How to Beat Them

By Renate Otterbach

It happens to all of us. We are going along well, and suddenly we get stuck; it does not matter if our rating is 1000 or 2000, or even higher. Suddenly, nothing seems to work. We try and try again and get nowhere. We have reached our plateau. It is frustrating because we feel helpless and do not see any way out of it. Often our methods of studying no longer work, and even our coaches do not seem able to help us. What do we do now?

At this point, many chess players either quit or settle for their rating, accepting that that's the way it is.

Breaking a plateau can be challenging because it often requires us to step back before going forward. Frequently that means allowing ourselves to lose many of our hard-earned rating points to progress to a higher level. Yet, if we are willing to trust the process and put in the work, plateaus can be broken.

It's a problem of plateaus. It's not unique to chess; it happens in all disciplines. Research indicates that the key to breaking a plateau is deliberate practice. But what is deliberate practice?

Deliberate practice differs from regular practice in the following ways:

- It is designed to address a specific, clearly defined problem
- It is customized to the student's needs
- It is challenging but within the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)
- Detailed feedback is provided, starting an improvement loop

Most frequently, deliberate practice is designed by a coach based on specific areas of weaknesses in a student's performance. To be effective, it necessitates a clear understanding of what is required for improved performance, what particular skills the student is lacking, and what steps the student must take to acquire these skills. It also requires understanding how the student learns and processes the information so that appropriate activities can be designed.

There are some indications that highly analytic people and some grandmasters may have the necessary skills to develop their framework for deliberate practice. They are able to provide their own scaffolding using their cognitive abilities, to select appropriate deliberate practice.

However, based on expertise research, it requires the collaborative efforts of the coach and the student to work effectively. The coach designs the activity and provides specific feedback for improvement to the student. It also requires the student's willingness to exert the necessary effort to master the activity to be effective.

I added the importance that the activity is within the student's ZDP. I think this is especially important in chess because chess advice and instruction are frequently outside of a student's ZDP. I will provide a specific example. But first, what is the ZDP, and why is it essential that both coaches and learners understand ZDP? Understanding the ZDP and working within it will avoid unnecessary frustrations and maximize learning time.

Vygotsky developed the theory of the Zone of Proximal Development (ZDP). Although a complex concept, it can easily be understood through the diagram below

Above the ZDP—student will not be able to understand the material, no matter how well explained. Generally, lacks the prerequisites.

Zone of Proximal Development – the area where students can learn effectively with the help of a coach or teacher.

Below the ZDP—the material is too easy; the student has already mastered the material and no new learning takes place. However, automatization may occur. Increased practice in this area may increase the speed of recall.

Let's look at some specific examples to illustrate this concept in chess. Often beginning chess players are told to consider three candidate moves.

Excellent advice, but problematic for beginning chess players who still try to figure out the moves and how the pieces relate to each other. Why is this excellent advice unsuitable for beginners? Because it makes assumptions that beginners cannot meet, namely a basic understanding of a critical position. If you don't understand the critical position, any legal move on the chess board is a candidate move. The advice is above the ZDP of the beginning player.

If the student tries to follow that advice, one of the following scenarios will likely result. The student gets frustrated because of cognitive overload or suggests moves irrelevant to the position and frustrates the coach because of a lack of understanding. Yes, there are exceptions. Some students may have an intuitive understanding of what constitutes a critical position; for these students, the request to identify three candidate moves may be a gratifying activity because it falls within their ZDP.

Generally, any learning activity that falls within our ZDP is enjoyable, and often we enter the stage of flow or the Zone because while it is challenging, we feel we can master it if we put out the effort. When we think that we can't progress no matter what we do, we get frustrated and tend to quit. When this feeling persists over time, we are struggling with a plateau.

Another way to define a plateau is to say that the skills that have served us well thus far no longer help us to go further. Let's look at this definition in chess and see how and why this may happen. Let's say that beginning chess players who have great spatial vision can find tactical combinations quickly without much effort. They have a significant advantage over the average player because they can immediately see tactics that the average player must figure out through reasoning or the recall specific tactic problems. Consequently, they are likely to win many of their games and rise quickly in the rating until they reach 1800-2000. Suddenly, they hit a plateau. Why?

Many chess players at that rating level have the same excellent spatial vision; thus, having an excellent spatial vision is no longer a great advantage. If they want to progress in chess, they must learn how to use their other cognitive abilities. They need to identify what capacities are required and

how to design deliberate practice activities, to develop these skills. For some, this may mean intense calculation training; for others, a deeper understanding of the components of positional chess.

While studying these skills, they may see a drop in their rating due to the implementation gap and feel frustrated with their progress. One way to deal with this frustration is to differentiate between a rating plateau and a learning plateau.

A rating plateau is when you are stuck at a rating range. A learning plateau is when you do not see any improvement in your understanding and cannot identify a strategy to change it; in other words, you feel hopelessly lost with nowhere to go. To use a chess analogy, a rating plateau is a relative pin, an inconvenience that can be frustrating, but you can work around it. On the other hand, a learning plateau is an absolute pin, with a pawn attacking the pinned piece; hence it is the more serious of the plateau, and you will need to find an outside expert to help you to identify the problem.

Annotated Games from the TNM

By IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from the Fall TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow. All the games from the current TNM can be found here, and games from previous TNMs are in the [Tournament Archive](#).

D02

□ Heiserman, Jimmy

2254

■ Chen, Quincy

2097

2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 17.03.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

Heiserman with the proverbial "Makes It Look Easy." In fact he slips up a bit here and there, but pretty good technique!

1.d4 2 d5 5 2.Bf4 7 Nf6 8 3.e3 6 c5 20 4.Nf3 13 Nc6 16 5.Nbd2 9

[5.c3 e6 6.Nbd2 Nh5 7.Bg5 f6 8.Bh4 g6 9.Bd3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rc1 Bd7 13.a3 Rc8 14.b4 Bd6 15.Nb3 b6 16.Ba6 Rc7 17.Qe2 Ne7 18.Rxc7 Bxc7 19.Rc1 Nf5 20.Bg3 Nhxg3 21.hxg3 Nd6 22.Nfd2 Ba4 23.Qd3 Rf7 24.Rc3 Kg7 25.Nc1 Bb8 26.Ne2 Bd7 27.Nf4 Qe8 28.Qc2 Re7 29.Bd3 g5 30.Ne2 h5 31.e4 dxe4 32.Nxe4 Nxe4 33.Bxe4 Bd6 34.Bc6 Qg6 Duda, J (2750)-Vachier Lagrave, M (2745) Doha 2025 ½-½]

5...Bf5 2:00 6.c3 4:06 Qb6 4:19 7.Qb3 1:41 c4 1:06 8.Qxb6 15 axb6 4 9.h3 32

[9.a3!?!]

9...e6 1:54

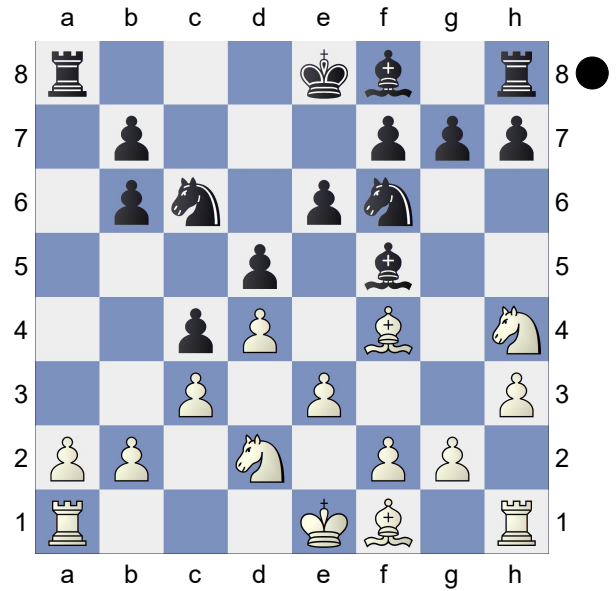
[9...b5!?! 10.a3 b4]

10.Nh4 4:10

(Diagram)

Bc2N 2:40

[10...b5 11.g4 (11.Nxf5 exf5 12.g4± ffg4 13.hxg4 Nhg4 14.Ke2) 11...Bg6 (11...Be4 12.f3 Bg6) 12.f3 b4+ 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.e4 Kd7 15.Kf2 bxc3 (15...b5) 16.bxc3 Ra3 17.Nb1 Ra6 18.g5 Ne8 (18...Nh5) 19.h4 Bd6 20.Bh3?? Kc7? (20...Bxf4 21.exd5 Ne7 22.dxe6+ fxe6) 21.Bxd6+ Nxd6 22.Bg2 Rha8 23.Nd2 Rxa2 24.Rxa2 Rxa2 25.Ke2



b5 26.f4 b4 27.Rc1 bxc3 28.Rxc3 Nxd4+ 29.Kd1 N6b5 30.Rc1 c3 0-1 (30) Froewis, A (2114)-Brilej, J (2336) Katowice 2022]

11.Rc1 39 Bg6 22

[11...Rxa2!?! 12.Rxc2 b5]

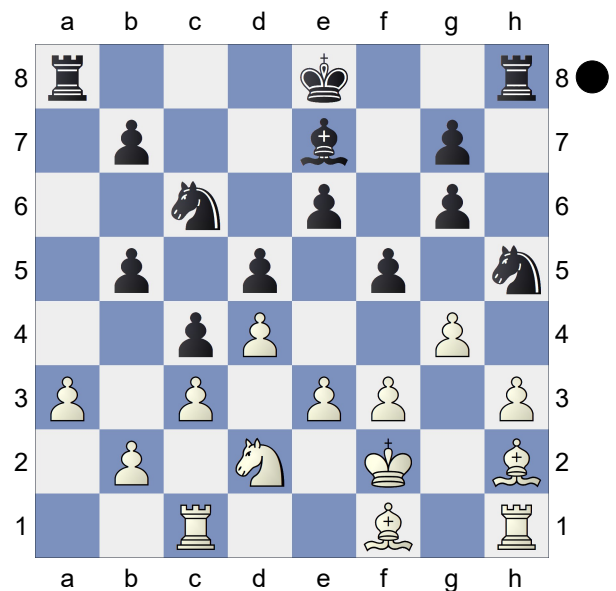
12.Nxg6 1:54 hxg6 6 13.a3= 19 /±

13...b5 41 14.f3 10:00 Nh5 1:21

15.Bh2 26 Be7 40

[15...f5]

16.Kf2 49 f5 7:21 17.g4 5:09



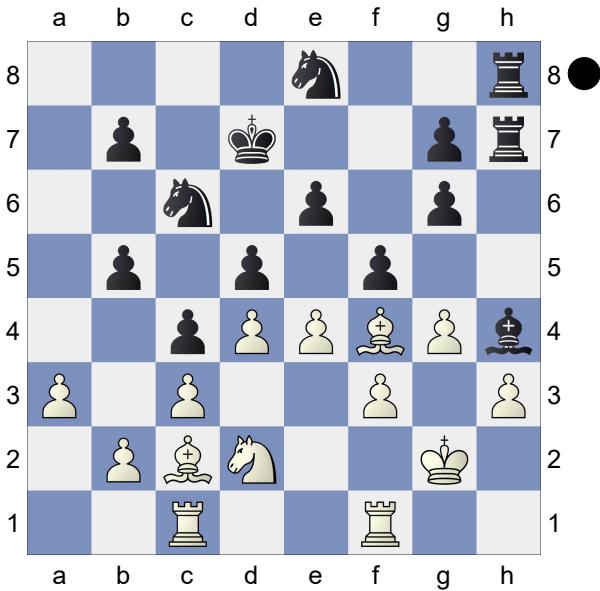
Bh4+ 6:34

[17...Nf6]

18.Kg2 9 Nf6 9 19.Be2 3:56 Kd7 9:48

[19...g5]

20.Bd1 13:23 Raf8 8:23 21.Rf1 5:17
 Rh7? 10:52 22.Bc2± 3:01
 [22.a4±]
 22...Rfh8 3:56 23.Bf4 3:04 Ne8 4:19
 24.e4 7:22



Be7? 21:08

[24...Nc7=]

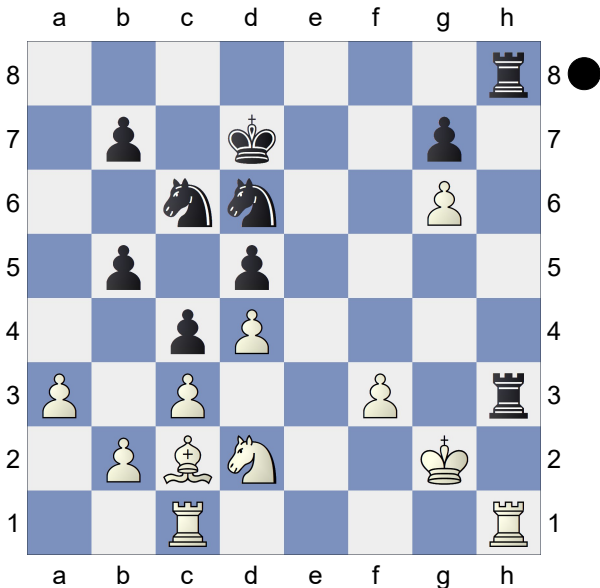
25.exd5 47

[25.gxf5 exf5 (25...gxf5 26.exd5
 Nf6! 27.dxc6+ bxc6 28.Nb1!±)
 26.Rh1!±]

25...exd5 9 26.gxf5 4:31 Bd6 30

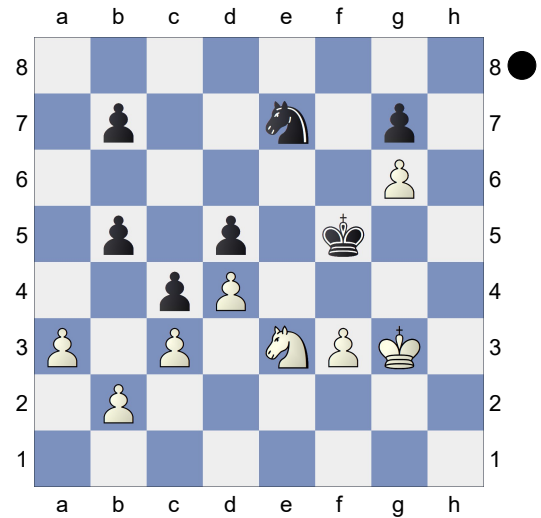
27.Bxd6! 8:30 Nxd6 1:25 28.fxg6 34

Rxh3 54 29.Rh1 15



R3h5? 1:04

[29...Rxh1 30.Rxh1 Rxh1 31.Kxh1
 Ke6 32.Kg2 Kf6 33.Kg3 Nf5+=
 34.Bxf5 Kxf5 35.Nf1 Ne7 36.Ne3+



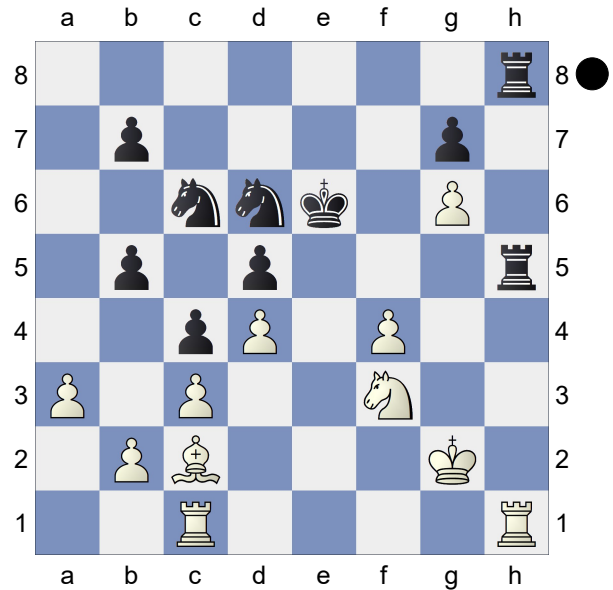
Kg5!! (36...Kxg6?? 37.Kf4 Kf6
 38.Ng4+ Ke6 39.Kg5 Nf5 40.f4 Ng3
 41.Ne3 Kf7 42.f5 Ne4+ 43.Kf4+-)
 37.f4+ Kxg6=]

30.f4? 5:12

[30.Rxh5 Rxh5 31.f4+-]

30...Ke6? 3:09 31.Nf3? 3:03

[31.Rce1+ Kd7 (31...Kf6 32.Rxh5
 Rxh5 33.Nf3+-) 32.Rxh5 Rxh5
 33.Nf3+-]



31...Kf6?? 1:22

[31...Rxh1 32.Rxh1 Rxh1 33.Ng5+
 Kf6 34.Kxh1 Nf5! 35.Nh7+ Kxg6

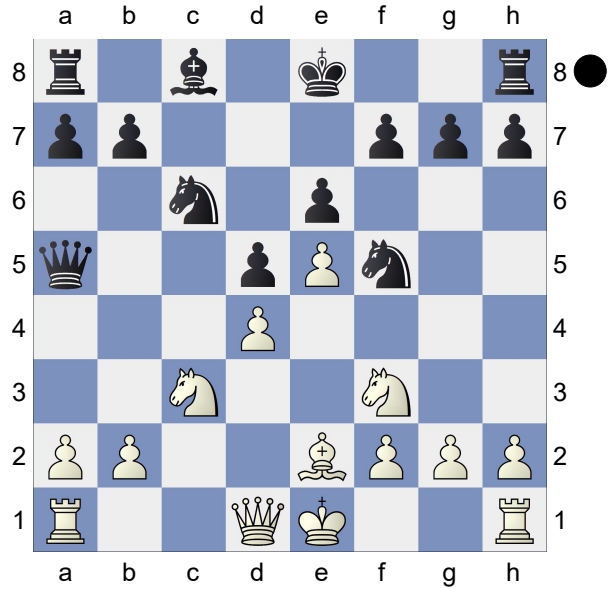
36.Nf8+ Kf6! 37.Nd7+ Ke6 38.Nc5+ Kf6 39.Nxb7 Ne3 40.Bb1 Ke7= (40...Na7=)

32.Rxh5!+- 1:35 Rxh5 6 33.Re1 1:12 Rh8 7:31 34.Ng5 25 Ne4 36 35.Nxe4+ 2:34 dxe4 5 36.Bxe4 4
 [36.Rxe4!]

36...Ne7 53 37.Kg3 38 Nxc6 1:22 38.Bxc6 14 Kxc6 5 39.Re6+ 5 Kf7 52 40.Rb6 6 Rh5 1:11 41.Rxb7+ 11 Kf6 21 42.Rb6+ 5 Kf7 5 43.Kg4 14 g6 19 44.Kf3 32 Kg7 51 45.Ke4 9 Kf7 32 46.d5 42 Rh2 23 47.Rxb5 11 Rd2 11 48.a4 15 Ke7 31 49.Rb6 20 Kd7 16 50.a5 21 Kc7 14 51.Rxc6 37 Rxb2 8 52.Rc6+ 4 Kd7 13 53.Rxc4 4 Ra2 6 54.Ke5 1:22 Rxa5 12 55.Rb4 14 Ra1 23 56.Rb7+ 23 Kc8 7 57.Rf7 10 Re1+ 43 58.Kd4 11 Kd8 19 59.c4 8 Ke8 10 60.Rh7 10 Rf1 18 61.Ke5 57 Rc1 11 62.Ke6 23 Re1+ 52 63.Kd6 7 Re4 9 64.c5 20 Rxf4 6 65.Rh8+ 8 Kf7 6 66.c6 5 Rf6+ 19 67.Kd7 5 Rf5 38 68.d6 5 Kg7 4 69.Rh2 4 Rf7+ 10 70.Kc8 7 Rf6 16 71.Kc7 8 Kf7 57 72.d7 6
1-0

C02
 □ Cawthon,Jeremy David **2105**
 ■ Diller,Bradley R **2122**
 2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 17.03.26
 [Diller,Bradley R]

EW: Brad & the French. Almost as ubiquitous as Brad and the English! His notes are honest and instructive. Jeremy wasn't having his best day, in any case. **1.e4 e6 2 2.d4 6 d5 1 3.e5 6 c5 5 4.c3 3 Nc6 2 5.Nf3 6 Qb6 2 6.Be2 6 cxd4 21 7.cxd4 2 Nh6 23 8.Nc3 5 Nf5 36 9.Na4 6 Qa5+ 1:05 10.Bd2 6 Bb4 42 11.Bc3 2 Bxc3+ 6:14 12.Nxc3 36**



0-0?! 40
 [I rejected Qb4 because of the following continuation which loses my queen, but I should have considered the stronger Qb6 which equalizes. 12...Qb4? 13.a3! Qxb2?? 14.Na4!+-]
 [Δ12...Qb6 13.Bb5 (13.Na4 Qb4+) 13...Bd7=]

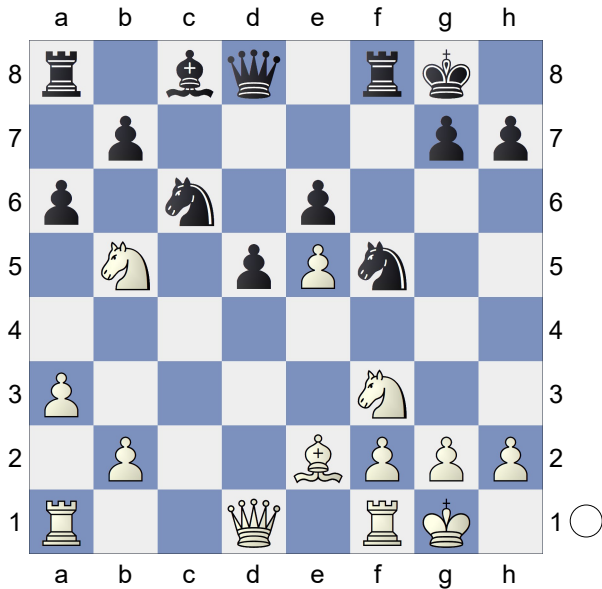
13.0-0 1:02 f6 16:11 14.a3?! 9:36 fxe5 5:09 15.dxe5 27 Qd8 9:14

[Stockfish thought Qc7 was best and I did consider Qc7 to win the e-pawn but white gets clear compensation because of the awkward placement of my queen, lack of development, and weakness of the e6 pawn. For example, I was not comfortable with the following continuation: 15...Qc7 16.Rc1 Qb8 17.Re1 Nxe5 18.Nb5 Nc6 19.Bd3 Bd7=]

16.Nb5?! 8:13 This is a dubious attempt to reposition the knight on d4, but it simply loses a pawn. Best is simply 16 Rc1.
 [Δ16.Rc1=]
16...a6 2:45

(Diagram)

17.Nbd4?! 6:58



[White should have acknowledged the error and retreated his knight back to c3. Instead, white simply loses the e-pawn with little compensation.

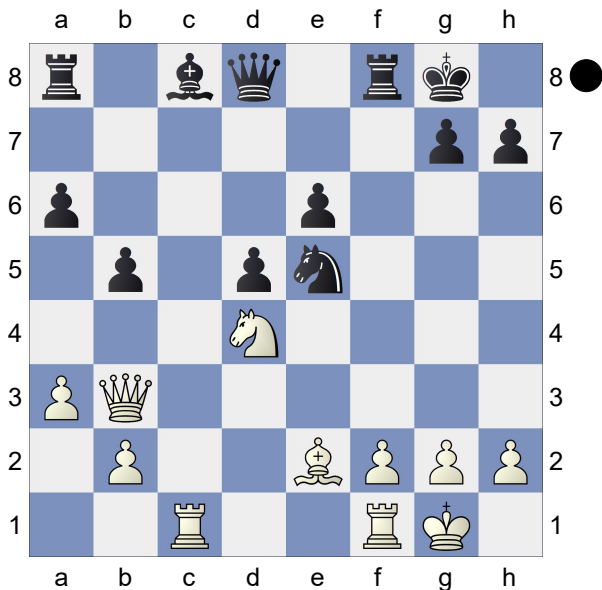
△17.Nc3=]

17...Nfxd4! 30 18.Nxd4 1 Nxe5 2

19.Qb3 2:28 b5?! 8:31

[Better was Ng6 which I briefly considered, but I was enamoured with b5 followed by Nc4. The drawback is that I am weakening squares on the c-file. △19...Ng6 20.Bg4 Qf6 21.Rad1 Kh8]

20.Rac1 2:34



Nc4? 1:17

[It was essential to prepare Nc4 with Qf6 to neutralize white's counterplay on the c-file, as follows: △20...Qf6 21.Rc7 Nc4 22.Bxc4 Qxd4 23.Be2 Ra7 24.Rxa7 Qxa7]

21.Qg3?! 1:46

[20 ...Nc4 was a mistake, because white can dislodge my knight and get strong counterplay on my weakened squares on the c-file. The position would be roughly equal with correct play, as follows: △21.Qc3 Qf6 22.b3 Nd6 (22...Nxa3 23.Qc6 Rb8 24.Nf3 Bb7 25.Qd6 b4 26.Qxb4 Nb5 27.Bxb5 Bc8 28.Qd6 Rxb5 29.Nd4 Rb7=) 23.Bf3 Bb7 24.Qc5 e5 25.Bxd5+ Kh8 26.Nc6 Rac8 27.Qa7=]

21...Qf6 2:34 22.Nf3? 2:23 Qxb2 36

23.Bd3 1:10 Qf6 2:21

[23...Qxa3? 24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Rxc4+-]

24.Rfe1 40 Ra7! 4:05 25.Ng5 4:47 g6

1:08 26.Bxc4 37 bxc4 34 27.Rb1 1:17

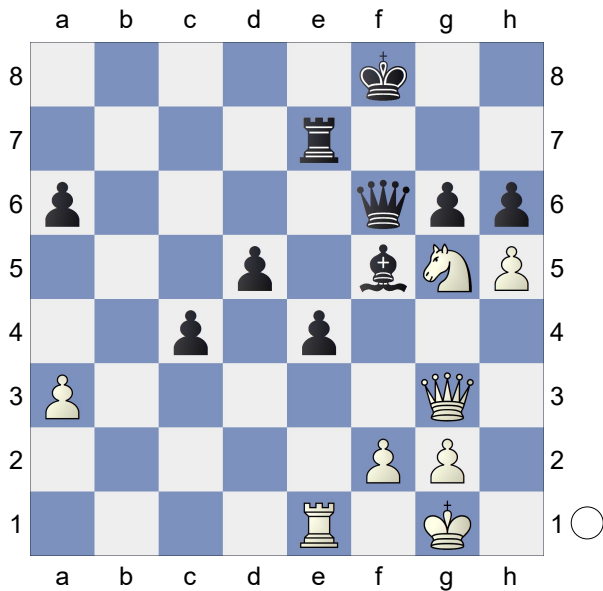
Re7 2:48 28.h4 1:17 e5 26 29.h5 1:11

Bf5 4:00 30.Rb4 1:14 e4 11:20

[I did consider c3, but did not like white's piece sacrifice because I lose my key central pawns even though I have material superiority. Objectively, the continuation was better. Still the continuation that I selected was not too bad, because the intact connected passed pawns are menacing. =30...c3 31.Qxc3 (31.h6 d4) 31...Qxg5 32.Rxe5 Qf6 33.f4 Be4 34.Rb2+-]

31.Rb8?! 3:12 h6 1:59 32.Rxf8+ 3:46 Kxf8 10

[△32...Qxf8 32 ... Qxf8 may have been slightly better, but I was worried about resurrecting white's knight on f4. In retrospect, this was less annoying than the continuation that I missed with the king recapture. 33.Nh3 g5 34.Nf4 Qd8+-]



33.Qb8+?! 2:04

[White missed his final chance to cause me mild grief with the surprising knight sacrifice on h2 which I overlooked. However, I am still winning after the dust settles, but the position is not as clear. ♖33.Nh7+! Rxh7 34.Qb8+ Ke7 35.Qb7+ Bd7 36.hxg6 Qxg6 37.Qxd5 Bc6 38.Qc5+ Ke8 39.Qxc4 Rg7 40.g3 Re7-+]

**33...Kg7 6 34.f4 2:27 hxg5 3:25
35.h6+ 46 Kxh6 13 36.fxg5+ 7 Kxg5 1
37.Rb1 1:34 Qd4+ 38 38.Kf1 19 Qd3+
5 39.Kg1 8 Qe3+ 38 40.Kf1 3 Bg4
1:11 41.Rb7 1:02 Be2+ 17 42.Ke1 10
Bf3+
0-1**

D30

2237

2025

□ Winslow,Elliott

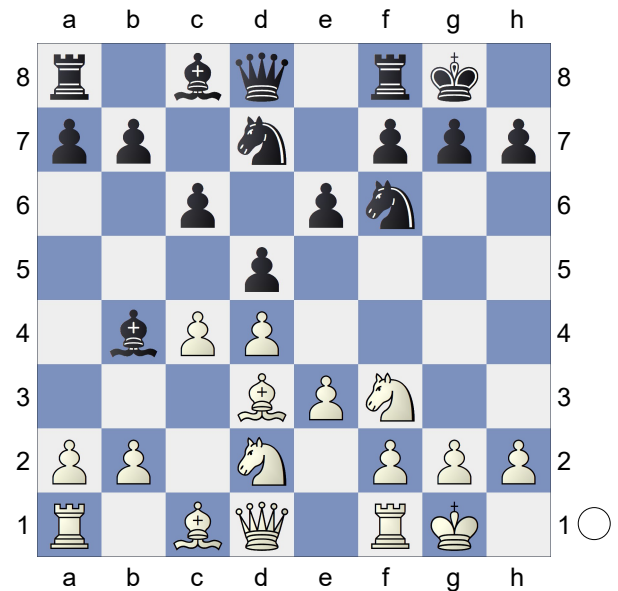
■ Seitzer,Phillip

2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (3.3) 17.03.26

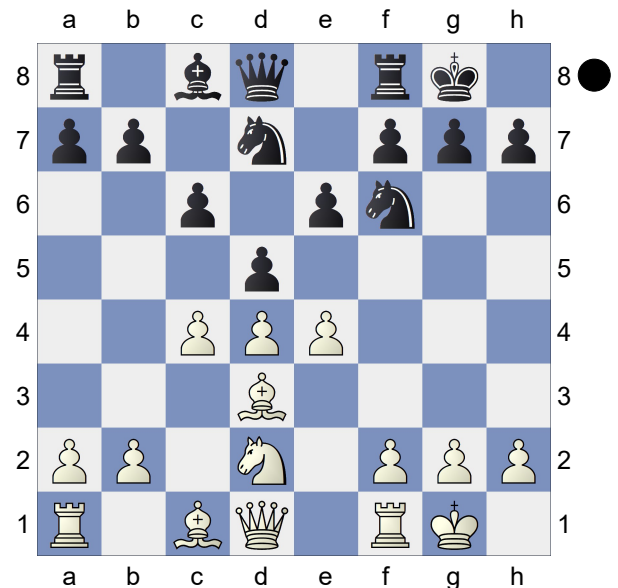
[Winslow,Elliott]

Trying to hard to win, I should have lost...
The funny thing about this game is that
not so long ago, I stumbled into Bishop

plus mismatched rook pawn -- twice! So
I'm "equaling the score" a bit... **1.d4 6
Nf6 1:06 2.Nf3 10 d5 43 3.c4 6 c6 5
4.e3 20 e6 20 5.Bd3 1:35 Bb4+ 3:10
6.Nbd2 45 0-0 21 7.0-0 10 Nbd7 44**



**8.e4 35 Premature!? Seitzer takes
advantage of the moment: 8...Bxd2!
3:23 9.Nxd2□ 15**



**e5! 5 This can only work because the N/
d2 isn't pressuring d5. 10.cxd5 2:29**

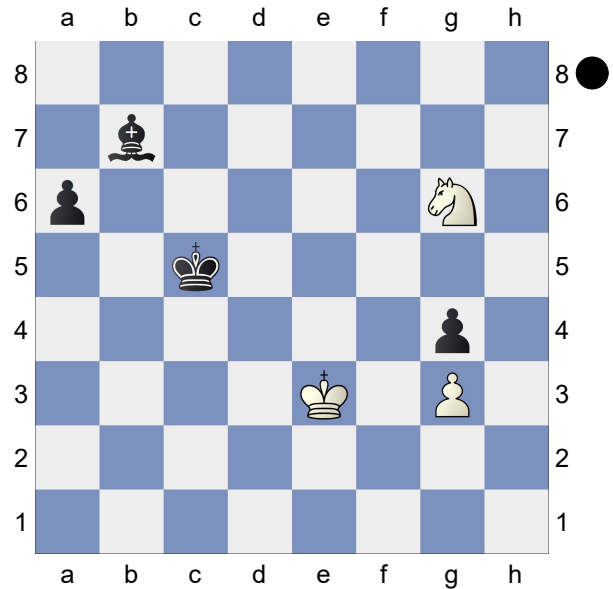
[10.Re1!?!± exd4 (10...Re8! 11.exd5
cxd5 12.cxd5 exd4 13.Ne4±) 11.e5
Nc5! 12.Bb1 Nfe4 13.cxd5 Nxd2
14.Qxd2 Qxd5 15.b4 Ne6 16.a4 a5
17.Ra3!?! is interesting, but Black must

be okay ("0.17/d26" SF)]
10...cxd5 22 11.exd5 1:01 exd4 44
12.Nf3 4:03 Nxd5 4:00 13.Nxd4 5:06
N7f6 3:41 14.Bg5?!= 2:42
 [14.h3± Qb6 15.a4!]
14...h6 7:57 15.Bh4 8:22 Nf4 15:44
 [15...Qb6!?!]
16.Bc4 3:28 Qb6 5:42 17.Qd2 4:53
Ng6 21 18.Bg3 2:56 Ne4 6:17 19.Qe3
16 Nxg3 24 20.hxg3 9 Bd7 1:05
21.Rfd1 1:10 Rae8 32 22.Qb3 53
Qxb3 3:08 23.Nxb3 1:13
 [23.Bxb3= (0.00s) Ne5 24.f3]
23...Re7 1:02 24.Rd6 2:09 Ne5 3:11
25.Bd5 3:12 Bb5 2:06 26.Nd4 6:03
Bd3 14:04 27.Rd1 15 Nc4 20 28.Bxc4
1:39 Bxc4 2 29.b3 9 Be2 3:20 30.Rd2
1:30 Rfe8 1:13 31.f3 1:48 g6 53
32.Kf2 1:48 Ba6 2 33.b4 4:25 Bc4 35
34.Rc2 24 b5 51 35.a4 2:21 Re1 1:02
36.g4□ 12 Rb1 20 37.axb5 8:06 Rxb4
24 38.Nc6 3:50 Ra4 40 39.Rb2 39
Be6 2:11 40.Re2 3:12 Kf8 17 41.Kg3
49 Ra3 2:10 42.Kf2 9 Ra8 1:31
43.Nd4 2:15 Bc4 21 44.Rc2 42 Ra2
3:31 45.Rxa2 3:13 Bxa2 2 46.Ra6 34
Bd5 2 47.g3 56 Bb7 1:07 48.Ra4 2:38
a6 20 49.b6 23 Ke7 1:14 50.Ke3 9:36
Kd6 8 51.Rc4? 1:03 I was trying too
hard to come up with something; next
thing I knew I was lost.

[51.Nb3=]
51...Bd5 54 52.Ra4 1:05 Bb7 2:20
53.Kd3 3:10 Kc5 1:10 54.f4 2:49 Kxb6
12 55.f5 10 Re8 1:52 56.Rb4+ 23 Kc7
28 57.Nb3 4 Re5 42 58.fxg6 31 fxg6 2
59.Rf4 14 Rg5 2:03 60.Ke3 12 h5 2:09
61.Nd4 41 Rxg4 42 62.Rxg4 6 hxg4 2
63.Ne6+ 6 Kd6 37 64.Nf8 4 Kc5 1:01
65.Nxg6 9

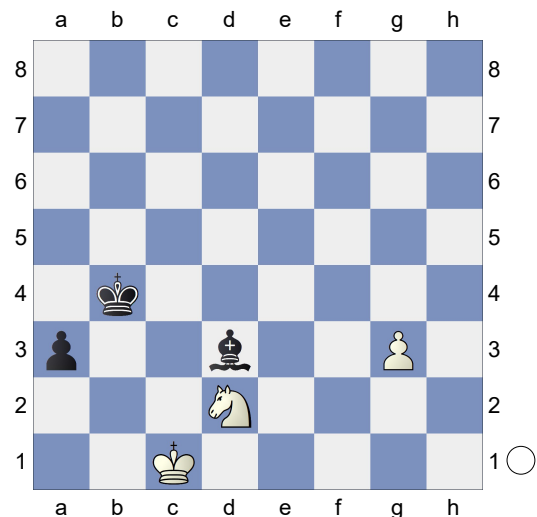
(Diagram)

Kb4? 39
 [65...Kc4□-+ is (according to the



tablebase) Black's last chance to win!
 It threatens ...Kc3 cutting my king off
 from Kd2-c1-b1-a1, while is also ready
 to play 66.Kd2 Kd4! preventing me
 from getting rid of the g-pawn with
 Ne5.]

66.Kd2□ 20 Kb3 21 67.Kc1 10 Kc3 15
 [67...Be4 68.Ne5 a5 69.Nxg4 a4
 Black has stopped the king's crossing
 to the corner, but the knight can be
 sacrificed at just the last moment: the
 only two moves are
A) 70.Nh2□ a3 71.Nf3!;
B) 70.Ne3? a3 71.Nf1 Bd3
72.Nd2+ Kb4



the knight and king are getting
 zugzwang'ed. 73.g4 (73.Nf3 Kc3)

73...Kc5!! 74.Nb3+ Kc4 75.Nd2+ Kb4 76.g5 (76.Nb1 a2!) 76...Bg6 77.Nf1 Kc3 78.Ng3 Bd3 79.Ne2+ Kc4!;

C) 70.Ne5 a3 (70...Kc3)]

68.Ne5 5 Bc8 20 69.Kb1 22 Kd4 29
70.Nxg4 4 Bxg4 12 71.Kb2 6 Kc4 14
72.Kc2 1:00 Kb4 8 73.Kb2 3 a5 6
74.Ka2 10
1/2-1/2

A23
2122
2254
2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 24.03.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

Here is this game with my notes for the round. Right after I sent it in, I finished the SafePlay training for tournament directors; I was concerned: did I "go too far?" But that Sunday, at the weekly gathering at Cafe Reveille for shakshuka and Gadir problems, I told him what I'd written, and he was quite amused. So:
1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 Heiserman cuts through the English subtlety and queenside pressure on weaknesses and just mops up Diller's king. Death to the Fianchetto! And he did it without even pushing his h-pawn. **3.Bg2 Bc5** (Almost too easy! And shades of Bc4 (withouth d2-d4) against the Sicilian Defense. A psychological factor is at play: "How can he get away with this?")
4.Nc3 c6 (In the early Grandmaster Preparation book on the Sicilian by Ftacnik, a whole chapter is given to cover Bc4 without it already having gone 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4, and Ljubomir warns the reader not to take this innocent play too lightly. This must have been in play with Brad.) **5.e3 0-0**
6.Nge2 d5 Stockfish approves, even

hinting at a Black edge (before it goes 0.00 on us).

[6...d6 7.d4 Bb6 8.0-0 Re8 9.b3 Nbd7 10.Bb2 Nf8 11.Qc2 Ng6 12.Rad1 Qe7 13.e4 h5 14.Ba3 h4 15.Na4 Bc7 16.c5 d5 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.Nac3 Nxc3 19.Nxc3 exd4 20.Rxd4 Qf6 21.Qd1 Bf5 22.Ne4 Bxe4 23.Rxe4 Rxe4 24.Bxe4 Rd8 25.Qc2 Nf4 26.Bc1 Nh3+ 27.Kg2 Ng5 28.Bxg5 Qxg5 29.Rd1 h3+ 30.Kf1 Rxd1+ 31.Qxd1 Qxc5 32.Qd7 Bd6 33.Qxh3 g6 34.Kg2 Bf8 35.Qh4 Qe5 36.Bf3 Aravindh,C (2698)-Esipenko,A (2677) Chess.com INT 2024 1-0 (78)]

7.cxd5 cxd5

[7...Nxd5 is the engine's preference]

8.d4 exd4?!

[8...Bd6 9.dxe5 Bxe5 10.Nxd5 Nxd5 11.Qxd5 Qxd5 12.Bxd5 Nc6
Black has good play for the pawn (note the long diagonal -- Black's that is.), but some preference for White.]

9.Nxd4?!

[9.exd4± with 0-0 and Bg5 coming.]

9...Bg4= (It's 0.00 time, maybe even time to remember Tal's "'equal' means Black is better" line.)

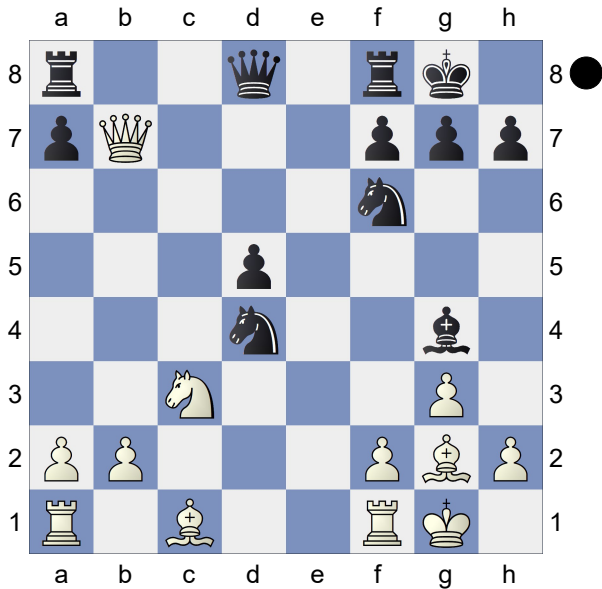
[9...Re8]

[9...Nc6]

10.Qb3?! (With pressure on d5 and b7 -- but White's intentions smack of entitlement. These English players!)

[10.Nde2 Nc6 11.h3 Bxe2 12.Nxe2 Bb4+ 13.Bd2 Bxd2+ 14.Qxd2 Ne4 15.Qc2 Qa5+ 16.Nc3 Nb4 17.Qe2 Rac8 18.0-0 Nxc3 19.bxc3 Rxc3 20.Rfd1= Here White's pressure will get the d-pawn, recovery not procurement, it will just be equality. Sure enough, while typing everything went all 0.00 on me.]

10...Nc6 11.0-0 Bxd4 12.exd4 Nxd4 13.Qxb7



14.Kh1?? Brad slams hard into the pavement here, probably not even dreaming of the danger. If I read the times right he took a grand 35 seconds on this. Jimmy played 'va banque' as well, suggesting that perhaps he also just assumed it would happen (and he had already spent quite a bit of time earlier).

[14.Bxf3!! □ Bxf3 15.Bf4= !! I would think this has to be checkmate on g2 -- but White keeps Black out of h3, and Stockfish 18 makes it barely -0.10 for Black, i.e. even!]

Nf3+N

[13...Qd6 14.Bf4 Qe6 15.Rfe1 Qf5 16.Re5 Qd3 17.Re3 Qg6 18.Re5 Nf3+ 19.Bxf3 Bxf3 20.Ne2 Bxe2 21.Rxe2 Rfe8 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Qxa7 Qc2 24.Qd4 Re4 25.Qd2 Qc4 26.Rc1 Qa6 27.Re1 h6 28.a3 Qc4 29.h3 g5 30.Be5 Nd7 31.Bc3 Nc5 32.h4 gxh4 33.Qxh6 Rxe1+ 34.Bxe1 hxg3 35.Qg5+ Kf8 36.Qxg3 Ne4 37.Qb8+ Kg7 38.Bc3+ d4 39.Qe5+ Nf6 40.Qxd4 1-0 (40) Ramirez Buitrago,D (1898)-Brizuela Abreu,R (2089) Bogota 2024]

14...Rb8! (There is a road...) **15.Qxa7 d4!** **16.Nd1**

[16.h3!? Bxh3 17.Bxh3 dxc3 18.bxc3 Rb5 19.Kg2 Qd5 20.a4 Rb3 21.c4 Qc6-+]

16...Rb5! "SAY MY NAME..." (I had to get this in some day) **17.Qa6**

[17.Qa3 Qd5! 18.Bg5 Qxg5 (18...Ra5) 19.Bxf3 Ra5 20.Qd3 (20.Qb3 Qb5) 20...Qb5]

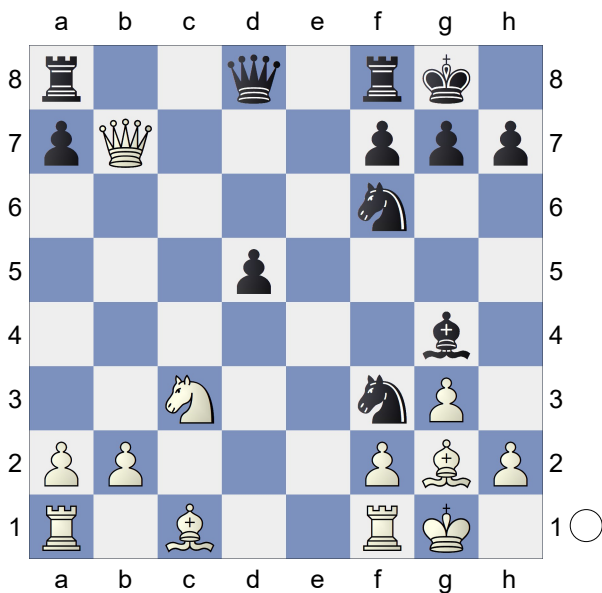
17...Rh5 18.h4 Nd5 Stockfish gives all these other moves as "better" but I don't see it.

[18...Qc7]
[18...Qb8]
[18...Ne4]

19.Qd3?! It took a good minute, but now everything is mate.

[19.Bh3 Rxh4!]

19...Rxh4+ A miniature to be sure!
0-1



E81

☐ Melville, Cailen Jeremiah

1868

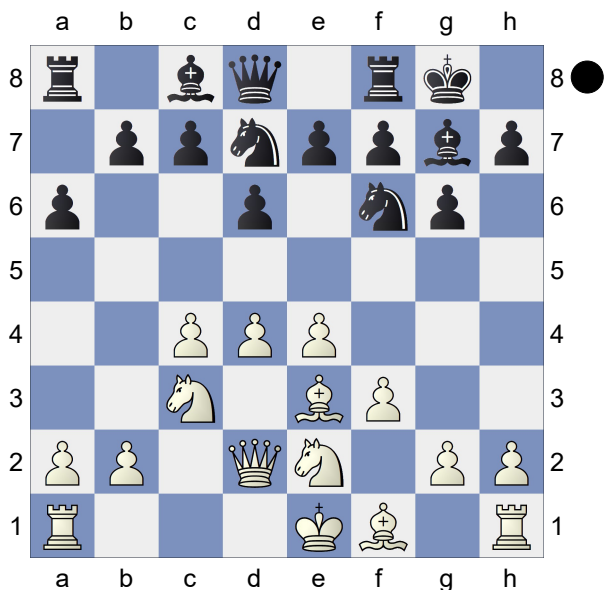
■ Winslow, Elliott

2237

2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (4.3) 24.03.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

An epic battle: untheoretical opening, murky middlegame, eventually decided by better endgame play in an even rook and pawn game. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Nge2 a6 7.Be3 Nbd7 8.Qd2



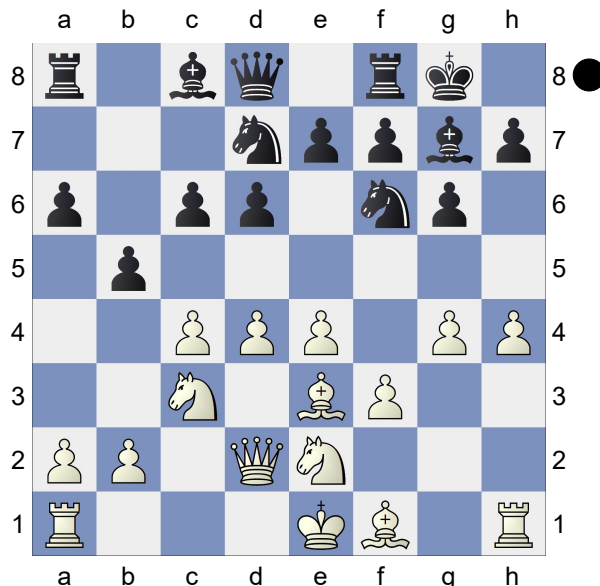
c6?! Opting for the Byrne Variation, or rather some version of it. (I think Byrne would play ...c6 and ...a6 without castling.)

[I keep meaning to play the critical 8...b5!? and then ... just ... don't. It's a key theoretical line! It's big! It's a gambit! Aaaagh! I'm just not a natural gambit player...]

9.g4 Caveman play, which Stockfish favors! 9...b5 White is slightly better. 10.h4

(Diagram)

e6?!N Already I know I've missed the boat -- and I decide to play a crouching game. Maybe he won't checkmate me.



Good luck with that.

[10...h5 11.g5? (11.Ng3!±) 11...Ne8= (in fact Black has a small edge!) 12.f4 Nb6 13.b3 bxc4 14.f5?! (14.Ng3!∓) 14...gxf5∓ 15.Ng3 f4 (15...fxe4!∓ aiming for ...Bg4. 16.Be2 Rb8 17.Nxh5 Be6) 16.Bxf4= Bg4 17.bxc4 1-0 (29) Hess,R (2591)-Carnicelli,V (2234) Titled Tuesday, 19 May 2020 (∆17.Be2)] [10...e5± isn't all that bad actually.]

11.Ng3

[11.h5!±]

11...Qe7?!

[11...c5!±]

12.h5 c5

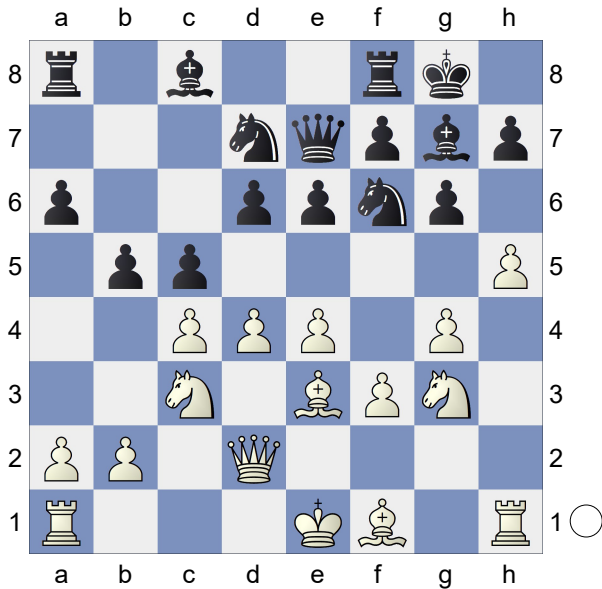
(Diagram)

13.Nce2?= Unexpected! But pleasantly so, as Miles said to a simul opponent. (It was more "most of your moves were a surprise -- pleasantly so")

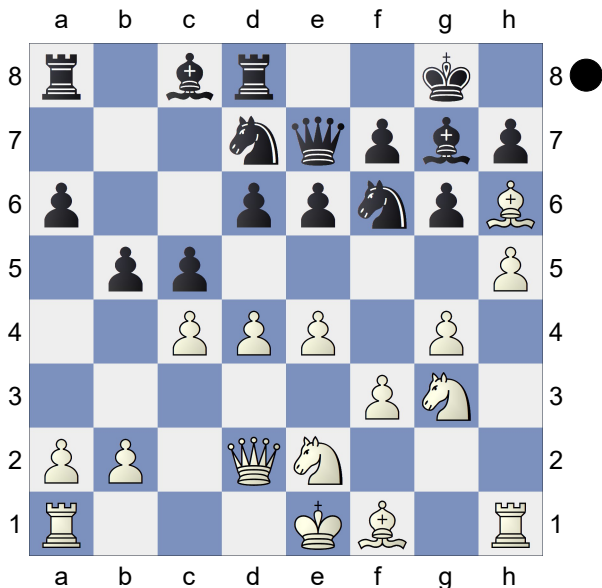
[13.cxb5 cxd4 14.Bxd4 Ne5±]

[13.h6±]

[13.dxc5± and h6 would now be decisive Nxc5 14.e5+- (14.cxb5 axb5 15.Qh2 b4=; 14.b4) 14...dxe5 15.g5 Nxh5 16.Qh2 f5 17.Nxh5 gxh5 18.Qxh5 Rd8 19.Qxh7+ Kf8



20.g6]
13...Rd8?!
 [13...bxc4 14.0-0-0 Rb8 with a slight edge.(-0.25/22)]
14.Bh6
 [14.hxg6 fxc6! 15.0-0-0 bxc4 16.Nc3 Bb7 17.g5 Ne8±]



Yeah, well, with my queen on e7 I don't expect to be checkmated. **14...bxc4?**
 [14...Bh8!= declares the cold-blooded computer.]
15.Bxg7± White sacrificed a pawn
15...Kxg7 16.hxg6
 [16.g5 Ne8 17.f4]

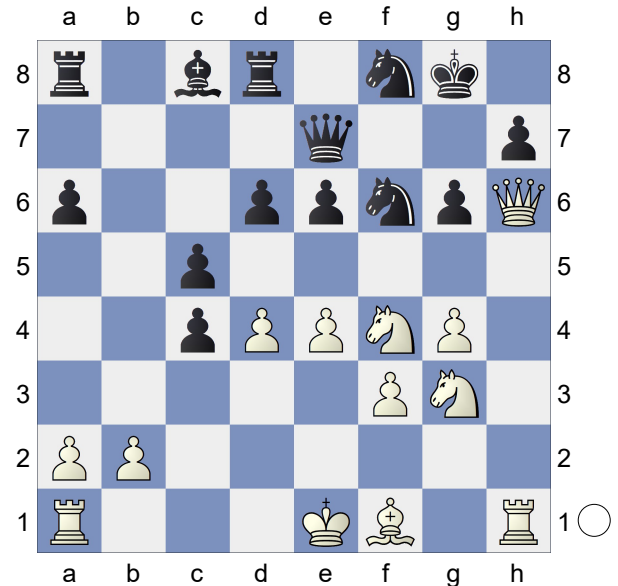
16...fxg6 A sharp opening **17.Qh6+?!**

[17.g5±]
 [17.0-0-0±]

17...Kg8± 18.Nf4=

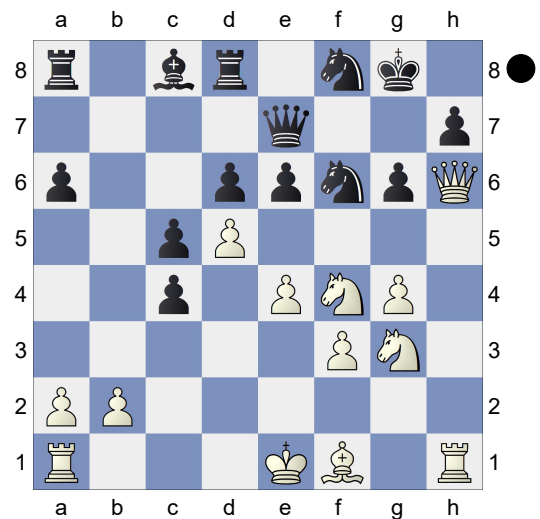
[18.0-0-0!± Nf8 19.d5 exd5 20.g5 N6d7 21.Nc3 d4 22.Bxc4+ Kh8 23.Nd5 Qg7 24.Qxg7+ Kxg7 25.f4]

18...Nf8!=



At least I'm finding a good defensive move here now and then. **19.g5?**

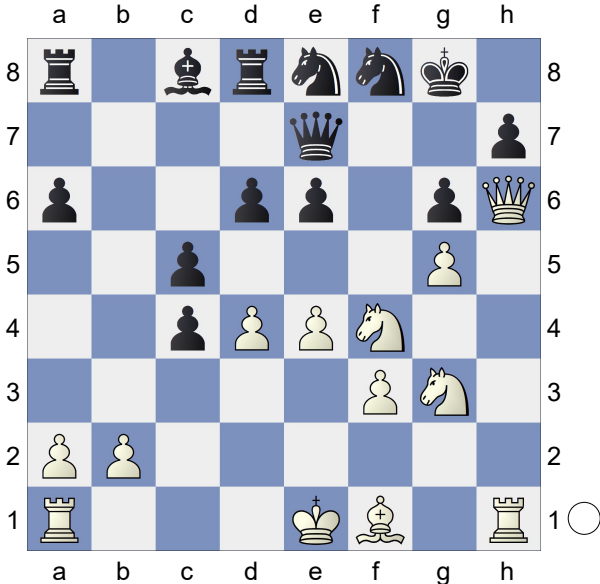
[Here are some lines I'm sure I wouldn't have found: 19.d5=



Rb8! 20.Bxc4 exd5 21.Nf5!
 (21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.0-0-0 Be6 23.exd5 Bxg4 24.fxc4 Qe5 25.Rh2 Qxg3 26.Rf1=) 21...gxf5 22.g5 Ne8 23.Bxd5+ Kh8 24.Qxf8+! (24.0-0-0

Qg7 25.Qxg7+ Kxg7 26.Rdg1 fxe4
 27.g6=) 24...Qxf8 25.Ng6+ Kg7
 26.Nxf8 Kxf8 27.Rxh7 Ng7 28.Rh8+
 Ke7 29.Rh7 Kf8=]
 [19.dxc5 d5]
 [19.Qg5 cxd4 20.Bxc4 Qg7]
 [19.0-0-0 c3!=]

19...Ne8



20.Bxc4?!

[20.d5 e5! 21.Ng2 Qb7!
 Black's knights are taking care of
 defensive business; so it's a moment
 to activate the queen. (21...Rb8
 22.Bxc4 Rxb2 23.0-0 Ng7) 22.Be2
 Qxb2 23.Kf2 Rb8]

20...cxd4 is pretty good: Black has a
 strong passed pawn

[20...d5! 21.Be2 dxe4 (21...cxd4)
 22.Nxe4 Rxd4-+]

21.Bd3

[White should try 21.Nf5 gxf5
 (21...Qf7? 22.0-0-0+) 22.g6
 (22.exf5 d5)]

21...Qf7

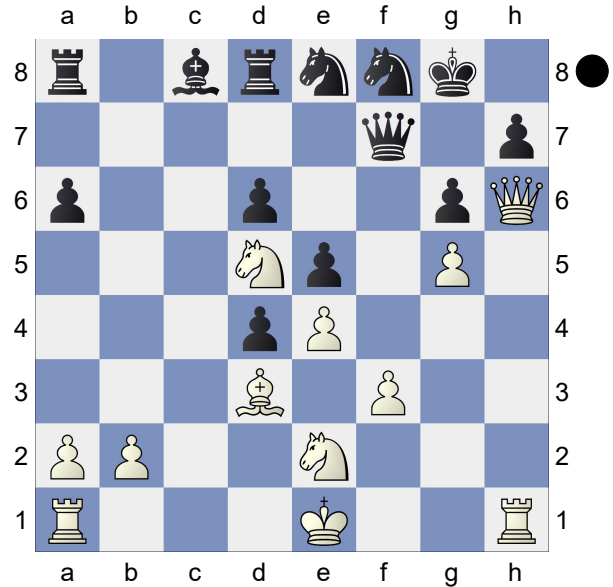
[Black should play 21...Rb8]

22.Nge2

[22.Nfe2 is a better defense.]

22...e5+ 23.Nd5

(Diagram)



Be6!

[23...Qxf3? 24.0-0-0 (24.Rf1 Qxf1+
 25.Kxf1 Be6+-) 24...Qf7 25.Rdf1+-]

24.Bc4 Rdc8 Of course I'm giving up
 the exchange.

[24...Qxf3? 25.Kd2 (25.Rf1 Qxf1+
 26.Kxf1 Ra7+-) 25...Qf7 (25...Qxe4?
 26.Raf1+-) 26.Raf1+-]

25.b3 Rc5+

[25...Qxf3?]

26.f4 There was no distracting me from
 ... **26...Bxd5 27.Bxd5**

[27.exd5 Rxc4! 28.bxc4 d3
 29.Nc3 (29.fxe5 dxe2 30.e6
 Qb7-+) 29...e4!-+]

(Diagram)

27...Rxd5 28.exd5 Qxd5

[28...d3! 29.Ng3 Qa7!]

29.0-0?!

[29.Qh3]

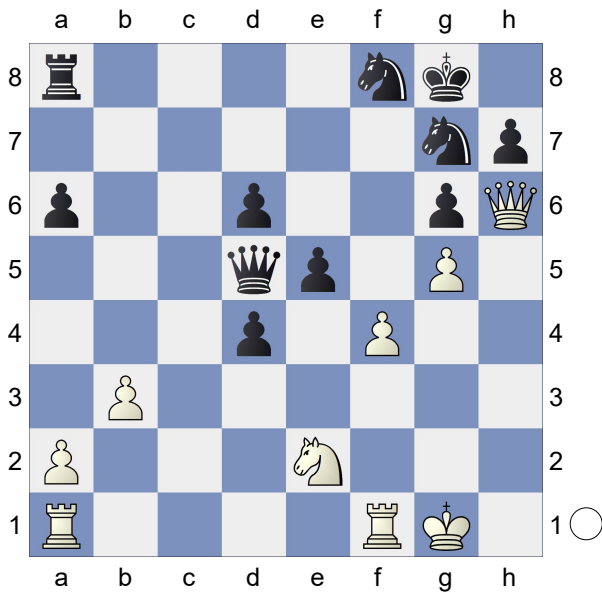
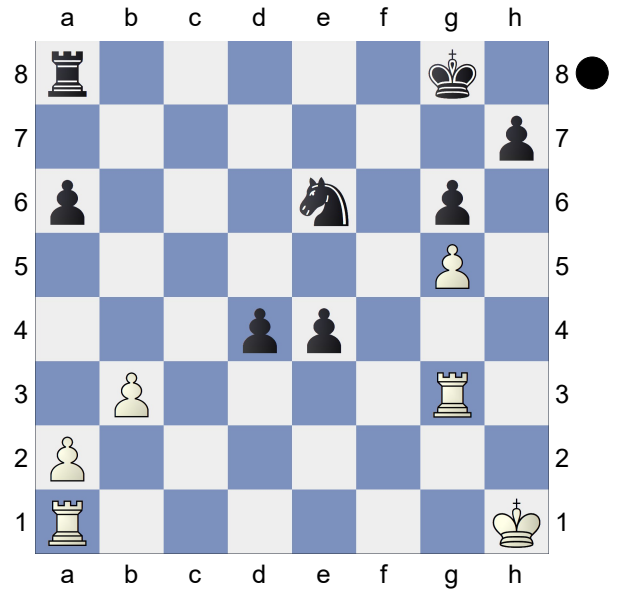
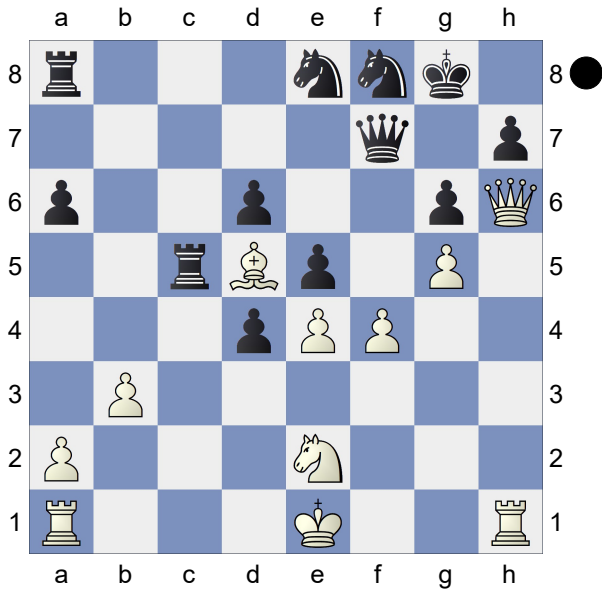
[29.Qh3 Ng7 30.0-0-0 Nf5]

29...Ng7

(Diagram)

30.Qh1! Qxh1+!

[30...e4? 31.Ng3 Re8 32.Rae1±]



**31.Kxh1 Nf5+ 32.Rfd1 Ne6 33.fxe5
dxe5 34.Rg1?! e4 35.Ng3**
Against everything else: **35...d3.**
35...Nxc3+
[35...e3! 36.Nxf5 gxf5]
36.Rxc3

(Diagram)

Endgame **KRR-KRN 36...Rc8?**

[36...Rf8+ 37.Rg4 Nf4]
[36...Nf4]
[36...Re8]
[36...Ng7 37.Rg4 Nf5 38.Kg1 e3
39.Re4 d3]

37.Rg4!f e3

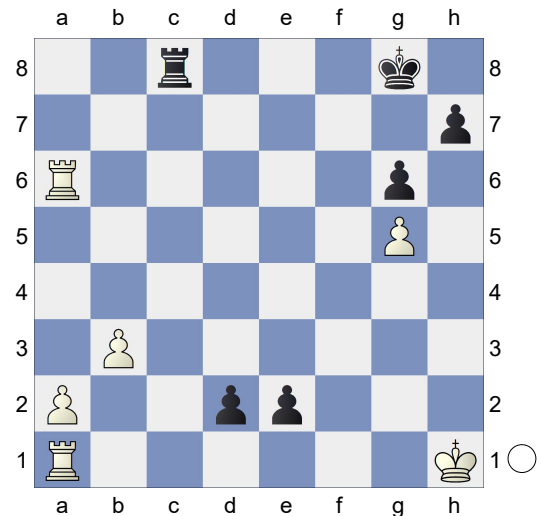
[37...Rc2!? 38.Rxe4 Nxc3 39.Rg4
(39.Rxd4?? Nf3) 39...Nf3 40.Rg2
d3 41.Rd1! Re2 42.a4f]

38.Re4 d3 39.Rxe6

[39.Rxe3 d2 40.Rg1 Nxc3+]

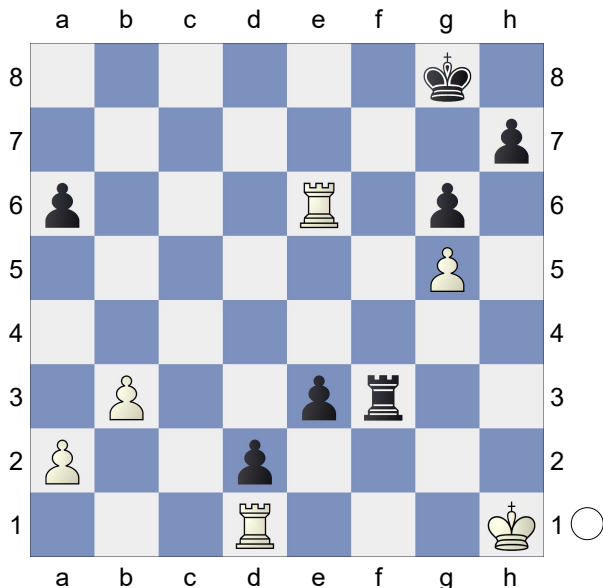
39...d2 40.Rf1!= Welcome to
Zeroland. The perpetual check threat
(Re8+e7+) is hard to shake.

[Everything else loses, for instance
40.Rxa6 e2! (40...Rc1+)



]
40...Rf8 41.Rd1
[41.Rg1!? Rd8 42.Kg2= (42.Rxe3
d1Q=; 42.Rd1 Rc8=)]
41...Rf3??+-
[41...Rc8!= 42.Rf1 (42.Rxa6 e2

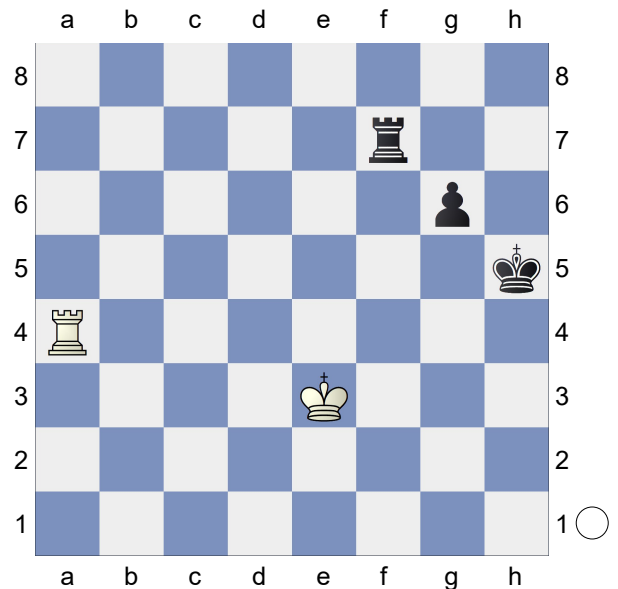
43.Rg1 d1Q 44.Rf6 Rc2; 42.Rxe3
Rc1 (42...e2 (42...Rf8=) 43.Rxe2
Rc1 44.Re8+ Kg7 45.Re7+ Kg8=]



42.Rxe3?? Everything else wins for
White 42...Rxe3= 43.Rxd2+- Re5
44.Rd8+ Kf7 45.Rd7+ Ke6 (all 0.00s)
46.Rxh7 (all 0.00s)
[46.Ra7=]
46...Kf5 (all 0.00s) 47.Ra7 (0s)
47...Re1+ (0s) 48.Kg2 Re2+ (0s)
49.Kf3 Rxa2 (the only 0.00) 50.b4 (0s)
50...Ra3+ (0s) 51.Kf2 (0s) 51...Ra4
52.Ke3 Kxg5 53.Kd3 Rxb4 54.Rxa6
Rf4 (0s) 55.Ke3 (0s) 55...Rf7 (0s)
[55...Rf1!? 56.Ke2 Rf5=]
56.Ra4 (0s) 56...Kh5

(Diagram)

(0s) 57.Re4?? A horrible square! Like
something I used to do, I'd strangle my
own rook.
[57.Ra1= g5 58.Rh1+ Kg6 59.Rg1
Rf5 (0s)]
57...g5+ (among others! 58.Ke2 g4
59.Re8 g3 It's heading to the most
famous and important rook ending, the
Lucena Position (maneuver really). I just
learned that it is incorrectly called that:



Lucena wasn't the one to discover it and
never mentioned it in any of his works.
60.Rh8+ Kg4 61.Rg8+ Kh3 62.Rh8+
Kg2 63.Rg8 Re7+ 64.Kd2 Kf2
65.Rf8+ Kg1 66.Rg8 g2 67.Rg6 Re5
[or more succinctly, 67...Re4 68.Kd3
Rh4 69.Ke2 Kh1 70.Kf2 Rh2]
68.Rg7 Kf2 69.Rf7+ Kg3 (-> ...Rg5)
70.Rg7+ Kf3 White lost on time. A wild
game. Weighted Error Value: White=0.
70/Black=0.34
0-1

C07

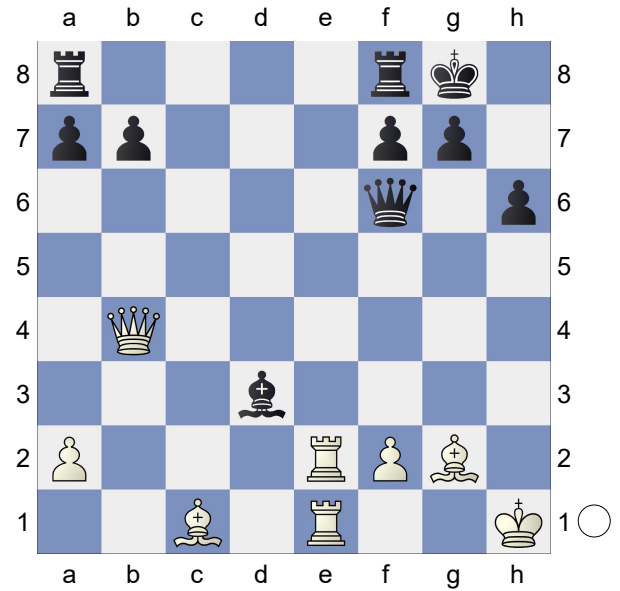
□ Ching,Harvey

■ Barreyro,Romeo Belmes

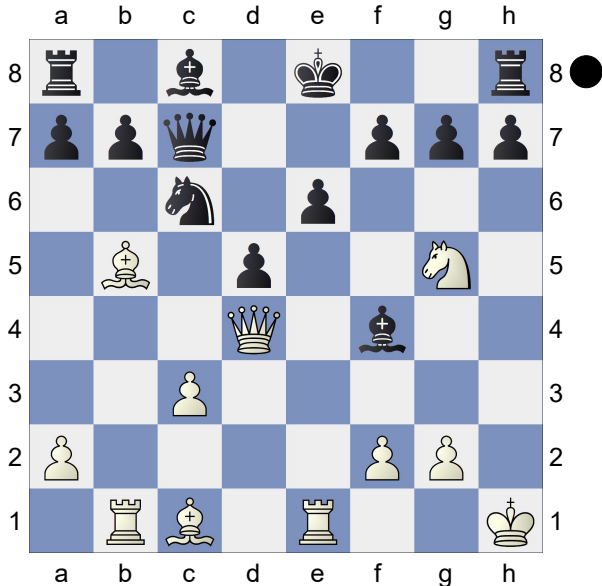
2026 Spring TNM: U1600 (4.34) 24.03.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

This is a fantastic melee of a game! 1.e4
e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.c3 Nc6
5.Ngf3 Qb6 6.Be2 cxd4 7.0-0 dxc3
8.bxc3 Nf6 9.e5 Nd7 10.Rb1
[10.c4!=]
10...Qc7 11.Re1
[11.c4]
[11.Bb2 Be7 12.c4 0-0=]
11...Ndx5
[11...Ncxe5]

[11...Be7 12.c4 0-0]
12.Bb5?!
 [12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.c4 Be7 14.cxd5
 0-0 \bar{r}]
12...Nxf3+
 [12...a6!-+]
13.Nxf3 Bd6
 [13...Be7! \bar{r}]
 [13...a6!? 14.Ba4 Be7 \bar{r}]
14.Ng5?
 [14.Qxd5 0-0 15.Qh5 Rd8 \bar{r}
 (15...f6 \bar{r})]
14...Bxh2+ 15.Kh1 Bf4 16.Qd4?!
 [16.Bxf4 Qxf4 17.Qh5 Qf5
 (17...Qf6) 18.Bd3! Qf6! \bar{r}]



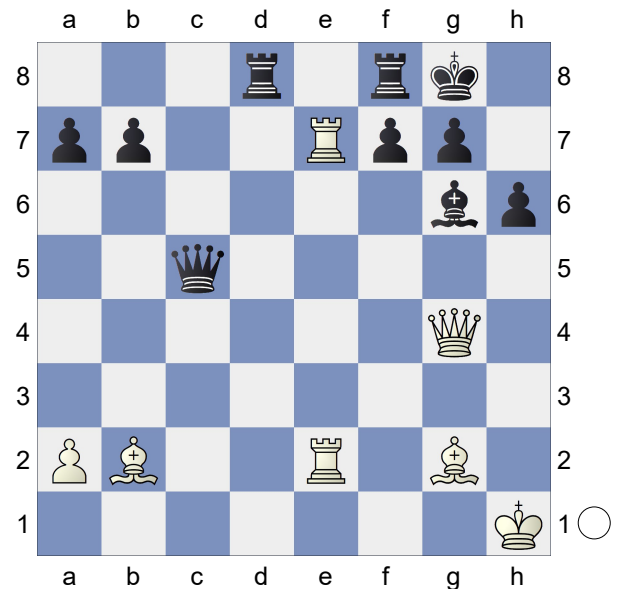
[26.Bb2+-]
 [26.Re3+-]
26...Qxf2 (White is running out of
 pawns...) **27.Qg4 Bg6**
 [27...Bf5!? 28.Qf4 Qxf4 29.Bxf4 \pm]
28.R1e2! Qc5 29.Bb2! \pm Rad8?
 [29...Qh5+ 30.Qxh5 Bxh5
 31.R2e3 \pm]
 [29...Qf5 30.Qxf5 Bxf5 31.Bxb7 \pm
 (31.a4)]



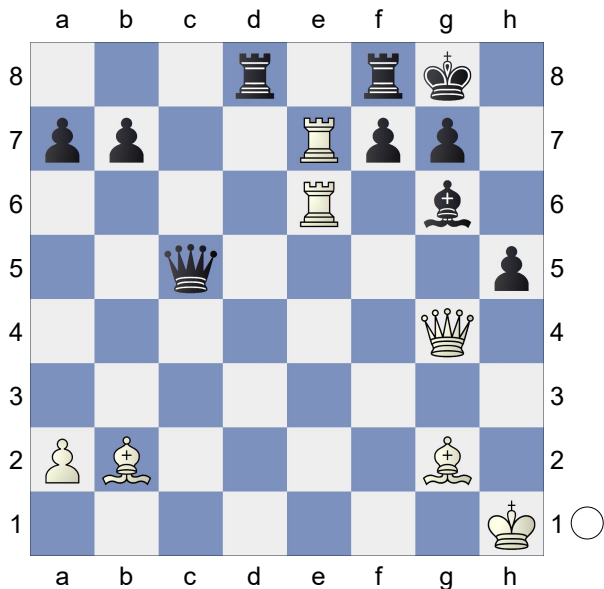
16...0-0??
 [16...Bxc1-+]
17.Qxf4 e5 18.Qh4
 [18.Qf3! \bar{r}]
18...h6?!
 [18...Bf5 \pm]
19.Nf3 Bf5 20.Rb2 e4 21.Bxc6 exf3
22.Bxd5 Qxc3 23.Qb4! fxf2+
24.Bxg2 Qf6 25.Rbe2 Bd3

(Diagram)

26.Re7?
 [26.Rd2+-]



30.R2e6? (It was already on...)
30...h5??
 [30...Qc2!=]



31.Qxg6!!+- Rd1+

[31...Qc1+ 32.Bxc1 fxc6+-
(two bishops better than four pawns!)]

32.Kh2 Qg1+

[32...Rh1+ 33.Kxh1! (A much faster
mate than 33.Bxh1)]

33.Kg3

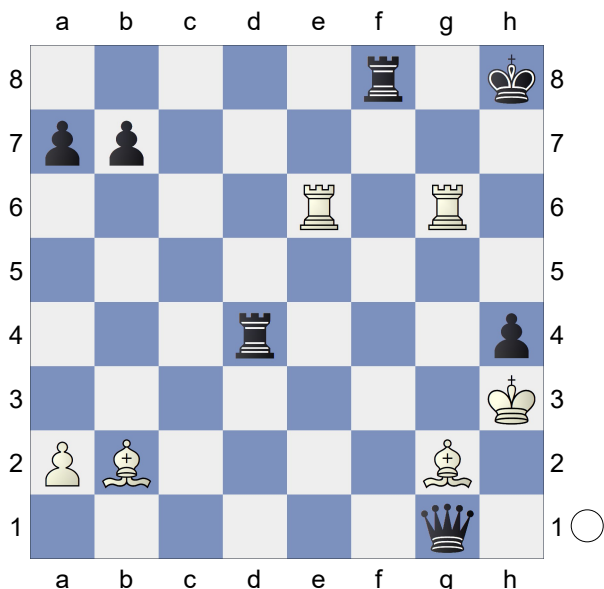
[33.Kh3! will be easier]

33...h4+

[33...Qf2+ 34.Kxf2 fxc6+ 35.Ke2+-]

34.Kh3! fxc6 35.Rxc7+ Kh8

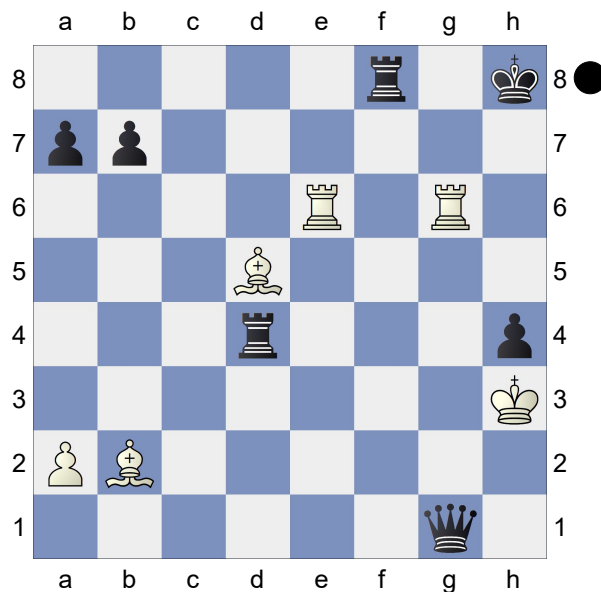
36.Rgxc6+ Rd4



37.Bd5??

[37.Rg4!+- Rf6 38.Re8+ #10
(38.Bxd4!+- Qxd4 39.Re8+ #8;

38.Rxf6+- is also winning, but will take
a while)]



**37...Qf1+! 38.Rg2 Qh1+ (Black mates
in 2)**

[38...Qh1+ 39.Rh2 Rf3+ 40.Bxf3
Qxf3#]

0-1

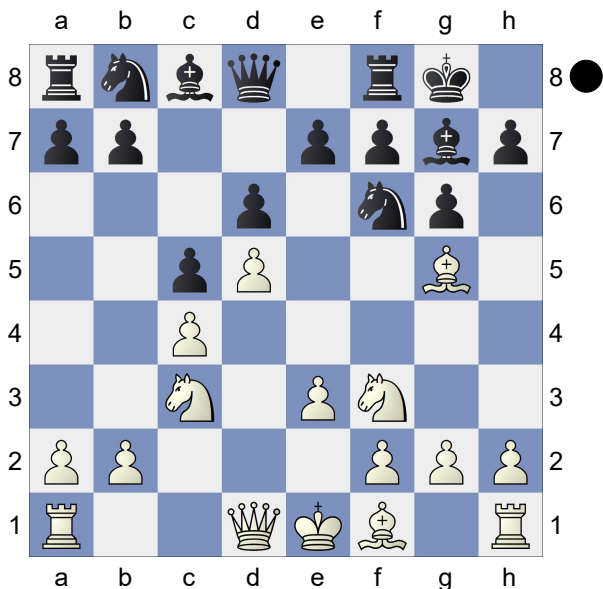
E61
 □ Heiserman, Jimmy **2254**
 ■ Tsodikova, Natalya **2245**
 2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (5.1) 31.03.26
 [Winslow, Elliott]

Tsodikova made excellent use of the
two bishops to reduce Heiserman down
to the same score as her, 4-1. Nobody
else, but a crowd a half point below
them: six players at 3½-1½. There
should be plenty of sword-clashing in
the last two rounds! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6**
3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 d6 Perhaps one
could call this unnecessarily commital.
So for example in Heiserman-Winslow,
last TNM, I made it a delayed Gruenfeld
in a couple moves, with a tempo-saving
d7-d5. Perhaps strategically provocative,
as he is a Gruenfeld player himself! But

it worked out, somehow. I'll use this as another excuse to present the game (why not!): (Notes in the archive)

[4...0-0 5.Bg5 c5 6.e3 (He could have played 6.d5 which is very likely to be a transposition with the current game) 6...cxd4 7.exd4 d5 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.Nxd5 Bg7 10.Ne3 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 Rd8 13.Kc3 Nc6 14.Rd1 g5 15.h3 h5 16.b4 g4 17.b5 gxf3 18.bxc6 bxc6 19.gxf3 c5 20.Kc2 cxd4 21.Nd5 Bb7 22.Nxe7+ Kf8 23.Nd5 Rac8 24.Kb1 Rb8 25.Kc2 Bxd5 26.cxd5 Rdc8+ 27.Kd3 Rc3+ 28.Ke4 Re8+ 29.Kf4 Be5+ 30.Kg5 Rxf3 31.Bb5 Bf6+ 32.Kxh5 Rf4 0-1 (32) Heiserman,J (2280)-Winslow,E (2200) New Year TNM, San Francisco 20 Jan 2026]

5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 (Quite a different story from his days of 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3!)
6...c5 7.d5

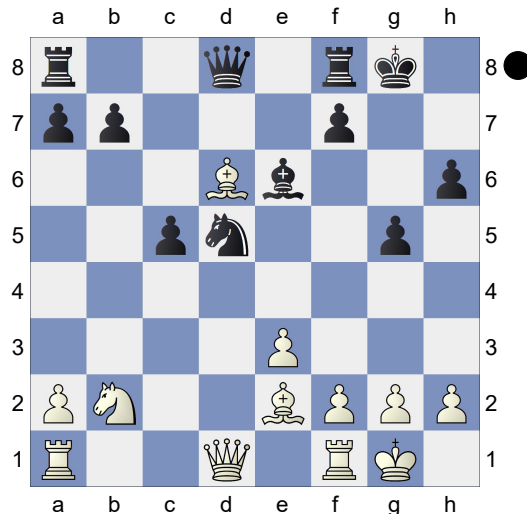


is currently scoring better than 7.Be2.
7...Na6

[Stockfish is big on 7...Bf5 but not by much]

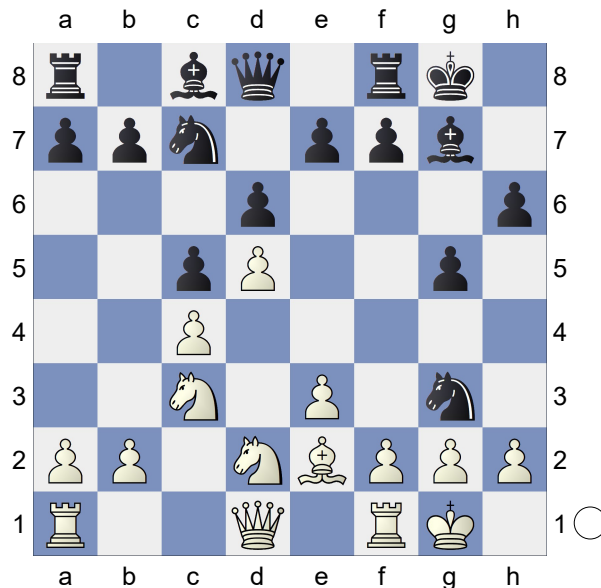
8.Be2 Nc7 9.0-0 h6 10.Bh4 g5
 [10...e6 10...g5 0.31 11.Nd2 (11.dxe6± Bxe6 12.e4) 11...exd5 12.cxd5 g5 13.Bg3 Nfxd5 14.Nxd5

Nxd5 15.Nc4 Be6 16.Bxd6 Bxb2 17.Nxb2



Qxd6?? (17...Nc3= 18.Qd3 Nxe2+ 19.Kh1 c4 20.Nxc4 Bxc4 21.Qxc4 Rc8 22.Qxe2 Qxd6=) 18.e4+- Qe5 19.exd5 Bxd5 20.Nc4 Qe6 21.Ne3 Bc6 22.Re1 Rad8 23.Qc2 b6 24.Bg4 1-0 40, Dubov,D (2710)-Valdes Romero,L (2402) Titled Tuesday, 11 May 2021]

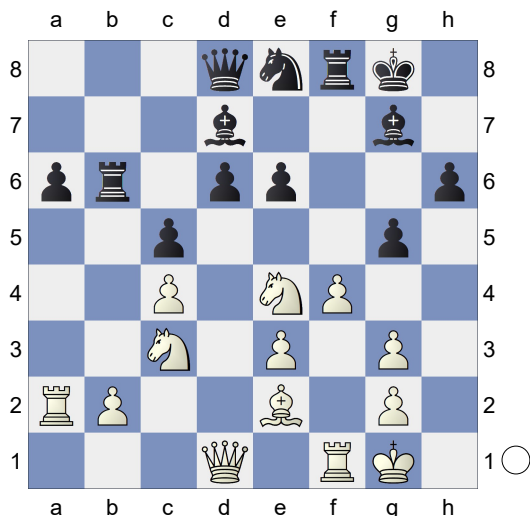
11.Bg3 3:07:29 The position is equal.
11...Nh5 12.Nd2 9:29 Nxc3 32



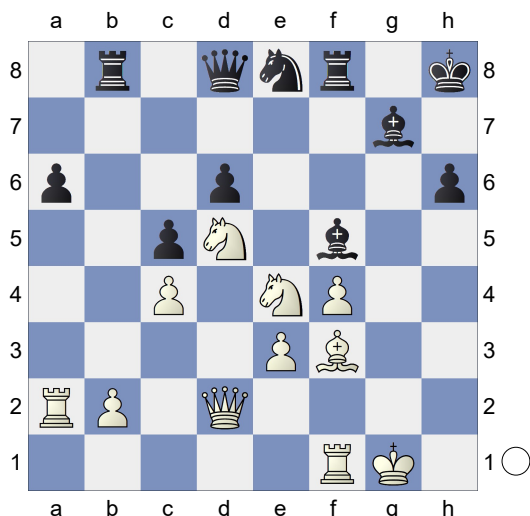
13.fxc3 22 A bit experimental. The structural minuses erase any advantage the knights might have going for them. And the f-file usually has to figure for this capture to be good, but it doesn't

here.

[13.hxg3 a6 14.a4 Rb8 15.Ra2 Bd7
16.a5 b5 (16...Ne8=) 17.axb6
(17.g4 \bar{f}) 17...Rxb6= 18.f4 e6
19.dxe6 fxe6?! (19...Bxe6=
is more appropriate. 20.Qc2 Re8)
20.Nde4 Ne8? (20...Qe7=
and Black is okay.)



A) Better is 21.fxg5! hxg5
22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 (22...Bxf8
23.Bh5!+-) 23.Qf1+? \pm (23.Bh5+-)
23...Nf6 24.Bd1;
B) 21.Qd2 gxf4 22.gxf4 e5?
(Black should play 22...Qe7 \pm)
23.Nd5+- Rb8 24.g3? (24.Rxa6+-
and White stays clearly on top. Bc8
25.Ra7) 24...exf4 25.gxf4 Bf5
26.Bf3 Kh8



27.Rf2! Bxe4 (27...Rf7 \pm)

28.Bxe4+- Nf6 29.Bb1 Nxd5
30.Qxd5 Qe7 (30...Rg8)
31.Qd3+- Bf6 32.Kf1 (32.b3+-
and Rh2! should not be overlooked
Rbe8 33.Kh2) 32...Rg8?
(32...Bh4 \pm was worth a try.)
33.Rxa6? (White has to play
33.b3+-) 33...Qg7!= Strongly
threatening ...Bh4. 34.b3?
(34.Ke2!=) 34...Bh4+- (-> ...Qg1+)
35.Rfa2 (35.Qh7+-+ Qxh7
36.Bxh7 Kxh7 37.Rd2) 35...Qg1+
0-1 (35) Fernandez de Bobadilla,G
(2231)-Zambrana Petisme,R (2108)
Escaldes 2019]

13...e6 4:34 14.dxe6 19:42 Bxe6 1:59
Threatening ...d5. **15.Nde4 4:31 Be5**
4:48 16.g4 1:06 Qe7 5:17 17.Qd3
19:40 Rad8 9:07 18.Bf3 8:02

[18.Ng3 \bar{f}]
18...Kg7 19:33
[18...d5 \bar{f} 19.cxd5 Nxd5 20.Nxd5
Bxd5 (20...Rxd5 21.Nf6+ Bxf6
22.Bxd5=) 21.Nf6+ Bxf6 (21...Qxf6
22.Bxd5 Qd6 23.Rad1=) 22.Bxd5
Bxb2]

19.Ne2 12:56
[19.Rad1= and White has no reason
to worry.]

19...d5!+- 6:36
[19...Bxb2 20.Rab1 Be5 21.Rxb7=]

20.cxd5 4:23
[\triangleleft 20.N4g3]
20...Nxd5! 1:36

[20...Bxb2? 21.d6+- (21.Qb1 Nxd5
22.Qxb2+ f6+-)]

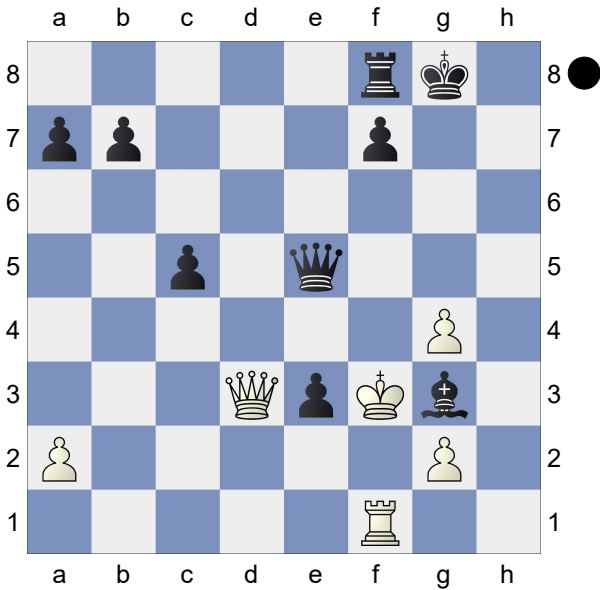
21.N4g3 4:16 Kg8+- 4:12
Active counter play! **22.Bxd5 2:15**
Bxd5?! 4:14

[22...Rxd5+- 23.Qe4 Qc7!+-
(23...Bxb2 24.Nf5 \bar{f})]

23.Nf5 \bar{f} 58 Qe6 40 24.Rad1? 2:04
[24.Qc2 \bar{f}]

24...Bc4? 6:03 This pair of bishops is
nice.

[24...Bxa2 25.Qa3 Bc4-+]
25.Nxh6+?? 1:39
 [25.Qc2 Ba6̄]
25...Qxh6-+ 25 26.Qxc4 3 Bxh2+! 43
27.Kf2 15 Qf6+ 33 28.Nf4 35 gxf4 30
29.Rd5 2:14 fxe3+ 1:18 30.Ke1 30
Bg3+ 1:30 31.Ke2 4 Qxb2+ 30 32.Kf3
4 Rxd5 32 33.Qxd5 1:23 Qe5 36
 [33...Bh4! leads to mate, not "just" a
 winning advantage.]
34.Qd3 8

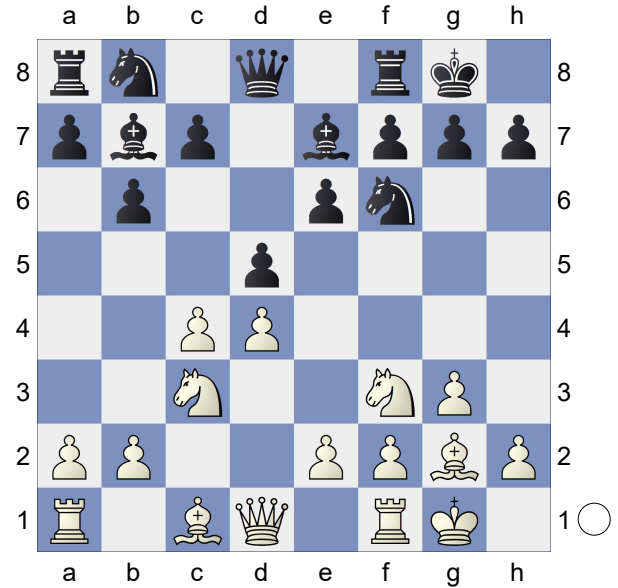


e2! 1:50 35.Rh1 6 e1N+! 1:00
 Weighted Error Value: White=1.21/
 Black=0.50
0-1

E18
2025
2122
 2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (5.2) 31.03.26
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.Nf3 e6 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0
Nf6 5.d4 Be7 6.c4 0-0 It's an old-
 school Queen's Indian, not seen so
 often these days. **7.Nc3**
 [7.Re1 "is the modern continuation"
 (says the TA), while
]

[7.d5!? exd5 8.Nh4 still might have
 some kick to it.]
7...d5!?
 [7...Ne4
A) or 8.Qc2 Nxc3 9.Qxc3 d6
 (9...Bf6; 9...Be4);
B) 8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.Ne1 Bxg2
 10.Nxg2 was the about-to-be-
 agreed draw in the early 1960s.]

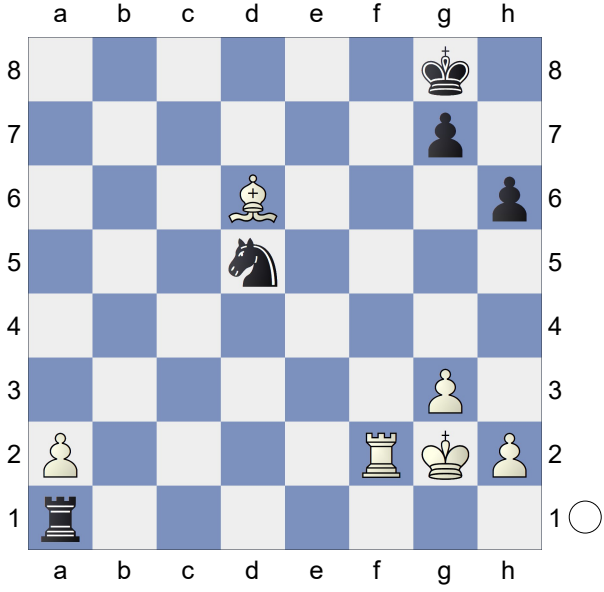


Injecting some action into the position!

8.Ne5 Nbd7 3:08:25 9.f4
 [9.Bf4±]
9...c5̄ 2:03 10.e3 1:09 Rc8 5:18
11.Rf2N 5:15 Black is slightly better.
 [11.cxd5 11.b3 -0.47 exd5
 (11...Nxd5̄ 12.Nxd5 Bxd5) 12.g4
 (12.Bd2=) 12...Ne4̄ 13.Qe1
 (White should try 13.Qd3) 13...cxd4̄
 14.Nxe4? (14.exd4̄ Nxe5 15.dxe5)
 14...dxe4-+ 15.exd4 f6 (15...Nxe5
 16.dxe5 Ba6) 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Be3
 (17.Qd1) 17...Qxg4 ½-½ (73)
 Kosteniuk,A (2488)-Narva,M (2421)
 Chess.com INT 2024]
11...cxd4 4:31 12.exd4 20 Bb4 7:35
13.Rc2 33:00
 [13.cxd5= Bxc3 (13...Nxd5 14.Nxd5
 Bxd5 15.Bxd5=; 13...exd5 14.Bd2=;
 13...Bxd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Nd3=)

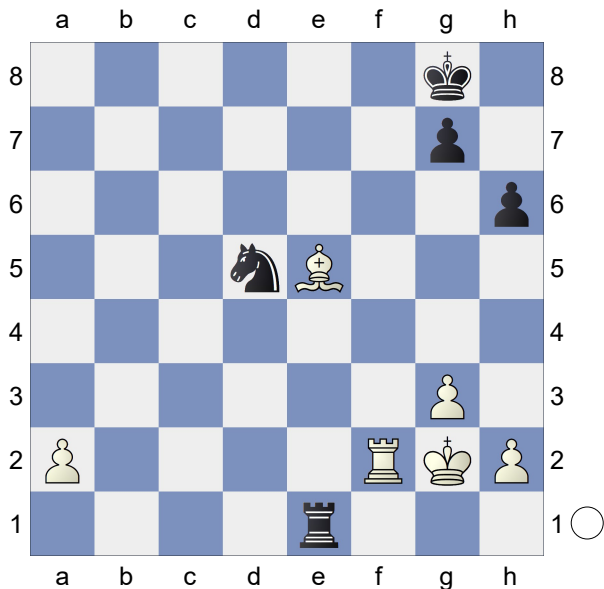
14.Nxf7= (14.bxc3 Nxd5 15.c4 Nxe5#)
13...Qc7 18:55 14.Bd2 6:45
 [14.Nb5= Qb8 15.a3]
14...Bxc3!# 7:07
 [14...dxc4? 15.Nb5 Qb8 16.Bxb4+-]
15.Rxc3 14 Qb8 15 16.Qa4 1:42 Rfd8 8:59 17.cxd5 5:27 Rxc3 20
 [17...Nxe5# 18.fxe5 Rxc3 (18...Nxd5 19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.Rc1#) 19.bxc3 Nxd5]
18.Bxc3 1:02 Nxe5 26 19.dxe5 44 Nxd5 9 20.Bd4 1:01
 [20.Rd1!#]
20...Rc8 54
 [20...Ne7# ...Bxg2 is the strong threat. 21.Bxb7 Qxb7]
21.f5!= 4:32 Bc6 7:36 22.Qb3 19
 [22.Qa3 simplifies exf5 23.Qd6 Bb7 24.Bxd5 Qxd6 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.exd6 Rc2 27.Rd1]
22...Ne7? 5:45
 [22...Qb7=]
23.fxe6+- 1:28 Bxg2 5 24.exf7+ 33 Kf8 25.Kxg2 40 Qb7+ 1 26.Kg1 4:43 Qe4 1:05 27.Bf2 3:27 Qxe5 6:50 28.Re1 3:33 Qg5 9
 [28...Qd5 29.Qa4 Nc6]
29.Be3 4:17 Qd5 7 30.Qb4 2:55
 [30.Qa4!+-]
30...Rc2 6:58
 [30...Rc4± 31.Qa3 Rc2]
31.Bf2 18 Qxf7 30
 [31...Rc7 is a better defense. 32.Bd4 Kxf7]
32.Rf1? 1:22
 [32.Bd4+- and the rest is easy. a5 33.Qd6 (33.Qxb6 Qd5±)]
32...Kg8? 9
 [32...Qf3±]
33.Qd6? 5:08
 [33.Qa4+- Rc8 34.Qxa7]
33...h6= 7:07 34.Bxb6 1:23 Discovered Attack 34...Qd5 10 35.Qxd5+ 41
 [35.Qxe7? Qg2#]

35...Nxd5± 1 36.Bd4 5
 [36.Bxa7 Rxb2 37.Ra1 Nb4 38.a4 Nc2 39.Rc1 Ra2 40.Bb6±]
36...Rd2 1:06 37.Bxa7 33 Rxb2 20
38.Rf2 5 Rb1+ 52 39.Kg2 11 Ra1?! 28
 [39...Rc1= keeps the balance.]
 [39...h5]
 [39...Rb7]
40.Bd4?! 50
 [40.Rd2!± Nf6 41.Bd4]
40...Rd1 3 41.Bc5 45 Rc1 40 42.Ba3 59 Rd1 2:36 43.Bb2 17 Nb4 1:48
 [43...Ne3+!= deserves consideration. 44.Kf3 Nc4]
44.Bc3!± 43 Nd5 27 45.Be5 55
 [45.Ba5± Rc1 46.Kf3]
45...Re1 12 46.Bd6 25 Ra1? 30
 [46...Re6= 47.Bc5 Rc6]
47.Be5? 1:03
 [47.Kf3!+-]
47...Re1!= 1 48.Bd6 31 Ra1? 2
 [48...Re6= and Black has nothing to worry. 49.Bb8 Rb6]



49.Be5?? 1
 [49.Kf3!+-]
49...Re1!± 1

(Diagram)



50.a3? 1:21 TA: "Quite a comeback for Black." Weighted Error Value: White=0.62/Black=0.51
1/2-1/2

□ Sevall, Daniel

D53

1827

■ Powers, Christopher

1819

2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (5.12) 31.03.26
[Powers, Christopher]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6
5.Bg5 Be7

[5...dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5
9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5]
[5...h6

A) 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 (7.g3;
7.Qb3);

B) 6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3
b5]

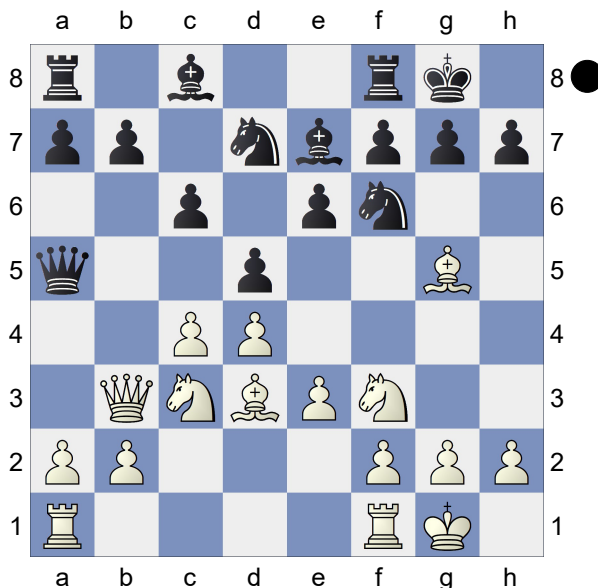
[5...Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5]

6.e3 Qa5 7.Qb3

[Relevant: 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.Rc1 Nd7
9.Be2 dxc4 10.Bxc4 0-0 11.0-0 e5
12.d5 Nb6 13.Bb3 e4 14.Nxe4
Bxb2 15.Rc2 cxd5 16.Bxd5 Ba3
17.Bb3 Bf5 18.Nfd2 Bb4 19.Rc7
Rad8 20.Qh5 Bg6 21.Qxa5 Bxa5
22.Rd1 Bh5 23.f3 Nd7 24.Rcc1 b5

25.a4 Bb6 26.Kf2 Ne5 27.Ke2 Nd3
28.Rc3 Nb2 29.Rb1 Nxa4 30.Bxa4
bxa4 31.Rc4 Bg6 32.Rxa4 f5
33.Ng5 Rfe8 34.Ra2 Bxe3 35.Nh3
Bxd2+ 36.Kf1 Be3 Montaigne Dupont,
G (1856)-Berend, E (2252) Nancy
2026 0-1]

7...Nbd7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0



Re8N

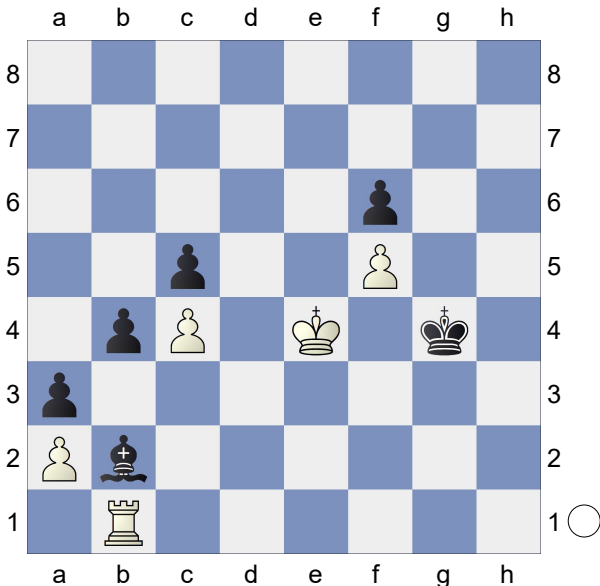
[Predecessor: 9...dxc4 10.Bxc4 e5
11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Qxe5 13.Bf4
Qa5 14.a3 Nh5 15.Bg3 Nxg3
16.fxg3 Qh5 17.Rxf7 Rxf7 18.Rf1
Bf6 19.e4 b5 20.Bxf7+ Qxf7
21.Qxf7+ Kxf7 22.e5 b4 23.axb4
Ba6 24.Rf4 Re8 25.exf6 Re1+
26.Kf2 Rf1+ 27.Ke3 gxf6 28.b5
Rxf4 29.gxf4 cxb5 30.b4 Ke7 31.g3
Kd6 32.Kd4 f5 33.Nd5 Bb7 34.Nf6
h6 35.Ng8 h5 36.Nf6 Bf3 37.Ne8+
Kc6 38.Ng7 Bg4 39.Ke5
Spindelboeck, G (2267)-Schink, B
(2027) Graz 2010 1/2-1/2]

10.h3 Bd6 11.Rfe1 e5 12.dxe5 Nxe5
13.Nxe5 Rxe5 14.Bf4 Re6 15.Bf5
dxc4 16.Qc2 Rxe3 17.Bxh7+ Nxh7
18.Bxe3 Bf5 19.Qa4 Qxa4 20.Nxa4
b6 21.Rac1 Be6 22.Red1 Be7 23.Nc3
Nf6 24.Bg5 Kf8 25.Ne2 Rd8
26.Rxd8+ Bxd8 27.Nf4 b5 28.Nxe6+

fxe6 29.b3 a5 30.bxc4 b4 31.Kf1
 Bc7 32.Bxf6 gxf6 33.Ke2 Be5
 34.Kd3 c5 35.Kc2 a4 36.Re1 Kf7
 37.Re4 Bd4 38.f4 Bf2 39.g4 Bh4
 40.Re2 Bg3 41.f5 Be5 42.h4 exf5
 43.gxf5 Kg7 44.Re4 Kh6 45.Rg4 Kh5
 46.Re4 Bg3 47.Re2 Kxh4 48.Kd3
 Kh5 49.Ke4 Be5 50.Rd2 a3 51.Rg2
 Bb2 52.Rg3 Kh4 53.Rb3 Kg5
 54.Rg3+ Kh4 55.Rb3 Kg5 56.Rh3
 Kg4 57.Rf3 Bd4 58.Rb3 Bb2 59.Rd3
 Kg5 60.Re3 Kg4 61.Rd3 Kg5
 62.Rg3+ Kh4 I tried to claim a draw by
 threefold repetition here, but the claim
 failed since I had missed a move in my
 notation and it confused things 63.Rb3
 Kg5 64.Kd5 Bd4 65.Ke4 Bb2 66.Re3
 Kg4 67.Rf3 Kg5 68.Kd5 Kg4 69.Rb3
 Bd4 70.Ke4 Kg5 71.Rb1 Bb2
 72.Rg1+ Kh4 73.Kd5 Bd4

[73...b3 I could've gone for the break
 here, but it would be a tempo down
 over what happened later in the
 game]

74.Rb1 Kg4 75.Ke4 Bb2



76.Kd5?

[EW: 76.Rg1+ Kh3 (76...Kh5
 77.Kd5 b3 78.axb3 a2 79.Kxc5
 and *White* is winning a1Q 80.Rxa1
 Bxa1 81.Kd5 Kg5 82.Ke6) 77.Rd1!=

and with Rb3(+) coming, White shuts
 ...b3 down.]

76...b3 77.axb3 a2 78.Rf1 a1Q

79.Rxa1 Bxa1 80.Kxc5 Kxf5

EW: This is a win according to

Tablebases. 81.Kd5 Kg4? EW: It so
 happens the king is needed elsewhere.

[81...Kg6! The king stops the pawns!
 Black is winning (Stockfish sees mate
 in 29 or so)]

[81...Be5! first also wins 82.c5
 Kg6!-+]

82.c5= Be5 83.b4 Bb8 84.b5 f5

85.b6 f4 86.c6 f3 87.c7 Bxc7

88.bxc7 f2 89.c8Q+ Kg3 90.Qg8+

Kh2 91.Qh7+ Kg1 92.Qg6+ Kh1

93.Qh5+ Kg1 94.Qg4+ Kh1 95.Qh3+

Kg1 96.Qg3+ Kh1 97.Qd3 Kg1

98.Qe3 Kh1 99.Qc1+ Kg2 100.Qd2

Kg1 101.Qe3 Kh1 102.Qf3+ Kg1

103.Qg3+ Kh1 104.Qxf2

1/2-1/2

A45

□ Morello, Nicholas

1750

■ Chan, John

1527

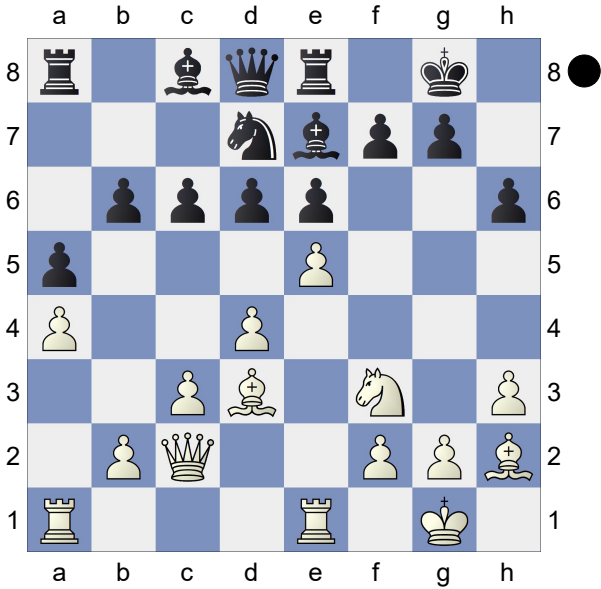
2026 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (5.23)

[Winslow, Elliott]

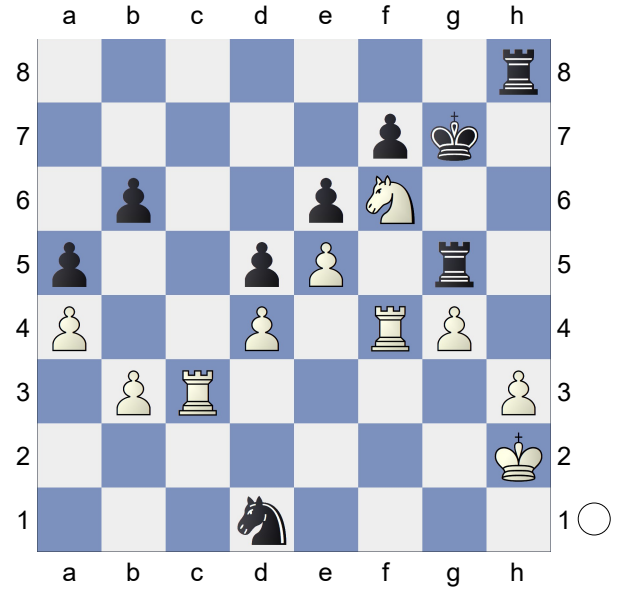
Nicholas Morello played a solid game to
 a totally won position, then started
 blundering -- and it was so good it took
 three blunders to lose. John "Chan-
 hi'ed" again! 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 c6 3.e3
 d6 4.c3 Nbd7 5.Nf3 h6 6.h3 e6
 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.Be2 Nf8 9.a4 a5
 10.0-0 Ng6 11.Bh2 0-0 12.Qc2 Re8
 13.Rfe1 Nf8 14.Bd3 N8d7 15.Ne4
 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Nf6 17.Bd3 b6 18.e4
 Nd7 19.e5

(Diagram)

d5 20.Bf4 g5 21.Be3 Nf8 22.Qd2 c5

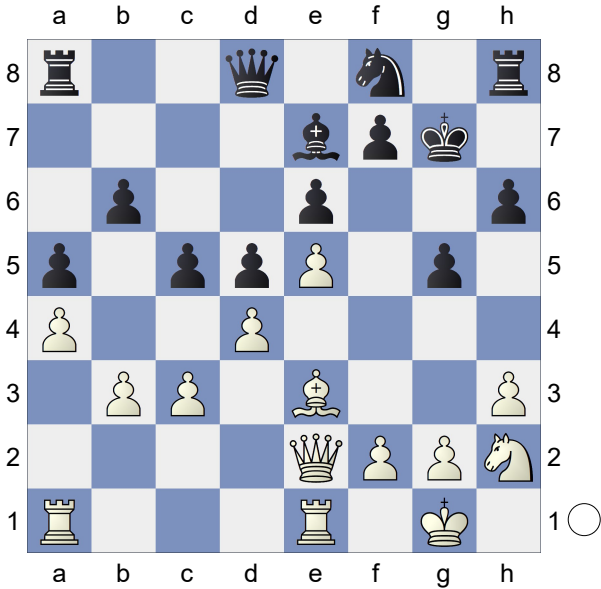


23.Bb5 Bd7 24.Bxd7 Nxd7 25.Qe2 Kg7 26.b3 Rh8 27.Nh2 Nf8



[48.Rd3! Nb2 49.Rd2 Nxa4 50.bxa4+-]

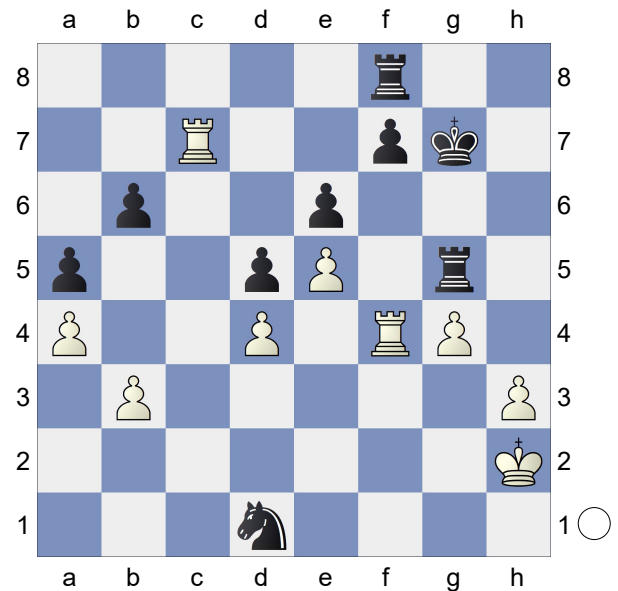
48...Rf8



28.f4 gxf4 29.Bxf4 Ng6 30.Be3 Bg5 31.Qd2 Rc8 32.Rf1 Qe7 33.Ng4 Nh4 34.Bxg5 hxg5 35.Nf6 Ng6 36.Qxg5 cxd4 37.Nh5+ Kg8 38.Qxe7 Nxe7 39.Nf6+ Kg7 40.cxd4 Nf5 41.Rf4 Rc3 42.Rb1 Rg3 43.Kh2 Rg6 44.Rc1 Ne3 45.g4+- Rg5 46.Rc3 Nd1

(Diagram)

47.Ne8+?? (a horrible blunder -- but White is *STILL* winning!) 47...Rxe8 48.Rc7?



(score says "48...Ref") 49.Rb7??

[49.Rf3!+- The knight isn't getting out.]

49...Nc3!+- 50.Rf2 Ne4 51.Rc2 Rg6 52.Rxb6 Rh8 53.Kg2 Ng5 54.Rc3 Rgh6 55.Rbc6 Nxh3 56.Rc7 Ng5 57.Rg3 Rh2+ 58.Kf1 Rb2 59.Rc1 Rhh2 60.Rg1 #3 0-1

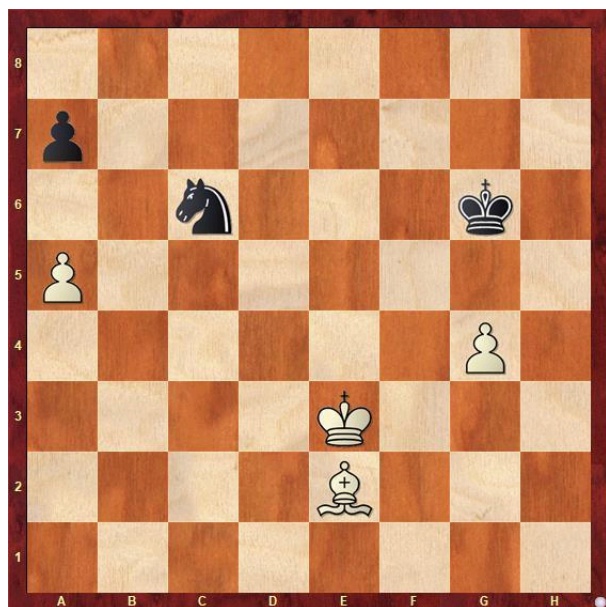
Tony's Teasers

White to Play.

Let the Bishop show that it is stronger in open positions.

From Anastasian, A. - Harika, D.

Andriasian's Tactical Workout Book: 700 Armenian Tactics, Thinkers' Publishing



Solution

1. Bf3! Nxa5 2. Bd5!

If 1...Ne5 2.Ke4, Kf6 3.g5, Ke6 4. Be2.

Contact Us

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Our phone number is 415-393-0110.

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